



## Annex III

### **Summary of 2018 results of the Fund for Gender Equality and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women**

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) provides grants to support innovative, high-impact programmes rolled out by governments, civil society organizations and the UN system through two funds: the [Fund for Gender Equality](#) (FGE) and the [United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women](#) (UN Trust Fund). FGE contributes to achieving Outcome 2, “Women lead, participate in, and benefit equally from governance systems” and Outcome 3, “Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy”, of the UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and the UN Trust Fund contributes to the achievement of Outcome 4, “All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence”. This annex summarizes results achieved by both funds in 2018.

#### **The Fund for Gender Equality**

##### *About the Fund*

The FGE supports national, women-led civil society organizations in advancing women’s economic and political empowerment and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on principles of accessibility, trust, and women’s ownership, the Fund is a unique global grant-making model. It transforms financing from diverse donors into high-impact initiatives led by women, investing in their ideas and abilities to pursue interventions benefitting women and girls at risk of being left behind. Ninety-seven per cent of the FGE projects work with at least one marginalized group, and 70 per cent with two or more.

##### *Key results in 2018*

By the end of 2018, active projects had reached 89,400 direct beneficiaries, most of whom are women from the world’s most marginalized and underserved communities and groups, within a \$7.6 million portfolio of 25 projects that contribute to 11 SDGs. This includes farmers from remote areas in Benin and Algeria, indigenous people in Tanzania and Bolivia, migrant workers from the Philippines, domestic workers from Guatemala, Dalit women in Nepal, conflict-affected women in Yemen, and women living with HIV/AIDS in Kyrgyzstan. Thanks to grantees’ catalytic work, women have acquired new skills and started new businesses, claimed property or labor rights and advocated for better and accessible rights.

In Albania, the number of women in leadership positions within the State Police and the Ministry of Defense increased following the adoption by the government of the first-ever National Action Plan (NAP) on women, peace and security. The approval of the NAP in 2018 was the result of years of advocacy and activism led by grantee *Shoqata e Grave me Probleme Sociale* (AWSP), which galvanized the previously fragmented civil society working in this area around the first national coalition on UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Albania.



In Samoa, 650 historically marginalized *nofotane* women – women married to men from a different village and living with their in-laws and often exploited as domestic servants – have started their own business, mainly producing and selling handicraft products, like handbags and table mats, as a result of the support of the Samoa Victim Support Group. The Group provided livelihood trainings to over 5,170 *nofotane* women living in 182 villages of Samoa to improve their access to sustainable employment, linked them to job markets, and raised awareness amongst 630 employers on their legal responsibilities when employing *nofotane* women.

The Fund started a research-action project in collaboration with the Parsons School of Design as part of support from UN-Women’s Innovation Unit grants funded by Denmark. The initiative is exploring how UN-Women and the Fund can better support women’s organizations to foster sustainability and resilience amidst socio-economic and political constraints that sideline and de-prioritize them and their areas of work. This initiative is generating global knowledge on civil society’s needs and promising practices and has identified key areas of opportunity for future work, including the need to redefine grantee-donor relationships or to support funding mechanisms that promote partnership and not competition among organizations, or to integrate self-care into their practices. The project has also opened opportunities for new or strengthened relationships with actors in the philanthropic and academic spheres and beyond.

### *Lessons learned*

With the support of Germany, FGE awarded nine existing grantees \$1.2 million in grants in 2018 to upscale their projects and invest in designing and testing new solutions to their gender equality challenges, while learning to apply human-centered design and other social innovation tools. Insights about more effective grantmaking and programming have emerged, including:

- Social innovation allows for deeper understanding of end beneficiaries and for these to take a true ownership in designing the initiatives that affect their lives.
- Good project design allocates sufficient time for preliminary research; intentionally prioritizes sustainability as a core element; plans for experimentation and testing of new approaches before going full-scale; includes flexible mechanisms to adapt to emerging developments.
- Co-creation enabled the Fund to critically re-examine its own processes and systems, including better financial reporting and communication with partners.

## **The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women**

### *About the UN Trust Fund*

The UN Trust Fund is the only global, multilateral grant-giving mechanism specialized in funding and building the capacities of civil society organizations to: prevent violence against women and girls, improve access to adequate multi-sectoral services for survivors, and advocate for effective implementation of laws and policies. The UN Trust Fund was established by [UN General Assembly Resolution 50/166](#) in 1996 and managed by UN-Women on behalf of the UN system.



### *Key results in 2018*

In 2018, funded projects reached an estimated minimum of 7,885,356 people during the year, directly benefiting 384,823 women and girls, including at least 29,979 survivors of violence, thanks to 125 projects in 70 countries and territories. The UN Trust Fund awarded \$11.1 million to 31 organizations, including nine grants that will reach 100,000 [women and girls with disabilities](#), to leave no one behind and recall attention to the need for increased funding for this intersecting area of work.

Further pursuing the principle of leaving no one behind, the UN Trust Fund supported for the second consecutive year projects with a special focus on refugee and forcibly displaced women and girls in the context of humanitarian crises, reaching an investment of \$5 million in this field. In 2018, active projects reached 7,718 refugee and internally displaced women and girls. In addition, at least 37 funded projects worked to reach women and girls from marginalized and underserved communities including 8,107 indigenous women and 940 lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.

In Kenya, a final evaluation of a project by UN Trust Fund grantee the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction found that 68.2 per cent of women and girls now felt safe from female genital mutilation/cutting, forced marriage and other forms of gender-based violence, as a result of the project, compared to 35 per cent at the start. The project, which reached 3,569 women and girls, worked to improve the implementation of laws and policies to end early marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting in rural communities.

In Jordan, the grantee [Arab Women's Organization](#) has provided 2,352 women with information about their rights, risks of violence against women and early marriage; provided vocational and literacy skills training; and have run awareness-raising programmes for 700 men and boys about gender equality, gender roles, violence against women, and women's rights. The project runs two women's centres to respond to the unmet needs of women and girl survivors of violence; serving both Syrian refugees and the local Jordanian community.

The [final evaluation of a project from](#) grantee Restless Development, Nepal found that the incidence of the harmful traditional practice *chhaupadi*, which includes forcing women and girls to sleep in a hut during menstruation, had significantly decreased in the intervention areas. The project reached 45,990 women and girls, far exceeding its target of 28,000, and, through the project, the proportion of women and girls who slept (or who were forced to sleep) outside in a hut fell from 19.4 per cent to 5.5 per cent. The grantee intervened in two regions of the country to reduce the incidence of this harmful traditional practice, aiming to improve nutrition and health, social support and access to education during menstruation for women and girls. By the end of the project, 100 per cent of the male community leaders involved in the project believed that the harmful traditional practice should be eliminated (as compared with 71 per cent at the start of the project).



### *Lessons learned*

In 2018 the UN Trust Fund launched a grant [evaluation library](#) in order to catalyze and harness knowledge and lessons learned through the work of grantees. The evaluation library is part of a larger endeavour to build an Evidence and Learning Hub by 2020 to enhance the application of learning on what works and why across the ending violence against women ecosystem. Thus far, 40 evaluations have been posted to the [UN Trust Fund website](#).

In addition, an increasing body of evidence indicates that the specialized expertise of women's rights organizations and women-led organizations is one of the leading factors in ensuring that projects aimed at ending violence against women are effective in creating change. Based on this learning, the UN Trust Fund continued to expand its small-grant-giving modality (grants of less than \$125,000) to improve its outreach to women's organizations: of the 31 organizations receiving grants, 28 were led by women, 18 were women's rights organizations and 11 were small organizations.