



## EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON ADMINISTRATIVE DATA ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 24 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019, UN WOMEN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

### MEETING NOTE

#### DAY 1

##### (1) Welcome and opening

- Violence against women (VAW) is a human-rights violation. Addressing this grave violation requires a deeper understanding of the problem. Along with population-based survey data, administrative data can make a contribution to that better understanding and help inform better policies and programmes. Having systems in place that support the collection, storage, analysis and sharing of data related to VAW reported incidents and survivors' use of services—including health, police, justice and social services—in an ethical way that respects confidentiality, would allow assessment of demand for and uptake of these services, as well as contribute to monitoring and evaluation of the response and quality of services provided. Such administrative data systems could identify needs and inform areas for improvement.
- The General Recommendation 35 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) calls for VAW data collection, analysis, and reporting from all signatory Member States, including from administrative or service-based sources. Improving availability of high-quality administrative data can contribute to greater coordination in comprehensive responses to VAW by providers from different sectors.
- The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences has called for country submissions of data on VAW including gender-related killings of women or femicide. However, a lack of comparable data across countries and regions is noted.
- This Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is a critical forum convened to build momentum on the work on VAW administrative data. The meeting also presents a collective learning opportunity to address VAW administrative data gaps under the broader umbrella of efforts to end VAW. The meeting brings together experts from relevant sectors from different regions to discuss strategic and feasible approaches to collect and use administrative data. This EGM seeks to gather guidance, advice, and expertise to inform the development of global guidance and to solve challenging issues identified in the background paper developed for this purpose. The meeting objectives are: (i) to gather technical expertise and advice from global, regional, and national experts to guide the development of global guidance; (ii) to draw lessons learned from regional and country experience to inform thinking about the pathway forward for the collection, storage, analysis, sharing and reporting of VAW administrative data; and (iii) to seek specific recommendations from experts on critical and challenging elements for collection, storage, analysis, sharing and reporting of administrative data on VAW.
- The global guidance and discussions during the EGM focus on intimate partner and non-partner sexual violence against adult women, sectors that provide support services to survivors, and it addresses different data use purposes. The global guidance will not focus on violence against girls or femicide since there are different work streams on these two subjects, with specific distinct implications and recommendations.

## **(2) Overview of the Background Paper on VAW Administrative Data**

- The objective of the background paper, drafted to inform the EGM and the development of global guidance, is to synthesize evidence, including divergent expert opinions, on the collection and use of VAW administrative data. Administrative data are defined as any data generated through routine operations. These data are generally drawn from the routine service-based records or from the internal administrative processes of an organization. Administrative data on VAW is (or could be) gathered routinely when providing services and support to a survivor or responding to an alleged or convicted perpetrator. These data come from cases of VAW reported by survivors and/or registered and processed by authorities and different types of service providers, such as the police, prosecutors, courts, social welfare agencies, social services providers, child protection, women's shelters, violence hotlines, and the health sector.
- Administrative VAW data can provide insight into the number of women utilizing particular services because of VAW; help estimate the need for such services and their costs; contribute to understanding sector responses to violence and unmet need; be used to quantify the need for training among service providers; and provide valuable information to evaluate programmes and policies, as well as to inform the generation of new or improved legislation, policies and procedures to respond to VAW.
- Analyzing and reporting on VAW administrative data can contribute to better understanding of service demand and use (including gaps) and policy and programme implementation and outcomes. The goal is to inform VAW prevention, improve services for survivors and increase accountability of perpetrators. Estimating service gaps and unmet needs based on service data can also contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind. Administrative data is also a powerful tool for dialogue and advocacy with governments to improve VAW prevention and response. The paper discusses four possible priority uses for VAW administrative data: service use and service demand monitoring, understanding whether services are delivered to standards (quality), case management within and across sectors, and estimating capacity of the VAW response, costing and resource allocation.
- The guiding principles proposed for the global guidance are: a human rights-based approach; advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment; cultural sensitivity and age appropriateness; a survivor-centered approach; safety and confidentiality; and perpetrator accountability. Part of a survivor-centered approach is prioritizing the autonomy, self-determination and well-being of survivors. Among other things, this means that women are not asked about violence unless services are in place to respond, that survivors can decline to answer questions or refuse consent to share information without fear of losing support or access to services, and that any limits to confidentiality are clearly explained prior to women's disclosure of violence they have experienced.
- The background paper discusses issues related to informed consent and the policy, procedures and personnel needed to manage Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and describes some steps to advance privacy protection (including establishing information sharing protocols and role-based data access).

