



UN JOINT PROGRAMME ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

(2024-2029)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AC	Action Coalition
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Generation Equality Forum
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex and Asexual
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
NAP	National Action Plan
OPD	Organisation of Persons with Disabilities
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SVRI	Sexual Violence Research Initiative
TFGBV	Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNTF	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund)
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WHO	World Health Organisation
WRO	Women's Rights Organisation

BACKGROUND ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) IN THE REGION

Magnitude of GBV in Southeast Asia

Globally affecting almost one in three women in her lifetime, gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls occurs at home, in public spaces, in workplaces and online. It is a fundamental violation of human rights and a global health problem with considerable social and economic costs to individuals, communities, and countries.

In Asia, GBV manifests in different context-specific forms, including intimate partner violence, “honour” killings and femicides, childhood and adolescent sexual violence, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence, feticides as well as harmful practices, such as, menstrual confinement, early and forced marriages, and witchcraft accusations. Women and girls who face multiple forms of oppression due to bias, discrimination and inequitable power structures related to their identity (e.g., gender expressions, diverse sexual orientations, ethnicity, caste, disability, migration status, etc.) are often marginalised and have unique experiences with violence. For example, women and girls with physical and cognitive disabilities may be more at risk of gender-based violence and can experience additional barriers in accessing support services.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remains the most common form of GBV, affecting up to 60 per cent of women in Asia and the Pacific region.¹ National prevalence data demonstrates that across the region, 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 per cent in Singapore, 15 per cent in Laos and the Philippines, and 59 per cent in Timor-Leste.²

National studies have found similarly high rates of emotional and economic abuse perpetrated against women by an intimate partner.³ Women and girls are also at risk of non-partner sexual violence, with available lifetime prevalence data showing rates ranging from 5 per cent of women in Laos to 19 percent in Indonesia.⁴

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is an increasing concern. A study by the Economist Intelligence Unit reveals that the prevalence of TFGBV is as high as 88 per cent in Asia and the Pacific.⁵ While population-based data on the experiences of specific groups is limited, evidence suggests that adolescent girls, women with disabilities, lower caste women, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTQIA+ women and migrant women are especially at risk of violence. Perpetrators of TFGBV can be former and current intimate partners, family members, colleagues, friends, or people unknown to the survivors. Perpetrators use technology to inflict GBV in different ways, such as, intimate partners who use technology to harass, stalk and exert power and control over survivors. Harms from TFGBV have real impacts and consequences from emotional to physical, including suicidality and femicide in the gravest of situations. The extensive availability and use of technology requires careful consideration in all GBV (e.g. financial abuse, IPV, child abuse, family violence, non-partner violence, in the context of work, etc.) response and prevention efforts.

Femicides in the region are largely committed by family members and current or former partners. In 2022, Asia recorded an estimated 18,400 killings of women and girls by their intimate partners or other family members, ranking second globally.⁶

1. UN Women (2023). [Asia Pacific Region ERAW Portfolio Update](#).

2. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (2023). [Women who experience IPV 20-2023. 2023 Regional Snapshot](#).

3. For example, the National Study on Domestic Violence in Viet Nam (2019) found that over half (54 per cent) of all women had experienced emotional abuse by an intimate partner, while almost 1 in 10 (9 per cent) 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).

4. UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (2020). [Women who experience IPV 2010-2020. 2020 Regional Snapshot](#).

5. Economist Intelligence Unit (2021). [Measuring the Prevalence of Online Violence against Women](#).

6. UNODC and UN Women (2023). [Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls \(Femicide/Feminicide\): Global Estimates of Female Intimate Partner/Family-Related Homicides in 2022](#).

