



UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



**THE UN TRUST FUND
TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
WORKS TO CREATE
A JUST WORLD
WHERE WOMEN AND
GIRLS ARE SAFE AND
FREE, ABLE TO LEAD
REWARDING LIVES
OF DIGNITY AND
EQUALITY.**



A BETTER TOMORROW

Today, violence against women is a fact of life in communities and countries across the world. It transcends the bounds of geography, race, culture, class and religion. It ranges from intimate partner violence to the use of rape as a weapon of war, from sexual harassment in public spaces to harmful practices like child marriage. It affects up to seven in every ten women at some point in their lives. By eroding women's health, spirit, agency and productivity, violence robs women of their basic rights and deprives countries the creativity and contributions of half their people.

But tomorrow can be different. Societies change, sometimes very fast. Behaviors, norms and institutions that are commonplace and unremarkable in the eyes of one generation can be rejected by the next. Grave human rights abuses that once enjoyed widespread support—slavery, foot binding, and apartheid, to name just a few—are today not only illegal, but also condemned by nearly everyone. Thanks to the individual and collective efforts of hundreds of thousands of women and men, laws and attitudes changed dramatically. What was once acceptable became unacceptable.

What will it take to make violence against women unacceptable? For fifteen years, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women has supported innovative, effective initiatives designed to transform the ways in which people think and act. Turn the page to learn more about what the UN Trust Fund's partners are doing – and how you can help.

A FUND WHOSE TIME HAS COME

Throughout recorded history, violence against women has been ignored, excused or accepted as a seemingly intractable part of the human condition. In the 1990s, however, momentum began to build around the idea that women's rights were human rights, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of women's organizations around the world.

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women was a landmark acknowledgement that violence against women is a human rights violation no matter where it occurs. The right of women to a life free of physical, sexual and psychological violence was reinforced through a series of global conferences in the 1990s and the Millennium Summit in 2000. Research demonstrated that violence against women and girls was hampering progress toward the Millennium Development Goals. With successive UN General Assembly Resolutions, and the UN Secretary-General's global campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women 2008-2015, the issue fully emerged from the shadows, demanding the attention and action of all who care about freedom and development.

The UN Trust Fund, established in 1996, embodies this heartening awakening of global consciousness. A gauge of the international community's commitment to making good on its promises to end violence against women and girls, the UN Trust Fund brings synergy and coherence to the United Nations' work in this critical field.

The Fund also helps to meet the vast reservoir of demand for funding. It awards grants that range from \$100,000 to \$1 million to organizations in developing and transition countries. These grants are awarded annually in an open, transparent and highly competitive process. **Between 1996 and 2011, the UN Trust Fund delivered almost \$80 million to over 330 innovative, strategic and effective programmes in 127 countries.**

Despite its reach, demand far outstrips the UN Trust Fund's resources. In recent years, it has been able to support less than 3 percent of the proposals received. In 2011 alone, it received over 2,500 proposals, with \$1.2 billion in requested funding—but was able to support only 22 of them in 34 countries. The surge in advocacy and political commitment around this issue is paying off: growing numbers of organizations have made ending violence against women and girls a central part of their missions. What is needed now is a commensurate surge in resources to address this global pandemic.



EQUALITY

PREVENTING VIOLENCE BY CHANGING SOCIAL NORMS

Social norms in much of the world lead people to turn a blind eye toward violence against women and girls. In some cases, women are even thought to “ask for” violence by dressing in a certain way, by encouraging (or spurning) a suitor, by disagreeing with a father or a husband, or by being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Violence is sometimes viewed as necessary. For instance, in communities where female genital mutilation is practiced, parents may fear that their daughter, if uncut, would never find a husband, economic security or a place in society. Changing the beliefs that make violence seem normal, justified and even at times desirable requires social mobilization, education and advocacy. Ending the silence around violence, engaging men and boys and partnering with traditional leaders are particularly important.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UN TRUST FUND:

In **GUATEMALA**, adolescent girls in fourteen Mayan communities mapped their neighborhoods using GPS technology. By plotting every household, building and route, the girls created maps that showed where they felt safe and where they felt at risk. The project, implemented by the Population Council and the Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women, made young women and their safety concerns visible for the first time. The mapping exercise helped catalyze community-wide discussion about the prevalence of violence against women and girls, the reasons young men commit violent acts and ways the community could come together to prevent violence.

