

Latin America Regional Programme

2022 Regional Programme Results

Programme duration	Jun 2019 – Jul 2023	
EU Contribution	USD	5,000,000
UN Agency Contributions	USD	1,030,510
Total Budget Phase I + II	USD	6,030,510

Recipient UN organizations: UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA

Other partners: From the United Nations System: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and World Health Organization (WHO); regional, inter-governmental and civil society organizations (CSOs); academia; and private sector

Context

In 2022, the political and social context in Latin America presented several challenges. The most significant of these was the adoption of austerity measures by many governments in an effort to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Reduced public funding and budget allocations directly impacted the availability of social programs, access to justice, promotion of gender equality and response to violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide (VAWG+FF). The pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of the protection and justice systems in the region. The prevalence of VAWG+FF hasn’t decreased in Latin America, largely due to the serious increase in prevalence registered during the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges posed to prevention of harmful social norms which underlie VAWG+FF, especially in contexts of high social vulnerability.

Spotlight Initiative’s Response

Spotlight Initiative focused on putting theory into practice and moving from evidence to action in 2022. The Spotlight Initiative promoted the socialization, appropriation and institutionalization of the resources, tools, evidence, and recommendations generated during the first phase of the Regional Programme. This strategy, in alliance with CSOs, governments, academia, the private sector, and other partners, sought sustainability through multi-stakeholder coordination, providing access to knowledge generated during the first phase of the Regional Programme, and promoting the adoption and use of knowledge products, evidence, and good, promising and innovative practices for partners’ efforts to end VAWG+FF.

Key Results

Transforming the reality of women in Latin America by strengthening regulatory frameworks (Pillar 1: Policies and Legislation):

Under the Regional Programme, UN Women and the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) have joined forces to promote the Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women for Reasons of Gender and the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Violent Deaths of Women for Gender Reasons; both of which are key tools to develop awareness and political will to improve the response to VAWG+FF in the region, as framed in the [Belém do Pará Convention](#). As a result of this partnership, a complex view of the phenomenon of VAWG+FF was proposed, launching the [Route to eradicate femicide](#), a package that seeks to provide tools to the States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention to help strengthen the capacities of legislators, representatives of national women’s mechanisms, the justice sector and CSOs in the region, as well as deepen the knowledge and harmonization of national laws and policies with the principles of enhanced due diligence and the Belém do Pará Convention.

Change social norms, attitudes and behaviors to prevent VAWG+FF (Pillar 3: Prevention):

Under the Regional Programme, UNFPA developed pedagogical tools to prevent VAWG through comprehensive sexual education. The [4 steps toolkit for the prevention of GBV](#), developed in partnership with FLACSO Argentina, is being applied in Argentina, Dominican Republic, Panama and Peru. Through the alliance with the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Council of Ministers for Women and the Educational and Cultural Coordination (COMMCA), a [roadmap for the inclusion of the rights of women](#) has been developed and implemented in Central American educational systems to promote non-sexist education at the pre-primary and primary levels. The educational inclusion plan includes a monitoring committee, the preparation of a [situational diagnosis](#), [teacher training](#), and the development of a monitoring system for the implementation of the modules in the educational systems.

Generate quality, comparable, and disaggregated data on different forms of VAWG+FF, collected, analyzed and used for the formulation of laws, policies and programs (Pillar 5: Data):

Under the Regional Programme, UNDP together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) conducted research in partnership with the Statistical Systems of 16 countries in the region, with the objective of improving data quality on femicide and violent deaths of women for gender reasons. As a result, the [Study on the quality of the measurement of femicide/feminicide and violent deaths of women for gender reasons](#) was developed, which has become the central guide for the implementation of the Single Registries of Femicide in Latin America. Also, with the objective of developing capacities based on the evidence and recommendations derived from this study, the course on measuring gender-based violence and femicide was developed together with ECLAC and Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO). The Programme also supported research on the perception of VAWG+FF in different population groups in Latin America. National surveys were conducted in eight countries with a total of 9,600 interviews with different population groups. The surveys were carried out together with CID-Gallup and the results provided an outstanding snapshot on the social perceptions of VAWG+FF at the level of each country and at the regional level.

One Story of Impact

Violence against women and girls in the indigenous communities of Mexico: “We are learning to defend ourselves”

The Regional Programme partnered with the Center for training and defense of human and indigenous rights (CECADDHI) to promote the self-determination of indigenous peoples, anti-racism, and prioritization of working with women and youth. CECADDHI promotes collective legal advocacy, shared learning, and action research. This work transforms the daily lives of women.

In her own words... Hortensia Juárez Herrera, aged 61, is part of the Bawinokachi community and narrates how relationships with men have changed over time and the impact of CECADDHI's intervention. *“I want to tell you a little about how we lived before, what we were like, how we were educated before, and how women were mistreated. The parents were very aggressive and when one got married, also, the lords, the husbands were very aggressive and mistreated us a lot, also the children.”* Ms. Herrera continued. *“Now we are learning to defend ourselves, and the men are no longer as aggressive as they were before. We are learning to defend ourselves because an organization came, CECADDHI, we made a group of 10 women to go and learn with them. We invite young people so that they also learn to defend themselves. Thanks to the organization we have to work together, young people can learn much more.”*

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

In alliance with the Exchange and Services Center for the South Cone of Argentina (CISCSA) and the Feminist Collective for Local Development, [evidence has been generated of what works and what does not work in the prevention of GBV](#), through the analysis of more than 600 interventions implemented in the region. As a result, a [georeferenced map](#) of prevention initiatives was developed, a [document of recommendations](#) on promising practices, and a series of [podcasts](#) to socialize this evidence were launched. Finally, the results were discussed in [12 political dialogues](#) with government, civil society, academic actors, and the UN.