



# Evaluation Summary



International  
Labour  
Office

Evaluation Unit

## Joint programme to address violence against women - VAW (Umbrella INT/10/01/UND) - Final Joint Evaluation

### Quick Facts

**Countries:** *Bangladesh*

**Final Term:** *July 2013*

**Mode of Evaluation:** *Independent Joint*

**Technical Area:** *GENDER*

**Evaluation Management:** *United Nations MDG Fund – (UNFPA lead) Partners: UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UN Women, IOM, UNAIDS, ILO and UNESCO*

**Evaluator:** *Angélica Arbulú & Mansoud Ali*

**ILO Project Code:** *BGD/10/50/UND*

**Donor:** *United Nations MDG Fund*

UNDP: 385,200; ILO: 470,800

UNFPA: 4,889,867; WHO: 171,200

UNAIDS: 337,050; UNWOMEN: 590,212

UNESCO: 262,150; UNICEF: 321,000

IOM: 569,899

**Keywords:** *Gender, Violence*

### Taken from the Executive Summary of the MDG Joint Evaluation Report

Monitoring and evaluation was undertaken by each UN agency and only brought together at the level of reporting. As such, it lacked methodological consistency or internal coherence. Additionally, it was undertaken by focal points regardless of previous expertise in this area. As a result, the M&E framework was unable to capture achievements adequately. The evaluation concludes there was inadequate expertise for M&E and communications and

recommends the inclusion of adequate expertise for joint programmes of this nature.

In spite of the challenges, the evaluation team observed clear benefits stemming from the joint programming emerging towards the end of the programme. Some of the benefits observed, described in more detail in the body of the evaluation were: identification of existing inefficiencies such as duplication and visualization of existing gaps which led to costs savings and a more coherent division of labor amongst participants; visualization of opportunities and synergies; increased mutual accountability; increased visibility; increased gender capacity and; when expertise of the various participants was leveraged, more robust products.

**RESULTS:** Significant delays at the start of the programme mainly linked to negotiation of the TPPs, the lack of experience in joint programming and late recruitment of the JPMO staff significantly reduced the JP VAWs, implementation period. Delays also caused a reduction in the usual flexibility of no cost extensions and had a negative effect on the quality of some of the project's objectives.

There were three main limitations to measuring results achieved:

- A weak M&E framework with no baseline and poor indicators of progress;

- The lack of internal coherence between the different interventions of the JP VAW and a theory of change linking progress to outcomes; and
- The limited scale given the size and population of Bangladesh.

As a consequence, most of the results achieved excluding policy work such as GRB, can only be seen as pilots which will require significant scaling up in order to have any substantive impact.

In spite of the many challenges faced by the JP VAW, the project achieved some progress. Some of the main achievements for **Outcome 1** are:

- Enhanced capacity of Government officials in 11 ministries and many civil society organizations
- Increased awareness on specific lesser known areas of VAW such as VAW in the workplace, and for vulnerable groups such as sex workers or persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS
- Use of textbooks and education in defining gender roles
- Increased awareness of existing gaps in the justice system together with recommendations for addressing these, and a better understanding of how to apply CEDAW
- Pilot for a database on VAW which would provide evidence on causes, prevalence, and needs to fight VAW in Bangladesh

**Outcome 2** had the largest percentage of the budget allocation, but it was also the most affected by the internal inefficiencies, with most initiatives considered too small to be able to achieve a significant impact. The following good practices were identified:

- Courtyard meetings on internal and international migration
- Community drama session
- Awareness raising with communities and parliamentarians on sex workers and victims of trafficking

- 16-day campaign as a UN-wide model to build on
- Community dialogue addressing masculinity using positive deviance

Important achievements under **Outcome 3** include strengthening of a culturally sensitive gender approach to healthcare making it more accessible for women, capacity building for a more adequate treatment for VAW survivors together with linkages to legal support and counselling services. In regards to the shelters, the evaluation team highlighted the inconsistencies between the model proposed by MoSW and international standards, and strongly recommends for the UN to advocate for alignment of the shelters with CEDAW. Counselling should be prioritized over support to the structures. Any further work would require these issues to be addressed and revision of the IGA alternatives proposed for more realistic ones, such as training for work as domestic workers abroad or in the garment sector, where wages can compete with sex work wages and avoids issues of stigma and discrimination. Sustainability of the achievements in this area seems unlikely.

Given the scale of the problem, the limited resources and level of ownership, sustainability remains a key challenge. Capacity built and awareness raised will remain as a support to future initiatives, the UN should strive to maintain and build on existing momentum. At the time of the evaluation, the team was in the process of putting together a joint programme proposal to give continuation to key areas, and many of the participating agencies will continue to support VAW as part of their mandate. The website and the lessons learned exercise, together with the tool and studies developed, will remain as building blocks for future interventions. Many of the interventions can serve as pilots which can be scaled up and replicated if funding is secured. The evaluation team recommends that future programming consider sustainability at the design stage, taking into account national budget cycles and action capacity to conduct planned activities.