

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

ASIA PACIFIC REGION



PORTFOLIO UPDATE
2023



ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

REGIONAL OFFICE ASIA-PACIFIC

UN Women advances the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls (VAWG) in collaboration with governments, civil society organisations, and many partners.

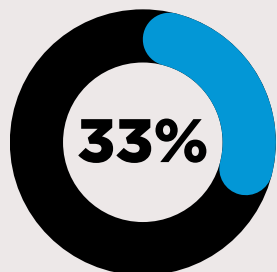
Prevention initiatives address harmful gender norms and stereotypes and establish an understanding of healthy relationships - before the violence begins - through working with youth and families, education and learning involving men and boys, girls and women.

Response initiatives improve the quality and access to coordinated, essential services for survivors of VAWG, create and implement laws and policies with governments, advocates and civil society organisations, and create safe public and private spaces for all women and girls, including online.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread human rights violations worldwide, globally affecting around one in three women in her lifetime. Evidence suggests that a higher ratio applies in the Asia-Pacific region.



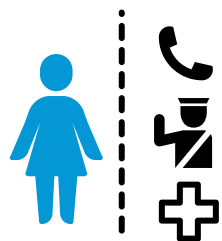
of women in the South-East Asia Region have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former husband or male partner at least once in their lifetime.

Most Violence is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).



17%

of ever-partnered women have experienced violence in the past 12 months.



UNDER REPORTED

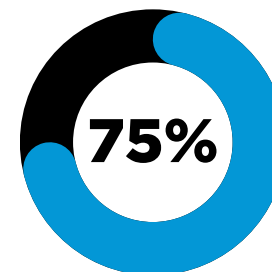
A very small proportion of VAWG survivors report violence or seek help from services such as police, justice, health, or crisis centers.



Women with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, LBT+ women and migrant women are especially exposed to violence.



Rates of internal and cross-border trafficking are high, especially in south and southeast Asia.



In Asia and the Pacific, as many as 75 per cent of women have experienced sexual harassment



18,100

Asia and the Pacific have the highest number of intimate partner or family-related femicides globally with 18,100 (Asia and Oceania) femicides in 2021.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES



ESSENTIAL SERVICE PACKAGE

FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS SUBJECT TO VIOLENCE

The Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to Violence, co-managed by UN Women and UNFPA, in partnership with WHO, UNDP and UNODC, provides a set of recognized global guidance and tools on how to develop and implement the global norms on multi-sectoral services and responses, with a focus on health, police, justice and social services, in addition to coordination of these services.



The Essential Services Package supports whole-of-government approaches to responding to violence against women. It assists in connecting response to violence with areas such as women's economic empowerment. UN Women:

- Supports lasting coordination mechanisms, including by developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and protocols that guide practice across sectors and units.
- Boosts resources for services by estimating costs for VAW services through gender budgeting exercises.

"The Essential Services Package has been a game-changer. It allows us to speak in one voice across sectors and disciplines, and gives us quality standards presented by the UN, which is respected by government and civil society." UN agency representative, Cambodia

"[The Essential Services Package] has allowed us to bring in actors that were not at the table when responding to violence against women." UN agency representative, Timor-Leste

EXPANDING MULTI-SECTORAL SERVICES

Strengthening, expanding, and adapting coordinated multi-sectoral services in the health, social services, police and justice sectors.

UN Women brings survivor experiences to decision makers to design and improve services based on their needs, and transforms services.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

Strengthening service providers' technical and institutional capacity for survivor-centred and trauma-informed responses. This emerges through deep engagement survivors, bringing responders together across sectors, and creating localized tools.

PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE

Partnering with thought-leaders and practitioners for collective action on ending VAWG facilitates innovation, improved practice, and shared learning through exchanges, symposiums, workshops, and webinars.

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON ENDING VAW

9 out of 13 countries in Asia and the Pacific have an active National Action Plan on EVAW.

Prevention in NAPs



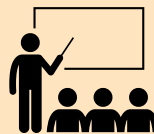
All NAPs have a component that addresses prevention and social norms change towards gender equality.

Review of NAPs



in several countries are underway. UN Women supports reviews, and measurement of change.

Training/Capacity-building



to measure national progress on prevention of VAW, linking with available data such as SDG data.

UN Women roles in National Action Plans (NAP) - Violence Against Women (VAW) development:

- Expert technical advice, aligning with international instruments.
- Supporting dialogue and consultation processes.
- Supporting capacity with lead Ministries.
- Building local leadership.
- Supporting cross-sector coordination (especially between civil society and government).
- Brokering connections.
- Providing funding (consultation expenses, adding expertise (e.g. a policy writer)).
- Supporting implementation.
- Supporting cost estimation for implementation.
- Supporting evaluation & monitoring.

