# UN Trust Fund Annual Report 2011

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I am often asked whether ending violence against women is possible given the pervasiveness and persistence of these crimes. My answer is yes, it is possible. We are all responsible, and change is happening to varying degrees in countries worldwide.

The first step has been taken: the silence has been broken. Thousands more steps have followed. In Liberia, I met women police officers protecting women and girls and bringing perpetrators of gender-based violence to justice. In Paraguay, I saw young women and men joining forces to end violence against women. Today at least 125 countries outlaw domestic violence.

As more and more people believe that violence against women is neither acceptable nor inevitable, as more and more perpetrators are punished, the change to end violence against women grows in proportion to these crimes.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is now celebrating its fifteenth anniversary—15 years of working to create a world in which violence against women and girls is unacceptable. Over that time, the Trust Fund’s grantees have spearheaded groundbreaking innovations to support survivors, to end impunity for these crimes, to change harmful beliefs and practices, and, most importantly, to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

A recent study commissioned by the UN Trust Fund provides powerful evidence of the impact of its grant-making. The study found that in addition to the direct impact on women and girls, these initiatives mobilized others to change their behaviour, amend laws and policies, engage with communities to end harmful practices, and expand support services to survivors.

This special anniversary issue of the UN Trust Fund’s Annual Report reviews the accomplishments of 2011. It also takes a further look back at what can be learned from grantees and their experiences over the last decade-and-a-half. How can men be enlisted as allies in the struggle to end violence against women? What features do successful laws and policies share? Which channels are most effective for spreading anti-violence advocacy messages? How can services be designed to reach women who suffer multiple forms of discrimination? What types of support do survivors really need, beyond immediate medical care, to rebuild their lives?

Today violence against women is increasingly recognized for what it is: a threat to democracy, a barrier to lasting peace, a burden on national economies, and an appalling human rights violation.

Yes, it is possible.
Violence against women and girls has been a grim constant in societies around the world for all of recorded history. From the bedroom to the schoolhouse to the workplace, at the hands of loved ones and coworkers and strangers, violence and the threat of violence have long robbed women and girls of their bodily integrity, physical and mental health, freedom, and a range of other basic human rights.

THE UN TRUST FUND WORKS TO CREATE A JUST WORLD WHERE WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE FREE FROM FEAR, ABLE TO LEAD REWARDING LIVES WITH DIGNITY AND EQUALITY.

On 16 February 1996, at its fiftieth session, the United Nations General Assembly said “no more.” No more would the international community be complicit in the world’s most widespread violation of human rights. No more would it stand on the sidelines while violence against women and girls hobbled development progress and denied the worth and dignity of half of humanity. With Resolution 50/166, the General Assembly called for the creation of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. This landmark event did not take place in a vacuum. Grass-roots women’s organizations and international coalitions had been working for years to overturn the notion that violence against women is a private matter or an inevitable fact of life, successfully reframing violence as a human rights issue.

The establishment of the UN Trust Fund resulted from and contributed to this profoundly consequential shift in the way in which governments, the international community, and, increasingly, people themselves view violence against women and girls. As the first and only global mechanism to address the problem with funding and expertise, the UN Trust Fund brought synergy and coherence to the United Nations’ work in this critical field. In subsequent years, additional UN General Assembly Resolutions and the UN Secretary-General’s global campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women 2008-2015 have intensified international attention and galvanized action.

Today, the UN Trust Fund is the leading multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports efforts to end violence against women and girls. The Trust Fund works to create a just world where women and girls are safe and free, able to lead rewarding lives of dignity and equality. UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, manages the Trust Fund on behalf of the UN system.

Through an open, transparent, and highly competitive process, the UN Trust Fund awards grants ranging from US$100,000 to US$1 million to civil society organizations, national governments, and UN country teams in developing and transition countries. To date, the UN Trust Fund has awarded more than US$78 million in grants, supporting 339 initiatives in 127 countries and territories. The majority of its grants, about 75 percent, support initiatives led by civil society organizations.

The UN Trust Fund’s guiding vision for the coming five years is:

- Translating the promise to end violence against women and girls into practice on the ground by supporting efforts to expand prevention programmes and survivor services.
- Paving the way to evidence-based action on ending violence against women and girls by generating and disseminating knowledge on what works.
- Building ownership of the UN Trust Fund throughout the UN system and supporting the UN’s commitment to “deliver as one” to advance the implementation of national strategies to end violence against women and girls.

The Trust Fund’s long-term goal is clear: a world in which violence against women and girls is unacceptable—and the Trust Fund is no longer necessary.
THE UN TRUST FUND AT 15: BUILDING A WORLD WHERE WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE SAFE AND FREE

1993
The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

1995
Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

1996
Establishment of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

2000
UNIFEM (now UN Women) publishes the ground-breaking study “With an End in Sight” highlighting promising practices from the UN Trust Fund’s grantees in the struggle to end violence against women

2001
An educational soap opera produced by UN Trust Fund grantee Puntos de Encuentro in Nicaragua is rated one of the most popular television programmes in the country

2003
The Government of the Lao PDR invites the Lao Women’s Union, a UN Trust Fund grantee, to draft the country’s first Law on Development and Protection of Women

2004
A UN Trust Fund-supported programme led by the Human Rights Commission is recognized as one of the three best projects on human rights in Peru

2004
The UN Trust Fund’s support to the African Women’s Development and Communications Network results in the creation of one of the first men’s networks to combat violence against women and promote gender equality in Africa

2005
The UN Trust Fund opens a special funding category addressing the intersection of violence against women and HIV/AIDS

2005
The UN Trust Fund’s resources double from the previous year reaching US$ 1.8 million

2006
With the UN Trust Fund’s support, Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán develops an approach to creating safe cities for women and girls that has since been replicated globally
2007
The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution strongly encouraging states to “increase significantly their voluntary financial support” to the UN Trust Fund.

2008
United Nations country teams are invited to apply for funding from the UN Trust Fund for the first time.

2008
The UN Secretary-General launches his UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, setting a target to raise US $100 million for the UN Trust Fund’s annual grant-making by 2015.

2009
Breakthrough, a UN Trust Fund grantee in India, launches the country’s first multi-media campaign against domestic violence, “Bell Bajao,” or “Ring the Bell,” reaching over 124 million people in 4 months.

2011
The UN Trust Fund publishes the first-ever study using the “outcome mapping” methodology to analyze outcomes relating to ending violence against women and girls.

2011
The UN Trust Fund distributes US $17.1 million in grants to 22 initiatives in 34 countries, supporting programmes for the first time in Iraq and the newly independent Republic of South Sudan.

2008
The UN Trust Fund quadruples its funds, distributing a record US$ 22 million in grants to 28 initiatives in 38 countries.
Primary prevention—stopping violence before it occurs by addressing its root causes—is a central focus of the UN Trust Fund’s grant-making. Grantee prevention strategies range from research-based advocacy and awareness-raising to direct engagement with communities and their leaders. Transforming social and institutional norms and practices that tacitly or overtly condone violence against women is key to the expansion of women’s human rights. Just as norms—rules or expectations of behaviour—within a social or cultural group can encourage violence, so too can interventions that challenge these norms prevent violence. Successful efforts from around the world have done just that.

Preventing violence requires enlisting a new set of allies, including young people and men in their roles as fathers, traditional leaders, and policy-makers. The UN Trust Fund currently invests US$11 million of its US$61 million active portfolio in efforts to engage men and boys as allies in addressing violence against women—more than one in every six dollars it provides in grants. The reason is simple: since men both wield disproportionate power and are the chief perpetrators of violence against women, changing men’s attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours is fundamental to ending violence. In 2011, many UN grantees forged such new alliances to advance transformative social change.
Attitudes and beliefs about how women and men should relate to one another are rooted in childhood experience, particularly family life. Children growing up in violence-free households where parents are equals and children are treated with dignity and respect typically reach adulthood with the view that violence against women and girls is unacceptable. On the other hand, children who grow up experiencing harsh physical discipline or sexual abuse, or witnessing domestic violence, tend to see this behaviour as normal and are more likely to be perpetrators or victims of violence as adults.

