



Appendix

Learning from practice:

Strengthening a legal and policy environment to prevent violence against women and girls

Lessons on prevention from civil society organizations funded by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

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Appendix: Section A: Selection of ten projects

The 10 projects included in this synthesis review were selected because all had practice-based knowledge (PBK) in their final UN Trust Fund reports relating to engaging with legal and policy reform and implementation for VAWG prevention. There are interesting similarities, but also diversity, in the selected projects and in the PBK that emerged from their documents and discussions. The projects were intentionally selected to ensure diversity in terms of geographical region (Africa (3), Asia (2), Oceania (2), Latin America and the Caribbean (1) and the Middle East (1), with a specific focus on low- and middle-income countries; a range of different involvements by CSOs into legal and policy systems; the size of the grant received; the timespan of the grant; the type of CSO; and perceived success levels as assessed by the UN Trust Fund.

In engaging to strengthen a legal and policy environment for VAWG prevention, this diversity of CSO projects ensures that meaningful reflection on a range of issues is possible. While almost all identified generically as CSOs, the involvement of women's rights and human rights networks in this area was noted as key. Some projects focused on a primary form of engagement with a legal and/or policy system such as equipping female community paralegals (e.g., in Myanmar), policy reform around lesbian and trans-women (e.g., in Thailand) or helping sexual violence survivors access justice within transitional contexts (e.g., in Timor Leste). Others worked across a number of different points in the system, often by using multi sectoral partnerships to convene stakeholders from across various formal and informal institutions (e.g., in India and El Salvador). Although all CSOs engaged with bridging gaps between communities and formal legal and policy systems, only some programmes focused on bridging this gap specifically in ways that engaged directly with existing informal systems at community level (e.g., in the Solomon Islands). A table providing detailed information on all the projects and how they engaged with legal and policy systems is included below. Some projects emphasised advocating for legal and policy reforms for VAWG prevention; others worked on implementation of existing laws and policies through capacitating formal duty bearers such as the police and judiciary. For all the projects in the sample, engagement with legal and policy reform or implementation was a planned component of their programming, but many also carried out other activities with women and girls that formed a community driver for this systems engagement.

An access to justice framing was seen in many of the projects, possibly partly due to UN Trust Fund grant framings or because CSO practitioners enter into their task via the immediate needs of beneficiaries which is often after violence has taken place. However, PBK from these projects shows that in practice, access to justice and services for VAWG survivors is inextricably linked to creating an enabling environment for VAWG prevention at systems level, especially in relation to capacitating duty bearers as well as accountability systems for perpetrators. This is shaped by the cyclical nature of much VAWG, as reflected in the conceptual framework; where work to support survivors to access justice leads back into new priorities and advocacy for legal and policy reform for VAWG prevention. CSOs were indirectly able to make important contributions to understanding access to gender-justice more comprehensively and holistically as including a framework for VAWG prevention.

For many projects, opportunities emerged over time in the context of building trusted relationships with these legal and policy stakeholders requiring programmes to adapt. External factors such as political elections or health crises also played unexpected roles in both opening up new opportunities or creating new challenges. For all CSOs, working at this systems level meant in some way working from the sidelines to influence and catalyse systems change, through collaborating, capacitating, and convening other powerful players around VAWG prevention. This means that a CSO cannot develop a standalone programme in this area if it is to be sustainable and must seek to build on what already exists to integrate into those wider politicised systems if they are to shape long term systems change.

