Concept note

Roll out of the 'Guidelines to Estimate the Economic Cost of Domestic Violence in the Arab region'

1. Background

Violence against women (VAW), and specifically domestic violence (DV) against women, is a global pandemic and a violation of human rights. Research has found that one in every three women worldwide has experienced physical and/or sexual violence, and the rate is slightly higher at 37 per cent in the Eastern Mediterranean region. This indicates the widespread nature of DV and the urgent need for a comprehensive response by governments across the globe.

The economic, social and health costs of violence against women, while largely undocumented and unrecognized, are considered by researchers, programme practitioners and advocates to be enormous. There is currently growing interest in estimating the costs of DV, particularly the costs of inaction, to provide governments evidence of the scale of financial losses. Sustainable human development will continue to be directly and negatively affected until the cycle of violence against women is broken. Demonstrating the economic and other costs to households, communities and the economy at large is one way to help break this cycle.

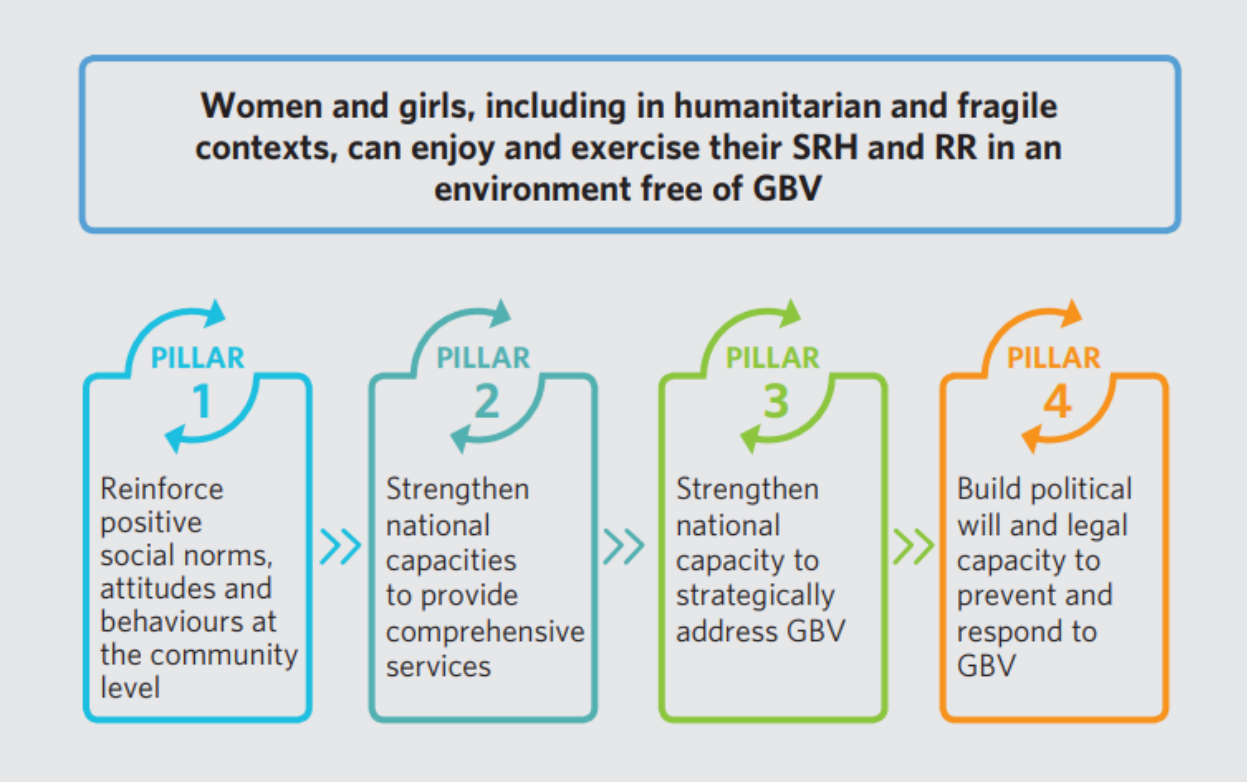
Estimating the economic impacts of DV is important to illustrate in clear terms to government planners the systemic loss to a country's economic potential. In terms of the logic of economic planning, the estimate of leakage from the system also provides the basis for understanding the potential gain from increased investment in policies and programmes to reduce DV. Framing the issue in terms of its economic consequences redefines it as a matter of public welfare, rather than a private concern within families. Working from the assumption that the fundamental objective of government is to promote a vibrant and growing economy, this economic analysis also provides an evidence base to redirect budget allocations to ensure a sufficiently funded, comprehensive and ultimately effective response to DV. In addition, it contributes to increasing the efficiency and transparency of budget allocations, especially for countries that have a limited budget for gender equality, which is the case in most Arab countries. Furthermore, by accounting for inflation, the expected increase in use of services in response to DV and the population growth rate, governments can project costs of service provision.

Building on on-going experiences that were initiated at the regional level through several publications and awareness raising and advocacy activities organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and several partners including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women), the Lebanese American University and the Swedish Institute in Alexandria, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) and ESCWA developed 'Guidelines to Estimate the Economic Costs of Domestic Violence in the Arab region' in 2018, which were launched during the 63rd session of the Commission on Status of Women in 2019.

