



# UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Annual Report 2022





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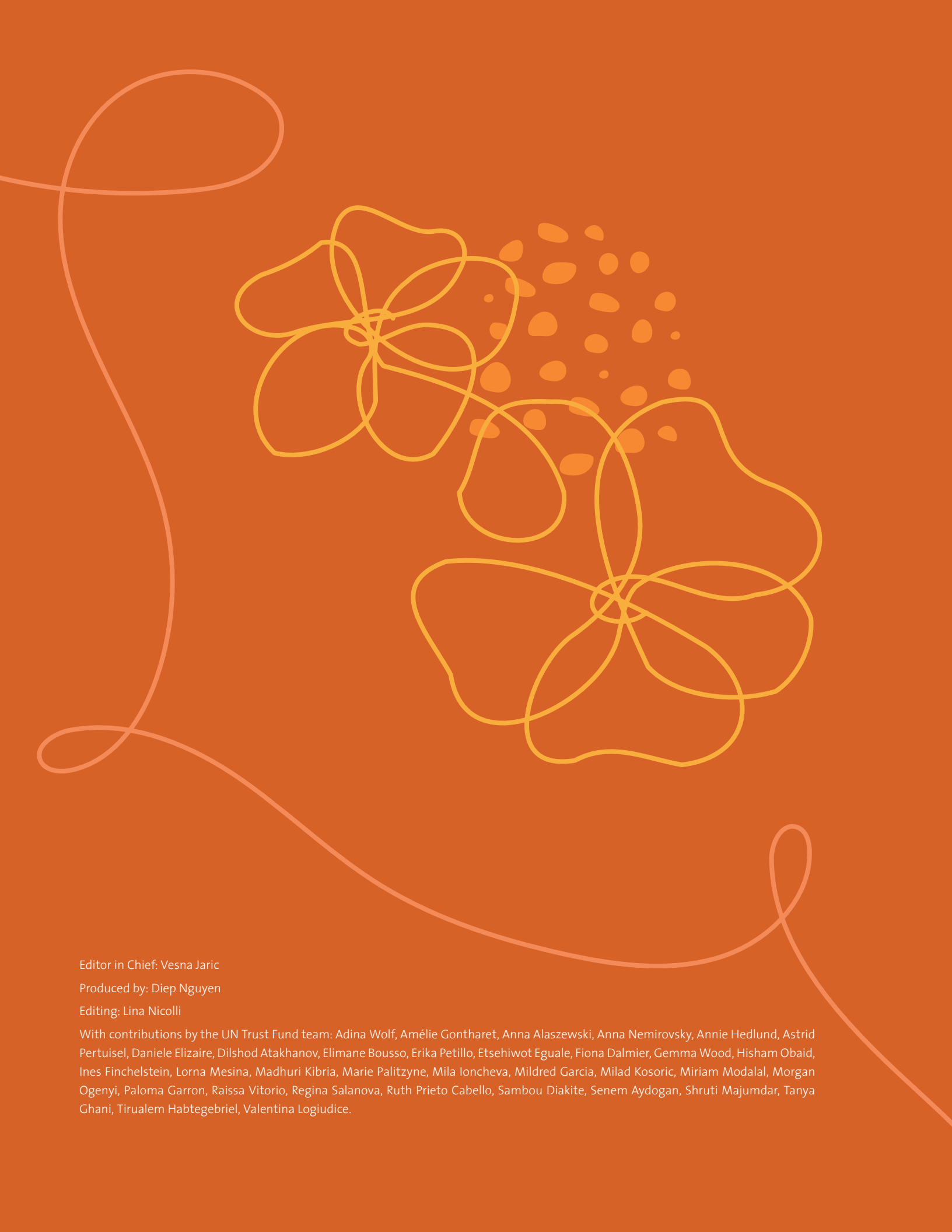
## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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 Committees.<sup>1</sup>

***“One of the ways which Women Challenged to Challenge has contributed to the global feminist movement is by mobilizing women and girls with disabilities both at community and national level to make them be self-advocates of the change they want to see in society.”***

- Jackline Bartenge, Programme Manager at Women Challenged to Challenge, a grantee of the UN Trust Fund in Kenya.

<sup>1</sup> In 2022, the UN Trust Fund’s Programme Advisory Committee at the global and regional levels included representatives from leading CSOs and other experts on ending VAW/G, as well as staff members from 11 UN organs and bodies that actively contributed to the grant-giving approval processes, providing strategic input to funding decisions and playing a vital role in driving forward collective efforts to engage the wider community in work to prevent and end VAW/G. This included representatives from 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, UN-Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Refugee Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization. It also included intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels, including representatives from the Center for Women’s Global Leadership, Equality Now, the South African Medical Research Council as well as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.



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## FOREWORD



As the newly appointed Chief of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, I had envisioned starting this Annual Report by portraying a more optimistic landscape – a world where violence against women and girls (VAW/G) is diminishing, where gender equality is advancing, where we are sailing on hopeful seas. Sadly, that is not where we are.

Instead, I have to reflect the stark reality that VAW/G remains a deeply entrenched global crisis that affects one in three women throughout their lifetime – a sobering statistic – and transcends boundaries of culture, nationality and socio-economic status. This pervasive crisis, fuelled by patriarchal norms and institutions, calls for immediate, concerted action from every corner of society. And this is where I can say that there is a clear message of hope, determination and resilience to share, which shines through the work of UN Trust Fund grantees all over the world, many operating in extremely challenging environments.

The 2022 Annual Report of the UN Trust Fund showcases the transformative impact driven by our grantee partners – women’s rights organizations and civil society organizations (WROs/CSOs) – throughout the past year. From Afghanistan to Iran, from Sudan to Ukraine and from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to El Salvador, it is our partners’ courage and resolve that is enabling the women and girls they serve to imagine and pursue that better, safer and more equal world – alongside all of us who want to see an end to VAW/G and gender inequality.

Our partners, working in 70 countries and territories, show us the power of grass-roots action every day. They are the backbone of our global effort to safeguard the human rights, dignity and freedoms of women and girls. They are the first to respond to acts of violence and the last to leave a crisis, ensuring that all women and girl survivors of violence, including those experiencing intersecting discrimination and most at risk of being “left behind”, receive the holistic support they need to rebuild their lives.

Our partners’ achievements are at the heart of this report – and every initiative that reaches women and girls is a step towards that better future we all seek. Our partners supported the transformation of individual lives and the communities where they work. In 2022 alone, they reached close to 50 million community members, empowered almost 500,000 women and girls, and reached tens of thousands of women and girls with empowerment programming and life-saving support services.

The UN Trust Fund and our partners aim to reach women and girls in all their diversity. This includes women and girls from the lowest income brackets, LBTQI women, Indigenous women and women and girls with disabilities. The active efforts by our partners to engage with and reach those most often overlooked, contributes significantly to creating more just, inclusive and democratic communities and societies.

This report underscores the crucial role of localized, community-based interventions tailored to the specific needs of women and girls in their respective contexts. These interventions have proven to be the most effective in driving transformative change and serve as valuable sources of practice-based learning.

The UN Trust Fund is delighted to highlight that in 2022, the launch of **SHINE** took place – an online hub for global knowledge exchange on ending VAW/G, developed by the UN Trust Fund in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative. This platform facilitates partners worldwide to share experiences and knowledge, drawing inspiration from each other, regardless of their geographical location and in over 50 languages.

At the UN Trust Fund, we stand firmly on feminist principles, acknowledging that inclusive women's rights movements and alliances are the driving force for transformative change. In 2022, we fine-tuned our strategies to address the needs voiced by our grantee partners and invested in women's rights movement building. In response to the challenges brought by COVID-19, war, political instability and climate-induced disasters, we also increased our support to strengthen organizational resilience and preparedness and our 26th Call for Proposals focused on those encountering multiple forms of discrimination and those living amid complex, protracted crisis settings. At the UN Trust Fund, we know how vital long-term, predictable, and sustained funding is, especially in times of crises, and we remain committed to advocating for a funding landscape that responds to this need.

As the Chief of the UN Trust Fund, I cannot stress enough the importance of our partnerships with WROs/CSOs. I am constantly inspired by their collective efforts and know the power of transformative change when we stand united against violence and discrimination and stand strong in the face of the backlash against women's rights.

As we look to the future, let us remember that every stride we make in this shared journey, every life touched, and every norm challenged brings us one step closer to our ultimate goal at the UN Trust Fund: a world of global solidarity in which all women and girls live free from all forms of violence and enjoy and exercise their human rights.

In solidarity,  
Abby Erikson



Certificate distribution to Training of Trainers participants by Deputy Mayor.  
Credit: Nepal Disabled Women Association (Nepal)





FLASHLIGHT  
ACTIONS  
ON GIRLS  
SAFETY



60 LEAVES  
Exercise Book

NAME	
CLASS	
SCHOOL	
DATE	

## 2. List of abbreviations

<b>AFA</b>	Alliances for Africa
<b>AFC</b>	Association Femme et Citoyenneté
<b>ARNB</b>	Udruženje Roma Novi Bečej (Novi Bečej Roma Association)
<b>ArtGlo</b>	Art & Global Health Center
<b>BWO</b>	Baghdad Women Organization
<b>CAWTAR</b>	Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research
<b>CEM-H</b>	Centro de Estudios de la Mujer – Honduras
<b>CIARENA</b>	Conservación, Investigación y Aprovechamiento de los Recursos Naturales
<b>CISCSA</b>	Centro de Intercambio y Servicios para el Cono Sur Argentina
<b>COVIE</b>	Conscience et Vie
<b>CREAW</b>	Centre for Rights Education and Awareness
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil society organizations
<b>CWR</b>	Center of Women’s Rights
<b>CWSI</b>	Centre for Women Studies and Intervention
<b>DFJ</b>	Dynamique des Femmes Juristes
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>FACT Zimbabwe</b>	Family AIDS Caring Trust Zimbabwe
<b>FGM/C</b>	Female genital mutilation/cutting
<b>FODDAJ</b>	Forum for Women in Development and Democracy and Justice
<b>Self-identified FSW</b>	Self-identified female sex workers
<b>FUNDECO</b>	Fundación para la Promoción de la Economía Social y Cooperativa
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GBVDR NET</b>	Gender-Based Violence and Disability Rights Network
<b>IDIWA</b>	Integrated Disabled Women Activities
<b>IMUMI</b>	Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (Institute for Women in Migration)
<b>INERELA+</b>	International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS
<b>IYWD</b>	Institution of Young Women Development
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and evaluation
<b>MOSAIC</b>	Maximizing Options to Advance Informed Choice
<b>OCD</b>	Organization for Community Development
<b>PILC</b>	Public Interest Law Center
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
<b>PSHA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse
<b>RuWCED</b>	Rural Women Center for Education and Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals

<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and gender-based violence
<b>Sonke</b>	Sonke Gender Justice
<b>Spotlight Initiative</b>	Spotlight Initiative of the European Union and the United Nations
<b>SUWA</b>	Scripture Union West Africa
<b>SVRI Forum</b>	Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum
<b>SWAGAA</b>	Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse
<b>UN Trust Fund</b>	United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>VAW/G</b>	Violence against women and girls
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Saving and Loans Association
<b>WATC</b>	Women's Affairs Technical Committee
<b>WDWs</b>	Women domestic workers
<b>WINGS</b>	Women Initiating New Goals of Safety
<b>WOLREC</b>	Women's Legal Resource Centre
<b>WROs</b>	Women's rights organizations
<b>ZNWL</b>	Zambia National Women's Lobby



2

# INTRODUCTION

*Globally, violence against women and girls (VAW/G) remained the most widespread human rights abuse in 2022, a year marked by escalating conflict and a further shrinking of civic spaces, with the lives, bodies, dignity and freedom of women and girls under assault from threats and acts of violence. Pushback on women's rights and feminist movements is on the rise across every region of the world. As anti-rights forces continued to expand, this trend manifested itself in different ways, including through national policies and laws that pose significant risks of rolling back hard-earned rights – right acquired thanks to the trailblazing efforts of civil society organizations and women's rights organizations (CSOs/WROs) whose work has always been and remains a central focus of UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) support.*

Photo credits: Courtesy of Tabitha Cumi Foundation (Nigeria)



This report describes the achievements and impact of CSOs/WROs-led programming to end VAW/G, supported by the UN Trust Fund. In the context of recovery from COVID-19 and response to multiple overlapping crises, the UN Trust Fund's support extended to include investment in organizational resilience and preparedness for adaptations to effectively enable the work of CSOs/WROs at the forefront of responding to VAW/G. Throughout 2022, the UN Trust Fund fostered close relationships with CSOs/WROs based on mutual enablement, collectively contributing to strengthening inclusive feminist alliances and movements, key drivers of transformative change at local, national, regional and global levels. Grass-roots, women-led and women's rights organizations continued to provide localized prevention initiatives and lifeline specialist support services and to empower community members to advocate for sustainable and life-changing impact in their own communities.

