



UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030

SUMMARY



The UN Trust Fund and its Mandate

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls (UN Trust Fund) is the only General Assembly–mandated, system-wide, inter-agency, pooled financing and accountability mechanism dedicated exclusively to ending violence against women and girls.

Established in 1996 by General Assembly resolution 50/166, following the Fourth World Conference on Women, the UN Trust Fund institutionalized the demands of women’s and feminist movements and the commitments of Member States – by embedding the elimination of violence against women and girls as a standing United Nations priority.

The Strategic Plan 2026-2030

This Strategic Plan sets the direction of the UN Trust Fund for the period 2026 to 2030. It outlines the UN Trust Fund’s mandate, vision, mission and values. It describes the need and opportunity for action and agility, and defines key priorities for advancing the elimination of violence against women and girls. The Strategic Plan serves as the UN Trust Fund’s framework for decision-making and measuring performance.

Guided by principles of inclusion, transparency and evidence-informed design, the Strategic Plan was developed through a participatory process drawing on evaluations, surveys and practice-based knowledge, and informed by consultations with 165 stakeholders. Women’s organizations were central to shaping the analysis and priorities, ensuring that the voices and realities of women and girls most affected by violence are at the heart of the strategy.

Proven impact and a model for UN80

After three decades, the UN Trust Fund stands as a proven, grant-making mechanism. It has mobilized more than US\$ 250 million from nearly 40 Member States and supported 725 initiatives in 140 countries and territories to drive transformative, evidence-based

action to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

The UN Trust Fund, administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) – operationalizes United Nations commitments across humanitarian, development and peace contexts. Its model – delivering quality funding, strengthening learning, evidence and practice-based knowledge, and driving convening and advocacy for movement building and system-wide accountability – exemplifies the UN80 vision.

Why now? Urgency and opportunity

The right of women and girls to live a life free from violence is universal and inalienable, grounded in binding international human rights instruments and reaffirmed by Member States for decades. Yet violence against women and girls remains one of the most pervasive human rights and health emergencies.

Grounded in structural inequality and sustained by discrimination, impunity and patriarchal norms, violence against women and girls erodes rights, undermines peace and blocks sustainable development.

Nearly one in three women worldwide have reported experiencing violence, though pervasive underreporting masks the true scale. Harmful practices such as early, forced and child marriage and female genital mutilation persist world over. Femicide is rising – a woman was killed every ten minutes by an intimate partner or family member in 2023.

Women and girls who are structurally marginalized – on the basis of Indigeneity, disability, sexual or gender identity or expression, race, or forced displacement – are disproportionately affected, facing both higher risks of violence and greater barriers to protection, services and justice.

In 2026, risks are intensifying as violence escalates in contexts of polycrisis – where conflict, displacement, poverty, climate shocks and democratic backsliding intersect – compounded by technology-facilitated abuse, emerging AI-powered threats, and a coordinated global backlash that is shrinking civic space.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030: THEORY OF CHANGE

OUR VISION

A world where all women and girls live free from all forms of violence and able to exercise their rights, voice and agency.

OUR VALUES

EQUITABLE FUNDING PRACTICES
INTEGRITY & TRANSFORMATION
CARE & COLLECTIVE WELLBEING
ADOPTIVE & MOVEMENT-LED
INTERSECTIONAL & RIGHTS-BASED
FEMINIST & SURVIVOR-LED

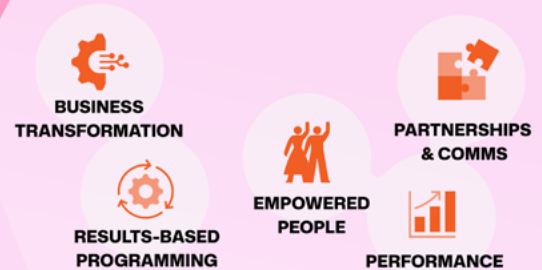
OUR MISSION

Providing quality funding and comprehensive support to women's organizations; advancing evidence, partnerships, and advocacy to strengthen the global EAWG ecosystem, and upholding accountability to end violence against women and girls.