### **Additional points discussed:**

- International normative frameworks grounded on human rights principles should guide the work from the outset. CEDAW and its General Recommendation 35 ask member states to collect data on VAW.
- A universal guideline for VAW administrative data collection and analysis is needed, where definitions are standardized across sectors.
- It is important that the proposed global guidance or relevant work engage with civil society organizations (CSOs) and/or non-governmental agencies that provide support services to survivors. In many contexts, they have important administrative data on VAW, and rich knowledge and experience to contribute to the work.

- Though the work focuses primarily on adult women, it is important to consider adolescent girls as they are often overlooked in terms of receiving support services, and their voices are frequently not heard in service design and delivery. The global guidance needs to build synergies with the global guidance on administrative data on violence against children to ensure that no adolescent girl is left behind.
- In order to increase buy-in from relevant actors, there must be incentives and motivation for service providers to collect administrative data. They must see that the data can be used to mobilize resources, enhance their work, and add value to their organizations. They need to see that they get something out of this work, instead of seeing it as additional burden.
- There is an agreement that the work has to be simple, feasible, practical, and pragmatic. The motto to keep in mind is *walking before running*. Capacity to document, analyze and report on administrative data remains weak across different sectors in many contexts and service providers experience work overload. Data comparability across sectors is a key challenge. Therefore, cross-sectoral dataset must be judicious and realistic.
- Administrative data on VAW come from varied sources. Therefore, data and information must be drawn from a multi-stakeholder system that provides space for collecting more comprehensive data across sectors.
- The unit of measurement should be agreed upon as it is important for having a standardized dataset. The same thing should be counted in order to understand the same issue.
- Administrative data is helpful for understanding perpetrator impunity and accountability. It provides critical evidence-based information on impunity that can be used as a powerful tool for advocacy.
- It is reiterated that data production be guided by legal frameworks that govern relevant sectors and requires responsible actors to act in a coordinated manner to enhance quality administrative statistics.
- Capacity development for service providers should include attitude changes and awareness raising to ensure that services be provided, and data collected with a survivor-centered approach. Particularly, survivors' informed consent is critical for information sharing across sectors or services.
- There was a discussion that law enforcement and justice sectors would not collect data on certain forms of VAW if they are not yet criminalized under countries' legal frameworks, for example marital rape is not considered as VAW and thus not criminalized in some countries. The approach proposed in the background paper respects the mandate of the police and justice system to align with the current legal framework, while allowing sectors that do collect relevant information on VAW that may not yet be criminalized to report (e.g. health, social services or specialized VAW services). Data collection must be pragmatic while facilitating these sectors to fulfill their mandates, roles and responsibilities.
- Administrative data must be "marketed". Some important arguments are that administrative data adds value to population-based survey data on VAW (where it exists), and can be used to enhance the quality and effectiveness of sectoral responses.
- Country experiences have demonstrated that multisectoral case management systems, from the first point of primary services to the criminal justice system, are possible but challenging and resource-demanding. PII is needed to follow flow through information from one system/sector to another. The key discussion to be had is how to manage PII addressing survivors' needs and confidentiality. Another challenge is the separate functions and mandate between the law enforcement system and the judicial system. Linking these systems, particularly their databases, is difficult from technical, operational, and political points of view.
- Although the overall discussion of VAW administrative data work in this meeting and in the upcoming guidance is framed within the development context, it should be noted that there are countries that are transitioning from the humanitarian context to the development context. There are also countries

that face humanitarian crises only in certain parts of the country. Changing contexts in countries have implications for the proposed audiences for the global guidance.

- Technology has been employed in some countries for advancing data collection and use. However, there are concerns regarding digital data collection while ensuring survivors' privacy, confidentiality, security, and consent. Data sharing and availability in digital format without security assurance can pose risks to survivors. It is crucially important that individuals with expertise in gender and ending VAW are involved in the development of technological platforms to collect and integrate data on VAW.
- Collecting administrative data on VAW can be important for identifying gender-related motivations for homicide (femicide).
- At this juncture, there is no plan or intention to propose standardization for comparable data with the goal of global aggregation and comparability. The hope is to have high-quality and reliable administrative data collected, analyzed, monitored and reported at the national level based on human rights and survivor-centered principles.