In Turkey, studies have shown that physical punishment is widely viewed as a normal and acceptable part of raising a child. An innovative prevention programme is challenging this harmful norm by targeting the beliefs and behaviours of men, particularly in their role as parents. The Mother Child Education Foundation (ACEV) is implementing Turkey’s only such training programme, reaching low- and middle-income fathers with children between the ages of 3 and 11 in six provinces.

A team of trained male teachers and guidance counsellors runs the 13-week parenting course, which examines the role of masculinity in the context of child well-being. Participants explore the ways in which gender norms can harm not just women and girls but also men and boys as they learn more about the effects of verbal and physical violence on their families.

Although combating entrenched norms and altering behaviours learned over a lifetime is an ambitious undertaking, the project has achieved significant results to date. The programme has reached over 1,200 fathers, imparting vital knowledge and skills around anger management, conflict resolution, and the healthy expression of feelings. Fathers who graduate from the programme report an increased level of empathy and patience towards family members, are less likely to use verbal violence, and are more open to resolving conflicts democratically. Overall, the initiative’s strategy of treating men as allies for change in the best interest of their children has been successful in creating a safe, non-judgmental environment in which men can grapple with personal issues related to violence and abandon harmful beliefs.

The widespread normalization of violence is often a lingering side effect of war, well after the laying down of arms. This phenomenon is evident in Cambodia, which endured a brutal civil war followed by a genocidal regime that killed approximately one in five Cambodians between 1975 and 1979.

UN Trust Fund grantee Youth Star is working to prevent young people from adopting many of the harmful norms and behaviours of their war-affected and often traumatized elders. Youth Star enlists the volunteer services of university graduates each year to mobilize young women and men as agents of change and raise awareness about the equal rights of women and men under the Constitution, the Marriage Law, and the Domestic Violence Law. The organization facilitates access to education for all at-risk girls and boys in the target communities. It also creates space for young people in rural communities to have meaningful peer discussions on values, sexual rights, and intimate relationships and facilitates wider community conversations about domestic violence.

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In Africa, some 92 million girls over the age of 10 have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), with more than 3 million at risk of the practice in the region each year. This widespread human rights violation inflicts extreme physical and emotional pain and puts girls at risk of infection and death. In the long term, it imperils the lives of mothers and infants during childbirth and robs women of their sexual and reproductive rights. The UN Trust Fund is currently investing more than US$2 million to support programmes dedicated to the eradication of FGM throughout Africa. Save the Children Sweden (SCS), in collaboration with national partners, works to end this practice by bringing a proven human-rights-based model to scale in Gambia, Guinea, Mali and Senegal, countries in which FGM is particularly prevalent.

Evidence shows that FGM is most effectively addressed through community-wide mobilization. Parents can be reluctant to keep their daughters uncut because they fear that the resulting stigma would make their girls unmarriageable. If a whole community abandons the practice en masse, however, this potential risk is removed; no stigma is attached to an uncut young woman if all her peers are likewise uncut.

This UN Trust Fund grantee conducts intensive, rights-based training programmes to develop the capacities of police officers, health workers, traditional and religious leaders, and community-based facilitators to work toward the eradication of FGM. Its advocacy efforts promote the adoption of specific national laws to prevent FGM. SCS also collaborates with Ministries of Education to integrate awareness-raising programmes into school curricula with the view to empowering youth to help end the practice.

The project has had a significant impact in the target communities in all four participating countries. In Gambia, for instance, key stakeholders are actively working for a national strategy for the elimination of FGM with official support from elected officials. At the project launch, a member of the National Assembly pledged his support for the campaign to eradicate FGM, saying that he was committed to the effort even if doing so meant he lost his seat. This was the first time a national assembly member made such an unequivocal statement about the practice.

The project’s work has resulted in a reduced drop-out rate among girls as well as fewer under-age marriages in the participating communities. The creation of “zero tolerance communities” has changed the ways in which men and women interact in villages and towns across the country. The target communities have developed new skills for conflict resolution while more tolerant and respectful attitudes and behavioral norms have also emerged.

**“THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE COMMUNITY’S OWN CHILDREN WHO RAISED ISSUES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ROLE-PLAYS, REFLECTING REAL AND PERSONAL ISSUES...ENSURED THAT THE MESSAGE OPENED PEOPLE’S MINDS.”**

— A COMMUNITY LEADER IN CAMBODIA REACHED BY YOUTH STAR VOLUNTEERS
PREVENTION: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

UN Trust Fund grantees have led global efforts to prevent violence against women and girls, significantly increasing our understanding of “what works” in combatting violence against women. These interventions challenge deeply rooted community gender norms and tacit tolerance of violence against women. They also broaden people’s understanding of such violence as a human rights violation.

FIELD RESEARCH AND DATA GATHERED FROM UN TRUST FUND-SUPPORTED PREVENTION PROGRAMMES OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES:

- **Combining multiple media strategies with local, targeted outreach efforts is more effective in promoting behaviour change than either approach in isolation.** The UN Trust Fund grantees have found that creating synergies between wide-ranging media campaigns and community outreach reinforces messages and stimulates transformation at the community level. Successful media campaigns spread positive, non-violent messages about manhood and gender equality, offering a range of opportunities for hearing and digesting messages rather than “one shot messaging.” Building partnerships with community radio can be a particularly effective way to re-broadcast programmes from other mediums, develop programming in local languages, and share stories and data collected in the field.

- **Engaging men and boys by calling them to action has more potential to transform attitudes and increase support for gender equity than an approach focused on blaming and shaming.** Many programmes supported by the UN Trust Fund emphasize the strengths of men as good husbands and fathers, and as champions of women’s rights. To increase their participation and ownership of the transformation process, the UN Trust Fund’s grantees engage young men as data collectors, raising their awareness about gender and masculinity at all stages of project implementation.

- **Intervening in the early stages of the life-cycle through school-based and early education programmes.** Research involving male participants of a UN Trust Fund-supported intervention found that in some countries, men over the age of 50 held more equitable views than younger men.\(^5\) These findings makes it imperative for prevention programmes to address the ways in which children, both girls and boys, are being socialized during the defining periods in their young lives.

- **Mobilizing local communities at the neighbourhood and village levels to create a conducive environment for preventing violence against women and girls.** In order to challenge harmful norms and beliefs that are carried by community members in their multiple roles—as parents or police officers—for example, changes need to happen in these environments simultaneously. The UN Trust Fund’s grantees actively engaged community leaders and district heads to increase not only their understanding of gender-based violence, but also their investment in the safety of women and girls. Various techniques, including safety audits, which map unsafe public spaces, and the establishment of community watch groups, have proven particularly effective.

\(^5\) International Center on Research on Women/Instituto Promundo, *Evolving Men: Initial Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)*, 2011

Despite progress at the policy and political levels as well as the great strides made in the area of prevention, violence against women persists. A rigorous study in ten countries involving interviews with 24,000 women around the world revealed that domestic violence is “frighteningly common” and that, far from being a safe haven, home is too often a place of pain, fear, and humiliation for women and girls. Between 8 percent and 60 percent of women reported having experienced violence by a partner over the course of their lifetime. The rate of sexual violence in particular ranged from 2 percent to 59 percent.

The need for survivor services is thus vast, and, in most of the world, largely unmet.

UN Trust Fund grantees are stepping in to meet this need, helping survivors rebuild their lives with a host of services, from health-care and psycho-social support to legal representation and vocational training opportunities. UN Trust Fund-supported initiatives active in 2011 showcase how integrated service models can help women access the wide range of services they need in order to exercise their full range of human rights.

"While I was working, he threw acid at me suddenly. When the acid came, I thought if I survived, I wouldn't be able to do anything. I lost pieces of my body. If a dish is broken and we put the broken pieces back together, it's of course not like the original one. So we need to find something new for our life."

