

SOUTHEAST ASIA GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLATFORM

INVESTMENT DESIGN DOCUMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Executive Summary	11
B. Development context and situational analysis	15
B1. Development Problem/Issue Analysis	15
B2. Country/Regional and Sector Issues	18
B3. Political Economy Analysis	20
B4. Evidence base/Lessons Learned	21
C. Strategic Intent and Rationale (Why?)	25
C1. Strategic Setting and Rationale for Australian/DFAT Engagement	25
C2. Gender, innovation and cross-cutting themes	26
C3. Value for Money	27
D. Proposed Outcomes and Investment Options (What?)	28
D1. Overview of investment	28
D2. Goal and End of Program Outcomes	29
D3. Description of strategies, outputs and indicative activities	30
D4. Theory of change	34
D5. Delivery Approach	39
E. Implementation Arrangements (How will DFAT engage?)	42
E1. Governance Arrangements	42
E2. Management	43
Program implementation and coordination	44
Program support, administration, risk and compliance	45
E3. Early Activities	46
E4. Policy Dialogue	48
E5. Profile and Public Diplomacy	48
E6. Sustainability	48
F. Monitoring and Evaluation (How will DFAT measure performance?)	49
G. Gender, Disability and Other Cross Cutting Issues	52
G1. Gender equality	52
G2. Disability and inclusion	53

G3. Localisation	53
G4. Climate Change	53
G5. Private Sector	54
<hr/>	
H. Budget and Resources	54
<hr/>	
I. Procurement and Partnering	54
<hr/>	
J. Risk Management and Safeguards (What might go wrong?)	55
<hr/>	
K. Annexes	58
Annex 1: List of stakeholders consulted	58
Annex 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	633
Annex 3: Accountability Diagram	73

ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

ACCESS	Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services
ACW	ASEAN Committee on Women
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women & Children
ADB	Asia Development Bank
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AIPJ2	Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice (AIPJ2)
ALIGN	Advancing Learning and Innovation on Gender Norms
ANCP	Australian NGO Cooperation Program
ANGO	Australian Non-Governmental Organisation
ANROWS	Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited
APWLD	Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development
ARF	Adviser Remuneration Framework
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-ACT	ASEAN-Australian Counter Trafficking
BaKTI	Eastern Indonesia Knowledge Exchange
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEFM	Child, Early and Forced Marriage
CEVAW	Centre for Excellence on Elimination of Ending Violence Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSEA	Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CTP	Conversion Therapy Practices
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DSS	Department of Social Services
DV	Domestic Violence
EOI	Expression of Interest
EOPO	End of Program Outcomes
ESEAOR	East & Southeast Asia and Oceania Regional Office
EU	European Union
EVAWG	End Violence Against Women and Girls
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK)
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation

FTE	Full-time Equivalent
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVH	Gender-based Violence and Harassment
GEB	Gender Equality Branch
HOM	Head of Mission
HR	Human Resources
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-profit Organisation
INKLUSI	The Australia-Indonesia Partnership Towards an Inclusive Society
IO	Intermediate Outcomes
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Foundation
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IT	Information Technology
LES	Locally Engaged Staff
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (or: queer), intersex, and asexual.
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MELF	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs (Cambodia)
MTR	Mid-term Review
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPVAW	National Action Plan on Violence Against Women
NPSV	Non-Partner Sexual Violence
ODE	Office of Development Effectiveness
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Assistance Committee
OPD	Organisation of persons with disabilities
P4P	Partners for Prevention
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
PEKKA	The Female-Headed Household Empowerment Program (Indonesia)
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
SAPDA	Advocacy Center for Women with Disabilities and Children (Indonesia)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual Gender-Based Violence
SOGIE	Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression
SOGIESC	Sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics

SVRI	Sexual Violence Research Initiative
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
ToC	Theory of Change
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITE	United Nations Initiative to End Violence Against Women
UNTF	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VfM	Value For Money
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WHO	World Health Organization
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WRO	Women's Rights Organisation

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

A number of key concepts have guided the design process. Key terms, concepts and respective definitions are summarised below:

Disability: Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.¹

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities: Organisations or assemblies established to promote the human rights of disabled people, where most of the members as well as the governing body are persons with disabilities.²

Domestic Violence (DV): ‘abusive behaviour (physical, sexual, emotional violence and neglect) that occurs within the private, domestic sphere, generally between individuals who are related through blood or intimacy. In most contexts, ‘intimate partner violence’ (IPV) is the main type of domestic violence, but in some societies violence by in-laws can also be the most dominant form. The term, ‘domestic violence’ should be used carefully in order to avoid confusion, since (1) it overlaps with ‘intimate partner violence’ and ‘gender-based violence’ and (2) it is not confined to women.’³

Economic Violence: includes denying a woman access to and control over basic resources (UN General Assembly, 2006). It causes, or attempts to cause, an individual to become financially dependent on another person, by obstructing their access to or control over resources and/or independent economic activity. It includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care or employment.⁴

Child, Early and Forced Marriage: ‘Forced marriage is the marriage of an individual against her or his will. Child marriage is a formal marriage or informal union before age 18. Even though some countries permit marriage before age 18, international human rights standards classify these as child marriages, reasoning that those under age 18 are unable to give informed consent. Therefore, child marriage is a form of forced marriage as children are not legally competent to agree to such unions.’⁵

Gender-Based Violence: ‘An umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e., gender) differences between males and females. The term ‘gender-based violence’ is primarily used to underscore the fact that structural, gender-based power differentials between males and females around the world place females at risk for multiple forms of violence.’⁶ Where appropriate, this design document uses the term GBV, rather than violence against women and girls (VAWG), and violence against children (VAC), to reflect the intention that this initiative will maintain a broad focus on violence inflicted on the basis of gender, inclusive of LGBTQIA+ people and people of non-binary gender identities.

Intersectionality: Ways in which the layers of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, and socio-economic status or class interact with each other to create advantage or disadvantage.

¹ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 1.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx#1>

² WHO. (2011). *World report on disability*. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789241564182>

³ Jansen, H. A. F. M. (Henriette). (2016). *Measuring Prevalence of Violence Against Women: Key Terminology*. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/kNOwVAWdata%20Key%20Terminology.pdf>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. (2015). *Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action*. <https://gbvguidelines.org/en/additional-resources/print-ready/>

⁶ Jansen, H. A. F. M. (Henriette). (2016). *Measuring Prevalence of Violence Against Women: Key Terminology*. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/kNOwVAWdata%20Key%20Terminology.pdf>

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): ‘usually consists of a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviours, including physical, sexual and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, by a current or former intimate partner’⁷

Primary Prevention: Refers to reducing or stopping violence before it starts and is aimed at addressing the root causes of violence and changing attitudes, behaviours & norms.

Physical Violence: ‘the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, injury or harm.’⁸

Psychological violence (often also referred to as ‘emotional violence’): ‘any act or omission that damages the self-esteem, identity or development of the individual. It includes, but is not limited to, humiliation, threatening loss of custody of children, forced isolation from family or friends, threatening to harm the individual or someone they care about, repeated yelling or degradation, inducing fear through intimidating words or gestures, controlling behaviour, and the destruction of possessions.’⁹

School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV): ‘SRGBV can be defined as acts or threats of sexual, physical or psychological violence occurring in and around schools, perpetrated as a result of gender norms and stereotypes, and enforced by unequal power dynamics.’¹⁰

Secondary prevention: ‘refers to response services that aim to stop repeat experiences of violence after it has happened. Aimed at supporting survivors and holding perpetrators of violence to account.’¹¹

Sexual violence: ‘any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act, or unwanted sexual comments or acts to traffic, that are directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion by anyone, regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including at home and at work.’¹²

Social norm: Social norms are informal understandings that govern the behaviour of members of a society. Social norms are regarded as collective representations of acceptable group conduct as well as individual perceptions of group conduct. They can be viewed as cultural products (including values, customs, and traditions) which represent individuals’ basic knowledge of what others do and think that they should do.

Southeast Asia: Defined as ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam), as well as Timor-Leste.

Technology facilitated GBV (TFGBV): An act of violence perpetrated by one or more individuals that is committed, assisted, aggravated, and amplified in part or fully by the use of information and communication technologies or digital media, against a person on the basis of their gender.¹³

Tertiary prevention: ‘aimed at preventing disability and treating long-term problems as a result of the violence.’¹⁴

Theory of Change: A theory of change is a method that explains how a given intervention, or set of interventions, is expected to lead to specific development change, drawing on a causal analysis based on available evidence. A

⁷ Jansen, H. A. F. M. (Henriette). (2016). *Measuring Prevalence of Violence Against Women: Key Terminology*. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/kNOwVAWdata%20Key%20Terminology.pdf>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ UNESCO & UN Women. (2016). *Global guidance on Addressing School-Related Gender-Based Violence*. United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). <https://www.unicef.org/media/66506/file/Global-Guidance-SRGBV.pdf>

¹¹ UN Women. (2020). *Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on VAW Prevention*.

¹² Jansen, H. A. F. M. (Henriette). (2016). *Measuring Prevalence of Violence Against Women: Key Terminology*. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/kNOwVAWdata%20Key%20Terminology.pdf>

¹³ UNFPA. (2021, December 1). *Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence: Making All Spaces Safe*. United Nations Population Fund. <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-making-all-spaces-safe>

¹⁴ UN Women. (2020). *Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on VAW Prevention*.

theory of change also helps to identify the underlying assumptions and risks that will be vital to understand and revisit throughout the process to ensure the approach will contribute to the desired change.¹⁵

Trafficking: ‘the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.’¹⁶

Violence against children (VAC): ‘all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation [against children], including sexual abuse’.¹⁷

Violence against women (VAW): ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.’¹⁸

Women Rights Organisation (WRO): a women-led civil society organisation which is supporting, building and contributing to feminist movements, i.e., movements that pursue a core political agenda of protection, promotion and fulfilment of women’s human rights through collective action.¹⁹

¹⁵ UNDG. (2017, June). *Theory of Change: UNDAF Companion Guidance*. <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/UNDG-UNDAF-Companion-Pieces-7-Theory-of-Change.pdf>

¹⁶ UNODC. (n.d.). *Human-Trafficking*. United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime. Retrieved March 30, 2023, from [//www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html)

¹⁷ UN General Assembly. (1989). *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

¹⁸ UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, & UNODC. (2015). *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*. <https://www.unfpa.org/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

¹⁹ AWID. (2019). *Toward a feminist funding ecosystem: A framework and practical guide* | AWID. <https://www.awid.org/publications/toward-feminist-funding-ecosystem-framework-and-practical-guide>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Kore Global design team²⁰ would like to extend their genuine thanks and appreciation to the 311 individuals²¹ who shared their ideas, experiences and time to inform the design process. The significant buy-in and interest from external stakeholders in the consultation process, including civil society (WROs, CSOs, OPDs and organisations representing marginalised groups) ASEAN, regional partner governments and international and Australian organisations, provides a strong foundation for the Platform to build on. In addition, the design team would like to acknowledge the significant technical contributions and support provided by DFAT leads Jayne Harries and Zoe Kidd, and core design partners Melissa Alvarado (UN Women), Sujata Tuladhar (UNFPA), Lyndsay McLean, Dominique Maidment and Lori Heise (the Prevention Collaborative).

Lastly, the design team would like to thank DFAT country posts for their active engagement and support with the design process. In-country consultations were only possible with the support of the Viet Nam and Timor-Leste DFAT posts, and the Asia Foundation team in Timor-Leste. Virtual consultations in a further eight countries across Southeast Asia were also greatly supported by DFAT Posts. The design team is incredibly grateful for the time and effort to ensure a smooth consultation process.

²⁰ Including Jenny Holden (Co-Team Leader and Principal Consultant, Kore Global), Heather Brown (Co-Team Leader and Associate, Kore Global), Katherine Nichol (GBV and VAC Prevention Specialist and Senior Consultant, Kore Global), Melissa Mohd Akhir and Rachel Arinii (Southeast Asia Regional GBV Specialists, Associates, Kore Global).

²¹ Please see Annex 1 for full list of stakeholders consulted.

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT

The **Southeast Asia Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention Platform** (the Platform) is proposed as an AUD20 million investment over five years (2023-24 to 2028-29), with the option to extend for five years (2029-30 to 2033-34). The Platform addresses the need for increased investment in and coordination of GBV prevention initiatives in the Southeast Asia region, in response to high levels of GBV, including intimate partner violence (IPV),²² and growing demand from regional stakeholders to improve coordinated action on GBV prevention.

The Platform will bring together **partner governments, women's rights organisations (WROs), civil society organisations (CSOs), organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), donors, international organisations, and regional bodies**. It will provide a convening platform for these stakeholders to build capacity and evidence, and improve and accelerate action to prevent GBV. The Platform will improve regional capacity and coordination on primary prevention through **four overlapping strategies** (see diagram).

Figure 1: GBV Prevention Platform Strategies



The initiative will establish a **regionally-led Secretariat** to deliver all functions of the program. The Platform Secretariat will **mobilise ambition and action** through a comprehensive and locally-informed approach to addressing GBV that seeks to develop a shared understanding and agenda among diverse Practitioners.

The Platform will **leverage Australian government partnerships with UN Women and UNFPA, and several complementary DFAT bilateral and regional investments**. In addition, it will link to global, multilateral and Australian GBV prevention initiatives to extend and amplify program impacts and outcomes.

The design involved a highly **collaborative process** undertaken between August 2022 and April 2023 with DFAT and core design partners UN Women, UNFPA and the Prevention Collaborative. The overall design process is informed by feminist design principles, including localisation, accountability and collaboration, to ensure the initiative is firmly grounded in the needs of the Southeast Asia region. The design is informed by a rigorous consultation process engaging 160 regional, global and Australian stakeholders, from civil society (including WROs, CSOs, OPDs and LGBTQIA+ groups), government, ASEAN bodies, and regional and international organisations, including 311 individuals.²³

DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Platform responds to findings and recommendations from DFAT's 2019 Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) evaluation of Australia's efforts to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG), which identified prevention of violence as an area where Australia should increase its focus. It responds to a high demand validated through an extensive consultation process to address a regional gap in action, evidence and coordination on

²² The proportion of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner over their lifetime ranges from 6% in Singapore, 15% in Laos and the Philippines, and 59% in Timor-Leste (UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, 2020).

²³ Please see Annex 1 for a full list of stakeholders consulted.

primary prevention²⁴ of GBV. The Platform is designed to address **four main development challenges** in the theory of change (ToC) (presented in Section D):

1. **Limited long-term and sustainable funding and capacity support for GBV prevention in the region.** There has been limited regional investment in and support for primary prevention GBV, which includes policy, programming and practice aimed at stopping violence before it occurs, through addressing unequal gender and social norms.²⁵ Consequently, key stakeholders' tend to focus on much needed GBV response and service provision, but have limited capacity to design and implement high-quality and effective GBV prevention programming. At the same time, most WROs, CSOs and OPDs consulted want to do more on prevention and expressed a high demand for capacity strengthening support on primary prevention. These capacity gaps must first be addressed to ensure that increased funding for prevention leads to sustained impact and results for diverse women and girls.
2. **A dearth of documented and consolidated evidence and practice-based learning of 'what works' to prevent GBV in Southeast Asian contexts, which restricts regional practice.** Regional practitioners underlined demand for accessible practice-based knowledge and evidence to improve policy development, and design and implementation of GBV prevention programs and practice.
3. **Variable progress on GBV prevention, considerable differences between countries in the implementation of regional and national policy frameworks,** and limited opportunities for dialogue and collaboration across borders.
4. **Emerging regional leadership on primary prevention of GBV, which will benefit from increased coordination and collaboration.** The design process validated the importance of local leadership for the Platform's credibility and long-term sustainability. Consultations highlighted the need to foster and support existing local leadership on GBV prevention from regional practitioners, including from women's rights organisations (WROs), to enhance regional coordination and support solidarity and movement building.

The Platform **builds on global evidence of 'what works' to prevent GBV**, including addressing intersections between GBV, climate change and disability. It directly responds to an identified need for significant resources and in-depth technical expertise to support regional actors in their work to implement sustainable and scalable approaches to GBV prevention. It **complements and supports existing bilateral DFAT-funded GBV-focused initiatives** supporting policy change, service provision and GBV prevention programming,²⁶ with opportunities to leverage financing for prevention-focused activities, share expertise on prevention models that will achieve results within national contexts, and support linkages between stakeholders.

Finally, the design process has underscored the importance of **movement building and solidarity**²⁷ for long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the initiative. This finding has informed key elements of the approach, including embedding a strong principle of accountability to diverse women and girls, promotion of connections as well as safe spaces to build trust, shared experiences and joint learning, a strong focus on collaboration, and flexible funding support for WROs/CSOs (described further in section D).

AUSTRALIA'S POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Platform is closely aligned with regional priorities set out in the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (2016-2025), and Australian Government commitments to preventing GBV through the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032. It supports Australia's long-held commitment to the **inclusion of people with disabilities** in all aid programs, and addressing intersections of

²⁴ Primary prevention refers to reducing or stopping violence before it starts and is aimed at addressing the root causes of violence and changing attitudes, behaviours & norms.

²⁵ In total, 88% of respondents to an online consultation survey believe that program funding should be a priority activity (n=41).

²⁶ For example, the Platform is being designed at the same time as the second phase of the Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services (ACCESS) program, which includes activities to support piloting of evidence-based GBV prevention focused initiatives.

²⁷ In addition to stakeholder consultations, this finding is supported by a review of joint UN initiatives on EVAWG in East and Southern Africa, which found that solidarity and collaboration were essential elements for joint initiatives on EVAWG to be effective. UN Women. (2022). *The Power of Partnerships. Programming Lessons for Strengthening Movements and Solidarity for an End To Violence Against Women and Girls in East And Southern Africa*. https://africa.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/UNW_ESAR_THE%20POWER%20OF%20PARTNERSHIPS_Final_en%5B20%5D.pdf

gender and disability in efforts to end GBV, through the 2015 - 2021 *Development For All: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program*. The Platform will support DFAT's commitment **to advance and protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons**,²⁸ by adopting a broad focus on violence inflicted based on gender, inclusive of LGBTQIA+ people and people of non-binary gender identities. The Platform will also support Australia's objectives under the *Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda* to promote reconciliation in Australia and support indigenous people around the world. The Platform is aligned to Australia's *Climate Change Action Strategy 2020-2025*, recognising the intersection between the **prevention of GBV and climate change and climate-related disasters**. The Platform is **locally-driven and supports Australia's commitments to localisation** by responding to demand from the region and an innovative implementation model and ToC. This includes establishing a regional Secretariat to drive work on GBV prevention, support regional leadership, and invest in the capacity of diverse regional practitioners.

END OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program will achieve the following **end of program outcomes (EPOO)**, as shown in the table, and further elaborated in section D of the design document.

Table 1: Platform program outcomes

EPOO1	Practitioners and policy makers ²⁹ advocate for, implement, fund and monitor high-quality, evidence-based GBV prevention policies and programs.
EPOO2	Evidence of what works to prevent GBV in SE Asia is accessible and applied by practitioners and policy makers.
EPOO3	Expanded regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder collaboration on GBV prevention
EPOO4	Secretariat leads on all functions of the Platform to provide regional leadership on GBV prevention and enable sustained and locally-led development impact

DELIVERY APPROACH

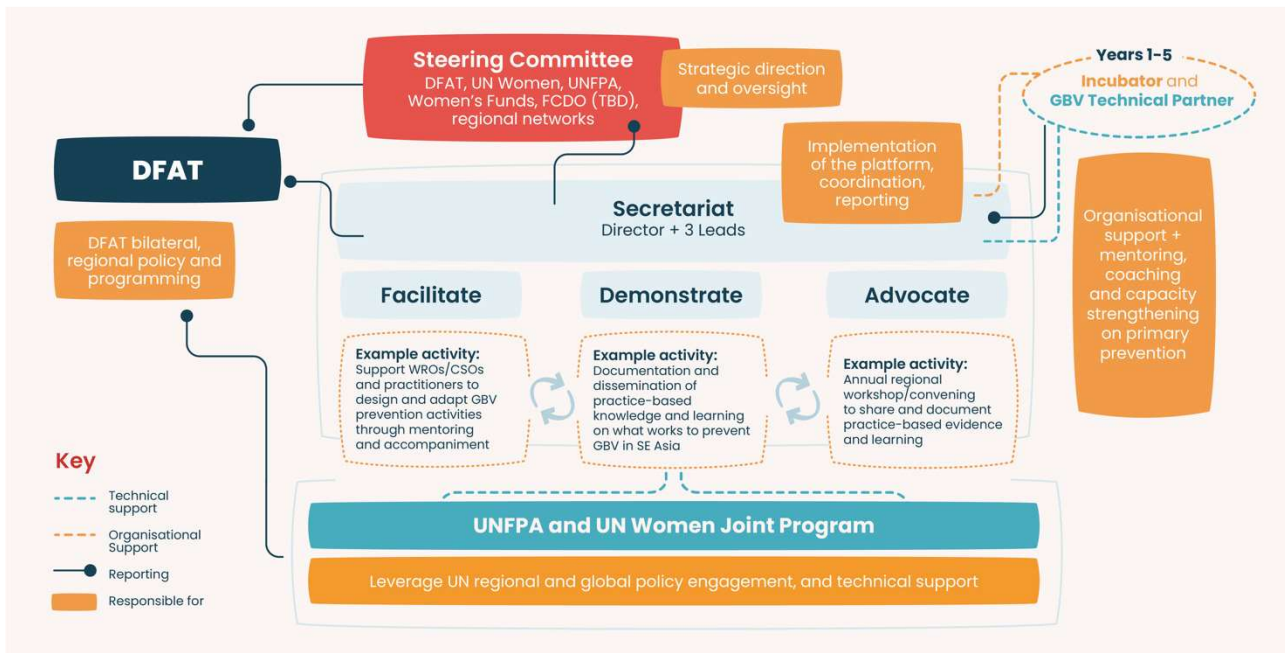
The implementing model and governance structure is shown in the following diagram. To ensure that the delivery approach was suitable, the design team and core design partners grounded the implementation options in the extensive consultation process and with consideration of impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and value-for-money (VfM). A **regional Secretariat** will lead the initiative, supported by an **Incubator**. The Incubator (such as an NGO or values-aligned managing contractor) will establish, recruit, host and incubate the Secretariat, provide organisational infrastructure (IT, HR, finance etc.) and support organisational development. **DFAT, a GBV Technical Partner, UN Women and UNFPA will play critical roles in supporting and scaffolding the Secretariat**. The regional Secretariat will be established through a **phased approach** over the lifetime of the initiative, with the Incubator moving to a backend corporate support role over

²⁸ DFAT reaffirmed it is invested in advancing and protecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons to the Human Rights Council in the 75th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *Australian Statement to the High-Level Segment, Human Rights Council – 52nd Session*. (2023). Ministers and Assistant Ministers for the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Retrieved March 28, 2023, from

²⁹ Including a diverse range of both programmers and policymakers - please see definition further above. For simplification, in the ToC diagram all are referred to as Practitioners.

time. With the support of the Incubator, the Secretariat will work towards independence in the longer-term (10 years or more), should this be deemed feasible and appropriate to regional needs and demand.

