

2024 Regional Index on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

REGIONAL OBSERVATORY ON VAWG

HOSTED BY EUROMED FEMINIST INITIATIVE IN AMMAN, JORDAN

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Acronyms

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EFI	EuroMed Feminist Initiative
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WPSA	Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Glossary

Affirmative Action: Deliberate measures and actions adopted to improve the rights, opportunities and access to resources and responsibilities of people socially structurally disadvantaged to compensate for those disadvantages. They are notably used to compensate for structural imbalances, to improve women's social position and role and overcome their marginalisation or even exclusion in public and political space.

Constitution: Set of fundamental norms of a State, typically contained in a single document, where the normative framework for the legal system is established. This includes the institutional structure (organic part) and the principles that sustain that State (dogmatic part), including the rights, freedoms and obligations that pertain to individuals within it.

Discrimination against women: "Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of women and men, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." (CEDAW, Article 1)

Intersectional discrimination: Discrimination that affects people at the intersection between two or more systems of oppression. It is, for example, the discrimination specifically suffered by women in as far as they also belong to some other vulnerable category in terms of ethnicity, religion, nationality, disability, etc. The intersection of two or more systems of oppression does not simply result in their co-existence and added consequences; it creates discrimination of a specific kind that affects only those at the said intersection: it only affects women of an ethnic minority, for example, not all women, nor men from that minority.

Prostitution: International human rights law recognises prostitution as a violation of human rights and as a form of sexual exploitation and an obstacle for equality between women and men and human rights. Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons underlines the link between prostitution and trafficking and refers to prostitution as exploitation: "Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal or organs".

Sexual and reproductive rights: Indivisible and undeniable universal human rights to one's sexual and reproductive self-determination, grounded in the values of freedom, equality, and dignity of all human beings. They include the "right to health, to be free from discrimination, the right to determine the number of children, the right to be free from sexual violence, the right to prevention and violence against women, sexual health information, education and counselling, the right to personal relationships and quality of life. (ICPD Program of Action, Cairo, 1994)

Survivor: A victim of violence becomes "survivor" when they cease to suffer from the harm she endured or decides to refuse to put up with more violence. The term stresses the person's strength and ability to cope with and stop the abuse and thus implies resilience and empowerment (UNFPA). It is generally used to refer to the psychological and social support, rather than medical, granted to victims of violence (IASC).

Trafficking: Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as the “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery, or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal or organs”.

Victim: According to the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power Adopted by General Assembly resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985, a victim is a person who, individually or collectively, has suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within a State, including laws proscribing criminal abuse of power. Victims have the rights to access justice, to a fair treatment, restitution, compensation, and assistance. This is so regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted and regardless of the familial relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Depending on their degree of involvement in the traumatic event, victims can be direct or indirect. Direct victims have been subjected to, or have witnessed, the act of violence. Indirect victims are concerned by the act and/or affected by its consequences due to their emotional closeness with direct victims.

Violence against women: “Any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in discrimination physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberties whether occurring in public or private spheres.” (UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993) While the term violence against women puts the spotlight on the victims, the term “male violence against women” is also used to highlight the perpetrator, in acknowledgement of the fact that 90% of its perpetrators are men. (World Health Organization).

Introduction

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is now recognized, in line with international human rights standards, as a violation of women’s human rights. National efforts have been made in recent years to adopt national legislation, strategies, and policies to more effectively address and prevent such violence.

In 2019, the Regional Observatory on VAWG (hereafter the Observatory) was established as an independent mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the Union for Mediterranean UfM Ministerial Process and Declarations on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society¹), in the area of combatting all forms of VAWG, and implementation of Women, Peace, Security Agenda (WPSA).

¹ The 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society took place on 27 November 2017 in Cairo, Egypt and gathered ministers of the 43 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean responsible for women affairs and equality, under the Co-Presidency of the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Ministers agreed to promote

The Observatory was established and is hosted by EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) in Amman. It strives to contribute to ending VAWG, to the inclusion of women's rights in policy debates, and to the social acknowledgement of women as actors of sustaining peace and security. In this regard, the Observatory provides a regional perspective on the status of VAWG legislation, policies, and actions in the Southern Mediterranean and continues its mission to follow up the implementation of the States' commitments on combating VAWG.

To this goal, the Observatory developed a Regional Index on VAWG to help implementing a continuous follow up, data collection of laws and policies, and analyses of the barometer results.

The first two editions of the Regional Index (2020 and 2021) involved 7 countries from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

In 2023-2024, Syria and Iraq joined the Index, which now comprises 9 countries which are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

Objectives of the Index

The overall objective of the Regional Index on VAWG is to provide a global documentation on laws, public policies and services related to VAWG that allows a diagnosis of the state of legislation and tools put in place to address VAWG in the region.

This Index provides policy makers with a meaningful summary of complex data to support informed decisions and actions for the implementation of the governmental commitments and decisions in the field of combatting all forms of VAWG.

It constitutes a data bank that will allow researchers to have a quick overview of the status of women in the countries concerned and carry out comparative studies.

The Index also enables women's rights activists to follow up where gaps and weaknesses lie and thus make targeted and updated advocacy. Furthermore, the Index provides a global picture for the international community on the progress and achievements made in each country in terms of VAWG.

Selection of Indicators

Four criteria guided the selection of indicators:

Relevance: The indicators are relevant to all countries covered by the Index and are in line with the international and regional agreements and resolutions, especially the UfM Ministerial Declarations on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the 1995 Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

4 actions, which are: raising women's participation in public life and decision-making, raising women's economic participation, combating all forms of violence against women and girls, challenging cultural and social norms and eliminate stereotypes, particularly in and through education and media. To access the Declaration at: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FINAL-ADOPTED-Declaration-on-Strengthening-Women-in-Society.pdf>

indicators to measure violence against women developed by UN expert group meeting 2007, goals 5 and 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are related respectively to achieving equality between women and men and empower all women and girls, strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, as well as the proposed indicators by the UfM Secretariat.