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON ENDING VAW



Photo: UN Women/Niels den Hollander



UN Women supports countries in Asia and the Pacific to develop, implement, evaluate and measure change for National Action Plans (NAPs) on Violence against Women (VAW). NAPs have motivated measurable progress on VAW at national level in several countries in this region.

Putting evidence into practice: Measuring change for prevention of VAW at national level

Developed by UN Women and The Equality Institute, this framework responds to the need for a national-level prevention monitoring framework for countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It guides policymakers and practitioners through ways to measure change in social norms and gender inequality in the short, medium and long term at national or population levels.



PREVENTION OF VAW

UN Women is increasing evidence-based prevention programming across the region, focusing on primary prevention. Partnering with civil society organisations and governments on programming, capacity building and approaches to address the underlying drivers of violence. Focus areas of work:

- Sharing leading evidence about what works - and what does not work - to prevent violence women and girls (VAWG), using the RESPECT Framework - with civil society organisations, governments and researchers, and analyzing how the evidence applies and informs prevention in each context.
- Working with youth on the prevention of gender based violence, for instance with the Connect with Respect learning curriculum, or supporting 'Voices against Violence,' a co-educational curriculum developed together with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

WHAT IS PRIMARY PREVENTION?



Primary prevention refers to **stopping violence before it starts in the first instance. Primary prevention addresses the attitudes, practices and power imbalances that drive violence against women and their children.**

A comprehensive approach to ending violence against women (VAW) requires interventions across the prevention to response continuum, as both are needed to reduce and prevent violence against women.

RESPECT WOMEN:

SEVEN STRATEGIES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Women, in collaboration with ten other UN, bilateral, and multilateral agencies, have developed "RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women," based on the principles of respect and equality, and lessons learned from evidence-based results in preventing violence from occurring and recurring.

This resource informs policymakers and implementers about designing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating interventions and programmes on preventing and responding to violence against women that are guided by evidence. The framework outlines seven inter-related intervention strategies that link prevention and response action in many disciplines, and violence against women and children.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

DATA & EVIDENCE

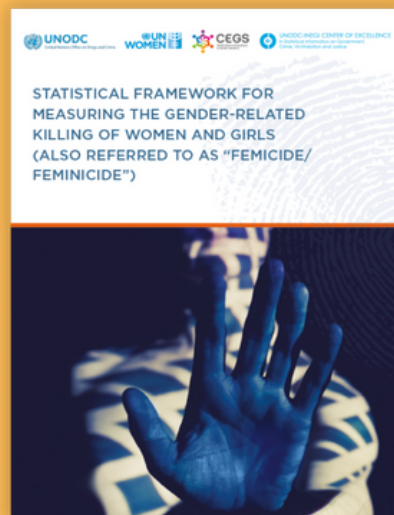
UN Women supports the collection and use of data on violence against women (VAW) in the Asia and Pacific region, with a focus on administrative data from service providers and national level measurement of progress for prevention.

- Support regional effort to shape a Shared Research Agenda on VAW for the Asia Pacific region
- Support countries to utilize the global VAW Administrative Guide, linked with coordinated response systems
- Enhance the capacity of partners to use and analyze data on VAW services and prevention
- National prevention measurement

UN Women and UNODC are collaborating globally and in the Asia Pacific region to strengthen the collection and use of data on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide), the most extreme manifestation of violence against women. Data and evidence on the femicide in the Asia Pacific region is needed to prevent the killing of women and girls, including identifying high risk cases for grave harm and lethality and intervening with urgency.



Improving the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women



Statistical Framework For Measuring The Gender-related Killing Of Women And Girls (also Referred To As "femicide/feminicide")

SAFE AND FAIR - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS

Co-led by ILO, UN Women and UNODC, the Safe and Fair programme aims to strengthen labour migration governance and address risks inherent in migration systems that can result in violence and trafficking, strengthen rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to violence against women and labour migration governance and support access to essential services.

Programme Objectives

1. Women migrant workers are better protected by gender-sensitive labour migration governance frameworks;
2. Women migrant workers are less vulnerable to violence and trafficking and benefit from coordinated responsive quality services;
3. Data, knowledge and attitudes on the rights and contributions of women migrant workers are improved.

The Safe and Fair programme is funded by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls.



[Spotlight Knowledge Platform](#)

Framework: Prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Harassment Against Women Migrant Workers in South and Southeast Asia



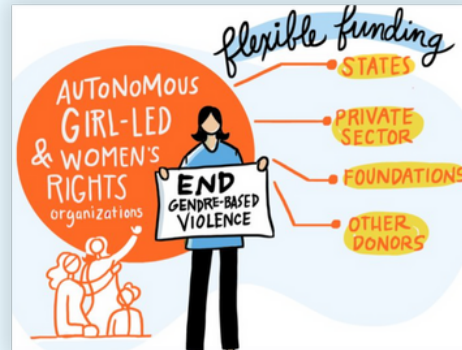
This framework captures the risk factors for gender-based violence and harassment against women migrant workers in South and Southeast Asia. It is designed to guide stakeholders in supporting networks of women's groups, community-based organisations, workers' and employers' organisations, and local government agencies to prevent violence faced by women throughout the migration cycle.