Proposed model and governance



GENDER AND CROSS CUTTING THEMES

The Platform represents a major gender equality investment for DFAT in Southeast Asia. The Platform will solidify Australia's international gender equality and ending GBV commitments in the region, and role as a partner of choice on gender equality. The ToC is underpinned by several principles including localisation, intersectionality, accessibility and minimising harm, while disability, intersectionality and climate change are addressed as cross cutting themes.

APPROACH TO MEL

An **adaptive approach** is needed for the program's delivery, monitoring and evaluation. GBV is a political issue, and progress may be hindered due to changes in political will. Therefore, the ongoing contextual and political economy analysis will be a focus of monitoring and review, along with reporting progress to outcomes, based on the ToC, which will need to be revisited annually. The Incubator will support monitoring and evaluation in the first year, with responsibility moving to the Platform Coordinator from year 3. It is crucial that continuity of the M&E system is maintained during this transition and the Incubator needs to plan for this transition from the inception period and throughout implementation.

Recommended **outcome indicators** include:

- Number of new or revised GBV prevention policies and plans developed by policy makers
- Number and description of actions taken by GBV coalitions
- Number of knowledge products developed
- Evidence of use of knowledge products by practitioners and policymakers
- Number of new CSOs and policymakers implementing GBV prevention approaches
- Increased proportion of budget managed by the Secretariat.

The program approach represents VfM as it leverages existing DFAT investments and networks and contributes to building the evidence base for future GBV investments. The approach also promotes localisation through the implementation model and ToC.

PROCUREMENT

A **two-step procurement process** (Expression of Interest (EOI) and full tender) is proposed to identify a preferred Incubator through an open tender process. The Incubator will have a track record of hosting/incubating similar independent Platforms and initiatives and must meet DFAT due diligence requirements. They must demonstrate a strong commitment and a robust approach to establishing an independent and regionally-led Secretariat, over a phased approach over the lifetime of the program. UNFPA and UN Women will maintain their current governance arrangements with DFAT through their existing Partnership Agreements. DFAT will also procure a specialist GBV Technical Partner to support capacity strengthening and learning in primary prevention whilst building the capacity of the Secretariat in primary prevention in the first five years of the program through a separate contract.

The program is designed to enable the Secretariat to establish partnerships with the potential to amplify and accelerate program outcomes and impact. For example, during inception the Secretariat will explore the most appropriate and locally-driven mechanisms to provide targeted funding to support practitioners engaged through the Platform to deliver high-quality and well-designed GBV primary prevention initiatives, with the highest potential for impact. This could include leveraging existing feminist and flexible grant-making facilities, as well as developing new funding mechanisms, in response to local demand and in partnership with local stakeholders.

RISKS

A **Risk and Safeguards Assessment** assessed the investment as moderate risk. This risk rating reflects the complex and challenging context within which GBV occurs. Key risks relate to partner capacity and relationships, the operating environment, working with children, protection of groups with vulnerabilities and disadvantage, and political sensitivities. Controls have been incorporated in the design of this program for DFAT to mitigate against key risks.

B. DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT AND SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

B1. DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM/ISSUE ANALYSIS

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a grave human rights violation, which curtails individual freedoms and empowerment. Approximately one in three women will experience GBV in their lifetime, causing significant harm to millions of women globally.³⁰ GBV has severe social and economic impacts for survivors of violence, and devastating immediate and long-term physical, and mental consequences. It also impacts on survivors' families, communities and societies, threatening prosperity and stability.

GBV hinders progress towards global development priorities, including improved health, education, economic prosperity, and climate change adaptation.³¹ Ending GBV is critical for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, and foundational for achievement of all SDGs, fostering peace, security and stability

³⁰ WHO (2018) Violence against women prevalence estimates 2018. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>

³¹ Swetha Totapally, Shruthi Jayaram, Akanksha Agarwal. (2022) *Imperative to Invest: How addressing violence against women and girls today reduces violence over time, fosters peace and stability, and enables people to reach their full potential, all of which advances us towards the SDGs.* Dalberg, 2022

enabling all people to reach their full potential.³² Preventing and addressing GBV is key to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Platform responds to findings and recommendations from DFAT's 2019 Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) evaluation of Australia's efforts to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG), which identified prevention of violence as an area where Australia should increase its focus. The Platform directly addresses an identified need for DFAT to play a stronger global leadership role on GBV prevention, through collaboration with regional stakeholders, and leveraging its convening power at national and regional levels.³³ It responds to a high demand validated through an extensive consultation process with partner country governments, international organisations, regional bodies and civil society, to address a regional gap in action, evidence and coordination on primary prevention³⁴ of GBV.

The Platform is designed to address **four main development challenges** in the theory of change (ToC) (presented in Section D):

1. **Limited long-term and sustainable funding and capacity support for GBV prevention in the region.** There has been limited regional investment in and support for primary prevention, which includes policy, programming and practice aimed at stopping violence before it occurs through addressing underlying drivers including inequitable gender and social norms.³⁵ Consequently, key stakeholders' tend to focus on much needed GBV response and service provision, while capabilities to design and implement effective prevention interventions are limited.³⁶ At the same time, most women's rights organisations (WROs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) consulted want to do more on prevention and expressed a high demand for capacity strengthening support on primary prevention. The Platform addresses this regional gap and represents a significant investment to build regional capacity and capability to drive sustainable and scalable approaches to GBV primary prevention. The investment strengthens and expands existing good practice in the region, and complements existing investment in GBV response, through dedicated resources to support the development, implementation and monitoring of local approaches to GBV prevention.
2. **A dearth of documented and consolidated evidence and practice-based learning of 'what works' to prevent GBV in Southeast Asian contexts, which restricts regional practice.** Regional practitioners underlined demand for accessible practice-based knowledge and evidence to improve policy development, implementation and GBV prevention programs and practice. The Platform will invest in capturing practice-based knowledge,³⁷ to determine, document and disseminate contextual evidence of 'what works' in the region. The Platform leverages regional and global research initiatives and opportunities to help build and elevate regional evidence, while contributing to the global evidence base.
3. **Variable progress on GBV prevention, and considerable differences between countries in the implementation of regional and national policy frameworks.** The Platform supports ASEAN priorities and builds on momentum and achievements to date, sharing learning to accelerate progress within each country's context. It will support and foster greater political will to improve coordinated action on eliminating GBV across country contexts through greater cross-border dialogues, and support to regional and national advocacy efforts.
4. **Emerging regional leadership on primary prevention of GBV, which will benefit from increased coordination and collaboration.** The design process validated the importance of local leadership for the Platform's credibility and long-term sustainability. Consultations highlighted the need to foster and support existing local leadership on GBV prevention from regional practitioners, including from women's rights organisations (WROs), to enhance regional coordination and support solidarity and movement

³² Ibid.

³³ DFAT. (2019). Ending violence against women and girls: Evaluating a decade of Australia's development assistance. Office of Development Effectiveness. <https://apo.org.au/node/268196>

³⁴ Primary prevention refers to reducing or stopping violence before it starts and is aimed at addressing the root causes of violence and changing attitudes, behaviours & norms.

³⁵ In total, 88% of respondents to an online consultation survey believe that program funding should be a priority activity (n=41).

³⁶ Consultations with the UK FCDO's What Works Programme for example, highlighted limited quality and quantity of proposals coming from the region.

³⁷ Practice-based knowledge is the cumulative knowledge and learning acquired by practitioners through years of innovation, reflection, and refinement. It includes insights from observations, conversations, direct experience, and program monitoring. (See <https://prevention-collaborative.org/guide-programming/practice-based-knowledge/> for more information).

building. The Platform promotes leadership of women from the region through establishing a new regional Secretariat for GBV prevention, with strong links to the grassroots women's movement.

The Platform design is informed by a collaborative design and rigorous consultation process described in box 1.

Box 1: Collaborative design and rigorous consultation process

The high-level program goal, priorities and outcomes were formulated following a collaborative design process with DFAT and core design partners, including UN Women, UNFPA and the Prevention Collaborative, and extensive stakeholder consultations. The final design is informed by inception activities (including a rapid evidence review, landscaping of current and planned initiatives and stakeholder mapping), a rigorous consultation process, core design partner feedback and inputs,³⁸ assessment of comparative models, and in alignment with considerations of impact, relevance, additionality, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and value for money.

The design process was underscored by feminist design principles,³⁹ including localisation, intersectionality, accountability and collaboration, to ensure the initiative is firmly grounded in the Southeast Asia region. **The design is informed by consultations with 160 regional, global and Australian stakeholders, from civil society (including WROs, CSOs, OPDs and LGBTQIA+ groups), government, ASEAN bodies, and regional and international organisations, including 311 individuals.**⁴⁰ The design process also involved consultation with DFAT Southeast Asia Posts to ensure the complementarity of the Platform with Australia's existing bilateral work. The consultation process included online and in-person consultations reaching **ten countries in Southeast Asia**, including two in-country missions to Viet Nam and Timor-Leste, online consultations, and an online survey. The consultations sought feedback on the following areas of the design:

- **Demand:** What is the demand for the Platform? Is the goal and are proposed objectives appropriate and needed by the region? How can the objectives be refined or strengthened? Should there be alternate or additional objectives?
- **Synergies and linkages:** How can the new Platform leverage and link with existing and planned work in the region?
- **Focus:** What should the focus of the Platform be?
- **Women's rights organisations:** How can the Platform best support women's rights organisations and CSOs working on GBV prevention?
- **Operating models and partnerships:** What sort of partners should DFAT consider for delivery of this initiative? And what is the most effective delivery model? Are there innovative ideas for how DFAT can implement the initiative with limited resources and scale over time? How can the Platform be best located in and serve the regional and national needs of SE Asian contexts?

The consultation process confirmed a high-level of demand for the Platform to address regional gaps in technical assistance, coordination and funding. The process generated rich insights and feedback, from which a series of clear messages informed the design's focus, objectives, ToC, and implementing model. The process also promoted buy-in and local ownership, providing a solid basis of initial stakeholder for the Platform to build on. A list of organisations consulted is included in Annex 1.

³⁸ Including a series of three design workshops with core design partners.

³⁹ In practice, this meant a commitment to both the outcome (an evidence-based, high quality, rigorously consulted and broadly and locally owned design) and the process, which includes ways of working and behaviours rooted in feminist values. Specific principles which underpinned the collaborative design process included a focus on transformational change, leveraging respective strengths and networks, acknowledging partners' contributions, awareness of power, regular dialogue and interaction, including local actors in co-creation, transparency and accountability.

⁴⁰ Please see Annex 1 for a full list of stakeholders consulted.

B2. COUNTRY/REGIONAL AND SECTOR ISSUES

GBV is a global issue. Globally, at least 1 in 3 women will experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by any perpetrator in their lifetime.⁴¹ It is present in every country, and a key priority for Australia both domestically and through international engagements.

GBV remains widespread in the Southeast Asia region, which for the purpose of this investment includes ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Brunei, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore Cambodia and Viet Nam), as well as Timor-Leste.⁴² Australia has supported significant investments in building the evidence base on GBV prevalence and dynamics in the region, including through the kNOwVAWdata initiative.⁴³ National prevalence data demonstrates that across the region, estimates of the proportion of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner over their lifetime ranges from 6% in Singapore, 15% in Laos and the Philippines, 32% in Viet Nam, and 59% in Timor-Leste.⁴⁴ Given common underreporting of violence, actual rates of violence may be higher.⁴⁵ National studies have found similarly high rates of emotional and economic abuse perpetrated against women by an intimate partner.⁴⁶ Women and girls are also at risk of non-partner sexual violence (NPSV), with available lifetime prevalence data showing rates ranging from 5% of women in Laos to 19% in Indonesia.⁴⁷

Multiple forms of GBV and harmful practices are present in the region including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); conversion therapy practices (CTP); sexual harassment and violence perpetrated by teachers; trafficking of children and young women; gender-biased sex selection; child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and pregnancy; GBV and harassment (GBVH) in the workplace; conflict-related GBV; and technology-facilitated GBV (TFGBV). The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing inequitable gender norms in the region, further fuelling GBV.⁴⁸

Research and consultations highlight the significance of gender inequitable norms and attitudes, including harmful notions of masculinity, in driving and sustaining GBV in the region.⁴⁹ There is consensus on the need for a strong focus on violence prevention that addresses the root causes and drivers of violence.

The risk of exposure to GBV increases in conflict, natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Approximately 45% of the world's natural disasters occur in Asia and the Pacific, while more than 75% of those affected by natural disasters live in the region.⁵⁰ The Asia and Oceania region also experience the highest level of conflict compared to other regions.⁵¹ Multiple overlapping humanitarian crises including conflict and natural disasters in Myanmar have resulted in increased risks of GBV, trafficking and harmful practices such as CEFM.⁵² There is increasing evidence to suggest that climate change and environmental degradation increases risks of GBV, sexual

⁴¹ UN Women and Social Development Direct (2020). *RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women –Implementation package*. UN Women – Headquarters. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/07/respect-women-implementation-package>

⁴² Australia has active development cooperation agreements in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

⁴³ Together with UNFPA, the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety and the University of Melbourne. Home. (n.d.). kNOwVAWdata. Retrieved March 28, 2023, from <https://knowvawdata.com/>

⁴⁴ UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. (2020a). *Women who experience IPV 2010-2020. 2020 Regional Snapshot*. https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/knowvawdata_regional_vaw_map_july_29_2020_final.pdf

⁴⁵ For example, please see Cullen, C (2023) Method Matters: The Underreporting of Intimate Partner Violence. *The World Bank Economic Review*, 37(1), 2023, 49–73 <https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhac022>

⁴⁶ For example, the National Study on Domestic Violence in Viet Nam (2019) found that over half (54%) of all women had experienced emotional abuse by an intimate partner, while almost 1 in 10 (9%) had experienced economic abuse. See MOLISA, GSO, & UNFPA. (2020). *Results of the National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam 2019—Journey for Change*. (p. 502). https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/0_vaw_study_main_report_final_13_aug_2020_0.pdf

⁴⁷ UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. (2020a). *Women who experience IPV 2010-2020. 2020 Regional Snapshot*. https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/knowvawdata_regional_vaw_map_july_29_2020_final.pdf

⁴⁸ For example, a study of eight Asian countries found that cases of domestic violence rose considerably during periods of lockdown or immediately after. UN Women, UNFPA, & Quilt.ai. (2021). *COVID-19 and Violence Against Women: The evidence behind the talk. Insights from big data analysis in Asian countries*. <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/covid-19-and-violence-against-women-evidence-behind-talk>

⁴⁹ See for example, The Asia Foundation. (2017). *Community-Based Approaches: Ending Violence Against Women through community action*. <https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Nabilan-CBA-Practice-Ethics-Research.pdf>; and UNICEF. (2019b). *Ending Violence Against Women and Children in Vietnam. Opportunities and Challenges for Collaborative and Integrative Approaches*. <https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/8646/file/Ending%20Violence%20against%20Women%20and%20Children%20in%20Viet%20Nam.pdf>

⁵⁰ UNFPA Philippines (2018) Delivering Supplies when disaster strikes. Regional overview. <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/18-291-DeliveringSuppliesCrisis-Asia-finalweb.pdf>

⁵¹ See <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262936/number-of-conflicts-worldwide-by-region-and-intensity-of-conflict/>

⁵² UNFPA. (2021, April). Myanmar Humanitarian Emergency. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/emergencies/myanmar-humanitarian-emergency>

exploitation, trafficking and CEFM in slow-onset climate contexts and acute climate-related disasters such as flooding and landslides.⁵³ For example, in the aftermath of typhoon Pablo in the Philippines, a quarter of women aged 18-24 reported experiencing IPV,⁵⁴ and domestic violence increased three-fold in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.⁵⁵ With the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters and the associated regional impacts of increased migration, ensuring a regional approach can help ensure climate resilience of our GBV investments.

In most countries in the region,⁵⁶ **women are more at risk of experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner**, than someone other than their partner. Furthermore, evidence suggests in most cases of NPSV, the perpetrator is a family member, a friend or a neighbour. For example, 91% and 86% of survivors in Thailand and Viet Nam respectively, reported to know their rapist prior to the incident.⁵⁷ Given that IPV is the most significant form of violence spanning all countries in the region, and there is now considerable global evidence which shows that IPV is preventable through implementation of high-quality gender transformative approaches, the Platform will adopt an **(initial) focus on IPV and family violence (which is closely related)**. However, the Platform's focus may evolve to other priority forms of GBV based on the needs of the region, and it will also remain flexible to support prevention of other forms of GBV (for example workplace harassment, NPSV and online GBV), responsive to local demands and priorities.

Available data and evidence suggest a high prevalence of Violence Against Children (VAC) in the region. A 2013 P4P study in Cambodia found that over 95% of men and 92% of women surveyed had experienced some form of abuse during childhood.⁵⁸ In the Philippines, a 2016 national study on VAC found that approximately two-thirds (66.3%) of Filipinos had experienced some form of physical violence during childhood (primarily at home or at school), with similar rates for boys (66.6%) and girls (62.5%). Furthermore, approximately 21.5% of children (24.7% of boys and 18.2% of girls) between the ages of 13 and 18 years experienced some form of sexual violence during their childhood primarily in dating or home contexts. Rates of bullying and peer violence (60%) and exposure to cyberviolence (43.8%) were also found to be high.⁵⁹ There is **limited comprehensive data on the scale and nature of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) in the region**.⁶⁰ Forms of CSEA in the region include sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, online child sexual exploitation, including specific forms of live online CSEA, child trafficking for sexual exploitation, exploitation of children for prostitution, and child marriage.⁶¹

GBV affects people of all ages, races, gender identities, socio-economic status, and regions. However, **adolescent girls, young women, sex workers, women migrant and women belonging to ethnic and other minorities, transwomen, and women with disabilities face a higher risk of different forms of violence**.⁶² People with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics (SOGIESC) in the region experience disproportionate rates of poverty and exclusion, with the main drivers of exclusion remaining legal and social discrimination and

⁵³ UN Women & IUCN. (2022). Tackling violence against women and girls in the context of climate change. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/03/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-context-of-climate-change>

⁵⁴ Han, J. Y.-C., Pross, C., Agarwal, R., & Torre, A. R. (2022). State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN. ASEAN, UN Women. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/State-of-Gender-Equality-and-Climate-Change-in-ASEAN-2.pdf>

⁵⁵ Irish Consortium on GBV. (2022). Gender based Violence and its intersection with climate change. <https://www.gbv.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ICGBV-Policy-Paper-Climate-Change-and-GBV.pdf>

⁵⁶ With the exception of Indonesia, where lifetime perpetration of NPSV is slightly higher (18.5%) than lifetime perpetration of IPV (18.3%)

⁵⁷ Skinnider, E., Montgomery, R., & Garrett, S. (2017). The trial of rape: Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual violence in Thailand and Viet Nam. Un Women, UNDP, and UNODC. (p.9). https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2017/10/trial-of-rape_yc_27-sept-2017.pdf?la=en&vs=2050

⁵⁸ Fulu, E., Warner, X., Miedema, S., Jewkes, R., Roselli, T., & Lang, J. (2013b). Why do some men use violence against women and how can we prevent it? Quantitative findings from the United Nations multi-country study on men and violence in Asia and the Pacific. UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV. <http://www.partners4prevention.org/sites/default/files/resources/p4p-report.pdf>

⁵⁹ Council for the Welfare of Children & UNICEF. (2016). National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines. <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reports/national-baseline-study-violence-against-children-philippines>

⁶⁰ UNICEF Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, & UN Women Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. (2021) Ending Violence against Women and Children in Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities and Challenges for Collaborative and Integrative Approaches.. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/12/ending-violence-against-women-and-children-in-east-asia-and-pacific>

⁶¹ Davy, D. (2017) Regional Overview: Sexual Exploitation of Children in Southeast Asia (p. 115). ECPAT International. https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Regional-Overview_Southeast-Asia.pdf

⁶² WHO. (2019). *RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women. A Framework for Policymakers*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/respect-women-preventing-violence-against-women#:~:text=Violence%20against%20women%20and%20girls,and%20the%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals>

stigma.⁶³ The evidence review undertaken as part of this design highlights a significant gap in evidence on the scale and dynamics of violence perpetrated against individuals identifying as LGBTQIA+, including non-binary adolescents. However, small-scale studies have highlighted how sexual and gender minority women in the region are at risk of IPV, NPSV as well as targeted forms of violence related to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) including ‘corrective rape’.⁶⁴

Women and girls with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are two to four times more likely to experience IPV than women without disabilities, while women with disabilities are also at heightened risk of experiencing NPSV.⁶⁵ In Cambodia, a 2021 evaluation found that while women and girls with disabilities experience similar levels of physical, sexual and emotional violence by their intimate partners, they face significantly higher levels of violence by other family members.⁶⁶ While women and girls with disabilities experience higher rates of violence, they are often isolated from accessing services and participating in broader women’s rights movements. At the same time, consultations with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), regional disability networks and international disability-focused organisations highlighted a dearth of evidence and programming in the region addressing violence against women with disabilities.

B3. POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS

The Platform will engage ASEAN as a strategic partner for the Platform. In 2015, all ASEAN member states made a commitment to speed up efforts to combat violence against women, through **the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) (2016-2025)**. The plan outlines concrete actions that guide regional and national implementation of strengthened prevention of and response to violence against women, which cover protection and support services, prosecution and justice systems, capacity building, research and data collection, management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, partnership and collaboration, and review and communications. The plan demonstrates Member States commitment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women in ASEAN by 2025.⁶⁷ Consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat confirmed their alignment with the Platform’s goals, in particular demand for support to promote greater policy coherence and promotion of GBV as a cross sectoral issue, support developing practical tools and guidelines, and linking Southeast Asia with best practice from other regions. Given the timeframe for the initiative, coming towards the end of the Regional Plan of Action’s implementation period, the Platform will also need to engage with and align with ASEAN’s post 2025 blueprint.

The Platform will engage with multiple pillars of ASEAN, including socio-cultural, economic and political security Sectoral Bodies.⁶⁸ Within the socio-cultural pillar, the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) with its leadership role in delivering the Regional Plan of Action on EVAW, will be critical partners for the Platform. The Platform will establish and sustain a channel of communication/coordination with these ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to exchange knowledge, share the progress of activities and explore areas of collaboration. In addition to supporting regional commitments, ASEAN also enables a second channel of engagement with different representatives committed to addressing GBV and gender equality from within each member state - to expand the Platform’s networks and

⁶³ Scamell, D and Tanhchareun, T (2023) Partnering with Pride. The case for Australian action on equality in our region.
<https://equalityaustralia.org.au/resources/partneringwithpride/>

⁶⁴ Lee, H., & Ahlenback, V. (2020). Reaching women and girls most at risk of VAWG. Social Development Direct.
<https://www.sddirect.org.uk/resource/query-304-reaching-women-and-girls-most-risk-violence>

⁶⁵ Stern, E. et al. (2018). Disability and Violence against Women and Girls.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326557871_Disability_and_Violence_against_Women_and_Girls

⁶⁶ Strickler, C., & Sovann, P. (2022)

⁶⁷ Belen, K. M. (2021). Ending Violence against Women in ASEAN Member States. Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW 2016-2025). ASEAN & UN Women.
<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEAAsia/Docs/Publications/2021/11/ap-evaw-MTR-REPORT-VAWG-22Nov2021.pdf>

⁶⁸ I.e., the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

potential allies for prevention within countries. Through these channels, DFAT and the UN, as active partners for ASEAN, will continue to work with them on commitments, policy and national-level budgeting.

