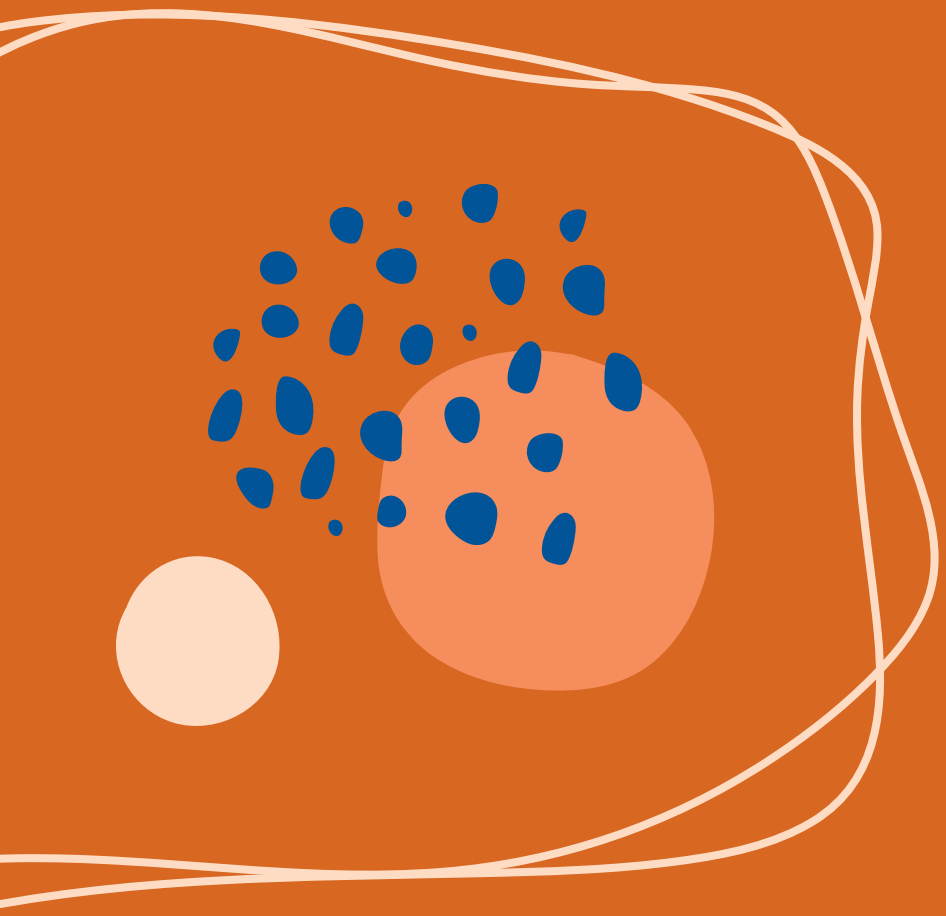
Disability Inclusion and Intersectionality Series: Paper #2

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES:

Results from the UN Trust Fund's Special Window 2018 - 2023



About the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls. Managed by UN Women on behalf of the United Nations system since its establishment in 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 50/166, the UN Trust Fund has awarded $215 million to 646 initiatives in 140 countries and territories. In 2022, the UN Trust Fund managed a grants portfolio of 186 projects aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in 70 countries and territories across five regions, with grants totalling $87 million. Grant recipients are primarily civil society organizations (CSOs). Since 2018 (cycle 20), the UN Trust Fund has been funding only CSO projects. In 2022, the majority (62 per cent) of these CSOs were women's rights organizations.

About the Special Window to End Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women aims to reach women and girls from particularly underserved communities. To further this commitment and in recognition of chronic under-funding on this issue, in 2018, the Fund established a thematic funding window specifically aimed at addressing violence against women and girls with disabilities with funding for 3-year projects. In 2019, $3.5 million was awarded to eleven projects, followed by an additional $5.6 million in 2020 awarded to eleven other projects. The Special Window responded to the needs of women and girls with disabilities and was intended to catalyze a shared journey between the UN Trust Fund and CSOs to facilitate a better understanding of programmatic and operational challenges in this area to inform evidence-based programming and advocacy efforts. As a result of this journey, it was intended that these lessons would be widely disseminated towards the aim that future programming would be more inclusive of the needs of women and girls with disabilities, and funders could be more responsive in supporting the environment necessary for this to be realized.

San Ratha, a woman living with disabilities and project participant, receives a COVID-19 emergency kit from Mrs. Sokcah, leader of an organization of persons with disabilities and Sambath Rachna from ADD International

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- *Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission* e.V. in Pakistan
- *Coordinadora por los Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia* in Paraguay
- *Women Challenged to Challenge* in Kenya
- *Fusa para la salud integral con perspectiva de genero y derechos asociación civil* in Argentina
- *Desarrollo Legislativo y la Democracia* in Guatemala
- *Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales* in Argentina
- *Organisasi Harapan Nusantara* in Indonesia
- *Action on Disability and Development International* in Cambodia
- *Beyond Borders/Depase Fwontyè yo* in Haiti
- *National Center against Violence* in Mongolia
- *Stars of Hope Society* in Palestine
- *Nepal Disabled Women's Association* in Nepal
- *Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe* in Zimbabwe
- *Mujeres Transformando el Mundo* in Guatemala
- *Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women from Malaysia, working with a local partner* in Bangladesh
- *Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga* in Rwanda
- *National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda* in Uganda
- *Swaziland Action Group against Abuse* in Eswatini
- *Paz y Esperanza* in Peru
- *Initiative pour un Developpement Equitable en Haiti* in Haiti
- *Society for Life Changers and Good Parental Care* in Nigeria
- *Mental Disability Rights Initiative of Serbia* in Serbia.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

From 2018 – 2023, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) implemented a special funding window (Special Window) to support projects implemented by civil society organizations (CSOs) with the aim of preventing and ending violence against women and girls with disabilities (VAWGWD). As part of a wider Disabilities Inclusion and Intersectionality Series, the UN Trust Fund commissioned a synthesis review of lessons arising from the portfolio, which was launched in March 2023. Many of these important lessons have translated into positive cumulative results in practice. Therefore, this report (as the second in the series) focuses on providing an overview of the key results of the Special Window as a whole. A third report, which focuses on the lessons learnt from the full complement of 62 grantees that included women and girls with disabilities in their project proposals (funded under the general window or receiving Special Window funding), will be the third report in the Disabilities Inclusion and Intersectionality series.

This report provides a synthesized overview of the key results of the Special Window and its 22 grantees. This study intentionally represents a wide array of results and used an inductive approach. The research process followed three steps. In Step 1, evidence of key results was collated in a central database from all 22 projects, relying on the final monitoring reports from each project. In Step 2, ten projects were selected for further results-based mining and analysis, based on the outcome areas each project focused on and the strength of their results, and a Results Document created for each of the ten projects. In Step 3, the Results Documents of the ten projects were analyzed and synthesized in a cross-case analysis, using hand-coding and focused on results.

Results Overview

$9.5 million was awarded through the Special Window over a five-year period (2018-2023), to 22 projects across 20 countries, with 15 grantees receiving a large grant ($150 000+) and seven receiving a small grant (under $150,000). Over 50, 000 WGWD were reached directly as primary beneficiaries, 14,000 other women and girl beneficiaries were reached directly, over 190,000 secondary beneficiaries were engaged, and nearly 7,5 million beneficiaries were reached indirectly. A total of over 7.7 million people were reached. A successful range of partnering collaborations were enabled, while the recognition of wide diversity across both forms of impairment and types of violence led to different grantees using diverse entry points towards their VAWGWD programming, with WGWD being centred in multiple ways. New disability-specific resources were also developed, and a number of innovative adaptations were implemented (in the light of COVID-19).

Exploring results within and across the three UN Trust Fund outcome areas

The results detailed above are a cumulative representation of all 22 projects that formed part of the Special Window. Of these 22 projects, a subset of ten projects were selected from within and across the three UN Trust Fund main outcome areas, for more in-depth study of their evidence of results.

Evidence of effectiveness in prevention of VAWGWD. Eight grantees focused on improving the prevention of VAWGWD through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes. They used different strategies when implementing prevention interventions, with impact across all levels of the socio-ecological model. Looking across the portfolio, four strategies appear to be most common in efforts to prevent VAWGWD: 1) Social norms interventions, with specific aim to impact disability-related stigma; 2) training of policymakers and stakeholders, to enable better understanding of VAWGWD and the requirements of WGWD; and 3) capacitating and empowering WGWD; and 4) forming partnerships for prevention of WGWD. Three UN Trust Fund

grantees are showcased as offering important examples of results in implementing projects that promoted the prevention of VAWGWD, and all three are discussed in more detail.

Evidence of improved access for WGWD to multisectoral services: Six grantees prioritized improving the access of WGWD to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services. Grantees differed in terms of how their intervention aimed to improve service provision, but across the portfolio the following five general strategies emerged: 1) upskilling of service providers, to ensure they have the information, training and tools to provide services to WGWD; 2) improving the collaboration and referral between different stakeholders involved in ensuring service delivery; 3) providing the needed services to WGWD and thus showcasing how it can and should be done; 4) capacitating WGWD and/or their family/caregivers on their rights to service delivery; and 5) advocating for improved systems of service delivery to VAWGWD. Three UN Trust Fund Special Window grantees are showcased as offering important examples of results in implementing interventions to promote and improve WGWD's access to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services, and all are discussed in more detail.

Evidence of increased effectiveness of legislation and policies to address VAWGWD: Eight grantees prioritized increasing the effectiveness of legislation and policies to address VAWGWD, including through national action plans and accountability systems. Across the portfolio, the following four strategies emerged as most common: 1) advocating for law and/or policy reforms around VAWGWD often at national level; 2) capacitating statutory duty bearers within government, police and judiciary systems to provide disability inclusive justice chains; 3) connecting formal and informal systems of justice and accountability often also involving WGWD as community actors and activists; and 4) providing legal empowerment to individual WGWD to know their rights and to accompany survivors more effectively through legal systems. Three UN Trust Fund Special Window grantees are showcased as offering important examples of results in implementing interventions to promote and improve the effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems and are discussed in more detail.

Why taking a holistic approach to programming improves results for WGWD: The Special Window also highlighted the multi-dimensional value of taking holistic approaches. Most of the projects took holistic approaches which touched on two or sometimes all three of the outcome areas. The strong results of these projects have shown holistic approaches to be effective. At the same time, many projects were also seen to work effectively across multiple levels of engagement (within the socio-ecological model of violence prevention and response) and found this to be an important contributing factor to their overall results. Finally, many grantees noted that despite a focus by the Special Window on the specific intersection between gender and disability, other intersections emerged as affected by this primary relationship between a range of diverse disabilities and gender. These three dimensions of taking holistic approaches to programming were seen by many grantees as material to their success.

