

JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Background to the initiative

The Task Force is piloting a joint programming initiative to address violence against women in 10 countries, involving all relevant stakeholders at the national level, including Government actors, the United Nations Country Team and civil society stakeholders. Joint programming will result in harmonization of initiatives and budgets and maximization of each stakeholder's comparative advantage.

A Task Force Coordinator has primary responsibility for managing the joint programming initiative on violence against women, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting functions, and for providing technical support and advisory services to this initiative at country level. UNFPA has provided the necessary resources for the position of Task Force Coordinator.

Criteria for selection of pilot countries

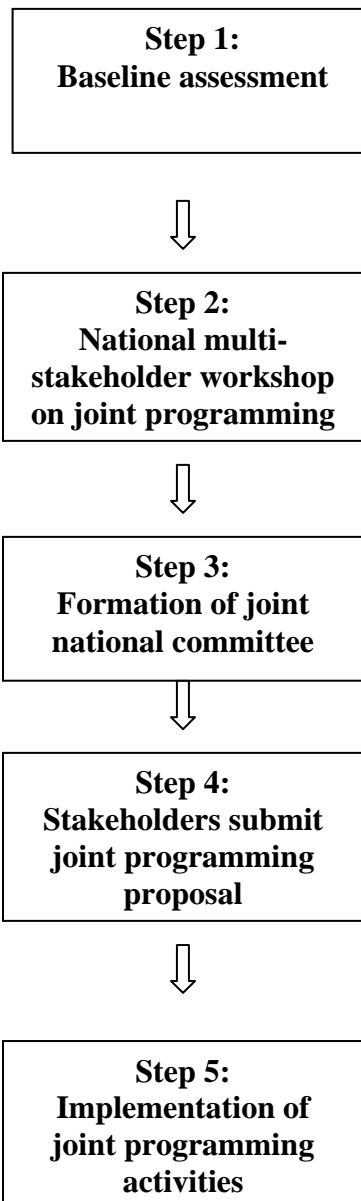
The selection of the ten pilot countries was based on a number of criteria, in particular:

- evidence of/or intent of United Nations joint programming on gender equality
- support from United Nations entities for programmes on violence against women
- evidence of existing substantial efforts to address and eliminate violence against women at national level, including the presence of laws on violence against women, and/or a plan of action to end violence against women and a commitment to implementing such laws and plans of action, and resource commitments
- existence of some baseline data on violence against women; and
- geographical balance among the countries selected.

Another aspect considered was whether the country had recently presented a report to the [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#) (the Committee), as the Committee commonly provides specific guidance to States parties on steps to be taken to enhance compliance with the [Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (the Convention) in regard to preventing and addressing violence against women.

Countries in, or emerging from, conflict and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievement Fund grantees were not considered for inclusion among the pilot countries, as UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict is implementing joint programming in the former and the latter are receiving funds for joint programming on violence against women and related initiatives.

Steps in the joint programming initiative



Step 1: Baseline assessment

In each pilot country, a baseline assessment is conducted to determine: the existing initiatives addressing violence against women, including in the areas of law, service-provision, prevention, and data collection; the stakeholders involved and their respective capacities and strengths; the existing data on violence against women; the gaps and challenges to address this issue in a concerted manner; and the identified priorities for action.

Step 2: National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming

Based on the baseline assessment findings, an in-country multi-stakeholder workshop is held in each pilot country. These workshops are instrumental in developing a multi-sectoral joint programming framework that brings together United Nations system actions in support of national efforts to address violence against women, including in support of the implementation of national action plans on violence against women where such plans exist; or to help develop such plans where these plans do not yet exist.

Step 3: Formation of joint national committee

Joint committees consisting of stakeholders from Government, the United Nations and civil society are formed to move the process forward. Joint committee members are responsible for coordinating and providing technical support towards finalization of the joint programming proposals as well as for fundraising, implementation of the various activities, and monitoring and evaluation

Step 4: Multi-sectoral joint programming proposal

Following the national multi-stakeholder workshop, a final joint programming proposal is developed by the joint national committee. The pilot countries are encouraged to submit their proposals to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. In addition, efforts are undertaken by the Task Force Coordinator to secure resources from other donors to support the activities contained in these proposals.

Step 5: Implementation of joint programming activities

Based on availability of resources, implementation proceeds.