Most governments in the region have signed up to global commitments on gender equality and ending VAW (including CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, SDG target 5.2).⁶⁹ Most countries in the region have domestic violence legislation in place, six countries have anti-trafficking laws, and four countries have plans and policies in place to tackle VAWG: the Philippines (2010), Timor-Leste (2012; 2017), Vietnam (2014; 2022),⁷⁰ and Cambodia (2009; 2014; 2019). In addition, Thailand is in the process of drafting its first National Action Plan (NAP) focused on ending VAWG, and in 2022 approved a 6-year plan to address sexual abuse and harassment. Some countries are also in the process of reviewing their NAPs,⁷¹ including prevention components, which can be drawn upon to generate evidence and inform the Platform's approach to national-level policy engagement. Countries with existing NAPs provide obvious entry points for the Platform, to support and strengthen implementation of existing efforts, and to draw on learning and evaluations of these national efforts to inform regional advocacy and dialogue.

However, gaps remain in legislation, implementation and financing, with examples of narrow definitions of GBV, exclusion of at-risk groups, some policy provision and practise inconsistent with international evidence and guidance,⁷² and unsafe reporting mechanisms creating varied demands for legislative reform, technical capacity and funding across the region.⁷³ Evidence from the region highlights **gaps in GBV response and justice systems** and a culture of impunity in many contexts, leading many survivors not to seek help.⁷⁴

The platform as a regional program will be well-placed to navigate national and regional sensitivities and opportunities. It will be critical to ensure that it has an **adaptive and flexible approach** to leverage political will and to ensure regional ownership and sustainability.⁷⁵ The design process has underscored the clear role for DFAT and UN partners to play in this area, leveraging their strong relationships across regional, sub-regional, national, and local stakeholders.

Drawing on the gendered PEA analysis, and acknowledging the less visible power structures, consultations with civil society underscored a consensus on ensuring that **WROs are empowered to take ownership and build momentum on primary prevention**. They will have a **key role to play in implementation**, ensuring **regional credibility** and supporting **movement building and solidarity** for long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

B4. EVIDENCE BASE/LESSONS LEARNED

There is increasing **global evidence on 'what works' to prevent GBV and reduce its frequency and severity within a programmatic timeframe** (3-5 years).⁷⁶ The global evidence base has also consolidated evidence and learning on the most effective prevention strategies.⁷⁷ However, **evidence of 'what works' to prevent GBV in Southeast**

⁶⁹ UN Women. (2020). *Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on VAW Prevention*.

⁷⁰ UN Women. (2020). *Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on VAW Prevention*.

⁷¹ For example, Cambodia is currently undertaking a review of its third NAP on VAW.

⁷² For example, in some contexts such as Cambodia reconciliation or mediation is often promoted as a form of prevention, while the law focuses on domestic rather than broader forms of GBV. See ACCESS Design Document.

⁷³ For example, family law legislation that legalises child marriage in both civil and sharia laws contribute to IPV rates, due to the power and control dynamics that children who are married face. In some countries such as Thailand, the illegality of sex work contributes to sex worker's vulnerability to violence. Malaysia and Indonesia have legislation criminalising LGBTQIA+ freedom of expression, identity and sexuality, which hinders their access to GBV protection mechanisms.

⁷⁴ For example, a 2017 UN Multi-Country study examining the criminal justice system in Thailand and Viet Nam found that women reporting cases of rape in Thailand and Vietnam encounter significant societal, legal, and institutional policies and practices that act as barriers to justice. UN Women, UNDP and UNODC. (2017). *The Trial of Rape. Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual violence in Thailand and Viet Nam* https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2019/08/ap-Trial-of-Rape_26Aug2019_lowres-compressed.pdf

⁷⁵ For example, consultations with Singapore highlight interest to co-host an event in the region, and share lessons learned on addressing online harm.

⁷⁶ See for example, Kerr-Wilson, A., Gibbs, A., McAslan Fraser, E., Ramsoomar, L., Parke, A., Khuwaja, H. M. A., & Jewkes, R. (2020). A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls. What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Global Programme. <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/374-evidence-reviewweb/file>

⁷⁷ For example, the 2019 UN RESPECT Women Framework provides an overview of seven evidence-based VAW prevention strategies (WHO, 2019). Similarly, a rigorous, in-depth global review of the state of the GBV prevention field undertaken in 2020 found good evidence that nine categories of interventions can be effective in reducing IPV and/ or NPSV globally (Kerr-Wilson et al, 2020).

Asia remains limited. Notably, the global evidence on what works is biased towards evidence from Africa and North America.⁷⁸ The majority of evidence from the region is from small-scale initiatives at the sub-country level, with most investment in GBV prevention programming concentrated in four countries (Viet Nam, Indonesia, Cambodia and Timor-Leste). There have also been limited robust evaluations of prevention programming in the region. Consultations highlighted barriers for regional evidence generation including funding, translation and accessibility, and how this lack of region-specific evidence hinders efforts to accelerate action on prevention of GBV. For example, lessons learned from UN Women and the Prevention Collaborative's roll out of the RESPECT Implementation Package⁷⁹ in Viet Nam highlights the need for more regional specific evidence and learning to adapt materials and content to the region.

Box 2: Critical elements of GBV prevention programming

The 2020 What Works Global Evidence Review⁸⁰ identifies 10 elements of design and implementation of effective GBV prevention interventions, including the need for a robust ToC, rooted in local knowledge, addressing multiple drivers of violence including gender inequality and poverty, work with women and girls *and* men and boys, based on theories of gender and social empowerment, use of group-based participatory learning methods, age-appropriate design, integration of support for survivors, optimal intensity and the importance of staff and volunteers sharing gender-equitable attitudes. Similarly, the RESPECT Framework⁸¹ identifies 10 'guiding principles' for VAW prevention programming, including core values and principles for design, with the addition of addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems to build the evidence base, and do no harm. The Prevention Collaborative has digested these down to 6 elements for successful programming: *Intentional design, holistic design, transformative, interactive, aspirational, sufficient exposure (intensity and reach)*.

In addition to increased global investment in robust mixed-method evaluations providing 'gold standard' global evidence on the effectiveness of approaches to shifting prevalence, frequency and severity of GBV, **qualitative research and practice-based knowledge** have provided insights on *how and why* some interventions may have been more effective than others.⁸² This collective learning from the field on how and why certain approaches have been successful in some contexts, has contributed to emerging consensus on the **critical elements of successful GBV prevention programming** (see box 2). However, consultations highlighted a **gap in targeted translation and dissemination of this global evidence** to Southeast Asian stakeholders. Consequently, the design process found that there is **significant programming in the region that does not apply global evidence**. For example, standalone awareness raising campaigns around different forms of GBV are common, despite global evidence consistently showing limited impact on GBV prevalence rates.

Globally, less than 0.5% of official development assistance and philanthropic funding went towards tackling GBV in 2018.⁸³ Within this limited funding space, traditional efforts to address GBV in the region and globally, have focused on legislative and policy reform; improved provision and access to coordinated multi-sectoral services;

⁷⁸ For example, just 15 (16%) of the Randomised Control Trials/quasi-experimental studies in the What Works evidence review came from Central, East and South Asia. (Jewkes et al., 2020)

⁷⁹ UN Women and Social Development Direct. (2020). *RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women – Implementation package*. UN Women – Headquarters. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/07/respect-women-implementation-package>

⁸⁰ Jewkes, R., Willan, S., Heise, L., Washington, L., Shai, N., Kerr-Wilson, A., & Christofides, N. (2020). Effective design and implementation elements in interventions to prevent violence against women and girls (What Works To Prevent VAWG? Global Programme Synthesis Product Series.). <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/373-intervention-report19-02-20/file>

⁸¹ WHO. (2019). *RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women. A Framework for Policymakers*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/respect-women-preventing-violence-against-women#:~:text=Violence%20against%20women%20and%20girls,and%20the%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals>.

⁸² This includes work by UN Women and the Prevention Collaborative and other actors to document and learn from adaptations of evidence-based prevention models (WHO, 2019). In addition, the community of practice – the Community for Understanding Scale Up (CUSP) – has drawn on collective experience to identify recommendations and principles for ethical scale up of social norms approaches. ALIGN Platform. (2019). Community for Understanding Scale Up (CUSP) Summary Overview. https://www.alignplatform.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/cusp_summaryoverview_final.pdf

⁸³ Jaeger, K., Vera, I., & Petitjean, H. (2020). A life free from fear. Donor Tracker. <https://donortracker.org/publications/life-free-fear-financing-end-gender-based-violence#introduction>

and better collection, analysis and use of data.⁸⁴ Most grassroots organisations consulted as part of the design process were engaged first and foremost in service provision and response-based approaches, including one-stop-crisis centres. However, **many of these organisations expressed a desire to do more work in prevention, but had limited access to evidence, resources or technical support on how to approach this specialised area of work.**

The **Platform complements and supports existing bilateral DFAT-funded GBV-focused initiatives** supporting policy change, service provision and GBV prevention programming,⁸⁵ with opportunities to leverage financing for prevention-focused activities, share expertise on prevention models that will achieve results within national contexts, and support linkages between stakeholders. The design also complements and draws on learning from regional program engagement with ASEAN, including ASEAN-Australian Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), and Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development. The design process highlights scope for greater integration with the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda as the Platform evolves, as well as opportunities for sharing learning and evidence with the Pacific region, especially in the areas of education, faith and sports.

The previously DFAT-funded Partners for Prevention (P4P) - a joint UN program - generated a significant amount of learning from GBV prevention programs implemented over two phases between 2008-2017 in three countries (Cambodia, Viet Nam and Indonesia). Under the first phase of the program, a landmark multi-country study on men's perpetration of violence in Asia and the Pacific generated data and evidence on prevalence and drivers of male perpetration of violence.⁸⁶ Results of P4P program evaluations showed promising results with regards to promoting greater gender equality, healthy relationships and volunteerism, while building the capacity of implementing partners to design and implement primary VAWG prevention programs. Key recommendations of the final evaluation of P4P include the need to address social norms related to the acceptability of violence and the subordination of women, promotion of non-violent masculinities, and to develop interventions that respond to the specific patterns of violence in each context.⁸⁷ Notably, learning from P4P found even organisations focused on GBV needed additional capacity building to effectively plan and implement high-quality primary prevention projects.⁸⁸ The design process has revealed that **significant resources and in-depth technical support are needed to support regional actors in their work to implement sustainable and scalable approaches to GBV prevention.**

Globally, evidence on how to reach women and girls most at risk of GBV is at an early stage in scope and scale. Few mainstream GBV prevention interventions have aimed to be inclusive of disability or target the most marginalised. Available evidence suggests adolescent girls often fall through the cracks in GBV and VAC interventions, and there is limited understanding of the experiences and drivers of GBV against LGBTQIA groups.⁸⁹ There are also opportunities for the Platform to build on emerging evidence and learning from the region on addressing violence and harassment against migrant women, including the 2022 Framework on Prevention of GBV and Harassment against women migrant workers in South and Southeast Asia, which captures the risk factors for gender-based violence and harassment against women across the migration cycle and articulates strategies and stakeholder actions that can accelerate progress on prevention.⁹⁰

⁸⁴ UN Women and Social Development Direct (2020), [RESPECT: Preventing Violence against Women National Plan Guide & Workbook](#).

⁸⁵ For example, the Platform is being designed at the same time as the second phase of the Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services (ACCESS) program, which includes activities to support piloting of evidence-based GBV prevention focused initiatives.

⁸⁶ Fulu, E., Warner, X., Miedema, S., Jewkes, R., Roselli, T., & Lang, J. (2013b). Why do some men use violence against women and how can we prevent it? Quantitative findings from the United Nations multi-country study on men and violence in Asia and the Pacific. UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV. <http://www.partners4prevention.org/sites/default/files/resources/p4p-report.pdf>

⁸⁷ Gevers, A., & Taylor, K. (2018). Promising strides toward ending violence against women and girls in the Asia and the Pacific Region: Results from Partners for Prevention pilot interventions in four countries. Partners for Prevention.

https://partners4prevention.org/sites/default/files/resources/p4p_outcome_report_mar19_hyperlinks_0.pdf

⁸⁸ P4P. (2018). Lessons Learned About Primary Prevention Of Violence Against Women And Girls In The Asia And The Pacific Region.

<https://partners4prevention.org/resource/lessons-learned-about-primary-prevention-violence-against-women-and-girls-asia-and-pacific-0>

⁸⁹ Lee, H., & Ahlenback, V. (2020). *Reaching women and girls most at risk of VAWG*. Social Development Direct.

<https://www.sddirect.org.uk/resource/query-304-reaching-women-and-girls-most-risk-violence>

⁹⁰ UN Women, ILO, IOM and UNODC (2022) Framework for Prevention of Violence and Harassment Against Women Migrant Workers in South and South East Asia. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/11/framework-prevention-of-gender-based-violence-and-harassment-against-women-migrant-workers-in-south-and-southeast-asia>

Box 3: Links between comprehensive sexuality education and prevention of GBV

Consultations highlighted the potential for the Platform to invest in and support strengthened policies and programs around comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) as one component of a comprehensive approach to the prevention of GBV. A 2021 regional literature review on CSE and GBV undertaken by UNFPA's Asia and Pacific Regional Office, highlights the potential for CSE to address risk and protective factors for GBV, when programming is gender transformative, linked to programs to address school-related GBV (SRGBV) and GBV in families, community and society, and is linked to response services. CSE has the potential to reach children and adolescents at the appropriate age to transform harmful gender norms, which drive GBV. The review also highlighted the need for more robust monitoring and evaluation of GBV-related outcomes.⁹¹ Building on its work with young people, UNFPA in collaboration with UNESCO have adopted CSE as a key approach to promoting gender equitable norms with adolescent girls and boys.

Evidence from the region highlights **gaps in GBV response and a culture of impunity** in many contexts, leading most survivors not to seek help. In Timor-Leste, for example, 66% of survivors of IPV never seek help.⁹² Insights from consultations in 2016 with women survivors in the Philippines found that low-help seeking behaviour is linked to i) norms around expectations that women suffer in silence and family reputation, ii) fear of personal safety, iii) lack of confidence in duty bearers and service providers, and iv) lack of awareness of available services and protective mechanisms.⁹³ In Thailand, women survivors of rape are often encouraged to accept monetary compensation from perpetrators rather than going through the judicial system.⁹⁴ However, **regionally there is significantly more investment in service provision and response**, including shelters, one-stop-crisis centres, hotlines, screening through health services, and sensitisation of institutional personnel such as police (without changing the institutional environment) than primary prevention approaches.

The design recognises that **prevention and response are essential components of a comprehensive approach to tackling GBV**. Evidence suggests that increased investment in prevention is likely to increase the number of survivors speaking out thereby increasing demand for high-quality services and response. At the same time, quality service provision can reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors for GBV.⁹⁵ The Platform will maintain a focus on GBV primary prevention and will follow **best practice in comprehensive approaches** by integrating support for survivors of violence⁹⁶ and leveraging existing DFAT and UN partner response initiatives to facilitate better linkages between prevention and response.⁹⁷ While the Platform's primary focus is prevention, all work will adopt a continuum approach (from prevention to response) as part of a comprehensive, contextually adapted approach to tackling violence in homes, communities, countries and the region.

Finally, the design process has underscored the **importance of movement building and solidarity**⁹⁸ for long-term

⁹¹ UNFPA, UNESCO and IPPF (2021). *Learn. Protect. Respect. Empower. The status of comprehensive sexuality education in Asia-Pacific: A summary review 2020*.

https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/cse_summary_review.pdf

⁹² The Asia Foundation. (2017). Community-Based Approaches: Ending Violence Against Women through community action.

<https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Nabilan-CBA-Practice-Ethics-Research.pdf>

⁹³ UNESCAP. (2021). South-East Asia: An Analysis of the Beijing+25 Review Reports

<https://repository.unescap.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12870/3532/ESCAP-2021-RP-South-East-Asia-Beijing.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁹⁴ UN Women. (2019). Understanding the costs of VAW.

https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2019/11/ap-UNW_CostofVAW_V1_STEVE_7Nov2019_YCs.pdf

⁹⁵ UN Women, World Health Organization and Social Development Direct (2020) Services Ensured, RESPECT: Preventing Violence against Women Strategy Summary. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/RESPECT-implementation-guide-Strategy-summary-Services-ensured-en.pdf>

⁹⁶ Integrating support for survivors of GBV is identified as one of the key elements of design and implementation of effective GBV prevention initiatives by the 2020 What Works Global Evidence Review. Jewkes, R., Willan, S., Heise, L., Washington, L., Shai, N., Kerr-Wilson, A., & Christofides, N. (2020). Effective design and implementation elements in interventions to prevent violence against women and girls (What Works To Prevent VAWG? Global Programme Synthesis Product Series.). <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/373-intervention-report19-02-20/file>

⁹⁷ A guiding principle of the UN RESPECT Women Framework is addressing the prevention continuum by linking prevention and response.

⁹⁸ In addition to stakeholder consultations, this finding is supported by a review of joint UN initiatives on EVAWG in East and Southern Africa, which found that solidarity and collaboration were essential elements for joint initiatives on EVAWG to be effective. UN Women. (2022). *The Power of*

sustainability and effectiveness of the initiative. This finding has informed key elements of the approach, including embedding a strong principle of accountability to diverse women and girls, promotion of connections as well as safe spaces to build trust, shared experiences and joint learning, a strong focus on collaboration, and flexible funding support for WROs/CSOs (described further in section D).

C. STRATEGIC INTENT AND RATIONALE (WHY?)

C1. STRATEGIC SETTING AND RATIONALE FOR AUSTRALIAN/DFAT ENGAGEMENT

Violence against women and children is a problem of epidemic proportions in Australia with one in three women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by a man they know.⁹⁹ In response, Australia is implementing its second **National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032** - an overarching national policy framework that will guide actions towards ending violence against women and children over the next ten years. Australia recognises that all parts of society must work together to achieve the shared vision of ending gender-based violence in one generation.

Existing policy frameworks including the 2017 *Foreign Policy White Paper* and *Partnerships for Recovery* position gender equality, including a **commitment to ending gender-based violence in all its forms**, as a key priority for all of Australia's international engagements.¹⁰⁰ The Platform bolsters Australia's international gender equality and GBV commitments and leadership within Southeast Asia, and cements Australia's position as a partner of choice on gender equality. The new international development policy to be released in 2023, will make gender equality a priority. Alongside this policy will be new international gender equality, disability and LGBTQIA+ human rights engagement strategies released later in 2023. As Australia works towards ending GBV, the Platform will create an opportunity for genuine partnership, and shared learning with countries in the Southeast Asia region.

The investment aligns with global and regional policy commitments on ending GBV, including SDGs (5), the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW, including definitions GR 19, 28, 35), Beijing +30 indicators, the *ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (2016-2025)*, and the *ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025*. The *UN RESPECT Women Framework* and Implementation Package highlights four targeted strategies and activities to foster an **enabling environment for GBV prevention**, all of which are addressed by the Platform design. These include targeted strategies and activities to build political commitment, invest in WROs, improve national and regional laws and policies, and provide adequate investment and resources for GBV prevention programming.¹⁰¹

A 2021 mid-term assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Elimination of VAWG, supported by UN Women through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative 'Safe and Fair', found many areas of progress. This includes the completion (with UN Women support) of the *ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use*, since translated into four languages; seven countries which have used national population level VAW prevalence surveys; eight countries have domestic violence legislation in place while member states have made significant efforts to improve the legislative environment.¹⁰² However, the review finds

Partnerships. Programming Lessons for Strengthening Movements and Solidarity for an End To Violence Against Women and Girls in East And Southern Africa. https://africa.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/UNW_ESAR_THE%20POWER%20OF%20PARTNERSHIPS_Final_en%5B20%5D.pdf

⁹⁹ Quick facts | Our Watch | Preventing violence against women. (n.d.). Ourwatch.Org.Au. Retrieved March 28, 2023, from <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/quick-facts/>

¹⁰⁰ Australian Government. (2017). *Foreign Policy White Paper. Building Cooperation.* DFAT. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/minisite/static/4ca0813c-585e-4fe1-86eb-de665e65001a/fpwhitepaper/foreign-policy-white-paper/chapter-three-stable-and-prosperous-indo-pacific/building-collaboration.html>

¹⁰¹ WHO. (2019). *RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women. A Framework for Policymakers.* <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/respect-women-preventing-violence-against-women#:~:text=Violence%20against%20women%20and%20girls,and%20the%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals>

¹⁰² Belen, K. M. (2021). *Ending Violence against Women in ASEAN Member States. Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW 2016-2025).* ASEAN & UN Women.

that further steps are needed to allocate sufficient resources to sub-national mechanisms and include more vulnerable women in national violence prevention plans, especially those facing greater discrimination and with little access to services and opportunities for empowerment. The following are recommendations identified in the mid-term review, where the Platform will support progress:

- **Strengthen the technical capacities of national institutions** on evidence-based VAW prevention and response programme design, implementation and evaluation.
- **Developing and/or strengthening national action plans** focused on VAW in all its forms and establishing government institutional mechanisms to coordinate, monitor and assess the effectiveness of the measures taken, in addition to allocating sufficient resources.
- **Increasing efforts to address violence against excluded women** who face intersecting forms of discrimination, such as women with disabilities, women living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, girls, older women, ethnic minority and/or indigenous women, women living in disaster or conflict-affected areas, refugee and displaced women; documented and undocumented migrant women, women's human rights defenders/gender equality advocates and women who are trafficked for forced labour or sexual exploitation, among others.
- **Using and generating evidence of what works** to design VAW prevention programs that target gender transformative change around social norms and behaviours.
- **Increasing technical capacities in designing VAW prevention programs that address risk factors** for VAW at the individual, relational, community and societal levels and in rigorously evaluating the results of these programmes.

C2. GENDER, INNOVATION AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

The Platform represents a major gender equality investment for DFAT in Southeast Asia. Australia has a long-term commitment to ending GBV as a key strategy to achieve greater gender equality. Human rights and gender equality will be central to the new International Development Policy, with ending GBV, disability inclusion and women's leadership a continued focus for DFAT's engagement in the region. The Platform will solidify Australia's international gender equality and ending GBV commitments in the region, and role as a partner of choice on gender equality.

GBV is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality. Preventing and addressing GBV is key to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The Platform design draws on a comprehensive global evidence review and gender analysis, which highlights the significance of gender inequitable norms and attitudes, including harmful notions of masculinity, in driving and sustaining GBV and harmful practices in the region. For example, in Timor-Leste, the baseline for DFAT's Nabilan program found that 80% of women and 79% of men in Dili, believe a husband is justified in hitting his wife under certain circumstances.¹⁰³ Similarly, evidence suggests in Viet Nam, the persistence of patriarchal norms that condone male authority over women, prioritise family honour, and commodify women and girls, are key drivers of both VAW and VAC.¹⁰⁴ Norms around women's domestic and subordinated role in the family help to drive IPV as well as child, early and forced marriage (CEFM).¹⁰⁵ This evidence highlights the need for greater investment in gender-transformative approaches to address harmful gender inequalities, which drive and sustain GBV in the Southeast Asia region.

