

# UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

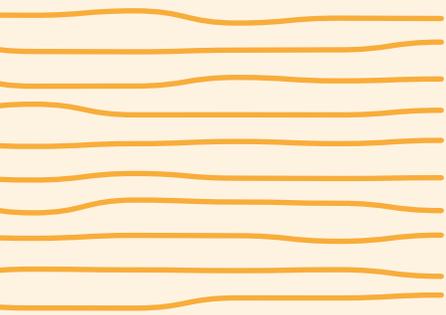


ANNUAL  
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2021

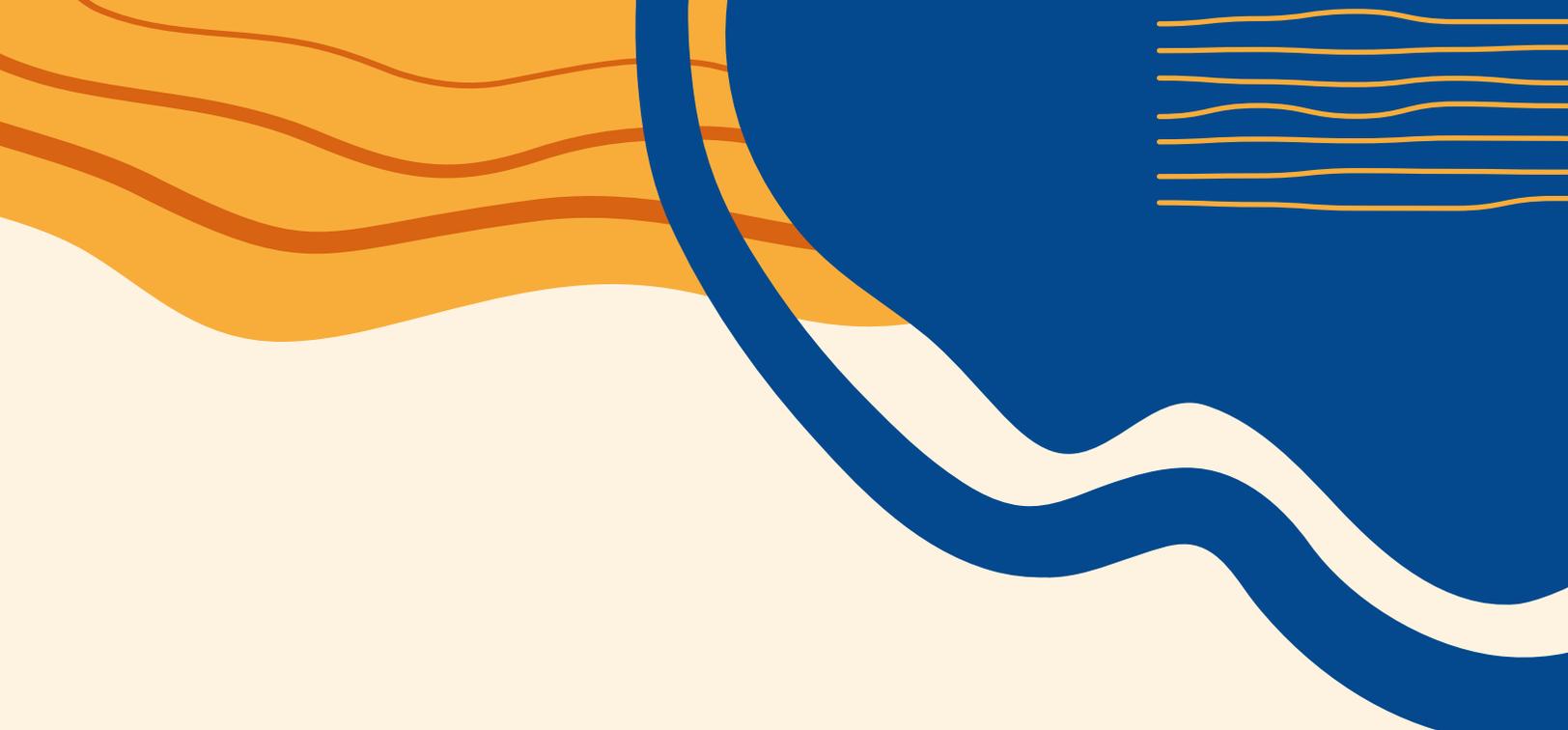




Cover photo: Courtesy of UN Trust Fund grantees Tabitha Cumi Foundation (Nigeria), ADD International (Cambodia), Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (Democratic Republic of Congo).



The United Nations Trust Fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women (UN Trust Fund) was the first, and remains the only, global, multilateral grant-giving mechanism exclusively dedicated to supporting efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls (VAW/G). Established by the General Assembly in 1996 (*resolution 50/166*), it is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on behalf of the UN system. The UN Trust Fund involves UN bodies and organs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and experts on ending VAW/G in its decision-making processes through its Programme Advisory Committee.<sup>1</sup>



“

***Refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls need strong allies all over the world from every field. [...] We need CSOs and women activists to fight with us in conquering our social, economic and political rights all over again and prevent their neglect by the system and structure. We need every woman to see us and understand us as women - that is who we are! And that is our power.”***

— Member of an Advocacy Group  
with UN Trust Fund grantee NGO  
ATINA, Serbia

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Every year since 1996, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) has reported on trends in challenges to achieving freedom from violence for women and girls, at the same time highlighting how women's rights organizations and feminist movements have harnessed opportunities and developed promising practices to counteract these trends. During that time, women's rights organizations and feminist movements have spearheaded transformational change and shown extraordinary resilience in the face of obstacles.

Gender inequality is both universally pervasive and context dependent. Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent obstacles to development and a deeply rooted cause of inequality sustained by socio-cultural norms that govern our societies. In more recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic and a number of overlapping crises have greatly exacerbated an already dire situation for women and girls. This is why the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is heavily dependent on our ability to put an end to violence against women, especially in the context of disruptive events that represent significant threat multipliers.

The year 2021 was marked globally by a backlash regarding women's rights. This is one of the key indicators of the erosion of freedom, increased risks of authoritarian rule and shrinking spaces for civic action. As the world has been adjusting to the "COVID-19 new normal", 2021 witnessed a series of overlapping crises, from natural disasters linked to climate change, to the sudden escalation of protracted crises into outright conflict as well as increased economic insecurity. These crises



# FOREWORD

have devastated the lives of civilian populations and there is a direct correlation between their impact and the rise in violence against women and girls.

Natural disasters are increasingly driving the destruction of habitats, migrations, instability and food shortages. This increases the risks that women and girls turn to negative coping mechanisms to survive or are the victims of gender-based violence, such as trafficking, forced and child marriage and sexual exploitation. In addition, waves of growing populism and radical right-wing politics, coupled with anti-gender movements, are mutually reinforcing each other and jeopardizing the gains made in creating a more equal and safer world for women and girls. The organized attacks on women's bodily autonomy, health choices and reproductive rights are coordinated and well resourced.

As we are preparing to publish this report, the war in Ukraine is raging, taking a massive toll on human lives and generating indescribable suffering. It appears that the violations of the human rights of women and girls – extensively documented by international ad hoc tribunals (the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda) and the International Criminal Court – are happening once again. Sexual violence, including rape is yet again weaponized against women and girls and will have a long-lasting impact on the generations to come.

The sudden shift from the development to humanitarian context in Ukraine has challenged the foundational concepts of the separation between development and humanitarian aid. Concurrently, the rapid escalation of war, forced migration and the global outcry for a rapid response created an increased focus on investments in security through military protection and shifts in

funding toward humanitarian responses. These shifts carry a risk of scaling down development aid investments in ending widespread human rights abuses such as violence against women and girls. Reduced spending on ending violence against women, heightens the likelihood of a backlash on hard won gradual progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

New challenges require new solutions that transcend divisions and build on a development-humanitarian-peace nexus while recognizing the central role that women's rights organizations and feminist movements play in this space.

The UN Trust Fund's report bears testimony to the life-saving work of women's rights organizations in contexts of multiplied threats and overlapping crises that have required them to adapt, build solidarity networks and act collectively to safeguard women and girls' lives, dignity and rights. Investment in their organizational resilience is an investment in the infrastructure of hope. Women's rights organizations are rooted in the territory of their operations and have the ability to reach those at risk of being left furthest behind, by providing services and support and bolstering women's empowerment, which has proven to be the most effective strategy for achieving human development.

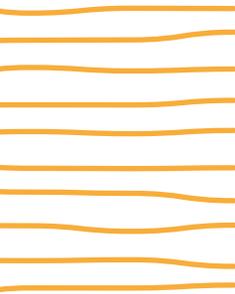
If we measured development success by the ability to reach and serve those at risk of being left furthest behind, there would be no doubt that direct resourcing to women's rights organizations is our best bet for delivering upon the promise of sustainable human development.

*Vesna Jaric, Chief, a.i.,  
UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women*



Photo: ADD International (Cambodia).

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



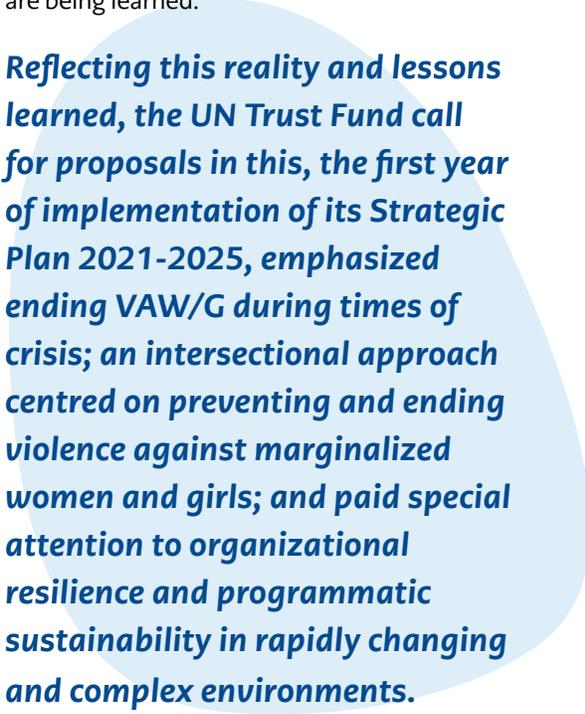
As multiple and overlapping crises – natural and human-made such as conflict – intensify globally, they are giving rise to rapidly changing contexts in which the rights gained by women and girls are threatened and the rates, severity and manifestations of violence against women and girls are on the rise. VAW/G, in its many forms and manifestations, remains a worldwide human rights crisis.

While the year's crises affected the prevalence of VAW/G in a wide range of contexts, some groups were disproportionately negatively impacted. Marginalized women facing intersecting forms of discrimination are particularly affected. For example, conservative estimates indicate that at least 1 in 5 displaced or refugee women has experienced sexual violence.<sup>2</sup> In addition, a rapid gender analysis conducted following the 2021 earthquake in Haiti by UN Women and CARE, for example, found that 66 per cent of women's and human rights organizations and 25 per cent of individuals interviewed noted that general insecurity had increased in different ways, notably as shown by cases of gender-based violence which they knew of in their communities.<sup>3</sup>

This report describes how, despite this increasingly challenging context, civil society and women's rights organizations (CSOs/WROs) continued acting as first responders in times of crisis, demonstrating flexibility and resilience in adapting to rapidly changing contexts. With the support of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, funded CSOs/WROs continued

to provide vital services for survivors and to ensure a continued focus on ending VAW/G.<sup>4</sup>

This report also looks at how the insights of CSOs/WROs, funded by the UN Trust Fund, are informing efforts to respond to current and future challenges, which will build on the adaptations, organizational resilience and core and flexible funding that have characterized the UN Trust Fund's responses to COVID-19. Based on their experiences, it has become increasingly clear that the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic needs to be viewed as an ongoing protracted crisis and also that valuable lessons are being learned.



