



UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

“I am not afraid anymore and I will not go back to him anymore. I have received a lot of help and I know I can do it now. I have my own place, my daughter goes to kindergarten and now I only need a job. I can do anything now.”

Elvedina, a survivor of intimate partner violence, Gorazde, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women (UN Trust Fund) was established by the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/166, in 1996 and is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the United Nations system. The UN Trust Fund is a global multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports local, national, regional and cross-regional efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

COVER PHOTO: Peaceful Families Initiative, Ban Mae Surin Refugee camp, Mae Hong Son province, Thailand

I met Elvedina earlier this year during a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and was inspired by her confidence and courage. I have no doubt that she will go on not only to turn her own life around and secure a future for her daughter, but also to encourage and support others to overcome violence.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) was there to review a recently completed initiative of the UN Country Team (UNCT) Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project sought to improve multi-stakeholder referral processes for women and girls experiencing violence; in Elvedina's case this proved crucial. The first person Elvedina turned to when she decided to take action was a social worker, who was able to use the referral process to coordinate the work of a range of agencies (the police, health workers, education workers and judicial officials). Together, they secured a temporary safe place for Elvedina. That was her steppingstone to a new phase in her life.

This report highlights how in all regions during 2013 the UN Trust Fund has turned donors' support into concrete improvements in the lives of women and girls who, like Elvedina, have experienced or are at serious risk of violence.

We are publishing this Annual Report at a key moment in the global campaign to end violence against women and girls. The world is gearing up to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and its Declaration and Platform for Action. The next year is also the target year for the current development framework, the Millennium Development Goals. The Beijing Conference created the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights, a defining framework for change. It also brought violence against women definitively out of the shadows and put it centre stage at the UN. The Platform for Action set out key commitments regarding violence against women, which it identified as “an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development

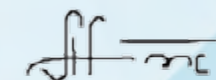
and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.” Despite this, in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals failed to address the issue of violence against women and girls.

This year represents a critical juncture for the future of efforts to end violence against women and girls and for positioning the issue firmly and unequivocally in the post-2015 development framework. The expectations are high and rightly so. They are founded on a conviction that the right to a life free of violence is a basic human right that all women and girls should enjoy. And we are guided by a vision that is shaped by collectively agreed commitments.

The UN Trust Fund is more determined than ever to turn such commitments into reality by securing a significant rise in available funding and reversing years of gross underfunding for work on violence against women and girls. In order to raise women's hopes and for Elvedina to meet her aspirations for the future, we, too, need to raise our sights. That is why, as a first step, we have set ourselves the challenge of doubling the amount available for grant-giving in 2014 by raising US\$15 million.

This report aims to show why this funding is crucial to the lives of women and girls all over the world. It also looks at how we have gone about fulfilling our commitment to support our common strategic goals, efficiently and with maximum impact.

Aldijana Šišić



Chief

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

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OVERVIEW

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

In 2013, the UN Trust Fund awarded grants worth **US\$7.86 million**. It gave 17 grants – to 16 civil society organizations and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda – covering 18 countries and territories. By 2017, the impact of these grants is expected to affect the lives of **2.3 million people**.



This represents only a fraction of the requests for funding received. In 2013, the UN Trust Fund received 2,410 applications for a total of more than **US\$1.1 billion from 145 countries**. The majority of applications were from civil society organizations.



TRANSFORMING LIVES

The reach and impact of the work of UN Trust Fund grantees in 2013 was global and ground-breaking.

3 million people including more than **30,000 survivors** of violence, benefited from the work of grantees during the year.

1/3 of all funding went to organizations working with young and adolescent girls. By 2017, these programmes are expected to benefit more than **43,000 girls** across three regions.

30 per cent of Trust Fund grantees are working to mobilize communities.

32 per cent of Trust Fund grantees are promoting legal and policy reforms or advancing their implementation, with excellent results.

15 per cent of Trust Fund grantees are implementing programmes that address violence in conflict-related contexts.

**SOME OF UN TRUST FUND
GRANTEES AROUND THE WORLD**

SOUTH SUDAN

More than 42,000 people were involved in community-based activities organized by the American Refugee Committee and 287 survivors of gender-based violence received comprehensive legal and health services.

SERBIA

12,091 people used the SOS hotline in Serbia and 662 survivors received practical help.

IRAQ

More than 5,000 people benefited from a gender-based violence referral pathway system initiated by the International Medical Corps to provide survivors of gender-based violence in Bagdad with integrated counselling, psychosocial support, legal assistance and medical care at primary health care centres. A patient exit survey revealed that 98 per cent of survivors were strongly satisfied or satisfied with the support services they received.

CAMBODIA

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court handed down the country's first conviction for an acid attack. The law that made this conviction possible was passed following extensive advocacy by the Acid Survivors Trust International, and their partner, the Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity.

