



Spotlight  
Initiative



Papua New Guinea  
Impact Report 2020-2021



# About the **Spotlight Initiative**



The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.

We are the world's largest targeted effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

To achieve this goal, the Initiative is addressing six pillars:

- Prevention
- Laws and policies
- Strengthening institutions
- Quality essential services
- Improved data
- Women's movements and civil society

In Papua New Guinea, the Spotlight Initiative is implemented by UN Women (lead technical agency), UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF. We are working hand-in-hand with grassroots organisations, government, civil society, the private sector, development partners, men and boys, and women and girls across 13 provinces.

Through the Spotlight Initiative, we are spearheading a movement to ensure women and girls can live a life free of violence, in all its forms.

Since March 2020,  
the Spotlight Initiative has committed over

**\$15.6 million USD**

to end violence against women and girls  
in Papua New Guinea.

**41**

survivors of sorcery  
accusation-related violence  
supported with case  
management and repatriation



**\$2 million**

raised for COVID-19  
response to ensure  
uninterrupted front-  
line services



**50,000+**

people participated in programmes that  
promote gender-equitable attitudes and  
behaviours

**4,975**

women and girls escaping  
violence were assisted across 15  
safe houses through  
CSO partnerships



**2.7 million**

people reached through  
multi-media behaviour  
change campaign  
'Changing the Headlines'

**9,536**

children benefitted  
from 2,367 parents joining  
the Parenting for Childhood  
Development Program



**60**

police and village court  
magistrates  
trained in trauma-informed care  
for survivors of violence



“What the EU and UN want to achieve through the Spotlight Initiative for PNG is to promote an environment in which women and girls can live without fear of violence, always and everywhere. This is not just an ideal that we strive to realise, it is simply the right of all women and girls on the face of planet Earth!”

European Union Ambassador to Papua New Guinea Jernej Videtic



"We must all play our part if we are to change the attitudes that suggest that violence and harm are acceptable. It is not possible to build a nation on only half our resources. And it is not possible to develop policies and legislation that fits the needs of all citizens when half the country is unrepresented.

We cannot say we have achieved peace if half our communities live in fear, insecurity and without dignity."