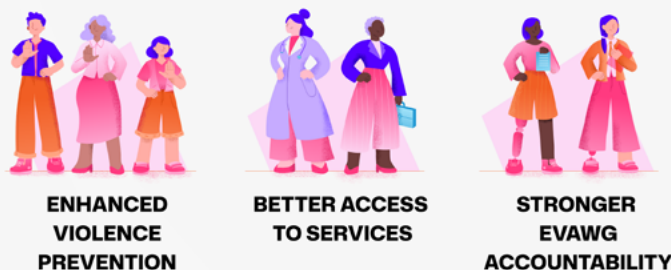
COLLECTIVE IMPACT

More women and girls - especially those most structurally marginalized - live free from violence, stigma and discrimination, across humanitarian, development and peace contexts.

OUR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS



EVAWG RESULTS FROM WRO/CSO PARTNERS'



OUR STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT WRO/CSOs



And yet, the evidence is clear: ending violence against women and girls is achievable. Prevention works. Survivor-centred services save lives. Policy and legal frameworks reduce violence. But they must be adequately resourced, sustained over time and adapted to context.

The global funding gap

Women's organizations are facing acute funding pressures. Their share of official development assistance (ODA) – already below 0.1 per cent of ODA gender equality funding – is declining and becoming increasingly unpredictable.

Despite decades of political commitments, the quantity and quality of funding for the prevention of gender-based violence remain profoundly misaligned with the scale and urgency of the crisis, and funding models remain insufficient.

UN Trust Fund global demand data reflect this funding gap: annual requests for support exceed available resources many times over, leaving the vast majority of demand unfunded.

Data reveal a persistent disconnect between stated commitments and the scale of investment required to address the crisis. This underresourcing has consequences. Prevention efforts are fragmented and short-term; essential, specialist services for survivors remain unavailable or overstretched in many contexts; and accountability systems – including laws, policies and financing frameworks – are unevenly implemented and weakly enforced. The result is a cycle in which violence persists, escalates during crises, and dispro-

portionately harms those already facing structural marginalization.

This moment must be seen as a time of urgency. Member States have renewed commitments to long-term, predictable and sustainable funding for gender equality, including stronger support for efforts to end violence against women and girls. The United Nations is advancing system-wide reforms (UN80) that promote pooled financing, shared responsibility and strengthened accountability. These reforms accompany growing recognition that resources must be directed where they can have the greatest impact across prevention, services and accountability – particularly at national and local levels.

Turning commitments into concrete, coordinated action is now essential. A failure to do so will further widen the gap between political ambition and lived reality at the expense of women's and girls' lives, safety, freedom and hard-won gains in human rights, gender equality and democracy.

Intensifying efforts to deliver impact

By 2030, the UN Trust Fund aims to ensure that more women and girls – especially those most structurally marginalized – live free from all forms of violence, stigma and discrimination across humanitarian, development and peace contexts.

This **impact** will be underpinned by two complementary levels of results – **Thematic Results Areas**, which describe the substantive changes the UN Trust Fund seeks to advance, in partnership with grantees, in ending violence against women and girls – across prevention, access to services and accountability; and **Strategic Results Areas**, which describe how the UN Trust Fund, as a General Assembly-mandated, system-wide, inter-agency, pooled financing and accountability mechanism, will deliver these results – through quality funding, learning and evidence, and convening and advocacy.

To deliver these results, the Strategic Plan 2026–2030 will **intensify efforts across several areas of work**. **Quality funding** will ensure that every grant provides core, flexible funding alongside programmatic funding for a minimum of four years, with aspirations to extend to six-plus years. This will be complemented by a **comprehensive, tailored support model** – including



STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030: INTENSIFYING EFFORTS FOR IMPACT



HOW WE FUND

Quality funding for all grants

Core, flexible funding with programmatic support. Minimum 4-year grant duration (ambition for 6+ years)

More agile and accessible grant-making

Annual cycles, open Calls and thematic windows. Simplified, multilingual processes