### **(3) Proposed Minimum Dataset**

- The proposed minimum data set is meant to be the foundation for promoting the production and compilation of VAW administrative data at the national level. The choice of the proposed dataset is based on key issues of concern about VAW, responsiveness to policy and programming needs to monitor and evaluate VAW response and feasibility. The last-mentioned is important given that the context of the production of administrative data is care and service delivery. The minimum data set is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Rather, it seeks to summarize the most essential data points needed to describe the service use and potential needs of VAW survivors. Nor does it limit countries or sectors from collecting additional data that they deem relevant for their context. Further it is important to note that sectoral efforts to identify the essential programme and policy-relevant dataset to report on relevant indicators will be equally important. The approach taken here is to focus on a minimum dataset that would be relevant across sectors (cross-sectoral).
- Future work may be undertaken within sectors to identify the desirability, feasibility and key variables for sector-specific minimum data sets.
- The goal is not to generate data for regional or international comparisons. Nevertheless, in the longer term, standardized VAW administrative data could facilitate not only sub-national and national monitoring and comparisons, but generate nationally and internationally comparable administrative data. The minimum data set will support standardization. There are two components to establish a minimum data set: reaching consensus on what data are critical and should be collected and agreeing upon shared definitions of VAW.

#### **Additional points discussed:**

- In general, the proposed minimum dataset is relevant.
- The survivor-perpetrator relationship is identified as critical. The value of collapsing categories (intimate partner, family member, known to survivor, stranger) as well as further disaggregating relationship categories, for example to identify cohabitation or non-cohabitation, is discussed. The importance of identifying work/colleague relationships as well as authority and care relationships are highlighted.
- It is recommended to:
  - Use date of birth rather than age as a response option for survivors age (calculated field);
  - Add *teachers* and *school officials* in the *authority care* options;
  - Have *age groups* instead of exact age or *date of birth of perpetrators*; asking for the age range of the perpetrator was perceived as not immediately relevant for service delivery in the health sector and difficult to collect;

- Organize data in groups around survivors', perpetrators', and services' information;
- Ensure that *survivor-perpetrator relationship* categories be made *mutually exclusive*;
- Ensure that *specialized support services* be included in *registration of the violence*;
- Rename *extraterritorial* under the *geographic location* category to *cross border*;
- Include *repeated violence* in the minimum dataset;
- Capture *disability* status of survivors;
- Redefine what *household* or *family* means as this varies based on contexts and cultures;
- Expand *types of violence* to be more comprehensive, and create typology of definitions in order to clarify different types of violence; the relative merits of identifying a single type of VAW or of recording multiple types of VAW and implications for analysis are discussed;
- Include economic violence as a type of VAW or include "other" (open-text box) as a possible response option. In validation of tools to collect VAW administrative data in three hospitals in India and in the experience of the Indonesian VAW administrative database, economic violence is the most common form of violence included in the "other category";
- Consider including *violence against women in politics* as a *type of violence*;
- Include *cyberviolence* as a stand-alone variable.

#### **(4) Sectoral Specific Realities and Needs: What are the Implications?**

##### **Health:**

- Different sectors have different needs and priorities for data collection. For health workers/managers/policy makers, information on service needs, coverage, service quality, and patients' satisfaction, impact of services, and wellbeing of the patients is important. It is difficult to convince health workers and managers to collect data that do not deem relevant to their immediate technical functions. The World Health Organization (WHO) has produced guidance on documenting and collecting VAW administrative data in the health sector. Data needs and requirements are therefore sector specific.
- As part of the Essential Services Guidelines for Healthcare, in line with WHO guidelines for physicians/clinicians and managers, there was a review of all Health Management Information System (HMIS) data forms from high, middle- and low-income countries. Based on commonalities across these countries, a proposed set of items/variables for data collection through HMIS, was developed.
- Regarding documenting sexual assault, the WHO guidelines provide some standardized forms for recording incidents of sexual assault as well as management of such assaults. However, some countries have forensic laws and guidelines for recording sexual assaults. Documentation and data collection of assault incidents should be done within the national legislative contexts.
- The key challenge for the health sector is the heavy workload faced by health workers/managers. Additionally, many health centers in communities do not provide so much space for documenting and saving private paper-based information. In some settings, the assumption is that only medical doctors can record data on survivors which is not necessary nor practical when facing the very low number of physicians as compared to the high demand for medical services. Documentation by nurse practitioners, nurses and others should be considered. It is a challenge for health workers to balance between data collection and care provision which is their primary responsibility.

