

End of Project External Evaluation Report

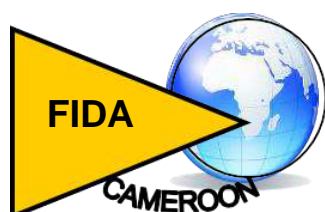
Making Violence Against Women and Girls History in Cameroon

Northwest and Southwest Regions, Cameroon
January 2020 – December 2022

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Conducted for

International Federation of Women Lawyers, Cameroon



Prepared by

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The evaluation was conducted by a team composed of two external evaluators with experience in sustainable development, monitoring, evaluation methodologies, and gender.

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This Evaluation Report has been developed by independent evaluators. The analysis presented in this report reflects the views of the authors and may not necessarily represent those of FIDA, its partners or the UN Trust Fund.

Table of Content

Table of content	2
List of tables	3
List of figures	3
List of acronyms and abbreviations	4
Executive summary	5
1. Context of the project	21
2. Description of the project	24
3. Purpose and objectives of the evaluation	29
4. Evaluation scope	31
5. Evaluation team	32
6. Evaluation questions	34
7. Evaluation methodology	36
8. Findings and analysis	45
9. Conclusions	96
10. Recommendations	100
11. Annexes	103

List of Tables

Table 1: Evaluation Objectives and Intended Users	29
Table 2: Scope of Evaluation	31
Table 3: Demographics of Data Sources	37
Table 4: Documentation reviewed.	38
Table 5: Sampling Strategies Used in the Evaluation.	40
Table 6: Categories of women who provided significant change stories.	47
Table 7: Selection criteria and changes assessed from Most Significant stories.	47
Table 8: Summary of the Overall Assessment of Impact	51
Table 9: Summary of Overall Assessment of Relevance	56
Table 10: Number of persons reached with capacity building activities.	58
Table 11: Awareness of traditional leaders of discriminatory laws	60
Table 12: Number of persons sensitized on SGBV/HP and related laws.	61
Table 13: Performance of the project in terms of population awareness, capacity building	63
Table 14: Project's performance at the level of Outcome 1.....	65
Table 15: Proportion of respondents with knowledge of the existence of legal aid clinic and Pro-bono services	67
Table 16: Distribution of women and girls accessing legal aid clinics over three years (2020-2022).....	68
Table 17: Projects Performance at the level of Outcome 2.....	68
Table 18: Commitments and GBV advocacy engagements of Women and girls.....	69
Table 19: Project's Performance at the Level of Outcome 3.....	70
Table 20: Project's performance at level Outcome 4	71
Table 21: Proportion of women/girls in the population who know of COVID-19 risk and mitigation strategies..	74
Table 22: Summary of Overall Assessment of Effectiveness of Project.....	76
Table 23: Project Delivery and Efficiency Rate by Results	77
Table 24: Project delivery rate by Expenditure	78
Table 25: Project delivery rate by Partner	78
Table 26: Results Framework of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA 3-year project	109

List of Figures

Figure 1: Proportion of MLC who are aware of the international commitments for the protection of women and girls.	59
Figure 2: Proportion of respondents with the knowledge that VAWG is a human right violation	65
Figure 3: Proportion of respondents who can identify legal instruments linked to GBV.	66
Figure 4: Proportion of women accessing legal aid clinic between 2020 and 2022.	67
Figure 5: Number of cases addressed by applying the national and international conventions.	69
Figure 6: Proportion of traditional leaders, political and administrative leaders, men/boys engaged to end SGBV/HP	70
Figure 7: Number of cases processed by paralegals between 2020 and 2022.	71
Figure 8: Proportion of FIDA and Co-implementing Staff with adequate capacities.....	73

List of acronyms and abbreviations

CSO	Civil Society Organization
LAW	Libra Association of Widows
FOWECCAM	Footsteps for Women and Children in Cameroon
VOW	Voices of Women
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based violence
UN	United Nations
UN	Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
ToR	Terms of reference
HP	Harmful Practices
IEC	Information Education Communication
DHS	Demographic and health Survey
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NW	Northwest
SW	Southwest
MINPROFF	Ministry of Women's empowerment and the family
ILO	International Labor Organization
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Wellbeing of the Child
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Department for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
EM	Evaluation Matrix
UFE	Utilization-Focused Evaluation
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
ACAFEJ	Cameroon Association of Female Jurists
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Wellbeing of the Child
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against the Woman
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DHS	Demographic Health Surveys
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HIV+	Living with HIV
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
MLC	Members of the Legal Society

Executive summary

In Cameroon, VAWG is a serious challenge in all the regions with physical, mental, and health impacts including disabilities (Research Directorate, 2016). The socio-political crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon which has existed since 2017, has heightened GBV prevalence, intensified its effects among women and girls, and is further constraining access to required prevention and response services for persons at risk and the general populations in these regions. This situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis outbreak which broke out in March 2020. It is becoming more evident that the legal system in Cameroon may not be easily accessible for persons at risk of GBV, especially survivors and internally displaced women and girls. An accessible legal system that is reliable, trustworthy, and effective is a critical and necessary element to ensure an adequate and multi-sectoral approach. Legal support services must be instituted at the appropriate time and as a part of a comprehensive program for it to be successful in aiding survivors to maintain their safety and obtain justice. The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Cameroon relates strongly with this backdrop in the legal service provision for prevention and response to VAWG in two regions of Cameroon and has proposed ways in “Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the Southwest and Northwest Regions of Cameroon” through this project.

The project to be evaluated is a three-year project “Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon” and has been implemented by the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Cameroon, focusing on SGBV and Harmful Practices (HP). The central objective of this project is “to ensure women and girls in Northwest and Southwest regions are better protected from violence and empowered to realize their right to live a life free from violence”. The primary beneficiaries include women/girls who have experienced any form of SGBV and are accessing GBV services, trafficked women/girls, women in detention who are vulnerable/at risk of violence, women/girls in the general population who at risk of SGBV because of heightened vulnerabilities. The secondary beneficiaries were Journalists, legal officers, traditional leaders and queen mothers, parliamentarians, staff, volunteers, and interns.

The main objective of the evaluation is to assess the support of FIDA in the promotion of women’s human rights through the prevention, response, and elimination of SGBV and HP. As commissioned by the UNTF, the evaluation provides an opportunity to ensure accountability to UNTF and other key stakeholders on the performance and achievements of the project on mitigating VAWG over the period of January 2020 to December 2022. The evaluation assessed the changes from the project and their significance to the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the intervention. It also addressed movement building, institutional strengthening, gender equality, and human rights as a cross-cutting issue. It also sought to identify lessons learned, capture good practices, and generate knowledge to inform the implementation of GBV programming and inform the potential continuation or scaling of strategies for the protection and promotion of women’s rights for UNTF, FIDA, implementing partners (FOWEC-CAM, LAW) and other GBV stakeholders. The information and recommendations of the evaluation are also of interest to Cameroon’s key GBV stakeholders including the Ministries of Justice, Women’s Empowerment, and the Family (MINPROFF), Public Health, Social Affairs, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, etc. at the center of sustaining the fight on violence against women and girls.

The evaluation was implemented between December 2022 and February 2023. The end-of-project evaluation employed a non-experimental approach while using a mixed method- that is both quantitative and qualitative methods. It was profoundly a participatory exercise that engaged stakeholders throughout the process for a utilization-focused evaluation (UFE) on the premise that the approach ensures the usefulness of the evaluation to the intended users.

The evaluation was initiated with a desk review of secondary data from written sources where project-related documents were reviewed and examined. Primary data collection from direct sources followed using purposive non-random sampling design whereby the following were conducted; 68 individual semi-structured interviews, 8 Most Significant Stories collections, 8 focus group discussions, and 1 validation and debriefing workshop. Prior to the evaluation, a cross-sectional survey Endline Survey (ES) was conducted to examine whether the project interventions resulted in changes in knowledge, norms, attitudes, and behaviors/practices in the intervention communities, institutions, and target beneficiaries that can contribute to preventing and or ending VAWG in Cameroon. Specifically, the survey assessed the actual level of achievement of the log frame

indicators for the project goal, outcomes, and outputs when compared against the baseline data for these key indicators.

Both Baseline and Endline Survey data and reports were collected and descriptive statistics (frequencies, means) on key variables and indicators of outputs, and outcomes were produced on charts and graphs. Overall mean scores or proportions for each of the key variables or themes measured quantitatively were calculated. The higher the scores, and proportions, the greater the outcomes or changes. Data from interview schedules were collected and analyzed according to the deductive thematic approach as described elsewhere (Braun et al., 2006) based on predetermined themes linked to the evaluation questions. All documents, and interview transcripts were imported into the qualitative analysis software ATLAS.ti Version 22.1.3.0 (ATLAS.ti Scientific Software Development GmbH, Berlin, Germany).

Most Important findings

I. Impact

EQ1.1: What difference has the project in general made to women/girls, the legal system, and the general population?

1. The awareness and knowledge of the general population on SGBV/HP, as a human rights violation and relevant international protocols and state laws has improved.

At endline 77.4% (versus 10% at baseline) of individuals in the community can identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP including its causes and consequences; 67% (versus 0% at baseline) of the general population know that SGBV/HP is a human rights violation under national/international laws and 64% (versus 60% at baseline) individuals, institutions, and the community can name national/international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to EVAW.

Therefore, there is a likelihood that the project has contributed to increasing the commitment of the general population including individuals, institutions to reducing social acceptance of GBV because community awareness and radio sensitization campaigns are providing holistic information on SGBV, and traditional authorities and custodians of customs including queen mothers have correct knowledge and understanding on consequences of discriminatory laws; and practices against women and are reinforcing awareness, favorable attitudes, and norms in the society.

2. The relevant stakeholders of the justice sector have knowledge of the international protocols alongside national laws, and some are applying them to protect women's human rights.

73% as opposed to 50.2% of sampled legal professionals (judges and lawyers) from the regions at the end line and, baseline respectively, are aware of the international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to VAWG. 33 members of the legal community who were trained are demonstrating the use of the compendium in their legal practices. At the end of the project, 75% of the trained paralegal agree either to have discussed (33%), established (30%), or published protocols and steps (5%) on drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints from women/girl at risk of GBV in their office at least once after the training.

Therefore, it is likely that with the project, members of the legal system have the knowledge, skills, and resources to use international frameworks and apply a rights-based approach in service delivery. The project has also ensured that some legal institutions/actors can assist more survivors access justice through a platform of paralegals and CSOs.

3. Women and girls who have experienced violence have increased access to legal and other essential, specialist, safe services including for long-term recovery from violence.

635 survivors and other women have been able to access and receive quality services including legal assistance at no fee through formal agreements with legal aid clinics and through the network of paralegals. Of the 91.2% of survivors of violence or those at risk seeking legal services within the three years of the project, 89.9% have accessed legal services and justice. Among the women and girls surveyed, 59% have been engaged in at least two domains of GBV advocacy for EVAW between 2020 and 2022 and 25% have made some commitment by having attended at least one community gathering where VAW is discussed while 16% have not committed in any way or is not advocating for EVAW.

Therefore, with the project interventions, women and girls who experience violence including those at risk are advocating and creating change for their social and economic empowerment because there is a likelihood that efforts for multisectoral support and services provided to the project stakeholders have minimized some institutional, community and family level barriers including norms women and girls face for access to services and the women and girls have improved knowledge and skills and resources for promoting/protecting their human rights.

EQ1.2: To what extent has the project (through capacity development of key stakeholders within the legal systems and changes in knowledge, behavior, and attitudes) contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women's empowerment (WE) (both intended and unintended)?

1. Significant change 1: Improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the beneficiaries in protecting and promoting their human rights.

Narrations of the stories from the women are associated with improved knowledge of SGBV/HP, VAWG-linked deprivations in the lives of women (explaining their understanding of the implicated human rights violations caused by VAWG) and how VAWG can affect their wellbeing and their self-image.

When the interviews assessed what the women knew about VAWG and FIDA before and after the project, more than half of them present with an improvement in awareness and knowledge of VAWG. A third of them have directly benefitted from FIDA interventions within the last three years and can adequately talk about GBV- they can explain at least three dimensions of GBV, and the consequences of GBV while the others have some understanding of VAWG. All the women are aware of the work of FIDA with traditional leaders because they have interacted with or were referred to FIDA and LAW for legal assistance by a traditional leader including queen mothers. Overall, all the women interviewed acknowledge having been exposed to some form of awareness campaign either from FIDA or other actors.

2. Significant Change 2: Increase access to legal service assistance and justice.

The women informants demonstrate they are aware that they can share/disclose their GBV experience with concerned authorities of the justice system at the community level and within the formal legal system. One of the informants remarked that there is no guarantee that the latter would listen to them. The survivors who were interviewed have accessed legal services through the legal aid clinic of FIDA and legal service providers. Among them, one has witnessed the perpetrator being sanctioned by the justice system.

When asked how accessing justice has affected their families, three points emerge: i) there is reduced incidence of violent acts and respect at home; ii) the woman is participating better in the welfare of the household; iii) The women can care for themselves and their children financially and morally.

The end-line survey found that a slightly higher percentage of women reported that they have not experienced any form of sexual or gender-based violence than in the baseline survey (84% versus 54%). The qualitative survey confirmed this trend and showed that women do indeed perceive that they have better access to services through the social and solidarity groups, the network of paralegals, and civil society providers (psychosocial counselors, legal representatives, and quality health facilities) set up by the project.

3. Barriers/Challenges to EAW as reported by women in Focus group discussions.

Some common challenges to EAW **reported** include:

- Variations in perceptions and attitudes around the causes and consequences of VAWG sometimes caused arguments when the women are sensitizing others. Many women perceive that their economic empowerment is the solution to VAWG in their communities and the root cause of all causes and they refused to consider all other causes as crucial to be mitigated.
- Services are limited such as health services, legal services, and even counseling/social workers.
- Family obstructions are linked to stigma and taboos relating to talking about GBV, especially if you are a survivor.
- Misunderstandings between perpetrators' accountability and mediation among the elders and linked to victim-blaming. As indicated by one informant: "Victim-blaming is common among the older persons and makes it difficult for talks to families."

4. The formal justice system actors are using ratified protocols and conventions.

- The informants among the legal service providers report they encounter a minimum of 4 cases and a maximum of 8 cases of VAWG in a month in all the 5 main types of VAWG. Physical violence is the most common form of violence encountered. After the training, the lawyers are aware of other institutions in the referral pathways.
- The compilation by FIDA of international protocols and conventions that has been ratified by Cameroon has promoted an understanding of the utility of the compendium in protecting women's rights.
- Half of the informants have a preference to apply the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

II. Relevance

EQ2.1: To what extent do the project interventions prevent, respond, and eliminate SGBV/HP in Cameroon and comply with the SDGs, national strategy and policies on the prevention and response to GBV in Cameroon, humanitarian response plan for SW/NW regions of Cameroon and the priorities of the UN Women and FIDA?

1. The project is following the gender priorities of many global commitments.

The project goal contributes to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals Number 5- Achieve gender Equality and empower all women and girls with targets of ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; Eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and Female genital mutilation.

2. The project aligns with UN Women's strategies and with the Guiding principles and pillars of the Spotlight Initiative

The evaluation team also confirmed with the project staff and other available literature that the project's goal is consistent with the goals and priorities of the UN Women's agenda in the thematic impact area 3 – Ending violence against women and girls highlighted in the UN Women Strategic Plan 2022- 2025. The qualitative findings based on document reviews show that the project is at the center of the UN women's mission and goals to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full enjoyment of their human rights by addressing the root causes of inequality and challenges linked to weak law enforcements and discriminatory social norms as captured within the framework of the Strategic Plan (2022-2025). The project supports the efforts of UN Women channeled through the Spotlight Initiative/UNTF to address the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigate the disproportionate impacts on women and girls, seen in increasing levels of violence against women, and support women's socioeconomic wellbeing and reduce their vulnerability to future shocks.

3. The project aligns with National priorities.

The project's focus on the capacity strengthening of the actors of the informal and formal legal system of the Northwest and Southwest regions to apply international legal guidelines and protocols when assisting survivors to access justice aligns strongly with the first key guiding principle of the ***National Strategic Plan to fight GBV for 2022 – 2026.***

EQ2.3: To what extent does the project aim at addressing the significant disparities in the dimensions of security, education, reproduction health, and access to employment faced by women and girls?

The evaluation confirmed that the project has addressed the very relevant rights and needs of women and girls to live a life free of violence and has implemented relevant capacity-strengthening activities required by the legal systems to support this commitment. Specifically, the project responded to the common but often neglected need of sensitizing and educating women, girls, and or the youth on GBV so that they can protect and promote their human rights. Central to the relevance of this strategy for prevention was building the capacity of civil society to advocate, monitor, and report cases of violence against women/girls and eventually anchor on the organizations trained to reach out to other women's associations and the community at large.

III. Effectiveness

EQ3.1: Has the project contributed to capacity building, knowledge transfers, and population awareness for the promotion and protection of women's human rights?

The project has contributed to:

1. **Capacity building of legal professionals of the formal justice system for the application of international treaties, declarations, and policies:** The project focused on enhancing the capacity of human rights principles enshrined in key international treaties, conventions, declarations, resolutions, and international norms related to gender-based violence.
2. **Capacity building of members of the informal justice system for the application of international treaties, declarations, and policies:** The informal justice system in communities was also targeted by the project. The project enhanced the knowledge of 90 traditional leaders and 120 customary court judges and queen mothers as key members of the informal justice system on the adverse consequences of discriminatory traditional practices, human rights, and laws and on the eradication of harmful traditional practices in relation to SGBV/HP. Each customary court judge was also provided a compendium of laws regulating the customary court judges as a quick -to- access reference when handling cases of SGBV/HP.
3. **Capacity building of Women and girls (as project beneficiaries) to mitigate GBV risk in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian crisis.** A sample of 42 women and girls including survivors of SGBV/HP, internally displaced persons, and women living with disabilities were provided with comprehensive knowledge and skills on prevention measures and how to stay safe and mitigate the risk of being violated during the COVID-19 pandemic during capacity building workshops.
4. **Capacity building of Leaders of Civil Society Organizations on data collection processes:** A total of 80 civil society leaders have been trained on data collection and 6 of them were supported financially to collect and furnish FIDA with data on VAWG during the execution of this project to monitor the progress of our work.
5. **Public Awareness of holistic information of VAWG, SGBV as a human rights violation, and related national and international laws.** The evaluation team reviewed M&E periodic reports of the project and confirmed the project has succeeded to raise the level of information and awareness to the estimated 101,339 persons sensitized within three years.
6. **Women and girls' awareness of holistic information of VAWG, SGBV as a human rights violation, and related national and international laws.** 2,384 women and girls including survivors and others at risk in both regions have been sensitized on national, and international laws against VAWG and human rights violations, on legal services including legal aid clinics by partner CSOs, at legal aid clinics in the communities and legal service provision points.
7. **Communities' Institutions' awareness of holistic information of VAWG, and SGBV as a human rights violation and related national and international laws.** A total of 335 leaders/members of community institutions and influential men and boys in leadership (40 traditional leaders, 2 political leaders, 24 administrative leaders, and 269 men and boys) in the communities have been directly reached with information on primary prevention and social norms for engagement with the larger community (including men and boys) in preventing SGBV incidence and mitigating barriers to access for justice for survivors and other women at risk.
8. **Knowledge transfer through experience/strategies sharing during training of traditional leaders and customary court judges.** The evaluation team found that the training brought together leaders and members of the informal justice systems from different communities with different local justice mechanisms for violence against women. This provoked discussions on experiences and knowledge shared on various strategies for justice. The training also aimed at initiating interactions for sustained knowledge transfer among the community leaders post-training.

EQ3.2: To what extent have the project objectives been achieved in accordance with the adjustments following the current socio- political context?

A. Outcome 1: Communities in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest) are more supportive of the implementation of national and international laws and policies on VAW/G within their regions.

The evaluation team considered the level of change for the four indicators for outcome 1 and found that **Outcome 1 has been achieved to a considerable extent** because of the following:

1. **Knowledge of national and international laws/policies on VAWG as a human rights violation, has improved among the beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions.** Before the project was implemented, 9.1% of the vulnerable populations reported that they know VAWG is a violation of human rights. This implies that the perceived level of VAW as a violation of human rights amongst people at risk was relatively still low. The endline statistic shows an increase in the level of knowledge by 44% from baseline, implying there is an improvement in awareness of persons at risk of VAWG human rights violations.
2. **Holistic knowledge of forms, prevalence, and root causes/consequences of VAWG is improved among the beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions.** There is a change of knowledge in an average of 10% of individuals at baseline to an average of 72.2% of individuals in the community at the endline who can identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP and who know that SGBV/HP is a human rights violation under national/international laws. Of the members of the public surveyed after the project interventions, 77.4% against the planned target of 65% can identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP compared to 10% who could identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP before the project interventions.

B. Outcome 2: Government officials, Law/policy makers, judges, lawyers, traditional authorities, individuals, and local duty bearers will improve on institutional response and prevention of SGBV/HP.

The evaluation team considered the level of change for the three indicators for outcome 2 and found that **Outcome 2 has been achieved to an average extent** because.

1. Legal professionals have knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's rights.
2. In the medium-term, legal professionals are increasingly applying national and international conventions promoting women's rights and consequently, more women and girls at risk of GBV are successfully receiving justice.
3. So far, records show that 61 cases of SGBV/HP against the planned target of 45 cases have been addressed by members of the legal community with reference to the compendium as opposed to 0 cases before the project interventions. Therefore, the project has enhanced the application of national and international conventions promoting women's rights among legal professionals and more cases are receiving justice.
4. At the end of the project, survivors of VAWG and other women and girls are advocating to live a life free from violence and are committing to prevent/ combat violence.

At the endline, GBV advocacy efforts were assessed by determining the respondents' involvement in a HeForShe club or pro-EVAW group/meeting/agenda, referrals to any available community services to support victims, reporting of cases of violence on behalf of a victim and or organizing/ participating in any activity on VAWG. Among the women and girls surveyed, 59% have been engaged in at least two domains of GBV advocacy for EVAW between 2020 and 2022 and 25% have some commitment by having attended some community gathering where VAW is discussed while 16% have not commitment or is not advocating for EVAW.

C. Outcome 3: Strengthened commitment of traditional leaders, paralegals, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders to prevent and combat SGBV/HP in the two project regions.

The evaluation team considered the level of change for the three indicators for outcome 3 and found that **Outcome 3 has been achieved to a very high extent** because of the following findings.

1. **Individuals, and institutions in the communities (traditional leaders, CSO leaders, school leaders or teachers, and administrative leaders) in the two project regions are committing to reducing social acceptance of GBV.** Within the three years of the project, M&E records show that a total of 528 leaders/members of community institutions and men and boys in the community against the planned target of 500 have been engaged in the SGBV/HP prevention and response through various ways. The evaluation team concluded that the increase in the commitment to end SGBV/HP is due to the enhanced level of information on SGBV/HP among community institutions created by the project. All the leaders surveyed at endline, reported being engaged in either one-to-one or group sensitizations and 86% also reported being engaged in counseling of women and girls.
2. **The trained paralegals are supporting survivors of VAWG access justice:** The service provider surveys of the trained paralegals (n=20) at endline of the project, show that 95% (19 out of 20) agree either to have discussed (63%), established (32%) or published protocols and steps (5%) on drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints from women/girl at risk of GBV in their office at least once after the training.
- D. **Outcome 4: FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] are institutionally strengthened to sustainably respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises while maintaining or adapting existing interventions to ERAW with a focus on the most vulnerable women and girls.**

The evaluation team considered the level of change for the three indicators for outcome 4 and found that **Outcome 4 has been achieved to a very high extent** because:

1. **FIDA Cameroon and co-implementers have been able to adapt their internal processes and respond to new COVID-19 outbreaks and the current socio-political crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.**
2. **The project and organizational personnel have the competencies and resources to adapt work and design feasible and safe implementation and monitoring strategies in the context of COVID-19 and other crises.** A capacity assessment conducted with trained FIDA and partners' staff at the endline shows the proportion with the capacity to organize and manage meetings, including safety measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and how to spot dangers online has increased when compared at baseline, amongst 95%, 83% and 88% of staff of FIDA, FOWECCAM and LAW respectively.

EQ3.3: To what extent were results of the COVID-19 response achieved for women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors?

1. **The survivors and other women and girls at risk know how to prevent and mitigate the risk of being violated during COVID-19.** The endline survey assessed the extent to which a sample of women/girls know of COVID-19 risk factors and mitigation strategies which they learned through the training workshops, heard through sensitizations, and other information sources. According to table 21, among the 150 women/girls surveyed including GBV survivors, slightly more than half of them (56%) agree to know of at least 4 out of 6 of the risk statements presented to them.
2. **The survivors and other women and girls at risk know have been provided with food packages that allow them to cope in safe ways that and not heighten their vulnerabilities.** To further enhance the coping capacity of women and girls within project regions, 432 women and girls were provided a food package each. Several studies have shown that women and or girls are unable to meet up with the increase in prices of food, which challenges the woman's ability to feed and care for the household.

IV. Efficiency

EQ4.1: Were the project funds and activities delivered in a timely manner?

1. **The project delivery rate was significantly lower than planned in the first year and undermined by delays in the implementation of activities due to the socio-political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.** The project work plans, and activity reports show that in the first year of the project, although the project

performance was close to 94% by the end of the year, the project efficiency rate was 26%. a total of 17 activities were rescheduled due to the delays attributed to the volatility of the local context:

2. **The disbursement of funds to partners was done as planned and expenditures of the planned budget were efficiently managed.**

EQ4.2: Did the project management team facilitate good results and efficient delivery through clear roles and responsibilities of all persons involved?

1. **The steadiness and focused nature of the project team promoted a reliable implementation process from beginning to end.** The project management team was composed of the Project Manager, Project Coordinator, M&E consultant, Finance Officer, Communications officer, administrative assistant, and 6 project volunteers (as field focal points) who constituted the project's core team/staff.
2. **The capacity of the project team to manage the project was reinforced through internal and external processes and informal consultative processes with external stakeholders.** Judging from interviews with project team members, FIDA managed to engage a committed team with knowledge and passion in SGBV work and exposed them to capacity enhancement processes (internal and external to the project) that helped to complete project tasks and build strong collaborative and team spirit.
3. **The Project team succeeded in ensuring strong stakeholder and partner involvement.** The project was made more efficient through the established presence of civil society organizations and other stakeholders on the ground, and some of them belong to the civil society platform. This factor alongside their engrained specialized competencies in SGBV prevention efforts added to the efficiency of the implementation of awareness-raising/social mobilization efforts of the project.

V. Institutional Strengthening

EQ9.1 What is the extent to which the UNTF (grant) determined FIDA and partners' resilience or adaptability for its contribution to EVAWG?

With COVID-19 funds from spotlight initiative/UNTF, and FIDA

A review of COVID-19 prevention protocols and security protocols for working in conflict communities shows that the organization has adjusted its institutional and operational processes and has institutionalized some processes.

1st: Reduced risk of COVID-19 infections for staff and participants of the projects

Interviews with project staff show 5 out of 6 are not aware of any staff who got tested and were positive for COVID-19 within the first two years of the project. However, 4 staff reported being at risk of being exposed and they were given sick leave. Although FIDA could not control risk behaviors outside of the workplace, the organization provided each staff with a prevention package including IEC materials. FIDA Project documentation and interviews with partners reveal that FIDA established recommended COVID-19 public health measures in the workplace and project sites/spaces ensuring that they are effective and low-cost. This allowed for regular and consistent availability of these measures to reduce the risk of infections.

2nd: Improved care and mental health of staff

Five staff interviewed confirmed they were mentally stable and reasonably accommodated with flexible work hours, increase in salaries, and could work from home anytime necessary. Project documents show a transparent communication of established policy relating to these care packages and equitable processes in making the decisions.

3rd: Increased capacity of FIDA and its partners in various domains including use of IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks have the knowledge and skills to adjust and adapt in the event of any outbreak or crises for sustained efforts to EVAW.

Data from capacity assessments confirm the feedback from meeting /interviews with staff and partners highlight that capacity gaps in organizing and managing virtual meetings have been filled, and staff has the skills for **spotting** dangers from many types of crises online.

“After doing virtual meetings with team members, I no longer find any difference between face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings. Every staff knows how to coordinate a virtual meeting because we now have Monday meetings (weekly project coordination meetings) virtually because is it a “Ghost Town Day” in the northwest and Southwest region” (Meeting, Staff of FIDA)

4th: The UNTF grants have led to a transformation to greater work commitment and resilience and the unintended effect, which the evaluators describe, is a result of unexpected attitudinal change towards better professionalism.

EQ9.2 How well has the institutional strengthening response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects and support FIDA/partners to respond to crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?

Feedback from interviews with the project team including partners outlines several adaptation measures adopted by FIDA and partners and which are now new policies:

- Staff, volunteers, and interns from FIDA. FOWEC-CAM and LAFOW (21 persons) have been trained in various domains deemed necessary to ensure the stability of projects and the sustainability of organizations. These domains include organizing and managing virtual meetings, exercising safety measures against COVID-19, and spotting dangers online.
- Quarterly project review and weekly coordination meetings are scheduled remotely and held via zoom. Staff (11) and volunteers (6) who were trained (excluding interns) have zoom apps on their phones or laptops and can join in meetings from any location. Staff can work conveniently and remotely from home on Mondays (considered as ghost town days in the Southwest and Northwest region) as they have been provided with high-speed internet connection monthly data.
- The trained volunteers monitor the news (local, continent, and world level) and report to the staff of all organizations of any COVID-19 updates as they pertain to new risks, and vaccinations regularly and as part of the agenda in meetings.
- Staff who have been exposed to the risk of COVID-19 are to be given sick leave/or quarantine and reasonably accommodated. This policy was a follow – up action after the training and to be institutionalized by all project stakeholders.
- Each project activity applies COVID-19 safety measures as necessary, and staff provide protective supplies such as hand sanitizers, face masks, gloves, buckets, liquid soap, and paper napkins including handwashing supplies in activity spaces to persons involved -In the first year of the project masks wearing was mandatory and each organization staff is supplied with protective supplies for office and personal use.
- IEC materials in various formats (Flyers, stickers, brochures, posters) have been provided to all three organizations for various use.
- There was also increased salary for staff and allowance and communication credit to volunteers.
- Another mechanism that was put in place was a bigger sound system hall was secured for training to enable social distancing as stated by the government.

VI. Feminist/Women’s movement building

E10.1: How has the UNTF (grant) improved FIDA’s efforts for EVAW through feminist/women’s movement building?

1. FIDA belongs to many peace movements created by women for women and has galvanized local women’s groups toward rethinking a broader agenda for women’s human rights.
2. FIDA’s role in women’s movement building is to sustain the promotion and protect of women’s human rights.
3. FIDA and the co-implementing partners for the UNTF project provide strategic support in women’s movements agenda including awareness building on international and state laws and protocols in addition to facilitating the comprehension of these conventions as they protect women against violence.

EQ10.2: How has sponsorship for the project ensured consistency with UNTF strategic priority in feminist/women’s movement building work for EVAW?

1. The sponsorship has incidentally galvanized the strategic support of FIDA to women’s grassroots social groups and other women’s movements for peace and EVAW.

EQ10.3: What lessons can be obtained from partners, CSOs, and FIDA’s engagement in women’s movements linked to the UNTF grants.?

- The evaluation gathered from the informants that women’s movements are still emerging and more than half of the CSOs do not belong to any. According to them, as CSOs, knowledge of feminism/feminist women is still blurred. They will need to learn more about feminist movements and how they can belong to them.
- More than a third of the informants from the target CSOs informed the evaluation that women’s movements needed leadership that can bolster collaborations and motivates team spirit for progress towards EVAW.
- Collaborative events held recently have proven that with funding, WROs, and CSOs can build up and sustain women’s movements for EVAW, as remarked by an informant.

Conclusion

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
Overall	The UNTF/FIDA project implemented in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon accomplished a remarkably significant amount of work within its three-year time frame. This evaluation outlined the project's numerous successes and contributions to GBV prevention and response in the context of a humanitarian setting and COVID-19 as well as opportunities for improvement in the future.
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Programme achieved almost all its objectives on average to a large extent. It contributed to all its planned outcomes and outputs. Particularly, strong contributions were noted concerning strengthening the knowledge and capacity of traditional leaders and customary court judges on discriminatory customs and practices that violate women’s human rights. • The extent of knowledge transfer within the project was limited. • The project has also been effective in generating public awareness of the consequences of VAWG and related state and international laws and protocols. • The project has been <u>very effective</u> in achieving its outcomes because it has benefitted from contextual priorities, emerging learning needs, and humanitarian presence and opportunities. • The project has been somehow <u>effective</u> in ensuring the survivors and other women and girls at risk know how to prevent and mitigate the risk of being violated during COVID-19
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project’s goal is consistent with the goal and priorities of the UN Women’s agenda in the thematic impact area 3 – Ending violence against women and girls highlighted in the UN Women Strategic plan 2022- 2025. • The project supports the efforts of UN Women channeled through the Spotlight Initiative/UNTF to address the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigate the disproportionate impacts on women and girls, seen in increasing levels of violence against women, and support women’s socioeconomic wellbeing and reduce their vulnerability to future shocks. As with all interventions within the Spotlight initiative, the project was designed and implemented using a human-rights-based approach to ensure no woman or girl is left behind in the target communities by recognizing and prioritizing the rights, needs, and wishes of survivors. • The project’s focus is on capacity strengthening of the actors of the informal and formal justice sectors. • The evaluation concludes that the activities taken under all four outcomes of the project continue to be relevant to the promotion of the human rights of women and in the long term to their needs. • The project has been able to improve awareness of women, girls, and the public on VAWG, relevant laws, and its link to human rights. Community social associations/groups for women and youths have been targeted to ensure actions toward eliminating VAWG is kept relevant at the local level. • The project contributes to the national strategic efforts o EVAW through its core

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
	strategies which include capacity strengthening, support for the holistic management of survivors, and the subjugation of GBV perpetrators through the legal systems and awareness raising at individual, community, and institutional levels.
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project team used available resources strategically and efficiently. Accountability mechanisms were utilized transparently. • Improvements in staff welfare, the flexibility of work hours, and in working from home, extensive management efforts, and staff dedication contributed to the efficient implementation of planned interventions. • Given the challenging operational environment of the Northwest and Southwest regions in general, the evaluation has ascertained that the project has been implemented by FIDA in a cost –effective manner while utilizing resources appropriately. By the end of the year 1 project FIDA had put back all delayed activities on track and by the third year, the project had implemented at least 94% of the activities and achieved the objectives of the project despite delays and other socio-political and COVID-19 environmental barriers.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project demonstrates the potential for sustainability and continuity of activities. • FIDA ‘s project goal is anchored on national priorities and humanitarian response plans and FIDA’s target aligns with the target population for meeting Specific objective 2.2 of the Humanitarian Response plans of 2022. • FIDA has made attempts to initiate interactions useful for scaling up. However, there exist several limiting factors for the project strategy to be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions. • With COVID-19 funds from the spotlight initiative/UNTF, FIDA adjusted its institutional and operational processes and has institutionalized some of these processes. The project has strengthened FIDA and partners' capacities in various domains including the use of IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks have the knowledge and skills to adjust and adapt in the event of any outbreak or crisis for sustained efforts to EAW. • The evaluations found that the project has managed to instill a sense of ownership for local-level efforts in the fight against VAWG. The evaluation confirms this because traditional legal systems have been trained to be aware of discriminatory customs and use international laws to address cases of VAWG in their communities. In the same light, civil society groups in the community are guided to engage in varied ways of sensitization and advocacy. • FIDA and partners show indicators of staying resilient in their efforts to EAW amidst disruptive events along the lines of institutional capacity and resources.
Impact	<p>The evaluation team concludes that there is enough evidence that the project has created some impact: It has contributed to more awareness of and willingness among women to talk about the violence that they experience in their lives, are more confident to approach legal services to demand justices and are advocating for the promotion of their rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has made some difference: The awareness and knowledge of the general population on SGBV/HP, as a human rights violation, and international protocols and state laws have improved. The relevant stakeholders of the justice sector know the international protocols alongside national laws, and some are applying them to protect women’s human rights. Women and girls who have experienced violence have increased access to legal and other essential, specialist, safe services including for long-term recovery from violence. • Overall, the project has contributed to improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the beneficiaries in protecting and promoting their human rights; The formal justice system actors are using ratified protocols and conventions and there is Increase access to legal service assistance and justice for women. • There is no evidence of the real or potential contributions of COVID-19-related activities directly to beneficiaries.
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many lessons have emerged from the project, which can be harnessed in the future for project design and implementation, choice of project location, ensuring safety,

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
	<p>and leveraging local capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying parliamentarians and other duty bearers for legal reforms appeared challenging in this project and can be linked to many contextual factors including the extensive responsibility of these law/policy makers in a demanding period that coincided with the project duration. Therefore, this agenda may not have been appropriate within the three years of the project. If law reforms are a necessary pre-requisite for the protection and promotion of women’s human rights a thorough stakeholder analysis exercise of the parliamentarians can identify the feasibility of lobbying them for law reforms and should be a standalone activity during the project design phase of the project. • The dimensions of intersectionality and GBV incidence have a lack/loss of livelihood at its center. The project observed that livelihood opportunities have equal relevance on change processes for EAW as efforts to change local harmful norms that perpetuate GBV. GBV projects should incorporate livelihood support for highly vulnerable GBV survivors to mitigate the effects of intersectionality on GBV incidence. • In hard-to-reach communities, the capacity of bike riders should be leveraged for HeForShe and awareness-raising campaigns. This also demonstrates that a community-driven response to EAW can yield positive results with the use of lower-cost resources. • When correlating the composition of persons who are present in awareness-raising campaigns with different community channels/approaches used, adolescents and girls prefer one-to-one or school-based sensitization campaigns to open community campaigns. Adolescents should be targeted one-on-one or through schools for this target and vulnerable group to be attracted to GBV prevention and response. • Safe spaces out of the residential area of GBV survivors create accessibility barriers that disconnect the GBV survivors from access to justice even when legal assistance has been provided. The project/legal aid reports show that a majority of GBV survivors access legal aid clinics with the primary need for a safe space before they consider seeking legal assistance. Referrals (from Tiko to a safe space with standards in another town (e.g. in Buea), are often rejected alongside the provision of legal assistance. • GBV programming involving multi-partner approaches should consider funding to strengthen partners' capacity and commitment. The project used a multi-partner approach in coordinating and implementing project activities but while implementing project activities, they need to expand the participation of project partners in public meetings, community gatherings, workshops, task forces, and networking required for capacity strengthening strategies and trust -building for transparency relating to motivations, funding, sharing of results, etc
Knowledge Generation	<p>The project has generated extensive knowledge that can be shared with other practitioners, but FIDA lacks sufficient technological capacity to document and share with a wider practitioner audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evaluation found that FIDA’s commitment to gathering and sharing good practices from the project is constrained indicated by low engagements for organizational learning (and limited technical capacity to access platforms including digital platforms. The organization is committed to generating reports from project activities but there is not a clear mechanism as to how the reports are disseminated to allow opportunities for organizational learning among the staff members. The evaluator did not find an indicator of FIDA being a knowledge hub to any external stakeholder.

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, the practice of backing up and synchronizing documents on the OneDrive for accessibility of staff has been initiated by project manager. According to the project coordinator, this practice is introduced to prevent information loss due to computer loss or crashes or end of contract/leave of staff. • Social mobilization for combating VAWG through peer –to – peer interactions and education has been more effective in bringing about change in knowledge and behaviors in women and youth than listening to the TV/radio. • Involving the informal traditional legal system leverages their influential role within their society. Chiefs and other member of the traditional courts are more involved in handling cases of VAWG than the formal legal systems actors. With enhanced capacities and support with reference documents/protocols they sensitize their subjects on discriminatory and harmful customary practices. They can also successfully collaborate with formal legal systems to enforce penalties for perpetrators of GBV in their respective court areas. Future programming should continue to involve these custodians of customs /customary court judges as “agents of change”.
Gender Equality and Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights based and gender responsive approaches have been <u>adequately</u> incorporated in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of the project. The project has tackled inequalities and social gender roles, norms, and mandates that lie at the basis of violence against women. • The project has involved a cross-section of civil society including NGOs, social groups, women’s grassroots associations, faith-based leaders, and community leadership
Institutional Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has highly strengthened FIDA’s capacity and resilience to sustain institutional response for the EAW. • FIDA has embarked on several mechanisms to improve project delivery and promote staff welfare. • FIDA and partners are more resilient in their efforts in eliminating violence against women and girls because project and organizational personnel have the competencies and resources to adapt work and design feasible and safe implementation and monitoring strategies in any disruptive occurrences,
Feminist/Women’s movement building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has demonstrated that even without integrating activities for movement-building, the project’s resources and exposures incidentally pushed FIDA to engage in leadership in three women’s movements for peacebuilding and fighting injustices done to women. The interest and motivation to continue to engage in movement building is evident with FIDA and Co-implementing partners and they indicate they will require some funding to build and support a movement’s agenda. With funding, these WROs will have the formal mandate to critically consider movement-building activities.