Meaningfulness: The indicators represent significant information for policy makers and civil society.

Feasibility: The data required to feed into the indicators is accessible for collection and updating; the indicators are actionable by policy makers to modify policies and by civil society to advocate for change.

Data Reliability: Completeness and accuracy of data as a measure of how well it can be counted on to be consistent and free from errors.

Methodology

The scoring methodology is based on what is known as composite indicators methodology² which is a mathematical combination (or aggregation) of a set of indicators. Using this method assists in monitoring progress of combating VAWG by summarizing complex and multi-dimensional data and allows comparison and classification of progress made in each country. Under this approach, indicators that measure VAWG globally are further broken down into sub-indicators through which different variables or aspects of the main indicators are measured.

The methodology of the 2024 Index adopts the following concrete steps as shown in the diagram below:

Diagram No. 2: Steps followed for constructing the composite indicators



The methodology was first prepared for developing the 2021 Index by expert group consisting of 13 experts from all Index countries. The experts prepared the methodology for the scoring process and the weighting system and developed the sub-indicators.

While developing the sub-indicators, the experts took into account the following criteria:

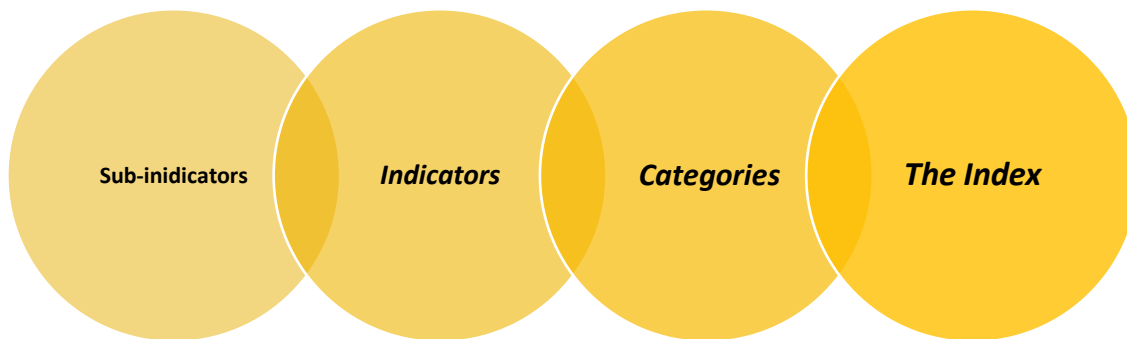
- Relevance: The sub-indicators are clearly and directly related to the main indicator.

² Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators: Methodology and User Guide, <https://www.oecd.org/sdd/42495745.pdf>

- Representativity: The sub-indicators are sufficient and appropriate to describe and reflect the main indicator.
- Measurability: The sub-indicators can be measured, and data can be provided.
- Feasibility: The sub-indicators can reasonably be achieved.

The assessment criteria and scoring are developed according to the sub-indicator of the index structure as shown in the diagram below:

Diagram No. 1: the index structure



In the 2024 Regional Index, all indicators and sub-indicators were reviewed in light of increasing of the number of the countries joining the Index and following the new developments and changes of forms of VAWG in the region (*See Annexe 1 for the Index structure including the updated indicators and sub-indicators*). Reviewing the Index was accomplished through the Regional Expert Roundtable that was held on 27-28 November 2024, in Baghdad, Iraq. The Roundtable was attended by 34 experts in the field of combating VAWG from concerned ministries, government institutions and civil society from the 9 Index countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia, as well as international experts.

The roundtable aimed to:

- Enlarge the process of issuing the 2024 Regional Index on VAWG to include Iraq and Syria, making the Index countries 9.
- Discuss the framework of the 2024 Regional Index.
- Update the sub-indicators derived from the main indicators.
- Discuss working mechanisms for giving scores to the 2024 Regional Index on VAWG.

Experts reviewed the formulation of indicators and sub-indicators, some indicators and sub-indicators were merged or abolished, and some new ones were added as follows:

- First category: It was updated to have 14 indicators, and 96 sub-indicators. 2 indicators (No. 11, No. 16) and 11 sub-indicators were deleted. 19 sub-indicators were added.

- Second category: It was decided that second category would keep the same number of indicators: 13, while the number of sub-indicators becomes 56. 2 sub-indicators were deleted, and 3 sub-indicators were added.
- Third category: This category kept the same number of indicators: 5, while the number of sub-indicators becomes 26. One sub-indicator was deleted and 3 were added.
- Fourth category: The same numbers of indicators under this category remained the same: 3. The number of sub-indicators remained also the same: 14.
- Fifth category: This category was updated to have 4 indicators and 14 sub-indicators. One indicator was added regarding the existence of programs responsive to the different needs of women and men that target media. 2 sub-indicators were added; no sub-indicators were deleted.
- Sixth Category: This category kept the number of main indicators the same: 3, while the sub-indicators became 13. One sub-indicator was added.
- Seventh Category: This category was updated to have 5 indicators and 13 sub-indicators. One indicator (No. 45) was merged with another indicator (No. 43), and 3 sub-indicators were deleted.

❖ Weighting method

The Index adopts the approach of assigning weights to indicators. Since the indicators and categories are different in terms of importance, variability and impact on combating VAWG, specific weights have been assigned to each indicator and each category according to their respective priority and criticality. The more the category or indicator is considered significant in combating VAWG, the greater weight is given.

Assigning weights process has been accomplished through a participatory method. For this purpose, the index used the process of “Budget Allocation Process (BAP)”. Each expert was given 100 points for each category to be distributed over the indicators. The experts were asked to allocate points to the indicator, based on their expertise in VAWG. In addition, experts considered assigning a weight in relation with the spectrum of the indicator (indicators with a wide spectrum have more weight).

