

WHAT COUNTS?

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The state of funding for the prevention of gender-based violence against women and girls.

The Accelerator for GBV Prevention

The Accelerator for Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention was co-created by a group of dedicated feminists, researchers, and GBV prevention experts from UN agencies, donors, and governments, to coordinate collective advocacy to mobilise more and better resources for evidence-based, practice and feminist informed GBV prevention policy and programming.

The Equality Institute

The Equality Institute (EQI) is a global feminist agency working to advance gender equality and end violence against women and girls (VAWG). We conduct research, provide guidance on policies and programmes, and build creative ways to incite social change.

AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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The author of this full report and the executive summary is Pasanna Mutha-Merrenge with project leadership from Dr Emma Fulu (Director, EQI), Muthoni Muriithi (Director, Accelerator) and Lara Fergus (former Co-Director, Accelerator). This report was reviewed by Sharon Smee and Loksee Leung (EQI), the What Counts? Technical Working Group¹, the What Counts? Steering Group², the Accelerator Advisory Group³, Tesmerelna Atsbeha and Manisha Mehta (Wellspring Philanthropic Fund), Radha Wickremasinghe (Ford Foundation) and Paula Majumdar (former Researcher, The Accelerator). Visual design by Anita Shao.

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¹ What Counts Technical Working Group: Anjalee Kohli, Khamsavath Chanthavysouk, Natsnet Ghebrebrhan, Laura Malajovich, Loksee Leung, Ezra Nepon, and Megan Dersnah.

² What Counts Steering Group: Aarushi Khanna, Ana Maldonado, Aparna Arora, Ayesha Mago, Clarisa Bencomo, Chrissy Hart, Caroline Cooney, Diane Gardsbane, Emma Partridge, Helen McDermott, Gemma Wood, Iheoma Obibi, Joanna Shepherd, Kate Bishop, Lori Heise, Leah Goldmann, Milkah Kihunah, Purity Kagwiria, Constanze Quosh, Reem Abbas, Sara Siebert, Shaima Aly, Shruti Sharada, Sohini Bhattacharya, Sophia Karimi, Wangechi Wachira, and Joy Watson.

³ The Accelerator Advisory Group: Tesmer Atsbeha, Radha Wickremasinghe, Sohini Bhattacharya, Elizabeth Dartnall, Mary Ellsberg, Emily Esplen, Emma Fulu, Manisha Mehta, Lori Michau, and Tina Musuya.

ACRONYMS

DAC	Development Assistance Committee
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFI	Development Financial Institutions
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
FFP	Feminist Foreign Policy
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GNI	Gross National Income
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GE	Generation Equality
GEF	Generation Equality Forum
HICs	High Income Countries
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
LLMICs	Low and Lower-Middle Income Countries
NAP	National Action Plan
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Trust Fund	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WROs	Women's Rights Organisations



DEFINITIONS

Commitments – A firm obligation, expressed in writing and backed by the necessary funds, undertaken by a donor to provide specified assistance to a recipient country or a multilateral organisation.

Core, flexible and long-term funding – A preferred modality of funding within a feminist funding ecosystem. This type of funding is not restricted to a project and provides flexibility to WROs and movements to decide how the money is spent.

Direct investment – Both financial commitments and disbursements from donors that are specifically marked for GBV prevention.

Donors – This is broadly defined and includes: bilateral governments providing ODA to an aid recipient country; multilateral agencies, including UN agencies, the World Bank, multilateral DFIs, the European Union; private philanthropic trusts and foundations; and individual major donors.

Evidence-based – Programs and policies that draw on existing knowledge, including formal evaluation and practice-based learning and adaptation with regards to effective prevention. It includes building new knowledge through testing or evaluating innovative approaches.

Disbursements – Money that has been spent by donors. This does not include commitments that have not been allocated and/or spent.

Feminist movements – An organised set of constituents pursuing a core political agenda of protection, promotion, and fulfilment of women's human rights through collective action.

Gender-based violence – Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women and girls in all their diversity, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

GBV prevention – Work to address social norms, structures, attitudes, behaviours, and skills at the individual, interpersonal, community, and structural levels to stop GBV before it starts as well as to reduce the frequency of violence.

Gender inequality – The unequal distribution of power, resources, opportunity, and value to men and women in a society due to widely accepted gender norms and structures.

Gender norms – A set of dominant beliefs and rules of conduct determined by a society or a social group, which relate to the types of roles, interests, behaviours, and contributions expected from boys, girls, men, and women.

Low and lower-middle income countries – As classified by the World Bank every year based on GNI per capita. Classifications can be found [here](#).

Intersectionality – An intersectional approach is a lens for seeing the way in which various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other.⁴ Intersectionality also highlights the intersection of multiple forms of power and privilege. An intersectional approach is critical for preventing violence against women because patriarchal power structures always intersect with other systems of power.

Overseas development assistance – As defined by the OECD, government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

Practice-based approaches – Cumulative knowledge and learning acquired by practitioners through years of designing and implementing diverse programs in different contexts.

Whole-of-government approach – A coordinated, multisectoral, strategic, and targeted approach, where various government entities bring together their expertise and expertise of civil society organisations and academia to implement policies and programs to achieve a common vision. Under this approach, activities are jointly performed by diverse ministries, public administrations, and public agencies in order to provide a common solution to particular problems or issues.

Women's rights organisations – Civil society actors that support, build and contribute to feminist movements.

⁴Steinmetz, K. (2020). "She Coined the Term 'Intersectionality' over 30 Years Ago. Here's What It Means to Her Today." Time, 20 February 2020.

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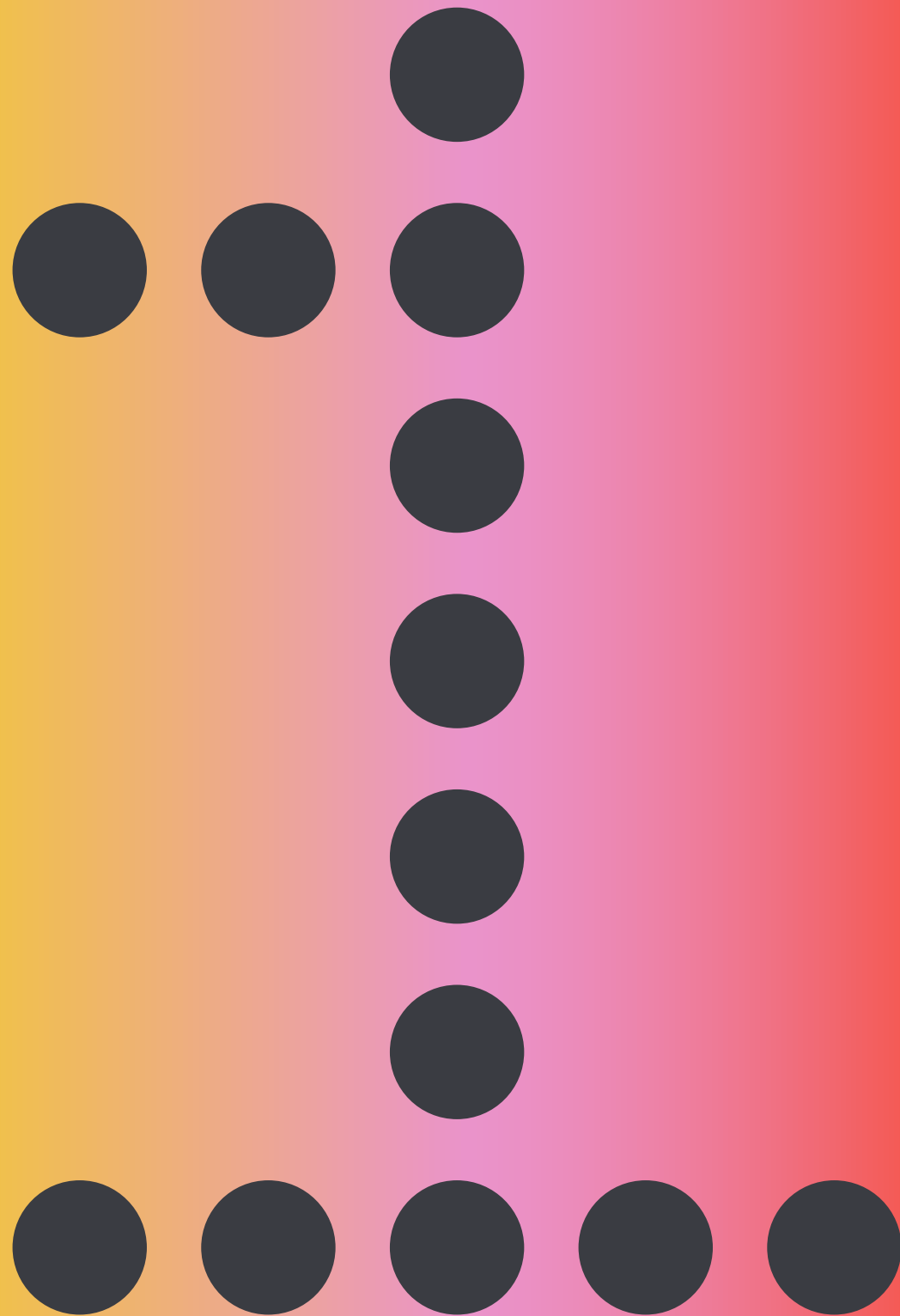
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Gender-based violence (GBV) against women, girls and gender non-conforming people⁵ is a fundamental violation of human rights.⁶ 1 in 3 women experience violence in their lifetime but the rates of violence against First Nations and trans women, Black women, women with disabilities and others that experience intersecting discrimination is much higher.⁷

INTRODUCTION

Ending GBV is a precondition to the achievement of gender equality and with the right actions and investments, it's a goal that can be achieved within years, rather than lifetimes. Achieving this goal requires a focus on programs and policies that prevent violence before it begins.

Women's rights organisations, prevention researchers and practitioners have been the driving force in evidence-based prevention, developing and delivering strategies needed to effectively challenge unequal social norms, attitudes and behaviours and dismantle the systemic structures that reinforce gender inequality.

We've learnt that working together across settings such as education, health and livelihoods to address the underlying causes of violence has a multiplier effect and can lead to transformational, long-term change across whole populations.⁸

⁵ Women and girls in all their diversity, for the purposes of our report, includes any person that identifies as female and/or gender non-conforming. We recognise the limitations of the term 'gender-based violence' and the cisgendered, heteronormative origins of the term.

⁶ UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19: Violence against women, 1992.

⁷ WHO (2021) '[Violence against women Prevalence Estimates, 2018. Global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women.](#)'

⁸ WHO (2019) '[RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women.](#)'

SO, WHAT'S MISSING?

Effective GBV prevention work requires sustained political commitment from donors and national governments, and a financial model that will catalyse transformative change across regions and countries.

In 2021, the [Accelerator for GBV Prevention](#) and the GBV prevention community came together to develop a multistakeholder [Shared Advocacy Agenda](#) that advances two high level goals:

Goal 1:

Increased direct investment in evidence-based programs and policies by private donors, governments, bilaterals, and multilateral for the prevention of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity by at least US \$500 million of new money by 2026 in low and middle-income countries.

Goal 2:

Funded policy and program commitments to evidence-based, practice-informed GBV prevention, by 50% of all national governments by 2026, in addition to or outside of international assistance, through one or more specific budget lines.

The Shared Advocacy Agenda was formally adopted as a collective commitment under the Generation Equality's GBV Action Coalition as part of its ambitious 5 year agenda to accelerate progress towards ending GBV and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.⁹ According to Generation Equality's Accountability Report, at least \$686 million in new or scaled up funding has been pledged to the GBV Action Coalition.¹⁰ The amount pledged specifically to implementing and scaling up GBV prevention is unknown.

With less than three years to achieve the 2026 GBV Action Coalition commitments and seven years until the end of the SDGs, there is an urgent need to understand and track progress towards the target of \$USD 500 million in new money for evidence-based prevention programs and policies in LLMICs.

This report focuses on Goal 1 and is the first step in understanding the existing donor funding landscape, the opportunities to drive future investment and the proposed approach to tracking new money for GBV prevention towards 2026.

The second phase of the What Counts? Project will focus on Goal 2 and establish a baseline to measure the progress of national governments and the level of funded commitments to GBV prevention policies and programs.

⁹ GBV Action Coalition, global outcome target 9.

