



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed



Regional Observatory on VAWG
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The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

SCORING RESULTS 2024 REGIONAL INDEX ON VAWG

2025

Report Algeria

2024 Regional Index on VAWG

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Introduction

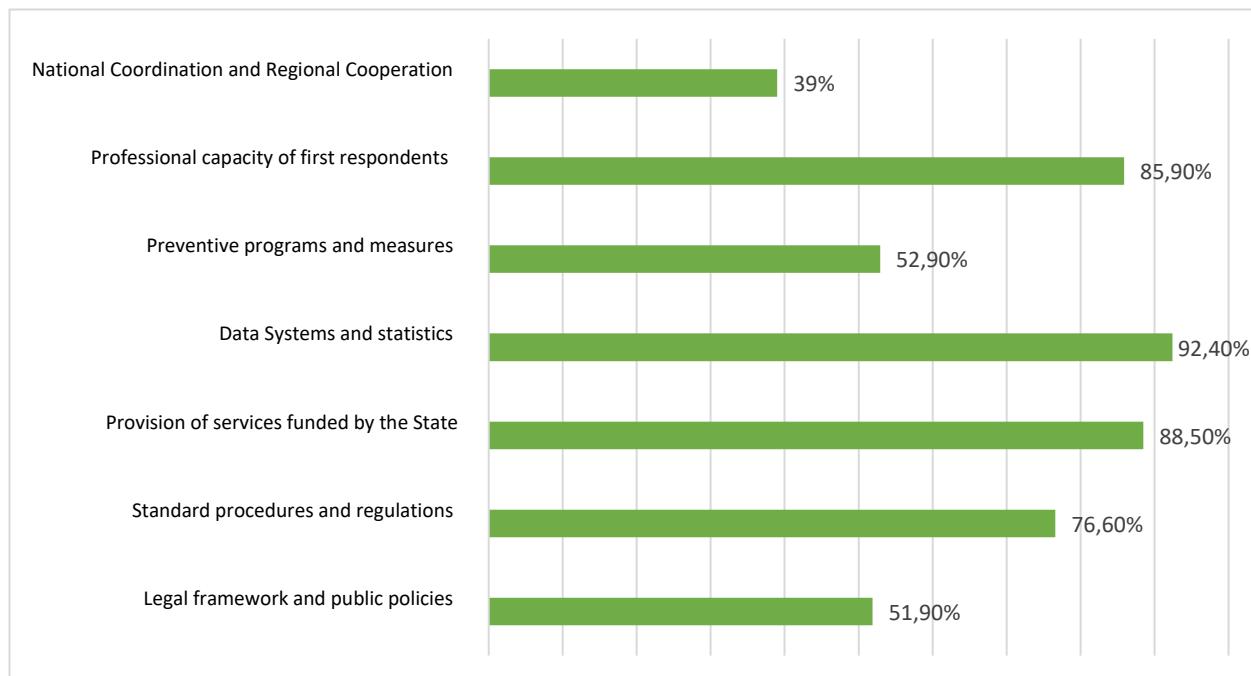
Algeria report on the 2024 Regional Index on VAWG presents a comprehensive assessment of the country's progress in combating Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) across seven key categories: legal framework and public policies, standard procedures and regulations, provision of services funded by the State, data systems and statistics, preventive programs and measures, professional capacity of first respondents, and national coordination and regional cooperation.

The overall results reflect a mixed level of achievement, combining strong institutional and service delivery performance with persisting legal and coordination challenges. The highest progress was recorded in data systems and statistics (92.4%) and provision of services funded by the State (88.5%), showing a solid foundation for evidence-based policy and State-supported services for survivors.

Similarly, the professional capacity of first respondents (85.9%) and standard procedures and regulations (76.6%) demonstrate the country's growing institutional readiness and operational frameworks.

However, lower scores in legal framework and public policies (51.9%), preventive programs and measures (52.9%), and national coordination and regional cooperation (39%) underscore the need for strengthened legislative reforms, prevention strategies, and inter-sectoral collaboration to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable national response to VAWG.