TONGA

The first domestic violence legislation in the country was passed thanks in part to the advocacy efforts of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team.

MEXICO

Criminal investigation protocols for documenting gender-motivated killings were established in Oaxaca and Colima states as a result of a successful collaboration between Catholics for the Right to Free Choice and the state authorities.

GUATEMALA

5,000 girls were trained by young mentors to become community leaders and agents of social change through the work of girls-only clubs set up in 12 communities by the Population Council.

SIERRA LEONE

Standard Operating Procedures for holistic services to survivors of sexual and domestic violence were endorsed by the Sierra Leone Police, with support from the International Rescue Committee.

**THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO AND KENYA**

Two medico-legal networks bringing together 340 public officials were established by Physicians for Human Rights to address cases of sexual violence comprehensively, from collecting evidence to establishing redress measures.

UGANDA

Raising Voices and Uganda's Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention rolled out the successful SASA! methodology in 13 African countries.

INDIA

The Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative set up a mechanism for annual monitoring of the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. The mechanism is due to be integrated into the work of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Mission for Empowerment of Women.

2013 AWARD WINNERS

In 2013, several UN Trust Fund grantees received international recognition for their ground-breaking initiatives



PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS won first prize in the USAID-Humanity United Tech Challenge for Atrocity Prevention. They pioneered the mobile app “Medicapt” that equips health-care providers with the tools to collect, document and preserve court admissible forensic evidence of torture and sexual violence and enables them to transmit this data securely to the authorities. The app is being piloted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya.



THE KARNATAKA HEALTH PROMOTION TRUST in India, which supports and implements initiatives related to HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, received the World Health Organization Award for Excellence in Primary Healthcare in the category “Innovations for improving access and ensuring continuity of care”.



In Zimbabwe, the African regional organization **SAfAIDS** was awarded the National Non-Governmental Organization Award for Excellence in the fight against HIV and AIDS.



EQUAL ACCESS NEPAL received the Avon Communications Award: Speaking Out about Violence against Women for its Voices-Samajhdari project.

INTRODUCTION

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996. The Fund is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the UN System and works closely with the rest of the System through the members of its Programme Advisory Committee.¹

The Trust Fund supports and strengthens the work of UN-Women and the UN System to prevent and end violence against women and girls. UN-Women provides the Fund with a strong institutional foundation and field support through its regional, multi-country and country offices. Working in synergy with UN-Women, other UN agencies and members of the Programme Advisory Committee, the Trust Fund plays a vital role in driving forward collective efforts that engage the wider community, women and men, girls and boys, to eliminate violence against women and girls.

The Fund is dedicated to working to prevent and end violence against women and girls worldwide. Every year, without fail, we raise and distribute funds to support this ultimate goal. Grants are awarded to civil society organizations, governments, and United Nations country teams (UNCTs) to support initiatives to improve the lives of women and girls at the local, national, regional and cross-regional level.

So far, the UN Trust Fund has supported 368 initiatives in 132 countries and territories. The Fund currently supports 78 initiatives in 71 countries and territories with grants totalling US\$56.8 million.

A focused strategic plan has been the key to our past success and helped set clear and measurable goals for the future. The UN Trust Fund targets funding to its three priority programme areas:

- *preventing violence against women and girls;*
- *expanding access to services; and*
- *strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans.*

Through its special thematic windows the Fund also focuses on initiatives that meet the multiple needs of survivors of violence in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings; that address the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women and girls; and that advance the rights of young and adolescent girls.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Much has been achieved since the UN Trust Fund was established. In 1995, at the time of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, only a handful of countries had policies to address violence against women and girls. Today, national governments are moving towards a more comprehensive response to this worldwide pandemic. This significant progress shows that change is possible.

¹ In 2013, Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members at the global and sub-regional levels included: the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as the World Bank. Leading civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels – including representatives from the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Equality Now, the Open Society Institute and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – were also actively involved in the grant-making process.

The right of women and girls to live free of violence continued to gain ground both at the level of policy and practice during 2013. For example, the 57th Commission on the Status of Women adopted the agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls; United Nations Security Council Resolution 2106 (2013) and Resolution 2122 (2013) strengthened previous resolutions on sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and on the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict; and more than 130 UN Member States endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

However, for millions of women systematic violations of this right are a daily reality, in their homes and communities, in time of war and of peace. This remains a truly global phenomenon, affecting women in every society and in every region. Recent estimates suggest that one in three women worldwide will experience either physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner in her lifetime.² Some of the attacks on women and girls in 2013 were widely covered in the media; they generated public debate, sparked demonstrations and bolstered global activism. At the same time, thousands of people around the world spoke out to say loud and clear: a life free from violence is a fundamental human right.