In **ETHIOPIA**, Action Aid effectively addressed harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM), early and forced marriage, polygamy and wife inheritance. The project supported community-level watch groups; over 500 women were part of these groups, and they reached some 30,000 community members. The groups keep a watchful eye on baby girls to make sure that FGM did not occur and monitored the age at which girls were married. Their partners in this effort were a cadre of religious and traditional leaders educated on the health risks of FGM and early marriage. The leaders were instrumental in reducing the number of child marriages by requiring proof that young women who appeared before them to get married were at least 18 years old.



SAFETY

PREVENTING VIOLENCE BY REFORMING LAWS AND BUILDING CAPACITY

Laws that end impunity for violence by criminalizing it wherever it occurs, and capacity for enforcement of those laws through institutional and policy reform, are critical to creating a world free of violence for women and girls. Laws against marital rape, domestic violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and other forms of violence against women provide the framework for change and signal to society that these forms of violence are not normal and expected but wrong and illegal. Over 125 countries have outlawed domestic violence, and 186 have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. This represents tremendous progress. Yet making laws a living reality requires capacity for enforcement. This is our next challenge.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UN TRUST FUND:

In **INDIA**, the Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative (LCWRI) produced handbooks on the country's new Domestic Violence Act to help judges, protection officers and service providers uniformly and proactively enforce the groundbreaking law. The LCWRI also undertook a project to monitor and evaluate the law's implementation and effectiveness. The LCWRI was well-placed to carry out these initiatives, as it had campaigned for more than a decade to see the Domestic Violence Act's passage in 2005. The law affirms women's right to live free from violence, and any woman in any form of domestic relationship can file a complaint. The law has "teeth": it provides a civil remedy to violence survivors and prescribes strict penalties for the breach of protection orders. LCWRI's monitoring efforts show that the law is taking hold; in 2006, only 460 cases were filed, compared to 13,582 cases in 2008, an astonishing thirty-fold increase.

In **PERU**, the municipal government in Lima under its first-ever female mayor engaged police, the justice system, service providers, civil society, local leaders and the educational system in efforts to prevent violence against women and girls. The project employed gender budgeting and consolidated planning to ensure that the city's commitment to eradicating violence against women was backed up with appropriate funding. City health and justice officials were trained to support survivors of abuse, and male perpetrators were required to take part in a comprehensive program designed to transform their behavior and reduce the likelihood of future violence.



JUSTICE

HELPING SURVIVORS REBUILD THEIR LIVES

Violence survivors often suffer twice, first from the violence itself and then from the stigma and ostracism unfairly directed to them rather than to their assailants. Women who suffer violence need a host of services to rebuild their lives and livelihoods – health care, psychosocial support, employment and training opportunities, safe places to live, access to justice and ongoing protection.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UN TRUST FUND:

In **CAMBODIA, NEPAL** and **UGANDA**, Acid Survivors' Trust International (ASTI) and its local partners helped women rebuild their lives following acid attacks. Acid violence is a widespread human rights violation that causes severe physical and psychological scarring and social ostracism. ASTI supported the establishment of "model communities" that engage community members and leaders, acid vendors and the justice, law enforcement and health sectors to bring much-needed services to survivors, empower and reintegrate them into society, bring perpetrators to justice and prevent acid violence from happening in the first place.

In **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**, Rights for All tackled the disproportionate violence that Roma women experience. 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, protection and housing. They also experience significantly more domestic violence than non-Roma women. Rights for All conducted a first-ever survey of Roma women that found that 43 percent of respondents had suffered physical violence and 46 percent had suffered sexual violence. The survey results and subsequent public discussions catalyzed change. Local government representatives began collaborating with Roma women leaders to improve survivors' access to services. These leaders underwent paralegal training to help Roma women survivors of violence access justice, health care and other support services.