¹⁰ This is based on survey data of financial commitments to the GBV Action Coalition. UN Women (2022) 'Generation Equality Accountability Report, 2022' p.24

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

WHAT THIS REPORT DOES:

- This report provides an estimated baseline of direct investment by donors in GBV prevention between 2018-2023 in LLMICs.
- It identifies the current trends in the funding landscape and the gaps and opportunities for funding prevention.
- It proposes an approach for tracking progress towards the GBV prevention goals in the Shared Advocacy Agenda and Generation Equality GBV Action Coalition blueprint.
- It provides recommendations and opportunities for donors to increase investment in prevention.

Establishing an estimated baseline in investment by donors will enable the Accelerator and EQI to track funding trends and new and additional investment over the next three years, providing a clear picture of progress towards the \$USD 500 million prevention target. Funding trends, case studies and good practice by donors will be shared in the Accelerator's Global GBV Prevention Funding Report in 2024 and 2026.

The data and analysis from this report and future reports will feed into the accountability framework for the Generation Equality Forum and provide much needed data on progress made on collective commitments in the Shared Advocacy Agenda.

This report is an invitation to donors to redouble their efforts to drive investment in GBV prevention, as well as building collaboration, transparency and good practice in collecting data and reporting on prevention investments.

THIS REPORT IS INTENDED FOR:

- Donors who are committed to ending GBV and advancing gender equality in LLMICs.
- Prevention practitioners, WROs, researchers, advocates and other stakeholders who are tracking progress on donor investment in GBV prevention in LLMICs.

Establishing a baseline in direct investment in evidence-based prevention is a difficult and complex task as prevention work is not systematically recorded and disaggregated from larger programs of work. The limited information on program approaches means this is a study of quantity rather than quality and effectiveness. Given the complexity of the task, this baseline should be considered a broad estimate based on an analysis of OECD and open aid data sets and information available online.

WHAT IS GBV PREVENTION?

For the purposes of this report, GBV prevention is defined as work to address social norms, structures, attitudes, behaviours, and skills at the individual, interpersonal, community, and structural levels to stop GBV before it starts or reducing the frequency and severity of new episodes of abuse at a community or group level.¹¹

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TRACK GBV PREVENTION INVESTMENT?

Preventing the underlying drivers of violence such as gender inequality is crucial to ending GBV and requires comprehensive strategies working across sectors, within a feminist and intersectional framework of change. This differs to GBV response work which is focused on strengthening service provision as well as legal and justice responses. Investment in response is critical yet, alone, it will not achieve the large scale, transformative changes needed within families, communities and whole populations that will lead to the elimination of GBV.

For a long time, GBV prevention and response funding has been counted under the one umbrella. In order to achieve the large scale, catalytic changes needed to end GBV, we need ambitious investments in prevention. This report is the starting point for understanding who is investing in GBV prevention, the levels of funding, the limitations in existing data and finding ways to count and track prevention investment more effectively.

WHAT COUNTS AS DIRECT INVESTMENT IN GBV PREVENTION?

The Accelerator has defined direct investment in GBV prevention to recognise that evidence-based GBV prevention encompasses policies, programs, research and movement building. Each part of the prevention ecosystem is essential and interrelated and investment across all elements can help drive transformative, long term change. The Accelerator's definition includes:

Policies and programs:

Evidence-based policies and evidence-based programming as outlined by the [RESPECT Framework and Implementation Package](#), as well as new, context-specific approaches that build further evidence.

Research:

Funding for both the [Global Shared Research Agenda](#) and the work of prevention practitioners to expand the evidence-base.

Women's rights organisations and feminist movements:

Support for WROs and feminist movements at the forefront of violence prevention efforts – informed by the evolving work of, amongst others, the [Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements](#).

¹¹Prevention Collaborative (October 2020) 'Brief 1: What is Prevention of Violence Against Women?'

Deeply rooted within communities, WROs and feminist movements bring a strong intersectional lens to GBV prevention – connecting and amplifying the voices of women and girls that are the most disadvantaged and centering them in prevention programming and policies. Autonomous feminist movements are also a significant driver in influencing legislative and policy change on GBV at a national level with examples of the collective impact movements in influencing the introduction of National Action Plans to end GBV and feminist foreign policies.¹²

Global Majority WROs are an important partner in GBV prevention work, leading context-specific community mobilisation and social norm change that can be scaled up and adapted as effective models of prevention in other contexts. An example of this is the SASA! community mobilisation methodology developed by Raising Voices and adopted by more than 75 organisations in 30 countries.¹³

BUILDING ON EXISTING RESEARCH

Our report is a contribution to the growing body of evidence on funding for GBV and we recognise the ongoing work of many individuals and organisations that are mapping the level and quality of funding that flows to ending GBV as well as to WROs and feminist movements.

In particular, we note the Sexual Violence Research Initiative's (SVRI's) ['Tracking Funding For VAW Research in LMICS: Research Report'](#)¹⁴, as well as the Prevention Collaborative's [Investing Wisely](#) thematic work. The Global Fund for Women, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Mama Cash and the Black Feminist Fund have done extensive research on what's needed to build a strong, intersectional feminist funding ecosystem.¹⁵

There is also guidance developed by prevention practitioners to support high quality prevention work within safe, ethical, and feminist frameworks, including the forthcoming ['Together For Prevention: Handbook on Multisectoral National Action Plans to Prevention Violence Against women and Girls'](#) developed by UN Women and EQI, the [RESPECT framework](#), and the [Prevention Collaborative's](#) work.

WHAT THIS REPORT DOES NOT DO

This initial baseline report does not track Goal 2 of the Shared Advocacy Agenda - direct investment of national governments in evidence-based prevention programs and policies within their own countries. This will form the second phase of the What Counts? Project.

While we recognise that prevention funding also sits within humanitarian and emergency budgets, tracking this spending is highly complex and beyond the scope of this report. The International Rescue Committee's research highlights the inadequacy of funding to GBV in the humanitarian sector¹⁶ and we recommend additional research be done to map the humanitarian and development assistance nexus as it relates to GBV prevention.

We also acknowledge the impact of private sector investment in gender equality however this is beyond the scope of this report. A number of organisations are exploring growth in private investment in more detail, such as [the Criterion Institute](#). As this is a relatively new area, there is benefit in more detailed research on how private sector investment is impacting GBV prevention.

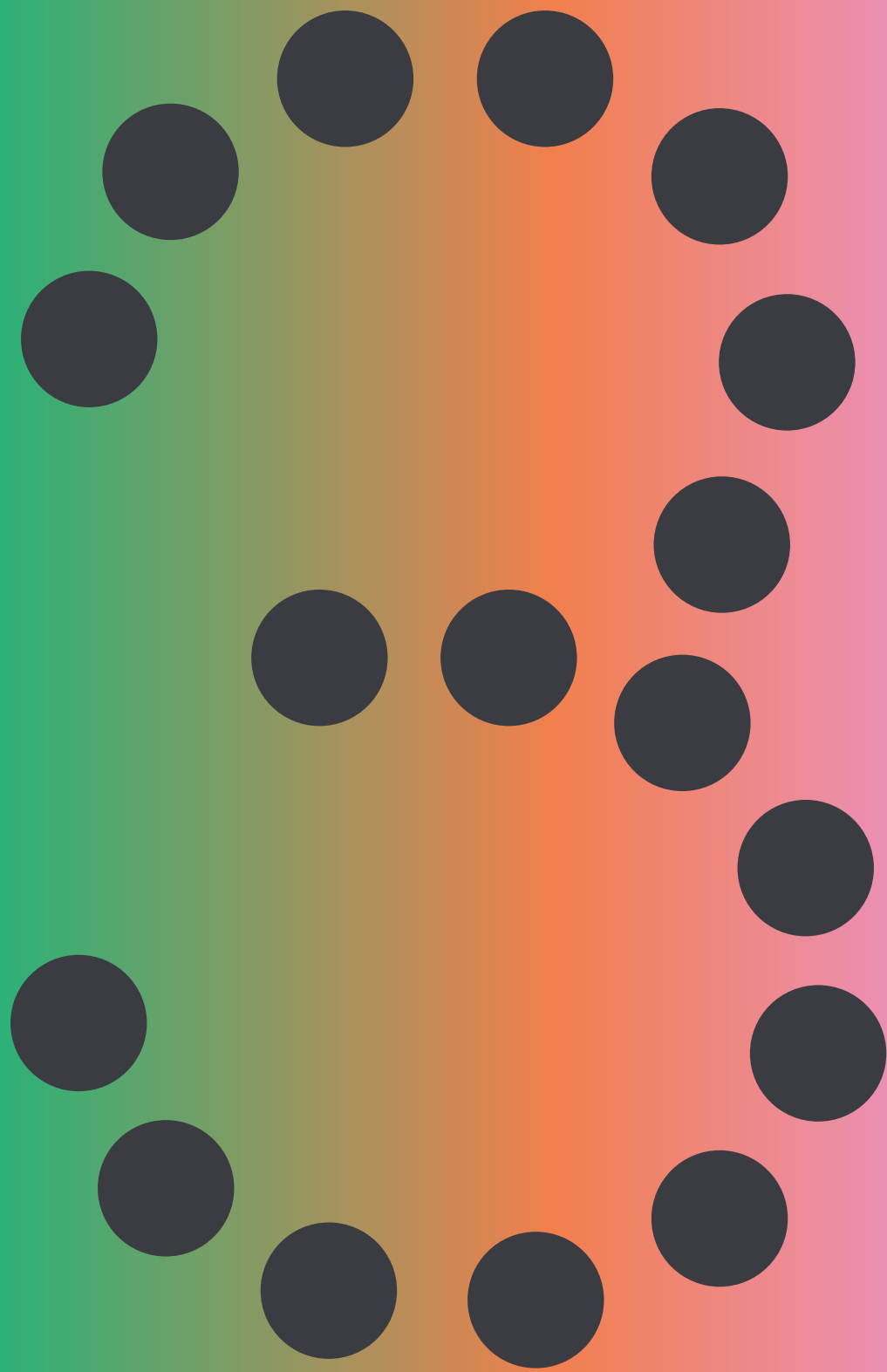
¹² OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (November 2016) ['Donor support to southern women's rights organisations'](#) p.5

¹³ Raising Voices, ['The SASA!Story'](#) accessed 6 August 2023

¹⁴ SVRI (2022) ['Tracking the Funding Flows: Funding for Research on Violence Against Women in Low and Middle-Income Countries'](#)

¹⁵ Kellea Miller and Rochelle Jones, AWID (2019) ['Toward a Feminist Funding Ecosystem'](#); Mama Cash (November 2022) ['Policy Brief: Stronger Action Needed to Resource Feminist Movements'](#); Black Feminist Fund (March 2023) ['Where is the Money for Black Feminist Movements?'](#)

¹⁶ International Rescue Committee (2019) ['Where is the money: How the humanitarian system is failing in its commitments to end violence against women and girls.'](#)



METHODOLOGY

The report is based on both quantitative data collection and key informant interviews. The data gathering, analysis, key informant interviews and report writing was completed within a 35 day consultancy in June and July 2023.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the existing level of direct investment in evidence-based programs and policies for gender-based violence prevention in LLMICs? Where is the funding coming from?
2. What are the key gaps in funding GBV prevention?
3. What are the future opportunities for funding GBV prevention?
4. What is an approach for tracking progress towards Goal 1?

BASELINE DATA COLLECTION

The following donors were included in the baseline data collection:

- Fifteen bilateral governments: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States. These countries were identified as the top 15 donors to VAWG in the most recent OECD analysis.¹⁷
- Multilateral agencies: Asian Development Bank, African Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF.
- Philanthropic trusts and foundations: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Kering NoVo Foundation, Oak Foundation, Wellspring Philanthropic Trust Fund, Yield Giving as well as a number of smaller donors.
- European Union - Spotlight Initiative
- The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative research grants.
- Five feminist funds: Black Feminist Fund, Equality Fund, Frida Young Feminist Fund, The Global Fund for Women and Mama Cash. This small sample of feminist funds was chosen as funds operating from donor countries.

We used the following data sources and approaches:

DONORS

DATA SOURCES AND APPROACHES

Bilateral donor governments and multilateral

- Key word searches and program name searches in OECD, CRS Purpose Code for VAWG (1518).
- Key word searches of donor open aid transparency platforms.
- Analysis of available information online including annual reports, evaluation reports of programs and strategies relating to GBV.