Root Causes, Risk Factors and Consequences

Violence of any kind is most often an expression of power and control by those who are in positions of privilege over those who are not. Gender-based violence is no different and is rooted in patriarchal structures that perpetuate inequality between men and women and other individuals with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). There are several known risk factors that increase the likelihood of perpetration and victimization. Broadly, these include: discriminatory laws; low levels of women's employment and education; gender discrimination in institutions; harmful norms that justify violence and that uphold male privilege and limit women's autonomy; high levels of poverty and unemployment; availability of drugs, alcohol and weapons; high levels of inequality in relationships (male-controlled/dependence on partner); men's multiple sexual relationships and harmful use of drugs and alcohol; childhood exposure to violence (experiencing and witnessing) in the family; mental disorders and attitudes condoning or justifying violence.⁷

These global factors, resonate in the region. Research and consultations highlight the significance of gender inequitable norms and attitudes, including harmful notions of masculinity, in driving and sustaining the high prevalence of GBV in the region.⁸

The study of the UN Joint Programme, Partners 4 Prevention, in Indonesia found that many men have gender inequitable beliefs when it comes to traditional male and female roles, and at least 40 per cent of men either agreed or strongly agreed that *"a woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together"*.⁹ Similarly, a study of a national WRO in Malaysia on public attitudes and perceptions towards violence against women (VAW) documented the tendency to excuse the perpetrator and hold women responsible for violence with more than 50 per cent of respondents,

both female and male, considering IPV including physical violence as a normal outcome of stress, frustration, jealousy, or anger.¹⁰

Gender inequalities and discriminatory social norms that existed before COVID-19 have been exacerbated, with GBV intensifying during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. According to the COVID-19 and VAW big data analysis of UN Women and UNFPA, searches related to physical violence (which include keywords such as "physical abuse signs", "violent relationships", and "cover bruises on face") in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Nepal, grew by 47 per cent, 63 per cent, and 55 per cent, respectively, between October 2019 and September 2020.¹¹

GBV is a human rights violation resulting in immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental health consequences for the survivors. The impacts of GBV affect families, communities, and even countries. Chronic mental health conditions that occur as a result of being subjected to GBV can impact social functioning and productivity. For example, it has tremendous costs, from greater strains on health care to legal expenses and losses in employment and income.¹² The global cost of violence against women and girls is estimated at approximately 2 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), or US\$1.5 trillion.¹³ Research in Viet Nam estimated that the overall costs of GBV including accessing services, missed work, and lowered productivity is over 3 per cent of the GDP.¹⁴

Globally, the majority (55-95 per cent) of women survivors of violence do not disclose or seek any type of services.¹⁵ This is no different for the Southeast Asia region. National prevalence surveys reveal that, across the region, as much as 48.6 per cent of women survivors of violence in Cambodia and 65.9 per cent in Timor Leste had never disclosed intimate partner violence before the survey.¹⁶ In Viet Nam, the Government's 2019 National Study on Violence against Women found that nearly 2 in 3 women experience one or more forms of violence by their husbands in

7. WHO (2019). [RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence against Women](#).

8. The Asia Foundation (2017). [Community-Based Approaches: Ending Violence against Women Through Community Action – A Reflection on Research, Ethics, and Practice](#).

9. UN Women (2019). [Summary Report: Ending Violence is Our Business](#).

10. Women's Aid Organisation (2021). [A Study on Malaysian Public Attitudes and Perceptions towards Violence Against Women \(VAW\)](#).

11. UN Women, UNFPA and Quilt.ai (2020). [COVID-19 AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: THE EVIDENCE BEHIND THE TALK: Insights from big data analysis in Asian countries](#).

12. UN Women. [Ending Violence against Women](#).

13. UN Women (2020). [COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#).

14. UN Women and AUSAID (2013). [The Costs of Violence](#).

15. WHO (2019). [RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence against Women](#).

16. UNFPA. [KnowVAWdata](#).

The silence, shame, fear, and stigma associated with GBV make it difficult for women and girls to disclose and seek support for the violence they experience, and for community members to work together to break this cycle.

their lifetimes but 90.4 per cent of women survivors did not seek help.¹⁷ Similarly, in Cambodia, evidence shows that less than one-third (31 per cent) of women seek help from service providers.¹⁸

To prevent violence, GBV risk factors need to be mitigated and the protective factors amplified. The silence, shame, fear, and stigma associated with GBV make it difficult for women and girls to disclose and seek support for the violence they experience, and for community members to work together to break this cycle.