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and bangs, smiling warmly. Her face and neck are covered in extensive, raised, and discolored scars from severe burns. She is wearing a light-colored apron over a dark top. Her hands are in the foreground, working on a small, round, light-colored object, possibly a piece of pottery or a craft project. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or a home setting with some equipment.

DIGNITY

RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Wartime sexual violence, a weapon used to terrorize civilian populations and demoralize armed combatants, was long the open secret of armed conflict; everyone knew it happened, but no one talked about it. Silence, stigma and shame, the frequent companions of sexual violence, kept societies from helping survivors recover.

In 2000, the historic Security Council Resolution 1325 for the first time acknowledged this endemic phenomenon and called upon the international community to address the differential impact of war on women and girls. This Resolution, along with greater real-time awareness of the sexual violence that characterized conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere, finally pushed this issue onto the international agenda.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UN TRUST FUND:

In **SIERRA LEONE**, where 250,000 women and girls suffered horrific sexual violence during a decade-long conflict that ended in 2002, the National Commission for Social Action's Reparations Programme helped some of the most vulnerable survivors rebuild their lives. For them, the pain of violence did not end along with the armed struggle. Rape survivors and children born of rape were often rejected by their communities, and many girls and women lost their families and livelihoods along with their physical and psychological health as a result of the sexual violence they endured. To help these women reintegrate into society and support themselves and their children, the programme provided vocational training, microloans and other sustainable livelihood tools.

In the **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, KENYA, SUDAN**, and **UGANDA**, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) developed a medical and legal system for managing forensic evidence in rape cases to combat widespread impunity for these crimes. Government troops and rebel forces alike have used rape as a weapon of war in recent conflicts, sexually assaulting tens of thousands of African women and girls. Yet weak justice systems, stigma, fear of reprisal and insufficient evidence to support prosecution all made survivors unlikely to report sexual violence. PHR and its partner Tukomeshe Unajisi Network trained legal and medical professionals to become specialized forensic experts. These forensic experts are now linked in a regional advocacy coalition with other key stakeholders, including grassroots women's groups.



FREEDOM

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND HIV

Violence and the HIV epidemic intersect in the lives of women in ways that are profoundly dangerous to their health and well-being, with ripple effects on their families and communities. Women who experience violence are less able to negotiate safe sex, and women who are raped are more likely to contract HIV. In addition, the stigma attached to HIV infection in many communities places HIV-positive women at a greater risk of violence than other women. Fear of the violence that might follow an HIV-positive diagnosis often keeps women from seeking testing and treatment. Adolescent girls and young women are particularly vulnerable; in parts of Africa and the Caribbean, young women ages 15-24 are up to six times as likely to be HIV-positive as their male counterparts.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UN TRUST FUND:

In **NEPAL**, Equal Access educated rural populations about the link between violence against women and HIV through a weekly radio show entitled Samajhdari (“mutual understanding” in Nepali). The show ran for nearly two years and reached over one million listeners each week. Community listeners’ groups, facilitated by legal literacy trainers, served as platforms for dialogue and action. A companion project, the Most Understanding Husband Campaign, invited men to nominate themselves for this title, prompting thousands of men to share their thoughts and feelings. These radio programs challenged deeply rooted gender norms and tacit tolerance of violence against women while also engaging men in transforming their notions of masculinity. As a result, the number of women seeking services doubled, women reported greater ability to negotiate condom use and the number of men supporting efforts to end violence against women increased five-fold.

In **MALAWI**, the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA) tackled the myths and stereotypes that underpin violence against women, particularly in relation to the HIV and AIDS epidemic. Compared to HIV-positive men, women with HIV in Malawi experience far more harassment and violence. COWLHA worked with women, men and traditional leaders to challenge the norms that fuel abuse, mobilized communities to advocate for the criminalization of marital rape, trained women as paralegals to document cases of violence and provided vital support services to victims.

A woman wearing a white chef's hat and a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a baby. The baby is wearing a light green and white striped shirt. The woman is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The background shows a wooden crib with vertical slats. The word "VOICE" is overlaid in large, bold, orange letters across the center of the image.

