

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.3

**Quality, comparable, regular and accessible gender statistics are available to address national data gaps and meet policy, planning, programme, budgeting and reporting commitments under the SDGs, CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and other national priorities**

The quality and availability of gender statistics have increased substantially across the region as a result of the support provided by the UN Women's gender statistics team. For instance, several surveys were supported including a Time Use Survey in Bangladesh, a Gender-Environment survey in Mongolia, 11 Rapid Assessment Surveys on the consequences of COVID-19 in 11 countries, followed by a second round of Rapid Assessment Surveys in 7 countries that took place towards the end of the year. In addition, UN Women has supported countries with data reprocessing. For example, Mongolia now generates multi-level disaggregated SDG estimates and publishes them regularly in their SDG database, and 10 ASEAN member states generate new estimates and include them in the ASEAN Gender Outlook, which is now a Flagship publication for ASEAN. Furthermore, some countries, such as the Philippines, were supported to include select modules on existing surveys, such as a module on COVID-19, unpaid care, and domestic work attached to their Labor Force Survey. Geospatial data and survey data were integrated and reprocessed to generate information on the gender-climate nexus.

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.4

**Gender statistics are accessible to all users (including government, civil society, academics, and private sector) and can be analysed to inform research advocacy, policies, plans, programmes and budgeting and promote accountability**

As a result of extensive training provided on using gender data, including through the use of the UN Women-SIAP Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics, many data users are now capable of finding, analyzing, and using gender data for decision-making. In addition, UN Women has produced a large number of publications on gender data, ranging from papers on civil registration and vital statistics to analysis of time use survey data in Afghanistan, or progress reports and factsheets on select topics, such as gender and environment technical paper that was put together and used for discussions during Commission on the Status of Women.

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.5

**Women have better access to formal and informal legal systems**

UN Women, together with programme partners OHCHR and the International Commission of Jurists, continued to strengthen women's access to justice, leveraging their comparative advantage. During the reporting period, several initiatives were undertaken including training and community-based justice providers on promoting and protecting women's human rights in the provision of justice, strengthening gender-responsive and people-centered justice at the community level, providing legal aid for women, providing platforms for exchanges between justice providers, women justice seekers, and women civil

society, and convening a critical mass of gender champions within the formal justice sector. For example, the capacity of 177 judges, magistrates, and community judicial members was increased to provide justice for women; and, UN Women hosted 105 community dialogues with women's rights organizations involving 2,006 women in Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines. In addition, UN Women continues to identify and breakdown harmful gender stereotypes and norms that prevent women from accessing justice, including by engaging communities for social norms change in Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The programme also worked with women's civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's human rights defenders (WHRDs) to advance a common understanding of how women's rights movements in the region can jointly advance access to justice. In this regard, 111 WHRDs including 35 Indigenous women, 40 women from the Pacific Islands, and 36 women environmental defenders were supported to increase their understanding of how to engage with government representatives on women's human rights issues. Throughout the reporting period, additional priorities and opportunities emerged, including bolstering partnerships with national human rights institutions and engaging with United Nations country teams on the protection of women human rights defenders; upscaling best practices from the national level to the regional level, such as Nepal's practice on diversifying justice mechanisms through community-based justice mechanisms, which led to higher satisfaction among women users and a whole-of-community approach to protect women justice seekers; and, leveraging global research and advances on justice driven by the 2021 Justice Action Coalition. Harnessing the advancements made in 2021, a regional strategy to provide a regional approach to Women's Access to Justice within and outside the UN system is under development in partnership with CSOs, UN sister agencies, governments, and global experts.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.2

### **Enabling Environment Supportive, well-coordinated policy environment is in place to ensure gender-responsive localisation and effective monitoring of the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region**