² World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council, *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*, (Geneva, 2013), pp. 2. Available at <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en/>

³ Angelika Arutyunova and Cindy Clark, *Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots*, AWID, 2013, p. 18. Available at <http://www.awid.org/Library/Watering-the-Leaves-Starving-the-Roots>

⁴ There is no public, aggregated data on what percentage of bilateral and multi-lateral funding is allocated exclusively to ending violence against women and girls. However, a recent study by The Foundation Center, based in the United States of America, on global human rights-related giving by private foundations found that 23 per cent of donations is allocated to organizations that work to advance women's rights, of which 9 per cent is assigned to initiatives to end violence against women. This means that only 2 per cent of all human rights-related global foundation giving is allocated exclusively to efforts that promote a society free of violence against women and girls. The median annual income for many of these organizations does not amount to more than US\$20,000. Only 7 per cent of women's organizations manage budgets of over US\$500,000, and more than half have never received multi-year support. See, A. Arutyunova and C. Clark, op. cit., pp. 16-17. See the very telling visual at http://www01.awid.org/map/map_02_world_financials.html

Our message is also clear, consistent and compelling: eradicating violence against women and girls is imperative in order to achieve gender equality and advance development. As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference in 2015, we can be proud of how far we have come while, at the same time, focusing with renewed energy on what remains to be done.

The Association of Women in Development (AWID), a global network of women's civil society organizations, recently recognized the crucial role played by the UN Trust Fund, especially in the wake of a world financial crisis, in providing multilateral support for national and local organizations working to prevent and end violence against women and girls.³

Violence against women and girls is an area of work that has long suffered from chronic underfunding.⁴ The UN Trust Fund is committed to reversing this trend.

We have announced that in 2014, in addition to our larger grants, we will begin to invest strategically in smaller, grass-roots women's and youth-led organizations. The aim is to increase their resources by awarding grants of between US\$50,000 and US\$100,000 and to provide one-to-one technical support to bolster implementation of results-based interventions. By the end of the project, we hope that each of these organizations will have increased its operational and programming capacities and be in a position to attract new funding from other sources.

The experience of the UN Trust Fund shows that demand for funds is growing steadily. In the last five years alone, requests to the Fund have more than doubled. Our challenge is to close this gap between the funding available and the very real potential for change.

The impact of the work of our grantees shows that, with sustained effort; strategies that increase engagement across all sectors of society, including among boys and men; and adequate resources, violence against women and girls can be reduced, prevented and ultimately eliminated.

The UN Trust Fund is proud of the impact achieved by its grantees in 2013 and it is rising to the challenge and stepping up efforts to make funds available to further our common vision. Our target for 2014 is US\$15 million.



Emmy Award-winning television journalist for ABC News, Juju Chang moderates UN Trust Fund award ceremony

RELEASING THE POTENTIAL

Turning funding into impact that changes the lives of women and girls in specific, clearly defined ways means having a clear strategic focus. The UN Trust Fund's three priority areas are: preventing violence against women and girls; strengthening the implementation of laws and policies; and expanding access to services for survivors.

We have also identified three specific thematic windows: violence against women and girls in conflict-related settings; links between violence against women and girls and HIV/AIDS; and violence against young and adolescent girls.

This section looks at the initiatives supported and their impact during the year and at how the UN Trust Fund's work has furthered the goal of ensuring the UN is working on this issue as one coherent entity. It also outlines some of the important progress made in strengthening our focus on monitoring and evaluation.

PRIORITY AREAS

PREVENTING VIOLENCE

"Every society has its unique traditions. But in some areas where tradition is promoting practices that lead to the spread of HIV, change is necessary. We have modified our tradition and we no longer force or allow a widow to sleep with a man she does not know for the sake of the traditions, to control the spread of HIV... I did not hesitate to recommend the trainings to my subjects, after observing that most widows were struggling in forced marriages in the name of traditions, to suit changing times."

Headman Mgoni, traditional leader in Nsanje province, Malawi

Mobilizing communities – a key context in which social norms, attitudes and behaviours take shape – is crucial to preventing violence against women and girls. To maximize impact, initiatives need to engage a wide range of groups including men and boys, traditional and religious authorities, local governments and service providers, as well as women and girls.

Creating safe spaces for critical reflection, dialogue and engagement is an important tool in challenging power relations that reinforce inequality. However the organizations best placed to provide these locally sometimes need specialist support. UN Trust Fund grants are helping to provide these organizations with the institutional or technical capacity or the resources they need to generate processes of change.

CASE STUDIES

In southern **Malawi**, intimate partner violence and other forms of gender-based violence against people living with HIV/AIDS is prevalent. The grantee Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (COWLHA), a grass-roots women's organization, is tackling these abuses head on. Using the successful Stepping Stones training and communication methodology, COWLHA has helped train teams of full-time facilitators to lead a series of workshops where people discuss harmful ideas about masculinity and femininity and build positive alternatives. Some 21,787 women, including 3,500 women living with HIV/AIDS, and 317 survivors



"Torch of Peace", at a national awareness-raising event against gender-based violence, Samoa

of intimate partner violence in 144 communities have participated.