Recommendations

Evaluation Criteria	Recommendations	Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom)	Suggested timeline (if relevant)
Overall	FIDA Cameroon as a WRO and member of women’s movements is a valuable stakeholder for EAW. The strengthening of the organizational capacity for GBV programming is required for greater expansion and scale-up of efforts of women’s human rights promotion and protection.	FIDA, UN Women, UNTF	End of 2023
Effectiveness	The project design and approach have been effective in the achievement of the project	UN Women, FIDA, Ministry of Justice of Cameroon	Ongoing

Evaluation Criteria	Recommendations	Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom)	Suggested timeline (if relevant)
	outcomes. However, law enforcement efforts for EAW need to be strengthened and expanded to include more gender desk police officers for more collaborative and sustained multisectoral response service support by the legal system.		
	Future projects should continue to engage more local structures and community -based volunteers, to expand the GBV actors' space at the local levels. This strategy will increase and sustain awareness-raising efforts and ensure greater coverage	FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA,	Ongoing
	Care must always be taken to ensure participants and stakeholders are not placed at risk. When operating in the context of armed conflicts, projects should include modules on protection and safety in all capacity-building activities.	FIDA, FOWECCAM, LAW, other NGOs,	Ongoing
	GBV programming involving multi-partner approaches should consider obtaining more funding to strengthen partners' capacity and commitment	FIDA, UNTF, UN Women, and other donors with EAW priorities	Continuous
	The project observed the greater participation of young to middle-aged women and men in public sensitization campaigns and the near absence of adolescents. Adolescents should be targeted one-on-one or through schools for this target and vulnerable group to be attracted to GBV prevention and response.	FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA	Continuous
Relevance	The capacity strengthening of key stakeholders of the legal system continues to be relevant to the results of the project particularly in providing legal support services to victims and addressing discriminatory practices and harmful customs that encourage risky behaviors	FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA, UN Women	Continuous
	Future projects should report the extent of social and cultural indicators of progress toward addressing GBV project goals/outcomes.		
Efficiency	There is the need to sustain and or improve the capacity to use IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks can stay adaptive in the event of any outbreak or crises for sustained efforts to EAW and ensure efficiency in project delivery	FIDA, FOWECCAM, other donors	By the end of 2023
	When designing a project, a critical analysis of the context and situation is to be undertaken to make reasonable estimates on timeframes and avoid preparing a schedule	FIDA, FOWECCAM, LAW	Ongoing

Evaluation Criteria	Recommendations	Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom)	Suggested timeline (if relevant)
	that is vulnerable to political and social events. Project partners should make alternative project plans		
Sustainability	It is recommended that FIDA continues developing solid partnerships between civil society organizations and national government institutions, and grassroots groups. This has proven to be an important factor for achieving sustainable results for SGBV prevention and response and a enriches experiences in the implementation of SGBV projects.	FIDA	Ongoing
Impact	GBV awareness should be paired with economic empowerment programs which include key life skills to empower women and girls to have positive discussions around challenging and changing gender power dynamics. The economic empowerment programs should be complemented with training in other soft skills, such as business management, so participants can set up their businesses. These economic empowerment activities should also be paired with male engagement and larger community sensitization, to mitigate the risk of GBV due to the changing status of women in the community.	FIDA, UN Women, UNTF, FOWECCAM, LAW, and other GBV stakeholders	Continuous
Knowledge Generation	<p>FIDA requires more human resource and IT capacity to address knowledge management needs/gaps for the use of digital platforms and other applications for knowledge management, and organizational learning. The technical capacity to access platforms including digital platforms should be reinforced by providing training to project teams. The IT resources should be expanded at FIDA and managed by a competent IT manager</p> <p>To enhance organizational learning, a program for horizontal dialogue and learning should be developed. This will allow the regular exchange of information and sharing of relevant experiences and good practices across team members and tams in general</p>	UN Women, UNTF, FIDA	By the end of 2023
Gender Equality and Human Rights	<p>It is important to reinforce the inclusion of men, not just as participants, but as leaders/coordinators of social change and GBV prevention efforts at community levels. In hard-to-reach communities, the capacity of bike riders should be leveraged for HeForShe and awareness-raising campaigns.</p> <p>Geographical inaccessibility to spaces should</p>	<p>FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA</p> <p>UN Women, MINPROFF,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>By 2024</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Recommendations	Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom)	Suggested timeline (if relevant)
	be mitigated to strengthen referrals and multi-sectoral service delivery. GBV programming should consider establishing more safe spaces within communities to increase survivors' comfort while they seek justice.	Cameroon	
Institutional Strengthening	FIDA should continue to build organizational preparedness and resilience by enhancing organizational capabilities and resources for participatory monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems or practices for EAWG programming so that FIDA can remain flexible and adaptive in the context of disruptive events. This will enhance the organization's capacity to design a program log frame – defining baseline, and assumption and ensuring that indicators are specific, measurable, and feasible – or the employment of theories of change and logic models to guide project planning. In this regard, in the event of any disruptive event, FIDA will be able to adjust of program design during the implementation phase, including monitoring and evaluation activities.	UNTF, UN Women, FIDA	By the end of 2024

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a serious human rights and protection issue primarily affecting women and children and with far-reaching consequences at individual, family, community, and state levels. Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is a form of GBV and has been defined in many ways, generally based on the United Nations definition first presented in 1993 when the General Assembly passed the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. It was later defined by The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in 2005 as ‘any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work’ (IASC Task Force, 2005). According to UN Women (UN Women, n.d.), violence against women and girls (VAWG) which is a subcategory of SGBV takes many dimensions, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence on women and girls. As a human rights abuse and complex social problem, VAWG is widespread worldwide, affecting one-third of all women in their lifetime. It is a consequence of gender inequalities deeply rooted in patriarchal norms and unbalanced power relations, a leading cause of death and disability of women of all ages. In the dimension of health, VAWG is a serious problem that affects billions of women and girls through death, and injury and with serious impacts on the neurological, cardiovascular, immune, and other biological systems (World Health Organization, 2022). Women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence report higher rates of depression, had an abortion, and acquired HIV, compared to women who have not. Several studies (as cited in OPMCM, 2012) have shown that VAW has significant costs on the life and health of women. Domestic violence has been linked to women’s physical and psychological health; Physical violence has been associated with long-lasting mental illness; stress-related physical illness; gynecological problems, and being underweight. In pregnancy, victims of VAWG have experienced poor nutrition, low maternal weight, smoking, alcohol use, infections, anemia, and maternal mortality (World Health Organization, 2022). The negative effects of exposure to domestic violence in children include failure of children to thrive, lower calorie intake, higher risk for wasting, and poor growth from infancy to childhood (Watts and Zimmerman, 2002; Lemon et al., 2002 as cited in OPMCM, 2012). The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports, that globally SGBV is one of the most important causes of the 32% of women who were moderately or severely food insecure, a proportion that is higher than the 27.6% of food insecure men in 2021 (Civil society and Indigenous People’s Mechanism (CSIPM), 2022). Furthermore, FAO (2017) adds that GBV has a devastating impact on agricultural productivity, food security, and nutrition with consequences greatly felt by women and girls of the reproductive ages. The downstream effects of GBV reinforce gender inequality reinforces underdevelopment and stall progress toward poverty reduction. The COVID-19 pandemic had a greater effect on women than men and is linked to the inability of girls to attend school and women to generate income or leave their homes reversed a significant amount of progress made in the fight against GBV over the past decades.

SGBV hinder woman’s involvement and aspirations to contribute to politics and public life because the dynamics around causes SGBV prevent them from accessing opportunities and prevents them from exercising their political rights, including voting rights in a way that threatens democracy. Therefore, prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, is, from both humanistic and developmental perspectives, the responsibility of the whole society. Duty bearers are institutions and individuals and have a role about GBV. Institutions/duty bearers must prevent, sanction perpetrators, and protect and empower victims. Individual citizens should recognize and denounce violence. Both have the responsibility to promote zero tolerance for violence. More specifically, duty bearers' efforts to prevent and respond to VAWG through providing reliable and quality services, rights awareness, and applying protocols and conventions to promote and protect rights can decrease the impact of GBV in society. On the other hand, wrong approaches to handling reported cases of VAWG including disbelief, blaming of survivors, or re-victimization can escalate

violence and under-reporting. VAWG is a complex and multifaceted problem that cannot effectively be addressed from a single vantage point. The prevention of and response to such violence require coordinated action across multiple sectors and actors.

Cameroon has made remarkable progress in improving Gender inequality since 1992. In 2021, the country ranked 151st out of 191 countries in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Equality Index (GII) in the World, having moved from an index of 0.765 in 1992 to 0.565 in 2021. Within a development context, this yet very high rank of GII is attributed to the high birth rate among adolescent women which is 110.4 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19. For every 100,000 live births, 529 women die from pregnancy-related causes. The socio-political stability in Cameroon has been seriously eroded over the past 10 years and is widening the gender gap if gender-based disadvantages in the dimensions of reproductive health, empowerment, and the labor market are analyzed. The socio-political instability in Cameroon commenced first with the arrival of refugees from the Central African Republic in the East and Adamaoua regions, then with the attacks of the Boko Haram factions in the Far North, and, finally, since 2016, by a significant socio-political upheaval in the North-West and South-West regions. Among the factors of these crises, we note socio-economic inequalities, particularly in access to basic services or the availability of infrastructure, or the centralization of a governance system marked by limited participation of citizens in decision-making, especially at the local level. In the context of the humanitarian crisis, women are disproportionately affected negatively yet they remain at the forefront of social and economic development of their households and communities. Women and men have unequal and inequitable access to the benefits of these achievements and economic opportunities.

In Cameroon, VAWG is a serious challenge in all the regions with physical, mental, and health impacts including disabilities (Research Directorate, 2016). Victims of VAWG often experience long-term physical, mental, and emotional health problems, and in extreme cases, violence can lead to death. Indeed, UN Women (2011) labels VAWG as a major cause of disability and death for women aged 15 - 44 years. Although available statistic on VAWG is inadequate, DHS (2011) indicates that more than half of women (55 percent) have suffered physical abuse from the age of 15 years, and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) in Cameroon has furthermore reported the forms of violence being physical and sexual violence and perpetrated by relatives, polygamy, and the denial of resources and opportunities for women and associated discrimination against women (MINPROFF, 2013) and that, 56.4% of women in a union have experienced at least one of three commonly occurring forms of GBV. MINPROFF adds that harmful practices against women and girls (HP) including early (child) marriages are very common in Cameroon but are rarely reported. A 2016 gender analysis concluded that society norms are still very strong including stigma and discrimination against survivors and limited disclosures of VAWG.

The socio – political crisis in the North –west and South – west regions of Cameroon which have existed since 2017, has heightened GBV prevalence, intensified its effects among women and girls, and is further constraining access to required prevention and response services for persons at risk and the general populations in these regions. This situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis outbreak which broke out in March 2020. This pandemic affected the whole country, increasing the number of people in need of assistance and the needs of people already affected by the humanitarian crisis. The COVID – 19 exacerbated vulnerabilities and acted as a multiplier of the challenges of women and girls linked to GBV. A more recent report indicates that 43.2% of women in a union are facing domestic violence, and 39.8% and 14.5% are facing emotional and sexual violence respectively (UNOCHA, 2019). There have been increased efforts in the prevention and response to VAWG and advocacy for a multi – sectoral approach to it by international, state, and local institutions that even with some constraints, survivors of VAWG have greater access to services for physical and emotional recovery from the abuse and limited and often no access to legal justice. A more recent assessment on GBV response service availability and accessibility reveals that although there has been increased awareness of GBV and related services by persons at risk and the general population, most of the

survivors state that legal services providers are the hardest to reach service providers. This survey also confirms that the greater proportion of VAWG persons at risk report most services are not affordable due to high user fees and not efficient, characterized by a lack of competent personnel and delays (LUKMEF, 2020, unpublished report). It is becoming more evident that the legal system in Cameroon may not be easily accessible for persons at risk of GBV, especially survivors and internally displaced women and girls. Although private legal structures exist to complement the state's legal structures, very few can respond adequately to the needs of the persons at risk of VAWG for legal justice. The inadequacy and limited accessibility of GBV legal services and clinics demonstrate that survivors of VAWG and other women and girls are not receiving adequate education on legal rights, confidential advice regarding their legal rights and options under the law, and legal representation after their rights have been violated. It has long been reiterated that there is no legislation specifically addressing domestic violence (which includes physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and economic violence) in Cameroon¹. However, several articles of the Penal Code could be applied to address some aspects of GBV². Victims of domestic abuse have little recourse for protection³ and there is no specific law adopted in Cameroon on preventing and combating violence against women and girls and which provides women and girls with an order for protection against abusers^{4 5}. No "comprehensive legal regime" that protects victims and holds perpetrators accountable has been adopted⁶. The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), and other international and national GBV stakeholders think that an accessible legal system that is reliable, trustworthy, and effective is a critical and necessary element to ensure an adequate and multi-sectoral approach.

Significant policy implementation gaps because of no specific law on VAW are evident as offenses as such are almost absent in legal reports. Sources have indicated that very few women/girls take legal action to get perpetrators including abusive husbands or partners punished, basically due to high social consequences to the victims including isolation, threats, rejection, and sometimes death^{7 8}. The cost of legal proceedings, inefficiencies in judicial decisions, fear, social perceptions, the weak socio-legal status of women and girls in Cameroon, and the lack or limited knowledge of their rights have been reported as key barriers to implementing penalties⁹. Some legislative gaps are linked to judges being tempted to apply customary rules that discriminate against women¹⁰. The UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women states that it is "concerned" with customary courts applying discriminatory customs and traditions¹¹. Although family mediation is sometimes applied by the judicial system in cases of domestic violence in Cameroon, the advocates for Human rights state that this practice "puts women at risk"¹². An accessible legal system that is reliable, trustworthy, and effective is a critical and necessary element to ensure an adequate and multi-sectoral approach. Legal support services must be instituted at the appropriate time and as a part of a comprehensive program for it to be successful in aiding survivors to maintain their safety and obtain justice. The International Federation of Female lawyers (FIDA), Cameroon relates strongly with this backdrop in the legal service provision for prevention and response to VAWG in two regions of Cameroon and has proposed ways in "Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the Southwest and Northwest Regions of Cameroon" through this project.

¹ OECD 2014: US 25 June, 26; UN 28 Feb. 2014, para. 18c

² See note 11

³ The Advocates for Human Rights n.d.

⁴ Ibid. 24 Jan 2014, para. 18

⁵ Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Cameroon (2019). A report submitted to the 65th Session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

⁶ The Advocates for Human Rights 24 Jan. 2014, para. 4b

⁷ Correspondence with the Research Directorate, Canadian Immigration and Association lutte contre les Violences faites aux femmes (ALVF), 1 April 2016

⁸ See note 15

⁹ UN Feb 2014, para. 10; ACAFEG 30 March 2016

¹⁰ Correspondence with the Research Directorate, Canadian Immigration and representative of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), Cameroon 6 April 2016

¹¹ UN 28 Feb. 2014, para. 10

¹² See note 16

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Project Coverage and implementing body.

The project evaluated is a three – year project “[Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the North –west and South-west Regions of Cameroon](#)” and has been implemented by the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Cameroon.

In 2020, the United Nations (UN) Women through the grant-giving mechanism, the United Nations Trust Fund to end Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), funded a three – year project “[Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the North –west, and South-west Regions of Cameroon](#). The theme of this project is in line with the priorities and commitment of UN Women as outlined in UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Results Areas: **(a)** Improved access for women and girls to essential, safe, and adequate multi-sectoral services to end VAWG; **(b)** Improved prevention of VAWG through changes in behavior, practices, and attitudes; and **(c)** Increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end VAWG. To apply its mandate for the response to the COVID-19 crisis following evidence of the increased frequency and severity of forms of VAWG during the pandemic, the UN Trust fund extends its financial support in the UN Trust Fund / FIDA project on the premise “that they are stretched in the frontlines and adapting with minimal resources and the crisis continues to threaten their institutional survival and that of their beneficiaries”¹³. The strategic result of this arm of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project was **(d)** to enhance the resilience, sustainability, and adaptive capacities of FIDA and implementing partners to ever-changing contexts in its mission towards ending violence against women and girls with a focus on and following this crisis (post-COVID). FIDA’s mission is to assist the woman and the girl child develop themselves and assert their rights through training, advocacy, education, counseling, and conflict resolution. FIDA targets Women and children with the main goal of promoting the human rights of women and young girls and enlightening the public on Human rights particularly those of women and girls. The organization works closely with authorities of the formal and non-formal (traditional/customary) legal system, women’s associations and GBV service providers, and human rights activists/advocates.

2.2 Forms of Gender-Based Violence addressed by the project.

In the project being evaluated, the focus is on SGBV and Harmful Practices (HP) and the IASC definition has been used to guide a harmonized understanding throughout the project. It refers SGBV to as any harmful act that is perpetrated against one person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.’ (IASC Task Force, 2005). SGBV must be broadly understood to include a wide range of sexually violent acts taking place in different circumstances and settings: rape within marriage or dating relationships; rape by strangers; systematic rape during armed conflict; unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favors; sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people; sexual abuse of children; forced marriage or cohabitation, including the marriage of children; denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt other measures to protect against sexually transmitted diseases; forced abortion; violent acts against the sexual integrity of women, including female genital mutilation and obligatory inspections for virginity, forced prostitution and trafficking of people for sexual exploitation (World Health Organization, 2005).

¹³ UN Trust Fund (2020). Guidance on request for Funding Submission in response to COVID-19. p.1

2.3 Main Objectives of the project

Project Objectives: The central objective of this project is “to ensure women and girls in Northwest and Southwest regions are better protected from violence and empowered to realize their right to live a life free from violence”. The project objectives include:

- An increase of 75 – 80% in the level of public awareness on forms/causes and consequences of VAWG, existing laws/policies guaranteeing equality, and those condemning VAWG, and the existence of law No 2003/004 of 14th April, on legal aid in the NW/SW regions.
- Increase the effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end VAWG.
- Creating an enabling environment in Cameroon to end VAWG.
- To enhance the organizational effectiveness and increase the ability of FIDA and its implementing partners to offer more/adequate support to their communities towards ending violence against women and girls, during and following this crisis (post-COVID).

Specifically, it contemplates three main results which are:

- Communities in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest) are more supportive of the implementation of national and international laws and policies on VAWG within their regions.
- Government officials, Law/policy makers, judges, lawyers, traditional authorities, individuals, and local duty bearers will improve on institutional response and prevention of SGBV/HP.
- A strengthened commitment of traditional leaders, paralegals, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders to prevent and combat SGBV/HP in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest).

The project supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goals 5 and the priorities and commitment of the UN Women as outlined in UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Results Areas: (a) Improved access for women and girls to essential, safe, and adequate multi-sectoral services to end VAWG; (b) Improved prevention of VAWG through changes in behavior, practices, and attitudes; and (c) Increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end VAWG.

2.4 Project Strategy and Theory of Change

The project focused on increasing the effectiveness of legislation, policy, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G identified by MINPROF and other stakeholders as a major reason why violence continues to thrive in Cameroon. The project has relevant strategies with approaches/methodologies that respond to the local context and yet aligns with international standards and prescriptions to deliver our set result.

- **STRATEGY 1:** Sensitize the public, survivors/persons at risk, and perpetrators on forms/causes and consequences of SGBV/HP and new forms emerging because of the conflict in the project zones and on laws that protects them from such violence; facilitate access of poor women to justice by sensitizing them of the existence of law No 2003/004 of 14th April 2009.
- **STRATEGY 2:** Lobby government and law/policy makers to carry out law/policy reforms by implementing/harmonizing laws with international conventions ratified and repealing discriminatory laws.
- **STRATEGY 3:** Build the capacity of judges/lawyers/police officers on the handling of SGBVHP cases using conventions like CEDAW/MAPUTO protocol.
- **STRATEGY 4:** Train civil society leaders as paralegals so they can assist survivors in their various communities identify and report cases of SGBV/HP.

- **STRATEGY 5:** Build the capacity of traditional leaders/queen mothers and customary court judges on VAWGs and on handling cases of SGBV/HP using human rights approach, educate them on the limits of their jurisdiction, and engage them to advocate and fight SGBV/HP.
- **STRATEGY 6:** Train FIDA members on shadow reporting
- **STRATEGY 7:** Equip FIDA and implementing partners with the capacity to adequately prevent and respond to VAWG during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-COVID-19 and other crises.

Project's Theory of Change: The project addresses some critical institutional, structural, and human barriers to ending VAWG in Cameroon.

- If the general population including women/girls at risk are aware of GBV, reporting GBV and women's rights and related laws, social acceptance of GBV will be reduced in the population, and more women and girls including those at risk will commit/advocate to end violence, and will be accessing necessary support services including legal services that protect their protect human rights.
Assumption: *The lack of adequate knowledge of the population on women's human rights, GBV, support services, and the law will be minimized.*
- If traditional authorities, custodians of customs, and queen mothers have corrected attitudes and knowledge on discriminatory customs and practices against women, social acceptance of GBV will reduce.
Assumption: *Adequate public support or advocacy for women's human rights, the laws and criminalization of VAWG, and against practices and attitudes promoting GBV will prevail.*
- If legal actors are equipped with knowledge, skills, and resources to use international conventions/ratified treaties that protect women's human rights more survivors will receive justice.
Assumption: *The project conceives that the limited use of legal instruments by the legal system and Inadequate state legislation vis —a- vis ratified conventions in Cameroon can be enhanced.*
- If policy makers, parliamentarians, and senators are actively lobbying the government to review discriminatory laws and practices within the country's legal frameworks, the revised laws and policies to protect women's human rights will permit more survivors of SGBV/HP to receive justice.
Assumption: *The project addresses the absence of legal reforms resulting in continued applications of discriminatory laws (formal and informal).*
- If FIDA and Civil Society partners can be resilient, adaptative, and sustainable to ever-changing contexts such as during socio-political crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, and post covid context, it will continue to perform in its mission to offer more/adequate support to their communities towards ending violence against women and girls.

The project presupposes that the limited accessibility and capacity of services to prevent, protect and respond effectively and efficiently in supporting survivors will be addressed if GBV service providers have their capacities developed on human right-based approaches to GBV case management, and multisectoral services, this will increase commitment to protect women's right and more survivors of SGBV/HP will be receiving justice. In addition, GBV service delivery should focus on establishing and protecting safe spaces for multisectoral support and community groups should be providing socio-economic empowerment to women and girls, women, and girls for capacities to promote their rights and access GBV resources including justice through legal aid for survivors.

2.5 Project Stakeholders

a) Project Beneficiaries

Primary Beneficiaries	Target	Secondary Beneficiaries	Target
Survivors	300	Journalists	80
Trafficked Women/girls	200	Legal officers	200
Women in detention	300	Traditional leaders and Queen Mothers	200
Women/girls in the general population	300	Parliamentarians	180
Women and girls from the above categories	42	Staff, volunteers, and interns	21
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors: Women/girls who have experienced any form of SGBV and are accessing GBV services Trafficked Women/girls are a high-risk group for SGBV. Women in detention are vulnerable/at risk of violence. Women/girls in the general population who at risk of SGBV because of heightened vulnerabilities. Identified Women and girls from the above categories for COVID-19 prevention and risk mitigation. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Journalists support communication for the project and raise awareness of existing laws. Legal officers: Facilitate access to legal services for the survivors of VAWG. Traditional leaders and Queen Mothers: As custodians of customs and members of the informal justice systems, they can catalyze a change of cultural & discriminatory norms that make GBV acceptable. Parliamentarians: Duty bearers/policy makers can support law/policy reforms that align with international conventions to repeal discriminatory laws. Staff, volunteers, and interns from FIDA and project implementing partners. 	

Description of targeted primary and secondary beneficiaries

Primary Beneficiaries:(1000 Women and Girls):

- 300 women/girls' survivors of violence: ignorance of their rights, and poverty are some reasons often advanced by survivors for not reporting cases of violence, the knowledge they will gain during the execution of this project will significantly encourage them to report and prosecute cases.
- 200 women/girls victims of trafficking: with the crises, many girls are now victims of trafficking without even being aware.
- 200 women in detention: Many women/girls in detention face violence. Abuse and illegal detentions are not reached by different programs.
- 300 women/girls in general: with the crisis raging in the project regions, thousands of women/girls are now victims of SGBV.
- Sample of Women and girls (42) in the various primary beneficiary categories as participants in training on COVID-19 prevention and risk mitigation.

Secondary Beneficiaries (660):

- 80 Journalists: selected to improve communication around the project, raise awareness on existing laws guaranteeing equality and condemning violence, the existence of law No 2003/004 of 14th April 2009 on legal aid.
- 200 Legal officers: to provide legal services to survivors and build the case files for the prosecution of perpetrators of VAWG.
- 180 Parliamentarians: to carry out law/policy reforms and enable Cameroon to bring its laws into conformity with international conventions ratified and to repeal discriminatory laws.

- 200 Traditional leaders and Queen mothers: These are selected to help review and change cultural norms, improve attitudes, and positively use their traditional authority to end SGBV/HP.
- Staff, volunteers, and interns (21 persons) from FIDA, and implementing partners – Footsteps for Women and Children, Cameroon (FOWEC-CAM) and LIBRA Association for Widows (LAW Cameroon). These persons are selected to be trained on how to maintain or adapt EVAWG interventions and reach the most vulnerable women and girls while responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic or other crises.

b) Key partners involved in the project, including the implementing partners and other key stakeholders.

1. FIDA-Cameroon
2. Libra Association for Widows (LAW)
3. Footsteps For Women and Children-Cameroon (FOWEC-CAM)

2.6 Budget and Expenditure of the Project

- Total project cost: \$347,650
- Our contribution: \$21,100
- Grant request: \$326,550

3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The main objective of the evaluation is to assess the support of FIDA in the promotion of women’s human rights through the prevention, response, and elimination of SGBV and HP. As commissioned by the UNTF, the evaluation provides an opportunity to ensure accountability to UNTF and other key stakeholders on the performance and achievements of the project on mitigating VAWG throughout January 2020 to December 2022.

Table 1: Evaluation Objectives and Intended Users

Intended use	Intended users	Broad question	Specific objectives of the evaluation
To demonstrate the contribution of the project	<i>Primary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNTF • FIDA <i>Secondary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners • GBV stakeholders 	<p>Are the long-term outcomes clearly defined and are there proposed steps towards achieving these clearly defined?</p> <p>To what extent has the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women’s empowerment (both intended and unintended impact)?</p> <p>To what extent the project has contributed to women’s movement building and institutional strengthening</p>	To examine the extent to which the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project has contributed to reducing the incidence of GBV in the community”), considering not only the intended but also the potentially unintended impact.
To maintain accountability	<i>Primary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNTF • FIDA <i>Secondary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners 	What is the relevance, coherence, efficiency, and sustainability of FIDA support through this project between 2020 and 2022	To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the UNTF/FIDA support to the prevention, response to, and elimination of GBV and HPs
To inform and support decision-making	<i>Primary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNTF • FIDA <i>Secondary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners • GBV stakeholders 	What factors support evidence-based/effective GBV programming at all levels?	To assess the extent to which FIDA has effectively positioned itself as a key GBV actor in the justice sector among GBV partners at the country, and within the global community supporting the elimination of GBV/HPs.
To support learning	<i>Primary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNTF • FIDA <i>Secondary user:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners • GBV stakeholders • Project participants • Beneficiaries 	How can the FIDA project inform the potential continuation or scaling of strategies and advocacy for the protection and promotion of women’s rights including feminists/women’s movements?	To identify lessons learned, capture good practices, and generate knowledge from the project to inform the implementation of the next plans, projects, programs

The evaluation assessed changes from the project and their significance to the relevance, effectiveness, coherence efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the intervention. It also addressed feminist movement building, institutional strengthening, gender equality, and human rights as a cross-cutting issue. It was also designed to identify lessons learned, capture good practices, and generate knowledge to inform the implementation of GBV programming and inform the potential continuation or scaling of strategies for the protection and promotion of women's rights for UNTF, FIDA, implementing partners (FOWEC-CAM, LAW) and other GBV stakeholders.

The information and recommendations of the evaluation are also of interest to Cameroon's key GBV stakeholders including the Ministries of justice, Women's Empowerment, and the Family (MINPROFF), Public Health, Social Affairs, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, etc at the center of sustaining the fight violence against women and girls. The evaluation was also conducted to demonstrate that the project is proof -of-concept of one of the ways that address the barriers to GBV in Cameroon - the inadequacy and limited accessibility of GBV legal services and clinics demonstrate that survivors of VAWG and other women and girls are not receiving adequate education on the legal rights, confidential advice regarding their legal rights and options under the law, and legal representation after their rights have been violated. In line with this, the evaluation findings have served as an evidence-based tool for the project participants and beneficiaries to sustain advocacy efforts in combating VAWG.

4. EVALUATION SCOPE

As indicated in the evaluation TOR and visualized in table 2, the evaluation covered the entire project duration period that is January 2020 – December 2022, the implementation activities, the results (as per the logical model in table 1) and focused on the main target beneficiaries, implementing partners (LAW and FOWEC-CAM) and other GBV stakeholders.

Table 2: Scope of Evaluation

Project Duration	Regions & Municipalities	Trained Beneficiaries	Other stakeholders and project target	Main GBV/HPs activities covered
January 2020 to December 2022	Northwest: Mezam Southwest: Fako, Meme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judges • Lawyers/paralegals • Police officers • Civil Society leaders • Traditional leaders/Custodians of customs • Survivors of GBV • Staff of FIDA • Staff of FOWECCAM • Staff of LAW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sample of women and girls in communities • A sample of community mobilizers of the project • Representative of the corresponding ministries – MINPROFF & MINAS 	Activities linked to key performance areas of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Increased knowledge of GBV, human rights, and the use of international protocols and ii) Change in attitudes, iii) Improved access to legal services and to justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Training of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ legal officers, ○ paralegals ○ custodians of customs/traditional leaders ○ women/girls, • Sensitizations on SGBV/HP & COVID-19 • Organizational resilience to address GBV. • Legal aid services and other legal services provisions.

The evaluation cover results achieved on both regional levels as well as on the level of the 3 selected municipalities. Three municipalities are selected by the evaluators based on population size and project coverage, the desk review of information provided on the projects, and on reported effectiveness of their implementation. Adequate accessibility to the municipalities and communities is also a criterion for their selection. The evaluation focused primarily on the contribution of the main activities to outputs and progress toward outcomes in the results frameworks. Links to other unintended outputs and outcomes will also be considered indirectly as part of the context analysis.

As established by the TOR, in addition to GBV, the evaluation from an operational point of view, is intended to document/highlight the justice sector's responsive efforts to address SGBV and HPs at all levels – including how FIDA has leveraged a capacity building approach to shifting legal sector barriers to effectively address the core GBV legal service access issues. From a strategic point of view, this evaluation is also intended to assess how FIDA has positioned itself as a human rights actor and resource for the elimination of VAWG within communities found in between the development and humanitarian context in Cameroon.

5. EVALUATION TEAM

5.1 Description of Evaluation Team

Evaluation Team		
Name	Role & responsibilities	Expertise
Nangah Azefor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team leader Responsible for the overall technical delivery of the evaluation, including the development of the final design and methodology. The main point of contact with FIDA on all technical matters related to the evaluation. Manage the inputs of the evaluation team and lead the Most Significant case story process study. Lead the production of all deliverables, including the inception report and the final report. Coordinate and take part in all primary data collection activities 	Monitoring and Evaluation and Community Development practitioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 years implementing and supporting evaluation development initiatives including human rights initiatives. Experience in designing evaluation-related methodologies and tools that are required for development-related projects. Experience in engaging stakeholders in participatory evaluations Worked with women's empowerment projects. Worked on several assignments for UN agencies
Nangkeng Marita	Thematic Expert/ gender Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the team with expert advice in VAWG throughout the evaluation. Assist in compiling the related Most significant story. Support the team in identifying and reviewing relevant VAWG-focused literature. Technical support on methodology, data collection, and analysis Input into the development of all deliverables as requested by the Team Leader 	Gender and development professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 years coordinating gender and GBV projects. Extensive experience managing survivors of Sexual Gender-Based Violence and other forms of violence including within contexts of conflicts and displacements.
Adeline Tcheboh	Thematic Support – Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting technical delivery of the evaluation Support the team in the development of methodology. Designing data collection protocols and tools Analysis of data 	Public Health & Anthropology /Research Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive experience planning and managing Health programs and projects for international organizations
Wabo Kevin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support team in the development of methodology and analysis Conduct Internet searches and collate documents for review. Input into the development of reports, tools, etc. as requested by the team leader 	Junior professional in Monitoring and Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in designing and guiding the smooth operationalization of Monitoring and Evaluation plans. Conduct regular tracking, analysis, and interpretation, of monitoring data for projects
Juliana Anchang	Evaluation task manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the robustness of the delivery of the evaluation. Liaison with FIDA on contractual and scheduling matters Report regularly to FIDA on the progress of the evaluation Support to the team on the refinement of evaluation methodology 	M&E Specialist and Consultant for over 6 years.

5.2 Description of the work plan of the evaluation team with the specific timeline and deliverables

Phase	Tasks & Deliverables	Location	Lead person	Persons involved	Timeline
INCEPTION	Prepare evaluation inception report	Buea/Tiko	Evaluator	ITEM	17/11/22
	Submission of Draft Inception report		Evaluator	-	17/11/22
	Review of inception report based on comments from ETM /FIDA		EM	PT	18/11/22
	Submit the Inception Report and provide feedback		EM and UNTF	PT	19/11/22
	Incorporating comments and revising the inception report		Evaluator	ETM	27/12/2022
	Submitting the final version of the inception report to UNTF		Evaluator	ETM	24/1/23
	Review the final Inception Report and approve		UNTF	-	-
PRE-FIELD PREPARATIONS	Evaluation team induction workshop with Evaluation Manager in preparation for fieldwork	Tiko	EM	ETM, PT	30/1/23
	Project documents review		Evaluator	ETM	ongoing
	Identification of key respondents as per requirements		Evaluator	ETM	30/1/2023
	Prepare schedules to access stakeholders, beneficiaries, and key documents		Evaluator		4/1/23
DATA COLLECTION	Secondary data collection	Buea, Limbe, Fako, Bamenda, Santa, Nkwen	Evaluator	ETM	ongoing
	Field visits for data collection (visits to the field, interviews, FGDs, Meetings, remote interviews)		Evaluator	ETM	14/2/2023
	Submission of significant change stories notes to stakeholder group/ and 1 st Evaluation reference group		Evaluator	ETM	
	Comments from ERG on most significant stories		Evaluator	ETM	
	Submission of final Most Significant story notes and other field data		Evaluator	ETM	
Reporting	Second ERG meeting and Evaluation team analysis workshop with the Evaluation manager				16/2/2023
	Desk work and interactions with the evaluation team	Buea/Tiko	Evaluator	ETM	25/2/23
	Prepare the first draft evaluation report (no conclusions or recommendations)		Evaluator	ETM	
	Present draft report to evaluation team /stakeholder or evaluation reference group		Evaluator	ETM	
	Revise draft report based on feedback		Evaluator	ETM	
	Workshop/meetings with Evaluation Team and with Evaluation Manager for conclusions and recommendations		Evaluator	ETM	
	Prepare 2 nd draft report and present it to ERG in a meeting		Evaluator	ETM	
	Comments from the ERG on the 2 nd draft		ERG	EM	
	Submission of Final Evaluation Report (word/pdf version) to UNTF, review and approval		Evaluator	ETM	
DISSEMINATION	Provide information to FIDA on how the Evaluation supports its strategy, future project planning, and advocacy plans		Evaluator	ETM	15/3/23
	Edit, and prepare various publications to share report findings with UNTF and other stakeholders		EM	PT	

6. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Criteria and Definition	Questions
<p>1. Impact The extent to which the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project has contributed to reducing the incidence of GBV in the community</p>	<p>EQ1: Are the long-term outcomes clearly defined and are there proposed steps towards achieving these clearly defined? EQ2: To what extent has the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women’s empowerment (both intended and unintended impact)? EQ3: How have COVID-19-related activities of the project influenced the intended and unintended impact of the project (if any)?</p>
<p>2. Relevance The extent to which the objectives of the project correspond to the needs and interests of the population. How well do the project’s objectives align with the Government priorities and with UN Trust Fund and UN Women strategies, and FIDA’s GBV programming priorities?</p>	<p>EQ4: To what extent do the project interventions prevent, respond, and eliminate SGBV/HP in Cameroon and comply with the SDGs, national strategy and policies on the prevention and response to GBV in Cameroon, humanitarian response plan for SW/NW regions of Cameroon and the priorities of the UN Women/FIDA? EQ5: How important are the capacity-strengthening interventions for actors in the informal and formal legal system and women? EQ6: To what extent does the project aim at addressing the significant disparities in the dimensions of security, education, reproduction health, and access to employment faced by women and girls?</p>
<p>3. Effectiveness A measure of how well the project achieved its objectives. It is realized by comparing the project’s goals with the results.</p>	<p>EQ8: Did the program produce or contribute to the intended outcomes in the short, medium, and long term? For whom, in what ways, and in what circumstances? What unintended outcomes (positive and negative) were produced? To what extent can changes be attributed to the program? EQ9: To what extent have the project objectives been achieved following the adjustments following the current socio-political context? EQ10: To what extent were results of the COVID-19 response achieved for women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors?</p>
<p>4. Efficiency The extent to which resources/inputs (funds, time, human resources, etc.) led to achievements.</p>	<p>EQ11: Were the project funds and activities delivered promptly? EQ12: Did the project management team facilitate good results and efficient delivery through clear roles and responsibilities of all persons involved?</p>
<p>5. Sustainability The probability that the project’s benefits continue long term. Are the results achieved so far sustainable for the protection of women’s human rights?</p>	<p>EQ13: To what extent has the project built in sustainability mechanisms? EQ14: To what extent is the project aligned with the development and humanitarian agenda? EQ15: To what extent can the project strategy be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions? EQ16: How has the project addressed the needs of the FIDA and its implementing partners to adjust and or adapt its GBV programming and implementation linked to post-COVID -19 and other crises?</p>
<p>6. Lessons learned: Lessons in terms of new and or alternative strategies, what has</p>	<p>EQ17: What lessons can be obtained from project experiences (successes and failures) that can be used for the improvement of future projects and to support local, national, and international effects in GBV programming?</p>

Criteria and Definition	Questions
worked or not that is extracted from the project for future projects.	
7. Knowledge generation Assesses whether any promising practices can be shared with other practitioners.	EQ18: To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of EVAWG including COVID-19 response adaptation strategies that should be documented and shared with other practitioners?
8. Gender Equality and Human Rights Cross-cutting criteria: The project's focus on gender equality and human rights concern's role in advancing response to the elimination of VAWG	EQ19: What is the extent to which human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been incorporated throughout the project?
9. Institutional Strengthening: Assesses the impact or contribution of the project to institutional strengthening and adaptation for FIDA/partners	EQ20: To what extent has the UNTF (grant) determined FIDA and partners' resilience/adaptability for its contribution to EVAWG? EQ21: How well have the institutional strengthening response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects and support FIDA/partners to respond to crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?
10. Feminist/Women's movement building: Assesses the impact or effects of the funds and FIDA's ability to build movements to end VAWG during the grant period	EQ22: How has the UNTF (grant) improved FIDA's efforts for EVAWG through feminist/women's movement building? EQ23: How has sponsorship for the project ensured consistency with UNTF's strategic priority in feminist/women's movement-building work for EVAWG? EQ24: What lessons can be obtained from Partners, CSOs, and FIDA's engagement in Women's movements linked to the UNTF grants

7. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

7.1 Description of the overall design

The end of the project evaluation employed a non-experimental approach while using a mixed method that is both quantitative and qualitative method. It was profoundly a participatory exercise that engaged stakeholders throughout the process for a utilization-focused evaluation (UFE). According to Michael Quinn Patton¹⁴, a Utilization-Focused Approach is proposed on the premise that the evaluation should be designed with an approach that ensures its usefulness to the intended users.