Advancements

Great strides have been made in addressing gender-based violence over the decades, especially in the areas of creating vast public awareness that GBV is a grave violation of human rights; legal and policy reforms to hold perpetrators to account; improved safe and ethical collection of prevalence data; capture of practice-based knowledge; and in the delivery of quality coordinated multi-sectoral services for survivors.

Women's rights advocates and organisations have been key to these advancements and in many ways continue to lead the charge. While the world was not quite ready to deal with the impact of the pandemic, feminist movements and women's rights organisations provided an early warning system on the gender impacts of the pandemic, particularly on GBV.¹⁹ According to the joint report of UN Women and UNDP, countries with stronger feminist movements before the pandemic adopted on average three more measures to address violence against women and girls (VAWG) compared to those with weaker movements.²⁰

More recently there has also been significant investment and interest in programming to prevent gender-based violence. A global framework RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence against Women was launched in 2019, providing seven inter-related evidence-based strategies proven to reduce the prevalence, frequency, and severity of GBV. The Framework and multi-piece Implementation Package were developed by UN Women and WHO with UNFPA and other partners.

Challenges

Despite these critical advancements at global level to consolidate and articulate evidence-based strategies to prevent violence from happening in the first place, policy efforts and investments continue to lag behind with significant gaps in funding and capacity building to put these into practice.

Similarly, the Southeast Asia region's uptake of prevention through research, policymaking and programming is still emerging. A thorough consultative process to develop the [Southeast Asia Gender-Based Violence Prevention Platform Investment Document](#), presents the state of prevention in the Asia and the Pacific region, noting emerging evidence, practice and policies. As a result, acceleration of prevention of gender-based violence is being prioritized through this platform with a focus on Southeast Asia. Australia DFAT, UN Women and UNFPA were part of the co-design process to assess and develop this Southeast Asia Gender-based Violence Prevention Platform ("the Prevention Platform"), and the current UNJP document lays out the roles of UN Women and UNFPA to support this Platform as it develops and evolves.

17. UNFPA (2019). [National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam](#).

18. [Cambodia Demographic Health Survey 2021-22](#).

19. UN Women (2022). [The Power of Women's Activism: protests against gender-based violence during COVID-19](#).

20. Ibid.

Despite emerging promising practice and evidence, the design document noted the following challenges:²¹

- 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. 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 women's rights organisations (WROs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (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.
- 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.

- 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. 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.

In response to these challenges, the design process identified that it is crucial to build on the existing work that has been done in the region, enhance coordination and collaboration amongst all stakeholders involved in the ecosystem, strengthen the uptake and use of existing knowledge and frameworks, and increase the focus and attention on GBV prevention through dialogue and practical guidance and support.

21. DFAT (2023). [Southeast Asia Gender-Based Violence Prevention Platform: Investment Design Document](#).

PROPOSED APPROACH FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

The UN Joint Programme (UNJP) was established with the express purpose of supporting DFAT's Prevention of Gender-Based Violence Platform by leveraging years of dedicated experience addressing GBV globally and regionally. This includes normative work at global level across various forms of GBV; legal and policy change; strengthening data collection; convening multi-stakeholder platforms; consolidating and amplifying the knowledge base; and improving quality multi-sectoral services to advance prevention of GBV in Southeast Asia.

Considering that the Prevention Platform will require some time to be established and fully operate, the UNJP will continue keeping the momentum on prevention efforts in the Southeast Asia region and set the stage for the Platform through establishing linkages and relationships for the Prevention Platform to engage with once it is able. Once the Prevention Platform is up and running, the UNJP will continue supporting the Prevention Platform funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the aim to strengthen the evidence base on GBV prevention through enabling and supporting increased coordination and collaboration of key actors to cooperate and share learnings to design, implement, scale up and evaluate innovative and evidence-based programmes and policies to prevent GBV.