This report also details the second year of implementation of the UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021-2025, with insights on activists' uncompromising pursuit of a safer world for women against a challenging backdrop. The year 2022 was marked by mindful investment in practice-based knowledge on programming to end VAW/G emerging from CSOs/WROs through peer exchanges, in a spirit of mutual enablement. Their expertise, practices and voices consolidate the understanding that achieving results on ending VAW/G is dependent upon investment in CSOs/WROs' organizational resilience. The report sheds light on how these actors and an intentional and proactive intersectional approach are delivering on the Agenda 2030 principle of leaving no one behind.

Emerging needs from contextual challenges voiced by CSOs/WROs informed the UN Trust Fund's work, including its 26th Call for Proposals in 2022. This Call focused on ending VAW/G with a particular emphasis on those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination in all contexts, including those working in protracted crises. In

light of the global context of increasingly complex, longer and overlapping crises and the need of CSOs/WROs to have access to long-term, predictable and sustained funding for their life-saving work, the 2022 Call for Proposals invited all organizations to strengthen their preparedness capacity and organizational resilience to effectively address VAW/G before and once a crisis hits.

At the heart of this report is an overview of grantees' results and the impacts of their interventions during 2022 grouped under the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas:

- 1. Improved prevention of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes**
- 2. Improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services**
- 3. Improved effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems**

The report highlights the UN Trust Fund's efforts to co-create communications and advocacy platforms to amplify the knowledge and practice that CSOs/WROs are leading and that enrich the ending VAW/G ecosystem. These platforms are helping to build a solid foundation that drives forward inclusive feminist movements based on evidence and the voices of the women and girls these CSOs/WROs are serving.

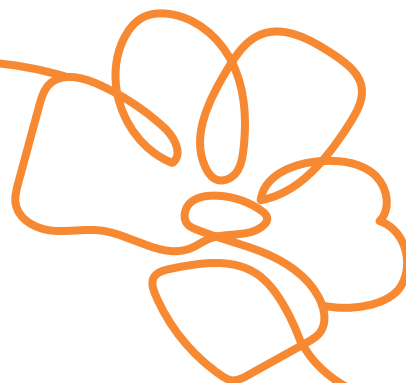




Photo credits: Courtesy of Tabitha Cumi Foundation (Nigeria)

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund marked a first milestone with a prevention webinar series titled “Learning from Practice: Lessons on preventing violence from civil society organizations funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women” created in collaboration with

### **70 grantees and external researchers.**

The briefs in this series explored 10 pathways to prevention, validated through global consultations with more than

### **250 ending VAW/G practitioners,**

and set the stage for ongoing learning and dialogue on the newly launched **SHINE**, a virtual knowledge exchange hub produced by the UN Trust Fund and developed in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative of the European Union and the United Nations (Spotlight Initiative).

In 2022 SHINE has become a networking and knowledge-sharing space among UN Trust Fund grantees and other CSOs/WROs from widely different geographical locations and in more than

### **50 languages.**

This was followed by the launch of the first-ever UN Trust Fund podcast titled “Pathways to Prevention”, guiding listeners through these practices, which was shared on a range of distribution platforms and highly ranked in multiple countries and territories. Guided by a wealth of civil society-led knowledge and practices, the UN Trust Fund contributed to different global convening platforms through joint evidence-based advocacy and collective action for more core, flexible, long-term funding for CSOs/WROs.

The final chapter of this report focuses on projects funded by the UN Trust Fund under the Spotlight Initiative. These projects focused on strengthening CSOs/WROs-led initiatives on movement building, in line with Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change for Outcome 6 in “Terms of Reference 2017-2023”



**SCOPE AND OUTREACH OF THE  
UN Trust Fund-supported projects**





Awareness-raising on gender-based violence in North Kivu, in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Credit: SOFEDAPI (Democratic Republic of Congo)

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund worked with

**186 CSOs**

on preventing and addressing VAW/G in 70 countries and territories, across five regions, with grants totalling

**USD 87.8 million.**

The majority of grant recipients,

**62.4 per cent,**

were WROs.

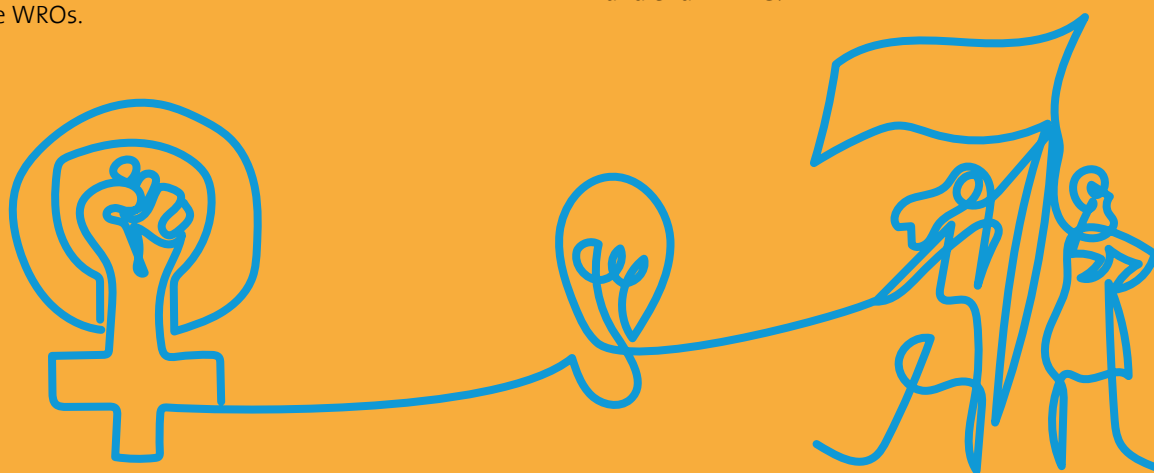
Grantees continued to step up and respond to the needs of women and girls, reaching over

**47,578,975 people,**

including an estimated

**24,408,861 women and girls,<sup>3</sup>**

through initiatives such as awareness campaigns to prevent and end VAW/G.



<sup>3</sup> Estimated total number of women and girls reached through UN Trust fund projects, including primary, secondary and indirect beneficiaries. The indirect beneficiaries are typically beneficiaries reached through awareness campaigns on TV, radio, public events etc. where sex/gender disaggregated data is often unavailable. Where gender and sex is unknown, the percentage of female population globally (49.7%) has been used to estimate the total number of women and girls reached. Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS>

At least,

# 433,677 women and girls directly benefited from or were involved as partners<sup>4</sup>

in UN Trust Fund grantee-led projects. Women and girls were empowered 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.

Women living with disabilities show their special identity cards and disability certificates.  
Credit: Martina Espinoza/ Christoffel-Blindenmission Deutschland e.V. (Pakistan)



<sup>4</sup> The UN Trust Fund's definition of primary beneficiaries includes women and girls, regardless of how they self-identify or if gender identity is unknown/difficult to disaggregate. "Unknown" can be used to account for those who cannot be categorized due to safety/ethical concerns, or limitations in data collection systems. This inclusive approach covers all individuals at risk of VAW/G.

The UN Trust Fund's work is guided by the principle of leaving no one behind, implemented through an intentional and pro-active intersectional approach. Central to numerous initiatives is the recognition by grantees of the interconnection between ending VAW/G and addressing multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination. In 2022, grantees changed the lives of at least:

**81,866**

survivors of VAW/G;

**41,780**

Indigenous women and girls;

**22,915**

refugee and internally displaced women and girls;

**105,686**

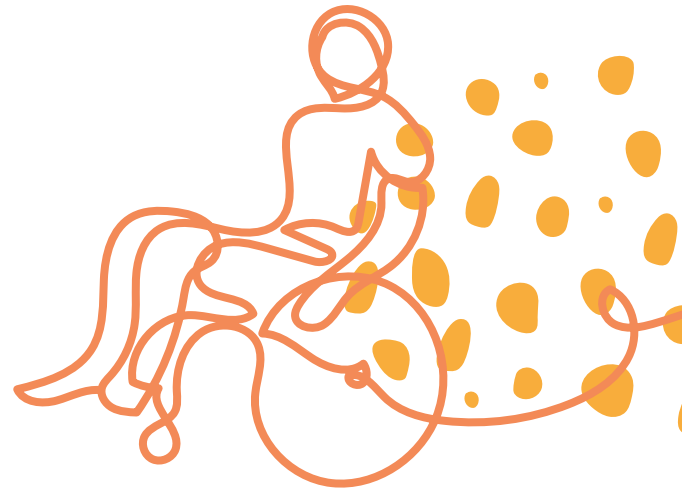
women and girls belonging to the lowest income group;

**6,242**

women and girls living with HIV and/or affected by AIDS; and

**13,737**

women and girls living with disabilities.<sup>5</sup>



Women and girls continued to be **at the centre of these advocacy efforts with at least 1,275,730 women and girls able to access information, goods, resources and/or services to help prevent or respond to VAW/G.**<sup>6</sup>

5 The UN Trust Fund requests that grantees report the number of beneficiaries reached annually, with a breakdown of primary beneficiaries by type, to track how projects are reaching marginalized groups. However, disaggregation by type is optional, hence final numbers are a sample and are probably an underestimate.

6 The number of women and girls, inclusive of the sex and gender disaggregation categories "self-identified" and "unable to disaggregate".



**UN TRUST FUND'S  
CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL EFFORTS  
to end violence against women and girls**

The UN Trust Fund continued to use its unique convening power as a United Nations system-wide grant-giving mechanism to build and foster partnerships with civil society and technical experts through interagency engagement. This included leveraging its positioning and existing multi-stakeholder governance structure to inform programming under the Spotlight Initiative (see Chapter 9).

The UN Trust Fund contributes to these efforts by enabling CSOs/WROs through the provision of dedicated, flexible funding to exercise their expertise in ending VAW/G. The partnerships formed with grantees informed not only the UN Trust Fund, but also the entire United Nations system and key local, national and regional partners leading efforts to bring about change for women and girl survivors and those at risk of violence. Simultaneously, the efforts, expertise and knowledge led and generated by CSOs/WROs are often the driving force behind fostering inclusive women's and feminist movements and therefore leading to collective actions in addressing systemic VAW/G issues.