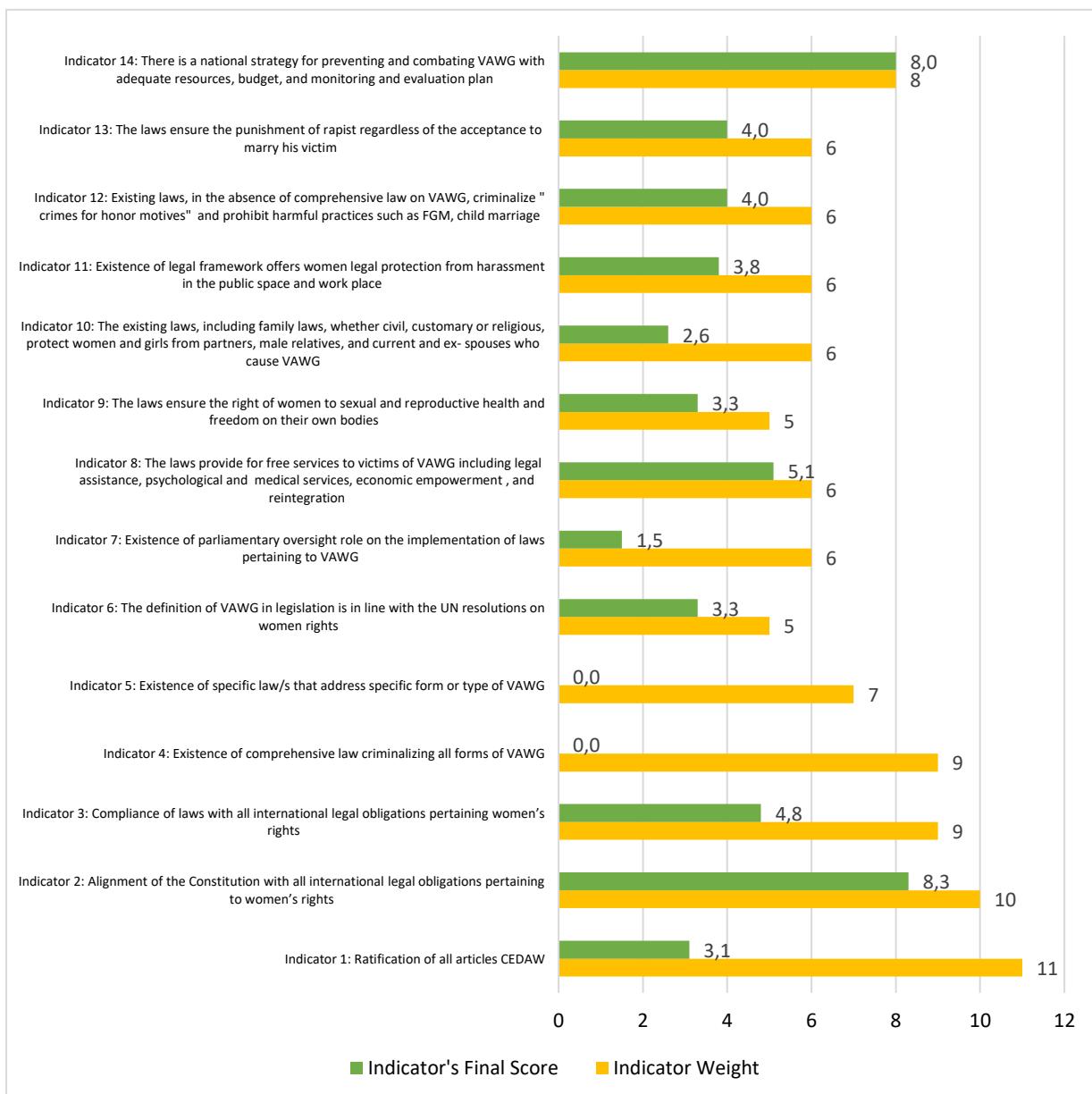
Level of achievement per category



❖ **First Category: Legal Framework and Public Policies**

Legal framework and public policies achieved 51.9%, reflecting moderate progress, however, highlighting persistent legal gaps and limited alignment with international standards.

First Category: Legal Framework and Public Policies



Algeria has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) but has entered **reservations** to the following articles:

1. Article 2, relating to policy measures regarding the elimination of discrimination against women.
2. Article 15(4), relating to equal rights of women regarding the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.
3. Article 16, relating to equality between women and men in all matters relating to marriage and family relations.
4. Article 29, relating to the administration of the Convention and arbitration in the event of a dispute over the application of treaty provisions.

Furthermore, Algeria has not ratified the **Optional Protocol** to CEDAW, which allows for the submission of individual complaints to the CEDAW Committee. These commitments correspond to indicator 1 score of 3.1/11.

Concerning **the Constitution**:

- a. The Algerian Constitution recognizes the binding nature of international treaties and conventions. Article 154 stipulates that “Treaties ratified by the President of the Republic, under the conditions set by the Constitution, shall prevail over the laws of Parliament.”
- b. The Constitution prohibits discrimination based on sex. Article 37 guarantees the right to equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on sex.
- c. The Constitution includes specific provisions on women’s rights. Article 68 obliges the State to ensure equality between women and men in the labour market and to promote the appointment of women to leadership positions in departments, administrations, and public institutions.
- d. Article 57 guarantees legal assistance for marginalized groups.
- e. Article 59 confirms the State’s commitment to “strengthening women’s political rights by increasing their representation in elected bodies.” Although no quota system is specified in the Constitution, a legislative quota for Parliament exists.

These constitutional provisions correspond to indicator 2 strong score of 8.3/10, confirming partial alignment with international gender equality obligations.

At the **national legislative level**, the main laws not aligned with international commitments on women’s rights are as follows:

1. The Penal Code and Family Code do not explicitly criminalize marital rape, consistent with indicator 4 score of 0.0/9, showing that comprehensive criminalization of all forms of VAWG is still lacking.
2. Article 279 of the Penal Code provides for a reduced sentence for a man who catches his wife engaging in extramarital sex and kills her and her partner.
3. Articles 304–313 of the Penal Code prohibit abortion, including for rape survivors, except when the pregnancy endangers the woman’s life.
4. Article 339 of the Penal Code criminalizes sexual relations outside marriage.
5. Articles 343–347 of the Penal Code prohibit prostitution but while punishing the clients, they do not ensure the protection of women in prostitution.
6. The Family Code does not guarantee equality in marriage and divorce regarding:

- Polygamy: it is permitted with notification to the existing wife and court approval.
- Guardianship: fathers are the sole legal guardians of the children.
- Inheritance: women's shares are smaller than men's.
- Divorce: men may unilaterally divorce verbally without going to court, whereas women have access only to limited forms of divorce obtainable through court after lengthy and costly procedures.
- Restrictions on women's right to choose a spouse.

These legal disparities reflect in the indicator 10 score of 2.6/6, confirming that family laws still fall short of full equality between women and men.

There is no comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of VAWG, as reflected in indicator 5 score of 0.0/9. However, the 2015 amendments to the Penal Code recognized violence against women as a distinct form of gender-based violence, applicable in both private and public spheres. The Penal Code criminalizes certain forms of violence, such as rape, sexual harassment in public and workplaces, and economic violence defined as depriving women of property, salary, or housing. Female genital mutilation is not legally prohibited but is believed not to be practiced in Algeria.

