

PARTNERING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

UN Women - DFAT
Strategic Partnership Framework



Photo: UN Women/Nicholas Axelrod



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



UN WOMEN - DFAT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

Australia's development programme (DFAT) is a major contributor to UN Women's work on ending violence against women in the Asia Pacific region. DFAT's support contributes to expanding the reach and quality of services for survivors of violence through the roll-out and adaptation of the Essential Services Package, leveraging prevention policies and learning to strengthen practice through the roll-out of Prevention Frameworks, and bolstering support to women's organizations through the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

01 Essential Services

UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) advocates for women and girls' access to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services, vital for their safety and recovery. This approach centers around deepening the focus on survivor-centered and survivor-led services and systems, by providing essential support to enhance service quality and effectiveness.

02 Prevention

UN Women ROAP plays a key role in developing evidence-based policy and programming guidance on preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG). Prevention is still the most cost-effective way to end VAWG over the long term.

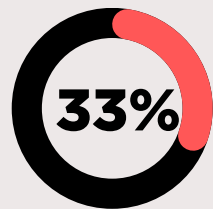
03 UN Trust Fund

Administered by UN Women, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) awards grants to initiatives that demonstrate that VAWG can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated.



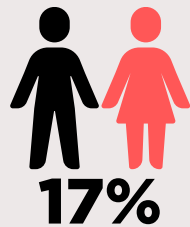
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

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.

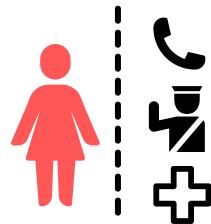


of women in the South-East Asia region and 20% in the Western Pacific Region have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former husband or male partner at least once in their lifetime.

Most violence experienced by women and girls is intimate partner violence.



of partnered women in the Asia Pacific region have experienced violence in the past 12 months.

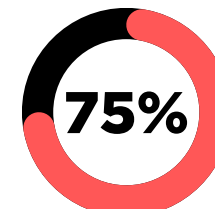


UNDER REPORTED

Only a very small proportion of VAWG survivors report violence or seek help.



Women with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, LBT women and migrant women are particularly vulnerable to violence.



of women in the Asia and the Pacific region have experienced sexual harassment.



Girls face sexual abuse; child, early and forced marriage; female infanticide; and corporal punishment.



Rates of internal and cross-border trafficking are high, especially in South and South-East Asia.



18,100

intimate partner or family-related femicides were committed in Asia and Oceania in 2021.

VAWG IN THE ASIA
PACIFIC REGION

01

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

UN Women works to strengthen quality, coordinated and survivor centred multisectoral services through the roll-out and adaptation of the Essential Services Package. UN Women has developed coordinated response approaches, integrated strategies on women's economic empowerment and programmes on ending VAWG in several contexts.

DFAT funding has played a critical role in enabling UN Women to continue enhancing the quality of coordinated and multisectoral services for VAWG survivors across the Asia Pacific region. These Essential services encompass much-needed vital support to survivors of violence, including health care for resulting injuries, sexual and reproductive health needs (including post-rape care and counselling), and facilitated access to the police and justice systems.



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, works to provide a set of recognized global guidance and tools on how to develop, implement and coordinate global norms on multisectoral services and responses, with a focus on health, police, justice and social services.



UN WOMEN ROAP'S WORK ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES HAS THREE BROAD OUTCOME AREAS:

1. Countries have national guidelines, protocols and action plans for a coordinated set of essential services for VAWG survivors in health, justice and policing, and social services that are based on internationally agreed-upon norms and standards and adapted to the national context.
2. Coverage of and access to quality essential VAWG services, provided in line with quality standards and tools, and adapted for use during the COVID-19 crisis and other emergencies, has improved.
3. Use of VAWG essential services, including during the COVID-19 crisis, provided in line with the global standards and tools by women and girls, has increased.

01

ESSENTIAL SERVICE PACKAGE ROLL-OUT



Photo: UN Women

Countries across the Asia Pacific Region are implementing the Essential Services Package to guide improvements in coordinated service delivery and establish stronger institutionalized responses to VAWG.

These countries include Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Island, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.



Photo: UN Women and UNODC

UN Women ROAP engages with country offices, service providers, governments and civil society organizations working with survivors in order to provide learning opportunities and share knowledge of promising practices. UN Women ROAP and UN Women HQ both provide further technical support to country offices. This support builds on needs areas identified through regular country office consultations.