— A CAMBODIAN WOMAN WHO SURVIVED AN ACID ATTACK IN 2004
In Nepal, the stigma and shame survivors often feel combined with inadequate state capacity to provide services means that many Nepali women affected by violence do not receive the critical support they need to rebuild their lives. UN Women, UNICEF, and UNFPA are joining forces to change that situation by merging and scaling-up their previously separate survivor-support initiative, working in close collaboration with the Nepali Ministry of Health and Population and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. The programme builds the capacity of district-level government to implement a comprehensive set of services; trains service providers, particularly health workers and police, to better assist survivors; and trains community-level social mobilizers to act as psychosocial counsellors. Pre- and post-training assessments revealed that health workers and police, who originally did not think that handling cases of domestic violence was part of their job, developed new levels of awareness, understanding, and skills to address the needs of survivors.

The training of social mobilizers as psychosocial counsellors is already showing positive results on the ground. In Nepal, psycho-social counseling is not a well-developed field, and the quality of counselling services is often poor; it is commonplace for people with a few days of training to provide services without supervision or institutional support, a grave concern as poor-quality counseling can actually do more harm than good. This programme addresses quality concerns in two ways. First, social mobilizers have tremendous knowledge of the local context and the trust and confidence of people themselves; they are also deeply committed to the communities they serve. And second, mobilizers take part in a rigorous, well-designed four-month psychosocial counselling training course. Demand for the counsellors’ services is extremely high. Each counsellor has a caseload of up to twenty clients grappling with depression, alcoholism, anxiety, and other conditions that stem from the violence they experienced. For these women, having a supportive professional to help them cope is a first step towards healing.

Acid violence, a disturbing and widespread human rights violation in which perpetrators throw acid at their victims with the intent to injure and permanently disfigure them, causes severe physical and psychological scarring and social ostracism. Survivors of acid violence, the majority of whom are women, find their lives, and typically their faces, irrevocably transformed in a horrific instant. Their road to recovery is often long and full of obstacles. Survivors require holistic, sensitively delivered care to tackle the myriad impacts of the attack they suffered including medical care to treat physical injuries, psycho-social counselling to address trauma and grief, shelter, access to justice, and often an alternative means of earning a livelihood.

With support from the UN Trust Fund, Acid Survivors’ Trust International (ASTI) and its local partners are providing acid-burns victims in Cambodia, Nepal, and Uganda with the integrated essential services they critically need. ASTI supports the...
Adolescence is a critical inflection point in the life course of women and girls. For many girls living in poverty in developing countries, adolescence is a time when childhood abruptly ends and the life trajectory is set. The events of early adolescence pattern the choices and opportunities available to adult women. Positive events reverberate across the life course in the form of greater well-being and expanded freedoms while negative events erode health and impose lifelong limitations. Adolescent girls are too often subject to harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child marriage, which increases their risk of childbirth injury, HIV infection, and domestic violence. Girls from marginalized social groups, girls living without their parents, and displaced girls are particularly vulnerable to violence. Keeping girls safe and addressing their needs and rights in these critical years is imperative.

UN Trust Fund grantees in countries around the world work to empower and build the skills and resources of adolescent girls by providing a host of vital services.

Strengthening child protection networks

In Tajikistan, the Child Rights Center (CRC) provides service to girls ages 10-18 who have been affected by or are at risk of, sexual exploitation, early marriage, and trafficking. The project is active in El Alto, which has experienced a surge of impoverished rural migrants, many from indigenous communities; these new migrants typically establishing of “model communities” that engage a range of stakeholders, including community members and leaders, acid vendors, and the justice, law enforcement, and health sectors. Together, they work to bring much-needed services to survivors, to empower and reintegrate them into society, to bring perpetrators to justice, and prevent future acid attacks.

The project has begun to see concrete results. In Uganda, religious leaders are integrating acid and burns violence prevention messages in their weekly sermons. In Nepal, the grantee established the first-ever network to coordinate the provision of shelter and vocational training for burn survivors. In Cambodia, ASTI played an instrumental role in the development of draft legislation to regulate the sale of acid and to provide harsher criminal sentences for perpetrators, working closely with the Ministry of Interior throughout the process. Acid burn survivors were given an opportunity to comment on the draft law and identify potential improvements to it based on their own personal experiences. The draft Acid Law, the first of its kind in Cambodia, was approved by the National Assembly in November 2011 and is expected to be enacted in early 2012.

Taking critical services to the streets

In Bolivia, Asociación CUNA is piloting a unique 24-hour mobile programme of violence prevention, intervention, reintegration, and empowerment services for adolescent girls living on the streets. The project is active in El Alto, which has experienced a surge of impoverished rural migrants, many from indigenous communities; these new migrants typically...
live in informal settlements poorly served by water, electricity, sanitation and other services. These areas have high rates of family violence, and migrant girls and women are also vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. Working as part of a network of 16 government and non-government institutions in El Alto advocating for the rights of at-risk girls, this grantee has drafted and submitted a number of bills to the Bolivian legislature aimed at preventing violence against this vulnerable population, including bills recently enacted into law that toughen the penalties for violence against children and adolescents and specifically target trafficking. Nearly 1,200 girls and boys have received training on domestic violence and commercial sexual violence.

**TRAINING INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-DESCENDED GIRLS TO SERVE AS LEADERS**

Rural adolescent girls living in poverty in Peru are particularly vulnerable to violence due to a lack of access to education, information, or avenues to claim their rights. Asociación de Comunicadores Sociales Calandria is training indigenous and Afro-descendant adolescent girls in rural areas across the country to serve as leaders in an anti-violence movement. These girls are using the political advocacy skills they have acquired to engage with local and regional governments directly and hold them accountable for implementing action plans aimed at advancing the rights of adolescents. To date, the grantee has engaged nearly 90 public officials in indigenous regions in their efforts, ensuring that the unique intercultural model of violence prevention it established is systematically integrated at the local level, where it will have the most impact on community members’ everyday lives. Some 235 adolescents have taken part in the leadership programme. With their new leadership abilities, these young people are making valuable contributions to violence prevention proposals for local governments as well as developing advocacy agendas. The initiative has proved to be so successful that young women leaders have started to replicate the training themselves within their own classrooms, an encouraging multiplier effect.

**REACHING WOMEN WHO FACE MULTIPLE FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION**

Research suggests that typically not one single cause but rather a range of variables increase or reduce a woman’s risk factors for experiencing violence. Women who experience more than one risk factor — some of which include being young, being abused as a child or witness to abuse in the home, having little education, or being displaced — require support that addresses entrenched inequalities holistically. Women from marginalized social groups face particularly high barriers to accessing the support services they need and to seeing justice done after suffering violence. Women who lack social capital due to their religious, ethnic, or class affiliation, and/or HIV-positive status are also more likely to be denied adequate medical services, receive low-quality care, and live in places where no services are available to them.10 UN Trust Fund grantees have developed innovative approaches to tackle the many forms of discrimination that both heighten a woman’s vulnerability to violence and impede her access to services. Instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all programmatic approach, these initiatives have pioneered targeted strategies to reach women and girls taking into account crucial differences within these communities.

**CONNECTING ROMA WOMEN WITH SERVICES**

As women and as members of an ethnic group that endures prejudice and exclusion throughout Europe, Roma women face double discrimination in accessing their rights to education, health and housing, low levels of education, norms that encourage early marriage, and high unemployment rates further increase the vulnerability of Roma women to violence. They also experience significantly higher levels of domestic violence than non-Roma women, according to a UN Trust Fund-supported study. This first-ever survey of Roma women found that 43 percent of respondents had suffered physical violence and 46 percent had suffered sexual violence. Rights for All is building the capacity of Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina to access justice and influence decision-making processes by delivering paralegal support to nearly 100 survivors of violence and nurturing a cadre of 12 Roma women leaders. The paralegal support programme established in ten Roma communities provided many survivors of violence with their first introduction to the legal and psycho-social counselling services available to them. This UN Trust Fund grantee has also used their ground-breaking study to catalyze a dialogue with state institutions on the status of Roma women in society.

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PROTECTING TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

Women migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to violence in their destination countries, from physical violence to sex trafficking. Far from home, often not knowing the language or legal system, and threatened with violent retribution, migrant women frequently have nowhere to turn. The Jordanian Women’s Union along with country-level partners is creating NGO networks across Jordan, Egypt, and Morocco to address trafficking and the rights of women migrant workers. The NGOs promote prevention and protection for domestic workers as well as trafficked women, in part through training a cadre of lawyers and social workers to address these crimes. These networks also support recovery and repatriation for survivors as well as criminalization of trafficking through strengthened legislation and law enforcement. This groundbreaking initiative has offered access to medical, psychological, and legal support to more than 1,200 trafficked and migrant women throughout the Middle East.

ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTION OF VIOLENCE AND HIV IN BORDER REGIONS

Violence against migrant women is a serious problem in border areas, one that also contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Working in five provinces that border Haiti in the Dominican Republic, Colectiva Mujer y Salud is pairing information campaigns to raise public awareness on preventing HIV and gender-based violence with steps to develop the abilities of local authorities managing both issues. Working directly with service providers, the grantee is developing protocols for providing integrated services that address both violence against women and HIV/AIDS. As a result of their advocacy efforts, in 2011, the Congress of the Dominican Republic approved a law that recognized the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. The project has gone beyond its original objectives by beginning work on awareness-raising with women in border provinces in Haiti, bringing the successful strategies of capacity-building, awareness-raising, and action-oriented research pioneered in the Dominican Republic across the border.

“As far as the staff is concerned, we are now much more sensitive...I used to say ‘If she was done over, she must have deserved it.’ It’s terrible, I know, but I said it...now I am more aware and I identify with these people who have suffered...now I say “Nothing justifies this woman having been treated that way.”

— A SERVICE PROVIDER IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WHO PARTICIPATED IN COLECTIVA MUJER Y SALUD SENSITIZATION TRAINING
EXPANDING SURVIVOR ACCESS TO SERVICES: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

UN Trust Fund-supported programmes have delivered critical services to millions of survivors of gender-based violence around the world. From immediate medical and psychological assistance to legal aid and employment, these initiatives have helped women and girls avoid additional exposure to violence and ultimately rebuild their lives. Many of these efforts have resulted in broader national-level reforms in the target country’s service delivery systems.

THE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OF UN TRUST FUND GRANTEES IN SERVICE PROVISION PROGRAMMES SINCE THE FUND’S INCEPTION DEMONSTRATES THE VALUE OF:

› Integrating capacity building of service providers with outreach efforts aimed at eliminating stigma against particularly marginalized groups of women. UN Trust Fund grantees found that when service providers are made aware of the specific challenges faced by women living with HIV/AIDS, they were able to provide more meaningful care, reduce vulnerability, and implement their legal obligations.

› Developing training programmes for service providers accredited by relevant ministries to encourage broader participation. The UN Trust Fund’s grantees found that offering participants opportunities for career advancement increased their positive response to the programme.

› Investing resources in fostering a dialogue among a range of service providers. Doing so not only leads to improved coordination of all services, but also improves the overall quality of those services. As the various agencies learn about the practices of their peers, the UN Trust Fund’s grantees found that they were encouraged to adopt and replicate successful approaches within their own institutions.

› Establishing a community ombudsperson office dedicated to providing timely and comprehensive information to survivors of violence on the local services available to them to meet their needs. Given their direct interaction with survivors, this office is equally well placed to provide recommendations to the relevant authorities addressing gaps in services identified during the course of their work.
Having strong laws on the books is necessary to ending violence against women. But laws, in and of themselves, are not sufficient. For laws and policies to work for women and girls, women must understand their legal rights and be empowered to demand them, and men must recognize that violence against women is a crime and be deterred from committing these attacks by the threat of punishment. Police officers and health providers must have the capacity to respond sensitively and effectively to the immediate health and protection needs of violence survivors, and the legal system must have the capacity to recognize violence, prosecute offenders, and address historic impunity.

More broadly, society itself must evolve, moving away from norms that condone, accept, or ignore violence against women to norms rooted in the idea that violence against women is unacceptable. The UN Trust Fund’s grantees support all these necessary components of social change.
BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF MAGISTRATES AND JUDGES

In Zambia, as in many other developing countries, magistrates and judges often lack the easy access to developments in international human rights law that those in affluent nations take for granted. Until recently, gender-based violence played an insignificant role in law school curricula, if it was taught at all, and judges typically receive no special training on forensic evidence. Such knowledge gaps impede access to justice for survivors. The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and the Zambian Association of Women Judges (ZAWJ) are working to close these gaps with a comprehensive programme to develop the capacities of law enforcement personnel and the judiciary.

To date, 82 rural magistrates and 31 judges have been trained, including Zambia’s Supreme Court and High Court judges, and they are using their new knowledge and skills to promote women’s rights and access to justice. They issued new case-law, took steps to create more victim-friendly courts, and became more sensitive to the needs of violence victims. The training improved the capacity of magistrates and judges to use international human rights instruments ratified by Zambia to adjudicate cases of violence against women, and those who took part in the training shared what they learned with prosecutors, police officers, and health-care providers.

A collaboration between the judges and the Child Sexual Abuse Center at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka brought doctors, judges, and magistrates together to help avoid confusion, clarify technical terminology, and create better understanding on both sides. Judges gained a clearer understanding of medical terminology and forensic evidence; doctors, a deeper understanding of evidentiary rules and what kind of testimony the court needs to reach a verdict.

At follow-up meetings convened to assess programme impact, magistrates described procedural changes that they have adopted to lessen the anxiety, distress, and trauma of survivors. For example, they now physically separate child witnesses and defendants. Some reported that prior to the training, they had insisted the child sit close to or even touch the defendant to identify him; now they no longer do so. Others reported that their new understanding of both the law and the consequences of violence has led them to convict in some cases that would previously have resulted in acquittals and to sentence convicted defendants to longer prison terms.

COMBATING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

Unwanted verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature creates an intimidating and hostile work environment for women around the world. Few developing countries have effective legislation to combat it, and few companies have robust sexual harassment policies—despite the fact that clear rules, effective grievance processes, and swift sanctions—are the best way to prevent this form of violence. The UN Trust Fund is investing close to US$2 million in programmes primarily focused on addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.

In Suriname, which lacks legislation to guide companies on the creation of a safe, violence-free work environment, the Ilse Henar Foundation for Women’s Rights together with the government, the private sector, and trade unions, is piloting a model to address workplace sexual harassment. This UN Trust Fund grantee developed the first-of-its-kind Code of Conduct Integrity that is being implemented within ten companies in the capital region. The response by the private sector has been so
SUPPORTING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

National action plans are essential mechanisms that provide a comprehensive and sustained “blueprint” for ending violence against women. These plans enable all the sectors involved in addressing violence against women to coordinate and systematize their activities, and are critical to ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated to these efforts. Yet too often, inadequate government implementation capacity and a lack of public awareness of the goals set out in these plans means that these documents continue to have little impact on the everyday lives of women and girls.

In the Southern Africa countries of Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zambia, the UN Trust Fund grantee Genderlinks is supporting the effective implementation of plans of action to end gender violence at the local, national and regional levels. The initiative is unique in linking the overarching regional framework set out by Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development with the multi-sector action plans at the national level. In doing so, this initiative is breathing life into these national plans. Genderlinks developed a composite index for gender-based violence to measure the impact of national action plans and progress in implementing the SADC Gender Protocol, a significant contribution to reinvigorating the implementation of these plans. The project’s Roadmap to Equality e-newsletter, Gender Justice Barometer and Gender Justice Score Card, have provided advocacy organizations and women themselves with a mechanism to track the implementation of national action plans. These interventions have been complemented by efforts to build the capacity of NGOs and media to popularize the national action plans. This project is ultimately transforming national action plans into a practical tool for accountability for ordinary people.

“THE PROGRAMME HAS CHANGED ME TREMENDOUSLY. I REALISE WHO I AM, A WOMAN OF MULTIPLE TALENTS. I BECAME MYSELF AND NOT WHAT I HAVE BEEN TOLD I AM: USELESS. I AM NOW A ROLE MODEL TO MY CHILDREN. I WALK IN FRONT OF THEM AND AM CONFIDENT.”

