UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

GENERATING SUSTAINABILITY

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

"I want to thank those who initiated this project and tell them that they changed our lives ... I even thought of suicide after what happened to me. It was they who gave me the courage to continue living. "

Survivor of violence and participant in a project implemented by UN Trust Fund grantee *Children's Life in Rural Area* in Cote D'Ivoire

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is the only global grant-making mechanism exclusively dedicated to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls and has supported 462 organizations over the past 21 years. It invests in innovative and evidence-based civil society-led solutions and life-changing programmes with a focus on preventing violence, implementing laws and policies to address and eliminate violence against women and girls and improving access to essential services for survivors. It is managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, involving 21 UN development agencies in its decision-making processes through its Programme Advisory Committee. UN Trust Fund grantees demonstrate that with sustained resources and dedicated work, violence against women and girls can be prevented and eliminated.

COVER PHOTO
© Robin Schmid/Women's Justice Initiative
Women's Justice Initiative legal literacy course participants from the community of Pachimulin, Guatemala participate in a workshop on self-esteem.

© Will Swanson/ Trocaire Kenya
A motorcycle taxi rider attends a meeting of gender-based violence 'champions' in Kaptembwa, an informal settlement of Nakuru in Kenya.

© David Mohammed Roba/ IIRR
A parade held during the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Log Logo, Kenya.

FOREWORD

Every year is dubbed "a year like no other", but 2017 truly was more dramatic than many other years in recent memory. It was a year we won't soon forget. From world leaders who set out their visions for a new national populism, to a renewed threat of nuclear war, to terrible tragedies like the fire in London's 24-storey Grenfell Tower, to mass shootings in Las Vegas and Texas, to terrorist attacks in popular tourist destinations like Barcelona (Spain) London and Manchester (United Kingdom), New York (USA) and Stockholm (Sweden) – not to mention a total solar eclipse. These were just some of the key events that hit the headlines. And then, of course, there was the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Revelations first reported in the *New York Times* and *The New Yorker* were followed by the viral hashtag #MeToo. Women in the Hollywood film industry, and indeed the world over, were inspired to speak about their personal stories of abuse, which subsequently led to the downfall of many powerful men in entertainment, business, politics and the news media across the world.

But what did we really learn from this story? We heard that women had been abused, harassed and sexually violated by men; that they suffered in silence for fear of losing or not getting jobs; that they could not speak out and that, if they did, they were not believed. We read how many lost promising careers because they said "No!" to sexual advances and how men in predominantly men-led businesses often facilitated perpetrators' advances through inappropriate actions, inaction or by covering up complaints. We heard that the support was simply not there for those women who dared to complain. And we heard that everyone had known about this for years but did nothing. So actually... we did not learn much that was new at all because this is an absolutely accurate story of violence against women and girls everywhere.

As brave and unique as each story about the awful pain of every survivor is, the #MeToo movement is, sadly, not the first movement to expose the scope of violence committed against women and girls. Movements like this exist in all parts of the world. Under different, locally relevant and recognizable names, survivors have been coming together, telling their stories and calling for an end to this global pandemic for a long, long time. But, just like in Hollywood, most of the time everybody already knows and does nothing.

On the other hand, the right of all women and girls to live a life free of violence is enshrined in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which sets out every individual's right "*to life, liberty and security of person*". This right is explicitly guaranteed in numerous international treaties, conventions and laws. It has been reiterated in General Recommendation No.35 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on gender-based violence against women; in the UN General Assembly Resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage; in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; in the Convention on the Rights of the Child; in the Convention on Persons with Disabilities, and many more. So why is there so much silence?

The immediate impact of the #MeToo movement has inspired us all greatly and we are optimistic that it will achieve even greater change. The long-term test for all of us is not whether we will bring down a few powerful men, but whether we ensure we do not let down and leave behind millions of women and girls around the world. We now have an opportunity to build on the courage of survivors in the wake of #MeToo and demonstrate the systemic nature of violence against women and girls; a chance to build on what started as a national conversation and highlight that this is a pandemic of global proportions that is deeply rooted in gender inequality and inequity.

Activists in movements around the world, like our grantees presented in this report, are engaged in their own national conversations and they know how to respond. They know very well that to end violence against women we must go further than the conviction of an individual perpetrator. As an immediate first response, *we must provide multisectoral support to all survivors* and, in the longer term, *we must address the roots of violence against women and girls.* We must change structures and systems of inequality and inequity that allow men around the world to undermine, harass, abuse and violate women and their rights.

This Annual Report is testimony to the changes achieved by our grantees in 2017. It aims to highlight the results of some of those activists and movements who worked tirelessly to ensure the realization of the rights of women and girls around the world guaranteed by long-standing commitments and promises. It highlights the hard work of those who do not stay silent once they know the story.

Aldijana Sisic
Chief, UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

2017 in brief

USD 3

The cost of reaching beneficiaries in 2017 was USD 3 per person.

120

PROJECTS

In 2017, the UN Trust Fund managed 120 projects aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in 80 countries and territories.[1]

80

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

340,833

WOMEN AND GIRLS

At least 340,833 women and girls benefited directly from services, empowerment activities and protection from violence during the year, including 45,950 survivors of violence.

45,950

SURVIVORS

6,362,155

PEOPLE

A total of 6,362,155 people, including women and girls, men and boys, government officials and the general public, were reached by supported projects during the year.

In 2017, the UN Trust Fund sought in particular to reach women and girls from marginalized and underserved communities and groups who face particular challenges because of discrimination, poverty or isolation in rural or remote settings. Among those directly served by UN Trust Fund grantees, for example, were:

37,558

women and girls with

DISABILITIES

10,642

LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN

8,888

INDIGENOUS WOMEN

2,512

REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS

Overview

Gender-based violence cuts across all generations, nationalities and communities. In all its forms, it devastates lives and societies around the globe, as the #MeToo outcry showed yet again in 2017.

© Women's Justice Initiatve
WJI's Women's Rights Education Programme participants from the community of El Llano in Guatemala.

Sparked by testimonies of women who spoke about their experience of sexual violence and harassment in the world of cinema and film, #MeToo and its momentum opened a space for millions of women to speak about their own similar experiences in different industries, countries and cultures. While they drew courage from each other to speak about their personal and painful experiences, sadly the story about violence in itself was not new.

Worldwide, 35 per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.[2] At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the 30 countries where the practice is most prevalent. In the majority of cases, girls were cut before the age of five.[3] More than 750 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday and about 250 million entered into union before the age of 15.[4]

Women and girls have a right to freedom from violence and discrimination – this is what the international community has guaranteed through the conventions, treaties and standards that States have ratified since the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was signed 70 years ago.

The UDHR remains a powerful articulation of the aspirations of all those who believe in the "inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights" of every human being. With its adoption, world governments acknowledged that they have a duty to make the rights it contains a reality for their populations, including to do everything in their power to defend, promote and ensure that women and girls could enjoy these rights. The work of UN Trust Fund grantees complements the overall efforts towards achieving the promises of the UDHR and towards ensuring all women and girls can enjoy their human rights. By implementing projects focused on prevention, access to services and the implementation of laws and policies, UN Trust Fund grantees fill the gaps that exist in the implementation and realization of international conventions, treaties and standards. This Annual Report 2017 aims to show some of the bridges between the UN Trust Fund grants, their local contexts and fulfilment of the promises enshrined in international laws and standards.

35%

women have experienced violence

Violence against girls and women is recognized as a major obstacle to the enjoyment of a whole range of human rights and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[5] The central importance of fulfilling the promise of gender equality was reaffirmed in 2015 when the world's leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This explicitly integrated an understanding that women's empowerment is vital for sustainable progress and in order to address the great challenge of today to leave no one behind. UN Trust Fund grantees continue to be at the forefront of efforts to realize the targets of Goal 5 of the Agenda, in particular eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, and eliminating all harmful traditional practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and FGM.

In this current context of enhanced visibility of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls, the UN Trust Fund continues to have a crucial role to play in harnessing the growing awareness to facilitate systemic and lasting change in a coherent and integrated way. As a UN system-wide funding body whose governance includes 21 UN agencies, it is ideally placed to help channel and focus efforts in a consistent and coordinated way, delivering real change in the lives of women and girls.

Every survivor's story shared is unique, but #MeToo is also an echo and amplifier for the voices of millions of women and girl survivors of different forms of violence in every corner of the world. Among them are many women and girls who, over the past 20 years have been supported by the long-standing work of UN Trust Fund grantees around the world striving to challenge impunity, to empower survivors and to prevent and end all forms of violence against women and girls. This report highlights their achievements during 2017.[6]

200

million girls and women have undergone some form of FGM

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR) UNDERPINS THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE AND INDIVISIBILITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS; WHEN ONE RIGHT IS VIOLATED, IT ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE REALIZATION OF OTHERS.

Anti-Trafficking Action (ASTRA) in Serbia, with funding from the UN Trust Fund, is working with women and girls whose lives are a clear illustration of how violation of the right to non-discrimination is a gateway to other human rights violations.

ASTRA, working with the state Centre for Human Trafficking Victims' Protection, implemented a project to establish referral procedures for victims of trafficking, many of whom are underage and from the Roma minority, a group which has long faced discrimination. Most of the 8,130 calls received by ASTRA during the two years of project implementation were directly related to human trafficking. In that same period, ASTRA identified 26 victims of human trafficking who had been subjected to labour exploitation, sexual exploitation or forced marriage.

During 2017, over 438 different assistance interventions were provided to ASTRA's clients, including for 30 potential victims. Almost all beneficiaries stated that the biggest change they experience as a result of ASTRA's work is that they feel much safer because they know they are not alone and can get support when they need it most.

8,130

calls received by ASTRA during the two years of project implementation were directly related to human trafficking.

© Katarina Ivanovic
Wall art of the SOS hotline from ASTRA for services for survivors of trafficking in Serbia.