##### **Crime and criminal justice:**

- Not all cases of VAW are reported to/recorded by the crime and criminal justice system. Therefore, these should be used and analyzed cautiously in understanding violent crimes against women.
- The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) provides a comprehensive framework of definitions and relevant disaggregation of crime. The ICCS is a hierarchical classification whose categories are mutually exclusive and exhaustive; is built on behavioral descriptions and is applicable across jurisdictions; is applicable to all types of data (admin/survey data); is applicable to

different counting units. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports crime statistics on an annual basis. Since 2017, data on victims of homicides and other criminal offences as well on the offenders are collected, including in relation to sexual violence, assault, and exploitation.

#### **Police (Phillipines):**

- In the context of the Philippines, the law enforcement agency has been increasingly engaged in the efforts to prevent and respond to VAW since legislative frameworks related to VAW were issued.
- The establishment of the women's desk at police stations since 1998 has helped the police to provide better response to violence survivors.
- The Crime Information Reporting Analysis System (CIRAS) was developed for systemic collection of evidence. It is accessible and provides cross-reference check of crimes. It also provides a backup of data in case of flooding, earthquakes, other natural disasters. Data can be shared across sectors.
- Data collected is from the law enforcement agency. Survivors are at times afraid or refuse to report incidents to law enforcement officers.
- Though data is collected and stored systematically, there remains gaps in analysis, interpretation and use of the data.

#### **National statistical agency (Malawi):**

- National Statistical Offices have the general mandate to collect national data, particularly population-based data to help inform national development processes.
- Administrative data remains a gap in national statistical systems and mechanisms. Unlike population-based surveys that have standardized methodologies recognized by different sectors, the collection of administrative data is fragmented and does not yet have a harmonized approach among statistical communities and practices. Therefore, a global guidance is needed, and so is capacity development for administrative data collection.

#### **Additional points discussed:**

- Grounding on the survivor-centered approach, regardless of sectors or types of services, the key is how the first responders or first persons that provide services interact with the survivors. They need appropriate skills, capacity, knowledge, and attitudes to effectively and appropriately provide services to survivors based on principles and ethics. Data collection should be part of this.
- The meeting calls for not overburdening service providers and not compromising their service provision. The work on administrative data should have added-value to the delivery of quality services to violence survivors.

## **DAY 2**

### **Recap and open discussion**

- The message is clear that the global guidance should be simple and realistic. There is a need to make data points relevant and to convince policy makers and service providers that data collection can help improve services, policy and programmes. Training and implementation tools accompanying the global guidance are needed.
- Regarding sectoral specificities, it is important to not create more classifications or typologies, but build on what exists.
- There is a need for clarity on unit of measurement or unit of count. The proposed unit of measurement is incident. Our unit of count is a report made.
- There needs to be linkages between the work on administrative data on violence against children and that on administrative data on VAW. There is a real challenge in addressing adolescent survivors,

providing better services to meet adolescents' needs, and hearing adolescent survivors' voices. In some contexts, there are laws in place to protect children from abuse, but at the same time criminalize adolescents who engage in consensual sex. This requires mandatory reporting by health service providers. This can discourage adolescent girls from seeking help and support.

- Data on shelters are lacking. It would be useful to see how many shelters or transition houses exist in countries. Additionally, focus on protection orders as an area for data collection.