01

ESTABLISHING NATIONAL GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS

UN Women works to improve the quality, integration and coordination of services in many countries in the Asia Pacific region. An important aspect of this work is ensuring that guidelines and protocols for essential services are updated or developed in line with global guidelines and tools, thereby ensuring the presence of a coordinated set of essential services for VAWG survivors in the health, justice, policing and social service sectors.

UN Women provides technical support to the development and review of a range of VAWG-related policies, protocols, guidance and response tools that are in line with the Essential Services Package, including:

- ▶ Guidance on essential and quality health services, including counselling, sexual reproductive health and other services;
- ▶ Guidance on survivor-centred approaches in ending VAWG programming and survivor-centred prosecutions (for example, the 'Prosecutors Training Package' below);
- ▶ Establishing links between intersectionality and the provision of essential services through a 'leave no one behind' lens;
- ▶ Guidance on safe technologies and the provision of essential services; and
- ▶ Guidance on multisectoral coordination in the Asia Pacific region.

PROSECUTORS TRAINING PACKAGE

TRAINING PACKAGE FOR PROSECUTORS RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



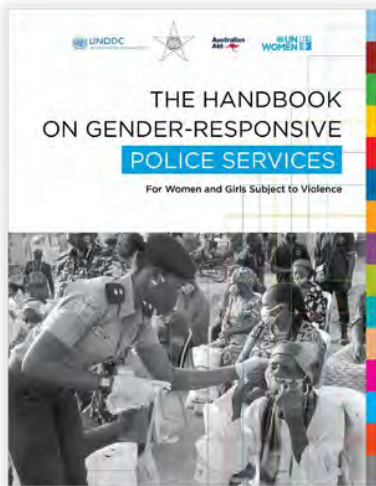
Prosecuting VAWG crimes can be challenging due to structural, social, procedural, personal and other reasons. For survivors, the process of bringing a complaint to the criminal justice system can be a difficult and often traumatizing experience. Developed through a partnership between Global Rights for Women (GRW) and UN Women ROAP, the 'Training Package for Prosecutors Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific' builds prosecutor capacities to provide quality and holistic responses to survivors of violence and improves their understanding of survivor's perspectives and experiences. This training package is improving prosecutors' ability to bring survivors justice and address their needs throughout the region.



Photo: UN Women/Fahad Abdullah Kaizer

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ESTABLISHING NATIONAL GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS (CONT.)



HANDBOOK ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICE SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS SUBJECT TO VIOLENCE

Strengthening justice-sector responses, particularly those of law enforcement, has consistently been cited as one of the most challenging issues to ending VAWG. A positive initial contact experience with police is crucial for survivors of violence; high-quality police and justice responses must be available and accessible to all women and girls, especially those who are most marginalized or at greater risk of experiencing violence. The Handbook provides in-depth coverage of areas such as gender-responsive police investigations, prevention, intersectionality, survivor-centred approaches, promoting positive masculinities, coordination, institution-building and emerging issues, such as online and technology-facilitated VAWG. The Handbook also includes guidance on responding to VAWG during crises, including pandemics.



Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce

In Cox's Bazar, gender-responsive policing efforts build trust with Rohingya women and girls



Photo: Individualland/Awais Ahmed

Building trust: Pakistan police address barriers to women's access to criminal justice



Photo: UN Women/Hoang Thao

Delivering rapid and coordinated services to survivors of violence in Viet Nam

01

ONGOING IMPROVEMENT OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Many women and girls who experience physical and sexual violence face increased challenges in accessing essential services. These services are essential, as they provide much-needed support to survivors of violence by keeping them safe, providing health care for their injuries, responding to their sexual and reproductive health needs (including the provision of post-rape care and counselling), and facilitating their access to the police and justice system. Particularly vulnerable groups, such as migrants, women living with disabilities, indigenous women and women living in remote areas, have even more limited options and often lack access to essential services.

Women and girls who have experienced violence in any setting require timely access to quality, survivor-centred, trauma-informed and services that meet their comprehensive needs for both short and long-term care, while holding perpetrators accountable. Strengthening and improving multisectoral essential services is at the core of UN Women's work in the Asia Pacific region. This includes:

EXPANDING MULTISECTORAL SERVICES

Strengthen, expand and adapt coordinated multisectoral services in the health, social and in the police and justice sectors in particular.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

Strengthen service providers' institutional and technical capacities to provide survivor-centred and trauma-informed responses through piloting, rolling out and disseminating key guidance and tools (see below for example).

PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE

Establish partnerships with thought-leaders and practitioners for collective action on ending VAWG, and facilitate cross-fertilization of innovation, practice and learning through meetings, symposiums, workshops and webinars.

LEARNING FROM PRACTICE:

SURVIVOR-CENTRED, MULTISECTORAL SERVICE PROVISION AS PART OF PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The World Health Organization and UN Women's RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence against Women framework highlights that high-quality services that are delivered in ways that respect women and their rights can reduce VAWG risk factors. The synthesis review significantly contributes to this response to VAWG by examining service provision through the perspective of CSOs. By delving into CSO projects, the review identifies essential best practices, challenges, and lessons, ultimately strengthening the connections between VAWG prevention and response. Through this analysis, the review offers practical tips and recommendations to practitioners, researchers, and donors, emphasizing effective strategies for addressing VAWG and providing support to survivors. In doing so, it actively advances the RESPECT Women's framework's objective of delivering high-quality services to women and reduces VAWG risk factors.



01

SUSTAINING SERVICES DURING A CRISIS

The pandemic revealed chronic structural weaknesses in systems that address survivors' needs, especially in times of crisis. Lessons learned from implementing the ESP during the first two years of the pandemic included:

- ▶ The need for more vigorous implementation of VAWG laws and policies and the need to strengthen coordination between and within sectors, especially the justice sector.
- ▶ A greater emphasis on incorporating survivors' perspectives in programming aimed at ending VAWG.
- ▶ The importance of responding to VAWG and ensuring that essential services continue to support women and girls before, during and after crises.



Photo: UN Women/Fahad Abdullah Kaizer

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have overlapped with multiple natural disasters, underlying the urgent need to maintain critical essential services during a crisis and the need for relevant, context-specific guidance and tools.

Recognizing this need, UN Women ROAP organized a series of workshops to support civil society organizations' (CSOs) and service providers' outreach efforts to survivors of online violence during the COVID-19 context. In India, UN Women ROAP and GRW provided technical support to build the capacities of gender-based violence one-stop crisis centres, a project that was implemented under the Gender-Responsive COVID-19 Recovery programme. The goal was to enhance the capacities of these crisis centers to better address and respond to the increased challenges of violence against women during the pandemic.

UN Women is expanding its response efforts across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus to better prepare for future emergencies and to provide the necessary guidance to drive quality and consistency in essential services for ending VAWG across different settings. UN Women will expand critical partnerships, including with women's organizations, research networks and the private sector, to ensure the continuation of essential support services and, where possible, to make stronger linkages with prevention programming in crisis contexts.

02 PREVENTION

Violence against women and girls is rooted in gender-based discrimination, social norms that accept violence and inequality, and gender stereotypes that continue cycles of violence. To date, efforts to eliminate VAWG have mainly focused on responding to and providing services for survivors of violence. However, prevention — addressing the structural causes and the risk and protective factors associated with violence — is pivotal to eliminating VAWG.

Prevention requires the political commitment of governments to implement laws that promote gender equality, invest in women's organizations, address the multiple forms of discrimination that women face daily and to eliminate the multiple drivers of violence. The evidence and knowledge on which approaches are most effective to prevent violence - what works and what does not work - has evolved considerably over the past decade, including as a result of various initiatives supported by UN Women.

THE UN WOMEN PREVENTION INITIATIVE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC HAS THREE CORE OBJECTIVES:

1.

Increased global, regional and national frameworks, policies, guidelines and implementation of evidence-based VAWG prevention, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

2.

Strengthened capacity of government ministries, NGOs and women's rights organizations to design and implement effective VAWG prevention programming in development and humanitarian settings in line with the RESPECT Framework.

3.

Strengthened advocacy, research capacity and networks on VAWG prevention both at the global level and in the Asia and the Pacific region.



INCREASE IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

UN Women is increasing its evidence-based and practice-based prevention programming across the region, focusing on primary prevention. UN Women is partnering with women’s organizations, CSOs and governments on programming, capacity building and approaches to address the underlying drivers of violence. Focus areas of work include:

- Sharing cutting-edge evidence with CSOs, governments and researchers about what works – and what does not work – to prevent VAWG, using the RESPECT Framework;
- Analysing how evidence applies and informs prevention approaches in varying contexts; and
- Working with youth on preventing gender-based violence (for example, with the Connect with Respect learning curriculum or the Voices against Violence co-educational curriculum developed with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts).