***Reflecting this reality and lessons learned, the UN Trust Fund call for proposals in this, the first year of implementation of its Strategic Plan 2021-2025, emphasized ending VAW/G during times of crisis; an intersectional approach centred on preventing and ending violence against marginalized women and girls; and paid special attention to organizational resilience and programmatic sustainability in rapidly changing and complex environments.***

At the heart of this report is an overview of grantees' initiatives and results regarding interventions under the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas during 2021: (a) improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services; (b) improved prevention of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes; and (c) increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems.

*The reach of funded projects continues to expand and diversify. Organizations funded by the UN Trust Fund led to transformational change in the lives of 260,587 women and girls and, as this report shows, CSOs/WROs were at the forefront of meeting the needs of women and girl survivors of violence.*

Many funded projects addressed more than one of the outcome areas, highlighting grantees' combined pursuit of meeting immediate needs and achieving long-term, sustainable change for women and girls. For example, and elaborated through this report, across the UN Trust Fund portfolio, 65,718 women and girls survivors used specialist support services provided by grantees, while approximately 82 per cent of funded projects had a prevention element and at least 51 per cent of grantee projects in 2021 included work on improving implementation of laws, regulations or national plans to end VAW/G.

Grantees are a unique source of invaluable practitioner-based knowledge and learning, which the UN Trust Fund promotes as a vital element in effectively preventing and ending VAW/G. As part of these efforts, and to amplify the vital role that CSOs, especially WROs, play in preventing VAW/G, the UN Trust Fund co-created a series of knowledge briefs, in collaboration with almost 100 grantee organizations and researchers, entitled "Learning from Practice". This report provides a summary of the analysis of practice-based knowledge produced in this area during 2021.



The final chapter of this report focuses on projects funded by the UN Trust Fund under the Spotlight Initiative of the European Union and the United Nations (Spotlight Initiative) – a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations. The focus of these projects is on strengthening and supporting WROs/CSOs, in line with Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change.

CSOs have long expressed the need for a space to connect, to share lessons, failures, successes, expertise, knowledge and to learn together. As part of its response to this, in 2021 the UN Trust Fund continued to take forward, together with the Spotlight Initiative, the design and roll-out of a global online, multilingual collaboration hub on ending VAW/G, SHINE. The aim of SHINE is to enhance the exchange of knowledge and information on the intersection of crisis response, organizational strengthening and ending VAW/G.

***This year's report is a testament to the life changing work of grantee CSOs/WROs for women and girls made possible by the strong commitments of the UN Trust Fund's partners around the world in line with its objectives in its Strategic Plan 2021-2025.***



Photo: Tabitha Cumi Foundation (Nigeria).



# RESULTS IN 2021

Despite the very challenging contexts faced during the year, grantees



reached over

**41,782,089**

people including at least

**22,506,645**

women and girls



overall empowered

**260,587**

women and girls to exercise agency for transformational change in their own lives –

specifically, through accessing specialist support services and prevention initiatives and as co-creators in the design and implementation of projects to end VAW/G, including efforts to improve the effectiveness of legislation, policies and national action plans.

The UN Trust Fund's work is guided by a commitment to leave no one behind through an intersectional approach. A cornerstone of many projects is the recognition by grantees of the nexus between ending VAW/G and multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination. In 2021, grantees changed the lives of:



**54,822**  
women and  
girl survivors of  
violence



**22,455**  
women and  
girls living with  
disabilities



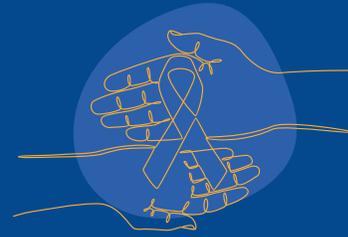
**16,215**  
internally  
displaced or  
refugee women  
and girls



**39,575**  
Indigenous  
women and girls



**10,681**  
women human  
rights defenders  
and gender  
advocates



**10,803**  
women living with  
HIV and/or affected  
by AIDS



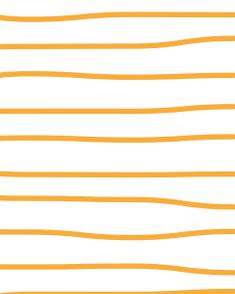
**86,511**  
women in the  
lowest income  
group<sup>5</sup>

In 2021, the UN Trust Fund managed a grants portfolio of 157 projects aimed at preventing and addressing VAW/G in 68 countries and territories, across five regions, with grants totalling USD74.7 million. Grant recipients were primarily CSOs; the majority (59 per cent) were WROs.



Photo: Tabitha Curmi Foundation (Nigeria)

# IMPACT OF OVERLAPPING CRISES ON **VIOLENCE** **AGAINST WOMEN**



A key lesson learned in 2021 was how multiple and overlapping crises – including the COVID-19 pandemic and the long-term consequences of natural disasters and human-made disasters, such as conflicts and war – continue to threaten the rights gained by women and girls and further raise the rates, severity and manifestations of violence against them.

*Across the world in 2021, WROs and CSOs have shown adaptability and resilience in responding to rapidly changing contexts – a key lesson learned from the COVID-19 crisis. They have acted as first responders in the face of crises and correlated surges in VAW/G and maintained vital services for survivors, as well as ensuring a continued focus on ending VAW/G.*



Grantees achieved significant results during the year, often devising innovative ways to operate in evolving and very challenging contexts. Project adaptations and interventions were varied and driven by local needs and circumstances. The experiences and importance of adaptation were further highlighted in the UN Trust Fund’s Learning from Practice: Prevention Series, eight papers published in 2021 that explore in depth themes in prevention with almost 100 grantees (see Chapter 8). Further, the importance of flexible and core funding – a key component of the UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and UN Women commitments within the *Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence* (GBV Action Coalition) – was underscored throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Funding adaptations under the Spotlight Initiative in response to COVID-19 provides a strong example of the need for flexibility and ensuing results (see Chapter 9, Spotlight Initiative).

UN Trust Fund grantees have played a key role in responding to crises throughout 2021 and adapted their work to ensure the safety of both survivors of violence and of their staff. While extreme challenges remain, owing to the ongoing and protracted nature of crises, grantees, supported by the UN Trust Fund’s flexibility, have demonstrated how projects can adapt to continue reaching those at risk of being left behind. The experience of the *Initiative pour un développement équitable en Haïti* (IDEH) provides a compelling illustration of this.

## Initiative pour un développement équitable en Haïti

Following the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti in 2021, the Initiative pour un développement équitable en Haïti (IDEH), actively pivoted its project, which seeks to increase the capacities of women living with disabilities to become leaders in their communities and to demand policy change, to address the crisis. With UN Trust Fund support, the project was able to provide individual and group medical and psychological support to 90 women. In addition, following the devastating fire in Camp Lapiste, where hundreds of people living with disabilities found refuge after the 2021 earthquake, food and hygiene kits were distributed and psycho-social support sessions were provided through a mobile clinic set up to reach those most at risk of being left behind.

In addition, 45 representatives from 32 organizations of/for people living with disabilities were trained and joined IDEH debate clubs. Participants reported that they were better able to identify discrimination and gender-based violence; had a good knowledge of the various institutions that can protect them; were able to recognize harmful practices regarding gender and disability; and were more likely to seek help and report cases of gender-based violence. On International Women's Day, the grantee reached more than 5,000 people through sensitization seminars delivered by its

partner, the Association pour la promotion de la famille haïtienne.

***“For me, IDEH does a tremendous amount of work with its beneficiaries, especially myself... I was a victim without even knowing it, I was assaulted but I had no words to describe it. But now I am able to defend myself... For me, all activities have a positive impact on my life. One theme that particularly caught my attention was disability and the culture that pushes me to be the best I can be. In short, IDEH has changed my way of looking at GBV [gender-based violence] and my behaviour in relation to the people in my neighborhood, whom I never stop raising awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.”***

*Woman with reduced mobility who participated in the IDEH project.*

Strengthening preparedness and response to evolving and emerging crises that generate rapid changes in context will remain central to the work of the UN Trust Fund and the support provided to grantees. Grantees during the year reacted in extremely challenging circumstances, including in Afghanistan.

## Women for Afghan Women

In Afghanistan, Women for Afghan Women (WAW) faced severe challenges, meeting pushback from the Taliban de facto authorities with respect to rights previously gained for women. The UN Trust Fund supported project implemented by WAW works to improve access to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services for internally displaced and returnee women and girls in Afghanistan and their families, including those who are survivors or at risk of violence.

The political situation in Afghanistan since August 2021, especially the increasingly precarious status of women's human rights, has delayed project activities. However, in December 2021, WAW women staff received permission to continue working on the ground. WAW mobile teams were, therefore, able to continue to provide information to women and girls about available resources and services. The 155 women and girl returnees who received the project's services in 2021 said they were highly satisfied by the mobile teams' efforts which helped them to integrate successfully into their new communities. The project also provided medical services to 263

people and distributed educational supplies and school uniforms to 85 children affected by gender-based violence.

In addition, 380 survivors of VAW/G, including internally displaced people and returnees, attended awareness-raising sessions on women's and children's rights and sessions to provide information on available resources. And 250 participants of sessions – including local authorities' representatives, community-based groups and members of CSOs – received information on women's rights in Islam, women's financial and inheritance rights, VAW/G prevention and peace building in families.

***“As a women's rights' organization, all we are asking for is that the basic rights all human beings are entitled to should be granted to Afghan women.”***

*WAW representative during an intervention marking the 2021 Official Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.*

General observations and trends that emerged from an analysis of past projects on project adaptations in the face of a range of crises, natural and human-made, were reflected in and informed the response to COVID-19. In the context of the challenges posed by COVID-19, UN Trust Fund grantees reported that it was increasingly clear that the impact of the pandemic needed to be viewed as an ongoing protracted crisis. The ongoing consequences of crises, such as economic distress, displacement and social dislocation, also affect the prevalence of VAW/G. Indeed, the UN Trust Fund's analysis of the impact of COVID-19 found that limited mobility and economic vulnerabilities are driving the increase in VAW/G.<sup>6</sup>

## Club Eney, Ukraine

At the time of writing in 2022, UN Trust Fund grantees in Ukraine, including the NGO Club Eney, were striving to maintain a lifeline in the context of the conflict for the most marginalized women and girls. The conflict came hard on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, which disproportionately affected marginalized women and girls.

Even before the current outbreak of conflict, Club Eney supported by a small grant from the UN Trust Fund, has been leading a project to prevent gender-based violence and the spread of HIV among women who use drugs, self-identified women sex workers, women living with HIV and internally displaced women in the cities of Poltava, Cherkasy, Kryvyi Rih and Ternopil. The project's target population, which has been disproportionately affected by gender-based violence and remains among the most underserved in Ukraine, was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, movement restrictions and the subsequent socio-economic crisis.

The project is adapting and implementing WINGS (Women Initiating New Goals of Safety), a screening and brief intervention tool that guides women at risk through risk assessment and safety planning, provides them with information about available services and refers them to a variety of services.

These insights are informing efforts to respond to current and future challenges, which will build on the adaptations, organizational resilience and core and flexible funding that have characterized the UN Trust Fund's responses to COVID-19 and other crises.

Crises multiply threats on women's wellbeing, increase demand for services and make it more difficult to reach at-risk women. CSOs adapted their operations to provide immediate relief and support to women and girls, which

Many specialist services – including sexual and reproductive health and HIV services – were closed or significantly reduced their operations. Legal advice and medical screening were only available to women survivors of violence with negative COVID-19 tests, but marginalized women could not afford the tests.