## **(5) Multisectoral Governance and Coordination**

- Regarding coordination, the guidance should be clear about what, who, why, and how to coordinate, and at what level. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework allows spaces and mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination at global, regional, national, and subnational level. No single entity can achieve one goal individually. It can be achieved through collective efforts and collaboration.
- In some contexts, the underlying obstacle for effective coordination and information sharing is partisan politics. Effective coordination can only be achieved if governmental bodies/institutions have a common goal and understanding on the issue, beyond political differences. Additionally, it is important to not assume that not all countries have a centralized management system. Under the federal system, local authorities have more autonomy on data collection and management. Therefore, coordination under the federal system is challenging. How is data collection and sharing mandated between federal jurisdictions and even between different levels of government in unitary systems? Mandated? Does it need to be a law? Is this the only way forward? Partisan politics and the fear of “indirect” evaluation—essentially transparency—can be barriers to information sharing on VAW.
- Regional observatories can be a helpful mechanism to demand accountability and commitment from governments to improve data collection.
- Clarity about who is leading the governance body and who is responsible for data processing and reporting can support progress in the field of VAW administrative data. Conflict over leadership and resulting territoriality or lack of ownership and consequent neglect can be harmful to advancing the collection and use of VAW administrative data. While there is no one size fits all approach, the following criteria could be considered when establishing what institution should lead or co-lead the governance structures for VAW administrative data and what institutions should be represented: (i) the lead agency (or agencies) has sufficient rank; (ii) national or sub-national women's machineries, national statistical offices and NGOs are actively engaged; (iii) the relevant sectors (health, police, justice, social services) are engaged; and (iv) the governing body includes individuals knowledgeable about VAW, statistics, data management and privacy protection, and knowledge translation.
- There are multiple levels of coordination and governance relevant for VAW administrative data: top-down, bottom-up and horizontal. It is important to note that experience indicates that analysis and reporting at the service delivery level is important to make immediate changes in service delivery. Experiences have shown that the further the work moves away from the subnational level, the less representative data collected becomes. As such, coordination mechanisms for administrative data collection and reporting must be strong from the subnational level.
- VAW expertise is of paramount importance in both technical and strategic coordination processes. Moreover, meaningful engagement of CSOs and co-leadership can enhance buy-in, quality of data and analysis, and political will to act on the information.
- It is recommended that coordination efforts for VAW administrative data sit within existing coordination mechanisms on VAW prevention and response. Additionally, it has to be linked with national statistics mechanisms. The key element for coordination is to hold relevant stakeholders/actors accountable in performing their sectoral functions and mandates to support violence survivors in an effective, sensitive, and appropriate manner.

- Respecting partner agencies' confidentiality and public image is crucial in building rapport and trust among participating agencies. The coordination group must work as a team, and support one another.

## **(6) Data Use for Policy and Programming**

- Global data usage is uneven. Building capacity and institutional practices to ensure that data, statistics, and information on VAW are used to buttress informed decision-making, and for legislative and programmatic changes is a pressing priority.
- Information sharing protocols and interagency coordination are needed. Political and technical strength and “deep relationships” between data users and data producers will be the foundation for moving the agenda forward.
- Need to consider the construction of multiagency systems, and also address complexities of multisource reporting. For example, Italy' system involves the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Health, Army, Labour, Social Policy, Regions and Municipalities, CSOs (shelters, VAW support services) and VAW experts from academia and the law. For registries, they collect data annually from the Ministries of Interior and Justice (follow survivors from reporting until sentencing, analysis of sentences) and from emergency rooms, hospitals, social services with Ministry of Health.
- The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) has country examples of how VAW administrative data ensures the right services are put in place for survivors through data analysis and dissemination. Country examples from Lebanon (improving training of police officers and policy advocacy to protect refugee survivors of domestic violence), Tanzania (reducing VAW by ensuring specialized interventions for safe firewood collection—data also provided foundation for fund mobilization), and Colombia (improving training of healthcare providers by demonstrating service use gaps with administrative data) are shared.
- Triangulation of administrative data with additional sources is helpful and important for developing programmatic and policy options. Administrative data is frequently the “red flag” that leads to further information gathering (from the published literature, academics, interviews or focus groups with service providers and survivors) in order to develop options for policy dialogue (GBVIMS, Duluth Model).
- When dealing with administrative data, it is recommended to consider other data sources such as media monitoring or social media reporting.
- Policymakers and service providers may have different uses of administrative data. The question is how similar data and information is analyzed and interpreted by different actors and sectors.
- Country examples from Thailand and Viet Nam have shown that administrative data was helpful to demonstrate women's experiences in the justice system. Through engaging police and justice sectors in understand this data, law enforcement and justice agencies put in place systems and facilities to better serve violence women survivors.
- It is a common misunderstanding by many policy makers that administrative data can be used in place of prevalence data. The differences between administrative data and prevalence data must be clarified, and so must their different purposes and usages. Policy makers also constantly ask for data reporting number of women experiencing violence and receiving services, and how administrative data can improve services.
- Increasing data literacy for legislators (politicians), media and data users is important.

