

CORPORATE EVALUATION OF UN WOMEN'S APPROACH TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

GLOBAL INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM INDIA



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EVALUATION OVERVIEW

This brief was developed based on findings from the 2025 corporate evaluation of UN Women's approach to ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG), undertaken by UN Women's Independent Evaluation Service. The evaluation examined the relevance, adaptability, effectiveness, coherence and sustainability of UN Women's support to strengthening violence against women and girls (VAWG) prevention and response between June 2020 to June 2024. It also included an equity-focused lens on gender equality and leave no one behind. The geographic scope covered UN Women's programming globally and included data from country case studies in Bolivia, Egypt, India, Tanzania, Viet Nam, and from regional case studies in Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and West and Central Africa. This brief summarizes global insights from the corporate evaluation and highlights evidence from UN Women's approach to VAWG prevention and response in India.



Access the full evaluation report [here](#)

This evaluation brief was co-developed by UN Women's Independent Evaluation Service and UN Women's India Country Office.

COUNTRY CONTEXT AND EMERGING ISSUES

UN Women's efforts align with India's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027 aimed at Leaving No One Behind. UN Women leads Outcome 6 of the UNSDCF framework, which prioritizes Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The Entity's mission is to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth by 2027, while promoting safe workplaces for women.

4%

In 2022, India's National Crime Records Bureau, responsible for compiling and analysing crime data, reported a 4% increase in 2021 in crimes against women in the country.

29%

The National Family Health Survey (2019-2021) revealed a distressing statistic: nearly 29.3% of Indian women aged 18-49 have endured domestic or sexual violence.



Despite India's progressive laws against domestic violence and workplace sexual harassment, the challenge lies in their enforcement, thereby restricting victims' access to justice and safety. This issue demands more robust preventive measures and accountability for perpetrators.



Varied barriers and vulnerabilities confront women across different demographics, impeding their participation in educational, professional, and public spheres and negatively affecting their health and overall quality of life.



The country also grappled with COVID-19 and its aftermath, which had adverse implications the rates of domestic violence and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Thus, there remains a pressing need to strengthen existing VAWG response and prevention efforts.

UN WOMEN'S SUPPORT TO EVAW IN INDIA

During the period under review, UN Women undertook a number of initiatives to support EVAWG in India, including in response to and during recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance between 2022-23, UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea, provided substantial support to vulnerable women and girls through emergency cash transfers.

In 2022, UN Women launched a rapid intervention for women tea garden workers, supported by two industry partners, Goodricke Group Limited and Amalgamated Plantations Private Limited. The intervention focused on building awareness on aspects of health and wellness such as sexual and reproductive health, menstrual health, nutrition, mental health, and access to services for survivors, and those at risk of violence. The programme reported reaching 13,144 women workers across ten tea gardens between May 2022 to April 2023 and is now being extended to Cotton and Textiles supply chains in addition to Tea and Spices sector in India.

UN Women has supported the implementation of the 2013 Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (POSH) Act by responding to the demand from state and central government officials for capacity development and technical support; and by working with private-sector partners.

UN Women has also partnered closely with various state governments. For instance, the Entity collaborated with the Kerala state government to develop the Gender Sensitive Urban Planning Program. UN Women also supported safe tourism programmes in Kerala, Goa, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, to enhance safety for women tourists and promote economic opportunities. This included supporting Madhya Pradesh state government to secure funding for its safe tourism program through the "Nirbhaya Fund". The Government of India has established a dedicated fund called the "Nirbhaya Fund" to implement initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country.

GLOBAL EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS



ADAPTABILITY AND EMERGING AREAS

The evaluation found that UN Women's EVAWG approach was responsive to changing contexts and emerging forms of violence, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is scope to develop further guidance and tools for diverse contexts across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and to further address emerging areas such as technology-facilitated gender-based violence.



POLICY SUPPORT AND STRENGTHENING SERVICES

UN Women has been effective in advancing norms and policies aligned with international human rights standards and strengthening survivor-centred essential services. Successful strategies included engagement of diverse coalitions of EVAWG actors (including multiple key line ministries); identifying strategic opportunities to strengthen implementation of laws; and focusing on women's access to justice.