The impact of this initiative is helping to shape an environment that promotes women's rights. Men in the communities are using condoms more and fewer men have concurrent sexual partners, both of which lessen the risk of contracting and spreading HIV/AIDS. Women have reported that they are more able to negotiate safer sexual practices and couples report that they are communicating better.

In **Guatemala**, a girl-centred community-based programme backed by the grantee Population Council, a non-governmental organization, worked to address the fact that Mayan girls leave the formal education system very early. The initiative focused on 1,300 Mayan girls aged between 8 and 17 and used the "safescaping strategy" – a process to build safe spaces and protective assets for girls who face exclusion and discrimination. The Population Council established girls-only clubs

in 12 communities where girls were trained by young mentors to become community leaders and agents of social change.

An external evaluation of the impact of the programme found that girls' motivation and performance was higher in spaces that integrated awareness-raising lectures; economic livelihood activities, such as handcraft techniques; and sports. Girls who attended regularly reported a stronger sense of autonomy and empowerment, increased knowledge about their rights and greater self-esteem. The opportunity to have a close circle of friends also emerged as an important protective asset.

The programme had an impact beyond the safe spaces, with mothers reporting girls' improved communication within the family and increased awareness about their human rights. Girls also reported sharing their knowledge and skills with younger siblings.



Chaitanya AIDS Prevention Women's Sangha, Karnataka, India

EXPANDING ACCESS TO SERVICES

Successful multi-sectoral service provision is crucial to ensuring that survivors of violence are able to get access to the services they need, when they need and in ways that are appropriate to them.

The Fund has supported pioneering initiatives by grantees in areas such as establishing referral pathways for access to services, setting up medico-legal networks and training medical staff in the specific needs of women and girls overcoming violence. A number of grantees have focused on the particular challenges faced by women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings where the institutions and networks that would normally have provided these vital services and support have been seriously weakened.

CASE STUDIES

In **Serbia**, the Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality (PSEEGE) of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina worked to

strengthen collaboration and coordination between the police, prosecutors and social service centres at the local level.

The particularly innovative aspect of the coordination model used in the town of Zrenjanin is the inclusion of the public prosecutor, who leads the multi-sectoral team for cases of domestic violence. This has helped underscore the importance of involving different stakeholders and played a key role in raising awareness and understanding of gender-based violence. For example, a protocol on cooperation was developed that in a very practical way allows specialist police officers to access information on all cases of violence and to share information with other professionals. The impact of this can be seen in the increase in the number of cases of intimate partner violence that are reported and resolved appropriately.

In **South Sudan**, more than 42,000 people have benefited from programme activities and 287 survivors of gender-based violence have received comprehensive services as a result of an initiative by the American

Refugee Committee (ARC). In partnership with a wide range of local, national and international bodies, ARC coordinated four state-level working groups on gender-based violence to promote the professionalization and availability of health and legal services. ARC established referral pathways for access to services, trained medical officials to record violence against women appropriately and trained midwives to provide psychosocial support to survivors. In two of the four states where the programme has been rolled out, an average of 80 per cent of cases of gender-based violence referred to medical and legal services had received support from community volunteers trained by ARC.

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LAWS AND POLICIES

Civil society groups play a key role in advocating for the adoption, reform and implementation of laws and policies. Legislation and programming are an important part of putting the issue firmly on the public agenda and sending the message that violence against women and girls will not be tolerated. Activities to bring about law reform also strengthen networking and coordination among civil society groups and their allies in public institutions.⁵

States have the primary responsibility for preventing violence against women and girls and, when violence does happen, for bringing those responsible to justice and ensuring redress for survivors. In order to strengthen the capacity of State institutions to respond to violence against women and girls, the Trust Fund has supported a range of initiatives that focused on the adoption and implementation of protocols to investigate gender-based killings, that worked to improve and institutionalize the monitoring of existing legislation and that are helping ensure adequate funding for full implementation.

CASE STUDIES

In **India**, an accountability tool designed by the Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative, is being used to monitor implementation of India's Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005). The

Collective's report, *Staying Alive*, provides a detailed analysis of existing infrastructure and budgets and how cases progress through the justice system. It also analyses the increase in the number of protection orders being issued and estimates the funding needed to implement the law fully.⁶

The Lawyers Collective's advocacy has resulted in the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Mission for Empowerment of Women committing to undertake annual monitoring of the law. In order to facilitate this, the Collective published a manual on monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the law and on best practices. The impact of these initiatives is not limited to India. Women's groups in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are also now using the methodology pioneered by the Collective.

In **Mexico**, Catholics for the Right to Free Choice, in partnership with two state governments, established criminal investigation protocols for documenting gender-motivated killings in the states of Oaxaca and Colima.