As a result of the Women Count programme implementation and completion of its first phase, the enabling environment to produce and use gender statistics has been enhanced in many countries. For instance, Vietnam selected a set of priority gender indicators with UN Women's support, which they now use to guide data collection reports on gender issues, and inform national policies. Similarly, countries across the Pacific, through the adoption of the Pacific Roadmap, now have a sub-regional strategy for the production and use of gender data across the region. This has prompted countries such as Tonga to create national coordination groups on gender statistics, countries such as Palau to collect more data on gender issues, and the whole region has created a Pacific Gender Statistics Coordination group, a community of practice where priorities are discussed and solutions (in the form of finances or technical support) are identified to address current gaps.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.1

### **Governments and civil society are able to assess and inform progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the SDGs as well as other global and regional normative frameworks**

In 2021, the Asia-Pacific Beijing+25 regional synthesis report was officially launched jointly by UN Women and UNESCAP on International Women's Day. A brief interactive video summarising the report content and recommendations was screened at the event for all participants from Governments, Donors, UN Agencies, CSOs, and the private sector. The total number of participants was 71 in-person participants and 119 online participants via Zoom and 2,400 unique viewers via Facebook Live from across the region. The report highlight video can be found [here](#). As part of the Generation Equality Regional Journey for Asia and the

Pacific, the ROAP convened six Generation Equality Asia-Pacific Regional Multi-stakeholder dialogues in the areas of Feminist Action for Climate Justice on Earth Day (22 April) (300 participants); Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality on 19 May (attendees at the highest peak: 158); Economic Justice and Rights on 25 May (attendees at the highest peak: 165); Gender Based Violence on 16 June (175 participants) and; Feminist Movements and Leadership on 17 June (attendees at the highest peak: 268) and 3-day Youth Activism Accelerator Sessions (attendees 1,715 over 3 days). These dialogues brought together stakeholders from across the region representing civil society including women's rights and youth-led movements, the private sector, governments, academia, philanthropy, International Financial Institutions, and the UN, to discuss areas of action under each of the Action Coalition Areas and to invite stakeholders to consider committing with these areas. In addition, as part of the #16daysofactivism and #IamGenerationEquality campaigns, the ROAP produced seven stories of youth activists who are at the frontline of fighting gender-based violence in their respective countries. The stories feature contributors from Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia and include key actions the interviewees have taken to combat GBV, as well as actions that the reader can take to make a difference. With the UN Coordination approaches, governments and a wide range of civil society are able to assess and inform progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the SDGs as well as other global and regional normative frameworks.

APA\_D\_6.2: Enabling and well-coordinated policy environment is in place to ensure gender-responsive localisation and effective monitoring of the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region As a result of the Women Count programme implementation and completion of its first phase, the enabling environment to produce and use gender statistics has been enhanced in many countries. For instance, Vietnam selected a set of priority gender indicators with UN Women's support, which they now use to guide data collection reports on gender issues, and inform national policies. Similarly, countries across the Pacific, through the adoption of the Pacific Roadmap, now have a sub-regional strategy for the production and use of gender data across the region. This has prompted countries such as Tonga to create national coordination groups on gender statistics, countries such as Palau to collect more data on gender issues, and the whole region has created a Pacific Gender Statistics Coordination group, a community of practice where priorities are discussed and solutions (in the form of finances or technical support) are identified to address current gaps.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.6

### **Women are empowered to build resilient, cohesive and peaceful communities to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism**

Under the regional Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) project, women in communities in Bangladesh are empowered to be agents of change in their communities and promote peace and social cohesion, thereby preventing radicalization and violent extremism as a result of the project's social entrepreneurship initiatives. In 2021, in Bangladesh, the initiatives undertaken by the Women Peace Cafés (WPC) are a testament to the capacity of its members in promoting social cohesion and building the resilience of communities to prevent violent extremism. By the end of the fourth phase of the programme (March 2021), the WPC reached 395 women through entrepreneurship activities in communities at risk of radicalization. This included an online social entrepreneurship training that enabled 186 female students as agents of peace and engagement of 209 female volunteers in the Women Peace Ambassadors (WPA) initiatives. Under WPA, 40 female students and 16 male volunteers were selected to implement small projects that support vulnerable women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and promote social cohesion in their communities. Moreover, approximately 1.2 million people were reached through a social media campaign on project activities, including 12,604 combined new followers on social media pages of WPCs and WPA initiatives. At the regional level, the project facilitated the participation of 70 individuals in regional dialogues to strengthen their understanding of the gender dynamics of violent extremism through an online event. In the fourth phase (April – December), the WPC continued to showcase good results. The WPC model from the prior phase was scaled up with the addition of two more universities resulting in its expansion into four WPCs. The WPC members continued to engage with peers through virtual events and social media despite