The past decade has proven that climate-related crises are becoming more prevalent in the region, increasing women and girls' risks of experiencing GBV. There is increasing evidence to suggest that climate change and

<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2021/11/ap-evaw-MTR-REPORT-VAWG-22Nov2021.pdf>

¹⁰³ The Asia Foundation. (2017). Community-Based Approaches: Ending Violence Against Women through community action.

<https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Nabilan-CBA-Practice-Ethics-Research.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ UNICEF. (2019b). Ending Violence Against Women and Children in Vietnam. Opportunities and Challenges for Collaborative and integrative approaches

<https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/8646/file/Ending%20Violence%20against%20Women%20and%20Children%20in%20Viet%20Nam.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ Plan International. (2022) Storming the norms: Regional research on identifying negative social and gender norms perpetuating Child, Early and Forced Marriage in Asia-Pacific and addressing them through a gender-transformative approach.

<https://resultsinhealth.org/images/nieuws/2022/220926 Shifting social and gender norms - PLAN International.pdf>

environmental degradation increase risks of GBV and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) in slow-onset climate contexts and acute climate-related disasters such as flooding and landslides.¹⁰⁶ This is because climate change exacerbates risk factors, including increasing household stresses, changing power dynamics and as a result, can increase discriminatory gender attitudes and behaviours. Displacement as a result of climate-related emergencies can increase forms of violence due to the lack of physical security and can increase barriers to reporting violence as well as accessing services.¹⁰⁷ Furthermore, during times of resource scarcity, when families cannot meet basic needs, the risks of child marriage increase.¹⁰⁸ GBV prevention activities are particularly crucial for communities susceptible to these crises, whilst improving gender equality can increase the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change and disasters.

The Platform's principles of intersectionality and inclusion (see box 4 in section D) are aligned to the global *Leave No One Behind* agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals,¹⁰⁹ and delivers on **Australian commitments to intersectional and inclusive policy and programming**. This includes Australia's long-held commitment to the **inclusion of people with disabilities** in all aid programs, and addressing intersections of gender and disability in efforts to end GBV, through the 2015 - 2021 *Development For All: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program*. The Platform will support DFAT's commitment **to advance and protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons**,¹¹⁰ by adopting a broad focus on violence inflicted based on gender, inclusive of LGBTQIA+ people and people of non-binary gender identities. The Platform will also support Australia's objectives under the *Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda* to promote reconciliation in Australia and support indigenous people around the world. The Platform will draw evidence and best practice from the GBV Prevention work implemented domestically under *The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022 to 2032*, and the forthcoming action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family safety and *First Nations National Plan*¹¹¹ to address the disproportionate rates of violence faced by indigenous women in Southeast Asian countries.

The Platform is **locally-driven and supports Australia's commitments to localisation** by responding to demand from the region and an innovative implementation model and ToC. This includes establishing a regional Secretariat to drive work on GBV prevention, support regional leadership, and invest in the capacity of diverse regional practitioners.

C3. VALUE FOR MONEY

The investment represents value for money (VfM) as it responds to the increasing demand from the Southeast Asia region to coordinate, document and share evidence on effective GBV prevention practices and builds on Australia's bilateral investments to end GBV across the region. A component of DFAT's efficiency VfM principles is evidence-based decision making. The Platform is both based on evidence, and functions to add to the regional and global GBV prevention evidence base. DFAT will benefit from ongoing learning and engagement in the initiative that supports evidence-based GBV prevention in bilateral programs. It extends limited GBV prevention resources across DFAT by providing a resourced Platform through which Posts can share insights, draw on GBV prevention expertise and engage in regional dialogue and advocacy without investing additional bilateral funds and resources.

¹⁰⁶ UN Women & IUCN. (2022). Tackling violence against women and girls in the context of climate change.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digitallibrary/publications/2022/03/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-context-of-climate-change>

¹⁰⁷ UN Women & IUCN. (2022). Tackling violence against women and girls in the context of climate change.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digitallibrary/publications/2022/03/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-context-of-climate-change>

¹⁰⁸ World Bank. (2022). Climate change and gender-based violence -- interlinked crises in East Africa.

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/climate-change-and-gender-based-violence-interlinked-crises-east-africa#:~:text=During%20times%20of%20resource%20scarcity,them%20vulnerable%20to%20sexual%20assault.>

¹⁰⁹ As outlined in the United Nations System Shared Framework for Action.

https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/imported_files/CEB%20equality%20framework-A4-web-rev3.pdf

¹¹⁰ DFAT reaffirmed it is invested in advancing and protecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons to the Human Rights Council in the 75th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *Australian Statement to the High-Level Segment, Human Rights Council – 52nd Session*. (2023). Ministers and Assistant Ministers for the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Retrieved March 28, 2023, from

¹¹¹ Sally, M. (2022). *Indigenous affairs* (Australia). Parliament of Australia. Retrieved April 24, 2023, from

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/BudgetReviewOctober202223/Indigenous_affairs

The investment also facilitates sharing of learning from bilateral programs, other donors, governments, civil society, UN agencies and partners in joint collaboration on a regionally-shared issue.

The Platform provides a more efficient mechanism for Australian organisations and agencies, such as the e-Safety Commission, the Department of Social Services, the Office for Women, the Australian Federal Police, and Australian specialist agencies such as ANROWS and Our Watch to engage in and learn from GBV prevention in the region. Consultations with UN Agencies reported Australian prevention expertise is valued in the region. The investment's evidence generation and dissemination strengthen both policy and practice in Australia and the region, linking Australia's policy commitment, through the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2023*, to policy dialogue with government counterparts in the region.

A component of DFAT's VfM effectiveness principles is innovation. The implementation model is an innovative model of utilising an existing organisation to incubate a new localised organisation (the Platform Secretariat) to implement the Platform. This approach will support the development of a locally based and developed organisation, in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

The implementation model promotes efficiency through an Incubating organisation (Incubator) providing operational support to the Secretariat, allowing for a quicker and more cost-effective setup. The model also enables the Secretariat staff to concentrate on technical work related to preventing gender-based violence while the Incubator meets DFAT's standards for preventing fraud and managing risk. The program's theory of change incorporates the implementation model and is elaborated upon in the subsequent two sections. The implementation model is part of the program's theory of change and is discussed in detail in the following two sections.

D. PROPOSED OUTCOMES AND INVESTMENT OPTIONS (WHAT?)

D1. OVERVIEW OF INVESTMENT

The Southeast Asia Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention Platform (the Platform) is proposed as an AUD20 million investment over five years (2023-24 to 2028-29), with the option to extend for five years (2029-30 to 2033-34). The investment will build on Australia's leadership in GBV prevention and response, by addressing a need and demand for **increased investment in, and coordination of, GBV prevention initiatives in the Southeast Asia region.**

The Platform will bring together partner governments, WROs, NGOs, donors, international organisations, and regional bodies. It will provide a convening platform for these stakeholders to collaborate to build capacity and evidence, and improve and accelerate action to prevent GBV.

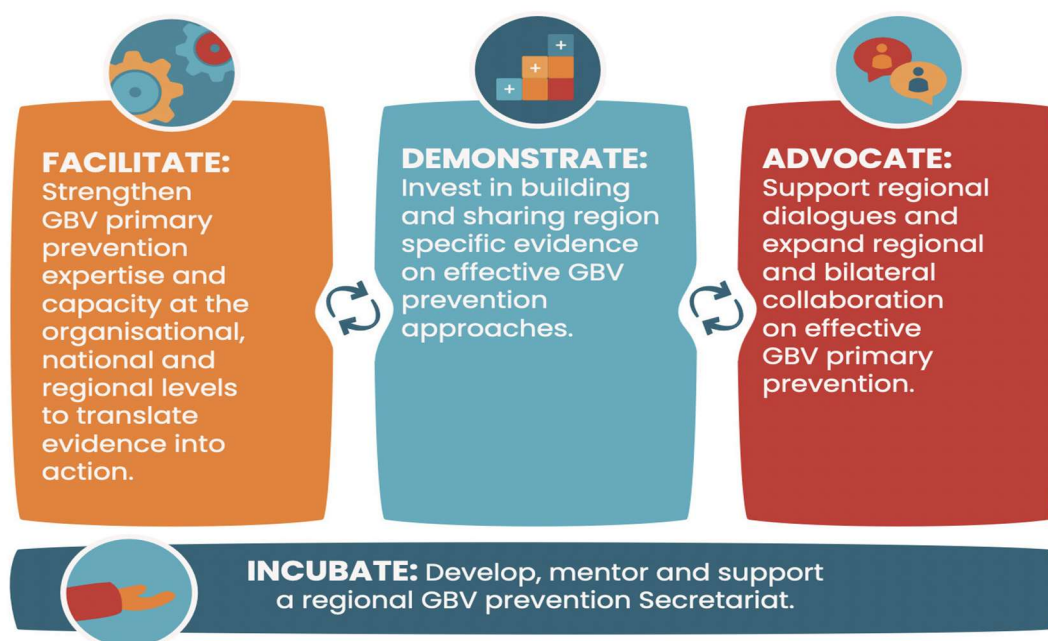
The Platform will improve regional capacity and coordination on primary prevention by establishing a **regionally-led Secretariat** to deliver all functions of the program. The Platform Secretariat will **mobilise ambition and action** through a comprehensive and locally-informed approach to addressing GBV that seeks to develop a shared understanding and agenda among diverse Practitioners.

The Platform will utilise and build on global evidence and learning to support practitioners to strengthen and **increase evidence-based policy and practice** to prevent GBV within households, communities and countries across diverse settings. This includes both careful and high-quality adaptation of evidence-based models from other regions, as well as support to develop, strengthen and test new and innovative approaches to GBV prevention. To address regional gaps in funding for prevention, dedicated and flexible funding will be provided to support implementation, monitoring and evaluation of promising and high-quality program designs. At the same time, it will **elevate learning and evidence** from the region, fostering cross-border connections, and linkages with global evidence, research and advocacy agendas.

The Platform will leverage Australian government partnerships with UN Women and UNFPA, and several complementary DFAT bilateral and regional investments. In addition, it will link to global, multilateral and Australian GBV prevention initiatives to extend and amplify program impacts and outcomes.

The Platform will adopt **four overlapping and interlinked strategies** to achieve the end of program outcomes as shown in the following diagram and described in detail further below:

Figure 2: The Platform's four strategies



D2. GOAL AND END OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The Platform's overarching goal is **to prevent GBV in Southeast Asia through evidence-based advocacy, dialogue, policy, and practice.**

The program will achieve and be accountable for **four end-of-program outcomes (EOPO)**, and related **intermediate outcomes (IO)** and **short-term outcomes (STO)** outlined in the table below.

Table 2: Platform program outcomes

EOPO1	Practitioners and policy makers¹¹² advocate for, implement, fund and monitor high-quality, evidence-based GBV prevention policies and programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IO1: Practitioners and policy makers have increased skills to take evidence-based action to prevent GBV STO1: Practitioners and policy makers have enhanced understanding of GBV primary prevention and increased access to tools and resources to translate evidence into action.
EOPO2	Evidence of what works to prevent GBV in SE Asia is accessible and applied by practitioners and policy makers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IO2: Practitioners and policy makers collaborate to adapt and generate evidence on what

¹¹² Including a diverse range of both programmers and policymakers - please see definition further above. For simplification, in the ToC diagram all are referred to as Practitioners.

	works to prevent GBV in SE Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STO2: Recognised international GBV prevention best practice is contextualised and shared.
EOPO3	Expanded regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder collaboration on GBV prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IO3: Strengthened solidarity and coordination amongst practitioners and policy makers to drive action on GBV prevention. • STO3: Regional dialogues are established to drive collaboration and action from practitioners and policy makers.
EOPO4	Secretariat leads on all functions of the Platform to provide regional leadership on GBV prevention and enable sustained and locally-led development impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IO4: GBV prevention Secretariat primarily leads implementation • STO4: GBV prevention Secretariat established and supported.

The Platform's overlapping strategies and EOPOs **draw on global evidence of 'what works' to prevent GBV**, in order to achieve the program goal and intended overall impact of a reduction in levels of GBV experienced by women and girls in all their diversity. This includes drawing on learning and evidence from over a decade of investment in GBV prevention programming and research, which has demonstrated that GBV is preventable within programmatic timeframes.¹¹³ The design of the Platform's strategies and activities builds on significant learning on evidence-based strategies and as well as consensus within the field of GBV prevention on critical elements of effective design and implementation.¹¹⁴ The Platform's central strategies, namely building political commitment (EOPO3), investing in WROs (EOPO1), reforming laws and policies (EOPO1 and EOPO2), and increasing investment and resources for primary prevention (all EOPOs), are recognised as the essential components of **building an enabling environment for GBV prevention** by the 2019 RESPECT Women Framework for Prevention Violence Against Women.¹¹⁵

D3. DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGIES, OUTPUTS AND INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Platform is designed to engage, support, convene and coordinate **a wide range of diverse practitioners and policy makers across Southeast Asia** (Practitioners) to strengthen capacity, evidence and action to prevent GBV, including:

- Women's rights organisations (WROs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), including organisations and networks representing marginalised groups including organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and groups representing LGBTQIA+ communities. This will include organisations working with women and girls, and men and boys in all their diversity to end GBV.
- Australian and International NGOs, front-line service providers, private sector actors, and DFAT and UN program staff.
- ASEAN bodies,¹¹⁶ partner government ministries of gender and women, social welfare ministries as well as health, justice, policing and education departments, and donors.

¹¹³ Kerr-Wilson, A., Gibbs, A., McAslan Fraser, E., Ramsoomar, L., Parke, A., Khuwaja, H. M. A., & Jewkes, R. (2020). *A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls*. What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Global Programme. <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/374-evidence-reviewfweb/file>

¹¹⁴ For example, the 2020 What Works Global Evidence Review identifies 10 elements of effective design and implementation of effective GBV prevention interventions (Jewkes et al. (2020)). Similarly, the RESPECT Framework identifies 10 'guiding principles' for VAW prevention programming including core values and principles for design (WHO. (2019)). (See table 4) The Prevention Collaborative has digested these down to 6 elements for successful programming: *Intentional design, holistic design, transformative, interactive, aspirational, sufficient exposure (intensity and reach)*.

¹¹⁵ WHO. (2019). RESPECT Women: Preventing violence against women. A Framework for Policymakers. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/05/respect-women-preventing-violence-against-women#:~:text=Violence%20against%20women%20and%20girls,and%20the%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals>

¹¹⁶ Including the ASEAN Secretariat, ACW, ACWC, and AICHR.

In addition to these Practitioners, the Platform will link with **priority Catalysts** to amplify program impacts and influence and strengthen the overall GBV prevention ecosystem through two-way learning and exchange (described further above). Priority Catalysts include:

- Australian domestic GBV specialists including Australian government departments¹¹⁷ that focus on preventing GBV and Australian organisations¹¹⁸ with expertise in primary prevention, working with men and boys, and GBV knowledge translation and Australian academics and researchers.¹¹⁹
- Global GBV experts and researchers including the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) 2 programme, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), the Pacific VAWG Prevention Hub and the Accelerator.
- International organisations, including women's funds, and international and Australian NGOs working on GBV prevention, including experts working with specific groups/themes of interest including men and boys, LGBTQIA+ groups, GBV and climate change, and people with disabilities.
- UN agencies. Core partners UN Women and UNFPA will coordinate engagement with other UN agencies, including the WHO, UNESCO, UNODC and UNICEF through the UNITE Working Group.

Donors, including FCDO, USAID, KOICA and philanthropic funds such as the Wellspring Foundation.

The following provides a description of each of the four overlapping and interlinked strategies and indicative activities. Each of these strategies are closely interlinked as shown on the theory of change diagram on page 35.

 FACILITATE	EOP01: Practitioners and policy makers advocate for, implement, fund and monitor high-quality, evidence-based GBV prevention policies and programs.
--	--

Description of strategy: The Platform will strengthen the capacity and capability of diverse programmers and policymakers to design, deliver and advocate for high-quality primary prevention policy and practice, informed by evidence, practice-based knowledge and a shared understanding of the root causes of GBV. Support will be targeted at two key groups of stakeholders:

1. Grassroots WROs and CSOs, including women's OPDs, either already working on or with the potential to deliver and monitor high-quality prevention programs.
2. Regional and national stakeholders developing and implementing national or regional level prevention strategies and action plans.

Activities will be focused on supporting both programmers and policy makers to further develop their knowledge, skills and experience by drawing on and learning from international best practice and materials such as the *RESPECT Women Implementation Package*.¹²⁰ In line with the *RESPECT Women Framework*, activities will focus on addressing the root causes and drivers of GBV, through gender-transformative policies and programs. This includes intensive work with select partners to carefully adapt and apply the 7 evidence-based approaches identified by the framework to the Southeast Asian contexts, as well as support to develop and strengthen new and innovative context-specific approaches. For example, this will include efforts to improve relationship skills; empower women socially and economically to build self-efficacy, assertiveness, negotiation skills and self-confidence; as well as strategies that promote positive attitudes, beliefs, and norms that promote gender equality and challenge the root causes of GBV.

To address regional gaps in funding for prevention, dedicated and flexible funding will be provided to support implementation, monitoring and evaluation of promising and high-quality program designs. In response to the

¹¹⁷ Such as the Office for Women, Department of Social Services and the e-Safety Commissioner.

¹¹⁸ Such as Our Watch and ANROWS.

¹¹⁹ Such as the Centre for Excellence in Ending Violence Against Women, at Monash University, and GBV prevention academics at the University of Melbourne.

¹²⁰ UN Women (2020) [RESPECT Implementation Package](#)

needs and objectives expressed by regional practitioners and stakeholders, the Platform will explore opportunities to develop and support new dedicated GBV prevention funding mechanisms that are flexible and demand-driven. Where appropriate, the Secretariat will explore collaborating with existing feminist grant-making facilities and bilateral programs to support regionally-owned and clearly communicated objectives, by providing dedicated funds for WROs and CSOs to deliver high quality prevention programmes or expand their existing grants and partnerships at a national level, for example through the ACCESS initiative in Cambodia. Examples of existing grant-making facilities that could be considered for regional implementation include Women’s Fund Asia and/or the FCDO’s What Works Programme.

The Platform will support documentation and practice-based knowledge generation of primary prevention initiatives supported by the initiative to share best practice and learning (through strategy 2 - see below). For VfM and sustainability, capacity strengthening support on GBV prevention will be provided to organisations who already have funding to deliver GBV prevention programs through existing DFAT/UN initiatives, as well as organisations who receive core funding, but who do not currently have access to funding for prevention-focused activities.¹²¹ Partners will be selected to provide regional coverage and a breadth of grassroots organisations.

Indicative activities:

- Sustained accompaniment¹²² and capacity strengthening support provided to organisations through matching them with trained primary prevention mentors over an 18–24-month period. This will include both support to WROs and CSOs to adapt and apply evidence-based approaches, as well as support to develop and strengthen new ‘home-grown’ approaches.
- Support practitioners to integrate disability and climate change adaptation strategies within program design, implementation and monitoring.
- Support promising and evidence-based designs and programs with flexible funding.
- Support to practitioners with technical expertise to implement and monitor prevention approaches.
- Develop and support the roll out of a toolkit for mainstreaming GBV prevention across all DFAT programs and policy engagement work.

 DEMONSTRATE	EOP02: Evidence of what works to prevent GBV in SE Asia is accessible and applied by practitioners and policy makers.
--	--

Description of approach: The Platform’s approach will leverage local evidence generation, documentation, translation and dissemination to strengthen policy and practice. It will synthesise existing evidence, support and elevate practice-based knowledge generation and learning among diverse practitioners on what works to prevent GBV in different contexts. This will include both documentation and consolidation of learning from previous work in the region, existing work, as well as new initiatives and action generated through the Platform activities.

Significant resources will be invested to ensure the accessibility of resources for programmers and policy makers in the region by translating resources into different languages and contexts, and ensuring all materials consider the specific needs of people with disabilities.

The Platform will create safe and accessible spaces for diverse stakeholders to share and learn from implementation and monitoring. The Platform will leverage and link to existing research initiatives and


¹²¹ The design process has found that existing funding sources are insufficient for effective primary prevention programming.

¹²² Rather than one off training and workshops, an accompaniment approach will be customised to individual stakeholders needs, drawing on best practice learning and evidence generated by experts in the field of GBV prevention. see for example, Willan, S., Kerr-Wilson, A., Parke, A., & Gibbs, A. (2019). A study on capacity development in the “What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women” programme. Development in Practice, 1-12. <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/308-a-study-on-capacity-development-in-the-what-works-dip-may-2019-willan-kerr-wilson-et-al/file>

opportunities to support the global evidence base, while focusing resources on capturing and disseminating practice-based knowledge.¹²³

Indicative activities:

- Translating and contextualising international best practice to the Southeast Asian context, to feed into all other streams of work, including on intersections between climate change and GBV, and disability inclusion.
- Review and documentation of best practice in the Southeast Asian region (past and current (and disseminating to global platforms and audiences).
- Develop, adapt, translate and disseminate accessible capacity strengthening tools and resources (including online/offline materials translated into multiple languages).
- Working together with regional women's OPDs to ensure materials are accessible and consider the specific needs of women with disabilities.
- Document and disseminate learning and practice-based knowledge generated through the Platform through action research and development, translation and dissemination of accessible knowledge products (including written, web-based, infographic and audio-visual resources).
- Support regional and national networks with peer learning opportunities, including through communities of practice and study tours.
- Support peer-learning and cross-border exchanges, for example between Southeast Asian governmental practitioners and Australian Government Agencies, or between the Platform and the Pacific Prevention Hub.
- Link Practitioners with external researchers and evaluators, including opportunities presented by the Australian Research Council's Centre for Excellence on Elimination of Ending Violence Against Women (CEVAW), SVRI and the Align Platform.

 ADVOCATE	EOP03: Expanded regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder collaboration on GBV prevention
---	---

Description of approach: This strategy will convene new regional and national dialogues with diverse practitioners working on GBV prevention to share evidence and learning, at the same time as supporting existing regional and bilateral dialogues to maximise opportunities to leverage evidence and learning from the Platform. Wherever possible, the Platform will link existing CSO/WRO networks (including women's OPDs) such as the newly formed Asia Network on GBV Prevention and Response.¹²⁴

The Platform will actively create safe spaces for dialogue and advocacy, support greater transparency of regional and national policy processes, support and strengthen channels for participation of marginalised groups, and strengthen the capacity of existing CSO/WRO networks (such as the ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, the ASEAN Indigenous Women's Network and ASEAN Disability Forum) to advocate on GBV-related issues.¹²⁵

Indicative activities:


- Convening regional and national policy dialogues in collaboration with ASEAN, UN Women and UNFPA.
- Establish a channel of communication/coordination with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to exchange knowledge, share the progress of activities and explore areas of collaboration.
- Convening dialogues between well-established CSO/WRO networks on EVAW in the Pacific, and nascent networks in Southeast Asia.

¹²³ Practice-based knowledge is the cumulative knowledge and learning acquired by practitioners through years of innovation, reflection, and refinement. It includes insights from observations, conversations, direct experience, and program monitoring. See <https://prevention-collaborative.org/guide-programming/practice-based-knowledge/> for more information).

¹²⁴ Established by the Generation Equality Action Coalition.

¹²⁵ Consultations highlighted learning from EU's successful effort in convening LGBTQIA organisations in EU-ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue 2022.