Philanthropic trusts and foundations

- OECD Private Philanthropy for Development CRS, search of online donor giving platforms, annual reports and other program specific information.
- We also received information directly from some foundations.

European Union Spotlight Initiative

- Analysis of Annual Narrative Reports.

UN Trust Fund

- We received information and data directly from the grants and monitoring evaluation team at the UN Trust Fund.

Feminist Funds

- Annual reports. We received information directly from a number of funds on the breakdown of grants reaching WROs working in GBV.

¹⁷ OECD (2023) 'Official development assistance for gender equality and women's empowerment: A snapshot' p.5.

WHAT WAS COUNTED?

The study counted funding for programs, policies, research focused on GBV prevention. To the degree that was possible, we set parameters and attempted to narrow the search to ensure consistency with the definition of direct investment in evidence-based GBV prevention. However, the scarcity of information available across governments, multilaterals, and private philanthropy meant that in most instances, we were unable to:

1. identify evidence-based investments and
2. disaggregate prevention from overall numbers.

This meant counting total investment (without disaggregation) or making estimates based on percentages rather than actual numbers.

WHAT WE DID NOT COUNT

In order to ensure the baseline related directly to GBV prevention programming and policies within the RESPECT framework we did not count:

- Violence against children programs without a GBV prevention outcome.
- Ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and child and early forced marriage (CEFM) programs not coded as VAWG 1518.
- Broader programs such as SRHR programs without a GBV prevention outcome.

Recognising those limitations, where possible, the following parameters were used to determine investments:

CRITERIA	PARAMETERS APPLIED
GBV prevention	Programs were included if the program’s stated outcome(s) included either: a) preventing gender-based violence or b) changing unequal gender norms, attitudes and behaviours.
Evidence-based	Programs were included if they fell under the category of ‘Promising evidence from LLMICs outlined in the RESPECT framework. Programs that were categorised as ‘Needing More Evidence’ in LLMICs were included where consistent with recommendations from the RESPECT framework.
Direct Investment	Funding allocated to the identified program. If information was available, investment was calculated based on yearly allocations in the years 2018 to 2023. Disaggregation: Where primary prevention is a component of a larger package of work, a percentage based on program outcomes or the percentage of spending on VAWG was allocated.
WROs and feminist movements	Funding to WROs and movements with a focus on GBV. Counted only core, long term and flexible funding grants.

MEASURES TO AVOID DOUBLE-COUNTING

In calculating the baseline, where grants and programs included donor contributions (for example, bilateral and philanthropic contributions), we only counted direct investment in GBV prevention once, at the level of multilateral agencies, grant-makers, and feminist funds.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

We conducted 12 semi-structured online interviews with key informants. The key informants included stakeholders across bilateral governments (4 interviews), multilaterals (1 interview), philanthropic foundations (1 interview), feminist funds and grant-makers (4 interviews) and WROs working on the ground delivering prevention work (2 interviews). The interviews were based on a set of questions to identify sources of investment as well as the key gaps, challenges and funding opportunities for future investment.

LIMITATIONS

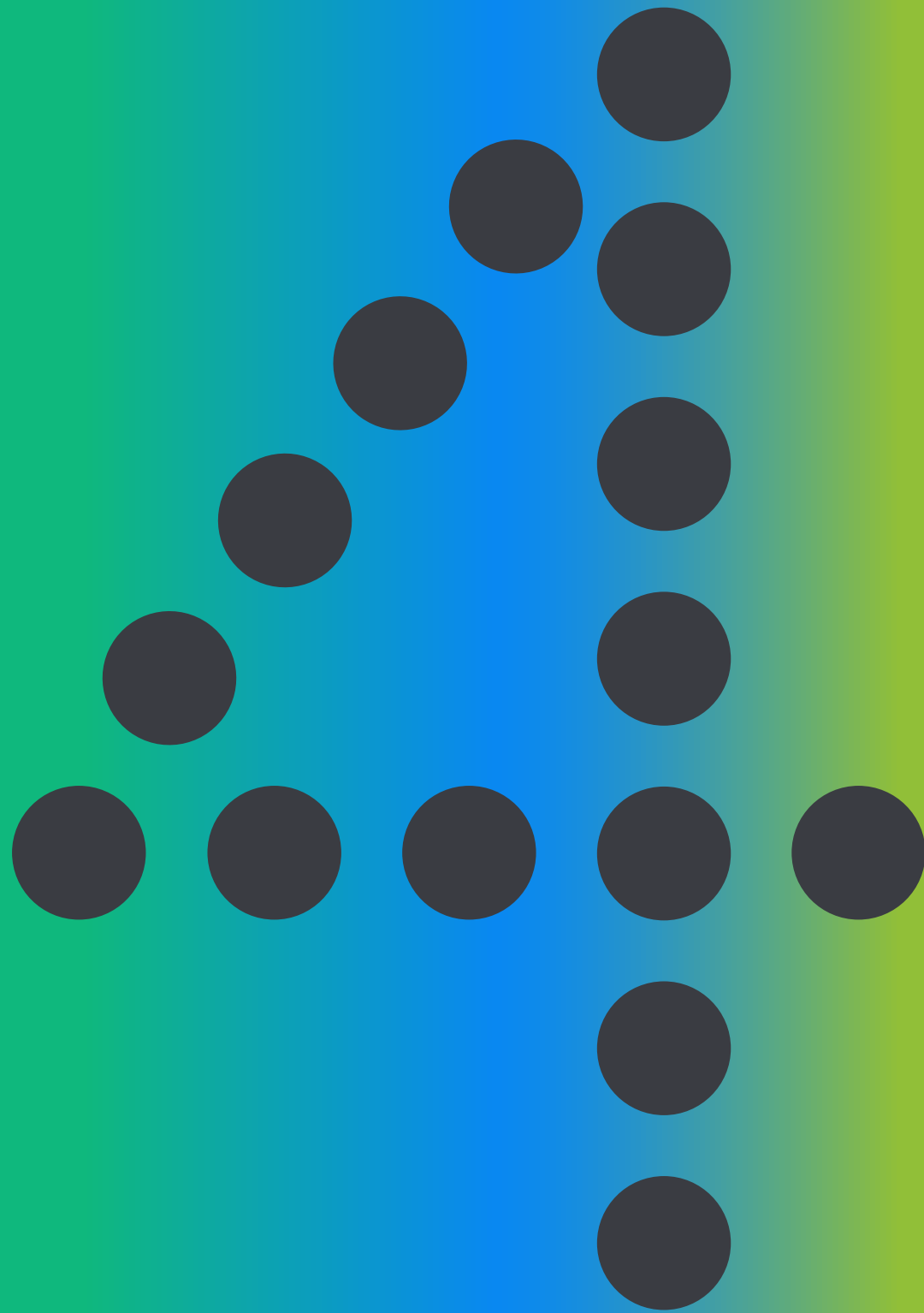
Time – The baseline data gathering, interviews, and analysis were conducted over a six-week period. This short time period limited the ability to investigate all aspects of GBV prevention, all data sources and to engage with a broader range of stakeholders, such as funder affinity groups. Our research was limited to publicly available data and a small number of stakeholder interviews.

Data specific to prevention – Data sets and reporting by donors do not consistently identify GBV prevention work. Reporting across intermediaries adds an additional layer of difficulty in tracking what funding is reaching implementing agencies.

Disaggregation of data – Prevention usually sits within a larger program of work or within broader grant-making categories, making it difficult to identify the specific funding allocation to GBV prevention.

Time lag – Most data that we looked at had some level of time lag. OECD data has a time lag of 18 months. Annual reports are captured for the previous financial years. Up to date data was rarely available.

Limited data on prevention approaches - There is rarely information available regarding the prevention approaches being undertaken and their impact, making it very challenging to assess whether the prevention programs being funded are evidence-based.



THE FUNDING LANDSCAPE FOR GBV PREVENTION

Addressing the root causes of GBV requires ambitious, catalytic investment. Understanding who is investing, where they are investing, and how much is being invested is the first step to driving more and better funding.

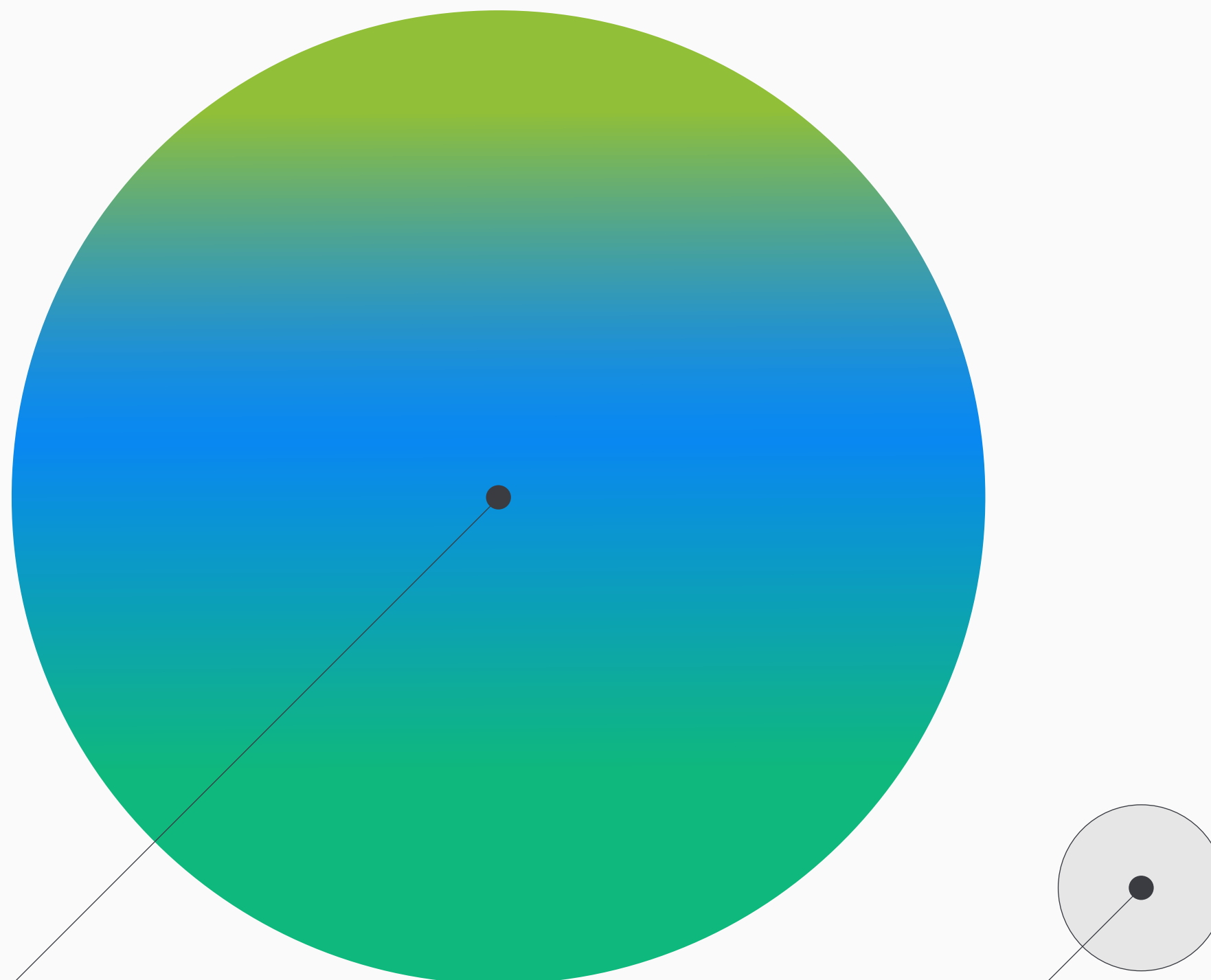
OVERALL INVESTMENT IN GBV PREVENTION

With overall overseas development assistance in 2022 totalling \$USD 204 billion,¹⁸ it is estimated that investment in GBV prevention was a mere 0.2% of overall aid and development spending.¹⁹

Over the five year period of 2018-2023, it is estimated that donors have invested an average of approximately \$USD 410 million per year in GBV prevention (\$USD 2.06 billion in total). This level of funding is not currently sufficient to deliver the high-quality, evidence-based prevention programming and policies that will have an impact across entire populations.²⁰