In response to these challenges, Club Eney adapted its activities, including by: providing transport for women to drug treatment centres; increasing online advocacy and awareness raising about domestic violence in lockdown; conducting WINGS sessions online, via phone and in small groups; and training, supervising and supporting social workers and facilitators.

Despite the rising challenges, in two years 2020-2021, Club Eney has expanded WINGS to 13 regions and built networks with various women's organizations to intensify campaigning for inclusive policies in Ukraine. Nika from Cherkasy, a participant of the WINGS pilot said:

***“WINGS changed my life for better. The most important thing is to be able to identify violence... Now I do not keep silent about violence and call other women to do the same.”***

frequently offered an entry point to ensure women's safety. Lessons learned as part of the immediate response to COVID-19 – for example providing cell phones, assistance with Internet access and laptops, revising workplans and conducting rapid assessments – all contributed to a crucial reference body of experience which will continue to be drawn upon. Indeed, this analysis provided timely information to the UN system and acted as an early warning system about increased violence.

While the year's crises affected the prevalence of VAW/G in a wide range of contexts, some groups were disproportionately negatively impacted, underscoring yet again the crucial role played by locally based services rooted in feminist principles in meeting the needs of women and girls at particular risk.

UN Trust Fund grantees made strenuous efforts to ensure they were able to reach the most at-risk women and girls. For instance, in **Zimbabwe**, the **Institute for Young Women's Development** facilitated a partnership with

**Deaf Women Included** to create a safe shelter for women living with disabilities. Also in **Zimbabwe**, **Voluntary Service Overseas** supported 900 women and girls with food packs, specifically reaching women and girls who were survivors of violence, living with HIV or living with a disability. In the **State of Palestine**, the **Women's Affairs Technical Committee** trained 100 community police officials in community safety and awareness, focusing specifically on refugee and internally displaced women and girls.

## Raksha, Nepal

***“The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these women is expected to be worse than that of the earthquake in 2015. The women are finding it extremely difficult to cope. They are vulnerable and invisible.”***

*Deepika Pingali, Raksha Programme Manager*

In Nepal, the NGO Raksha is implementing a project to support women survivors of trafficking working in the informal entertainment sector in Kathmandu. The women struggled to cope as COVID-19 measures closed their workplaces and restricted their access to specialist support services.

Many women who have been trafficked are marginalized and the state's failure to recognize them as survivors of violence can leave them trapped in a cycle of poverty, exploitation and abuse. This project offers women shelter, counselling and legal support and seeks to help provide with alternative livelihood options where they are at less risk of sexual violence and exploitation.

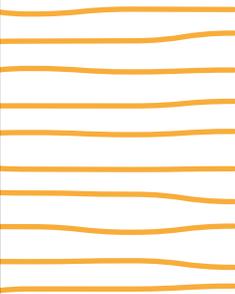
A small UN Trust Fund grant has enabled Raksha and its partner Sampark, for example, to strengthen their work to help women survivors of human trafficking to access credit and start their own small businesses. In the pandemic context, Raksha stepped up its training of trainers and cooperative management sessions on online platforms. These sessions are in smaller groups and more personalized to guide women on running their small enterprises.

Another of Raksha's partner organizations, the Women Workers' Protection Union, is assisting over 4,000 women employed in Kathmandu's informal entertainment sector to obtain decent working conditions and social protection. It, too, has adapted its services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including by providing legal support in filing and following up cases of violence with police; helping women to obtain documentation that will enable them to access health services; and providing phone-based psychosocial counselling.



Group photograph of FIDA Members and PGSS students after the awareness raising campaign on existing laws guaranteeing equality and condemning violence. Credit: Fabrice Nganda/International Federation of Women Lawyers, FIDA (Cameroon)

# CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN SYSTEM



As a United Nations (UN) grant-making entity managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, specialized in ending VAW/G, the UN Trust Fund acts as a mechanism for fostering partnerships across the UN system and beyond, bringing together partners from civil society and UN Member States for collective action in the spirit of mutual enablement. Founded by the UN General Assembly resolution 50/166, the UN Trust Fund's work aligns with and directly contributes to key UN inter-agency initiatives, UN Joint Programmes and UN Women's work on ending VAW/G. Through UN bodies' and entities' engagement in the UN Trust Fund's Global and Regional Programme Advisory Committees, the UN Trust Fund contributes to strengthening UN coordination in the selection and support to civil society and women's rights organizations' efforts to end violence against women. The UN Trust Fund further contributes to the UNiTE campaign in the spirit of delivering as one.

The UN Trust Fund's mission, situated under SDG 5, is integral to the achievement of UN Women Strategic Plan Outcome 5 "Women's voice, leadership and agency" and impact area "Ending Violence against Women", towards which the UN Trust Fund contributes by enabling CSOs/WROs by providing dedicated, flexible funding to exercise their expertise in ending VAW/G. The strength of CSOs, especially WROs – and feminist movements as a whole – is a key factor in driving positive change to end VAW/G.

***This essential leadership role of CSOs/WROs has been recognized time and again at the highest levels of the UN system, with the UN Secretary-General noting CSOs, and especially WROs, in the Beijing Platform for Action Review (2020) as key actors in advancing gender equality and ending VAW/G and calling on Member States to support this role, including through funding. These objectives are underpinned by UN Women and the UN Trust Fund's commitment under the GBV Action Coalition.<sup>7</sup>***

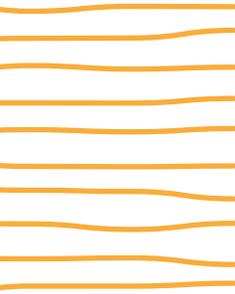
One of the four objectives of the GBV Action Coalition Blueprint is to enable the expertise of WROs in ending violence against women through grant-giving of the UN Trust Fund. UN Women with support of the UN Trust Fund, as one of the co-leads of the GBV Action Coalition, made a commitment to increase the funding target for civil society and women's rights organizations to USD 100 million cumulatively by 2025. The UN Trust Fund and its partners are working towards this funding, advocacy and resource mobilization goal having already secured a grant-giving envelope of USD17 million for its 25<sup>th</sup> funding cycle in 2021, putting the UN Trust Fund well on track to reach its goal.





Photo: The Lotus Flower (Iraq)

# IMPLEMENTING THE 2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN



The UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is aligned with the UN Women Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and works towards achieving the SDGs, specifically targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 under SDG Goal 5. The UN Trust Fund's strategic plan is an institutional entry point for strengthening coordinated efforts, across the UN system through its Global and Regional PACS and jointly with civil society partners, to end VAW/G, including through the GBV Action Coalition. The UN Trust Fund's inter-agency position in the UN system as well as its strategic engagement of UN Women Country and Regional Offices are all critical facets to the achievement of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

During the first year of implementation of the UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the 25th call for proposals was launched. The call emphasized ending VAW/G during times of crisis; adopted an intersectional approach centred on preventing and ending violence against marginalized women and girls; and paid special attention to organizational resilience and programmatic sustainability in rapidly changing and complex environments. The call for proposals, therefore, integrates lessons learned from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on WROs and key results and lessons learned from the previous strategic plan (2015–2020), including the urgent need for locally based services rooted in feminist principles to address the needs of women and girls experiencing intersecting and multiple forms of oppression and discrimination.

The Strategic Plan 2021–2025, therefore, prioritizes projects that seek to reach the most marginalized women and girls and those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, while placing importance on an intersectional approach and the principle of leaving no one behind.

For instance, for the first year of the current Strategic Plan, the UN Trust Fund for the first time disaggregated results for women and girls

in the lowest income group; more than 86,000 women and girls in this group were reached.

The UN Trust Fund has also, and for the first time, identified the number of women and girls from among the total number of individuals reached, providing better disaggregated data and space for individuals to self-identify.

In addition, as part of its prevention series entitled “Learning from Practice” (see Chapter 8), the UN Trust Fund released a brief exploring intersectional approaches to preventing VAW/G. The brief analysed how UN Trust Fund grantees identified multiple groups of women at risk of violence because of their intersecting identities and sought to address this by designing partnership-based projects on prevention. This demonstrates the commitment of grantees and the UN Trust Fund to ensure that women and girls most at risk of being left behind are reached with interventions to prevent and end VAW/G.

“

***The UN Trust Fund seems to be performing well against its Strategic Plan, particularly around being flexible in responding to COVID-19 and its impact on grantees, recognizing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, and much greater visibility of its knowledge sharing/evidence pillar in 2021. It's clear that the Trust Fund is aiming to “partner” with grantees, and not just be a donor, with its commitment to capacity building.”***

*– Said one respondent to the UN Trust Fund's partner survey sent to donors and partners including PAC members.*



*In Egypt, Al Shehab conducts a community-based activity to raise men's awareness and engage the youth on ending violence against women. Credit: Ms. Ahlam/Al Shehab*



# ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE IN CRISES

In order to ensure that organizations were able to maintain their vital role as first responders, the UN Trust Fund continued to invest in institutional strengthening and organizational resilience, a cornerstone of its Strategic Plan 2021–2025.

Grantees directed funds to strengthen organizational resilience, including remote working modalities. At least, 2,908 staff/partners worked from home effectively thanks to home working policies and modalities put in place with funding from the UN Trust Fund under the Spotlight Initiative.

Through its capacity development activities, which reached 857 attendees through nine thematic webinars in three languages, grantees received training covering topics such as data collection, monitoring, ethics, safety and reporting. In addition, the UN Trust Fund provided e-learning courses on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud awareness and project, and financial management. In all, 95 per cent of the organizations awarded grants in 2021 successfully completed the training.

Flexibility for adaptations needs to be planned and intentionally textured into programmatic and operational approaches and shared with a broad base of partners through advocacy. In the context of shrinking space and changing environments and challenges, this requires a profound change in the capacities of CSO/WROs so that they can adapt, innovate and transform the way they operate. This in turn means enhancing their organizational resilience so that they can increase their ability to offer greater support to their communities.

*In Guatemala, LEGIS provides food and biosafety kits to women and girls living with disabilities at risk of and in poverty. Credit: Pamela Espinosa/LEGIS*

This approach is key in the implementation of the UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The 25<sup>th</sup> annual grant-giving cycle introduced, for example, more flexible and core support for the CSOs/WROs, paying increased attention to self- and collective care, contingency funding and increased core funding. Concretely, the UN Trust Fund has made available core and flexible funding budget lines of up to 24 per cent for small organizations to ensure the organizational resilience of CSOs/WROs and allow for quick adaptations in rapidly changing contexts. This includes funds for general operating and other direct costs as well as an additional 7 per cent of core funding to small organizations requesting small grants.<sup>8</sup> In addition, the UN Trust Fund increased and expanded the self- and collective care budget line to USD5,000 to support all new grantees in taking care of their staff members’ physical and mental health and well-being.

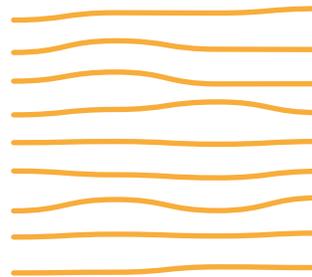


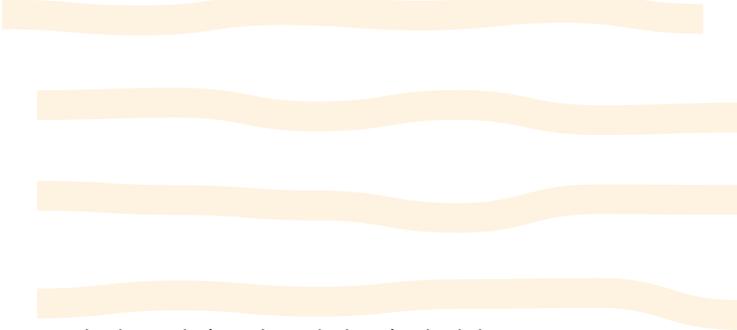


Photo: The Lotus Flower (Iraq)

*These consolidated lessons informed not only the UN Trust Fund's funding approach, but also the advocacy objectives embraced in the GBV Action Coalition Blueprint, which recognizes core and flexible resourcing of the expertise of WROs as one of the key pathways to change. In addition, through an annual grantee survey, **64 per cent of 84 respondents** noted that they successfully mobilized an increased proportion of flexible, core, long-term funding in 2021.*

Internally, the UN Trust Fund has invested resources and adapted its capacity development package for grantees, introducing additional guidelines and resources to support organizations throughout project adaptations. The UN Trust Fund consults its partners on a near annual basis on the support received, with 109 respondents sharing their feedback and experience in 2021. For services in 2021, 82 per cent of respondents to the annual grantee survey report a change in organizational adaptability as well as organizational resilience during the UN Trust Fund grant period. The UN Trust Fund utilizes this feedback to inform its services to grantees to meet its strategic goals.