## **(7) Considerations for Training and Tools to Ensure Safe, Quality Data Collection and Aggregation**

- Frontline service providers need sensitization and training on data collection based on standards and principles. It is important to ensure VAW and data expertise in the development and implementation of training for professionals providing services to survivors and collecting VAW administrative data.

- In linking data across systems, it is of utmost importance to assure data privacy and protection. In addition, survivors must give consent, and have an understanding of how their data would be shared, and what implications are.
- In a given context, different institutions may use different systems – paper-based, digitalized, or mixed. Thus, it is important to map out what systems currently exist, and how interoperable they are across sectors.
- Similarly, there are multiple sectoral tools. Prior to propose new tools, it is important to identify existing tools, address gaps, and build on them.
- Data collection training cannot be a one-time off. It should be an ongoing capacity development process coupled with gender sensitization. Training should include preliminary data analysis to enhance service providers’ knowledge and understanding of using data to improve service quality.

## **(8) Databases and Integrated Case Management**

- Administrative data is important and useful for case management. They keep memory of service provision, provide continuity of services, inform progress over time, report quality of care, and help identify resources needed.
- It is cautioned on how much personal data is needed in order to provide comprehensive quality services to violence survivors. Data collection is not for solely having data, but it is data use that is significant. It is repeatedly reiterated that interventions should strengthen survivors’ self-determination. Survivors lose a certain degree of self-determination when facing violence. Support and services provided must not put them into a position where they feel further loss of self-determination. Preserving and restoring survivors’ integrity and dignity post violence experience is key for healing. Survivors need to have the ability to make decisions on how their data are recorded and used. This calls for active listening.

## **DAY 3**

### **Recap and open discussion**

- Data collection, production, dissemination, and usage should go hand-in-hand. Data producers and data users should work together to make sense of survivors’ experience, and to provide support services to them based on standards, ethics, and safety and security. The gap is not solely data collection, but also data analysis for meaningful use.
- There are existing and emerging platforms and the opportunities to link regional to international efforts.
- Political support and buy-in are critical for the work around VAW administrative data.

## **(9) Proposing an Outline for the Global Guidance**

- The key point to be clarified about the Global Guidance is its intended audience or end users. The importance of leadership by Women’s Machineries and National Statistical Offices at the national level was discussed, as was the importance of CSOs.
- The UN needs to internally agree on what the standards will be on VAW administrative data, to create coherence and consistency in measurement.
- Administrative data should be analyzed alongside the prevalence data to have a better picture of VAW.
- Countries may have different systems in place, they may be at different levels of maturity in administrative data collection. The global guidance should take a tiered response in order to respond

to different levels of maturity. Understanding of these differences is paramount. Similarly, not all countries have same roles, mechanisms and agencies working on administrative data. The guidance should reflect that reality.

- A section on informed consent is important and needed as it is very challenging in many countries. Informed consent also links to different legal contexts. Different agencies are obliged to have different informed consent and privacy requirements. The key question is how relevant sectors work together on this, and what sectoral-specific informed consent can look like.
- The UN statistics principles should be adhered to. Data collection should be disaggregated.
- Data collection regulation and guidance should not be specific, it should be broader, catering to higher level management who can ensure that data be collected.

## **Key Considerations for the Global Guidance**

### **Use of Personally Identifiable Information (PII):**

- There are concerns about the use of PII including privacy and confidentiality breaches through data leaks or lack of proper care with records with consequent risks to safety and privacy of survivors.
- Standards and infrastructure for data storage to ensure data security must be put in place before using PII. Survivors' ownership of and consent on the record/use of their data are crucial.
- Appropriate aggregation of data to protect confidentiality is important.