the ongoing closures of all educational institutions. As a result of WPC activities, the project reached 241,180 individuals in Bangladesh to contribute to improving their understanding of women's role in PVE and the gender dynamics of the threat of terrorism and hate speech. Furthermore, an animation "The Impact of Gender Identities, Norms, and Relations on Violent Extremism" has been developed to summarize the key findings of the research entitled Building a Stronger Evidence Base: The Impact of Gender Identities, Norms and Relations on Violent Extremism, which was previously produced under the PVE programme in collaboration with Monash University Gender Peace and Security (GPS) Centre. The animation has been subtitled in four different languages: English, Bahasa, Bangla, and Tagalog, corresponding to the languages spoken in the focus countries of the study. Ground-breaking UN Women research advances the conversation on gender in violent extremism. UN Women continues to advance the research agenda on gender and violent extremism in Asia – an area that remains without much international attention. (See UN Women Asia Pacific PVE webpage to access the research) In addition, with the technical support of UN Women, the government and CSOs have increased their capacities to implement and monitor the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security Bangladesh which integrates gender issues and the important role that women play in preventing violent extremism.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.7

### **At-risk border communities are more resilient to human trafficking and related escalation, focusing especially on women**

In 2021, UN Women has made significant progress to strengthen the resilience of at-risk border communities to human trafficking and related escalation. The dynamics of human trafficking are highly gendered and border locations are particularly vulnerable to these types of crimes. When there is little understanding of how gender affects the dynamics of trafficking, women's and girls' risk of not receiving the assistance and services that they need is apparent. This risk is compounded by the low level of women's leadership, representation, and retention in law enforcement and border security functions. To build resilience and mitigate these risks, an in-depth understanding of the gendered dynamics of trafficking as well as recruitment and retention policies for women officers is important, and integrating this awareness into the daily operations and strategies of law enforcement agencies is key. Research has shown that increasing the number of women in law enforcement results in law enforcement that is more responsive to women's needs and more operationally effective. However, across the ASEAN region, the share of women law enforcement officers ranges from 6–20 per cent. In 2021, UN Women disseminated the findings of the milestone report on Women in Law Enforcement in the ASEAN Region published by UN Women, INTERPOL, and UNODC. Through numerous events/dialogues/training including training of law enforcement officers across Thailand, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Cambodia. The report provided valuable insights on recruitment and retention practices within law enforcement agencies from a gender lens across the ASEAN region, looking both at regional trends but also deep-diving into challenges and opportunities on a national level. The recommendations highlighted the importance of gender-sensitive facilities that accommodate the specific needs of women and children and in view to implement this recommendation, UN Women supported the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security's partner the Peace House Shelters to improve their facilities and shelters for survivors of human trafficking and violence against women, for them to be more sensitive to the needs of women and girls. The donations also aimed to improve the compatibility of equipment of the Call Center Services which is exceptionally important to address cross-border human trafficking. In addition, UNODC together with UN Women finalized a training curriculum to strengthen law enforcement's capacity to investigate trafficking in person from a gender and victim centered perspective. The Facilitation Handbooks are available in English, Bahasa Indonesia, Malay, Burmese, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. In conclusion, UN Women's contributions throughout this Programme have provided significant knowledge gains on opportunities and obstacles for women's leadership and participation in law enforcement across the ASEAN region. These advocacy measures generated spaces at the highest political levels in the South-East Asia region to discuss the advancement of women in law enforcement, its progress, and pending challenges,

which resulted in the introduction of legal, institutional and operational changes to improve the conditions of access, employment, and promotion of female police officers. For instance, the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap adopted by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime on 29 September 2021 encourages the collection of disaggregated information that includes gender and includes a chapter dedicated to the increased capacity of border officials to address the growing incidence of human trafficking involving women targeted by criminals and recommends “law enforcement agencies strategies [...] to consider refining their recruitment strategy to deliberately increase the number of female officers who participate in cross-border operations. This will improve the ability of border management teams to identify human trafficking involving women and girls and develop more effective and timely responses”.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_2.1