Appendix B - Description of the 10 selected projects

Grantee, country, year, project title	Description of project	Overall project goal	Project results (reported in external evaluations)
<p>Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice DRC, Sudan, Uganda, Libya, 2-year grant: 2013-2016. <i>Advancing Gender Justice in Countries Under ICC Investigation</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$730,000</p>	<p>This project focused on legal reform and implementation around conflict-related sexual violence and on international accountability with a strong legal advocacy element by women's human rights organizations as well as developing grassroots survivor support approaches to access justice. It took multi-pronged approaches which enables many cross-regional lessons to surface in the four diverse contexts.</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 4: A2J</p>	<p>War affected women and girls in DRC/Libya/Sudan/Uganda, including victims/survivors of gender-based crimes, have: 1) increased access to justice, medical support, and post-conflict reconstruction programmes; 2) enhanced capacity and leadership amongst local women's rights partners to advocate for greater legal recognition and accountability for gender-based crimes; 3) increased opportunities to be influential participants in post-conflict recovery and transitional justice mechanisms</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, over 2,500 decision makers were reached through screenings of videos on SGBV in DRC and Uganda, which led to increased awareness and solidarity with victims of sexual and gender-based violence. In Sudan, the project contributed to the 2015 revision of Article 149 of the Criminal Code, to provide a definition of rape that meets international standards, including by differentiating between rape and adultery. Article 151 was also amended to criminalize sexual harassment. The project increased access to justice for victims/survivors of gender-based crimes, enhanced the capacity of local women's rights partners to advocate for gender justice and become active partners in post-conflict recovery and transitional justice mechanisms.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>The Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) of the Pacific Community (SPC) Solomon Islands, 3-year grant: 2017-2020. <i>A pilot project to increase women's access to justice in</i></p>	<p>This pilot project focused on implementing the 2014 Family Protection Act around Domestic Violence to enable increased safety protection and access to justice in remote areas. They worked to train 46 newly appointed local Authorised Justices (AJs) and 40 community facilitators to advise women on their rights, GBV and roles of AJs especially around interim protection orders.</p>	<p>Women and girl survivors of domestic violence in Guadalcanal and Malaita experience higher level of safety and are better protected from domestic violence, by project end</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, this pilot project played a role in advancing access to justice under the Family Protection Act of 2014 and made some contributions towards its implementation, including the development and roll-out of a training programme on the Act as well as the issue of EVAWG for 46 Authorised Justices. In this way, the project highlighted gaps in the state justice system regarding the requirement of a secure avenue of legal</p>

<p><i>Guadalcanal and Malaita</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$458,980</p>	<p>Main connection to CF: 3: Bridging Gaps</p>		<p>protection for Solomon Islander women survivors of family violence.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation's Executive Summary here.</p>
<p>Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC) State of Palestine, 3-year grant: 2017-2020. <i>Promote women's access to social and legal services in the West Bank and East Jerusalem</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$400,452</p>	<p>This project took a feminist lens on gender equality and worked on laws and policies in Palestine including capacitating and training young Sharia lawyers and judges related to IPV and family laws but also issues such as the incarceration of women, etc. It also equips local communities with advocacy skills for ending GBV in the light of Palestine signing up to international laws on women's rights in recent years. It provides legal and social services and uses this as a platform for wider policy related advocacy and improving national institutional capacity for women's rights</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 2: Capacity Dev and 1: Reform</p>	<p>To contribute to ending GBV through increasing access of 1,215 women suffering from gender-based discrimination to their social, legal and protection rights in the West Bank and East Jerusalem</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, the project provided legal and social counselling and consultation to 450 and 300 women respectively in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Consultations focused on legal issues regarding EAWG. WCLAC also supported the capacity development of 116 Sharia lawyer trainees on court procedures and gender sensitive representation to better provide legal services for women. In addition, with support from WCLAC's legal aid team, 190 cases were brought to court and 95 verdicts were obtained in favour of women.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>ActionAid Myanmar Myanmar, 3-year grant: 2013-2016. <i>Promoting Access to Justice: towards a violence free environment for women and girls</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$300,000</p>	<p>This project trained female volunteers as community paralegals to support a range of VAWG survivors and took a strong multi-sectoral collaborative approach to connecting to police and justice systems. It helped coordinate government, community leaders, journalists, men and women to work together at community level for family related social norms change tied to existing VAWG laws.</p>	<p>Women and girls in 40 target communities know of and exercise their right to live free of physical and sexual violence by publicly voicing their experience and seeking community and legal support and redress</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, the Legal Clinic Myanmar (LCM) was successful in establishing accessible legal services in Pyapon and Meiktilar. The effectiveness of LCM's community outreach was found to be commendable. Another key result highlighted in the evaluation was that a Rights for People with Disability Law, to which the grantee has actively contributed to, was approved and has been enforced since 2015. In addition, the Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women Law</p>