© Paul Milsom/UN Trust Fund
Gariella Wright portrays a UN Trust Fund grantee at the Gala in London.

The UN Trust Fund Gala on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

"IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVE SEEN A SEISMIC CHANGE OF PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN... I STAND HERE PASSIONATELY WITH MY HEART TO FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF THOSE ENSLAVED. I'M VERY PROUD OF THE WORK THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DOING TO TACKLE THIS HOLISTICALLY, ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE, ENDING IMPUNITY FOR PERPETRATORS, AND INCREASING THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS ALL OVER THE WORLD."

HRH Princess Eugenie of York,
speaking at the UN Trust Fund Gala, 25 November 2017

Voices of survivors were at the centre of the gala hosted by the UN Trust Fund in London on 25 November 2017. These voices provided powerful evidence of the life-changing successes that the interventions implemented by grantees can have on lives and communities. Inspiring testimonies also reflected the growing and increasingly confident body of expertise on effective strategies for addressing violence against women and girls that now exists and the compelling force for change that it represents.

The gala took place on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and brought together people from every sector of society and from around the world. Hosted by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, notable speakers included HRH Princess Eugenie of York; Lord Bates, United Kingdom Minister of State at the Department for International Development; Frances Corner, Head of the London College of Fashion and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Arts London; and Aldijana Sisic, Chief of the UN Trust Fund.

Coinciding with the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the gala also highlighted the urgent need for resources to address the chronic underfunding of this area of human rights work.

"We are focused on breaking the silence, it's not ok to be quiet about [sexual violence]. We create safe spaces in Nigeria where girls can come together and build capacity on how to exercise their rights",

Chinyere Eyoh, SOAR in Nigeria

Building the evidence base

One of the key objectives set out in the UN Trust Fund's Strategy 2015-2020 is the creation of an evidence hub to collect, reflect on and share the knowledge and lessons learned through the work of grantees.

© Skillshare/Nepal
A Skillshare coach explains the rules and regulations of football, a method of preventing violence against women and girls in Nepal.

36

grantee organizations report that at least

10,547

women and girls were reached using specialist support services

Key ways in which this is being achieved is by: improving the UN Trust Fund's evaluation practice and results monitoring to produce high quality, useful evidence; investing in longer-term projects where the initial project period shows clear potential to build on previous achievements and learn from successes; and supporting grantees to improve their own capacity in data collection, monitoring and evaluation.

Building on previous UN Trust Fund efforts, a small set of standard, common indicators was developed in late 2017 to enable us to collect and aggregate data on similar results achieved across our portfolio of grantees, a crucial part of enabling the UN Trust Fund to evaluate results attributable to the organizations awarded grants. This methodology revealed, for example, that in 2017, 36 grantee organizations reported that at least 10,547 women and girls were reached using specialist support services, including trauma counselling and shelters, thanks to UN Trust Fund projects; 34 grantees reported or referred at least 3,547 cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls to local state service providers; and 17 grantees reached 333 schools to improve the curriculum or implement policies, practices or services to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

As well as common indicators, project evaluations are a core source of results, lessons learned and evidence on what works and what does not, across the UN Trust Fund's portfolio. As a first step, in 2016, we commissioned a meta-analysis of findings from evaluation reports of grants made between 2008 and 2012 and a meta-evaluation of the quality of 77 evaluations. In 2017 this informed improvements in evaluation practice including increasing budget allocations for final evaluations of grantees; centralizing the evaluation budget and evaluations management for small organizations to address their lack of capacity to manage evaluations; and introducing quality assurance measures for the management of all decentralized evaluations.

The new grants evaluations library on the UN Trust Fund's public website is the start of a larger endeavour to build an evidence and learning hub by 2020 to catalyse and harness the depth of knowledge and lessons learned through the work of grantees and so contribute to the evidence base on ending violence against women and girls. From 2018, all satisfactory quality project evaluations will be uploaded onto the website with the aim of disseminating the findings among practitioners and partners.

© Hang Charya/VSS
Police Officers from Kandal province, Cambodia attend a training on gender sensitivity and gender-based violence litigation in Kandal Province, Cambodia.

BY INVITATION ONLY

In 2017 one more organization joined our "by invitation only" window of grantees who are encouraged to apply again for funding – bypassing the usual three-year moratorium on a second grant application – based on the potential to scale up and replicate or the significant impact from the results achieved under the first grant. There are now five grantees in this cohort, of which two are highlighted here:

The current three-year project implemented by the Victims Support Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of **Cambodia** builds on the achievements of their earlier UN Trust Fund-supported project to promote gender equality and improve access to justice for female survivors of gender-based violence under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. During 2017, 255 civil parties and victims of gender-based violence were logistically supported to participate in the court hearings and forums. The grantee is also working to assist in connecting implementers with sources of funding. For example, one of the 22 proposed reparations projects, the Pka Sla Project, which is related to forced marriage under the Khmer Rouge, collected approximately USD 500,000 for implementation under the coordination of the Victims Support Section. The Victims Support Section interviewed about 80 civil parties about discrimination against survivors of forced marriage in their communities and found that discrimination has decreased significantly due to a change in the social and economic situation in Cambodia and a growing understanding of and empathy towards survivors.

Raising Voices is also a second generation grantee of the UN Trust Fund. This NGO, which is based in **Uganda**, received a first grant in 2010 to implement its innovative and successful SASA! methodology to prevent violence against women and HIV, and a second grant in 2016 to adapt the methodology. This research project aims to understand the processes and potential challenges of implementing and adapting the SASA! intervention in real world circumstances versus a controlled research environment. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods, Raising Voices is exploring context-specific implementation processes and comparing how and why partners are/are not achieving SASA!'s intended outcomes with three partner organizations in rural **Tanzania**, refugee camps in **Ethiopia**, and a **Caribbean** community in **Haiti**. This is a critical need as global interest and funding for primary prevention of violence against women and HIV increases, and more and more programming and research organizations begin to implement the SASA! approach as a key prevention tool.

MONITORING MISSIONS

"WOMEN FEEL HESITANT TO SHARE ANY INCIDENT RELATED TO VIOLENCE. THE TRAININGS GAVE US PROPER GUIDELINES AND APPROACH ON HOW TO ORGANIZE OURSELVES AND TACKLE SOCIAL ISSUES. WE ARE NOW ABLE TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL ALLIES AND OPPONENTS, INITIATE CAMPAIGNS AND RESOLVE ISSUES IN VILLAGES."

Ms Ramila Devi, *women's peer group member, Dungarpur, Rajasthan.*

During 2017, the UN Trust Fund team conducted 32 monitoring missions to projects in 22 countries, six of which were to provide training and support to small organizations.[7] One of the projects visited by the UN Trust Fund team in 2017 was in the Sonitpur district in the Indian State of Assam where Pragya, a civil society organization, is working to address violence against women from ethnic minority tribal communities. The project is supporting a kitchen garden seeds distribution programme that has helped the village to grow essential vegetables, which are used both for their own consumption and to sell in local markets.

Pragya is working with 100 women's peer groups and *panchayats* (village councils) which have over time become cohesive and vibrant and attracted new members. The grantee also continued to work with the 300 women leaders trained in providing counselling and psychosocial support so that they could offer leadership and guidance to the peer groups to which they belong.

During 2017, 38 cases of gender-based violence were reported by women through empowerment centres set up under the project and 2,812 women benefited directly from interventions and trainings through the women's peer groups and village councils.

Workshops were held with 348 elected members of village councils to orient them on participative and inclusive governance and gender-sensitive budgeting and planning. Ninety local mentors trained through the project have been conducting "Know Your Rights" campaigns in their respective clusters, reaching 6,360 community members.

The monitoring visit clearly indicated the scope in areas of convergence where the work of Pragya and the UN Trust Fund can reinforce each other, for example in getting access to relevant State machineries and feeding learnings from the project into future initiatives.

© YK Sandhya/SAHAYOG/Pragya
Meeting of women's group as part of the SAHAYOG, UN Trust Fund project in India.

348

Workshops were held with 348 elected members of village councils to orient them on participative and inclusive governance and gender-sensitive budgeting and planning.

© CAMTRA
Meeting of women in Rio de Janeiro taking part in activities to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

Leaving no one behind in Latin America

"AT FIRST APPROACH WE WERE SHOCKED. WE LEARNED AND WE CONTINUE TO LEARN FROM ADULT WOMEN. THERE IS MUCH IGNORANCE, AS YOUNG PEOPLE, OF WHAT POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS MEANT IN OUR COUNTRY. IF WE ALL CONTRIBUTE, WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS FOR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY OLDER WOMEN AND OUR SOCIETY."

Delia Gavino, a representative of the Regional Council of Youth in Huánuco, Peru, and a young participant in the programme

Three projects in Latin America implemented by UN Trust Fund grantees focused on women and girls in groups that have traditionally been underserved in terms of violence reduction initiatives and support for survivors: older women and indigenous women and girls.

In **Peru**, the Red Nacional de Promocion de la Mujer is implementing a project aimed at reducing gender-based violence against older women who were victims of conflict-related violence during Peru's internal armed conflict in the 1980s and 1990s. The legacy of widespread sexual violence during this period and the pervasive impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators, are reflected in the continuing high levels of violence against women in the country and the shame and stigma associated with this violence.

The project is taking place in Ayacucho and Huánuco, two regions that were greatly affected by the conflict and that today have among the highest prevalence of violence against women in the country. It is also encouraging an intergenerational exchange of experiences between older women and their daughters and granddaughters; empowering older women survivors of violence; and inspiring young women to demand better protection services and an end to violence against women in all its forms.

Since the beginning of the project, there have been some significant positive developments. Some 335 direct beneficiaries have received training, almost 93 per cent of the overall target figure for the project: eight workshops were planned, but in fact 12 took place. And more than 1,000 people took part in the six campaigns that the grantee organized or co-organized.