Overall contributions of the Special Window to addressing VAWGWD

The Special Window supported the grantees to work at multiple levels of the socio-ecological model and the results of their programming showed impact at all levels. Across this multi-level work done by grantees, four cross-cutting catalysers consistently amplified their positive results. Increasing the visibility of WGWD was a catalyst that was seen wherever WGWD and their needs and capacities were explicitly made visible. Transforming Mindsets was a catalyst enabling paradigm shifts around how disability was viewed by multiple stakeholders with varied roles at different levels. Thinking Systemically was a catalyst that enabled increased recognition of each level as an interconnected power-laden system in their own right (e.g. family and community systems, institutional systems). Capacitating through Resources was a catalyst that enabled sustained, collaborative capacitation of statutory duty bearers and the wider ending violence against women and girls sector.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADD International	Action on Disability and Development International
ARROW	The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CRDD	Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
FUSA	Fusa para la salud integral con perspectiva de genero y derechos asociación civil
GWD	Girls with Disabilities
LCDZ	Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust
MDRI-S	Mental Disability Rights Initiative Serbia
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCAV	National Center Against Violence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OPD	Organization of People with Disabilities
P&H	Paz y Esperanza
SHS	Stars of Hope Society
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN	United Nations
UNABU	Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga
UN Trust Fund	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VAWGWD	Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities
WCC	Women Challenged to Challenge
WGWD	Women and Girls with Disabilities
WRO	Women's Rights Organization
WWD	Women with Disabilities

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In 2018, the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) launched a special funding window for projects implemented by civil society organizations (CSOs) with the aim of preventing and ending violence against women and girls with disabilities (VAWGWD). The UN Trust Fund Special Window on ending violence against women and girls with disabilities (henceforth "the Special Window") was informed by a recognition of the historical underfunding of efforts in the area. It was situated as part of the UN Trust Fund's wider commitment to leaving no one behind, with the recognition of women and girls with disabilities (WGWD) as a group seen to be at specific risk of violence, and of being left behind by many initiatives for ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG). While gender equality was already identified as a key focus for many donors, less attention had been paid to violence against women and girls (VAWG) in specific relation to WGWD, with various stakeholders agreeing that more needs to be done (UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, 2021). The creation of the Special Window aimed to address this specific gap and pay attention to various challenges and barriers to addressing VAWGWD that had been identified. In 2019, $3.5 million was awarded to ten projects, followed by an additional $6 million in 2020 funded to twelve other projects. All the projects funded through this Special Window were completed by 2023.

The Special Window responded to the specific needs of WGWD and was intended to catalyze a shared journey between the UN Trust Fund and CSOs to facilitate a better understanding of programmatic and operational challenges in this area and to inform evidence-based programming and advocacy efforts. With these projects at an end and the Special Window closing, the UN Trust Fund commissioned a synthesis review of lessons arising from the portfolio, which was launched in March 2023. This synthesis review identified five main areas from which lessons were learned by the 22 grantees through their project implementation. 1) the importance of mindsets shifts, 2) the crucial role of collaborations, 3) the need to centre WGWD agency and participation, 4) the value of legal and policy systems engagement and 5) the importance of being adaptive.

Many of these important lessons have translated into positive cumulative results in practice. Therefore, this report focuses on providing an overview of the key results of the Special Window as a whole. It is the second report within the wider Disabilities Inclusion and Intersectionality Series.

In addition and in parallel to the Special Window with a focus on WGWD as a specific underfunded intersection at a particular time, the UN Trust Fund has in its Strategic Plan (2021–2025) adopted a "twin-tracks approach," taking simultaneous steps to mainstream intersectional approaches across its entire portfolio and to support approaches that are inclusive of WGWD within its wider work (UN Women, 2018). A third report, which focuses on the lessons learnt from the full complement of 62 grantees that included WGWD as a primary beneficiary in their project proposals (funded under the general window or receiving Special Window funding) will therefore form part of the Disabilities Inclusion and Intersectionality series.

1.2 Methodology

The overall aim of this process was to provide a synthesized overview of key results documented across the 22 Special Window grantees to date. The following research questions guided the process:

1. What evidence is there of project results in the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas?
2. What evidence is there of beneficiaries/partners reached and lives changed?
3. What is the multi-level evidence of project impact on VAWGWD?

4. What evidence is there of projects' effectiveness around addressing wider risk and protection factors to end VAWGWD?

In line with the UN Trust Fund's commitment to practice-based knowledge, this study intentionally represents a wide array of results and used an inductive approach. This avoids perpetuating any hierarchy of evidence that prioritizes quantitative over qualitative data. It also remains sensitive to how grantees themselves defined and understood the evidence of impact in their contexts.

The research process followed three steps. In Step 1, evidence of key results was collated in a central database from all 22 projects, relying on the final monitoring reports from each project. In Step 2, ten projects were selected for further results-based mining and analysis, based on the outcome areas each project focused on and the strength of their results. The selection was made based on the information collated during Step 1, as well as discussion with the UN Trust Fund team. A Results Document was created for each of the 10 projects. In Step 3, the Results Documents of the 10 projects were analyzed and synthesized in a cross-case analysis, using hand-coding and focused on results.

The study had certain limitations:

- All quantitative results reported primarily rely on grantees' self-reporting. This limitation was mitigated by cross-triangulation with available external evaluations.
- The quality of the different External Evaluations varied, which impacted the data being mined.
- The organizations that received small grants did not have to produce an external evaluation report. However, the study instead drew on their annual project monitoring reports.

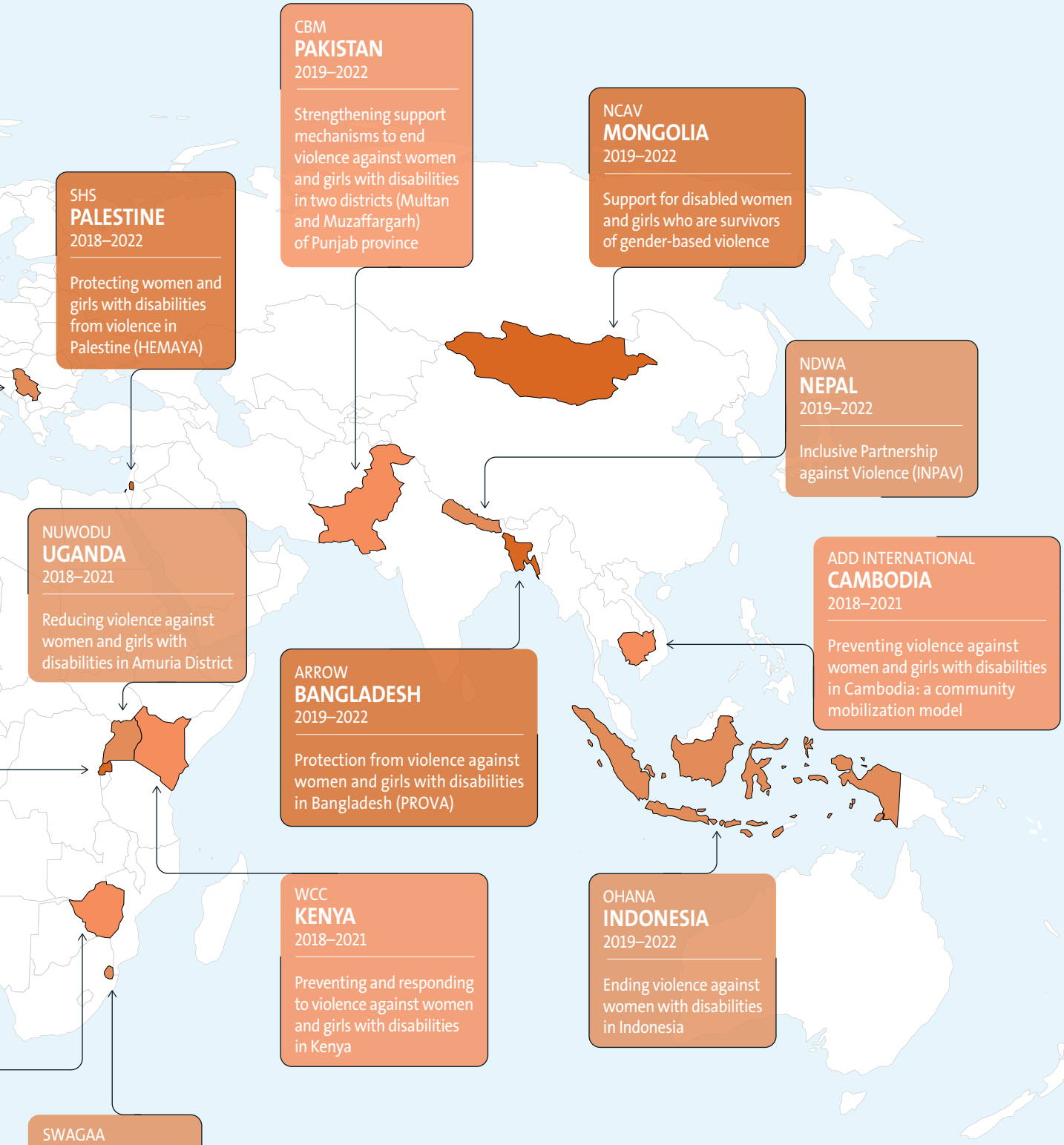
This results report is structed in three main sections. Section 2 offers a short overview of key cumulative results identified across the whole portfolio, while Section 3 shares specific examples of success from 10 individual projects across each of the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas. In Section 4 a brief meta-reflection on these observed results is offered, and followed by a short conclusion.

Adolescents participating in the Carolina Urcuyo School, after receiving the first training module on human rights.

© Mujeres Transformando el Mundo (Guatemala)

1.3 Introducing the Special Window Grantees

This map shows the diverse geographical spread of the projects funded under the Special Window.



CBM
PAKISTAN
2019–2022

Strengthening support mechanisms to end violence against women and girls with disabilities in two districts (Multan and Muzaffargarh) of Punjab province

NCAV
MONGOLIA
2019–2022

Support for disabled women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence

SHS
PALESTINE
2018–2022

Protecting women and girls with disabilities from violence in Palestine (HEMAYA)

NDWA
NEPAL
2019–2022

Inclusive Partnership against Violence (INPAV)

NUWODU
UGANDA
2018–2021

Reducing violence against women and girls with disabilities in Amuria District

ADD INTERNATIONAL
CAMBODIA
2018–2021

Preventing violence against women and girls with disabilities in Cambodia: a community mobilization model

ARROW
BANGLADESH
2019–2022

Protection from violence against women and girls with disabilities in Bangladesh (PROVA)

WCC
KENYA
2018–2021

Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls with disabilities in Kenya

OHANA
INDONESIA
2019–2022

Ending violence against women with disabilities in Indonesia

SWAGAA
ESWATINI
2019–2022

Leave no one behind: towards a VAWG-free Eswatini

2. RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL WINDOW: A SHORT OVERVIEW

Across the 22 projects funded through the Special Window, cumulative impact was seen in terms of the impressive reach of these targeted funds. Grantees both centred women and girls with disabilities directly as the main primary beneficiaries but also took seriously the need to engage with all those who surround them to create an enabling environment, as WGWD had identified this lack of a wider enabling environment, often shaped by ableist attitudes and disability stigma, as placing them at increased risks of violence and exclusion.