Strategic prioritization in constrained contexts

Explicit prioritization where risk, exclusion and funding gaps converge



HOW WE PARTNER

Comprehensive, tailored support model

Wraparound accompaniment, peer learning, well-being and advocacy visibility

Civil society at the centre of governance

Structural representation across advisory and oversight bodies

Globally dispersed Secretariat closer to partners

Regional hubs supported by HQ and satellite presence



SYSTEM-LEVEL IMPACT

Leave No One Behind & SDG impact

Twin-track approach prioritizing marginalized groups and advancing intersectionality

Evidence for Impact

Co-creating a context-sensitive definition of impact to inform policy

Funding, learning & accountability role

Leveraging demand data and portfolio evidence for action and coherence

accompaniment, peer learning, well-being resources and advocacy visibility—strengthening the organizational resilience of partners, particularly in volatile and crisis-affected settings. At the same time, **more agile and accessible grant-making** – including annual grant-giving, open Calls for Proposals, thematic windows and simplified multilingual processes – aims to lower barriers for small and emerging organizations.

In a constrained funding environment, the UN Trust Fund will apply **strategic prioritization**, directing resources where emerging risks, structural marginalization and exclusionary funding patterns converge. This includes addressing technology-facilitated and other emerging forms of violence, violence linked to climate change and crisis contexts, adolescent-focused approaches, and integrated approaches that enhance women’s economic and social empowerment as part of broader prevention and response efforts.

The Strategic Plan places **civil society at the centre of governance** and positions a **globally dispersed Secretariat closer to partners**, with regional hubs in Bangkok, Istanbul, Panama City and Nairobi supported by headquarters in Bonn and a satellite office in New York.

Across all areas of work, a **Leave No One Behind approach** will prioritize structurally marginalized women and girls while mainstreaming intersectionality across all grants, contributing to progress across multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

The Strategic Plan also strengthens **learning and evidence for impact**, continuing efforts with grantee partners to co-create a definition of impact that recognizes progress will look different across contexts and can inform policy, advocacy and accountability.

Finally, the UN Trust Fund will play an enhanced role in **global funding, learning and system-wide accountability**, leveraging its unique evidence base – from Calls for Proposals, portfolio monitoring, evaluation and reporting – to analyse funding demand, gaps and results, strengthen coordination and advance a more coherent United Nations-wide funding framework.

Together, these efforts position the UN Trust Fund as both a strategic funder and a system-level catalyst, linking funding, evidence, learning and advocacy to deliver impact at scale.



Accelerating our partnership – a call for joint action

The UN Trust Fund has a distinct and proven offer in global efforts to end violence against women and girls. It bridges global commitments, front-line realities and locally led solutions, translating pooled financing into collective power and global partnership, and directing resources where they have the greatest impact. Positioned within key multilateral processes – including the Commission on the Status of Women

and the Human Rights Council – the UN Trust Fund connects normative commitments with sustained financing for implementation on the ground.

This Strategic Plan is both an offer and a call to action to Member States, United Nations entities, civil society, and allies, to join this partnership – to resource what works, strengthen resilience where it matters most, and partner with women’s and feminist movements worldwide. Through collective commitment and long-term investment, we can realize the right of all women and girls to live free from violence.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO SHIFT POWER, DRIVE ADVOCACY AND SUSTAIN RESULTS

Member States

Engagement of Member States and donors through accountability, evidence sharing and diversified financing via a trusted pooled funding mechanism.



Women's Organizations & Feminist Movements

Deeper partnership with 700+ current and former partners and feminist funds to amplify advocacy and co-mobilize resources, for grassroots actors.



Broader EVAWG Ecosystem

Strategic alliances across feminist funds, philanthropy, research and others to generate knowledge and extend collective influence.

UN System

System-wide coherence through inter-agency collaboration, pooled financing, shared evidence and coordinated UN action.



UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

UN Women

Positioning as a complementary and integral flagship financing mechanism, aligning funding, coordination and global strategies to EVAWG.





UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Read the full Strategic Plan here