In **Nicaragua**, the women's organization MADRE is working with a long-standing partner, the local indigenous women's organization Wangki Tangni, to reduce violence against indigenous women and girls in 63 Miskito communities. The women targeted by the project live in remote communities on Nicaragua's North Atlantic coast, so it can be almost impossible for them to access shelters or local resources. One of the aims of the project is to advocate for the effective implementation of Nicaragua's Law 779 on violence against women and girls.

Through the masculinity workshops, participants have increased understanding of the impact of men's behaviour on women and on youth. Women have reported that they are seeing a decrease in violence within their homes and communities as a result of their increased knowledge of their rights and the laws that protect those rights. They report that men who are participating in this project and who are listening to the Wangki Tangni radio broadcasts are more supportive of women's rights and have become less violent. Women have shared that they feel confident to stand up for their rights as a result of the workshops with Wangki Tangni, MADRE and the radio broadcasts. Each of the 42 communities within the seven territories has made commitments to develop and implement cultural events and create groups within their communities. The project has trained 30 women in broadcasting and reporting and distributed 400 solar radios to make sure everyone can tune in. The radio broadcasts reach 115 communities, six days a week and it is the only station that broadcasts in Miskito, the local language.

A total of 1,260 indigenous women and girls have reported that they are more aware of their rights and Law 779 as a result of this programme and the workshops led by MADRE and Wangki Tangni, as well as a result of the radio programmes. In addition, 42 Community *promotoras* have led the participatory process of developing community action plans within their own communities.

A project implemented in **Brazil** by Casa da Mulher Trabalhadora sought to raise awareness among marginalized groups of young women in Rio de Janeiro on identifying violence, including technology-related violence, and how to address it. Three months after training 95 young people, which took place in March and April 2017, 94.4 per cent of young women who had participated had carried out some form of activity in their locality. The most common activities were conversations with family or friends on the issue (83.3 per cent); a workshop, either with other women or in mixed groups (55.6 per cent); and distributing materials on women's rights (50 per cent). Through its "multiplication" approach the project managed to reach 2,969 women in schools and in public places. Evaluations from 76 participants found that 86 per cent felt the activity had increased their understanding of violence against women and 56 per cent were interested in taking part in other actions.

Supporting small and women-led organizations

© Njoku Chibuzor / SOAR Initiative

The first kids club in the Nigerian Dutse community from SOAR initiative which included 90 children ranging from the age of 8-18 focusing on ending sexual violence against girls.

Increased attention on generating evidence about what programmes are effective in ending violence against women has shown that the specialized expertise of women's rights and women-led organizations is one of the leading factors in securing a positive change.

67%

of grants went to organizations which self-identified as women's non-governmental organizations

At the same time, one of the consequences of the historically low level of funding allocated to initiatives to end and address violence against women has been the relative underdevelopment of the administrative and governance capacities of organizations, particularly smaller organizations, working on these issues. In recognition of this, in 2017, the UN Trust Fund prioritized financial and operational capacity building for small organizations, with a particular focus on small women-led organizations.

A targeted focus on small organizations (those with annual operational budgets under USD 200,000) has enabled the UN Trust Fund to increase outreach to women-led organizations: all of the 32 small grants (less than USD 125,000) awarded since 2014 were to women-led organizations, while 67 per cent of grants went to organizations which self-identified as women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The UN Trust Fund has historically supported self-identified women's organizations across one third of its portfolio[8] and its financial analysis has shown that this type of organization most often tends to request small grants due to their absorptive capacity.[9] Offering a small grant-giving modality has improved the UN Trust Fund's outreach to women's organizations and increased their chances of accessing both additional funding as well as the capacity-building opportunities offered by the UN Trust Fund.

In March 2017, the UN Trust Fund held a five-day capacity development workshop in New York specifically geared to small grantee organizations. This focused support to grantees to develop their capacities to effectively plan and monitor their projects in a safe and ethical manner, as well as to build capacity, ensures the implementation of processes and requirements in order to be accountable for the funds entrusted to them. According to the assessments undertaken before and after the workshop, participants scored an average of 61 per cent before the workshop and 82 per cent after on a series of questions. In the final evaluations participants gave an average score of 9.2 out of 10 for overall course content, learning environment and the workshop overall. Six months after the workshop, satisfaction remained very high: 98 per cent of respondents to our Annual Partner Survey who reported attending the workshop said that the training was useful or very useful to the organization as a whole

The UN Trust Fund's 21st Call for Proposals which closed in December 2017, targeted primarily women's rights and women-led organizations, with a particular focus to small organizations. The outreach proved successful and a greater percentage of requests came from this group: 41 per cent of all applications were from organizations who self-defined as women's organizations, compared to 33 per cent in the previous cycle of applications. As regards women-led organizations – that is, organizations where women hold at least 51 per cent of leadership positions, 81 per cent of applications fulfilled this criteria. Moreover, 83 per cent of applications were from organizations where women made up more than 51 per cent of staff.

A total of 644 (49.5 per cent) applications were from small organizations, an increase over the previous year and a testament to the success of the UN Trust Fund's outreach to small organizations. Of these, 424 (41.7 per cent) applied for the small grants funding modality (grants ranging from USD 50,000-150,000).

49.5%

A total of 644 (49.5 per cent) applications were from small organizations

GENERATING ACHIEVEMENTS

GUATEMALA

The Women's Justice Initiative (WJI) is a Guatemala-based organization working to stop and prevent gender-based violence against Mayan women in 16 targeted rural indigenous communities. The project delivered a legal literacy course in the Kaqchikel language in which 813 women and girls participated. A survey of participants conducted after the course showed significant changes in attitudes: 6 per cent of women said that they agreed it is justified for a husband to beat his wife – a 71 per cent decrease from baseline surveys – and 85 per cent responded that in cases of domestic violence other people who are not family members should intervene – a 124 per cent increase from the baseline survey.

Almost half of all participants (45 per cent) have already begun to exercise their rights by seeking legal assistance from WJI. Other women report taking steps towards asserting their rights at home by talking about gender equality, sharing what they have learned in the workshops, talking to their children about preventing violence against women and girls, and creating more equitable homes by dividing household chores among all family members.

"Before the workshops, I had the idea that violence was just sexual. If I heard that someone was raped then my mind told me that was violence. But in the course, I learned about all the different types of violence that exist. I learned that if they yell at us, push us, say hurtful things to us, or won't let us spend money, that this is all part of violence against women. Before, I thought this was just part of living with your husband, but now I've learned that isn't how it should be. Now I have the courage to defend my rights.

I took my sisters-in-law and my daughter-in-law to participate in the workshops, so that they could learn about their rights. I always remind them that they shouldn't accept violence and I tell them about my experience to show that as women we can put an end to what they do to us. I have taught my son that he should always respect women and that he should never be violent because it is a crime and no one has the right to hurt another person."

Irma Saquec, community advocate, WJI legal literacy course graduate and survivor of violence

In the second half of 2017, WJI delivered training to the police and other municipal service providers to increase their knowledge of their obligations when responding to cases of violence against women and girls. With the increased support in training and enhanced coordination mechanisms instituted by WJI, government officials and leaders have improved their response. This in turn has seen an increase in referrals to WJI's free legal accompaniment services of 178 per cent compared with the first year of the project. Moreover, during 2017, 142 community leaders took part in three workshops run by WJI on violence against women and girls and how to respond to it.

UN Trust Fund support has also helped WJI to seek and obtain further funding to help embed the changes it is bringing about. In 2017 WJI was given a one-year grant of USD 45,000 by Dining for Women, a global giving circle and was also selected by the Dutch development organization Hivos to be a Nexos Programme grantee for 2017-2018.

CAMEROON

"The project 'Breaking the silence' was for me an opportunity to denounce the 'nonsense' that was practised in my school by both students and teachers... We [encouraged] the girls to say NO!"

ELVIS, *BOY VOLUNTEER*

In the West Region of Cameroon, the Association pour la Promotion du Development Local (APDEL) implemented "Breaking the Silence", a project to reduce sexual harassment in school environments, a burning issue in the country and a major impediment to girls completing their studies. In the two years of the project, APDEL worked with local government and schools to develop and institute ethical codes of conduct addressing violence in schools. Fifteen partner schools worked with APDEL to educate 2,542 girls and boys, as well as 63 parents and educational staff. In addition, 14 cases of harassment were formally referred, a figure that reflects many survivors' continued fear of reporting and a reluctance to approach the authorities and services.

At the end of the project, a survey found that:

79%

of girls felt safer and more respected

(compared to 22 per cent in the initial baseline survey)

95%

of the girls and boys interviewed believed that they had the capacity to defend their rights and report acts of violence

(compared to 76 per cent at the outset of the project).

CAMEROON

CHINA

In China, UN Trust Fund grantee Equality implemented a project promoting justice for survivors of gender-based violence. Its particular focus was empowering women and girl survivors of violence from underserved communities – such as lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and women living with HIV/AIDS – to advocate for their rights and gain access to legal assistance and social services.

In 2017, two new implementing regulations for the national domestic violence law that directly incorporated perspectives from project experts were passed in Yunnan Province. The first will assist future survivors by requiring police to flag high-risk cases and thereby better mobilize resources for survivors. The second involves strengthening the protection order mechanism in the new Anti-Domestic Violence Law.

Nearly 200 grass-roots activists were trained through the project, 95 per cent of whom said it had increased their knowledge of domestic violence. In addition, Equality's partner organization, Women's Network against AIDS – China (WNAC), carried out the first survey of domestic violence as experienced by women and girls living with HIV/AIDS in China. In total, WNAC surveyed 457 women and girls and conducted in-depth interviews with 19. The final report, produced on the eve of World AIDS Day, garnered considerable attention from the domestic media.

This and other empirical reports and studies will be used as advocacy tools to improve the regulations and policies governing official responses to cases of domestic violence. The project also trained 82 government officials to improve understanding of domestic violence and appropriate legal and police responses. In addition, in the first six months of 2017, Equality provided services for 61 women, an increase over the previous year. A final external evaluation found that the service providers showed increased knowledge and capacity to provide improved support to women survivors of violence.