Special Window Results

- $9.5 million awarded through the Special Window over a five-year period (2018-2022)
- Twenty-two projects funded across 20 countries (Africa, Asia, LAC, Middle East, Central Asia)
- Fifteen grantees received a large grant ($150 000+) and seven received a small grant.
- Seven projects also received additional COVID-19 related funds, enabling them to respond quickly to the new challenges facing WGWD. Others received a one year, no-cost extension.
- Two grantees received a second funding grant to deepen their institutional level programming
- 43 additional partner organizations were also formally involved from the project start, including 23 organizations of people or women with disabilities.
- Six projects focused on the prevention of VAWGWD, eight projects on service provision and eight projects on access to justice as their primary, but not only, UN Trust Fund outcome area.
- Over 50,000 (51,404) WGWD were reached directly as primary beneficiaries.
- 14,000 other women and girl primary beneficiaries were also reported as reached directly.
- Over 190,000 secondary beneficiaries (192,885) were reported, including a wide range of community members, service providers, caregivers and other CSOs.
- Nearly 7.5 million beneficiaries were reached indirectly by programme activities (7,411,782).
- In total, over 7.7 million people (7,708,863) were reached by the Special Window.

2.1 The importance of engaging a wide range of organizations and partnerships

Many different types of CSOs were funded through the Special Window:[1]

- **Four** identified as disability-specific organizations
- **Three** identified as women's rights organizations
- **Five** identified as organizations of women with disabilities
- **One** identified as a faith-based organization
- **One** identified as a human rights organization
- **One** identified as a child rights network
- **Seven** grantees identified only as civil society organizations

Some of these grantees were member networks or associations of women with disabilities whose core mandate and leadership structures modelled the specific intersection of gender and disability. On top of this diverse range of grantees, the Special Window also required all grantees to either be, or to partner in some way with, existing organizations of people with disabilities (OPDs). Across the portfolio, forty-three additional partner organizations were formally named by the grantees as involved in the work from the start, with many other informal partnerships and formal memorandums of understanding developed over the projects' life. Grantees identified these collaborations as at the heart of the success of much of the work of the Special Window. Twenty-three of these formal partners were organizations, networks or associations of people with disabilities or of women with disabilities. A smaller set of formal and informal partnerships were also developed with a range of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), research expert organizations, other CSOs, women's organizations and government ministries.

2.2 The importance of addressing diverse disabilities and types of violence

The various grantees in this Special Window utilized multiple entry points towards their programming with WGWD. While some began with a particular type of disability, others focused on a specific form of violence, and a few concentrated on a specific setting, such as psychiatric hospitals. It is important to note that this diversity of entry points was valuable and was influenced by the type of organization and their own mandate as well as their social context.

A wide diversity of disabilities was addressed by the Special Window grantees:

- **Sixteen** grantees included all types of disabilities.[2]
- **Two** grantees focused only on psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.
- **Four** grantees worked across a wider group of women and girls, but with a specific commitment to engaging with women and girls with all disabilities within that.

1 These categorizations are based on how grantees primarily identified themselves and count each grantee only once. There is some overlap between the categories, i.e. an organization of women with disabilities could also be classified as a women's organization and/or as a disability-specific organization.

2 "While many grantees may have designed project proposals with the aim of engaging with all types of disability, in practice some of these may have only engaged with a range of different types of disabilities (e.g. physical).

Grantees across the portfolio also focused on different types of violence:

- Twelve grantees worked across all types of violence emerging in their specific contexts. This included verbal discrimination, neglect, exclusion from and discrimination by service providers as forms of violence identified as especially common for WGWD.
- Four grantees emphasized sexual and/or reproductive violence.
- Two grantees focused on violence against the girl child.
- Four focused on particular contexts of violence against WGWD, such as institutions, states or families.

As a result of these diverse focus areas, the portfolio also showcased a range of different, often multi-level approaches as being effective. For example, some focused on a sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) angle, others focused on VAWGWD within family settings or emphasized capacitating other CSOs or educational or health institutions in particular around WGWD, Finally, some started by addressing existing barriers identified by WGWD to accessing services from a range of duty bearers.

2.3 The importance of centring WGWD in programming

Alongside the diversity seen within the portfolio, one significant common factor emerged from grantees as key for overall success. This was the intentional centring of WGWD in practical and sustained ways within programming:

- as primary beneficiaries
- as rights holders and autonomous agents in decision making
- as trusted peer supporters to other WGWD
- as programme designers and implementors
- as actors and activists within society

Training on violence against women and girls, reporting mechanisms, legal processes and psycho-social support, for women and girls living with disabilities and their caregivers.

© Nobuhle Moyo/Leonard Cheshire Disability (Zimbabwe)

At the same time, while all projects strongly emphasized ending VAWGWD as their central goal, some variation was seen as to the extent to which the project focused specifically on VAWGWD, or if they also included other groups of women and girls as additional primary beneficiaries.

- **Nineteen projects** centred WGWD explicitly within their overall project goal
- **Two projects** included WGWD alongside other specific intersectionally marginalized groups
- **One project's** generalized goal included WGWD within a wider women and girls mandate.

This WGWD-centred specificity that the Special Window enabled was itself an important success.

2.4 The importance of developing new disability-specific resources

Another significant success identified across the whole Special Window was the development of a wide range of context-specific resources that were disability-specific and/or disability-accessible. Almost all grantees developed new resources of different kinds. These have a sustainable impact far beyond the initial project period, including as a potential resource base for transferable learning on which future work can build. These resources included, but were not limited to, the development of:

- Training manuals and guides at the intersection of gender and disability for WGWD.
- Training and curricula modules to build the capacity of carers and service providers.
- Protocols and policy documents at national government level and within the justice system.
- Legal advocacy documents and successful legal case verdicts and new legislation.
- Context-specific research reports, increasing the visibility of WGWD within existing data.
- IEC materials in multimedia formats, including dramas, TV shows and radio programmes hosted by women with diverse disabilities and materials accessible for people with diverse disabilities.
- Referral guides to assist WGWD and their caregivers to navigate wider support systems.
- Inclusive care toolkits designed for formal service providers and other duty bearers.

This intensive resource production process on disability, gender and violence is making a significant contribution to EVAW/disability programming. It included both designing materials for WGWD and engaging with them as experts to co-create new materials about gender and disability for other stakeholders to tackle discriminatory assumptions. At the same time as developing these new resources, significant time and investment was spent by certain grantees to carefully adapt existing methodologies and approaches to ending violence against women and girls to become both more disability-focused (addressing disability) and more disability-accessible (for WGWD themselves).

2.5 The importance of adaptive innovations in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic

The entire Special Window portfolio having been implemented from 2018 to 2023 had to grapple unexpectedly with the reality of COVID-19. This was experienced in the second year of implementation of many of the three-year projects, and therefore came at a critical moment in implementation. The adaptiveness demonstrated by all the 22 grantees in the midst of this global pandemic can be recognized as a huge success. In fact, the highly creative innovations and swift pivots that were made by many of the organizations with long-term expertise in working with WGWD suggests that they already have significant skills in being adaptive, as an ongoing importance feature of disabilities-related work more widely. As a result, COVID-19 proved to be an unexpected incubator for a range of concrete and important disability-related adaptions for potential longer-term success.

These successes in the face of significant challenges showcased the value of innovative technological adaptions for WGWD. This was particularly true for those who are often already highly isolated or unable to participate meaningfully in conventional ways. Grantees also pointed to how baseline research carried out as part of their initial programming also often led to disability-related adaptations as additional features of unexpected success, as they learnt more about the diversity of disabilities present in their contexts as well types of disability-specific stereotypes in their contexts and their root causes, for example, religious beliefs that disabilities were a punishment from God for their sins.

Missing Caption.

© Courtesy of ADD International (Cambodia)

3. EXPLORING KEY RESULTS ACROSS THE THREE UN TRUST FUND FOCUS AREAS

The UN Trust Fund aligns its funding interventions under three broad outcome areas:

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

In this section, selected results from nine grantees are discussed, three under each outcome area. This is followed by a discussion of a tenth grantee, which offers one illustration of how these outcome areas, as well as programming at multiple levels and across many intersections, were addressed holistically by many grantees under the Special Window to promote positive results.

3.1 Evidence of effectiveness in prevention of VAWGWD

Eight grantees prioritized improving the prevention of VAWGWD through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes. Grantees differed considerably in terms of the nature of organization, the type of grant, and approaches they used – yet they all demonstrated success in preventing VAWGWD, as measured by their external evaluations and/or annual monitoring reports. Grantees used different strategies when implementing prevention interventions, with impact across all levels of the socio-ecological model. Looking across the portfolio, four strategies appear to be most common in efforts to prevent VAWGWD: 1) social norms interventions, with specific aim to impact disability-related stigma; 2) training of policymakers and stakeholders, to enable better understanding of VAWGWD and the requirements of WGWD; and 3) capacitating and empowering WGWD; and 4) forming partnerships for prevention of WGWD.

Three UN Trust Fund grantees offer particularly strong examples of successes in implementing projects that promoted the prevention of VAWGWD. Action on Disability and Development International (ADD International) partnered with several local organizations in Cambodia, recognized the role of disability-related social norms in driving VAWGWD, and therefore prioritized addressing and transforming these norms in their primary prevention intervention. Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abagore Bafite Ubumuga (UNABU) in Rwanda used a small grant to build on its core approach of empowering and capacitating WGWD for self-advocacy, mobilizing these women in the prevention of economic and sexual violence against WGWD. The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) showed success in equipping and closely supporting a national women's disability organization for VAWGWD prevention in Malaysia. These grantees all showcased the importance of partnerships for prevention that capacitate WGWD at multiple levels within diverse systems.

3.1.1 ADD International: Challenging disability-related harmful social norms in Cambodia

ADD International leveraged its existing expertise as an international disability rights organization to develop effective partnerships for primary prevention of VAWGWD through capacity-building in Cambodia. They partnered with two local women's organizations, two local (women-led) OPDs and three women's networks to strengthen them and to enable WWD to lead primary prevention efforts focused on WGWD who had survived violence or were at risk of future violence in the family in particular. They targeted six districts in five provinces of Cambodia and reached 4,455 WGWD, including 662 WGWD survivors, as well as 1,096 wider community and family members.

