

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

GLOBAL INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM VIET NAM



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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 Viet Nam.



Access the full evaluation report [here](#).
This evaluation brief was co-developed by UN Women's Independent Evaluation Service and UN Women's Viet Nam Country Office.

COUNTRY CONTEXT AND EMERGING ISSUES

Addressing violence against women remains challenging, particularly in the context of recent crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Typhoon Yagi. These events have increased vulnerabilities, especially among women from ethnic minorities and those living in remote areas.



Viet Nam has a comprehensive legislative framework to address violence against women in accordance with global norms, including the Constitution, laws, strategies, and targeted programs.



The National Study on Violence Against Women in 2019¹ revealed that nearly 2 in 3 women had experienced one or more forms of violence by their husband/partner in their lifetime, and 90.4% of affected women never sought help from formal services or authorities.



As reported by the Center for Women and Development, COVID-19 doubled the number of hotline calls and shelter admissions for women experiencing violence compared to the same period in 2019.



Natural disasters like Typhoon Yagi further disrupted livelihoods and displaced communities, complicating efforts to protect and assist affected women.



Emerging issues such as online violence in the context of fast digital transformation present new forms of threats, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies that address both traditional and modern types of violence against women in the country.

¹ Viet Nam has published two national studies on violence against women, in 2010 and 2019. The 2019 survey covered a broader range of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic forms.

UN WOMEN'S SUPPORT TO EVAW IN VIET NAM

EVAW is a key focus area for UN Women in Viet Nam. The Entity has adapted international VAWG prevention and response frameworks to the national context, using an ecological approach. UN Women has supported the amendment/development of key policies such as the Domestic Violence Prevention and Control Law (2022), the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2021-2030) and the National Programme on gender-based violence prevention and response (2021-2025). The Entity also supported provincial action programmes to implement these policies, including through the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces initiative. Furthermore, UN Women supported the development of standard of operating procedures across sectors such as foreign affairs, labor, police, justice and the Viet Nam Women's Union to guide the work of supporting women survivors of violence and trafficking, including migrant women workers.

UN Women rolled out the RESPECT framework to strengthen institutional capacity on prevention nationwide. It has implemented the Connect with Respect and Safe Campus toolkit through eight continuing education centres and three pedagogy universities, and engaged men and boys as advocates for gender equality in three cities/provinces. UN Women also supported the National Action Month on gender equality to raise awareness, reaching an average of 10 million people annually.

During COVID-19, UN Women offered emergency response support, including livelihood assistance via cash transfer for women survivors or those at risk of violence, expanded hotline capacity, shelter upgrades, and capacity building for service providers to improve crisis response. UN Women in Viet Nam has worked in collaboration with a diverse coalition of partners, including UN agencies such as UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, ILO; government actors; academia; private sector and civil society organizations.

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 VIET NAM

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP



A key element of UN Women's VAWG prevention efforts in Viet Nam was fostering national ownership and leadership of information-sharing and awareness-raising campaigns to change social attitudes towards VAWG. The annual global "Unite/16 Days" campaign was synchronized with the National Action Month on gender equality and GBV prevention and response, reaching both national and local levels.

POLICY-RELEVANT RESEARCH



A strong example of government institutionalization was also noted with UN Women supporting policy-relevant research, leading to government-led policy modifications and state-funded interventions on sexual harassment in public places. The Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces model in Viet Nam has also fostered long-term engagement and is being scaled by government partners into expanded spaces such as universities and transportation.

ENGAGING DIVERSE GROUPS OF MEN



Promising practices were also observed for engaging diverse groups of men through the male engagement clubs, which helped disseminate information on VAWG, hotlines, and available support services for survivors. Capacity-building support was extended to 52 Clubs in three localities (Dien Bien Phu City, Da Nang City and Ho Chi Minh city), including two clubs of ethnic minority men and one involving the police in a remote region with a high incidence of VAWG.

COLLABORATION WITH VARIOUS UN AGENCIES



In addition to convening diverse stakeholders, UN Women has maintained its collaboration with various UN agencies on more holistic and comprehensive programming in Viet Nam, though some challenges related to the predominantly short-term nature of funding and coherence of internal systems remain. An example of efforts to work collaboratively was the joint programme to address violence against women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic involving UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF, funded by DFAT. This program, subsequently expanded for the longer term, now includes policy support, prevention, and response measures.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UN WOMEN'S SUPPORT IN VIET NAM

1

Strengthen and adapt approaches to foster **MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND LONGER-TERM EVAWG PROGRAMMING** at the country level. This could include continuing to explore partnerships with UN partners that have an interest and capacity to further expand VAWG entry points as part of collective efforts to address complex multi-thematic issues. UN Women's collaboration with key government actors in Viet Nam is also promising, particularly in better-funded regions with stronger local capacity.

2

Building on UN Women's role as a convener in the EVAWG space, **CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH**. This includes reinforcing UN Women's role as both a coordination and knowledge partner by bringing together government actors (including different departments within the same province), civil society, UN agencies, and other stakeholders. In Viet Nam, stakeholders expressed the need for better mapping and coordination of VAWG efforts across regions, which could be a key area for UN Women to lead. In addition, there is an opportunity for UN Women to further integrate VAWG into other thematic areas, such as women's economic empowerment, climate change and women, peace and security.

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. Actions could include developing practical resources, such as a self-help guide or an online course for students/ women, to strengthen understanding and prevention of TF GBV.