### **Gender-responsive policy and legislative frameworks are developed and implemented to promote safe migration, decent work and sustainable development for all women workers, including migrant workers**

The ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic has long-lasting effects on many women migrant workers, especially related to increasing financial hardship and inability to provide essentials for their families whose lives depend on their remittances and secure overseas employment due to tighter restrictions on migrants. In 2021 UN Women, through its regional role, continued providing technical guidance to stakeholders, particularly in South and Southeast Asian sub-regions to implement their global commitments on migration. UN Women actively supported the organization of the 14th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML) with efforts to ensure women migrant-specific needs and concerns were highlighted in discussions and integrated into the Forum’s recommendations, which were adopted by ASEAN member states, civil society organizations (CSOs) and employer associations and trade unions. Further, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation under the Governance of Labour Migration in South and Southeast Asia (GOALS) project, UN Women in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) actively assisted the organization of the meetings of the Colombo Process’s Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWGs) in reviewing their objectives in taking actions to promote safe migration and decent work for all migrant workers, especially women. In particular, UN Women influenced the engagement of more diverse non-state actors, especially CSOs and trade unions in the TAWG meetings. With the increased participation of non-state actors, the dynamic of the TAWG meetings has changed. CSO and trade union actors were given more space to voice the specific concerns of women migrant workers in the labour migration process, especially in the areas concerning skills and qualification recognition; ethical recruitment; reintegration; and remittances to government representatives and other stakeholders, and share lessons learned from their hands-on provision gender-responsive interventions. This increased awareness of making migration governance gender-responsive among the Member States of the TAWGs and enhanced meaningful interactions between them and non-state actors at the regional and national levels. As a member of the Executive Committee of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women continued providing technical inputs and advice in planning and organizing the activities of the Network, including the Regional Review of Global Compact on Migration on 10–12 March 2021 and regional stakeholder consultation during July to September. As a result of UN Women’s advocacy effort, gender-related issues in migration policies and practices were highlighted to the government and other stakeholders. In addition, UN Women emphasized the engagement of non-state stakeholders, especially CSOs, trade unions, local authorities, the private sector, and the media in the consultation process organized by the Network. These have increased awareness and promoted collaborations among stakeholders in line with the GCM’s Whole of Society approach.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_2.2

## **More women lead, participate and have access to business opportunities to advance sustainable and inclusive growth (Outcome 7)**