Total ODA:
\$204 Billion

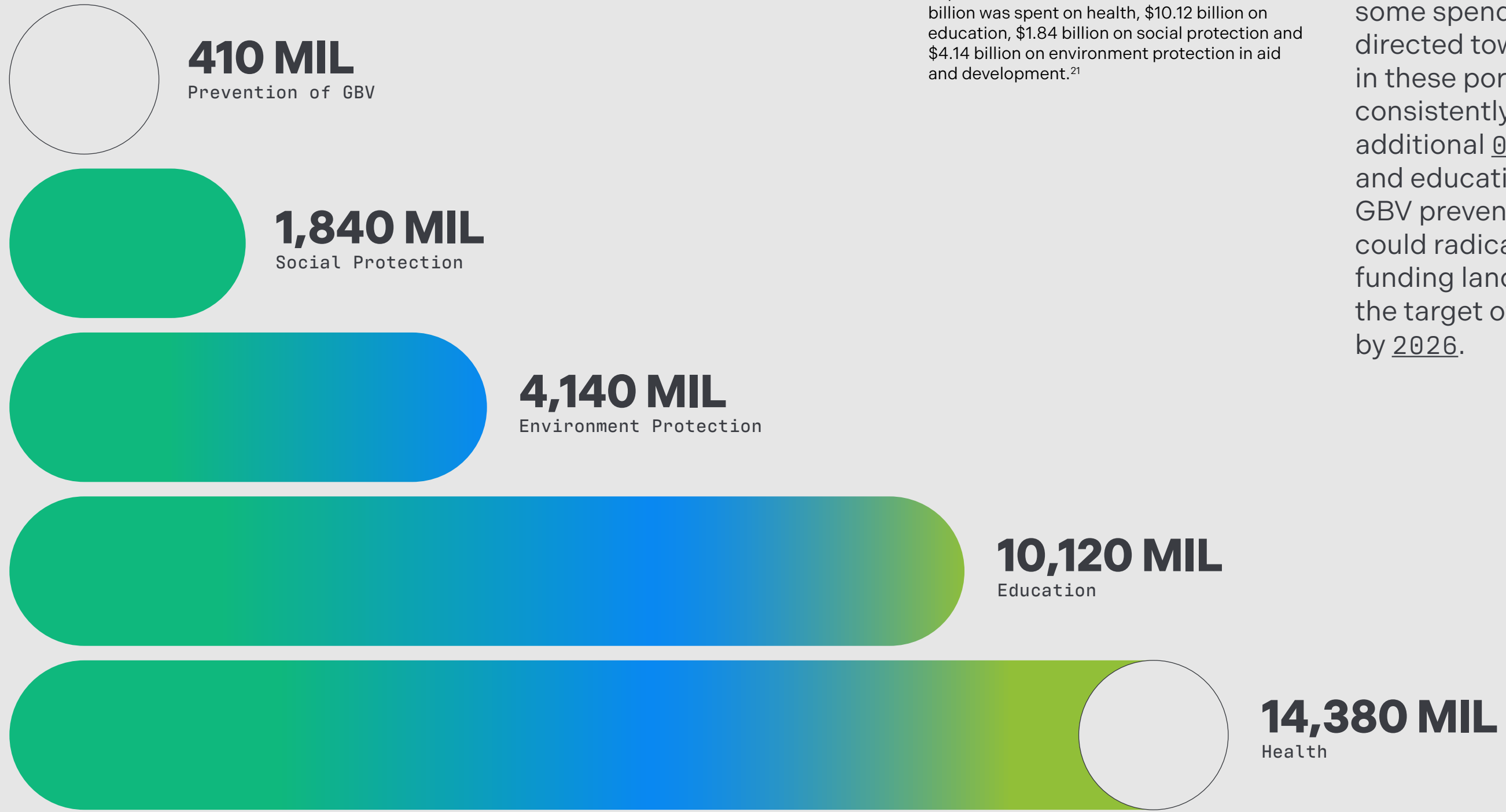
GBV Prevention:
\$410 Million



¹⁸ Preliminary OECD data 2022 (April 2023), [Official Development Assistance](#).

¹⁹ This is the estimated yearly average investment in GBV prevention (\$USD 410 million) as a percentage share of overall ODA in 2022 (\$USD 204 billion).

²⁰ OECD, [Creditor Reporting System](#) as accessed on 15 July 2023.



SPENDING (\$USD MILLION) ON ODA PRIORITY AREAS IN 2021

When compared to other areas of ODA spending, prevention of GBV sits low on the list of priorities for donors. In 2021 alone, \$14.38 billion was spent on health, \$10.12 billion on education, \$1.84 billion on social protection and \$4.14 billion on environment protection in aid and development.²¹

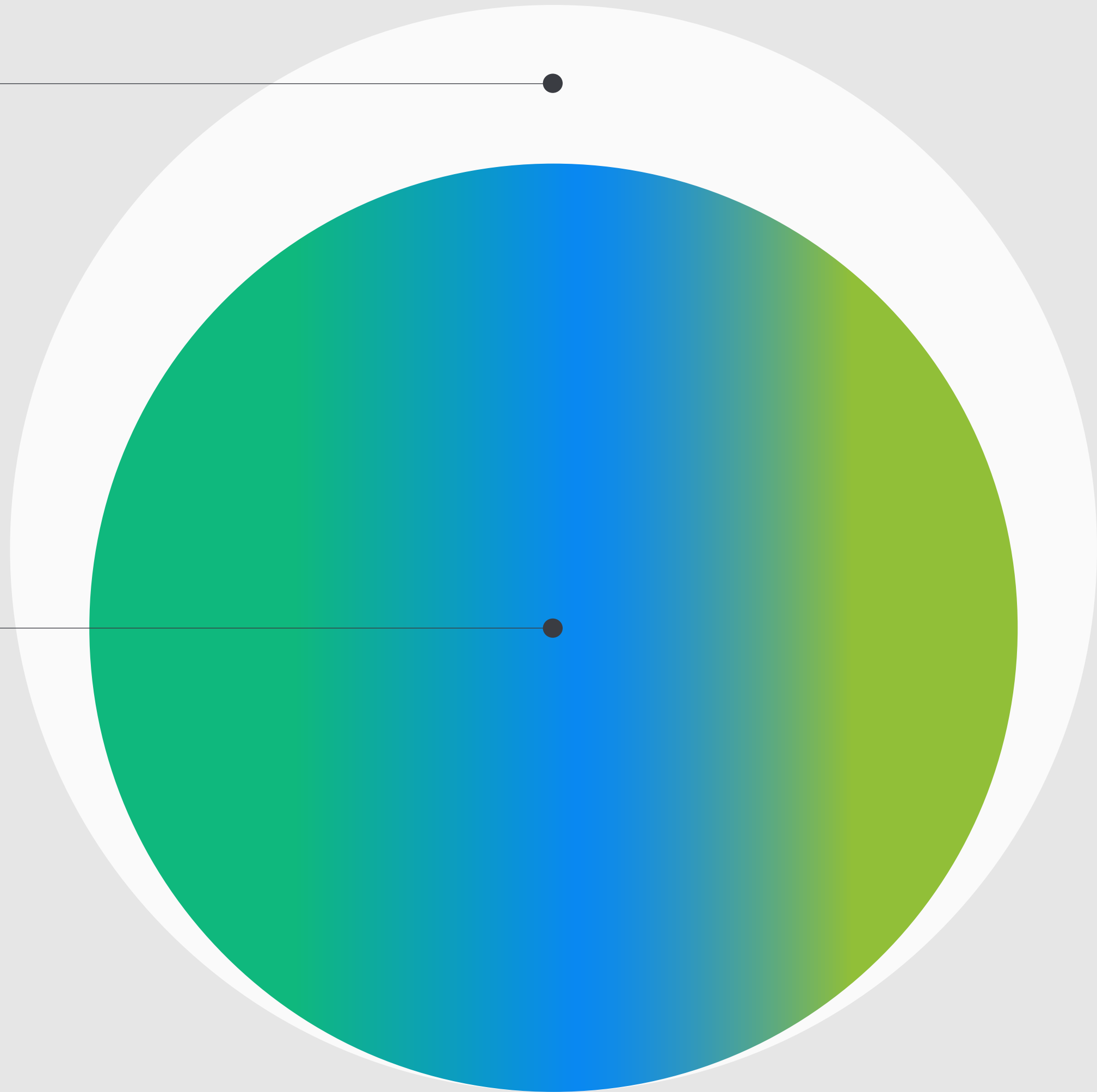
Ending GBV is essential to achieving educational and health outcomes for women and girls. While some spending is currently directed towards prevention in these portfolios, if donors consistently ear-marked an additional 0.1% of health and education budgets for GBV prevention work, it could radically transform the funding landscape, meeting the target of \$500 million by 2026.

²¹OECD, Creditor Reporting System as accessed on 15 July 2023.

Spending on GBV
2018-2019:
\$581 Million

The broader context of spending on GBV is also of concern. While the last five years has seen an overall increase in ODA, according to OECD analysis, funding for GBV has fallen 13% between 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.²²

Spending on GBV
2020-2021:
\$458 Million



²² OECD (2023) 'Official development assistance for gender equality and women's empowerment: A snapshot' p.5.



REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Based on the data collected as part of this baseline, it was found that regions in Africa, particularly Southern, Central and Western Africa received the largest flow of donor government funding.

The Caribbean and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) received the least, despite demonstrating an urgent need within the context of conflict, displacement and political instability. Based on the data collected as part of this baseline, we estimate that less than 1% of donor government funding went to the Caribbean and 5% to MENA. As humanitarian and emergency finance flows were not counted, these figures may differ in the humanitarian context.

BILATERAL GOVERNMENTS

The study found that investment by bilateral governments comprise most of the funding for prevention, highlighting the important role that donor governments play in driving investment through ODA. It also places a responsibility on governments to ensure that funding reaches WROs and other implementing agencies that are the experts in designing and delivering high quality, evidence-based prevention work.

Based on the data gathered for this research report, the estimated baseline investment in prevention by donor governments is approximately \$USD 220 million per year (\$USD 1.1 billion over five years). This is the annual average based on total investment of 15 donor governments counted as part of this study.²³

There are a number of major initiatives focused on GBV prevention that bilateral donors have invested in, in the last 5 years. These initiatives work with multiple partners including INGOs, LLMIC governments, multilaterals and implementing agencies.

- The UK funded, What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (1 & 2) is one of the few stand-alone prevention programs with spending of \$USD 15.5 million in Stage 1 and a budget of \$USD 84 million for Stage 2 (2020-2029).
- Australia's commitment to the Pacific has seen \$USD 11.9 million spent in support of the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) which has a strong focus on prevention.
- The Netherlands is a long-term supporter of Rutgers (Prevention+ and Generation G programs) spending an estimated \$USD 12.9 million in the last five years.²⁴
- Germany has funded the Partnerships for Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls in Southern Africa.

²³ Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

²⁴ Generation G is not wholly a prevention initiative but has several outcomes that are related to changing norms.

MULTILATERAL AGENCIES

It is estimated that the baseline investment in prevention by multilateral agencies is approximately \$USD 62 million per year (\$USD 310 million over five years).²⁵ This is based on estimates of investment by the World Bank, UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA. As noted below, data for UNICEF and other regional banks was limited and not included in this study.

United Nations agencies

Our research found that UN Women is the leading agency delivering a number of stand-alone programs on prevention. These include Safe Cities,²⁶ the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls,²⁷ Combatting Gender Based Violence program in Bangladesh²⁸ and several smaller investments.

Pockets of evidence-based prevention work are also being implemented by UNFPA through GBV programs in a number of countries. These include the Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response programs in Bangladesh,²⁹ Nepal,³⁰ Syria and Yemen and cash-based programs integrated into GBV programs in Lebanon³¹ as well as several smaller investments.

The UNDP recently completed a \$USD 2 million pilot funded by the Republic of Korea, integrating prevention into four programs across women's economic empowerment, livelihoods and climate change adaptation in Bhutan, Iraq, Lebanon and Uganda. An evaluation of the pilot found promising results and makes a strong case for integrating GBV prevention in multilateral agencies and across portfolios including climate change.³²

Multilateral donors operate with contributions from donor governments that provide core and ear-marked funds for GBV programs.