Five new grantees are strengthening the implementation of laws and policies to end violence against women. In **Antigua and Barbuda**, the Directorate of Women's Affairs is implementing the 2013-2018 National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. In **Morocco**, Initiatives pour la Protection des Droits des Femmes is enhancing women's access to justice and to economic and social rights at the Batha multifunctional centre. In **Myanmar**, Action Aid is rolling out a successful pilot programme to increase access to justice in rural areas. In **Armenia**, Society Without Violence is promoting the integration of a gender perspective in public education policies. In **Serbia**, the B92 Foundation is expediting the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women in the Family and in Intimate Partner Relationships by developing an agribusiness economic empowerment programme for survivors.

⁵ Lori L. Heise, *What Works to Prevent Partner Violence? An Evidence Overview*, (London, STRIVE, UK Aid, 2011), p. 74. Available at <http://strive.lshtm.ac.uk/resources/what-works-prevent-partner-violence-evidence-overview>

⁶ Reports are available at www.lawyerscollective.org/category/publications.

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks at event commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, November 2011




THEMATIC WINDOWS - SHARING WHAT WORKS

“The UN Trust Fund’s support of Physicians for Human Rights and its Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones is of great significance in helping us carry out our work in Central and East Africa... We have benefited enormously from the Fund’s prioritization of building connections among its grantees working on sexual violence.”

Karen Naimer, Director of the Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones, Physicians for Human Rights, September 2013

The UN Trust Fund is more than a source of funding. It provides day-to-day technical and substantive support to grantees. In 2013, the Trust Fund continued to support global learning initiatives through its Thematic Windows. Each of the Windows involves grouping together grantees working on similar types of interventions. This serves a number of purposes, including helping to identify what works, share good practice, generate comparable data and build a community of experts in particular areas. These Windows also give sustained visibility to specific issues.

The UN Trust Fund has established three Thematic Windows:

-  violence against women in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings;
-  the intersection of HIV/AIDS and violence against women; and
-  violence against young and adolescent girls.

CONFLICT, POST-CONFLICT AND TRANSITIONAL SETTINGS

“I buried my Khmer Rouge experiences for so long and I didn’t want to talk about them. But today, I hear and see them again. I feel angry, but I know that it is good to release these feelings. This can help the young generation accept the truth that this dark regime truly happened in Cambodia.”

Anonymous testimony from a survivor of sexual violence during the Khmer Rouge era, Women’s Hearing, Cambodia, September 2013

Most studies suggest that between a third and a quarter of women living in conflict situations experience sexual violence. Prosecuting these crimes and providing redress for violence against women and girls in conflict-related settings poses a number of specific challenges. Lawyers, police and health professionals often lack the necessary skills and experience to deal appropriately with violence against women and girls. In fragile settings where health and justice systems have been seriously eroded, the impact of these shortcomings on survivors’ access to services is exacerbated. However, prosecution is only one way of addressing violence against women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings. Institutional reform and non-judicial processes and mechanisms are also important. The UN Trust Fund is supporting initiatives working in both these areas.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Kenya**, officials from the medico-legal networks established by Physicians for Human Rights are working to address cases of sexual violence comprehensively, from collecting evidence to establishing redress measures.

In **Cambodia**, the Victims Support Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia is using dialogue and the sharing and dissemination of survivors’ testimonies to raise awareness of the

extent and impact of gender-based violence under the Khmer Rouge. Many communities are learning for the first time about the lasting impact of gender-based violence in that era, paving the way for ensuring justice and non-repetition. For example, in September 2013, after listening to the testimony of four survivors, a panel of more than 400 students recommended that forced marriage be included as a gender-based crime in the indictment in cases under investigation by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

The Danish Refugee Council, a new grantee, is helping to provide legal aid to displaced women in **Afghanistan** and **Tajikistan**, where violence against displaced women is endemic. In spite of a series of laws enacted to protect them, displaced women have little access to justice or social services. This initiative will reduce impunity for sexual and gender-based violence, increase awareness of women’s rights and available services, and enhance the capacity of legal professionals to provide effective legal assistance to displaced victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

In April 2013, the UN Trust Fund organized a learning and sharing workshop in New York that brought together a unique group of leading human rights and international humanitarian organizations implementing programmes to combat gender-based violence in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Grantees were able to share their projects, challenges and expected results. Bringing together leading practitioners implementing a range of interventions to meet the multiple needs of survivors is filling a critical gap in this area.

By 2015, the findings of external evaluations on projects linked to this Thematic Window are expected to provide invaluable information about what is effective in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings.



Women’s Initiative for Gender Justice, Gulu, Uganda

THE INTERSECTION OF HIV/AIDS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

“I can now speak boldly in the community, speaking about relationships, HIV and AIDS. It is not so easy but the approaches we use in SASA! have made it very easy. Interacting with families, counselling them and reaching women experiencing violence.