The UNJP will enable the Prevention Platform to build on UN Women's and UNFPA's existing strong cooperation with national stakeholders

(governments, CSOs, women's organisations) in the region to ensure a transformative, sustainable, and country-owned approach. Moreover, building on existing work within the UN mandate to advance primary prevention through improved collaboration such as UNiTE, the regional UN inter-agency working group, co-chaired by UN Women and UNFPA with membership across UN agencies, the UNJP will also connect the Prevention Platform to international networks, knowledge and efforts and help to promote and strengthen the Prevention Platform's engagement with global initiatives where UNFPA and UN Women have strong partnerships, such as the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), GBV and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) Action Coalitions, Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), and other relevant global platforms and opportunities on prevention of GBV.

While the UNJP will be grounded in the Southeast Asia (SEA) region, it will engage with other regions where prevention work, with support of the UN, has advanced (such as the Pacific region) to strengthen the Prevention Platform, allowing for the two-way exchange of knowledge and experience and seizing possible opportunities for cross-regional collaboration to advocate for and advance GBV primary prevention. This is a particular value-add of the UNJP to the establishment and implementation of the Prevention Platform, using UN partnerships across the globe to facilitate direct linkages for knowledge exchange with prevention efforts in other regions.

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In line with the initial focus of the Prevention Platform, the UNJP will align its focus on IPV and family violence (including intersections with violence against children), given the critical need to build capacity, adapt and pilot existing evidence-based strategies that are context-specific across countries in the region. However, prevention work by its nature would have a positive impact across multiple forms of violence. The UNJP will remain flexible to support coordination, collaboration and tailoring of prevention approaches for other forms of GBV, responsive to local demands and priorities and as the field evolves to cover new areas including but not limited to technology-facilitated GBV; child, early and forced marriages; the nexus between GBV and climate change; sexual violence and harassment in public spaces; sexual harassment in the context of work and school-related GBV, among others, especially while the Prevention Platform is scaling up its efforts and getting established with a focus on IPV.

In line with the existing work of UN Women and UNFPA, the UNJP will be forging linkages with other thematic areas such as health, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), women's economic empowerment (WEE), social protection, women's leadership also in the context of climate change, and disseminate knowledge, build capacities, and convene dialogues on inter-linkages as they are all closely intersecting with the prevention of GBV. As one of the regions most prone to disasters, the prevention initiative would also likely have implications for and contribute to crisis preparedness and resiliency.

Partners

The UNJP is designed to support and work closely with the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Platform partners. The UNJP is expected to support the Prevention Platform to coordinate and collaborate with key actors (especially government actors where the UN has established relationships), other stakeholders and networks, while facilitating and leveraging opportunities through the UN's partnerships, experience and knowledge for learning and knowledge exchange to help strengthen the Prevention Platform's foundation and grow its relationships.

UN Women and UNFPA will support and convene different stakeholders including but not limited to regional institutions, governments, WROs, CSOs, youth networks, faith-based organisations, regional organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs), regional lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex and asexual (LGBTIQ+) organisations, donors, private sector, international organisations, and regional bodies. The UNJP aims to build capacities and promote evidence to improve and accelerate action to prevent GBV in the region

holistically at all levels, including by advocating upstream for government uptake of evidence-based prevention to be embedded in policies and budgets.