UN Women supported the development of the first-ever reporting framework aligned to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). The WEPs Transparency and Accountability Framework, which includes a set of gender equality indicators across corporate value chains, is fully aligned with existing corporate gender quality frameworks. Businesses can use the framework for transparent reporting, with support from governments and other stakeholders, and more effectively work towards a gender-equal economy that works for all genders. To deepen understanding of public and private sector mechanisms for gender equality aligned to the WEPs, WeEmpowerAsia (WEA) and ILO developed the WEPs ASEAN Ecosystem Landscaping report, which provides policymakers, companies, civil society, employer organizations, and other stakeholders with the ASEAN region with comprehensive details on policy gaps and sets out a clear policy roadmap for ASEAN member states to advance more gender-responsive business conduct and especially clear guidance on reporting and implementing Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)-related policies. Increased commitments and actions from the private sector to drive more responsible business conduct, have been leveraged during the reporting period. The Asia Pacific region has been the world's fastest-growing region with WEPs signatories growing from 192 signatories in 2019 to 1665 signatories in 2021. Additionally, WEA boosted the uptake of the number of companies who have undertaken a gender assessment through the Gender Gap Analysis Tool (GAT), with an increase of 269 companies across WEA countries and 432 companies in the Asia Pacific region, compared to the previous reporting year. Building on the successful implementation of the 2020 Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards, WEA organized the 2021 WEPs Awards and received nearly doubled the number of applications – from 250 companies and 400 applications in 2020 to 480 companies and 700 applications in 2021. Further, WEA intensified its outreach and capacity-building activities to strengthen private sector commitments. Despite the impacts of the pandemic, the WEA programme has especially contributed to getting more businesses engaged to commit and implement gender-responsive practices. A key shift in programme activities spurred by COVID-19 was a new workstream to address the women's exponential burden of underpaid and unpaid care work, a long-standing issue that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. One of the most notable achievements of WEA to address this skewed care burden innovatively has been the work on Care Entrepreneurship in the context of achieving inclusive recovery, where WEA has demonstrated concrete results during the reporting period, notably the implementation of the first ever Care Accelerator, aiming to promote women-led and/or women-impacting enterprises to build innovative solutions aiming to contribute to creating business, employment and income opportunities for women and other care workers by supporting new, creative solutions in the care sector – to make care more accessible and affordable, and improve the overall quality of care services. The programme has worked with 13 selected 'Care Enterprises' and has increased their capacities to strengthen their business models to become more resilient and inclusive and helped them to be connected to investors, mentors, and other entrepreneurs. Further, WEA continued to play an important role in strengthening entrepreneurship capacities among women-owned businesses and women entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on the 'missing middle, to contribute to an inclusive recovery and transform businesses to become more gender-responsive, leading to more women having access to decent employment opportunities. For example, the Industry Disruptor is a WEA-led initiative that connects women-owned businesses with larger corporates in the Indian textile and fashion industry and E-Commerce Sector to co-develop innovative solutions to address sustainability challenges in the industry while connecting more women with larger corporates. Building on the success of the first edition, during the reporting year, WEA initiated the second phase of the "Industry Disruptor 2.0" in collaboration with The DO School. WEA has also developed a range of capacity-building tools/programmes for entrepreneurs and ecosystem players. For example, the 'WeRise Tool' aims to create more viable and more inclusive business models for SMEs, inclusive of scalable and replicable Accelerator and Entrepreneurship Toolkits, which have been piloted in Thailand and Indonesia. The toolkits aim to (1) increase the ability of women entrepreneurs to assess and access the right sources of finance while becoming inclusive business and WEPs Champions, and (2) increase the ability of acceleration programmes to become more gender inclusive and increase investments in women-led/ benefitting business.



## **Needs of women are better addressed by climate change and disaster risk reduction actions for ensuring alternative climate-resilient livelihoods**