### **Data literacy: Key messages or considerations to explore with different audiences**

- *Data producers and/or service providers:* How data strengthens their work? How to keep data safe? How to put survivors' needs first? How to communicate with survivors about consent? How to understand data to understand trends and needs for different groups? How to identify and address data errors?
- *Sub-national and national coordination groups:* How to understand VAW data collection, analysis, monitoring, reporting, and methodologies? How to share data across sectors based on principles? How to prevent stigmatization of VAW? How to put in place systems to assure confidentiality and data security? How to communicate data with the media? How to understand where data flows and why?
- *Media:* How to correctly interpret and report data? How to prevent stigmatization or revictimization of violence? How to ensure confidentiality of survivors when reporting? How to promote support services?
- *National statistics offices:* How to standardize data collection? How to ensure quality control for data production? How to store data based on global guidelines and principles?
- *Survivors:* Why data is needed from them? What would be useful of their data and with whom it will be shared? How data sharing will benefit them?
- *National human rights institutions:* How to hold different bodies accountable based on their mandates, commitments, and responsibilities?
- *UN and other monitoring bodies and procedures:* How to support and facilitate data collection based on good practices and standards?
- *National policy makers:* How to understand the implications of their decisions and policies especially when demanding for data to inform their decisions? How to understand and interpret data correctly?
- *Academia:* How to strengthen research capacity? How to guide students on analyzing data? How to support strengthen global standards on data collection based on good practices and principles?
- *General population/public:* How to understand data especially differences between prevalence and administrative data? How to understand VAW situations based on data?
- *Men (perpetrators and non-perpetrators):* How to understand VAW? What data means to men and men's actions?

### **Actors to engage to bridge data analysis and knowledge translation gap:**

- Governments at different levels (federal, provincial, district, municipal, etc.)
- Parliament and line ministries
- Trade unions, political parties, task forces
- National statistical offices, census bureaus, ombudsman offices
- Academic and research institutions, and universities
- International Non-Governmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations, and CSOs working at sub national and national level and interagency mechanisms
- Gender-based violence experts
- Advocacy campaigns, students and public training, replicating observatories

### **Violence against adolescent girls**

- UNICEF is leading work on administrative data on violence against children. Coordination and collaboration between UNICEF and UN Women to ensure alignment of messaging is recommended.
- Data collection systems should be flexible enough to collect information about adolescent girls at the point of service delivery. The rights of adolescent girls to access services should be reinforced.
- Collecting data on adolescent girls' experience of violence can make the issue more visible and shed more light on the problem. Their voices can be heard, and needs better addressed.
- There needs to be closer linkages and coordination between the work on VAW and violence against children, particularly around referrals and interoperability of data systems.
- It is important to understand different partners, protocols and tools, legal and ethical implications, and services for addressing VAW and VAC.
- The global guidance can refer to the WHO guidelines on health response to child sex abuse.

### **(10) Updates on the Measurement of Gender-Related Killings of Women (Femicide/Feminicide)**

- The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences has called for State Members to address gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide) and establish observatories to systematically collect data on the issue. Administrative data can be an important source for providing information on this. She has noted the lack of data availability, quality challenges and lack of comparability of data across countries.
- It is important to identify which data are needed to establish which homicides of women are gender-related, i.e. agreeing on an operational definition for statistical purposes, while keeping in mind the feasibility of collecting those data.
- The ICCS proposes a set of disaggregation variables for crime reporting by countries, including homicide. These include sex of the perpetrator and the victim, relationship between the perpetrator and the victim and motive, among others. However, the level of reporting of these variables by countries is low. Consequently, having comprehensive data at the global level on gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide) is challenging, and for now global reporting on killings of women by intimate partners and family members is the best proxy available.
- UN agencies are working together to come up with a common institutional/UN approach (as much as possible within the existing ICCS structure) in defining femicide for statistical purposes.
- Gender-related killings of women in situations of unrest and civil war, honor killing, or cultural-related killings of women (e.g. witch hunting) are highlighted as prevalent and not well documented in the Africa region.
- Challenges also include discrepancies from different data sources (i.e. justice and health).
- Changes in data collection and monitoring systems across sectors, including cross-sectoral standardized definitions, improved investigation processes, improved capacity of data collectors,

enhanced legal frameworks and better coordination among various stakeholders working on VAW data production are required for the production of better data on femicide.

**(11) Next Steps**

- Should funding be available, there is a plan to conduct regional, sectoral and/or thematic consultations for gather more inputs in the development of the global guidance.
- Should funding be available, the proposed global guidance or certain components of it can be tested. Possible criteria for site selection for testing can include country's interest/commitment/readiness, sites with the Essential Services Package (ESP) rolling out, and/or sites piloting the guidance on violence against children administrative data. The test can consider diversity of countries to understand how the global guidance is relevant for different country contexts.
- There will be further thinking about the format of the global guidance, to respond to the common agreement to have it simple, practical, pragmatic, and relevant for all sectors.
- UN Women will continue engaging with experts participating in the EGM to seek advice and support throughout the process of development of the global guidance. It is noted that more academia and CSOs be engaged.