VOICE

WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS— BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE

The UN Trust Fund receives thousands of first-rate project proposals, but is able to fund less than 5 percent of them. This unmet demand represents tremendous untapped potential. Only with resources that match the commitment and creativity of those working to end violence against women can we create a world of equality, justice, safety, dignity and freedom for all—a world where violence against women is unacceptable.

GRANT AMOUNTS BY REGION 1997-2011

\$78.4 Million, 339 grants in over 127 countries and territories

Africa:

\$24.6 million

Arab States and North Africa:

\$5 million

Asia and the Pacific:

\$18.6 million

Europe and Central Asia:

\$9.9 million

Latin America and the Caribbean:

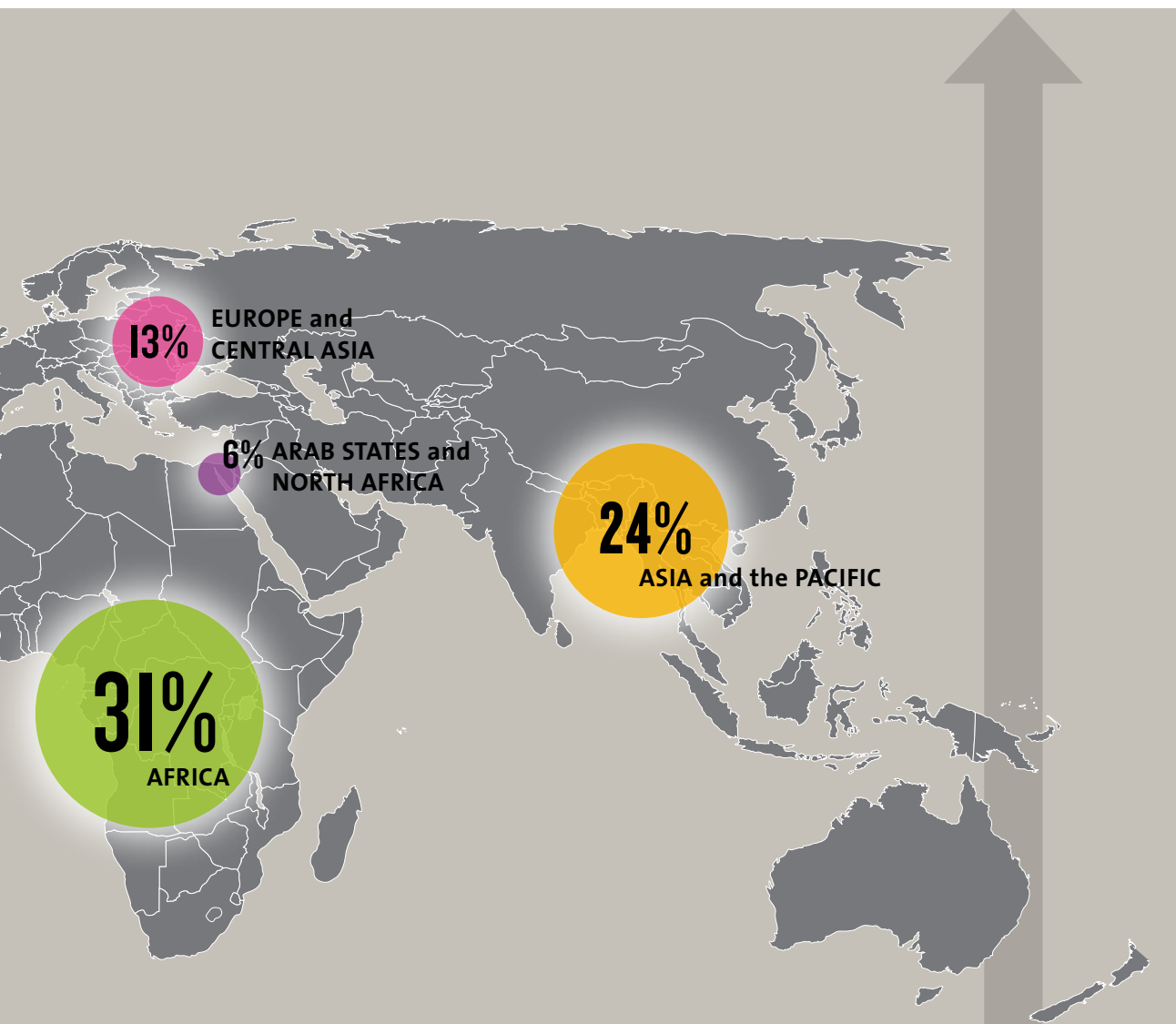
\$16.9 million

Global:

\$3.4 million



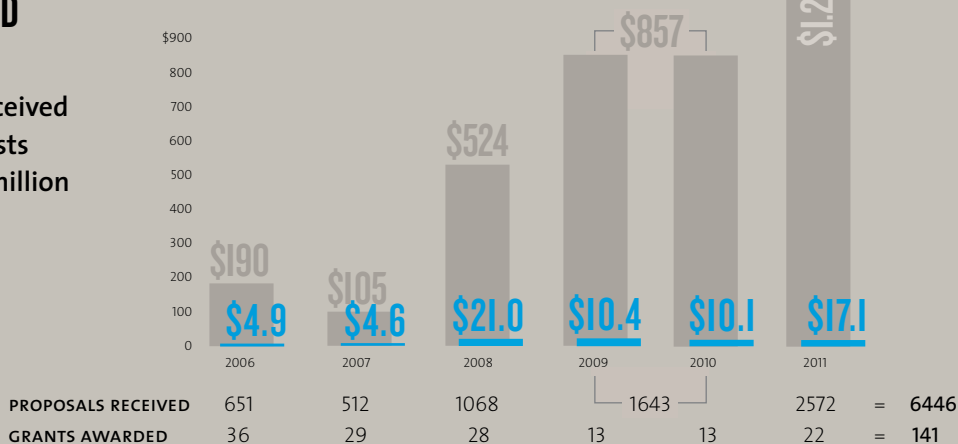
All amounts shown in US Dollars.



DEMAND AND GRANTS AWARDED 2006-2011

In 2011, the Fund received \$1.2 billion in requests and awarded \$17.1 million

■ FUNDS REQUESTED USD MILLION
■ FUNDS ALLOCATED USD MILLION



THE TIME IS NOW!

Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. It is an endemic and grave problem, to be sure, but not an intractable one. Fifteen years of supporting our partners to change harmful norms and practices, to strengthen laws and policies, to provide services and access to justice to survivors of violence, to keep women and girls safe in conflict and to break the link between violence and HIV has shown us what works. It has shown us that change is possible. And it has shown us that we are at a unique moment in history, a moment when the willingness to put an end to violence against women is at an all-time high.

The UN Trust Fund is helping to shatter the silence around violence against women and girls, to translate the world's promises to women and girls into reality on the ground, to learn and share what works and to mobilize governments, organizations and people themselves around fulfilling women's fundamental human rights. Now we must take these efforts to scale. Doing so requires you.

You can help create a world free of violence. All donations, large and small, help the UN Trust Fund and its partners transform the lives of girls, women and their communities.

WHAT DOES YOUR CONTRIBUTION BRING?

\$10 6 women survivors of violence can receive psychosocial counseling in countries across Africa and Asia.

\$100 17 women's rights activists in the Middle East can be trained to engage men and boys as change agents to end violence against women and girls.

\$1,000 70 police officers in India can be sensitized to respond appropriately to women survivors of violence.

\$10,000 23 radio program episodes can reach up to one million women and men in rural Nepal, sparking community dialogue and action against gender-based violence and HIV.

\$100,000 100,000 women and girls affected by violence in the Peruvian capital of Lima can benefit from a comprehensive referral system that links survivors to services and care.

JOIN US! To learn more about the UN Trust Fund and to make a contribution, visit www.lifefreeofviolence.org.



Say No to
Violence
against
women

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100% COTTON
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TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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UNITED NATIONS
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AGAINST WOMEN



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women