United Nations Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed

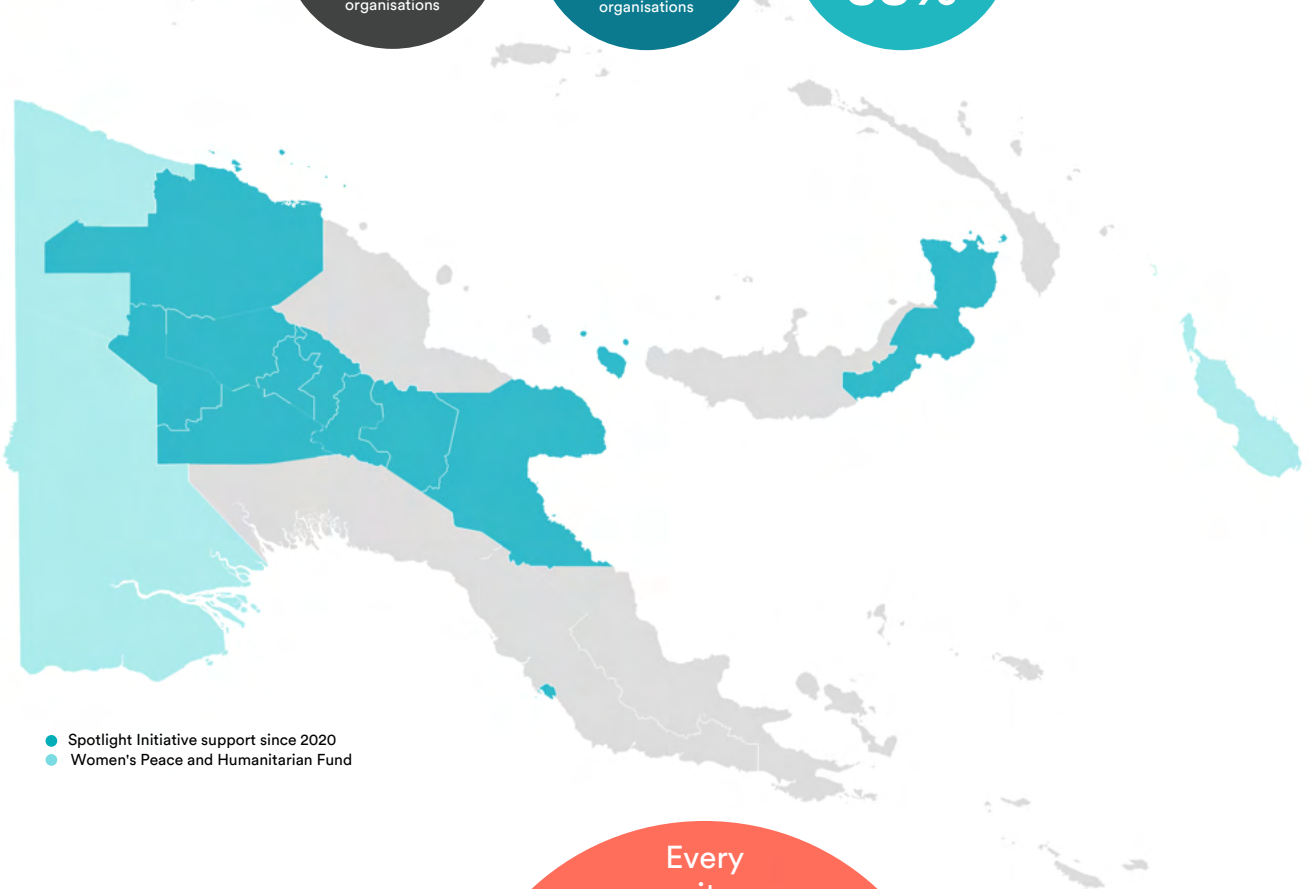


# The Spotlight Initiative has supported **33 civil society organisations** across 14 provinces.

**\$4.3 million**  
allocated to civil society, women's and grassroots organisations

**27/33**  
supported organisations are women-led or feminist organisations

Percentage of surveyed CSOs reporting that their influence has increased in the last year  
**88%**



- Spotlight Initiative support since 2020
- Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Working with an organisation that wants to bring peace, it's challenging at times. But when workshops are held in communities, teaching people what is right and wrong and that there are laws being enforced, there are changes within communities.

Leah Wagi  
Kup Women For Peace

Every community you go to you expect five to ten people to address you face-to-face, telling you all about their problems and you know where to refer them. The more we go out to the community we see that people are accessing our services.

Betty Zachery  
Eastern Highlands Family Voice

We deal with tribal fights and conflict resolution. With that we've changed a lot of people: their lives, their thinking. Once you change the way people think, things will never be the same.

Clement Bruno  
Community Development Agency



# Prevention

The Spotlight Initiative supported 40,808 people to participate in in- and out-of-school programs promoting gender-equitable norms and healthy relationships across seven provinces. This includes 2,511 primary school children who participated in gender equality awareness programs and 4,595 adolescents who received comprehensive sexuality education. 5,608 program participants showed measurable change in attitudes towards gender equality.

Through multi-media behaviour change campaign 'Changing the Headlines', The Spotlight Initiative reached 2.7 million people across social media, 8 TV spots, and a 34-

episode radio drama series, promoting behaviours and conversations to break the cycle of violence.

The Spotlight Initiative trained 337 positive parenting facilitators across four provinces, engaging parents to prevent violent forms of discipline.

33 community action groups were established to advocate to end GBV in their communities, including one provincial action group comprising of CSO partners.

The Spotlight Initiative launched Guidelines on Male Advocacy to assist civil society and partners in effective male engagement to end GBV.



Photo: Youth participants at National GBV Summit, 2020. (UN RCO PNG)



# Strengthening Male Advocacy to Prevent Gender-Based Violence

Gideon Bare **Voice for Change**

**We are a human rights organisation.** It's a bit disturbing when this word 'women' comes to the attention of men. When they hear that we are around, they say "That's a woman's organisation."

**Most men feel they are not a part of our work.**

The community tries not to listen to us. So we tell them what we do. We are not only helping women but we are helping men if they face challenges or if they face violence.

**We do prevention programs with community leaders.**

Leaders are very flexible. We tell them that we have these trainings, like peacebuilding, leadership and GBV trainings. We invite them to come and during that time, they get some information about why it is important to respect women and give them opportunity.

