



CYCLE 27 PORTFOLIO BRIEF

Arab States & North Africa

This regional brief presents the new partners and initiatives under the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women's Cycle 27 2023 Call for Proposals in the Arab States and North Africa. The overall grant portfolio of the UN Trust Fund in this region comprises 24 initiatives with a total value of US\$ 15.6 million (as of December 2024).

4 Partners | **4** Countries | **4-year** Initiatives | **US\$3.4M** Total Investment

100%
Large Organizations

US\$1.6M
Special Window

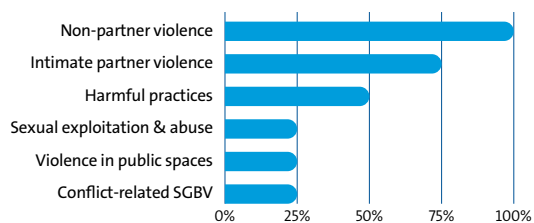
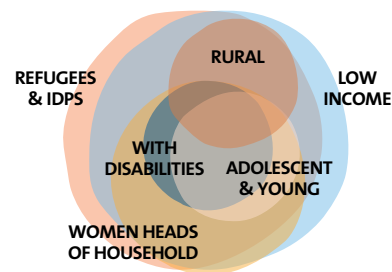
US\$1.8M
General Window

Large, Specialized, Women-Led Organizations Driving Change

While the four new initiatives from the Arab States and North Africa region constitute only 14% of the UN Trust Fund's new portfolio, their total budget amounts to one quarter of the global funding allocation – all disbursed through large grants. Awardees are all large, women's rights, women-led organizations. While all address violence against conflict-affected women and girls, only three out of four submitted their proposals through the special funding window for crisis-affected populations.

Intersecting Vulnerabilities: Front & Center

This portfolio distinctively prioritizes women and girls affected by conflict and displacement, while addressing several other intersecting vulnerabilities including socio-economic and disability status. Initiatives reach both host communities and refugee populations, recognizing how crisis settings compound existing vulnerabilities and create new protection needs.



Tackling Complex Violence With Collective Leadership

The portfolio addresses forms of violence spanning private and public spaces - from intimate partner violence to harassment in public transportation - with particular attention to how economic crisis, conflict and displacement amplify these risks for women facing multiple vulnerabilities. Initiatives employ a three-pronged approach: enhancing protection services, promoting economic independence, and transforming discriminatory social norms. They foster local women's leadership and community-driven solutions through initiatives such as women's clubs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, survivor-led programmes in Syria, women-led organizations in Jordan, and partnerships among women's groups in Lebanon.

2023 Call for Proposals

185
Applications

11
Countries

US\$108M
Requested

In December 2023, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women launched a global call for proposals inviting concept notes for initiatives addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG), receiving a record-breaking 2,889 applications.

Proposals from the Arab States and North Africa region represented 6% of total applications, with the largest number coming from Yemen, Jordan and Iraq. Almost two in five (39%) were received under the special window on violence against crisis-affected women and girls, and most were submitted by women-led organizations. Organizations requested US\$108 million to directly support 5 million women and girls in the region, with a focus of survivors of violence, adolescent girls, refugees and internally displaced women, and lowest-income groups. Top forms of violence targeted were harmful practices, sexual harassment in public spaces and institutions and intimate partner violence.

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LEBANON

Himaya Da'em Aataa

In Lebanon, 53% of gender-based violence cases are linked to women's economic dependence, exacerbated by multiple crises affecting both Lebanese and Syrian refugee women. This initiative aims to reduce violence through an innovative dual approach combining economic empowerment (vocational training, business support) with gender transformation interventions that engage both women and men across five regions. The initiative uniquely bridges gender-based violence prevention with economic independence by fostering systemic change in gender relations.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Rural Women's Development Society

In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, divorced and single mothers and women with disabilities face heightened risk of violence due to societal stigma, economic hardship, and restricted movement under occupation, exacerbated by the ongoing conflict, leaving them with limited access to services when confronted by gender-based violence. This initiative targets 15 rural communities across Hebron, Bethlehem, and Gaza to enhance protection services, prevent violence through economic empowerment and social norm change, while advocating for legislative reforms to safeguard these marginalized groups.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Women Now for Development

In Syria, gender-based violence disproportionately affects displaced women, adolescent girls, widows and divorced women, often perpetrated by male partners and family members. Building on success in Lebanon where survivor-led initiatives secured hundreds of family commitments against child marriage preventing dozens of early marriages, this initiative will follow a similar approach empowering survivors to analyze violence drivers in their communities, design prevention strategies, and mobilize local action - creating an evidence base for scaling this community-based model across Syria.

JORDAN

JoWomenomics

In Jordan, 40% of reported sexual harassment occurs in public transportation, disproportionately impacting Jordanian, Syrian, and Palestinian women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who rely on crowded buses for lengthy work commutes. Through partnerships with transport authorities, this initiative will create safer public transit in Amman by implementing anti-harassment policies, mandatory driver training, and a mobile app for reporting incidents, while launching community campaigns to transform social norms.

About the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, is the only global, multilateral grant-giving mechanism exclusively dedicated to supporting efforts to prevent and end all forms of violence against women and girls.