I can now speak freely with the partners. I feel so inspired while mobilizing the community. I am able to conduct a community dialogue which I used not to do.”

Anonymous SASA! trainee

According to UNAIDS, women are at greater risk of contracting HIV because of gender inequalities, harmful social gender norms and a greater physiological susceptibility to the virus. Intimate partner violence also increases the risk: studies in Africa found that women who experience such violence are 50 per cent more likely to be living with HIV/AIDS. Through a special thematic window on HIV/AIDS, the Trust Fund is trying to better understand what interventions can reduce violence against women and girls and risks of HIV/AIDS, as well as to reduce violence resulting from stigma and discrimination.



Trainer for fathers' training for non-violent families, Turkey

UN Trust Fund support helped Raising Voices, a Uganda-based organization, and Uganda's Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention provided technical assistance and mentoring to 13 grass-roots organizations in **Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania** and **Uganda**. Using a successful violence prevention approach called **SASA!** (the Kiswahili for "Now!"), developed by Raising Voices, a series of activities supports community members through different stages of behaviour change, from awareness of the issues, to support for women and men in creating change, to action against violence. An independent evaluation by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine compared four of the communities in Uganda where **SASA!** was used with four similar communities where it was not. This found that sustained, culturally appropriate and participatory strategies can reduce violence in three years, making it one of the most promising practices in the field.

In June 2013, the Trust Fund and the UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office organized a three-day learning workshop for grantees on the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women. Building on the first learning workshop held in 2011, this second workshop brought together 15 grantees from seven programmes working in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe to share promising practices and lessons learned and to measure progress. Grantees were able to exchange views on how violence and HIV/AIDS interact in the lives of women in different countries and how these two inter-related issues can be effectively and holistically addressed.

Two new grantees, Jamaica AIDS Support for Life and the Association of Positive Women Indonesia, are working to increase access to health services and to integrate into the health sector the needs of women; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; women living with disabilities; and sex workers.

VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUNG AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS

In 2013, a special thematic window to address violence against adolescent and young girls was launched. This area of grant-giving will focus on building protective assets for girls so that they are able to prevent and respond to threats of violence. It also aims to ensure that girls who do experience violence get the services they need and have access to justice. The UN Trust Fund will be looking to support interventions that are informed by girls' experiences and that meet the needs of those at highest risk of violence including girls who are out of school, isolated by marriage or domestic workers.

Five programmes will address the needs of adolescent girls through a range of tailored interventions for this age group. In **South Africa**, Grassroot Soccer is

expanding its SKILLZ Plus sports-based curriculum to foster girls' empowerment, expand girls' awareness of sexual and reproductive rights and increase access to services for survivors of gender-based violence. In **Bangladesh**, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha is working with schools to create safe learning environments for girls. In **Vietnam**, Plan Vietnam is piloting a research-based model for building gender-responsive schools in Hanoi. In **Ukraine**, the Ukrainian Women's Fund is building the leadership capacity of girls as a means of mobilizing Ukrainian youth against violence. In **Kosovo** (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244), the European Centre for Minority Issues is improving access to violence prevention and protection services for girls and adolescents from minority communities.

UN AS ONE

With support from the UN Trust Fund, UNCT projects developed by two or more UN agencies working together are taking forward a range of initiatives, collaborating with other grantees and building a body of knowledge that can be shared.

The UN Trust Fund is also a vehicle for responding to the UN Secretary-General's call to prevent and end violence against women and girls in the context of his UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign (2008-2015). Through its grants, the UN Trust Fund contributes to the UNiTE Campaign by emphasizing its five key outcomes as relevant to national laws, multi-sectoral action plans, data collection systems, social mobilization and addressing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

SOS violence hotlines in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia were supported by a project led by **UNCT Serbia** and have been used by 12,091 people, and provided substantive assistance to 662 survivors. Some of these hotlines have been established to specifically provide support to women with disabilities, Roma women with a low level of literacy and women living in rural areas. In the area of prevention, the programme is working with children through school-based interventions and with youth through community interventions and innovative social mobilization campaigns.

A **UNCT Bosnia and Herzegovina** project led to the establishment of eight multi-agency municipal referral mechanisms for survivors of violence and women at risk. Through these mechanisms, now funded by local administrations and integrated at the institutional



UN Trust Fund grantee UNCT in Thailand is working with local partners

level, the roles of different government constituencies in addressing and responding to violence against women and girls were clearly defined and partnerships with civil society organizations were strengthened.

The referral mechanisms were substantially improved through comprehensive multi-agency training and new curriculums for the police, prosecutors and judges. UNCT Bosnia and Herzegovina also provided technical assistance during the drafting of a new law on protection from domestic violence.

CREATING A CULTURE OF LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All selected grantees are expected to work closely with the UN Trust Fund Secretariat team to ensure efficient implementation and accountability. The UN Trust Fund also ensures that, at the end of a project, results are verified by external and independent evaluations.

