



Annex VII

Summary of 2019 results of the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) manages innovative grant-making mechanisms to support high-impact programmes rolled out by civil society organizations through the Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UNTF EVAW) on behalf of the UN system. The 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 UN Women’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and the UNTF EVAW 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 2019.

The Fund for Gender Equality

About the Fund

The Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) is, since 2009, UN Women’s only global grant-making mechanism for civil society. It supports women-led national civil society organizations in advancing women’s economic and political empowerment and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Created with an initial investment of US\$65 million from the Government of Spain and having mobilized an additional US\$20 million from other government and private sector donors since then, it remains today a unique grant-making model based on the principles of accessibility, trust and women’s ownership.

After 10 years of supporting women-led initiatives, investing in their ideas and capabilities, and benefitting millions, the Fund for Gender Equality will conclude its operations in June 2020, all its active projects having closed in 2019. This is the result of a shift in donors’ and organizational priorities in a context of limited resources towards other implementation modalities and/or thematic areas. These include donors’ strategic prioritization of core resources and/or UN Women’s Flagship Programme Initiatives; a stronger focus on specific thematic areas including ending violence against women and peace, security, and humanitarian fields; and a progressive decentralization process within UN Women, with a preference for country-based grant-making processes.

Examples from the field of key results in 2019

With a total US\$6.57 million portfolio, 18 FGE-supported projects around the world transformed the lives of 78,900 direct beneficiaries, including 68,900 women who acquired new skills, started businesses, accessed social security services, claimed property and labor rights or advocated for equal treatment between men and women. Most are women from the world’s most marginalized and underserved communities and groups. This includes farmers from remote areas in Mali and Algeria, indigenous people in Tanzania and Bolivia, migrant workers from the Philippines, domestic workers from Guatemala, conflict-



affected women in Yemen, and women living with HIV/AIDS in Kyrgyzstan. In addition, the projects touched the lives of hundreds of thousands more through new policies for gender equality, new bodies protecting women’s rights and community members’ increased awareness around women’s rights and gender equality – all resulting from grantee-led activities.

In Algeria, El Ghaith strengthened the livelihoods and increased the economic resources of 2,500 community members in 34 of the poorest municipalities of the Bordj Bou Arreridj rural area, helping them shift from subsistence farming to becoming competitive entrepreneurs, and improving the positioning of rural women in value chains and in their communities at large. One of the project’s major achievements in the strict male-dominant context was the adoption of a tested women-led social enterprise model from another FGE grantee in Lebanon, “NESWA” (meaning “women” in Arabic). The model enhanced the competitiveness of 3 processing units - honey, French cheese, and wool artisanal items – by incorporating a wide range of services such as enterprise management, internationally accredited food safety standards, and marketing and branding.

In Bolivia, the lives of 225 women construction workers improved after the association Red Habitat provided integral capacity building support, combining technical construction and advocacy skills with knowledge about their rights. A higher perception of self-worth and recognition of their own skills equipped beneficiaries with stronger negotiation capacities both at work and within their homes, leading to better professional positioning and a more equal distribution of their unpaid care workload. One of the most significant successes of the project was the obtainment of legal status by the Association of Women Builders (ASOMUC) as the result of the concerted advocacy efforts spearheaded by Red Habitat. This achievement makes Bolivia one of the few countries with a dedicated body safeguarding the rights of women in this largely male-dominated and hierarchical sector. The establishment of formal agreements with the local governments of La Paz and El Alto as well as with private sector and academic partners increased the opportunities for women construction workers to access training, now formalized and recognized as an entitlement.

In Mali, over 1,800 rural women farmers from Sikasso and Ségou are harnessing the power of agricultural cooperatives to become financially independent. Supported by the Association d’Entraide et de Développement (AED), they have improved their skills in food processing, management, and marketing – allowing some of them to even sell their products internationally. Thanks to the efforts of 50 women leaders, local policies were adopted to help women own farmland and small businesses, and AED’s larger public awareness efforts are estimated to have raised awareness of women’s rights among half a million Malians.