- Targeted support to government institutions to develop, implement and monitor (costed) National Action Plans on GBV Prevention, whilst building and disseminating evidence of necessary budgeting and resourcing of this work.
- Targeted support for delivery of ASEAN ACWC's work plan, including implementing actions from the mid-term review (MTR) of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (2016-2025).
- Creation of safe spaces for advocacy and support independent development of WRO, CSO and practitioner's advocacy agendas (including women's OPDs), to facilitate and accelerate action based on regional priorities.
- Engage with existing women's parliamentary caucuses.
- Liaise with the DFAT program manager to coordinate and align policy dialogue engagement.
- Support to DFAT Country Posts through targeted activities including sharing of advocacy points, briefings and supporting policy dialogues.

 INCUBATE	EOP04: GBV prevention Secretariat leads on all functions of the Platform to provide regional leadership on GBV prevention and enable sustained and locally-led development impact
---	--

Description of approach: This foundational workstream is focused on establishing and building the organisational capacity of a regionally-led Secretariat to lead on all aspects of operational delivery. A key assumption of the ToC, validated through the design process, is that there is a need to build on emerging regional women's leadership in prevention by supporting enhanced coordination. Therefore, a focus for the Platform will be to establish an independent regional Secretariat to lead and deliver the Platform. Activities will be phased to transition the Secretariat to be fully functional by year 5 of the initiative, with the Incubator moving to a backend corporate support role at this time. Further detail on the Secretariat and how they will be established and maintained is included under the Delivery Approach and section E further below.

Indicative activities:

- Recruitment of a regional Director and team to lead the Secretariat.
- Provision of organisational (Incubator) and GBV primary prevention (GBV Technical Partner) capacity development.
- Back-end support (HR, IT, Finance, systems) through an Incubator to support these functions.

D4. THEORY OF CHANGE

The Theory of Change (ToC) is informed by a rigorous multi stakeholder consultation process (see box 1 on page 16) and feedback from DFAT and core design partners. The Platform's ToC is based on an outcome mapping/ actor-based approach,¹²⁶ which identifies a wide range of diverse **Practitioners and Catalysts** as key change agents for the program. The ToC also draws on a four-level socio-ecological framework,¹²⁷ the evidence-based framework for GBV prevention programs, for understanding risk and protective factors for GBV, and promoting a multi-layered and multi-pronged approach to GBV prevention.

The ToC is provided in two parts. The first part (Figure 3) provides a logic diagram structured by the Platform's four strategies and four main development problems. The second part of the ToC (Figure 4) provides details of

¹²⁶ Outcome Mapping focuses on changes in the behaviour of the people, groups and organisations influenced by a project or program.

¹²⁷ A socio-ecological approach to GBV prevention conceptualises violence as a multifaceted phenomenon grounded in an interplay among personal, situational, and sociocultural factors.

indicative activities under each strategy to achieve the intended outcomes. Further detail on the Incubate strategy and outcomes is included in the description of the implementing model in section E.

Underlining the ToC are several **critical assumptions**, to be further tested and refined during the Platforms inception. These include:

- ASEAN and partner countries remain committed to addressing GBV.
- Diverse Practitioners and Catalysts are willing to engage with the Platform.
- Technical GBV prevention capacity and funding support are sufficient incentives for diverse Practitioners to engage.
- Existing core funding support is available and sufficient for Practitioners within the region (e.g., women's funds, Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women).

The ToC is underpinned by several principles (see box 4), while disability and climate change will be addressed as cross cutting themes. The project will integrate a meaningful climate and disability lens throughout project activities, such as ensuring WROs working with groups most affected by climate change and GBV as well as OPDs working with women with disabilities are actively engaged in the platform, documenting best practices on the intersection of climate change and GBV prevention and disability inclusion, and ensuring climate change impacts are actively managed (or reduced) and disability inclusion is integrated within policy and advocacy activities.

Box 4: Platform principles

A set of connected and mutually reinforcing **principles** underpin the ToC

1. **Locally-driven.** The Platform responds to local demand and the implementing model and all activities are designed to ensure local ownership and a locally informed approach to tackling GBV.
2. **Evidence-based.** The Platform is informed by global evidence and frameworks of what works to prevent GBV, whilst building and drawing on emerging practice and evaluative lessons from regional initiatives. In practice, this means that decisions at all levels of the Platform, such as programmatic funding decisions to key strategic decisions by the Steering committee will be foremost informed by evidence from the region.
3. **Intersectional.** The Platform takes an intersectional approach to all aspects of the program. This includes ensuring that women with disabilities, ethnic minorities and LGBTQIA+ groups are represented and meaningfully engaged. An intersectional approach will underpin the selection of all program partners. This means recognising the causes, experiences and consequences of GBV are shaped by intersectional identities, and that any support must take account of individuals' intersectional position.
4. **Survivor-centred and trauma-informed.** The Platform will provide a supportive environment where the rights of survivors are at the forefront of all activities and re-traumatisation is minimised. Support for survivors will be integrated within all project activities, and the Platform will leverage and link with existing service and response initiatives, where appropriate and feasible providing targeted support to ensure services are inclusive.
5. **Adaptive:** GBV prevention is highly contextual and engages with challenging norms and structures. It therefore requires thinking and working politically to focus on the delivery outcomes, and flexibility to identify emerging leaders, issues and entry points to gain traction. The Platform will continue to adapt to proactively analyse and respond to the context, based on ongoing contextual and gendered PEA analysis.
6. **Collaborative and catalysing:** The Platform aims to promote collaborative action and will connect regional, global and Australian practitioners to find evidence-based and locally-driven solutions. This includes connecting partners and practitioners to regional, global and Australian experts in GBV prevention.
7. **Minimise Harm:** Practitioners will be supported to design policies and programs, which reduce the risk of exacerbating violence or backlash (for example, by working with the whole family and community, including religious and local leaders, rather than targeting women alone). All projects will be required to ensure that participants have access to quality and inclusive GBV support services.

8. **Accessible:** The Platform will be accessible for diverse practitioners across the region. All activities and products (online and offline) will be accessible, available in multiple languages and be locally-informed, and disability accessible.
9. **Innovation:** Innovation is critical to delivering sustained and scalable solutions to preventing GBV, and the design includes several innovative elements and approaches to address the problems identified in the ToC, including through the Incubator model to build on regional leadership on GBV prevention.

Figure 3: ToC Part 1

Goal: To prevent GBV in the Southeast Asia Region through transformational, evidence-based advocacy, dialogue, policy and practice

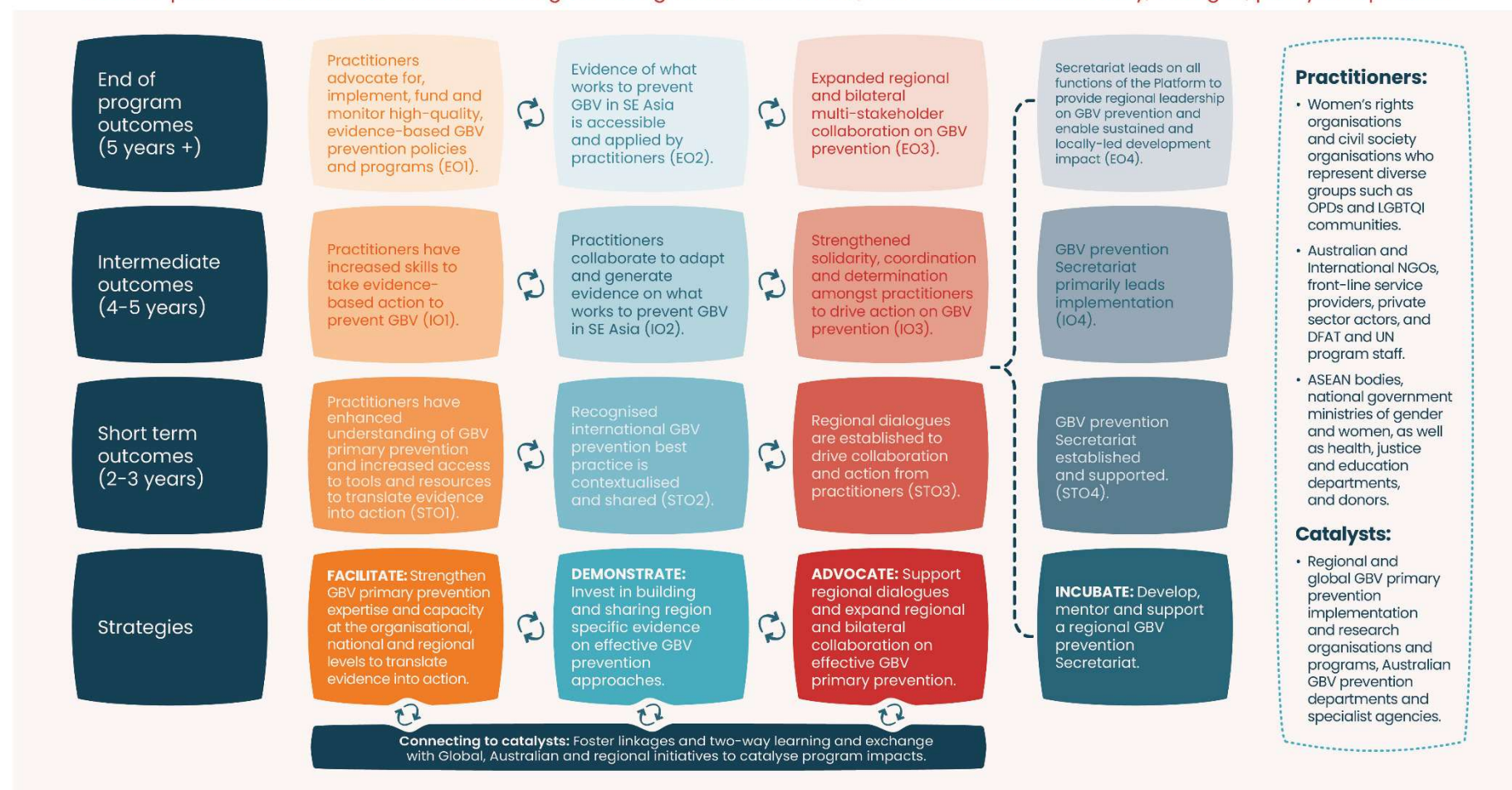
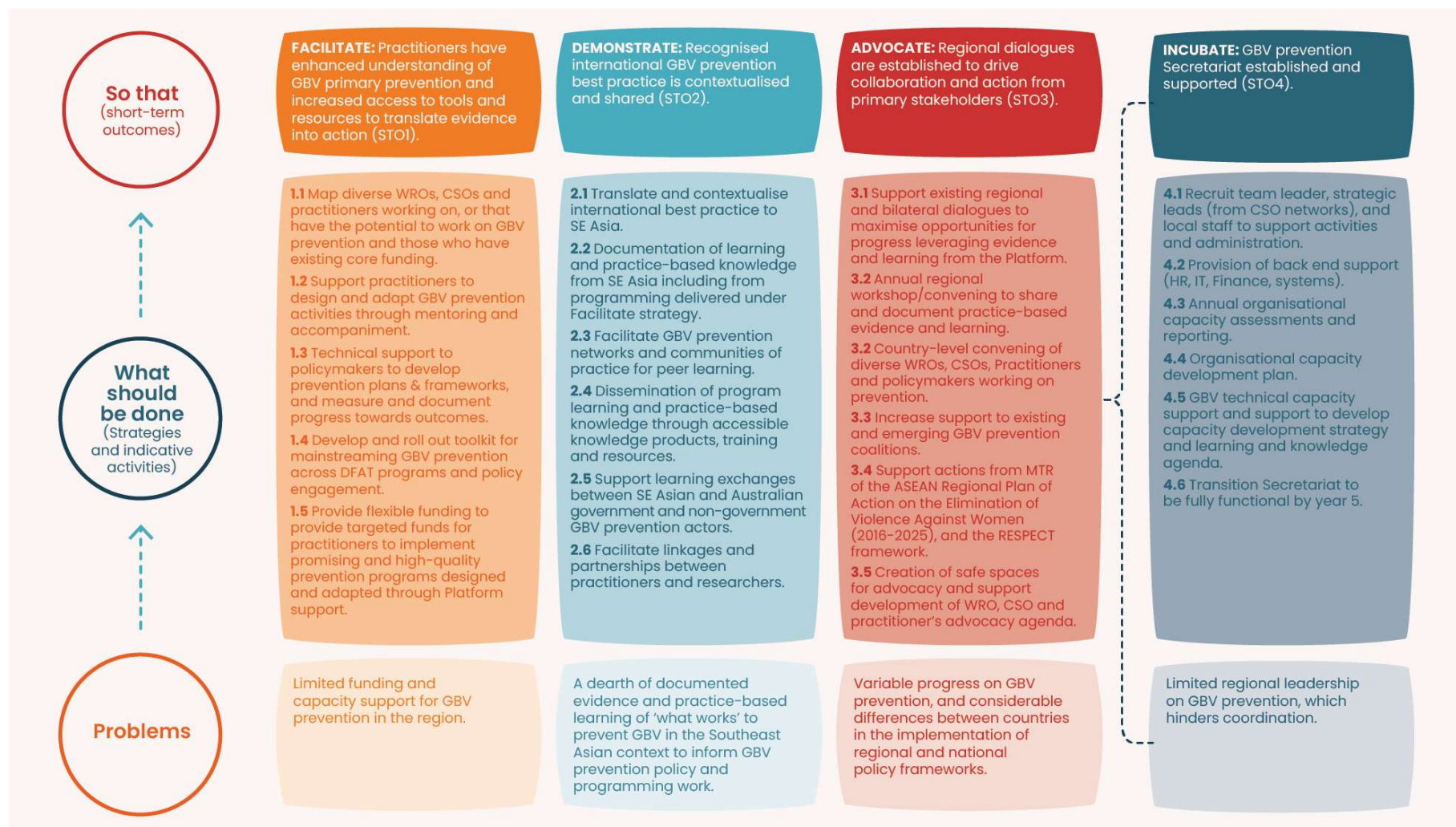
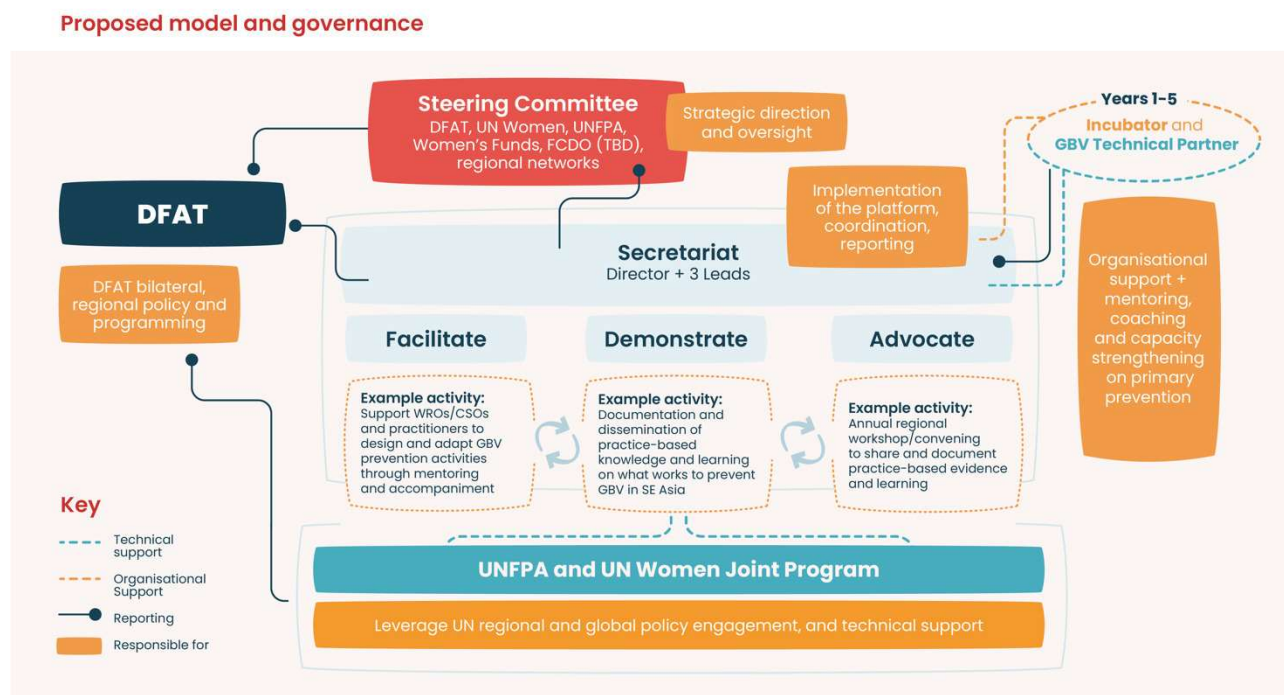


Figure 4: ToC Part 2



D5. DELIVERY APPROACH

Figure 5: Implementing Model



A **regional Secretariat** will lead the initiative, supported by an **Incubator**. The Incubator (such as an NGO or values-aligned managing contractor) will establish, recruit, host and incubate the Secretariat. During the first five years of the program, the Secretariat will be supported by the Incubator, who will provide organisational infrastructure (IT, HR, finance etc.) and support organisational development. **DFAT, a GBV Technical Partner, UN Women and UNFPA will play critical roles in supporting and scaffolding the Secretariat.** The regional Secretariat will be established through a **phased approach** over the lifetime of the initiative.

The Secretariat and Incubator will be co-located, with an office in Bangkok.¹²⁸ The Platform will adopt a hybrid structure with several staff based in Bangkok, but with some staff, including Leads, based in their home countries as required. This will ensure that a wide range of expertise can be drawn from across the region, and support direct linkages to a variety of organisations and stakeholders located in other countries across Southeast Asia.

The Secretariat model provides a suitable approach for cohesive programming on a highly sensitive programmatic area. To ensure that the delivery approach was suitable, the design team and core design partners grounded the implementation options in the extensive consultation process and with consideration of impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and VfM. This model defines the role of each of the implementing partners, and builds on regional women's leadership on GBV prevention, through establishing a new regionally-led Secretariat. The incubator approach was chosen to support localisation, with inclusion of the incubator model within the ToC to ensure accountability and neutrality of the Secretariat. This innovative model utilises an existing organisation to incubate a new localised entity, phasing the costs of establishing a new organisation to deliver the Platform.

¹²⁸ Stakeholder consultations highlighted potential options for the regional headquarters as Jakarta, Bangkok and Manila. Bangkok was preferred by most partners consulted and is recommended given the presence of regional UN partners in Bangkok, operating environment, presence of many regional organisations, and easy travel logistics to other countries in the region.

The consultation process highlighted significant gaps in primary prevention expertise in the region and a clear need and role for a **GBV Technical Partner to support the technical primary prevention capacity of the Secretariat**. Primary prevention is a highly specialist area, and successful implementation will require concerted efforts to foster a supportive organisational culture within the Secretariat, and skills to facilitate critical reflection with practitioners to transform attitudes about gender and violence. The GBV Technical Partner will ensure that learning on best practice and ‘what works’ from other regions is firmly embedded within the program foundations. The GBV Technical Partner will support the Secretariat to develop and implement a capacity strengthening and learning plan for Practitioners, and a knowledge dissemination plan. The design process was unable to identify an organisation with sufficient organisational capacity strengthening as well as background in primary GBV prevention. The GBV Technical Support is therefore best secured through a separate contract between DFAT and the GBV Technical Partner meeting DFAT’s requirements.

The **UN Joint Partnership agreement** between DFAT, UN Women and UNFPA will underpin and support the Platform. UN Women and UNFPA have a demonstrated commitment to and experience partnering with DFAT on GBV evidence-building, response and prevention in the region, such as the P4P program (completed), Stepping Up Solutions to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls (completed), the UN Joint Programme on Essential Services (ongoing), support to UN Women for regional GBV Prevention activities (ongoing), kNOwVAWdata Phase 1 (ongoing) and Phase II (ongoing) and the roll-out of the RESPECT Framework (ongoing). UNFPA and UN Women’s work in the region is guided by their respective strategic plans and prevention strategies, which include several activities aligned with the Platform (see table 3).

Table 3: Indicative UN partner activities

UN Women	UNFPA
<p>The UN Women Asia Strategies from the Global Strategic Plan¹²⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the formulation of national action plans on VAWG prevention that promote positive social norms, including by engaging men and boys, and strengthening the knowledge and evidence base on policy and practice to prevent VAWG. Scale up evidence-based prevention strategies to address the root causes of VAWG and VAC, including through engaging men and boys, with UN agencies. Engage the media, advertising and public influencers to challenge negative stereotypes and promote positive social norms. Building on its strengths in working with educational institutions, the private sector, faith-based organisations, sports and other community actors, build critical skills of young people, including at the community level, and engage men and boys as allies for gender equality and women’s empowerment. <p>From the VAW Prevention Strategy of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific:¹³⁰</p>	<p>Strategies in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan¹³¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and strengthen implementation of context-specific, evidence-based approaches to address drivers and consequences of GBV and harmful practices. Develop strategies for meaningful engagement of men and boys and fostering positive masculinity. Collaboration with feminist organisations and supporting women-led movements. Roll out the global policy advocacy framework for gender-based violence prevention and the social norms toolkit. Facilitate the generation of tools to measure the impact of gender and social norms change and gender-based violence prevention strategies and build an evidence base of interventions that can be scaled up, including using implementation research. Use of CSE programming for GBV prevention.

¹²⁹ UN Women. (2021). UN Women strategic plan, 2022-2025. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025>

¹³⁰ UN Women ROAP Regional Prevention Strategy (internal)

¹³¹ UNFPA. (2021). UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/board-documents/DP.FPA_2021.8_strategic_plan_2022-2025_-_Annex.4_-_Asia_and_the_Pacific_-_Final_-_21Jul21.pdf

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the establishment of sub-regional civil society networks on VAW prevention. ● Improve the quality of data and evidence on what works to prevent VAW in the region. ● Foster cross-regional learning and capacity development on VAWG prevention. ● Increase advocacy and programming work on IPV prevention. ● Building on emerging evidence, pilot streams of work on family violence, adolescent violence, cyber violence, media and violence, violence against women and girls with disabilities, and violence against LGBTQIA+ people. 	
--	--

The Platform complements DFAT’s bilateral and regional efforts, which are responding to country-specific needs. The Platform will work with all ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste. For countries such as Singapore and Malaysia, where DFAT doesn’t have a bilateral development program, the Platform will share learning and engage with policy makers. The design involved extensive consultation with DFAT Southeast Asia Posts and programs to ensure the complementarity of the Platform with Australia’s existing bilateral ending GBV policies and programs, including how the Platform will support, be informed by and work with DFAT posts in the region. Relevant programs include DFAT-supported country programming on VAW response and prevention, including Nabilan (Timor-Leste), ACCESS Cambodia, Violence against Women and Children program in Vietnam, and the planned follow up to MAMPU in Indonesia (INKLUSI). An example of synergies and linkages with the Cambodia ACCESS II program is provided in box 5.