	Main connection to CF: 3: Bridging Gaps		had been submitted to government by the project end and at the time of the final external evaluation.
<p>Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz El Salvador, 3-year grant: 2015-2017. <i>Mejora de las condiciones de acceso a una vida libre de violencia de género para las mujeres de El Salvador</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$370,220</p>	<p>This project worked multi-dimensionally to focus on advocacy through an evidence base and resources for implementation of a new GBV law. They trained both the police and personnel in the department of justice. They also set up local municipal referral networks to strengthen intersectional and inter agency coordination around VAWG. They specifically targeted actual reported behaviours of the police in the light of new VAWG legislation whilst also raising the awareness of citizens of all ages to know and claim their legal rights.</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 1: Reform, 2: Capacity Dev and 3: Bridging gaps</p>	<p>Women in 13 municipalities in El Salvador experience a better response to gender-based violence as a result of strengthening their institutional and the ability of civil organizations to demand accountability from the government to implement the Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free of Violence for Women (translated)</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, all 3 of the prioritized municipalities of the project approved equality policies and created inter-institutional municipal networks for the prevention of VAW with the participation of local governments. 2 of these municipalities approved plans to prevent and pay attention to violence against women. The project provided evidence-based information for political decision-making at national and territorial levels as well as generated and improved the capacities of municipal personnel, local and national civil servants and uniformed personnel. In addition, the project made possible the positioning of women as referents of communities before local governments, allowing for the development of two legally constituted associations and one in the process of registering with the municipality. 405 women have been trained to influence local public policies related to gender equality and prevention of VAW.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Pragya India, 3-year grant: 2016-2018. <i>Comprehensive Primary Prevention Programme addressing Violence against Ethnic</i></p>	<p>This project had a focus on rural minority tribal women and the primary prevention of VAWG. The model emphasized building links between customary laws and statutory legal protection and looked at the need for social norm change. It works closely with local level formal and informal structures to achieve this. It had a formal</p>	<p>Women and girls in (ten) tribal areas of India targeted by the project experience better protection from violence in the family and in the community</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, there have been significant shifts in knowledge, awareness, and attitude towards gender-based violence due to sensitization and training of 182 representatives of law enforcement agencies. Training and sensitization of local law enforcers helped refresh their understanding of laws for addressing violence against women and girls,</p>

<p><i>Minority Women in India</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$756,888</p>	<p>relationship with government ministries around capacitating them for holistic development and convening inter agency task teams for multi sector collaboration.</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 2: Capacity building and 3: Bridging gaps</p>		<p>surface their personal prejudices and attitudes, and enabled them to find solutions to their challenges through peer interactions in Lessons Learning workshops. In addition, the project allowed law enforcement agencies to network into Inter-Agency Task Forces in the 5 states under the project. These Task Forces created detailed action plans to cater to the diverse issues pertaining to VAW in their respective states.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Zimbabwe, 3-year grant: 2015-2017. <i>Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$400,452</p>	<p>In this first round of three-year funding, this disability focused organisation worked with GWWD in contexts of extreme poverty who have experienced sexual violence to support them to access justice through providing legal and social support. It also focused on enabling their voices to be better heard within the community and at policy levels and within the VAWG prevention sector. They also worked directly to capacitate schools, police, and court systems to address barriers for GWWD facing violence through, for example, training them in sign language.</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 4: A2J and 2: Capacity Building</p>	<p>Women and girls with disabilities in Zimbabwe have improved safety from sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence and are increasingly participating in the justice process on equal terms with others when their rights are violated</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, 738 (82% of the target 900) girls and women with disabilities who are survivors of gender-based violence received practical assistance and disability expert support services, which enhanced their access to justice – around 75% reported improved well-being after participating in the justice process. 90% of the cases reached by the project proceeded to trial and 81% of participants were assisted in accessing medical services. In addition, 90% of cases reached by the project proceeded to the trial stage in courts, partly thanks to the capacitation of justice institutions through training to better serve girls and women with disabilities, especially with regard to valuing them, communicating with them, and prioritizing their cases.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe</p>	<p>With a second round of three-year funding, this large disability focused organisation</p>	<p>Girls and Women with Disabilities (GWWD) in</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, the project assisted 809 survivors to access justice at pre-</p>