**We help leaders see which cultural norms are a barrier to women.** Then they go back to their community and they help us.

**We also do awareness.** We use police to talk about GBV: What's the penalty and the consequences in the court system. Then we talk about the Family Protection Act and Lukautim Pikinini Act. When violence occurs, it is most often settled in the village courts. In rural areas where we have worked, they sometimes contact us. We have a network of women Human Rights Defenders and we do quarterly reflections to see how these communities are accessing the court system, like contacting the police.

**Spotlight is supporting us through our prevention approaches,** supporting trainings to specific communities and leaders who influence people. Collaboration is very important.

When people think it's not for them, it's very challenging.

Generally, on the ground level, we see people are coming to understand human rights. Even though there are educated ones who think 'a man is a man' and think 'we need to maintain our culture'. Slowly people are understanding.



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"Our Coalition and our Committee have worked hard in 2021 to draw attention to the urgent need to stop GBV and ensure better justice for victims.

As we look to the next national elections in 2022, I encourage all MPs and all candidates to make strong statements committing to use their positions of leadership to make clear that violence cannot be tolerated in a civilized, Christian society. **We must all do our part – because if we cannot all enjoy the same human rights, that diminishes the rights of us all."**

Governor Allan Bird, Co-Chair for Coalition of Parliamentarians to End Gender-Based Violence

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Coalition of Parliamentarians to End Gender-Based Violence brings together 10 Governors and 10 MPs, who have voluntarily committed to address GBV. The Spotlight Initiative supported the establishment of the Coalition and its activities.

Most notably, the Coalition organised the first ever National GBV Summit in November 2020 which brought together more than 700 government officials, MPs, civil society and the private sector to identify ways to strengthen national and local efforts to end GBV and strengthen women's empowerment.



Photo: March ahead of National GBV Summit, 2020. (UNDP)



# Laws and Policies

The Spotlight Initiative has provided consistent, high-level support to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender-Based Violence, a committee of decision makers committed to bridging the gaps between policy and practice.

The Committee held the first public inquiry into GBV in 2021, with accounts of frontline workers and responders, including police and justice services, delivering a report with more than 70 recommendations to government.

In partnership with the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), The Spotlight Initiative supported the

development of the Women's Health Protection Bill and revisions to the Family Protection Act and national Child Protection Policy. The Women's Health Protection Bill, to be tabled in 2022, addresses the legal framework for survivor's and women's access to comprehensive GBV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

Spotlight worked with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to review the National Youth Policy, integrating GBV and SRHR to strengthen youth-led actions to advance gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Photo: Special Parliamentary Inquiry on Gender-Based Violence, 2021. (UNDP)

# Special Parliamentary Inquiry on Gender Based Violence

The Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV held the first ever public inquiry into gender-based violence over two days in May 2021. The historic session saw officials and service providers questioned in order to identify gaps in the system and make recommendations to effectively implement the National GBV Strategy. The Committee tabled a landmark report to Parliament in August 2021 with concrete recommendations for action.

I am deeply concerned at the rising rates of violence in PNG. Every day, our newspapers share stories of GBV and sorcery accusation related violence which are brutal and unacceptable in a Christian society. But we are also hearing constant stories of tribal violence, communal violence, rascal violence, knife violence, and even gun violence.

What has become of our country that violence now seems to be the first resort for so many people?

We all must commit to making change in our own lives – to be more respectful of our spouses and our children. Family planning must be part of our home lives too. Family planning fundamentally empowers a woman, probably more than any other factor. She furthers her education, marries later, has less children, is healthier.

It strengthens the family unit, the children are better loved and educated and the cycle of violence is disrupted.

Any woman who is accused of sorcery are now having their children at risk of the same violence.

Cases must be prosecuted to send a message that they cannot be targeted.

Ruth Kissam  
**Tribal Foundation**  
Testimony to the Special  
Parliamentary Inquiry

Hon. Charles Abel  
**Member for Alotau and Chair of Special  
Parliamentary Committee on GBV**



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“**We are not born violent.** We are not born with negative attitudes and behaviors that reinforce or contribute to allowing violence to thrive. It is behavior that is learnt and **as young people - young leaders - we must have the courage to unlearn negative attitudes and behaviors** that hinder our progress and choose positive attitudes and behaviors that will benefit us as individuals, our communities and Papua New Guinea”

UNFPA Young Ambassador Bronwyn Kili at FHA Clinic and the Youth Center, Kokopo, East New Britain.