GEF & GBV AC



The [Generation Equality Forum \(GEF\)](#) that took place in Mexico City from the 29th to the 31st of March, and in Paris from the 30th of June to the 2nd of July of 2021, brought together stakeholders from all sectors to launch a 5-year action agenda.

The Forum launched over 1,000 commitments with an aggregate estimated value of US\$40 Billion in financial commitments.



One of the [six Action Coalitions of the GEF](#), the [Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition \(GBV AC\)](#) co-led by UN Women and WHO, has commitment makers from the governments, civil society, private sector, and youth-led organisations across the world with advocacy, financial, policy, and programmatic commitments to address and eliminate gender-based violence in line with the [four \(4\) priority action areas](#).

Supporting the CSO networks, youth-Led Initiatives, and feminist movements is key to end VAWG

Two outstanding developments emerged from the GEF and GBV Action Coalition commitments:



1. A new [regional Civil Society Organisation - CSO Network in Asia](#), supported by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), connects advocates for knowledge and experience sharing and evidence-building to strengthen advocacy to prevent GBV and to take forward the priorities of the GBV AC in the region.

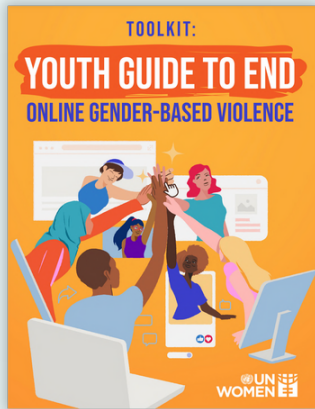
2. A [youth leadership network, 30 for 2030](#), launched by the UN Women ROAP, brought together young decision-makers, eminent civic and business innovators, feminists, entrepreneurs, technology pioneers, educators, activists, artists, and journalists to work on the elimination of GBV.



UN Women ROAP provides capacity building and financial support to feminist movements in the region to strengthen efforts in ending VAWG.

TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

UN Women works with practitioners and experts across the region to advance knowledge, evidence and understanding of the changing landscape regarding online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence across the Asia-Pacific region. We organize exchanges between service providers, governments, and safe technology experts, regarding violence against women in person and online, knowing that violence often happens in a continuum from offline to online.



Youth Guide to End Online Gender-Based Violence

This toolkit is a learning and knowledge product developed by the 30 for 2030 Network, a youth cohort in the Asia-Pacific region, with the aim of taking action against online gender-based violence. It builds on years of engagement with youth networks to prevent violence, informed by new evidence about opposition to gender equality both online and offline.



Online violence against women in Asia - A MULTICOUNTRY STUDY

UN Women published a multi-country study on online violence against women in Asia in 2020. The study focused on five countries – India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea – and investigated forms of online violence, legislation and policies governing digital spaces, and how to prevent and respond to this type of violence.

85%

**Global Prevalence of
Online Violence
against Women and
Girls**

88%

**Prevalence of Online
Violence against
Women and Girls in
Asia and the Pacific**

Source: Measuring the prevalence of online violence against women, the Economist Intelligence Unit

MEDIA, GENDER STEREOTYPES AND VAW

UN Women is strengthening its engagement with diverse media actors and the creation of knowledge on the interconnections of media, marketing, gender norms and stereotypes, and VAWG. UN Women is further shaping dialogues with diverse media actors in the region and developing capacities on gender-responsive reporting of VAWG.

Based on the global study "Mapping the nexus: media reporting of violence against girls and the normalization of violence", a regional study is currently being finalised by UN Women and UNICEF outlining the impact the marketing and advertising eco-system has on gender equality in the region. Focusing on three main areas of impact: body image and beauty norms; economic opportunities for women and girls and violence against women and girls, the report gives an overview on how women and girls in particular are impacted by harmful gender norms found in media, marketing and advertising, and suggests some pathways for stakeholders to follow to work on addressing these issues.

Further activities that are planned under this workstream include:

- The creation of a training package and its piloting in an online learning series with media actors on gender-sensitive reporting of VAWG
- A research study on media (film, TV) representations of gender norms and the linkages to gender-based violence and its normalization.



Photo: UN Women Bangladesh

Mapping the nexus: media reporting of violence against girls and the normalization of violence

A joint report by UNICEF and UN Women



The big conversation: Handbook to address violence against women in and through the media





UN Women has a long standing cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on EVAW, particularly with the the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW).