Based on the UFE, the evaluation was designed to enhance the likelihood of utilization of the evaluation findings and recommendations and to ensure the evaluation helps to strengthen decision-making and improve performance. UFE has two essential elements, which were applied in the evaluation process. Firstly, the primary intended users of the evaluation were identified and personally engaged at the beginning of the evaluation process to ensure that their primary intended uses can be identified. This was done through Stakeholder mapping which highlights how the information obtained through the evaluation will be used by each stakeholder group. The second element required the evaluation efforts to ensure that these intended uses of the evaluation (by stakeholders) guided all other decisions about the evaluation process.

The Evaluation team proposed a mixed-method approach to be appropriate for the project under evaluation. Before the evaluation, across-sectional survey was conducted in natural settings of the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon to quantitatively measure the indicators of the project outcomes at the project end line to compare them with baseline values. This was initiated to guide the assessment of potential impact during the evaluation exercise. The main aim of the Endline Survey (ES) was to examine whether the project interventions resulted in changes in knowledge, norms, attitudes, and behaviors/practices in the intervention communities, institutions, and target beneficiaries that can contribute to preventing and or ending VAWG in Cameroon. Specifically, the survey assessed the actual level of achievement of the log frame indicators for the project goal, outcomes, and outputs when compared against the baseline data for these key indicators.

The evaluation also uses the Most Significant Change (MSC) methodology which is an approach for participatory evaluation that involves the collection and selection of stories of **significant changes** which have occurred in the field (Davies and Dart, 2005:8). It is also a theory-based approach evaluative approach that relies on the logic of case studies to address the limitation in understanding or predicting causality using the logic of experimental approaches. The MSC is useful when the project is not addressing causal attribution. To summarize, MSC places stakeholder participation at the core of data collection and analysis. The approach targets project stakeholders and beneficiaries to establish what factors are seeming to have been important in producing change; in so doing, the evaluation will provide an insight into how the project is performing and its role in driving change otherwise known as a **causal contribution**. It can also help bring out important, appreciated outcomes not initially specified. The MSC cannot be used as a standalone technique, and so the quantitative data collected at baseline and endline complemented the MSC data to provide additional valuable insights into the project's impact/contribution.

Another component of the qualitative approach of the evaluation design was Key informant interviews in person or by telephone, in-person focus group discussions, and an extensive document review. The use of

¹⁴ Patton, M.Q. (2008). Utilization – focused evaluation (4th Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

remote/online formats for collecting data will be as suitable where the Evaluation team is unable to travel to some project sites due to insecurity.

7.2 Data sources

The sources used to gather evidence were deliberately proposed to ensure triangulation and robustness of evaluation findings. The following sources of evidence were used: Document review (Table 4), semi-structured (SSIs)/key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), in addition to a previously conducted end-line survey. Table 3 outlines the number of stakeholders that were involved or consulted as part of this evaluation, disaggregated by data collection methods and sex. Further details of the information to be collected from the various sources have been specified in the evaluation matrix.

Table 3: Demographics of Data Sources

Source of Data per Method	Southwest Region						Northwest Region						Total	
	Buea		Limbe		Kumba		Bamenda central		Santa		Nkwen			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Method 1: Semi-structured Interviews/Key informant interviews														
Key FIDA Staff		4												4
Representative of the corresponding ministries – MINPROFF & MINAS		2						2						4
Project implementing partners		2												2
Civil Society leaders	1	1	1				1	1		1		1		7
Judges		1	1		1			1	1			1		6
Paralegals	1			1		1		1		1		1		6
Lawyers	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		10
Traditional leaders/Custodians of customs	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	10
Community mobilizers of the project		1	1			1	1			1	1			6
Journalists	1			1			1		1			1		5
VAWG survivors		2				2		2				2		8
Method 2: Focus group discussions														
Women in communities		10				8		10				6		34
Men in communities	6				6				8		8			28
Total by Gender	11	25	4	3	9	14	5	19	11	4	11	14		130

7.3 Description of data collection methods and analysis

Focus group Discussions (FGDs)

The team conducted 1 to 2 FGDs of six to ten participants per municipality in both regions. A total of 8 FGDs for both regions. The FGDs involved purposively selected men and women to constitute persons who reflect the key categories of men and women in the community, where an FGD was entirely made up of only men or women and facilitated by two evaluation team members – the facilitator and notetaker. The discussions were held in spots around the community identified by the participants as deemed safe and comfortable. The discussions were guided by a list of questions (Annex).

Semi-structured interviews (SSIs)

SSI respondents were purposively chosen based on their involvement in the project, including Lawyers, magistrates, customary/traditional court judges, project staff and leaders of community/NGOs, implementing partners, and survivors of GBV. A total of 49 SSI/KIIs were carried out for the evaluation as shown in table 3 above. Additional 13 SSI/KIIs were conducted with 10CSO leaders who have been directly involved in the

project either as trainees and or providing data collection support, 2 partners, and FIDA management to gain their perspectives of feminist/women’s movements including their participation.

Table 4: Documentation reviewed.

Project Cycle & Strategies	Documentation needed to be reviewed
1. Identification and Situational Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents, Country case studies/reports
2. Design & formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project document, TOC, logic model
3. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Implementation Plans • Annual work plans • Budget • M&E plan
4. Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual work plan • TOR for activities • Monitoring and Evaluation plan • Bi-annual/periodic M&E reports
5. Ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-annual/periodic M&E reports • Excel-based data management (storage/tracking) system
6. Community awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TORs, • Mission orders • Sensitization Tracking sheets • Attendance sheets • Reimbursement sheets • Activity reports • Pictures
7. Trainings & capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance sheets • Pre/post test • Justification documents • Training slides • Training manuals • Training reports and pictures
8. Law reforms by duty bearers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance sheets • Manuals
9. Legal service support & delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case files/ Case register • Monthly GBV Case summary reports
10. FIDA’s priorities and commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIDA’s strategic plan
11. UNTF goals, priorities, and commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNTF /UN Women strategies, Theory of change
12. GBV/Gender Equality Global goals and commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Goals
13. Cameroon GBV priorities/goals and other state documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategic Plan, MINPROFF • Cameroon Penal code
14. International conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted under General Assembly resolution 40/34 (1985) • CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No.19, “Violence against women”, UN Doc A/47/38(1992) • UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted under General Assembly resolution 40/34 (1985) • The African Charter on Human and People’s Rights 1981, S8

A review of documents/literature: Project-related documents were reviewed by the evaluator guided by a checklist of review questions attached in the Annex. To triangulate information obtained from SSIs with the implementation team, all the relevant documents were collected and reviewed to obtain a better understanding of the project's intervention, the procedures supporting the implementation, and the results of the project activities.

Meeting with Staff: A meeting agenda with a checklist of questions was used to guide discussions in a meeting with the staff.

Both Baseline and Endline Survey data and reports were collected by the evaluator and descriptive statistics (frequencies, means) on key variables and indicators of outputs, and outcomes were produced on charts and graphs during report writing. Overall mean scores or proportions for each of the key variables/themes measured quantitatively were calculated. The higher the scores, proportions, the greater the outcomes/changes.

Data from interview schedules were collected and transcribed verbatim and manually. All qualitative data were analyzed according to the deductive thematic approach as described elsewhere (Braun et al., 2006)¹⁵ based on predetermined themes linked to the evaluation questions. The data from the documents and individual and group interview transcripts were coded and analyzed thematically together to allow themes to be generated across all sets of documents. Initially, all documents and interview transcripts were imported into the qualitative analysis software ATLAS.ti Version 22.1.3.0 (ATLAS.ti Scientific Software Development GmbH, Berlin, Germany) and read line by line by the evaluator to get an overview of the content of the data collected and make necessary comments. Using ATLAS.ti the evaluator finalized the codes and themes and generated a thematic framework and proceeded to apply codes deductively from earlier transcripts to all the data uploaded and generated preliminary descriptive summaries and quotations.

Significant stories were collected from beneficiaries during SSIs, transcribed, and analyzed. Using established criteria, the two most significant stories were shortlisted from the 8 stories from the 8 beneficiaries. The most significant story was shared with a panel set -up for selecting the stories and made up of project implementing partners, project team, and evaluation team members. This was a mechanism for transparency employed by MSC to ensure validity. The partners and two members of the evaluation team and the program implementer conducted remote checks for one story and made visits to the legal aid clinic and community for the second story. This step was done to verify the reported changes: to check that stories have been reported correctly and justly, and to get a chance to gather more detailed information about changes and events seen as significant.

7.4 Description of sampling

The Evaluation used several sampling approaches as described in Table 5.

Persons at risk of VAWG including Survivors of VAWG

Categories of vulnerable women and girls were identified to include VAWG survivors and women/girls at risk (women/girls living with HIV, female IDPs, indigenous women, and women living with a disability). This sample of vulnerable persons was obtained using quota sampling and/or convenient sampling based on the list provided by active legal GBV service providers (who have been involved with, supporting, or assisting persons at risk within the framework of FIDA's project). Only persons at risk who were willing and accepted to participate; could propose a safe location and safe/convenient schedule were interviewed. 2 women/girls from each subgroup of

¹⁵ Braun, V., Clarke, V., Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Applied Qualitative Research in Psychology. Applied Qualitative Research in Psychology, 0887(2006). <https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-137-35913-1>

GBV were selected for qualitative data collection respectively. For each region, a minimum of 4 persons at risk were sampled. During the preparation activities and implementation of the survey, the team ensured that principles of confidentiality, safety for vulnerable populations and/or children/family, survivor-centered approach, no discrimination, and informed consent were maintained by both the service provider and the interviewer. The interviewer provided verbal and or written guidelines on these principles to both parties.

Table 5: Sampling Strategies Used in the Evaluation.

Target Population & Type of Data	Sampling Frame	Sampling Strategy
Survivors/persons at risk of VAWG	List of persons at risk provided by legal service providers /leaders of GBV-related programs	Quota Sampling Convenience sampling
Community, religious, traditional, and other leaders	List of leaders provided by FIDA	Purposive sampling
Service providers engaged in GBV projects /CSO leaders	List of service providers provided by Regional Delegations of MINPROFF and other NGOs. CSOs trained/targeted by the project	Purposive sampling and Snowball sampling
Legal Service Providers	List of legal actors provided by FIDA	Purposive sampling
Men in communities	List of men provided by community-based institutions	Random sampling
Boys in communities	List of boys provided by schools	Random sampling
Other project stakeholders – community mobilizers, partners	The list provided by FIDA	Purposive sampling

The Process of Collecting and Analysis MSC stories from survivors and other women/girls at risk of GBV

The evaluation preferred the MSC approach to collect change stories at individual, family, and community levels from the project beneficiaries. The MSC interviews were part of the SSI interviews conducted with project beneficiaries and key stakeholders directly involved (lawyers, paralegals, partners, field staff, CSOs targeted by the project, etc.) to document changes because of the project.

Cognizant of power dynamics around interviews and the risk of retraumatizing survivors of GBV, the implementation of the MSC technique with GBV survivors and persons at risk of GBV was done by three female interviewers and or women who are experienced case managers with prior experience managing GBV survivors or persons at risk and recruited to collect impact stories. In addition, the interviewers were trained on core ethical issues and reinforced with knowledge of data collection rules during enumerators' training before data collection. During the collection of the stories, a survivor-centered approach was maintained to create space for each interviewee to feel safe and share her experience or perceptions in an empowering way. The process for informed consent was adhered to seriously to ensure that the respondent anonymously and voluntarily participate, without expectations of any entitlements or future benefits, can freely leave the interviews at any time without given explanations, know and understand the story collection process, objectives, and use. The informed consent process provided clarity to not share personal GBV experience but only the perceptions of the effects of participation in services and activities linked to the project. The interviewers were knowledgeable in pidgin English and effectively communicated with the respondents. Ultimately, the respondents were allowed to share the stories in the manner most suitable to them.

The collection of MSC stories was guided by questions that elicit responses and stories on clear domains of change for the project to include knowledge, perceptions on norms, economic empowerment, psychosocial stability, confidence, and access to services along with the time frame of the project. The respondents were encouraged to report why they consider a particular change to be most significant (the causes) and details of the events around the change as to who did what, when, why, and why was it important. The interviewer cross-checked the details provided by the respondent to minimize evaluator bias and to ensure the content of the information provided was accurate, relevant, and representative. This step added validity and accuracy to the Significant Change (SC) stories.

A team of 5 persons (a panel) reflecting each level of the hierarchy of the intervention coming from the evaluation reference group, selected the most significant of the stories because the selection of the best story necessitates the involvement of the most important stakeholders and needs them to contribute with an open mind. The selection criteria were outlined as a guideline for the team to select the most significant of the stories.

1. In an initial step, the transcribed stories were sent to the project implementing partners /field staff and two evaluation team members to review all 8 stories and shortlist the stories(story) with significant changes within each of the domains.
2. Then, the 5 selected stories were submitted to the next level of the intervention hierarchy (that is the project coordinator and the other two members of the Evaluation team) who eventually shortlisted 3 stories based on the established criteria to avoid subjectivity of the selection panel in the process.
3. The project manager, the evaluation task manager, and the evaluation team lead selected the two final most significant stories.

This systematic process of story selection and feedback enhances the validity and reliability of the information from the MSC process. The two selected stories were triangulated with information from stakeholders. The purpose of this is twofold: to check that stories have been reported accurately and honestly, and to provide an opportunity to gather more detailed information about events seen as especially significant. It is important to reiterate that, the process of collection and analysis of stories remained anonymous. However, the respondents/storytellers (the women) were informed on the selection of their stories as the most significant with an explanation of the criteria and process used.

Community Leaders

The team purposefully selected traditional rulers, queen mothers, customary court judges, etc. as a group for key informant interviews as provided by FIDA. Five (5) leaders were selected per region as opposed to 7 leaders as planned.

Legal service providers and Civil Society Organizations

After establishing a list of eligible members of the legal community, and a list of eligible civil society organizations (CSO) leaders relying on sampling frame from documents and other details from FIDA, the team sampled 8 legal actors and 5 CSO leaders, as key – informants per region for the study. A total of 16 legal actors and 10 CSO leaders were interviewed.

Men and other women in the Community

The team purposively selected between 6 to 10 women and men in each target municipality to reflect the key categories of women and men present to participate in the FGDs.

7.5 Description of ethical considerations in the Evaluation

The evaluation adhered to the principles outlined in the UNEG ‘Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation’ (regarding Integrity, Accountability, Respect, and Beneficence) following the requirements set out in the TOR.

1. Protecting the rights of respondents, including privacy and confidentiality

- The privacy and confidentiality of each person involved in the evaluation were guaranteed by not collecting personal information, and by keeping all pictures, and recordings within the data collected, data analyzed, and reported coded. Questions requiring the respondent's profession, role/site visited were asked so as not to unintentionally identify the person with data. This was also reiterated in the informed consent process.

- Data collected was stored in a password-protected computer in FIDA's programs office. All recordings and pictures were coded and stored in a computer that is password protected. Original audio scripts have been destroyed after transcribing and saving them on the computer.
- During the FGDs, the evaluators informed the participants that no information exchanged should be made outside the group.
- Only the evaluators, the evaluation task manager, and the Project Manager at FIDA have such information on any parties involved and cannot disclose them to any other person, organization, or report.
- The facilitator/interviewers replayed all recordings and showed all pictures for the participants' corrections/approval and protected them and the information in them by coding and storing them in a computer that is password protected.
- As described in the methodology, data were collected only from survivors/persons at risk who were willing to and accepted to participate.
- During the preparation activities including the training, the team ensured that principles of confidentiality, safety for vulnerable populations and/or children/families, survivor-centered approach, no discrimination, and informed consent is maintained by both the service provider and the interviewer.

2. Involvement of children (under 18 years old*)

- The evaluators did not work directly with any respondent below 18 years of age.

3. The informed consent processes.

- Every interviewee was informed of the nature, purpose, and content of the study and decided to participate or not without being coerced to do so.
- Before the interviews/discussions, the evaluator obtained oral informed consent from each respondent (Annex) or signed informed consent to participate from key informants in case of interviews (Annex) after providing complete information on the purpose of the study, use of the data, and the expectations from them.
- The participants were also informed they would have no incentives linked to their participation.
- Only Survivors/persons at risk who were willing to and accepted to participate were interviewed.
- Personal information including name, age, respondents' profession, role, sites visited not collected, and any personal detail mentioned within data in the recording collected, data analyzed, and reported were removed or coded. The implementation of the MSC technique with GBV survivors and persons at risk of GBV was conducted by interviewers and or women who have experienced case managers and with prior experience managing GBV survivors or persons at risk and recruited to collect impact stories. In addition, the interviewers were trained on core ethical issues and reinforced with knowledge of data collection rules during enumerators' training before data collection. During the collection of the stories, a survivor-centered approach was maintained to create space for each interviewee to feel safe and share her experience or perceptions in an empowering way. The informed consent process provided clarity for the survivors to not share their personal GBV experience but only their perceptions of the effects of participation in services and activities linked to the project.

4. The competencies of the evaluator/s in collecting sensitive information and specific data relating to violence against women and girls

- Data collection was conducted by qualified and eligible field focal persons/enumerators with prior knowledge and experience in GBV assessment. Further training of the interviewers before evaluation emphasized skills for the questioning process and avoidance of judgmental phrasing.

5. Data collection tools

- To avoid triggering post-traumatic experiences which could be discomforting and stressful, the data collection tools were carefully designed.
- All data collection tools were designed with a consistent set of precautions as provided in the informed consent including ensuring the respondents understood that participation is voluntary and confidential.

6. Data collection visits

- All interviews were conducted in private, and respondents proposed a safe location and safe/convenient schedule to be interviewed.

7. Provision for referrals

- Interviews with survivors/persons at risk were conducted by active GBV service providers (who have been involved with, supporting, or assisting persons at risk in previous GBV projects/programs and know how and when to make referrals).
- The evaluation team worked closely with the FIDA office and legal service providers to identify persons at risk/survivors before workshops, and to ensure that any participatory processes are responsive to their needs.

8. Professionalism, honesty, independence, and impartiality were maintained throughout the entire evaluation process. The evaluation team remains independent from FIDA and the project. The evaluation team leader provided impartial evaluative judgments and comments on behalf of the team and closely monitored conflicts of Interest and found none.

9. The evaluation team employed the best evaluation practices to the best of their abilities. The evaluation task manager ensured the team's commitment and adherence to timeframes.

7.6 Limitations of the methodology and mitigation measures

1. The utilization-focused design proposed for this evaluation does not permit the assessment of attribution to impacts using statistical techniques. To mitigate this, the evaluation team chooses to examine the impact of the project with a theory-based approach by the inclusion of the MSC approach which is found feasible to apply because of FIDA's ability to facilitate the accessibility to project stakeholders. The evaluation process was oriented to capture in-depth and adequate qualitative information to support this methodology for a near-to-accurate reflection of the impact of the project.

2. The time required for and nature of FGDs challenged the turnout and satisfactory completion of these data collection processes in a crisis context where participants are concerned about their safety and when gatherings of persons are often seen to be suspicious. To mitigate this, the team ensured to make adequate preparations including seeking permissions where necessary before undertaking the FGD. In addition, the informed consent form was provided to participants of the FGDs prior to the discussions for them to have more time to read through the objectives of the FGDs and ask questions as necessary. The

evaluation team comprehensively explained the purpose of the discussion, the confidentiality of information, and the voluntary nature of participation in the FGDs. The FGDs were held in safe locations in the community.

- 3.** The schedules for interviews with legal service providers and leaders were changed repeatedly by the informants themselves because of other commitments. To mitigate this, some pre-identified informants were replaced, and remote interviews were conducted with others.
- 4.** Due to the complications (getting consent from parents) and ethical considerations linked to collecting data from persons under 18 years, this category of persons could not be included as participants in the entire process. To mitigate this, the perspectives of girls and boys on core GBV issues were obtained by asking young women and men about the perspective of siblings <18 years old during the FGDs and triangulated with the review of existing literature.

8. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

8.1 Impact

The evaluation team looked at the impact of the UNTF project as the real or probable changes produced by the delivery of the project for three years, directly or indirectly, intended, or unintended. While the methodology does not allow the evaluation to attribute impact or change exclusively to the project, beneficiaries, implementing partners and stakeholders provided their views of program contributions to results,

Criteria definition This criterion seeks to examine if *the long-term outcomes are clearly defined as well as if the proposed steps towards achieving these are clearly defined. And to what extent has the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women's empowerment (both intended and unintended impact)*

- **EQ1.1:** What difference have the project in general made to women/girls, the legal system, and the general population?
- **EQ1.2:** To what extent has the project (through capacity development of key stakeholders within the legal systems and changes in knowledge, behavior, and attitudes) contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women's empowerment (WE) (both intended and unintended)?
- **EQ1.3:** How have COVID-19-related activities of the project influenced the intended and unintended impact of the project (if any)?

EQ1.1: What difference have the project in general made to women/girls, the legal system, and the general population?

To describe the pathways of the contribution of the FIDA project to the expected outcomes, including the changes either for women/girls, the legal system, and the general population, evidence from project documentation and qualitative findings were analyzed to demonstrate how the project has undertaken certain steps to addresses some critical institutional, structural, and human barriers to make some difference.

Finding 1: The awareness and knowledge of the general population on SGBV/HP, as a human rights violation and international protocols and state laws has improved.

A total of 101,339 persons general population of the Northwest and Southwest including survivors of SGV/HP and other vulnerable women and girls, institutions traditional leaders, and custodians of customs have been sensitized on i) SGBV/HP including its root causes, forms, risks/consequences, ii) discriminatory customs/traditions iii) SGBV/HP as a human rights violation, iv) and related laws and international protocols/conventions; and (2) traditional and customary court judges and custodians of customs are trained on addressing discriminatory customs and rights-based approaches to EVAWG.

- At the endline 77.4% (versus 10% at baseline) of individuals in the community can identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP including its causes and consequences; 67% (versus 0% at baseline) of the general population know that SGBV/HP is a human rights violation under national/international laws and 64% (versus 60% at baseline) individuals, institutions, and the community can name national/international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to EVAW.
- A total of 335 leaders/members of community institutions and influential men and boys in leadership:(Traditional leaders, Political leaders, administrative leaders, and Men and boys) are engaged in advocacy for EVAW.

Therefore, there is a likelihood that the project has contributed to increasing the commitment of the general population including individuals, institutions to reducing social acceptance of GBV because community awareness and radio sensitization campaigns are providing holistic information on SGBV, and traditional authorities and custodians of customs including queen mothers have correct knowledge and understanding on consequences of discriminatory laws and practices against women and are reinforcing awareness, favorable attitudes and norms in the society.

Findings 2: The relevant stakeholders of the justice sector have knowledge of the international protocols alongside national laws, and some are applying them to protect women's human rights.

209 members of the formal judges, lawyers, police, paralegals), and 210 persons from informal legal systems (traditional authorities and customary court judges), and other 80 GBV stakeholders (civil society organizations) have been trained on international human rights instruments, protocols, and human rights-based approaches to GBV case management and.

- 73% as opposed to 50.2% of sampled legal professionals (judges and lawyers) from the regions at the endline and, baseline respectively, are aware of the international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to VAWG.
- 33 members of the legal community who were trained are demonstrating the use of the compendium in their legal practices.
- The project has ensured that 100 Paralegals from the NW and SW regions have adequate capacity for the drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints on behalf of survivors.
- At the end of the project, 75% of the trained paralegal agree either to have discussed (33%), established (30%), or published protocols and steps (5%) on drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints from women/girl at risk of GBV in their office at least once after the training.
- Some of the trained paralegals and CSOs are engaged in Networks or platforms for EVAWG.

Therefore, is it likely that with the project members of the legal system have the knowledge, skills, and resources to use international frameworks and apply a rights-based approach in service delivery. The project has also ensured that some legal institutions/actors can assist more survivors access justice through a platform of paralegals and CSOs.

Findings 3: Women and girls who have experienced violence have increased access to legal and other essential, specialist, safe services including for long-term recovery from violence.

- 635 survivors and other women have been able to access and receive quality services including legal assistance at no fee through formal agreements with legal aid clinics and through the network of paralegals.
- Of the 91.2% of survivors of violence or those at risk seeking legal services within the three years of the project, 89.9% have accessed legal services and justice.
- Among the women and girls surveyed, 59% have been engaged in at least two domains of GBV advocacy for EAW between 2020 and 2022 and 25% have made some commitment by having attended at least one community gathering where VAW is discussed while 16% have not commitment or is not advocating for EAW.

Therefore, with the project interventions, women and girls who experience violence including those at risk are advocating and creating change for their social and economic empowerment because there is a likelihood that efforts for multisectoral support and services provided to the project stakeholders have minimized some institutional, community and family level barriers including norms women and girls face for access to services

and the women and girls have improved knowledge and skills and resources for promoting/protecting their human rights.

EQ1.2: To what extent has the project (through capacity development of key stakeholders within the legal systems and changes in knowledge, behavior, and attitudes) contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women's empowerment (WE) (both intended and unintended)?

The response to this question is captured through three domains of change defined for the MSC collection.

1. Changes in the lives of the Women and girls – primary beneficiaries of the project.
2. Changes noted by members of the informal and formal justice sectors since the project started.
3. Changes detected by the project managers and partners since the UNTF project activities were integrated into their work on EVAW.

The changes in the lives of women/girls are reported based on significant case stories collected from the 8 project beneficiaries – 4 GBV survivors and 4 Women at risk of GBV. These women also represented another risk 2 Internally displaced women, 1 indigenous woman, and 1 Widow. Changes reported by members of the informal and formal justice sectors are the perspectives of 7 lawyers, 3 Judges, and 5 paralegals.

Table 6: Categories of women who provided significant change stories.

Main Category	Subcategories				
	Internally Displaced Person	Living with disability	Widow	Indigenous woman	Women living with HIV
SGBV/HP Survivors					
Women at risk					

Source: Service reports/files, December 2022

Two (2) of the eight stories selected for significant changes by the Evaluation team leader, FIDA project coordinator, and project partner were based on the selection criteria and logic of changes flowing out of the stories as captured in Table 7.

Table 7: Selection criteria and changes assessed from Most Significant stories.

Criteria for selection	The Most Significant story was selected based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the beneficiaries. 2. The impact it generates on access to justice. 3. The impact it generates on the commitment to advocacy. 4. Its benefits to the community/family and related to the achievement of the overall objective of the project which is reduced risk of experiencing violence by the women/girls including their empowerment to advocate for their rights.
Changes from the project intervention	Most Significant Change story highlights salient points that reflected the awareness raising/change in attitudes of the public, capacity strengthening of legal service providers, traditional leaders, and customary court judges contributed to change both for the side of the duty bearers(leaders) and the right holders (women and girls).
Impact of the project	With the increased commitment of the general population including vulnerable women and girls, individuals, and institutions to reduce social acceptance of GBV, more women and girls in the population know their rights and are advocating and or committing to end SGBV/HP, then more women and girls including those at risk of SGBV/HP will be accessing necessary support services including legal services that protect and promote their rights and living free of violence.
Most Significant Story	Story – 3 and 6 narrated by GBV survivors

Finding 1: Significant change 1: Improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the beneficiaries in protecting and promoting their human rights

The women were asked to mention what they would say is the most significant change in their lives after participating in FIDA's project. Narrations of the stories are associated with improved knowledge of SGBV/HP, VAWG-linked deprivations in the lives of women (explaining their understanding of the implicated human rights violations caused by VAWG), and how VAWG can affect their well-being and their self-image.

When interviewed, to assess what the women knew about VAWG and FIDA before and after the project, more than half of them presented with an improvement in awareness and knowledge of VAWG. A third of them have directly benefitted from FIDA interventions within the last three years and can adequately talk about GBV- they can explain at least three dimensions of GBV, and the consequences of GBV while the others have some understanding of VAWG. All the women are aware of the work of FIDA with traditional leaders because they have interacted with or were referred to FIDA and LAW for legal assistance by a traditional leader including queen mothers. Overall, all the women interviewed acknowledge having been exposed to some form of awareness campaign either from FIDA or other actors.

Story-1 (GBV Survivor, Mezam division)

"The most important change that has happened to me is that knowing more about VAWG, its causes and consequences have reduced conflicts and arguments at home, as I can communicate about VAWG appropriately and informatively than before. I have learned a little bit from the community mobilizers on how to negotiate and mediate around the factors that cause GBV.

I lost control over my family because my husband will beat me, insult me, and sometimes send me away from my home.I started drinking a lot of alcohol which made me bold enough to attack my husband when he started to beat me. Sometimes I will take alcohol to just sleep and push the pain away. I stopped communicating and quickly look for an opportunity to drink some alcohol. When I received repeated counseling after my miscarriage, I knew I had to change my approach. I will use calm moments and words to explain to my husband his acts of VAWG and how they can kill me and put him in jail because he is violating my rights. I stopped drinking alcohol, and my mental health and the well-being of the family were restored.

My household used to be the center of discussions in the neighborhood because my husband and I will fight each day and sometimes in public view. The community's mobilizer's educational talks on VAWG in the church and the intervention of the quarter head in one of the fights have mobilized community members to support in cautioning my husband and I and have contributed to restoring the respect of my family. The children can interact more without being referred to their parent's ordeals.

In analyzing the stories, the two-panel members felt story 1 captured changes relating to knowledge and awareness of SGBV/HP, the consequences of VAWG, reporting GBV and women's human rights and related laws in the community and with the GBV survivor which has to result to change in attitudes and behaviors and their increased commitment to reducing the incidence of GBV at the community level and GBV survivors family level. FIDA's project partner and the Evaluation team expressed the story also demonstrates changes in the community's commitment to EAW after sensitization events.

Finding 2: Significant Change 2: Increase access to legal service assistance and justice.

The women informants demonstrated they are aware that they can share/disclose their GBV experience with concerned authorities of the justice system at the community level and within the formal legal system. One of the informants remarked that there is no guarantee that the latter would listen to them. The survivors interviewed have accessed legal services through the legal aid clinic of FIDA and legal service providers. Among them, one has witnessed the perpetrator being sanctioned by the justice system.

When asked how accessing justice has affected their families, three points emerged where:

1. There is a reduced incidence of violent acts and respect at home.
2. Increase participation in the welfare of the household.
3. The women can care for themselves and their children financially and morally.

The endline survey found that a slightly higher percentage of women reported that they had not experienced any form of sexual or gender-based violence than in the baseline survey (84% versus 54%). The qualitative survey confirmed this trend and showed that women do indeed perceive that they have better access to services through the social and solidarity groups, the network of paralegals, and civil society providers (psychosocial counselors, legal representatives, and quality health facilities) set up by the project.

Story 7; GBV Survivor (GBV survivor, Fako Division)

“I knew what he was doing to me was wrong because he was my aunt’s husband not because he knew much about GBV. In my first attempt to report to an elder woman, I was told to persevere for the sake of shelter and that nothing lasts forever. I did not know the consequences on my side. I did not know where or who to report or whether he was abusing my rights..., all the time, I blamed myself for choosing to come and live with my aunt”. (GBV survivor, IDP, Fako Division).

The most important change is that I have experienced support from the legal system. I have greater confidence to approach a community leader than before. The assistance I received from the legal aid clinic staff ensured that lawyers sanction the man who raped me. I was sexually assaulted by my guardian who is my aunt’s husband when I was living with them when my mother asked me to escape the socio-political crisis in my village when I was 21 years old.

I was referred by a women’s group leader to the legal aid clinic. At the legal aid clinic, I was provided with knowledge of my rights and the laws that protect me. Even though I have been raped twice in the previous year by this same man who is my aunt’s husband, I wanted justice, I was referred by a women’s group leader to the legal aid clinic. At the legal aid clinic, I was provided with knowledge of my rights and the laws that protect me. Even though I have been raped twice in the previous year by this same man who is my aunt’s husband, I wanted justice. The legal aid staff assured me I will get justice and registered my case for assistance. I gained a lot of trust in the services and shared every aspect of my life with the legal aid staff. I was visited three times by a female lawyer at my little roadside table where I sell fruits, who enriched my knowledge of GBV, and the activities of FIDA for women and girls. After a court hearing, the perpetrator was sanctioned as per the law. I faced some threats from my family after the perpetrator was punished and had no shelter for a month. The lawyer who assisted me to access justice later referred me for livelihood assistance from a partner NGO to earn more money and rent a little room for myself. I have relocated to a new community and am now living a life free of violence.

I can take care of myself completely. I have educated my younger sister and brothers about GBV. I have pleaded with my sister to take her studies seriously so that she will not become vulnerable like me and experience rape or any form of GBV. My story has improved the care and support my siblings give to each other. Every woman like me should have a chance to access justice to heal faster and continue to live free of violence.

“If someone told me a lawyer will be visiting me from time to time about my case without me paying her, I would never have agreed”.

The panel felt that story 2 illustrated important points of change in legal service provision. First, the knowledge of the rights-based /survivor-based approach to GBV service delivery increased the commitment of the legal service providers to protecting and promoting the rights of women. Second the story narration showed the

assistance of legal institutions to survivors to access justice through referrals and platforms. The women's group leader could refer the survivor to the legal aid clinic because of her group's membership and knowledge of the platform of civil society and paralegals. The project partner -LAW is of the opinion that access to justice depends on the trust and confidence the survivors have in the legal systems providers and the ability to financially access justice. The project mitigated the barriers that can prevent access to justice. The changes are also linked to rights-based education provided by the project through services to the women as a component to prepare women to claim their rights.

Findings 3: Barriers/Challenges to EAW

However, some key challenges to EAW the women in FGDs reported include:

- Variations in perceptions and attitudes around the causes and consequences of VAWG sometimes caused arguments when the women are sensitizing others. Many women perceive that their economic empowerment is the solution to VAWG in their communities and the root cause of all causes and they refused to consider all other causes as crucial to be mitigated.
- Services are limited such as health services, legal services, and even counseling/social workers.
- Family obstructions are linked to stigma and taboos relating to talking about GBV, especially if you are a survivor.
- Misunderstandings between perpetrators' accountability and mediation among the elders and linked to victim-blaming. As indicated by one informant: "Victim-blaming is common among the older persons and makes it difficult for talks to families."

"The community elders do not want me to say that the international and national laws are protecting woman's rights and that the laws demand that perpetrators must be punished for the violence. I have been asked to stop educating other women because the elders feel I am instigating other women to report their husbands to be jailed and making their society unpeaceful". (Participant FGD, Women at risk/IDP, Northwest region)

Findings 4: The formal justice system actors are using ratified protocols and conventions.

The informants among the legal service providers interviewed report they encounter a minimum of 4 cases and a maximum of 8 cases of VAWG in a month in all the 5 main types of VAWG. Physical violence is the most common form of violence encountered. After the training, the lawyers are aware of other institutions in the referral pathways. According to one informant:

"Referrals are unavoidable as many physical violence and rape cases need to be referred to a medical facility before we proceed with the case"

When asked what type of documentation is required to facilitate legal proceedings and investigations, the informants remarked that the type of documentation may vary with the details of the case. All of them mentioned that the penal code is the documentation of reference in Cameroon. Another informant remarked that:

"The compilation of international protocols and conventions that has been ratified by Cameroon by FIDA has promoted an understanding of the utility of the compendium in protecting women 's rights."
(Judge, Mezam Division)

"Well, the documents have given us great support given that they have gone a long way to resolve issues. They have gone a long way to resolve matters that are coming before us. Each time we talk and quote some of those documents, the perpetrators know that they may be going against the law ." (SSI, Lawyer, Fako Division)

Half of the informants prefer to apply the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW specifies that governments should take —all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women... (Art.3) CEDAW requires

States Parties to ensure the equality of men and women through laws, establish legal protection of the rights of women, and take all appropriate measures to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs, and practices which constitute discrimination against women. (Art.2)

One of the judges interviewed remarked that:

“CEDAW is easily applicable because this compendium provided by FIDA it guides judicial practitioners on how courts can uphold the rights of women using the CEDAW framework”.

Table 8: Summary of the Overall Assessment of Impact

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
EQ1.1: What difference has the project in general made to women/girls, the legal system, and the general population?	The project has made some difference: The awareness and knowledge of the general population on SGBV/HP, as a human rights violation, and international protocols and state laws have improved. The relevant stakeholders of the justice sector have knowledge of the international protocols alongside national laws, and some are applying them to protect women’s human rights. Women and girls who have experienced violence have increased access to legal and other essential, specialist, safe services including for long-term recovery from violence.	2
EQ1.2: To what extent has the project (through capacity development of key stakeholders within the legal systems and changes in knowledge, behavior, and attitudes) contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women’s empowerment (WE) (both intended and unintended)?	Overall, the project has contributed to improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the beneficiaries in protecting and promoting their human rights; The formal justice system actors are using ratified protocols and conventions and there is increase access to legal service assistance and justice for women.	3
EQ1.3: How have COVID-19-related activities of the project influenced the intended and unintended impact of the project (if any)?	There is no evidence of the real or potential contributions of COVID-19-related activities directly to beneficiaries.	1
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the impact of the project = 2 on 3. Conclusion: The project has contributed to adequate changes in the lives of women, to changes in the knowledge and practices of legal service providers, and changes toward favorable attitudes for EAW among community leaders	

Conclusion on Impact: The evaluation team concludes that there is enough evidence that the project has created **ADEQUATE** impact: It has contributed to more awareness of and willingness among women to talk about the violence that they experience in their lives, are more confident to approach legal services to demand justices and are advocating for the promotion of their rights.

8.2 Relevance

The following sections present the findings from the evaluation, in response to the relevance of the UNTF/FIDA project to local, national, and international priorities and agenda. To operationalize relevance the evaluation focused on the following evaluation questions as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

The evaluation assessed the relevance of the project based on the following questions:

- **EQ2.1:** To what extent do the project interventions prevent, respond, and eliminate SGBV/HP in Cameroon and comply with the SDGs, national strategy and policies on the prevention and response to GBV in Cameroon, humanitarian response plan for SW/NW regions of Cameroon and the priorities of the UN Women/FIDA?
- **EQ2.2:** How important are the capacity-strengthening interventions for actors in the informal and formal legal system and women?
- **EQ2.3:** To what extent does the project aim at addressing the significant disparities in the dimensions of security, education, reproduction health, and access to employment faced by women and girls?
- **EQ2.4:** How well have the COVID-19 response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects to respond to COVID-19 and other crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?

The review of project documents, reports (including secondary data of project baseline and endline survey findings), and other available stakeholder documentation such Strategic Plans for addressing GBV, together with interviews held with the project staff confirms that the project has addressed very relevant priorities of international, national, local and donor commitments in efforts to end Violence against Women and girls. FIDA has added value to SGBV's work within Cameroon and International agendas. This is outlined in the following subsections.

EQ2.1: To what extent do the project interventions prevent, respond, and eliminate SGBV/HP in Cameroon and comply with the SDGs, national strategy and policies on the prevention and response to GBV in Cameroon, humanitarian response plan for SW/NW regions of Cameroon and the priorities of the UN Women and FIDA?

Finding 1: The project complies with the gender priorities of many global commitments.¹⁶

The project goal contributed to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals Number 5- Achieve gender Equality and empower all women and girls with targets of ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; Eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and Female genital mutilation. The project's objectives are in accordance with Gender Equality 2030 which requires urgent action to eliminate the many root causes of discrimination that still curtails women's rights for example discriminatory laws and harmful customary practices. In its activities and results, the project is consistent with global efforts in reducing GBV and intensifying progress towards other development goals.

The goal of the project is consistent with the United Nations (UN) declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) and aligns with the international commitments under the CEDAW. The CEDAW and DEVAW both complement the UN Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document in the history of human rights. This DEVAW has recognized that Violence against Women and girls (VAWG) as a sub-category of GBV is typically entangled in a complex web of institutionalized social relations that reinforce the vulnerability of

¹⁶ [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women | OHCHR](#)

women and girls. The project's goal which is **“to ensure women and girls in Northwest and Southwest regions are better protected from violence and empowered to realize their right to live a life free from violence” is highly consistent with these international priorities of eliminating GBV** and given that it is one of the most pervasive human rights violations. The project's objectives and activities for the protection against SGBV/HP and for the promotion of women's human rights are summarized in Article 4 Section F of DEVAW which emphasizes that States should.

“Develop, in a comprehensive way, preventive approaches and all those measures of a legal, political, administrative and cultural nature that promote the protection of women against any form of violence and ensure that the re-victimization of women does not occur because of laws insensitive to gender considerations, enforcement practices or other interventions” (p.3).