The final weight of each indicator is the average of weights (points) received from the 13 experts. For example: assuming that indicator X received a total of 182 points from all the 13 experts. Then, the average weight of the indicator is $182/13= 14$ points.

In the 2024 Regional Index, the weights were re-calculated for the categories under which the indicators were changed. *The final results of the weighting for indicators and categories are shown in **Annex 2**.*

❖ Scoring method

The scoring process follows after finalising the Index structure and weighting system. Each sub-indicator will be scored 1 or 0. The sub-indicator takes (1) if it fulfils, and (0) if it does not.

To achieve the maximum accuracy to the scoring process, the Index will involve in each country relevant governmental bodies and experts from civil society working on combating VAWG.

Each sub-indicator has a score of 0 or 1. 0 is assigned when the country does not achieve or meet the sub-indicator, and 1 when the sub-indicator is met. The total country’s score value of the qualitative indicator

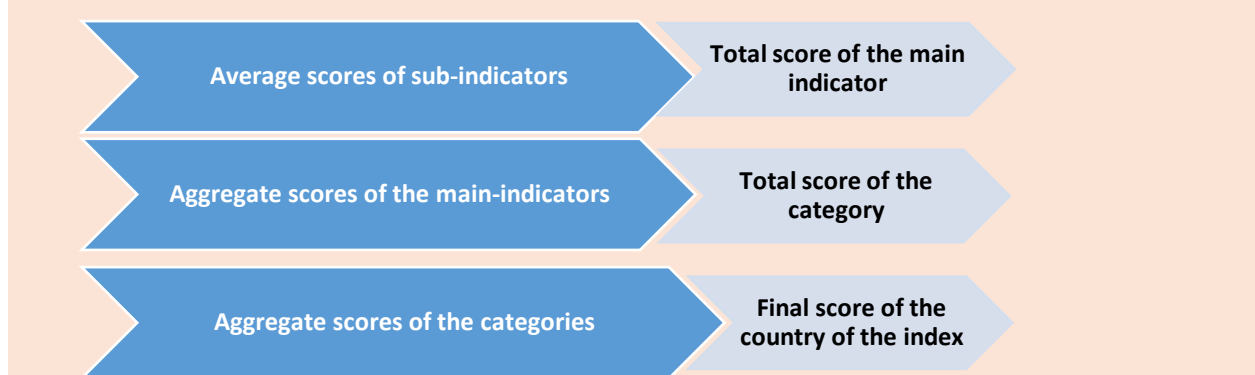
is the sum of values for all the sub-indicators over the number of sub-indicators. This is clarified in the equation below:

Score value of indicator = (the sum values of sub indicators)/(Nr. of sub indicators).

❖ Aggregation process

The aggregation process for scores depends on additive method. The method includes three stages as clarified below:

Diagram No. 3: Aggregation process



The total score that is given to any category is based on the aggregate scores of the category's indicators. For example, the total score for the legal framework and public policies is directly based on the aggregate score of the 14 main indicators. The score of the indicator is the average score of its sub-indicators.

The global score of the Index for any country is calculated by aggregating the scores of categories in light of the weight for each category.

Example of scores aggregation is clarified in the table below:

Table No. 1: Example for weighting calculations

Category	Weight	Score	Calculations	Total score
Main indicator 1	60	1/3 = 33.3 %	60 * 33.3%	20 points
Sub-indicator 1A		0		
Sub-indicator 1B		1		
Sub-indicator 1C		0		
Main Indicator 2	40	2/2 = 100%	40 * 100%	40 points

Sub-indicator 2A	1	
Sub-indicator 2B	1	
Total score of the category		60 out of 100 points

2024 Index Structure

The Index contains 47 indicators divided under 7 categories. The categories constitute the thematic framework of the indicators which represent key criteria for the overview of the situation of VAWG. For each indicator, the Index provides a comparative summary at the regional level as well as information for each country arranged in alphabetic order.

- The first category examines the legal framework and public policies on women's rights, and its conformity with international standards, in particular CEDAW. It addresses laws specifically designed to combat VAWG, where such laws exist. It also concerns public policies, including budget policies, and national strategies to combat VAWG. 14 indicators are included under this category.
- The second category deals with standard procedures and guidelines. The police and judicial procedures put in place, whether in terms of the opportunities for victims to report offences or the obligation to inform the authorities of such offences by persons who are aware of them; legal aid or the existence of a guide for professionals, in order to unify and simplify procedures. This category consists of 13 indicators.
- The third refers to services provided by the government to victims of VAWG. This category includes 5 indicators that address both the victims themselves, their physical and psychological care, and the caregivers, who must be specially trained to treat victims of all types of VAWG, applying a victim-centred approach.
- The fourth category, which consists of 3 indicators, is linked to the collection and dissemination of statistics on VAWG and their classification by type of violence and frequency, but also in relation to whether or not they have been the subject of complaints and whether or not these complaints have led to convictions and lawsuits.
- The fifth category looks at preventive programs and measures, including whether specific training programmes for teachers have been set up and whether curricula and handbooks for primary, secondary and university education have integrated issues related to VAWG. This category also looks at national awareness raising, and advocacy campaigns initiated by the governments to address VAWG. This category includes 4 indicators.
- The sixth category addresses the professional capacity of first respondents. It covers institutional training for policemen and policewomen and court staff who deal directly with victims of VAWG as well as the institutionalization of these trainings. This category consists of 3 indicators.

- The seventh category focuses on national and regional coordination mechanisms. It includes 3 indicators for cooperation mechanisms between police, shelters, hospitals, courts/judiciaries, ministries and civil society on national level, and 2 indicators for regional or international cooperation mechanisms.

Rationality of Indicators' Categories

The rationale behind the selection of these categories are as follows:

Legal framework and public policies:

National laws provide a framework for identifying women's rights and for defining violations³ of these rights based on international human rights and women's rights conventions. Governments have the primary responsibility for enacting and implementing laws, conducting legal public awareness, and ensuring their harmonization with international conventions to prevent and combat VAWG. VAWG is now fully recognized as a human rights violation and therefore, all its forms must be mentioned in national laws and criminalized by them. Due to its complex, prevalent, and multifaceted nature, there should be a specific and comprehensive law to combat VAWG, even if certain forms are already criminalized under the penal code.