ADD International's project was remarkably successful in demonstrating disability-specific social norms change, using an adapted form of the SASA! community mobilization approach. Their action research in collaboration with partners had showed that dominant inequitable social norms in Cambodia not only justify spousal abuse, but that WGWD face additional risks as they are considered less valuable and more burdensome than family members without disabilities. Yet primary prevention strategies in Cambodia had failed to fully address VAWGWD, or to engage explicitly with the disability-specific harmful social norms and beliefs that drove both violence and exclusion. ADD International's project was therefore notable in its ability to address these social norms. At the endline assessment, only 27% of the WGWD surveyed stated that they had experienced violence in the last year, compared to 70% at baseline. There was a significant decrease in WGWD feeling excluded overall. For example, at baseline, 44% felt excluded by service providers, and this had reduced to 1% by endline; at baseline 27% felt excluded by their community, compared to just 2% at endline; at baseline 40% felt excluded by their families, which had reduced to 14% at endline. The external evaluation praised the project's overall contribution to violence prevention and noted that:

> *The project was remarkably successful in contributing to a reduction in violence against women with disabilities as well empowering women with knowledge of their rights, strategies to realize their rights and confidence in themselves to take actions to live lives free from violence. There are fewer cases of violence in families and communities, women survivors of violence no longer feel stigmatized by domestic violence, are more confident in themselves to solve domestic violence problems, are committed to helping women survivors and feel they are treated with greater respect by others. Both community members and local authorities have improved skills, attitudes and actions leading to more gender-sensitive responses to women experiencing violence. (External evaluation, ADD International, 2021, p.71)*

ADD puts this quantifiable success down to its simultaneous use of four intersecting strategies: targeting the most marginalized; supporting social norms change through community mobilization; highlighting positive role models; and underpinning their programming with action research to develop relevant and appropriate programming and adapt to emerging realities. It was this action research which demonstrated the importance of first breaking the culture of silence around VAWGWD, highlighting that the primary prevention of VAWGWD will require community-wide mobilization and transformation, and that ignorance, misunderstanding and harmful beliefs and practices are root causes of VAWGWD that need to be urgently addressed for primary prevention.

As a result of centralizing WGWD in this action research, WGWD from the target communities have also influenced national-level policies and contributed to the development of national resources for better understanding the intersections between gender and disability. For example, ADD's research report with WGWD entitled 'Intersectionality Approach and Women's Empowerment' was disseminated widely to policy makers by both the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Disability Affairs Council in Cambodia.

ADD's project showed that effectively adapting a pre-existing EVAWG methodology (SASA!) to meet the specific needs of WGWD and to address wider disability-specific social norms is possible. Part of their success was adapting the methodology by intersecting it with a range of their own disability-specific tools and using informal approaches, such as "quick chats" and home visits with community members, to disseminate information, provide support through counselling and encourage WGWD to take decisions. This successful adaption by a disability-specific organization of an EVAWG-specific method of community mobilization can be a resource for other organizations seeking to take an intersectional approach to social norms change around gender and disability.

ADD International effectively built a circle of accountability through participation and partnerships which has the potential to impact beyond the project period only. They empowered local organizations with pre-existing expertise around women and/or disabilities, to capacitate them longer-term for primary prevention. Equipping these organizations to adapt SASA! alongside disability-specific capacitating tools such as the *ADD International Gender and Organizational Capacity Assessment Tools* (which measure improvement across 21 aspects) strengthened the capacity of WGWD at organizational level to lead primary prevention interventions for WGWD moving forwards.

3.1.2 UNABU: Self-organizing and advocating together for prevention in Rwanda

UNABU, an OPD for WWD established in 2004 by 14 WWD, sees its mission as empowering WWD so they become agents of change, demanding their human rights, reaffirming their dignity, and actively participating in Rwanda's development. With their small grant project, UNABU focused on preventing economic and sexual violence amongst WGWD in five districts in Rwanda. Their core belief in the importance of self-advocacy by WGWD was at the heart of their intervention, with a set of activities focused on empowering WGWD by other WGWD, to improve knowledge and build self-confidence so that WGWD can participate in family and community life (including economic activities) and claim their rights as equal citizens.

While this small grant project's target was to engage 2400 WGWD, it succeeded in reaching and involving 2783 WGWD across 120 disability-specific self-advocacy groups. In these groups, WGWD increased their understanding of the intersectionality of disability and violence. But they also grew in self-confidence, showing increased willingness to report violence in order to break cycles of normalized violence (of the 406 WGWD interviewed during the project endline evaluation, 87% reported having the confidence to report violence to the authorities) and to advocate for their right to protection from stigma, discrimination, and violence.

Dusabugirimbabazi Epiphanie, UNABU staff member, talks with 385 community members from Nyabihu District about gender-based violence against women and girls living with disabilities.

© Neema Icyishatse/UNABU (Rwanda)

UNABU also had success in identifying and training 69 WGWD as volunteer community mobilizers, focusing the training on topics such as disability, disability rights, gender equality, violence against women and facilitation skills. These community mobilizers then trained their peers with disabilities, organized into self-advocacy groups, over a period of 12 weeks. These community mobilizers played an essential role in educating other WWD about the relationships between gender equality and violence against women, gender equality and disabilities, disabilities and women's rights, prevention, and protection. They also conducted home visits to WGWD, to ensure that families of WGWD also understand the intersectionality of disability and violence, as well as the rights of WGWD. Community awareness activities were also conducted, with the aim of increasing general understanding of the rights and realities of WGWD, as an important way of prevention VAWGWD.

A key success of the self-advocacy groups and home visits was the development of relationships of mutual support and solidarity amongst WGWD who had previously been very isolated. This then enabled collective organizing by the women that led to a number of unexpected, positive results. For example, members of 32 of the groups started voluntary savings-and-loans schemes within their groups, to enable the economic empowerment of group members who found this very empowering:

> *I loved this kind of training because it has given me the opportunity to learn from others experiences and it has given me the opportunity to increase my skills in many aspects of my life especially in kind of my potential to be Rwiyemezamirimo (Entrepreneur) and how (I) can decide my own income generating activity. From this training I got so many tools and ways to overcome from many challenges I used to face. I have been blessed to have this type of training together with other members of my group. (Woman with disabilities and member of an UNABU self-advocacy group, final report, UNABU, 2021, p.41)*

Another unexpected positive result was that many WGWD were elected to leadership roles in the local government election in November 2021. An impressive 179 WGWD project participants were elected across the 5 districts, with over 70% of them elected to local government for the first time. This dramatic increase in WGWD participation in local government was ascribed to the skills and confidence they acquired through the participation in self-advocacy groups, as well as the smartphones distributed by UNABU which helped keep WGWD informed about the election process.

Arguably due to their grassroots presence and activity, UNABU's results were sustained through the challenges of COVID-19. Towards the end of the project period, UNABU's success even enabled it to scale up its intervention into one new administrative sector, create 6 new self-advocacy groups, and record 532 new WGWD reached by the project. By centring this low-cost community volunteer model around WGWD viewed as both beneficiaries and central agents, the internal motivation for its continuation and replication continues to have an ongoing prevention effect.

3.1.3 ARROW: Equipping for prevention in Bangladesh

The UN Trust Fund-funded project by ARROW brought the expertise of ARROW, a regional women's and young people's non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Malaysia and working to advance women's and young people's SRHR, affirmative sexuality, and empowerment, together with a Bangladeshi women's disability organization, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). The project capacitated 1780 WGWD on their SRHR, linking it with information on VAWG and disability rights to help WGWD to live free from violence. The project also worked for the practical implementation of laws relating to VAWGWD. WDDF took the lead in the implementation of project activities, with ARROW supporting them. This supportive relationship between ARROW and WDDF shows how important results can flow from partnerships that build the capacity of WWD at an organizational level.

One key result was that WDDF and ARROW co-developed a regional training-of-trainers manual, entitled Reclaiming the SRHR of women and girls with disabilities, used to equip 16 WWD as master trainers. The manual was informed by a series of consultations with experts from across South Asia, meaning that it can be used in similar contexts across the sub-region. The master trainers were supported in developing structured action plans within their own communities to reach other WGWD as well as families, caregivers and neighbours, to raise awareness of the risks that WGWD face within local circles of care as an important part of prevention:

The manual provides a very comprehensive overview as it tackles various forms of violence, from child marriages to rape to harmful traditional practices and violence perpetrated by caregivers and close members of the family through the presentation of numerous real-life case studies (maintaining anonymity), each introducing the reader to various social, economic, environmental contexts affecting the lives of women and girls with disabilities before they faced violence. The manual also lists out the NGOs, DPOs, One-stop Crisis Centre, Sign Language, and service provider contacts along with relevant videos, films, and reports as suggested reading/watching lists. The chapters contain pictorial images for ease of understanding and each of the group exercises has a step-by-step guide on how to make all the exercises accessible for all women and girls with disabilities regardless of their literacy level. (Monitoring report, ARROW, 2020, p.38)

The training process also resulted in the creation of five multi-sectoral protection committees who focused especially on the forms of violence girls with disabilities (GWD) were experiencing in schools. Furthermore, more community and caregiver sensitization rippled out from the training to reach 2,144 people through over 150 'courtyard' meetings focused on changing attitudes and decreasing family violence against WGWD. By engaging with families and officials, the project created a more supportive environment for WGWD, raising awareness among community members about the issues they faced, increasing support from both family members and officials to ensure WGWD's rights to SRHR and freedom from violence. A collaborative approach was visible in all their activities, contributing to project success. For example, various grassroots level groups (e.g. local government administrators, village court officials) were formed, with project activities with the groups aimed at helping them realize the importance of working collaboratively to prevent and end VAWGWD in their communities. One unexpected success from the sensitization training provided to 75 journalists was that ten journalists signed memoranda of understanding (MoU) with WDDF to write regularly about VAWGWD and apply their learnings to raise visibility around the connections between gender, disability rights, SRHR and violence.

National-level actions to help in the prevention of and response to VAWG also resulted from the project. For example, ARROW and WDDF contributed to the formation of a new 13-member National Advisory Committee on Disabilities, which placed the voices of WWD at the heart of inclusive policy making and led to the submission of an alternative report on WGWD to international bodies, as well as starting the journey towards a Bangladesh-wide National Plan of Action on Disabilities. Capacitation through the partnership model also enabled WDDF to position itself regionally, bringing attention to it as a leading OPD dedicated to preventing VAWGWD, with ARROW providing background support and accompaniment. For example, ARROW, as co-leader of the SRHR Action Coalition, convened a series of consultations at the Asia regional level, to which it invited WDDF. As a result, WDDF is now an official member of several regional networks, including the SRHR Action Coalition.

3.2 Evidence of improved access for WGWD to multisectoral services

Six grantees prioritized improving the access of WGWD to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services. Grantees differed in terms of how their intervention aimed to improve service provision, but across the portfolio the following five general approaches emerged: 1) upskilling of service providers, to ensure they have the information, training and tools to provide services to WGWD; 2) improving the collaboration and referral between different stakeholders involved in ensuring service delivery; 3) providing the needed services to WGWD and thus showcasing how it can and should be done; 4) capacitating WGWD and/or their family/caregivers on their rights to service delivery; and 5) advocating for improved systems of service delivery to VAWGWD.