EQUITY AND INCLUSION

UN Women's approach was found to incorporate an intersectional perspective in line with the leave no one behind principle, though challenges remain in scaling interventions, addressing the needs of hard-to-reach groups, and systematizing knowledge.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

UN Women has played a key role in leading global normative processes and supporting the development of knowledge products, guidance documents, VAWG data and frameworks. Undertaken in collaboration with a diverse coalition of stakeholders (UN agencies and non-UN actors), these efforts aimed to support coherence on EVAWG issues.



VAWG PREVENTION AND SOCIAL NORMS

While various initiatives have supported VAWG prevention efforts, including through community mobilization, awareness-raising and piloting interventions in male-dominated sectors, work on social norms change for EVAWG needs to be strengthened. The Entity has played a key role in convening and amplifying voices from the women's movement and supporting women's rights and civil society organizations, though further investment is needed in movement building at national and local levels.



SUSTAINABILITY

UN Women's efforts to embed sustainable programming elements into its EVAWG work are likely to support and safeguard gains in some contexts, though reliance on relatively short-term funding remains a challenge. Strengthening synergies across thematic areas and enhancing collaboration with other UN agencies could contribute to more comprehensive VAWG initiatives.

EVIDENCE SNAPSHOTS FROM INDIA

CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT ACTORS AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION



The evaluation found that UN Women successfully leveraged its close working relationships with government actors and women's organizations to provide policy advice and advocacy to better incorporate gender considerations into COVID-19 response plans and initiatives. In India, UN Women strengthened the capacity of One Stop Centres to respond to VAWG through infrastructure, technical, and capacity development support and provided cash transfers to women and girls who were in situations of vulnerability. UN Women achieved considerable results by working with government partners to develop VAWG laws, frameworks and policies, and to support implementation of existing VAWG laws (e.g. POSH Act).

NON-TRADITIONAL PARTNERS



UN Women in India also demonstrated how cross-thematic can create opportunities to partner with non-traditional partners, such as actors from the private sector. For instance UN Women collaborated with the Tamil Nadu state government in 2024 to launch the Textile Industry Coalition to promote Zero Tolerance for Sexual Harassment and Violence in the women-dominated textile sector of Tamil Nadu. This multi-stakeholder platform aims to support women's empowerment and safety across the value chain, while promoting a survivor-centric response on factory floors and in communities. This approach, that focuses on institutional strengthening, as opposed to individual capacity strengthening better promotes the sustainability of results over the long term.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UN WOMEN'S SUPPORT TO EVAWG IN INDIA

1

Strengthen and adapt approaches to foster more **COMPREHENSIVE AND LONGER-TERM EVAWG PROGRAMMING** at the country level. This would include continuing to develop cross-thematic proposals, further leveraging domestic government funding, and reaching out to new types of resource partners in the private sector. UN Women's EVAWG work in India demonstrated how collaborating with work on Women's Economic Empowerment can create opportunities to partner with non-traditional partners, such as actors from the private sector. UN Women supported the institutionalization of improved procedures in private-sector companies across multiple sectors and regions, with the aim of creating safe spaces and eliminating sexual harassment across private-sector supply chains.

2

Building on UN Women's role as convener in the EVAWG space, continue to **STRENGTHEN THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH** and bring together government actors (including across and within states in India), women's rights organizations, UN agencies and other partners. Actions could include continuing support for the implementation of laws and institutionalization of EVAWG across policies in government entities. In India, government stakeholders expressed a desire for UN Women to establish offices at the state level to better facilitate direct collaboration with and support to state government actors.

3

Continue to refine and develop guidance documents, frameworks and tools in response to **PERSISTENT AND EMERGING PRIORITIES**. Key areas could include addressing TF GBV (e.g. through normative work, measurement/data, youth outreach and awareness-raising campaigns) and continuing to advance measures to effectively address the needs of all women and girls in situations of vulnerability, including those that are hardest to reach due to the remoteness of locations or social/political sensitivities.

4

Continue to **SUPPORT AND ADAPT UN Women's global FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME ON SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES**, which currently operates in the Tea, Spice, Tourism, and Textile industries in Assam, Rajasthan, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi NCR, and Tamil Nadu.