Other forms of violence not comprehensively criminalized include marital rape, child marriage, polygamy, inequality between women and men in inheritance, and so-called honour crimes. The Labor Code does not address sexual harassment in the workplace.

As there is no specific law addressing VAWG, the main related legislation includes:

- The Penal Code (1966, amended 2015);
- The Family Code (amended 2005);
- The Nationality Code (2005);
- The Legal Aid Law No. 02/09;
- And Law No. 04-23 of 2023 on the Prevention and Combat of Human Trafficking.

The law provides for legal aid to those without financial means but do not explicitly include women victims of violence. The Legal Aid Law covers persons lacking financial capacity—such as the elderly, widows, and minors—but does not specifically target women victims/survivors. Legal aid includes coverage of attorney and court costs. These provisions explain Indicator 8 score of 5.1/6, recognizing partial implementation of legal aid and psychosocial support mechanisms.

There are no provisions guaranteeing psychological or medical support specifically for women victims of violence, consistent with indicator 6 score of 3.3/5, showing still legal challenges to service provision for survivors.

Various laws address sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, medical care, and access to contraceptives. However, abortion remains illegal unless the pregnancy endangers the woman's life. The 2018 Health Law permits abortion in case woman's life or physiological health is at risk, or foetal deformity indicates non-viability.

The **Penal Code** prohibits sexual harassment in public spaces and workplaces under Article 341, which criminalizes “indecent acts,” punishable by imprisonment and fines. Penalties range from two to five years in prison and may increase to five to ten years if the crime targets a minor under 18 or involves threats, coercion, violence, abuse of authority, or fraud. These efforts correspond to indicator 11 score of 3.8/6, reflecting the existence of legal protection. However, the definition is not linked to discrimination based on sex, but to “morality” which empties the concept of human right of women to live a life free of violence and harassment based on sex.

The **Labor Code** does not explicitly prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace. The rapist is punished regardless of whether he marries the victim. Article 336 of the Penal Code No. 66-156 (1966) criminalizes rape, and if the victim is under 16 years, the sentence is increased to 10–20 years imprisonment. This improvement aligns with indicator 13 full score of 4.0/4, confirming full legal accountability regardless of marriage.

The Ministry of Family and Women’s Affairs developed a **National Strategy to Combat VAWG in 2007**. The strategy covers three main areas: 1) Providing appropriate and diverse services. 2) Mobilizing society and promoting national and social solidarity. 3) Building alliances.

This strategy facilitated minor legislative reforms such as amendments to the Nationality Code, Family Code, and Penal Code. In line with the strategy, ongoing training is provided for police and gendarmerie officers and judges. These efforts correspond to indicator 14 score of 8.0/8.

Main Gaps

- There are reservations to several CEDAW articles and the Optional Protocol to CEDAW is not ratified.
- Absence of a comprehensive law defining and criminalizing all forms of VAWG, including marital rape and domestic violence.
- Persistence of legal discrimination in the Family Code regarding inheritance, polygamy, and divorce.
- Lack of explicit legal protection against sexual harassment in the workplace.