JORDAN

Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) implemented a small UN Trust Fund grant in Jordan to build on earlier ground-breaking work, including a comprehensive review of Jordanian laws addressing sexual and gender-based violence. ARDD produced a toolkit for readers without a legal background which outlines in an accessible format Jordan's legal framework as it relates to violence against women. The toolkit was tested online and reviewed by experts in various fields, particularly those sectors the toolkit specifically targets, the government and the media, education and health sectors.

The public launch of the toolkit took place in December 2017, hosted by the Jordan National Commission for Women. The event was attended by representatives from government, UNRWA, the newspapers al Rai and al Ghad, and other women's and civil society organizations. ARDD also organized a workshop with civil society organizations from different backgrounds to develop an action plan for implementing the toolkit. This action plan included awareness training, particularly for mothers; strategies to empower refugee women; specialized training for journalists on gender sensitivity in reporting and programming; and working directly with the Ministry of Education to better facilitate gender sensitivity in schools and among teachers.

2017

The public launch of the toolkit took place in December 2017, hosted by the Jordan National Commission for Women.

ARMENIA

"It was the first time in my life that another human being listened to my story, believed me and tried to help".

ANONYMOUS PARTICIPANT *IN THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT CENTER PROJECT IN ARMENIA*

In Armenia, the Women's Support Center implemented a nationwide project to address primary prevention of domestic violence and respond to survivors. In 2017, the second year of the project, the grantee focused on creating new policies and plans for service providers to protect and provide services to survivors. First drafts of both standard operating procedures and shelter guidelines were finalized by a working group composed of representatives of both state and non-state bodies.

In addition, 443 women and girls received services from project trainees. They included 336 women and girl survivors of domestic violence and 41 women and girls who were either refugees or seeking asylum or internally displaced. These results show that the project is slowly but steadily reaching out to more and more women and girl survivors of domestic violence across Armenia, enhancing their ability to access better quality services.

A final external evaluation showed that among the 44 police officers, 37 service providers and 21 social work students trained, 25 per cent more believed that violence is prevalent in Armenia than had done so at the outset, and there was a decrease of 29 per cent in those who believed it may be justified to use physical force against a spouse.

CAPACITY BUILDING

“I used the knowledge frequently in collecting the survivor's data in an ethical and safe manner. They gave their consent and I assured them confidentiality.”

Training participant, UN Trust Fund grantee

The UN Trust Fund developed and launched a series of 10 online training modules for its grantees between April and December 2017. By December 2017, 94 people from 25 organizations had successfully completed all the online training. This was twice the number actually required to take part, suggesting that grantees value and have a high level of interest in training.

45

participants took part in a survey to assess the usefulness of the training

A total of 45 participants took part in a survey to assess the usefulness of the training in order to collect information on how to improve the current training modules and plan further training to meet the needs of grantee organizations. The overwhelming majority 44 (99 per cent) stated that they found the knowledge and skills provided in the modules useful to them. Almost all had shared the learning either with their entire organization (11 participants), or with some of the staff at their organization (30 participants), indicating the wide reach of the training.

Respondents highlighted the modules on project monitoring, data collection and ethics, as well as reporting requirements as very useful. The survey also indicated that knowledge retention and use is high; a majority of respondents retained and used the training either fully (49 per cent) or partially (47 per cent).

© Gina Weireter, Women for Women International

Women for Women International's beauty saloon in Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, holds gender-based violence awareness sessions and vocational training.

OUR ANNUAL PARTNER SURVEY

The second annual partner survey of grantees in 2017 aimed to find out which services provided by the UN Trust Fund are most useful to our grantees and which can be improved. The feedback, which was gathered on a confidential and anonymous basis, is an important part of the ongoing dialogue with grantees and also informs UN Trust Fund plans and future activities for improving support to grantees.

"THE UN TRUST FUND HAS PROVED TO BE MORE THAN A DONOR – IT PROVIDES CONTINUAL ADVICE, SUPPORT, AND QUALITY OF WORK."

UN Trust Fund grantee

The 2017 annual partner survey received 139 individual responses from 83 organizations in the UN Trust Fund's active portfolio, comprising a highly representative sample of current grantees in all regions.[10] One third (34 per cent) of respondents were from small grass-roots organizations, reflecting the part of the current portfolio devoted to small grants.

The overwhelming majority of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience as a UN Trust Fund grantee (94 per cent) and would recommend it as a source of finance to other organizations working on ending violence against women (99 per cent).

In terms of service and advice received from the UN Trust Fund, the support that grantees most valued was the programmatic advice and the guidance provided by the UN Trust Fund Secretariat (91 per cent), closely followed by financial advice and guidance (90 per cent).

Sustainability is a central factor in all the projects supported and obtaining ongoing funding beyond the life of the project plays an important part in this. Most respondents (86 per cent) said that they were confident that securing a UN Trust Fund grant will enable their organization to mobilize additional resources in the future for projects to end violence against women and girls. Almost half (46 per cent) had already succeeded in obtaining funding to continue the current project or to implement related projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

90 RESPONDENTS

26 RESPONDENTS

said they had raised an additional

USD 6.46 MILLION

during their grant period to scale up, replicate or sustain the results of the UN Trust Fund-supported project

64 RESPONDENTS

had mobilized a total of

USD 33 MILLION

for other projects dedicated to preventing and ending violence against women after receiving a UN Trust Fund grant and capacity-building support

Knowledge exchange among organizations carrying out innovative projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls is something the UN Trust Fund is uniquely placed to facilitate - the vast majority of grantees (some 80 per cent) said they had benefited from this. Knowledge sharing, such as workshops or annual review sessions, was also identified by grantees as one of the areas where they would welcome additional support.

The UN Trust Fund incorporates the survey's findings into its work. After the 2016 survey, it increased investment in building organizations' capacity for reliable financial management to accompany increased financial reporting requirements. As a result, 89 per cent of respondents in 2017 expressed satisfaction with the financial management advice received from the UN Trust Fund, up from 81 per cent in the previous year.

Advocating for increased and sustainable financing

The body of evidence and research on the prevalence of violence against women and girls in all its forms has provided clear confirmation of its varied manifestations and pandemic proportions.

© Hang Charya/VSS
Students from the University of South-East Asia joined the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Seim Reap, Cambodia.

©Ryan Brown/UN Women
The UN Trust Fund held an event at the Commission on the Status of Women in 2017 focusing on ensuring the resources needed to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

However, adequate financial commitments to end this human rights violation have not followed. This continued underfunding is hampering the ability of organizations – and above all grass-roots women's organizations who are at the forefront of providing immediate and long-term support to women and girls – to implement programmes that can transform lives and communities.

Recent studies by the Association of Women in Development (AWID) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee Network on Gender Equality (OECD DAC Gendernet) provide an overview of the restricted financing for women's rights organizations. A global AWID study in 2011 of 740 women's rights organizations found the average median income for these organizations was USD 20,000.[11] A report published in November 2016 by the OECD DAC Gendernet on funding trends noted that just 8 per cent of gender-focused overseas development assistance went directly to women's rights organizations in developing countries.[12]

As part of its advocacy efforts, in 2017 the UN Trust Fund focused in particular on raising the profile and the visibility of successful initiatives to end violence against women that are being developed and delivered by women's rights, small and women-led organizations. One way in which heightened visibility for these organizations was pursued was by increasing the avenues and platforms to showcase their work and achievements in order to inform a wider interested public about efficient and cost-effective ways to achieve change.

In March 2017, the UN Trust Fund hosted a one-day conversation about challenges and opportunities in providing much needed resources to end this global pandemic, convening key stakeholders from civil society, governments, the UN and the private sector. Ten recipients of small grants[13] played an active role in bringing the perspective of grass-roots women's rights organizations into this discussion, sharing their unique contribution to the work of ending violence against women and highlighting the need for adequate and sustainable funding.

This and other conversations all highlighted the need for changes in funding approaches. In particular they underscored the need for flexible and long-term core funding to maximize the impact of the work of grass-roots women's organizations.

During 2017, the UN Trust Fund provided support to its small grants recipients in particular in a number of ways. In addition to extensive capacity-building investment described above, the UN Trust Fund has recognized the need of small women's organizations to ensure the sustainability of their core organizational functions. This underpins their autonomy and ability to define their own strategic direction in accomplishing their mission and vision. The UN Trust Fund is responding to this need by including – for the first time – an additional budget line for core funding to small women's organizations up to a maximum of 7 per cent of direct activity costs.

The commitment of those working on the frontline of efforts to end violence against women and girls often results in their own needs and wellbeing falling way down the list of priorities. This is why with the Call for Proposals which closed in December 2017, the UN Trust Fund introduced a special budget line for self-care for small women's organizations of up to USD 2,000 to support each organization in taking care of its staff members' physical and emotional health, in order to prevent burnout.

The UN Trust Fund is introducing a special budget line for self-care for small women's organizations of up to

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to support each organization in taking care of its staff members' physical and emotional health, in order to prevent burnout.

Grant giving = Results on the ground

© Mildred Garcia/UN Trust Fund/UN Women
Comunicadoras, who are women's rights defenders, record programming for the radio show "Voices of the Women of Wangki Tangni" from MADRE, UN Trust Fund grantee.

ACCESS TO MULTISECTORAL SERVICES

One of the UN Trust Fund priority areas of funding is to improve access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services. In 2017, the UN Trust Fund supported 39 grantees to improve service provision for survivors of violence by training providers; these grantees trained a total of 5,591 service providers globally.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS - THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity. Components of the right to health – such as the principle of non-discrimination in relation to health facilities, goods and services – is legally enforceable in numerous national jurisdictions.

The Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, which monitors States' compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, has established the four essential elements to the right to health: availability, accessibility, affordability and access to information.[14]

As the following example of grantee activities in Viet Nam show, projects supported by the UN Trust Fund are endeavouring to make these rights a reality for women in many parts of the world.