<p>Zimbabwe, 3-year grant: 2018-2021. <i>Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities in Zimbabwe</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$400,452</p>	<p>deepened its work around access to justice including legal support for GWWDs. GWWD voices became more institutionalised as participants at policy levels for VAWG prevention, disability, and mental health issues. Deepened review engagement with police and courts took place enabling reform of various policy protocols and contribution to national action policy plans around VAWG including in a COVID context.</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 1: Reform, 2: Capacity Building and 3: A2J</p>	<p>Zimbabwe have improved safety from sexual violence and other forms of violence and are increasingly accessing justice and related services when violated</p>	<p>trial, trial and post-trial stages, surpassing the target reach. Key justice actors were capacitated with missing disability-sensitive skills such as basic sign language and by the project end could fairly converse with clients with speech and hearing impairment. Furthermore, the project trained these justice actors on the intersection of disability and VAW.</p>
<p>Associacaon Chega Ba Ita Timor-Leste, 3-year grant: 2015-2017. <i>Strengthening Women Survivors of Violence in Timor-Leste</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$300,000</p>	<p>This organisation was established to promote recommendations of the country's post conflict Truth Commission and helped establish national mechanisms for government policies on reparations and legal accountability around gendered violence and support for survivors. It focused on transitional justice processes for women survivors of conflict-related violence as well as how past and current VAWG connect.</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 4: A2J and 1: Reform</p>	<p>Women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence during Timor-Leste's conflict experience greater access to socio-economic support and services, lower levels of stigma and marginalization, and a more active role in voicing their issues and decision-making in their communities</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, the project assisted in the establishment of the Centro Nacional Chega!, which signals an important shift of policy towards focusing on past crimes, including the needs of sexual and gender-based violence victims. In addition, the project supported the launch of Timor-Leste's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security in 2016. As a result, government and civil society policies, plans and programmes were found to be more responsive to survivors' needs. In total, 41 government officials from 10 institutions participated in or cooperated with the project's activities. Furthermore, the project has helped improve service delivery systems to victims through spreading information about government programmes, linking government workers with affected communities, and providing feedback and support to the</p>

			<p>government on their systems. The project has served as a useful bridge between survivors and policymakers as a result.</p> <p>For more results, see the project evaluation here.</p>
<p>Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand Thailand, 3-year grant: 2015-2017. <i>Lesbian and Transgender Women to Mitigate Violence, Stigma and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</i></p> <p>Grant amount: \$600,000</p>	<p>This three-year project by a large specialist sexual and gender identity network organisation in Thailand worked with lesbian and transgender women to raise awareness of the violence and discrimination they face in their context and to work for national level policy change for and with this particular group by using a human rights lens. They focused on the violence experienced by women due to their sexual orientation or gender identity and in seeking to equip them as advocates for legal and policy reforms</p> <p>Main connection to CF: 1: Reform</p>	<p>Lesbian and transgender women from four regions of Thailand experience greater freedom from violence, stigma, discrimination, and human rights violations based on sexual orientation</p>	<p>According to the external evaluation, the project included several government committees on gender equity and human rights to facilitate policy development for lesbian and transgender women. In addition, the project effectively implemented the Gender Equality act in collaboration with government and made progress on the civil union law and on improving rights for transgender women prisoners. The project also developed two IEC tools for advocacy and awareness-raising among policy makers and the general public. Furthermore, government stakeholders interviewed for the evaluation indicated that the project had greatly influenced their views on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as about sexual minorities in Thailand. This was accomplished through advocacy at national level committees and participating in provincial level trainings of government officials.</p> <p>For more on the results, see the project evaluation here.</p>

Appendix B: Methodology

In August 2020 the UN Trust Fund commissioned a synthesis review of practice-based knowledge (PBK) on VAWG prevention arising from 89 UN Trust Fund-funded projects. During the first phase of the synthesis review, ten key *Pathways towards Prevention* surfaced from the PBK data mined from these 89 projects as particularly relevant to VAWG prevention evidence building, with PBK envisaged as a compass that helps projects navigate these different, interrelated pathways in practice. In the second phase of the synthesis review, each of these pathways has been explored in more detail, by focusing on ten projects for each synthesis review that showed particularly relevant PBK on that specific Pathway. This is the final review in this series of ten.

This review focused on the pathway ‘Working Together for Legal and Policy Reform and Implementation’. Ten projects were engaged with (listed in Appendix A). The broad scope of this diverse collection of ten projects allows for rich reflection on lessons learned from practice by CSOs on working together for legal and policy reform an implementation as part of VAWG prevention. The decision was made, in the light of the findings emerging to focus the framing broadly on strengthening an enabling environment for VAWG prevention, with the various aspects of legal and policy reform, implementation and access to justice work engaged in by grantees all connected into this goal to ensure the focus remained on prevention in this review, even if some grantees may not always have made that connection themselves and see access to justice as separate to prevention.