At policy level, UNFPA and UN Women will leverage their existing partnerships with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) and other regional institutions to engage and support the Prevention Platform to engage in policy dialogues and advocacy. A key component will be to meaningfully connect the Platform in dialogues on prioritising and financing GBV prevention within the national strategies and budgets.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) / Women's rights organisations (WROs) play a key role in the prevention of GBV. Many, however, face various challenges from broad pushback against gender equality to limited funding and capacities, together with shrinking spaces for advocacy to prevent GBV. These contextual barriers and challenges can limit opportunities for stakeholders, such as the policymakers and donors, to reach out and engage meaningfully with CSO/WROs. In line with their existing support to WROs, through the UNJP, UN Women and UNFPA will help strengthen coordination and collaboration of WROs within the broader prevention ecosystem, including through connection to the Prevention Platform once it is established. UN Women and UNFPA's support to CSO/WROs, particularly while the Platform is being established, will continue to build the capacities of WROs and will provide opportunities for WROs to amplify their voices at high-level engagements with governments and donors. UN Women and UNFPA will invite the participation of **faith-based actors** in dialogues on the prevention of GBV. Through the UNJP, UN Women and UNFPA will leverage existing relationships and collaboration with faith-based actors to facilitate the engagement of the Prevention Platform through capacity building initiatives, convening of consultations and dialogues and creation of alliances to shift harmful beliefs, norms, and practices that justify and perpetuate GBV.

Investment in **youth and adolescents** are key not only to support young people to reduce their specific vulnerabilities to various forms of violence but also to shifting harmful gender norms and beliefs. Through the UNJP, UN Women and UNFPA will build on existing partnerships to connect the Prevention Platform with key youth organisations such as the Y-Peer organisations, country level chapters of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and will foster new ones to support capacity-building and enhanced engagement of youth groups in prevention of GBV. In addition to out-of-school approaches, the UNJP will promote guidance for "whole-school" approaches targeting adolescents and young people, teachers,

administrators, school systems and policies, sports and youth-clubs and families to challenge harmful gender norms and foster gender equality, respect for diversity and non-violence. Given the leadership of UNFPA in comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and its potential to engage adolescents through in and out of school programmes for GBV prevention, the initiative will invest in building guidance on CSE as an accelerator to transform social and gender norms that perpetuate GBV. The guidance will be disseminated to and through the Prevention Platform.

Engaging with **people with disabilities (OPDs) and LGBTQ+ organisations** is an important strategy to better understand risks and experiences of violence that affect specific groups differently, while shifting discriminatory social and gender norms against them. The UNJP will systematically consult, engage with and support the participation of those networks in the UNJP and the Prevention Platform to ensure lived experiences inform policy and practice and to ensure that prevention efforts are inclusive.

Media has a strong role in influencing decisions as well as deconstructing social norms. Through the UNJP, UNFPA and UN Women will harness media channels to make the Prevention Platform visible. The UNJP will also engage with media, including social media to build capacities and share evidence on GBV prevention with the aim of shifting the way GBV is presented to the public and normalized.

Theory of Change

The UNJP will be complementing the theory of change (TOC) articulated for the Prevention Platform which was developed following extensive consultations in the region. While the UNJP is applying the same ToC as the Prevention Platform, the activities of the UNJP will be leveraging the unique mandate, strengths, and expertise of the UN, to support the Prevention Platform in advancing its aims. This will lead to fostering a complementary and collaborative partnership to prevent GBV. The UNJP will support the growth of the Platform by bringing-in important GBV prevention stakeholders from the region; by connecting it with key initiatives focused on prevention at the international and regional levels, including multilateral and bilateral dialogues and others related to policy, norm and standard setting; by leveraging the existing evidence and knowledge-base to strengthen capacities across diverse constituents.

The outcome of the UNJP is that the Prevention Platform is supported and scaffolded by UN Women and UNFPA to be well-placed to cooperate with key actors in the Southeast Asia region to upscale knowledge and capacities on evidence-based programmes, policy making and programming to prevent GBV in the region.

THE THEORY OF CHANGE FOR ACHIEVING THIS IS:

- IF**
- i. The Prevention Platform is well placed to progress prevention of GBV in the Southeast Asia region, including through the support of the UNJP.
 - ii. Regional and national dialogues are convened to drive a common narrative and collaboration for primary prevention of GBV.
 - iii. Recognised international evidence-based, promising GBV prevention practices are contextualised and shared.
 - iv. Stakeholders have enhanced understanding of GBV primary prevention and increased capacities to translate evidence into action.