In 2019, FGE expanded its South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) initiative beyond the Arab States region to connect grantees from Algeria, Armenia, Lebanon, Palestine, Paraguay and Tanzania. Combined in 5 tandems, the peers shared expertise around topics such as promoting rural entrepreneurship, economic inclusion and social protection. Some of them went on to adopt newly-learned strategies, including investing in data collection to inform more effective advocacy campaigns, adhering to international agri-food production standards and using marketing tools to take small-scale businesses to the next level. In addition, a second phase of FGE’s social innovation initiative “Re-Think. Experiment.” was rolled out in Algeria, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen. In Palestine, non-governmental organization Mother’s School Society’s innovation process led to the development of “Raise Your Voice”, a multi-functional electronic



App that allows women to submit workplace violation complaints without family or community involvement while also providing a labour abuse database on violations carried out against women. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the organisation refers complaints to the Ministry of Labour, unions or one of 6 protection units established by the projects with a coalition of 23 community-based organizations.

Finally, in collaboration with the Parsons School of Design and the financial support of Denmark, the Fund led a research-action experiment about how to better support women's organizations amidst socio-economic and political constraints that sideline and de-prioritize them and their areas of work. The initiative has: (1) identified key challenges, needs and promising practices for women-led CSOs' sustainability and resilience; and (2) co-created and tested three possible solutions together with UN Women field offices and CSO partners. Specifically:

- In Mexico, a feminist Mexican NGO reassessed its business model moving away from an exclusively donor-funded model towards a more sustainable and diversified funding base through service delivery and stronger alliances with members of the private sector
- In Rwanda, the UN Women Country Office supported several East African women's organizations and social entrepreneurs to test a mentorship model that capitalizes on existing resources, knowledge and skills to maximize their resilience through mutual self-reliance and solidarity
- In Viet Nam, the UN Women Country Office has tested different ways to make creativity the new norm in its operations as a way to foster more innovation and ultimately higher agility and effectiveness

Lessons learned

With every crisis comes also an opportunity for growth. When the available funding did not allow for a global call for proposals, the FGE repurposed its 2018-2019 cycle to offer additional support to selected promising grantees to expand, amplify and improve their ongoing projects. This granted the Fund an opportunity to increase its financial investment in some grantee partners over a longer project timeframe (up to 5 years) and to provide intensive technical support and learning opportunities including personalized coaching for 2 years, as well as training sessions and peer exchanges. In addition, the Fund intentionally deployed social innovation and other methodologies, with an emphasis on using human-centered design, creative thinking, collaborative partnerships, and smart risk-taking. The results and learnings of these attempts to experiment and "do development differently" are being analyzed and will be included in the FGE's upcoming report.



The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

About the UNTF EVAW

The [United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women](#) 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. Established by [UN General Assembly Resolution 50/166](#) in 1996 and managed by UN-Women on behalf of the UN System, the UNTF EVAW contributes to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UN-Women's strategic priority on ending violence against women and girls, a pervasive human rights violation.

In the first quarter of 2020, the UNTF EVAW mapped the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its 144 grantees and identified common challenges across the regions such as an identified increase in multiple forms of violence including intimate partner violence, emotional, psychological and economic violence.

The UNTF EVAW is swiftly responding to the evolving crisis by accepting revised grantee project activities and documents to best adjust to the new circumstance and by providing additional funding to sustain organizations. In partnership with Spotlight Initiative and the European Union, the UNTF EVAW will allocate in 2020 an additional USD 9 million to up to 44 civil society existing grantees in Sub-Saharan Africa to continue their essential work focusing on institutional strengthening, risk mitigation and integrated ending violence against women and girls response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples from the field of key results in 2019

In 2019, the UNTF EVAW managed 137 projects in 70 countries and territories. The Fund is proud to report that, in 2019, it achieved and surpassed the resource mobilization targets set out in its Strategic Plan 2015–2020, one year ahead of schedule. The UNTF EVAW awarded US\$35 million to 79 organizations in 2019, including 24 projects in Africa and 11 projects in Latin America, both under the European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative, nearly doubling its 2020 Strategic Plan grant-giving target.