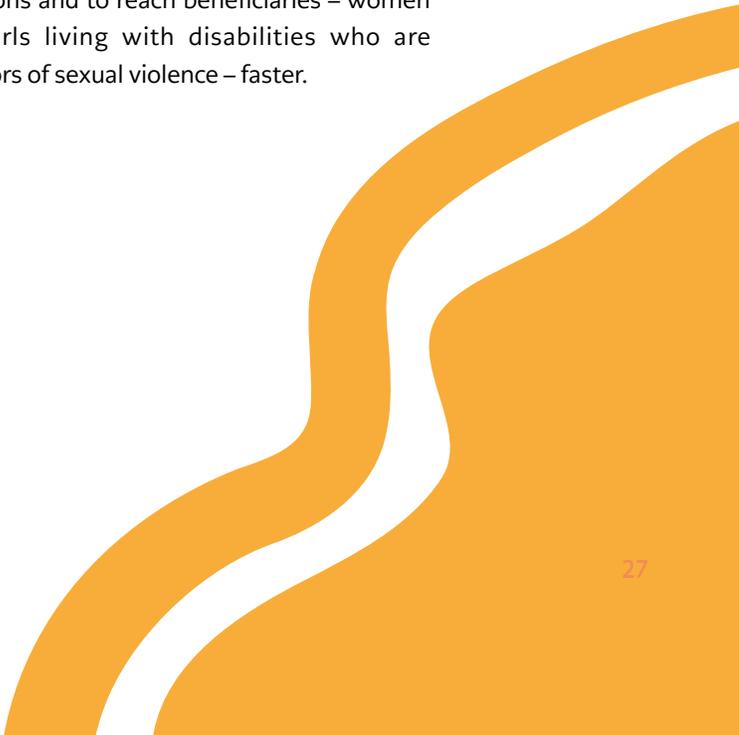
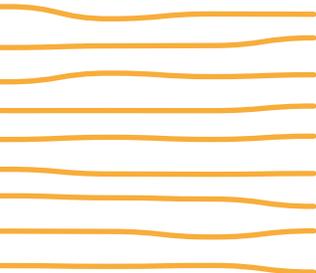
The UN Trust Fund's work in 2021 was marked by investment in grantees' organizational resilience to disruptive events, accompanied by programmatic and operational adaptations to rapidly changing contexts due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other coinciding crises such as natural disasters (such as those in Haiti and Honduras) and conflict (in Afghanistan and Ethiopia) among others.

*In 2021, the UN Trust Fund grantees reached 68,250 right holders/beneficiaries with food, hygiene supplies, sanitation and/or with other emergency needs parcels in order to ensure the stability of the project and reach those who were most marginalized and at risk.*

Grantees reported that the ongoing economic impact of COVID-19 was affecting women and noted the increase in VAW/G, especially sexual and gender-based violence, which accompanied lockdown measures intended to curb infections. For example, the **Institute for Young Women's Development in Zimbabwe**, funded under the Spotlight Initiative, reported that although it continued, with its implementing partner JASS (Just Associates) Southern Africa, to carry out both physical

and virtual work despite lockdown measures, the direct effect of the pandemic threatened to overload staff. As part of its risk mitigation strategy, the grantee reviewed COVID-19 protocols and refined its institutional continuity plans. In addition, it worked to bridge the digital divide by providing smartphones to community facilitators and a vaccination programme, which gained momentum at the beginning of the second quarter of the year, also shaped the grantees' protocols.

Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic are informing responses and preparedness to other crises. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Conscience et Vie's** institutional strengthening through workshops has improved its capacities to develop a crisis management plan and to have a response plan for health crises. Grantees also reported on the benefits of the support the UN Trust Fund provided in facilitating buying vehicles, which has helped them to achieve development results for women and girls. For example, in **Uganda**, the **Integrated Disabled Women Activities'** new vehicle helped the team provide timely responses to emergency situations and to reach beneficiaries – women and girls living with disabilities who are survivors of sexual violence – faster.

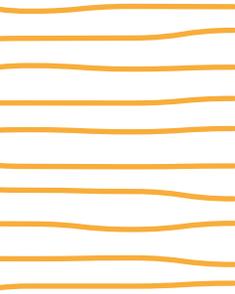




A woman survivor of gender-based violence receiving medical services in Chaar Taaq of Kunduz.  
Credit: Maria (psychologist)/Women for Afghan Women (Afghanistan).

# 7

# GRANTEE RESULTS



## 7.1

# KEY RESULTS FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF THE UN TRUST FUND'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025



“

***I've reached a stage where I realized that [violence inflicted on me] wasn't my fault. That is my biggest breakthrough.”***

*Woman survivor of violence supported by Sonke Gender Justice in South Africa.*

Over the course of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the UN Trust Fund is continuing to fund interventions under three outcome areas: (a) improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services; (b) improved prevention of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes; and (c) increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems.

In 2021, at least 1,912,498 women and girls accessed information, goods and resources and/or services to help prevent or respond to VAW/G through UN Trust Fund supported projects. Further, organizations funded by the UN Trust Fund directly transformed the lives of 260,587 women and girls and were at the forefront of meeting the needs of women and girl survivors of violence.

Many funded projects addressed more than one of the outcome areas, highlighting grantees' combined pursuit of meeting immediate needs and achieving long-term, sustainable change for women and girls. Many projects contain a component that seeks to

improve access to multisectoral services and in 2021, across the UN Trust Fund portfolio, 65,718 women and girls used specialist support services to end VAW/G supported by grantees. Improving the quality of services is also an important aspect of many projects and during the year 11,662 individual service providers and 1,423 institutions improved service provision for survivors and women and girls at risk thanks to the efforts of UN Trust Fund grantees. In addition, 1,049 local, sub-national or national government institutions have increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms, strategies and/or policies to prevent or respond to VAW/G with support from UN Trust Fund grantees.

Efforts by CSOs/WROs were captured by 21 common indicators, five of them focused on grantee adaptations to the impact of COVID-19. These common indicators show the strength of results across the UN Trust Fund's three thematic outcome areas.

In addition, the reach in 2021 to rights holders shows the effectiveness and significant increase in the capacity of grantees to reach women and girls thanks to their successful pivots to radio and television, which have been supported and enabled by the UN Trust Fund's investment in organizational resilience.

Notably, 59,491 women and girls received training to participate in public life and exercise leadership to effect changes during a period of crisis when women and girls were at heightened risk of violence. As grantees implement their projects through the year, 99 per cent of respondents to the UN Trust Fund's annual grantee survey report

their ability to implement these projects according to ending violence against women programming principals.

To facilitate this uptake of knowledge and exchange, especially while in the operating constraints of continued virtual modalities through the year, in 2021 the UN Trust Fund facilitated eight virtual knowledge exchange events with at least 37 grantees from nine countries. These convenings create opportunities for grantees to share their experience and knowledge with other grantees in the same country and explore collaboration opportunities between grantees and with UN Women country offices.



Grantee results during the year prioritized projects to reach the most marginalized women and girls and those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, while placing importance on an intersectional approach and the principle of leaving no one behind. Grantees made strides in reaching the most marginalized women and girls including reaching at least 702 lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender women and girls.

### **“Change is brewing” in Argentina**

According to María Fernanda Rotondo, Project Coordinator for the UN Trust Fund grantee Fundación Andhes, all forms of VAW/G increased in the first year of the project and when women tried to report it, they were met with more institutional violence. Claudinna, a trans woman survivor of violence in Tucúman Province, Argentina, described how filing complaints of violence to the police leads almost always to more violence and almost never to justice.

Supported by a small grant from the UN Trust Fund under the Spotlight Initiative, Fundación Andhes is becoming a first point of contact for the most marginalized women and girl survivors of violence and is implementing a project to provide them with legal support. Transgender women were particularly badly affected during COVID-19 related lockdowns as many are informal workers, such as those constrained to sex work for income and faced increased risks of police abuse. Additionally, transgender women were unable to access pandemic-related financial support offered

by the state to the unemployed and informal workers because they lack the required documentation.

In response to the additional challenges posed by the pandemic, Fundación Andhes and its partner CLADEM, an international network of women’s organizations and activists, adapted their work by: creating virtual spaces for regular updates for women beneficiaries and staff; strengthening access to services so that cases of violence could continue to be monitored; and ensuring that information about support services reached those in need.

For Claudinna, Fundación Andhes not only provides legal assistance to those in need, but also a safe space for women to share their stories and experiences, which will inform the organization’s advocacy strategy to influence structural change. She said:

**“There is greater visibility of the problem, based on collective work and struggles. Change is brewing.”**

*Sensitization session on positive masculinity at Rusayo. Credit: Guerchom Musavuli/Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (Democratic Republic of Congo).*

## 7.1.1 PREVENTION

Prevention continues to be a major aspect of grantees' work, with approximately 82 per cent of funded projects having a prevention component.

In order to amplify the unique role that CSOs, especially WROs, play in preventing VAW/G, the UN Trust Fund co-created a series of knowledge briefs, in collaboration with almost 100 grantee organizations and researchers, entitled "Learning from Practice" (see Chapter 8). Participants' practice-based knowledge provided key insights into a set of themes that are relatively underexplored in the field of ending VAW/G, such as community mobilization, engaging faith-based and traditional actors, exploring intersectional approaches, providing training for behaviour change, managing resistance and backlash and adapting programming.

*During 2021, at least **11,656 community, 1,614 faith, 3,303 traditional and/or 3,605 youth leaders** advocated publicly for changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes towards ending VAW/G supported by UN Trust Fund grantees.*

Despite the ongoing challenges created by COVID-19, as well as other contextual shifts, grantees achieved significant outcomes in the field of prevention. In 2021, the UN Trust Fund grantees supported spaces to be safer environments for women and girls and freer from the risk of VAW/G. For example, grantees supported 519 schools, 570 public spaces, and 418 work environments to prevent violence against women and girls. The following examples provide a sense of the range of interventions and results achieved by grantees under this pillar.

## **“Standing up for ourselves” in the Philippines**

**‘Women should not endure or suffer [sexual harassment]. Let’s stand up for ourselves.’**

*Riza Watson Teope, village leader in Marikina city.*

Quezon in the Philippines is one of the cities taking part in the global initiative to create *Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls*,<sup>9</sup> initially launched in 2010 with funding from the UN Trust Fund.