Cameroon is a party to the CEDAW Convention, which therefore means that the state of Cameroon must align its laws, policies, and practices for the protection of women's rights. The UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) states that it is “concerned” with customary courts applying discriminatory customs and traditions¹⁷. Although family mediation is sometimes applied by the judicial system in cases of domestic violence in Cameroon, the advocates for Human rights state that this practice” puts women at risk”¹⁸. The project's relevance to CEDAW (1979) is evident as it has supported enhancing the capacity of the formal and informal legal systems in the target regions for a reliable, trustworthy, and effective component of the multi-sectoral approach. The project aligns with the international agreements and treaties on the protection of women and girls such as articles 29, 138, and 182 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on forced labor, the UN's Convention on the Suppression of Slavery and Human Trafficking and on pimping, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Wellbeing of the Child (ACRWC).

For regional-level instruments, the project meets the priorities of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Cameroon has also signed and ratified The *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*, better known as the Maputo Protocol.

Overall, IDA's programmatic priorities are anchored in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which is to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Finding 2: The project aligns with UN Women's strategies and with the Guiding principles and pillars of the Spotlight Initiative

The evaluation team also confirmed with the project staff and other available literature that the project goal is consistent with the goals and priorities of the UN Women's agenda in the thematic impact area 3 – Ending violence against women and girls highlighted in the UN Women Strategic Plan 2022- 2025. The qualitative findings based on document reviews show that the project is at the center of the UN women's mission and goals to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full enjoyment of their human rights by addressing the root causes of inequality and challenges linked to weak law enforcement and discriminatory social norms as captured within the framework of the Strategic Plan (2022-2025). The relevance of the project's focus which is VAWG, its activities that directly benefit persons vulnerable to GBV including women and girls and survivors of VAWG aligns clearly with UN Women's priorities.

The project supports the efforts of UN Women channeled through the Spotlight Initiative/UNTF to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and mitigate its disproportionate impacts on women and girls, seen in increasing levels of violence against women and to support women's socioeconomic well-being and reduce their vulnerability to future shocks. As with all interventions within the Spotlight initiative, the project was designed and

¹⁷ UN 28 Feb. 2014, para. 10

¹⁸ E/C.12/CMR/4, 11 December 2017, paragraphs 78 - 79

implemented using a human-rights-based approach to ensure no woman or girl is left behind in the target communities by recognizing and prioritizing the rights, needs, and wishes of survivors. The project recognized the intersecting forms of discrimination and oppression faced by women and girls, that differentiate their experiences and needs and maintained inclusion and equality by targeting all context-specific categories of women and girls at risk of GBV.

“The implementation team included community mobilizers and volunteers as a means to break physical and geographic barriers and minimize risks and opportunities for specific groups of women and girls (such as those living hard-to-reach communities, living with different abilities, indigenous women, etc.)”. (SSI, Project Partner, LAW)

The design of the project strategies is in strong conformity with the GBV programming perspectives of the Spotlight initiative:

“Comprehensive legal and policy frameworks are essential to ensure an effective and coordinated response to VAWG. Legal reform alone is not enough to prevent VAWG. It is most effective when combined with community-based interventions to shift the norms that uphold VAWG”.

The project priorities on strengthening the capacity of legal professionals to apply international and regional laws, conventions, and protocols align with one of the Spotlight Initiative Pillar which focuses on the design and/or strengthening of legislations on VAWG, in line with international standards.

Finding 3: The project aligns with National priorities.

The project’s focus on the capacity strengthening of the actors of the informal and formal legal system of the Northwest and Southwest regions to apply international legal guidelines and protocols when assisting survivors to access justice aligns strongly with the first key guiding principle of the Cameroon **National Strategic Plan to fight GBV for 2022 – 2026**.

To reiterate the relevance of UNTF/FIDA’s project to national strategy, one of the Divisional Delegate of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Family (Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille, MINPROFF) mentioned that:

“The national efforts for the fight against GBV must be in alignment with national, international, and regional legal instruments related to human rights”.

The strategies, activities, and results of the project clearly align with, (1) Axis 1 of the National Strategy: Strengthening the prevention and risk mitigation system in all sectors and sectors and improving knowledge; and (2) Axis 2 of the national strategy: strengthening the holistic management of survivors and the repression of perpetrators of GBV and (3) Key expected result of the national Strategic actions: Stakeholders capacity are strengthened and the awareness of the population about GBV is increased.

Specifically, the goal of the project of making women and girls free from violence will contribute to the general objective of the National Strategic Plan to fight GBV for 2022 – 2026 for Cameroon in the reduction of the rate of GBV by at least half.

EQ2.2: How important are the capacity-strengthening interventions for actors in the informal and formal legal system for women?

2.2.1 Relevance in relation to capacity strengthening of the legal system for the fight against GBV.

Crucial to GBV prevention and response in any society is an adequate legal institutional response. The goal of this project which is **to ensure women and girls in Northwest and Southwest regions are better protected from violence and empowered to realize their right to live a life free from violence** required FIDA to build stakeholders' capacity (judges, lawyers, police, traditional leaders) on using a human rights-based approach to protect women’s rights. Specifically, the capacity-strengthening strategy of the project required the training of

members of the judiciary on the implementation of international conventions ratified by Cameroon to combat violence and promote the human rights of women.

The interviewed project staff confirmed the project addresses one of the key reasons why VAW&G thrives in Cameroon which is the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness in the implementation of components of the international and national legal frameworks for VAWG response. The legal actors interviewed confirmed the relevance of the project in strengthening their capacities and knowledge of international protocols and standards as well as key principles for a sustained legal response to GBV. Interviews with actors of the informal legal system - custodians of customs and customary court judges highlighted that the project addressed knowledge gaps in relation to (i) customs that challenge the eradication of VAWG, (ii) customary courts applying discriminatory customs/traditions, and (iii) their inability to harmonize state laws and customary laws.

Furthermore, the project has increased the knowledge, awareness, and capacity of both formal and informal legal actors in the Southwest and Northwest region on discriminatory laws and traditional/religious customs and practices that need to be changed. Individually these actors are now proactively advancing gender equality, protecting women, and promoting their rights according to international recommendations and policies.

EQ2.3: To what extent does the project aim at addressing the significant disparities in the dimensions of security, education, reproduction health, and access to employment faced by women and girls?

It is well recognized that at all levels of commitments, any attempt to reduce GBV is a driver for progress across many SDG targets and the project goal which is to reduce occurrences of VAWG in both regions of Cameroon is consistent with these commitments. There is evidence that reduced violence against women improves the health of women and children and the well-being of families. It reduces risks of HIV and other STIs, improves economic productivity and educational attainment, it enhances mental health. Overall, in addressing GBV, the project's outcome 1 - to reduce social acceptance of GBV by the public, women and girls know their rights and are advocating for them and accessing necessary support that protects their human rights - has contributed to promoting human rights of the women and the girl child and in long-term will promote the health, peace, and inclusion of women.

The evaluation confirmed that the project has addressed the very relevant rights and needs of women and girls to live a life free of violence and has implemented relevant capacity-strengthening activities required by the legal systems to support this commitment. Specifically, the project responded to the common but often neglected need of sensitizing and educating women, girls, and or the youth on GBV so that they can protect and promote their human rights. Central to the relevance of this strategy for prevention was building the capacity of civil society on advocacy, monitoring, and reporting cases of violence against women/girls and eventually anchoring on the organizations trained to reach out to other women's associations and the community at large.

The reports of the outreach activities show that the project utilized a community mobilizer-peer education strategy for the sensitization on VAWG and related laws, women's human rights, and VAWG support services. This is a highly relevant part of the GBV prevention strategy of the strategic commitments of FIDA. The project reached out to survivors of VAWG, women through women's associations, and youths through youth groups and gatherings in the population of the target divisions as part of the efforts to increase awareness among the wider public. The quantitative and qualitative evidence gathered by the evaluation team from secondary data of a recently completed endline survey confirmed with evidence that the project raised awareness of women/girls, and youths on issues relating to gender difference, roles and norms, forms, and risk of VAW&G,

reporting GBV, relevant laws especially law number 2003/004 of 14th April 2009 which exempts poor women from payment of justice fee.

Table 9: Summary of Overall Assessment of Relevance

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent do the project interventions prevent, respond, and eliminate SGBV/HP in Cameroon and comply with the SDGs, national strategy and policies on the prevention and response to GBV in Cameroon, humanitarian response plan for SW/NW regions of Cameroon, and the priorities of the UN Women/FIDA? 	The project's strategy, outcomes, and activities are <u>highly relevant</u> considering the international priorities, the country's strategies, plans/humanitarian response plan, and UN Women/FIDA priorities for GBV.	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How important are the capacity-strengthening interventions for actors in the informal and formal legal system and women? 	The capacity-strengthening interventions are <u>relevant</u> . However, in the current humanitarian context, wider coverage in terms of beneficiaries and target divisions is required to ensure the project results remain relevant.	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the project aim at addressing the significant disparities in the dimensions of security, education, reproduction health, and access to employment faced by women and girls? 	Disparities are widening for women and girls in both regions. The project was <u>highly relevant</u> for the timely redress of these disparities due to the changes in the needs of women and girls in the context of emergencies.	3
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the relevance of the project = 2.75 on 3. Conclusion: The project is highly relevant	

Conclusion on relevance criterion:

- The evaluation concludes that the activities taken under all four outcomes of the project continue to be relevant to the promotion of the human rights of women and in the long term to their needs.
- The evaluation found that both endline and baseline surveys of the project completed by FIDA demonstrate the project has been able to improve awareness of women, girls, and the public on VAWG, relevant laws, and its link to human rights. Community social associations/groups for women and youths have been targeted to ensure actions toward eliminating VAW&G is kept relevant at the local level.
- The evaluation confirms that the project contributes to the national strategic efforts of EAW through its core strategies which include capacity strengthening, support for the holistic management of survivors, and the subjugation of GBV perpetrators through the legal systems and awareness raising at individual, community, and institutional levels.
- The capacity strengthening of key stakeholders of the legal system continues to be relevant to the results of the project particularly in providing legal support services to victims and addressing discriminatory practices and harmful customs that encourage risk behaviors for GBV. Subsequently, similar projects will need to be designed with effective approaches to ensure other key actors or law enforcement officers such as police officers are the main focus of capacity building for effective and sustained legal responses. Furthermore, it is recommended that future projects clearly report the extent of social and cultural indicators of progress toward addressing project goals/outcomes.

8.3 Effectiveness

The following section provides a measurement of *how well the project achieved its objectives*. It is realized by comparing the project's goals with the results while identifying key factors that have contributed to the attainment of results. The effectiveness of the project has been assessed through the accomplishment of outputs and outcomes indicators, from the responses from the beneficiaries about the quality and usefulness of services provided to them, information about referrals and barriers, and supporting factors to the achievements of intended outcomes.

The key questions guiding the evaluation of the project's effectiveness are:

- **EQ3.1:** Has the project contributed to capacity building, knowledge transfers, and population awareness for the promotion and protection of women's human rights?
- **EQ3.2:** To what extent have the project objectives been achieved in accordance with the adjustments following the current socio-political context?
- **EQ3.3:** To what extent were results of the COVID-19 response achieved for women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors?
- **EQ3.4:** What are the factors underlying the successes and challenges or gaps the project faced (if any)?

EQ3.1: Has the project contributed to capacity building, knowledge transfers and population awareness for the promotion and protection of women's human rights?

A. Capacity Building

A1. Theory of Change: The objective of embarking on capacity-building activities is visualized in objective two of the project which is **"To improve on the institutional responsibility for the protection of women's rights and preventing Violence against women and girls in both regions"**. This is on the premise that institutions especially the legal and community-based institutions including traditional leaders and civil society organizations in the NW and SW regions require knowledge, skills, and resources for an effective response that prioritizes survivors' safety and perpetrator accountability and improves access to justice in the formal legal sector for survivors and other women and girls at risk of GBV. Women and girls can be free from violence if barriers to receiving justice within the justice system are addressed. The project also recognizes the value added by a coordinated community response by also enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations and paralegals to engage in a platform or network that supports women and girls to access protection, legal assistance, and other relevant needs for health and livelihood and report GBV incidents in the community.

Secondary evidence from the desk review of project M&E reports and indicators performance data reveals that the project has strengthened the capacity of key actors of the informal and informal legal systems to apply international legal instruments to protect women's human rights and CSO members of the Southwest and Northwest region of Cameroon including FIDA staff and a rights-based approach for GBV case management. As shown in Table 10, A total of 622 persons have directly benefitted from capacity-building activities.

A2. Capacity building of legal professionals of the formal justice system for the application of international treaties, declarations, and policies:

The project focused on enhancing the capacity of human rights principles enshrined in the following key international treaties, conventions, declarations, resolutions, and international norms related to gender-based violence.

- i) As stated in the UNODC report of 2021, “The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the most basic international foundation for combating violence against women. It lays out the rights and principles of equality, security, liberty, integrity, and dignity of all people, including women” (p.7).
- ii) The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (“CEDAW”) establishes the right of women. Cameroon has also ratified this protocol and therefore it is therefore obliged to “take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs, and practices, which constitute discrimination against women.” and to include violence against women.

Table 10: Number of persons reached with capacity building activities.

Training Outputs	Total persons
OT 2.3.1: # Paralegals trained on how to draft, lodge, and follow up complaints from survivors	100
OT 2.3.2: # CSO Leaders trained on data collection	80
OT2.1.1: # of judges with acquired knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's right	35
OT2.1.1: # of Lawyers with acquired knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's right	44
OT2.1.1: # of Police with acquired knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's right	30
OT3.1.1: # Traditional leaders who understand that VAW/G is a human rights violation	90
OT3.1.2: # Customary court judges with improved knowledge of VAW/G	120
OT3.2.3: Number of shadows reporting team members with enhanced knowledge	60
OT4.2.1: Number of staff and volunteers trained in organizing/managing virtual meetings and spotting dangers online.	21
OT4.2.2: Number of women and girls trained on how to mitigate the risk of being violated during the COVID-19 pandemic.	42
Overall Total	622

The training of the legal professionals also focused on the significant regional instruments that speak to curbing gender-based violence.

- i) The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), also known as the Maputo Protocol. UNODC (2021) highlights that “The Protocol prohibits GBV as part of women’s rights to life, integrity and security of person, and dignity. Article One defines violence against women as including “all acts perpetrated against women.” The Maputo Protocol encompasses the provisions of CEDAW and further expands on women’s human rights concerning GBV, calling on all Member States to give greater attention to the realization of women’s human rights to eliminate all forms of discrimination and GBV against women” (p.8).

The project has enhanced the capacity of a total of 209 professionals of the formal justice system including lawyers, judges and paralegals, and police (as law enforcement personnel) by training them and providing each a copy of a compendium of national, regional, and international laws. The assumption is that legal professionals including the police have the responsibility of securing women’s human rights as contained in international laws and protocols.

1. Figure 1 shows, on average, 73% as opposed to 50.2% of sampled legal professionals (judges and lawyers) from the regions are aware of the international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to VAWG at the endline and baseline respectively. The training of the judges and lawyers on instruments that protect women’s human rights is expected to result in their applying these human rights documents/principles or guidelines in judicial proceedings (that is, changing their legal practices).

2. A high number (83%) of legal professionals know of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) & Maputo protocol and Articles 29, 138, 182 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on forced labor (86%) at endline.
3. Evidence from case files and service provider surveys conducted at the end of the project within this reporting period show that 33 members of the legal community who were trained are demonstrating the use of the compendium in their legal practices. So far, records show that 61 cases have been addressed by members of the legal community with reference to the compendium. Therefore, the project has enhanced the capacity of these professionals to effectively incorporate women's rights into justice processes. During SSIs, informants reported that on average they encounter a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 cases a month, although a majority of the cases do not progress, mostly due to survivors who cannot comply with financial costs or decide not to pursue the perpetrator anymore.

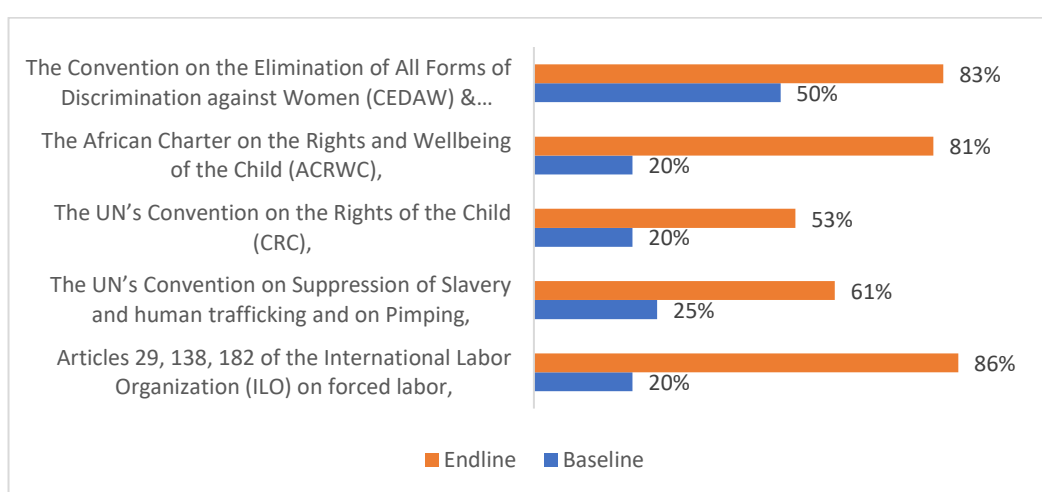


Figure 1: Proportion of MLC who are aware of the international commitments for the protection of women and girls.

According to M&E periodic reports, the project has ensured that 100 paralegals from the NW and SW regions have adequate capacity for the drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints on behalf of survivors. Each of the trained paralegals has also been provided with a criminal procedural manual to guide them in continuously assisting survivors of SGBV/HP access justice.

4. The service provider surveys of the trained paralegals (n=20) at the endline of the project, show that 95% (19 out of 20) agree to either they have discussed, established, or published protocols and steps on drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints from women/girl at risk of GBV in their office at least once after the training.

A3. Capacity building of members of the informal justice system for the application of international treaties, declarations, and policies

The informal justice system in communities was also targeted by the project. The project enhanced the knowledge of 90 traditional leaders and 120 customary court judges, and queen mother are key members of the informal justice system on the adverse consequences of discriminatory traditional practices, human rights, and laws and on the eradication of harmful traditional practices in relation to SGBV/HP. Each customary court judge was also provided a compendium of laws regulating the customary court judges as an easy reference when handling cases of SGBV/HP. At endline a sample of traditional leaders (10) and Customary court judges

(20) were assessed for knowledge relating to discriminatory practices, national priorities and frameworks, and international laws, and frameworks.

1. The proportion of customary court judges with such knowledge of SGBV as a human rights violation and the legal instruments has increased from 9.5% to 79% and 19% at baseline to 79% at endline respectively.
2. A look at Table 2 shows that, on average, 77.3% of the trained traditional leaders, including queen mothers, have improved attitudes towards traditional practices which are to be eradicated.
3. All the leaders surveyed reported to be engaged in sensitizations and 86% also report to be engaged in counseling of women and girls. Other common GBV activities include vocational training for women/girls and or their empowerment. Mediation was also a common intervention for traditional leaders and civil society actors. It is also important to recognize that addressing harmful norms should be an integral part of GBV interventions. A significant engagement of these actors in women's rights advocacy in an attempt to change the power imbalance between men and women by directly challenging many of the norms and practices that justify male authority over women/patriarchy. Although not all efforts of leaders have been supported there are some very successful strategies being implemented such as HeForShe membership for changing norms.

Table 11: Awareness of traditional leaders of discriminatory laws

Summary of Statements	Percentage Traditional leaders/customary judges who agree/strongly agree (N=30)	
	N	%
1. Some laws are discriminatory against women	23	78%
2. There are discriminatory traditional practices that are to be eradicated	24	81%
3. There are human rights laws for handling SGBV/HP cases	22	73%
Overall	77.3%	

A4. Capacity building of Women and girls (as project beneficiaries) to mitigate GBV risk in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian crisis.

A sample of 42 women and girls including survivors of SGBV/HP, internally displaced persons, and women living with disabilities were provided with comprehensive knowledge and skills on prevention measures and how to stay safe and mitigate the risk of being violated during the COVID-19 pandemic during capacity building workshops. To further enhance the coping capacity of women and girls within project regions, 432 women and girls were provided a food package each. Several studies have shown that women and or girls are unable to meet up with the increase in prices of food, which challenges the woman's ability to feed and care for the household. More women rely on cheaper food, reduce adult rations for small children, borrow from friends, or reduce meals per day. Some minor scale measures are related to forced sex for survival, forced marriage, and child labor.

A5: capacity building of Leaders of Civil Society Organizations on data collection processes

A total of 80 civil society leaders have been trained in data collection and 6 of the supported financially to collect and furnish us with data on VAW/G during the execution of this project to monitor the progress of our work.

The project enhanced the capacities of the CSOs for ongoing data collection for the project. Specifically

- The CSOs collected data at legal service provision points and they also refer women/girls in the course of their work.
- The CSOs were Involved in ongoing community mobilization activities (or CSOs regularly carry out community sensitizations as per their schedule) and tracked and report sensitizations coverage.
- The CSOs have been trained on how to collect data at paralegal offices and as they refer women in the course of their work.

B. Population Awareness

B1. Theory of Change: The community awareness-raising campaigns and radio sensitizations seek to address project objective one which is **“To increase public awareness in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon on forms/causes and consequences of VAWGs, existing laws/policies guaranteeing equality and those condemning VAWG”**. When social attitudes that promote VAWG are unchallenged and women and girls are not aware of their human rights under state and international laws, social acceptance of VAWG continues to prevail. Women and girls can live a life free of violence if awareness of GBV, and rights-based awareness is promoted among women and the communities to encourage favorable attitudes and social norms that reduce social acceptance of VAWG and barriers to access to justice. If the justice sector practices are improving, women and girls must also be prepared to claim their rights and advocate to live a life free from violence.

B2. Public Awareness of holistic information of VAWG, SGBV as a human rights violation, and related national and international laws.

The evaluation team reviewed M&E periodic reports of the project and confirms the project has succeeded to raise the level of information and awareness of the general population of the Northwest and Southwest regions on forms, causes, and consequences of SGBV, VAWG as a human rights violation and on national and international laws against VAWG through continuous awareness raising campaigns in the communities and via the radio/TV. The project conceptualized awareness-raising as a strategy to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the public to recognize, reduce and prevent VAWG at the community level. Project reports also show that the extensive and consistent messaging in public awareness-raising activities, including media campaigns, mobilization of communities’ youth and women around discussions on SGBV, and dissemination of information, education, and communication materials supported by the project have resulted in higher visibility of the SGBV/HP among the members of the communities. The population has been better informed about national and international instruments including law No. 2003/004 of 14th April 2009, on legal aid and its services.

1. Sensitization trackers compiled following community and media awareness campaigns show that 101,339 persons have been sensitized within three years (table 3).
2. Knowledge surveys conducted pre and post-intervention show an increase in the proportion of the general population with good knowledge of national, and international laws against VAW/G and human rights violations, etc. from 15% at baseline to 67% at the endline.

Table 12: Number of persons sensitized on SGBV/HP and related laws.

INDICATORS	Actual
OT1.1.1: No. Survivors and W/G at risk in both regions are sensitized on national, and international laws against VAWG and human rights violations, etc on legal services including legal aid clinics	2384
OT1.1.2: No. In the general population sensitized on national, and international laws against VAWG on the facts that SGBV/HP is a human rights violation under national/international laws	101339
OT1.2.1: Number of survivors, individuals who are sensitized of their legal rights and access to justice including forms and consequences of SGBV/HP	80795

B3. Women and girls’ awareness of holistic information of VAWG, SGBV as a human rights violation, and related national and international laws.

The evaluation found olegal services and confirmed in activity reports, that the project employed specific community channels including social meeting groups, churches to raise the awareness of women and girls of SGBV as a human rights violation, its forms and consequences, the legal rights of women and girls and their access to justice and on legal service including legal aid clinics. M&E reports and pre/post-intervention surveys show that:

3. 80,795 individuals including survivors and other women and girls at risk of GBV have been sensitized on their legal rights and access to justice including forms and consequences of SGBV/HP within three years (table 3) following community and media awareness campaigns.
4. The proportion of survivors and W/G at risk in both regions with good knowledge of national, and international laws against VAW/G and human rights violations, has increased from 10% at baseline to 68% at the endline.
5. The evaluation also observed from project records that the 635 survivors and other individuals are aware of and understand their legal rights and access to justice including forms and consequences of SGBV/HP counted at legal aid clinics and legal service provision points.

B4. Communities' Institutions' awareness of holistic information of VAWG, and SGBV as a human rights violation and related national and international laws.

The evaluation documentation review process found the contribution of the project in increasing the level of information on SGBV/HP and related laws in community institutions. The project targeted community-based institutions including schools, cultural groups, religious associations, and community leaders and mobilizers/volunteers with information on SGBV/HP as a human rights violation and on related national and international laws. The awareness-raising sessions aimed at enhancing the level of information among community leaders and mobilizers.

6. A total of 335 leaders/members of community institutions and influential men and boys in leadership (40 traditional leaders, 2 political leaders, 24 administrative leaders, and 269 men and boys) in the communities have been directly reached with information on primary prevention and social norms for engagement with the larger community including men and boys in preventing SGBV incidence and mitigating barriers to access for justice for survivors and other women at risk.

Conclusion of projects contribution to public awareness: The evaluation concludes that awareness-raising interventions with the general population, women and girls of communities, and community institutions in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest) have contributed to improved knowledge of national and international laws/policies on VAW/G as a human rights violation and holistic knowledge of forms, prevalence, root causes/consequences of violence as a human rights violation and knowledge of the existence of legal aid is improved in the communities in both project regions.

C. Knowledge Transfer

C1. Theory of Change:

The project considered this strategy to support the achievement of both project objective 1 which is **“To improve on the institutional responsibility for the protection of women’s rights and preventing Violence against women and girls in both regions”** and project objective 3 which is **“To create an enabling environment for the commitment to preventing and combating VAWG and SGBV/HP in the two project regions”**.

Practitioners of the formal and informal justice sectors come from various levels of practice, and different communities and often have very little interaction with each other or may even operate in isolation with little or no opportunities to share experiences, and strategies and learn from each other for improved access to justice for women and girls at risk or GBV or survivors. Facilitating knowledge transfer will build and or sustain the capacity and facilitate interaction amongst legal sector practitioners for improved legal practices, increase justice for women and girls survivors and others at risk, and perpetrators’ accountability.

Table 13: Performance of the project in terms of population awareness, capacity building

Output	Indicators at the Output Level	Thematic	Target (Planned)	Baseline	Endline (Achieved)
Outcome 1: Communities in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest) are more supportive of the implementation of national and international laws and policies on VAW/G within their regions.					
1.1: Knowledge of national and international laws/policies on VAW/G as a human rights violation is improved in the communities in both project regions (Northwest/Southwest). 1.2: Holistic knowledge of forms, prevalence, root causes/consequences of violence as a human rights violation, and knowledge of the existence of legal aid is improved in the communities in both project regions (Northwest/Southwest).	OT1.1.1: % Survivors and W/G at risk in both regions with good knowledge (at output level = sensitized) on national, and international laws against VAW/G and human rights violations, etc	Population Awareness	75%	10%	68%
	OT1.1.2: % of the general population in both regions with good knowledge (at output level = sensitized) on national, and international laws against VAW/G and human rights violations, etc	Population Awareness	60%	15%	67%
	OT1.2.1: Number of survivors, individuals who are aware of and understand their legal rights and access to justice including forms and consequences of SGBV/HP	Population Awareness	300	0	635
Outcome 2: Government officials, Law/policymakers, judges, lawyers, traditional authorities, individuals, and local duty bearers will improve on institutional response and prevention of SGBV/HP					
2.1: Members of the legal community (Judges/customary court judges, lawyers/police officers) have improved knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's rights. 2.2: Parliamentarians have a one-stop document that will improve their knowledge of laws that are discriminatory against women and girls. 2.3: A network composed of paralegals and civil society leaders is equipped with the necessary capacity to assist survivors of SGBV/HP to access justice	OT2.1.1: # of judges with acquired knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's right	Capacity building	30	0	35
	OT2.1.1: # of Lawyers with acquired knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's right	Capacity building	40	0	44
	OT2.1.1: # of Police with acquired knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's right	Capacity building	30	0	30
	OT2.2.1: # (%) Parliamentarian lobbied for law reforms	Capacity building	80%	10%	20%
	OT 2.3.1: # Paralegals will be trained on how to draft, lodge, and follow up complaints from survivors	Capacity building	100	0	100
	OT 2.3.2: # CSO Leaders trained on data collection	Capacity building	80	0	80
Outcome 3: Strengthened commitment of traditional leaders, paralegals, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders to prevent and combat SGBV/HP in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest).					
3.1: Traditional leaders, customary court judges, communities, and institutions have improved knowledge of discriminatory traditional practices in the two project regions. 3.2: A shadow reporting team is empowered with enhanced knowledge of shadow reporting and ready to collaborate with other CBOs in shadow reporting.	OT3.1.1: # Traditional leaders who understand that VAW/G is a human rights violation	Capacity building	90	0	90
	OT3.1.2: # Customary court judges with improved knowledge of VAW/G	Capacity building	120	0	120
	OT3.2.3: Number of shadows reporting team members with enhanced knowledge on shadow reporting	Capacity building	60	0	60
Outcome 4: FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] are institutionally strengthened to sustainably respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises while maintaining or adapting existing interventions to EAW/G with a focus on the most vulnerable women and girls.					
4.1: FIDA Cameroon and its co-implementing partner [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] have put in place mechanisms to improve institutional resilience to crises including COVID-19, that ensure the stability of projects and sustainability of the organization in the longer term. 4.2: FIDA Cameroon and co-	OT4.1.1: Extent to which FIDA and co-implementers are able to maintain services delivery to beneficiaries	Capacity building	17	0	16
	OT4.1.2: Number of staff who report being supported by the organization to cope with the crisis (through self-care, mental health counseling, and increase salaries)	Assistance	5	0	5
	OT4.2.1: Number of staff and volunteers reporting improved skills in organizing/managing virtual meetings	Capacity building	20	0	19

Output	Indicators at the Output Level	Thematic	Target (Planned)	Baseline	Endline (Achieved)
implementing partners (LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM) have improved knowledge, skills, and capacities to maintain or adapt EAW/G interventions and reach the most vulnerable women and girls while responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic or other crises.	and spotting dangers online.				
	OT4.2.2: Number of women and girls that report knowledge of how to mitigate the risk of being violated during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Capacity building	42	0	84
	OT4.2.3: % of beneficiaries (women/girls' survivors, IDP's and persons with disabilities) reached with food in order to ensure the stability of project reach to the most vulnerable	Assistance	60%	0	58%

C2. Knowledge transfer through experience/strategies sharing during training of traditional leaders and customary court judges.

The evaluation team found that the training brought together leaders and members of the informal justice systems from different communities and different justice mechanisms for violence against women. This provoked discussions on experiences and knowledge shared on various strategies for justice. The training also aimed at initiating interactions for sustained knowledge transfer among the community leaders post-training.

EQ3.2: To what extent have the project objectives been achieved in accordance with the adjustments following the current socio-political context?

Project Objective 1: To increase the level of public awareness on forms/causes and consequences of VAWG, existing laws/policies guaranteeing equality, and those condemning VAWG in the NW/SW by 75 – 80% end of 2022.

Table 14 below shows the project has resulted in making communities in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest) more supportive of the implementation of national and international laws and policies on VAW/G. As informed by the content analysis of project M&E documentation, the evaluation noted a high increase (at least 67% increase) in the level of public awareness on forms/causes and consequences of VAWG, existing laws/policies guaranteeing equality and those condemning VAWG in the NW/SW.

D. Outcome 1: Communities in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest) are more supportive of the implementation of national and international laws and policies on VAW/G within their regions.

To assess the effectiveness towards enhancing the commitment of the general population including vulnerable women and girls, individuals, and institutions to reduce social acceptance of GBV, increasing the women and girls in the population who know their rights and are advocating and or committing to end SGBV/HP, and increasing the number of women and girls accessing necessary support services including legal services that protect and promote their rights, the evaluation team considered the level of change for the four indicators for outcome 1 and found **that Outcome 1 has been achieved to a considerable extent** because of the following findings.

Table 14: Project’s performance at the level of Outcome 1

Contributing Result	Verifiable indicators	Target	Baseline	Endline	Evaluation Remarks on level of change *
Outcome 1: Communities in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest) are more supportive of the implementation of national and international laws and policies on VAW/G within their regions	OM1.1: Percentage of individuals in the community who can identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP including its causes and consequences	65%	10%	77.4%	High
	OM1.2: Percentage of the general population who know that SGBV/HP is a human rights violation under national/international laws	65%	0%	67%	High
	OM1.3: Percentage of survivors, individuals, institutions, and the community who can name national/international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to EVAW	60%	12%	64%	High
	OM1.4: Percentage of survivors and other individuals (persons at risk) accessing the available legal aid clinics and services rendered there	50%	5%	89.6%	Very high

*Level of change on indicators: 1: 1 to 25% (slight); 2: 26% – 50% (Moderate); 3:51% to 75%(High); 4:76% to 100% (Very high);0- 0% (none)

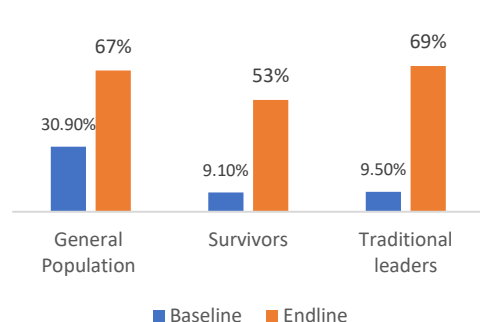
Finding 1: Knowledge of national and international laws/policies on VAWG as a human rights violation, has improved among the beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions.

Comparing the baseline and endline proportions of the general population who understood VAW/G is a human right, over the years more persons have come to have a better understanding that VAW/G is a Human Rights violation (Figure 4). This is not surprising given the increasing human rights conversations, activism, and sensitization going on in the country and across the globe together with increased collaborative partnerships, programs, and agendas by local, state, and international partners.

Before the project was implemented, 9.1% of the vulnerable populations reported that they know VAW/G is a violation of human rights. This implies that the perceived level of VAW as a violation of human rights amongst people at risk was relatively still low. The endline statistic shows an increase in the level of knowledge by 44% from baseline, implying there is an improvement in awareness of persons at risk of VAW/G human rights violations. Overall, more vulnerable persons in the North-west are knowledgeable of VAWG as a human rights violation than in the South-west region.

Similarly, as shown in Figure 4, there is a significant improvement in the proportion of traditional leaders who understand that VAWG is a human rights violation at the endline (69%) compared to the baseline (9.5%).

Figure 2:Proportion of respondents with the knowledge that VAWG is a human right violation

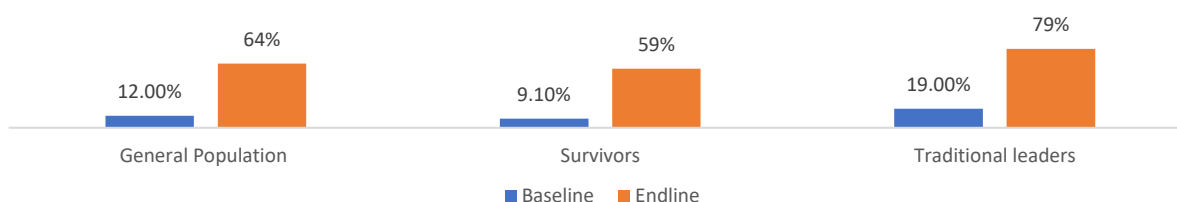


Person who experiences GBV maybe deprived of the right	General Population			Survivors/Women at risk			Traditional Leaders		
	NW	SW	Total	NW	SW	Total	NW	SW	Total
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To access services for justice and protection To inheritance To go to school To be healthy To stay safe 	66%	67%	67%	58%	48%	53%	65%	72%	69%

Finding 2: Holistic knowledge of forms, prevalence, and root causes/consequences of VAWG is improved among the beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions.

There is a change of knowledge in an average of 10% of individuals at baseline to an average of 72.2% of individuals in the community at the endline who can identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP and who know that SGBV/HP is a human rights violation under national/international laws. Of the members of the public surveyed after the project interventions, 77.4% against the planned target of 65% can identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP compared to 10% who could identify forms of violence including SGBV/HP before the project interventions. The evaluation noted a high level of change in knowledge of national/international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to EVAW among the general population.

Figure 3: Proportion of respondents who can identify legal instruments linked to GBV.



<i>In Cameroon,</i>	General Population			Survivors/Women at risk			Traditional Leaders/ customary court judges		
	NW	SW	Total	NW	SW	Total	NW	SW	Total
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no law that specifically addresses SGBV. There is a law/framework which shows the Government of Cameroon offers women legal protection from rape, sexual assault/harassment, etc There is no law that criminalizes all forms of VAW/G 									
<i>The following are some of the National commitments or instruments to end SGB V and other harmful practices</i>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Penal code The organization of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family Specialized technical institutions (Women’s Empowerment Centers) 	61%	67%	64%	69%	66%	68%	78%	80%	79%
<i>At the international level, Cameroon has signed agreements with,</i>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The African Charter on Human and People’s Rights The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). 									

When compared with baseline statistics, there is a significant increase in the proportion of persons who can identify legal instruments linked to GBV in all categories of respondents. Among the general population surveyed, 64% can name national and or international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to EVAW compared to only 12% before the project interventions. A significant increase is seen with traditional leaders with a 60% increase in the proportion of them with knowledge of legal instruments.

There has been a change in the proportion of survivors and W/G at risk in both regions with good knowledge of national, and international laws against VAW/G and human rights violations, and forms, causes, and consequences of SGBV/HP. Of the beneficiaries’ women and girls surveyed at service delivery points, 68% against the planned target of 75% report having good knowledge compared to only 10% of women and girls at risk/survivors before the project implementation.

Finding 3: Knowledge of the existence of legal aid pro-bono services is increased among the beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions.

Among the individuals in the general population who know or are aware of the different institutions that provide legal help, a majority (64.1%) acknowledged that the justice sector institutions are one of the state institutions to maintain law and order when it relates to GBV. Two-thirds of the members of the population in both regions (65%) also confirmed they know that lawyers provide legal support to GBV survivors. Only 9.1% (117 out of 1213) of the individuals interviewed knew they could obtain pro bono legal support services after an experience of GBV while only 12.6% are aware that legal aid services are available in communities.

Overall, most of the survivors of VAWG (97%) know judges/courts and lawyers can provide help to GBV survivors. More survivors (53%) knew of the availability of legal aid clinics and where to find one than members of the community. Greater awareness of pro – bono legal support services is among GBV survivors (54%) than the general population (9.7%).

Table 15: Proportion of respondents with knowledge of the existence of legal aid clinic and Pro-bono services

Statements	Percentage who agree/strongly agree	
	General Population (%)	Survivors/persons at risk (%)
1. You know the judges/court provide legal help	64.1	93.6
2. You know the state counsel provides legal help	23	63.2
3. You know the lawyers provide legal help	65	97
4. You know where to find legal aid clinic	12.6	53
5. You are aware of pro- bono legal support services	9.7	54
Overall	43.5%	69%

Summarily, according to Table 15, the proportion of persons among the general population and among survivors/persons at risk who agreed or strongly agreed to the statements on the knowledge of the existence of legal aid clinics and pro-bono service has increased when compared to baseline figures. However, there is still below average level of awareness of legal support and services among the population. Survivors/persons at risk may be more exposed to information channels as they navigate referral pathways and or multisectoral services.

Finding 4: Women and girls at risk of GBV are accessing the available legal aid clinics and services rendered there.

According to M&E reports, there has been an increasing trend in the proportion of women and girls at risk of GBV accessing legal aid clinics and services rendered there (figure 4 and Table 16).