In Kenya, a project implemented by the Refugee Consortium of Kenya is working with Somali refugees in the Nairobi and Garissa areas to improve access to justice for survivors of violence against women and girls and increase the rate of successful prosecution through better access to legal aid, representation and support. During 2019, a total of 519 women and girl survivors of violence received psychological counselling and education to address trauma and other issues related to violence. In addition, 10 community-based counsellors strengthened their capacities to provide psychological first aid to survivors and to identify women and girl survivors and direct them to referral pathways. Thus far, 72 women survivors of violence have been represented in court by the Refugee Consortium of Kenya, with perpetrators convicted in at least 6 cases.

In the state of Yucatán, Mexico, the grantee Ciencia Social Alternativa is implementing a project aimed at reducing the incidence of violence against girls living with disabilities by ensuring that public officials and education and health professionals are better equipped to prevent violence and provide support to girls who



experience violence. Additionally, girls with disabilities will have increased awareness about their rights and existing institutions that may provide them with support, should they ever experience violence of one form or another. As a result, in 2019, 72 proposals for actions to further the rights of girls with disabilities were co-drafted by public officials, health professionals, teachers, legal officers and other officials participating in the project. One of these proposals on the inclusion of data on disability in Yucatan State Government reports is already being implemented. In addition, public officials who participated in the project have reported a significant increase in their knowledge of the human rights of people living with disabilities.

In Viet Nam, the [Institute for Development and Community Health](#) implemented an initiative focused on intimate partner violence against pregnant and lactating women in Kien Xuong District, Thai Binh Province. During the project, 1,241 pregnant and lactating women received information on pregnancy care services and intimate partner violence. Nearly 99 per cent of the pregnant and lactating mothers interviewed regarding the project stated that they had received counselling on health care, and 96 per cent of women reported increased knowledge of what constituted physical violence. In a final evaluation, it was found that the project had increased the capacity for home visits by trained health workers and screening for intimate partner violence, and that household visits and counselling activities were an effective means for broaching issues around gender-based violence. It was also found that husbands and mothers-in-law actively participated in counselling and communication activities to raise their levels of awareness regarding sexual and gender-based violence.

Lessons learned

The midterm review of the UNTF EVAW's Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 was issued in June 2019. The reviewers found that the Fund was on track to deliver the targets set out in its Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 and concluded that its open and inclusive approach to grant-making was strategically sound and appropriate in fulfilling its mandate and to apply the principle of leaving no one behind. The reviewers highlighted the UNTF EVAW's reputation for being independent, inclusive, thorough and reliable. They also found that for grantees, receiving funding from such a reputable institution as the UNTF EVAW is an important factor in increasing visibility and credibility. The midterm review concluded that the UNTF EVAW had made significant strides in realizing its ambition to be more than a donor. In addition, it identified the focus on small women-led and women's rights organizations as an added value, which fills a gap in the sector by providing such organizations, which can be real catalysts for change, with resources and capacity-building.

Consultations for a new Strategic Plan

Consultations began in the development of the UNTF EVAW strategy for 2021–2025. In November, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the UNTF EVAW held its first ever global grantee convention. At this unique gathering, more than 150 participants including grantees, governments, and the private sector, came together to reflect on and discuss their work to end violence against women and girls. Drawing on approximately 100 projects implemented around the world, the participants exchanged their knowledge, experiences, challenges and lessons learned on topics including current issues in ending violence against women programming, managing evidence and knowledge, building effective institutions, and ensuring that organizations working to create change and support survivors around the world receive sustainable funding.



Concluding the convention, grantee representatives presented a series of recommendations to UN-Women’s Executive Director. The convention was the first of a series of events aimed at collaboratively building the Strategic Plan of the UNTF EVAW for 2021–2025. A final consultation on the strategy is planned for November 2020.

In addition, consultations took place to align the results of the UNTF EVAW to UN-Women’s Strategic Plan. The UNTF EVAW will contribute an indicator to results reporting of UN Women’s Strategic Plan through the reach of UNTF EVAW projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls, specifically by measuring the number of people benefiting from projects supported by the UNTF EVAW per year.