

Re-thinking Financing for Addressing Gender-based Violence

Summary of Background Paper for the Global Expert Meeting on
“Reducing Gender-based Violence to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”
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Gender equality, women’s rights and ending violence are recognised as critical drivers of the new development agenda. This is an important acknowledgement of a serious global problem. A recent study estimated that globally, 35% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse in their lifetime¹. Considering the prevalence rates of violence against women and girls, the public financing and development assistance currently allocated to its reduction and elimination are disproportionate to the scale of the problem. However, the volume of financing is unlikely to be the only constraint for impact, as even when resources are available, they may be inefficiently allocated or even under-spent, suggesting a need for better modalities of investment and enhanced capacity to deliver services at scale.

The new GBV target under Goal 5 to “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation” cannot be achieved if it remains framed as a standalone target or simply a means to achieve gender equality. Several effective actions to reduce GBV also produce multiple benefits germane to other goals – including positive outcomes in health, education, productivity, poverty, reduced HIV risk and overall well-being. In addition, progress on many of the SGD goals and targets - including those on poverty, inequality, health, education, work, peacebuilding and justice - will help to strengthen the necessary enabling environment for reducing GBV. To mobilize the necessary human and financial resources for achieving common goals, we need new ways of working across sectors and new visions of partnerships across the SDGs.

Currently, sector-specific interests tend to dominate sector budget allocations and secondary spill over benefits are not central to these decisions. Given constrained government budgets and flat-lining trends in development financing, we may see a further tendency to focus narrowly on core sector goals. Unfortunately, this may mean that governments are not allocating resources in the most efficient manner, and may be missing opportunities for increased multi-sectoral impact. Better data on the spill over costs and impact of GBV and GBV-related interventions are definitely needed, but may not be enough to incentivise greater prioritisation. The challenges to be addressed therefore include the transformation of financing and governance systems to enhance the incentives for different actors to coordinate efforts, jointly finance structural interventions and bring promising GBV responses to scale. The actors include different ministries and levels of government, civil society, development organizations and the private sector.

GBV efforts could therefore benefit from approaches to partially internalise GBV-related costs and benefits across various sectors' prioritisation and resource allocation processes. This paper presents relevant financing models, primarily in the area of health promotion and climate finance, which similarly require coherent multi-sectoral responses and action for structural long-term impact. Based on UNDP's comparative advantage in the area of financing for development, environmental finance and leveraging private finance, as well as strengthening local governance structures, suggestions are made of potential programmatic areas of investment. Finally, UNDP's ongoing work in Papua New Guinea is taken as a case study to illustrate some concrete steps that could be taken to promote such funding models, while building on the programme's successful support to creating an enabling environment to prevent and respond to one of the worst burdens of GBV in the world.

Suggested areas of work for UNDP and its partners to further the agenda of financing for the SDGs and the GBV targets include:

Research and evidence generation

- Facilitate research and analysis of how much is being invested "in silos" of ministerial budgets, development assistance and private sources and the potential of coordination and pooled funding approaches
- Support the analysis and costing of National Action Plans for achieving the SDG targets, from the perspective of synergistic actions and co-financed interventions.
- Strengthen stakeholders' capacity to build this evidence based and better predict GBV impacts
- Facilitate research on the GBV effects of large scale infrastructure projects and cost-effective interventions to mitigate them, as part of environmental assessments

Effectiveness and accountability of public, international and private financing channels

- Strengthen the monitoring of donor efforts in implementing the SDG target on elimination of GBV by supporting the development of a specific purpose code to track DAC members' development assistance flows to GBV.
- Strengthen systems to track GBV-relevant domestic expenditures and support countries to conduct GBV Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews.
- Develop global indicators that can be adapted and used by national governments and national programmes to monitor programmes with GBV and other social outcomes, including as part of large capital projects or carbon-offsetting projects.
- Strengthen stakeholders' capacity to raise awareness on the links between infrastructure development and GBV vulnerability and to advocate for the inclusion of these cost-effective cross-sectoral interventions.
- Strengthen systems to ensure that funds attached to large capital projects are efficiently allocated and utilised.

Governance and capacity of institutions to efficiently fund and deliver services to prevent GBV

- Facilitate piloting of local multi-stakeholder, intersectoral governance structures to support effective and efficient coordination at different levels
- Strengthen stakeholders' capacity to identify synergies and advocate for joint investments in key upstream SDG programmes addressing overlaying vulnerabilities (e.g. social protection, microfinance schemes, etc.)

The goals and change objectives from these efforts would include:

- 1) Increased synergistic social development investments that impact positively on the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence
- 2) Improved policy coherence among countries' socio-economic policies with impacts on the prevalence of and response to gender-based violence

	Desired Result	Indicators measure increase in
1	New mechanisms increase human and financial resources dedicated to addressing GBV along with other social development outcomes to achieve the SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV prevention indicators integrated into structural programmes • Sources of financing (and co-financing) for addressing GBV (from across government, private sector and development organizations) • Volume of financing for programmes that address the structural drivers of GBV
2	Coherent socio-economic policies that jointly contribute to preventing GBV and effectively responding to the needs of survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector policies and strategies that reflect their link to national GBV strategy • Share of GBV-relevant expenditures across key sectors