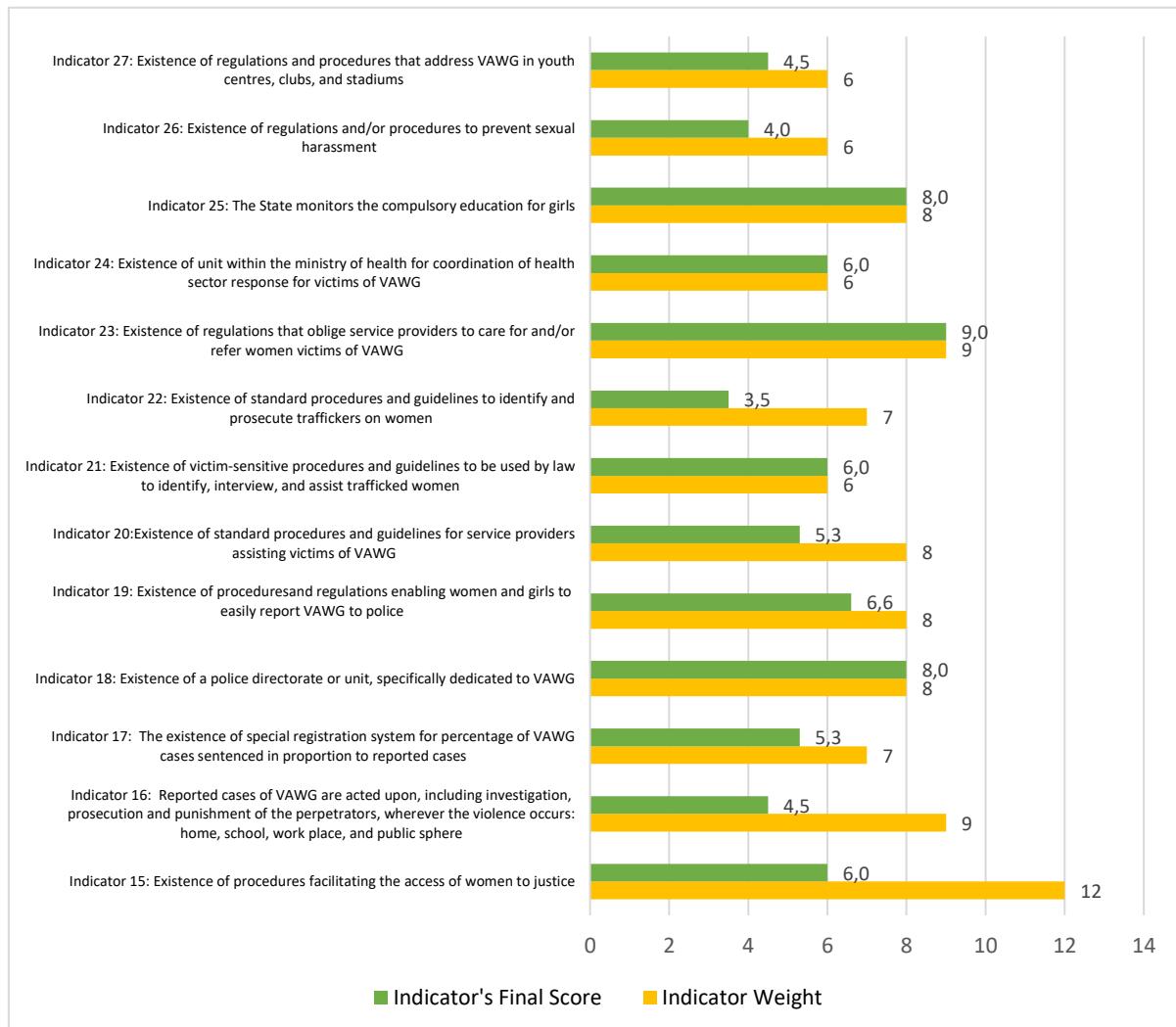
Recommendations

- Lift reservations to CEDAW and ratify the Optional Protocol to strengthen accountability mechanisms.
- Enact a comprehensive law on violence against women covering all forms of physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence.
- Amend the Family Code to ensure full equality between women and men in marriage, guardianship, and divorce.
- Integrate workplace sexual harassment provisions into the Labor Code and strengthen enforcement mechanisms.

❖ **Second Category: Standard Procedures and Guidelines**

Standard procedures and regulations achieved 76.6%, indicating well-established institutional mechanisms with partial inconsistencies in implementation.

Second Category: Standard Procedures and Guidelines



Justice

There are procedures that facilitate women victims of VAWG in accessing justice, including reporting systems managed by the police, courts, Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women's Affairs, and hospitals. A hotline for women's complaints is operated under the supervision of the same ministry. In addition, the Ministry of National Defence established a green line, along with a pre-complaint and information service, to report any crime to the police. These measures correspond to indicator 15

score of 6.0/12, confirming the partial existence of procedures facilitating women's access to justice.

Upon receiving a report of VAWG, regular follow-up procedures are taken, including the arrest of the perpetrator when necessary, and referring the case to courts and prosecutors to begin investigations. All proceedings may be dropped if the woman withdraws her complaint or if the matter is settled amicably. However, there is no available information on the number of cases adjudicated compared to those reported, which aligns with indicator 17 score of 5.3/7, reflecting limited availability of tracking systems for VAWG cases. There is no specific system for recording the proportion of VAWG cases that were adjudicated compared to those reported.

Police

There are no specific procedures or guidelines for identifying women victims of trafficking in persons; however, Law No. 04-23 of 2023 on the Prevention and Combat of Human Trafficking includes provisions for supporting and protecting trafficking victims, as well as procedures for identifying and investigating trafficking cases. Article 30 of this law stipulates that:

1. The victim or witness must be informed of their legal rights in a language they understand and be given the opportunity to express their legal and social needs.
2. If necessary, they must be referred to a doctor or placed in a shelter or another institution.
3. The necessary security protection must be provided to the victim and witness when required, in accordance with current legislation. That is why indicator 21 scored 6.0/6, demonstrating the existence of victim-sensitive procedures for identifying and assisting trafficked women.

There are no standardized governmental procedures for identifying and prosecuting traffickers. Law No. 04-23 of 2023 provides for increased penalties for committing trafficking crimes against a child, or under Article 41, if the perpetrator is the victim's spouse or legal guardian. Article 42 stipulates that the sentence may reach life imprisonment if the victim was subjected to sexual violence. The law also outlines the role of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking, including guidance on identifying traffickers. In addition, Article 303 of the Penal Code imposes prison sentences of up to 10 years for committing human trafficking crimes, corresponding to indicator 22 score of 3.5/7, which reflects partial implementation of standard prosecutorial procedures.

Health

There are regulations obliging healthcare providers to care for or refer victims of VAWG. The Public Health Law was amended in 2018 to require service providers—including doctors and nurses—to report cases of VAWG.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs have a coordinating unit within the Public Health Directorate, tasked with coordinating the health sector's response to survivors of VAWG. This corresponds to indicator 24 score of 6.0/6, confirming inter-ministerial coordination for health responses.

Education

There is no mechanism for monitoring compulsory education for girls. However, Article 12 of Law No. 08-04 of 2008 (the National Education Orientation Law) stipulates compulsory education for both girls and boys aged 6 to 16 years. The same article obliges both the State and parents to comply with these conditions, with fines of up to 50,000 Algerian Dinars for violations. Article 13 stipulates that education must be free and that assistance should be provided to disadvantaged students, though it does not specifically mention girls. These measures correspond to indicator 25 full score of 8/8, reflecting strong legal guarantees for compulsory education.

There are no regulations or procedures specifically addressing VAWG in youth centres, clubs, or sports arenas. However, the National Strategy to Combat VAWG (2007), which aims to eliminate such violence in public spaces, stipulates that the Ministry of Youth and Sports must implement all its provisions.

In general, the Penal Code provides for harsher penalties if crimes are committed against minors, which corresponds to indicator 27 score of 4.5/6, showing partial coverage of VAWG in youth settings.

Main Gaps

- Absence of a standardized national protocol for identifying and supporting victims of trafficking.
- Limited mechanisms to prevent harassment in youth centres, clubs, and sports facilities.
- No mechanism to monitor reported cases of VAWG.