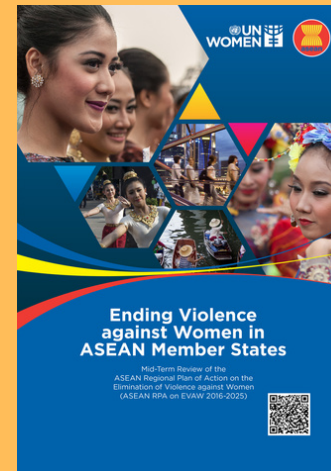


Photo: UN Women/Putra Djohan

Currently, UN Women has 3 joint work-streams with ASEAN:

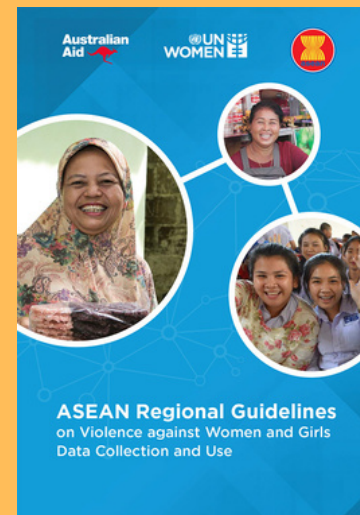
- 1) A campaign on sexual harassment in workplaces launched in March 2023, in collaboration with the private sector and UN Women's Women Economic Empowerment team.
- 2) Development of ASEAN guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as one of the main action points from the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on the Elimination of Violence against Women Mid-Term Review was to have an ASEAN regional SOP guideline for the member states.
- 3) Provide technical support to strengthen the ASEAN Social Work force while promoting an integrated approach to addressing violence against women and violence against children (VAW and VAC). This work is done with UNFPA and UNICEF.

Ending Violence against Women in ASEAN Member States: Mid-term Review of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women



The EVAW and Safe and Fair teams supported the mid-term review of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action (RPA) on the Elimination of Violence against Women and support its implementation at the regional and national levels.

ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use



UN Women, partnered with ASEAN, ACWC, and ACW to develop the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States to systematically collect and use data related to violence against women and girls.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES/NEXUS

The Asia-Pacific region is at the heart of the global climate emergency, situated in a context of protracted conflict and crisis, exacerbated by the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Scenarios of increased armed conflict, climate-related disasters and escalating and intensifying gender-based violence (GBV) are our new reality. This shifting landscape requires new approaches which recognize the integrated nature of crisis response, peace-building and longer-term development goals. Implementing a holistic, cross-cutting strategic approach is particularly crucial for UN Women's work to end violence against women (VAW), in all their diversity, in the region. Women and girls' experiences of violence are not confined to a specific crisis, particular context or a distinct international agenda. Rather, VAW exists on a continuum of gender inequality spanning phases of recovery, peace-building, and development as well as armed conflict, disasters and humanitarian contexts.

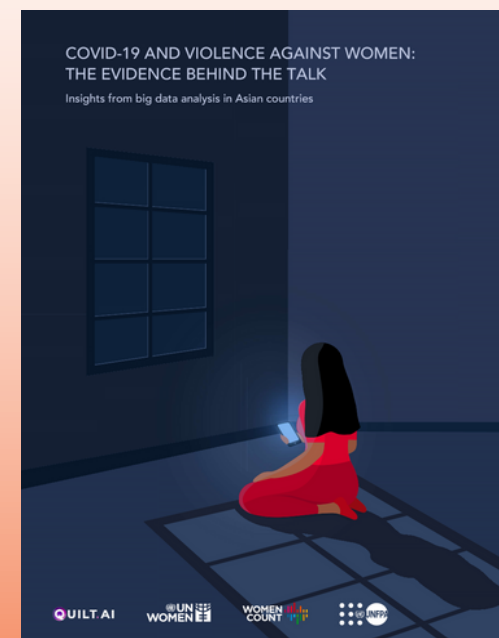
VAW is often not prioritized in emergency plans and strategies, yet the evidence is clear that VAW often increases during crises of all kinds. We should be anticipating VAW to have elevated importance during crises, yet services can be harder to access. Emergency plans need to take this into account, and women's leadership, including women-led organisations, are extremely important to address VAW before, during and after emergencies.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, UN Women conducted a big data analysis on VAW in 8 Asian countries. A key takeaway is that it remains critical to anticipate that violence against women will demand urgent action during crises, and VAW needs to be built into government crisis planning and response strategies and budgets.



Together with UNEP, UN Women works with women-led CSOs on the intersection between gender-based violence and climate change under the Empower II SIDA funded project.

COVID-19 and Violence Against Women: The evidence behind the talk





Melissa Alvarado

Ending Violence against Women (EVAW)
Regional Programme Manager at UN
Women, Asia-Pacific Regional Office
melissa.alvarado@unwomen.org



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