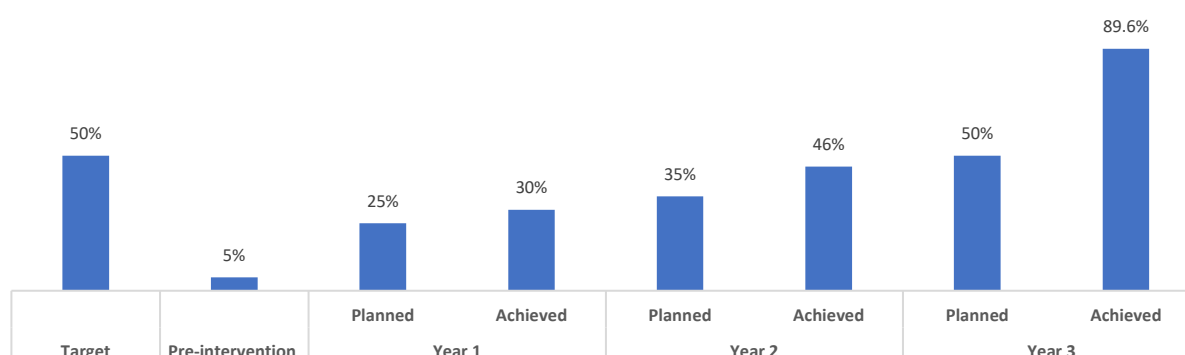


Figure 4: Proportion of women accessing legal aid clinic between 2020 and 2022.

Table 16: Distribution of women and girls accessing legal aid clinics over three years (2020-2022)

PERIOD	Accessed legal aid clinic	Rendered Services after accessing legal aid clinics									
		Women		Girls		Survivors		Persons at risk		Total	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Year 1	100	16	80%	4	20%	7	35%	13	65%	20	20.0%
Year 2	200	76	83%	16	17%	25	27%	67	73%	92	46.0%
Year 3	135	98	81%	23	19%	33	27%	88	73%	121	89.6%

Project Objective 2: To increase the effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans, and accountability systems to protect women's rights and prevent Violence against Women and Girls in both regions by the end of 2022.

Table 17: Projects Performance at the level of Outcome 2

Contributing result	Verifiable indicators	Target	Baseline	Endline	Evaluation Remarks on level of change *
Outcome 2: Government officials, Law/policymakers, judges, lawyers, traditional authorities, individuals, and local duty bearers will improve on institutional response and prevention of SGBV/HP.	OM2.1: # Members of the legal community (lawyers, judges, and judicial police officers) who increasingly apply national and international conventions promoting women's rights	45	0	61	High
	OM2.2: percentage of women and girls (women/girls victims of trafficking, women/girls survivors of violence, women in detention, and internally displaced who are now advocating against violence.	50%	10%	59%	Moderate
	OM2.3: % Laws/policy reformed	5%	0%	0%	None

*Level of change on indicators: 1: 1 to 25% (slight); 2: 26% – 50% (Moderate); 3:51% to 75%(High); 4:76% to 100% (Very high);0- 0% (none)

E. Outcome 2: Government officials, Law/policymakers, judges, lawyers, traditional authorities, individuals, and local duty bearers will improve on institutional response and prevention of SGBV/HP.

To assess the effectiveness of planned results, the evaluation team considered the level of change for the three indicators for outcome 2 and found that **Outcome 2 has been achieved to an average extent** because of the following findings:

Findings 1: The legal professionals have knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's rights.

The baseline and endline surveys estimate on average, 73% as opposed to 50.2% of sampled legal professionals (judges and lawyers) from the regions at endline and, baseline respectively, who are aware of the international laws, treaties, protocols, and conventions relevant to VAWG.

B2. In the medium-term, legal professionals are increasingly applying national and international conventions promoting women's rights and consequently, more women and girls at risk of GBV are successfully receiving justice.

So far, records show that 61 cases of SGBV/HP against the planned target of 45 cases have been addressed by members of the legal community with reference to the compendium as opposed to 0 cases before the project interventions. Therefore, the project has enhanced the application of national and international conventions promoting women's rights among legal professionals and more cases are receiving justice.



Figure 5: Number of cases addressed by applying the national and international conventions.

The graph in Figure 5 demonstrates a gradual increase in the number of cases handled from 29 in the 2nd year to 32 in the 3rd year.

Finding 2: At the end of the project, survivors of VAWG and other women and girls are advocating to live a life free from violence and are committing to prevent/combat violence.

At the endline, GBV advocacy efforts were assessed by determining respondents' involvement in a HeForShe club or pro-EVAW group/meeting/agenda, Referrals to any available community services to support victims, reporting cases of violence on behalf of a victim and or organizing and or participating in any activity on VAWG as visualized in table 18. Among the women and girls surveyed, 59% have been engaged in at least two domains of GBV advocacy for EVAW between 2020 and 2022 and 25% have some commitment by having attended some community gathering where VAW is discussed while 16% have not commitment or is not advocating for EVAW.

Table 18: Commitments and GBV advocacy engagements of Women and girls

# Domains of GBV advocacy or Commitment	NW	SW	Women	Girls	Total (N=150)	GBV Advocacy/Commitment				
						Member of a HeForShe club or pro-EVAW group/meeting.	Attended any community gathering where VAW is discussed	Referrals to any available community services to support victims	Report cases of violence on behalf of a victim	Organized and or participated in any activity on VAWG
1	55%	45%	84%	16%	25%					
2	31%	69%	94%	6%	23%					
3	62%	38%	86%	14%	14%					
4	47%	53%	68%	32%	13%					
5	62%	38%	85%	15%	9%					
None	46%	54%	92%	8%	16%					

Project Objective 3: To create an enabling environment in Cameroon for the commitment to preventing and combating VAWG and SGBV/HP in the two project regions by the end of 2022.

Table 19: Project’s Performance at the Level of Outcome 3

Contributing result	Verifiable indicators	Target	Baseline	Endline	Evaluation Remarks on level of change *
Outcome 3: Strengthened commitment of traditional leaders, paralegals, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders to prevent and combat SGBV/HP in the two project regions (Northwest and Southwest).	OM3.1: # organized groups (platforms and/or networks of paralegals and civil society members) working to end SGBV/HP	2	0	2	Very high
	OM3.1 % of trained paralegals working to end SGBV/HP	0	0	95%	Very High
	OM3.2: # traditional leaders, political and administrative leaders, men/boys engaged to end SGBV/HP	500	0	528	Very High

F. Outcome 3: Strengthened commitment of traditional leaders, paralegals, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders to prevent and combat SGBV/HP in the two project regions.

To assess the effectiveness of planned results, the evaluation team considered the level of change for the three indicators for outcome 3 and found that **Outcome 3 has been achieved to a very high extent** because of the following findings.

Finding 1: Individuals, and institutions in the communities (traditional leaders, CSO leaders, school leaders or teachers, and administrative leaders) in the two project regions are committing to reducing social acceptance of GBV.

Within the three years of the project, M&E records show that a total of 528 leaders/members of community institutions and men and boys in the community against the planned target of 500 have been engaged in the SGBV/HP prevention and response through various ways. The evaluation concluded that the increase in the commitment to end SGBV/HP is due to the enhanced level of information on SGBV/HP among community institutions created by the project. All the leaders surveyed at the endline reported being engaged in either one-to-one or group sensitizations and 86% also report to be engaged in counseling of women and girls. Other common GBV activities include vocational training for women/girls and or their empowerment. Mediation was also a common intervention for traditional leaders and civil society actors. It is also important to recognize that addressing harmful norms should be an integral part of GBV interventions.

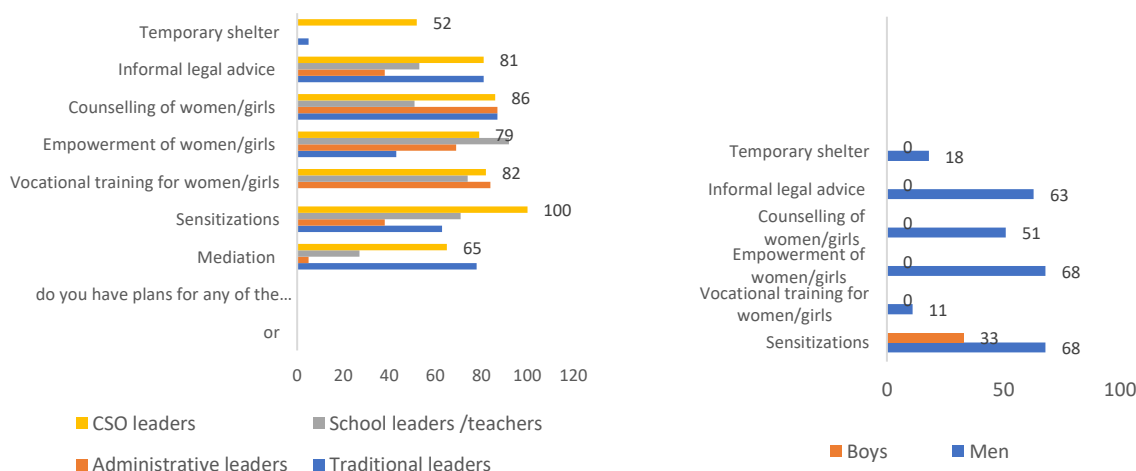


Figure 6: Proportion of traditional leaders, political and administrative leaders, men/boys engaged to end SGBV/HP

Figure 2 shows a significant engagement of these actors in women's rights advocacy in an attempt to change the power imbalance between men and women by directly challenging many of the norms and practices that justify male authority over women/patriarchy. Although not all efforts of leaders have been supported there are some very successful strategies being implemented such as HeForShe membership for changing norms.

Findings 2; The trained paralegals are supporting survivors of VAWG access justice.

The service provider surveys of the trained paralegals (n=20) at the endline of the project, show that 95% (19 out of 20) agree either to have discussed (63%), established (32%), or published protocols and steps (5%) on drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints from women/girl at risk of GBV in their office at least once after the training.

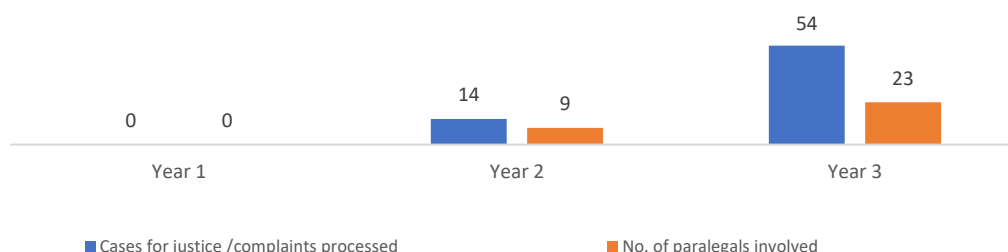


Figure 7: Number of cases processed by paralegals between 2020 and 2022.

The graph shows that there is a sharp increase in the number of cases or complaints processed by paralegals based on service provider surveys conducted on paralegals to know how many cases their records show they have processed. The evaluation concluded that an increase in the number of cases where paralegals have supported access to justice can be largely attributed to the enhanced capacity and practices in drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints from women/girl at risk of GBV. The paralegals interviewed during the evaluation agree that the training has been useful in enabling them to provide efficient and adequate support with confidence due to the fact that the victims themselves are seeking justice.

Project Objective 4: To enhance the organizational effectiveness and increase the ability of FIDA and its implementing partners to offer more/adequate support to their communities towards ending violence against women and girls, during and following this crisis (post-COVID) by the end of 2022.

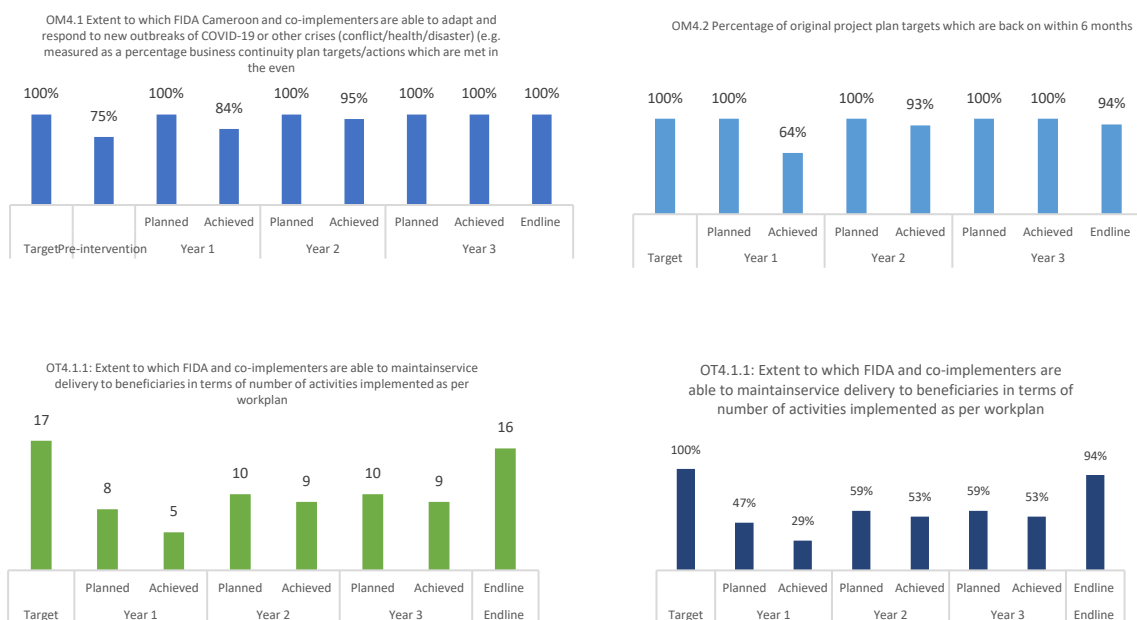
Table 20: Project's performance at level Outcome 4

Outcome	Verifiable indicators	Target	Baseline	Endline	Evaluation Remarks on the Level of Change
Outcome 4: FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] are institutionally strengthened to sustainably respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises while maintaining or adapting existing interventions to EVAW/G with a focus on the most vulnerable women and girls.	OM4.1 Extent to which FIDA Cameroon and co-implementers are able to adapt and respond to new outbreaks of COVID-19 or other crises (conflict/health/disaster) (e.g., measured as a percentage business continuity plan targets/actions which are met in the event of a crisis)	100%	75%	100%	Very high
	Percentage of staff demonstrating the capacity to sustainably respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises (disaggregated by organization)	100%	0%	98%	Very high
	The proportion of women and girls with knowledge and skills in COVID-19 prevention	75%	0%	64%	High
	The proportion of women and girls who know how to mitigate the risk of being violated during COVID-19	75%	0%	56%	High
	OM4.2 Percentage of original project plan targets which are back on within 6 months	100%	0%	94%	Very high

G. Outcome 4: FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] are institutionally strengthened to sustainably respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises while maintaining or adapting existing interventions to EVAW/G with a focus on the most vulnerable women and girls.

To assess the effectiveness of the project towards making FIDA and partners more resilient in their efforts in eliminating violence against women and girls, and ensure more women and girls will be free from violence, the evaluation team considered the level of change for the three indicators for outcome 4 and found that **Outcome 4 has been achieved to a very high extent** because of the following findings.

Findings 1: FIDA Cameroon and co-implementers have been able to adapt their internal processes and respond to new COVID-19 outbreaks and the current socio-political crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.



Finding 2: The project and organizational personnel have the competencies and resources to adapt work and design feasible and safe implementation and monitoring strategies in the context of COVID-19 and other crises.

A capacity assessment conducted with trained FIDA and partners' staff at the endline shows the proportion with the capacity to organize and manage meetings, including safety measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and how to spot dangers online has increased when compared at baseline, amongst 95%, 83% and 88% of staff of FIDA, FOWECCAM and LAW respectively.

According to M&E documentation and self-reported by the beneficiary staff in the surveys, 5 staff have been supported by the organization to cope with the crisis: All five have received some form of self-care and an increase in salaries, while 3 have been provided psychological first aid and mental health counseling provided by a clinical psychologist who also extended such services to 2 staff of FOWECCAM and three others from LAW during project implementation.

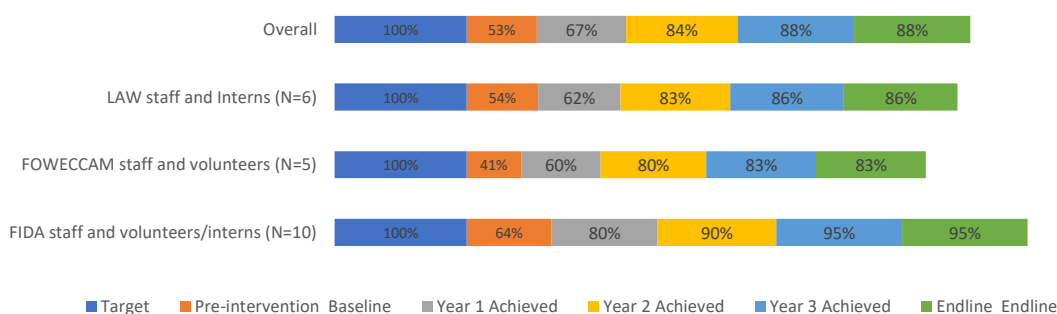


Figure 8: Proportion of FIDA and Co-implementing Staff with adequate capacities

SSIs with four of the supported staff highlight that the training and support to work remotely using digital tools and apps is an innovation that facilitated the smooth coordination of project activities and communication amongst staff.

“From the start of the project until the end of the first of the project, we could stay connected with team members, partners, and field focal persons irrespective of lockdowns and social distancing regulations. Even in project target divisions that become inaccessible and insecure from time to time during the past three years, the knowledge, and resources for the use of digital tools in communication allowed the project staff to adapt ways to hold meetings, follow up community mobilizers for sensitization and volunteers in identifying, reporting and referrals of GBV cases including data collection for the project” (SSI, Project Staff).

In-depth discussions with the management of FIDA reveal that the UNTF project has increased the level of digitization and information technology capacities and the number and frequency of staff who are now participating in wider networks and communities of practice for agendas relating to women's human rights and Violence against women and girls.

“Within the Framework of the UNTF project, FIDA has consciously learned and embarked on internal change processes and procedures. In this way, the organization has expanded its membership and participation in networks including its visibility in civil society leadership for feminist movements addressing violence against women and girls at national and international levels. FIDA has been able to implement four projects on GBV concurrently in the past three years as project holders as opposed to 1 or 2 projects the organization implemented before 2020 as an implementing organization (SSI, Project Staff).

Conclusion: The evaluation gathered adequate information that indicates FIDA has successfully remained effective in achieving planned results within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current socio-political crisis in the project target regions. FIDA’s organizational adaptive capacity has improved and which Smith *et. al.* (2003)¹⁹ describes as the organization’s ability to promote innovation and engage in new practices in response to the crisis.

¹⁹ Smith-Crowe, K., Burke, M. J., & Landis, R. S. (2003). Organizational climate as a moderator of safety knowledge–safety performance relationships. *Journal of Organizational Behavior: The International Journal of Industrial, Occupational and Organizational Psychology and Behavior*, 24(7), 861-876.

EQ3.3: To what extent were results of the COVID-19 response achieved for women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors?

D3. The survivors and other women and girls at risk know how to prevent and mitigate the risk of being violated during COVID-19

The endline survey assessed the extent to which a sample of women/girls know of COVID-19 risk factors and mitigation strategies which they learned through the training workshops, heard through sensitizations, and other information sources. According to Table 21, among the 150 women/girls surveyed including GBV survivors, slightly more than half of them (56%) agree to know of at least 4 out of 6 of the risk statements presented to them. Poor school performance is well-known by 71% of the respondents as risk women and girls faced during COVID- 19 pandemic/other crises than any other risk. Similarly, 56% also agree/strongly agree with having the head of at least of the mitigation strategies mentioned, and most of them (78%) agree they know avoiding unsafe/risky environments is one of the ways of avoiding being violated during COVID -19 and another crisis.

Table 21:Proportion of women/girls in the population who know of COVID-19 risk and mitigation strategies.

Statements	Percentage Women/girls who agree/strongly agree (%)
You know the following risks Women and girls faced during the COVID-19 pandemic	
Increased exposure to abusers at home	34%
Risk of early/forced marriage and very early pregnancy	61%
limit women and girls' access to services, including critical health services.	63%
Poor school performance	71%
Risk of intimate partner violence (IPV)	41%
Increase in sexual reproductive health risks	67%
Mitigating the risk of being violated during COVID-19 and other crises included	
Improving overall hygiene practices,	12%
Avoiding unsafe/risky environments	78%
Sensitization of women and girls on risks	74%
Disclose any GBV incidents through helplines	23%
Visiting the nearest health facility if a woman or girl experienced GBV and her health was threatened	21%

D4. The survivors and other women and girls at risk now have been provided with food packages that allow them to cope in safe ways that and not heighten their vulnerabilities.

To further enhance the coping capacity of women and girls within project regions, 432 women and girls were provided a food package each. Several studies have shown that women and or girls are unable to meet up with the increase in prices of food, which challenges the woman's ability to feed and care for the household. More women rely on cheaper food, reduce adult rations for small children, borrow from friends, or reduce meals per day. Some minor scale measures are related to forced sex for survival, forced marriage, and child labor.

EQ3.3: What are the factors underlying the successes and challenges or gaps the project faced (if any)?

Are factors responsible for the achievement of the outcomes?

Overall, the capabilities of the staff of FIDA including previous capabilities and performance in managing similar field operations for the promotion and protection of women's human rights is a key factor contributing to the near 90% achievement of the project outcomes.

Awareness-raising campaigns and social mobilization.

1. The approach for communication for awareness raising and social mobilization towards combating VAW&G was locally specific and utilized diverse channels and target diverse audiences. As a consequence, a far wider population of the general public, women and youths were targeted.
2. The materials on GBV AND VAW&G were widely distributed and appreciated and were regularly used by women and youths for peer education on GBV. And related laws
3. The growing negative impact of the socio–political crisis on women and girls is attracting many local and community activists for the fight against GBV and the desire to join campaigns and sensitize more persons on VAW&G issues. Overall, the environment was supportive, enabling, and committed to addressing GBV.

Capacity Building of Legal System Actors

1. According to the interviews with legal actors trained, (both the lawyers/magistrates and the customary court judges/custodians of customs) the training content and approach addressed contemporary challenges (including the rising challenges in providing justice to survivors of GBV in the context of emergencies) with women human rights and the law and interactive enough to allow the lawyers and magistrates to obtain clarity, share and learn from the experiences of each other.
2. The provision and accessibility of a compendium of laws/instruments for the refresher learnings for trainees and other colleagues have supported the sustenance of knowledge acquired and its applicability for legal support for the prevention and response to VAW&G.
3. The rising challenges in preventing the rise of acts of VAW&G in the communities and also in providing justice to survivors of GBV in the context of emergencies in these local communities presents motivated the participation of traditional rulers/custodians of customs and customary court judges in this learning activity. The local actors considered it a must-attend activity. The evaluation observed that this fact also explains why the project could easily increase the target of lawyers and magistrates to be trained when the police officers could not be part of the project.

Overall willingness and motivation of stakeholders to End VAW&G

The evaluator gathered from the key informant interviews adequate evidence across most categories of stakeholders (Parliamentarians, Lawyers, magistrates, customary court judges/Chiefs, women, and youth, etc) of voluntary willingness and profound motivation to support and sustain efforts in preventing and responding to VAW&G even the context of emergencies. The evaluation suggests that this factor has contributed to the project's achievements.

Peer – to peer sensitization is safer and more effective in the context of armed conflicts.

The women and youths reported that this approach of sensitization and advocacy is very suitable amidst the insecurities of armed conflicts. Other public awareness campaigns are often misunderstood as a forum to instigate violence or to discuss socio-political happenings. This misunderstanding can place the lives of the campaigners at risk of being kidnapped or even killed.

Factors that hindered progress towards the achievement of the outcomes.

The evaluation assessed the critical factors that acted as barriers to the effectiveness of project strategies. The discussions in the focus group discussions highlighted the following factors.

Refusal to Report Violence

1. Women and girls in the communities often experience violence from inside their homes and are not willing to report the case of violence because they are too scared to be rendered homeless or lose their dependence on their parents /guidance or caregivers or husbands for money, needs, and shelter.
2. Young girls and women often demonstrate less interest in VAW&G issues even when they are repeatedly victimized. This is because they are unemployed and not attending school and believe their perpetrators are their source of financial support.

Table 22: Summary of Overall Assessment of Effectiveness of Project

Questions	Remarks	Rating
EQ3.1: Has the project contributed to capacity building, knowledge transfers, and population awareness for the promotion and protection of women's human rights?	The project has been <u>very effective</u> in capacity building for the identified groups of persons involved with the implementation of customary laws/customs. The extent of knowledge transfer within the project was limited. The project has also been effective in generating public awareness of the consequences of VAW&G and related state and international laws and protocols.	2
E#Q3.2: To what extent have the project objectives been achieved in accordance with the adjustments following the current socio-political context?	The project has been <u>effective</u> in contextualizing approaches for the implementation activities, adjusting schedules, and ensuring safety measures to meet its objectives	2
EQ3.3: To what extent were results of the COVID-19 response achieved for women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors?	The project has been somehow <u>effective</u> in ensuring the survivors and other women and girls at risk know how to prevent and mitigate the risk of being violated during COVID-19	1.5
EQ3.4: What are the factors underlying the successes and challenges or gaps the project faced (if any)?	The project has been <u>very effective</u> in achieving its outcomes because it has benefitted from contextual priorities, emerging learning needs, and humanitarian presence and opportunities.	3
Overall Measure (weighted average of the criteria) of how well the project achieved its objectives	Average rating of the Effectiveness of the project = 2.4 on 3 Conclusion: The project design and approach have been effective in the achievement of the project outcomes. However, law enforcement efforts for EAW need to be strengthened and expanded to include more gender desk police officers for more collaborative and sustained multisectoral response service support by a legal system	

8.4 Efficiency

The evaluation defined efficiency as the extent to which resources/inputs (funds, time, human resources, etc.) led to achievements. The following questions guided the assessment of the efficiency of the project.

EQ4.1: Were the project funds and activities delivered in a timely manner?

EQ4.2: Did the project management team facilitate good results and efficient delivery through clear roles and responsibilities of all persons involved?

The review of project documentation and meeting with key staff confirms that the project was efficiently implemented and achieved the results.

EQ4.1: Were the project funds and activities delivered in a timely manner?

Finding 1: The project delivery rate was significantly lower than planned in the first year and undermined by delays in the implementation of activities due to the socio-political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project work plans, and activity reports show that in the first year of the project, although the project performance was close to 94% by the end of the year, the project efficiency rate was 26%. (table 23)

- The timely delivery rate for outcomes 1 was significantly affected by delays in the preparation for and the implementation of awareness-raising activities.
- The timely delivery rate for outcomes 2 and 3 was slightly affected by the inability to push suppliers for timely production and delivery of project logistics.

To ensure that the project results for year one was attained, a total of 17 activities were rescheduled due to the delays attributed to the volatility of the local context: There were often numerous setbacks in the planning for activities as the instabilities around the target required the project team to address participants and stakeholders safety needs on a case-by-case basis. This was especially applicable in mobilizing the traditional rulers/customary court judges in preparation for the training and led to many changes in dates and locations. The initial plans to conduct training were changed due to several lockdowns, insecurities due to COVID-19, and a socio-political crisis that could place the project team, participants, and suppliers at risk. In addition, FIDA had to embed safety orientation and protocols, more resources into the project, and organizational processes for smooth implementation of the project within the current crisis context.

Table 23: Project Delivery and Efficiency Rate by Results

Result	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	Planned	Actual on schedule	Delivery rate	Year 1 Efficiency rate	Planned	Actual on schedule	Delivery rate	Year 2 Efficiency rate	Planned	Actual on schedule	Delivery rate	Year 3 Efficiency rate
Outcome 1	11	0	0%	26%	4	4	100%	86%	4	4	100%	100%
Outcome 2	2	1	50%		4	2	50%		4	3	75%	
Outcome 3	5	1	20%		4	4	100%		4	4	100%	
Outcome 4	5	4	80%		2	2	100%		NA	NA	-	

With concerns	0% to 50%
Some progress	51% to 99%
Completed	≥ 100%

In the second and third years, two and one activities respectively linked to two training events and meeting with parliamentarians were delayed. The project team allowed for flexibility in the implementation of the activities only for year one of the projects due to the specificity of the context in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon and the heightened vulnerability of the key targets /beneficiaries (women, girls, legal practitioners, traditional leaders) in the conflict crisis. This much-needed flexibility optimized the outputs and project resources and maintained 100% project delivery for year one.

Even though the project successfully mobilized parliamentarians in the first year, this activity did not take place in the second and third years. According to the project staff, there is a lack of political will for law reforms around EAW. In the first year of the project, FIDA through its membership in a human rights network, utilized this network to mobilize the parliamentarian. In the second year, attempts to mobilize the parliamentarian through this network were unsuccessful.

Finding 2: The disbursement of funds to partners was done as planned and expenditures of the planned budget were efficiently managed.

According to the project documentation, the Total fund for the project was US\$230000 financed by UNTF. FIDA received US\$ 73392 from UNTF on the 29th of January 2020, the budget was further revised and FIDA received an additional US\$ 96550 for Outcome 4.

According to Table 24, the total project expenditure of the planned budget was **\$132,247.00**, **\$96,363.45**, and **\$104,831.25** for years 1, 2, and 3 respectively. There are discrepancies for the expenditures in years 2 and 3 because the portion of the budget for ACT2.2.2 - Organize three meetings with parliamentarians and lobby them for law reform remains utilized as the project exits. This is attributed to the 33.2% delivery rate of this activity as only one out of 3 meetings have been held due to the inability to mobilize parliamentarians. Among the outcomes, the implementation of outcome 2 lagged behind outcomes 1, 3, and 4. The delivery rates under outcome 2 were undermined by the non-achievement of delivery of target activities under output 2.2²⁰.

Table 24: Project delivery rate by Expenditure

Outcomes	Year 1			Year 2			Year3		
	Budget US \$	Expenditure	Delivery rate %	Budget US \$	Expenditure	Delivery rate %	Budget US \$	Expenditure	Delivery rate %
Outcome 1	30,900.00	28,306.28	91.61%	22,593.72	21,372.20	94.59%	20,221.52	19,012.48	94.02%
Outcome 2	3,600.00	3,901.02	108.36%	14,398.98	12,194.42	84.69%	14,304.56	11,207.11	78.35%
Outcome 3	9,700.00	5,886.81	60.69%	8,513.19	8,703.69	102.24%	4,509.50	4,463.67	98.98%
Outcome 4	58,855.00	55,386.50	94.11%	24,503.50	21,170.52	86.40%	19,992.98	15,730.22	78.68%
M&E	14,400.00	5,917.00	41.09%	11,483.00	9,927.98	86.46%	33,555.02	19,034.60	56.73%
Indirect Cost	0.00	0.00	0.0	3,868.00	3,942.20	101.92%	2,431.80	2,567.47	105.58%
Administrative budget	10,992.00	10,967.94	99.78%	11,016.06	12,179.19	110.56%	9,828.87	11,494.90	116.95%

At the start of the project, there was a delay for FIDA to receive funds, mainly because, the funds were erroneously sent to FIDA Nigeria account. This was rectified by UNTF, and funds sent to FIDA Cameroon Account. There were no delays in the disbursement of funds throughout the project either from the side of donors to FIDA or the side of FIDA to partners. Discussions with CSOs by the team during data collection showed last disbursements to CSOs for data collection support were delayed by up to three months because of delays in compliance with reporting requirements.

Table 25: Project delivery rate by Partner

Partner	Year 1			Year 2			Year3		
	Budget US \$	Expenditure	Delivery rate %	Budget US \$	Expenditure	Delivery rate %	Budget US \$	Expenditure	Delivery rate %
FIDA	58,857.00	55,426.00	94.17%	43,406.00	39,267.32	90.47%	68,216.68	49,527.93	72.60%
LAW CAMEROON	41,470.00	35,054.35	84.53%	33,225.65	32,500.53	97.82%	23,465.12	22,223.02	94.71%
FOWEC-CAM	31,920.00	23,698.20	74.24%	19,731.80	17,722.35	89.82%	13,149.45	11,759.50	89.43%
Total	132,247.00	114,178.55	86.34%	96,363.45	89,490.20	92.87%	104,831.25	83,510.45	79.66%

Finding 3: The Resources and Logistics were generally sufficient for the implementation of project activities.

The resources and systems for the implementation of the activities were timely available. However, the unavailability of immediate resources to procure COVID-19 prevention logistics caused delays and readjustments in training plans.

EQ4.2: Did the project management team facilitate good results and efficient delivery through clear roles and responsibilities of all persons involved?

²⁰ The plan was to hold three meetings, one each year with at least 60 parliamentarians to achieve the output, "Parliamentarians will have a one-stop document that will improve their knowledge of laws that are discriminatory".

Finding 1: The steadiness and focused nature of the project team promoted a reliable implementation process from beginning to end.

The project was executed by FIDA as the main project holder in collaboration with FOWECCAM and LAW as implementing partners. Discussions with the project team reveal that the UNTF team also provided technical support/guidance for the entire 3 years of project implementation, especially in providing guiding documentation for the management of the project.

The project management team was composed of the Project Manager, Project Coordinator, M&E consultant, Finance Officer, Communications officer, administrative assistant, and 6 project volunteers (as field focal points) who constituted the project's core team/staff. The project documents indicate that the project implementation was managed between FIDA, and FOWECCAM LAW as implementing partners based on formalized arrangements in agreements. M&E tasks were implemented with 6 CSOs based on formal agreements. Annual reports on project implementation and interviews with the project team suggest that consultations, coordination, and collaboration between the project team, the implementing partners, and FIDA occurred on a regular basis, and ad hoc meetings were held based on security updates and risk monitoring reports. The project core team was involved in the project implementation for the entire three years of the project except for the first project coordinator who was replaced in Month/year. This steadiness in the project team promoted a reliable implementation process from beginning to end.

Finding 2: The capacity of the project team to manage the project was reinforced through internal and external processes and informal consultative processes with external stakeholders.

Judging from interviews with project team members, FIDA managed to engage a committed team with knowledge and passion in SGBV work and exposed them to capacity enhancement processes (internal and external to the project) that helped to complete project tasks and build strong collaboration and team spirit. Informal initiatives were taken by external stakeholders of FIDA for technical inputs for the messaging for information, education, and communication materials and for the content of the curricula and training for diverse target groups (police, judiciary, customary court judges, traditional leaders, and civil society organizations).

Finding 3: The Project team succeeded in ensuring strong stakeholder and partner involvement.

The project was made more efficient through the established presence of civil society organizations and other stakeholders on the ground, and some of them belong to the civil society platform. This factor alongside their engrained specialized competencies in SGBV prevention efforts added to the efficiency of the implementation of awareness-raising/social mobilization efforts of the project. Interviews revealed that the availability of stakeholders' and beneficiaries' participation was generally strong during the project 's implementation. Interviews with beneficiaries, however, highlight some critical remarks on the operational level. The interviewed beneficiaries criticized the limited intervention by the small project team to reach out to more women and girls especially those in harder-to-reach communities. It is evident that accessibility factors limited the extent of operationalizing project activities in such communities by the focal points and community mobilizers. These operational obstacles impeded a greater coverage of project activities in some divisions farther off the headquarter of the region as it became difficult for the project team to backstop the focal points/community mobilizers during social mobilization activities for awareness raising.

In general, the Project team succeeded in ensuring the stakeholder's and partners' involvement, which is very important for promoting long-term commitments to combat SGBV in a politically unstable context.

Finding 4: The adopted project planning and monitoring strategy facilitated the implementation of the Project and the achievement of the expected results.

Project documentation shows that the project team relied on effective project planning and monitoring schemes. The project implementation plan and annual work plans provided by the project team under the leadership of the project coordinator are evidence that project activities were planned annually, reviewed each quarter, and amended when needed. This allowed the project team to monitor planned expenditures and quickly intervene to provide needed activities, using the resources available.

A clear monitoring and Evaluation framework as guided by the results framework was built into the design of the project. The project logic models including the Theory of change were revised. The project team produced annual reports, an overview of project results, and reports on implemented activities that included detailed descriptions of project performance and the achieved quantitative indicators as per the reporting guidelines and requirements from UNTF.

Judging from the M&E documentation provided, the annual targets of the Project were quite realistic regarding the time required to satisfactorily implement planned operations. Since the Project's inception, the project team assessed potential risks for Project implementation, designed the necessary counterstrategies to overcome them, and regularly reviewed the external environment for any effect it might have on the Project's implementation. The interviews with the project team and stakeholders indicated that the chosen management strategy facilitated the implementation of the Project and the achievement of expected results. The UNTF portfolio team's support during the implementation phase was significantly valued by the team.

Judging from Financial management discussions with the project team, financial management of the project was carried out under the UNTF guidelines and financial regulations. All bids were put out to competitive tender (requiring a minimum of three bids except in exceptional circumstances), followed UNTF procurement rules and procedures, and aimed to find value for money across all project activities. Management procedures to procure Project goods and services and to recruit consultants followed existing national/or UNTF public procurement rules and procedures.

An analysis of the Project's progress reports and interviews with the project manager revealed that the Project aimed at investing in the development of a multidisciplinary intervention structure to combat sexual and gender-based violence, rather than building and providing services. It requires skillful management to implement such complex activities and time and resources to create the dialogue and networks with the stakeholders, line ministries, national and local public institutions, civil society organizations, and media. Success in these areas significantly contributed to the achievement of the Project goals.

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
Were the project funds and activities delivered in a timely manner?	Efficiently, while utilizing resources appropriately, at the end of the project, FIDA had implemented at least 94% of the activities and achieved the project's objectives despite delays and other socio-political environmental barriers	2.5
Did the project management team facilitate good results and efficient delivery through clear roles and responsibilities of all persons involved?	The project team <u>efficiently</u> facilitated good results and efficient delivery through clear roles and responsibilities of all persons involved	2
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the Efficiency of the project = 2.2 on 3. Conclusion: The project has been implemented and results achieved in an efficient manner.	

Conclusion of Efficiency of Project: Given the challenging operational environment of the Northwest and Southwest region in general, the evaluation has ascertained that the project has been implemented by FIDA in a cost-effective manner while utilizing resources appropriately. By the end of the year 1 project FIDA had put back all delayed activities on track and by the third year, the project had implemented at least 94% of the activities and achieved the objectives of the project despite delays and other socio-political and COVID-19 environmental barriers.

8.5 Sustainability

Within this evaluation, sustainability is considered as the probability that the project's benefits continue long-term. The section attempts to answer the main question - Are the results achieved so far sustainable for the protection of women's human rights?

EQ5.1: To what extent has the project built in sustainability mechanisms?

EQ5.2: To what extent is the project aligned with the development and humanitarian agenda?

EQ5.3: To what extent can the project strategy be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions?

EQ5.4: How has the project addressed the needs of FIDA and its implementing partners to adjust and or adapt its GBV programming and implementation linked to post-COVID-19 and other crises?

EQ5.1: To what extent has the project built in sustainability mechanisms?

An analysis of the project implementation strategies: Awareness-raising in communities, capacity building of members of the informal and formal justice system, lobbying for reforms, and Institutional resilience building, and their respective outputs are likely to have a continued impact over the years. The project has created some conditions that are likely to promote the sustainability of the results.

Finding 1; Community Systems Strengthening.

Interviews conducted with project staff and beneficiaries show there is evidence of community ownership of SGBV agendas. After the project ends, the community would have been equipped through Women and Youth associations/groups including the churches to continue peer-to-peer sensitization of women, youths, and the general population and advocacy for ending VAW&G. In addition, the leaders of these civil society groups have been trained to continue overseeing the sensitization and advocacy efforts of the members of the groups. The sustainability of awareness raising and knowledge transfer is validated by the fact that the three of the CSOs interviewed report that under the leadership of FIDA's community mobilizers, some community groups are mainstreaming these actions in their regular agenda and require no monetary support or additional structures. According to the project manager.

“The first year of the project employed extensive efforts to move the community institutions into the rhythm of the project. The last two years of the project have seen an increase in interest in traditional leadership and community groups in GBV advocacy and commitments. Between 2021 and 2022, FIDA has been invited as technical support to 6 GBV/Women's rights fora organized by project beneficiaries including traditional leaders, queen mother, members of customary court judges, women's groups, and vocational training centers/hubs from project communities”.

Another aspect of the project that will be sustainable and which in some communities was already a sustainable strategy behind the community driven GBV response is the availability of volunteers as a key FIDA /GBV resource. FIDA volunteer is a regular scheme instituted by FIDA to bridge barriers to access to legal services who play roles such as community mobilizers for referrals, sensitization, and frontline support to GBV survivors and other women and girls at risk. The volunteers are members of faith-based institutions,

youth/women groups, and community leaders trained regularly from FIDA's projects. Although they have a strong affiliation with FIDA, they are a proactive group with a strong will and commitment to supporting the transformation of their communities in terms of GBV norms, attitudes, and practices. According to implementing partners,

“These volunteers will continue to provide training for other volunteers/community mobilizers because they are equipped with manuals and guidelines developed by FIDA and are regularly updated with new IEC materials for use in sensitizations even after the end of the project” (SSI, Project partner)

The evaluators conclude that the project has initiated and or maintained systemic changes for EAW in target communities. Efforts for EAW are “community-driven” and involve diverse actors aiming at achieving greater project ownership. Unlike three years ago when it was common to find only CSOs/groups often external to communities initiating and implementing events for EAW.