11 June 2021

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In 2021, Spotlight hosted a National Youth Parliament as part of sustained and meaningful engagement with youth leaders and peer educators. This includes launching an interprovincial youth network with 55 member organisations, with representatives from 11 provinces and organisations for youth with a disability.



Photo: Delegates of Youth Parliament at APEC House, Port Moresby, 2021 (UNFPA PNG)



# Institutions

Following ongoing capacity building support from the Spotlight Initiative, the Department for Community Development and Religion (DfCDR) successfully requested 7.93 million kina in the national budget for the National GBV Secretariat (NGBVS).

With support from the Spotlight Initiative, GBV Action Committees were formed in 7 provinces. GBV focal points in 8 targeted provinces were officially appointed by provincial administrations.

The Spotlight Initiative is supporting the National Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) to implement the Lukautim Pikinini Act through a decentralisation process that will see

provincial social services take on responsibility for child protection. The first provincial Child and Family Service Council has been established in Enga and consultations are ongoing between OCFS and NCDC.

The Spotlight Initiative worked with the National Department of Health (NDoH) to finalise SGBV Clinical Guidelines - improving hospital standards of care for survivors of SGBV - and improved GBV referral systems.

The Spotlight Initiative has supported Femili PNG in training 60 police and village court magistrates in three provinces on trauma-informed care for survivors.



Photo: UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed and UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima with NCD Governor Powes Parkop at International Women's Day March 2020. (UN RCO PNG)



# Strengthening Provincial Action to Address Gender-Based Violence

Through the support of the Spotlight Initiative, DfCDR had a consultation meeting with key GBV partners in the province. I was appointed as the GBV Focal Point to ensure the establishment of the provincial GBV secretariat including development of the GBV Strategy. The first thing I did was to prioritize the review of the existing Provincial GBV Strategy, since this will ensure effective coordination of GBV partners efforts.

**Ms. Mary Tol**  
GBV Focal Point, Jiwaka Province

The Lukautaim Pikinini Act is the ears, eyes, and hands of the children and families of Papua New Guinea. This transfer of responsibility to provinces shows we are serious and are committed to implementing the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and all relevant human rights treaties pertaining children and women.

**Mr. Simon Yanis**  
Director, National Office of Child and Family Services on decentralisation of child protection services



Photo: Mary Tol (centre) in Banz, Jiwaka Province, 2022 (UN RCO PNG)



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“GBV hurts the people of our country and it undermines our national development. We must do better to support provincial governments, civil society and communities to reduce violence.

The Government has put its trust in us by allocating 7.93 million Kina from the 2022 National Budget to address GBV. I am committed to urgently establishing a full cohort of staff for the National GBV Secretariat to ensure that that we have very well-qualified staff in place who can effectively use the resources entrusted to us to ensure proper GBV prevention crisis response services are provided across the country,”

Secretary of Department for Community Development and Religion, Mr Jerry Ubase

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The Spotlight Initiative forged strong partnerships with the Department of Community Development and Religion to advance national and provincial mechanisms to end gender-based violence, including support securing 7.93 million kina to resource the National GBV Secretariat and the launch of the first national website on GBV.





# Services

The Spotlight Initiative supported local NGO Femili PNG to open an outpost in Goroka, Eastern Highlands. Since opening in February 2021, the centre has assisted 90 survivors and conducted 796 consultations.

A total of 4,975 women and girls were supported across 15 safe shelters with case management services, food and sanitary supplies, and repatriation services. This includes 41 survivors of Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence (SARV).

In addition to provisions of personal protective equipment and food vouchers, the Spotlight Initiative

delivered COVID-19 infection prevention training to 117 frontline workers of GBV service providers.

The Spotlight Initiative assisted service providers for People Living with HIV to strengthen their GBV screening processes. 26 clinicians and HIV counsellors at the Begabari Clinic in Port Moresby were trained to use the new GBV screening protocol.

The Spotlight Initiative worked with the National Department of Health (NDoH) to finalise the SGBV Clinical Guidelines - improving hospital standards of care for survivors of GBV - and improved GBV referral systems.