**The vision of the UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is situated under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5. It is integral to the achievement of Outcome 5 of the UN Women Strategic Plan 2021-2025 on "Voice, leadership and agency of women and girls" and Impact 3 on "Ending Violence against Women"**

Photo credits: Courtesy of the Public Interest Law Center (Chad)



## The commitment and strength of CSOs, especially WROs – and feminist movements more broadly – are a key factor in driving positive change to end VAW/G.

Resourcing and creating an enabling environment where women’s rights and feminist organizations can lead are essential to promote and protect women’s human rights and to systemically “dismantle colonial, racist and patriarchal power structures”, as outlined in the **recommendation of Women7 (W7)**<sup>7</sup> to the leaders of the G7 in 2022.

W7 also urged G7 leaders to commit sufficient financing and funding for gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, protection and response, including “investing an additional 100 million USD of yearly contributions to UN Women, including the UN Women-managed UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women” to support implementation of commitments under the **Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence** within the scope of **Generation Equality**.

<sup>7</sup> Women7 (W7) is a group of CSOs that come together to promote proposals on gender equality and women’s rights within the G7 process. Building on feminist principles of intersectionality and inclusion, W7 aims to bring together voices from civil society around the world to critically reflect on and inform G7 outcomes. Its objective is to ensure that G7 leaders make concrete political and financial commitments that can have a tangible, lasting and transformative impact on the lives of women and girls in all their diversity, <https://women7.org/>

In terms of knowledge generation and management, the UN Trust Fund supported grantee organizations to codify their knowledge through facilitated exchange and cooperation.

**Grounded in feminist principles, the process of codifying practice-based knowledge has enriched the partnership building both between grantees and with the UN Trust Fund.**

The knowledge products of this process informed the UN Trust Fund's advocacy. Investments made in facilitating conversations with and among grantees have contributed to UN Women's evidence-based policy advocacy and thought leadership on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.



Women create a tol called "observation race" to reflect on violence and its different forms of manifestation on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Credit: Sara Nuñez Ruiz/ Corporación Casa de la Mujer (Colombia)



**INVESTMENT IN ORGANIZATIONAL**  
resilience and preparedness for effective  
adaptations



Throughout 2022, it was clear that flexible, core and adequate resourcing is crucial for CSOs/WROs to navigate the compounded impact of global and local crises. Operational and programmatic adaptations implemented by UN Trust Fund grantees in response to COVID-19 provided a strong foundation and evidence for continuous investment in organizational resilience with which grantees can continue to meet the needs of women and girl survivors of violence in contexts of uncertainty beyond the pandemic. Building resilience involves both the organizational efforts to adapt risk management systems that can withstand challenges created by rapidly changing contexts and donor adaptation

in grant-giving practices that acknowledge CSOs/WROs' initiatives in prioritizing women's safety and empowerment in all circumstances. The UN Trust Fund has embraced that reality and responded by providing support in the form of flexible, long-term funding and resources for self- and collective care to enable grantee staff to continue their work to end VAW/G in situations where crises, or their aftermath, create specific and increased challenges.

Beneficiary of a food and hygiene kit, member of the group Nueva Vida. Carrillo/ Movimiento de mujeres indígenas TZUNUNJIA/IXTZUNUN (Guatemala)



The UN Trust Fund captured results enabled by institutional strengthening investment through five indicators that were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic:

**26,707**

beneficiaries were reached with food, hygiene, sanitation and/or other emergency need parcels in order to ensure the stability of projects and reach the most at-risk intended beneficiaries

**2,308**

staff reported improved knowledge and skills on how to integrate COVID-19 responses into ongoing interventions to end VAW/G.

**72**

grantees reported having developed and published 6,858 response messages on COVID-19 and ending VAW/G, which ranged from media stories and radio shows to education and communication materials.



**2,026**

**staff were able to work from home effectively** due to grantee organizations' adaptation for work from home policy or provision of equipment.

**70 %**

**of grantees reported resuming activities** that could meet pre-COVID-19 expectations or exceed expected delivery of services to women and girl beneficiaries.

These indicators were introduced during intense adaptations in response to the global pandemic. However, they remained relevant in capturing adaptations to multiple overlapping, often unpredictable, crises that required flexibility for rapid operational and programmatic adaptations in 2022.

Photo credits: Courtesy of The Lotus Flower (Iraq)



In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, the grantee **Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (DFJ)** operated in a context of multiple, overlapping crises in North Kivu province throughout 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic paralysed the functioning of all institutions including courts and tribunals; a state of siege (similar to a state of emergency) imposed in the project area replaced civilian authorities with military authorities and civilian courts with military courts; the 2021 eruption of the Nyriragongo Volcano near the provincial capital, Goma, caused damage to infrastructure, impacting women and girls; and the ongoing war between the M23 armed group and the national army left women and girls at increasing risk of violence and with very limited access to justice.

DFJ reported in 2022 that there had been an increased number of rape cases where victims were children and perpetrators were relatives to whom parents facing displacement and insecurity had entrusted their children.

In recognition of the fact that organizational resilience and crisis preparedness are two main components of a long-term sustainability beyond the project, DFJ worked on adapting its policies, procedures, practices and systems. This included promoting mobile court hearings and training magistrates and court officers to ensure an appropriate judicial response during multiple crises. This practice has been replicated at state headquarters and has improved access to justice for survivors of VAW/G.

## Grantees' experience of effective adaptation highlights the value of localized interventions and their ability to rapidly pivot to the needs of beneficiaries in changing contexts.

With support from the UN Trust Fund, grantee organizations achieved significant results during the year through creative **context-based** relevant adaptations to project interventions to meet the needs of women and girl survivors and those at particular risk of violence. Grantees used creatively and improved **technology-facilitated** solutions born out of COVID-19 to increase both outreach and access to services. They also recognized that co-creation **with community members** had proved to be catalytic for enhancing collective preparedness and institutional changes. Rising food insecurity and economic injustice prompted adaptations to address the intersection between **women's economic empowerment** and VAW/G. Finally, investment in **self- and collective care** emerged as an effective way to enable organizational reflection and analysis of their resilience needs.

Group photo at the end of the capacity building training on land-induced violence against women.  
Credit: Shahidul Islam/Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh)



In **Pakistan**, with support from the UN Trust Fund, the non-profit mental health organization Rozan has been implementing a project in Hyderabad and Sukkur districts to support women survivors of domestic violence when they leave temporary safe shelters. In mid-2022, Rozan quickly adapted its project activities to respond to the emerging needs of women and girls beyond their mandate in the context of crisis when catastrophic flooding killed over 1,500 people, displaced nearly 8 million, and left countless numbers in areas of the country still submerged lacking shelter, food, clean water and medicine.

Rozan's team immediately conducted a basic assessment to understand the immediate needs of the affected communities, especially their **needs for food, shelter and medical supplies**. The assessment informed the organization's development of a flood relief plan during which it provided a first round of bags containing food, medical supplies and dignity kits to communities settling in camps and temporary shelters.

Given that every disaster impacts on the psychosocial health of communities, Rozan's team of psychologists is building an action plan to address issues of stress and shock. Rozan is also providing immediate emotional and psychosocial support to affected communities.



## Responding to survivors' needs through context-relevant interventions

Operational adaptations including cash-based interventions as implemented by UN Trust Fund grantees in Kenya, Jordan and Nigeria to women-headed households or women businessowners were not only crucial to meeting women's immediate survival and longer-term needs but were also an important element in mitigating violence in the family and community.

In **Kenya**, for example, a cash transfer programme launched by the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) provided financial support to survivors of VAW/G through a mobile money platform which was able to meet the immediate and urgent needs of 306 women, some of whom were able to start small businesses which are now thriving. CREAW devised identification criteria and a verification process so that survivors could be identified before cash was transferred.

Despite the war in **Ukraine**, the NGO "Club Eney", a small UN Trust Fund grantee, kept alive service provision for women and girls at high risk of violence and abuse: women who use drugs, self-identified women sex workers, women living with HIV and internally displaced women and girls. As part of the immediate response to the crisis, Club Eney, with support of the UN Trust Fund, repurposed some resources for an immediate response to keep their staff and beneficiaries safe. One of the facilitators implementing Women Initiating New Goals of Safety (WINGS), a screening and intervention tool to guide women at risk through risk assessment and safety planning, was evacuated from Kharkiv, while others received allowances for evacuation, food and medication for project staff and primary beneficiaries, as well as working tools and supplies to help internally displaced women grow vegetable and improve food security.

**A total of 315 women received humanitarian aid, 27 women received seeds, tools and supplies for work and 21 women received cash assistance for evacuation.**

In addition, responding to the fact that women who use drugs and women who engage in sex work experienced greater discrimination at shelters, Club Eney opened a shelter in Kyiv to serve women survivors and trained community activists to advocate for equal access to shelters to improve their safety.



## Technology-facilitated solutions

In 2022, the 67<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women called for increased support and coordination with CSO/WROs to improve policy coherence and coordination on ending VAW/G.<sup>8</sup> During the year, while continuing to contend with the protracted pandemic, CSOs/WROs also had to adapt to the rising socio-political turbulence and environmental crises that directly and indirectly impacted the lives of women and girls. One of the key adaptations undertaken by several grantees was extending the use of technology in their activism to prevent and end VAW/G. A number of innovative technology-facilitated responses coming out of COVID-19 adaptations will continue to be updated and accessed by more users even after these particular projects have ended.

The grantee Art & Global Health Center (ArtGlo) in **Malawi** piloted online programming for their MAWA project and MAWA Edge classroom on the Omprakash platform, where all the project training sessions took place.

**This enabled 20 CSOs to acquire improved skills, knowledge and capacities to lead their own local projects on ending VAW/G. Msauko Jafali, a member of Young Women Rise, a women-led organization, in Chradzulu said:**

*“I will use my new acquired skills [from MAWA Edge classroom] in looking for further collaboration and networking. I am more confident in my abilities than I was 6 months ago.”*

Although restrictions on movement to contain COVID-19 ended, ArtGlo continued the online pilot and worked with CSOs to improve their virtual visibility, with two CSOs featured on national radio.



Police sensitization on gender-based violence and laws.  
Credit: CREAW (Kenya)

<sup>8</sup> UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), *Commission on the Status of Women Sixty-seventh Session, Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, Agreed conclusions, 20 March 2023, (E/CN.6/2023/L.3)*

## Feminist co-creation of collective and sustainable solutions

During 2022, grantees led co-creation efforts with community members to plan and implement solutions to prevent and end VAW/G at the local level with the aim of sustaining gains beyond the project cycle, particularly in the context of a rising backlash against women's rights.

In **Zimbabwe**, CSOs/WROs like the Institution of Young Women Development (IYWD) and the Family AIDS Caring Trust Zimbabwe (FACT) Zimbabwe experienced restrictions in operating in civic spaces as a result of limits imposed on their right to freedom of association, while human and women's rights defenders and activists also faced institutional harassment. The grantees informed the UN Trust Fund that restrictive legislation and increased surveillance of their activities and administrative requirements for CSOs, introduced by the government in the run-up to general elections, resulted in shrinking space for CSOs/WROs to operate and implement programming to end VAW/G. This led to the arrest of IYWD staff and project participants in 2022 on a charge of convening a public meeting without police clearance while implementing project activities in the community and they were awaiting trial on charges related to these activities in 2023.

The UN Trust Fund has engaged with UN Women in Zimbabwe regarding this situation, organizing a virtual convening of grantees and the UN Women Country Office to discuss these challenges and seeking to strengthen support for grantees, including by developing a risk mitigation plan.