Development Banks

The World Bank and multilateral DFIs invest in GBV prevention through low-interest loans, credits, grants and technical assistance. One of the notable changes in the funding landscape is the World Bank's investments in GBV through development policy financing, growing from \$USD 225 million in 2012 to \$USD 680 million in 2022.³³

A recent report by the World Bank identified that 37% of its 390 lending operations included interventions targeted at norms, attitudes, and behaviours (91 activities included community mobilisation and 53 group training). There is insufficient information to determine the quality of these approaches and as the report acknowledges, there is further work required to ensure that such interventions are delivered safely, ethically and within an evidence-based prevention framework.³⁴

This baseline research encountered difficulties in identifying direct investments in prevention by regional banks such as the Inter-American Bank, African Development Bank, and Asian Development Bank – the data available was limited and could not provide a complete picture. There is value in further research to understand how regional banks are investing in prevention.

²⁵ The multilateral agencies counted as part of the baseline are the UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women and the World Bank. This is the total estimated investment by these agencies.

²⁶ UN Women (2021) 'Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative'.

²⁷ UN Women, 'Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls'.

²⁸ UN Women, 'Combating Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh'.

²⁹ UNFPA (January 2022) 'Men, Leading by Example in prevention gender-based violence'.

³⁰ UNFPA (2021) 'Prevention and Response Project II: Embarking on a New Chapter in Nepal's Commitment to Ending Gender-based Violence'.

³¹ UNFPA (2022) 'Overview of Funding Needs, UNFPA Regional Syria Crisis Response'.

³² UNDP (April 2023) 'A New Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence: Lessons on Integrating Prevention and Responses in Four UNDP Sectoral Development Projects'.

³³ World Bank (July 2023) 'Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response in World Bank Operations, Taking Stock After a Decade of Engagement' p.14.

³⁴ See footnote above.

PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY

The key philanthropic investors supporting prevention between the period 2018 to 2023 include Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, the Ford Foundation, the NoVo Foundation (prior to their change in focus in 2019), the Oak Foundation and Kering - largely providing core, flexible, and long-term funding.

Based on the data gathered for this report, the baseline investment in prevention by private philanthropy is broadly estimated to be within the range of \$USD 100-\$150 million per year.

The landscape of philanthropic giving has shifted over the last five years. Co-Impact, a collaborative philanthropic initiative that brings together philanthropists and foundations has recently established its Gender Fund with the aim to raise \$USD 1 billion over the next decade for women-led Global Majority organisations through unrestricted and flexible funding.

The NoVo Foundation's decision to shift its focus away from funding adolescent girls and addressing GBV marks a loss in philanthropic support for preventing GBV and will continue to have an impact as existing grant contracts end in 2024.³⁵ MacKenzie Scott's recently established foundation, Yield Giving, is a new and emerging donor in addressing GBV.

THE EUROPEAN UNION SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

The Spotlight Initiative is one of the most ambitious programs in ending GBV over the last five years and is counted as a substantial financial investment.

Primary prevention stands as one of six mutually reinforcing pillars and the Spotlight 2022-2023 report estimates that approximately 28% of funding has been spent on prevention.³⁶ Applying this estimate, the Spotlight Initiative has invested \$USD 134.3 million in prevention type activities over the last five years, with an average of \$USD 26.8 million per year.

With the Spotlight Initiative coming to an end, its impact will be evaluated between April 2023 and April 2024. Spotlight 2.0 will be launched as a new phase of the Initiative however the scope and funding commitment of the new phase is, at the time of writing this report, unknown.

UN TRUST FUND

The UN Trust Fund managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN System, is the largest fund providing project-based grants and some operating funding to WROs and other civil society organisations to end GBV. As part of its mandate, it has taken a role in building practice-based learning, developing the [Prevention Series](#), capturing the insights of grantee organisations in working to prevent GBV within their communities.

The UN Trust Fund estimates that of the \$USD 97 million granted in the last five years, \$USD 79 million was for projects partially or fully focused on prevention, which is an estimated baseline of \$USD 15 million per year.

RESEARCH GRANT-MAKERS

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative's (SVRI's) Research Grant round is the only GBV specific research granting mechanism supporting prevention researchers in the Global Majority and has co-contributions from Wellspring, SIDA, and (previously) the World Bank. Over the last five years, \$USD 6.1 million has been disbursed in grants with \$USD 2.5 million being focused on prevention research.

FEMINIST FUNDS

As we move towards a feminist funding ecosystem, direct funding through feminist funds and within the modality of flexible, core support is one of the most impactful forms of funding for feminist movements and WROs.³⁷

While we endeavoured to estimate feminist fund contributions to GBV prevention, this proved difficult due to the intersectional nature of movement building, with WROs sitting across a range of issues including GBV, social, racial and economic justice. Due to time limitations of the study, we were also unable to gather data from and consult with a broad range of feminist funds.

As a result, the baseline study includes a sample of five feminist funds - the Equality Fund, Black Feminist Fund, FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, Global Fund for Women & Mama Cash. We obtained data directly from Mama Cash and the Black Feminist Fund on grants to WROs and feminist movements working to end GBV. We gathered additional data from annual reports and based on this data calculated investment of \$USD 59 million over the last five years.

Given the small sample size and the small total, this is not an indicative figure of funding to GBV prevention across all feminist funds.

There is value in further research on how best to estimate the contribution of feminist funds supporting WROs and movements at the forefront of GBV prevention.

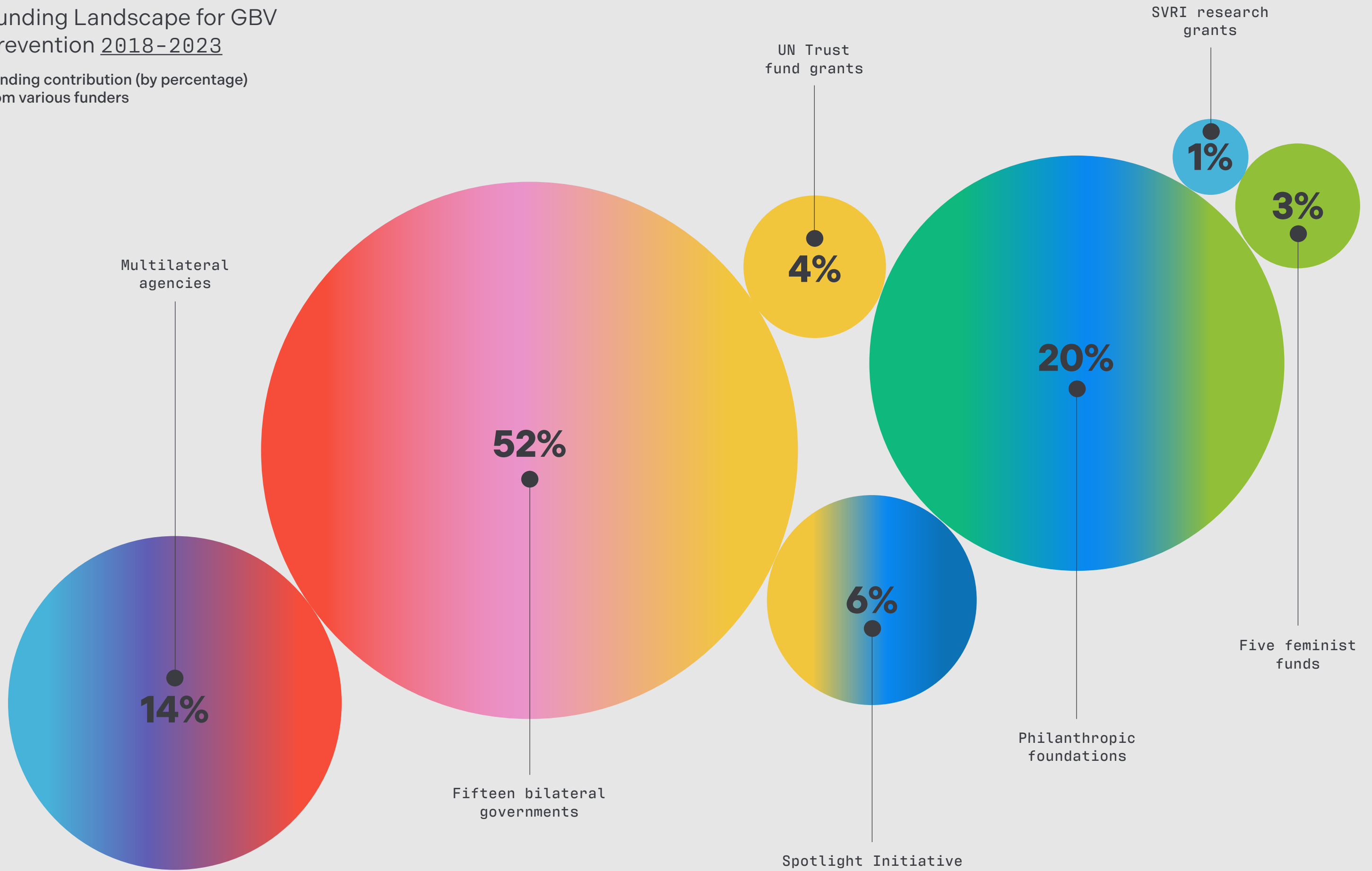
³⁵ See Novo Foundation, FAQ's 'Are you still supporting women and girls?'

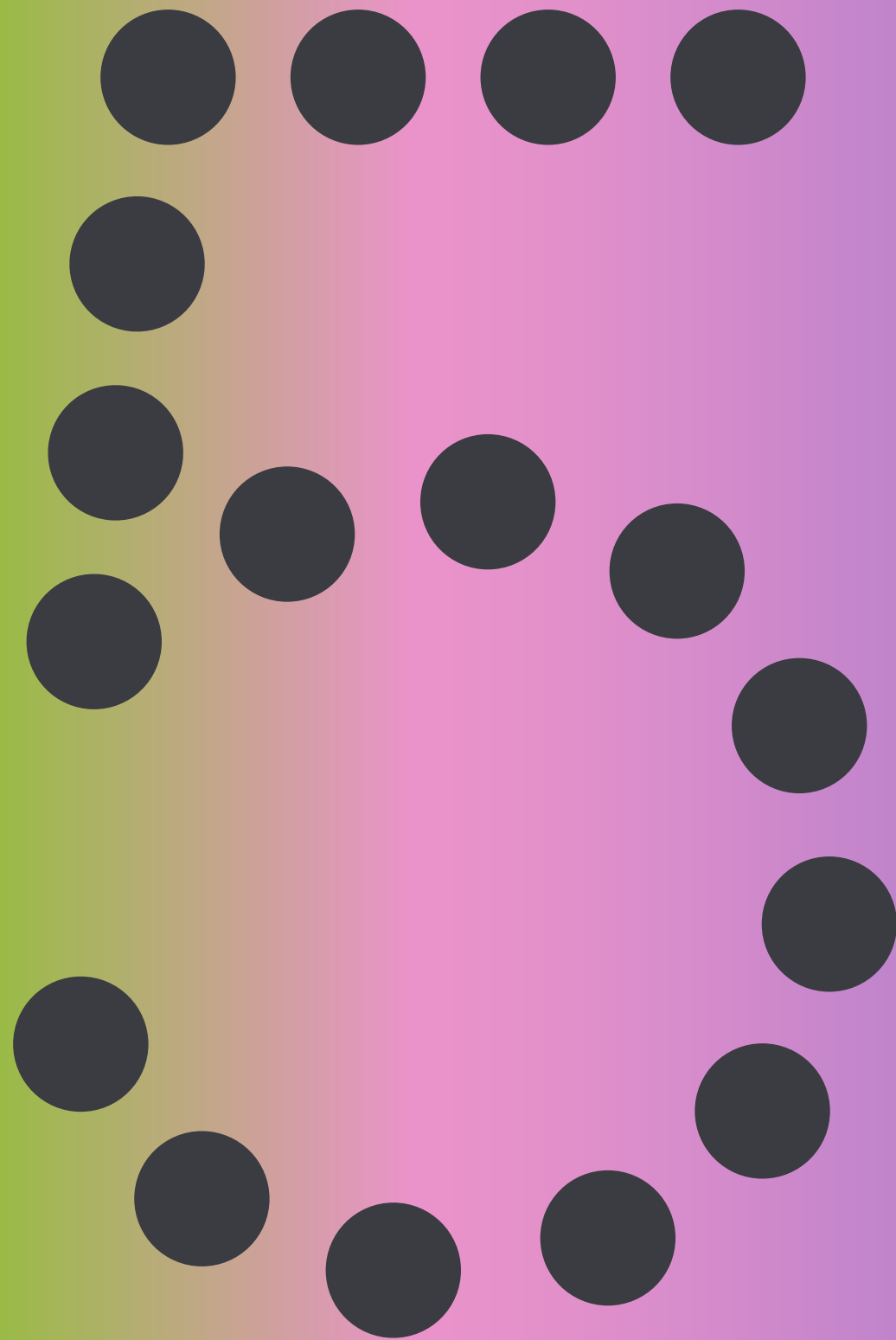
³⁶ Spotlight Initiative (June 2023), '[Spotlight Initiative Global Annual Narrative Progress Report, January 2022-December 2022](#)' p.45

³⁷ Kellea Miller and Rochelle Jones, AWID (2019) '[Toward a Feminist Funding Ecosystem](#)' p.17

Funding Landscape for GBV Prevention 2018-2023

Funding contribution (by percentage) from various funders





CURRENT GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN GBV PREVENTION FUNDING

The funding landscape for GBV prevention demonstrates that there are pathways for donors to drive new and additional investment, thinking outside of existing structures and ways of working.