Public policies are especially important tools for change and must be undertaken to prevent and combat VAWG. Adequate resources such as allocation of budgets, human resources and capacity building are essential for the implementation of the desired change.

Standard procedures and guidelines:

Police: VAWG crimes are reported to the police who is the authority concerned with investigating crimes of violence against women and tracking the perpetrators. Therefore, it is especially important to have victim-sensitive procedures and guidelines and provide police officers, especially those who directly deal with VAWG cases, with capacity building.

Justice: The judiciary is the guarantor of women's and girls' rights and of impunity. Civil and criminal courts work to implement laws on violence against women and girls, to ensure their protection, to compensate them for the damages they suffered and to hold the perpetrators accountable, which lays the foundation for the prevention of VAWG.

Health: The health sector represents an important early point for identifying VAWG through medico-legal services and referring cases to the concerned authorities and police for investigation. The health sector can also provide a continuum of services ranging from medical to psychosocial care and rehabilitation.

³ VAWG is recognized as a violation of women's human rights by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and all other women's rights treaties. As a matter of fact, the recognition of VAWG as a human rights issue is rooted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which sets out that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" (article 1), without distinction of any kind including sex (article 2) as well as in all other International Human Rights Law instruments. However, it took decades for women's rights organizations to convince the International Community to consider that VAWG is not just a private matter but an actual human rights violation which the State has an obligation to address, as clearly set out by CEDAW.

Youth and Sports: Youth centres, sport clubs are places where VAWG can be perpetrated, especially against adolescent girls. In this respect, the youth and sport ministries need to be considered as relevant authorities for intervention

Education: Schools, institutes, and universities are places where VAWG can be committed, but they are also places to change mindsets, where attitudes and understanding pertaining to VAWG are shaped by raising awareness of students and pupils through curricula and teaching content.

Provision of services funded by the State: Services for victims and survivors of VAWG as hotlines, specialized crisis centres, counselling, shelters are basic services to address VAWG and need to be confidential, free, accessible and inclusive for all categories of women, in particular those whose vulnerability increased due to their status as refugees, disabilities, age, ethnicity etc.

Data system and statistics: Providing accurate and comprehensive data and statistics is one of the governments' responsibilities. Collecting, analysing, and disseminating data and statistics is very crucial in enhancing States accountability acting against VAWG and raising public awareness.

Preventive programs and measures: Preventive programs are necessary for addressing the rising rates of VAWG. Both governments and civil society must adopt campaigns to address social tolerance to VAWG and stereotypes.

Professional capacity of first respondents: Staff and workers who deal with victims⁴ of VAWG must be qualified and aware about the skills and procedures that must be taken to address VAWG, applying victim-centred approach.

National coordination and regional cooperation: Cross-sectorial and ministerial planning and coordination mechanisms among governmental institutions are essential to address VAWG. Women's rights organisations are critical partners especially in prevention and providing the means to reach communities. Governments must therefore cooperate and coordinate with them for addressing VAWG.

Furthermore, as VAWG is a universal problem, preventing and combating it requires cooperation on regional and international level.

⁴ The terminology "victim" is used in this index as defined by the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power Adopted by General Assembly resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985 as follows: 1. "Victims" means persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within Member States, including those laws proscribing criminal abuse of power . 2. A person may be considered a victim, under this Declaration, regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted and regardless of the familial relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. The term "victim" also includes, where appropriate, the immediate family or dependants of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization." As suggested by the UN declaration, the degree of involvement of victims of violence in the traumatic event leads to a distinction between direct victims and indirect victims. The direct victim may have been a subject (victimized) or a witness (having seen) the act of violence. The indirect victim, "did not witness the event but is concerned by it and/or by its consequences due to its emotional closeness with the direct victims. Indirect victims are all persons close to a primary victim who are disrupted by the experience of the latter." The UN declaration also highlights the rights of the victims in terms of access to justice and fair treatment, restitution, compensation and assistance.

Annexes

Annex 1: The Index structures

First Category: Legal framework and public policies
Indicator 1: Ratification of all articles CEDAW
Sub-indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The State ratified CEDAW agreement- The State did not make a reservation in the field of equality between women and men in Constitution or other appropriate legislation- The State did not make a reservation in the field of equality between women and men in granting citizenship to children- The State did not make a reservation in the field of equality between women and men in concluding contracts and freedom in movement- The State did not make a reservation in the field of equality between women and men in family and marriage relations- The State did not make a reservation in the field of accepting the treaty for arbitration between the parties- The State ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW
Indicator 2: Alignment of the Constitution with international legal obligations pertaining to women's rights
Sub-indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Constitution states explicitly on prohibiting discrimination based on sex- The constitution states on the position of international law in the hierarchy of its legal sources- The constitution mentions status of international women's rights conventions- The Constitution states on the supremacy of ratified international treaties over national laws- The Constitution states explicitly on prohibiting VAWG- The Constitution adopts affirmative measures as a step towards achieving equality of participation between women and men in the decision making in all fields

Indicator 3 All laws are in line with all international legal obligations pertaining to the protection of women from VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- The law criminalises explicitly marital rape
- The law does not provide for a reduced penalty in the event of killing women under the pretext of what is called “honour motives.”
- The law defines prostitution as a violence against women and girls
- The law does not criminalise prostituted women
- The law allows safe abortion /voluntary interruption of pregnancy including women who have been raped
- The law does not consider sexual acts out of marriage a criminal offence
- The law prohibits polygamy
- The law does not exempt the rapist from the penalty in case he married the victim
- The law does not include commuted sentence for the rapist in case the victim dropped the charge
- The law ensures equality between men and women in guardianship over children
- The law ensures equality between men and women in terms of the right to divorce
- The law guarantees the inheritance shares of both women and men
- The labour law criminalizes sexual harassment in workplace
- The labour law does not include restrictions on women’s work at night
- The labour law provides for equality in wages between men and women for the equal work