Finding 2: The Strengths of the Capacity building approach.

The project has succeeded in building the capacity of at least four categories of stakeholders for GBV prevention and response. All activities of the project were supported by capacity building to ensure sustainability. The project chose to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders with knowledge, skills, and resources for information so that the stakeholders improve their competencies and capabilities for the services they are expected to provide for GBV prevention and response. Interviews with stakeholders suggest that the project has facilitated access to “Hidden” resources to institutionalize and upgrade standard practices with the guidance to the reference resources provided by the project including the compendium of state and international laws, protocols, and as well as other manuals and tools produced by the Programme.

“In my law firm, I have engaged all interns and volunteers in the practice of always applying these protocols as they learn and practice” (SSI, Legal service provider, Fako division).

“Although I am paralegal personnel working at the court, after attending the training by the project, I do not only help survivors process complaints, but I have also been engaged in educating women on their rights who come to my office seeking justice after they experience violence from their husbands. The training has given me the knowledge and skills to sensitize survivors. My colleague next to me is new and she has also made a copy of the compendium I received from the training to support survivors better”. (SSI, paralegal, Fako Division).

Internally, among FIDA staff and management, the evaluation observed a consensus that the project has brought some consciousness and increased awareness (as well as strengthened knowledge and skills) for a stronger commitment to a dedicated and permanent capacity for FIDA to continue to address SGBV/HP in the communities.

Finding 3: Enhanced collaboration and partnerships.

According to the interviews with key project staff and partners, the project has expanded FIDA's collaboration and partnership into Peace Building and human rights platforms which has expanded the visibility of FIDA's work in the promotion and protection of women's rights and the mandate in strengthening capacity and role of the justice/legal sector in GBV prevention and response. In a nutshell, FIDA has sustained the prioritization and facilitation of access to legal services for women and girls at risk of GBV among the police, paralegals and lawyers, and Civil society organizations. According to a CSO leader,

“In a meeting of GBV stakeholders, FIDA shared a resource of the referral pathway of its organization. This resource has been very instrumental in the identification and inclusion of adequate land-appropriate legal service providers in the referral pathway network. For the first time, we know of

legal service providers who can be reached by women/girls in remote communities” SSI, CSO leader, Mezam Division.

Finding 4: A strong focus on the Legal Institutional structure.

The project extended its capacity-building activity beyond the formal legal practitioners and law enforcement actors to include the local legal machinery or traditional rulers/customary court judges. This is a sustainable and reliable measure that ensures that chiefs and customary court judges are empowered with correct and comprehensive knowledge and skills to handle GBV Cases, including prevention and response of GBV especially in changing the narrative around customs and traditional practices. In this way, the women and girls in local communities will have access to justice when there is a lack of resources or will need to travel a long distance after experiencing violence.

Overall, these justifications reflect that the project has some potential for sustainability and continuity of activities undertaken by different stakeholders.

EQ5.2: To what extent is the project aligned with the development and humanitarian agenda?

Finding 5: FIDA goal is anchored on national priorities and humanitarian response plans.

The goal of the project is to ensure women and girls at risk of SGBV/HP in the Northwest and Southwest region live a life free of violence for both a development agenda and within the humanitarian context of the Cameroon anglophone crisis. The documentary analysis clearly reveals that the project was designed to address both structural and institutional barriers to GBV prevention and response within the context of the development of communities and society. FIDA has anchored its GBV response and prevention efforts into the national agenda and policy setting and has contributed to meeting the goals of the country through its collaboration with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF). In the views of the MINPROFF in the target region, FIDA remains an indispensable stakeholder.

“The organization has paved the way for traditional institutions into the GBV agenda in Cameroon and a key capacity building resource for legal knowledge for GBV for MINPROFF and the Civil Society Organizations” (SSI, Regional Delegate MINPROFF)

However, FIDA has not ignored those challenges to GBV prevention and response that are found within the context of the crisis and has also aligned its priorities to those of the humanitarian response agenda. Its membership in the GBV sub-cluster alongside participation in ad hoc meetings and regular humanitarian contributions strengthens FIDA with knowledge and resources to synchronize its GBV projects with humanitarian needs and set priorities.

Finding 6: FIDA has received two grants from the African Women Development Fund and African Regional Democracy Fund (ARDF) of the US embassy of Cameroon within the last two to sustain FIDA’s efforts in the protection and promotion of women’s human rights within the affected communities.

Finding 7: FIDA’s target aligns with the target population for meeting Specific objective 2.2 of the Humanitarian Response plans of 2022 (to reach these persons with inclusive prevention and response activities on protection risks) – which include the most vulnerable of the affected population, which includes IDPs, vulnerable host communities, returnees, refugees, and those left behind; especially those who are living in areas that are hard to reach, either because of insecurity or road conditions, with little or no access to basic services. Geographically, FIDA targets mainly the most severely affected populations of North-West, and South-West regions. These areas will be prioritized by the humanitarian community.

EQ5.3: To what extent can the project strategy be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions?

The evaluation relies on notes from the meetings and interviews with FIDA staff and partners to remark that the project strategy of strengthening the capacity of traditional leaders has scaled up because, after the first training with traditional leaders, **FIDA unexpectedly received requests from other leaders** not in the identified list. Informal and formal interactions with leaders in national events in which FIDA participates show there is expressed the need to replicate the project strategy. Improving knowledge and strengthening the capacity of traditional legal machinery for the protection and promotion of women’s human rights is a strategy FIDA can scale up to more divisions and regions of Cameroon.

FIDA has national collaborators who are already working on similar thematic in Some Francophone regions of Cameroon and can constitute a strong team for scaling up.

However, there still exist several limiting factors for another project strategy to be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions. Realities of SGBV/HP in terms of forms, incidence rates, environmental factors, local capacity for response, and effects differ across the divisions and regions of the Country. Although there exist some commonalities around GBV issues, projects strategy may or may not be possible to be replicated in other regions. In addition, the results of the project may not spill beyond project sites in a way that the project would have desired. According to the project manager, FIDA has initiated discussions with at least one GBV stakeholder in each of the 8 Francophone regions of the country for the possibility of forming a coalition to design a project with the main strengthening informal and formal justice systems in Cameroon for improved access to justice for survivors and also to push forward the agenda for legal reforms.

EQ5.4: How has the project addressed the needs of the FIDA and its implementing partners to adjust and or adapt its GBV programming and implementation linked to post-COVID-19 and other crises?

The evaluation notes that in a unique way, FIDA’s capacity to kick off this UNTF project was challenged. In the first instance, FIDA was already operating in a humanitarian crisis context where funding for GBV programming was limited and insecurities around access to target groups were problematic. Yet, the organization could maintain an operational presence in humanitarian/development agendas. Secondly, the outbreak COVID-19 pandemic including restricted movements and social distancing caused many activities and tasks at a standstill after repeated reschedules that failed to be executed. FIDA, staff, and field collaborators needed a rethink as suddenly GBV programming became complex. **With COVID-19 funds from the spotlight initiative/UNTF, FIDA adjusted its institutional and operational processes and has institutionalized some of these processes** as an initial measure of institutional preparedness during crises and institutional sustainability.

Feedback from meeting /interviews with staff and partners highlight that capacity gaps in organizing and managing virtual meetings have been filled, **spotting** dangers from many types of crises online.

“After doing virtual meetings with team members, I no longer find any difference between face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings. Every staff knows how to coordinate a virtual meeting because we now have Monday meetings (weekly project coordination meetings) virtually because is it a “Ghost Town Day” in the northwest and Southwest region” (Meeting, Staff of FIDA)

There has also been increased salary in staff and allowance and communication credit to volunteers which somehow has led to a transformation in work commitment and resilience and which the evaluators describe, as a result of unexpected attitudinal change towards better professionalism. Another mechanism that was put in place was, a new institutional protocol to allow staff to work from home.

Within the UNTF/spotlight support, the **project has strengthened FIDA and partners' capacities in various domains including the use of IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks** have the knowledge and skills to adjust and adapt in the event of any outbreak or crisis for sustained efforts to EAW.

Factors hindering the Sustainability of the Project's Results.

The challenge for sustainability includes a commitment by all levels of the government to hold GBV as a priority and support law reforms. In addition, changing laws and policies, and social norms including awareness raising requires committing financial and human resources not only from donors but from the state.

Operations within the development and humanitarian nexus require financial and human resource commitments to double for project gains to be sustained. This is our sustainability challenge and a limitation to work that FIDA and other actors for the EAW that cannot be underestimated.

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
To what extent has the project built in sustainability mechanisms?	The project has some potential for sustainability and continuity of activities undertaken by different stakeholders.	3
To what extent is the project aligned with the development and humanitarian agenda?	FIDA's goal is anchored on national priorities and humanitarian response plans and FIDA's target aligns with the target population for meeting Specific objective 2.2 of the Humanitarian Response Plans of 2022	2
To what extent can the project strategy be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions?	FIDA has made attempts to initiate interactions useful for scaling up. However, there exist several limiting factors for the project strategy for the project to be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions.	1
How has the project addressed the needs of the FIDA and its implementing partners to adjust and or adapt its GBV programming and implementation linked to post-COVID -19 and other crises?	With COVID-19 funds from spotlight initiative/UNTF, FIDA adjusted its institutional and operational processes and has institutionalized some of these processes. The project has strengthened FIDA and partners' capacities in various domains including the use of IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks have the knowledge and skills to adjust and adapt in the event of any outbreak or crises for sustained efforts to EAW.	2
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the sustainability of the project = 2 on 3 Conclusion: The project results achieved so far are likely to be sustainable for the protection of women's human rights?	

Conclusion on Assessment of Sustainability: The evaluations found that the project has managed to instill a deep sense of ownership for local-level efforts in the fight against VAWG. The evaluation confirms this because traditional legal systems have been trained to be aware of discriminatory customs and use international laws to address cases of VAWG in their communities. In the same light, civil society groups in the community are guided to engage in varied ways of sensitization and advocacy. FIDA and partners show indicators of staying resilient in their efforts to EAW amidst disruptive events along the lines of institutional capacity and resources.

8.6 Lessons Learnt

This section implies Lessons in terms of new and or alternative strategies, what has worked or not and extracted from the project for future projects.

- **E6.1:** What lessons can be obtained from project experiences (successes and failures) that can be used for the improvement of future projects and to support local, national, and international effects in GBV programming?

E6.1: What lessons can be obtained from project experiences (successes and failures) that can be used for the improvement of future projects and to support local, national, and international effects in GBV programming?

The evaluation team analyzed several lessons reported in interviews and project documents and report to highlight the following:

Project Design:

Lesson 1: Lobbying parliamentarians and other duty bearers for legal reforms appeared challenging in this project and linked to many contextual factors including the extensive responsibility of these law/policymakers in a demanding period that is coinciding with the project duration. Therefore, this agenda may not have been appropriate within the three years of the project. **If law reforms are a necessary pre-requisite for the protection and promotion of women's human rights a thorough stakeholder analysis exercise of the parliamentarians can identify the feasibility of lobbying them for law reforms and should be a standalone activity during the project design phase of the project.**

Lesson 2: The dimensions of intersectionality and GBV incidence in which lack/loss of livelihood has been observed as a common variable among GBV survivors and which the project concludes as both a cause and effect of GBV. The project has observed livelihood opportunities have equal relevance on change processes for EAW as efforts to change local harmful norms that perpetuate GBV. **GBV projects should incorporate livelihood support for highly vulnerable GBV survivors to mitigate the effects of intersectionality on GBV incidence.**

Project implementation:

Lesson 3: While implementing awareness-raising campaigns, HeForShe's, as fondly called in the project and otherwise known as male advocates of GBV or men interested in committing to EAW were identified among bike riders who committed enormous efforts to go to all corners of communities with community mobilizers for sensitizations. In hard-to-reach communities, the capacity of bike riders should be leveraged for HeForShe and awareness-raising campaigns. This also demonstrates that **a community-driven response to EAW can yield positive results with the use lower cost resources.**

Lesson 4: When comparing the composition of persons who are present in awareness-raising campaigns with different community channels/approaches used, adolescents and girls prefer one-to-one or school-based sensitization campaigns to open community campaigns. **Adolescents should be targeted one-on-one or through schools for this target and vulnerable group to be attracted to GBV prevention and response.**

Lesson 5: Men were not direct beneficiaries in the project activities, but irrespective of being legal personnel, community leader, teacher, husband, brothers, or petty business owners there were instrumental in identifying and mobilizing project participants including the vulnerable women and girls for project activities after adequately understanding the project's goals. **It is important to reinforce the inclusion of men, not just participants, but as leaders/coordinators of social change and GBV prevention efforts at community levels.**

Lesson 6: **Geographical inaccessibility to spaces should be mitigated to strengthen referrals and multi-sectoral service delivery. GBV programming should consider establishing more safe spaces within communities to increase survivors' comfort while they seek justice.** Safe spaces out of the residential area of GBV survivors create accessibility barriers that disconnect the GBV survivors from access to justice even when

legal assistance has been provided. The project/legal aid reports show that a majority of GBV survivors access legal aid clinics with the primary need for a safe space before they seek legal assistance. Referrals to a safe space with standards in another town (e.g., in Buea from Tiko), are often rejected alongside the provision of legal assistance.

Lesson 6: The project used a multi-partner approach in coordinating and implementing project activities but while implementing project activities, the need to expand the participation of project partners in public meetings, community gatherings, workshops, task forces, and networking required for capacity strengthening strategies for such techniques and trust -building for transparency relating to motivations, funding, sharing of results, etc. **GBV programming involving multi-partner approaches should consider providing funding to strengthen partners' capacity and commitment.**

Lesson 7: Realities around VAWG in terms of forms, incidence rates, environmental factors, local capacity for response, and effects differ across the Northwest and Southwest regions. Although there exist some commonalities around GBV issues, **projects strategy may not be possible to be replicated in other regions. In addition, the results of the project may not spill beyond project sites in a way that the project would have desired.**

Lesson 8: Care must always be taken to ensure participants and stakeholders are not placed at risk. When operating in the context of armed conflicts, projects should include modules on protection and safety in all capacity-building activities. The interviews reveal that **stakeholders must be skilled to be able to avoid threats and misunderstandings within the communities.**

Lesson 9: Within this project, it is obvious that it is impactful when people are familiar with the natives, the language, and the culture in the intervention areas. In addition, persons with an understanding of the context and culture of an area may lack the right capacity, so it becomes necessary to employ individuals with adequate capacity to drive the activity towards results. The project has found that **it is important to target grassroots structures and mechanisms to mitigate or combat VAWG using already existing grassroots systems such as social groups and structures.**

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
What lessons can be obtained from project experiences (successes and failures) that can be used for the improvement of future projects and to support local, national, and international effects in GBV programming?	Many lessons have emerged that can be harnessed in the future for project design and implementation, choice of project locations, ensuring safety, and leveraging local capacity	2
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the lessons learned from the project = 2 on 3 Conclusion: In evaluating this project's results, design, implementation, and management the evaluation concludes that an adequate number of lessons are available for new or alternative strategies for EAW efforts.	

Conclusion on the lessons learned from the project: Evaluating this project's results, design, implementation, and management, the evaluation concludes that an adequate number of lessons are available for new or alternative strategies for EAW efforts. A number of "emerging good practices" demonstrated by the project have been pointed out throughout the report.

8.7 Knowledge Generation

This section assesses whether there are any promising practices that can be shared with other practitioners.

EQ7.1: To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising, or emerging practices in the field of EAWG including COVID-19 response adaptation strategies that should be documented and shared with other practitioners?

E7.1: To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of EVAWG including COVID-19 response adaptation strategies that should be documented and shared with other practitioners?

The evaluation found that FIDA's commitment to gathering and sharing good practices from the project is constrained indicated by low engagements for organizational learning (Monday meetings seem to be the only learning mechanism) and limited technical capacity to access platforms including digital platforms. The organization is committed to generating reports from project activities but there is not a clear mechanism as to how the reports are disseminated to allow opportunities for organizational learning among the staff members. The evaluator did not find an indicator of FIDA being a knowledge hub for external stakeholders. However, the practice of backing up and synchronizing documents on OneDrive for the accessibility of staff has been initiated by the project manager. According to the project coordinator, this practice is introduced to prevent information loss due to computer loss or crashes or end of contract/leave of staff.

The process of generating and retrieving knowledge products from the project is basically an Excel-based manual process that often creates challenges in capturing, storing, and retrieving results of the project with no dedicated staff for knowledge management roles. Each function in the project manages knowledge creation, storing products for that function with no standardized processes in place to capture best practices/lessons learned. FIDA will require more human resource and IT capacity to address knowledge management needs/gaps for the use of digital platforms and other applications for knowledge management.

The main feedback mechanism used to share knowledge or information from the project with partners and other stakeholders is quarterly project steering committee meetings, workshops, and the dissemination of copies of reports. These events capture questions, complaints, requests, lessons, and challenges and provided relevant responses as necessary. All the partners and 3 volunteers acknowledge that they can access project reports when required.

The evaluation team found that the traditional leaders and customary court judges expressed satisfaction with training as a knowledge-sharing forum. The training brought together leaders and members of the informal justice systems from different communities and different justice mechanisms for violence against women. According to the leaders, the training provoked discussions on experiences and knowledge shared on various strategies for justice. The training initiates interactions for sustained knowledge transfer among the community leaders post-training.

Some Promising Practices in Combating VAWG in the Communities

- Social mobilization for combating VAWG through peer-to-peer interactions and education: This has been more effective in bringing about change in knowledge and behaviors in women and youth than listening to the TV/radio.
- Involving the informal traditional legal system: The influential role within their society, Chiefs and other members of the traditional courts are more involved in handling cases of VAW&G than the formal legal systems actors. With enhanced capacities and support with reference documents/protocols, they sensitize their subjects to discriminatory and harmful customary practices. They can also successfully collaborate with formal legal systems to enforce penalties for perpetrators of GBV in their respective court areas. Future programming should continue to involve these custodians of customs /customary court judges as "agents of change".

"Too many testimonies of improved knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards discriminatory traditional customs/practices that perpetuate VAWG in the communities among traditional leaders have emerged from my Interactions with traditional leaders for three years after the training of traditional leaders. This change can be attributed to the practice of these sharing good practices amongst themselves. Once a traditional chief stands up and shares a practice, he or she has changed, and it inspires other chiefs to do the same" (SSI, project manager).

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of EAWG including COVID-19 response adaptation strategies that should be documented and shared with other practitioners?	The project has generated extensive knowledge that can be shared with other practitioners but lacks the sufficient technological capacity to document and share with a wider practitioner audience	1.5
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the knowledge generated from the project = 1.5 on 3	

Conclusion on Knowledge Generation; The project has generated extensive knowledge that can be shared with other practitioners but lacks the sufficient technological capacity to document and share with a wider practitioner audience.

8.8 Gender Equality and Human Rights

Gender Equality and Human rights are considered a Cross-cutting criterion to demonstrate how the project's focus on gender equality and human rights concern's role in advancing response to the elimination of VAWG.

EQ8.1: What is the extent to which human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been incorporated throughout the project?

EQ8.1: What is the extent to which human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been incorporated throughout the project??

Overall, this project is one of the ways that support the technical, financial, and material FIDA GBV programming agenda to promote gender equality and women's human rights in its annual work plans. This project is aimed at ensuring women and girls at risk in the Northwest and Southwest have the knowledge of their rights and are empowered to live a life free of violence. This demonstrates that the project will obviously contribute to gender equality. This UNTF project is a core gender and human rights-responsive initiative that uses a multi-pronged approach for EAWG. The project has also contributed to building the capacities of personnel of legal systems to meet their responsibility to protect human rights and the capacities of women and girls to protect their rights. This strategy is informed by international human rights frameworks and standards. One of the core objectives of the project is to strengthen capacities.

The project's theory of change and theory of action demonstrates that gender equality and human rights issues are reflected in the basis of addressing the factors/problems identified to GBV incidence and also reflected in the GBV prevention approaches such as awareness raising to change social norms and enhance knowledge of rights and international human rights protocols and laws with the inclusion of Men and Boys. The project intervention to enhance access to justice through legal aid clinics is based on women's right to access justice. In a nutshell, the theory of change shows that the project addresses GBV as human rights violation using a human rights agenda and resources. However, the Project has addressed tackled inequalities and gender roles, norms, and mandates that lie at the base of GBV, in sensitization events in the community and training of traditional leaders. The project has made a good attempt to the involvement of men and boys in the prevention of VAWG and which could have been more strongly pursued, as the root problem lies also in their misconception that women and girls are individuals with fewer rights.

The programming for this project required and prioritized the most vulnerable women and girls as primary beneficiaries of the project. This included GBV survivors, internally displaced women/girls, women in detention, women living with HIV, women with physical impairments, indigenous women, the elderly, widows,

school drops outs, women in detention, and trafficked women. The evaluation remarks that the project ensured all these categories of beneficiaries accessed the processes and activities of the project in their region. Beneficiaries/target groups and communities were identified across all target divisions irrespective of ethnic origin, level of education, age, professional level, gender, or marital status. No project implementation protocol or strategy subjected any participant to unfair treatment because of these personal characteristics. An observation of project Data collection and disaggregation shows such processes have reflected this diversity in all project stakeholders.

According to the partners they have been consulted and engaged in dialogues with project teams and have actively contributed to the development of some of the project tools and resources. The extent of active and participatory engagement from stakeholders has been adequate for all project processes.

The project staff does not recall any conscious attempts in constituting teams and identifying stakeholders with a perspective of not discriminating. Team compositions for the processes of the project have the following eligibility criteria for successful implementation and project success. However, the project staff perceives that stakeholder groups are also very diverse and accommodated equally when necessary and without bias.

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
What is the extent to which human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been incorporated throughout the project?	Human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been <u>adequately</u> incorporated in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process of the project. In the project, the Human rights approach is considered a means and an end in the context of EVAW.	2
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the human rights and gender equality aspects of the project = 2 on 3	

Conclusion on Human Rights and Gender Equality: Human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been adequately incorporated in the design, implementation, Monitoring, and evaluation process of the project. The project has tackled inequalities and social gender roles, norms, and mandates that lie at the basis of violence against women. The project has involved a cross-section of civil society including NGOs, social groups, women's grassroots associations, faith-based leaders, and community leadership.

8.9 Institutional Strengthening

This criterion assesses the impact or contribution of the project to institutional strengthening and adaptation for FIDA/partners in the context of crisis events.

- **EQ9.1** What is the extent to which the UNTF (grant) determined FIDA and partners' resilience or adaptability for its contribution to EVAWG?
- **EQ9.2** How well has the institutional strengthening response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects and support FIDA/partners to respond to crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?

EQ9.1 What is the extent to which the UNTF (grant) determined FIDA and partners' resilience or adaptability for its contribution to EVAWG?

The project documents highlight that the project contributed with funding to making FIDA stay relevant and effective in its GBV efforts given that funding was not easily accessible in the context of two serious humanitarian crises. In the first half of the 1st year of the project in 2020, and after the COVID-19 outbreak, less than 20% of planned project activities were implemented schedule. Every GBV stakeholder was overwhelmed with increased GBV incidence. Secondly, the outbreak COVID-19 pandemic including restricted

movements and social distancing caused many activities and tasks at a standstill after repeated reschedules that failed to be executed. FIDA, staff, and field collaborators needed a rethink as suddenly GBV programming became complex. Operational modalities for awareness raising and training project management were no longer viable and needed resource-intensive changes, learning, and innovation to adjust and adapt.

With COVID-19 funds from spotlight initiative/UNTF, FIDA.

A review of COVID-19 prevention protocols and security protocols for working in conflict communities shows that the organization has adjusted its institutional and operational processes and has institutionalized processes.

1st: Reduced risk of COVID-19 infections for staff and participants of the projects

Interviews with project staff show 5 out of 6 are not aware of any staff who got tested and was positive for COVID-19 within the first two years of the project. However, 4 staff reported being at risk of being exposed and they were given sick leave. Although the FIDA could not control for risk behaviors outside of the workplace, the organization provided each staff with a prevention package including IEC materials. FIDA Project documentation and interviews with partners reveal that FIDA established recommended COVID-19 public health measures in the workplace and project sites/spaces ensuring that they are effective and low-cost. This allowed for regular and consistent availability of these measures to reduce the risk of infections.

2nd: Improved care and mental health of staff

Five staff interviewed confirmed they were mentally stable and reasonably accommodated with flexible work hours, increase in salaries, and could work from home anytime necessary. Project documents show a transparent communication of established policy relating to these care packages and equitable process in making the decisions.

3rd: Increased capacity of FIDA and its partners in various domains including use of IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks have the knowledge and skills to adjust and adapt in the event of any outbreak or crises for sustained efforts to EAVW.

Data from capacity assessments confirm the feedback from meeting /interviews with staff and partners highlight that capacity gaps in organizing and managing virtual meetings have been filled, and staff has the skills for **spotting** dangers from many types of crises online.

“After doing virtual meetings with team members, I no longer find any difference between face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings. Every staff knows how to coordinate a virtual meeting because we now have Monday meetings (weekly project coordination meetings) virtually because is it a “Ghost Town Day” in the northwest and Southwest region” (Meeting, Staff of FIDA)

4th: The UNTF grants have led to a transformation to greater work commitment and resilience and the unintended effect, which the evaluators describe, is a result of unexpected attitudinal change towards better professionalism.

EQ9.2 How well has the institutional strengthening response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects and support FIDA/partners to respond to crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?

Feedback from interviews with the project team including partners outlines several adaptation measures adopted by FIDA and partners and which are now new policies:

- Staff, volunteers, and interns from FIDA. FOWEC-CAM and LAFOW (21 persons) have been trained in various domains deemed necessary to ensure the stability of projects and the sustainability of organizations. These domains include organizing and managing virtual meetings, exercising safety measures against COVID-19, and spotting dangers online.
- Quarterly project reviews and weekly coordination meetings are scheduled remotely and held via Zoom. Staff (11) and volunteers (6) who were trained (excluding interns) have Zoom apps on their phones or laptops and are able to join in meetings from any location. Staff can work conveniently and remotely from home on Mondays (considered as ghost town days in the Southwest and Northwest region) as they have been provided with high-speed internet connection monthly data.

- The trained volunteers monitor the news (local, continent, and world level) and report to the staff of all organizations of any COVID-19 updates as they pertain to new risks, and vaccinations regularly and as part of the agenda in meetings.
- Staff who have been exposed to the risk of COVID-19 are to be given sick leave/or quarantine and reasonably accommodated. This policy was a follow-up action after the training and to be institutionalized by all project stakeholders.
- Each project activity applies COVID-19 safety measures as necessary, and staff provide protective supplies such as hand sanitizers, face masks, gloves, buckets, liquid soap, and paper napkins including handwashing supplies in activity spaces to persons involved -In the first year of the project masks wearing was mandatory and each organization staff is supplied with protective supplies for office and personal use.
- IEC materials in various formats (Flyers, stickers, brochures, posters) have been provided to all three organizations for various use.
- There was also increased salary for staff and allowance and communication credit to volunteers.
- Another mechanism that was put in place was a bigger sound system hall was secured for training to enable social distancing as stated by the government.

The table below summarizes the number and type of initiatives undertaken by partners/FIDA outside of the UNTF project within a period of the project.

Organization	No. of initiatives	Type of Initiative	Period	The total of persons reached
FIDA	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects (2) • Network building (3) • Workshop (1) • 16 days of Activism (3) 	3 years	At least 6,000 women and girls 55 CSOs 40 traditional leaders
LAW	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project (1) • Continuous radio campaigns • 16 days of activism (2) 	3 years	105 widows and elderly women The population of the Southwest region
FOWECCAM	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 days of activism (2) • School campaigns (3) 	2 years	The population of the Southwest region 300 girls and boys

Source: Project documentation from FIDA and Partners, Fieldwork 2023

Evidence of challenges mitigated by FIDA/partners after institutional strengthening.

- According to project implementation plans and reports, FIDA and LAW had ongoing projects during both the COVID-19 outbreak season with implementation of activities behind schedule and compounded by insecurities in movements to project sites within the conflict crisis. Although the country was not on lockdown, restrictions in movements and social distancing regulations prevented the involvement of participants in training and awareness-raising events. With the support of funds from the UNTF grant, FIDA could engage in more costly strategies for spacious training spaces, remote project meetings, safe movement of staff for field preparations, and care package for staff mental health to put the project on track while maintaining the safety of staff and project stakeholders. By the last quarter of year 1, 805 project activities were delivered as planned and by the start of year 2, the project was on track.
- During interviews, 3 staff and 4 volunteers acknowledge Institutional strengthening restored team cohesion and well-being respectively. Amongst some minor challenges, staff presented that they were always in anxiety and uncertain, faced with the burden of care which translated into poor communication, team spirit, and work absences. The rapid implementation of the staff care policy was timely for FIDA to avoid losing staff who at times could resign.

- The staff of the legal aid clinic services was burdened with calls for counseling and legal advice from survivors during periods when movements were restricted. Protocols at the legal aid clinic were adjusted and a hotline number was established to support survivors through phone calls. The referral pathways used at the legal aid clinic were reviewed based on a rapid mapping exercise to identify the stakeholders who have also adapted their approaches and or developed the capacity to provide services to survivors, especially legal, psychosocial, and health providers.

Evidence of FIDA's support to EVAWG commitment at the national (or state)/ institutional and community level

Project documentation shows a revised referral pathway prepared by FIDA and made available at all levels and that provides all legal service providers who have confirmed their availability for survivor-centered services.

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
To what extent has the UNTF (grant) determined FIDA and partners' resilience/adaptability for its contribution to EVAWG?	The project has highly strengthened FIDA's capacity and resilience to sustain institutional response for the EVAW	2
How well has the institutional strengthening response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects and support FIDA/partners to respond to crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?	FIDA has embarked on several mechanisms to improve projects delivery and promote staff welfare	2
Overall Assessment	Average rating of Institutional Strengthening from the project = 2 on 3	

Conclusion on Institutional Strengthening by the Project: FIDA and its partners are more resilient in their efforts in eliminating violence against women and girls because project and organizational personnel have the competencies and resources to adapt work and design feasible and safe implementation and monitoring strategies in any disruptive occurrences,

8.10 Feminist/Women's movement building

According to the UNTF, Feminist/Women's Movements" can be described as social movements with certain feminist/gendered characteristics... their agenda is built from a gendered analysis of the problem, or situation they are confronting or seeking to change. Women form a critical mass of the movement's membership or constituency, and the women are the subjects, not objects or targets, of the movement.

E10.1: How has the UNTF (grant) improved FIDA's efforts for EVAW through feminist/women's movement building?

EQ10.2: How has sponsorship for the project ensured consistency with UNTF's strategic priority in feminist/women's movement-building work for EVAW?

EQ10.3: What lessons can be obtained from partners, CSOs, and FIDA's engagement in women's movements linked to the UNTF grants?

EQ10.1: How has the UNTF (grant) improved FIDA's efforts for EVAW through feminist/women's movement building?

Finding 1: FIDA belongs to many peace movements created by women for women and has galvanized local women's groups toward rethinking a broader agenda for Women's human rights.

Building feminist movements is “a process of mobilizing women and women’s organizations for struggles whose goals are specific to gender equality outcomes, such as sexual and reproductive rights or violence against women”.¹² (Horn, J. (2013), Gender and Social Movements – Overview Report)

According to the FIDA president, FIDA is an organization with an agenda that centers on the promotion of women’s human rights, the importance of feminist movements in change was already in the pipeline before the start of the UNTF project. FIDA was already moving towards creating women’s movements. But the UNTF project has given a push towards organizing women around the agenda for social movements and galvanizing them into a network that promotes justice for women and protects their rights not only for peace amidst conflicts but for EAW. During the implementation, FIDA targeted 23 grassroots women groups from both the Northwest and Southwest region towards mobilization for awareness and knowledge transfer on SGBV/HP, GBV as human rights violations, international and state laws, and protocols promoting women’s human rights. These social groups were also stimulated by FIDA to have a vision of mobilizing the broader public around violence against women and girls and other injustices.

The implementation of the UNTF project exposed FIDA to greater learnings and interactions and even resources (technical) that strategically positioned FIDA to contribute to the creation of some peace-building movements aimed at making women’s voices heard in the peace process including protecting women against violence in a humanitarian crisis context. Specifically:

1. FIDA has been instrumental in the creation of the Southwest-Northwest Women’s Task Force (SNWOT) at the onset of the humanitarian crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.
2. FIDA is a founding member of the Cameroon Women’s Peace Movement (CAWPEM)
3. FIDA supported the transformation of the agenda of these two peace movements into a bigger movement –Cameroon’s Women’s Peace Convention.

Finding 2: FIDA’s role in the women’s movement building is to sustain the promotion and protection of women’s human rights.

FIDA and the co-implementing partners for the UNTF project provide strategic support in women’s movements' agenda including awareness building on international and state laws and protocols in addition to facilitating the comprehension of these conventions as they protect women against violence. According to FIDA and partners, the role they play in these movements is to ensure women are aware of what rights they have and must realize that their rights have been violated. FIDA considers these actions as the foundation for ending injustices against women. FIDA engages in the capacity building of women’s movement leaders and members on strategic litigation processes.

EQ10.2: How has sponsorship for the project ensured consistency with UNTF strategic priority in feminist/women’s movement building work for EAW.?

Finding 1: The sponsorship has incidentally galvanized the strategic support of FIDA to women's grassroots social groups and other women’s movements for peace and EAW.

The goal of FIDA’s project sponsored by the UNTF grant is that “All vulnerable women and girls, particularly those affected by the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions will be better protected from violence, empowered to realize their rights, and will live a life free from violence”. To contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 5, of promoting gender Equality, the UN TRUST Funds desires to sponsor projects that create the impact of **“More women and girls, especially the most marginalized and those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, can exercise their human right to live a life free of all forms of violence”**.

UNTF recognizes the role of civil society organizations (CSOs), especially women’s rights organizations (WROs), and those representing the most marginalized groups, in delivering survivor-centered and demand-driven initiatives in relation to violence against women and girls (VAWG). With sponsorship provided by UNTF, **FIDA** as a CSO and WRO has been able to effectively work and collaborate with women's groups and movements in a way that is growing the development of Feminists/women’s movements in the Northwest and Southwest regions. The sponsorship to FIDA has supported strategies for community-driven mobilization and community systems strengthening for a sustainable impact on EVAW. This sponsorship has incidentally galvanized the strategic support of FIDA to women's grassroots social groups and other women’s movements for peace and EVAW. In this way, UNTF has leveraged FIDA’s strategic position in Civil Society platforms to support the UN Trust Fund’s mission for five years (new Strategic Plan 2021–2025) to enable civil society organizations (CSOs), especially women’s rights organizations (WROs), work collaboratively to EVAW.

Informants from the CSOs are of the opinion that women’s social groups have played a significant role in improving the prevention of VAWG, improving service delivery, or increasing the effectiveness of laws and policies. According to FIDA, partners, and CSO informants, women’s movements are still emerging in Cameroon and require opportunities to build their capacities to catalyst change for the effectiveness of laws and policies.

EQ10.3: What lessons can be obtained from partners, CSOs, and FIDA’s engagement in women’s movements linked to the UNTF grants.?

- The evaluation gathered from the informants' women’s movements is still emerging and more than half of the CSOs do not belong to any. According to them, as CSOs, knowledge of feminism/ feminist women is still blurred. They will need to learn more about feminist movements and how they can belong to them.
- More than a third of the informants from the target CSOs informed the evaluation that women’s movements needed leadership that can bolster collaborations and motivates team spirit for progress towards EVAW.
- Collaborative events held recently have proven that with funding, WROs, and CSOs can build up and sustain women’s movements for EVAW. As remarked by an informant
 “We are struggling a lot to get funding for our work in EVAW in the communities. If we have funding for our projects, we will be comfortable engaging in women’s movements.”