— A SURVIVOR OF VIOLENCE PARTICIPATING IN THE GENDERLINKS PROGRAMME
MAKING LAWS AND POLICIES WORK FOR WOMEN: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Initiatives supported by the UN Trust Fund since 1996 have significantly contributed to the realization of women's legal rights, breaking the social and institutional barriers hindering women’s access to justice around the world. With support from the UN Trust Fund, grantees have implemented, and in many cases pioneered, approaches to make justice systems work for women.

THE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OF UN TRUST FUND GRANTEES IN LAW AND POLICY ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF:

- Strategically filing “test” cases that present innovative arguments in order to ensure that the provisions of newly enacted domestic violence legislation builds upon existing legislation. The UN Trust Fund’s grantees have found these test cases to be particularly effective in dissolving the judiciary's cautiousness in applying new legislation in a proactive manner and ensuring that the scope of these laws is not curtailed.

- Engaging the judiciary effectively by focusing on the practicalities of implementing constitutional provisions and legislation that address violence against women rather than focusing chiefly on gender theory, which may result in a backlash from some judges. The UN Trust Fund grantees found this approach far more effective in encouraging judges to be gender-sensitive in implementing the law in cases of violence.

- Collaborating with national judicial institutions to reach judges who may not normally engage in a discussion on gender and human rights. Evidence suggests that judges are also more open to being trained by their peer group, making trainings where the resource persons are fellow judges more effective in building a dialogue.

- Documenting and disseminating real-life success stories of women survivors of violence who have effectively negotiated the justice system and secured legal and financial remedies by using the target country’s anti-violence legislation. These accounts encourage other survivors to access justice whereas highlighting only the shortcomings of the law further discourage women from pursuing cases.

- Organizing frequent “test-run” workshops in the process of preparing training manuals to guide implementation of new legislation on violence against women. Doing so provides a space for interaction among various law enforcement agencies engaged in implementing the new law and encourages ownership of these training materials.
UN Trust Fund grantees are breaking new ground in the struggle against violence, pioneering new approaches that achieve results. Evidence for this can be seen both in the degree to which other organizations are replicating the strategies and methods of UN Trust Fund grantees and in the recognition that they have received globally. Trust Fund grantees are leaders in harnessing the power of new technologies to combat violence against women and in using social media and “edutainment” to enlist new allies and create new social norms.

“BECAUSE GIRLS ARE EXPECTED TO STAY AT HOME, COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE NOT EVEN FULLY AWARE OF HOW MANY GIRLS THERE ARE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE COMMUNITY MAPPING IS MAKING YOUNG WOMEN AND THEIR SAFETY CONCERNS VISIBLE FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE LEADERS ARE ALSO IMPRESSED WHEN THEY SEE THE GIRLS USE TECHNOLOGY.”

— A COORDINATOR OF A COMMUNITY SAFETY MAPPING PROGRAMME IN GUATEMALA
Using New Technologies to Map a Violence-Free Landscape

New technologies can be a potent tool for promoting social change and advancing social justice. They can foster learning and information-sharing, connect people to needed resources, and make the delivery of services more efficient. They can also combat isolation and exclusion as well as mobilize large numbers of people to take action. The UN Trust Fund’s grantees are increasingly harnessing the power of technology, from geographic information system (GIS) to mobile phone applications, to prevent violence against women and girls as well as to bring perpetrators to justice. One grantee gave GIS systems to adolescent girls living in rural, indigenous communities across Guinea in order to enable them to create maps of their communities (every household, building, and route) to document where they felt safe or at risk. The project then empowered these girls to share the maps with community leaders, making their concerns visible. Another grantee working in four cities used GIS to map both the use and users of public spaces and collect data on the state of women’s safety. It then used the data revealed to bring about concrete change. For instance, in one site it was determined that the lack of police presence made women feel unsafe; the grantee used this information to mobilize private sector resources to construct a new police station.

One of the UN Trust Fund’s new grantees, Physicians for Human Rights, will be developing, piloting, and teaching mobile phone applications to forensic experts in five central and east African countries. This technology will allow health-care professionals in remote areas to photograph forensic evidence of sexual violence and securely transmit these images as text messages to hospitals, courts, and police stations in urban centers. These efforts are critical to ensuring successful rape prosecutions, ending impunity for these crimes, and preventing future violence through deterrence.

Using “Edutainment” to Make Violence against Women Unacceptable

The mass media, from radio and TV to billboards and newspapers, powerfully influence gender norms, sending out to a wide audience a steady stream of tacit and implicit messages about what it means to be a woman or a man in a given society. Media can strengthen harmful stereotypes about how women and men should treat one another, but its power can also be harnessed to alter social norms, challenge and transform beliefs and attitudes, and champion gender equality. Media campaigns are most effective when they are informed by a solid understanding of their target audience and create channels for audience participation and co-creation. “Edutainment” is a proven approach that combines mass communication of positive and locally-specific content with community mobilization. Several UN Trust Fund grantees have used this approach with great success.

New grantee Oxfam Novib will use edutainment in a cross-regional, twelve-country project to overturn the myth that violence against women is “normal” and “inevitable.” The organization will work with the Soul City Institute in South Africa as well as former UN Trust Fund grantees Breakthrough (India) and Puntos de Encuentro (Nicaragua), organizations widely applauded for their innovative edutainment work, to stage effective anti-violence media campaigns to challenge norms that perpetuate or condone violence against women. The project will work in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and Vietnam, countries with extremely high rates of violence against women and a prevailing social discourse that normalizes these crimes. This is just one example of how a successful grantee experience has inspired action in other countries.

Replication and Scaling Up of UN Trust Fund-Supported Programmes

Investments of the UN Trust Fund are clearly yielding promising results towards ending violence against women and girls. Recognizing the success of these initiatives, governments, United Nations agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations are increasingly scaling up and replicating grantees’ projects. For example, in 2011, the Ministries of Justice and Health in Chile supported the replication of a manual developed by the local implementing partner of UN Trust Fund grantee Instituto Promundo, adopting it nationwide to further the government’s efforts to engage young men in ending violence against women and girls. The UNICEF Regional Office in Panama also adopted components of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies’ social marketing campaign and intervention model on child sexual abuse, incest and HIV throughout their programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean. Investigative research on violence against women and HIV/AIDS carried out on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic by the UN Trust Fund grantee Colectiva Mujer y Salud is being targeted for replication by a multinational company on the US/Mexican border. In addition, a specialized training manual developed by Oxfam GB and Kafa Lebanon on how to engage men and boys in prevention is being used by 60 nongovernmental organizations across the region.
GRANT-MAKING CYCLE 2011

UN Trust Fund grants are awarded annually through an open, competitive, and transparent process that ensures quality programming and rigour in the selection of grantees. The UN Trust Fund places a priority on applications that demonstrate multi-sectoral approaches and collaboration between various stakeholders; evidence-based interventions; serious investments in monitoring and evaluation; and systems to document knowledge and lessons learned. The Call for Proposals invites holistic initiatives that focus on reaching particularly excluded or disadvantaged groups through approaches tailored to diverse needs. Through its grant-making process, the UN Trust Fund channels global expertise and resources to the local level, where they are needed most. It also underscores the potential for scaling up successful initiatives, while emphasizing the development of national capacities to foster sustainability.

In 2011, the UN Trust Fund awarded US$ 17.1 million in new grants to 22 initiatives in 34 countries. Grants distributed in the 15th grant-making cycle are expected to reach over 6 million beneficiaries between 2011 and 2014, roughly 4 million primary beneficiaries and 2 million secondary beneficiaries. The UN Trust Fund’s active portfolio now includes 96 projects, covering 86 countries and territories, with a total value of over US$ 61 million.

In 2011, the UN Trust Fund has again offered grants of up to US$ 1 million and the average grant size awarded was US$ 776,990. The size of grants has steadily increased since the first UN Trust Fund grants were distributed in 1997 with a levelling off from 2009 due to the global recession.

The demand for grants and the contributions made by UN Trust Fund have increased exponentially. During 15th grant-making cycle, the UN Trust Fund was able to meet less than 2% (US$ 171 million) of the total amount requested (US$ 1.1 billion) in grant applications. In any given year, the UN Trust Fund has been able to meet less than 5% of the demand for resources to address violence against women and girls (see table below).