Indicator 4: Existence of a comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- There is a comprehensive law criminalizing VAWG

If a comprehensive law on VAWG exists:

- The law criminalises all forms of VAWG including the new forms of violence such as cyberviolence
- The law provides prevention measures and protection orders
- The law provides for support services for women victims of VAWG (health, economic, social, psychological, legal)

- The law ensures penalising the perpetrators
- The law provides for trainings of police, judicial officials as well as service providers
- The law provides for collaboration between relevant ministries, police, courts, social and health services
- The law ensures reporting and referral mechanisms for relevant ministries, police, social organisations, and health services
- The law requires information gathering and research to support policy development
- The law provides for monitoring and evaluation to oversee implementation of legislation

Indicator 5: Existence of specific law/s that address specific forms or types of VAWG

Sub-indicator:

- There are specific law/s that address specific forms or types of VAWG
- The law provides prevention measures and protection orders
- The law ensures penalising the perpetrators
- The law provides for collaboration between relevant ministries, police, courts, social and health services
- The law ensures reporting and referral mechanisms for relevant ministries, police, social organisations, and health services

Indicator 6: The definition of VAWG in legislation is in line with the UN resolutions on women's rights

Sub-indicators:

- The definition of VAWG is according to the definition of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 1993
- The definition includes all forms of VAWG
- There are no other references that impede the adoption of the definition of VAWG (religions, law, culture, judicial interpretations)

Indicator 7: Existence of a parliamentary oversight role on the implementation of laws pertaining to VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- There is committee on women's rights in the parliament
- The committee contributes to drafting the laws on women
- The committee provides periodic regular reports on the application of the laws

- There is a specific administrative mechanism or unit in the parliament to oversee the implementation of the laws pertaining women

Indicator 8: The laws provide for free services to victims of VAWG including legal assistance, psychological and medical services, economic empowerment, and reintegration

Sub-indicators:

- The law states on providing free assistance
- The law states on providing medical service
- The law states on providing free psychosocial support services
- The law states on providing economic empowerment
- The law states on providing reintegration services
- The law states on providing funding to CSOs to provide services to women victims of VAWG
- The law does not include restrictions on CSOs in providing services for women victims of VAWG

Indicator 9: The laws ensure the right of women to sexual and reproductive health

Sub-indicators:

- The law provides for family planning services
- The law ensures the access of women to free family planning services
- The law allows the safe abortion /voluntary interruption of pregnancy

Indicator 10: The existing laws, including family laws, whether civil, customary or religious, protect women and girls from partners, male relatives, and current and ex- spouses who cause VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- The law criminalises explicitly marital rape
- The law offers women legal protection from marital rape
- The law criminalises incest
- The law guarantees equal rights between men and women in marriage and divorce
- The law guarantees equal rights between men and women in the guardianship on their children
- The law does not allow polygamy

- The law guarantees the inheritance shares of both women and men

Indicator 11: Existence of a legal framework that offers women and girls legal protection from harassment in the public space and workplace

Sub-indicators:

- The law includes a definition of sexual harassment according to the definition of International Labour Organization Convention No. 190 on violence and harassment
- The penal code criminalises sexual harassment in all its forms
- The penal code criminalises harassment in the public places
- The penal code criminalizes the harassment in the education places
- The penal code criminalises sexual harassment in the workplace
- The labour law states on a work environment free from violence
- The law tightens the punishment in case the perpetrator has power over the victim
- The labour law includes mechanisms for reporting harassment in the workplace

Indicator 12: Existing laws, in the absence of a comprehensive law on VAWG, criminalize “honour crimes” and prohibit harmful practices such as FGM, and early marriage

Sub-indicators:

- The law does not include commuted sentence for the so-called “crimes for honor motives”
- The law prohibits marrying minors under 18 years without any exception
- The law prohibits FGM

Indicator 13: The laws ensure the punishment of the rapist regardless of the rapist’s acceptance to marry the victim

Sub-indicators:

- The law includes the definition of rape in line with the UN definition that includes all types of rape
- The law does not commute the sentence of the rapist in case they married the victim
- The law prevents using commuted sentence in case the woman victim dropped the charge

Indicator 14: There is a national strategy for preventing and combating VAWG with adequate resources, budget, and a monitoring and evaluation plan

Sub-indicators:

- There is a national strategy on combating VAWG
- The strategy has a budget
- The strategy has human resources allocated to its implementation
- The strategy has an action plan
- The strategy has a monitoring and evaluation plan
- The strategy includes cooperation with different ministries
- The strategy includes cooperation with CSOs
- The strategy includes interventions in health sector
- The strategy includes interventions in police sector
- The strategy includes interventions in justice sector
- The strategy includes interventions in education sector
- The strategy includes interventions in social services sector
- The strategy includes interventions in media sector

Second category: Standard procedures and regulations

Justice

Indicator 15: Existence of procedures facilitating the access of women and girls to justice

Sub-indicators:

- There are procedures for facilitating the access of women victims of VAWG to full justice
- There is a specialized court or there are special procedures adopted for cases of VAWG
- There are options for the women victims of VAWG to contact women public prosecutors
- There are new/additional procedures, regulations, or plans to facilitate the access of women to justice during crisis and natural disasters

Indicator 16: Reported cases of VAWG are acted upon, including investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators, wherever the violence occurs: home, school, workplace, and public sphere

Sub-indicators:

- There are special spaces at the court level to receive and guide women victims of VAWG
- There are procedures for informing women victims of VAWG of their rights at all stages of litigation
- Lawsuits of the public rights pertaining VAWG are not obliged to be dismissed by reconciliation and compromise
- There are special procedures and guidelines for hearing women and girls who are victims of VAWG, especially sexual violence
- There are measures adopted to ensure that perpetrators do not go unpunished
- There are measures adopted to ensure that women victims of VAWG enjoy fair compensation
- There are urgent protective measures adopted ensuring that the perpetrator is kept away from the victim

Indicator 17: The existence of a special registration system for the percentage of VAWG cases sentenced in proportion to reported cases

Sub-indicators:

- There is a special registration system for the percentage of VAWG cases sentenced
- There is a special registration system for percentage of VAWG cases reported
- The right to information is guaranteed without violating the privacy of women victims of VAWG
- Governmental reports are issued periodically on VAWG cases

Police

Indicator 18: Existence of a police directorate or unit, specifically dedicated to violence against women and girls

Sub-indicators:

- There is a police directorate or unit dedicated to combating VAWG
- There is a police directorate or unit dedicated to combating domestic violence
- There is sufficient women staff within the directorate structure

Indicator 19: Existence of procedures and regulations enabling women and girls to easily report VAWG to police

Sub-indicators:

- There are measures adopted by police to deal with cases of VAWG
- The procedures include protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers
- The procedures and regulations include interviewing parties and witnesses, including children, in separate rooms to ensure that there is an opportunity to speak freely
- The procedures and regulations include registering the complaint with all the details
- The procedures and regulations include provision of advice to the women victim about her rights
- The procedures and regulations include provision of means of transportation for the women victim to the nearest hospital or medical facility if necessary or required
- Information on police services is spread
- There are networking mechanisms between police and service providers of other parties for women victims of VAWG
- There are new/additional procedures, regulations, or plans to facilitate the access of women to police during crisis and natural disasters

Indicator 20: Existence of standard procedures and guidelines for service providers assisting victims of VAWG**Sub-indicators:**

- There are procedures and guidelines for service providers assisting victims of VAWG
- There are options for the complainants /the women victim of VAWG to contact a women police officer
- There is a mechanism to monitor the application of these procedures

Indicator 21: Existence of victim-sensitive procedures and guidelines to be used by law to identify, interview, and assist trafficked women and girls**Sub-indicators:**

- There are victim-sensitive procedures and guidelines to be used by law to identify, interview, and assist trafficked women for sexual purpose
- There are victim-sensitive procedures and guidelines to be used by law to identify, interview, and assist trafficked women for forced labour
- There is a mechanism to monitor the application of these procedures

Indicator 22: Existence of standard procedures and guidelines to identify and prosecute traffickers of women and girls

Sub-indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are standard procedures and guidelines to identify and prosecute traffickers on women - There is a mechanism to monitor the application of these procedures
Health
Indicator 23: Existence of regulations that oblige service providers to care for and/or refer women victims of VAWG
Sub-indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are regulations that oblige health service providers to care for and/or refer women victims of VAWG regardless of the type of violence, the capacity of the victim, and the nationality - There is a mechanism to monitor the application of these regulations - The women victim can file a complaint in case of non-application
Indicator 24: Existence of a unit or focal person within the ministry of health for the coordination of the health sector response for victims of VAWG
Sub-indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a specific unit within the ministry of health for coordination of the health sector response for victims of VAWG - The procedures guarantee preserving the evidence for the trial - Existence of health services for victims of physical and sexual violence, including forensic medicine and psychiatry - The health services are provided for free - There is coordination of the health sector response for victims of VAWG - There are new/additional procedures, regulations, or plans to facilitate the access of women to health sector during crisis and natural disasters - There is a unit specialized in diagnosing victims of physical and sexual violence
Education
Indicator 25: The State monitors the compulsory education for girls
Sub-indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a mechanism to monitor the compulsory education for girls

- Analysis responsive to the different needs of women and men is adopted in crisis and natural disasters measures in relation to education
- Existence of new/additional procedures, regulations, electronic curricula or plans to facilitate the access of girls to education during crisis and natural disasters

Indicator 26: Existence of regulations and/or procedures to prevent sexual harassment

Sub-indicators:

- There are regulations and/or procedures to prevent sexual harassment
- There is a mechanism to report violence against girls in school
- There is a mechanism to monitor the application of these procedures

Indicator 27: Existence of regulations and procedures that address VAWG in youth centres, clubs, and stadiums

Sub-indicators:

- There are specific regulations and procedures that address VAWG in youth centres, clubs, and stadiums
- Sports are available to women at the same level as men
- There is mechanism to monitor the application of these procedures
- There are actions for dissemination of information on these regulations

Third category: Provision of services funded by the State:

Indicator 28: Existence of dedicated shelters, specialized crisis centres or other housing

Sub-indicators:

- There are shelters dedicated for women victims of VAWG
- The shelters cover all regions of the country (regions / provinces / governorates)
- The instructions of shelters allow the children of women victims of VAWG to be accompanied until the age of 18
- The shelters provide social and economic empowerment
- There are other options available to provide accommodation services for women victims of VAWG, such as providing paid apartments
- The shelters provide full protection for women
- The services are provided in line with the international criteria
- These shelters are available to all women victims of VAWG without prior conditions and approvals

- Women beneficiaries of the shelter services can leave and enter within specific control without being considered a female inmate with no freedom

Indicator 29: Existence of hotlines and free psychosocial counselling

Sub-indicators

- There is a hotline service available in your country to report cases of VAWG
- The reporter of cases of VAWG enjoys legal protection and confidentiality in not revealing their identity
- There are other means of reporting, such as smart applications or official websites
- The departments responsible for dealing with cases of VAWG have psychological counselling services provided by women and men specialists
- If yes, these counselling and psychological assistance services are provided free of charge

Indicator 30: Existence of legal counselling and legal assistance

Sub-indicators:

- Legal aid and advice services are provided as part of the work of the departments responsible for dealing with cases of VAWG
- Legal aid services are available to all women victims, whether they are victims of VAWG, women rights defenders, or service providers
- These legal services are available for free
- These legal services cover all regions of the country (provinces/ regions / governorates)