The research followed an inductive process to allow the concerns and reflections identified by project partners to drive both the research process and the final content. This in itself challenges approaches which can require project data to fit into pre-existing theoretical frameworks and ensures that the PBK from the reports strongly shape the themes and issues explored in the review. Nevertheless, an overarching guiding question helped focus the initial engagement with literature and a PBK mining strategy, namely “*What lessons can be learned from CSOs about how working together (with other stakeholders) on law and policy reforms and their implementation can contribute to the prevention of VAWG?*”) However, the review does not aim to ‘answer’ additional pre-decided research questions in a deductive way but opens space for practitioner priorities and reflections.

While this guiding question informed the mining process, the themes explored in the review were in the end dictated by the PBK that surfaced in the projects’ reports, centralising them as knowledge co-producers and not merely as data providers. This approach is in line with PBK methodology.

The first step in the research process was a two-step rapid literature review; first focusing on recent existing academic and grey literature. A focus on LMIC contexts was prioritised. A second analysis step returned to this same evidence in the light of the five themes emerging from practitioners in order to identify appropriate, complementary contributions for the literature boxes in the five themes.

In identifying PBK relevant to each specific review, the focus was on textured PBK which is more than a description of what projects did, but also includes detail, context, narrative, cumulative learning, and/or complexity around why and how they did it. PBK around impact and listed activities was only included if there was a specific reflection on lessons learnt, and not if it was only listed as achieved. An inductive approach allowed this field data to drive both the analysis and the final report content.

Keeping this in mind, PBK mining strategies for this review prioritised:

- Critical reflection by implementors (and beneficiaries) on legal and policy reform and implementation emerging in their wider socio—political and economic contexts
- Textured insights to surface the *why* and *how* of their approaches on this area within a specific time and place that is also multi-faceted, dynamic, and changing

- Unexpected adaptations made due to the emergence of new or changing legal or policy contexts including e.g., elections, new governments, new laws introduced
- Challenges projects faced in practice around working with legal or policy actors for VAWG prevention and if/how they were overcome
- Lessons from approaches that faced complexity and ambiguity, including how a focus on prevention requires these stakeholders to often move from reactive to proactive stances
- Similarities/differences around working on this issue seen to resonate between contexts
- Concrete examples of how legal and policy realities shape women's lives in practice
- Any ways in which organisations developed effective multi sectoral partnerships and networks as a key part of their approach
- Any insights on legal and policy reform and implementation that was affected by COVID-19.

With each of the ten projects, PBK on legal and policy reform and its implementation was mined in the full external evaluation report, the Narrative Report Section of all the annual project reports, and the Results Chain (as captured in the annual project reports). Each project was first approached as a stand-alone unit and all relevant PBK captured in one document. These documents were then hand-coded, in order to ensure that the researcher stayed accountable to the context (and 'whole-picture') of the project – a key tenet of PBK. Once this was done with each project, a thematic outline was developed based on recurring themes identified as emerging across different projects.

These emerging themes guided the development of the interview guides for two FGD sessions to which all 10 project grantees, as well as their implementing partners, were invited. These two FGDs were empirical data-collection exercises, where 'new' PBK was sourced from the project grantees. Five representatives from three of the ten projects participated in this exercise, by attending one or both of the FGDs. All FGD participants completed a written consent form and, to ensure confidentiality, the recordings, and transcripts of the FGDs were not shared with anyone apart from the FGD participants.

The notes, transcripts, and written answers from the FGDs were hand-coded and the outline of the review structure was adapted accordingly. Based on the conceptual framework, an outline of the review was shared with the UN Trust Fund. After feedback, the outline was finalised, and the review drafted.

A core principle of PBK is decentring existing, often implicit, knowledge hierarchies and creating feminist, decolonized ways of creating new knowledge and being accountable. This has shaped the methodology and the report writing process, but it will also shape the review process where various stakeholders will be involved in the review process. All ten project grantees will also receive the draft report to review and will also be invited to an online validation meeting with the researchers. The UN Trust Fund's internal and external Advisory Groups will also be invited to review the report.

