

# Strengthening measurement and building national capacities for collection, analysis and use of violence against women data

## Current Project Brief

### Objectives and Background

The need to improve quality and availability of data on violence against women (VAW) is high on the international agenda. Building on its extensive work in this area, the World Health Organization is engaged in a number of processes and projects to strengthen the production, analysis and use of global VAW statistics.

VAW is included in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Goal 5, which includes the following indicators:

- **Indicator 5.2.1:** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age; and
- **Indicator 5.2.2:** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

There are several problems in the quality, availability and comparability of VAW data, and these gaps and limitations need to be addressed for strengthening national and global monitoring of VAW, including for SDG monitoring. Beyond this, to improve VAW policy and programming, there are several measurement and methodological issues that need to be addressed to strengthen the quality and the collection of VAW data and statistics. For example, while psychological violence is included in Indicator 5.2.1, there is currently a lack of agreement on standard measures of psychological partner violence and the threshold at which acts that can be considered unkind or insulting or abusive cross the line into psychological abuse. Issues such as sexual harassment or violence against older women would benefit from standardized measures to increase the availability and quality of data for a better understanding of the problem. Several UN agencies currently maintain different databases with VAW data, using different criteria for the selection of sources and data, and as a consequence, data presented are not fully consistent.

The overarching objectives of this work are to increase the quality and availability of data on VAW for global monitoring and programme and policy development and to strengthen national capacity to collect, analyse and use this data. The specific objectives include:

- Conduct methodological work on measurement of: violence against older women; prevalence of psychological violence; disability within VAW prevalence surveys and costing of VAW.
- Coordinate, update and disseminate a database, with publicly available, comparable data on intimate partner violence and on sexual violence against women.

- Convene an Interagency Working Group on VAW Estimation and Data, comprising UN agencies that are co-custodians of SDG 5.2 indicators, as a mechanism for compiling and harmonizing country level data on SDG target 5.2 indicators and to produce regional and global estimates;
- Convene a Technical Advisory Group to the Interagency Working Group, to provide expert advice on technical matters related to measuring and estimating IPV and NPSV prevalence.

**Geographic location**

Global

**Main deliverables**

- Series of recommendations and/or modules for measurement of: psychological intimate partner violence, violence against older women, disability within VAW prevalence surveys, and costing of VAW. and;
- Publicly available database with VAW data, co-ordinated across agencies, with national, regional and global data presented in a comparable and consistent way, with data visualization platform; and
- Enhanced coordination and quality of data collection and reporting for SDG Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.

**Partners**

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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