Photo: Youth in Mendi, Southern Highlands, 2021 (UNFPA PNG)

# Enhancing Quality Mental Health Services

Ume Wainetti Papua New Guinea Counsellors Association

It is unfortunate that in PNG we wait for the problem to happen and then treat it, not help to prevent it from happening. I have seen women and children who have experienced so much violence and developed mental illness. Some have chosen paths that have led to further abuse and others have become abusers.

I believe there are less than 10 qualified mental health doctors in PNG and we do have some mental health nurses, maybe one to each provincial hospital. In the area of counselling, there are 38 diploma graduates. There could be around five to six people with a master's degree in counselling gained overseas.

Mental Health in PNG is considered to be for those who are severely mentally ill. Generally, many people who experience trauma during tribal fights, natural disasters, work place trauma, even the Bougainville conflict and Family Sexual Violence are not considered to need such professional help.

To see a mental health doctor, clinics have to make referrals for more severe mental health cases. Otherwise those who experienced trauma through domestic violence can access counselling at a refuge in meri seif haus' or Family Support Centers. We also have the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain that provides free phone counselling and referrals.

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With support from Spotlight Initiative, the PNG Counsellors Association is expanding training to ensure there are more counsellors in the country and they are better equipped to support survivors of violence.

I witness women dropping court cases against spouses because they believe what happened was their fault and are dependent on men to provide basic needs – shelter, education, food, health and to maintain social status.

I know that those professionally trained in mental health services would ensure survivors are not further victimized.



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“When we first came it was a bit slow. However, when word got around that we are doing this work and that there are no charges, they came. We are getting many now.

The first thing that we consider is the safety of the person, that is first and foremost. We listen to what they want, what their needs are, and we can lead them through the referral pathways. If they very high risk and they need to be removed, we refer them to a safe house.

Femili PNG Case Workers from the Goroka Outpost,  
Gerthrude and Betty

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With support from the Spotlight Initiative, Femili PNG opened an outpost in Goroka, Eastern Highlands. The new office has received 98 clients in its first year.

Case workers report they are now responding to accusations of sorcery following suspected COVID-19 related deaths.



Photo: Volunteers from Eastern Highlands Family Voice, supporting survivors of violence alongside Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association and Femili PNG in Goroka, 2022 (UN RCO PNG)



# Data

Through support to case workers and frontline services, the Spotlight Initiative has strengthened data systems in different sectors.

Following high-level advocacy from the Spotlight Initiative, a national case management database using the Primero platform was launched, assisting case workers from identification and registration, to case planning, referrals, and case closure.

The Spotlight Initiative partnered with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to launch an Information Management System that assists Family and Sexual Violence Units in

case management and will enable reliable and readily available data for prevention and response planning.

Family Support Centres (FSCs) are dedicated domestic and sexual violence clinics at hospitals in Papua New Guinea. The Spotlight Initiative conducted a review of the current function of FSCs in several provinces to assist planning and support from 2022.

The Spotlight Initiative launched U-Report, a survey tool to collect opinions from youth and adolescents on a range of issues from parenting and education to perceptions of COVID-19 vaccines.



Photo: Youth delegates at National GBV Summit, 2020 (UN RCO PNG)

# Review Highlights

## Need for Data Management in Family Support Centres

Dr Pamela Kanya **Health Responses to GBV Expert**

We've only probably got about 16 Family Support Centres, and functioning, I would say a lot less. Through UNFPA I conducted an assessment across the priority provinces for Spotlight to see which ones were actually functional, at which levels, according to the global standard of care for gender-based violence.

There are tools, there are forms that they use in the Family Support Centres that are sex disaggregated so they can collect how many women, how many men, how many children at different age levels, are accessing the service. But in some of these facilities, they don't have data trained people that can sit there, take all this data, put it into a computer, sit down and analyze it, and give you monthly projections of how we're tracking because most of them are just maybe staffed with one clinician and she's trying to do basically everything.

One of the major findings that has come up, that I'd probably want to stress, is the amount of children under the age of ten that are experiencing sexual violence. Whether it's sexual penetration or touching or objects, equally boys and girls, these are under the age of ten. Going back to data, showing that data to the PHAs so that they see the importance of it, is an important aspect.

The work that I've done is an assessment, to bring up some of this data that I hope that will inform the future direction of the Spotlight Initiative, and maybe Government direction as well, to address the issue of gender-based violence and strengthen the systems that we have in order to respond to, and to prevent, GBV.