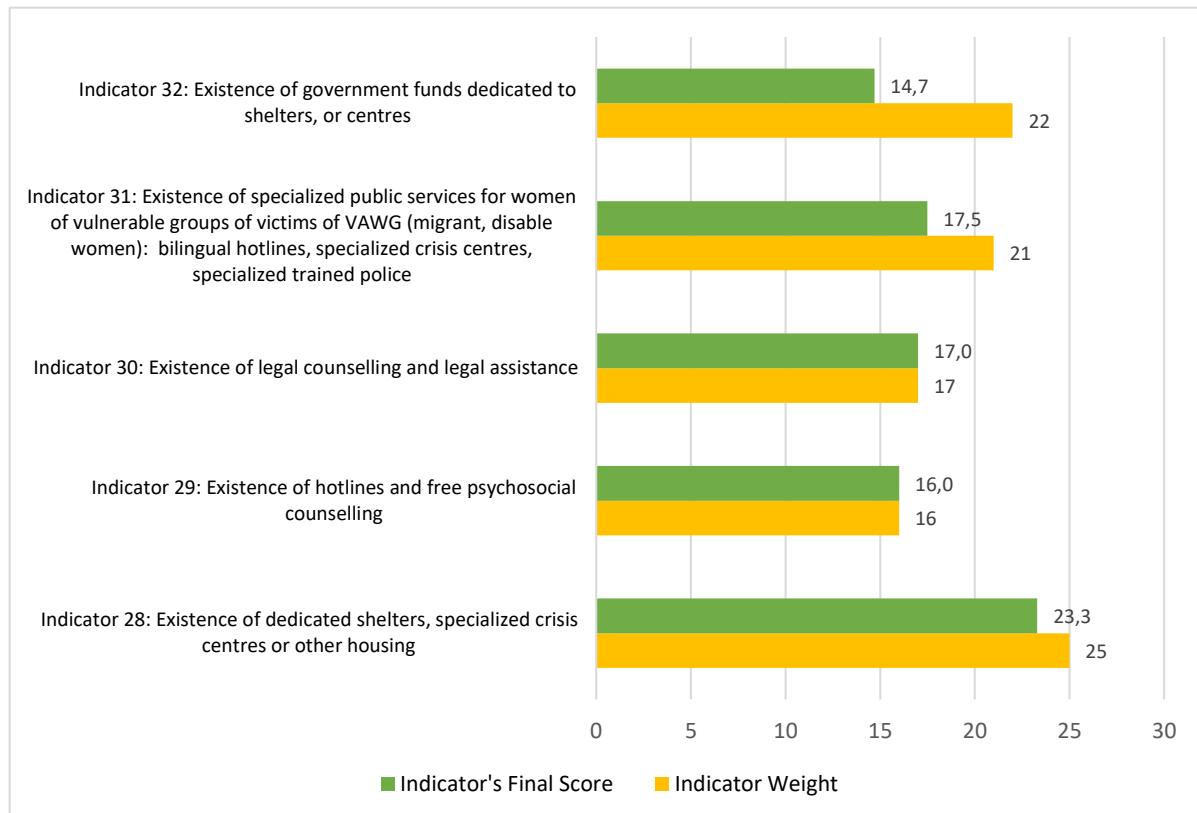
Recommendations

- Develop and institutionalize national referral and protection protocols for survivors of trafficking and violence.
- Strengthen anti-harassment and protection mechanisms in sports, cultural, and youth spaces.
- Create a central database for tracking reported, prosecuted, and resolved cases of VAWG.

❖ **Third Category: Provision of Services Funded by the State**

Provision of services funded by the State achieved 88.5%, demonstrating strong governmental commitment to service provision and survivor support.

Third Category: Provision of Services Funded by the State



Specialized services are provided for women victims of VAWG in two government-run shelters managed by the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs, located in Bou Ismaïl and Mostaganem, as well as five temporary shelters in Algiers, Constantine, Oran, Skikda, and Ouargla for adolescent girls under 18 years old, as well as to centres for the elderly that receive women over the age of 60. This corresponds to indicator 28 high score of 23.3/25, reflecting the existence of shelters but also highlighting the limited geographic distribution.

The national shelters affiliated with the Ministry provide psychological counselling and care services for women survivors of VAWG. The Ministry has also designated a hotline (1026) for women and girls to report cases of violence, but this hotline has not been made operational, as reflected in indicator 29 full score of 16/16, showing that mechanisms exist, however, needed to be fully functional nationwide.

Government-run shelters provide legal counselling for women victims of VAWG. Each shelter includes legal advisors who provide legal guidance, while legal aid offices under

the Ministry of Justice offer formal legal assistance, corresponding to indicator 30 strong score of 17/17, which confirms the existence of structured legal support services.

The government allocates funding for the two government-run shelters and the five temporary shelters, but no public funding is allocated to civil society organizations that operate shelters. This corresponds to indicator 32 score of 14.7/22, indicating the need to expand funding frameworks to include civil society service providers.

Main Gaps

- Limited number of government-run shelters and absence of shelters operated by CSOs with public funding.
- Uneven availability of psychosocial and legal services, concentrated in a few major cities.