Sub criteria/Question	Remark	Rating
How has the UNTF (grant) improved FIDA’s efforts for EVAWG through feminist/women’s movement building?	The UNTF (grant) has supported FIDA to galvanize local women’s groups toward rethinking a broader agenda for Women’s human rights.	2
How has sponsorship for the projects ensured consistency with UNTF's strategic priority in feminist/women’s movement-building work for EVAWG?	With sponsorship provided by UNTF, FIDA as a CSO and WRO has been able to effectively work and collaborate with women's groups and movements in a way that is growing the development of Feminists/women’s movements in the Northwest and Southwest regions.	2
What lessons can be obtained from Partners, CSOs, and FIDA’s engagement in Women's movements linked to the UNTF grants?	A key lesson learned is that women’s movements are still emerging and knowledge of feminism/ feminist women among CSOS is still blurred. They will need to learn more about feminists movements and how they can belong to them.	1
Overall Assessment	Average rating of the lessons learned from the project = 1.6 on 3	

9. CONCLUSIONS

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
Overall	The UNTF/FIDA project implemented in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon accomplished a remarkably significant amount of work within its three-year time frame. This evaluation outlined the project's numerous successes and contributions to GBV prevention and response in the context of a humanitarian setting and COVID-19 as well as opportunities for improvement in the future.
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Programme achieved almost all its objectives on an average to a large extent. It contributed to all its planned outcomes and outputs. Particularly, strong contributions were noted in relation to strengthening the knowledge and capacity of traditional leaders and customary court judges on discriminatory customs and practices that violate women's human rights. • The extent of knowledge transfer within the project was limited. • The project has also been effective in generating public awareness of the consequences of VAWG and related state and international laws and protocols. • The project has been <u>very effective</u> in achieving its outcomes because it has benefitted from contextual priorities, emerging learning needs, and humanitarian presence and opportunities. • The project has been somehow <u>effective</u> in ensuring the survivors and other women and girls at risk know how to prevent and mitigate the risk of being violated during COVID-19
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's goal is consistent with the goal and priorities of the UN Women's agenda in the thematic impact area 3 – Ending violence against women and girls highlighted in the UN Women Strategic Plan 2022- 2025. • The project supports the efforts of UN Women channeled through the Spotlight Initiative/UNTF to address the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigate the disproportionate impacts on women and girls, seen in increasing levels of violence against women, and support women's socioeconomic well-being and reduce their vulnerability to future shocks. As with all interventions within the Spotlight initiative, the project was designed and implemented using a human-rights-based approach to ensure no woman or girl is left behind in the target communities by recognizing and prioritizing the rights, needs, and wishes of survivors. • The project's focus is the capacity strengthening of the actors of the informal and formal justice sectors. • The evaluation concludes that the activities taken under all four outcomes of the project continue to be relevant to the promotion of the human rights of women and in the long – term to their needs. • The project has been able to improve awareness of women, girls, and the public on VAWG, relevant laws, and its link to human rights. Community social associations/groups for women and youths have been targeted to ensure actions toward eliminating VAWG is kept relevant at the local level. • The project contributes to the national strategic efforts o EAW through its core strategies which include capacity strengthening, support for the holistic management of survivors, and the subjugation of GBV perpetrators through the legal systems and awareness raising at individual, community, and institutional levels.
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project team used available resources strategically and efficiently. Accountability mechanisms were utilized transparently. • Improvements in staff welfare, the flexibility of work hours, and working from home, extensive management efforts and staff dedication contributed to the efficient implementation of planned interventions. • Given the challenging operating environment of the Northwest and Southwest regions in general, the evaluation has ascertained that the project has been implemented by FIDA in a cost-effective manner while utilizing resources appropriately. By the end of the year 1 project FIDA had put back all delayed activities on track and by the third year, the project had

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
	<p>implemented at least 94% of the activities and achieved the objectives of the project despite delays and other socio-political and COVID-19 environmental barriers.</p>
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project demonstrates the potential for sustainability and continuity of activities. • FIDA 's project goal is anchored on national priorities and humanitarian response plans and FIDA's target aligns with the target population for meeting Specific objective 2.2 of the Humanitarian Response Plans of 2022. • FIDA has made attempts to initiate interactions useful for scaling up. However, there exist several limiting factors for the project strategy to be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions. • With COVID-19 funds from the spotlight initiative/UNTF, FIDA adjusted its institutional and operational processes and has institutionalized some of these processes. The project has strengthened FIDA and partners' capacities in various domains including the use of IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks have the knowledge and skills to adjust and adapt in the event of any outbreak or crisis for sustained efforts to EVAW. • The evaluations found that the project has managed to instill a sense of ownership for local-level efforts in the fight against VAWG. The evaluation confirms this because traditional legal systems have been trained to be aware of discriminatory customs and use international laws to address cases of VAWG in their communities. In the same light, civil society groups in the community are guided to engage in varied ways of sensitization and advocacy. • FIDA and partners show indicators of staying resilient in their efforts to EVAW amidst disruptive events along the lines of institutional capacity and resources.
Impact	<p>The evaluation team concludes that there is enough evidence that the project has created some impact: It has contributed to more awareness of and willingness among women to talk about the violence that they experience in their lives, are more confident to approach legal services to demand justices and are advocating for the promotion of their rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has made some difference: The awareness and knowledge of the general population on SGBV/HP, as a human rights violation, and international protocols and state laws have improved. The relevant stakeholders of the justice sector have knowledge of the international protocols alongside national laws, and some are applying them to protect women's human rights. Women and girls who have experienced violence have increased access to legal and other essential, specialist, safe services including for long-term recovery from violence. • Overall, the project has contributed to improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the beneficiaries in protecting and promoting their human rights; The formal justice system actors are using ratified protocols and conventions and there is Increase access to legal service assistance and justice for women. • There is no evidence of the real or potential contributions of COVID-19-related activities directly to beneficiaries.
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many lessons have emerged from the project, which can be harnessed in the future for project design and implementation, choice of project location, ensuring safety, and leveraging local capacity. • Lobbying parliamentarians and other duty bearers for legal reforms appeared challenging in this project and can be linked to many contextual factors including the extensive responsibility of these laws/policymakers in a demanding period that coincided with the project duration. Therefore, this agenda may not have been appropriate within the three years of the project. If law reforms are a necessary pre-requisite for the protection and promotion of women's human rights a thorough stakeholder analysis exercise of the parliamentarians can identify the feasibility of lobbying them for law reforms and should be a standalone activity during the project design phase of the project. • The dimensions of intersectionality and GBV incidence have a lack/loss of livelihood at their center. The project observed that livelihood opportunities have equal relevance on change processes for EVAW as efforts to change local harmful norms that perpetuate

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
	<p>GBV. GBV projects should incorporate livelihood support for highly vulnerable GBV survivors to mitigate the effects of intersectionality on GBV incidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In hard-to-reach communities, the capacity of bike riders should be leveraged for HeForShe and awareness-raising campaigns. This also demonstrates that a community-driven response to EAW can yield positive results with the use of lower-cost resources. • When correlating the composition of persons who are present in awareness-raising campaigns with different community channels/approaches used, adolescents and girls prefer one-to-one or school-based sensitization campaigns to open community campaigns. Adolescents should be targeted one-on-one or through schools for this target and vulnerable group to be attracted to GBV prevention and response. • Safe spaces out of the residential area of GBV survivors create accessibility barriers that disconnect the GBV survivors from access to justice even when legal assistance has been provided. The project/legal aid reports show that a majority of GBV survivors access legal aid clinics with the primary need for a safe space before they consider seeking legal assistance. Referrals (from Tiko to a safe space with standards in another town (e.g. in Buea), are often rejected alongside the provision of legal assistance. • GBV programming involving multi-partner approaches should consider funding to strengthen partners' capacity and commitment. The project used a multi-partner approach in coordinating and implementing project activities but while implementing project activities, they need to expand the participation of project partners in public meetings, community gatherings, workshops, task forces, and networking required for capacity strengthening strategies and trust-building for transparency relating to motivations, funding, sharing of results, etc.
<p>Knowledge Generation</p>	<p>The project has generated extensive knowledge that can be shared with other practitioners, but FIDA lacks sufficient technological capacity to document and share with a wider practitioner audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evaluation found that FIDA's commitment to gathering and sharing good practices from the project is constrained indicated by low engagements for organizational learning (and limited technical capacity to access platforms including digital platforms. The organization is committed to generating reports from project activities but there is not a clear mechanism as to how the reports are disseminated to allow opportunities for organizational learning among the staff members. The evaluator did not find an indicator of FIDA being a knowledge hub for any external stakeholder. • However, the practice of backing up and synchronizing documents on OneDrive for the accessibility of staff has been initiated by the project manager. According to the project coordinator, this practice is introduced to prevent information loss due to computer loss or crashes or end of contract/leave of staff. • Social mobilization for combating VAWG through peer-to-peer interactions and education has been more effective in bringing about change in knowledge and behaviors in women and youth than listening to the TV/radio. • Involving the informal traditional legal system leverages their influential role within their society. Chiefs and other members of the traditional courts are more involved in handling cases of VAWG than the formal legal systems actors. With enhanced capacities and support with reference documents/protocols, they sensitize their subjects to discriminatory and harmful customary practices. They can also successfully collaborate with formal legal systems to enforce penalties for perpetrators of GBV in their respective court areas. Future programming should continue to involve these custodians of customs /customary court judges as "agents of change".

Evaluation Criteria	Conclusions
Gender Equality and Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been <u>adequately</u> incorporated in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process of the project. The project has tackled inequalities and social gender roles, norms, and mandates that lie at the basis of violence against women. • The project has involved a cross-section of civil society including NGOs, social groups, women’s grassroots associations, faith-based leaders, and community leadership
Institutional Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has highly strengthened FIDA’s capacity and resilience to sustain institutional response for the EAW. • FIDA has embarked on several mechanisms to improve project delivery and promote staff welfare. • FIDA and partners are more resilient in their efforts in eliminating violence against women and girls because project and organizational personnel have the competencies and resources to adapt work and design feasible and safe implementation and monitoring strategies in any disruptive occurrences,
Feminist/Women’s movement building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has demonstrated that even without integrating activities for movement-building, the project’s resources and exposures incidentally pushed FIDA to engage in leadership in three women’s movements for peace-building and fighting injustices done to women. The interest and motivation to continue to engage in movement building are evident with FIDA and Co-implementing partners and they indicate they will require some funding to build and support the agenda of a movement. With funding, these WROs will have the formal mandate to critically consider movement-building activities.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Evaluation Criteria	Recommendations	Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom)	Suggested timeline (if relevant)
Overall	FIDA Cameroon as a WRO and member of women's movements is a valuable stakeholder for EAW. The strengthening of the organizational capacity for GBV programming is required for greater expansion and scale-up of efforts of women's human rights promotion and protection.	FIDA, UN Women, UNTF	End of 2023
Effectiveness	The project design and approach have been effective in the achievement of the project outcomes. However, law enforcement efforts for EAW need to be strengthened and expanded to include more gender desk police officers for more collaborative and sustained multisectoral response service support by the legal system.	UN Women, FIDA, Ministry of Justice of Cameroon	Ongoing
	Future projects should continue to engage more local structures and community-based volunteers, to expand the GBV actors' space at the local levels. This strategy will increase and sustain awareness-raising efforts and ensure greater coverage	FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA,	Ongoing
	Care must always be taken to ensure participants and stakeholders are not placed at risk. When operating in the context of armed conflicts, projects should include modules on protection and safety in all capacity-building activities.	FIDA, FOWECCAM, LAW, other NGOs,	Ongoing
	GBV programming involving multi-partner approaches should consider obtaining more funding to strengthen partners' capacity and commitment	FIDA, UNTF, UN Women, and other donors with EAW priorities	Continuous
	The project observed the greater participation of young to middle-aged women and men in public sensitization campaigns and the near absence of adolescents. Adolescents should be targeted one-on-one or through schools for this target and vulnerable group to be attracted to GBV prevention and response.	FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA	Continuous
Relevance	The capacity strengthening of key stakeholders of the legal system continues to be relevant to the results of the project particularly in providing legal support services to victims and addressing discriminatory practices and harmful customs that encourage risky behaviors	FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA, UN Women	Continuous

Evaluation Criteria	Recommendations	Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom)	Suggested timeline (if relevant)
	Future projects should clearly report the extent of social and cultural indicators of progress toward addressing GBV project goals/outcomes.		
Efficiency	There is the need to sustain and or improve the capacity to use IT skills to ensure FIDA and its collaborative networks can stay adaptive in the event of any outbreak or crises for sustained efforts to EAW and ensure efficiency in project delivery	FIDA, FOWECCAM, other donors	By the end of 2023
	When designing a project, a critical analysis of the context and situation is to be undertaken to make reasonable estimates on timeframes and avoid preparing a schedule that is vulnerable to political and social events. Project partners should make alternative project plans	FIDA, FOWECCAM, LAW	Ongoing
Sustainability	It is recommended that FIDA continues developing solid partnerships between civil society organizations and national government institutions, and grassroots groups. This has proven to be an important factor for achieving sustainable results for SGBV prevention and response and a enriches experiences in the implementation of SGBV projects.	FIDA	Ongoing
Impact	GBV awareness should be paired with economic empowerment programs which include key life skills to empower women and girls to have positive discussions around challenging and changing gender power dynamics. The economic empowerment programs should be complemented with training in other soft skills, such as business management, so participants can set up their own businesses. These economic empowerment activities should also be paired with male engagement and larger community sensitization, to mitigate the risk of GBV due to the changing status of women in the community.	FIDA, UN Women, UNTF, FOWECCAM, LAW, and other GBV stakeholders	Continuous
Knowledge Generation	FIDA requires more human resource and IT capacity to address knowledge management needs/gaps for the use of digital platforms and other applications for knowledge management, and organizational learning. The technical capacity to access platforms including digital platforms should be reinforced by providing training to project teams. The IT resources should be expanded at FIDA and managed by a competent IT manager	UN Women, UNTF, FIDA	By the end of 2023

Evaluation Criteria	Recommendations	Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom)	Suggested timeline (if relevant)
	To enhance organizational learning, a program for horizontal dialogue and learning should be developed. This will allow the regular exchange of information and sharing of relevant experiences and good practices across team members and tams in general		
Gender Equality and Human Rights	It is important to reinforce the inclusion of men, not just as participants, but as leaders/coordinators of social change and GBV prevention efforts at community levels. In hard-to-reach communities, the capacity of bike riders should be leveraged for HeForShe and awareness-raising campaigns.	FOWEC-CAM, LAW, other GBV Stakeholders and NGOs, FIDA	Ongoing
	Geographical inaccessibility to spaces should be mitigated to strengthen referrals and multi-sectoral service delivery. GBV programming should consider establishing more safe spaces within communities to increase survivors' comfort while they seek justice.	UN Women, MINPROFF, Cameroon	By 2024
Institutional Strengthening	FIDA should continue to build organizational preparedness and resilience by enhancing organizational capabilities and resources for participatory monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems or practices for EVAWG programming so that FIDA can remain flexible and adaptive in the context of disruptive events. This will enhance the organization's capacity to design a program log frame – defining baseline, and assumption and ensuring that indicators are specific, measurable, and feasible – or the employment of theories of change and logic models to guide project planning. In this regard, in the event of any disruptive event, FIDA will be able to adjust of program design during the implementation phase, including monitoring and evaluation activities.	UNTF, UN Women, FIDA	By the end of 2024

11. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1.1 Final Version of Terms of Reference (TOR) of the evaluation

End of Project External Evaluation

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background and Context

In Cameroon, Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a troubling reality, particularly for women and girls, and it has been recently exacerbated by the current socio-political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) which is a subcategory of GBV takes many dimensions, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence (ACAFEG, 2016) with Sexual Gender-based violence (SGBV) being the most widespread and real social problem in all regions (Research Directorate, 2016) of the country. The most reported forms of violence are physical and sexual violence perpetrated by relatives, polygamy, and the denial of resources and opportunities for women and associated discrimination against women (MINPROFF, 2013). Harmful practices against women and girls (HP) including early (child) marriages are very common in Cameroon but are rarely reported. Overall, 56.4% of women in a union have experienced at least one of three commonly occurring forms of GBV. Specifically, 43.2% of women in a union are facing domestic violence, and 39.8% and 14.5% are facing emotional and sexual violence respectively (UNOCHA, 2019). According to a GBV rapid assessment (IRC, 2019) following tensions in the Northwest and Southwest regions (NW & SW) of Cameroon, more than 85% of respondents of this assessment acknowledge that women and girls have experienced rape, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence, alongside many dimensions of economic, psychological, cultural, and physical violence. In 2020, a situational assessment by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women for a response to the COVID-19 crisis²¹ showed that Frontliners such as Civil society organizations and women rights organizations such as FIDA and its partners observed an alarming increase in multiple forms of violence against women and girls in both frequency and intensity since the outbreak exacerbated by lockdown measures. However, VAWG is a daily risk in the NW & SW, and it is not a problem only in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and other forms of crisis.

In line with the UN declaration, it has been universally recognized that VAWG is typically entangled in a complex web of institutionalized social relations that reinforce the vulnerability of women and girls. In Cameroon, the key causes of VAWG, include customs and traditions that give the husband's right to beating, and other harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, early marriage, wife inheritance, etc. Poor access to resources and lack of control over these resources, low representation of women in decision-making, low level of education, and ignorance by these women of their rights and services for support²².

Recently, increased opportunities for building capacities of service providers and trust for GBV services accessibility within the communities in Cameroon, have attracted more women and girls including survivors to embrace physical and emotional recovery from the abuse, and many have expressed the need for legal justice (FIDA, 2020, unpublished report). The legal justice system in Cameroon is not easily accessible for persons at risk of VAWG and existing GBV Legal responses including legal Aid Clinics in response to the need for assistance and support to survivors seeking legal justice are inadequate. Referrals are common among social services, security, and health services and less common with legal services. The inadequacy and limited accessibility of GBV legal services and clinics demonstrate that survivors of VAWG and other women and girls are not receiving adequate education on legal rights, confidential advice regarding their legal rights and options under

²¹ UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. (2020): "A Bottom-up View of the Shadow Pandemic: Impact of COVID-19 on violence against women through the lens of Civil Society Organizations", New York: UN Women, May 2020

²² According to Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (57th Session of the Commission of the statute of Women, 2013),

the law, and legal representation after their rights have been violated. It has long been reiterated that there is no legislation specifically addressing domestic violence (which includes physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and economic violence) in Cameroon²³. However, several articles of the Penal Code could be applied to address some aspects of GBV²⁴. Victims of domestic abuse have little recourse for protection²⁵ and there is no specific law adopted in Cameroon on preventing and combating violence against women and which provides women with an order for protection against abusers²⁶ ²⁷. No “comprehensive legal regime” that protects victims and holds perpetrators accountable has been adopted²⁸. The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), and other international and national GBV stakeholders are of the opinion that an accessible legal system that is reliable, trustworthy, and effective is a critical and necessary element to ensure an adequate and multi-sectoral approach. Legal support services must be instituted at the appropriate time and as a part of a comprehensive program for it to be successful in aiding survivors to maintain their safety and obtain justice. The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women through its partnership with Spotlight Initiative supports Civil Society through organizations including FIDA, in their efforts for the elimination of VAWG and to sustain their systems, processes, and institutions in responding to VAWG in crises including the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.1 Description of the project that is being evaluated.

Name of the project: In 2020, the United Nations (UN) Women through the grant-giving mechanism, the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), funded a three-year project “**Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the Northwest and South-west Regions of Cameroon**”. The theme of this project is in line with the priorities and commitment of UN Women as outlined in UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Results Areas: **(a)** Improved access for women and girls to essential, safe, and adequate multi-sectoral services to end VAW/G; **(b)** Improved prevention of VAW/G through changes in behavior, practices, and attitudes; and **(c)** Increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G. To apply its mandate for the response to the COVID-19 crisis following evidence of the increased frequency and severity of forms of VAWG during the pandemic, the UN Trust fund extends its financial support in the UN Trust Fund / FIDA project on the premise “that they are stretched in the frontlines and adapting with minimal resources and the crisis continues to threaten their institutional survival and that of their beneficiaries”²⁹. The strategic result of this arm of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project was **(d)** to enhance the resilience, sustainability, and adaptative capacities of FIDA and implementing partners to ever-changing contexts in its mission towards ending violence against women and girls with a focus on during and following this crisis (post-COVID).

The organization: The project is implemented by FIDA, Cameroon, a branch of FIDA International, and a non-governmental organization with headquarters in Tiko, Southwest region, Cameroon. FIDA was established in Cameroon on the 21st of April 1993 under the registration number: 1173/G.37/D14/Vol.10/580/ZAP with the mission **to assist the woman and girl children to develop themselves and assert their rights through training, advocacy, education, counseling, and conflict resolution**. FIDA targets Women and children with the main goal of promoting the human rights of women and young girls and enlightening the public on Human rights particularly those of women and girls. The organization works closely with authorities of the formal and non-formal (traditional/customary) legal system, women’s associations and GBV service providers, and human rights activists/advocates.

²³ OECD 2014: US 25 June, 26; UN 28 Feb. 2014, para. 18c

²⁴ See note 11

²⁵ The Advocates for Human Rights n.d.

²⁶ Ibid. 24 Jan 2014, para. 18

²⁷ Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Cameroon (2019). A report submitted to the 65th Session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

²⁸ The Advocates for Human Rights 24 Jan. 2014, para. 4b

²⁹ UN Trust Fund (2020). Guidance on request for Funding Submission in response to COVID-19. p.1

Project duration: This is a three-year project.

Project start date: Started on January 1, 2020

Project end date: To end on December 31, 2022

Current project implementation status with the timeframe to complete the project: The implemented status of the project can be estimated at 98%. Apart from activity 2.2.2 “lobby meetings with parliamentarians which have been partially completed with some concerns, all project activities have been completed and reported.

Description of the specific forms of violence addressed by the project: The project focuses on Sexual Gender-based violence (SGBV) being the most widespread and a real social problem in all regions of the country and Harmful practices against women and girls (HP) including early (child) marriages which are also common in Cameroon but is rarely reported.

Project Goals and Objectives

Ultimate Project Goal: Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon.

The overall objective of the project is to end VAWG in Cameroon including SGBV/HP This would be achieved through the following interrelated specific objectives:

Specific objectives:

1. An increase of 75 – 80% in the level of public awareness on forms/causes and consequences of VAW/G, existing laws/policies guaranteeing equality, and those condemning VAWG and the existence of law No 2003/004 of 14th April, on legal aid in the NW/SW regions.
2. Increase the effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end VAWG
3. Creating an enabling environment in Cameroon to end VAWG
4. To enhance the organizational effectiveness and increase the ability of FIDA and its implementing partners to offer more/adequate support to their communities towards ending violence against women and girls, during and following this crisis (post-COVID).

Description of targeted primary and secondary beneficiaries

Primary Beneficiaries:(1000 Women and Girls):

- 300 women/girls’ survivors of violence: ignorance of their rights, and poverty are some reasons often advanced by survivors for not reporting cases of violence, the knowledge they will gain during the execution of this project will significantly encourage them to report and prosecute cases.
- 200 women/girls victims of trafficking: with the crises, many girls are now victims of trafficking without even being aware.
- 200 women in detention: Many women/girls in detention face violence. abuse and illegal detentions are not reached by different programs.
- 300 women/girls in general: with the crisis raging in the project regions, thousands of women/girls are now victims of SGBV.
- Sample of Women and girls (42) in the various primary beneficiary categories as participants in training on COVID-19 prevention and risk mitigation.

Secondary Beneficiaries (660):

- 80 Journalists were selected to improve communication around the project, raise awareness on existing laws guaranteeing equality and condemning violence, the existence of law No 2003/004 of 14th April 2009 on legal aid

- 200 Legal officers: to provide legal services to survivors and build the case files for the prosecution of perpetrators of VAW/G.
- 180 Parliamentarians: to carry out law/policy reforms and enable Cameroon to bring its laws into conformity with international conventions ratified and to repeal discriminatory laws.
- 200 Traditional leaders and Queen mothers: These are selected to help review and change cultural norms, improve attitudes, and positively use their traditional authority to end SGBV/HP.
- Staff, volunteers, and, interns (21 persons) from FIDA, and implementing partners – Footsteps for Women and Children, Cameroon (FOWEC-CAM) and LIBRA Association for Widows (LAW Cameroon). These persons are selected to be trained on how to maintain, or adapt EAW/G interventions and reach the most vulnerable women and girls while responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic or other crises

1.2 Strategy and theory of change (or results chain) of the project with a brief description of the project goal, outcomes, outputs, and key project activities.

The project focuses on increasing the effectiveness of legislation, policy, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G identified by MINPROF and other stakeholders as a major reason why violence continues to thrive in Cameroon. The project has relevant strategies with approaches/methodologies that respond to the local context and yet aligns with international standards and prescriptions to deliver our set result.

- **STRATEGY 1:** Sensitize the public, survivors/persons at risk, and perpetrators on forms/causes and consequences of SGBV/HP and new forms emerging because of the conflict in the project zones and on laws that protects them from such violence; facilitate access of poor women to justice by sensitizing them of the existence of law No 2003/004 of 14th April 2009.
- **STRATEGY 2:** Lobby government and law/policymakers to carry out law/policy reforms by implementing/harmonizing laws with international conventions ratified and repealing discriminatory laws.
- **STRATEGY 3:** Build the capacity of judges/lawyers/police officers on the handling of SGBVHP cases using conventions like CEDAW/MAPUTO protocol
- **STRATEGY 4:** Train civil society leaders as paralegals so they can assist survivors in their various communities identify and report cases of SGBV/HP.
- **STRATEGY 5:** Build the capacity of traditional leaders/queen mothers and customary court judges on VAWGs and on handling cases of SGBV/HP using human rights approach, educate them on the limits of their jurisdiction, and engage them to advocate and fight SGBV/HP.
- **STRATEGY 6:** Train FIDA members on shadow reporting
- **STRATEGY 7:** Equip FIDA and implementing partners with the capacity to adequately prevent and respond to VAWG during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-COVID-19 and other crises.

Theory of Change

Annex 2 is a diagrammatic representation of the ToC and explains how FIDA in its three-year project will bring about a change in the dimension of SGBV/HP i.e., make violence against Women and girls' history in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. Eliminating VAWG in Cameroon has been so difficult, thus making at least 55% of women vulnerable to SGBV from the age of 15. The major problem this 3 – year project addresses are the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness in the implementation of components of the international and national legal frameworks for GBV response. Specifically, the project seeks to address the following issues related to the legal system/ framework and gaps in the overall legal system.

- Lack of legal reforms
- Gaps in existing laws even though ratified treaties have provided a blueprint for national legislation to emulate

- Non – compliance with ratified treaties
- Repugnant customs that challenge the eradication of VAWG
- Lack of harmonization of domestic laws with international treaties
- Inadequate dissemination of laws
- Customary courts applying discriminatory customs/traditions

Addressing VAWG will support the achievement of gender equality/women’s empowerment, which is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1.3 Geographic location: Cameroon Rural and Sub-urban communities in two of the ten regions of Cameroon. (Northwest and Southwest) with an estimated population of eight million people

These two regions have a history of intimate attachment to their cultures. They have strong cultural norms that often result in the violation of women's/girls’ rights. Also, Fons/chiefs, in these regions are more influential than the official administrative authorities, as they are considered the living representatives of the tribal ancestors. This strong traditional leadership can be used positively to end VAW/G.

1.4 Total resources allocated for the intervention, including human resources and budgets (budget need to be disaggregated by the amount funded by the UN Trust Fund and by other sources/donors).

Total project cost: \$347650

Our contribution: \$21100

Grant request: \$326550

1.5 Key partners involved in the project, including the implementing partners and other key stakeholders.

- FIDA-Cameroon
- Libra Association for Widows (LAW)
- Footsteps For Women and Children-Cameroon (FOWEC-CAM)

Logic Model for Making Violence Against Women and Girls' History in the Southwest and Northwest Regions of Cameroon.

Table 26: Results Framework of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA 3-year project

GOAL STATEMENT: To increase the effectiveness of legislation, policy, national action plans, and accountability systems to prevent and end Violence Against Women and girls (VAW/G) including Harmful Practice (HP) in Cameroon.					
Objective 1: To increase the level of public awareness on forms/causes and consequences of VAW/G, existing laws/policies guaranteeing equality, and those condemning VAWG in the NW/SW by 75 – 80% end of 2022					
Activities	Outputs	Short-term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long-term outcomes	Impact
ACT1.1.1: Organize an official project launch to increase visibility	OT1.1.1: official project launch organized in the North West and South West regions.	Primary and secondary beneficiaries* and the general population in both project regions have knowledge of the three years project.	Knowledge of national and international laws/policies on VAW/G as a human rights violation is improved among the primary and secondary beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions	OM1.1: Survivors of VAW/G and other women and girls are advocating to live a life free from violence	Reduced occurrence of VAW/G including SGBV/HP in the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon
ACT1.1.2: Organize continuous awareness-raising campaigns on communication channels including traditional/ social meeting groups, schools, motor parks, churches, etc. of the existing laws guaranteeing equality and condemning VAW/G	OT1.1.2: Awareness-raising campaigns continuously held in traditional/ social meeting groups, schools, motor parks, churches, etc. on the existing laws/policies guaranteeing equality and condemning violence	Primary and secondary beneficiaries* and the general population in both project regions know that VAW/G is a human rights violation			

<p>ACT1.1.3: Negotiate and sign communication contracts with local radio/TV stations to cover 15 capacity-building workshops/seminars/training, 10 awareness-raising campaigns, broadcast of awareness messages, and communicate project outcomes throughout the project</p>	<p>OT1.1.3: Seven (7) communication contracts signed with local radio/TV stations to cover capacity-building workshops/seminars/training, awareness-raising campaigns, broadcast of awareness messages, and communication project outcomes throughout the project</p>	<p>Primary and secondary beneficiaries* and the general population in both project regions know that laws/policies guaranteeing equality and condemning violence do exist</p>			
<p>ACT1.2.1: Design and produce Information, Education, and Communication materials on the forms, causes, and consequences of SGBV/HP (2000 posters, 3000 brochures, 600 T-shirts, and 3 banners)</p>	<p>OT1.2.1: 2000 posters, 3000 brochures, 600 T-shirts, and 3 banners produced as Information, Education, and Communication materials for the forms, causes, and consequences of VAW/G and SGBV/HP and visibility tools for the project</p>	<p>The primary and secondary beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions have a holistic knowledge of forms, prevalence, root causes/consequences of VAW/G as a human rights violation</p>	<p>Holistic knowledge of forms, prevalence, and root causes/consequences of VAW/G as a human rights violation is improved among our primary and secondary beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions.</p>	<p>OM1.2: Survivors of VAW/G or SGBV/HP, individuals, institutions, and the community in the two project regions will commit to preventing/combating violence</p>	
<p>ACT1.2.2: Organize continuous media and community awareness-raising campaigns to sensitize the public, victims, and perpetrators on the forms, causes, and consequences of VAW/G and SGBV/HP</p>	<p>OT1.2.2: Awareness-raising campaigns continuously held over the media and in the communities to sensitize the public, victims, and perpetrators on the forms, causes, and consequences of VAW/G</p>				

ACT1.2.3: Organize continuous media/ community awareness-raising campaigns to sensitize the public on law No 2003/004 of 14th April 2009, on legal aid and its services	OT1.2.3: Information on law No. 2003/004 of 14th April 2009 on legal aid and available FIDA's legal aid clinics/ pro bono services are publicized in project communities.	The primary and secondary beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions have knowledge of the existence of legal aid pro-bono services	Knowledge of the existence of legal aid pro-bono services is increased among the primary and secondary beneficiaries and the general population in both project regions.	OM1.3: Women and girls at risk of GBV are accessing legal support services that protect their human rights	
Objective 2: To increase the effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans, and accountability systems to protect women's rights and prevent Violence against Women and Girls in both regions by the end of 2022.					
Activities	Outputs	Short-term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long-term outcomes	Impact
ACT2.1.1: Produce and disseminate 200 copies of a compendium of national, regional, and international laws to members of the legal community (MLC)*	OT2.1.1: 200 Members of the legal community receive a compendium of national, regional, and international laws	Members of the legal community have knowledge of national and international conventions promoting women's rights	MLC increasingly applies national and international conventions promoting women's rights	OM2.1: More women and girls at risk of GBV are successfully receiving justice	Reduced occurrence of VAW/G including SGBV/HP in the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon
ACT2.1.2: Organize two capacity-building seminars for 100 members of the legal community on the application of CEDAW, MAPUTO protocol, etc.	OT2.1.2: 100 Members of the legal community attend 1 capacity building seminar on the application of CEDAW and MAPUTO protocol				
ACT2.2.1: Select and produce 300 copies of discriminatory laws into booklet form to be handed to parliamentarians/duty bearers to give visibility to bad laws and facilitate law reform	OT2.2.1: 59 Parliamentarians/duty bearers received a booklet on discriminatory laws	Parliamentarians have increased knowledge of laws that are discriminatory	Parliamentarians commit to addressing laws/policies that are discriminatory	OM2.2: Parliamentarians/Duty bearers improve and or put in place laws and policies to protect women's human rights	
ACT2.2.2: Organize three meetings with parliamentarians and lobby them for law reform.	OT2.2.2: 59 Parliamentarians attend meetings to discuss law reforms				
ACT2.3.1: Produce and disseminate 120 copies of the criminal procedure	OT2.3.1: 120 copies of the criminal procedure manual	Paralegals equipped with the technical capacity to	Paralegals are supporting survivors of VAW/G access	OM2.3: Women and girls at risk of GBV are	

manual to paralegals	produced	continuously assist survivors of SGBV/HP access justice	justice	accessing legal support services that protect their human rights	
ACT2.3.2: Organize two trainings for paralegals on drafting, lodging, and follow-up of complaints on behalf of survivors	OT2.3.2: 100 Paralegals trained on how to draft, lodge, and follow up complaints from survivors and each received a copy of the manual.				
ACT2.3.3: Organize capacity-building workshops for civil society organizations (CSOs) on data collection processes	OT2.3.3: 80 CSO leaders trained on data collection processes	CSOs are regularly furnishing FIDA with quality data	FIDA improves the content of media/community awareness campaign messages and other activities to prevent and combat VAW/G and SGBV/HP in the two project regions as informed by ongoing data	OM2.3: Increased commitment by the public, primary/secondary beneficiaries, and men/boys to address the social acceptance of GBV	
ACT2.3.3: Support 6 Civil society organizations with funds to collect and furnish FIDA with GBV data	ACT2.3.3: 6 Civil society organizations supported financially to collect and furnish FIDA with GBV data				
Objective 3: To create an enabling environment in Cameroon for the commitment to preventing and combating VAW/G and SGBV/HP in the two project regions by the end of 2022.					
Activities	Outputs	Short-term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long-term outcomes	Impact
ACT3.1.1: Organize three capacity-building workshops for 90 traditional leaders including queen mothers on the adverse consequences of discriminatory traditional practices and the eradication of harmful traditional practices	OT3.1.1: Three (3) capacity-building workshops held with 90 traditional leaders including queen mothers on the adverse consequences of discriminatory traditional practices and the eradication of harmful traditional practices	Traditional leaders and queen mothers have knowledge of discriminatory traditional practices which are to be eradicated	Traditional leaders and queen mothers have improved attitudes towards the fight against VAW/G including VAW/G and SGBV/HP	OM3.1: Increased commitment by traditional leaders to address the social acceptance of GBV	Reduced occurrence of VAW/G including SGBV/HP in the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon
ACT3.1.2: Produce 120 copies of a compendium of laws regulating the customary court and disseminate it to 120 customary court judges for easy reference when they are	OT3.1.2: 120 copies of a compendium of laws regulating the customary court produced and disseminated to 120 customary court judges for easy	Customary court judges know the human rights laws for the handling of VAW/G and SGBV/HP cases	Customary court judges are increasingly using a human rights-based approach for handling cases of SGBV/HP	OM3.2: More women and girls at risk of GBV are successfully receiving justice	

handling cases of SGBV/HP	reference when they are handling cases of SGBV/HP		henceforth.		
ACT3.1.3: Train 120 customary court judges using promotional human rights laws in the handling of SGBV/HP cases	OT3.1.3: 120 customary court judges trained on the application of human rights laws in the handling of SGBV/HP cases				
ACT 3.2.1: Train 60 FIDA members on shadow reporting to monitor and report on the government's compliance or noncompliance with international treaties ratified.	OT3.2.1: A shadow reporting team of 60 members was put in place to monitor Cameroon's implementation of international conventions and ratified and come out with shadow reports.		Increase pressure on the government by shadow reporting process to give effect to the country's commitment to international treaties ratified	OM3.3: Increased commitment to address GBV using ratified treaties by political and administrative leaders.	
Objective 4: To enhance the organizational effectiveness and increase the ability of FIDA and its implementing partners to offer more/adequate support to their communities towards ending violence against women and girls, during and following this crisis (post-COVID) by the end of 2022.					
Activities	Outputs	Short-term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long-term outcomes	Impact
ACT4.1.1: Bigger sound system halls for 2 official launches of the project, 4-workshops (Judges, Lawyers, and police Officers), 4-workshops with paralegals, 4workshops with civil society leaders, 6-workshops with traditional leaders/queen mothers, 6-training with customary court judges and 2-training with FIDA members (Key project activity 2.1.2,2.2.2, 2.3.2,2.3.3,3.1.1,3.1.3/3.2.1)	Bigger sound system halls secured for all training	FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] equipped with the necessary resources to continue the implementation of project activity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic	FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] are equipped with the necessary resources to continue the implementation of project activity and the fight against SGBV amidst the COVID-19 pandemic	FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] institutionally strengthened to continue the fight against SGBV amidst the COVID-19 pandemic	Reduced occurrence of VAW/G including SGBV/HP in the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon

<p>ACT4.1.2: purchase sanitizers, face masks, gloves, infrared thermometers, Buckets of Liquid Soap, and Paper napkins for use in our offices, during workshops, awareness raising campaigns and mass distribution to workshop participants and beneficiaries during awareness-raising campaigns.</p>	<p>2500 sanitizers, 5000 face masks, 3000 gloves, 3 infrared thermometers, 6 Buckets 100 Liquid Soap, and 100 Paper napkins purchased and used in our offices and distributed to participants during workshops and awareness-raising campaigns.</p>				
<p>ACT4.1.3: purchase 6 Android phones for volunteers, 2 Projectors for co-implementing partners 4 Laptops, and 3 Scanners to facilitate project implementation and protection of this equipment during the implementation of the project.</p>	<p>6 android phones were purchased and given to volunteers, 2 Projectors were purchased for co-implementing partners, and 4 Laptops and 3 Scanners were purchased for FIDA and Implementing partners.</p>				
<p>ACT4.1.4: Increase staff salary and give allowance and communication credit to volunteers</p>	<p>5 staff benefits from increased salaries and 6 volunteers benefits from allowance and communication credit</p>				
<p>ACT4.1.5: strengthened our internet connection (purchase of higher speed monthly data plan)</p>	<p>FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] benefit monthly from an increased data bundle.</p>				
<p>Activity 4.2.1: Capacity building workshop for staff and volunteers of FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners (LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM) on how to organize and manage virtual meetings, the safety measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and</p>	<p>OT4.1.1: 21 Staff and volunteers of the three organizations are trained on how to maintain or adapt EAW/G interventions and reach the most vulnerable women and girls while responding to the impact of the</p>	<p>FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners have improved knowledge, to maintain or adapt EAW/G interventions and reach the most vulnerable women and girls while</p>	<p>FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] are institutionally strengthened to sustainably respond to the COVID-19</p>	<p>OM4.1: FIDA Cameroon and co-implementing partners [LAW Cameroon and FOWEC-CAM] continue in their pursuit of ending violence against women and girls as well as</p>	

how to spot danger online.	COVID-19 pandemic or other crises.	responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic or other crises.		respond to the impact of COVID-19	
ACT4.2.1: Design and produce gender lens flyers on COVID-19.	OT4.2.1: 2000 gender lens flyers produced.			OM4.2: Reduced risks associated with COVID-19 among Women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors	
ACT4.2.1: Capacity building workshop with women and girls survivors of violence, IDPs, women and girls with disabilities on the prevention measures, how to stay safe, and how to mitigate the risk of being violated during the COVID-19 pandemic	OT4.2.1: 40 Women and girls survivors of violence, IDPs, women and girls with disabilities have been trained on the prevention measures, how to stay safe, and how to mitigate the risk of being violated during the COVID-19 pandemic	Women and girls survivors of violence, IDPs, women and girls with disabilities are aware of the prevention measures, how to stay safe, and how to mitigate the risk of being violated during the COVID-19 pandemic	Women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors have a comprehensive understanding of preventive measures associated with the risk of the COVID-19 pandemic		
ACT4.2.1: carryout awareness raising on identifying, preventing, and responding to GBV during the crisis.	Raised awareness of the general population on identifying, preventing, and responding to GBV during the crisis	the general population gained knowledge on how to identify, prevent and respond to GBV during the crisis.	the general population has improved knowledge of how to identify, prevent and respond to GBV during the crisis.	the general population is able to identify, prevent and respond to GBV during the crisis.	
ACT4.2.3: foodstuff to 400 beneficiaries (women/girls survivors of violence, IDPs, and women and girls with disabilities)	Purchased 100 bags of Rice, 140 jogs of Oil, 1000 packets of Maggi cubes, 500 bags of salt, and 5000 cubes of Savon	400 beneficiaries (women/girls survivors of violence, IDPs, and women and girls with disabilities) each received a food package of Rice, oil, Maggi, salt, and washing soap.	400 beneficiaries (women/girls survivors of violence, IDPs, and women and girls with disabilities) were able to cope with price increases in the main time.		

MLC - Judges, Customary court judges, Layers Police officers

2. Purpose of the Evaluation

The evaluation of the project is an activity requested by UN Trust Fund. The state of Cameroon on its part through the Ministries of Justice, Women's Empowerment, and the Family (MINPROFF), Public Health, Social Affairs, and the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, etc. are working to fight violence against women and girls but needs to step up the effort as a lot of information is needed from evaluation studies to proceed. FIDA considers this evaluation pertinent, as it will generate credible value judgments about the justice sector and VAW/G and inform the potential continuation or scaling of strategies for the protection and promotion of women's rights.

The main objective of the evaluation is to demonstrate the value of the project in preventing VAWG and promoting women's human rights. It will provide evidence of the performance and achievements (outcome/impact) on mitigating VAWG over the period of January 2020 to December 2022 as it relates to planned results. The evaluation will assess changes from the project and their significance to the relevance, effectiveness, coherence efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the intervention.

In compliance with the need for accountability and learning to all key stakeholders, it is expected that the evaluation will adequately provide lessons learned which will be incorporated into the decision-making process and GBV programming for FIDA, its partners, and the donor.

The evaluation is also aimed at providing insights for the design and implementation of future projects as support to implementing partners - FOWEC-CAM, LAW, and other GBV stakeholders.

The project participants and beneficiaries will rely on the evaluation findings as an evidence-based tool to sustain advocacy efforts in combating VAWG.

The evaluation is guided by the following **principles**.

- Impartiality and integrity during the process
- Independence of the evaluation
- The participatory approach involves stakeholder's perspectives
- Credibility and transparency of the process are ensured by a competent team

3. Evaluation objectives and scope

3.1 Scope of Evaluation:

Timeframe: The evaluation will cover the entire project duration of January 2020 to December 2023 and target samples of each category of beneficiaries, implementing partners, and other stakeholders listed among the stakeholders (from both regions) to be consulted which include:

- i. Key FIDA Staff
- ii. A sample of the trained beneficiaries
 - Judges
 - Lawyers
 - Judicial police officers
 - Civil Society leaders
 - Traditional leaders/Custodians of customs
 - Customary court judges
 - paralegals

- Survivors of GBV
- iii. A sample of women and girls in communities
- iv. A sample of community mobilizers of the project
- v. Representative of the corresponding ministries – MINPROFF & MINAS

Geographical: The evaluation will be carried out in both the Northwest and Southwest regions and within 3 of the 6 project target divisions (Fako, Meme, Mezam) and include visits for interviews and discussions with individuals and groups of sample project stakeholders. It will cover project activities implemented by FIDA and partners during the period of January 2020 to December 2023.

The evaluator will take into consideration the above list of stakeholders and geographical locations when developing and submitting a technical and financial proposal to FIDA.

3.2 Objectives of Evaluation:

- **To evaluate the entire project** (two to three years from January 2020 to December 2022), against the effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, and impact criteria, as well as the cross-cutting gender equality and human rights criteria (*defined below*);
- **To identify key lessons and promising or emerging good practices** in the field of ending violence against women and girls, for learning purposes (*this is defined under the knowledge generation criteria below*).