Generally, even though the data is telling a story, the accuracy is quite questionable at this point in time without the proper training.

Decisions need to be informed by information, and if you don't have that readily available, you can't expect to someone to make a decision on something that they have very little data on.



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“This will open up important opportunities for the Government and development partners to maximize use of resources, foster collaboration across sectors, and to accelerate achievement of results.

We hope that this milestone today will set a precedent to advocate for better tools for the protection of women, girls and children and will generate evidence for targeted resources for the social welfare sector which is critically underfunded.”

UN Resident Coordinator Gianluca Rampolla on  
Launch of Primero Case Management System

28 May 2021

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In partnership with the Department of Community Development and the Office of the Child and Family Services, the Spotlight Initiative launched Primero, an innovative online and offline case and information management system to protect vulnerable children and women and survivors of violence, in May 2021.



Photo: Resident Coordinator Gianluca Rampolla at launch of Primero database, 2020 (UN RCO PNG)



# Women's Movement and Civil Society

Partnership with civil society is critical to sustainable progress to end violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea. The Civil Society Reference Group is the Spotlight Initiative's coordination-level partnership with civil society.

The Spotlight Initiative has led key national events that have brought civil society into conversation with government and service providers to seek informed solutions to ending violence against women.

The CSO Forum on GBV and Human Rights (2021) included simultaneous

sessions in Port Moresby, Kokopo, Goroka, Mount Hagen and Lae.

Following the introduction of restrictions on travel and gatherings, the Spotlight Initiative has provided support to CSOs to adapt to the Niupela Pasin (New Normal), including provision for Zoom licences and training in conducting meetings online.


In partnership with Oxfam, the Spotlight Initiative has launched a CSO capacity development hub to strengthen human resource, IT, and reporting expertise of civil society.



Photo: Civil society representatives at launch of Spotlight Initiative, Port Moresby, 2020 (UN RCO PNG)

# Empowering Women and Achieving Justice in Hela Province

Mara Wali Hela Council for Women



Hela Council of Women brought all the women's leaders together to discuss the problems they face in their districts. The three issues they addressed were gender-based violence, health services and economic empowerment and SMEs.

Women want to be involved in the development of the basic services that they need in their own LLG wards and districts. Women need to be exposed and get influence from other women leaders from within the province and also internationally. They need to have the communication skills and advocacy skills to go and fight for their rights.

It is clear that when there is peace, business and other development come. The first priority is to address all types of violence in Hela.

In Hela, when a woman is raped or is sexually abused witnesses do not want to come out. Even village courts think that it is a family issue and they resort to compensation. We need capacity for the village leaders so they can come out and say 'This is not a village matter, this is not a family matter. This is a criminal case it should be taken to court.'

There are 28 women right now in Margarima who have been accused of sorcery. We don't know how they are faring. We need to protect our women and children. But, recently, we had 33 medical reports and 25 perpetrators were charged and jailed. 15 are still serving their sentence.

We are getting some perpetrators behind bars.



With help from the Spotlight Initiative I ran some training. When we talked about the referral pathway, I had the police, the Family Support Centre, the justice sector and community development people come in. There were doctors and leaders.

After the training, they managed to get one perpetrator who sexually assaulted three girls. He was arrested. A lot more advocacy and training is needed.



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“When we have an empowered and influential civil society in PNG it means that **accountability is present** and that the people's voice is not just heard but **actions are taken to address the concerns of the people.**”

Civil Society Reference Group Co-Chair Jacqui Joseph from CSO Equal Playing Field.





The Spotlight Civil Society Reference Group unites leaders of 16 civil society organisations from around PNG who are experts in eliminating VAWG and women's rights.

The group provides advice and strategic direction for the Country Programme and partners with the coordination team on high-level advocacy and communications.



Photo: Members of the Spotlight Civil Society Reference Group with UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed, UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, and UN Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake, 2020 (UN RCO PNG)



## Learn more

National GBV  
Secretariat



**U Report**  
VOICE MATTERS



Coalition of  
Parliamentarians  
to end GBV



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The Spotlight Initiative is implemented by UN Women (lead technical agency), UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA, with leadership from the Resident Coordinator and technical support from the Resident Coordinator's Office.



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