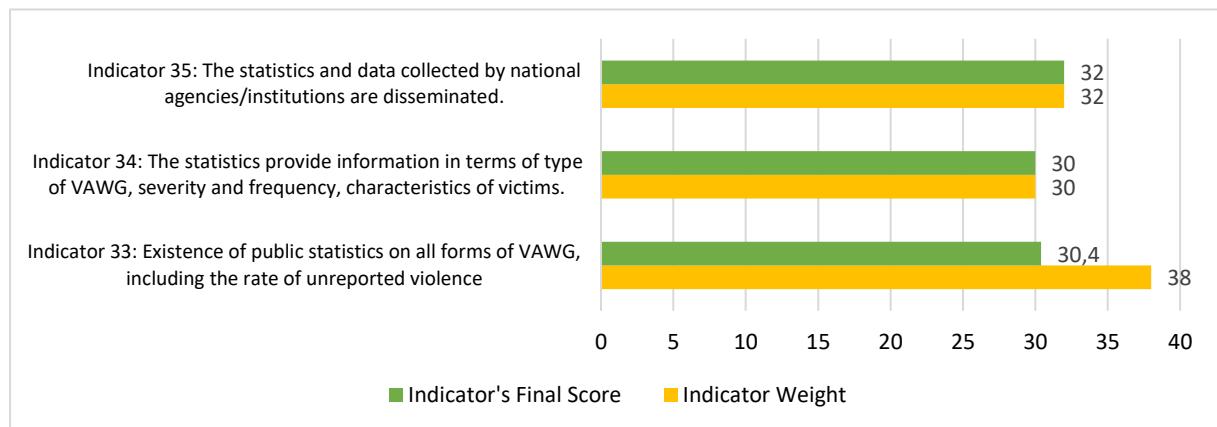
Recommendations

- Expand shelter coverage nationwide, including rural and underserved areas.
- Provide sustainable government funding to civil society organizations offering support to survivors.

❖ **Fourth Category: Data System and Statistics**

Data systems and statistics achieved 92.4%, showcasing advanced national capacity for data collection, analysis, and dissemination on VAWG.

Fourth Category: Data System and Statistics



Regular and up-to-date national statistics are available to measure the rate of all forms of VAWG, including the rate of unreported cases. These efforts correspond to indicator 33 score of 30.4/38, reflecting the presence of consistent national data sources despite some coverage limitations.

The National Office of Statistics, the National Institute of Public Health, and police departments provide statistical data on VAWG. However, these do not cover all types and rates of violence.

The National Institute of Public Health currently conducted a comprehensive national survey on VAWG (2024), which aligns with indicator 34 full score of 30/30, confirming that data collection provides detailed information on types, severity, and characteristics of violence.

Additionally, Algeria submits data on VAWG to the UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women, consistent with indicator 35 full score of 32/32, demonstrating active data dissemination through both national and international channels.

Main Gaps

- Lack of integrated national database capturing all forms of VAWG.
- Incomplete disaggregation of data by age, type of violence, and location.

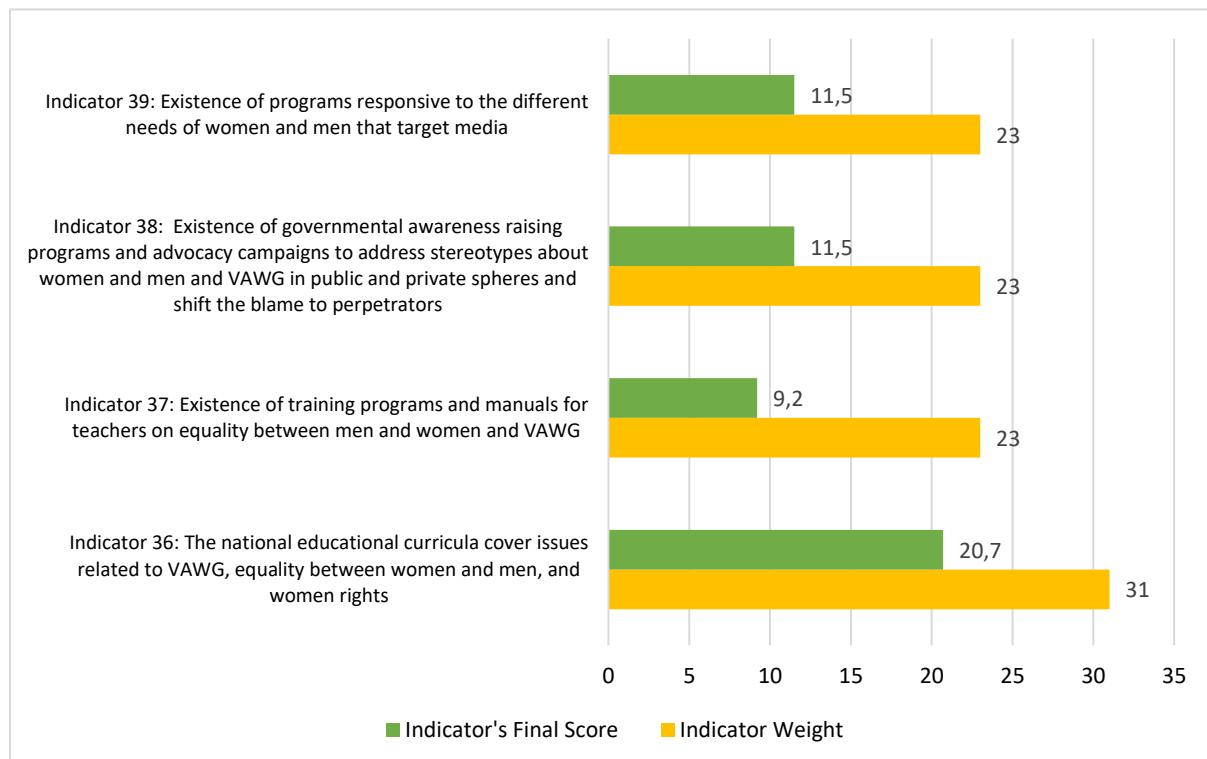
Recommendations

- Develop a unified national data system on VAWG with harmonized indicators that provide full data with disaggregation by age, type of violence, and location.
- Conduct regular nationwide surveys on VAWG prevalence and trends and publish annual national reports to inform the public and evidence-based policymaking.

❖ **Fifth Category: Preventive Programs and Measures**

Preventive programs and measures achieved 52.9%, revealing limited but growing investment in awareness and education initiatives addressing VAWG.