Alongside the quantity of investment is the need for high quality investment in evidence-based prevention work. Stakeholders that we interviewed consistently spoke of the need for more strategic investment across GBV prevention programs, policies, research and movement building through long-term, core and flexible funding. This section captures some of these gaps and opportunities.

BREAKING DOWN SILOS TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN GBV PREVENTION

One of the key barriers that interviewees identified to increasing investment in prevention is the siloed approach to funding. Our analysis found funding for promising prevention focused initiatives in livelihoods, agriculture, health and education were being financed from GBV budgets rather than the relevant portfolio budgets.³⁸

The RESPECT framework and the large body of existing evidence demonstrates that GBV prevention needs to be multi-sectoral, sitting across a range of portfolios.

In an environment where overall aid spending is a contested space, donors can drive increased investment in GBV prevention through specific allocations in budgets across portfolios and sectors including education, climate change, health, agriculture, livelihoods, and social protection.

Similar examples can be found in the philanthropic space. As noted in the recent Shake the Table and Bridgespan Group report, 'Lighting the Way', philanthropic investment in gender sits within a women and girls programmatic silo. The report notes that to create transformative change, gender inequality should be considered across other program areas such as climate, health and livelihoods.³⁹

This reinforces the importance of broadening and diversifying philanthropic funding, bringing in new partners and recognising that GBV prevention sits across thematic areas and not in a single portfolio.

STRENGTHENING THE UNDERSTANDING OF EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION IN DONOR AGENCIES

In order to build a multi-sectoral approach to GBV prevention, strengthening knowledge and expertise within donor agencies is critical. Interviewees highlighted a knowledge gap across teams in relation to what evidence-based prevention is and how to integrate prevention into non-GBV programs.

Gender experts within agencies are often tasked with educating and championing prevention internally without the leadership and prioritisation at senior levels and within policy frameworks.

This lack of shared understanding can also play out in donor agencies where programs across sectors adopt different and inconsistent approaches that reinforce harmful norms and aggravate risks. For example, interviewees noted conflicting approaches to working with men and boys in peace and security or education settings.

It underlines the importance of a shared understanding of evidence-based prevention within donor agencies and foundations and consistent approaches that can support integration across sectors.

Donors can build workforce knowledge and practice to integrate prevention, drawing on recent reports by USAID and the UNDP which provide guidance on integrating GBV prevention effectively into broader portfolios.⁴⁰ Additionally, the [RESPECT Framework](#), the [UN Trust Fund Prevention Series](#) and the work of the [Prevention Collaborative](#) are useful tools to strengthen knowledge across teams.

³⁸ In some complex settings, where there are high risks to women and girls, GBV sits within broader programs to ensure safe and ethical delivery.

³⁹ Shake the Table & the Bridgespan Group (2023) '[Lighting the Way: A Report for Philanthropy on the Power and Promise of Feminist Movements](#)' p.14

⁴⁰ UNDP (2022) 'Brief on integrating GBV prevention and response: A new way to work on an old problem together'; Making Cents International on behalf of USAID '[Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence \(CARE-GBV\)](#)'.

STRATEGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LONG-TERM FUNDING CYCLES SUPPORT GBV PREVENTION WORK

Long term funding supports the change cycle

Overwhelmingly, the interviewees we spoke to identified short term funding cycles as a barrier to successful implementation of evidence-based prevention programs. Interviewees expressed deep frustration at the 1–3-year contracts offered by donors and the ways short term funding impacts on communities, relationships, and individuals who begin a change process but are not supported to complete it.

Longer program time frames with sufficient funding are essential to prevention work, providing implementing organisations with the space and time to develop their strategy, understand the needs of their communities, adapt materials and methodologies to be context specific as well as to pilot and iterate approaches to generate long term, sustainable change.

“I think that until we start talking in 10 year cycles... the funding flows are disruptive to the work. And we know that for prevention, in particular, it has to be very sustained, we need a really long term view.” – donor interviewee

Large scale prevention approaches require strategy and infrastructure for success

Interviewees highlighted how attempts to deliver prevention programs at scale without a clear strategy, can compromise safe and ethical prevention programming, delivering poor quality results and in some instances, elevating risk for women and girls.

Analysis of large-scale programs such as the USAID funded DREAMS program, identified challenges in delivering prevention components (Stepping Stones and SASA!) due to a lack of clear strategy, technical expertise and support for implementing agencies and individuals.⁴¹

The [Community for Understanding Scaling Processes \(CUSP\)](#) recently identified several key principles to ensure that prevention programs that are delivered at scale, can be delivered within an ethical, intersectional feminist framework that ensures both fidelity to the original prevention methodology as well as adaptability to local contexts.⁴²

There is an opportunity for donors who intend to fund large scale prevention programs to learn from existing programs, adopt the CUSP-developed guidance and ensure that future funding supports design, development, and implementation within a feminist framework.

FUNDING FOR PREVENTION RESEARCH AND NETWORKS BASED IN THE GLOBAL MAJORITY

Research and practitioner networks are essential to fostering a thriving culture of prevention-focused evidence and practice. The Global Shared Research Agenda has revealed gaps in the GBV research field, identifying prevention as a research priority alongside new and emerging forms of violence and the experiences for women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

There is a wide gap in funding for GBV prevention research and networks led by WROs and practitioners in the Global Majority. The 2022 SVRI report ‘Tracking the Funding Flows: Funding for Research’ found that only 0.05% of ODA in 2019 was committed to GBV research. Interviewees identified that local researchers and networks lacked the visibility and profile and were competing against large universities and institutions in the Global Minority that held long-standing relationships with philanthropists and donor governments.

Interviewees recommended that informal networks of practitioners in regions should be supported to come together to share knowledge and expertise. The regional adaptations of the Global Shared Research Agenda such as the Latin and Caribbean adaptation, and the Asia and Pacific adaptation, demonstrate the value of collaboration across and within regions.⁴³

⁴¹ Diane Gardsbane and Paul Bukuluki, ‘Keeping the Essentials in Place: Lessons Learned from a Qualitative Study of DREAMS in Northern Uganda’ *Adolescents* 2023, 3(2), 290-304.

⁴² Community for Understanding Scaling Processes, (December 2021), ‘Enhancing Social Norms Programs: An Invitation to Rethink “Scaling Up” From a Feminist Perspective.’

⁴³ SVRI, ‘Regional VAW priority setting - Latin America and the Caribbean,’ and The Equality Institute ‘Filling in the Picture: Research Priorities on Violence Against Women in the Asia and Pacific Region’.

FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS DELIVERING GBV PREVENTION WORK

Our research found an overwhelming need by WROs for funding to deliver critical GBV prevention work in their communities. According to the UN Trust Fund, the demand to finance projects that include prevention has been significant. Over the last 9 years, 87% of the funding requests received by the UN Trust Fund (\$USD 48 out of \$USD 55 billion) were for projects that included GBV prevention work.⁴⁴

Our analysis found over 98% of bilateral aid funding for GBV prevention programs flowed to large INGOs, private contractors, governments and multilateral agencies. This is consistent with the OECD's analysis that 99% of gender-related ODA fails to reach WROs and feminist movements.⁴⁵

The little funding that does reach WROs working in GBV prevention is often short term and project based. In 2022, the UK-funded What Works 2 consortium engaged Raising Voices to survey 58 small to medium prevention focused WROs on their experiences of accessing donor funding. The survey found that only 7% of WROs received core funding, with 84% receiving only project-based funding and/or one-year contracts.⁴⁶

In response to the feedback from WROs, the What Works 2 consortium have proposed a change to their funding model, moving towards more flexible grant processes, a commitment to funding WROs directly and providing longer term funding. This is an example of how bilateral donor governments can begin to shift existing, rigid funding structures towards more accessible approaches.

Similar challenges are faced by WROs working in large consortiums led by multilateral agencies on multi-million dollar programs such as the Spotlight Initiative. Despite the five-year focus of the Initiative, interviewees spoke of the challenges in delivering programs at scale within one year project funding cycles. Unrealistic donor expectations can also have serious consequences for WROs that are unable to meet the key performance indicators (KPIs) set by donors and intermediaries, with payments being withheld until KPIs are met or a loss of future contracts.

How are WROs disadvantaged by current funding structures?

Decision-making and funding is held by donors and intermediaries (INGOs, private contractors, multilaterals) in high income countries.

Donors impose administratively heavy application and reporting requirements that cannot be realistically met.

Donors hold unrealistic expectations of change outcomes and set hard to achieve key performance indicators without providing adequate funding and timeframes to complete the change cycle.

Donors are not prepared to strengthen WROs through core, long-term and flexible funding.

Power imbalances between donors and researchers in high income countries and WROs.

What does feminist, intersectional approaches to funding prevention look like?

Power and decision-making is shared between WROs and donors and funding moves to WROs without intermediaries.

Applications processes are 'light touch'. Reporting is flexible and appropriate to the size and nature of the grant and organisation.

In consultation with WROs and feminist movements, identify shared outcomes and the times frames in which to achieve them. Evaluation is supported by Global Majority researchers.

Provide core, long-term and flexible funding.

Build collaborations within implementing countries, engage local researchers and prevention experts. Address power imbalances across donors and WROs by operating within an equitable, intersectional feminist framework.

⁴⁴ Figures provided by the UN Trust Fund as at 18 July 2023.

⁴⁵ OECD (March 2019) 'Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Donor Charts'.

⁴⁶ What Works to Prevent Violence (July 2022) 'Building effective funding structures for prevention of violence against women and girls: Aspirations and barriers among Women's Rights Organisations seeking bilateral and multilateral funding' p.4.

CASE STUDY: MOBILISING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT GBV IN HAITI

This case study highlights the important prevention work in under-funded regions and the need for core, flexible and long-term funding to foster innovative approaches in complex settings. Beyond Borders works with communities in the Southeast of Haiti to address power imbalance as the root cause of VAWG through its community-based program, Rethinking Power. It also works to foster feminist movement building and provides technical support to other grassroots NGOs on prevention.

Beginning in 2010, the team adapted the Raising Voices SASA! methodology to the Haitian context and in 2013 began the creation and adaptation of Power to Girls. Seeing a gap in preventing VAWG with disabilities, the team collaborated with local disability rights organisations, Pazapa and Pwodiksyon Teyat Toupatou in 2019 to develop Safe and Capable, a complementary resource pack to work alongside SASA! Together or Power to Girls.

A recent evaluation by the Global Women's Institute and partners IFOS and Pentagone between 2017 and 2021 identified strong and positive results from the three programs in preventing VAWG. Despite risk factors such as gang violence, food insecurity, and socio-political unrest, as well as COVID, the rates of physical and sexual intimate partner violence were reduced by half. For girls aged 15-23, there was an almost 40% decrease over the past 12 months.⁴⁷

The team identified the long term, flexible, and core funding they received as crucial to the success of the program. It allowed them the time to comprehensively engage with diverse women and girls in their communities, build trust and listen deeply as well as be responsive to community concerns.

“Donors need to take into account the context of the community and what the country is going through. When it's given as project funds, it's problematic because it doesn't take those things into account. Funding needs to be given to organisations to give them the flexibility to adapt to evolving conditions and community realities in their context.” – Emanuela Paul, Rethinking Power Program Coordinator.