Three UN Trust Fund Special Window grantees offer important examples of successes in implementing interventions to promote and improve WGWD's access to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services. Stars of Hope Society (SHS) in the State of Palestine showcased the successes that can result from WWD taking the lead in informing and training service providers. National Center Against Violence (NCAV) in Mongolia had remarkable success in modelling how EVAWG organizations can adapt to improve inclusive service provision to all WGWD. Mental Disability Rights Initiative Serbia (MDRI-S) challenged a tendency towards responding to some disabilities more than others, by working with and giving agency and voice to women and girls with intellectual disabilities in Serbia.

3.2.1 SHS: Taking the lead in equipping service providers in the State of Palestine

SHS is the only CSO in the State of Palestine that is run by WWD for WWD, with the sole aim of addressing and ending discrimination against WGWD, empowering WGWD to claim their rights, and promoting their inclusion. In their UN Trust Fund-funded HEMAYA project, SHS worked on improving service providers' understanding of and response to VAWGWD, running training and capacity-building for state and civil society institutions, helping them modify their internal systems and procedures, and providing individual support according to their needs. Tailored, ongoing accompaniment was essential, due to the unique circumstances and needs of each organization and institution. Therefore, SHS provided bespoke tailored accompaniment to 96 NGO and CSO member staff members and 48 government staff.

As a women-centred organization, with the majority of staff being WWD, SHS showcased WWD taking the lead in improving access to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral EVAWG services for WGWD living in the West Bank and Gaza. While SHS's attempts to have service providers respond more effectively to VAWGWD started long before the HEMAYA project, the project's specific methods of having WWD act as their own advocates, amplifying WWD's voices, and having WWD on EVAWG platforms, were crucial to project successes. One important civil society actor engaged by SHS, was Al Muntada, a 17-member civil society coalition focused on ending violence against women. Engaging with Al Muntada meant that all 17 network members increased their understanding of VAWGWD and the specific requirements of WGWD. This bespoke accompaniment of organizations by SHS guided them in first transforming their harmful attitudes and perceptions of those with disabilities, which in turn then impacted how they approached their EVAWG work:

(The SHS training) was a crossroads for me, it transformed my whole perceptions towards persons with disability, I now recognize that the problem is not in them, but in us as a society and organizations that we are not able to understand or adjust to fulfil their rights. (Al Muntada Coordinator, external evaluation, SHS, 2022, p.38)

In providing this tailored training and accompaniment, WWD became the facilitators and experts working with and training other service providers. This was identified by service providers themselves as a particular strength of the capacity-building provided by SHS. This was also reiterated in the external evaluation:

Although the project utilized different tactics with different actors/stakeholder, we found the representation of women of disability by women with disability remains the highest contributor (of) the project success as it means commitment, it meant solid understanding and no compromising when it comes to rights, which increased the project effectiveness. (External evaluation, SHS, 2022, p.40)

Through their successful work in accompanying state and non-state actors to better understand VAWGWD and the specific requirements of WGWD, SHS was recognized as being a OPD that truly represents WGWD. This, in turn, led to MoUs signed with different key duty bearers at state and non-state levels, with the aim of ensuring that service provision to WGWD is improved. For example, seven MoUs were signed with different departments within the Ministry of Development, one with the police's Family Protection Unit, and one with the Ministry of Justice.

SHS also developed a new approach as part of the HEMAYA project, whereby they identified and trained 14 WWD to work as focal points within their respective governates (administrative divisions within the State of Palestine). Continuously trained and mentored by SHS, these focal points both engaged with WWD in their communities, but also with formal service providers and duty bearers. Due to their community-based work on VAWGWD, individual focal points were invited to join different networks and EVAWG platforms nationally – and due to being WWD, them simply being present in these spaces already challenged stigmatized views of WWD and their abilities. The external evaluation of the HEMAYA project identified these focal points as one of the key strengths of the project.

An unexpected result from the HEMAYA project, was the capacity-building of SHS as an organization. SHS staff identified this as one of the most significant results of the project, for it improved their ability to provide and ensure provision of services to WGWD. It also contributed to the sustainability of both the project impacts, and of SHS as an organization. This capacity-building of wider SHS staff, themselves almost all WWD, included multiple trainings, accompaniment of WWD as experts, and the building of internal systems and procedures in disability-accessible ways. This included the development of the management system, an internal protocol of case management and referral, an EVAWG-disability protocol, an information protection policy, and research studies and analytic reports. In both SHS monitoring reports and in the external evaluation, the importance of this capacity-building was repeatedly reiterated as crucial to ensuring appropriate service provision to WGWD in the State of Palestine: "It was observed that the capacity-building component for SHS and team was amongst the biggest success of this project, it transformed the capacity of SHS to provide informed services to women and girls with disability" (external evaluation, SHS, 2022, p.34).

3.2.2 NCAV: Modelling inclusive service provision in Mongolia

The National Center Against Violence (NCAV) is a small, women-led organization, established in 1995 as the first NGO in Mongolia that aimed to serve survivors of domestic violence. It had been working nationally, through a combination of direct service delivery and policy advocacy, to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. However, in implementing this UN Trust Fund-funded small grant, it took a first step in intentionally making its existing services more accessible for WGWD. By adapting one existing temporary shelter for women experiencing domestic violence, into a shelter accessible for WGWD who experience domestic violence, NCAV provides an example of a successful pilot project around how EVAWG organizations can adapt to better serve WGWD.

Mongolia has legal provision for access to justice and services for WGWD. Despite this, no shelters or support services in the country were accessible in practice to WGWD. This was why NCAV decided to pilot how an existing shelter – one of their own in Ulaanbaatar – can be transformed into a shelter that offers inclusive services that are also accessible to WGWD. NCAV partnered with a number of OPDs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and the police force, to showcase that such transformation is possible. As a result, the transformed Ulaanbaatar shelter has served as a prototype for other service providers and duty bearers on how shelter services, and EVAWG services in general, can be adapted to include WGWD in meaningful ways. During the project period the Ulaanbaatar shelter was successfully adapted and sheltered 56 WGWD. Security, social work services, child protection, counselling, legal support, health care and mediation was made available to those staying at the shelter, but also to WGWD generally. For example, a total of 73 WGWD received counselling services, even though they had a widely different range of impairments, for the counselling services were able to assist those with visual impairments, hearing impairments, physical impairments and intellectual impairments. NCAV was also able to offer dedicated, age-appropriate group support to women with disabilities and to girls with disabilities (GWD), with GWD participating in five support group trainings, and nine support group trainings being offered to WWD. These services have capacitated and empowered WGWD, to the extent that some are taking the initiative in providing support and services to WGWD:

I have received comprehensive services at the temporary shelter house of NCAV and participated in support group training. Currently, I have established a non-governmental organization myself with the aim of helping people with similar hearing impairments who have been freed from violence and are working to provide them with the knowledge to prevent violence and increase their opportunities to help others. (Final report, NCAV, 2022, p.29)

Courtesy of the National Center against Violence (Mongolia)

© the National Center against Violence (Mongolia)

NCAV was able to effectively adapt their own EVAWG shelter and services to also assist WGWD. At the same time, they also assisted other EVAWG service providers in thinking about making their services more accessible to WGWD. So, for example, a total of 30 psychologists from various one-stop service centres and temporary shelters in Mongolia were trained on how to provide services to VAWG survivors with disabilities. NCAV also produced a training manual for service providers, on how to provide EVAWG services to WGWD. The project team furthermore organized experience-sharing and learning meetings with various national stakeholders, including the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, as well as with key experts from other shelters and one-stop service centres. In these meetings NCAV showcased how they had adapted their EVAWG shelter and services to also serve WGWD, creating a supportive environment in which other EVAWG actors and duty bearers can learn about inclusive service provision. This has meant that many more state shelters and one-stop service centres have all been introduced to the NCAV model of shelters and EVAWG services for WGWD.

NCAV designed the project to serve as a pilot that can illustrate to other service providers how the provision of shelter and services for WGWD is possible. Therefore, collaboration was crucial, in order to ensure that their pilot worked, but also that there was wider upscaling of what they designed. Through partnerships with OPDs such as the National Association of People with Disabilities, the Center for Independent Living for Deaf Women, the Mongolian National Wheelchair Users Association, and the National Association of the Blind People, NCAV was able to ensure that programming was appropriate and responsive to the requirements of WGWD. By collaborating with government agencies, including the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the General Agency for Human Development of Persons with Disabilities, the Family, Child and Youth Development Agency, the Police, the National Human Rights Commission, and the Ministry of Education, they ensured that their pilot model reached influential duty bearers that could ensure similar roll-outs on a larger scale in Mongolia.

3.2.3 MDRI-S: Challenging hierarchies within the disability space in Serbia

Mental Disability Rights Initiative Serbia (MDRI-S) upscaled and built on their previous UN Trust Fund-funded work to address the situation of women with developmental/intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in compulsory residential or psychiatric institutions. Reflecting on the lessons learnt and results from their previous pilot project, MDRI-S's second project aimed to support and empower women and girls with developmental/intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to live free of custodial violence, through building their knowledge and self-confidence, promoting and enabling self-advocacy, and through ensuring services where abuse occurs.

MDRI-S's project challenged the perspective that it is too difficult and costly to target women with developmental/intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, whilst these women in fact emerged as self-advocates in the course of MDRI-S's project. The independent, external evaluation of the project notes the importance of MDRI-S's challenge of the hierarchies within the disability space itself:

> *It was of great importance that (women and girls with developmental/ intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, including those who suffered) custodial violence were placed in the centre of attention for the first time and there was an attempt to adapt services to their needs. (External evaluation, MDRI-S, 2022, p.82)*

MDRI-S worked to empower women and girls with developmental/intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to be able to voice their requirements and advocate around their rights, to ensure that they receive the services they need. They also modelled this with their own approach to the training of women and girls with developmental/intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. For example, three women with intellectual disabilities participated in the design of training webinars for their peers, to ensure that the presentations were appropriate and understandable for WWD, including intellectual disabilities. As a result, the six VAWG workshops hosted specifically for WWD, as well as four advanced self-advocacy workshops for women with intellectual disabilities, were tailor-made and appropriate and included easy-to-read formats and visual presentations that made it easier for women with intellectual disabilities to understand.

Whenever and wherever possible, MDRI-S prioritized giving women and girls with developmental/intellectual and psychosocial disabilities voice. For example, the report Isolated in Isolation was the result of engaging for over a year with a group of 15 women with intellectual disabilities who were part of the self-advocacy groups. These women were living in six different residential institutions, but due to COVID-19 lockdown measures engagement was through various online platforms. The report allowed these 15 women with intellectual disabilities to voice their experiences and requirements, serving "as an example to those who are wondering how to communicate and work with women with mental disabilities[3] from residential institutions, but also in crisis situations. For the women with intellectual disabilities, this has empowered them to stand up for themselves and speak out where they experience violence, including from service providers: "I learned not to be silent, to say what bothers me. And if the staff at the home (residential institution) tells me something, let me not be silent anymore, let me react" (final report, MDRI-S, 2021, p.39).