Fifth Category: Preventive Programs and Measures



The national educational curricula include topics related to VAWG, gender equality, and women's rights, which correspond to indicator 36 strong score of 20.7/31. Educational materials and textbooks at the primary and secondary levels have been revised to promote the values of equality, citizenship, and respect for human rights.

The Ministry of National Education integrates gender equality themes within civic education and social sciences courses, highlighting women's roles in society and the importance of rejecting discrimination and violence.

Additionally, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs organize annual awareness campaigns as part of the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women, in cooperation with civil society organizations and the media. These campaigns focus on breaking the silence surrounding domestic violence, strengthening women's access to justice, and promoting community-based prevention approaches.

Main Gaps

- Limited integration of gender equality and anti-VAWG content into educational curricula.
- Absence of training programs for teachers on gender equality.
- Insufficient awareness and media campaigns targeting harmful social norms.

Recommendations

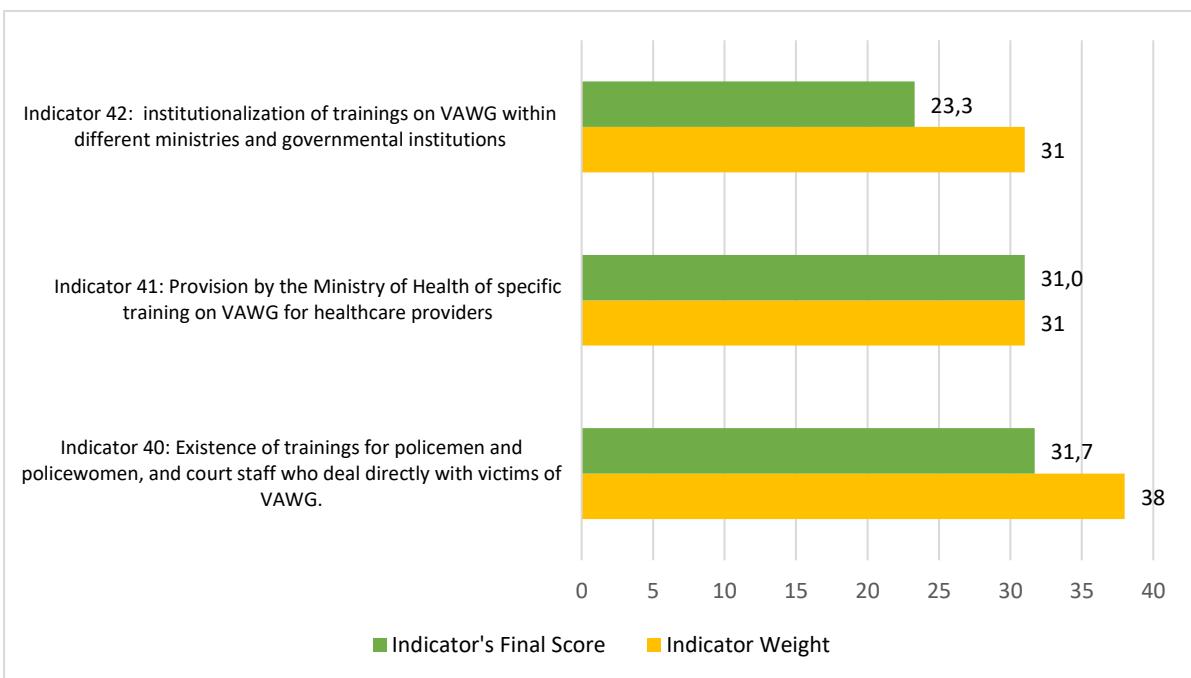
- Integrate comprehensive gender equality and human rights education into school curricula at all levels.
- Develop teacher training modules on equality between women and men and VAWG prevention, using the [Manual for Teacher for Gender Sensitive Education in the South Mediterranean](#).
- Expand public awareness campaigns addressing gender stereotypes and tolerance of violence.
- Collaborate with media institutions to promote content sensitive to needs of both women and men.

❖ **Sixth Category: Professional Capacity of First Respondents**



Professional capacity of first respondents achieved 85.9%, reflecting extensive training efforts and increasing responsiveness across police, health, and social sectors.

Sixth Category: Professional Capacity of First Respondents



The government provides some training courses for male and female police officers, corresponding to indicator 40 high score of 31.7/38. The police, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs, have conducted workshops and training sessions for police personnel on how to deal with women survivors of VAWG.

These trainings focus on communication techniques, case documentation, and ensuring safe referral of survivors to appropriate services. In several provinces, gender focal points within the police have been appointed to monitor cases and strengthen coordination with shelters and social services.

The Ministry of Health also conducts similar training sessions for healthcare providers, reflected in indicator 41 full score of 31/31. Medical staff receive specialized training on the clinical management of rape, sexual violence, and trauma-informed care. These sessions, often implemented with support from UNFPA and WHO, aim to improve the quality of medical and psychological support for survivors and ensure that confidentiality and ethical standards are maintained in all health facilities.

However, while training opportunities are increasingly available, there is still limited institutionalization of these programs across all ministries and sectors, as shown through indicator 42 partial score of 23.3/31.

Trainings are often project-based and rely on external funding, leading to uneven coverage across regions. There is no unified national curriculum or permanent training system on VAWG response, nor on survivor-centred approach within public service institutions.

Main Gaps

- Trainings for police and health workers are irregular and not institutionalized.
- Lack of training programs on responding to VAWG with survivor-centred approach.