The Guidelines allows countries and other actors to understand the various steps required for estimating the economic cost of violence at the household level, at the community level and at the national level.

2. Objectives

One of UNFPA's transformative goals, which are part of UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, are to end gender-based violence and harmful practises by 2030, which also falls under Goal 5 on Gender Equality of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNFPA Arab States Regional have therefore developed a GBV Strategy (2018-2021), which has four pillars, which can be seen below.



GBV Strategy 2018-2021, UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (2018)

Similarly, ESCWA has been actively supporting member countries in their efforts to combat violence against women through advancing the knowledge at the regional level on areas related to combating violence against women including an in-depth understanding of services, such as protection orders and shelter services or the legal frameworks and strategies needed at the national level to have a comprehensive response in addressing violence against women. ESCWA's efforts also expanded to provide technical support to the State of Palestine, Iraq, and Lebanon, among others, to estimate the cost of violence at the national level.

It is within this background that the overall objective of this exercise, which will be outlined in this concept note, was developed as it falls under UNFPA Regional GBV strategy Pillar 3 and 4 on strengthening national capacity to strategically address GBV and build political will and legal capacity to prevent and respond to GBV and ESCWA's mandate to support member countries. More specifically, the objective of the workshop would be **to build the capacity of relevant national stakeholders on how to conduct VAW costing using the UNFPA-ESCWA 'Guidelines to Estimate the Economic Cost of Domestic Violence in the Arab region'**

3. Expected outputs and outcomes

The expected output is the following.

- Representatives from national statistics bureau, national women machineries, relevant coalition of parliamentarians, UNFPA Country Offices from selected countries will attend a two-day training on the 'Guidelines to Estimate the Economic Cost of Domestic Violence in the Arab region'.

4. The expected outcome are as follows.

- Participants have increased knowledge and understanding of how to conduct an economic costing exercise on VAW using the 'Guidelines to Estimate the Economic Cost of Domestic Violence in the Arab region'
- Participants will be advocates for including the economic argument when addressing VAW

5. Methodology

The workshop will introduce the guidelines to the participants and provide expert inputs into its various sessions. Countries with relevant experience will also present their findings and experiences.

6. Tentative topics

A detailed agenda is available in annex 1.

7. Participants

Representatives from National statistics bureaus, National women machineries, Relevant coalition of parliamentarians, and representatives UNFPA Country Offices from the Arab countries will be invited to participate in this meeting.

8. Dates

5-6 September 2019

9. Location

ESCWA Beirut, Lebanon

10. Tentative time frame

Below is the time frame expected by UNFPA.

Item	Deadline	Responsible
Request participants to 'save the date' and send nominations to UNFPA ASRO	15 July 2019	ESCWA
Develop agenda	1 August 2019	ESCWA and UNFPA ASRO
Tentative booking of venue and hospitality	1 August 2019	ESCWA
Send invitation together with logistics note	1 August 2019	ESCWA

Confirm participation	15 August 2019	Participants
Confirm number of participants to venue	1 September 2019	ESCWA
Presenters sending final slides/presentation to ESWA and UNFPA ASRO	1 September 2019	Presenters
Support visa of participants	15 August 2019	ESCWA
Issue tickets for participants	1 September 2019	Westminster, ESCWA and UNFPA ASRO
Training	5-6 September 2019	All
Evaluation of the roundtable discussion	6 October 2019	ESCWA and UNFPA ASRO

11. Budget

- Westminster will cover the expenses of two representatives (one from national statistics bureau and one from national women machineries) from Iraq, Algeria, Morocco and Jordan in addition to two representatives from the Coalition of parliamentarians
- UNFPA ASRO can cover the expenses of two representatives (one from national statistics bureau and one from national women machineries) from Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Qatar, Tunisia and UAE.
- ESCWA will cover the expenses of two representatives (one from national statistics bureau and one from national women machineries) from KSA, Mauritania, and Bahrain.
- UNFPA will cover costs of the expenses of one representative from UNFPA Country Offices in Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Iraq and Jordan.
  Each organization will be responsible for issuing the tickets of its participants and handling their DSA.
  ESCWA will be taking care of the overall coordination of the workshop, catering, security clearances and visa issuance.

Regional workshop on costing violence against women
22 Arab Countries (1 NWM & 1 NSO)
UN-House, Beirut, 5-6 September 2019

Travel of Participants

Number of Participants	44	
Average TKT	600	
DSA in Beirut*3 nights (-10% on WS days)	688	
Terminal Expenses	188	
Total Travel USD	**$**	**64,944**

Catering Services

Coffee breaks: 2*44*9,000	792,000

Lunch breaks: 2*44*28,000		2,464,000
Waiter: 2*2days*90,000		360,000
		LBP
Total Catering LBP		**٣,٦١٦,٠٠٠**
Total Catering USD	**$**	**2,395**

<u>Interpretation Services</u>		
Interpreters: 3*2days*420$		**2,520**
Total Interpretation USD	**$**	**2,520**

TOTAL WORKSHOP ESTIMATED EXPENSES	**$**	**69,859**