In this context, CSOs/WROs found different entry points to navigate the limited space. IYWD chose to integrate the feminist movement building strategy into its programming through a Training of Trainers model that enabled women to immediately mobilize themselves to engage duty bearers and influence changes in the behaviours, values and beliefs perpetuating VAW/G even when the CSOs/WROs involved could no longer operate. FACT cultivated a culture of accountability within stakeholders' institutions while continuing to raise awareness among women and girls.

Photo credits: Courtesy of HACEY Health Initiative (Nigeria)





## Economic empowerment to reclaim power and agency

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In Mexico, the grantee Conservación, Investigación y Aprovechamiento de los Recursos Naturales (CIARENA) introduced a horticultural training initiative as an adjustment when COVID-19 hit just as the project started. Implemented in Indigenous communities and led by young Indigenous women in Oaxaca state, this project addressed the rising food insecurity that was driving VAW/G, benefiting women with little to no access to economic opportunities, including women head of households and domestic workers. Produce made from the project helped cover consumption needs and enabled some women to sell vegetables and earn small incomes.

The success of this activity relied on consultation with and the active participation of beneficiaries: **women were consulted on what to grow and what techniques to use**. As a result, while this initiative was initially piloted in 2021, most women are still growing local fruits and vegetables using their traditional knowledge and techniques, which not only improves food safety at the community level, but also strengthens **Indigenous women's autonomy and improves their self-esteem** while creating intergenerational exchanges to sustain change.

This seemingly simple initiative also contributed to shifting attitudes around who gets to work in the fields – an activity traditionally reserved for men. Finally, it also contributed to environmental justice in an area where landowners monopolize fertile ground for pesticide-heavy monoculture farming, leading to poor soil health and the disappearance of Indigenous culture.



Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and in the aftermaths of other crises, which have damaged national economies and made existing support systems more fragile, informed CSOs/WROs' adoption of women's economic empowerment activities. These activities which were initiated and extended through efforts such as vocational workshops and craft projects to generate income, reflected the transformative capacity within CSOs/WROs to adapt. Results from grantees' work has consistently shown the link between women's increased financial independence and better access to resources and greater security, including protection from violence. Importantly, results in 2022 demonstrated that these activities held potential not only to improve women's incomes but also to sustain their economic empowerment.

*“A pressing need for many survivors of VAW/G is economic independence especially when they are at present dependent financially on the perpetrator of violence who continues to exhibit violent behaviour.”*

Member of the Organization for Community Development (OCD), a grantee in India working in rural areas with fisher communities.

Staff and volunteers of the grantee Scripture Union West Africa (SUWA) in Nigeria were fully equipped to continue programme implementation with COVID-19 as an integrated component of efforts. Throughout 2022, SUWA's project empowered women and girl survivors and those at risk of violence to gain financial stability and develop income-generating activities, such as soap-making or baking, through the Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA).

**SUWA supported the formation of 10 groups with 231 participants of whom 95% were able to access loans for their various businesses. This expanded during the year to 48 groups involving a total 1,062 women.**

VSLA groups have enhanced women's ability to access loans outside normal banking constraints and become less dependent, thus enabling them to provide for their children and family, pay school fees and purchase groceries for the household. Increased capacity and confidence have also led to their participating in community development, leadership and decision-making.



## Self- and collective care, an indispensable part of sustainable change

An important enabling element in grantees' successful project outcomes was the UN Trust Fund's investment in the resilience of CSOs and their ability to adapt in increasingly complex contexts, coupled with core and flexible funding, including for staff self- and collective care.

In **Iraq**, the Baghdad Women Organization (BWO) led a project that aimed to improve access to essential, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services as well as livelihoods

### for 3,600 internally displaced women and girls at risk of or who have experienced GBV in Al-Anbar and Nineveh Plain governorates.

Operating in a complex environment impacted by years of armed violence, socio-economic hardship and political instability, on top of the pandemic, BWO used the self-care funding to conduct psychosocial activities which covered a wide range of topics, including introduction to self-care, self-care for humanitarian aid-workers and emotional release techniques. An immediate recommendation coming from this activity was a demand for more such training for other local organizations working directly with beneficiaries and further development of skills and tools for handling cases with VAW/G survivors.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the Center of Women's Rights (CWR) maintained its "Person of Trust" programme throughout the spread of and recovery from

### the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting 1,993 women survivors of violence, particularly intimate partner violence.

CWR made use of the availability of the UN Trust Fund self-care grant for small organizations to create internal self-care group sessions and problem-solving workshops. Meliha Sentic, President of CWR, reflected: "This grant has enabled continuous support and strengthening the capacities of CWR, in terms of safeguarding and wellbeing of the team members... as well as in sense of policies and procedures and overall security and safety."





7

**GRANTEE**  
results

# “Empowered survivors empower survivors”

– Organization of Women’s Freedom in Iraq (OWFI)

## 7.1 Key results across outcome areas from the second year of the UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The Strategic Plan 2021-2025 places CSOs, and especially WROs, at the centre of the UN Trust Fund’s work as it continues to fund interventions in three outcome areas:

1. Improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services;
2. Improved prevention of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes;
3. Increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems. In addition, lessons learned and knowledge reported by grantees have informed the UN Trust Fund’s investments in initiatives that adopt an intersectional approach that aims to reach women and girls in particularly marginalized communities who risk being left furthest behind.

This approach is featured in the UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025 among key strategies to end VAW/G.

In 2022, grantee-led initiatives directly transformed the lives of **81,866 women and girl survivors of violence**, almost **1.5 times** as many as the year before.

Participants of a working group discuss the assignment given by the speaker.  
Credit: Coalition to Stop Violence against Women (Armenia)



In many cases, women and girls face multiple and intersecting forms of violence, to which grantees responded with interventions that sought to meet both the immediate and the longer-term needs of survivors and those at risk of violence.

## Throughout 2022, 62,111 women and girls used specialist support services to address and end VAW/G.

At the same time, UN Trust Fund grantees supported 13,288 individual service providers and institutions in improving specialist service provision for survivors and women and girls at risk.

## Quality services, including but not limited to legal aid and facilitation in reaching court, enabled 21,113 women and girls to access justice effectively in cases of VAW/G.

Efforts by CSOs/WROs were captured using 21 common indicators, five of which specifically focused on grantees' adaptations to the impact of COVID-19. Many of these adaptations contributed to the overall outreach and impact of ensuring no woman or girl is left behind, including during and in the wake of crises. Data for 2022 showed that 70

per cent of all grantee organizations reported being fully back on track or exceeding pre-COVID expectations of delivery, compared to 48 per cent in 2021.

The UN Trust Fund continued its close communication with grantees throughout the year, with 364 meetings where grantees shared progress, received programmatic and capacity support and ensured quality assurance through reporting.

Whether operating in ongoing conflicts, in the aftermath of natural disasters, or in ever shrinking and increasingly unsafe civic spaces, CSOs/WROs adapted to mitigate the risks of VAW/G through bold, context-relevant, innovative programming.

## Projects led by UN Trust Fund grantees directly increased the capacities of 67,620 women and girls to participate in public life and/or exercise leadership in efforts to end VAW/G.

This result was extremely important throughout 2022 when many CSOs/WROs reportedly faced more restrictions in maintaining safe operations either because of restrictions on the right to freedom of association or assembly, or more tangible threats against women's human rights defenders.



During the year, the UN Trust Fund organized and/or facilitated grantees' participation in

**14 global events,** featuring

**175 grantees** in different modalities.

Through **6 country-focused** engagement events, the UN Trust Fund brought together more than

**117 participants,** including grantees, UN Women Country Office colleagues and other partners.



Based on the success of previous years, throughout 2022, the UN Trust Fund continued its commitment to elevating practice-based knowledge that informs its advocacy through global and country-focused convenings.

**These convenings contributed to strengthening coordination and knowledge exchange among grantees and partners, provided networking opportunities and ensured that the UN Trust Fund looped back to country-level practitioners' knowledge codified across geographies.**

Immediate results of such convenings included increased cooperation and coordination between UN Women Country Offices and UN Trust Fund grantees, particularly in geographic areas where both were carrying out programming to end VAW/G, and enhanced support to CSOs operating in challenging circumstances. For example, in March 2022, El Salvador introduced emergency legislation (Régimen de excepción) which imposed restrictions on freedom of association and assembly, among others. UN Trust Fund convened partner organizations in El Salvador and the UN Women Country Office in a dialogue on organizational resilience in this challenging political context. The virtual meeting also served as a platform for partner organizations to network and foster feminist movements.



Photo credits: Courtesy of Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh)

## 7.2 Access to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services

*Under this pillar of work, the UN Trust Fund supports projects that provide specialist support services as well as those that work directly with service providers to improve access to such services for women and girl survivors and those at risk of VAW/G. CSOs/WROs efforts in further engaging directly and indirectly with multisectoral stakeholders are crucial to enhancing the quality of tailored, multisector, survivor-centred service provision.*

*Throughout 2022, at least **62,111 women and girls used specialist support services** to end VAW/G supported by UN Trust Fund grantees.*

In **Tunisia**, Association Femme et Citoyenneté (AFC), a small women-led organization, maintained services at its Manara Centre (established in 2014) – the only centre for women survivors of all forms of violence in the north-western region of Tunisia. Some 80 per cent of those using the centre are survivors of domestic violence.

In the first six months of 2022 alone, AFC's Manara Centre welcomed a total of 260 women survivors of violence, 145 of whom came to the centre for the first time. The centre also initiated 74 legal actions (proceedings in 51 of which were ongoing and 20 of which resulted in judgments in favour of survivors). In addition, the centre started providing psychological support, a new service since February 2022, to 32 survivors.



Besides individual support, the service also included 11 discussion group sessions, which contributed to improving survivors' self-esteem and decision-making power. This activity has since paved the way for the creation of group cohesion and friendship bonds that are essential for rebuilding social support systems. AFC also worked with 70 social service and healthcare providers, uniformed personnel, administration officials and clerks in the justice sector to improve their knowledge and skills in receiving and handling cases of VAW/G.

In **Serbia**, the grantee Udruženje Roma Novi Bečej (Novi Bečej Roma Association, ARNB) led 10 meetings, six case conferences and two public workshops with government representatives, service providers and the provincial ombudsman to improve their understanding of their role in providing adequate and appropriate services to survivors of violence. The organization also operated an SOS Helpline where women survivors and those at risk of violence could seek psychological support or be referred to legal services.

**During the reporting period, a total of 74 women and girls at risk or survivors of violence were provided with legal counselling and assistance; 21 women received emergency support, including medical, food and transport assistance, to leave violent situations; and 18 received basic necessities within 24 hours of reporting violence.**

In addition, ARNB also referred seven women and girls to institutional support services, five of which were cases of child marriage and two of rape/sexual violence.

Courtesy of Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos (ACDH – Citizen Association for Human Rights) (Argentina)





Photo credits: Courtesy of Centro de Intercambio y Servicios para el Cono Sur Argentina (CISCSA) (Argentina)

Women's rights organizations are at the forefront of identifying and responding to the needs of women and girl survivors of violence in the communities where they operate. They have built trust-based relationships in communities which enable them to reach those at highest risk of violence and exclusion.

For example, the Forum for Women in Development and Democracy and Justice (FODDAJ) led a project focusing on strengthening emergency responses to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in refugee hosting communities and improving access to services for adolescent girls and young women refugees.

**In 2022, FODDAJ recorded 123 girls aged 15-24 requesting specialist support services, including modern contraceptive methods, access to legal representation, shelter refuge, emergency business support, dignity/hygiene kits and links to support groups for peer support.**

This was a direct result of FODDAJ's outreach activity through which adolescent girls and young women became aware of available services. Additionally, FODDAJ also provided income-generating skills training through its "Learn to Earn" programme.