VIET NAM

A project implemented by the Institute for Development and Community Wealth in Kien Xuong district, Thai Binh province, Viet Nam, focuses on intimate partner violence against women who are pregnant or breast-feeding, an alarming and under-addressed global health issue. The most significant achievement of the project to date is the increased number of women who now have access to services at health centres to address intimate partner violence; a total of 5,288 women have received these services. In addition, women in the target group have gained knowledge and skills on how to make a safety plan to prevent and mitigate intimate-partner violence. Around 70 per cent of clients felt very satisfied with services, including the attitudes of service providers and their capacity to respond quickly and effectively to clients' needs.

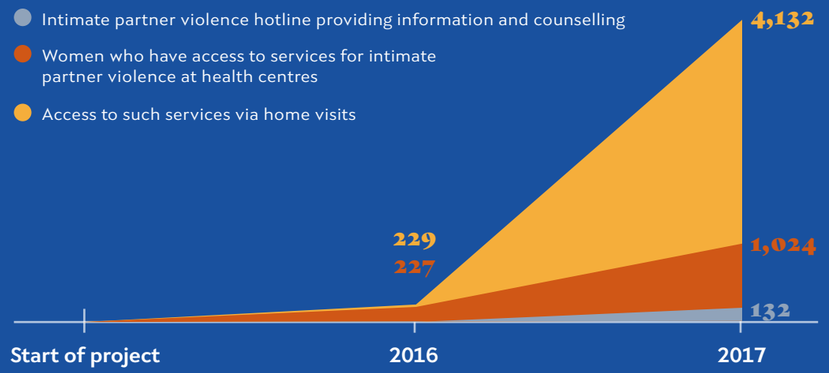
Professional staff from 10 community health stations, 165 village health workers and Village Women Union (WUM) members in 80 project villages, and 26 health staff at the Provincial Centre for Reproductive Health have received refresher training sessions on intimate partner violence and 90 per

© Dong Nguyen Hai
Participants take part in a session to increase knowledge on violence against women in Viet Nam.

cent of the village health workers and WUM members surveyed felt much more confident in communicating with women and their husbands.

In the project villages, 116 husbands and 130 mothers-in-law were visited and 92 per cent noted the importance of providing better care for pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding. In addition, 93 per cent of husbands understood the need for and have had the necessary skills training to control their anger; 42 per cent committed to sharing their knowledge on preventing intimate partner violence with their neighbours.

VIET NAM



MYANMAR

Projects addressing the needs of groups whose voices have traditionally not been heard make up an important part of the UN Trust Fund's portfolio, as part of its commitment to support the goal of leaving no one behind. Among the supported projects focusing on underserved groups is that in Myanmar which is working to address violence against sex workers, the first such programme in the country. Specifically, the project is seeking to improve safety and reduce the discrimination and stigma faced by women and transgender sex workers in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Myint Kyina.

During the initial six-month reporting period, the **Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers**, together with the local partner organization Aye Myanmar Association (AMA), organized a Training-of-Trainers with 40 sex workers, joined by representatives from a number of civil society organizations and NGOs from four cities in Yangon, on community mobilization and community training on the human rights of sex workers. An advocacy meeting with civil society organizations was also organized, with some government representatives from the National AIDS Programme and Ministry of Social Welfare present.

For the first time, AMA was able to recruit a lawyer and has supported six cases in court brought by sex workers. A crisis centre was also opened in Yangon, where survivors recently arrested or released from prison or the police station are offered health education, referral services for health care, legal counselling by trained staff, including a lawyer, as well as short-term crisis support. The centre is also a safe space for meeting with friends, group discussion and sharing experiences among sex workers. AMA also set up a 24-hour hotline (based in Yangon); most of the calls so far have been to get advice on legal issues. The project will also be piloting the use of a technology called iMonitor for documenting cases of violence, a new concept in Myanmar and indeed in the region.

AZERBAIJAN

The **Azerbaijan Young Lawyers' Union** set up a pilot project to provide women with free legal, medical and psychological support services. The project also set up the only shelter for survivors of violence currently operating in the country. The project was in part a response to the 2015 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women which called on Azerbaijan to ensure that women and girl victims of violence have access "to immediate means of redress and protection, including a sufficient number of adequate shelters in all regions".

The project managed to provide protection and support to 448 women, almost twice the project target. The project boosted the capacities of 10 staff members at the shelter through a series of training sessions held by recognized international experts. The project also managed to sensitize 2,600 community members and 1,400 men and boys through information sessions on the causes and consequences of gender-based violence.

Analysis of the available data indicates an increase in knowledge and awareness of the concepts of gender, gender-based violence and available protection mechanisms among community members (87 per cent in community groups and 72 per cent in male groups). The project's commitment to include an economic empowerment component has also been successful; 103 women who used the centre's services took part in the economic empowerment trainings over the course of two years and 30 women have established and run a small business of their own.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

"This training had a big added value in my work as a police officer. Before, I could investigate, arrest, send the file to the court, but some days after, I could see that the perpetrator is freed…the court said he was freed because of lack of enough evidence. But since I got this training, I bring enough evidence capable to bring light to the court so that they can prosecute and sentence the perpetrator… [PHR] is the only organization which puts together lawyers, magistrates, police officers, psychologists, and other actors to speak the same language and understand each other's jargon when it comes to cases of sexual violence."

POLICE OFFICER, *DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PARTICIPANT*

© Physicians for Human Rights
A judge holds a bag containing evidence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kavumu child rape case. PHR worked closely with medical and law enforcement partners to ensure that evidence in the case was properly collected and preserved.

Two projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo supported by the UN Trust Fund are working to ensure women and girls have access to comprehensive services.

A project implemented by the **Panzi Foundation** sought to upscale the internationally recognized holistic Panzi model, which provides integrated, human rights-based support. As part of this project, 591 survivors of sexual violence received medical, psychosocial and legal services. Survivors interviewed for the final evaluation reported significant improvements in their state of physical and mental health. Others stated that thanks to the medical and psychosocial care they received, they were able to return to normal family life and their usual socio-economic activities.

As part of the community mobilization activities, and after training 80 community members, 123 people organized a "popular free expression forum" to discuss taboos, myths and stereotypes related to women's oppression and ways out of it.

Another project, implemented by **Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)**, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya is working to address gaps in the medical-legal process in order to improve responses to sexual violence against women and girls. PHR's Programme on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones has been actively engaged in the two countries, both of which have experienced widespread, conflict-related sexual violence and were being investigated for mass crimes by the International Criminal Court.

Both countries have implemented national constitutional and legislative reforms to strengthen the laws supporting stronger responses to sexual violence and both have a growing cadre of trained medical and legal professionals who are skilled in and committed to learning new forensic techniques for gathering evidence to support judicial processes.

Project workshops have brought together local experts to train Congolese colleagues on collaborating across medical, law enforcement and legal sectors to conduct forensic medical evaluations in cases of sexual violence; some 800 professionals have been trained so far. Local trainers have also sensitized nearly 3,000 community members on reporting cases of sexual violence.

In December 2017, the Kavumu Case was concluded with the conviction of 11 men for crimes against humanity for the rape of 37 toddlers and young girls over a three-year period in the village of Kavumu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This was a landmark case because a sitting government official was stripped of his immunity and was found guilty for crimes that he and his armed militia committed and because it was the first time that survivors/witnesses were afforded innovative means of protection in court in the country. PHR helped to coordinate the investigation and provided technical assistance to clinicians and police investigators that led to the arrests and convictions of militia members.

"PHR brings great value to the fight against sexual violence. We used to each work separately, but when we work together, it's much better. PHR has helped us take an integrated approach, and it's thanks to PHR that we now have this expertise."

LAWYER *WORKING ON THE CHILD RAPE CASES IN KAVUMU, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO*

PREVENTION

“FOR THE LONGEST TIME SINCE I WAS BORN I HAD NEVER HEARD ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND ESPECIALLY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN. I GREW UP KNOWING MEN ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE RIGHTS. IT IS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THAT WOMEN ALSO HAVE RIGHTS TO SPEAK, RIGHT TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION AND ALSO RIGHT TO SAY NO TO HARMFUL PRACTICES LIKE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CHILD MARRIAGE. I PERSONALLY DID NOT EVEN KNOW THAT WE CAN REPORT CASES OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE LIKE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. I TRULY WANT TO THANK IIRR [THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION] FOR COMING TO MY VILLAGE.”

Mama Rose Lekirpini *from Wamba, Sordo Village, Samburu, Kenya*

The UN Trust Fund supports a holistic approach to prevention comprising primary, secondary and tertiary approaches. Primary prevention aims to prevent violence and may involve efforts at attitudinal and behavioural change, such as empowerment or community-based awareness-raising programmes. Secondary prevention strategies focus on early detection to prevent violence recurring or progressing, for example through strengthening referral mechanisms and building the capacities of service providers to better identify risk indicators and support survivors. Finally, tertiary prevention aims to prevent fatal outcomes and encompasses initiatives to build and strengthen institutional systems across sectors to respond to violence.

Preventing violence against women and girls is a key element of most projects funded by the UN Trust Fund. The examples of grantee projects set out below illustrate how this holistic approach is delivering sustainable results in communities to prevent and helping to ensure the human rights of women and girls.

© Ukrainian Women's Fund
Students participating in a school-based initiative to prevent violence against women and girls in Ukraine.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution, sponsored by more than 100 States, on child, early and forced marriage. The resolution recognizes that the root cause of child marriage is gender inequality and "deep-rooted gender inequalities and stereotypes, harmful practices, perceptions and customs and discriminatory norms". It also recognizes that child marriage is a human rights violation that disproportionately affects girls and that it perpetuates other violations of human rights.