WHAT IS PRIMARY PREVENTION?



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

A comprehensive approach to ending VAWG requires interventions that span the entire prevention-to-response continuum.

RESPECT WOMEN:

SEVEN STRATEGIES TO PREVENT 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, the World Health Organization and UN Women, in collaboration with ten other UN, bilateral, and multilateral agencies, have developed the RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence against Women framework. This evidence-based resource informs policymakers and implementers about designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating interventions and programmes on preventing violence against women. The framework outlines seven interrelated intervention strategies - from Relationship skills strengthened to Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms - that combine prevention and response actions to address violence against women and children.



STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENTS, NGOS AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

A great deal of UN Women's work on preventing gender-based violence in the Asia Pacific region focuses on capacity-building. UN Women works with governments, NGOs and CSOs to strengthen the linkages between gender inequality and VAWG in order to comprehensively address these issues and to foster evidence-based prevention initiatives.

This includes:

FRAMEWORKS FOR PREVENTION

UN Women collaborates with a broad range of partners to develop and disseminate practical prevention guides that focus on gender norms and early education. These include 'Voices against Violence', a co-educational curriculum developed by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and 'Connect with Respect', a curriculum tool for school-based violence prevention.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

UN Women provides in-depth technical support and guidance on the design, development and implementation of holistic prevention programmes to country offices and partners. UN Women often collaborates with global experts, including the [Prevention Collaborative](#) and the [Equality Institute](#), to provide this support.

ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE

UN Women ROAP continues to improve and update knowledge and guidance on ending VAWG. This includes maintaining and updating global knowledge platforms, documenting lessons learned and strengthening networks through multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the Generation Equality Forum and its Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence (see below).

PREVENTION

ACTION COALITION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



The Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence brings together governments and women-, feminist- and youth-led organizations, international organizations, foundations and businesses to drive change. Through blueprints for action created by Action Coalition leaders, the Action Coalition is catalyzing collective commitments, sparking global and local conversations between generations and across communities, and driving substantial increases in public and private funding.

Under this Action Coalition there is a collective commitment to scale up implementation and financing of evidence-driven prevention strategies by public- and private-sector institutions and women's rights organizations to drive down the prevalence of VAWG.

INCREASED USE OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES ON VAW PREVENTION

When aligned with global norms and standards, national laws and policies can positively change attitudes and behaviours over the long term. However, national legal systems and public policy frameworks have often overlooked the crisis of violence against women and girls. UN Women partners with governments and women's advocates to work towards strengthening national laws, policies and strategies and adopting and implementing advanced and comprehensive normative frameworks on ending VAWG. This includes:



- ▶ Promoting a national-level monitoring framework for the prevention of VAWG in the Asia Pacific region.
- ▶ Developing a handbook on whole-of-government VAWG prevention to guide the development of national or subnational strategies.
- ▶ Developing technical guiding tools or materials on VAWG prevention, including linkages with women's economic empowerment, social protection and social norms.



MAKING PROGRESS IN PREVENTION POSSIBLE

A MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Developed by UN Women and The Equality Institute, the 'Making Progress In Prevention Possible' framework responds to the need for a prevention monitoring framework that is contextualized to the Asia Pacific region. It guides policymakers and practitioners through the key components for building a prevention framework that is relevant to the Asia Pacific region and illustrates how to measure change in the short, medium and long term.

03

UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Established in 1996 by United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/166, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, is the only global multilateral grant-giving mechanism dedicated to eradicating all forms of VAWG.

The UN Trust Fund is committed to advocating for adequate, sustainable funding for efforts to end VAWG and to funding women-led organizations that are focused on women's rights. It prioritizes civil society-led, demand-driven initiatives that adopt an intersectional approach and the principle of leaving no one behind and that work to end VAWG, especially in rapidly changing contexts and complex environments.

UN TRUST FUND GRANTS

Since its 1996 establishment, the UN Trust Fund has awarded:

💰 **USD \$215 million**

👤 **to 646 initiatives**

🌍 **working in 140
countries and
territories**

THE UN TRUST FUND IS:

1.

A inter-agency mechanism that invests in innovative, demand-driven, evidence-based solutions and life-changing initiatives at the national and local levels through supporting civil society and women's rights organizations working to end VAWG.

2.

The only global multilateral grant-making entity supporting efforts to eradicate VAWG in all its forms and contexts.

3.