THEN

Key actors in the Southeast Asia region cooperate and design, implement, and evaluate innovative and evidence-based policies and programmes which will contribute to shifts in harmful norms, empowerment of women and girls, and prevention of GBV.

Strategies and Priority Actions

The UNJP aims to support the Prevention Platform in its initial phase, gradually building capacities, while supporting engagement in regional and global fora that UN Women and UNFPA strategically convene, to capitalise on well-established partnerships. Within this approach, through strong cooperation, greater coordination and collaboration with national stakeholders (governments, CSOs, WROs) to ensure a transformative, sustainable, and country-owned approach, the UNJP will identify key priority actions to achieve, contributing to the end of programme outcomes outlined by the Prevention Platform's ToC. The UNJP will be designed to enhance the outcomes of the Prevention Platform, achieving shared objectives. In doing so, UN Women and UNFPA draw upon current evidence and analysis from the region and globally that derives from programming and advocacy across both institutions. For example, UN Women leads drafting of the regular UN Secretary General reports on [Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls](#), which incorporate analysis, progress updates and recommendations, drawing upon reports from governments and UN entities. UN Women and UNFPA cooperate with the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences on advocacy priorities, country-level and thematic reports.

UN agencies have established, long term relationships with governments and ASEAN to progress policy and development objectives linked with global international norms such as CEDAW binding commitments and recommendations. The unique convening power of the UN within this UNJP opens possibilities to connect leading edge evidence and practice on prevention with advocacy to advance policy commitments and funding that can bring solutions to scale. UN Women and UNFPA will leverage ecosystems of relationships across the UN system, with governments, civil society, academia, experts, and young people to support and drive momentum planned within the Prevention Platform.

As coordinators of the UN system-wide Regional UNiTE Working Group, UN Women and UNFPA facilitate cross-sector connections drawing in agency mandates and participation with the Prevention Platform (e.g., on violence in the world of work with ILO; VAWG and climate change with UNEP; VAW-VAC intersections with UNICEF; and school-related GBV with UNESCO and UNICEF, among others).

Core materials produced by the UN, such as the RESPECT Women: Prevent Violence against Women Framework and its implementation package (developed in partnership with DFAT) and on Comprehensive Sexuality Education have been critical in guiding governments, advocates, UN partners and others. Adapting and contextualizing these materials, including through the Prevention Platform, will contribute to build on the existing evidence base through regionally relevant and representative demonstration.

1. Support regional dialogues and expand regional and bilateral collaboration on effective GBV primary prevention (ADVOCATE)

This approach aims to build an enabling environment and commitment to prevent GBV. Building on a solid foundation of existing partnerships established by UN Women and UNFPA at national and regional levels- notably with governments, this approach aims at leveraging the UN's partnership to increase collaboration and build a common narrative on GBV as a preventable issue with proven strategies to address it, dually promoting gender equality, disability and social inclusion. Such an enabling environment will support the Prevention Platform to leverage national and regional dialogues and scale up the engagement together with UN agencies to amplify and strengthen engagement at both policy and implementation level.

The UNJP will be working with and supporting the Prevention Platform by leveraging UN Women's and UNFPA's partnerships, programmes and networks to engage with existing and emerging regional networks, including networks of OPDs and LGBTQIA+, in a complementary way, based on established protocols, and to identify opportunities for learning and knowledge exchange, both regional and international, as well as leading the convenings where it is appropriate for UN entities to perform this role.