The ten pilot countries

The ten pilot countries chosen to participate in the joint programming initiative on violence against women are:

- **Burkina Faso**
- **Chile**
- **Fiji**
- **Jamaica**
- **Jordan**
- **Kyrgyzstan**
- **Paraguay**
- **Philippines**
- **Rwanda**
- **Yemen**

Burkina Faso

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNAIDS, and WHO are working together within the UNCT for gender-specific inputs and to reinforce staff capacities on gender equality issues. UNFPA facilitates the coordination of United Nations gender equality initiatives and has laid the groundwork for a United Nations Joint Programme on Gender Equality.
- Legislation is in place which prohibits levirate, dowry, forced and early marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Burkina Faso's combined fourth and fifth periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-third session in 2005. Its next report is due in November 2008.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	<u>Completed.</u>
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in October 2008.
Formation of joint national committee	
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Chile

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- A UN interagency group on gender (Mesa Temática de Género) was established to support the National Office for Women's Affairs (SERNAM) in its efforts to eradicate violence against women. In addition, UNICEF, UNDP and UNIFEM launched a joint advocacy and sensitization campaign aimed at promoting implementation of existing legislation on violence against women and improving services for women victims of violence.
- Several laws specific to violence against women are in place, including Law 19,325 on Intrafamilial Violence which was adopted in 1994 and amended by the Act establishing procedures and penalties for acts of family violence in 2005; Act No. 20,005 on sexual harassment in the workplace; and Law 19,617 which amended the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and other legislation, regarding rape, including specifying the criminal offence of marital rape.

- The National Office for Women’s Affairs (SERNAM) has conducted two studies on family violence, the Study of Prevalence of Family Violence (1993) and Detection and Analysis of the Prevalence of Family Violence (2001).
- Chile’s fourth periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-sixth session in 2006. Its combined fifth and sixth periodic report is due in January 2011.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	First draft under preparation.
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in June 2009.
Formation of joint national committee	
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Fiji

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- The Fiji UNDAF programme reflects the commitment of UNCT on “*Strengthened programs to reduce violence against women and children.*”
- UNFPA, ILO and WHO form the Country Team Inter-agency Task Force and Theme Group on Gender in Fiji and joint programming has occurred between UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA on gender. ILO is implementing a pilot project on Men as Partners/Men’s involvement in Reproductive Health; UNDP-PC and UNIFEM are jointly undertaking a project on “*Translating CEDAW into Law: CEDAW Legislative Compliance in Nine Pacific Island Countries.*”
- Fiji’s Women’s Plan of Action (1999-2008) includes a section on violence against women and a Domestic Violence Bill was drafted in 2007.
- Fiji’s initial report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2002.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	<u>Completed.</u>
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in July 2008.
Formation of joint national committee	Formed, following national multi-

	stakeholder workshop.
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Jamaica

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- UNCT carried out a programme on violence against women between 2003 and 2006. The UNDAF for 2007-2011 addresses violence against women as a cross cutting theme, particularly in relation to social, education and HIV issues
- The Government has taken numerous steps to counter violence against women including enacting and amending the Domestic Violence Act (1995 and 2004) and convening an Inter-Agency Campaign on Violence against Women and Girls. The Government is also, with support from UNIFEM, in the process of developing a national gender policy with a focus on violence against women, and implementing a court-based batterer intervention programme. Legislation on sexual harassment has been drafted but not yet enacted.
- Jamaica's fifth periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-sixth session in 2006.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	First draft under preparation.
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in June 2009.
Formation of joint national committee	
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Jordan

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- There is strong political support and joint UN programming on gender-based violence for the next UNDAF cycle, as well as prioritization and existing joint programming on the issue by UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF and WHO.
- The National Family Protection Framework provides a multi-disciplinary approach and a framework for joint work, on violence against women. Under the

- framework, capacity building for health workers, teachers, social workers, police, and judges, has taken place.
- Data on gender-based violence was gathered in the 2007 DHS survey.
 - Jordan’s combined third and fourth periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2007. UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNFPA will be supporting the national machinery in follow up to the Committee’s recommendations over the next five years as part of the UNDAF.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	<u>Completed.</u>
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in August 2008.
Formation of joint national committee	Formed, following national multi-stakeholder workshop.
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Kyrgyzstan