"[C]hild, early and forced marriage constitutes a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, significantly increasing the risk of early, frequent and unintended pregnancy, maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, as well as increasing vulnerability to all forms of violence." *United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage (71/175)*

The Resolution also sets out the responsibilities of governments in terms of changing law and policy, strengthening systems and providing services, and working with families, communities and girls themselves to change social norms. The work of several UN Trust Fund grantees shows how working on these fronts is making strides to prevent and end harmful traditional practices and child marriage.

KENYA

In 2017, the UN Trust Fund supported 27 grantees to work with 6,332 community and faith group leaders who advocate for changes in behaviours and attitudes towards violence against women and an end to harmful traditional practices. One such project is that being implemented in Kenya by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR).

The IIRR is working to prevent and protect women from violence, with a focus on FGM and early marriage. The approach, called "Learning Our Way Out", focuses on engaging and empowering communities to establish their own approaches for eradicating violence and other harmful practices. In addition, the project is working to build a community-based referral system and to link survivors to legal support, medical services, psychosocial therapy, shelter and protection in Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo Counties in northern Kenya. The 6,775 primary beneficiaries of the project include 5,000 women and girls in the region, 500 women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, 75 political activists and 1,200 women and girl survivors of violence.

The project has been able to reach an estimated 5,000 community members in the three target counties through community awareness campaigns using radio broadcasts facilitated by the project. Another estimated 2,000 people have been reached through discussion forums at the village level and over 2,000 other people were reached through community anti-gender-based violence campaigns. This cumulatively amounts to about 9,000 community members as indirect beneficiaries. In addition, 123 teachers have also been trained by the project in various workshops, as have 40 social welfare workers and more than 72 uniformed personnel, more than twice the 30 envisaged at the outset of the project.

©Tervil Okoko/IIRR
Community youth holding a discussion after a session on community mobilization and ending violence against women in Wamba, Kenya.

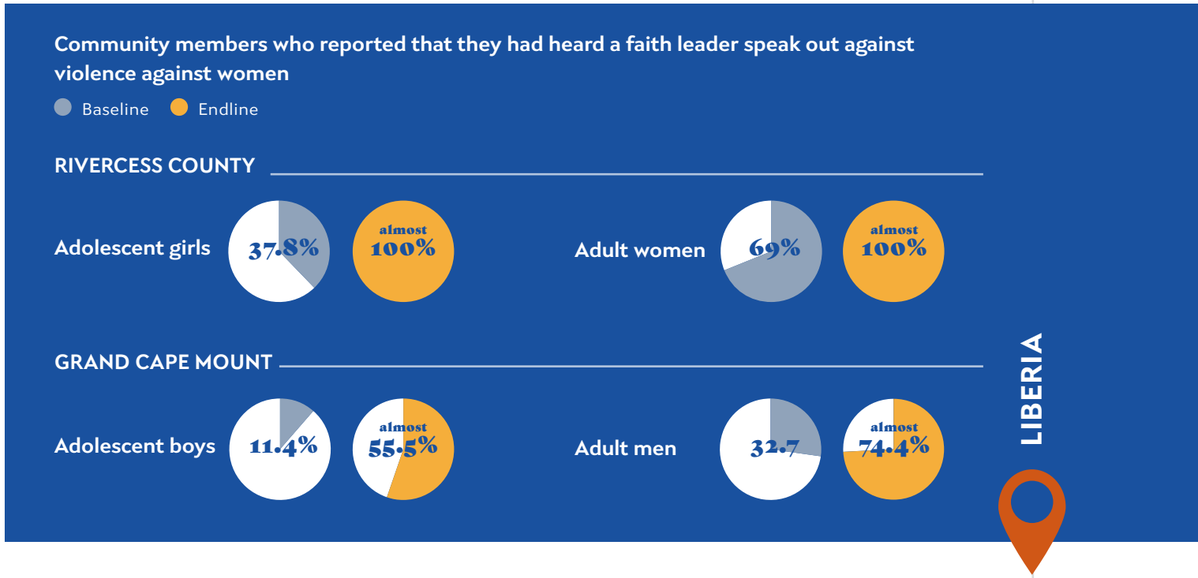
LIBERIA

"I observed that after we [faith leaders] attended the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief and Development workshops, I started spending more time helping my wife at home to cook, wash, share ideas and discuss family matters. I am speaking out more against violence against women and girls. I do not make any decision without my wife's involvement and I am also sharing responsibilities with my congregations. The gender-based violence toolkit has helped me to better respond to real life issues, such as listening before reacting, and it has increased my skills and knowledge to understand my responsibilities as a faith leader. Within my community, people are now constantly reporting gender-based violence cases to find solutions."

IMAM FODAY TURNKARAH, *CESTOS, RIVERCESS COUNTY*

Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief and Development implemented a project to address gender-based violence in post-conflict Liberia through the engagement of interfaith, Christian and Muslim organizations in six districts of Grand Cape Mount and Rivercess counties.

The final report on the project showed significant changes in terms of respondents who see faith leaders as a source of support for preventing and responding to gender-based violence, who had heard faith leaders speak out against gender-based violence and who believe that the work of faith leaders is leading change.



Focus group discussions with women revealed a common sentiment that they feel freer to speak their minds as well as share their experiences of violence with others. While across all three leadership groups (faith leaders, faith-based youth leaders and student leaders), the vast majority reported that they had provided support to women and girls who experienced violence – ranging from 75 per cent of student leaders to 88 per cent of faith leaders in Rivercess County.

Further, an independent final evaluation found that women and girls experience less physical and sexual violence from intimate partners (baseline: 14.8 per cent; endline 5 per cent) and less physical and sexual violence from non-partners (baseline: 16.1 per cent; endline 2.6 per cent).

Faith leaders are increasingly challenging deeply rooted stigma by speaking out against practices that compromise or disadvantage women and girls and, importantly, they are using the knowledge they acquired on the various forms of violence as guidance as they counsel families or refer cases to service providers. However, they have gone further and begun to identify the key roles that they themselves can play in bolstering the support provided by service providers. For example, they are using gender-based violence task force meetings to discuss, strategize and plan together with service providers.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

“States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.”

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 24(3)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force in 1990, is the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history – almost every government has made a commitment to be bound by it. However, its promises are far from the reality of the lives of millions of children around the world. UN Trust Fund grantees are working to address this gap by preventing harmful traditional practices.

The UN Trust Fund is supporting the **Malian** organization **AMSOPT** to change social norms and provide access to medical and psychosocial services for survivors of FGM. The project’s awareness-raising efforts in the Kayes region, which has the highest rates of FGM in the country, have already led two villages to publicly renounce the harmful traditional practice as well as child marriage, and six others are in the process of doing the same. The two villages held public assemblies bringing together counsellors, women, youth and village leaders to agree on abandoning FGM, and created a committee to ensure the implementation of the decision.

The project trained 60 girls and boys to become peer educators. They have facilitated discussions with 400 girls and boys about ending harmful traditional practices in their villages.

“The training had a lot of impact on my life because I [now] have knowledge about the misdeeds of excision [cutting] and child marriage. I’m pregnant and if I have a girl I will not make her go through this practice... In my village, I will make sure that new mums fight for their daughters, sisters and mothers.”
Fatoumata N., one of the peer educators

"I never thought the we actually are raising the victims and the future abusers as well. I used to teach my children how to protect themselves but never actually taught them how to respect others' privacy. I never thought of them as potential abusers – not that they are but I understand that my role was to protect my children as well as the children of others.”

A FATHER INVOLVED IN THE WOMEN’S STUDIES CENTER PROJECT

STATE OF PALESTINE

The Palestinian Authority has ratified international human rights treaties, however, the human rights perspective has not been adequately mainstreamed in local legislation. A project implemented by the **Women’s Studies Center** aims to address sexual violence by building the capacity of stakeholders, including university students, to address it and sensitizing duty bearers to enable them to better identify, address and prevent it. In 2017, the second year of its operation, the project:

- trained 24 community workers and university students and conducted 102 training workshops for 366 parents and 163 workshops for 609 children;
- formed new coalitions with police units and stations and held joint workshops attended by 450 people on addressing electronic harassment;
- supported 61 school counsellors in conducting 1,626 workshops for 6,486 school students, 130 workshops for 1,964 education professionals, including teachers, and 114 workshops for 2,576 parents; and
- implemented media initiatives that reached more than 200,000 beneficiaries, distributed thousands of colouring and story books focusing on preventing and ending violence and hundreds of copies of animated films to young people and disseminated legal brochures to the general public. Thousands of people participated in discussions on these issues.

TANZANIA

In Tanzania, **Equality for Growth**, a local women's organization, is working to bolster women's economic rights and reduce the risk of violence by creating safe environments in six markets in two districts of Dar es Salaam where 80 per cent of public markets are located.

Some 2,081 market traders (1,354 male and 727 female) from the six markets took part in the campaigns on the causes and impacts of gender-based violence, as well as on how to report cases.

Between 29 September and 11 October 2017, Equality for Growth conducted knowledge sharing and field awareness sessions for market traders in Mchikichini, Ferry and Temeke Stereo markets. The objective of the sessions was to increase awareness about violence against women and actively engage local market traders in identifying the causes, prevalence, negative impacts and the responses needed to change behaviours. A total of 7,677 market traders (3,700 men and 3,977 women) were reached by these awareness-raising sessions.

Overall, the project has made a significant impact on the situation around market places. Gender-based violence *has decreased by at least 81 per cent from the project baseline in 2016.* And 86 per cent of women who took part in the endline survey stated that violence against women at marketplaces had decreased.

© Gemma Wood/UN Trust Fund/ UN Women
Market in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania implementing a project from Equality for Growth to end violence against women in the marketplace.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS, POLICIES AND NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

Many UN Trust Fund grantees are working not only to improve legislation to bring it into line with international human rights standards, but to implement laws, regulations and protocols to end harmful traditional practices and to encourage states to fulfil their obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence, protect victims and ensure their right to justice if violence does take place. In 2017, 32 grantee organizations were supported to reach 22,223 women and girls with free access to legal aid and advice in cases of violence.