This delivered training to a total of 50 girls on tailoring, soap making, hairdressing, literacy skills and computers.

**As a result of the initiative, 50 girls received completion certificates validated by the Ministry of Education; 13 girls went on to advanced level education; eight girls found employment in nearby trade centres; and 11 girls started their own soap making and tailoring businesses.**

The skills building activities not only offered a pathway out of poverty and towards financial independence, but also increased girls' decision-making power in relation to access to healthcare, use of contraceptives and mobility.

In **Mexico**, the Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI, Institute for Women in Migration) is using a grant from the UN Trust Fund to improve access to specialist support services for women migrants from the Latin America and the Caribbean region. IMUMI is also collecting data to inform policy recommendations that will better serve the needs of women and girl asylum seekers. On average, before they fled their home countries, around three-quarters of the women receiving IMUMI support had been subjected to some form of violence (physical, psychological, economic or sexual) perpetrated by a partner, former partner or relative, or by gangs, police or other authorities. Unfortunately, many of the women who reach Mexico continue to face institutional violence and aggression.

Further, the prolonged wait to obtain refugee status from the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance leaves many women asylum seekers without access to public services, including healthcare, education, housing and decent employment. As a result, IMUMI's legal clinic has designed and implemented a multi-pronged model of care tailored to meet the individual and multi-faceted needs of women survivors of violence, including legal aid and mental healthcare.

**To address the types of violence often faced by women on the move, IMUMI is collaborating with other CSOs and academic institutions in Mexico to develop and implement strategies that can coordinate referrals and update information to inform tailored assistance for each woman.**

IMUMI is also working with local feminist organizations on policy advocacy by providing evidence and proposals for policy reforms that reflect the voices and needs of migrant women and asylum seekers. Marcela Orozco, Project Coordinator for IMUMI, stressed how it is important to “understand the cultural aspects of each region, and, therefore, of its population”.

Photo credits: Courtesy of Asociación ciudadana por los derechos humanos (ACDH – Citizen Association for Human Rights) (Argentina)



### 7.3 Prevention

*Preventing VAW/G remained an important intervention area for UN Trust Fund grantees in 2022. Across the UN Trust Fund portfolio, grantees supported **27,102 community, faith, traditional and/or youth leaders to publicly advocate for changes in attitudes, behaviours and practices, including harmful practices, toward ending VAW/G.** Thanks to cumulative efforts of the UN Trust Fund grantees, **1,249 spaces, including schools, general public spaces and work environments, were made safer for women and girls, bringing them one step closer to living a life free from the threat or acts of violence.***

The grantee Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL) addressed school-related sexual violence by empowering girls in Girls Leadership Clubs and through intra-provincial school debates where topics such as sexual violence, HIV infections, teenage pregnancies and access to sexual and reproductive health information were discussed and debated. Over 50 members of the Girls Leadership Clubs participated in the debates as this became a more regular activity. Moreover, ZNWL led sensitization activities with 104 duty bearers in five districts.

**At the community level, 1,618 women, men, girls and boys participated in awareness-raising meetings that used drama to address issues such as SGBV, including harmful traditional practices.**

The project also used community radio programmes and education and communication materials to disseminate information on these issues. In Chibombo district, the traditional leader reported that two girls had been withdrawn from early marriages after their parents attended a sensitization session with the leader.

In **Eswatini**, amid political and civil unrest during the pandemic which drove rising rates of teenage pregnancy and GBV, the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) worked with a variety of stakeholders to implement a project to address violence against women and girls living with disabilities.

**In 2022, the organization worked with 719 community members through community dialogues focusing on gender norms and attitudes. In addition, 663 adolescent girls and young women, including 656 women and girls living with disabilities, were empowered with knowledge and awareness, especially through the “Protect Our Youth” clubs, of their rights; risk reduction strategies; how to respond to risk, social pressure and violence; and how to seek support and resources.**



These dialogues, covering topics from positive parenting to social asset building, were delivered and moderated by community facilitators who led the discussions with respect, value neutrality and cultural sensitivity.

**In addition, 52 community facilitators and life mentors were mobilized as agents of change and supported with mentoring from SWAGAA to improve their knowledge of intersectionality in VAW/G and facilitation skills to ensure interactive, participatory and action-oriented dialogues.**

The experience highlighted the long-term impact of community-led facilitation through which members' project ownership is increased.

In **India**, the Martha Farrell Foundation improved the knowledge of 3,055 women domestic workers (WDWs) on their rights under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013). WDW leaders were identified across all 13 districts covered by the project who have continued to actively mobilize their peers for advocacy and lobbying.

**In 2022, WDW leaders led a state level consultation with prominent local authorities, civil society and union members to consolidate recommendations on strengthening the 2013 Act.**

The recommendations led the Delhi Labour Department to notify district authorities across Delhi to form and empower Local Committees, including nodal officers and police personnel, to prevent sexual harassment in workplaces and ensure timely redress for complainants.

Photo credits: Courtesy of HACEY Health Initiative (Nigeria)



## 7.4 Implementation of laws, policies and national action plans

One of the findings from the UN Trust Fund’s working paper “Feminist and Women’s Movements in the Context of Ending Violence against Women and Girls – Implications for Funders and Grant Makers” indicated that countries with the strongest feminist movements tend to have more comprehensive policies on VAW/G than those where such movements are weaker or non-existent.<sup>9</sup>

In the second year of implementation of its Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the UN Trust Fund continued to amplify support for its grantees in fostering the development, implementation, accountability and advocacy for strengthening EVAW and gender-responsive laws and policies. The aim was to ensure that these laws and policies not only address VAW/G but also create enabling environments for CSOs/WROs and women’s human rights defenders to continue their essential work and collectively drive sustainable feminist movements.

**In 2022, supported by UN Trust Fund grantees, 1,544 local, sub-national or national government institutions had increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms, strategies and/or policies to prevent or respond to VAW/G. Such capacities led to 329 guidelines, protocols and/or standard operating procedures to strengthen, develop and/or improve services to address VAW/G across all levels.**



Photo credits: Courtesy of Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (Cameroon)

<sup>9</sup> M. Htun and S. L. Weldon (2012), “The civic origins of progressive policy change: combating violence against women in global perspective”, in UN Women, N. Karim, (2022), *Feminist and Women’s Movements in the Context of Ending Violence against Women and Girls – Implications for Funders and Grant Makers (an External Literature Review)*

## A WIN FOR GENDER EQUALITY, LED BY AND FOR WOMEN!

In **Kenya** in early 2022, CREAM supported Isiolo County, one of its project sites, to officially launch its own gender policy to guide the mainstreaming of policies and processes to address VAW/G. The policy was drafted by CREAM and the Kenya Women Parliamentarians Association. CREAM also teamed up with local women's rights groups to advocate for the policy's adoption. The policy was the outcome of a 2018 needs assessment by CREAM that gave insights into the gaps and challenges faced by women and girls in **Isiolo and Narok counties** when it came to fully realizing their rights. The policy sets out specific information on how the County Government of Isiolo can mainstream gender in all county functions to address a number of issues, including public participation and the representation of women and girls in all sectors; **economic funds and equal opportunities** for women; and **a mechanism for GBV prevention and response** (such as safety nets, shelters and economic justice).

*“Our engagements with local champions who are vocal and well trusted within the communities made sure that the Policy was women driven. At the community level, the women involved felt confident to share their views and challenges that formed the basis of the policy. They also played a key role in community mobilization and sensitization on gender-based violence and policy dissemination.”*

– Wangechi Wachira,  
Executive Director of CREAM Kenya

Photo credits: Courtesy of CREAM (Kenya)



In **Nigeria**, advocacy by the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) led to the adoption of two customary laws in the areas of intervention: the Buanchor customary law for the elimination of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and the Boki customary law on ending VAW/G, which was developed and adopted by 30 communities in Boki.

**CWSI also reported that in the Bekwarra Local Government Area, the paramount ruler, His Royal Majesty Livinus Ogbeche Odey, had for the first time in the history of the Indigenous people of Bekwarra included a woman, Queen Regina Echaka Ogar, in the traditional decision-making Council.**

This act alone was a milestone and had monumental impact on efforts to reduce the high level of discrimination and exclusion of women in decision-making. Women in the four local government areas impacted are freer to participate in social activities that provide interaction with others in society or the community as a result of the change in customary laws.

In **Honduras**, where femicide rates are among the highest in Latin America, the grantee Centro de Estudios de la Mujer – Honduras (CEM-H) influenced behaviour changes and challenged social norms through engaging with and training a variety of individuals, groups and networks.

Among them were, 189 teachers from 10 educational centres who were trained on VAW/G prevention and referral mechanisms and 180 young people who participated in feminist political schools and were trained on new masculinities and advocacy spaces. Additionally, 30 women's networks increased their knowledge and their technical and political capacities for advocacy and the elimination of VAW/G.

**CEM-H's participation in nine inter-institutional roundtables on femicides led to 12 proposals for legislative reform, budgets, solidarity credit for women and public policies being presented to President Xiomara Castro.**





In the **State of Palestine**, the grantee Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) engaged informal justice actors, traditional leaders and civil society actors in open dialogues and provided training on how to provide comprehensive and appropriate services and uphold the rights of survivors of VAW/G. As Islamic Sharia Law and traditional values often take precedence in courts, Sharia judges were trained on human rights and international legal standards to complement their knowledge. Additionally, networks of informal justice actors have been trained and mobilized to provide safe spaces, important information on support services and to assist survivors seeking counselling and representation.

**Overall, WATC provided 24 training sessions reaching 121 informal justice actors and 29 traditional leaders and civil society representatives.**

The sessions helped build their capacities in conflict resolution, understanding and applying legal frameworks and identifying appropriate traditional and community-based approaches to protecting women and girls.

**A total of 333 men and boys were mobilized and had an increased understanding of harmful gender unequal norms and stereotypes with the aim of helping them facilitate the safe participation and inclusion of women and girls in their communities.**

Project inception meeting. Credit: Odokonyero Jacob/THRIVE Gulu (Uganda)



## 7.5 Delivering on leaving no one behind

*Across the UN Trust Fund portfolio, grantees worked tirelessly to meet the needs of those at particular risk of VAW/G and of being left behind, such as women and girls living with disabilities; Indigenous women and girls; lesbian, bisexual and transgender women; human rights defenders; and self-identified sex workers. Grantees also made conscious efforts to mainstream intersectional approaches to empower and end violence against hardest-to-reach women and girls, thereby nurturing and enriching feminist movements led by and for women and girl survivors and those at risk of VAW/G.*

In **Tunisia**, the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) conducted research on national and international laws on sensory disabilities which informed the design of a training kit focused on providing appropriate care for women and girls with disabilities.

**Additionally, CAWTAR engaged architectural firms in visits and consultations to advise on how to improve two shelters for women survivors of violence with visual and hearing impairments.**

CAWTAR also continued to develop the “SafeNess” reporting mobile app, in collaboration with the Ministry of Family Affairs, Women, Children and the Elderly, aimed at providing a crucial tool for raising awareness of GBV and the rights of survivors.

In **Albania**, Aleanca LGBT is leading a project on creating safe spaces for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, promoting their economic inclusion and delivering quality services.

**In November 2022, the Albanian organization organized, with funding from the UN Trust Fund and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Albania, a training session with 24 businesses and corporations on the anti-discrimination standards and policies these companies should implement to secure an inclusive recruitment process and a safe work environment for LGBTI employees.**

Aleanca LGBT presented the data on discrimination in employment that LGBTI community members faced in 2022. Several of the companies who took part expressed their willingness to organize training with their staff on LGBTI issues to create a work environment free of discrimination and stigma for LGBTI people.