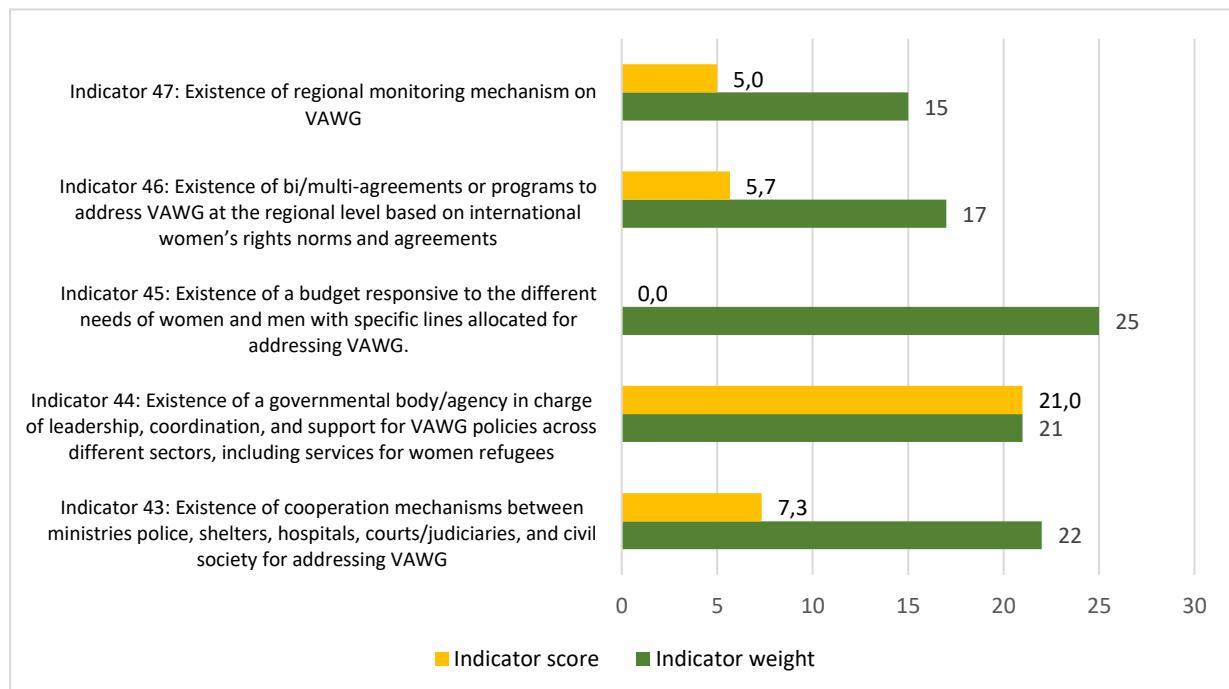
Recommendations

- Institutionalize mandatory training programs for police, health workers, and judiciary on VAWG and imbed in them survivor-centred approach.

❖ **Seventh Category: National Coordination and Regional Cooperation**

National coordination and regional cooperation achieved 39.0%, highlighting weak inter-ministerial collaboration and minimal engagement in regional frameworks.

Seventh Category: National Coordination and Regional Cooperation



The moderate achievement of indicator 43, which scored 7.3/22, shows that even if there are coordination mechanisms between the police, hospitals, and other government institutions for the referral of cases of VAWG, it remains limited in scope and institutional coverage. The Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs oversee this cooperation, which includes the existing Institutional Information System on Violence against Women, established to unify and exchange all data related to women and girls survivors of violence. Additionally, the National Committee for Women coordinates activities among various ministries to address VAWG.

There is also inter-ministerial coordination on women's issues, including VAWG, under the supervision of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs, through the Directorate of Women's Affairs and the General Directorate for Family, Women, and Social Cohesion. The Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs lead anti-violence policies across various sectors, which aligns with indicator 44 full score of 21/21, reflecting strong governmental leadership and institutional coordination. The National Committee to Combat Violence against Women, established in 2013, was responsible for developing the implementation plan for the National Strategy to Combat VAWG, but it was later abolished, consistent with indicator 45 score of 0/25, highlighting the absence of a gender-responsive national budget with specific

allocations for combating VAWG. There is no gender-responsive national budget with specific allocations for combating VAWG.

Indicator 46 score of 5.7/17 suggests limited engagement in regional or bilateral cooperation programs despite ongoing participation in some multilateral forums. At the regional level, Algeria participates in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The Ministerial Declaration of the Fifth UfM Ministerial Conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" includes four priority areas, one of which is combating VAWG. Algeria also participates in informal regional networks as the Coalition of Arab Women Parliamentarians to Combat Violence against Women, which aims to raise awareness among parliamentarians and the public, place VAWG among legislative priorities, and promote joint actions among parliamentarians in cooperation with relevant civil society organizations. The Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality (Ra'edat) advocates for gender equality and combating VAWG and calls for the adoption of comprehensive legislation in the Arab region.

While there is no regional monitoring mechanism on VAWG on the governmental level, Algeria as a member of the UfM, follows up on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Women's Rights (2022, Madrid). In terms of monitoring of the Declaration, the Ministers of the UfM States showed willingness in the 5th UfM Declaration to "Pay particular attention to well-functioning monitoring processes in the four priority areas of the Cairo Declaration well as to the quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the impact of actions undertaken." This is consistent with indicator 47 score of 5.0/15, indicating the absence of formalized regional monitoring mechanisms on VAWG.

Main Gaps

- Limited continuity of the national committee which weakens inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms
- Absence of a gender-responsive national budget with dedicated funding lines for VAWG.
- Lack of bilateral or regional cooperation agreements specifically addressing VAWG.

Recommendations

- Establish permanent inter-ministerial mechanism to combat VAWG and enhance coordination
- Institutionalize coordination frameworks between ministries, CSOs, and international partners to ensure sustainability.
- Adopt gender-responsive budgeting with clear budget allocations for combating VAWG.
- Enhance Algeria engagement in regional monitoring and bi-lateral cooperation mechanisms.



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