In the Philippines, two organizations, the Solidarity of Oppressed Filipino People (SOFP) and the Institute of Politics and Governance (IPG), are collaborating to further advance Safe City initiatives in the country by extending prevention measures to other CSOs and the wider community through community mobilization and awareness-raising activities.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both organizations shifted to online advocacy both to continue their work and to respond to urgent needs on the ground. They continued to co-organize an online event to engage youth leaders and share lessons and information about gaps and opportunities garnered throughout the first year of project implementation. The two organizations came to realize that they and their constituencies face similar issues, albeit in different settings. They have since benefited from working together more closely, achieving greater reach and championing each other’s work. Arline Santos, IPG’s Executive Director commented:

**“Since we started our work on the Safe Cities project in 2017, [...] our partnership with SOFP (DAMPA)**

**and other community-based women, youth, and LGBTQ organizations has been invaluable in advancing our advocacy to change hearts and minds of policymakers, communities, and the public in general in ending violence against women and girls.”**

In 2019, the Safe Spaces Act expanded the scope of the 1995 Anti-Sexual Harassment Act.<sup>10</sup> In March 2021, while supporting the event co-organized by SOFP and the IPG, Senator Hontiveros, Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality Chairperson in the Philippines, stated:

**“Through [the Bawal Bastos] Law, we make it clear to every Filipino that any form of sexual harassment – from catcalling women in the streets to sending homophobic comments online – is punishable. We must keep repeating that perpetrators cannot just get away with their crime and must be held accountable.”**

In the 10 years since it was launched, the global Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls initiative, led by UN Women and beginning with a UN Trust Fund-funded project, has successfully enabled women to advocate for their own safety, build partnerships and empower themselves. It has fostered integrated programmes across the world, including in the Philippines, that benefit from the gathering of local data, drawing on the know-how and expertise of WROs and local governments.

In **Bangladesh**, a project implemented by **Badabon Sangho** focuses on supporting women landowners at risk of displacement and harassment in four sub-districts of Bagerhat district in the southwest of the country.

During the year, the WRO **Badabon Sangho** helped increase women landowners' understanding of their land rights, VAW/G and human rights through courtyard sessions, administrative support, leadership coaching and meetings with service providers. For example, 1,532 women and girls participated in 87 women's groups and benefited from 130 sessions. A total of 178 internally displaced women were provided with land ownership information. In addition, 35 women landowners received inheritance succession certificates, nine women received land mutation records and seven women received land transfer deeds. A further 32 women received other services including taxation and document collection to help them claim their inherited family property.

Women also received legal support to report VAW/G. The project's success enabled reporting of VAW/G by women and girls and other stakeholders (including journalists and local representatives) to project team members. During the year 113 VAW/G cases were reported and received legal counselling from the project team; 29 received assistance from lawyers and legal aid committee members.

A project implemented by **Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)** in **Argentina**, a small, women-led organization, campaigns to end child marriage. FEIM undertook a study of the realities of child and

early marriage, the findings of which informed its campaign for law reform. The project is also developing methods to better identify situations likely to lead to child marriage and raise public awareness of the issue.

During the year, the project reached 3,600 women of different ages with information and sensitization on the risks of early marriage. As a result of FEIM advocacy, 28 articles were published in newspapers in different parts of the country about preventing child marriage and several radio and television interviews were conducted. The project also engaged with seven national deputies, three female parliamentarians and a senator on the issue.

“

*From the cultural issue there have always been very strong issues that have to do with the roots and everything we have been bringing from ancestral times as Guarani people, where women were in charge of many things and when they had their first period they were considered 'adult women because they could already create a new life.' My grandmothers told me that the youngest daughters were given to the men so that they could form families, but they were never seen as people who could decide.”*

*Indigenous woman speaking during a FEIM focus group*

## 7.1.2 IMPLEMENTING LAWS AND POLICIES

During the Strategic Plan 2021–2025, grantees are continuing to foster implementation of and advocacy for the integration of international norms and standards into domestic laws and policies. In 2021, for example, 312 local, sub-national or national guidelines, protocols and/or standard operating procedures to strengthen efforts to end VAW/G were developed and/or improved, with support from UN Trust Fund grantees. At least 51 per cent of grantee projects in 2021 contain a law and policy component. In addition, at least 19,748 women and girls accessed justice in cases of VAW/G such as through legal aid or facilitation to reach court through support from UN Trust Fund grantees.

### *Changing the protection system in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

The Center of Women’s Rights is using a grant from the UN Trust Fund to implement a project to strengthen the capacity of the legal system to effectively prosecute perpetrators of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where survivors of gender-based violence have limited access to information about their rights and the judicial system is slow and bureaucratic. The Center of Women’s Rights, a CSO, works directly to support women survivors to ensure they can access justice. As of March 2021, the project had enabled 404 women to benefit from free legal aid, opening the door to justice.

As part of their project, the Center of Women’s Rights is also working with professionals in the protection system to change perceptions and increase understanding of gender-based and intimate partner violence. The grantee has organized seminars for judges focused on sensitization and raising awareness of the impact of prejudices and stereotypes on final

decisions. One participant of a seminar for judges and prosecutors said: **“I think that this type of education through sensitization must be constant, interesting, motivating. This would prevent cases from going to judges who are unaware.”**

The project has also run seminars for police officers and social and health workers to help ensure they can provide comprehensive, needs-oriented and tailored services for survivors of violence.

Meetings of multisectoral and expert groups organized by the grantee resulted in the submission of amendments to the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, introducing the idea of a “Person of Trust” to support survivors of violence during court proceedings. In July 2021, the proposed amendments were approved by the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>11</sup>

In **Guatemala**, a project by the **Asociación para el Desarrollo Legislativo y la Democracia (LEGIS)** to improve access to justice for and to empower women and girls living with disabilities has provided eight women living with disabilities with legal support to challenge discrimination and violence, including the legal forced separation of one woman living with disability from her children, a common practice in Guatemala.

At least 811 women have received training from LEGIS during 2021 through the project. Among those benefiting from the training were a range of women, including Indigenous women and women living with disabilities, community leaders and CSOs. The main focus of the training was to increase knowledge of the human rights of women and girls living with disabilities and how to legally report any form of abuse. The project also provided training on issues related to VAW/G and the rights of women and girls living with disabilities for 586 people involved in the operation of the justice system, officials and decision-makers.

A project implemented by the **HACEY Health Initiative** adopts a collaborative multidisciplinary approach to foster positive behavioral change in communities and develop local strategies to end FGM/C in Ekiti, Osun and Oyo States, in the South-West of **Nigeria**. Specifically, the project works to identify gaps in existing laws and policies, and to enhance the capacity of existing anti-FGM/C groups and civil society organizations to advocate for policy implementation and enforcement.

During this year, the HACEY Health Initiative reached at least 14,400 people, including women survivors of violence, through various outreach activities such as workshops raising awareness on the negative effects of FGM/C. The HACEY Health Initiative advocacy work also led to the signature into law of the VAPP Act by Osun State, making it a legal instrument to protect women from FGM/C and to prosecute offenders. Finally, at least 2,140 persons have signed the FGM abandonment pledge, including 500 community leaders and heads of households, and 46 policy makers.

In **Morocco**, in partnership with local organizations, **Association Ennakhil** established eight centres to provide listening services and legal and psychological support to women survivors of violence in the Marrakech Safi region, considered one of the poorest regions of the country. It has also piloted an initiative to improve coordination with and among local hospitals, the legal sector and the police. Specifically, the project works to improve government policy on gender-based violence in schools and increase understanding of VAW/G among young boys and girls.

Thanks to the project's advocacy, the **Regional Academy of Education and Training** designed and distributed an orientation letter to all public schools in the Marrakech-Safi region and recruited 73 social support agents to assist victims of violence, both girls and boys. Eight action plans have been developed by gender coordinators in provincial directorates and the Federation of Parents' Associations carried out advocacy initiatives, including a petition to the Marrakech City Council demanding safe public spaces.



“

*The experience lived in the framework of the practice of the exploratory walk has allowed us to change our view in relation to the public space. Today we have been able to acquire knowledge related to standards and legislation, territorial public policies and actors involved in guaranteeing our safety. Now, I am vigilant about the path that I use daily and that the youth of my Douar also use. I can now identify the risks and how to overcome them. I also now have a lot of confidence in myself, especially to speak up and defend my rights.”*

*Siham Mouzih, young woman leader, group of women walkers, Douar Sraghna.*

## 7.1.3 SERVICES

Under this pillar of work, the UN Trust Fund supports projects to improve access to specialist support services for women and girl survivors of violence and those at risk and to enhance the quality of that tailored service provision. At least 70 per cent of projects in 2021 had a service component for survivors of violence and those at risk.

The vital role played by CSOs and WROs in providing essential specialist support services for women and girl survivors of violence has been brought into stark relief during the COVID-19 pandemic when demand for these services soared and there were increased challenges in accessing them. Grantee WROs/CSOs stepped in to meet the demand and during 2021 the number of women and girl survivors of violence directly served by grantees doubled as compared to those served in 2020, reaching 54,822 women or girl survivors of violence in 2021 alone<sup>12</sup>. However, this is a role which CSOs/WROs fulfilled long before the pandemic and which they continue to play – though greater recognition of this is sorely needed.

The specialist support services provided by grantees for women and girls survivors of violence include long-term psychological counselling, medical care, shelters, helplines and legal aid. The urgent need for locally based services rooted in feminist principles is particularly evident in relation to groups of women and girls experiencing intersecting and multiple forms of oppression and discrimination, including women and girls living with disabilities, those living in poverty in urban and rural areas, internally displaced and refugee women, Indigenous women and members of religious or ethnic minorities.

# MAKE ART FOR WOMEN'S ACTIVISM (MAWA) IN MALAWI

Make Art for Women Activism (MAWA) is a three-year project implemented by the Art & Global Health Center Africa (ArtGlo) in Malawi, funded by the UN Trust Fund. The project aims to improve the lives of women and girls by challenging patriarchal social norms and mainstreaming women's empowerment through strengthening grass-roots CSOs.



In 2021, MAWA

Conducted **13** CSO capacity building trainings

Recruited **30** CSOs in Mulanje, Chikwawa and Phalombe

Trained **96** CSO members

Reached **4,334** people through CSO programmes

MAWA's experiences showed how using the arts can be a powerful method to reflect on gender inequality issues and stimulate open expression.

*"We didn't know that it's okay for women to be economically independent and self-reliant. Being a part of the teen mothers' group has opened my eyes to become more vigilant about my life and to express myself freely using art. I am now able to take care of myself physically and mentally. I no longer live in fear at home".*

## **Ruth Mlakata, a member of the teen mothers' group**

The work of the project during 2021 highlighted that collaboration is key in making a significant impact in eliminating VAW/G and the year saw a markedly high level of collaboration between MAWA CSOs and different community structures, as well as with each other.

Through group brainstorming sessions, facilitated by ArtGlo, and by supporting CSOs to develop networks, CSOs were enabled to exchange ideas and support each other's development. A number of CSOs also worked closely with community youth clubs in their participatory arts activities.

During the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence campaign in November, the project collaborated with the WONA collective on a programme called "To whoever is listening" working with women survivors of violence and creating a platform for them to share their stories. The project hosted a writer's workshop for the women and, after the stories were written and developed, a different set of women read them, to protect the identities of the women survivors, on radio broadcasts and podcasts. The aim was to reach out to women facing the same experiences, while at the same time issuing a call to action to stop gender-based violence.

## **MARY'S JOURNEY TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE**

Mary, a 31-year-old woman with three children living in Malawi, had been unable to convince her husband that if she ran her own business it would improve their livelihood as a family.

One of the MAWA CSOs, Chisombezi CBO, held an event in Mary's community in which they used pictures to educate the audience about VAW/G. One of the things that Chisombezi CBO focused on was economic abuse, highlighting how prohibiting women from owning a business or being involved in economic empowerment activities is a violation of women's rights. Mary and her husband attended that particular event and when they got home, they had a discussion about the event and decided to approach Chisombezi CBO to learn more about the issues raised.