Proposed activities include:

- Capitalizing on UN Women's and UNFPA's partnerships, organizing regular regional and national **convenings for learning and knowledge exchange** on GBV primary prevention strategies and practices as well as strengthening coordination and collaboration among a diverse set of stakeholders across the prevention ecosystem, including related to climate change and emergencies.
- Leveraging existing UN Women and UNFPA partnerships, **engaging with the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Member States'** representatives in the Committee on Women (ACW), the Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children (ACWC), and other relevant committees, to facilitate integration of GBV prevention in regional action plans and initiatives.
- Strengthening **advocacy and building a shared understanding of effective interventions** to prevent GBV through existing multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g., UNITE, Generation Equality Forum and its Action Coalitions especially those dedicated to GBV and Bodily Autonomy and SRHR) and in close collaboration with the Prevention Platform.
- Strengthening and coordinating **network(s)** of practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and movements in the field of GBV prevention to facilitate knowledge exchange, collaboration and partnership.
 - **CSO Networks:** the UNJP will help facilitate the Prevention Platform's connection to and engagement with the CSO Networks from Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific regions to enhance regional and cross-regional knowledge exchange, collaboration and advocacy to end GBV. UNFPA and UN Women have existing relationships with CSOs and CSO networks, including networks of people with disabilities in the region and will be well placed to support the Prevention Platform to build relationships with CSOs during its inception and early implementation phases.

- Strengthening connection and advocacy around prevention and normative frameworks such as CEDAW, CRC, ICPD through **policy dialogues**.
 - **Organising regional consultations for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** priority themes that would bring diverse stakeholders together.
- Drawing on UN partnerships and relationships, supporting the Prevention Platform to establish alliances of policy makers, donors, academia and practitioners to promote mainstreaming of gender equality, disability and social inclusion in national and regional policy making fora including within the ICPD+30 process, Beijing + 30, etc. Alliances will coordinate to strategize and build common messages in their advocacy for primary prevention, aiming for policy reform and evidence-based programming.

2. Invest in building and sharing region specific evidence on effective GBV prevention approaches (DEMONSTRATE)

This approach aims to expand, contextualize, and disseminate the evidence on what works to prevent GBV against women and girls in all their diversity with particular focus on disability and social inclusion in the Southeast Asia region, including documenting the level of adaptations needed for international promising practices to align with local contexts and the needs of diverse groups. Contextualization refers to the process of debating, determining, and agreeing upon the meaning of evidence on GBV prevention in a given local situation, so as to make the evidence appropriate, meaningful and applicable to the Southeast Asia region.

In line with one of the six Guiding Principles of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#) leaving no one behind (LNOB), the UNJP will be working with the Prevention Platform to capture and disseminate evidence and practice-based knowledge on primary prevention across the Southeast Asia region through an intersectional lens to prevent GBV for women and girls in all their diversity. The Prevention Platform will amplify the work of UN Women, UNFPA and their partners through continued investment. Efforts will include sharing UN knowledge, evidence, guidance and tools with the Prevention

Platform; facilitating networking and learning opportunities among prevention practitioners with which the UN agencies have partnerships; promoting the Prevention Platform's evidence and products with policymakers and practitioners through the UN network; and supporting the overall visibility of the Prevention Platform in key fora and other large-scale platforms dedicated to GBV prevention regionally and globally.

Proposed activities include:

- **Translating and disseminating to and through the Prevention Platform, UN Women and UNFPA developed evidence, practice-based knowledge and learning products** in the local languages of Southeast Asia.
- **Facilitating practice-based knowledge capture and exchange** for GBV prevention with governments, UNTF grantees and other stakeholders related to and relevant to the Prevention Platform, including those with expertise beyond the region where there is added value.
 - The UNJP can facilitate the Prevention Platform's connection to the **UN Trust Fund (UNTF)** to: 1) engage in knowledge and practice exchange among UNTF grantees and CSO practitioners in Southeast Asia; 2) document and disseminate evidence-based practices from CSO grantees of the SEA region at regional and UN events, with regional and international networks more widely; 3) increase interaction with CSOs so they understand the UNTF grant opportunities and requirements for CSOs in Southeast Asia.
- Drawing on the UN's mandate, supporting selected countries in the region with **gender-responsive budgeting** related to GBV prevention strategies and plans to ensure effective assessment and prediction of the resources needed by governments to undertake GBV prevention work, as well as strengthening the Prevention Platform's expertise in these areas to support advancement of this work in the region.
- Contextualizing **guidance for** the adaptation of prevention strategies to Southeast Asia, **measuring GBV prevention** interventions and linking CSE and GBV prevention.