In **Cameroon**, RuWCED's work with service providers to destigmatize people living with HIV/AIDS and highlight the importance of adhering to antiretroviral therapy led to a rise in the number of women living with HIV continuing treatment from 70 per cent to over 90 per cent.

**Among the 438 women and girls living with HIV reached throughout its entire project, 103 who are heads of family were provided with seed capital and training for economic empowerment to better enable them to maintain a healthy diet to support their treatment.**

In **Argentina**, Fundación ANDHES responded to the needs of women migrant workers, who expressed concerns about rising GBV against them, and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and the need for better tools and knowledge to support these groups.

**Despite the economic crisis, which made it difficult to sustain the process, migrant women workers acted as legal counsellors and points of reference, accompanying survivors of GBV and using collective strategies and community networks, such as cooperatives, to generate work.**

They noted that the project had enabled them to acquire new tools and knowledge on rights and actions to enhance survivors' access to justice, positioning them as active and political subjects in their territories.

One of the women participants commented:

*"We know that even though there are laws, sometimes we have to fight to assert our rights."*



Workshop closing in Tucumán in the third year of the project "Access to justice for cis, trans and lesbian women". Credit: Tania Nasrallah/ Fundación ANDHES (Argentina)

**Conscience et Vie (COVIE), the recipient of a small UN Trust Fund grant implementing a project in Cote d'Ivoire to prevent and respond to violence against self-identified female sex workers (FSW), including those living with HIV/AIDS, created 193 "anti-violence community circles" that reached a total of 396 FSW in 30 areas in Abidjan.**

In a country where sex work is illegal, FSW are at heightened risk of marginalization and violence and hence less likely to come forward to report violence. COVIE's initiative also led to 257 FSW (64 per cent of FSW reached) now feeling informed and empowered enough to report violence when they see/face it and to seek legal advice. In addition, 16 women and girls living with HIV/AIDS were provided with personal protective equipment and anti-retroviral therapy and 24 survivors of violence received essential services (medical, psychosocial and legal).

Even though ending VAW/G has been acknowledged as one of Peru's priorities,<sup>10</sup> there is limited awareness about the abuse of women and girls with disabilities. Moreover, women with disabilities also have limited access to services that are available to survivors of violence. The grantee Paz y Esperanza (Peace and Hope) supported women and girls living with disabilities in the Lima, Cusco and San Martin regions while lobbying for better specialist services with government partners.

In 2022, Paz y Esperanza improved the knowledge of 265 women living with disabilities on different forms of violence, how to identify them and how to seek assistance from relevant institutional actors.

**In addition, 110 women living with disabilities were empowered as agents of change through participation in political advocacy activities, which have then led to the improved access to the justice and protection systems for women and girls with disabilities, including the implementation of the country's first inclusive police station in Bocanegra and the adoption of a protocol on addressing the needs of women and girls with disabilities who are survivors of violence in Cusco.**

These results were achieved through Paz y Esperanza's effort to engage 1,040 civil servants and protection officials in training to understand and identify the social barriers and risk factors faced by women with disabilities, allowing them to adjust their care and response mechanisms.



<sup>10</sup> The World Bank (2021), "Combating Gender-Based Violence in Peru: Increasing Awareness and Resources to Prevent Violence Against Women"



Management session on cases of gender-based violence in Lubero. Credit: Guerchom Musavuli/Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (Democratic Republic of Congo)

## 7.6 Capacity development

***“Thanks to UNTF, our capacity was strengthened, and our expertise increased; this helped our influence among stakeholders, policymakers, beneficiaries and communities at large.”***

- Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative,  
a UN Trust Fund grantee in Nigeria.

Capacity development forms part of the UN Trust Fund’s vision set out in its Strategic Plan 2021-2025 with two distinctive objectives, both of which are defined by the needs and demands of grantees. One of the objectives is to accompany CSOs/WROs through all stages of a project to effectively plan and manage grant funds; the other is to support CSOs/WROs to develop or access additional capacities needed for ending VAW/G programming, learning and knowledge management – all factors contributing to quality project management in ending VAW/G work. Grantees’ feedback played an important role in informing the direction and improvement of the UN Trust Fund’s capacity development activities in 2022.

**During 2022, a total of 2,174 attendances (a 97 per cent increase compared to the previous year) were registered for 22 webinars delivered in 32 sessions provided by the UN Trust Fund.<sup>11</sup>**

These sessions are geared to grantees at their relevant project stage and are structured around key aspects of ending VAW/G project management, namely programming principles, intersectionality, monitoring and evaluation, operations and financial planning, audit preparation, project modification and closure.

<sup>11</sup> Note the potential for double counting as the same individual may have attended multiple sessions.

## Onboarding new cohort of grantees

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund welcomed a new cohort of 37 organizations in 27 countries and territories in its 25<sup>th</sup> grant-giving cycle. A total of 155 grantee focal points attended a training package for new grantees in the first three months of project implementation – more than double the minimum required number of two focal points per organization. Overall, 95 per cent of grantee organizations (35 out of 37) fully complied with the UN Trust Fund mandatory requirements to complete three compulsory training components:

1. Project Management training;
2. The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) e-learning course;
3. The fraud awareness basic training.

Grantee organizations that do not have either a PSEA or a Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse (PSHA) policy (or both), including internal complaints procedures for reporting and measures for investigating related allegations, are required to develop relevant policies within the first year of project implementation.

Each grantee is also required to have a written fraud prevention and fraud awareness policy in place, which at a minimum includes a system to prevent, detect, report, address and follow-up on fraud, corruption and other wrongdoing. Grantees are also required to develop an Anti-Fraud policy by the end of the first year of project implementation.

**By the end of 2022, a total of 98 per cent of grantees whose project had been active for at least a year after grant signing had anti-fraud, PSEA and PSHA policies in place.**



Grantees are required to participate in the three components of the training package and to take a final test, hosted on the UN Women Training Centre platform, to ensure knowledge retention. **A total of 97 focal points from grantee organizations completed this test**, which included questions on UN Trust Fund reporting requirements and its financial rules and procedures, among other things.

**In the annual post-training survey for grantees in the new cohort of the 25<sup>th</sup> cycle, 54 per cent of respondents indicated that they fully retained and used the learning after the training for the implementation and/or management of the UN Trust Fund supported project;**

the remaining 42 per cent of respondents said that they had partially retained and used the learning.

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund continued its practice of providing tailored support to grantees through a portfolio manager who assisted and guided them throughout the three-year project life cycle of the UN Trust Fund grant. This approach enabled grantees not only to share information about local context, emerging needs and evolving challenges, but also to develop grantees' organizational capacities to undertake future programming beyond the UN Trust Fund supported project.





### Continuous investment in capacity development

The UN Trust Fund continued to provide ongoing support to all active grantees. This included refresher sessions on reporting project data, procurement procedures and recommendations, as well as training on how to run external evaluations.

Capacity development investment by the UN Trust Fund plays a catalytic role in grantees' ability to effectively resource their work to end VAW/G. The grantee Beyond Borders, a human rights organization leading a project to address violence against women and girls living with disabilities in Haiti, shared:

***“Beyond Borders has put in place more systems and adapted more universally adhered-to protocols that position the organization to receive other sources of support from larger entities who bring certain administrative/operational expectations as a precursor for consideration.”***

In the 2022 annual grantee survey,

# 55 per cent

of respondents reported that their organization was able to mobilize additional funding to continue, replicate or scale up either the project funded by the UN Trust Fund or other projects working to end VAW/G.

Among these, **67 per cent reported that this was flexible, core and/or long-term funding.** One grantee reported: “flexible funding means that the funds can be redirected for the needs of the beneficiaries... like recently in the pandemic, it enabled us to provide emergency interventions.”

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund led its first webinar on communicating the results of work to end VAW/G through the use of social media, providing an introduction and updates on the algorithms of popular platforms. The webinar also facilitated peer-to-peer exchange on good practices in different contexts to amplify survivors' voices to support grantees' efforts not only in advocacy and outreach but also in mobilizing resources for initiatives to end VAW/G. Participants expressed recognition of the longer-term impact of these capacity development activities in different and practical ways. For example, one participant said:

***“We do not have a monitoring and evaluation tool for the organization. We only utilize funders' requests when reporting and we feel that developing a tool of our own would assist the organization to better lobby, advocate and strategize.”***

A survey of training participants indicated that over 77 per cent found capacity development activities very useful or useful. Grantees also provided detailed feedback on their needs, particularly small WROs, such as navigating donor systems and reporting on the impact of localized work to end VAW/G.





**In 2022, for the first time, the UN Trust Fund provided calibrated support in the forms of webinars, written guidance and individual accompaniment to preselected applicants while they developed and refined their project proposal.**

This new approach ensured projects' clarity in terms of area of focus, forms of VAW/G addressed, appropriate strategies and their impact in the specific project context. In addition, the individual accompaniment component created an opportunity for portfolio managers to form strong partnerships with grantees from the outset and extend support in the finalization of the project document and continue the support in the development of indicators. The webinars and guidance focused on topics such as results-based management, financial planning, intersectionality, and programming principles on ending VAW/G. In response to the applicants' requests, Arabic language interpretation was introduced, in addition to providing training in English, French and Spanish.

From equipping CSOs/WROs with the capacity to navigate the UN system and manage grant funds, to mutually informing and learning about how to respond in crises, the UN Trust Fund and its grantees continued to redefine donor-grantee partnerships to bolster global feminist movements. As one grantee representative noted:

***“The process of communication was very good between us and the Trust Fund as it was more of a partnership than a donor receiver relationship. The understanding, and the level of responsibility and practice by the people working on this funding was an important part of achieving the success of our project.”***

Photo credits: Courtesy of Tabitha Cumi Foundation (Nigeria)





**ELEVATING AND SHARING**  
practice-based knowledge



Meeting with officials and local teams from the Rio Cuarto, Villa Maria and Cruz del Eje regions.  
Credit: Centro de Intercambio y Servicios para el Cono Sur Argentina (CISCSA) (Argentina)

*In 2022, the UN Trust Fund capitalized on its convening potential facilitating exchange among practitioners to codify insights in practice-based solutions for ending VAW/G as a building foundation for achieving the SDGs. Alongside various UN Trust Fund-generated knowledge products and knowledge exchange webinars, the SHINE hub, produced by the UN Trust Fund and developed in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, offers the combined power of a virtual exchange space, convening platform and multilingual tool in more than 50 languages to inform global policy, programming and advocacy on ending VAW/G. In the nine months since its introduction, SHINE welcomed 1,445 registered users, five times the target number, and opened six discussions that attracted active engagements from practitioners representing CSOs/WROs globally.*

## 8.1 Prevention Series


The UN Trust Fund, in collaboration with 70 grantees and external researchers, co-produced the practice-based knowledge Prevention Series of 10 knowledge briefs titled “Learning from Practice: Lessons from Civil Society Organizations on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls”. The briefs explored 10 pathways to prevention, validated through global consultations with more than 250

ending VAW/G practitioners, and set the stage for continuous learning and dialogue on SHINE. The Prevention Series was launched through eight webinars between November 2021 and June 2022 and also through the UN Trust Fund’s first-ever eight-part podcast series, guided by the voices of grantee organizations implementing prevention projects.

The 2022 grantee survey shows that during the year 95 per cent of the grantees benefited from the knowledge products developed by the UN Trust Fund, including the Annual Report 2021, the Prevention Series, SHINE and the Evaluation Library.