ANNEX 1.2: Evaluation Matrix

1 Evaluation Matrix

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
<p>1. Impact <i>Are the long-term outcomes clearly defined and are there proposed steps towards achieving these clearly defined?</i></p> <p><i>To what extent has the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women's empowerment (both intended and unintended impact)</i></p>	<p>1.1 What difference have the project in general made to women/girls, the legal system, and the general population?</p> <p>1.2 To what extent has the project (through capacity development of key stakeholders within the legal systems and changes in knowledge, behavior, and attitudes) contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality, and/or women's empowerment (WE) (both intended and unintended)?</p>	<p>a) Identifying the pathways of the contribution of the FIDA project to the (theorized) results, including alternative pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge, skills, and changed attitudes of beneficiaries because of the training, workshops, and sensitization events of the project. - The formal and informal justice system actors and providers recognize their own responsibility in promoting and applying women's access to justice, and women's rights. - TV and community radio programs and awareness campaigns contribute to the increased visibility of FIDA and the relevance of women's rights and GBV-related laws. <p>b) Identifying the changes contributed by the project at the level of women and girls, legal service provision, and community level/leaders, (including intended and unintended, positive, or negative on GBV and WE).</p> <p>c)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reporting data/reports. • Training, sensitization, awareness-raising data • Files with information on cases • Baseline & Endline survey data • CSOs Monthly reports • M&E data from monitoring legal services provided for women and girls • Women including those at risk • Men • Legal service providers • Custodians of customs/traditional leaders • TV/radio journalists 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desk review of documents 2. Field visits for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews (KIIs) with stakeholders • Focus group discussions with women and men.

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
<p>2. Relevance <i>The extent to which the objectives of the project correspond to the needs and interests of the population.</i></p> <p><i>How well do the project's objectives align with the Government priorities and with UN Trust Fund and UN Women strategies, and FIDA's GBV programming priorities?</i></p>	<p>2.1 To what extent do the project interventions prevent, respond, and eliminate SGBV/HP in Cameroon and comply with the SDGs, national strategy and policies on the prevention and response to GBV in Cameroon, humanitarian response plan for SW/NW regions of Cameroon, and the priorities of the UN Women/FIDA?</p> <p>2.2 How important are the capacity-strengthening interventions for actors in the informal and formal legal system and women?</p> <p>2.3 To what extent does the project aim at addressing the significant disparities in the dimensions of security, education, reproduction health, and access to employment faced by women and girls?</p>	<p>a) Alignment of the objectives and strategies of the project with the SDGs, goals, and priorities of the National Strategic Plan of MINPROFF, the Humanitarian response plan, and UNTF commitments and priorities</p> <p>b) Gaps exist between projects' goals and objectives and possible global standards.</p> <p>c) Evidence that the capacity and knowledge needed by informal and formal legal system actors, the population, and the women to promote women's rights and their access to justice were identified prior to the project design.</p> <p>d) Perceptions of stakeholders regarding the degree to which needs and the desire to change in relation to women's rights and access to justice, and promotion of gender equality have been appropriately identified and met.</p> <p>e) Types of beneficiaries targeted.</p> <p>f) Any gaps in consistency between the project's objectives and the identified needs</p> <p>g) Evidence of organizational capacity and mechanisms to adapt to changing project contexts during a crisis including the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic documents/plans • National Strategies and Policies • Reports produced by human rights organizations, and local organizations. • Baseline/endline and needs assessment reports. • Project documents • M&E reports (internal) • Government officials, partners, project staff • Women including those at risk • Men • Legal service providers • Custodians of customs/traditional leaders 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desk review of documents 2. Field visits for: Interviews (KIIs) 3. Focus group discussions with women and men.

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
	<p>2.4 How well have the COVID-19 response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects to respond to COVID-19 and other crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?</p>			
<p>3. Effectiveness <i>A measure of how well the project achieved its objectives. It is realized by comparing the project's goals with the results.</i></p>	<p>3.1 Has the project contributed to capacity building, knowledge transfers, and population awareness for the promotion and protection of women's human rights?</p> <p>3.2 To what extent have the project objectives been achieved in accordance with the adjustments following the current socio-political context?</p> <p>3.3 To what extent were results of the COVID-19 response achieved for women and girls at risk of GBV including survivors?</p>	<p>a) How consistent is the overall theory of change with needs, monitoring data, baseline, endline, and evaluation findings?</p> <p>b) The comparison of the following of the actual outputs against the expected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of products delivered compared to those planned. • Number and types of beneficiaries reached. • Number and categories of interventions carried out. • The number of uncompleted activities or targets missed. <p>c) The comparison of the actual outcomes against the expected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of variances between planned and achieved results. <p>d) Perspectives of project staff, partners, and beneficiaries on project interventions for the promotion and protection of women's rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal aid clinic records • M&E data/reports • Case files submitted, recorded, and addressed by legal service providers. • Training materials • Project documents and reports • Other survey reports and data • Government officials, partners, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desk review of documents 2. Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders 3. Focus group discussions .with men and women.

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
	<p>3.4 What are the</p> <p>a) factors underlying</p> <p>b) the successes and challenges or gaps the project faced (if any)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the project's successes and, weaknesses? • What challenges did the project face? • What were the contextual factors driving the success of the project? • How could the project have been better designed to achieve greater results? 	<p>project staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women including those at risk. • Men • Legal service providers • Custodians of customs/traditional leaders 	
<p>4. Efficiency The extent to which resources/inputs (funds, time, human resources, etc.) led to achievements.</p>	<p>4.1 Were the project funds and activities delivered in a timely manner?</p> <p>4.2 Did the project management team facilitate good results and efficient delivery through clear roles and responsibilities of all persons involved?</p>	<p>a) Number, types of activity vis-a-vis timeframe, and resource allocation</p> <p>b) Evidence that resources were received in a timely manner.</p> <p>c) Progress, availability of beneficiaries/stakeholders resourcing and logistics, and volatility of local context.</p> <p>d) Actual costs versus plan costs</p> <p>e) Roles and responsibilities of the team- the project management team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and progress reports • Minutes of management meetings • Project budget and financial reports • Partners (implementers and direct beneficiaries) • Beneficiaries of funding (including NGOs) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document reviews 2. Meeting for Discussions with project staff
<p>5. Sustainability <i>The probability that the project's benefits continue long term. Are the results achieved so far sustainable for the protection of</i></p>	<p>5.1 To what extent has the project built in sustainability mechanisms?</p> <p>5.2 To what extent is the project aligned with the development and humanitarian agenda?</p>	<p>a) Evidence of community systems strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks, Initiatives, projects, or activities, because of project activities received by project beneficiaries. <p>b) Evidence of justice system actors` – formal and informal - interests and capacities and agendas in responding to the access to legal needs of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M & E data • Monitoring and progress reports • Project documents and reports • Government officials, partners, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desk Review documents 2. Interviews with community leaders, legal service providers

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
<i>women's human rights?</i>	<p>5.3 To what extent can the project strategy be scaled up or replicated in other parts of the region or other regions?</p> <p>5.4 How has the project addressed the needs of the FIDA and its implementing partners to adjust and or adapt its GBV programming and implementation linked to post-COVID -19 and other crises?</p>	<p>women and girls, through their institutions, and in society in general.</p> <p>c) Partnerships with humanitarian agendas established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What activities have been implemented that can be situated in a humanitarian-development nexus? • The perspective of participants on the agendas/actions developed together, and their appraisal of the sustainability of these partnerships. <p>d) Perceptions of stakeholders on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of platforms, fora, events, meetings, or community agendas systems, for engagement in promoting women's rights, and their access to justice? • The primary factors affecting the probability that project results will continue to have a lasting effect upon project completion. • The likeliness that stakeholders including the governments, CSO's will take the project forward? • What interest has the project generated through community outreach and mobilization strategies? <p>e) What mechanism exists that demonstrates FIDA, and partners have the capacity to sustain their mission/mandate in changing contexts?</p>	<p>project staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women/girls (including those at risk) • Legal service providers • Custodians of customs/traditional leaders 	<p>3. Meeting with implementing partners.</p> <p>4. FGDs with project beneficiaries groups</p>
6. Lessons learned <i>Lessons in terms of</i>	6.1 What lessons can be obtained from project	a) Stakeholders' perception of successes and weaknesses of the project's interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents and 	1. Desk review of documents

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
<i>new and or alternative strategies, what has worked or not that is extracted from the project for future projects.</i>	experiences (successes and failures) that can be used for the improvement of future projects and to support local, national, and international effects in GBV programming?	<p>b) Supportive contextual factors for the Projects' Effectiveness</p> <p>c) Challenges limiting the project's effectiveness/efficiency/impact.</p> <p>d) The effects of these challenges on the project's effectiveness, efficiency, and impact</p>	<p>reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other survey reports and data • Government officials, partners, project staff • Women/girls (including those at risk) • Legal service providers • Custodians of customs/traditional leaders 	<p>2. Field visits for: Interviews (KIIs) with key stakeholders</p> <p>3. Focus group discussions with men and women.</p>
<p>7. Knowledge generation Assesses whether there are any promising practices that can be shared with other practitioners.</p>	7.1 To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of EAWG including COVID-19 response adaptation strategies that should be documented and shared with other practitioners?	<p>a) Organizational commitment to gathering and sharing good practices from the project.</p> <p>b) The extent to which feedback mechanisms are used to share knowledge or information from the project among partnerships and stakeholders.</p> <p>c) The level of satisfaction of partners on knowledge sharing from the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents and reports • Project staff • Project partners 	<p>1. Desk review of documents</p> <p>2. KIIs with implementing partners.</p> <p>3. Meeting with project staff</p>
<p>8. Gender Equality and Human Rights Cross-cutting criteria: The project's focus on</p>	8.1 What is the extent to which human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches have been incorporated	<p>a) The extent to which stakeholders (from the most powerful to the most marginalized and/or discriminated against) have had access to the processes and activities of the project.</p> <p>b) The extent of active and participatory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents and reports • Project staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review of documents • KIIs with implementing

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
gender equality and human concerns and role in advancing response to the elimination of VAWG	throughout the project?	engagement from stakeholders. c) The extent to which stakeholders have been respected and treated fairly in the various activities promoted by intervention, regardless of their sex, origin, age, disabilities, etc. d) The extent to which the processes and results of the intervention have been able to break traditional discriminatory patterns (or have reinforced discrimination) among its stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project partners 	<p>partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with project staff
9. Institutional Strengthening: Assesses the impact or contribution of the project to institutional strengthening and adaptation for FIDA/partners in the context of crisis events	9.1 What is the extent to which the UNTF (grant) determined FIDA and partners' resilience/adaptability for its contribution to EVAWG? 9.2 How well has the institutional strengthening response efforts of the UN Trust Fund/FIDA project been able to adapt existing projects and support FIDA/partners to respond to crises as well as complement other initiatives for the elimination of VAWG?	a) Measures adopted by FIDA to support itself and partners stay on mission/better protect and promote women's rights and access to justice. b) Evidence of partners/FIDA adaptation contributing to improving access to services for women and girls in the context of socio-political crisis including the COVID-19 context c) Number and type of initiatives undertaken by partners/FIDA within the period of the project. d) Number of persons including beneficiaries reached by initiatives/projects of FIDA/partners. e) Evidence of challenges mitigated by FIDA/partners after institutional strengthening. f) Evidence of FIDA's support to EVAWG commitment at the national (or state)/ institutional and community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Manager Project partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIIs with implementing partners.
10. Feminist/Women's movement	10.1 How has the UNTF (grant) improved FIDA's efforts for EVAWG through	a) The extent of FIDA/Partners/CSO engagement in feminist/women's movements b) The role of FIDA/partners/CSOs in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Manager Project partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-structured interviews with CSO leaders and

Criteria and definition	Questions	Indicators	Data sources	Data collection methods
<p>building: Assesses the impact or effects of the funds and FIDA's ability to build movements to end VAWG during the grant period</p>	<p>feminist/women's movement building?</p> <p>10.2 How has sponsorship for the projects ensured consistency with UNTF's strategic priority in feminist/women's movement-building work for EVAWG?</p> <p>10.3 What lessons can be obtained from Partners, CSOs, and FIDA's engagement in Women's movements linked to the UNTF grants</p>	<p>feminist/women's movements</p> <p>c) The community, categories of individuals, and institutions are significantly affected by feminist/women's movements for EVAWG.</p> <p>d) Challenges and Opportunities/mitigation strategies for engagements in the network/groups</p> <p>e) Lessons from Partners, CSOs, and FIDA's engagement in Women's movements linked to the UNTF grants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs targeted by the project 	<p>partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs with the project manager

ANNEX1.3 Beneficiary Data Sheet

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY THE PROJECT

Type of Primary Beneficiary	Number
Female refugees/ internally displaced asylum seekers	737
Indigenous women/ from ethnic groups	68
Women/ girls with disabilities	44
Women/ girls living with HIV/AIDS	52
Women/ girls survivors of violence	557
Women prisoners	32
Women and girls in general	513
Other (Specify here:)Trafficked women	7
Female Elderly	277
Female School drop out	126
TOTAL PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES REACHED	2413-
Type of Secondary Beneficiary	Number
Members of Civil Society Organizations	84
Members of Community-Based Organizations + community leaders	432
Members of Faith-Based Organizations	68
Government Officials (i.e. decision makers, policy implementers)	4
Journalists / Media	8
Legal Officers (i.e. Lawyers, prosecutors, judges)	209
Men and/ or boys	603
Parliamentarians	59
Private sector employers	61
Social/ welfare workers	24
Uniformed personnel (i.e. Police, military, peacekeeping)	25
Other (Specify here:)	
Traditional leaders	90
Customary court judges	120
Paralegals	100
TOTAL SECONDARY BENEFICIARIES	1887
Indirect beneficiaries reached	Number
Members of the General population of Southwest and Northwest	101,339
GRAND TOTAL	105,639

ANNEX 1.4 Additional methodology-related documentation

External Evaluation of the Impact, Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project

A. Checklist for Documents Review

Literature /program documents

1. What theoretical, practical, and evidence-based perspectives underlie the rationale for making violence against girls and women history in Cameroon?
2. What are the plausible intended outcomes of the project?
3. What are the possible causal factors for the intended outcomes in the short, medium, and long term?
4. What pre-conditions (possible interventions, skills, assumptions, enablers/barriers, results) must exist or be addressed/modified to achieve the objectives of making violence against girls and women history in Cameroon?
5. What aspects of the intervention are compliant with monitoring and impact evaluation?

Project Documents

Project Outcomes

1. Are the expected outcomes and outputs of the proposed project aligned with the SDGs, national strategy and policies on the prevention and response to GBV in Cameroon, humanitarian response plan for SW/NW regions of Cameroon, and the priorities of the UN Women/FIDA?
2. Has cross-cutting areas) relevant to the project substance been considered?
3. Does the project document present a clear rationale for the proposed project?
4. Does the project document clearly indicate who the project beneficiaries are?
5. Does the project document present a clear strategy for the achievement of the project's outputs and linkage to outcomes?

The target group

1. What are the key characteristics of the beneficiaries who participated in the project interventions?
2. What were the eligibility criteria for participating in the project intervention?
3. How were the women/girls and other beneficiaries identified to take part in the project interventions?
4. How many women/beneficiaries participated in the project?

Planning of the project activities

1. How were the activities scheduled?
2. What guided the identification of the content of the project activities and who was involved in identifying the content?
3. Who were the implementers and how were they identified?
4. What resources were planned for the interventions and how were they mobilized?

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Impact, Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project.

B. The Interview Guide for Survivors/Persons at Risk of VAWG

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

- Q1. Can you explain what you know about VAWG/GBV three years ago? Probe
- On the types of GBV and the various acts for each type
 - The consequences of GBV
 - The causes of GBV
 - about VAWG being a human rights violation
 - FIDA's activities
- Q2. Can you explain what you know about VAWG/GBV now? Probe
- On the types of GBV and the various acts for each type
 - The consequences of GBV
 - The causes of GBV
 - about VAWG being a human rights violation
 - FIDA's activities
- Q3. Can you tell me more about your experience within the project timeframe when you visited any support services for GBV? Probe!
- What was the service? And was FIDA or a lawyer involved?
 - What were the topics of discussion on seeking justice?
 - The information you received was about the availability of legal services, legal aid, or others.
 - What is your opinion – in terms of confidentiality, and privacy during the visit/meetings?
 - What help did you receive?
 - what help did you not receive? Why did you not receive it?
- Q4. Did you get a chance to meet anybody like a lawyer, paralegal or court registrar? if yes?
- Was the case registered?
 - What events occurred after meeting the lawyer, paralegal, or court registrar?
- Q5. After knowing about GBV/VAWG, meeting people and services linked to GBV, reading, or talking about GBV due to FIDA in the last three years.
- What will you say is the most important change (knowledge, economic empowerment, psychosocial stability, confidence, etc) in your life due to participating in FIDA's project?
 - How have the changes (if any) affected your family?
 - What difficulties have you encountered in trying to know more about GBV/VAWG, meeting people and services linked to GBV, reading, or talking about GBV?
- Q6. In your opinion, how satisfied were you with the services/information/persons you have encountered so far
- Why are you satisfied/unsatisfied?
- Q7. How have you been involved in fighting against GBV?
- Did you initiate this effort, or someone initiated it?
 - Who do you work with in these efforts?
 - What are the types of activities you do?
- Q8. What suggestions or recommendations will you want to propose to FIDA or other NGOs? Probe
- On how to continue to improve knowledge of GBV
 - On how to improve access to legal services
 - On how to improve the lives of GBV/VAWG survivors

Thank you for participating in this Interview.

Discussions on the Impact, Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project

C. Focus Group Discussion Guide for Women/Men

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

- Q1. Can you explain what you know about VAWG/GBV three years ago? Probe
- On the types of GBV and the various acts for each type
 - The consequences of GBV
 - The causes of GBV
 - about VAWG being a human rights violation
 - FIDA's activities
- Q2. Can you explain what you know about VAWG/GBV now? Probe
- On the types of GBV and the various acts for each type
 - The consequences of GBV
 - The causes of GBV
 - about VAWG being a human rights violation
 - FIDA's activities
- Q3. What are the various ways, members of this community hear about VAW/G?
- Q4. In your opinion how has FIDA's project contributed to reducing the incidence of GBV in your community?
- Q5: What are the key characteristics of this community that made GBV reduce/not change/? Probe
- What difficulties/weaknesses in stopping GBV or VAWG from existing in this community?
 - What strengths exist in this community to reduce GBV?
 - What opportunities exist to reduce GBV?
- Q6. What suggestions or recommendations will you want to propose to FIDA or other NGOs? Probe
- On how to continue to improve knowledge of GBV
 - On how to improve access to legal services
 - On how to improve the lives of GBV/VAWG survivors

Thank you for participating in this discussion.

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Impact, Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project

D. The Interview Guide for Traditional Leaders/Custodians of Customs

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

- Q1. Can you explain what you know about VAWG/GBV three years ago? Probe
- On the types of GBV and the various acts for each type
 - The consequences of GBV
 - The causes of GBV
 - About VAWG being a human rights violation
 - FIDA's activities
 - Discriminatory customs and laws
- Q2. Can you explain what you know about VAWG/GBV now? Probe
- On the types of GBV and the various acts for each type
 - The consequences of GBV
 - The causes of GBV
 - About VAWG being a human rights violation
 - FIDA's activities
 - Discriminatory customs and laws
- Q3. Can you tell me more about your experience when you provided any form of support to survivors of GBV? Probe
- What was the case scenario?
 - What was the support or service?
 - What were the topics of discussion on seeking justice? And was FIDA or a lawyer involved?
 - The information you provided about the availability of legal services and legal aid.
 - How you ensured the survivor/person at risk was comfortable– in terms of confidentiality, privacy
- Q4. What kind of documentation do you use as a guide?
- Do you prefer to use international/national instruments or protocols? What are these instruments and why do you prefer to use them?
- Q5. In your opinion to what extent have the documents supported your support to GBV survivors
- What do you like about these documents and your work?
 - And what are the major challenges experienced accessing or applying these protocols?
 - How do you think these challenges could be addressed
- Q6. In your opinion, how satisfied was the survivor with the services/information you provided? please state the reasons for the satisfaction or not.
- Q7. How have you been involved in any other efforts to end GBV/VAWG in your community or other places around the country?
- Did you initiate these efforts, or someone initiated them?
 - Who do you work with in these efforts?
 - What are the types of activities you do?
- Q8. After knowing about GBV/VAWG, meeting people, and providing support services linked to GBV, reading, or talking about GBV.
- What will you say has changed about you as a leader or in the lives of women/girls in your community?
 - How have the changes (if any) affected your community?
 - What difficulties have you encountered in trying to know more about GBV/VAWG, meeting people and addressing GBV, and reading, or talking about GBV laws and practices?
- Q19. What suggestions or recommendations will you want to propose to other community leaders, FIDA, or other NGOs? Probe
- On how to continue to improve knowledge of GBV
 - On how to improve access to legal services
 - On how to improve the lives of GBV/VAWG survivors
 - Discriminatory customs and practices

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Impact, Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project

E. The Interview Guide for Legal Service Providers

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

- Q1. How long have you been serving as a member of the legal community?
- Q2. In your opinion, how often do you address a case of gender-based violence or Violence against a woman/girl?
- On average how many cases do you attend to in a month?
 - What types of GBV cases do you encounter?
 - Who are the typical perpetrators?
- Q3. How do you encounter these cases? Probe
- Do they come to visit your services?
 - Are they referred? And by whom?
 - Who are the other GBV service providers/actors you would typically refer survivors/persons at risk to and why?
- Q4. What services have you provided to victims/survivors of sexual violence or other forms of GBV? Probe...What information do you often provide and which of them are freely provided in relation to;
- Sensitization/education
 - Advice/counsel
 - Provision of judicial services
 - Advocacy
- Q4. What kind of documentation is required to facilitate legal proceedings and investigations?
- Do you prefer to use international/national instruments or protocols? What are these instruments and why do you prefer to use them?
- Q5. In your opinion to what extent have the documents supported your legal service provision to GBV survivors
- What do you like about these documents and your work?
 - And what are the major challenges experienced accessing or applying these protocols?
 - How do you think these challenges could be addressed
- Q6. Can you share an instance where you successfully handled a case of GBV, and justice was served? Probe!
- How did it affect the survivor and their families?
 - How did it change or affect your team's work?
 - Are you aware of how the case scenario might have affected other women?
- Q7. Can you share or describe an instance where you handled a difficult case of GBV, Probe?
- Q8. To what extent has your involvement in FIDA's training changed your work as a legal service provider in the context of GBV? Probe!
- On the aspects of the training
 - Use of tools provided.
 - Supporting survivors/ persons at risk
- Q9. What suggestions for improvement or sustainability would you give to FIDA on
- Capacities for the implementation of laws and protocols when responding to SGBV.
 - Accessibility to legal services for survivors and persons at risk of VAWG

Thank you for participating in this interview.

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project.

F. The Interview Guide for Journalists

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

Q1. In your perspective, which were the main contributions of FIDA in strengthening the capacity of journalists to promote women's rights and their access to justice?

Q2. In your perspective, which were the main contributions of FIDA in strengthening the capacity of civil society and communities through your work to better protect and promote women's rights and access to justice?

Q3. Have you seen evidence of expected or unexpected outcomes from your work on GBV/HPs that has been supported by FIDA on?

- i. Legal framework
- ii. Legal Services (public/private)
- iii. Capacity building
- iv. Social and cultural change

Q4. What are the factors underlying the successes and challenges or gaps the project faced (if any)?

Q5. In your view, what aspects of FIDA's systems and structures (teams, policies) support you to work as a journalist effectively on this project? Probe

- a) Were you able to complete the project tasks on time?

Q6. Behind FIDA's GBV/HP interventions, do you believe that there is

- a. Political will, why? and is this changing?
- b. Community ownership, why? and is this changing?

Q7. Are you aware of any specific programs or community initiative or agendas for addressing GBV/HPs at the community level that has been established after FIDA's interventions?

a) Are any of these initiatives, agendas, meetings, etc. include elements for addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of women, adolescents, and youth including services for survivors of sexual violence in crises?

Q8. Has FIDA's support to GBV/HPs been sufficiently sustained over time? Please provide your reasons.

Q9. What key aspects of the project will you desire to be changed in the future? Please provide your reasons.

Q10. To what extent do you see FIDA sharing knowledge and experiences and best practices on gender-based violence and harmful practices in national (or state)/ institutional and community level dialogue and processes?

Q11. In your view, does FIDA have the right strategic partnerships at the national, state, and community levels?

Q12. Does the way in which FIDA contributes to eliminating GBV/HP reflect human rights principles of equal participation and inclusion of marginalized people? Please explain.

Thank you for participating in this interview.

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project.

G. The Interview Guide for Civil Society Organizations/groups

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

Q1. In your perspective, which were the main contributions of FIDA in strengthening the capacity...of civil society to promote women's rights and their access to justice.

Q2. In your perspective, which were the main contributions of FIDA in strengthening your capacity...of your work to better protect and promote women's rights and access to justice

Q3. Have you seen evidence of expected or unexpected outcomes from your work on GBV/HPs that has been supported by FIDA on?

- i. Legal framework
- ii. Legal Services (public/private)
- iii. Capacity building
- iv. Social and cultural change

Q4. Do In your perspective, which were the main underlying successes and challenges or gaps the project faced (if any)?

Q5. Behind FIDA's GBV/HP interventions, do you believe that there is?

- c. Political will, why? and is this changing?
- d. Community ownership, why? and is this changing?

Q6. Are you aware of any specific programs or community initiative or agendas for addressing GBV/HPs at the community level that has been established after FIDA's interventions?

- a) Are any of these initiatives, agendas, meetings, etc include elements for addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of women, adolescents, and youth including services for survivors of sexual violence in crises?

Q7. Has FIDA's support to GBV/HPs been sufficiently sustained over time? Please provide reasons.

Q8. What key aspects of the project will you desire to be changed in the future? Please provide your reasons.

Q9. To what extent do you see FIDA sharing knowledge and experiences and best practices on gender-based violence and harmful practices in national (or state)/ institutional and community level dialogue and processes?

Q10. In your view, does FIDA have the right strategic partnerships at the national, state, and community levels?

Q11. Does the way in which FIDA contributes to eliminating GBV/HP reflect human rights principles of equal participation and inclusion of marginalized people? Please explain.

Thank you for participating in this interview.

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project

H. The interview guide for project partners

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

Q1. In your experience, to what extent do FIDA interventions in this UNTF project include specific features intended to reduce barriers to eliminating GBV in Cameroon?

Q2. To what extent do you see FIDA's approach supporting Cameroon, MINPROFF, and other GBV stakeholders to address SGBV and HPs?

Q3. In your view, have partners, beneficiaries and community representatives been meaningfully involved in the processes of identifying, prioritizing, and planning to address GBV/HP issues with FIDA in the past?

Q4. To what extent has FIDA strengthened its capacity and that of the partners and stayed on a mission during the COVID-19 and post-COVID/crisis and other crisis events?

Q5. How has FIDA supported civil society and communities to better protect and promote women's rights and access to justice?

Q6. Have you seen evidence of expected or unexpected outcomes from work on GBV/HPs that has been supported by FIDA on?

- a) Legal framework
- b) Legal Services (public/private)
- c) Capacity building
- d) Social and cultural change

Q7. In your opinion What are the factors underlying the successes and challenges or gaps the project faced (if any)?

Q8. In your view, what aspects of FIDA's systems and structures (teams, policies) support your organization to work effectively on this project? Probe

- a) Were you able to complete the project tasks on time?

Q9. Behind FIDA's GBV/HP interventions, do you believe that there is

- a. Political will, why? and is this changing?
- b. Community ownership, why? and is this changing?

Q10. Are you aware of any specific programs or community initiative or agendas for addressing GBV/HPs at the community level that has been established after FIDA's interventions?

- a) Are any of these initiatives, agendas, meetings, etc include elements for addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of women, adolescents, and youth including services for survivors of sexual violence in crises?

Q11. What key aspects of the project will you desire to be changed in the future? Please provide your reasons.

Q12. To what extent do you see FIDA sharing knowledge and experiences and best practices on gender-based violence and harmful practices in national (or state)/ institutional and community level dialogue and processes?

Q13. Does the way in which FIDA contributes to eliminating GBV/HP reflect human rights principles of equal participation and inclusion of marginalized people? Please explain.

Thank you for participating in this interview.

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Lessons, Knowledge management, and cross-cutting issues of the project.

I. The Interview Guide for Government Ministries

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

Q1. In your experience, to what extent do FIDA interventions in this UNTF project include specific features intended to reduce barriers to eliminating GBV in Cameroon?

Q2. To what extent do you see FIDA's approach supporting Cameroon, MINPROFF, and other GBV stakeholders to address SGBV and HPs?

Q3. In your view, have you been meaningfully involved in the processes of identifying, prioritizing, and planning to address GBV/HP issues with FIDA in the past?

Q4. Have you seen evidence of expected or unexpected outcomes from work on GBV/HPs that has been supported by FIDA on?

- e) Legal frameworks
- f) Legal Services (public/private)
- g) Capacity building
- h) Social and cultural change

Q5. Behind FIDA's GBV/HP interventions, do you believe that there is

- c. Political will, why? and is this changing?
- d. Community ownership, why? and is this changing?

Q6. Are you aware of any specific programs or community initiative or agendas for addressing GBV/HPs at the community level that has been established after FIDA's interventions?

- b) Are any of these initiatives, agendas, meetings, etc include elements for addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of women, adolescents, and youth including services for survivors of sexual violence in crises?

Q7. To what extent do you see FIDA sharing knowledge and experiences and best practices on gender-based violence and harmful practices in national (or state)/ institutional and community level dialogue and processes?

Q8. Does the way in which FIDA contributes to eliminating GBV/HP reflect human rights principles of equal participation and inclusion of marginalized people? Please explain.

Thank you for your collaboration.

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Impact of UNTF and FIDA’s ability to build movements to end VAWG during the grant period.

J. Semi-Structured Interview for Partners and Civil Society Organizations (Additional tool)

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

Respondents (Please check box with X):

1. Partner 2. Civil Society Organization

Q1. Has your organization been a part of any feminist/women’s movement, that is, any network of organizations working on a particular issue or change agenda to improve the lives of women/girls as a social group, between 2020 and 2022?

1. Yes, 2. No

If “Yes” to Q1, continue to Q2. If “No” go to Q7

Q2. Did your organization join this network before or during its involvement in the project? Why did it join the network?

Q3. How would you describe the movement(s)/network(s)? Prompt for membership, goals/objectives activities, leadership, management,

Q4. What role(s) do you or does your organization play in the network(s)/movement(s) in 1) improving prevention of VAW/G, 2) improving service provision, and 3) increasing the effectiveness of laws and policies and their implementation? Please describe.

Q5. Can you explain how your participation or that of your organization in the movement/network has changed since your involvement with FIDA within the framework of the UNTF project?

Q6. In your opinion as a member of the movement(s) what might have been a significant change or changes from your organization so far when it relates to working with women and girls in the local communities in 1) improving prevention of VAW/G, 2) improving service provision, and 3) increasing the effectiveness of laws and policies and their implementation?

Q7. What factors made these changes mentioned in Q6 possible? and how did the funds/activities for institutional strengthening from UNTF affect your organization's resilience and ability to participate in this network?

Q8. What challenges did your organization encounter in its engagements in the network/groups? How did you overcome them?

Q9. (If no to Q1), Please provide reasons for not being a part of any feminist/women’s movement.

Q10. Do you have plans to join a (or another) network/group or movement in the future?

a) If so, which group, how, and why?

b) If not, why?

Q11. Do you have any recommendations and lessons learned to give to FIDA’s team to support women’s movement building?

Thank you for your collaboration.

Semi-Structured Interviews on the Impact of UNTF and FIDA’s ability to build movements to end VAWG during the grant period

K. Semi-Structured Interview Guide for FIDA (Additional Tool)

Name of interviewer: _____

Interviewee Code: _____

Time / Duration: _____

Q1. How will you describe the state of feminist/women’s movements in the Northwest and Southwest region?
Prompt for characteristics or details to describe an emerging, popular, formal, declining state.

Q2. What feminist/women’s movement(s) has FIDA been part of between the 2020 and 2022 grant period?

Q3. Did your organization join this network before or during its involvement in the UNTF project? Why did it join the network?

Q4. How would you describe the movement(s)/network(s)? Prompt for membership, goals/objectives activities/priorities, leadership, and management as they relate to EAWWG?

Q5. What role(s) does FIDA play in the network(s)/movement(s) in 1) improving prevention of VAW/G, 2) improving service provision, and 3) increasing the effectiveness of laws and policies and their implementation? Please describe.

Q6. Can you explain how the participation of FIDA in the movement/network has changed within the framework of the UNTF project?

Q7. In your opinion as a member of the movement(s) what might have been a significant change or changes contributed by FIDA when it women and girls in 1) improving prevention of VAW/G, 2) improving service provision, and 3) increasing the effectiveness of laws and policies and their implementation?

Q8. What factors made these changes mentioned in Q7 possible? and how did the funds/activities for institutional strengthening from UNTF affect FIDA’s resilience and ability to participate in this network?

Q9. What challenges did FIDA encounter in its engagements in the network/groups? How did FIDA overcome them?

Q10. Do you have plans to join and or strengthen a (or another) network/group or movement in the future?

a) If so, which group, how, and why?

b) If not, why?

Q11. Do you have any recommendations and lessons learned to give to UNTF’s team to support women’s movement building?

L. Inform Consent Form

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERVIEW/FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

You are invited to take part in an evaluation study. This study is a process of gathering information about a three-year project to know what changes or results from the project generated on the lives of the people who received support and, in the organization, implementing the project and why the changes occurred. Please I will take some time to read the information below which will explain the details of this evaluation. It is very important that you are completely satisfied and that you clearly understand what this evaluation is about and how you could be involved. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you are free to decline to participate. In other words, you may choose to take part, or not. Saying no will not affect you negatively in any way whatsoever.

This interview is conducted by _____, a member of the team conducting the end-of-project evaluation for the UNTF/FIDA project on Making Violence against Women and Girls History in the Northwest, and South-west Regions of Cameroon. I am inviting you to take in this interview/FGD as (a staff, partner, CSO, survivor, stakeholder, etc) linked to this project.

This evaluation is focused on the process and effects of the project activities. Your feedback is important for the organization as it seeks to know how the project was implemented and has performed including the changes it has generated for women/girls and the entire community. If you agree to take part in this evaluation, I will interview you about your knowledge, capacity, experience, and your overall impression of key aspects of the project. I will also ask you for possible recommendations for future SGBV/HP activities. The interview will take 45 minutes to complete and will be done just once. However, your responses will inform the organization on how to improve or sustain the implementation of the GBV activities. It is very important that you answer HONESTLY; no one will judge you for your answers!

There are no benefits like money or items for taking part in the interview. However, your responses will inform the organization, UNTF, and other GBV stakeholders on how to further support more GBV programs for women, girls, and the entire community. There are no payments or compensations for taking part in this interview.

Your participation in this evaluation does not expose you to any risks or inconveniences. With your permission, I will videotape/audio-record the interview with you and you will have access to the recording or video after the interview. FIDA and the evaluation team will eventually erase the recordings from the computer system after the report of this evaluation is published. Any information you share with me during this interview that could possibly identify you as a participant will be protected. FIDA will share with you the knowledge and report from this evaluation before it is made widely available to the public. We will also publish the report so that other interested persons and organizations may learn from the evaluation.

The privacy and confidentiality of each person involved in the evaluation will be guaranteed by 1) not collecting personal information, and 2) keeping all pictures, and recordings within data collected, data analyzed, and reported coded. 3) Non-identifiable data from this interview is collected electronically and will be transferred into an Excel computer database that will be password protected and stored in FIDA's program office. 4) I will replay all recordings and show all pictures for your corrections/approval. Only the President of FIDA, the manager of the evaluation, and I will have the protected information on women involved and will not disclose them to any other person, organization, or report. All data originating from this evaluation will be owned by FIDA and the organization will choose with whom and how to share them.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please feel free to stop and ask me at any time.

If you have questions, concerns, or a complaint regarding your rights as a participant in this evaluation project, please contact Ms. Zita Kenge (zitak@fida-cameroon.org) Tel: 679444797 or Ms. Tonge Grace (graceperry@fida-cameroon.org). Tel: 674809636

DECLARATION OF CONSENT BY THE PARTICIPANT

As the participant, I declare that:

- I have read this information and consent form, or it was read to me, and it is written in a language in which I am fluent and with which I am comfortable.
- I have had a chance to ask questions and I am satisfied that all my questions have been answered.

- I understand that taking part in this study is voluntary, and I have not been pressured to take part.
- I may choose to leave the study at any time and nothing bad will come of it – I will not be penalized or prejudiced in any way.
- I agree that the interview with me can be [video-recorded / audio-recorded].

By signing below, I _____ (*name of participant or code for survivor or person at risk*) agree to take part in this research study, as conducted by _____ (*name of evaluator/interviewer*).

Signature of Participant

Date

As the **Evaluator**, I hereby declare that the information contained in this document has been thoroughly explained to the participant. I also declare that the participant has been encouraged (and has been given ample time) to ask any questions. In addition, I would like to select the following option:

	The conversation with the participant was conducted in a language in which the participant is fluent.
	I did/did not use an interpreter. (If an interpreter is used then the interpreter must sign the declaration below.)

Signature of Evaluator

Date

Signature of Interpreter (if applicable)

Date

ANNEX 1.6 List of supporting documents reviewed.

External Documents and International Convention

1. World Health Organization, “Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner violence” (Geneva: WHO, 2013), [WHO RHR HRP 13.06 eng.pdf](#) page35.
2. Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family (57th Session of the Commission of the Statute of Women, 2013), Cameroon.
<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw57/generaldiscussion/memberstates/Cameroon.pdf>
3. ACAFEG 30 March 2016; Cameroon 6 April 2016S
4. OECD 2014: US 25 June, 26; UN 28 Feb. 2014, para. 18c
5. The Advocates for Human Rights.
<https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/About#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20The%20Advocates,States%20and%20select%20global%20communities.>
6. Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Cameroon (2019). A report submitted to the 65th Session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Cameroon-CESCR_EN.pdf
7. Correspondence with the Research Directorate, Canadian Immigration and Association lutte contre les Violences faites aux femmes (ALVF), 1 April 2016.
8. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). 2003. Not a Minute More: Ending Violence against Women. New York: UNIFEM. P. 15.
https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/PDF_UNIFEM_No_a_minute_more_2003.pdf
9. CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No.19, “Violence against women”, UN Doc A/47/38(1992. <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/f8d998/pdf/&ved=2ahUKewi4r8KY2dX>
10. Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC). 2005. Guidelines for Gender – Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies (Field Test Version). Geneva, Switzerland: IASC.
<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2021-03/Guidelines%20for%20Gender-based%20Violence%20Interventions%20in%20Humanitarian%20Settings.pdf>
11. UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted under General Assembly resolution 40/34 (1985)
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/victims.pdf>
12. The African Charter on human and People’s Rights 1981, S8.
<https://www.achpr.org/legalinstruments/detail?id=49>
13. Cameroon Penal code. <https://dignitylawchambers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Penal-Code-eng.pdf>
- 14.

project Cycle & Strategies	Documentation needed to be reviewed
15. Identification and Situational Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents, Country case studies/reports
16. Design & formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project document, TOC, logic model
17. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Implementation Plans • Annual work plans • Budget • M&E plan
18. Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Workplan • TOR for activities • Monitoring plan • Evaluation plan
19. Ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excel-based data management (storage/tracking) system
20. Community awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TORs, • Mission orders • Sensitization Tracking sheets • Attendance sheets • Reimbursement sheets • Activity reports • Pictures
21. Training & capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance sheets • Pre/post-test • Justification documents • Training slides • Training manuals • Training reports and pictures
22. Law reforms by duty bearers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance sheets • Manuals
23. Legal service support & delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case files/ Case register • Monthly GBV Case summary reports
24. FIDA's priorities and commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIDA's strategic plan
25. UNTF goals, priorities, and commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNTF /UN Women strategies, Theory of change
26. GBV/Gender Equality Global goals and commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Goals
27. Cameroon GBV priorities/goals and other state documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategic Plan, MINPROFF • Cameroon Penal code
28. International conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted under General Assembly resolution 40/34 (1985) • CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No.19, "Violence against women", UN Doc A/47/38(1992) • UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted under General Assembly resolution 40/34 (1985) • The African Charter on Human and People's Rights 1981, S8