***"After we had the sit down with Chisombezi, my husband changed, he gave me some money to set up a business and I also joined 'bank m'khonde' where together with other women we save up money to help us when things are not going well financially."***

Mary is a proud business owner and says that the living standard of her family has completely changed and she is grateful to the project for supporting transformational change in her life.

***"I really love being financially independent. I am able to buy basic needs for my family and support my husband with other expenditures. I am the one who buys school materials for our children while he covers the school fees. My life is so much better now and I am thankful to Chisombezi CBO for helping us through this process."***

In Albania, a project brought together two well-established shelters – the **Shelter for Abused Women and Girls** and the Streha Center for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women survivors of domestic violence – to join forces to ensure access to multisectoral services for those affected by VAW/G.

During the year, the project offered services to 97 survivors of gender-based violence, including 47 lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and provided direct support to 50 survivors of domestic violence. As a result of the interventions, 62 survivors were enabled to live a life without violence and to experience improved well-being and all of those supported received protection from violence and gender-appropriate services in line with their particular needs. Survivors of violence were also able to benefit from programmes offered by both shelters, including counselling, psycho-social support and advice on legal, housing and employment issues.

**The project is also developing the capacities of police and judicial officers, social workers, medical personnel and educators through training and coaching and 50 per cent of the local service providers engaged were enabled to deliver professional services in cases of gender-based violence.**

A grantee working in Egypt, **Al-Shehab Institution for Comprehensive Development (Al-Shehab)**, was invited to submit a second proposal based on the success and learning potential of a previous UN Trust Fund supported project, which focused on the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women. The current project, which primarily targets sexual and physical violence in the family, builds on the previous pilot project to scale up the provision of essential services, including psychosocial counselling, legal assistance, HIV counselling and testing, and medical services, for the most marginalized and left behind women in four informal, urban communities in Greater Cairo.

During this period, 663 women and girls benefited from Al-Shehab services, including 68 women domestic workers. Psychological support was provided to 56 women survivors of VAW/G and 37 lawsuits were filed. The project enabled 532 women and girls to receive services, among them 114 women and girls who benefited from medical services, including 31 women living with HIV.

The project reached 368 self-identified sex workers and 204 women survivors of violence through awareness-raising sessions and supported 176 men to access a voluntary HIV testing service. Raising awareness in communities, especially for men and boys through interventions, resulted in a 76 per cent improvement in knowledge about women's rights, HIV and VAW/G.



Survivor is reporting case to police with assistance of women leaders.  
Credit: Yusuf Shahrier Muntaqim/Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh).

## 7.2 DEVELOPING CAPACITY

“

***Exposure at networking events, capacity building workshops and technical support received from the UN Trust Fund strengthened our internal and financial operations and exposed us to other opportunities and best practices in sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response.”***

*Chinyere Eyoh, Founder and Executive Director of the Sexual Offences Awareness and Victims Rehabilitation (SOAR) Initiative in Nigeria, a twice-funded grantee, reflecting on how partnership with the UN Trust Fund had enabled the organization to access grants from the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative and USAID.*

Capacity development for grantees is a key part of the UN Trust Fund’s vision set out in its Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The overall objective of the capacity development compliance training is to provide UN Trust Fund funded organizations with the tools and skills they need, enable them to be accountable for their grants and achieve the expected results in a safe and ethical way. It is linked to the objective of enabling CSOs and WROs, through organizational support, to comply with grant requirements and to be resilient and sustainable and, through programmatic support, to plan and implement principled EVAW/G initiatives.

To achieve these aims, an action plan was implemented for grantees in the 24<sup>th</sup> cycle of grant giving that built on the lessons learned from previous training and feedback collected from respondents to annual post-training surveys.

During the year a comprehensive capacity development package, consisting of six modules, supported organizations to not only comply with donor requirements, but also organizational growth and development. In this package, new training components were introduced to help grantees work in a safe and ethical way to end VAW/G. The components include:

- Revised materials, including simplified content and structure drawn from the *Grantee Handbook*, with additional guidance on ending VAW/G programming, among others.
- A new online training course page, set up in collaboration with the UN Women Training Center, to serve as a “one-stop shop” to guide grantees throughout their project’s implementation. The page now hosts all training modules, the *Grantee Handbook* and all guidance notes.
- Requiring at least two staff members from each grantee to complete training on Fraud Awareness. This tailored training course contributes to enhancing partners’ work in mitigating the risks of fraud, corruption and other wrongdoing.



In Bangladesh, Badabon Sangho raises awareness about violence against women and girls through group sessions.

Credit: Naima Jahan/Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh).

The initiatives aligned the UN Trust Fund’s capacity development approach with its Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and provided timely support to grantees in the context of COVID-19 and other intersecting crises.

During 2021, a total of 1,103 attendees were registered for the 37 webinar sessions provided by the UN Trust Fund<sup>13</sup>. The sessions were delivered in English, French and Spanish and covered a range of topics including: data collection, monitoring, ethics, safety and reporting beneficiary and common indicator data; audit preparation; project planning, monitoring and reporting; financial management; communicating project results; external evaluations; and project modification and closure. By the end of the year, 95 per cent of grantee organizations from the 24<sup>th</sup> cycle had fully completed the UN Trust Fund’s mandatory online training. Participants recognized the long-term effectiveness of the training. One said:

“  
**Most modules will still be very useful beyond the project implementation period.  
Some modules will be useful for reference purposes and experience sharing.”**

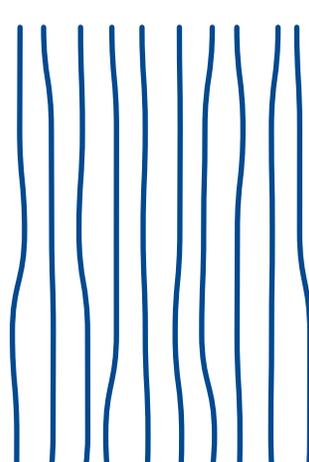
A survey of training participants found that more than two thirds of respondents found the training useful or very useful. Sessions on project planning and operations received the highest rating with the overwhelming majority of respondents (92 and 90 per cent respectively) finding them useful or very useful.

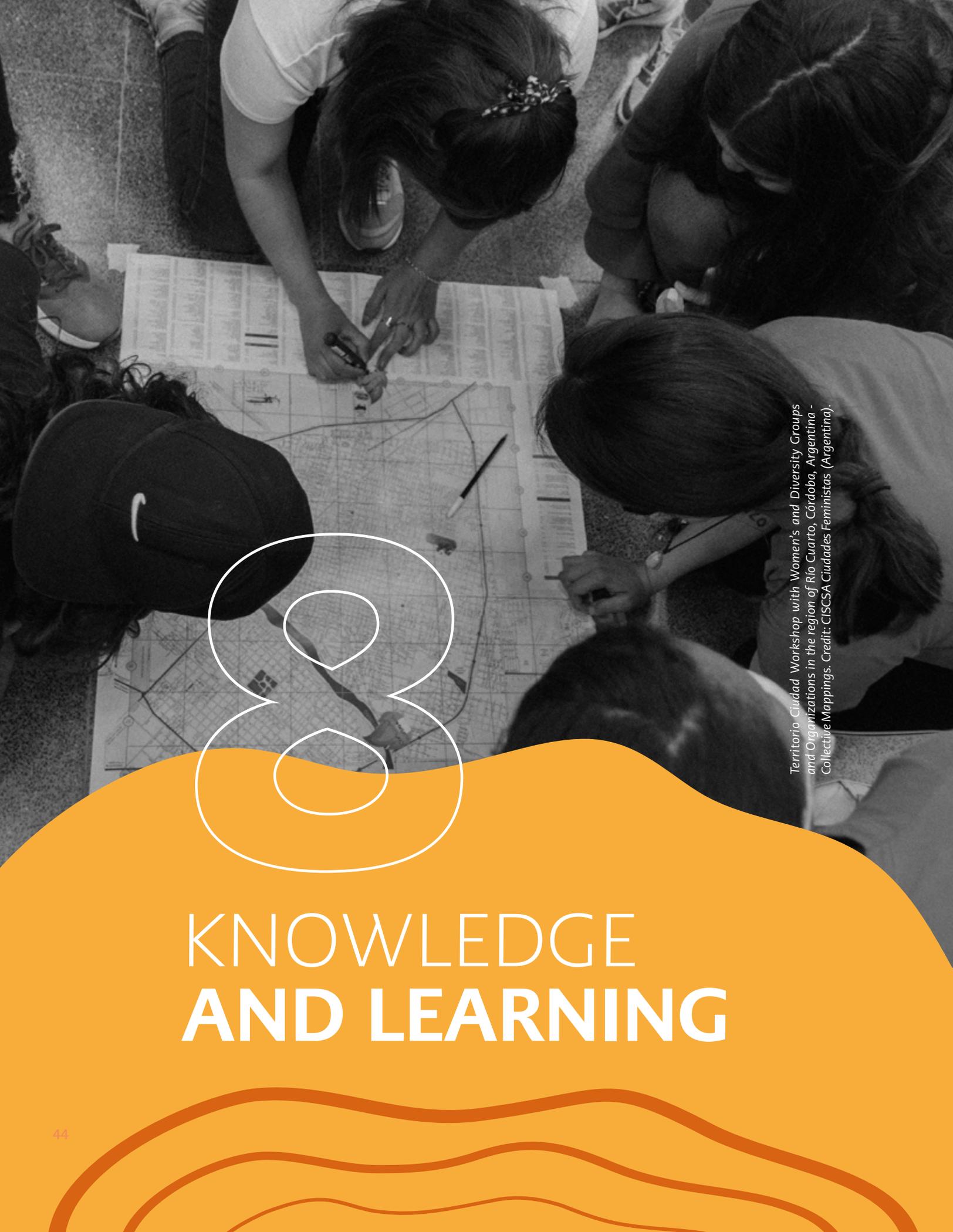
An evaluation of the current cycle of training made a number of recommendations for the subsequent call for proposals. These included: replicating the training delivered in the current cycle, but with more practical examples and time for participants to discuss among themselves during webinar sessions; continuing to organize live webinar sessions; making the training more responsive for organizations with people with disabilities; and using language interpretation, including sign language interpretation, whenever possible. In addition, where possible and in line with risk assessments, the evaluation recommended resuming in-person training.

Throughout the five years of the new Strategic Plan, the UN Trust Fund will continue to engage in principled, demand-driven grant-giving and capacity development, focusing on organizational resilience.



Photo: Asociación para el Desarrollo Legislativo y la Democracia, LEGIS (Guatemala)

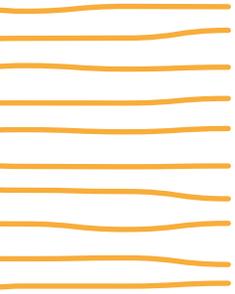




*Territorio Ciudad Workshop with Women's and Diversity Groups and Organizations in the region of Río Cuarto, Córdoba, Argentina - Collective Mappings. Credit: CISCSA Ciudades Feministas (Argentina).*



# KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING



CSOs have long expressed the need for a space to connect, to share lessons, failures, successes, expertise, knowledge and to learn together. Therefore, in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, the UN Trust Fund has developed an innovative, multilingual online hub for knowledge exchange and collaboration platform on ending violence against women and girls called “SHINE”. SHINE aims to connect a range of partners and changemakers including CSOs and WROs, the UN, practitioners, academics and researchers, the private sector, donors, and other partners to co-create, collaborate and amplify knowledge and learning together to end violence against women and girls, to enable donors, practitioners and researchers to work together more effectively towards the common goal of ending VAW/G.

SHINE is a hub that overcomes language barriers through instant translation to provide a space to share experiences and learn from others working to end violence against women and girls, in 50+ languages. It provides communities of practice and safe spaces to be connected to other partners working on similar topics in the spirit of global solidarity and partnership. Developed in 2021, it will be used in 2022 as a key tool to facilitate inclusive knowledge exchange.