Climate change continues to impact Asia and the Pacific region. Women and other vulnerable groups remain disproportionately affected by climate-induced disasters and are further put at risk due to growing inequalities and the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Extreme weather and climate-related events accounted for 83 per cent of all disasters in Asia and the Pacific over the past decade[1]; a pattern that is expected to continue, with the number of climate disasters expected to maintain an upward trend.[2] An alarming forecast, considering that in 2019 more than 75 million people were affected by disasters in Asia and the Pacific.[3] UN Women continues to create an enabling environment for advancing gender equality and human rights in climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and processes in the region through providing technical support and normative guidance to countries and intergovernmental organisations, promoting women's leadership in climate change, building capacities of governments and women-focused civil society organizations, and fostering genuine partnership and strong regional cooperation. The regional work, through the EmPower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies project, focused on building a comprehensive analysis of gender equality and climate change through the preparation of flagship assessment reports including the NDC assessment report and an interactive map that reviews collective commitments of 49 countries in the region. UN Women has also co-led the preparation of the series of State of Gender Equality and Climate Change reports, including the sub-regional report for the ASEAN and South Asia and Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) Region. The reports are aimed at building evidence and providing concrete recommendations to facilitate country-driven actions and strengthen regional cooperation to advance gender equality and human rights in climate policy and action. As a result of the work, several member states and sectoral bodies have articulated support and a strong commitment to bringing gender equality to the forefront of their climate agenda. Despite the protracted COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women has enabled dialogue and strengthened the capacities of governments and civil society organizations on the nexus of gender equality and climate change through regional consultations and capacity-building activities. Over 2000 government officials, practitioners, and women-focused organizations have increased their knowledge and skills and are equipped to integrate gender equality into climate policy and action. Learning sessions also served to amplify country practices and open the space for collective learning and engagement of key stakeholders. Activity includes facilitating the regional consultation on the "Action Coalition on Feminist Justice for Climate Action" under the Generation Equality Forum campaign, four side events on "Long-term Planning and National Commitments", "Regional Approaches towards Integrated Climate Solutions", "Gender-Responsive Climate Action", and "Making Connections That Matter: Gender and Climate Commitments" during the Asia Pacific Climate Week, regional cross-country peer learning event on the Integration of Gender Equality and Human Rights in Climate Change and Renewable Energy, classroom events and virtual market place on gender and human rights during COP26, and a listening session with women-focused CSOs on gender-responsive DRR, "Breaking Silos, Building Resilience: Listening to Women-Focused Organizations for Climate Action and DRR". A key achievement through the partnership with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is linked to the change in the lives of 2411 women in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Viet Nam who have received support and are economically benefitting from climate-resilient interventions through the use of renewable energy sources. Women entrepreneurs have increased access to finance, knowledge, and skills including business development, financial literacy, and renewable energy technologies. Strategies and lessons on establishing renewable energy enterprises were consolidated and disseminated through the Guidebook on Renewable Energy and Women's Entrepreneurship Programmes. [1] IFRC, 2020. World Disasters Report 2020: Come Heat or High Water – Tackling the Humanitarian Impacts of the Climate Crisis Together. p.2. [2] UNESCAP, 2019. Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019: The Disaster Riskscape Across Asia-Pacific, Pathways for Resilience, Inclusion, and Empowerment. p.9. [3] IFRC, 2020. p.91.

**An enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on ERAW and other forms of discrimination is in place and translated into action**

New National Action Plans in Lao PDR and Malaysia: Two new National Action Plans, one on violence against women and children and one on trafficking in persons were adopted in Lao PDR and Malaysia, respectively. In Malaysia, UN Women ROAP, through the Safe and Fair Programme (SAF), contributed to the new National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) (2021-2025) in collaboration with UNODC. The NAPTIP was launched in March 2021, by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The new NAPTIP provides the policy and implementation directions for Malaysia's anti-trafficking efforts in the next five years. The NAPTIP 3.0 was developed through a collaborative process among the Malaysian Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons, UN Women, ILO, and UNODC through the Safe and Fair Programme and civil society organizations. The inputs from UN Women mainly focused on enhancing the prevention of trafficking in persons by addressing risk factors, protection through legal remedies, and provision of services to survivors, including increased prosecution of trafficking in persons (TIP). In Lao PDR, UN Women, through SAF, provided technical support to the Second National Plan of Action on Preventing and Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children (2021-025) (NPAVAWVAC). The technical support from UN Women focused on ensuring the integration of the gender-sensitive and survivor-centered approaches in the NPAVAWVAC. The lessons learned from the NAPVAW Cambodia (adopted in 2020) and the NPAVAWVAC Lao PDR were consolidated into the Guidance Note to Develop Migrant-Sensitive National Action Plans on Violence against Women, along with other national action plans supported by UN Women. Building capacities of service providers was advanced through a practical guide, "Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for a Coordinated Response to Violence against Women, including women migrant workers". This new resource was introduced to service providers in the ASEAN region, through a webinar organized in December 2021. UN Women developed the SOPs guide through in-depth cooperation and consultation with partners across the countries in ASEAN that are developing national and local SOPs, as part of the Safe and Fair programme. It recommends updating SOPs to ensure the referral pathways are functioning and relevant to the current context and situation of women subject to violence, including during times of crisis or pandemics such as COVID-19. The guide has been used by key stakeholders in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Ending Violence against Women and Children in East Asia and Pacific: In November 2021, UN Women, UNICEF, and UNFPA organized a session on violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC) during UNICEF's INSPIRE conference to share findings from a regional study on VAW and violence against children (VAC). This study informed a joint programme with UN Women, UNICEF, and UNFPA in Viet Nam ("Supporting Interventions to Eliminate Violence against Women and Children in Viet Nam under COVID-19 Emergency Context", jointly implemented June 2020 – May 2021). The joint emergency programme was the first time that the three UN agencies worked together to design and implement a project on VAW and VAC in an emergency in Viet Nam, and resulted in the development and approval of a new joint programme on ending violence against women and children (EVAWC) from 2021 to 2025 in Viet Nam. Based on the progress made, ROAP's strategy and theory of change for this outcome are still applicable and have not been amended. In Viet Nam, the TOC of the ERAW programme in the strategic note 2022-2026 was informed by the theory of change of the joint programme. The regional ERAW team, UNFPA, and UNICEF have started discussing further joint work in 2022. Building on four country studies, in 2021 the ERAW supported the release of a joint letter by the Regional Directors from the three agencies, urging staff in country offices to collaborate more closely. The potential impact of this work is significant as it has historically been challenging to work on the intersections of VAW and VAC.

