



# CYCLE 27 PORTFOLIO BRIEF

## 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 Africa. The overall grant portfolio of the UN Trust Fund in this region comprises 54 initiatives with a total value of US\$ 28.9 million (as of December 2024).

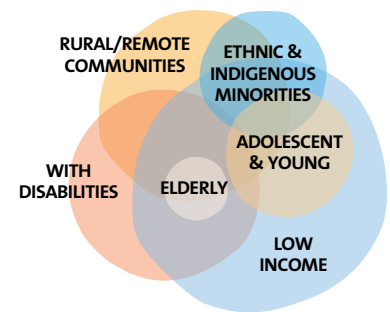
**5** Partners | **4** Countries | **4-year** Initiatives | **us\$1.9M** Total Investment

**40%**  
Small Orgs.

**60%**  
Large Organizations

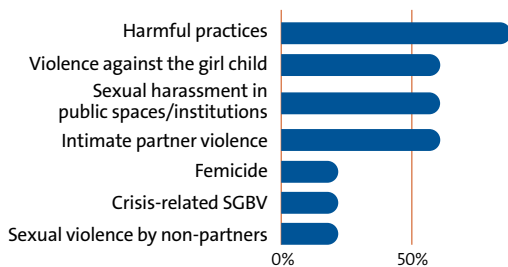
### Women-Led, Women's Rights Organizations

The five new initiatives from Africa represent 18% of the UN Trust Fund's new portfolio, and 14% of the budget allocation. Awarded organizations are all women-led and women/girls' rights organizations; 40% are small organizations. All proposals were submitted through the general window to address violence against marginalized women and girls. A quarter of the regional budgets will be disbursed through small grants of up to US\$ 250,000 in support of small organizations.



### Focus on Multiple Vulnerabilities and Rural Settings

Africa's portfolio focuses on survivors facing intersecting discriminations, particularly women with disabilities, those from rural and low-income communities, and ethnic minorities. It also recognizes specific risks faced by different age groups, from girls affected by early marriage to older women accused of witchcraft. Overall, initiatives focus on addressing systemic marginalization and culturally-specific forms of violence, with strategies adapted to both traditional rural settings and formal institutional contexts.



### Transforming Traditions, Strengthening Institutions: Africa's Regional Approaches

With a strong emphasis on violence prevention, initiatives in Africa offer diverse strategies to different context-specific challenges. West and Central Africa partners focus on transforming harmful traditional practices through engagement with traditional and religious authorities, in contexts affected by violent extremism. East and Southern Africa interventions emphasize institutional reform and young women's empowerment through formal systems, tackling both electoral violence and school-related gender-based violence while strengthening policy frameworks.

## 2023 Call for Proposals

West & Central	<b>662</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>us\$327M</b>
East & Southern	<b>844</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>us\$456M</b>
West & Central and East & Southern	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>us\$18M</b>
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>us\$801M</b>
	Applications	Countries	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 Africa represented 53% of total applications, with the largest number coming from Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Ethiopia. In West and Central Africa, applications requested US\$327 million to reach 54.4 million beneficiaries, with 36% focusing on violence against crisis-affected women and girls. East and Southern African proposals sought US\$456 million to support 32.8 million women and girls, with 25% addressing crisis-affected populations. Both regions prioritized survivors of violence, adolescent girls, lowest-income groups and women with disabilities. Proposed initiatives mainly targeted sexual violence by non-partners, harmful practices, harassment in public spaces, and intimate partner violence.

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## Africa

### UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA •

#### *Voice of Encouragement Tanzania*

In Tanzania's Shinyanga and Mwanza regions, high rates of child sexual abuse and forced marriage disproportionately impact underserved adolescent girls, especially those with disabilities. This initiative will empower at-risk girls through inclusive capacity building workshops, mobile health clinics, and school-based girls' "chain breaker clubs" to build leadership skills. Community dialogues and campaigns will engage stakeholders to transform norms, ensuring sustainable change.

### GHANA •

#### *Songtaba*

In Ghana, women face persecution through witchcraft accusations leading to banishment in 'witch' camps, and widespread intimate partner violence affecting nearly half of women in the Savannah and Central Regions. Through one-stop centers and safe spaces, this initiative combines rights-based education, support services to survivors, and advocacy for anti-witchcraft legislation while engaging traditional authorities to transform harmful practices - mobilizing local philanthropy to sustain these protection mechanisms and comprehensive support services.

### TOGO •

#### *ALAFIA*

In Togo's Mo prefecture, women and girls face widespread abductions and forced marriages, particularly affecting young women under 24 from low-income and with disabilities within the Moba and Peulh indigenous communities. Building on successful experiences from neighboring prefectures, this initiative will establish market support kiosks where sequestered women can seek help, and mobilize traditional authorities, law enforcement, and women leaders to transform harmful cultural practices.

### UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

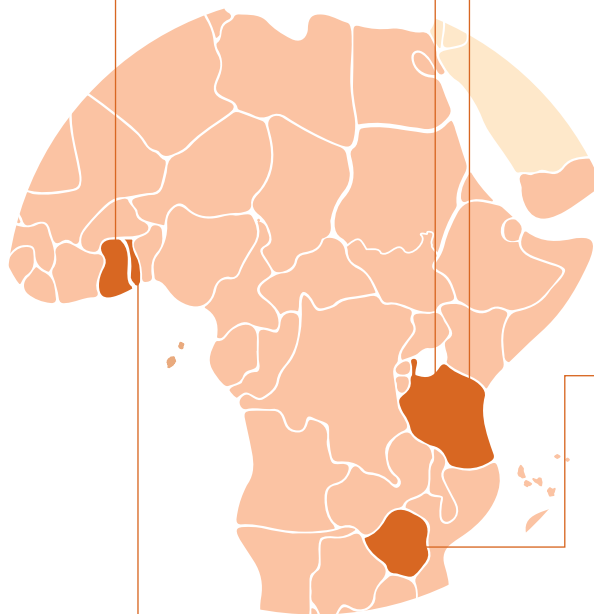
#### *Tanzania Women Cross-Party Platform*

In Tanzania, electoral violence disproportionately affects women, with 53% refraining from voting due to fear and intimidation. This initiative focuses on creating safe political spaces for women with disabilities - who face double discrimination and remain largely invisible in politics despite quotas. Through capacity building of both underserved women and duty-bearers across 11 regions, it will transform discriminatory practices while advocating for inclusive electoral processes ahead of the elections.

### ZIMBABWE

#### *Women and Law in Southern Africa Zimbabwe*

In Zimbabwe, women and girls from remote districts facing intersecting barriers of poverty, disability, and ethnic minority status have a limited access to justice when confronted with gender-based violence. This initiative will partner with women's rights organizations representing these underserved populations to jointly empower survivors to access justice through community paralegals and mobile legal clinics, while building the organizations' collective capacity to influence national policies and strengthen legal protection.



### 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.