**According to the UN Trust Fund’s Annual Partner survey, 98 per cent of grantee respondents reported being informed by knowledge produced by the UN Trust Fund.**

### **Evaluation highlight:**

The grantee Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) a twice funded organization by the UN Trust Fund implemented the project “Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities in Zimbabwe”, between 2018 and 2021. The project worked to improve access to justice at the national level while also preventing and improving response to violence at local levels in six districts.

The project opened a toll-free line to provide online services and psychological first aid to survivors who found themselves cut-off from in-person communication with service providers during the COVID-19 lockdown. The external evaluation team found that the toll-free line was instrumental in ensuring continuous communication between LCDZ and women and girl survivors and those at-risk during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and will be instrumental during other crises,

as it is critical in providing timely and quality services in real-time. The project assisted 809 women survivors of violence in accessing justice at pre-trial, trial and post-trial stages. In addition, 87 per cent of survivors received psychological support and 95 per cent received assistance with practical needs such as transportation.

**“The project improved reporting, community tip-offs, trials efficiency, and convenience as well as convictions of cases involving women and girls with disabilities. The LCDZ field officer was just a phone call away to register cases and avail the financial resources to facilitate all the needs”**

— District Victim Friendly Unit Coordinator-Chiredzi

## 8.1 FEMINIST AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

The UN Trust Fund and partners recognize feminist and women's movements as key drivers of ending VAW/G at the local, regional and global level. Building on lessons learned from UN Trust Fund projects funded through the Spotlight Initiative, which focused on supporting women's movements, the UN Trust Fund is well placed to reflect on and better understand progress on and challenges relating to supporting women's and feminist movements in the context of ending VAW/G. To support this learning journey, the UN Trust Fund commissioned a working paper on feminist and women's movements in the context of ending VAW/G. This work will inform a series of UN Trust Fund working papers and knowledge products in 2022 (more information is available on the [UN Trust Fund Learning Hub](#)). The information from these papers shows the key role played by the UN Trust Fund, as part of its commitment through the UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 in fostering and supporting inclusive feminist and women's movements in their work to end VAW/G. A core purpose of this learning journey is to help develop a framework for assessing the UN Trust Fund's contributions to CSOs/WROs to support women's/feminist movements centred on ending VAW/G.

The first part of the study was a Literature Review, which among other conclusions, identified that supporting WROs for feminist movement-building is a critical ingredient

in efforts to end VAW/G. The review recommended that funders and grant makers invest in generating and disseminating practice-based evidence on how investment in CSOs and WROs builds and/or supports feminist movements to end VAW/G in order to support the global VAW/G ecosystem in decision making and collective learning. This should include funding CSOs/WROs and feminist movement actors to identify and engage in learning and knowledge building activities that are most useful and relevant to them, and to host cross-learning convenings.

Part two of the study, to be published later in 2022, concluded that (a) UN Trust Fund Spotlight Initiative grantees represent a diverse group of organizations playing a variety of roles in ending VAW/G and working within distinct contexts in terms of the women's/feminist movements in their countries; and (b) "The UN Trust Fund team is agile, strategic, thoughtful, discerning, and astutely action oriented and this makes them very well placed and appropriately equipped to continue holding a baton up for resourcing WROs/CSOs to support/build women's/feminist movements for ending VAW/G". The report recommended the continuation of the learning journey and provided concrete recommendations on how to evolve and improve grant making for the benefit of CSOs/WROs involved in women's/feminist movement building and support, some of which is already being implemented.

## 8.2 PREVENTION SERIES: “LEARNING FROM PRACTICE”

As part of its commitment to elevating practice-based knowledge, the UN Trust Fund has been co-creating and collaborating with almost 100 grantees on a series of knowledge products called, “Learning from Practice: Lessons on preventing violence from civil society organizations funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women”.

Each paper in the series draws on the monitoring and evaluation reports of up to 10 CSOs that have implemented prevention projects funded by the UN Trust Fund in different countries and contexts. The findings identified 10 key pathways to prevent VAW/G. Each theme is explored by an external researcher in conversations with 10 grantees, resulting in one detailed report per theme, published on a rolling basis starting in July 2021 and into 2022. As of December 2021, eight reports had been published on the UN Trust Fund’s website.

To complement the series, the UN Trust Fund facilitated two virtual knowledge exchange events on the first four themes in the series in late 2021. The aim of the events was to create opportunities for grantees to share their experience and knowledge with other grantees in the same country and explore collaboration opportunities between grantees and with UN Women country offices.

The following gives an overview of the findings of a selection of the published reports illustrating the unique contributions and important lessons learned that CSOs can offer in the process and pathways of how to design and implement interventions to prevent VAW/G, including how to navigate challenges to achieve impact.



*Workshop on gender-based violence case management in Lubero. Credit: Guerchom Musavuli/Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (Democratic Republic of Congo).*

## Community mobilization

Community mobilization engages with a broad range of actors and can reduce violence among entire communities, but its effectiveness relies heavily on implementation and context. Interventions need to be culturally relevant, appropriate and tailored to priorities and needs within and across communities. An example of this is **Raising Voices'** experience of using the "SASA!" methodology, which showed the importance of translating material into local languages and testing it with communities before roll-out.

In addition, effective community-based interventions must reflect the socioeconomic context and provide appropriate incentives. For example, **MADRE** in **Nicaragua** was able to increase women's economic independence and decision-making abilities by providing local women farmers with seeds, and therefore with greater food security, while the **Breakthrough Trust** in **India** provided young volunteers with references to increase their employment opportunities.

Engaging across and within community groups is key and requires relationship building, which takes time, trust and mutual respect. The brief also offered recommendations to donors (for instance, ensuring longer-term and flexible funding cycles or fostering a culture of learning) as well as to researchers (for example, doing further research on how community mobilization can foster change at the institutional level).

## Faith-based and traditional actors

Faith-based and traditional actors are increasingly recognized as essential in promoting beliefs, norms and practices that support and enable the prevention of VAW/G. CSOs are uniquely placed to engage with these actors and over the years have done so in various ways. In **Liberia**, for instance, **Episcopal Relief and Development** engaged early with senior religious leaders across faiths, which resulted in higher uptake among grass-roots faith leaders in later intervention activities and formal institutional backing for ending VAW/G. In **Nepal**, **Restless Development** opened up a dialogue with faith leaders and communities on the root causes of a harmful menstruation practice (*chhaupadi*) to disconnect the harmful practice from the sacredness surrounding it as a pathway to preventing violence.

## Intersectional approaches

Intersectional approaches to preventing VAW/G have also proved effective and the brief highlighted the need to identify specific groups of women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination in order to understand how these intersect in dynamic ways.

For example, in **Moldova**, **HelpAge** realized that most service providers involved in VAW/G prevention were unaware of the needs of older women and the violence they experienced in their homes and therefore ignored them. CSOs emphasized the value of women's participation in prevention, not only in the identification of specific groups and the development of project design, but also during project implementation. For example, **Fundació Sida i Societat**, which works with self-identified sex workers in **Guatemala**, learned from the women themselves what their needs and priorities were and then adapted their programme design by regularly carrying out focus groups with migrant self-identified sex workers. Finally, CSOs also emphasized the need for further deepening intersectional practice by placing the experiences of those whom current systems and power relations marginalize or put at risk in overlapping ways at the centre of driving change.

## Training for behaviour change

Designing effective training for behaviour change in the prevention of VAW/G takes time and effort; it requires an iterative and adaptive process that is time and resource intensive. The design phase on preventing VAW/G is critical, complex and needs to be participatory, and designing trainings is a crucial component of most of these programmes.

Training needs to support learning as well as unlearning trajectories behaviours by ensuring that the training methodologies support positive power dynamics that do not replicate what the interventions are attempting to dismantle, including through participatory methods. For instance, the **Breakthrough Trust** in **India** trained youth social change activists in video-based storytelling as a strategy to bridge theoretical knowledge with contextually relevant learning. Training also needs to engage a wide set of stakeholders in the project system to be effective.



*Social mobilizer and members of self-help groups in Multan. Credit: Moazam/CBM (Pakistan).*



## Mobilizing women and girls as agents of change

Mobilizing and empowering women and girls to be agents of change in their own lives at different levels – political, economic, social and psychological – is key to VAW/G prevention. A strategy often used to implement social empowerment in interventions to prevent VAW/G is the recruitment of women to be community facilitators in their own communities, which can effectively shift women’s agency over time.

For example, the **Free Yazidi Foundation** in the **Kurdistan Region of Iraq** adapted its project to include a larger role for women as community facilitators as their sense of agency and ownership of intervention activities grew over time. In **Nepal**, the **Story Kitchen** organized storytelling workshops, or “brave spaces”, where community facilitators or “Justice Reporters” became agents of change by interviewing other women survivors of the country’s civil war, offering them a chance to reclaim their dignity and their own narratives.

## Adolescent approaches

Adolescent-focused interventions show the importance of understanding girls’ own sense of safety to inform VAW/G prevention programming. Most initiatives worked on the twin tracks of having girls-only safe spaces, while recognizing that existing public and private spaces may feel unsafe for girls and working to reclaim those spaces. Therefore, programmes need to be tailored to adolescents’ diverse needs through such tactics as mobilizing agents of change around adolescent girls. For example, **Grassroot Soccer** in **South Africa** trained soccer coaches as facilitators and mentors for HIV and violence prevention among adolescent girls.



## Resistance and backlash

This synthesis review draws out some cross-cutting best practices, challenges and lessons from experiences shared by CSOs on how they have managed resistance in their specific contexts and interventions. CSOs face a range of forms of resistance in working with communities to end VAW/G. Many of these are deeply embedded in social norms and are starting points for the interventions themselves. In **Pakistan**, **Shirkat Gah** reported that women's ability to resist violence was hindered by deep-rooted patriarchal values that normalized violence by and submission to male counterparts. In **Jordan**, the **Arab Woman Association (AWO)** faced similar pushback from the communities it worked with, where VAW/G was culturally normalized. Despite the rise in "shrinking spaces" for gender and prevention work across the field, CSOs/WROs working in the sector are finding ways to navigate these challenges and continue working towards achieving their agendas.

## Adaptive programming

WROs/CSOs work with some of the most marginalized women and girls who are most affected during times of crisis such as natural disasters, conflicts, economic shocks and other forms of crises. UN Trust Fund grantees highlighted the many reasons for adapting their projects, including external crises and fluctuating contexts. Several practitioners noted how environmental threats and events (for example, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme/changing weather conditions and tornadoes) could significantly influence implementation. For example, a few projects identified how heavy rain could hinder travel (especially in locations with dirt roads), and lead to activities or events being postponed or changed. A practitioner from **Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)** in the **Solomon Islands** noted how the timing of project activities was affected by harsh weather:

“

*If you are accessing people by boat, it becomes impossible to physically travel there. So you are constantly adapting the timing of activities. That is the challenge of changes with a season where there is more rain, especially now with climate change.”*

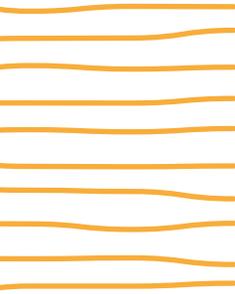


Awareness meeting on ending violence against women in COVID-19 context in Mullurthurai. Credit: Organization for Community Development, OCD (India).



*Women group network conduct PRA sessions with their peers at the community level to identify mitigation strategies for change in practices that fuel VAWG/HP in Bamalang. Credit: Rural Women Center for Education and Development, RuWCED (Cameroon).*

# SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE



The Spotlight Initiative of the European Union and the United Nations (Spotlight Initiative) is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the UN to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. Projects funded by the UN Trust Fund under the Spotlight Initiative focus on strengthening and supporting WROs/CSOs, in line with Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change.