3.3 Evidence of increased effectiveness of legislation and policies to address VAWGWD

Eight grantees prioritized increasing the effectiveness of legislation and policies to address VAWGWD including through national action plans and accountability systems. Grantees differed in terms of the nature of organization, the type of grant, and approaches they used – yet all demonstrated some success in increasing the effectiveness of the legal and policy environment for WGWD. Across the portfolio, the following four strategies emerged as most common: 1) advocating for law and/or policy reforms around VAWGWD often at national level; 2) capacitating statutory duty bearers within government, police and judiciary systems to provide disability inclusive justice chains; 3) connecting formal and informal systems of justice and accountability often also involving WGWD as community actors and activists; and 4) providing legal empowerment to individual WGWD to know their rights and to accompany survivors more effectively through legal systems.

Three UN Trust Fund Special Window grantees offer important examples of successes in implementing interventions to improve the effectiveness of legal and policy systems for ending VAWGWD. Paz y Esperanza (P&H) in Peru had remarkable success in equipping formal protection system officials longer term as well as accompanying WGWD into legal empowerment and political leadership. Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust (LCDZ) in Zimbabwe worked to improve the disability-inclusive justice chain for VAWGWD survivors, especially in rural, remote areas, whilst accompanying individual WGWD through legal processes, capacitating formal duty bearers and contributing to the 2021 National Plan on Disabilities. Finally, Fusa para la salud integral con perspectiva de genero y derechos asociación civil (FUSA) in Argentina has successes in enabling mindset shifts around how WGWD are positioned as autonomous legal agents at many systems levels.

3 MDRI-S uses the term "mental disabilities" to refer to what the UN Trust Fund calls "developmental/intellectual and psychosocial disabilities".

3.3.1 Paz y Esperanza: Equipping protection system officials and WWD in Peru

Paz y Esperanza, (P&H) in Peru had one main outcome in its UN Trust Fund grant, namely to develop protection systems for women and girls which were WGWD inclusive. This was in line with the organization's aim of a dignified life without violence for all WGWD across diverse disabilities. Their large grant enabled them to engage with a range of duty-bearing stakeholders, especially within the formal justice system, such as judges and police and to connect them to others whose actions impinges on the justice system, such as staff at women's emergency centres. The aim was not to focus only on one government department under which disabilities were often formally placed but to equip formal duty bearers across multiple departments to ensure that their policies and services were inclusive, and that the specific barriers that prevented WGWD accessing justice were addressed. To achieve this, P&H intentionally took a political, policy-oriented and legally enforceable systems approach. While their overall goal was about improving access to services, the route they took was to capacitate formal duty bearers within legal and government systems, bringing them into multi-sectoral partnerships on this issue and holding them accountable.

P&H demonstrated significant results in two main areas: the legal empowerment of WGWD and the capacitating of statutory protection system officials. First, its legal empowerment of 2,500 WGWD and 500 female carers of GWD, as well as intensive support through a tailored, targeted leadership programme of 20 carefully selected WWD as political advocates took place in three pilot regions in Peru. Second, it strengthened the capacity of statutory protection system officials through developing new modules focused on the specific intersection between gender and disabilities within a Diploma course for 500 public protection system officials which was delivered at university level. They also recognized that many public officials held a problematic pathology/rehabilitation medical model of disability which viewed WGWD as sick and in need of paternalistic protection, rather than as rights-bearing subjects who deserve equal treatment. As a result, WGWD often mistrusted the system and were reluctant to seek help. P&H had identified the stigmatization of disability as a significant obstacle in policy making and in effective public service delivery, which needed to be addressed head on. As a result, P&H trained 1080 public officials and 80 CSO members overall who then collaborated together with the other trained WWD leaders back in the three pilot regions to develop practical initiatives.

Closing workshop for women leaders in Lima, Peru.

© Sarvia Grijalva/Paz y Esperanza (Peru)

One important example of a practical initiative, selected by the Peruvian government for further scale-up, was the development of regional police surveillance pilots. In these, WWD worked together to form watchdog committees that monitored how trained police officials handled disability-related matters. They were also able to make joint progress as a result on developing new national police protocols around disabilities, including joint action with women's emergency centres and health systems. An unexpected additional result of these post-training successes was that WWD became publicly visible as local political advocates driving these processes. This also led to the revitalization of some dormant OPDs and showed how protection systems can be held accountable from below if WGWD are legally and politically equipped:

The surveillance pilot stands out as a comprehensive strategy for empowering WWD leaders because they are able to diagnose the situation in which a public service finds itself, in this case the police stations, in terms of accessibility barriers through tools such as surveys but also through simulations which allow them to assess the treatment that a woman with disabilities who suffers violence would receive. (External evaluation, P&H, 2022, p.100, translated from Spanish)

Other national-level results for sustainable impact were also seen. For example, the official National Helpline on Violence run by the Women's Ministry now includes formal questions and referrals for WGWD who are also now included in the shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). P&H also influenced important reforms of disability-differentiated care protocols in Peru and through political and legal lobbying and awareness raising, they prevented the political repeal of the General Law on Persons with Disabilities (Law 29973), which guaranteed nondiscrimination and equal opportunities. They also helped to develop a multi-party inclusive political caucus around disability rights.

Statistics across the three pilot regions also showed increased legal reporting of violence by WGWD as well as improved satisfaction with the protection services they received from public officials. While more progress is needed, P&H's work within the protection system showed that the deep mistrust that WGWD had in this system, which prevented them from reporting crimes or using services which they have legal rights to, could be effectively addressed, as the external evaluation also verified:

The percentage of WWD who reported these events (violence) increased significantly, representing about three times the baseline (13% vs 37%). A similar situation is observed regarding care (provided) in the protection system, which went from 15% to 58%, which shows a tendency of WWD to now resort to institutions to solve the problems of violence they suffer. Finally, WWD's satisfaction with the level of care provided in the protection system increased significantly to 45%, which although still low is twice as high as the baseline (of 16%). (External evaluation, P&H, p.48, 2022, translated from Spanish).

The external evaluation of P&H's work showed that WGWD's self-reported perceptions of improved independent living soared from 51% to 92% over project life. Their participation in public spaces also increased from 33% to 98%. Legal empowerment was identified as a significant component of these changes. At baseline only 8% of the WGWD surveyed recognized when their rights were violated and only 20% knew about any systems designed to protect them, but by project end that had increased to 90% and 82% respectively. Almost all trained WGWD (86%) became disseminators of this information to others, including awareness of six new formal differentiated care protocols that prevent disability from being homogenized. One trained WWD leader from their Leadership School noted:

Knowledge gives you power, no one else can silence you, because you already know everything you need, you are ready to go. I believe that if they have given us that, they have given us that autonomy to be able to lead, they asked us for opinions (External evaluation, P&H, 2022, p.103, translated from Spanish)

3.3.2 LCDZ: Building a more disability-inclusive justice chain in Zimbabwe

Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) focused on helping to develop a disability-inclusive justice chain with an emphasis on addressing concrete barriers to access to justice, especially for WGWD who were survivors of sexual violence. During the implementation of their first UN Trust Fund grant, LCDZ had developed relationships of trust with key justice stakeholders, such as the police and local courts, by providing capacity-building training. Receiving a second grant enabled them to provide deeper engagement to address systemic barriers to access, develop national level protocols, and scale up their approach into six new remote rural districts where high incidences of sexual violence against WGWD had been seen. At the same time, as a large disability-specific organization with a national reach within Zimbabwe, they used their convening power to also institutionally strengthen 35 other civil society partners to take the legal rights of WGWD into consideration, and to develop shared platforms for legal and political advocacy at national level. This enabled sharing of knowledge and expertise between diverse partners around ending violence against WGWD and supported a coalition approach. LCDZ and its partners made ongoing contributions to national level laws, policies and plans on disability and to ensure a gendered lens was used. The Special Window timing fitted in well with this wider political process and affected its outcomes. LCDZ, for example, convened WGWD and a range of smaller organizations of people with disabilities to engage with the 2021 Zimbabwean National Disability Policy in draft forms to ensure that duty bearers in the justice system were held accountable.

LCDZ also made significant progress in its formal justice systems level work, by working closely with the government's victim-friendly police units and with the Ministry of Health and Child Care. They also directly capacitated both local courts and police stations, and developed court protocols around, for example, the decentralization and standardization of the psychiatric assessment tools for women or girl survivors of violence with intellectual or psycho-social disabilities. This was identified as a huge barrier to getting cases to court and holding perpetrators accountable. Lack of accountability for perpetrators through the formal justice system was also a key factor in the increased risks of WWD to sexual violence in particular, as they were seen by potential perpetrators as being unable to report violence. The practical steps that LCDZ took to equip police and key court members (e.g. sign language training for police or working with schools on referral processes) provided small, but vital, links in a disability-inclusive justice chain. One victim-friendly police officer who was trained noted:

> *As much as sign language is an official language, only a few of us have taken an initiative to learn it (...) often when we get a client with speech or hearing impairment, we struggle to take statements. We have to rely on other partners' availability to assist in statement recording which delays the attainment of justice because the person is either asked to wait for someone to come and assist later (...) or go back home and come back on a certain day when a person conversant with sign language is available (...) This either delays or denies a person justice not by design but because the system is porous (has holes). (LCDZ, monitoring report, 2021, p, 64)*

At the same time, LCDZ catalysed and influenced important institutional shifts within the informal justice system, whilst also working at community and family levels. One success was equipping existing community-run committees who raised awareness of, and referred VAWG cases, to better understand the risks faced by and stereotypes around WGWD, so that they stopped excluding WGWD from their remit, and became more disability aware. These structures play an important ongoing role in the initial, informal reporting of different violence cases at community level. In contexts where formal systems are resource-limited especially, informal systems of justice that, for example, also engage directly with religious and traditional actors as LCDZ did, can be critical for improving accountability systems in practice. A success story noted in the external evaluation highlighted this:

A 28-year-old (woman) with intellectual impairment was raped in Empandeni. Due to established community mechanisms to prevent, detect and respond to VAW, the perpetrator was apprehended by traditional leaders and (the) neighbourhood watch and sentenced to 15 years in prison (External evaluation, LCDZ, 2021, p. 30)

LCDZ worked hard to support the sustained development of wider disability-inclusive systems mechanisms alongside their provision of direct legal accompaniment to individual WGWD. This resulted in the practical emotional, economic and legal accompaniment of over 800 individual WGWD survivors to open formal court cases around VAWGWD. While the completion of this task was significantly delayed under COVID-19, even the small number of cases completed to date in the formal system sends an important message to other WGWD that justice is possible. It also reminds perpetrators that accountability systems exist. Making WGWD more visible and legally empowered within both formal and informal justice systems, whilst also enabling mindset shifts by duty bearers around them, was critical for their goal of developing a disabilities-inclusive justice chain for WGWD. Connecting formal and informal systems of justice emerged as particularly critical, especially in rural, remote areas where WGWD issues are typically handled only as private family matters.