A hub of practice-based knowledge on what works to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.



UN TRUST FUND

03

FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Since its establishment, the UN Trust Fund has been an essential source of support to women's, grass-roots and other CSOs, nurturing innovation, catalysing change and mobilizing key actors and constituencies from the community to the national and international levels.

The UN Trust Fund annually awards grants after an open and competitive call for proposals. For the 25th grant cycle in 2022, the UN Trust Fund received 1,396 applications from 108 countries and territories; it awarded \$17 million to 37 initiatives working in 28 countries and territories. Most funded organizations were women's rights organizations (73 percent), and nearly half are small organizations.

In the Asia and the Pacific region, four women-led organizations in Myanmar, Mongolia and Nepal were awarded grants following the UN Trust Fund's 2022 Call for Proposals.



Photo: UN Women/Elle van Baaren

INCREASED OUTREACH IN THE PACIFIC

FOR CSOs AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

In the current Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the UN Trust Fund is putting in place actions to expand its outreach to CSOs and women's rights organizations in the region and increase the number of applications from the Pacific to increase their opportunities to effectively access funds. Efforts have entailed investing in enhanced outreach in disseminating the call for proposals, including through regional webinars for in-depth guidance on the application process and the grant management system.

03

BUILDING A STRONG KNOWLEDGE BASE

The UN Trust Fund is building a stronger, practical knowledge base for scaling up global efforts to eliminate VAWG by codifying, analysing and disseminating lessons learned from the projects it funds. To promote learning and accountability, the UN Trust Fund supports knowledge exchange and management, including through its online platform SHINE and through monitoring and evaluation by CSOs it funds. Learning is collected, analysed and disseminated in three ways:

EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

All UN Trust Fund-supported projects receiving grants worth over \$150,000 must have a final external evaluation. UN Trust Fund has the largest publicly available Evaluation Library on ending VAWG projects.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

UN Trust Fund grantees must file an online report covering key performance indicators every six months, thus ensuring regular project monitoring.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Learning and knowledge exchange opportunities are organized, both online and in person, based on mutual enablement, to provide the UN Trust Fund with data it can analyse and share with grantees and partners.

By adopting this monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach, CSOs' capacities to apply good practices for ethical and safe data collection, as well as management of gender-responsive evaluation are regularly assessed. These practices, in turn, enhance the quality of UN Trust Fund evaluations and UN Trust Fund activities, enabling timely support for grantees' operational and programmatic adaptations, particularly in rapidly changing contexts.

LEARNING FROM PRACTICE:

LESSONS LEARNED BY UN TRUST FUND-SUPPORTED CSOs ON PREVENTING VAWG

The UN Trust Fund recognizes the expertise of civil society and women's rights organizations and the essential roles they play in ending VAWG. To disseminate their knowledge, the UN TrustFund worked with grantee organizations and researchers to create a series of briefings on preventing VAWG, solidified in the Learning from Practice: Prevention Series. The findings identified ten key pathways to prevent VAWG. The themes include:

- Engaging faith-based and traditional actors;
- Exploring intersectional approaches;
- Mobilising women as agents of change;
- Training for behaviour change;
- Adolescent-focused approaches;
- Resistance and backlash;
- Adaptative programming;
- Survivor-centred, multisector responses; and
- Law and policy implementation and reform.



NEXT STEPS

UN WOMEN - DFAT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK



Photo: UN Women/Nicholas Axelrod



Photo: UN Women/Murray Lloyd

As UN Women moves into the next phase of its partnership with DFAT for the “Ending Violence against Women and Girls” project, it will continue to provide expert technical assistance to country offices on essential services and preventing VAWG. It will also work to generate evidence on what works to end VAWG in different contexts and will disseminate knowledge products and resources to stakeholders across the region. This work will be undertaken in line with the UN Women Asia Pacific Regional Strategy on VAWG Prevention 2020- 2025.

UN Women will continue to explore the intersection of big data and ending VAWG programming to generate evidence and create resources to strengthen prevention programming across the region. In addition, it will pilot and translate further resources to ensure that country offices and stakeholders have access to the most updated evidence. UN Women will also support the adaptation and roll-out of leading-edge programmes in the region, contributing to growing the evidence base on prevention in this context.

Lastly, UN Women will capitalize on stakeholders’ eagerness to learn about best practices in programme delivery and will organize a series of webinars and round tables that bring together relevant colleagues and experts, thus fostering continued learning and knowledge-sharing across the region.




Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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