Box 5: Synergies with the Cambodia ACCESS II program

The Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services (ACCESS) Program is an initiative undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Australia provided through DFAT. The program is about to begin its second phase, building on learning from ACCESS I. To guide DFAT’s ACCESS II’s work on GBV primary prevention, a mapping of prevention will be undertaken in partnership with the Platform. This will be focused on activities and approaches that have been implemented in Cambodia, to date, by the Royal Government of Cambodia (including the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) and Cambodian National Police) and CSO and OPDs, lessons learned through these activities and outcomes (positive and negative). The mapping will be framed by the RESPECT framework, international evidence of what works including to address violence against women with disabilities, as well as being informed by the outcomes and lessons from the current review of the prevention component of Cambodia’s NAPVAW III and the P4P program. Following this mapping, ACCESS II will work with the Platform to implement evidence-based activities and approaches. The Platform will also be able to facilitate introductions between the Cambodian MoWA to Australian stakeholders in the prevention and response to GBV and linkages with Australia-funded or regional multilateral initiatives, to share learning including disability inclusive approaches.

Due to the complexity and innovative nature of the investment, during the first phase of the initiative **DFAT** (through the GEB program manager) **will play an active role in leading coordination** between implementing agencies, connecting DFAT posts/thematic teams and bilateral and thematic programs to the Platform and facilitating linkages to partner governments, and regional bodies such as ASEAN, and relevant Australian Government Departments. The DFAT Program Managers (recommended 1.5 FTE) will work closely with the

Platform to align and coordinate policy dialogue engagement around ending GBV in the region, including ensuring collaboration and alignment with Posts. They will also be responsible for supporting DFAT Post/Thematic team engagement in relevant areas of workplan prioritisation and proposals/requests for support. For example, if the Secretariat receives a request for TA from Country A, the Program Manager will work with the Post in Country A to facilitate linkages and connections. The DFAT Program Manager will foster connections and introductions and support relationship building to enable the Secretariat to lead on DFAT engagement and coordination over time. DFAT should consider a secondment to the Platform for the first three years of operation, to support the building of internal coordination mechanisms, and lead on mainstreaming of GBV prevention efforts across DFAT's bilateral and regional programming in the region.

In addition, UN Women and UNFPA will support the Platform by leveraging their networks and programs. In a similar way to DFAT, UN agencies will play a more active role in coordination with their regional and national programming in the first few years of the program until the Secretariat is able to lead in this area.

Innovation¹³² is critical to delivering sustained and scalable solutions to preventing GBV, and the design includes a number of **innovative elements and approaches** to address the problems identified in the ToC:

- Support to Practitioners will prioritise the design and development of projects that support and invest in locally-driven solutions, which build on evidence or show how the potential solution improves on current evidence or the status quo.
- The incubator model is innovative in that it fills a regional gap in leadership on GBV prevention by investing in a regionally-led Secretariat. To ensure accountability to localisation, the incubation of the Secretariat is built into the program's ToC and MEL framework.
- To respond to the diversity of political contexts in the region, an adaptive and flexible approach will draw on gendered PEA analysis to identify and adjust to emerging issues and entry points to gain traction.
- The Platform will adopt a proactive approach to identifying and engaging with external Catalysts to amplify and accelerate program outcomes and impact, through the External Engagement Lead.

E. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (HOW WILL DFAT ENGAGE?)

E1. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Oversight of program performance - Steering Committee: To foster regional ownership and diverse women's leadership of the initiative, the Platform will be overseen by a broad and diverse **Steering Committee**, who will set the strategic direction and provide oversight for the investment. At least two thirds of the Steering Committee will be women, drawn from women's funds and regional networks, including those representing marginalised groups such as women with disabilities, young people, and LGBTQIA+, DFAT, the Secretariat Director and UN partners. In addition, global experts and stakeholders may be invited to join the Committee where there is a clear benefit and value add for expertise from outside of the region. Individuals from civil society and the women's movement will be from the region and experts in their fields, and will hold their positions in their own right, not as representatives of a particular organisation and will be remunerated for their time. The Steering Committee will work collectively to support the goal and outcomes of the Platform.

The Steering Committee will be responsible for:

- Monitoring performance of the Platform against its Goal and Outcomes.
- Set strategic direction and establish priorities.
- Make resourcing decisions at a high level.
- Monitor risks and safeguards (see section J).
- Share strategic advice and learning with the UN Joint Partnership Agreement.

¹³² Innovation is defined as the successful development of new ideas with the transformative ability to accelerate impact on ending GBV.

Operational oversight and coordination – DFAT: DFAT’s responsibilities include review and approval of the Platform’s operational and risk processes, documents, and decisions. The DFAT program manager will meet the Secretariat and Incubator at least monthly, more frequently during the Inception Phase. The DFAT Assistant Secretary, Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Branch will sit on the Steering Committee as DFAT’s representative for that overseeing body. DFAT’s role in governance and management includes:

- Management of ongoing operational risks. The Incubator and Secretariat will report risk events to the DFAT program manager within 24 hours.
- Conduct quarterly reviews of the risk assessments for the Platform, including where possible a review of DFAT bilateral and regional ending GBV investments connected with the Platform to provide a program wide risk perspective.
- Leading an inclusive and transparent selection process to identify the most suitable representatives for the Steering Committee, which will be outlined in clear terms of reference, including the impact of Committee membership and potential conflict of interest.
- A single representative on the Steering Committee and will participate equally with other members.
- Financial delegations to authorise funding requirements arising from Steering Committee decisions. If DFAT is not able to exercise financial delegations in accordance with the decisions of the Steering Committee, DFAT will be required to provide the Committee with a written explanation.
- Manage agreements for bilateral GBV programs with separate management and governance arrangements at the national level, while the Platform’s DFAT Program Manager will ensure a connection to and alignment with the overall strategic direction of the Platform.
- On an annual basis, also sharing with the Steering Committee their approach to leveraging DFAT programs, and mainstreaming GBV within non-GBV focused initiatives, to benefit from the strategic insights and advice of the combined expertise of the Steering Committee members.
- Managing agreements with UN agencies with separate management and governance arrangements.
- Appointing independent consultants for a phase I mid-term in year 2 and end of program evaluation in year 4.

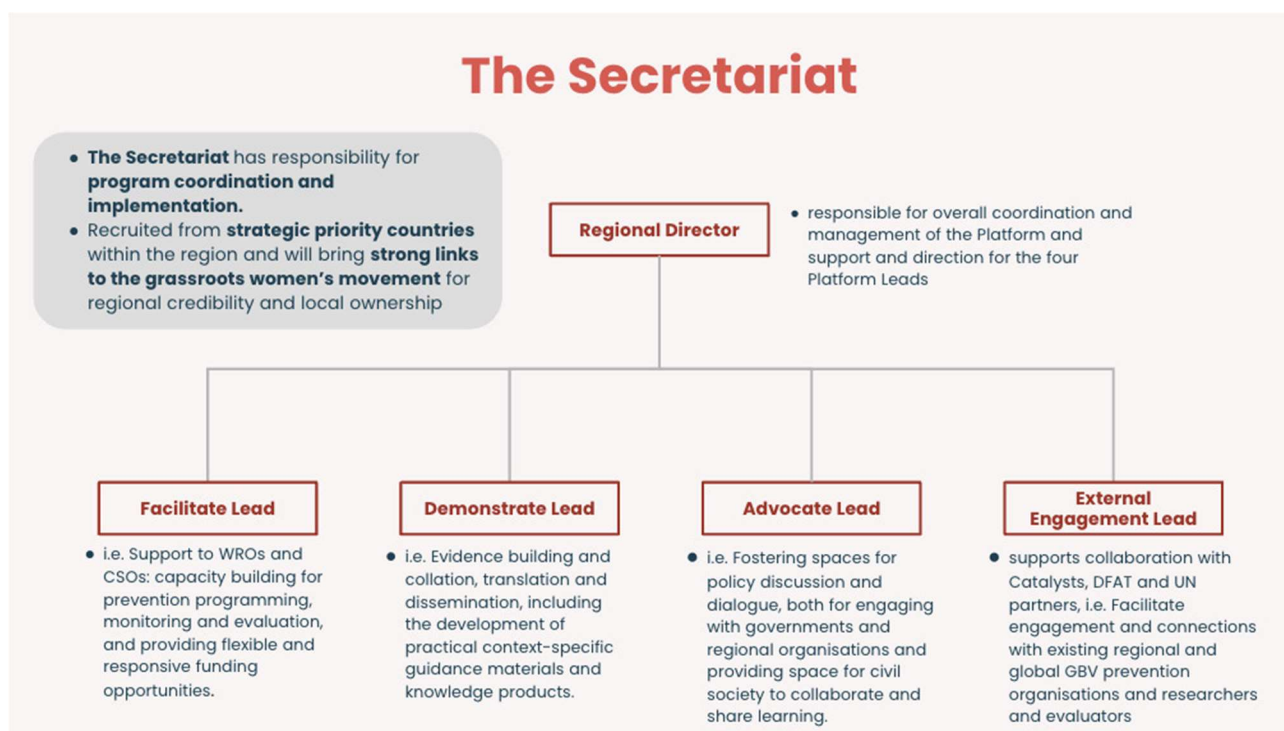
DFAT Working Group: To provide strategic advice and guidance to the DFAT Steering Committee representative and DFAT Program Manager, DFAT will establish an internal Working Group. This Working Group will play an important coordination and governance role, ensuring DFAT’s engagement and management of the Platform is strongly informed by and connected to DFAT’s bilateral and regional policies and programs. The Working Group will support the DFAT Steering Committee representative and DFAT Program Manager in overseeing the performance of the Platform and help guide and inform program management decisions.

The Working Group will meet quarterly and prior to Steering Committee meetings. It will be made up of the following positions: Assistant Secretary Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Branch, Assistant Secretary Southeast Asia Development Policy and Programs Branch, Assistant Secretary ASEAN and Regional Strategy Branch, Head of Missions/Deputy Head of Missions of Southeast Asia Posts and the DFAT Program Manager. The Working Group may also include Directors and/or APS Officers from the relevant branches and Southeast Asia Posts as appropriate.

E2. MANAGEMENT

By function, the key elements of management are program implementation and coordination; program support, administration, risk and compliance; all described further below:

Program implementation and coordination



The Secretariat has responsibility for program coordination and implementation and will be locally-led. The Secretariat team human resources will include a Regional Director and four Leads, each supported by two team members (8 project officers). The Regional Director is responsible for overall coordination and management of the Platform and for support and direction for the four Platform Leads. This includes a Facilitate Lead, Demonstrate Lead, and Advocate Lead who will lead each of the work streams, and an External Engagement Lead, who will support collaboration with Catalysts, DFAT and UN partners. Each Lead will be supported by two project officers, who will be recruited by the end of year 1 of the program. There will also be a gradual build-up of core admin functions (e.g., IT, HR, finance) as the incubator hands over operational management to the Secretariat over time, with the Incubator moving towards a more backend corporate support role by the end of year 5. The phasing of this transition in roles and responsibilities will be as defined in the Sustainability and Transition plan (to be developed by the Incubator in inception and regularly updated following assessments of the Secretariat's capacity to ensure a smooth and effective transition).

In line with the principle of being locally-driven and building on existing regional women's leadership, the Platform will recruit a Secretariat team from strategic priority countries within the region and will bring strong links to the grassroots women's movement for regional credibility and local ownership.¹³³ In addition to open recruitment strategies, the Incubator could explore potential secondment opportunities for recruitment of regional Leads from regional and national WROs, CSOs and OPDs. A secondment approach would enable an additional level of capacity strengthening for Platform Leads to enable them to apply their new GBV prevention expertise within their 'home' organisations. Regional Leads will be required to have gender and inclusion expertise, including expertise in GBV, and at least one program priority strategy (i.e., capacity strengthening, learning and evidence, policy and advocacy, and external coordination). The Secretariat will have targets for diversity in staffing based on nationality and backgrounds to incentivise diversity as part of the team, and members of the Secretariat will also be appointed as gender and inclusion focal points, to ensure gender and inclusion are effectively mainstreamed across the program. Furthermore, the GBV Technical Partner will support capacity strengthening in gender and inclusion for all Secretariat team members.

Together the Secretariat's Director and Leads will be responsible for:

¹³³ Feedback from women's funds, WROs and CSOs highlighted the importance of local leadership as being key to the credibility of the initiative.

- Evidence building and collation, translation and dissemination, including the development of practical context-specific guidance materials and knowledge products.
- Spaces for policy discussion and dialogue, both for engaging with governments and regional organisations and providing space for civil society to collaborate and share learning.
- Facilitating connections, i.e., connecting organisations to specialist organisations to share learning; connecting researchers to practitioners to work together to address evidence gaps etc; disseminate research findings.
- Support to WROs and CSOs: capacity building for prevention programming, monitoring and evaluation, and connecting them to suitable funding opportunities.
- Scope and facilitate partnership with an existing and suitable feminist grant making facility.
- Facilitate engagement and connections with existing regional and global GBV prevention organisations and researchers and evaluators.¹³⁴
- Documenting promising approaches and translating practice from other regions and programs.
- Development and management of a new knowledge hub or assessing how to work with existing knowledge hubs.
- Risk assessment and management, with support from the Incubator for fraud risks and from the GBV technical partner for risks regarding PSEAH, child protection and backlash.
- Escalate risk events to the DFAT program manager within 24 hours.
- Synthesise program performance reporting.
- Ensure and embed an intersectional approach.

Program support, administration, risk and compliance

The Incubator. The Secretariat will be established and supported by **an Incubator**, whose main role is to support organisational infrastructure (IT, HR, finance etc.) and organisational development, through a phased approach to establish the Secretariat and build its capacity to manage the operations of the Platform by the end of the project, with the Incubator moving to a backend corporate support role at this time.

The Incubator is accountable for: financial controls, administration, M&E, risk management and safeguarding, communications and ensuring compliance with DFAT policies. The Incubator supports the following:

- coordinating and supporting program and financial reporting to the Steering Committee.
- providing support for any fraud risks, including reporting to the DFAT Program Manager and supporting action to address fraud risks.
- escalate risk events to the DFAT program manager within 24 hours.
- proactively supporting the organisational development of the Secretariat and demonstrating increased capacity.
- monitoring organisational capacity and transition of all Platform functions to the Secretariat.
- coordination with the GBV technical partner around capacity strengthening activities and support.

The Incubator requires:

- demonstrated commitment to promoting localisation.
- similar experience in supporting/incubating similar and complex independent platforms, networks and/or funds.
- existing regional networks including with the women's right's organisations in Southeast Asia.
- risk assessment, mitigation and management expertise.

Most functions and accountabilities will transfer from the Incubator (including the GBV Technical Partner) to the Secretariat over time, with the Incubator moving into a more corporate backend support role. The Incubator and the Secretariat will work together to develop a realistic plan to transition roles and responsibilities to the

¹³⁴ For example, Australian ANGOs who are active in GBV prevention and support women's rights organisations: International Women's Development Agency, CARE Australia, ActionAid, Plan, Oxfam and IPPF; Centre for Excellence for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (Monash University), What Works, Accelerator for the Prevention of GBV, Spotlight Initiative, Align and SVRI, DFAT bilateral programs: INKLUSI, Nabilan, ACCESS Cambodia, and Investing in Women.

Secretariat over time in collaboration with DFAT. Regular assessments of the Secretariat's capacity will be built into the program to enable the transition. The effectiveness of this transition is a key component of the ToC and will be assessed in the phase I mid-term review and end of program evaluation.

E3. EARLY ACTIVITIES

The GBV prevention sector and donor landscape in Southeast Asia is changing rapidly. In the first year of the Platform, the Secretariat and Incubator need to track the following (and other) developments, to ensure coherence and coordination:

- A new DFAT funded complementary UN Joint Program on GBV Prevention commencing at the same time as the Platform.
- The ARC/Monash University Centre for Excellence for the Elimination of VAWG (focused on research) will be established at the same time as the Platform, presenting opportunities for the Platform to connect practitioners to researchers and evaluators.
- The SVRI and Equality Institute Global Shared Research Agenda is developing a strategy for SE Asia.
- The Global Accelerator in collaboration with Breakthrough is building a network of WROs and CSOs across Asia focused on regional voice – the Asia Network of GBV Prevention and Response.
- FCDO's What Works II Program grant funding rounds are potentially accessible for the region.
- SVRI is planning to hold its 2026 Global Forum in Asia.

The Platform will be implemented in two phases, a one-year inception phase, and a four-year delivery phase. An initial priority activity will be to recruit and establish the Secretariat, who will then be supported to undertake and feed into priority inception activities.

During the inception phase, the Secretariat (with support from the GBV Technical Partner) will lead a mapping of diverse practitioners who are working on, or who have the greatest potential to work on primary prevention. For programmers, this could include organisations who already have funding to deliver GBV prevention programs through existing DFAT/UN initiatives, as well as organisations who receive core funding, but who do not currently have access to funding for prevention-focused activities. For example, the Platform will collaborate with the Cambodia ACCESS II program, to facilitate expert primary prevention support to local partners to deliver evidence-based prevention activities and approaches. From this mapping of opportunities, the Secretariat, with the support of the GBV Technical Partner, will develop a workplan that includes how the Platform will engage with priority and catalyst stakeholders across the three main streams of work.

All delivery partners will work closely together during inception to deliver the following priority activities (see table 4).

Table 4: Inception activities

Lead delivery partner	Inception activities responsible for
Incubator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a system and criteria for recruiting Secretariat Director and Leads through WRO and CSO networks. ● Recruit the Secretariat Director and Leads. ● Establish office, and infrastructure, policies aligned to DFAT standards. ● Support DFAT with the recruitment of the Steering Committee and provide administrative support for the Steering committee. ● Develop MEL Framework. ● Develop a transition/sustainability strategy for the Secretariat. ● Develop an input and resourcing schedule for the Secretariat and where appropriate, GBV Technical Partner.
GBV Technical Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Capacity building activities for the Secretariat in primary prevention. ● Develop a capacity building/accompaniment plan for WROs and CSOs. ● Situational analysis of GBV prevention in the region, including analysis of the situation of women and girls with disabilities and the intersection of climate change and GBV prevention.¹³⁵ ● Stocktake of existing GBV prevention resources, research and evaluations. ● Develop a knowledge translation plan. ● Scoping of feminist grant making facilities, ensuring that grants add value and connect to existing mechanisms.
Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop criteria for Practitioners to participate in Platform activities. ● Mapping of diverse practitioners who are working on GBV. ● Inception report, and workplan which includes mapping of activities against ASEAN workplans. ● Support Platform launch and first regional dialogue, in collaboration with UN Women and UNFPA.
DFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Socialise the role of the Platform with DFAT Posts, relevant DFAT departments and government departments. ● Refer GBV queries from DFAT, Australian Government and NGOs to the Platform. ● Program manage the Incubator, Secretariat, and GBV Technical Partner. ● Monitoring and coordination. ● Support Platform launch and first regional dialogue, in collaboration with UN Women and UNFPA. ● Recruit Steering Committee members. ● Representative on the Steering Committee. ● Program manage the UN Joint Programme on Prevention, including supporting alignment and coordination with the Prevention Platform. ● Establish and manage the DFAT Working Group to provide internal oversight of the initiative and strategic advice to the DFAT representative on the Steering Committee.

¹³⁵ This activity can build on and update activities undertaken as part of the design assignment including a rapid evidence review, landscaping of current and planned initiatives and stakeholder mapping.

E4. POLICY DIALOGUE

The Secretariat's Advocacy Lead will work closely with the DFAT Program Manager, Australian Mission to ASEAN and DFAT posts to influence national and regional policies. The Secretariat will be able to build on DFAT's existing partnerships with relevant stakeholders to foster relationships with policy makers, practitioners and advocates across the life of the program. Working with these stakeholders, the Secretariat will help to guide, inform and support the development and implementation of policies and frameworks for primary prevention. For example, the Secretariat will play a significant role in providing supporting evidence to inform policy dialogues in the region, including through supporting and amplifying WROs, CSOs and practitioner's advocacy agendas. It will also work alongside and provide technical support to policy makers, where requested, to support policy development and implementation. Policy efforts will focus on supporting regional priorities to scale up development, implementation and financing of evidence-driven prevention strategies.¹³⁶ This work will require close coordination with UN Women and UNFPA to avoid duplication of efforts. The DFAT Program Manager will initially be responsible for coordination with UN agencies, handing over this responsibility to the Secretariat within the first few years of the program. A policy dialogue matrix will be used as a tool to guide ongoing policy dialogue and reform efforts as they evolve over the life of the program.

E5. PROFILE AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Platform is an innovative and unique investment in evidence-based GBV prevention programming and policy. DFAT's funding of this Platform and its activities will **raise Australia's profile as a leader on gender equality and ending GBV in the region.** It will provide an effective mechanism for Australian organisations and agencies to engage in GBV prevention in the region. The Platform links evidence to policy and links Australia's policy commitment, through the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2023*, to policy dialogue with government counterparts in the region.

DFAT's investment will promote stronger GBV prevention policies and efforts across Southeast Asia, both regionally and through its bilateral engagement. The Platform will support new collaboration and partnerships among new GBV stakeholders, practitioners, and policymakers, by producing accessible resources for a wide range of audiences. The Platform will promote and elevate learning and knowledge from bilateral programs such as Nabilan and ACCESS to inform new GBV prevention programs and policies.

By working with internationally recognised organisations UN Women and UNFPA, DFAT will seek to advance gender equality and ending GBV objectives by leveraging these organisations' convening power and neutral mandates to advance policy dialogues. The Secretariat's External Engagement Lead, with support from the DFAT Program manager, will actively seek out opportunities for public diplomacy opportunities for Ambassadors and senior counterpart government officers, focused on opportunities that reinforce the Platforms' contribution to the cultivation of Australia's role in strengthening gender equality in the region.

To support local ownership and engagement, the Platform will be renamed during the inception period, through a locally-led branding process, to be validated at the first regional dialogue. Branding will take into consideration the sensitivities of the work, giving recognition to the value of local ownership and context-appropriate messaging, and ensuring the branding resonates across the diverse country contexts of the region.

E6. SUSTAINABILITY

The program has been designed with consideration for long-term sustainability of activities and outcomes. The Platform is designed to build expertise, capability and knowledge across a wide variety of stakeholders so that

¹³⁶ The initiative will directly contribute to GBV Action Coalition targets including (i) Increase by 50% the number of countries that include one or more evidence-driven prevention strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026, (ii) Increase by 25% the number of people who endorse gender equitable beliefs in every country by 2026, (iii) Increase investment in evidence-driven prevention strategies by \$500 Million USD by 2026.

policymakers and programmers implement and take forward primary prevention work in all they do. Drawing on learning from FCDO's What Works program, which has found limitations to a purely project-funding based approach, organisations already in receipt of core funding (i.e., through women's funds or other bilateral programs) will be prioritised for capacity strengthening support. DFAT and UN partners' existing long-term local partnerships with both government and civil society will be leveraged, building on existing efforts to build the proof of concept to support long-term sustainability of program outcomes.

Sustainability is closely linked to localisation and monitoring the technical capacity of the Secretariat throughout the program, and building on existing programs and partners engaged in prevention. The model will establish a regional entity (the Secretariat) to lead the initiative, which will transition to full operational management over the first five years of the program with the Incubator moving to a back-end corporate support services role by the end of phase 1. With the support of the Incubator, the Secretariat will work towards independence in the longer-term (10 years or more), should this be deemed feasible and appropriate to regional needs and demands. The Incubator will undertake regular assessments of the Secretariat's capacity, with KPIs linked to this. The Secretariat will be able to access resources from other donors and funding sources to support its work. The Incubator will develop a transition/sustainability strategy outlining how and by when this will be achieved. For political sustainability, the Platform aligns with and will support ASEAN's regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of VAWG, as well as its' post 2025 blueprint. For sustainability, the Platform will engage with multiple pillars of ASEAN.

F. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (HOW WILL DFAT MEASURE PERFORMANCE?)

An adaptive and flexible approach is needed for the program's delivery, monitoring and evaluation. GBV is a political issue, and progress may be hindered due to changes in context. Therefore, the ongoing contextual and political economy analysis will be a focus of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), along with reporting progress towards outcomes, based on the ToC (see section D, which will need to be revisited annually). MEL also supports ongoing program improvement. Through implementation of the MEL Framework (MELF), Platform will seek to capture lessons learned across the four streams of work and incorporate these lessons into the Platforms activities, knowledge products and reporting. The minimum MELF is included in Annex 2 with further details of indicators.

In collaboration with the Equality Institute, UN Women adapted the Australian Primary Prevention Monitoring Framework (Counting on Change) to produce a monitoring framework for the prevention of VAWG programming in the Asia Pacific region. The framework provides guidance on how to measure change over the short, medium and long term.¹³⁷ Monitoring indicators for progress towards outcomes are aligned to this framework and focus primarily on the enabling environment. The MELF will measure progress towards outcomes by articulating methods and timing for data collection and will be used to develop a detailed MEL plan in the inception phase. The MELF will clearly define each indicator within the framework, and the MEL Advisor will provide clear guidance and support to the Secretariat to ensure a shared understanding for accurate measurement and reporting.

The MELF covers the five-year program and will be updated annually to reflect adaptive changes and aligns to DFAT's Monitoring and Evaluation Standards. A detailed process to review the ToC will be included in the MEL Framework. The process will involve the GBV Technical Partner and MEL Advisor supporting the Secretariat each year to reflect on the assumptions in the ToC, and make recommendations for updates, based on findings from the annual progress report. The Secretariat will provide recommendations to the Steering Committee, who will make the final decision on changes to the ToC.

¹³⁷ Homan, S and Fulu, E (2021) *Making Progress in Prevention is Possible. A monitoring framework for the prevention of VAWG in the Asia Pacific Region.*
https://prevention-collaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/EQI_2021_Monitoring_Framework_Asia_Pacific.pdf

MELF data and reporting will inform decisions regarding investment in a potential second Phase. An independent evaluation in year 4 will provide an assessment, based on the evaluation questions detailed below. The evaluation will also detail the level of demand from regional stakeholders for support for the Platform; satisfaction from stakeholders of the Platform's support; progress to achieving all outcomes in the ToC; and an updated assessment of gaps and promising approaches in primary prevention in the SE Asia region that the Platform could address in an additional phase.

The primary role of monitoring and evaluation is accountability, learning and quality improvement at multiple levels. Ensuring there is mutual accountability between DFAT, the Secretariat, UN partners and practitioners, to Australian taxpayers, and ultimately to diverse women, girls and survivors in the region. The MELF will capture information demonstrating the quality of the investment and VfM and learning that practitioners can share. Reporting will focus on progress to outcomes, over reporting on outputs.

The MELF supports the Platform principles:

1. **Locally-driven:** MEL processes will ensure that practitioners are providing ongoing feedback on the relevance of the Platform's support to their work. With the commitment to ensure regional leadership, there is likely to be significant learning moments during the program. The MELF prioritises the need to internalise and share those lessons learned above any judgement of performance to date. A key monitoring tool is an annual survey of practitioners for them to provide feedback to the Platform. Furthermore, regional and country level dialogues will provide an opportunity to capture data and feedback from a broad range of stakeholders to feedback into Platform learning and adaptation. Knowledge products will be disability accessible and translated into relevant languages.
2. **Evidence-based:** The MELF supports documenting how the work of practitioners both improves the implementation of evidence-based approaches and documents and communicates learning that contributes to the evidence base in the region.
3. **Intersectional:** The MELF will contribute to the program's commitment to gender equality and inclusion of a diversity of participants and advisers through delivering accessible, inclusive and culturally safe and sensitive processes that further equality and inclusion.
4. **Survivor-centred and trauma-informed:** Data collection will meet high ethical standards, aligned to UN Women/WHO Global Technical Guidance: Improving the Collection and Use of Administrative Data on Violence Against Women. These include principles of confidentiality, informed consent on how data will be used, and reducing the burden on participants by minimising data collection.
5. **Adaptive:** Monitoring and evaluation methods and tools will be flexible to monitor and respond to local contextual factors, and to change strategies, based on what is working well or to respond to new opportunities to influence change.
6. **Collaborative and catalysing:** The MELF includes ongoing storytelling on how collaboration within the region, and with support from Catalysts, contributes to program outcomes.
7. **Do No Harm:** Monitoring processes will enable the Platform to track signs of backlash and mitigate risks accordingly through an adaptive approach.
8. **Accessible:** The MELF will enable accessible evidence and learning, to ensure the program remains accountable to the diversity of stakeholders in the region.
9. **Innovation:** The MELF will capture innovation, including by telling the story of the development of the Secretariat and movement building in the region.

A set of **key evaluation questions** have been developed for assessing the overall performance of the Platform, and informing decisions regarding further investment in a second phase of the initiative. These questions are based on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee's (OECD-DAC) criteria, which include: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

1. To what extent is the Platform demonstrating progress to outcomes and contributing to GBV prevention in the region?
2. To what extent is the Platform relevant to ASEAN's and Australia's GBV prevention goals in the region and the priorities of GBV practitioners?

3. To what extent has the Platform been effective in building partnerships to ensure collaborative, joint efforts to improve GBV prevention across the region?
4. How efficient are the management and governance arrangements supporting the performance of the Platform in the region?
5. How successful has the Platform been in promoting gender equality, disability and social inclusion and addressing climate change in policy and practice?
6. To what extent is the Platform supporting a locally-led approach?

MEL responsibility

The Incubator is initially responsible for monitoring and reporting, with responsibility transitioning to the Secretariat from year 3 with support and capacity building ongoing. It is crucial that there is continuity of both the MEL Framework and data collection. The Incubator will provide a plan to support the transition in the MELF and will consider the implications of the transition for capacity building and the development of the system.

The primary users of MEL information are:

- the Secretariat, for ongoing adaptation and improvement and evidence-based policy influence.
- the Steering Committee for oversight and to inform the strategic direction.
- DFAT for accountability, to inform evidence-based policy influence and to share lessons and promising approaches with bilateral programs.
- Practitioners and Catalysts are primary users of learning and knowledge products.

Baseline: As detailed in the Early Activities section, the Secretariat, jointly with the GBV Technical Partner will establish a baseline through:

- Mapping of diverse practitioners who are working on GBV.
- Situational analysis of GBV prevention in the region, including analysis of the situation of women and girls with disabilities and the intersection of climate change and GBV prevention.¹³⁸
- Stocktake of existing GBV prevention resources, research and evaluations.
- Develop a capacity building/accompaniment plan, which is the basis for measuring EOPO4.

Reporting:

- Program reporting will focus on providing information for accountability, expenditure, progress and risks. In the first year, the Incubator will report to DFAT in collaboration with the Secretariat. From year 2, reporting will be between the Secretariat and DFAT.
- Monthly calls: The Incubator and Secretariat will have at least a monthly call with DFAT to ensure that activities are coordinated.
- Annual reports: focused on DFAT's investment monitoring reports and reflection on selected evaluation questions.
- Sharing promising approaches with organisations such as the FCDO What Works II Program and other programs/partners the Platform identifies through implementation. The Secretariat, with support from the GBV Technical Partner, will propose a format to develop knowledge products and guidance to share learning from the MELF.

Evaluations

- An independent mid-term review will be conducted at the end of year 2, which will focus on effectiveness and program improvement.
- An independent phase I end-of-program evaluation will be conducted in year 4 of the program to review the investment's overall performance based on the Key Evaluation Questions, and the assessment of progress to outcomes, demand for Platform support, changes in the primary prevention context in the SE Asia region. The evaluation findings will inform decisions about the investment in a further five-year phase.

¹³⁸ This activity can build on and update activities undertaken as part of the design assignment including a rapid evidence review, landscaping of current and planned initiatives and stakeholder mapping.

Resources

The Secretariat must ensure that M&E is adequately resourced. It will be essential to the success of the Platform that it models a strong M&E approach to stakeholders in the region and delivers effective M&E reporting, which will feed into the Platform's evidence-building stream of work. 10% of the investment will be dedicated to monitoring, evaluation and learning, which is higher than the 5-7% recommended by DFAT guidelines. The 10% M&E resources will be used for both program data collection and supporting the capacity of the Secretariat with ongoing training and support for the Secretariat on data collection, analysis and report writing so that they will lead monitoring and evaluation by the end of the program.

G. GENDER, DISABILITY AND OTHER CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

G1. GENDER EQUALITY

In line with OECD's DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker, the Platform is rated as 'Principal (2)' as **gender equality is the main objective of the program**.

The Platform will take a gender transformative approach to GBV prevention, as is captured in the Platform's ToC, outcomes and MEL approach. The Platform will support WROs, CSOs and practitioners to design and implement social norms-based approaches to tackle underlying drivers of GBV. The Platform will also build much needed evidence of 'what works' to tackle harmful gender inequitable attitudes and beliefs in different contexts.

Accountability is a critical principle to ensure commitments to gender equality are sustained. The Director of the Secretariat will be accountable for ensuring targeted actions are completed to ensure Platform activities and the Secretariat's organisational structure, processes, budgets and policies are actively promoting gender equality. Feminist principles will guide the activities of the Steering Committee to ensure it does not replicate inequitable systems of power. The Platform will promote **women's leadership** through the implementing model and governance structure, strong links to the women's movement and opportunities for diverse representation.

The Platform will adopt **an intersectional and inclusive approach to all aspects of the program**. Intersectionality is a key principle underpinning the Platform's ToC and activities (see section D4), and measures will be taken to ensure a diversity of the Secretariat team, as well as the Steering Committee (who will hold the Platform to account for ensuring an intersectional and inclusive approach). The MELF will also contribute to the program's commitment to gender equality and inclusion of a diversity of participants and advisers through delivering accessible, inclusive and culturally safe and sensitive processes that further equality and inclusion. Cross cutting issues are integrated within policy objectives.

The Platform will build on DFAT's learning from inclusive approaches to GBV prevention in the region to strengthen the global evidence base. For example, social inclusion has been a key part of DFAT's Nabilan program¹³⁹ approach in Timor-Leste, including efforts working in partnership with local agencies to tailor approaches to people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, and people living in remote, rural areas. Furthermore, by providing flexible support to individuals, networks and movements that demonstrate willingness or ability to address drivers of domestic violence, the program has supported nascent organisations to grow, and support initiatives that may not otherwise qualify for more formal grants.¹⁴⁰ Similarly, the second phase of the Cambodia ACCESS program has a strong focus on disability inclusion, which the Platform can leverage, learn and disseminate best practice on.

¹³⁹ The Nabilan program is an investment of the Australian Government to support ending violence against women and children in Timor-Leste. The program is implemented by The Asia Foundation in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste and civil society organisations to improve the quality of services for victims of domestic violence and to change social norms to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence.

¹⁴⁰ DESI Consulting. (2021). *Nabilan: Ending Violence Against Women Program. Review Report*. DFAT.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/timor-leste-nabilan-phase-2-independent-evaluation-review-report.pdf>

G2. DISABILITY AND INCLUSION

The Platform's approach to prevention of violence inflicted based on gender, is intentionally inclusive of LGBTQIA+ people and people of non-binary gender identities.¹⁴¹ The Platform will target those most at risk of GBV, through inclusive, targeted and intersectional approaches to capacity strengthening and funding, as well as encourage and apply best practice in data disaggregation. This will include a focus on women with disabilities as well as ethnic minorities, drawing on Australian expertise and lessons learned including relevant work with First Nations communities. See section G1 for more on the Platform's intersectional approach.

The Platform will take a **twin-track approach** to ensuring disability inclusion by 1) mainstreaming disability inclusion throughout the program activities and 2) providing funding and direct support for specific activities on women and girls with disabilities that are led by OPDs. This approach is aligned to commitments in 2015 - 2021 *Development For All: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program*, and the *ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025*

The Secretariat will create a **Disability and Social Inclusion strategy** to identify the ways in which project activities will meaningfully engage and directly benefit diverse women and girls (including women and girls with disabilities) with close attention to accessibility, and active participation. The Platform will engage specific expertise from OPDs and networks throughout implementation (such as the ASEAN Disability Forum and Asia Disability Network), including representation in the Steering Committee. Furthermore, the Platform will leverage the expertise and partnerships of DFAT's DID4all Helpdesk and UNFPA expertise in disability inclusive programming in the region.

G3. LOCALISATION

The approach promotes localisation through the implementation model, ToC and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework. The design has involved a rigorous consultation process involving deep listening with key stakeholders in the region to ensure the design is firmly rooted in local priorities. The design includes the establishment of a regional Secretariat, led by staff from the region who have strong links to the grassroots women's movement. The Platform will be overseen by a diverse regional Steering Committee with representation from women's funds and regional grassroots networks for accountability. The Platform will establish local partnerships with and support capacity strengthening of diverse Practitioners, including grassroots WROs and CSOs, to ensure that activities respond to local needs and priorities. It will also elevate, capture and disseminate local knowledge, skills and experience to global audiences.

G4. CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is a central issue underpinning the design and will be integral to the implementation of the Platform. There is an established evidence base that demonstrates that climate-related disasters have increased risk factors associated with GBV, CEFM and trafficking. While this relationship is well established in the literature, there is a limited evidence base on climate-informed GBV prevention interventions and approaches. The Platform will be central to contributing to this understanding of best practice. Given that Southeast Asia is prone to climate-related disasters, it is particularly important to ensure this is prioritised throughout the Platform's activities and there is an opportunity for the region to provide global leadership and much needed evidence in this space. While climate change is a relatively new priority in the GBV sector, some key informants involved in the consultation process were able to speak to this topic and have provided suggestions on how to address climate change in the design.

¹⁴¹ While there is limited data on violence perpetrated against people identifying as LGBTQIA+, recent studies have highlighted how sexual and gender minority women are at risk of IPV, NPSV as well as targeted forms of violence related to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) including 'corrective rape'. Lee, H., & Ahlenback, V. (2020). *Reaching women and girls most at risk of VAWG*. Social Development Direct. <https://www.sddirect.org.uk/resource/query-304-reaching-women-and-girls-most-risk-violence>

Climate change is a cross-cutting theme in the ToC and features in the MELF. There is a recognition that climate change exacerbates GBV and addresses this through its prevention focused work. Specifically, the Platform will ensure WROs leading work on GBV and climate change play a central role in the Platform and contribute to the growing evidence base on best practice approaches. There is an opportunity to leverage this expertise and growing examples of best practice through regional dialogues, with the opportunity to influence government policy. The Platform will support Practitioners to integrate a climate and disaster resilience lens into their implementation plans and approaches.

Climate change and disaster risk assessments will be incorporated into project activities where relevant. Where significant risks are identified, the Platform will support Practitioners to incorporate specific mitigation strategies within their risk mitigation plans. The Platform will put in place practices to reduce the adverse impacts of climate related disasters on vulnerable people and will put in place strategies to minimise negative impacts of the design (e.g., when it comes to travel).

G5. PRIVATE SECTOR

While the primary focus of engagement of the program is not on the private sector, key private sector actors will be engaged in certain project activities. The Southeast Asia region has a wealth of workplace gender-based violence programming, specifically in garment factories, and often focused on migrant women.¹⁴² There is an opportunity to build on this knowledge through the Platform and by hosting dialogues with private sector companies and sharing evidence and learning. Furthermore, the Platform will engage with other DFAT private sector and gender equality focused programs in the region to assess potential engagement with the private sector.

H. BUDGET AND RESOURCES

The indicative budget is AUD20 million over five years.

UNFPA and UN Women will maintain their current governance arrangements with DFAT through their existing Partnership Agreements. UN Women and UNFPA will further develop their partnerships with DFAT by developing a Joint Partnership Agreement that will ensure the continuation of existing regional GBV prevention work. The Joint Partnership will include additional resources to support specific activities related to the Platform, such as coordinating regional and national dialogues and linking the platform to the work of UN global and regional initiatives.¹⁴³

The Platform will start with supporting existing programs with capacity support and will be open to new programs and projects through its annual work planning rounds. The Platform is open to DFAT internal co-funding or Posts commissioning work, and accessing technical assistance, using their own funds. This budget is focused on prevention and is in addition to existing regional and bilateral budget commitments to services.

The proportion of staff and administrative costs for the Secretariat should be at least 60% (of all staff and administration costs) in year 1, with management budget management five years, with the budget primarily managed by the Secretariat by the end of year 5.

I. PROCUREMENT AND PARTNERING

A two-step procurement process (EOI and full tender) is proposed to identify a preferred Incubator. The Incubator will have a track record of hosting/incubating similar Platforms and initiatives (including recruiting specialist teams) and must meet DFAT due diligence requirements. They should also have good networks across the region, for example through affiliate national offices and programs that can be leveraged to establish the regional

¹⁴² For example, an evaluation of a program working with migrant women workers in Myanmar found promising results in terms of reducing self-reported sexual harassment in the workplace (47% - 32%) between baseline and endline. Care International. (2017) End of project evaluation: Improving access to safe employment for migrant women in Myanmar. https://www.careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/Safe-Work-MMR-EoPEReport-FINAL_Aug2017.pdf

¹⁴³ Such as the Generation Equality Forum's GBV Action Coalition led by UN Women.

Secretariat and support localisation. They must demonstrate a strong commitment and a robust approach to establishing a regionally-led Secretariat, that will manage its own operations and management over a phased approach over the lifetime of the program.

There are three procurement options for the Incubator:

1. **Open tender:** Any organisation which meets the requirements, for example, this could be a values-aligned managing contractor, ANGO or INGO.
2. **Limited tender:** An organisation with a standing funding agreement, or an existing contract with DFAT, experience in establishing and incubating independent entities, and affiliates in most countries in the region.
3. **ANGO limited tender:** focused on accredited ANGOs with current prevention programs and strong regional networks in Southeast Asia.

The design team recommends option 1. Open tenders are effective mechanisms to reach the broadest group of possible tenderers for long-term, high value contracts, whilst adhering to DFAT VfM principles of Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Ethics, through having a transparent process. This option would not limit an ANGO, IPPF or equivalent from tendering.

There are several **partnership options for the procurement of the specialist GBV Technical Partner**. The Incubator could be required to subcontract and partner with a specialist GBV Technical Partner within the first six months of their contract (to be approved by DFAT). Alternatively, the GBV technical support could be provided through existing partnerships under the UN Partnership, or through a smaller funding agreement between DFAT and a specialist GBV Prevention partner. However, the design process suggests the last option is most appropriate and will enable DFAT to procure the most experienced organisation needed for such a highly specialised program area.

The program is designed to enable the Secretariat to establish partnerships with the potential to amplify and accelerate program outcomes and impact. The Secretariat will explore **potential partnerships to leverage feminist grant-making facilities as well as other flexible funding mechanisms** in response to local needs and demands to support practitioners engaged through the Platform with targeted funding for high-quality and well-designed GBV prevention initiatives, with the highest potential for impact.

J. RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDS (WHAT MIGHT GO WRONG?)

A **Risk and Safeguards Assessment** assessed the investment as moderate risk. This risk rating reflects the complex and challenging context within which GBV occurs. Key risks relate to partner capacity and relationships, the operating environment, working with children, protection of groups with vulnerabilities and disadvantage, and political sensitivities. Controls have been incorporated in the design of this program for DFAT to mitigate against key risks. The Secretariat's Director and Leads, in consultation with the DFAT program manager, will update the Risk Register quarterly to reflect any changes in the risk profile of the program. Undertaking gendered political economy analysis throughout and taking an approach that adapts and adjusts to changing contexts will be key approaches to managing risk, to enable the program to identify, mitigate and pivot where appropriate.

For risk management, **risk monitoring and management will be a standing agenda item for the Steering Committee meeting**. The Incubator will keep an ongoing risk register and use this as a basis to report risks to the Steering Committee, which will include: what new risks were identified, how they were mitigated and newly identified high-level risks for the Steering Committee to provide advice. DFAT will also report the findings of its quarterly risk assessments of the Platform to the Steering Committee for their advice.

Key **operational risks** are related to:

- The ability to attract and retain a skilled Secretariat staff.
- The ability of the Secretariat to function as operationally strong and financially independent orgs

by year 5.

- Blurred lines of accountability between the Secretariat and the Incubator and/or GBV Technical Partner and/or ineffective internal management given the complexity of program design and management.
- Risks of competition for support and funding between practitioners and policy makers.

To mitigate against these risks, the design's ToC and implementing model embeds strong organisational and capacity strengthening support to the Secretariat. Strong management and governance structures and monitoring and coordination mechanisms will be established from the outset with clear roles and responsibilities. The Incubator, GBV Technical Partner and the Secretariat will work together to develop a plan to transition all roles and responsibilities to the Secretariat by the end of the program, in collaboration with DFAT, with regular assessments of the Secretariat's capacity built into the program to enable the transition.

Do No Harm

A known risk of GBV prevention programs is backlash against progressive campaigns that challenge power imbalances, inequitable systems and harmful norms, particularly where they relate to women, marginalised groups and gender norms. Furthermore, working with marginalised communities and individuals (including LGBTQIA++) can increase risk to organisations and individuals and backlash. The Secretariat will carefully consider such risks in every activity focused on these groups.

Activities and messaging will generally be framed positively, and the Secretariat and partners will be supported to enhance their skills to manage negative feedback and to limit and manage backlash. The specialist GBV Technical Partner will bring significant demonstrated experience in developing and applying strategies effectively to mitigate against risks associated with GBV prevention programming, and they will have a key role in training and supporting the Secretariat and its partners and stakeholders in these strategies. Furthermore, in collaboration with the DFAT program manager, the GBV Technical Partner will strengthen the skills and knowledge of the Secretariat, DFAT staff at Post, other delivery partners through access to training and resources to ensure they are equipped to monitor and manage any incidents that may occur. The Secretariat in partnership with the GBV Technical Partner and UN agencies will develop, maintain and disseminate an up-to-date repository of response services, including helplines, to support increased access for survivors of GBV.

Safeguarding risks

As outlined in the context analysis, several factors in the region persist that can increase the likelihood of sexual exploitation and abuse and child protection incidents - including persistent patterns of gender inequality and risks related to humanitarian crises. Therefore, the Platform has developed a thoughtful risk mitigation strategy to address safeguarding risks and will deploy adequate resources to support the strategy. The GBV Technical Partner will harness specialised skills to provide leadership to mitigate safeguarding and child protection risks and will support capacity development of the Secretariat as well as all partners involved in the Platform. Specifically, risk mitigation measures, include:

- Complete due diligence and contracting processes with all new partners to ensure they meet the requirements set out in Commonwealth legislation and DFAT's policies and guidelines on financial management, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), Child Protection and Environmental and Social Safeguards.
- Ensure a Child Protection and PSEAH capacity building plan is developed in the first year of implementation. The GBV Technical Partner will lead mandatory targeted training modules for all partners.
- The Secretariat will have dedicated expertise on safeguarding and all staff will go through criminal record checks.
- Ensure child protection and PSEAH reporting procedures and survivor referral pathways are accessible and in place at start of implementation and are regularly monitored and reviewed.
- Ensure the development of a Secretariat Child Protection and PSEAH policy and action plan in the first year of implementation, assessed on an annual basis. The GBV Technical Partner will provide support to ensure accountability measures are in place for the implementation of the policy and actions are aligned with global best practice. The policy will outline measures that will be put in place to ensure all Platform

activities (including events and other activities that involve direct contact with children and other vulnerable adults) are adhering to the most rigorous safeguarding standards.