The largest number of grants distributed in 2011 went to the Africa region, followed by Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, the Arab States and North Africa and cross-regional programmes. In terms of the value of grant distribution, Africa was awarded the greatest amount of funds (40%), followed by Asia and the Pacific (25%), Latin America and the Caribbean (19%), Arab States (6%), and Europe and Central Asia (5%). A total of 5% of the UN Trust Fund’s grants for 2011 were awarded to cross-regional projects.

Iraq and the newly independent Republic of South Sudan are first-time grant recipients. The vast majority of new grants (81%) were awarded to civil society organizations ranging from humanitarian organizations to women’s groups, followed by governmental organizations (13%) and United Nations country teams (6%).

Grants awarded in 2011 continue to work along the thematic and priority areas supported by the UN Trust Fund, with some
The cross-regional programme, "Pop Culture with a Purpose: Global Partnership on Edutainment Media for Social Change" will scale up earlier initiatives supported by the UN Trust Fund in South Africa, India and Nicaragua to 12 other countries, tapping into the experience, knowledge and expertise of previous partners and bringing them in as resource organizations for the programme. The project will challenge the idea that violence against women is “normal” and “inevitable” through innovative mass communication with positive and locally-specific content.

Building safe public spaces and work environments for women is a priority of two new grantees. In Peru, the municipal government of Lima, for the first time headed by a female mayor, will work to rid the city of discrimination and violence through effective gender-budgeting and consolidated planning to ensure that the city’s approach to gender-based violence is in line with national and international standards and appropriately funded. City health and justice officials will be trained to support survivors of abuse, and male perpetrators will be engaged through transformative training to prevent further violence. The Fair Wear Foundation will establish systems to address workplace violence by not only working with garment factories and their employees in Bangladesh and India, but also for the first time, by engaging the European companies outsourcing to them.

Seven new grantees will comprise a second cohort working on the intersection of violence against women and HIV/AIDS, implementing vital projects in Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, India, and the Ukraine. The UN Trust Fund awarded US$6.2 million in 2011 to support these efforts. While scaling up lessons learned from the previous cohort initiative jointly undertaken by Johnson & Johnson and UN Trust Fund, these organizations will also continue building the evidence base on ‘what works’ in addressing the twin pandemic of VAW and HIV/AIDS. For example, in Malawi, the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS will pilot a programme to train women as paralegals in violence cases, mobilize communities to criminalize marital rape, and upscale existing support for women living with HIV. While in the Ukraine, the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health will provide quality health and legal services for survivors currently excluded or marginalized by the state, including women living on the streets or living with HIV/AIDS.

The UN Trust Fund is supporting five new projects in conflict and post-conflict settings in 2011, awarding close to US$ 4 million to these vital initiatives and providing grants for the first time to projects in Iraq and South Sudan. In newly independent South Sudan, the American Refugee Committee (ARC) will assist the government in developing guidelines for the clinical management of rape and a secure information management system to collect timely data on incidents of violence. With support from the UN Trust Fund, Physicians for Human Rights will train forensic experts in five East and Central African countries where the International Criminal Court is currently investigating rape as a war crime with the aim of developing a functioning medico-legal system. In Sierra Leone, the International Rescue Committee will ensure access to justice for survivors of violence through piloted mobile legal clinics, training of justice officials, and community mobilization. In Cambodia, the Victims Support Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) will secure successful prosecutions of forced marriage and other gender-based crimes under the Khmer Rouge by empowering survivors to participate actively in legal proceedings. In Iraq, International Medical Corps will facilitate survivor access to vital health and justice services, supporting key ministries, and raising awareness about gender-based violence through multi-media outreach.

See Appendix for brief descriptions of all the UN Trust Fund’s 2011 grantees.
Formation of a medico-legal network to address sexual violence in armed conflict in Central and Eastern Africa

Tens of thousands of women and girls across Africa have been, and continue to be, sexually assaulted by government troops, rebel forces, and civilians. Perpetrators are rarely brought to justice due to weakened justice systems, the high stigma attached to rape, and insufficient evidence collection mechanisms to support prosecution. Many survivors decide not to report sexual violence for fear of reprisals and further abuse.

This project will combat impunity for sexual assault by developing a functioning medico-legal system for the collection and processing of forensic evidence in rape cases. The project will operate in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda, where the International Criminal Court is currently investigating rape as a war crime or a crime against humanity. A key objective is to guarantee the success of these investigations.

Physicians for Human Rights and its implementing partner Takemeshi Unajisj Network (a medico-legal network of 25 Kenyan organizations) will train local legal and medical professionals to create a network of specialized forensic experts. These experts will be linked in a regional advocacy coalition with other key stakeholders, including grassroots women’s groups. Experts will be equipped to use innovative technologies such as cell phone applications for remote forensic photography.

Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone

**Grantee:** Sonke Gender Justice Network
**Duration:** Three years
**Grant Amount:** US$ 996,000

*Engaging men to strengthen the implementation of GBV laws and policies and promote gender equality*

More than 1 in 3 women suffer sexual or physical violence at the hands of their intimate partners in Kenya, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone. Victims and perpetrators alike often justify the violence by reference to stereotyped gender roles and prevalent notions of women’s inferiority to men. All three countries have laws and policies aimed at the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, but most are deficient and poorly implemented. The project aims to advocate for laws and policies in the target countries that fully engage men and boys in violence prevention.

Sonke will work through its MenEngage country networks and partner organizations to evaluate the gaps in implementation of existing laws and policies on gender-based violence and HIV across Southern and Eastern Africa, and to build capacity for advancing a more complete legal framework. The project will directly challenge social norms regarding domestic violence among men and boys and encourage them to act to prevent violence against women in their communities.

Lesotho, Malawi

**Grantee:** Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAFAIDS)
**Duration:** Two years
**Grant Amount:** US$ 997,817

*Engaging traditional leaders in the prevention of HIV and gender-based violence in Lesotho and Malawi*

Violence against women is intrinsically linked with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It has conservatively been estimated that, in Africa, at least 1 in 7 new infections could be prevented through the elimination of domestic violence. In Lesotho and Malawi, domestic violence and HIV/AIDS are at epidemic levels and the inequalities that fuel them are exacerbated by discriminatory customary laws. Communities often defer to traditional leaders, many of whom do not see gender equality as a priority.

This project seeks to generate cultural change from within by harnessing community resources and engaging traditional leaders and other men as change agents. The project will empower communities to discuss taboo topics such as sexual violence and HIV.

SAFAIDS will expand its existing and highly successful ‘Changing the Rivers Flow’ project to generate positive cultural changes in communities in Lesotho and Malawi. They will train community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, to generate dialogues about domestic violence and HIV. The communities themselves will identify harmful practices and methods of modifying them in close cooperation with traditional leaders.

Malawi

**Grantee:** Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA)
**Duration:** Three years
**Grant Amount:** US$ 999,999

*Leveraging strategies of positive action towards reducing violence against women living with HIV*

Women constitute almost 60 percent of those living with HIV in Malawi, and young women in particular are overrepresented amongst new cases. Women with HIV experience harassment and violence at levels far outweighing the abuse directed at their male counterparts.

This project seeks to tackle the myths and stereotypes that underpin violence against women generally and specifically as they relate to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The project will exploit synergies between existing interventions on HIV prevention and the eradication of gender-based violence, and will operate in 12 districts throughout the country. COWLHA is uniquely qualified to address the issue from an empowering and survivor-centered perspective. COWLHA will work with women, men, and traditional leaders to challenge the norms that fuel abuse. These same communities will be mobilized to advocate for more effective laws, including a law criminalizing marital rape. COWLHA will upscale an earlier project addressing the intersection of violence and HIV and pilot additional components including training women as paralegals to document cases of violence, establishing victim support units, and engaging social welfare officers.

Sierra Leone

**Grantee:** International Rescue Committee
**Duration:** Three years
**Grant Amount:** US$ 750,000

*Let’s promote justice for our women and girls in Sierra Leone*

Although the civil war has ended in Sierra Leone, women and girls remain extremely vulnerable to abuse. Violence against women and domestic violence, in particular, increased during the conflict and is still very prevalent throughout the country.
Authorities rarely intervene in family disputes, which are considered to be a private matter. Despite recent laws promoting gender equality, the law still inadequately protects women against violence and conviction rates are alarmingly low.