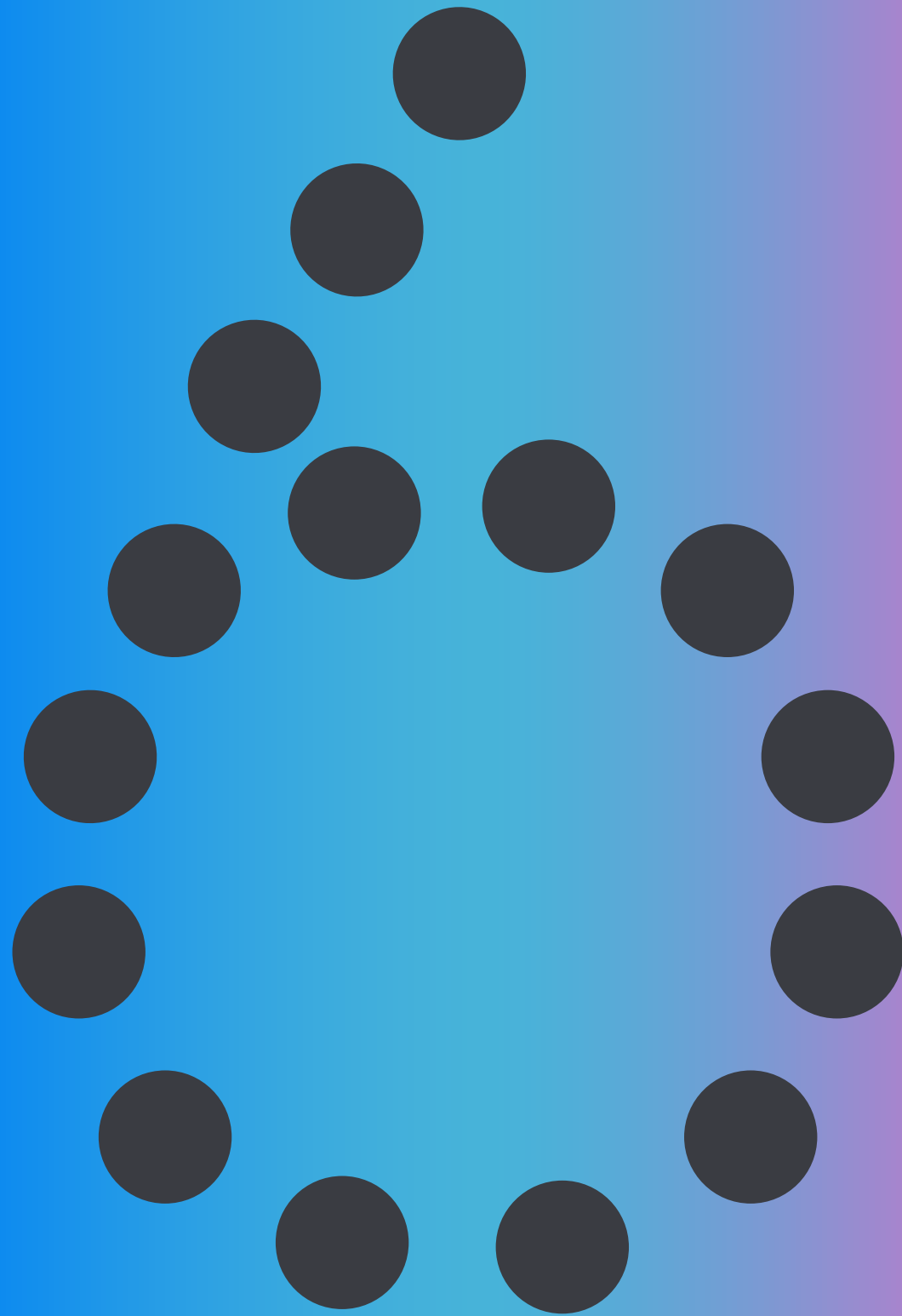
The team spoke of the enormous challenges of attracting funding for GBV prevention in Haiti, noting that language is a barrier for English and French speaking donors. In a country with high rates of GBV, what limited funding that is available is funnelled into response and concentrated in urban centres such as the capital. They noted that the majority of small WROs entirely miss out on funding, unable to navigate complex funding application processes.

“We have partners all across Haiti...that are passionate about this work in their communities. They want to do prevention work and they can't get the support. If a vibrant social movement around prevention is to take place, led by the amazing feminist organizations that have long worked in Haiti, they need the right funds.” – Sara Siebert, Rethinking Power Program Co-Director.

It underpins the critical importance of feminist movement building in order to achieve change across communities.

“The spark of the activism from our network has created three local organisations that are continuing without us to do prevention work. Investing in the networking between organisations underlines the importance of long term, flexible and core funding to continue the work. The real need is to invest in movement building so that more and more WROs can participate in social norms change.” - Emanuela Paul, Rethinking Power Program Coordinator

⁴⁷ Bourassa, A., Murphy, M., Wilson, R., and Contreras-Urbina, M. (2022) 'Shifting Power and Reducing Violence in Haiti: Initial Results of an Impact of the Rethinking Power and Power to Girls Program's in Southeast Haiti' The Global Women's Institute at George Washington University.



TRACKING GBV PREVENTION FUNDING

Understanding who is funding prevention, how and where they are doing so, and what the impact is, builds a picture that can inform and guide future decision-making and investment. It can highlight what regions are under-supported and require further investment. It can improve coordination and cooperation between donors and with intermediary and implementing agencies.

Despite the efforts of donors and the OECD to effectively capture finance flows, significant challenges remain. In our baseline study we encountered a range of barriers to effective tracking.

Due to inconsistencies in how data is recorded in the OECD CRS and the VAWG DAC code data set, even key word searches have limited value if projects are not described as including prevention. The IATI data set faces similar challenges and relies on donors to select what information it shares. We found donor government open aid portals more useful in identifying prevention work with program descriptions and outcome information being made available in some instances.

There is an opportunity here for the OECD and DAC countries to develop clearer guidance and standardisation of terminology and naming conventions, for example within titles and project description fields to improve identification of GBV prevention investments. There is also value in the OECD and DAC countries exploring a clearer classification for GBV prevention either through a policy-marker or stand-alone DAC purpose code.

Disaggregating investment in broader programs of work proved difficult in the study, as information on budgets and allocations to prevention components were unavailable. A lack of information on program approaches and evaluations posed challenges in establishing whether investments were evidence-based and consistent with the RESPECT framework.

Improving aid transparency by all donors is crucial to tracking investment. This is a theme that has arisen in the broader aid transparency movement.⁴⁸ Reform in this space includes donors publishing program design documents, budgets and evaluations on aid platforms. With a growth in DFIs and private investors, further consideration must be given to how other finance actors can report on their investment and impact.

The report identified some examples of good practice in reporting GBV investments. Both the Spotlight Initiative's Annual Narrative Reports and the World Bank's recent report on its GBV investments are examples of how donors can report in more detail on GBV investments, providing disaggregated data on prevention and response as well as the impact of their investments. This model of self-reporting and assessment is one that should be adopted by major donors.

There has been much written on the OECD's gender marker and the challenges of coding against gender as well the VAWG and WRO DAC codes. We recognise the work that donors are doing within their agencies and with the OECD to improve tracking (both within the OECD system and outside of it). However, further work must be done as a matter of urgency to ensure consistency as well as tools to support application and the effective use of the gender marker as a tracking tool.

⁴⁸ Publish What You Fund (Jan 2023) '[Being serious about WEE requires funders to be serious about transparency](#)' and Oxford Policy Management (Jan 2021) '[Evaluating aid transparency](#)'



A ROADMAP TO ACCELERATING INVESTMENT IN GBV PREVENTION

In order to create transformative change across whole populations we need ambitious and game-changing commitments and, more importantly, action from all donors who have a stake in achieving gender equality.

The opportunities to increase direct investment in evidence-based programs and policies by at least \$500 million by 2026 are significant.

Developing a roadmap to drive investment in prevention requires us to look across the funding landscape, identifying both short term approaches that work within current funding structures as well as longer term approaches to sustain a lasting shift towards an intersectional, feminist funding ecosystem.

There are a number of over-arching principles that should be embedded into all of the work that donors undertake to increase investment in prevention:

Embed feminist, intersectional approaches to funding WROs and feminist movements

informed by the work of a range of organisations including the Black Feminist Fund, Mama Cash, AWID, FRIDA Young Feminist Fund and the ASTRAEA Foundation.

Work in partnership and consultation with WROs, practitioners and researchers at the forefront of prevention in the Global Majority.

In particular, identify and work with those working within communities facing intersectional inequality and in geographical regions that are the hardest to reach. Working in partnership and utilising prevention expertise and knowledge, ensures that donor efforts to drive investment are evidence-based, best practice and centre the experiences of women and girls in the communities that are hardest to reach.

Draw on and be informed by existing tools, frameworks and evidence that has been developed in GBV prevention.

This includes the RESPECT framework, the Global Shared Research Agenda, the work of prevention practitioners, the evidence developed as part of What Works to Prevent Violence, Stage 1 and the Alliance for Feminist Movements, amongst others.

RECOMMENDATION 1

BUILD A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TO PREVENTION

The evidence is clear that approaches to reducing GBV sit across thematic areas and aid portfolios. Cash transfers, livelihoods and agriculture, early childhood, climate change, health (particularly sexual and reproductive health) and education are all pathways for addressing the drivers of GBV. In fact, the success of these programs depends on addressing the unequal relationships and deeply embedded gender norms in communities.

A multi-sectoral approach requires three elements:

- 1. Strategy & commitments
- 2. Budgeting
- 3. Knowledge, expertise and convening

STRATEGY & COMMITMENTS

Donors have real scope to embed principles of a multi-sectoral approach to ending GBV in their strategies and policy commitments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Feminist foreign policies and international development policies

Donor governments include funded commitments to GBV prevention in international development policies and feminist foreign policies.

Sectoral strategies

Sectoral strategies of governments and multilaterals include clear commitments to integrating prevention into programme design and funding.

Private philanthropy

Philanthropic foundations commit to GBV prevention within their overall strategic plans and embed prevention in strategies across portfolios.

National Action Plans to prevent GBV

Governments implement national fully-costed, multi-sectoral NAPs on preventing GBV. These NAPs should include budgeted commitments for aid and development ministries.

BUILDING PREVENTION INTO BUDGETS

Budgeting processes within aid and development ministries, multilateral agencies and foundations is an essential part of ensuring that GBV prevention initiatives are built into portfolio budgets as well as program budgets.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fully costed budgets support all stages of prevention work	Donors develop fully costed budgets for prevention in consultation with prevention experts, to support all stages of work including community consultation, design, testing and piloting, developing and adapting materials, training, implementing, iterating and changing approaches as well monitoring and evaluation.
Multi-sectoral budgeting	Donors adopt a multi-team approach to budgeting for GBV prevention, ensuring that prevention is included across sector, portfolio and program budgets.
Long-term, core and flexible funding	Donors develop budgets that include long-term, flexible and core funding to WROs and feminist movements leading prevention work in LLMICs.
Feminist model for large scale initiatives	Donors ensure that the design and budgeting of large scale prevention initiatives are developed in line with CUSP's feminist scale model.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND CONVENING

Work is still needed to build a shared understanding of evidence-based GBV prevention. We recognise that good practice and innovation exists everywhere and in all portfolios.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Development Banks	The World Bank and regional development banks collaborate to build shared understanding and shared frameworks to ensure safe, ethical and feminist-based prevention investment within development policy financing.
Multilateral agencies	Multilateral agencies adopt lessons from pilots such as the UNDP initiative and convene cross-agency platforms and events to discuss opportunities to strengthen evidence-based prevention across a range of programs – for example, adolescent girl programming, safety in schools, comprehensive sexuality education, and cash transfer programs.
Workplace professional development	All agencies invest in workplace professional development, to strengthen the understanding and skills of teams across portfolios on GBV and evidence-based prevention approaches.

RECOMMENDATION 2**FUND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND FEMINIST MOVEMENTS**

Moving towards a feminist funding ecosystem requires shifting power and radically rethinking how aid and development works. For donors supporting GBV prevention, this means reconceptualising modalities of funding to ensure that high quality funding flows to WROs and feminist movements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**Modalities of funding**

Donors offer core, long-term and flexible funding to WROs and feminist movements at the forefront of GBV prevention work.