**Favorable social norms, attitudes and behaviors are promoted at national, community and individual levels to prevent VAW**



UN Women ROAP led a joint initiative with WHO to introduce the latest evidence on the prevention of VAW to teams of policymakers, advocates, and researchers from Bangladesh, India, and Nepal in 2021. This learning series is designed primarily for policymakers focused on the global RESPECT framework developed by WHO and UN Women and has since been replicated in other regions and countries globally as well as in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants in the series have used the evidence and networks formed to advance prevention strategies, programming, and research. The Regional Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence brought together change-makers from across the Asia Pacific region to accelerate action on gender equality, inspire action and bold commitments from all stakeholders and discuss the priority Action Areas. The Regional Dialogue was organized by UN Women ROAP in collaboration with the CSO Breakthrough and featured a diversity of speakers and activists. It kicked off with the powerful poem 'Fortified Fortress' by a young Thai artist, which spoke to the experiences of abuse, harassment, and violence that many survivors of violence against women share. The event featured speakers about the Transformative Agenda of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence and the Commitment Makers Model. The four Actions of the GBV Action Coalition were unpacked, featuring a diverse range of speakers and views from across the region. The attention on the issues received through this Regional Dialogue is informing the ERAW teams and conversations and engagement with donors, governments, and other stakeholders going forward. In 2021, UN Women and the Equality Institute published a Monitoring Framework to measure progress in the prevention of VAW. Building on global frameworks – including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this Monitoring Framework is intended for policymakers and advocates to support monitoring progress on preventing and ending VAW and advancing gender equality at national levels by providing suggested indicators to measure the change in the short, medium, and long term. These indicators align with the SDGs and present an array of options that illustrate how tracking indicators for gender equality– such as land ownership– are related to violence prevention. This resource meets a critical need in the field of prevention of violence, where progress in reducing violence is slow as measured by national prevalence rates, and more intermediate measures of change are needed.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-APA\_D\_6.8

**Timely gender-sensitive data on the impact and responses to crisis, including COVID-19, are produced and their use is promoted to inform policies, programmes, advocacy and research**

Since the onset of COVID-19, UN Women has supported the production of evidence to inform crisis responses and related decision-making. For instance, two rounds of Rapid Assessment Surveys were conducted, the first of which covered 11 countries and the second 7 countries. Related nationally representative estimates have been produced and included in publications, which helped shed light on the gender-differentiated impacts of the crisis. Analysis of big data has been conducted across eight Asian countries and four Pacific countries, and publications and events were organized to promote these findings, including uptake for policy making. Finally, an analysis of existing policies in place to respond to the COVID-19 crisis is currently ongoing and expected to generate important findings on the effectiveness of the response and how to improve it.