3.3.3 FUSA: Transforming mindsets in legal and policy contexts of health systems in Argentina

FUSA's DesSeAr (Sexual Rights in Argentina) project aimed to promote improved access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for the 2 million WGWD currently living in Argentina. FUSA took a systemic legal and political reform approach to seek to guarantee government health systems access for WGWD. FUSA supported securing the legal rights of WGWD to SRHR services as essential for institutional accountability and long-term systems change. They also focused strongly on enabling a paradigm shift away from an entrenched protectionist rehabilitation mindset to disabilities (common in families and health systems in Argentina), towards a new social mindset to disabilities of the ongoing autonomous accompaniment of WGWD who are to be seen as rights holders with agency.

Participatory meeting of health workers and women with disabilities

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DesSeAr was effective in changing specific laws within the national Argentinian legal system which had a concrete impact on WGWD. They worked in close collaboration with selected CSO partners in Argentina, including a network for the rights of PWD and professional medical societies. For example, strategic litigation was used as a tool to secure legislative reform, including modifying the national law on surgical contraception which had allowed judges to authorize the sterilization of WGWD who were seen as having limited legal capacity. DeSeAr also influenced positive legislation that improved access to SRHR for WGWD and better aligned Argentina with international laws on disability and gender.

FUSA's specific focus on SRHR only enabled them to first identify, and then address, concrete barriers and negative attitudes and beliefs that limited WGWD on this issue. Their intersectional feminist organizational approach enabled them to listen first to the voices of WGWD who described very specific forms of violence, including legal and practical barriers faced in institutional health settings, such as misinformation, lack of confidentiality, forced contraception and/or abortion, prejudices about their parenting capacity and infantilization. This intentional structured listening was a critical first step to then shaping a tailored project design that was relevant and targeted their needs.

Innovative adaptions by FUSA under COVID-19 also led to unexpected successes. For example, FUSA pioneered a SRHR digital tools platform focused on legal empowerment designed with and for WGWD. It was the first of its kind in Argentina. Over 2,200 WGWD registered on the "Our Decision" mobile application and 3,400 WGWD participated on the digital resources platform. Two million indirect beneficiaries were also reached with rights-based messaging via media campaigns emphasizing the importance of WGWD having a level of autonomy in all legal and medical decisions which affect them and the creation of a new national inclusive communications directorate for TV and Radio. WGWD noted the positive impact of being able to access these tools for their own empowerment:

It (DeSeAr) gives us tools for autonomy to know what we can do, why others cannot decide for us, it seems essential to me that women can decide with knowledge, that we can prevent situations of abuse, identify them, know what to do if it happens to us (...) from the project, we fight it. I believe that through disinformation there are erroneous beliefs about disability and those beliefs are acted upon and rights are violated (Women with a disability, quoted in external evaluation, FUSA, 2022, p.21, translated from Spanish).

FUSA's external evaluation named FUSA's two most significant achievements as centring WGWD and capacitating service providers. First, its effective centring of the agency and participation of 6300 WGWD (200 more than initially expected) equipped them to perceive themselves differently and to behave as legal agents with rights, power and choices, including in conversations with others. Second, the provision of high-quality practical information through the structured capacitation of 900 professional service providers within government health institutions (as well as CSOs and media spaces) helped transform their mindsets and take intersectional approaches to disability and gender. As a result, this supported internal accountability systems through the Ministry of Health (MoH) for using the new practical disability tools and protocols daily in their work, such as the inclusive care kits developed by FUSA in collaboration with both WGWD and the MoH. Interviewees from MoH themselves noted that the project's timing was highly relevant:

The public management person interviewed explains that, although the SRHR of WGWD were already on the agenda of the Ministry of Health prior to the project, the topic began to be actively worked on as of 2019 and highlights (the project's) relevance saying "when we began to exchange with groups with disabilities, discomfort and contradiction are generated because one realizes that there is still a lot to do to give concrete, real content to that inclusion". (External evaluation, FUSA, 2022, p.21, translated from Spanish)

FUSA's results show that working at legal and policy systems level, while slow and frustrating within a short project cycle, can support long term accountability systems that operate at national level with a concrete, sustainable impact on all WGWD within the country that is not reliant on CSO funds.

Presentation of recognition to the Colectiva de Mujeres con Capacidad de Soñar a Colores (Collective of Women Capable of Dreaming in Colors) at the commemoration event for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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3.4 Why taking holistic approaches to programming improves results for WGWD

The above sections have presented evidence of results in alignment with the Trust Fund's three outcome areas, in order to give a sense of what was achieved under these areas. However, the reality is that most of the projects took more holistic approaches, which touched on two or sometimes all of the outcome areas. The results of these projects have shown more holistic approaches to be effective. Many projects were also seen to work across multiple levels of engagement (within the socio-ecological model of violence prevention and response) and found this to be an important contributing factor to their overall results. Finally, many grantees noted that despite a focus on the specific intersection between gender and disability, other multiple intersections also emerged as affected by the relationship between a range of diverse disabilities and gender. These more holistic approaches to programming were seen by many grantees as material to their overall success.

The Special Window call focused grantees' attention on the specific intersection between gender and disabilities and its implications for EVAWG. In retrospect, a number of grantees noted that this focus helped them to create successful synergies between different dimensions of their existing programming with WGWD in specific relation to EVAWG prevention, services and wider legal and policy systems. In assessing the results of the Special Window as a whole (as this report does), it supports previous findings that projects are often successful when taking a holistic approach to the different outcome areas, to the different levels of the socio-ecological model and to the range of other identities that WGWD have (e.g. poverty or age), which may intersect in specific ways with programming focused on gender and disabilities. This section showcases the value of this holistic approach by drawing on one grantee (Women Challenged to Challenge [WCC] in Kenya) as a particular, but not exclusive, example.

3.4.1 A holistic approach to different outcome areas

Specific interconnections between the three outcome areas emerged regularly in specific relation to the needs and lives of WGWD. For example, enabling WGWD to see themselves as rights holders who deserve wider support was an essential part of preventing violence for many grantees. However, it was also an important step in them accessing service delivery intervention, because many WGWD did not see themselves as having a right to such services. At the same time, human rights education is a form of legal empowerment often carried out alongside other social and economic forms of empowerment of WGWD, which cannot be divorced from these other preventative goals. This legal knowledge aided many grantees both in the task of violence prevention, but also in the improved ability of WGWD to themselves demand needed services from statutory duty bearers.

This was the case for Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC), a national organization for women with disabilities set up in 2001 in Kenya. Their grassroots network of 1,300 WGWD members across 42 counties is focused solely on disabilities with a specific end-violence mandate since 2014. WCC explicitly held together the prevention of and response to VAWGWD in their project goal, seeing them as inseparable components. While they only received a small grant, their programming delivered good value for money by intentionally leveraging the intersections between all three outcomes areas – legal, services and prevention – and by focusing on key activities and partnerships that enabled certain activities to lead to results across all three areas, rather than carrying out different activities for each.

WCC equipped 120 WGWD as self-organized rights activists and community paralegals. This empowered them within a peer-to-peer social model which operated as a protective factor for violence prevention, but also equipped them as activists for improved legal and policy implementation. By also providing referrals to services for other women, and holding service and justice providers accountable, these 120 WGWD also become more visible as valuable members of the community. As a result, this addressed some of the risk factors that can underpin violence against WGWD if they are viewed as a drain on society. All 120 women started to formally report VAWG perpetrators and ensured the cases were referred and followed up, with 55 perpetrators reported and 11 sentenced over the project period. This intersectional approach across many outcome areas was clear in their multi-faceted theory of change which intentionally leveraged WGWD across multiple outcomes for long-term gains.

3.4.2 A holistic approach to different levels of engagement

Engagement within different levels of the socio-ecological model characterized the strategies of many grantees and a holistic approach created important intersections between these levels that led to improved results. This was especially true with regard to empowering WGWD to meaningfully participate in these levels, given their history of being excluded from involvement in these other spaces. Many activities at policy, institutional and societal level, as well as with families and communities, were effective in part because they were founded on the specific experiences, motivation and empowerment of WGWD and the organizations that directly represent them. At the same time, grantees pointed out that WGWD must not feel that they carry the full weight of bringing change at all levels. Structural barriers that prevent WGWD from becoming autonomous agents also have to be addressed simultaneously at individual and systems level, such as laws which do not define WGWD as legal persons in their own right. Working to ensure an enabling social environment was an essential part of shifting mindsets on disability away from an individualized rehabilitation model, towards a model where societies are held accountable for ways in which they discriminate against WGWD and are supported to change. For example, working to enable WGWD access to basic health, education and social systems also has an impact on preventing violence against WGWD at other levels, where an inability for WGWD to access needed statutory services such as education or health can make them more isolated and overly dependent on their carers who may then become abusive. Because these levels constantly intersect, failures at one level of the system could further entrench violence at other levels and grantees who took careful note of these connections were able to identify and work to address these wider cross level risk and protection factors more effectively.

Guests during the project's launch using sign language to celebrate.

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WCC worked at multiple levels of the socio-ecological model simultaneously and the synergies seen between these levels was notable for them. For example, WCC's advocacy aimed at policy changes was taken more seriously at national level because they had also done individual-level work to enable WGWD to be able to speak out confidently about their own requirements and supported them organizationally to become political influencers in national-level policy spaces. An unexpected result was that these trained WWD then administered data collection questionnaires to formal duty bearers, creating opportunities for WGWD to demonstrate their skills and challenge existing perceptions.

3.4.3 A holistic approach to intersecting risk factors

The Special Window enabled many grantees to focus deeper attention on the specific intersection between gender and disability. However, in doing so, it also became apparent that many other intersecting identity and circumstantial risk factors may became relevant once a disability-lens is taken. For example, under COVID-19, the digital gap that already affected women with disabilities became more significant, while in rural areas or religious communities especially, harmful beliefs about disability often exacerbated disability stigma. Grantees had to think about these overlapping intersections and how to address them together in a holistic way.

For example, WCC also treated mothers caring for girls with disabilities as part of their primary beneficiary group. This is because pre-existing research in Kenya by their formal partner (Advantage Africa) showed that harmful beliefs positioned disability as a punishment for the sins of the mother and created additional intersecting layers of gendered vulnerability and stigma for the mother, who may also experience violence from their husbands because of this belief. Girls with disabilities experience age related risks, and might be hidden away and not allowed to get an education because of what they are seen to represent about the family or for their own protection. This shows how, for example, age, marital status and culture as well as other issues can also intersect around disability.

WCC's programme design was carefully shaped from the start by action research, in which WGWD were involved, on the root causes of VAWGWD in Kenya. This intersectional analysis of what drives VAWGWD showed how harmful attitudes to disability shaped attitudes of families, service providers and wider systems, hardening into patterns of exclusion of WGWD and the normalization of violence.