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN – GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 35

On 14 July 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted General Recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women. It updates General Recommendation No. 19, which for 25 years had been considered the international normative framework for combating gender-based violence against women.

General Recommendation No. 35 underscores the structural causes of gender-based violence and expands on the multiple and intersecting forms of violence women experience.

Several of the areas highlighted in the General Recommendation are the focus of the work of UN Trust Fund grantees. For example, a project implemented by Restless Development Nepal aimed to address key factors highlighted in the General Recommendation, including increasing awareness of human rights, legislative reform, attitudinal change and women's empowerment.

NEPAL

"This project made me more empowered. I was president of [a] mother's group and I tried to speak often on [the] issue of Chhaupadi practice. The project…equipped me with more details and [the] science of menstruation… I am thinking to share more things with the women in this community… I want to tell them that there have been no bad incidents in the recent time due to the hygiene and care we have maintained and we need to continue this."

GANGA DEVI BHUL, *TRADITIONAL HEALER AND WOMEN'S GROUP PRESIDENT, BADMA, NAWADURGA, DADELDHURA*

In Nepal, grantee Restless Development Nepal, in partnership with local NGOs, implemented a project to abolish Chhaupadi, a harmful traditional practice which involves isolating menstruating women and girls. The practice has been banned by the Supreme Court and in August 2017 was made a criminal offence – Restless Development Nepal was among the organizations that were instrumental in getting this new law passed.

By the time the project ended in December 2017, it had reached approximately 45,900 women and girls, far exceeding its projected target of 28,000, and the number of girls and women sleeping inside Chhaupadi huts during menstruation had decreased from 19.4 per cent to 5.5 per cent in the target areas.

The project used youth-led peer-to-peer education to address sensitive issues such as sexual and reproductive health, as well as disseminating information on laws and policies. Youth group members have also worked to spread the message of "Six Sa (Health, Safety, Hygiene, Education, Nutrition and Support)" in the community.

The project was implemented in seven districts of the far west region of Nepal: Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, Doti, Kailalim Acchan, Kalikot and Dailekh.

By the end of the project, 14,461 community leaders had participated in different activities and 97.8 per cent of the girls in the targeted areas had a good level of knowledge about menstrual hygiene and sexual health and reproduction. Only 2.4 per cent of adolescent girls reported not attending school during menstruation, as compared to 6.8 per cent in the baseline survey. This is a crucial development in terms of the impact on the lives of adolescent girls. More than 87 per cent of girls also had a good level of knowledge about forms of discrimination and their consequences compared to the baseline of 67.7 per cent.

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Jayanti, 17 years old and Jamuna, 35 years old outside a chhaupadi hut, a harmful traditional practice, that Jamuna used for 22 years and was used by Jayanti for 5 years. Through advocacy from Restless Development Nepal, the mother and daughter have not slept in the hut for over a year and the shed will soon be demolished.

ECUADOR

ACDemocracia works in Ecuador to promote access to justice for women and girl survivors of violence. The project sought to promote the application of normative frameworks and policies for the protection of women's rights by influencing legislative reform and changing cultural norms. The grantee also worked with the Decentralized Autonomous Governments to strengthen the institutional response to violence at the local level.

At least 20,000 people received information on women's right to live free of violence through various publicity initiatives, including broadcasts on the national and international media. Institutional capacity to respond to gender-based violence was strengthened in 13 municipalities following capacity building in gathering, analysing and sharing information on the prevalence of gender-based violence. By providing short six-week courses for 92 people, the project was able to increase the number of women and girls survivors supported to 699, an almost 10-fold increase from the start of the project.

A petition was launched in support of a comprehensive law on violence against women and girls which gathered 27,000 physical and 10,000 electronic signatures from all over the country. ACDemocracia, along with the National Coalition of Women and UN Women advocated for the adoption of a new Comprehensive Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women, which was approved with 90 per cent of votes cast in favour in parliament, building on the successful work in 2017.

© Michelle Gachet / UN Women
Martha Chango (right) in Tungurahua province, Ecuador where she works as the Municipal Councilor of Pelileo and the Chair of the Gender Commission.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, adopted unanimously in October 2000, was the first Security Council resolution to mention specifically the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls.

The Resolution calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. It also urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

The Resolution also calls on all those involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements to adopt a gender perspective, including addressing the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

UN Trust Fund-supported projects aimed at ensuring access to comprehensive services and to justice for the survivors of gender-based violence in conflicts that ended long ago are seeking to make the provisions of Resolution 1325 a reality on the ground – and showing both the long-term consequences of conflict-related violence against women and how impunity for these crimes can be overcome.

TIMOR-LESTE

Associacion Chega Ba Ita (ACBIT) implemented a project to address the repercussions of sexual violence during the Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste (1975-1999). Together with the NGOs, Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), Fokupers and the National Victims Association, the project assisted 326 survivors and reached at least 3,200 women and girls in all 13 districts of Timor-Leste. An increasing number of women survivors have expressed self-confidence in their ability to organize themselves and advocate for their rights. A similar process has started with the children of women survivors.

In 2017 the project continued to develop its database on women survivors of past and recent violence, as well as on children born as a result of sexual violence. Field research focusing on children born out of sexual violence during the Indonesian occupation, many of whom were sharing their experiences for the very first time, provided valuable information both on their mothers' situation and the recurring cross-generational experiences of marginalization and discrimination. The words of participants shed a very poignant light on the legacy of these human rights violations:

"Our hearts and heads hurt, because we think too much about the things people say, then our eyes become heavy with tears so the things about the past become a heavy load to carry but we remain strong in our hearts."

A range of materials was produced, based on the information gathered in the course of the Participatory Action Research activities, to reach the wider public: short films, books and theatre plays. Some of the short films and most engaging stories have reached a viewership of up to 15,000 people.

Two new national action plans were launched on gender-based violence in Timor-Leste, including a new five-year National Action Plan based on Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security, to which ACBIT contributed significantly.

© Sergia Aida Fatima/ACBIT
A television talkshow features members of the National Victims' Association on the anniversary of the Liquisa Church massacre.

Thematic areas

© Nobuhle Moyo/ Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust
Meeting about access to justice for women and girls with disabilities in Zimbabwe.

The UN Trust Fund has established two special funding windows to focus attention specifically on challenging aspects of ending violence against women that demand more global attention and funding. The purpose of the special windows is to better target funding to address these often overlooked and underfunded areas where violence intersects with either specific target groups or occurs in a particularly challenging context. The windows also have an important role to play in creating a body of practice where organizations working in the same areas can share experiences and best practice, learning through exchange and bolstering each other's efforts.

Two funding windows have been established in the past two years: one focusing on refugee and forcibly displaced women and girls in the context of humanitarian crises, and the other on women and girls with disabilities.

FOCUS ON

FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND REFUGEE SETTINGS

Women represent almost half of the 258 million migrants and half of the 25.9 million refugees worldwide.[15] Yet their needs, priorities and voices are often missing from policies designed to protect and assist women and girls. It is in this context that the UN Trust Fund opened the special window to prevent and end violence against refugee and displaced women and girls.

In its second year, the special thematic window for interventions within the humanitarian context targeting refugee and internally displaced women and girls saw an increase in the number of applications. A total of 112 project proposals were received in the Call for Proposals that closed in December 2017 (compared to 83 in 2016), 73 of which were from self-identified humanitarian organizations. This shows increasing recognition of the UN Trust Fund as a funding mechanism for addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of humanitarian crises.

In the funding cycle awarded in 2017 the UN Trust Fund granted USD 2.5 million through the newly established funding window to organizations working to prevent and end violence against refugee and displaced women and girls.

JORDAN

The **Arab Women's Organization** opened two new women's centres in Irbid and Mafraq governorates, north of the capital Amman, in May 2017. The centres mainly serve Syrian women and girl refugees as well as the local Jordanian community by providing case management, legal consultation and referral services. A safe space has already served 465 women with information about their rights, ending violence against women and against early marriage. In addition, the space provides women with vocational and literacy skills training and teaches men and boys about gender equality, gender roles and women's rights. The grantee is expanding the project's reach to more remote communities to continue awareness training on legal and psychosocial issues.

In Nuzza and Sahab, two underserved communities south of Amman, the **War Child Canada** project is supporting women and out-of-school girls. War Child Canada's centres run a 15-session programme that includes psychosocial support services for women survivors of violence and life skills classes, focusing on Yemeni, Somali and Iraqi refugee women and their families. It aims to reach 360 people in its first year. Sessions for out-of-school girls focus on mathematics, English and Arabic, and each class serves as a support group led by staff. The project is collecting data and training volunteers, and aims to share the results of a survey with larger humanitarian organizations to improve interventions to support women refugees.

IRAQ

During the first six months of its UN Trust Fund supported project, the **Free Yezidi Foundation**, operating in Duhok, enrolled 288 women and girls in its trauma and mental health therapy sessions for women survivors of violence which take place in their women's centre. The project held psychological assessment sessions with 23 women beneficiaries, all of whom are receiving individual follow up interventions, including nine who are attending weekly individual therapy sessions. Several of these women were recently held captive by ISIS. These sessions are ongoing and women report reduced thoughts of suicide and an improvement in their emotional wellbeing. The centre also runs music, art and language classes as part of efforts to reduce stress and helps women prepare for employment through livelihood trainings. It is estimated that another 800 community members have been reached by the project through social media outreach. The grantee has also trained three volunteers as para-professional psychological first-aid workers, with a view to ensuring sustainability beyond this project. Women participants reported that they used the skills and insights they had gained to help their relatives at home who have so far been unable to attend the sessions.