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- The United Nations system worked in close collaboration with the Government to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the country’s development strategy.
- The United Nations Gender Theme Group engaged in joint programming in various areas, including in relation to initiatives pertaining to violence against women, such as advocacy efforts.
- The Law on Socio-Legal Protection against Domestic Violence was adopted in 2003 and in August 2003 a law was passed which criminalizes trafficking in persons. Rape and other forms of sexual assault are punishable under the Criminal Code.
- The Sixth Strategic Goal of the Kyrgyz National Plan for Action to Achieve Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2002-2006 was “Decreasing all forms of violence against women”. The Action Plan requires that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Statistical Committee should collect statistical data on all forms of violence against women and children.
- Kyrgyzstan’s second periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirtieth session in 2004. Its

third periodic report has been scheduled for consideration by the Committee at the forty-second session (October 2008).

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	Completed.
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in September 2008.
Formation of joint national committee	Formed, following national multi-stakeholder workshop.
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Paraguay

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- UNFPA and UNIFEM are working together on efforts to end violence against women, including through awareness-raising campaigns.
- A National Plan of Action on violence against women is in place, developed with support from UNFPA. A law against domestic violence was adopted in 2000.
- Paraguay's combined third and fourth and fifth periodic reports were considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-second session in 2005. Its sixth periodic report is due in May 2008.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	Completed.
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in November 2008.
Formation of joint national committee	
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Philippines

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- Collaboration is in place between United Nations entities and national, bilateral and multilateral partners to mainstream gender issues into planning, programming, policies and knowledge sharing activities.
- United Nations entities jointly drafted a UNCT report on implementation of the Convention, and presented it to the Committee. United Nations entities have developed a joint programme for follow up to the concluding comments of the Committee. United Nations staff in the Philippines has received training on gender and development and have developed a programme to strengthen gender-mainstreaming in the United Nations.
- Several laws specific to violence against women are in place, such as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (2004); the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2003); anti-rape law of 1997 that criminalizes marital rape; the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (1995), and the law establishing rape crisis centres in every municipality.
- Baseline data on violence against women have been collected – IVAWS (2005/06)
- The Philippines's combined fifth and sixth periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-sixth session in 2006.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	n/a
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in March 2008.
Formation of joint national committee	Formed, following national multi-stakeholder workshop.
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	Submitted.
Implementation of joint programming activities	Implementation to commence by end 2008.

Rwanda

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- There is evidence of UNCT support for joint programming on violence against women and Resident Coordinator attention to the issue in both the 2005 and 2006 reports. UNIFEM/UNDP is working with the National Police, National Defence

Force, various ministries, national commissions, and organisations such as Protection and Care of Families Against HIV/AIDS (PACFA, championed by Mrs Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda) to eliminate violence against women.

- The Rwandan Women Parliamentary Union, in partnership with UNIFEM and UNDP, carried out nationwide consultations highlighting the link between gender-based violence and poverty, resulting in the drafting of the Law on the Prevention, Protection and Punishment of Any Gender Based Violence which was adopted by Parliament in 2006.
- Rwanda's third periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 1993.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	<u>Completed.</u>
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in April 2008.
Formation of joint national committee	Formed, following national multi-stakeholder workshop.
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	Submitted.
Implementation of joint programming activities	

Yemen

Considerations in selection for pilot joint programming

- UN entities and other partners (such as UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, OXFAM, GTZ, Spanish Cooperation, CIDA) work together in the area of gender equality. The UN Gender Task Force made contributions to gender mainstreaming within the UNCTs including through the development of a gender module and facilitation of gender-related orientation sessions, review of CCA/UNDAF guidelines and finalization of modules as well as implementation of refresher training, among other activities.
- UNFPA is providing lead support for national capacity building on data and information systems on gender-based violence, including surveys and socio-cultural research to inform policy dialogue and advocacy.
- The National Strategy for Women's Advancement, which was endorsed by the Cabinet in 2006, constitutes a national framework for addressing violence against women, including the implementation of legislation which addresses prevention and criminalization.

- Yemen's fifth periodic report was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2002. Its sixth periodic report is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's forty-first session, in July 2008.

Status of joint programming initiative

Activity	Status (as of 26 August 2009)
Baseline assessment	First draft completed.
National multi-stakeholder workshop on joint programming	Held in February 2009.
Formation of joint national committee	
Submission of joint programming proposal by stakeholders	
Implementation of joint programming activities	