



CYCLE 27 PORTFOLIO BRIEF

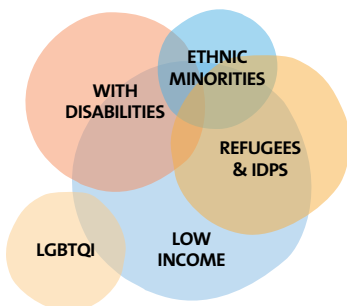
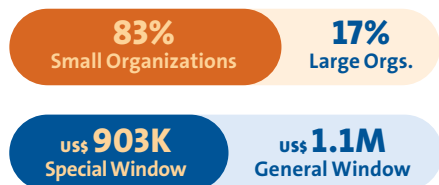
Europe & Central Asia

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 Europe and Central Asia. The overall grant portfolio of the UN Trust Fund in this region comprises 27 initiatives with a total value of US\$ 9.4 million (as of December 2024).

6 Partners
6 Countries
4-year Initiatives
us\$2M Total Investment

Small, Specialized & Women-Led Organizations

The six new initiatives from Europe and Central Asia constitute 21% of the UN Trust Fund's new portfolio, with almost 15% of the total budget. Organizations awarded are all small (except in Ukraine), women-led, and specialized in women's rights (50%) and underserved communities including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex women (LGBTQI) and persons living with disabilities. Two out of six proposals were submitted through the special funding window for crisis-affected women and girls (Ukraine and Armenia).

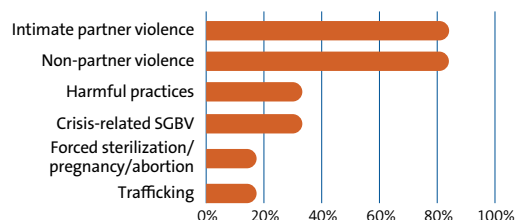


A Diverse and Inclusive Portfolio

Selected initiatives focus on marginalized groups, particularly women with disabilities, LGBTQI individuals, and ethnic minorities including Roma women, while also addressing the needs of conflict-affected and displaced populations. Their explicitly intersectional approach recognizes how multiple vulnerabilities (such as disability, displacement, and economic hardship) compound experiences of violence and discrimination.

Comprehensive Approaches to Address Discrimination and Violence

The organizations frame intimate partner violence through the lens of specific discriminations (LGBTQI, disability, displacement) and address violence in crisis settings where conflict creates heightened vulnerabilities while weakening protection systems. To address these challenges, the initiatives emphasize transforming discriminatory social norms and improving institutional responses, while maintaining cultural sensitivity and addressing survivors' immediate needs in post-conflict contexts.



2023 Call for Proposals

170 Applications

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.

18 Countries

Proposals from the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region represented 6% of total applications, with the largest number coming from Ukraine, Moldova, Türkiye, and Serbia. Almost 1 in 4 (23%) were received under the special window on violence against crisis-affected women and girls, and most of them were submitted by women-led organizations. Organizations requested US\$99 million to directly support 3.3 million women and girls in the region, with a focus of survivors of violence, low-income women, adolescent girls and women and girls living with disabilities. Top forms of violence targeted were intimate partner violence, non-partner violence, and sexual harassment in public spaces and institutions.

us\$ 99M Requested

CYCLE 27 PORTFOLIO BRIEF

Europe & Central Asia

SERBIA

Labris - Lesbian Human Rights Organization

In Serbia, where same-sex partnerships remain unrecognized, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (LBTQ) women experiencing intimate partner violence face double discrimination. Informed by pioneering research on lesbian relationship violence, this initiative will increase violence recognition, as a crucial step to reduce stigma, foster agency and promote understanding of protective mechanisms. The intervention will establish the first specialized emergency hotline and a coordinated network of service providers across seven cities - combining direct assistance with systemic change.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Zena Bitt

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, marginalized women - including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, women with disabilities, and Roma women - face intersecting forms of discrimination. This initiative will move systematically from initial community assessment and legislative analysis, through capacity building and advocacy, to sustainable employment initiatives across Herzegovina and southern Republic Srpska for over 300 women. Each phase will apply an intersectional approach to create lasting change.

ALBANIA

Center Shelter Edlira Haxhiymeri

In Albania, where women and girls face prevalent discrimination and violence, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women bear a disproportionate burden due to intersecting stigma. Through unique collaboration between the country's only LBT-inclusive shelter and a leading women's center, this initiative will make shelters more resilient to maintain vital services even during emergencies in four municipalities, combining safe accommodation and comprehensive support with trauma-informed staff capacity building.

UKRAINE

Insight

The war in Ukraine has intensified violence against underserved women - including single mothers, elders, displaced, lesbian, bisexual and non-binary, and those with disabilities. This initiative will deliver crisis response and long-term recovery to these groups by providing immediate protection in safer western regions such as shelters and trauma-informed psychological and legal support and establishing community hubs with empowerment activities in frontline areas.

KYRGYZSTAN

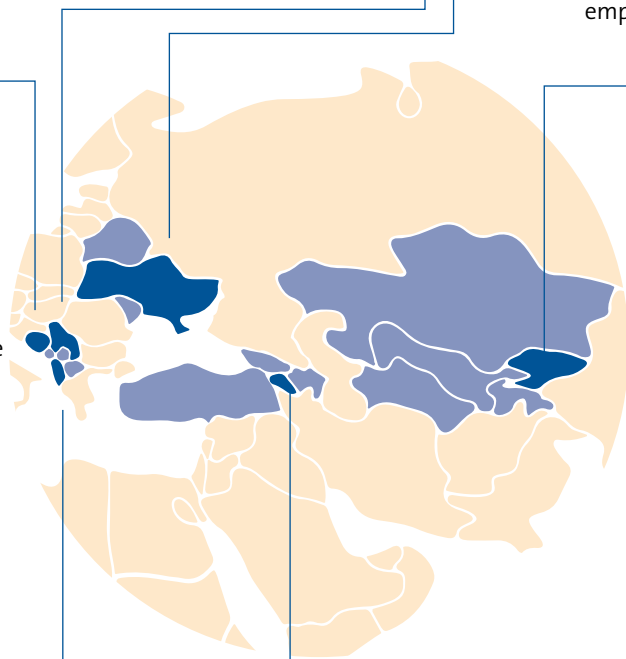
Public Association Union of People with Disabilities Ravenstvo

In Kyrgyzstan, women with disabilities face pervasive violence and discrimination, exacerbated by social isolation. Operating through the country's only adapted Independent Living Center, this initiative aims to transform their status from survivors to leaders through peer counseling and summer leadership schools, while building disability-sensitive response systems across law enforcement, healthcare and crisis services.

ARMENIA

Women's Center Shushi

Women who fled Nagorno Karabakh face multiple layers of trauma while becoming primary caretakers for war-affected family members. Led by displaced women themselves, this initiative will create support networks combining safe spaces and legal aid with research-driven advocacy, using storytelling to debunk stereotypes and knitting circles for both emotional recovery and economic empowerment. Through this integrated approach, it aims to both heal trauma and transform systems that perpetuate vulnerability.



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.