Barrister Caroline Tine addressing students on the different forms of violence.  
Credit: Fabrice Ngandou / International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) (Cameroon)





These diverse formats of knowledge products show that a learning journey grounded in mutual enablement, inclusion and participation will continue to support UN Trust Fund efforts to honour practitioners' lived experience, knowledge and more.

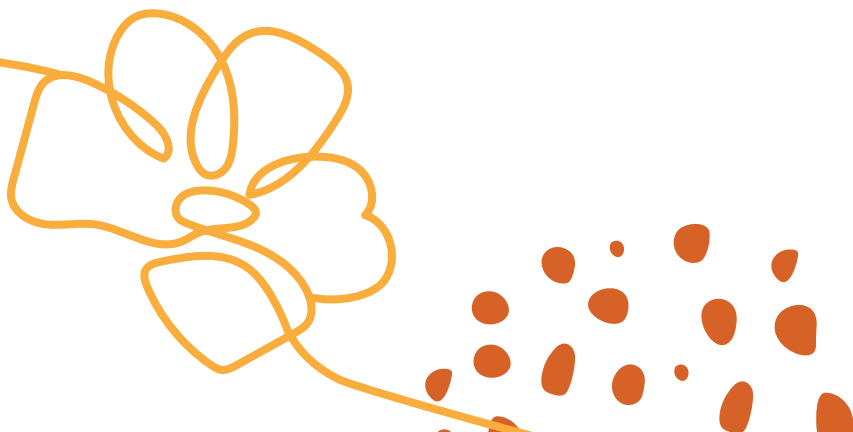
**Accompanied by intensified social media promotion, the webinars reached over 39,700 people on Twitter alone and the podcast was placed as high as #15 on US non-profit podcasts and in the top five and 10 in various countries, namely Australia, Egypt, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, during the three months following its virtual launch in September 2022.**

The UN Trust Fund-commissioned study on **“Feminist and Women’s Movements in the Context of Ending Violence against Women and Girls – Implications for Funders and Grant Makers (an External Literature Review)”** set out an overview of mutually enabling connections between ending VAW/G programming led by WROs and building feminist movements. The study provided a conceptual framing for analysing grant-makers’ contribution to building feminist movements as a stepping stone for the UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan 2021-2025 commitment to support inclusive feminist movements.

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund met its first milestone in the “Learning from Practice: Prevention Series” when it held its final webinar introducing and exploring the 10th and final theme of the series. This series as well as the UN Trust Fund’s knowledge products, introduced throughout the year, have since become important entry points and opportunities for the UN Trust Fund to continue advocating for practice-based knowledge led by CSOs/WROs at different international convenings. Investments made in facilitating conversations with and among grantees have concretized the role of the UN Trust Fund in facilitating exchange among practitioners towards solutions for ending VAW/G as a building foundation for achieving the SDGs.

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A total of 97% of respondents to the 2022 grantee survey found the knowledge exchange webinars and events organized by the UN Trust Fund to be inclusive in terms of languages (interpretation/translation) availability, access and special arrangements for those with disabilities, diversity and representation of participants. One of the grantees acknowledged the UN Trust Fund’s efforts in inclusive knowledge exchange: “Overall, we found the knowledge exchange events and webinars to be useful in terms of the information provided and the opportunities for learning and networking. These events were also inclusive in terms of language, availability and accessibility.”



## 8.2. International convenings

As part of its commitment to creating convening spaces and amplifying the voices of activists, women human rights defenders and practitioners, the UN Trust Fund organized and attended 14 global convenings and facilitated the participation of grantee representatives in at least 19, including both virtual and in-person meetings. These provided opportunities to highlight the critical role WROs play in meeting the needs of women and girl survivors and those at risk of violence. The following summarizes a few highlights in 2022:

- **In March**, in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat, the UN Trust Fund organized a special event, “Resiliency to Crises: Lessons from Civil Society Organizations in the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls”. The event amplified the voices of activists and celebrated the resilience of CSOs who navigated overlapping crises during and beyond COVID-19, while acting as first responders to survivors of VAW/G. Participants voiced a collective call for donor support that recognizes and sufficiently resources the vital work of CSOs/WROs and their ability to adapt to changing contexts. The event also introduced the global knowledge exchange platform SHINE.
- **In September**, the UN Trust Fund joined a panel discussion at the IDEAS Conference 2022, “Power of evaluation: Influencing decision making for a better and more equal world” to share lessons learned and the challenges encountered when implementing participatory evaluation to contribute to an inclusive and transformative evaluation process throughout ending VAW/G projects.



- **Also in September**, the UN Trust Fund attended and sponsored the participation of 11 representatives from 11 CSOs from the Latin America and Caribbean region in a three-day Spotlight Initiative Global Learning Symposium (16-18 September 2022) to share learning from projects funded by the Spotlight Initiative. These grantees also attended the full five days of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum (19-23 September). During the Global Learning Symposium, the 11 CSO representatives discussed their experience and lessons learned during project implementation and shared their achievements and challenges, adaptations and experiences of organizational resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. They emphasized their appreciation for the funding flexibility and continuous support received during the pandemic and for the opportunity to exchange knowledge and good practices and discuss possibilities for future collaborations and movement building with other WROs.

- **Following the Global Learning Symposium**, the UN Trust Fund contributed to the 2022 SVRI Forum, presenting lessons learned based on results of the UN Trust Fund’s Special Funding Window for projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls living with disabilities. Among the issues presented were lessons learned regarding engaging faith and traditional actors to prevent VAW/G; the UN Trust Fund’s small grant modality to reinforce efforts to empower small, women-led and women’s rights organizations leading projects to address VAW/G globally; and the UN Trust Fund’s work on practice-based knowledge. A study by the UN Trust Fund was shared at the SVRI Forum, highlighting the importance of including CSOs as leaders in prevention research, policy and programming from the local to the global level. Ensuring a permanent and leading “seat at the table” for CSOs, especially WROs, in all violence prevention discourses is a key mechanism for democratizing and decolonizing the evidence base on programming to end VAW/G.

Participants during the Launch of the Hotline Service in Dzaleka Refugee Camp. Credit: FACT Malawi (Malawi)



- **In November**, the UN Trust Fund chaired a session of promising practices on primary prevention in India and introduced its “Prevention Series: Learning from Practice” at a multi-stakeholder workshop on “What Works for Prevention of Violence against Women in India”, organized by UN Women. The UN Trust Fund highlighted in particular the intersectional approach to preventing VAW/G, using evidence from its practice-based knowledge codified by CSOs/WROs to inform successful practices in programming to end VAW/G.
- **During the year**, six in-person and virtual country and region-focused convenings organized by the UN Trust Fund provided opportunities for all grantees and partners to exchange ideas as well as to turn national and regional synergies into actions. For example, in December 2022, a virtual convening with UN Trust Fund grantees in Armenia and UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office provided an opportunity for dialogue and for grantees to reflect on the challenges and opportunities to jointly promote standards and protocols on preventing and responding to domestic violence in Armenia. The convening offered a space to discuss investment in institutional resilience and whether it makes for better programming to end VAW/G in times of crisis, as the grantees continued to adapt their ways of working in post-pandemic and conflict settings. The grantees welcomed the space for discussion and recommended continuing the conversation.

These engagements represent significant steps forward in realizing the UN Trust Fund’s commitment to increase knowledge exchange opportunities and facilitate relationship-building among its partners and stakeholders.

Photo credits: Courtesy of the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (Nigeria)





Los estereotipos  
hacia las  
mujeres con  
discapacidad  
aumentan el  
riesgo de sufrir  
violencia.



Paz y  
Esperanza



MARCHA 25N

ATA...DADES  
A LA...A ECONOMICA

NUESTROS VOCES CONTRA  
Y EL MACHISMO

Dorcas Guillermo, Project Manager at the March on the international day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Credit: Astrid Flores/Paz y Esperanza (Peru)



# SPOTLIGHT Initiative

In partnership with the UN Trust Fund, the Spotlight Initiative, a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of VAW/G by 2030, funded single-country and multi-country projects across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Funded projects focused on strengthening and supporting WROs and autonomous CSOs, in line with Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change. In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, 55 grantees in sub-Saharan Africa, including 20 who received additional funding to further institutional strengthening for crisis response and maintain or adapt existing interventions to end VAW/G, continued implementation. The focus of this funding, disbursed under the Spotlight Initiative in 2020, was particularly at-risk and marginalized women and girls.

In 2022, the 55 UN Trust Fund grantees funded under the Spotlight Initiative in 2022 reached a total

**29,454,578**  
people, including an estimated

**15,037,377**  
women and girls.

This number includes primary beneficiaries (women and girls directly benefiting or involved as partners), secondary beneficiaries (people involved as partners) and indirect beneficiaries people reached by projects. The information gathered by the UN Trust Fund enabled data on grantee achievements to be disaggregated by sex/gender or as “unknown” when disaggregation was not possible (for example in relation to indirect beneficiaries reached through public awareness-raising activities where it may be challenging to disaggregate by gender).

UN Trust Fund grantees under the Spotlight Initiative specifically focused on reaching women and girls experiencing intersecting forms of violence and discrimination with the aim to leave no one behind. For example, in the context of rising economic instability and food insecurity driven by conflicts and other crises, 51,575 women in the lowest income group received support from the 55 grantees. During 2022, this cohort of grantees directly supported and empowered a total of

**159,355**

women and girls to pursue transformational change in their lives, including:

**22,958**

survivors of violence,

**14,367**

internally displaced women or refugees

**12,405**

Indigenous women.

Girls from the Musayiwa village using “pamtondo”, a participatory arts approach to discuss early child marriage and where to report.  
Credit: Chawanangwa Nyirenda/ArtGlo Africa (Malawi)



## 9.1 Investing in movements

Throughout 2022, UN Trust Fund grantees under the Spotlight Initiative continued working with local communities to prevent and end VAW/G, through jointly strengthening feminist movements that drive longer-term changes in the lives of women and girls, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, through laws and policies.

In **Uganda**, the grantee Integrated Disabled Women Activities (IDIWA) supported the establishment of the Busoga Gender-Based Violence and Disability Rights Network (GBVDR NET), a network of feminist WROs, groups and associations of women living with disabilities, and media outlets, to promote catalytic, transformative, systemic change which addresses the root barriers preventing gender equality, rather than seeking to change women to adapt to discriminatory systems. Members' knowledge of how networks operate informed strategic planning for the period 2023-2027 through various thematic working groups including: Disability, Gender and Human Rights; Sexual and Reproductive Rights; and Livelihoods. For example, one of the members, Reproductive Health Uganda spearheaded medical camps and provided treatment for sexually transmitted infections and cancer screening for women and girls with disabilities. Women living with disabilities supported by IDIWA have successfully advocated for their inclusion in COVID-19 recovery through anti-poverty programmes in the country.

In **Argentina**, 1,140 women survivors of violence were empowered and equipped with the knowledge and autonomy to claim their rights by women volunteering in community referral mechanisms who received training from the grantee Fundación para la Promoción de la Economía Social y Cooperativa (FUNDECO). With the lifting of the strictest movement restrictions, the sudden possibility of simultaneously carrying out virtual and in-person trainings became an opportunity that boosted the quantitative results and enabled the expansion of the project's reach beyond the capital, as originally intended. As a result, 785 women survivors of violence participated in capacity-building sessions to become volunteers in their own community referral structures.