This project will bridge the gaps in existing legislation while promoting a more consistent response to violence. The project will seek to increase survivor access to justice as a key element of prevention, and will build legal awareness in survivors and service providers.

IRC will build on a year-long community-based legal education programme, also supported by the UN Trust Fund. Project activities range from legal advocacy to capacity-building with justice officials and grassroots awareness-raising. Traditional leaders will be engaged to support the enforcement and monitoring of laws, ensuring local ownership and context-appropriate implementation. The IRC’s implementing partner, Timap for Justice, will pilot mobile legal clinics in two districts to provide parallel support to survivors.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**GRANTEE:** AIDS Legal Network (ALN)

**DURATION:** Two years

**GRANT AMOUNT:** US$ 576,800

**Documenting and addressing violence and other rights abuses as experienced by positive women**

South Africa has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world. Women in abusive relationships are particularly at risk of infection due to the threat of further violence, abandonment or loss of economic support if they attempt to negotiate safer sex or refuse sex. Intimate partner violence also severely hampers HIV-positive women’s ability to access and stay on treatment. While there are protection policies in place in South Africa, implementation remains a key challenge.

This project will improve access to HIV testing, treatment, and care for women in abusive relationships by engaging both service providers and the women themselves. The project will empower women to demand the rights and services they are entitled to, and increase awareness on the intersection between violence and HIV. The project will cover three of the hardest hit provinces in South Africa.

ALN will employ a number of strategies, including community based workshops and lobbying, as well as capacity-building with health-care providers and policy-makers. The ALN will leverage its existing partnerships with HIV positive women’s networks and community based organizations in the target provinces.

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**

**GRANTEE:** American Refugee Committee

**DURATION:** Two years

**GRANT AMOUNT:** US$ 997,985

**Integrated governmental and community-based strategy for response and prevention of violence against women in Southern Sudan**

South Sudan emerged as an independent country in July 2011 after two decades of war. Many communities continue to be displaced, and government infrastructure to address gender-based violence is severely compromised. Women and girls are at risk of violence as a direct result of the conflict and displacement, and because intimate partner violence was prevalent prior to the war.

This project will introduce an integrated model for the prevention of and response to violence against women, involving both government and civil society actors. The project will expand existing services through training service providers and improving coordination between existing care units. The project covers 5 of South Sudan’s 10 counties, reaching an estimated 4 million people.

The American Refugee Committee (ARC) will upscale a pilot project covering six counties to enable the new government to address violence. The project will train service providers – primarily health, police and social workers – in managing and delivering effective services and referrals to survivors. The project will also develop guidelines for the clinical management of rape services and an information management system to collect timely, confidential data. At the community level, ARC will engage male religious and community leaders to challenge the myths that fuel violence against women.

**MEXICO**

**GRANTEE:** Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir

**DURATION:** Two years

**GRANT AMOUNT:** US$ 600,000

**Contributing to the effective implementation of the law for a life free of violence against women in Mexico and the Inter-American court sentences in the case of Campo Algodonero**

Mexico experiences extreme violence against women, with the ongoing murders of women in the northern city of Ciudad Juárez symbolizing a heightened situation of insecurity. A recent study documented close to 2,000 murders of women in 18 of Mexico’s 32 independent jurisdictions in 2009-2010. The government’s approach to the violence has been characterized as inadequate by international human rights bodies.

This project will improve protection for women by ensuring the implementation of relevant laws and recommendations made to the Mexican government by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in its recent rulings regarding the violence. The project will operate in 20 of Mexico’s 32 jurisdictions.

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir will take the lead on implementation on behalf of a national network of 48 civil society organizations and local government entities including the National Citizen’s Observatory on Femicide. The project will standardize protocols for criminal investigation, consolidate data collection to ensure accountability, and generate procedures for effective knowledge-sharing and targeted police interventions.
2011 GRANT RECIPIENTS
(CONTINUED)

URUGUAY
GRANTEE: UN Country Team (UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, IOM, WHO, UNESCO)
DURATION: Three years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 998,999

Uruguay united to end violence against women, girls and adolescents

In Uruguay, domestic violence represents more than half of crimes against persons, and there are more police reports related to domestic violence than to robberies. A growing arsenal of targeted laws and policies has not been effective in eliminating the practice. There is an urgent need to increase and improve justice and health services for survivors, train public service providers, and ensure effective coordination between the large number of government agencies involved in violence prevention and investigation.

This project will sustain an existing and strong partnership between 7 United Nations agencies, 12 government entities and a network of more than 30 civil society organizations. The project is national in scope, and will streamline coordination of government and civil society efforts to end violence, and gather evidence to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

The approach builds on the experience collected through Uruguay’s 2004-2010 Action Plan to End Domestic Violence. The effort will also include systematic data collection, which will help identify which components of the multiple interventions work and which need to be revised.

IRAQ
GRANTEE: International Medical Corps (IMC)
DURATION: Two years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 998,435

Gender-based Violence in Iraq: Prevention and Service Strengthening

Despite a lack of reliable data there is no doubt that violence against women and girls in Iraq is very common, ranging from sexual assault on the street to domestic violence and child abuse. Almost 8 years after the invasion, the country suffers high levels of insecurity and many Iraqis continue to be displaced from their homes. As a result and due to a widespread belief that many forms of gender-based violence are justified, survivors suffer in silence and without support.

The project will advance the understanding of violence against women as a crime. It will improve survivor access to medical and legal services and further coordination between government and civil society service providers. The project’s awareness-raising component will focus on Baghdad initially with a view to increase access to services across the country.

IMC will carry out a survey as the basis for a multi-media campaign on gender-based violence and its destabilizing effects on Iraqi society. IMC will also scale-up its existing legal literacy workshops and other support programmes through nine community-based women’s empowerment groups and four women’s centers. The project will work directly with the Ministry of Health to ensure that all health-care providers are trained to detect and treat survivors of gender-based violence.

BANGLADESH, INDIA
GRANTEE: Fair Wear Foundation
DURATION: Three years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 471,000

Anti-harassment committee and violence prevention system in export-oriented garment factories

Sixty percent of employees in the export-oriented garment industry in southern India and Bangladesh are women, and more than half have experienced some form of workplace abuse. Both countries have legal protections in place against workplace violence, but commitment and resources for implementation are often lacking.

This project will improve working conditions and reduce workplace violence in export-oriented garment factories. The project targets 3 production cities in Bangladesh and India for enhanced labour monitoring and remediation systems, with a view to up-scaling best practices to other countries and industries. The project will build and improve relationships between workers, export-oriented garment factories, and the European companies that source to them.

Fair Wear Foundation (FWF) and its European member companies (many of whom source their garments in Bangladesh and India) will leverage their influence to support factories in reducing workplace violence. Outsourcing companies will be informed of the nature and frequency of violence in their supply chains, and will be given information on how to address these issues in factory negotiations.

In Bangladesh and India, the project will engage 25,000 employees and managers at 30 factories to build systems to address workplace violence. The project also includes a training component to provide workers with tools to establish anti-harassment committees.

BANGLADESH, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, NEPAL, SRI LANKA
GRANTEE: Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Asia)
DURATION: Three years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 992,740

Legal and social support programme for female migrant workers

Asian women are the fastest growing category of international migrants, with women comprising over 60 percent of workers leaving the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Most travel to carry out domestic work in neighboring countries. Many end up suffering systematic abuses and violence at the hands of employers and labour agents. In the worst situations, women and girls are trapped in situations of forced labour or have been trafficked into forced domestic work in conditions akin to slavery.

This project will prevent violence against women who migrate from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to work as domestic workers in Malaysia and scale-up legal and health services for those who have already suffered abuse. Migrant domestic workers will be both direct beneficiaries of the project and participate actively in its implementation.

CARAM Asia will work with 6 local implementing partners to raise awareness about abuses committed against migrant women, and to improve available legal aid and psychosocial services. The project targets government officials and service providers directly, and supports civil society organizations in providing more and better services for victims of abuse. In sending countries, the project partners will provide pre-departure information to migrants on violence and exploitation, and on applicable laws and support services.