Indicator 31: Existence of specialized public services for women of vulnerable groups of victims of VAWG (minorities, migrant, disabled women): bilingual hotlines, specialized crisis centres, specialized trained police

Sub-indicators:

- The hotlines are available in languages other than Arabic
- There are specialized centres to help women who are foreign workers, immigrants, and refugees
- Translation services are available for this category of women in the directorates of police, the public prosecution and the judiciary
- Legal and psychological assistance and counselling services are available for this category of women for free
- These services are available for all women victims regardless of their legal status

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal and psychological assistance and counselling services are available for disabled women for free
Indicator 32: Existence of government funds dedicated to shelters, or centres
<p>Sub-indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government allocates financial support for shelters - The government allows CSOs to establish and manage shelters in coordination with government - CSOs have the right to benefit from the grants and funding provided by international actors and partners in order to provide shelter services
Fourth category: Data Systems and statistics
Indicator 33: Existence of public statistics on all forms of VAWG, including the rate of unreported violence
<p>Sub-indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are public statistics on VAWG - These statistics cover all areas including the rural and urban areas and refugee camps - These statistics cover all women categories (married, divorced, women with disabilities, employed, unemployed, migrants, and displaced) - Existence of statistics for measuring the increased rates of VAWG during crisis and natural risks - There is a commission, or an observatory specialised to collect and disseminate data
Indicator 34: The statistics provide information in terms of type of VAWG, severity and frequency, and characteristics of victims
<p>Sub-indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The statistics cover all types of VAWG - The statistics cover the severity and frequency of VAWG cases - The statistics cover characteristics of women victims of VAWG cases - The statistics cover the characteristics of perpetrators of VAWG - There are Statistics on following up on the complaints of the victims
Indicator 35: The statistics and data collected by national agencies/institutions are disseminated
<p>Sub-indicators:</p>

- The statistics and data are disseminated
- The statistics and data are updated regularly
- The statistics and data are accessible to the public

Fifth category: Preventive programs and measures

Indicator 36: The national educational curricula cover issues related to VAWG, equality between women and men, and women rights

Sub-indicators:

- The national educational curricula cover issues related to equality between men and women and women rights
- The national educational curricula cover issues related to VAWG
- Equality between girls and boys in e-learning materials and activities are mainstreamed

Indicator 37: Existence of training programs and manuals for teachers on equality between men and women and VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- There are manuals responsive to different needs of women and men for teachers at first and secondary level
- There are training programs for teachers on equality between women and men and VAWG
- The training curriculum covers all types of VAWG and adopts the principles of women rights as included in international agreements
- The training is institutionalised within the Ministry of Education
- The training programs target a sufficient number of teachers representing different geographic areas in the country

Indicator 38: Existence of governmental awareness raising programs and advocacy campaigns to address stereotypes about women and men and VAWG in public and private spheres and shift the blame to perpetrators

Sub-indicators:

- There are annual governmental awareness raising activities to address stereotypes about women and men and VAWG in public and private spheres
- The governmental awareness raising activities include shifting the blame to perpetrators
- The government conducts campaigns on women reproductive health and family planning services
- Existence of governments awareness raising campaigns on combating WPSA and VAWG during crisis and natural disasters

Indicator 39: Existence of programs responsive to the different needs of women and men that target media

Sub-indicators:

- There are training programs for journalists and media professionals on women rights and combating VAWG
- There is a media policy sensitive to the different needs of women and men

Sixth category: Professional capacity of first respondents

Indicator 40: Existence of trainings for policemen and policewomen, and court staff who deal directly with victims of VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- There are trainings for policemen and policewomen who deal directly with women victims of VAWG
- There are trainings for court staff and judges who deal directly with women victims of VAWG
- There are trainings for public prosecution staff and judges who deal directly with women victims of VAWG
- The training curriculum covers all types of VAWG and adopts the principles of women rights as per international women's rights mechanisms
- The trainings target policemen and policewomen from different areas and sites
- The trainings target court staff and judges from different sites and areas

Indicator 41: The Ministry of Health provides specific training on VAWG for healthcare providers

Sub-indicators:

- There is a specific training on VAWG for healthcare providers
- The training curriculum covers all types of VAWG and adopts the principles of women rights as included in the international agreements
- The training targets healthcare providers in different areas, hospitals and health centres

Indicator 42: Trainings on VAWG are institutionalized within different ministries and governmental institutions

Sub-indicators:

- The training on VAWG is institutionalized in the police sector and is provided regularly
- The training on VAWG is institutionalized in the courts sector and is provided regularly
- The training on VAWG is institutionalized within the health sector and is provided regularly
- The training on VAWG is institutionalized for social services providers and is provided regularly

Seventh category: National Coordination and Regional Cooperation

Indicator 43: Existence of cooperation mechanisms between ministries police, shelters, hospitals, courts/judiciaries, and civil society for addressing VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- There is a clear cooperation mechanism and coordination between the parties / ministries concerned with addressing VAWG mentioned by law/bylaw/regulations
- The cooperation agreements stipulate explicitly on the role of CSOs as part of the bodies concerned with cooperation and coordination for addressing VAWG
- There is a mechanism to monitor the application of cooperation between the concerned parties for addressing VAWG

Indicator 44: Existence of a governmental body/agency in charge of leadership, coordination, and support for VAWG policies across different sectors, including services for women and girl refugees

Sub-indicators:

- There is a governmental body/agency responsible for leading, coordinating and supporting policies of combating VAWG between different sectors, including services for refugee women

Indicator 45: Existence of a budget responsive to the different needs of women and men with specific lines allocated for addressing VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- The State adopts a budget responsive to different needs of women and men
- There is a budget line dedicated to combating VAWG
- The financial resources allocated to addressing VAWG are sufficient to provide the necessary protection and care for women victims of VAWG