Many organisational attempts to address safeguarding risks fail due to lack of resources, capacity and accountability. The safeguarding and child protection mitigation strategy seeks to address these areas by ensuring that safeguarding activities have dedicated financial and human resources - including the provision of technical support which will be provided by the GBV Technical Partner as well as the identification of safeguarding focal points who will be responsible for the implementation of the safeguarding action plan. Overall accountability of the action plan will rest with the Secretariat Director who will be accountable for regularly reporting on progress to the Steering Committee, including DFAT.

Fraud risks

The Incubator will need to demonstrate capacity to prevent, detect, investigate and respond to fraud, and will support the capacity of the Secretariat to manage fraud and fraud risks over time. The Incubator will be required to maintain a rigorous fraud control and risk management regime in accordance with DFAT's requirements including as outlined in *DFAT's Fraud Control Toolkit for Funding Recipients and Risk Management Guide for Aid Investments*. Resourcing for financial control includes a Finance Manager and Finance Officer, who are not in a position to benefit from expenditure.

The Incubator will be responsible for core fraud control measures including conducting and regularly updating (every 6 months) a (i) Fraud Risk Assessment and Fraud Control Strategy of the Platform's activities, (ii) implementing, testing and reviewing controls, (iii) timely reporting of any instance of fraud, and (iv) corrective and investigative measures. Potential fraud risks include:

- Theft and/or misuse of funds.
- Conflicts of interest in selection of partners and grant recipients.
- Bribery.
- Facilitation payments.

The Incubator will put in place systems and processes that guard against fraud, nepotism and corruption including:

- Transparent processes for selection of practitioners to receive targeted GBV prevention capacity strengthening support and maintenance of conflict of interest (COI) registers.
- Undertake due diligence on any downstream partners.
- Protocols for handling fraud incidents including mandatory reporting of any risk events to DFAT within 24 hours.
- Training of the Secretariat on management obligations and VfM measures, and for all partners and contractors on fraud awareness.
- Processes to ensure all occurrences of fraud and corruption are reported and addressed in a timely manner in accordance with DFAT protocols.
- Clear financial operating procedures that promote and take a 'zero tolerance' position on fraud.
- Maintaining accurate and readily available financial records; DFAT staff will be given full access to the financial management information system at any time.
- An annual independent financial audit of the Incubator's financial and program management systems, and an annual financial report.

The grants approach will be developed later in phase 1 in response to the needs of the region and building upon existing grant mechanisms so as not to duplicate efforts. As part of this process, fraud risk of grant giving activities will be carefully considered and management/mitigation processes and plans updated for the Platform in accordance with the findings of a fraud risk assessment that will be done at this time.

K. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Global stakeholders	Raising Voices	GBV Accelerator	Pacific Regional ERAW Hub (UN Women)
	Urgent Action Fund	Breakthrough	GBV AoR
	Equimundo	Sexual Violence Research Institute (SVRI)	UNICEF
	Violence Prevention Forum @ Institute for Security Studies	Wellspring Foundation	WHO
	UNFPA	The ALIGN Platform	UNTF
	FCDO and the What Works to Prevent VAWG Programme II	International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF)	Spotlight Initiative Secretariat
Australian stakeholders	eSafety Commissioner	International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)	Australia Department of Social Services
	Equality Institute	CBM Australia	DFAT Australia staff
	kNOwVAWdata/Uni Melb	ANROWS	ActionAid Australia
	Our Watch	Office for Women/DSS	ChildFund Australia
	International Committee of the Red Cross	CEVAW Centre for Excellence	Plan International Australia
	World Vision	UNICEF Australia	CARE Australia
	Marie Stopes International	Edge Effect	
Regional Stakeholders	Cambodia	Cambodia DFAT post and ACCESS design team	Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)
	Indonesia	Indonesia DFAT post	Indonesia DFAT

		Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice (AIPJ2)	AICHR Indonesia
		FORMASI (Indonesia CSO consultation)	Migrant Care
		SAPDA (Advocacy Center for Women with Disabilities and Children)	BaKTI (Eastern Indonesia Knowledge Exchange)
		INKLUSI (The Australia-Indonesia Partnership Towards an Inclusive Society)	Aisyiyah
		PEKKA (The Female-Headed Household Empowerment Program)	Rutgers Indonesia
		Jakarta Feminist	Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (Women's Health Foundation)
	Lao	Lao DFAT post	World Vision International (WVI) Lao
		Lao Feminist	Winrock International - Lao
		Didier Bertrand (Freelance consultant)	Oxfam in Lao
		ASEAN-ACT	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
		The Asia Foundation Lao	Catholic Relief Services Vientiane (CRS)
	Malaysia	Malaysia DFAT post	Association of Women Lawyers
		#KauOKTak	Sisters in Islam
		KRYSS Network	Asylum Access Malaysia
		All Women's Action Society	Women's Aid Organisation
		Monsters Among Us	Justice for Sisters

		ENGENDER	Malaysian Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development
		PS The Children	IPPF-ESEAOR
	Myanmar	MSI Reproductive Choices-Myanmar	
	Papua New Guinea¹⁴⁴	Office of the Medical Society of Papua New Guinea (MSPNG)	
	Philippines	Philippines DFAT post	WOWLeap Inc Philippines
		The Asia Foundation Philippines	UN Women Philippines
		Philippines Commission on Women	UNFPA Philippines
	Singapore	Singapore DFAT post	Singapore Ministry of Social and Family Development
	Thailand	Thailand DFAT post	Women's wellbeing and Gender Justice Program, Thailand
		Gender and Development Research Institute (GDRI) Thailand	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) Association of Thailand
		Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Thailand	Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women (APSW)
		Freedom Restoration project, Thailand	
	Timor-Leste	Timor-Leste DFAT post	Alola Foundation
		Nabilan Timor Leste	Oxfam Timor-Leste
		CODIVA (Coalition for Diversity and Action)	CARE Timor-Leste
		Fokupers	World Vision Timor-Leste

¹⁴⁴ Responded to the online survey, which was shared by some DFAT posts and external stakeholders.

		JSMP (Judicial System Monitoring Program)	Hatutan (LGBTQI)
		ALFeLA (Legal Assistance for Women and Children)	Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO)
		Pradet (Psychosocial Recovery & Development in East Timor)	Plan International Timor-Leste
		ROSEA	Timor-Leste, Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality
		Redefeto	Timor-Leste Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion
		KOICA Timor-Leste	UNFPA Timor-Leste
		Provedor - Human Rights and Justice	UNICEF Timor-Leste
	Vietnam	Vietnam DFAT post	UNODC Viet Nam
		GBV Net Chair and Member organisations	ILO Viet Nam
		Batik International Vietnam	Viet Nam Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
		CSAGA (Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender – Family - Women and Adolescents)	Viet Nam Ministry of Sport, Culture and Tourism
		Hagar Viet Nam	Viet Nam Ministry of Justice
		Light Community Development Initiatives	Viet Nam Ministry of Health
		CARE Viet Nam	Viet Nam Federation on Disability (VFD) /Action to the Community Development Centre (ACDC)
		UNICEF Viet Nam	UNFPA Viet Nam

		UN Women Viet Nam	Viet Nam Women's Union
		Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP)	Viet Nam Farmers' Union
		WHO Viet Nam	Oxfam Viet Nam
		UNDP Viet Nam	Plan International Viet Nam
		Vietnam Family Planning Association (VINAFFPA)	iSEE.
		Center for Public Health and Community Development (CEPHAD)	LIGHT
	Multi-country organisations/ASEAN	Australian Mission to ASEAN	ASEAN Act
		ASEAN Secretariat	IFES- AGENDA
		Women's Fund Asia	ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership Program (APSP)
		ASEAN SOGIE Caucus	Investing in Women
		ASEAN Disability Forum	Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development - ILO
		Asia Development Bank (ADB)	ARROW- Asia Pacific & Asia End FGMC Network
		IWRAW Asia Pacific	



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

ANNEX 2: MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

An adaptive and flexible approach is needed for the program's delivery, monitoring and evaluation. GBV is a political issue, and progress may be hindered due to changes in context. Therefore, the ongoing contextual and political economy analysis will be a focus of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), along with reporting progress to outcomes, based on the ToC (see section D), which will need to be revisited annually. MEL also supports ongoing program improvement.

The primary role of monitoring and evaluation is accountability at multiple levels. Ensuring there is mutual accountability between DFAT, the Secretariat, UN partners and practitioners, and to Australian taxpayers. The MELF will capture information demonstrating the quality of the investment and VfM and learning that practitioners can share. Reporting will focus on progress to outcomes, over reporting on outputs.

In collaboration with the Equality Institute, UN Women adapted the Australian Primary Prevention Monitoring Framework (Counting on Change) to produce a monitoring framework for the prevention of VAWG programming in the Asia Pacific region. The framework provides guidance on how to measure change over the short, medium and long term.¹⁴⁵ Monitoring indicators for progress to outcomes are aligned to this framework and focus primarily on the enabling environment. The MELF will measure progress towards outcomes by articulating methods and timing for data collection and will be used to develop a detailed MEL plan in the inception phase.

The MELF covers the five-year program and will be updated annually to reflect adaptive changes and aligns to DFAT's Monitoring and Evaluation Standards. A detailed process to review the ToC will be included in the MEL Framework. The process will involve the GBV Technical Partner and MEL Advisor supporting the Secretariat each year to reflect on the assumptions in the ToC, and make recommendations for updates, based on findings from the annual progress report. The Secretariat would provide recommendations to the Steering Committee, who will make the final decision on changes to the ToC.

MELF data and reporting will inform decisions regarding investment in an additional Phase. An independent evaluation in year 4 will provide an assessment, based on the evaluation questions detailed below. The evaluation will also, the level of demand from regional stakeholders for support for the Platform, satisfaction from stakeholders of the Platform's support; progress to achieving all outcomes in the theory of change, and an updated assessment of gaps and promising approaches in primary prevention in the SE Asia region that the Platform could address in an additional phase.

The primary role of monitoring and evaluation is accountability, learning and quality improvement at multiple levels. Ensuring there is mutual accountability between DFAT, the Secretariat, UN partners and practitioners, to Australian taxpayers, and ultimately to diverse women, girls and survivors in the region. The

¹⁴⁵ Homan, S and Fulu, E (2021) *Making Progress in Prevention is Possible. A monitoring framework for the prevention of VAWG in the Asia Pacific Region.* https://prevention-collaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/EQI_2021_Monitoring_Framework_Asia_Pacific.pdf

MELF will capture information demonstrating the quality of the investment and VfM and learning that practitioners can share. Reporting will focus on progress to outcomes, over reporting on outputs.

The MELF supports the Platform principles:

1. **Locally-driven:** MEL processes will ensure that practitioners are providing ongoing feedback on the relevance of the Platform's support to their work. With the commitment to ensure regional leadership, there is likely to be significant learning moments during the program. The MELF prioritises the need to internalise and share those lessons learned above any judgement of performance to date. A key monitoring tool is an annual survey of practitioners for them to provide feedback to the Platform. Regional and country level dialogues will also provide an opportunity to capture data and feedback from a broad range of stakeholders to feedback into Platform learning and adaptation. Knowledge products will be disability accessible and translated into relevant languages.
2. **Evidence-based:** The MELF supports documenting how the work of practitioners both improves the implementation of evidence-based approaches and documents and communicates learning that contributes to the evidence base in the region.
3. **Intersectional:** The MELF will contribute to the program's commitment to gender equality and inclusion of a diversity of participants and advisers through delivering accessible, inclusive and culturally safe and sensitive processes that further equality and inclusion.
4. **Survivor-centred and trauma-informed:** Data collection will meet high ethical standards, aligned to UN Women/WHO Global Technical Guidance: Improving the Collection and Use of Administrative Data on Violence Against Women. These include principles of confidentiality, informed consent on how data will be used, and reducing the burden on participants by minimising data collection.
5. **Adaptive:** Monitoring and evaluation methods and tools will be flexible to monitor and respond to local contextual factors, and to change strategies, based on what is working well or to respond to new opportunities to influence change.
6. **Collaborative and catalysing:** The MELF includes ongoing storytelling on how collaboration within the region, and with support from Catalysts, contributes to program outcomes.
7. **Do No Harm:** Monitoring processes will enable the Platform to track signs of backlash and mitigate risks accordingly through an adaptive approach.
8. **Accessible:** The MELF will enable accessible evidence and learning, to ensure the program remains accountable to the diversity of stakeholders in the region.
9. **Innovation:** The MELF will capture innovation, including by telling the story of the development of the Secretariat and movement building in the region.

A set of **key evaluation questions** have been developed for assessing the overall performance of the Platform, and informing decisions regarding further investment in an additional phase. These questions are based on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee's (OECD-DAC) criteria, which include: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

1. To what extent is the Platform demonstrating progress to outcomes and contributing to GBV prevention in the region?
2. To what extent is the Platform relevant to ASEAN's and Australia's GBV prevention goals in the region and the priorities of GBV practitioners?
3. To what extent has the Platform been effective in building partnerships to ensure collaborative, joint efforts to improve GBV prevention across the region?
4. How efficient are the management and governance arrangements supporting the performance of the Platform in the region?
5. How successful has the Platform been in promoting gender equality, disability and social inclusion, and addressing climate change in policy and practice?
6. To what extent is the Platform supporting a locally-led approach?

MEL responsibility

The Incubator is initially responsible for monitoring and reporting, with responsibility transitioning to the Secretariat from year 3 with support and capacity building ongoing.

The primary users of MEL information are:

- the Secretariat, for ongoing adaptation and improvement and evidence-based policy influence.
- the Steering Committee for oversight and to inform the strategic direction.
- DFAT for accountability, to inform evidence-based policy influence and to share lessons and promising approaches with bilateral programs.
- Practitioners and Catalysts are primary users of learning and knowledge products.

Baseline: As detailed in the Early Activities section, the Secretariat, jointly with the Incubator and GBV Technical Partner will establish a baseline through:

- Mapping of diverse practitioners who are working on GBV.
- Situational analysis of GBV prevention in the region, including analysis of the situation of women and girls with disabilities and the intersection of climate change and GBV prevention.¹⁴⁶
- Stocktake of existing GBV prevention resources, research and evaluations.
- Develop a capacity building/accompaniment plan, (with GBV Technical Partner), which is the basis for measuring EOPO4

Reporting:

- Program reporting will focus on providing information for accountability, expenditure, progress and risks. In the first year, the Incubator will report to DFAT in collaboration with the Secretariat. From year 2, reporting will be between the Secretariat and DFAT.
- Monthly calls: The Incubator and Secretariat will have at least a monthly call with DFAT to ensure that activities are coordinated.
- Annual reports: focused on DFAT's investment monitoring reports and reflection on selected key evaluation questions.
- Sharing promising approaches with organisations such as the FCDO What Works II Program and other programs the Platform identifies through implementation. The Secretariat, with support from the GBV Technical Partner, will propose a format to develop knowledge products and guidance to share learning from the MELF.

Evaluations

- An independent phase I mid-term review will be conducted at the end of year 2, which will focus on effectiveness and program improvement.
- An independent phase I end-of-program evaluation will be conducted in year 4 of the program to review the investment's overall performance based on the Key Evaluation Questions, the assessment of progress to outcomes, demand for Platform support, changes in the primary prevention context in the SE Asia region. The evaluation findings will inform decisions about the investment in a further five-year phase.

Resources

¹⁴⁶ This activity can build on and update activities undertaken as part of the design assignment including a rapid evidence review, landscaping of current and planned initiatives and stakeholder mapping.

The Secretariat must ensure that M&E is adequately resourced. It will be essential to the success of the Platform that it models a strong M&E approach to stakeholders in the region and delivers effective M&E reporting, which will feed into the Platform's evidence-building stream of work. 10% of the investment will be dedicated to monitoring, evaluation and learning, which is higher than the 5-7% recommended by DFAT guidelines. The 10% M&E resources will be used for both program data collection and supporting the capacity of the Secretariat with ongoing training and support for the Secretariat on data collection, analysis and report writing so that they will lead monitoring and evaluation by the end of the program.

In collaboration with the Equality Institute, UN Women adapted the Australian Primary Prevention Monitoring Framework (Counting on Change) to produce a monitoring framework for the prevention of VAWG programming in the Asia Pacific region. The framework provides guidance on how to measure change over the short, medium and long term.¹⁴⁷ Monitoring indicators for progress to outcomes are aligned to this framework and focus primarily on the enabling environment. The MELF will measure progress towards outcomes by articulating methods and timing for data collection and will be used to develop a detailed MEL plan in the inception phase. The MELF covers the five-year program and will be updated annually to reflect adaptive changes and aligns to DFAT's Monitoring and Evaluation Standards.

Data collection tools

- **Annual practitioner and policy maker surveys** that cover: what was learned, how it was used, what practitioners want to learn, how tools and resources are being used and satisfaction with support from the Platform and the GBV Prevention support. Disaggregated by: type of practitioner, location, gender, age, disability
- **Annual capacity assessment:** The Secretariat and Incubator will make an assessment annually on support from the Incubator and capacity building priorities for the upcoming year. This will include an assessment of the Secretariat's satisfaction with the Incubator and areas for improvement.
- **Case studies:** Case studies will be developed from year 3 to document promising approaches and qualitative evidence regarding key evaluation questions 2, 3 and 6.
- **Meeting/forum documentation:** Meetings and events will be documented through: attendance records, meeting minutes, outcome statements and follow up surveys. For example, regional and country level dialogues could provide an opportunity to capture data and feedback from a broad range of stakeholders to feedback into Platform learning and adaptation.

The Incubator will develop an information management system to store qualitative and quantitative indicator data.

Data disaggregation and intersectional analysis

All indicators will be disaggregated at a minimum by gender, and where possible, additional disaggregation by other demographic and identity characteristics where appropriate (for example, age, rural/urban, disability status, income, refugee status, SOGIESC etc.), to ensure that distinct experiences of different groups of women is captured and analysed through an intersectional lens.

¹⁴⁷ Homan, S and Fulu, E (2021) *Making Progress in Prevention is Possible. A monitoring framework for the prevention of VAWG in the Asia Pacific Region.* https://prevention-collaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/EQI_2021_Monitoring_Framework_Asia_Pacific.pdf

	Desired result	Indicator	Data collection method & frequency	Who will collect and analyse the data	Baseline	Target	Use
Broader goal	Prevent GBV in Southeast Asia through evidence-based advocacy, dialogue, policy, and practice.	N/A	End of program evaluation	Secretariat analyses data at a program level Steering committee reviews annual report from the Secretariat	To be developed in inception for all baselines	To be developed in inception and revised annually for all targets	DFAT/Steering Committee: Documentation of results and focus for next phase
EPOP1	Practitioners advocate for, implement, fund and monitor high-quality, evidence-based GBV prevention policies and programs.	# and description of practitioners and policy makers supported by the Platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribute to new or revised and fully costed GBV policies or strategies partners or coalitions advocating for GBV policies reporting increased skills in prevention monitoring 	Annually: Progress reports Case studies End of program evaluation	Secretariat analyses data at a program level			Secretariat: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy

IO1	Practitioners have increased skills to take evidence-based action to prevent GBV	# and description of practitioners and policy makers supported by the program Practitioners and policy makers report that they have increased prevention skills	Annually Progress reports include: Practitioners and policy maker surveys Case studies Post mentoring/training reports Mid-term review against IO	Secretariat analyses data at a program level GBV prevention partner collects and analyses training reports			Secretariat: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy
STO1	Practitioners have enhanced understanding of GBV primary prevention and increased access to tools and resources to translate evidence into action.	# of and description of GBV prevention documents and tools produced by the Platform, including on the topic of climate change and GBV Examples of how tools and resources are used by practitioners and policy makers. Practitioners and policy makers report that they have increased understanding of	Annually Progress reports include links to resources Practitioner and policy maker survey results Case studies Post mentoring/training reports	Secretariat analyses data at a program level, with support of the Incubator GBV prevention partner collects and analyses training reports			Secretariat/Incubator: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy Secretariat/Incubator: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy

		GBV primary prevention					
EOP02	Evidence of what works to prevent GBV in SE Asia is accessible and applied by practitioners.	Examples of how resources are used by different types of practitioners and policy makers: CSO, WRO, Government # and description of CSOs integrating GBV prevention into their org's activities	Progress reports include: links to resources Practitioners survey results Case studies			To be developed in inception	Secretariat/Incubator: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy
IO2	Practitioners collaborate to adapt and generate evidence on what works to prevent GBV in SE Asia	# of and description of GBV prevention documents and tools produced by the Platform # of downloads of documents and resources Examples of how tools and resources are used by practitioners and policy makers. produced by the Platform Description of how practitioners, policy makers and catalysts contribute to resources	Progress reports include: links to resources Practitioners survey results Case studies Mid-term evaluation against IO				

STO2	Recognised international GBV prevention best practice is contextualised and shared	# of and description of GBV prevention documents and tools produced by the Platform # and description of practitioners and policy makers that report they are using documents and tools	Progress reports include: links to resources Practitioners survey results Case studies				
EPO3	Expanded regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder collaboration on GBV prevention	# of and description new partnerships and networks supported by the Platform, including on climate change and GBV Actions resulting from partnerships				To be developed in inception	Secretariat/Incubator: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy
IO3	Strengthened solidarity and coordination amongst practitioners to drive action on GBV prevention	# and description of partnerships and networks supported by the Platform # of and results from engaging Catalysts in the Platform	Progress reports include: links to resources Practitioners survey results Case studies Mid-term review against IO				
STO3	Regional dialogues are established to	# of CSO, government					

	drive collaboration and action from primary stakeholders.	participants attending dialogues # and description of Catalysts engaged in regional dialogues # and description of outcome statements and joint actions resulting from dialogues, including on climate change and GBV					
--	---	---	--	--	--	--	--

EPO4	GBV prevention Secretariat leads on all functions	Evidence of increased organisational and GBV prevention capacity. Reduction in activities and funding led by the incubator	Annually: capacity assessment Secretariat satisfaction with the Incubator Proportion of budget managed by the incubator Financial reports	Secretariat/Incubator		70% of activities and funding are led and managed by the Secretariat	Secretariat/Incubator: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy
IO4	GBV prevention Secretariat primarily leads implementation	Evidence of increased organisational and GBV prevention capacity Reduction in activities and funding led by the Incubator Secretariat satisfaction with Incubator support	Mid-term review progress against IO	Secretariat/Incubator			Secretariat/Incubator: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy
STO4	GBV prevention Secretariat established and supported.	Evidence of increased organisational and GBV prevention capacity Secretariat satisfaction with Incubator support		Incubator/Secretariat			Secretariat/Incubator: program improvement Steering Committee: Program oversight and strategy

ANNEX 3: ACCOUNTABILITY DIAGRAM

Partner accountabilities