- Building on existing UN initiatives, knowledge and evidence in the region, the UNJP will facilitate connections among subject areas and experts on topics such as women's economic empowerment and GBV, climate change and GBV, or social protection and GBV.
- Supporting key researchers and practitioners from Southeast Asia to present and participate in biennial Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Conferences (e.g., South Africa 2024 and SEA 2026) and other relevant regional and international events/conferences. As the Prevention Platform will be in the early stages of its inception phase at the time of the 2024 SVRI conference, the UNJP's support will be critical to help increase representation from the region at the 2024 conference. These efforts will contribute to the engagement of the Prevention Platform for the upcoming SVRI Conference in 2026 that is planned to be held in Southeast Asia.

3. Strengthen GBV primary prevention expertise and capacity at the organisational, national, and regional levels to translate evidence into action (FACILITATE)

This approach aims at building capacity of national stakeholders, including government and CSOs on primary prevention and to disseminate tools to operationalize successful approaches. Limited understanding on GBV risk and protective factors and limited number of comprehensive strategies to guide behaviour-change / social norms change on GBV prevention are two of the main constraints identified by recent studies on GBV prevention.

In close collaboration with the Prevention Platform, the UNJP aims to support the creation of a critical mass of policy makers and practitioners who are skilled and have knowledge on GBV prevention to apply a whole of a society approach and bring about gender/social norms transformation. To amplify the reach and impact of the Prevention Platform, the UNJP will work on a dual track by supporting the Prevention Platform to strengthen its capacity to build the knowledge and expertise of key partners and actors in the region, while also taking the lead with institutions and stakeholders where the UN is best placed or where long-standing working relationships already exist. In the initial stages while the Prevention Platform is being established, the UNJP will lead these activities to ensure that momentum on GBV prevention in the region is not lost.

Proposed activities include:

- Drawing on the UN's existing efforts, partnerships and expertise to support government partners to develop costed **national prevention frameworks** (*where there is potential*).
- **Capacity strengthening** of government stakeholders (policy focused) and CSO stakeholders (practice focused), including networks of OPDs, in close consultation with the Prevention Platform.
- **Facilitating learning on prevention**, roll out of RESPECT Framework and implementation guidelines, building a cohort of GBV prevention resource persons, jointly with the Prevention Platform to make sure it reaches a wider audience, including people with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Establishing and maintaining active engagement online on prevention interventions from the region (Southeast Asia Prevention podcast series).
- Jointly with the Prevention Platform, rolling out the contextualized guidance through national/multi-country trainings and evidence-based experience sharing among practitioners.

4. Develop, mentor, and support a regional GBV prevention Secretariat (INCUBATE)

This approach aims to introduce the Prevention Platform and jointly engage national and regional partners on prevention to prepare for deeper engagement through the Prevention Platform and mapping existing prevention interventions to better understand strengths and potential of stakeholders across the region. These activities will be phased to be front-loaded and delivered in a way to support the Prevention Platform Secretariat to be fully functional and ready to scale up the engagement by year 3 of the initiative. The UNJP will seek to support the Prevention Platform based on needs and priority areas identified where UN support will be advantageous.

Proposed activities include:

- Providing technical support for the establishment of the GBV Prevention Secretariat by sharing experience and expertise that would help the Prevention Platform in putting together its workplan.
- Providing technical support to the Prevention Platform to integrate standards related to gender-responsive, safe and ethical monitoring, evaluation and learning into their frameworks.
- Conducting a capacity assessment of stakeholders based on UN Women and UNFPA's experience in the region to date to inform the Prevention Platform's capacity development plan.
- Introducing the Prevention Platform and strengthening its relationships with regional organisations, including ASEAN and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development as well as working alongside and together to support regional organisations in their work on advancing primary prevention of GBV.