In another part of **Argentina**, the grantee Centro de Intercambio y Servicios para el Cono Sur Argentina (CISCSA) created safe spaces for 123 women who were survivors or at risk of violence to participate and advocate for "women's rights to the city" in various "Ciudades Feministas" (Feminist Cities) proposals, voicing their needs in the design of public policies for safer public spaces. An additional 768 women who were survivors or at risk of violence were trained on VAW/G, women's rights and ending VAW/G in public spaces, while 87 community members were trained on urban planning and its intersection with VAW/G.

**The project has helped some women and girls living with disabilities establish household income generating activities and small-scale businesses, supporting their recovery from the effects of the pandemic.**

Using the advocacy skills gained through the project implemented by the Women's Legal Resource Centre (WOLREC) in the Southern Region of Malawi, community women successfully demanded new infrastructure that is effectively reducing the risks of SGBV and creating a safer environment for women and girls – including by reducing the distances needed to travel to school or to obtain drinking water. Through meetings with dutybearers, women promoted the building of a girls' hostel for the Mpatasa Community Day Secondary School so that girls do not need travel long distances to school, journeys that put them at risk of VAW/G. The hostel, which accommodates 200 girls, has helped create a better and safe environment for girls.

**In Balaka district, three boreholes were drilled providing safe water points which meant women and girls no longer had to travel long distances to fetch water, helping create a safer environment for women and girls.**

The three boreholes are serving 750 households (approximately 5,250 people). In Nsanje, the introduction of a piped water system has also helped reduce the risk of VAW/G. This greater access to safe drinking water is estimated to be benefiting more than 3,000 people.

In **the DRC**, schoolgirls trained and coached by mentors from a project led by the grantee Fund for Congolese Women became well-respected leaders and champions for ending VAW/G in their communities. This youth-led component in the project created a ripple effect in other schools in the area, resulting in 20 school clubs conducting training and organized sensitizations in their respective schools and communities and even invitations to organize sessions at other schools as part of extracurricular activities or during relevant international days. This approach of empowering community champions enabled schoolgirls to implement their savviness through the use of different communication channels such as radio, mass sensitization and peer-to-peer talks to influence their peers and community members to advocate for girls' safety and dignity.

Photo credits: Courtesy of HACEY Health Initiative (Nigeria)



## 9.2 Consolidating learning from Spotlight Initiative implementation

In December 2022, a number of Spotlight Initiative large grantees concluded their projects and have received support from the UN Trust Fund to produce a quality final project evaluation. The UN Trust Fund held consultations with grantees in order to co-design the evaluation questions with the cohort, which then became the basis for evaluation guidance for large grants. The aim was to ensure that the evaluations were utility-focused, meet the needs of grantees and their beneficiaries and effectively measure and attribute results, particularly of the movement building aspect of their work. All decentralized evaluations for large grantees are expected to be completed in 2023.

**For small grants (nine in total out of the cohort of 35), in line with the UN Trust Fund’s policy of centralized evaluations for small grants, the UN Trust Fund is co-producing a meta-analysis with them, focusing on movement building and aiming to extract lessons learned and best practices across this cohort.**

Apart from evaluations, the UN Trust Fund has also co-produced knowledge products for two small grant grantees in Africa (from a cohort of 44) that summarizes the results of and lessons learned from the project, with the aim of contributing knowledge to the evidence base on ending VAW/G, for use by other practitioners and partners. These evaluations and the project summaries produced will serve as a useful learning tool to inform the next stage of their projects, contribute to the knowledge base on movement building and help raise awareness for continued investments in ending VAW/G. The knowledge produced through these will contribute to the evaluation of the entire Spotlight Initiative portfolio, which will be initiated in 2023.

Throughout 2022, the lessons learned and knowledge documented by grantees underscored the need to recognize and centre the voices of CSOs/WROs, who are the most impacted and closest to the realities on the ground, in the ending VAW/G ecosystem. The UN Trust Fund’s “Learning from Practice: Prevention Series” shows that a learning journey grounded in mutual enablement, inclusion and participation will continue to enable the UN Trust Fund to honour practitioners’ lived experience, knowledge and more.

Photo credits: Courtesy of HACEY Health Initiative (Nigeria)



Since its introduction in March 2022, SHINE has emerged as an important tool that feeds into the objectives of UN Trust Fund's knowledge journey: inform decision-making for better policies to end VAW/G; amplify CSOs/WROs' own expertise and practice-based knowledge; and co-create evidence of what works and critically how to end VAW/G.

**SHINE has significant potential for strengthening the UN Trust Fund's unique positioning, leverage and convening role in the ending VAW/G ecosystem and therefore benefit all its civil society partners.**

Building on the initial success of SHINE, the UN Trust Fund aims to continue leveraging this space for co-creating practice-based knowledge with civil society partners and to attract even more stakeholders to be present and engage on the platform. In the current rapidly changing context, facilitating more exchanges, enabling more collaborations at all levels, and exploring context-driven approaches to ending VAW/G among CSOs/WROs are central to the UN Trust Fund's unique convening role. The use of SHINE will continue to be expanded to realize its potential.

In the context of protracted and overlapping crises, grantees showed the importance of expanding and strengthening the capacity of local alliances and feminist networks in meeting the needs of VAW/G survivors, while responding to contextual instabilities and uncertainties. The evidence is that feminist movements are key to ending VAW/G and countries and territories with the strongest feminist movements tend to have more comprehensive policies to safeguard women and girls' right to live free from violence.<sup>12</sup>

**The UN Trust Fund will continue to build on its investment in long-term, core and flexible funding to foster movement building by organizations.**



Government officials, Manicaland Athletics Board officials and representatives of the project women's network at the marathon to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in Manicaland, Zimbabwe.  
Credit: Voluntary Service Overseas (Zimbabwe)

12 N. Karim, (2022), *Feminist and Women's Movements in the Context of Ending Violence against Women and Girls – Implications for Funders and Grant Makers* (an External Literature Review)

### 9.3 Institutional strengthening

*Twenty grantees in sub-Saharan Africa received additional funding from the Spotlight Initiative towards institutional strengthening for crisis response and maintaining or adapting existing interventions to end VAW/G during the COVID-19.*

For example, in **Nigeria**, the grantee Alliances for Africa (AFA) organized trainings that enabled its staff members to improve strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in order to ensure its programme was effective in reaching the most marginalized women and girls.

**The strategic planning training analysed the organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges related to management, service delivery and individual staff capacity.**

The M&E training was tailored to ensure that staff members could create their individual plans in alignment with the organization's goals. Through these trainings, an M&E framework and a strategic plan for 2022-2027 were developed in a collaborative process. Those trainings and plans are critically contributing to AFA's institutional resilience both in the short and long term.

Many Spotlight Initiative grantees beyond the 20 grantees from sub-Saharan Africa also continued to work to strengthen the capacities of partners to influence positive progress through social media and traditional communications channels.

In **Argentina**, the grantee CISCOSA established and fostered partnerships with local media journalists through virtual gatherings with CSOs/WROs and LBTQI+ organizations, as well as through training in different workshops on VAW/G and referral mechanisms. Seven journalists and media representatives were trained on VAW/G and reporting on VAW/G in public spaces. Similarly, the grantee Public Interest Law Center (PILC) in Chad motivated the media to commit to speaking out against VAW/G and to respecting survivors. In total, 45 journalists participated and are raising awareness of VAW/G themselves while 116 paralegals agreed to work pro-bono with the project, including providing pre-counselling sessions to women survivors of violence.



**The Bethany Project reached an estimated nearly 1 million community members through radio and social media advocacy campaigns, while 8,385 community members, including 138 women and girls living with disabilities, were reached by door-to-door dialogues about different forms of SGBV. Additionally, the Bethany Project continued its awareness raising activities with 116 community leaders and ending VAW/G service providers through village meetings and community-based initiatives.**

In 2022, there were emerging movements at sub-regional level regarding programmatic collaboration in countries and territories with common social issues to tackle VAW/G through different entry points to effect institutional change and through movement building. Two UN Trust Fund grantees, Sonke in South Africa and SWAGAA in Eswatini, and co-partner MOSAIC implemented a multi-country project with Spotlight Initiative funding to improve policy implementation and strengthen coalitions for joint advocacy to end VAW/G.

**Sonke's Community Action Team's community model of mobilization and engagement in policy advocacy led to an exponential increase in coalition membership (76 new members compared to the target 15 in 2022).**

Photo credits: Courtesy of the Bethany Project (Zimbabwe)



During this year, the project expanded its community-driven gender transformative workshops and dialogues with individuals and community-based organizations. Results from post-test questionnaires revealed that these workshops were immensely beneficial to under-served, poor and often gang-ridden communities. In one of SWAGAA's mixed gender workshops, issues of challenging harmful cultural practices and the need for continual parenting lessons re-emerged, prompting the need to expand the work to younger age groups.

Another example was the multi-country project in Burundi, Ghana and South Africa implemented by INERELA+. In all three countries there is a culture of silence and impunity around sex-related crimes and domestic and sexual violence are considered a private matter that should not be reported.

Different economic empowerment activities were also developed in three countries to help women and girls kickstart financial independence, such as soap-making in Ghana and farm products sales in Burundi.

In Central America, over 100 women joined CEM-H's convening "Rebellions, knowledge and practices in the current geopolitical context to eliminate VAW/G" (*Rebeldías, saberes y prácticas en el actual contexto geopolítico para eliminar la VCMN*) to initiate collective feminist strategic thinking to reconsider the territorial approaches on ending VAW/G in Central America. This intergenerational and intersectional feminist meeting encouraged knowledge exchange and the sharing of experiences and new perspectives on regional approaches to safeguarding the lives of women and girls in the face of economic and political crises, shrinking civic spaces and the rise of hate crimes and VAW/G in the region.

**In 2022, INERELA+ saw more collaborations developed and strengthened with 40 government officials, 200 religious leaders and 106 traditional leaders through 130 community champions advocating for better services for women and girl survivors of VAW/G.**

Paralegals from IDWA staff at the project phaseout meeting. Credit: IDWA (Uganda)





Photo credits: Courtesy of ADD International (Cambodian)



Photo credits: Courtesy of Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (Democratic Republic of Congo)

## 10. Looking forward

During 2022, grantees' results, achievements and lessons learned continued to play a vital role in informing, refining and enhancing the UN Trust Fund's adaptations, support and grant-giving practices. This ever stronger and closer collaboration is ensuring that the UN Trust Fund is in a position to provide timely and adequate responses to the needs of CSOs/WROs leading essential work in ending VAW/G.

**Through its 26th Call for Proposals, launched in November 2022, the UN Trust Fund renewed its commitment to support CSOs/WROs.**

Central to this approach is responding to the emerging needs and contextual challenges voiced by CSOs/WROs by recognizing the need to intentionally invest in building the preparedness and organizational resilience of grantees as key drivers of transformative change towards ending VAW/G.

The UN Trust Fund will continue to fulfil this commitment through the provision of increased core and flexible funding, capacity development and budget for self- and collective care. In addition, the special focus on contexts of protracted and overlapping crises aims to expose the underutilized potential of CSOs/WROs to improve the lives of women and girls whose needs would otherwise have remained unmet.

## 11. THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

### *As of December 2022, contributors to the UN Trust Fund included:*

- **the Governments of:** Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

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- the Spotlight Initiative partnership between the European Union and the United Nations and
- partners including, SOKO Inc., Conscious Step and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

*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 work on ending VAW/G have enabled the implementation of 186 projects in 2022 that delivered the results presented in this report.*

We are also using this opportunity to express gratitude to the generous individuals around the world, such as L. Katter-Jackson, who supported the UN Trust Fund in 2022.

A special thank you to UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman for her continuous support of the UN Trust Fund and the cause of ending VAW/G.



Photo credits: Courtesy of Tabitha Cumi Foundation (Nigeria)