CAMBODIA
GRANTEE: Victims Support Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)
DURATION: Three years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 628,501

Promoting gender justice in Cambodia’s transitional justice process

In Cambodia, the survivors of gender-based crimes committed under the Khmer Rouge face many barriers to justice. Cases regarding forced marriage and sexual violence are currently being processed in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) which was established to try Khmer Rouge officials for serious violations of Cambodian and international law. Due to the stigmatization of the types of violence inflicted and the silence surrounding these crimes, many women abandon their claims or are unable to engage meaningfully with the courts.

This project will strengthen the chambers’ ability to process and analyze gender-based claims, and enhance the ability of survivors to engage as active participants in the pursuit of justice. The ultimate aim is to ensure acknowledgement of past incidents of gender-based violence, in particular forced marriage.

ECCC will provide training to court officials and other stake-holders, and improves women’s legal literacy. The project also expands access to quality psychosocial services, and provides logistical support for complainants. The project will establish a permanent working group to pool relevant expertise of civil society and the courts. In addition, the project will further national truth-seeking on gender-based crimes through national women’s forums and the use of mass media.

INDIA
GRANTEE: Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHP)
DURATION: Two years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 999,999

Community initiative to address violence against female sex workers in Karnataka, India

In India, violence against sex workers is socially tolerated. In the state of Karnataka, over 25 percent of sex workers report having been physically abused or raped during the past year, and many more sex workers face emotional and verbal abuse. Police raids to "rescue" sex workers have only led to further abuse.
The project empowers sex workers in the state of Karnataka through building awareness of the violence they suffer as a human rights violation. The project is situated within existing prevention strategies to address HIV/AIDS, and will strengthen accountability for both violence and HIV interventions by gathering evidence on their use.

KHPT has had demonstrable success with an existing project, which will be expanded, showing a reduction in police violence against female sex workers, an increase in reporting of non-police violence, and an increase of positive media coverage of sex workers. The project will support sex workers in human rights literacy, increase data collection and reporting of violence, while boosting legal aid, counselling, and medical services. The project will also provide training for intimate partners and owners of brothels on gender equality and HIV.

INDONESIA

GRANTE: Rifa Annisa
DURATION: Three years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 994,795

Establishing effective response mechanisms for survivors of violence by integrating the Domestic Violence Eradication Act into Shariah law

One in 4 women in Indonesia suffers violence at the hands of intimate partner during their lifetime. Most cases reported to the authorities are dealt with by religious courts, where judges rarely refer to the country’s legislation on domestic violence. Since many incidents of intimate partner violence are referenced only in divorce proceedings, survivors are denied legal protections against violence.

This project seeks to engage the religious courts and their judges as key partners in addressing violence against women. In addition, the project promotes prevention by challenging gender stereotypes that fuel violence.

Throughout the 3-year project cycle, Rifa Annisa, a women’s organization with national reach, will employ a variety of strategies including structural interventions to improve service delivery to survivors, training of court officials and judges, and community mobilization in 4 provinces focused on cultural change. The project aims to achieve binding policies to compel all religious courts to apply the domestic violence law and will build the capacity of the religious courts to provide effective counselling to prevent further violence.

SAMOA

GRANTE: Samoa Victim Support Group Inc.
DURATION: Two years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 120,000

Empowerment of women in Village Samoa to combat violence

Physical and sexual violence in the home is common in Samoa, where prevailing gender norms often justify abuse as an inevitable part of family life. The majority of Samoa’s population lives in small village communities with rigid family structures, which contributes to a situation where women suffering violence feel obligated to stay with the perpetrator. The police often prioritize reconciliation processes over justice with little effort made to prevent further abuse.

Focusing on villages in rural Samoa, this project engages community leaders and traditional elders to advocate for a more comprehensive response to gender-based violence. The project will also build awareness about the value of women’s roles in their communities, and consolidate gains through building networks between grassroots organizations. SVSG will train all stakeholders, including police, community leaders, and survivors of violence, to identify and address gender-based abuse at its root. Using the knowledge gained from its 2010 awareness-raising campaign on domestic violence, SVSG will provide women with legal literacy training and expand their access to community support services and justice.

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

GRANTE: Oxfam Novib
DURATION: Two years
GRANT AMOUNT: US$ 802,324

Pop culture with a purpose: global partnership on edutainment media for social change

Most countries have laws to prevent and punish violence against women and girls, but responses have been inadequate and have not eliminated the impunity perpetrators often enjoy. Continued violence and the silence that engulfs it are justified by men and women alike with reference to prevailing norms and culture.

This project will change the entrenched notion that violence against women is “normal” and “inevitable.” The project targets 12 countries in Asia and Africa with particularly high levels of violence against women and a prevailing discourse that normalizes abuse. The main vehicle for change is “Edutainment,” a proven approach that combines mass communication of positive and locally-specific content with community mobilization.

Oxfam Novib will lead the initiative, working with the Soul City Institute (South Africa), Breakthrough (India), and Puntos de Encuentro (Nicaragua)—all previous grantees of the UN Trust Fund with experience in the field of Edutainment. The project supports women’s organizations in the 12 target countries to develop and implement Edutainment strategies on violence and discrimination. The fourth co-implementing partner, Communications Initiative (Canada), will focus on knowledge-sharing and networking between the groups to build capacity and improve results.

AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, CAMBODIA, EGYPT, MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, RWANDA, SOMALIA, SUDAN, VIETNAM

Violence against women is widespread in Ukraine. There is no coordination of services, and survivors often meet with ridicule and neglect in the health and justice systems, further compounding the abuse they have suffered. Marginalized women, such as women living with HIV/AIDS or those living on the streets, are particularly exposed and excluded from the services offered by state crisis centers.

This project covers the unmet need for quality services especially for those currently excluded from care and strengthens coordination between service providers and outreach workers. The project’s first year of implementation will focus on Kyiv, to be up-scaled to cover an additional 3 cities during the following 2 years.

UFPH will convene all relevant stakeholders to shape Ukraine’s disparate legislation and programs on violence against women and HIV into one cohesive approach. UFPH will build on the experience of a former UN Trust Fund grant recipient in Russia to establish a referral and service system for women survivors of violence living with HIV. Through community organizations, UFPH will provide training to both women and men in the marginalized communities it seeks to serve, with a view to transforming their relationships.
UN Trust Fund investments support local initiatives around the world aimed at transforming the day-to-day lives of women and girls. Grantees are able to reach corners of the world where public policy and service provision to address violence are lacking, planting seeds of social change in rural villages and urban centers alike. These investments are significant—they are changing unequal power relations between men and women, eroding harmful social norms and behaviours that normalize violence, and advancing women’s rights on the ground.

As of December 31, 2011, the UN Trust Fund had a portfolio of 96 active grants, covering 86 countries, with a total value of over US$61 million. The Africa region has the largest portfolio, accounting for 33 percent of the UN Trust Fund’s global investments. The UN Trust Fund is investing 26 percent of its portfolio to support programmes in Asia and the Pacific, 19 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 12 percent in Europe and Central Asia, 5 percent in the Arab States, and 5 percent in cross-regional programmes.

**EXPECTED NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY THE UN TRUST FUND’S NEW GRANTEES BETWEEN 2011-2014:**

**AFRICA:**
3,399,419

**LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN:**
331,645

**ASIA & THE PACIFIC:**
201,807

**ARAB STATES & NORTH AFRICA:**
123,041

**EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA:**
38,930

**CROSS REGIONAL:**
2,200,024

**TOTAL:**
6,294,866
PARTNERS IN 2011

The UN Trust Fund extends its appreciation to the governments of Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United States who contributed to the 15th grant-making cycle. UN Women National Committees in Canada, Iceland, Japan, and the United Kingdom also generously contributed their time and resources to fundraise for the UN Trust Fund in 2011. The UN Trust Fund is grateful for the support of its private sector partners including: Johnson & Johnson; M.A.C AIDS Fund; United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU); Zonta International; and numerous concerned individuals from around the world.