The UN Trust Fund organized its 10th five-day Capacity Development Workshop in New York in April-May 2013. This is a mandatory annual workshop for all UN Trust Fund grantees. It aims to ensure consistent knowledge about programming among all grantees and to facilitate more effective and results-based project implementation.

The workshops are organized for each new cycle of grantees to increase their capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and disseminate results and lessons learned and to assist new grantees in developing their monitoring and evaluation plans.

Grantees work with monitoring and evaluation specialists to refine their project goals, outputs, outcomes, activities and indicators in order to make their project goals specific, realistic and strategic. In 2013, grantees also reviewed and strengthened their monitoring and evaluation strategies.

In 2013, the UN Trust Fund received 13 external evaluations. These are starting to reveal some key trends. For example, the evaluations are showing that although knowledge about women's rights and the effects of violence against women and girls can be increased within the lifetime of the project, transforming beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and practices is a longer-term process, which requires ongoing commitment and continued funding.

The evaluations also show the importance of engaging communities from the earliest stages of the project in a substantive, culturally appropriate way. Effective projects are focusing on power imbalances between women and men and address the resulting human rights violations without resorting to blaming or shaming. They recognize the importance of contextualizing and adapting activities to different settings so that communities are inspired to participate and have a sense of ownership, which helps guarantee the subsequent sustainability of projects. These prevention strategies recognize that harnessing the support of a critical mass of people and organizations that can issue a strong call for zero tolerance are crucial. In terms of policy and legal reform, the evaluations are showing that advocacy must not stop at the reform stage; civil society monitoring and vigilance must be present every step of the way.

"I FEEL THAT THE WORKSHOP HAS GIVEN ME A STRONGER OVERVIEW OF HOW THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF MY PROJECT CONTRIBUTE TO A BROADER GOAL."

"A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE-SHARING HAPPENED HERE WHICH WILL BENEFIT OUR FUTURE WORK. NETWORKS OF RESOURCES WERE ESTABLISHED."

"[I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS WORKSHOP TO OTHERS] BECAUSE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO CLARIFY FACE TO FACE OUR DIFFICULTIES AND TO UNDERSTAND THE UN TRUST FUND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS."

ANONYMOUS COMMENTS BY GRANTEES SHARED IN AN EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP



2013 EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS OF UN TRUST FUND-SUPPORTED PROGRAMMES – A SNAPSHOT

RAISING VOICES

“Partners across the board talk about how SASA! and the technical assistance on SASA! have made them more aware of power as the root cause of violence, causing them to change their own behaviors and relationships and making them move towards more structured and systematic violence against women prevention programming.”

“One noteworthy conclusion from this evaluation is that a partnership based on mutual respect facilitated the knowledge acquisition, personal and professional positive changes in skills and attitudes. It also helped develop confidence in improving VAW prevention programming.”

UN COUNTRY TEAM, **NEPAL**

“The project has helped create a forum for all the service providers, civil society and government officials to discuss and deal with GBV [gender-based violence] related problems collectively.”

CARE, **CAMBODIA**

“The project has had a significant impact in the policy sphere, in particular through supporting the Ministry of Women’s Affairs Legal Protection Department. It has built the capacity of this agency to deliver community-based models of gender-based violence and sexual harassment prevention.”

“Over 3,000 of the estimated 4,000 BPs [beer promoters] working in Cambodia were reached by the project with life skills training. A vast majority of BPs are now better able to negotiate with their clients, and have the knowledge and confidence to report harassment and abuse if they need to.”

“[K]ey informants unanimously agreed that there has been a significant reduction in incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based violence experienced by beer promoters in the workplace.”

LAWYER’S COLLECTIVE FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS, **INDIA**

“The findings indicate the project was highly relevant to the debate, dialogue and needs of domestic violence in India at the time it was designed and still is in 2012. It is the only project which has attempted to create mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the [Protection against Violence] Act, in or outside India. The work done under the project in India has served as a model in South Asia as women’s organizations have taken the experience to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.”

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS, **IRAQ**

“The data indicated that the strengthened referral mechanisms supported by International Medical Corps (IMC) had been very successful in improving dialogue and understanding of services amongst service providers, leading to a more integrated and comprehensive service for survivors.” “The referral system appears to be robust, with service providers noting that through training sessions they better understand the other services in communities and have improved knowledge on appropriate actions.”

“Within the medical field, doctors and professionals noted that Primary Healthcare Center to hospital referrals increased 65%, indicating an improved level of understanding and identification of gender-based violence and also of the impact attached to it, with improved recognition of its severity.”