The project implemented in Sulaymaniyah, Duhok and Erbil by **ASUDA for Combating Violence against Women**, hired and trained six female researchers to collect evidence and monitor sexual and gender-based violence among female Syrian refugees. So far, data on 92 cases of violence within refugee camps and the surrounding urban areas have been recorded. This phase was followed by consultations with camp administrators, service providers and local authorities on strengthening response mechanisms for Syrian refugees, community awareness workshops and legal and psychosocial support for refugee girls at risk of sexual and gender-based violence. The project reached 100 Syrian women through five workshops on legal aid and other services; their willingness to use, and knowledge about, support services increased by 33 per cent from the beginning of the project. Eight additional workshops reached 65 men and 127 women to raise awareness about violence against women and how men and boys can become agents of change in ending violence against women and girls; by the end of the workshops participants' knowledge about gender-based violence had increased by 125 per cent.

The third grantee in Iraq, **Women for Women International**, enrolled 527 women and girls in social and economic empowerment training programmes in 2017 in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Sixty-eight per cent of the women who participated reported an increase in the ability to make their own decisions, such as being more involved in household decisions and in their ability to earn money. Women for Women International, together with their local partner Warvin, have provided social and legal services to an additional 258 women. Warvin lawyers provided support to 17 women survivors of violence. Women for Women International is continuing to train and mentor Warvin to strengthen their organizational and technical capacity to provide protection services in cases of gender-based violence.

FOCUS ON

WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

"STATES PARTIES RECOGNIZE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES ARE SUBJECT TO MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION, AND IN THIS REGARD SHALL TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE FULL AND EQUAL ENJOYMENT BY THEM OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS"

Article 6, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)*

It is estimated that worldwide, one in five women will experience disability in their lifetime.[16] Women and girls with disabilities experience many of the same forms of violence all women and girls experience, however because the experience of disability intersects with multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, as well as other factors, women and girls with disabilities are at heightened risk of many forms of violence.[17] They are up to three times at greater risk of rape and are twice as likely to be victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. The UN Trust Fund believes that supporting this large and largely overlooked section of society is essential, especially if the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals to "leave no one behind" is to be delivered, hence its decision to focus its funding on projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls with disabilities.

In 2017, the first year of Call for Proposals for this special window, 173 applications were received for funding for projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls with disabilities for a total of almost USD 64 million. Among the applicants were 53 self-identified disabled people's organizations. This initial response to the new window underscores the need for funding for efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls with disabilities.

The UN Trust Fund already supports projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls with disabilities in line with the human rights guaranteed in the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

©MDRI/ Viktor Ljevar
Workshop with women with disabilities in Serbia.

SERBIA

"When I left the institution, my life changed a lot. I can walk freely. I've met new friends. I work. I've met new people at work. I live with two roommates in an apartment. I didn't expect something like this could exist… that you could become independent… Every year on 10 July, I remember it well, I mark the day I left the institution, I celebrate a little. I invite my friends and the professional team and take them for a little treat. It means a lot to me in my life. I am out now and, thank God, I am my own person now!"

EUFEMIJA GRUGUROV *LIVED IN AN INSTITUTION FROM THE AGE OF 16. WITH THE SUPPORT OF GRANTEE MENTAL DISABILITY RIGHTS INITIATIVE-SERBIA, SHE NOW LIVES IN THE COMMUNITY.*

Women with mental disabilities living in Serbia's institutions are at risk of many kinds of violence. In its recent study, **Mental Disability Rights Initiative-Serbia** (MDRI-S) documented violence including forced medical treatment, such as the administration of contraceptives without informed consent, and forced abortions and sterilization. MDRI-S is the first organization in Serbia to bring the lives and stories of women with mental disabilities living in custodial institutions to the attention of the public.

MDRI-S has so far trained 60 service providers on how to address violence against women with mental disabilities in custodial institutions and to ensure that those working directly with women with mental disabilities have the awareness and information needed to prevent abuse from occurring. On 30 August 2017, MDRI-S held a joint meeting with the Parliamentary Committee for Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality and the Parliamentary Committee On Labour, Social Affairs, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Serbian Parliament. Research findings were presented on gender-based violence in residential institutions and the Chairman of the Committee sent specific recommendations to the Government of Serbia.

Changes in the women's capacities and confidence, in institutional practices and in the attitude of policy makers, taken together, are setting the stage for profound, consistent and sustainable changes in the lives of women with mental disabilities in Serbia. A total of 110 women involved in the project had increased awareness of protection mechanisms as a result of their participation in interviews, trainings and presentations for service providers and involvement in workshops.

Though the total impact of advocacy was not fully tangible, the project brought a completely invisible issue onto the public agenda, including motivating 10 service providers to widen the scope of their services and programmes to support women with disabilities in custodial institutions, with at least eight of them taking concrete steps towards improving their services.

The project also contributed to the National Strategy on Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities by 2020 and the accompanying Action Plan, which has important references in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women and the Convention against Torture.

In 2017 MDRI-S won the "Andjelka Milić" Award for its 2017 publication *Here the walls have ears*, in the category for "the introduction or encouragement of practices that significantly contribute to the establishment of gender equality in organizations, institutions or local communities, based on empirical insights obtained through feminist research and critical masculinity studies".

ZIMBABWE

A project implemented in Zimbabwe by the **Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust** (LCDZT) provided specialized services to girls and women with disabilities, including logistical support and sign-language classes, in order to facilitate their access to police units and the courts.

Throughout the three years in which the project operated, 738 girls and women with disabilities who are survivors of violence received practical assistance, such as legal advice, and financial and logistical support to remove barriers to access justice by arranging for the provision of, for example, food, transport, accommodation and survivor-friendly services. For example, between July and December 2017, 148 cases of violence reported to LCDZT proceeded to court following LCDZT support to survivors.

The feedback from women and girls, caregivers and stakeholders confirms that the project has brought violence against women and girls with disabilities to the attention of the public and duty bearers. It has also greatly empowered women and girls with disabilities who are utilizing the acquired knowledge and information to report acts of violence against women in their communities. Through the advocacy efforts of the project and that of other disability actors, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development has explicitly incorporated disability in the current 2017 National Gender Policy. In addition, the Ministry and the LCDZT are working to produce the Policy in accessible formats and the Ministry has also expressed interest in cooperating with the LCDZT as a technical partner after this particular project ends.

©Christabel Nyakanyanga/Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust
Community awareness campaigns were held in the Chikomba District, Zimbabwe in order to end violence against women and girls with disabilities. In attendance were community members, girls and women with disabilities, caregivers and community leaders.

Thank you

The UN Trust Fund is grateful to all of our partners and concerned individuals who provided the resources that enable us to support the creative projects put forward each year and to pursue our mission and work towards a world free of violence against women and girls.

As of December 2017, the Governments of Australia, Austria, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America had contributed to the UN Trust Fund.

Support was also received from the UN Women National Committees of Iceland, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and from the UN Women for Peace Association.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE UN TRUST FUND IN 2017 INCLUDE:

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THANKS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AT OUR 2017 GALA IN LONDON GO TO:

Zeinab Badawi, International Broadcaster, Master of Ceremonies
Gabriella Wright, Actor
Sarah Ikumu, Singer
Joanne Froggatt, Actor
Frances Corner, Head of the London College of Fashion and Pro Vice-Chancellor Digital of the University of the Arts London

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ENDNOTES

1. Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
2. World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council (2013), *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*, p. 2.
3. UNICEF (2016), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A global concern*, available at https://www.unicef.org/media/files/FGMC_2016_brochure_final_UNICEF_SPREAD.pdf
4. UNICEF (2014), *Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects*, pp. 2 and 4, available at https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf
5. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/10) available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
6. For more detailed results, please see the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Results Framework 2017.
7. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, India, Jordan, Kenya, Montenegro, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Serbia, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.
8. This indicator has been tracked as of the 14th cycle of grant giving.
9. Angelika Arutyunova and Cindy Clark, *Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots: The Status of Financing for Women's Rights Organizing and Gender Equality*, Association of Women in Development (AWID), 2013, analysed annual operational budgets of women's organizations and found that more than 90 per cent of them had annual operating budgets below USD 200,000, which aligns with the UN Trust Fund's definition of a small organization. The AWID report is available at https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/WTL_Starving_Roots.pdf
10. Respondents reflected the regional balance of the UN Trust Fund's portfolio (24 per cent from Africa, 23 per cent from Asia and the Pacific, 22 per cent from Europe and Central Asia, 16 per cent from Arab states, 13 per cent from the Americas and the Caribbean and 2 per cent from grantees implementing cross-regional projects).
11. Angelika Arutyunova and Cindy Clark, *Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots: The Status of Financing for Women's Rights Organizing and Gender Equality*, AWID, 2013, available at https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/WTL_Starving_Roots.pdf
12. GENDERNET, *Donor support to southern women's rights organisations: OECD findings* available at https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/oecd-report-on-womens-rights-organisations.pdf
13. Association des Femmes Juristes du Burkina Faso, Burkina Faso; Belarusian Association of Young Christian Women (YWCA Belarus), Belarus; Center for Girls, Serbia; Centro de Investigaciones para la Equidad, Mexico; Política Pública y Desarrollo Mexico, Mexico; Réseau des Femmes Oeuvrant pour le Développement Rural, Rwanda; Samatapheap Khrom Organization (SKO), Cambodia; Sexual Offences Awareness & Victims Rehabilitation Initiative, Nigaria; SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic, Montenegro; Women's Forum – Tetovo, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
14. See Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 14: The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (Art. 12 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 11 August 2000, E/C.12/2000/4).
15. *United Nations, International Migration Report 2017 – Highlights*, available at http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf
16. S. Ortoleva and H. Lewis, *Forgotten Sisters - A Report on Violence against Women with Disabilities: An Overview of Its Nature, Scope, Causes and Consequence* (2012).
17. *Forgotten Sisters*, op. cit.

BACK COVER PHOTO
©Vanessa Pizer/Episcopal Relief and Development
Youth, school stakeholders, faith leaders, government officials and other community members march during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Rivercess County, Liberia, to bring awareness to ending violence against women and girls.

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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