Appendix C: FGD guides

FGD # 1

1. In your UNTF-funded project, you all worked with various specific legal or policy actors and stakeholders. Can you share about how and why you decided to target them and why you feel that as a CSO it was important to target these particular stakeholders in your context?
2. Please focus on any activities you did specifically around legal or policy reforms in your context (so forming or changing the laws or policies in your context). Can you share a specific strategy that you used in this area, and why this matters for VAWG prevention?
3. Think about if you did anything to capacitate the formal police or the justice system or government stakeholders at different levels to implement laws and policies around prevention, Share an example of this and also any challenges you faced with this?
4. I want you to think about if and how you saw or bridged any gaps between formal and informal legal and policy systems and between these systems, the community and women survivors to enable prevention and access to justice. How do you feel this ties into VAWG prevention? Are there things that you notice or strategies that you employed as civil society organisations to bridge any gaps between those formal systems and processes and the reality of the informal experiences and the social norms in your communities?
5. Based on your own recent experiences in the field, what is it that you really want other CSO practitioners who are working to prevent VAWG and are considering working together for legal and policy reform and implementation, to know?

FGD # 2

1. If you think about the UNTF related work you did (or are doing) around legal and policy reform and implementation, how do you think COVID-19 has affected it? Is it affecting your target groups your systems level work? Can you give me an example?
2. Was there anything that came in under the COVID-19 response in relation to laws and polices in your context that concerned you from a VAWG prevention programming perspective as potentially having a negative effect?
3. Do you feel that there were any positive learnings/connections or adaptations that you were able to make or see under COVID-19 I your VAWG prevention programming as a result?
4. Many of you partnered with government or legal stakeholders in your project to leverage your role as CSOs or WROs. Can you share some lessons learned or challenges encountered from your project within your multi sector partnering approach in your specific context with a specific focus on preventing VAWG?
5. I want to go back to that conceptual framework diagram that I put up at the beginning yesterday. When you look at that, where do you feel that the different things you do are represented in that diagram. Are there any gaps you can see?
6. We hope that policy makers and donors like UNTF can also learn from you about how to work together in a way that recognises the complexities of working together for legal and policy reform and/or implementation. So what is it that you really want donors, like UNTF, and policy makers to know about why working at this level is important for VAWG prevention and how they can better support it?

Appendix D: Informed consent form

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

We would like to invite you to participate in research collecting practice-based knowledge (PBK) on engaging with legal and/or policy reform and implementation to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG). You are invited specifically because an organisation that you work/ed for implemented a project that was funded by the UN Trust Fund.

Please take some time to read the information presented here, which will explain the details of this project and contact me if you require further explanation or clarification of any aspect of the study. Also, your participation is **entirely voluntary**, and you are free to decline to participate. If you say no, this will not affect you or your organisation negatively in any way whatsoever. You are also free to withdraw from the study at any point, even if you do agree to take part. The information that has been collected from you up to that point will then be deleted.

We are asking you (as a representative of your organisation) to take part in two online focus group discussions (FGDs), where we will discuss the preliminary findings of the process of collecting and synthesising PBK from specific UN Trust Fund projects (including your organisation's), your specific experiences and learnings from working for legal and policy reform and implementation and share your thoughts and opinions. The online focus group will not last longer than one hour. You will remain anonymous and your name will not be included in any reporting. You will not receive any payment for taking part in this study. Confidentiality will be maintained by means of using codes instead of names and storing data on password-protected computers. Only the researchers will have access to any notes that are taken.

The session will be recorded. You will have the right to review/edit the recording after the session. These recordings may also be transcribed. The transcriber will sign a confidentiality agreement and this transcription will not be shared with the UN Trust Fund. In any reports, journal articles, or presentations prepared based on the data collected during this study, you will remain anonymous. **If you are willing to participate in this study, please sign the attached Declaration of Consent and email it to the researcher.**

DECLARATION BY PARTICIPANT

By signing below, I agree to take part in this research study on legal and policy reform and/or implementation to prevent VAWG, conducted by Selina Palm.

I declare that:

- I have read the attached information leaflet and it is written in a language with which I am fluent and comfortable.
- I have had a chance to ask questions and all my questions have been adequately answered.
- I understand that taking part in this study is **voluntary** and I have not been pressurised to take part.
- I may choose to leave the study at any time and will not be penalised or prejudiced in any way.
- All issues related to privacy and the confidentiality and use of the information I provide have been explained to my satisfaction.

Signed on (date)