BEIJING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER, **CHINA**

“The Beijing Cultural Development Center (BCDC) project has undoubtedly contributed to increased knowledge and capacity of key stakeholders in reducing the risk of sexual abuse to left-behind girls [whose families have migrated to urban centers for work]. In particular, it has effectively contributed to increased knowledge and capacity of left-behind girls and their peers. The project has also effectively contributed to increased knowledge and capacity of guardians and the community to detect, address and prevent sexual violence against left-behind children.”

RESULTS-BASED PROGRAMMING

“We all suffered ... and while the damage and suffering to which [gender-based violence victims] were subjected is irreparable, the Women’s Hearings grant symbolic reparations and give victims the opportunity to have a collective voice.”

Sopheha Im, Cambodia



UN Trust Fund grantee Plan Vietnam is implementing ‘Gender Responsive School Pilot Model’

A central imperative for the Trust Fund is making sure that the resources entrusted to it are used to greatest effect. That means looking to support grantees whose initiatives are focused on results that are based on a rigorous assessment of the real needs of women and girls and that will make a tangible difference to their lives. The Trust Fund also ensures that grantee results are backed up by end-of-project external and independent qualitative and/or quantitative evaluations.

In 2013, grantees were able to use the new online Grant Management System (GMS). This was developed to allow comprehensive monitoring and analysis of the

UN Trust Fund grants portfolio and to provide timely support to all its grantees. The GMS also enables the UN Trust Fund Secretariat to aggregate data on the number of grants per country or region; the anticipated number of primary beneficiaries in one grant cycle as well as those actually reached by the end of projects; the specific forms of violence addressed by country or region; the types of organization funded; and financial data on strategic areas of intervention.

Crucially, the GMS will facilitate the accountability of the UN Trust Fund to its donors. During 2014, the GMS will be fully tested and adjusted and its final phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS IN 2013

GOVERNMENTS OF:

Australia, Austria, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and South Africa

NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF UN-WOMEN:

Austria, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

THE WOMEN’S SELF-WORTH FOUNDATION

THE UNITED NATIONS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



The Population Council, former Trust Fund grantee, Guatemala

GRANT RECIPIENTS 2013

AFRICA

SOS-Esclaves, Mauritania

Project Title: “Justice for Survivors of Slavery”

Focus Area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

Grassroot Soccer, South Africa

Project Title: “Skillz Street Plus: Empowering Girls to Take Action to End Violence against Women”

Focus Area: Preventing and addressing violence against adolescent girls

AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Directorate of Gender Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda

Project Title: “Implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence”

Focus Area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, Jamaica

Project Title: “Expanding Gains to Decrease and Prevent Violence against Women in the Context of HIV and AIDS”

Focus Area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

ARAB STATES AND NORTH AFRICA

Initiatives pour la Protection des Droits des Femmes (IPDF) Morocco

Project Title: “Facilitating Survivor’s Access to Justice and Social and Economic Protection through a Chain of Integrated Services”

Focus Area: Expanding survivors’ access to support services

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

CARE Cambodia, Cambodia

Project Title: “Safe Workplaces, Safe Communities”

Focus Area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

Medical Services in the Pacific, Fiji

Project Title: “Women and Youth Empowered through Access to Information to Protect their Rights and Access to Services to Protect their Health”

Focus area: Expanding survivors’ access to support services

Breakthrough Trust, India

Project Title: “Preventing Violence: Change Starts Now”

Focus area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

Ikatan Perempuan Positif Indonesia (IPPI), Indonesia

Project Title: “One-Stop Service: Integrated Services for Survivors of Violence and Women Living with HIV”

Focus area: Expanding survivors’ access to support services

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, Bangladesh

Project Title: “Safe School, Safe Community”

Focus area: Preventing and addressing violence against adolescent girls

Action Aid Myanmar, Myanmar

Project Title: “Promoting Access to Justice: Towards a Violence-Free Environment for Women and Girls”

Focus area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

Plan Viet Nam, Viet Nam

Project Title: “Gender-Responsive Schools Pilot Model”

Focus area: Preventing and addressing violence against adolescent girls

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Society Without Violence, Armenia

Project Title: “Integration of Gender and Gender-based Violence into Educational Curriculums in the Framework of the National 2011-2015 Strategic Plan”

Focus area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo, Kosovo

Project Title: “Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence”

Focus area: Preventing and addressing violence against adolescent girls

B92 Foundation, Serbia

Project Title: “Safe House Economic Empowerment”

Focus Area: Strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans

Ukrainian Women's Fund, Ukraine

Project Title: “Programme for the Implementation of the Special Law on Gender-Based Violence”

Focus Area: Preventing and addressing violence against adolescent girls

CROSS-REGIONAL PROJECTS

Danish Refugee Council, Afghanistan and Tajikistan

Project Title: “Empowering Displaced Women through Legal Aid and Training to Combat Violence against Women”

Focus Area: Expanding survivors’ access to support services

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220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017, USA
www.unwomen.org
untf-evaw@unwomen.org



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

