



STRENGTHENING SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (PHASE III)



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GOAL

All women and girls in Cambodia and the Philippines live life free from violence.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

Despite growing awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) and extensive work done by governments, women’s organizations and other partners, many women and girls who are subjected to violence still lack access to essential services that support their safety, health, and access to justice.

The Asia Pacific region is the most disaster prone region in the world and has many protracted and complex emergencies. Natural disasters due to climate change cause population displacement, thus heightening the risk of GBV, especially among vulnerable populations.

Lack of a survivor-centered approach to GBV service provision is a key challenge in the delivery of GBV response services in the Southeast Asia region, including in Cambodia and the Philippines. Often, reported cases of GBV in Cambodia are only treated on a medical level and unless a case is considered “serious,” no justice action is taken. In the Philippines, the availability of services for GBV survivors is scarce, especially outside of Manila and the main urbanized areas.

FUNDING: US\$750,000



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Women and girls who experience violence use quality essential services, with a focus on strengthening health system responses and coordination between service providers in:

CAMBODIA

PHILIPPINES



PHASE I & II

Phase I and Phase II of the UNFPA project in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, in partnership with Zonta International, created a strong foundation and evidence to build Phase III of this program.

PHASE III

Phase III will expand the strengthening of skills, knowledge, and capacities of GBV responders, including health care providers in additional geographic areas in Cambodia and the Philippines. Phase III will also institutionalize the international standards and guidelines within government systems for sustainability.

*Delegates' Choice: Delegates at the 2024 Convention will choose between 2024-2026 International Service Projects: Strengthening Services for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Southeast Asia and Laaha: A Safe Space for Women and Girls

PROJECT HISTORY AND TIMELINE

2020

Zonta International committed US\$1 million to support project Phase I of UNFPA program in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

2022

Zonta International committed US\$750,000 to support Phase II of the program.

January 2021- December 2022

With Zonta's support, Phase 1 succeeded in expanding family support centers in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste to provide community awareness and specialized services for GBV survivors. Action plans were established at the municipality level and the national in-service training package for healthcare providers to address GBV was developed.

January 2023 - December 2024

With Zonta's support, Phase II of the program in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste is focused on expanding to underserved geographical locations, enhancing the quality of services, and institutionalizing the interventions in government systems.

FAST FACTS

- Asia and the Pacific region experience the highest rates of GBV in the world. 15-64% of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence was at the hands of an intimate partner.
- Less than 40% of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific who experience GBV seek help of any kind or do not know where to find help.
- In the Asia-Pacific region, women and girls with disabilities are exposed to higher risks of violence and face a range of additional barriers in accessing essential health, justice policing, or social support services.
- One in five women in Cambodia report experiencing GBV from an intimate partner.
- GBV is a significant human rights concern in the Philippines, with 12 percent of ever-married women having experienced some form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence from their intimate partners in the last 12 months. The highest reported region of reported GBV is one of the areas most frequently affected by typhoons.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Health Ministries in Cambodia and the Philippines adopt and institutionalize international standards and guidelines for survivor centered GBV services provided through the health sector.



National and sub-national governments develop and adopt GBV referral systems and GBV Standard Operating Guidelines.



Relevant government authorities and service providers have the knowledge, skills, and resources to provide quality GBV case management.



All project sites have functional referral pathways established in line with global guidelines.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Build a program with case management services that are survivor-centered and staffed with trained professionals to refer them to help confidentially.
- Develop capacity of GBV response services providers on international guidelines on essential services packages for women and girls subjected to violence.
- Provide technical guidance for development of guidelines on multi-sectoral coordination and referral for timely and quality response to GBV survivors.
- Deliver technical guidance for the institutionalization of GBV case management.
- Strengthen capacities of government on a local and national level to align policies and programs with international guidelines on GBV support and response.
- Support policy advocacy to assist governments in institutionalizing international standards on GBV service provision.

“When we take a client on board, we start by listening to what the survivor has to say. We let the choices be made by the survivor, because she knows best about her safety, where she’s comfortable and who she should see.”

– Edna

Social Work with the Provincial Health Authority and Family Support Centre, Papua New Guinea