Indicator 46: Existence of bi/multilateral-agreements or programs to address VAWG at the regional level based on international women's rights norms and agreements

Sub-indicators:

- The State joined regional multilateral agreements to address VAWG
- The State concluded bilateral agreements to address VAWG on the basis of international agreements
- The State cooperates effectively with the countries of the region to address VAWG, regardless of the presence or absence of regional or bilateral cooperation agreements

Indicator 47: Existence of regional monitoring mechanism on VAWG

Sub-indicators:

- The State is part of a regional mechanism to monitor VAWG in the countries of the region
- There is mechanism to monitor the application of this regional mechanism
- This regional mechanism is in line with the international agreements and conventions on women's rights

Annex 2: Final weights of categories and indicators

Category / Indicator	Weighting results (points out of 100)
First category: Legal framework and public policies	21
Indicator 1: Ratification of all articles CEDAW	11
Indicator 2: Alignment of the Constitution with all international legal obligations pertaining to women's rights	10
Indicator 3: Compliance of laws with all international legal obligations pertaining women's rights	9
Indicator 4: Existence of comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of VAWG	9
Indicator 5: Existence of specific law/s that address specific form or type of VAWG	7
Indicator 6: The definition of VAWG in legislation is in line with the UN resolutions on women rights	5
Indicator 7: Existence of parliamentary oversight role on the implementation of laws pertaining to VAWG	6

Indicator 8: The laws provide for free services to victims of VAWG including legal assistance, psychological and medical services, economic empowerment, and reintegration	6
Indicator 9: The laws ensure the right of women to sexual and reproductive health and freedom on their own bodies	5
Indicator 10: The existing laws, including family laws, whether civil, customary or religious, protect women and girls from partners, male relatives, and current and ex- spouses who cause VAWG	6
Indicator 11: Existence of legal framework offers women legal protection from harassment in the public space and workplace	6
Indicator 12: Existing laws, in the absence of comprehensive law on VAWG, criminalize honour crimes and prohibit harmful practices such as FGM, early marriage	6
Indicator 13: The laws ensure the punishment of rapist regardless of the acceptance to marry his victim	6
Indicator 14: There is a national strategy for preventing and combating VAWG with adequate resources, budget, and monitoring and evaluation plan	8

Second category: Standard procedures and regulations	13
Justice	
Indicator 15: Existence of procedures facilitating the access of women to justice	12
Indicator 16: Reported cases of VAWG are acted upon, including investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators, wherever the violence occurs: home, school, workplace, and public sphere	9
Indicator 17: The existence of special registration system for percentage of VAWG cases sentenced in proportion to reported cases	7
Police	
Indicator 18: Existence of a police directorate or unit, specifically dedicated to violence against women and girls	7
Indicator 19: Existence of procedures and regulations enabling women and girls to easily report VAWG to police	8
Indicator 20: Existence of standard procedures and guidelines for service providers assisting victims of VAWG	8

Indicator 21: Existence of victim-sensitive procedures and guidelines to be used by law to identify, interview, and assist trafficked women	6
Indicator 22: Existence of standard procedures and guidelines to identify and prosecute traffickers on women	7
Health	
Indicator 23: Existence of regulations that oblige service providers to care for and/or refer women victims of VAWG	9
Indicator 24: Existence of unit or a focal point within the ministry of health for coordination of health sector response for victims of VAWG	6
Education	
Indicator 25 The State monitors the compulsory education for girls	8
Indicator 26: Existence of regulations and/or procedures to prevent sexual harassment	6
Indicator 27: Existence of regulations and procedures that address VAWG in youth centres, clubs, and stadiums	6

Third category: Provision of services funded by the State:	15
Indicator 28: Existence of dedicated shelters, specialized crisis centres or other housing	25
Indicator 29: Existence of hotlines and free psychosocial counselling	16
Indicator 30: Existence of legal counselling and legal assistance	17
Indicator 31: Existence of specialized public services for women of vulnerable groups of victims of VAWG (migrant, disable women): bilingual hotlines, specialized crisis centres, specialized trained police	21
Indicator 32: Existence of government funds dedicated to shelters, or centres	22

Fourth category: Data Systems and statistics	14
Indicator 33: Existence of public statistics on all forms of VAWG, including the rate of unreported violence	38
Indicator 34: The statistics provide information in terms of type of VAWG, severity and frequency, characteristics of victims	30
Indicator 35 The statistics and data collected by national agencies/institutions are disseminated	32

Fifth category: Preventive programs and measures	15
Indicator 36: The national educational curricula cover issues related to VAWG, equality between women and men, and women rights	31
Indicator 37: Existence of training programs and manuals for teachers on equality between men and women and VAWG	23
Indicator 38: Existence of governmental awareness raising programs and advocacy campaigns to address stereotypes about women and men and VAWG in public and private spheres and shift the blame to perpetrators	23
Indicator 39: Existence of programs responsive to the different needs of women and men that target media	23

Sixth category: Professional capacity of first respondents	13
Indicator 40: Existence of trainings for policemen and policewomen, and court staff who deal directly with victims of VAWG	38
Indicator 41: Provision by the Ministry of Health of specific training on VAWG for healthcare providers	31
Indicator 42: institutionalization of trainings on VAWG within different ministries and governmental institutions	31

Seventh category: National Coordination and Regional Cooperation	10
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Indicator 43: Existence of cooperation mechanisms between ministries police, shelters, hospitals, courts/judiciaries, and civil society for addressing VAWG	22
Indicator 44: Existence of a governmental body/agency in charge of leadership, coordination, and support for VAWG policies across different sectors, including services for women refugees	21
Indicator 45: Existence of budget responsive to the different needs of women and men with specific lines allocated for addressing VAWG	25
Indicator 46: Existence of bi/multi-agreements or programs to address VAWG at the regional level based on international women's rights norms and agreements	17
Indicator 47: Existence of regional monitoring mechanism on VAWG	15