WCC offers just one illustration of how the Special Window enabled many grantees to develop increased awareness of how outcome areas are connected. For example, legal strategies intersect with service provision and longer-term prevention of violence is entangled in the ability of WGWD to both access services and be protected by laws and policies that have often excluded or harmed them. This was seen to be best served by multi-level, multi-outcome, multi-intersectional programming.

4. OVERALL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SPECIAL WINDOW TO ADDRESSING VAWGWD

The Special Window impacted the lives of over 50,000 WGWD. Beyond this, it also contributed to the creation of a wider enabling environment through the estimated 7 million secondary and indirect beneficiaries reached and in the transformation of social systems at other levels of the socio-ecological model of violence prevention and response. As section 3.4.2 has already discussed, a holistic approach to the intersections emerging between these levels also emerged as important. The Special Window supported many of the grantees to go beyond working only at individual-level with WGWD. Evidence emerged of ending VAWGWD efforts being implemented successfully at multiple levels:

- **Individual level:** Strategies which focused on engaging individual WGWD directly were able to focus attention on the direct empowerment of WGWD and their intentional social connection as peers to reduce the extreme forms of isolation they may currently face. This helped WGWD to become more visible to each other and to become more empowered.
- **Interpersonal (family) level:** Engaging family members was also identified as critical in many projects, as caregivers and other support persons play a particularly complex role in the lives of many WGWD. Patterns of neglect, verbal and economic violence can be normalized within the family system, as well as heightened sexual and physical risks. At the same time, caring for people with disabilities was consistently seen as women's work and without other forms of support, these family carers struggled to cope.
- **Community level:** Community-level strategies addressed harmful social norms and practices around disability that created patterns of stigma, invisibility, and default exclusion. Institutional-level intervention capacitated service providers and formal duty bearers especially within health, education, social and justice sectors as well as CSOs and women's rights organizations (WROs) who needed capacitating to become more inclusive.
- **Societal level:** Strategies at institutional and macro levels of society, such as legal and policy systems, supported longer term accountability and the guaranteed protection of all WGWD. They also paid attention to how wider societal attitudes to disability can create unconscious biases and barriers within systems that can lead to systems of protection doing further harm.

The results of this Special Window also need to be viewed in the light of its specific time period where all 22 projects were unexpectedly affected by COVID-19. This risked leaving WGWD even further behind, more isolated and at higher risk, often due to new laws and policies that often failed to consider their specific needs. The many ways in which these 22 projects adapted, innovated and provided additional support to WGWD under COVID-19 helped prevent this crisis from increasing VAWGWD further and also led to some important digital innovations for WGWD in the future.

Across this multi-level work done by grantees, *four cross-cutting catalyzers* consistently amplified their positive results. These cross-cutting catalyzers enabled significant shifts in dominant ways of doing or thinking about WGWD. Where grantees implemented these, they were often seen to have an impact across multiple outcome areas and many levels of the socio-ecological model. Reflecting briefly on these catalyzers therefore offer insights on how certain specific activities may have an important impact both within the levels of the socio-ecological model and across them (as noted in section 3.4.2).

Increasing WGWD Visibility was a catalyst that was seen across the socio-ecological model wherever WGWD and their needs and capacities were explicitly made visible. Work which centred WGWD as individual rights holders, active participants, staff of implementing organizations or policy experts played a powerful role in leveraging this visibility for long-term success.

Transforming Mindsets was a catalyst seen across the socio-ecological model, enabling paradigm shifts around how disability was viewed by multiple stakeholders with varied roles at different levels. This was seen as especially key at the specific intersection of gender and disability where harmful paradigms are currently entrenched in many contexts.

Thinking Systemically was a catalyst that was seen across the socio-ecological model as it enabled increased recognition of each level as an interconnected power-laden system in its own right (e.g. family and community systems, institutional systems). It then enabled work to take place collaboratively both within and across these existing systems for change, rather than fuelling temporary project-driven responses that ran the risk of duplicating or ignoring existing systems.

Capacitating through Resources was a catalyst that was seen across the socio-ecological model that enabled sustained, collaborative capacitation of statutory duty bearers and the wider EVAWG sector. It includes developing disability-specific and disability-accessible materials for WGWD, to guides for families, training manuals for communities, service delivery and prevention protocols, and national laws and action research that can help to shape the future of the EVAWG sector.

One significant insight that emerged from across the Special Window portfolio was its sustained commitment to take seriously the mantra of the disability rights movement as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) of 'nothing about us, without us' and to work to operationalize this in practice. Centring WGWD, both as primary beneficiaries and as 'by and for' organizations and a strong commitment to partner directly or indirectly with many small OPDs, enabled new partnerships and collaborations where the participation of WGWD was embedded within how the Special Window was delivered and is one of its long-lasting successes.

Social mobilizer with members of a self-help group.

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5. CONCLUSION

This report has showcased key cumulative highlights of the UN Trust Fund's Special Window, as well as giving some more detailed examples of some individual project successes across different geographies, contexts and outcome areas. It also demonstrated that holistic approaches to addressing the specific intersection of disabilities and gender that leads to VAWGWD was important to grantee success, and took different forms within different programmes. Grantees consistently had success in finding and engaging WGWD directly, despite the fact that all of them acknowledged that they were a hard-to-reach population in their contexts. Being, or collaborating with, local OPDs was identified as a key feature of this success in finding and engaging WGWD meaningfully in programming.

While the full inclusion of WGWD in wider EVAWG programming remains a journey in process, the Special Window has contributed and catalysed sustained progress towards systems change, as well as the centring of individual WGWD. In large part this has been enabled by convening and capacitating a range of important partners in ways that are relevant for the wider EVAWG sector. It was able to capitalize on wider political and legal momentum around disabilities within many contexts, enabling CSOs to make a vital contribution to translating this into the actual lives of over 50,000 WGWD, as well as reaching over 7 million other beneficiaries through other programme activities, which was seen to be a critical part of shifting the wider paradigm on disabilities.

The Special Window is however not to be judged only by the impressive, quantitative numbers that it reached. Its intensive focus on the intersection between gender and disability in relation to ending VAWGWD offer important qualitative evidence of lives changed and multi-level impact across the three main outcome areas of the UN Trust Fund's work. The four catalysers (named in section four) of increasing WGWD visibility, transforming mindsets, thinking systemically, and capacitating through resources consistently emerged as effective across different grantees, outcome areas, socio-ecological levels and intersecting risks and offer evidence for the EVAWG sector on where to invest resources.

Engaging with WGWD to end the violence, exclusion and neglect which they face still requires ongoing attention. The Special Window shows that entrenched harmful patterns are neither inevitable or acceptable, and that CSOs, if properly equipped, can play a crucial role in changing these patterns longer term. Many WGWD still remain trapped in cycles of stigma, invisibility, disempowerment, exclusion and lack of access to needed services, including EVAWG services. The Special Window grantees offer evidence that with careful resource allocation, and focused time and attention, these cycles can be broken and that WGWD can view themselves and be viewed by others, as visible, empowered citizens and a fundamental part of all movements and programming to end VAWG.

ANNEX

Organization, Country	Project Title	Cycle	Year	Size	Knowledge Product
ADD International Cambodia	Preventing violence against women and girls with disabilities in Cambodia: a community mobilization model.	21	2018	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Asociación para el Desarrollo Legislativo y la Democracia, LEGIS Guatemala	PREVENTING AND ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES, AND PROMOTING THEIR ACCESS TO JUSTICE	23	2019	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Beyond Borders (known in Haiti in Haitian Creole: Depase Fwontyè yo) Haiti	Safe and Capable: Haitian Communities Preventing Violence against Girls and Women with Disabilities	21	2018	Large Grant	N/A
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales Argentina	La reforma de prácticas hospitalarias y judiciales para erradicar la violencia contra las mujeres con discapacidad mental asiladas en el Hospital Psiquiátrico Dr. Alejandro Korn, Buenos Aires, Argentina.	22	2019	Large Grant	Not yet published
Christoffel-Blindenmission Deutschland e.V. Pakistan	Strengthening support mechanisms to end violence against women and girls with disabilities in two districts (Multan and Muzaffargarh) of Punjab province	23	2019	Large Grant	Not yet published
COORDINADORA POR LOS DERECHOS DE LA INFANCIA Y LA ADOLESCENCIA Paraguay	Paraguay incluye, derechos de las niñas y adolescentes con discapacidad	21	2018	Small Grant	Project Summary
FUSA PARA LA SALUD INTEGRAL CON PERSPECTIVA DE GENERO Y DERECHOS ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL Argentina	Proyecto DeSeAr (Derechos Sexuales en Argentina) con inclusión: promoviendo el acceso a los derechos sexuales y reproductivos de mujeres y niñas con discapacidades en Argentina	21	2018	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Initiative pour un Developpement Equitable en Haiti (IDEH) Haiti	Egalite des chances et accès aux mécanismes de reponse et institutions de lutte contre les VFF pour les femmes et filles en situation de handicap	23	2019	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Mujeres Transformando el Mundo - MTM Guatemala	"Acceso a la Justicia y empoderamiento de las mujeres, adolescentes y niñas con discapacidad y víctimas de violencia"	21	2018	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
National Center Against Violence Mongolia	Supporting for disabled women and girls who are survivors of GBV	23	2019	Small Grant	Not yet published

Organization, Country	Project Title	Cycle	Year	Size	Knowledge Product
National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda Uganda	Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Amuria District	21	2018	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Nepal Disabled Womens Association Nepal	Inclusive Partnership Against Violence (INPAV)	22	2019	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Organisasi Harapan Nusantara (OHANA) Indonesia	Ending Violence Against Women with Disabilities in Indonesia	22	2019	Small Grant	Not yet published
Paz y Esperanza Peru	Una vida digna y sin violencia para las niñas y mujeres con discapacidad en Lima, Cusco y San Martín - Perú	22	2019	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Rwanda Organization of women with disabilities (UNABU) Rwanda	Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Rwanda	21	2018	Small Grant	Project Summary
Society for Life Changers and Good Parental Care Nigeria	Empowering Women and Girls with Disability through improved social inclusion and eliminating Gender based Violence in Osun and Kwara State (EMPOWER)	23	2019	Small Grant	Not yet published
Stars Of Hope Society State of Palestine	HEMAYA	21	2018	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse Eswatini	Leave No One Behind: Towards a VAW/G free Eswatini	22	2019	Large Grant	Not yet published
The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women Bangladesh	Protection from violence against women and girls with disabilities in Bangladesh (PROVA)	23	2019	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Women Challenged to Challenge Kenya	Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Kenya	21	2018	Small Grant	Project Summary
Mental Disability Rights Initiative MDRI-S Serbia	Accessible Services for Women with Disabilities Survivors of Custodial Violence	21	2018	Large Grant	Final Evaluation
Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Zimbabwe	Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities in Zimbabwe	21	2018	Large Grant	Final Evaluation

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