Develop ways of working that builds and promotes a more accessible, equal partnership with Global Majority WROs.

Feminist funds

Donors increase funding to stand alone feminist funds that are already working in intersectional, participatory ways to reach the hardest to reach WROs and feminist movements.

RECOMMENDATION 3**REPORTING AND TRACKING PREVENTION FUNDING**

We acknowledge that there is significant work being done within agencies and through the OECD to review and improve methods to track funding to gender equality and GBV.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**Guidelines**

As an immediate priority, the OECD and DAC countries develop GBV prevention-specific guidance and standardisation of terminology and naming conventions in CRS reporting, for example within titles and project description fields to improve identification of GBV prevention investments.

Reform to OECD coding

The OECD and DAC countries undertake an exploratory study to determine whether GBV prevention should be added as a DAC policy marker or stand-alone DAC purpose code.

Private philanthropy

Philanthropic foundations report annually on disaggregated GBV prevention investments.

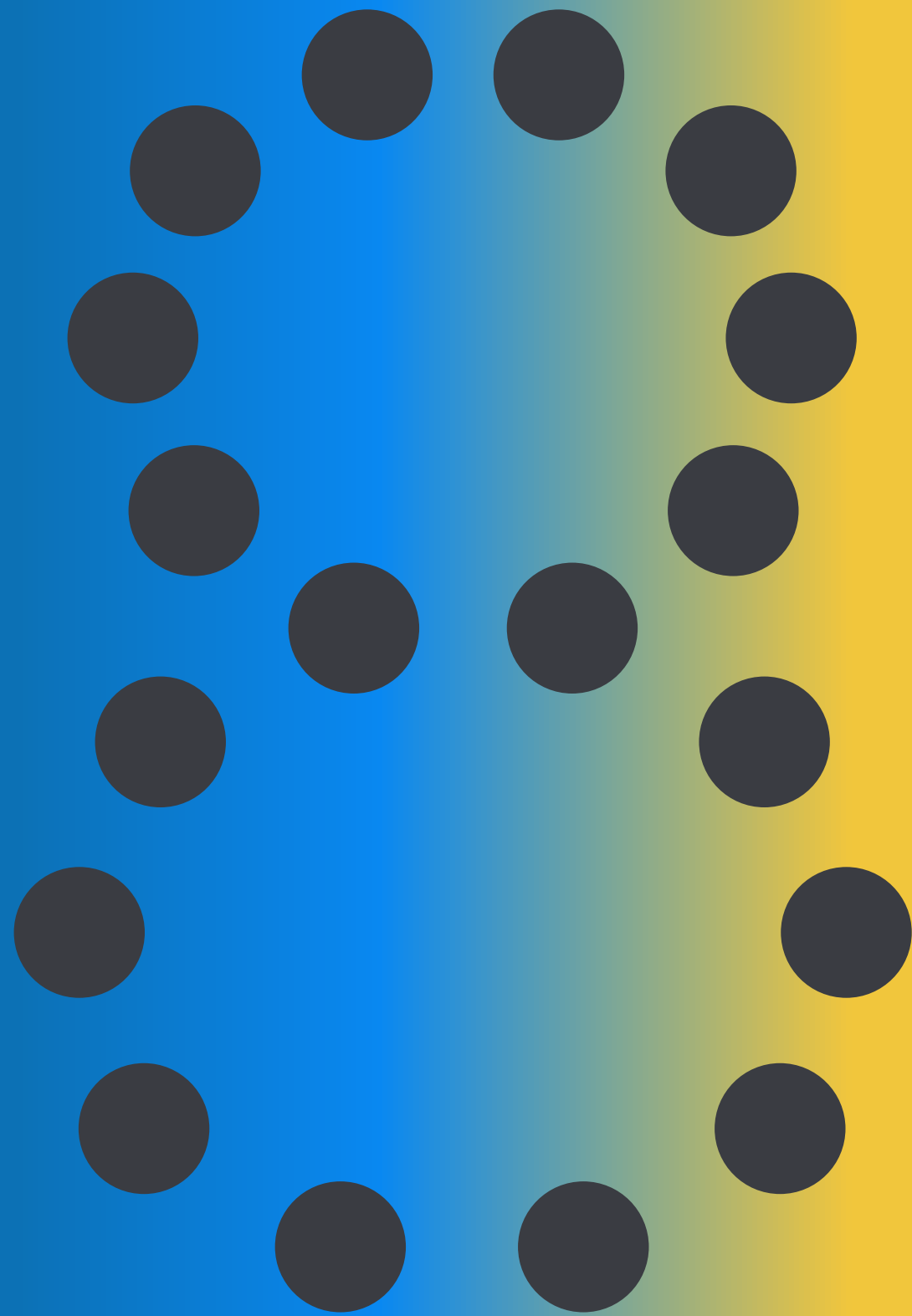
Philanthropic foundations improve reporting to the OECD's Private Philanthropy for Development CRS.

Open aid portals

Donor governments and multilateral agencies increase the level of information available via open aid platforms to include program design documents, theory of change and program logics, budgets and evaluations.

Donor initiated GBV assessments

Major donors take a leadership role in self-reporting, providing regular audits and assessments of their GBV prevention and response spending.



NEXT STEPS

A MODEL FOR TRACKING FUTURE INVESTMENT

Tracking progress towards Goal 1 and Goal 2 of the Shared Advocacy Agenda and commitments made as part of the Generation Equality's GBV Action Coalition is an important accountability mechanism. Tracking and reporting on progress can highlight gaps and opportunities for donors and national governments in their progress towards 2026 and achieving the SDGs by 2030, as well as providing evidence to advocate for further action.

The Accelerator and EQI will be leading work to monitor and track progress by donors and national governments in achieving Goal 1 and 2 in the Shared Advocacy Agenda and GBV Action Coalition blueprint and will present data and analysis as part of its *Global GBV Prevention Funding Report* in 2024 and 2026.

Tracking progress is a collective effort with donors and national governments and the aim is to foster collaboration, transparency and good practice in self-reporting on GBV prevention. The three key elements that are proposed as part of the model are:

Annual GBV prevention surveys for donors and national governments

Thematic reports on emerging trends and key issues in GBV prevention

Profiles of good practice by donors and national governments in GBV prevention

REPORTING

It is proposed that the first Global GBV Prevention Funding Report in 2024 will share qualitative and quantitative data on donors' and national governments' work towards Goals 1 and 2. The report will present:

- Findings from the analysis of annual surveys, policies, strategies and major initiatives.
- Thematic reports on emerging trends and key issues including the nexus between humanitarian and development financing for prevention, innovative and new approaches to prevention in climate change, health and education and perspectives from prevention practitioners and feminist movements in the Global Majority.
- Profiles of good practice by donors and national governments

In order to track progress, the following methodology is proposed:

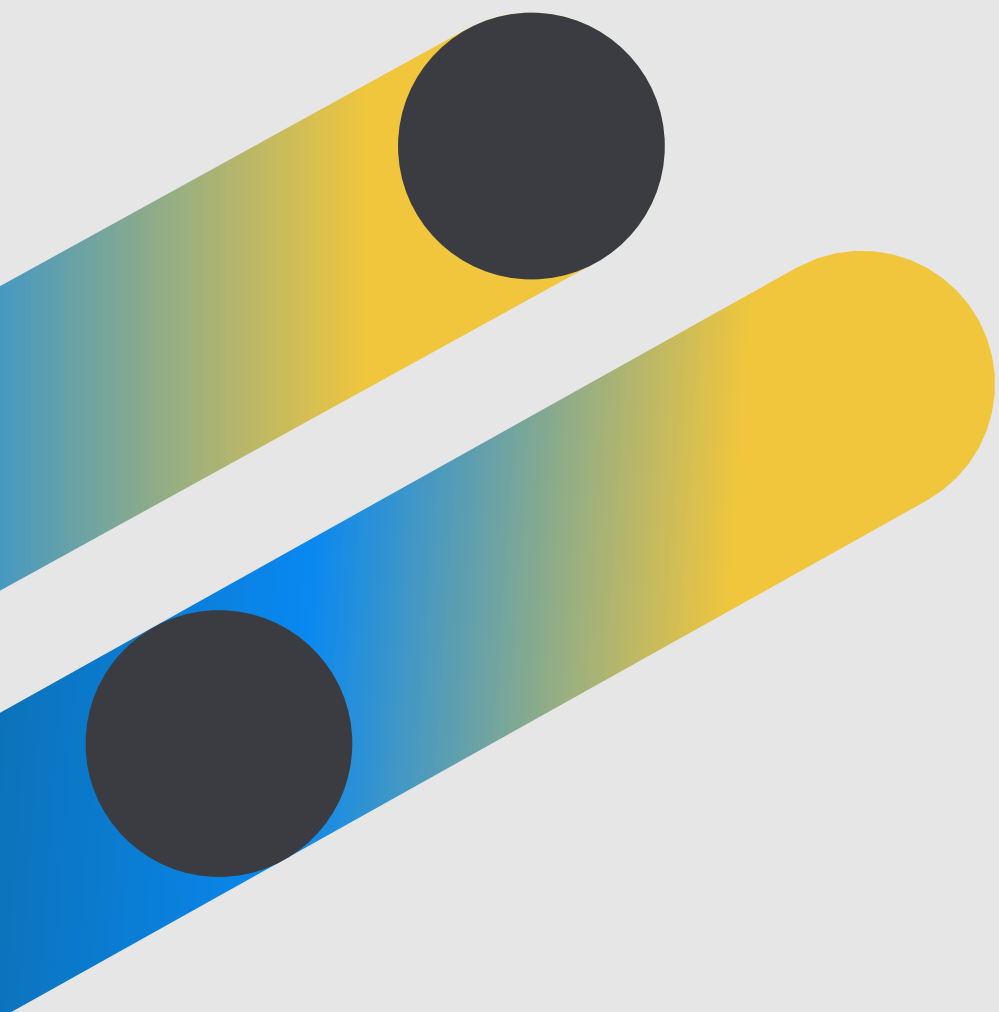
Method	Potential Data Sources
<p>Analysis of information provided by donors through surveys and interviews of GBV prevention investments.</p> <p>Analysis of donor policies and strategies released from 2024 to identify commitments and budget allocations to GBV prevention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual prevention survey of all donors • Generation Equality Forum (GEF) commitment dashboard and reports⁴⁹ • Interviews with donors and national governments • National Actions Plans to end GBV • Multilateral agency strategies • Feminist foreign policies and policies for international development • Sub-policies in international development ministries that relate to GBV.
<p>Analysis of major initiatives committed to, from 2024 onwards focused on GBV prevention or with GBV prevention as a component and budget allocations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual prevention survey of all donors • GEF commitment dashboard and reports • Interviews with donors and national governments • Media releases • Donor strategies, policy documents • Donor budgets • Donor and implementing agency websites • Information provided directly from donors

⁴⁹ The GEF dashboard and reporting mechanism will be useful in identifying the national governments, donor governments, multilaterals and philanthropists that have included prevention as part of their GBV Action Coalition commitments and the overall pledge amount however the specific value of commitments to prevention will not be tracked through the dashboard and reporting.

**GLOBAL GBV PREVENTION
FUNDING REPORT – 2026**

The 2026 report is a comprehensive assessment of donor countries and national governments’ progress from the baseline developed for this report which focuses on Goal 1 and for Goal 2 (baseline to be developed). The report will include:

- The level of direct investment that is new money in evidence-based programs and policies in LLMICs and the increase/decrease from the baseline.
- The funding landscape and changes from the baseline analysis.
- Changes in trends, gaps and opportunities.



Method	Potential Data Sources
Adapt baseline methodology to count new money from 2023 to 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collation of annual prevention surveys • GEF commitment dashboard and reports • OECD CRS data *noting the time lag, data for 2026 is unlikely to be available • Open aid platform
Synthesis and update of the analysis of policies, strategies and major initiatives from the 2024 report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with donors and national governments • National Actions Plans to end GBV • Multilateral agency strategies • Feminist foreign policies and policies for international development • Sub-policies in international development ministries that relate to GBV. • Media releases • Donor strategies, policy documents • Donor budgets • Donor and implementing agency websites • Information provided directly from donors