The Spotlight Initiative funded single-country and three multi-country projects across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and five countries in Latin America (Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico). The 35 projects in the initial funding cycle are all now past the mid-way point of project implementation.

In addition, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Trust Fund supported an additional 20 grantees in sub-Saharan Africa within the scope of the Spotlight Initiative to further institutional strengthening for crisis response and maintain or adapt existing interventions to end VAW/G.

***In total, USD24 million has been awarded under the Spotlight Initiative to these 55 CSOs and USD0.5 million was allocated to create a practitioner-based online collaboration hub, [SHINE](#), to enhance the exchange of knowledge and information on the intersection of crisis response, organizational strengthening and ending VAW/G.***





In 2021:

**37,761,857**

people were reached by UN Trust Fund grantees (all 55) funded under the Spotlight Initiative in 2021.<sup>14</sup>



Grantees overall (of all 55 funded organizations) changed the lives

of **9,935**

women and girls with disabilities,



**32,790**

Indigenous women and girls and



**340**

lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and girls.



At least **21,475,652** women and girls were reached.

They included **112,502** women and girls directly empowered to exercise agency for change in their own lives through grantee interventions such as provision of specialist support services; prevention initiatives; and opportunities to co-design project strategies to end VAW/G, including efforts to improve the effectiveness of legislation, policies and national action plans.

The **44** grantees receiving COVID-19 related funding beginning in 2020 in sub-Saharan Africa reached at least **15,244,263** people and at least **190,725** women and girls were directly empowered to exercise agency for change in their own lives through grantee interventions.

A key lesson learned by the UN Trust Fund throughout the year, and in particular in relation to the influx of Spotlight Initiative funding, has been the need for flexibility for adaptations to be planned in advance, consciously integrated into programmatic and operational approaches and shared with a broad base of partners through advocacy.

Spotlight Initiative grantees in sub-Saharan Africa that received additional funds in 2020 from the COVID-19 influx are now moving to the stage of preparing to manage final project evaluations. The UN Trust Fund is providing these grantees with support and capacity building to enable them to manage quality evaluations. However, showing continuing flexibility in responding to the needs of grantees dealing with crisis situations, some evaluations have been delayed in light of the continuing impact of the pandemic.



## 9.1 MOVEMENT BUILDING

UN Trust Fund grantees adopted various approaches to movement building including through strengthening the capacity of WROs.

For example, in **Cameroon**, the **Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa** organized capacity-building workshops and networking workshops using the **SASA! Methodology** to inform over 200 stakeholders – including religious leaders, health workers, men, civil society and community-based organizations, businesspeople, chiefs, journalists and police officers – and engage them as community activists. A coalition was created with various stakeholders, including 50 civil society and community-based organizations, 15 women’s rights groups, 15 journalists and five traditional leaders, and there has been a significant positive reaction from the communities regarding this coalition. Through coalition-building workshops, seven CSOs/community groups adopted the **SASA! Methodology** as a strategy to advocate for the prevention of VAW/G in their communities.

Funded organizations also supported CSOs/WROs in the coordination and the development of joint advocacy and policy agendas. For example, **Alliances for Africa (AFA)** in **Nigeria** supported the setting up of the **Imo State Committee on Ending Violence against Women and Girls**, a network of CSOs/WROs and other key stakeholders, including traditional leaders and government ministries. This is the first such network in Imo State. The Committee’s advocacy efforts led to the comprehensive **Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Bill** being reviewed and then passed by the Imo State House of Assembly.

Grantees also worked to create more inclusive women’s movements that reflect the wide diversity of women’s lived experiences through the inclusion of groups representing marginalized women and girls.

For example, in **Guatemala** the **Movimiento de mujeres indígenas TZUNUNIJA/IXTZUNUN**, a women-led network of organizations, in partnership with CARE Guatemala, is implementing a project to strengthen the expertise and the capacity of local Indigenous women’s organizations to make progress on ending gender-based violence and to empower Indigenous women and girls to enjoy, demand and protect their human rights. The project reached a total of 256 women, including 159 women political activists/human rights defenders, 52 Indigenous women and 45 women/girl survivors of violence. A total of 164 women leaders who participated in project training processes were empowered to act to prevent and eradicate violence. The training covered knowledge/tools on national/international standards on the human rights of women/Indigenous women and VAW/G, including femicide. Participants reported that they applied the knowledge/healing therapies in their communities. Girls and adolescents were provided with access to information on topics related to their human rights and space to reflect on community practices of early pregnancy, forced marriage and femicide.





A group of four UN Trust Fund grantees in **Argentina** achieved ground-breaking progress in terms of advancing women's sexual and reproductive rights. They were part of a coalition of 80 WROs in Argentina who, via awareness-raising campaigns and political advocacy, promoted the adoption of two important pieces of legislation. On 24 January 2021, the Argentine Senate adopted Law 27610 on Access to Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy. In a later development, the Senate adopted another landmark piece of legislation, amending Law 26130 on Regulation of Surgical Contraception. This amendment prohibits for the first time the forced/non-consensual sterilization of women living with disabilities in Argentina.

Many grantees have noted that their efforts to strengthen movement building require long-term investment to ensure the sustainability of project results. This is particularly relevant for organizations supporting women and girls facing intersecting risks of violence who may take longer to engage, be more difficult to reach and have more complex needs in order to be able to participate, such as Indigenous women and girls, those living in rural areas and women and girls with disabilities.

## 9.2 SHINE

The UN Trust Fund continued to manage and develop, in coordination with the Spotlight Initiative, the design and roll-out of a global online, multilingual collaboration hub on ending VAW/G, called SHINE. The aim of SHINE, funded under the Spotlight Initiative, is to enhance the exchange of knowledge and information on the intersection of crisis response, organizational strengthening and ending VAW/G.

A joint implementation plan is being developed between the UN Trust Fund and the Spotlight Initiative, formally launched in 2022 (for more information, see Chapter 8: Knowledge and learning).

## 9.3 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Trust Fund supported an additional 20 grantees in sub-Saharan Africa within the scope of the Spotlight Initiative to further institutional strengthening for crisis response and maintain or adapt existing interventions to end VAW/G.

The lessons learned (during the COVID-19 crisis, including through “institutional strengthening” Spotlight Initiative funding) informed the UN Trust Fund’s call for proposals released in 2021 which focused on the nexus between multiple, coinciding crises and rise of VAW/G (see chapter 5).

For example, in **Mexico**, **Infancia Común** invested in training to foster a learning and listening organizational culture. The organization admitted that it was the first time they had ever planned such an activity for themselves and reported an improved self-care practice when doing field work. As a result of their training, they now have their own manual containing all the ideas shared during the collective work sessions to address recurring concerns. They also explicitly recommended that more donors include self-care/core funding in their future calls for proposals.

Organizations who benefited from Spotlight Initiative COVID-19 funding were also able to make larger and diversified investments. The **Public Interest Law Center (PILC)**, an organization working in **Chad** providing multisectoral services to violence survivors in four listening centres, reported making several investments to strengthen their organization and better equip their staff. These included purchasing IT equipment so they could swiftly move their operations online again, if necessary, and equipping themselves with monitoring and evaluation software. They provided their staff with healthcare and hygiene kits during the pandemic and made improvements in their listening centres to provide better services to survivors.

In **Nigeria**, the **Centre for Women Studies and Intervention** implemented trauma management training, conducted emotional intelligence workshops and established a counselling hotline for women and girls. Also in **Nigeria**, thanks to the influx of Spotlight Initiative COVID-19 funding, the **Society for Life Changers and Good Parental Care** was able to engage in institutional strengthening by enrolling all its staff into a health insurance programme, helping to reassure staff so that they could continue project implementation in confidence.



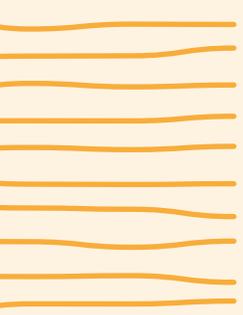
*Territorio Cuerpo Workshop with Groups and Organizations of Women and Diversities in the region of Villa María, Córdoba, Argentina - Collective Corpography. Credit: CISCSCA Ciudades Feministas (Argentina).*



Photo: ADD International (Cambodia).

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THANK YOU TO  
OUR **PARTNERS**



As of December 2021, contributors to the UN Trust Fund included:

- the Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Support was also received from:

- the UN Women national committees of Australia, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America;
- The Spotlight Initiative partnership between the European Union and the United Nations;
- As well as partners including Futures without Violence, the Mary Kay Ash Foundation, Mary Kay Inc., the UN Women for Peace Association;

Thank you to all the generous donors and contributors for their ongoing, committed support to the UN Trust Fund's mission. Your sustained efforts to effectively resource the work on ending violence against women have enabled the implementation of 157 projects during 2021 that delivered the results presented in this report.

We are also using the opportunity to express gratitude to the generous individuals around the world who supported the UN Trust Fund in 2021.

A special thank you to the **UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman** for continuous support to the UN Trust Fund and the cause of ending violence against women and girls.

# ENDNOTES

1 In 2021, members of the Programme Advisory Committee at the global level included: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Population Fund; the United Nations Children’s Fund; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); and the World Health Organization. It also included intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels, including representatives from the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership, Equality Now and the South African Medical Research Council.

2 Alexander Vu and others, “The prevalence of sexual violence among female refugees in complex humanitarian emergencies: a systematic review and meta-analysis”, *PLoS Currents Disasters*, 18 March 2014, ed. 1, available at <http://currents.plos.org/disasters/index.html%3Fp=11337.html>.

3 UN Women & CARE International (2021) Rapid Gender Analysis: Haiti 14 August 2021 Earthquake <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/digiteca/publicaciones/2021/09/analisis-rapido-de-genero-terremoto-agosto-2021-haiti.pg.43>

4 UN Trust Fund, “COVID-19 and the impact on civil society organizations: working to end violence against women and girls” (New York, September 2020), available at <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/09/six-months-of-global-pandemic-covid19-impact-on-violence-against-women-and-frontline-organizations>.

5 All numbers are based on self-reported data, and account for double-counting as feasible. In addition, all data presented in the report is an aggregate of data collected through a survey sent to all grantees, of which we receive a response rate of 95 per cent.

6 UN Women, “Six months of global pandemic: UN Trust Fund assesses impact on violence against women and frontline organizations” available at <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/09/six-months-of-global-pandemic-covid19-impact-on-violence-against-women-and-frontline-organizations>

7 More information regarding the GBV action coalition can be found here: [https://forum.generationequality.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/GBV\\_FINAL\\_VISUAL\\_EN.pdf](https://forum.generationequality.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/GBV_FINAL_VISUAL_EN.pdf)

8 To be considered a “small organization” the organization’s annual operational budget must have been lower than US200,000 (on average) over the last three years. Small grants awarded to small organizations are between US50,000 and US150,000.

9 UN Women, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, available at <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/How%20We%20Work/flagship%20programmes/UN-Women-Flagship-programme-Safe-cities-public-spaces-en.pdf>

10 Philippine Commission on Women, “Safe Spaces Act IRR Signed”, available at <https://pcw.gov.ph/safe-spaces-act-irr-signed/>

11 For more information about the work of the Centre for Women’s rights, see UN Women, “Take five: COVID-19 will pass, but will anything change in the protection system?”, available at <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/5/take-five-with-meliha-sendic-on-covid-19>

12 In 2020, grantees directly served 26,519 women and girl survivors of violence.

13 Note the potential for double counting as the same individual may have attended multiple sessions.

14 All numbers are based on self-reported data, and account for double-counting as feasible. In addition, all data presented in the report is an aggregate of data collected through a survey sent to all grantees, of which we receive a response rate of 95 per cent.



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