



# UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



Cover Photo credits:

@CISCSA/ @VSO/ @UN Trust Fund/UN Women

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. In the 24 years of its existence, it has supported 572 organizations, investing in innovative and evidence-based civil society-led solutions and life-changing initiatives. The projects it has funded 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. The UN Trust Fund is managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system and involves UN bodies and organs, civil society organizations and experts on ending violence against women in its decision-making processes through its Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)<sup>1</sup>.

**“I live with more hope.  
I experience less violence and  
more respect”**

Chann (not her real name), survivor of violence  
living with a disability in Cambodia who received  
specifically tailored services from the Cambodia  
Women’s Crisis Centre





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC</b> .....	<b>14</b>
OUR RESPONSE.....	19
COVID-19, civil society organizations and lessons learned .	20
<b>CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>IMPLEMENTING OUR STRATEGY</b> .....	<b>26</b>
Preventing violence against women and girls .....	28
Improving access to multisectoral services .....	33
Fostering implementation of law and policy .....	39
<b>LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND</b> .....	<b>42</b>
Women and girls in the context of humanitarian crises ...	44
Women and girls living with disabilities.....	46
Underserved women and girls.....	47
<b>BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR CHANGE</b> .....	<b>48</b>
<b>THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE: MOVEMENT BUILDING</b> ....	<b>58</b>
<b>THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!</b> .....	<b>68</b>
<b>ENDNOTES</b> .....	<b>70</b>

# FOREWORD

## THE PANDEMIC BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

In 1996, the Beijing Platform for Action, a defining framework for change, identified violence against women as one of its 12 critical areas of concern.

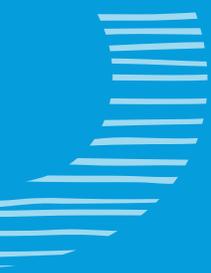
It stated that ***“Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women is a matter of concern to all States and should be addressed.”***

The severe and lasting consequences of “the long-standing failure” to address violence against women are irrefutable – that was the stark reality confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its report, *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*. Published in 2013, this was the first systematic study of global data on the prevalence of violence against women by partners and non-partners. The research found that intimate partner violence – physical and/or sexual – is the most common type of violence against women, affecting 30 per cent of women worldwide. It highlighted the need for all sectors to engage in eliminating broader social acceptance of violence against women and girls

and to better support women who experience it. The study concluded with global estimates indicating that 35 per cent of women worldwide, more than one in three, experience violence in their lifetime, either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Subsequently, violence against women was declared a major public health problem and a gross violation of women’s human rights.

Since then, we have collected even more data about violence against women and girls from every continent, from every country. We have repeatedly shown that this is one of the most pervasive human rights violations there is. For example, it is estimated that of the 87,000 women who were intentionally killed in 2017 globally, more than half (58 per cent) were killed by intimate partners or family members. That is the equivalent of a daily death toll of 137 women across the world killed by a member of their own family. More than a third (30,000) of the women intentionally killed in 2017 were killed by their current or former intimate partner. Some 650 million women and girls in the world today were married before the age of 18. Approximately 15 million adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) worldwide have experienced forced sex (forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts) at some point in their lives.

The statistics and history I highlight here are not new. Indeed, their familiarity reinforces the point



—we established a long time ago that violence against women and girls represents the most severe expression of discrimination and the disempowerment of women and girls. So, I must admit that I have found it hard to understand the expressions of shock that greeted recent reports that violence against women, and particularly domestic violence, has increased as we closed the doors of our homes in order to curb a new major public health crisis, COVID-19. If for some the correlation between sheltering-in-place/lockdowns and increased violence against women and girls came as a surprise, for others it came as glaring confirmation of what we already knew. When threats to personal safety and security and health, money worries, job insecurity or increased alcohol consumption create tensions and strains, and these are intensified by the confined living conditions of lockdown —violence rises.

The already very high levels of violence against women and girls - more than 1 in 3 - surge in times of conflict, natural disasters and crises. We have seen this time and again around the world whether in crises caused by hurricanes, landslides, earthquakes or diseases, such as Ebola. And now we are seeing it again during the COVID-19 crisis. The soaring levels of violence against women and girls during this new pandemic should come as no surprise.

Lockdowns cut off survivors' escape routes and unleash the pervasive violence that had previously been hidden or ignored. Violence against women and girls, already prevalent, is now exacerbated by food shortages, unemployment, economic insecurity, school closures, public transport shutdowns, mass migration flows and the threat of civil unrest. Those most at risk before COVID-19 are among those disproportionately affected by its consequences. Women and girls with disabilities, for example, are even more at risk because of their increased dependence on their abusers and because they are denied access to basic necessities within the household. As services are redirected to respond to the

COVID-19 crisis, women and girl survivors are seeing access to essential services, such as shelters, helplines, justice, health care and social protection, either withdrawn or restricted, increasing the risks they face.

This Annual Report has taken an unexpected direction from that planned at the beginning of this year. In addition to reflecting on our work in 2019, given the current context, it also required a reflection on our work and response to the COVID-19 crisis. But there is a clear common thread between both: the report is once again a testimony to the results and achievements of our grantees who are adjusting their reality to respond to COVID-19 and continuing to have an impact. As we closed the doors of our offices and homes and searched for new and different working modalities, our grantees still managed to reach out to their beneficiaries and to survivors. They quickly adjusted their work to reshape their plans and responses, finding new ways to support women and girls in need and adapting as best they could to maintain key aspects of their projects, while protecting the safety of beneficiaries and staff.

In these challenging times, the need to respond to the immediate and long-term consequences of the current crisis for women and girls is crucial. The UN Trust Fund remains committed to its partners in the field, to civil society and women's organizations, who play a vital role in assisting women and girl survivors of violence. We thank them all as in these unprecedented circumstances, they remain on the front line of the response to the long-standing and ongoing pandemic of violence against women and girls.

**Aldijana Sisic,**

*Chief, UN Trust Fund to  
End Violence against Women*

# SNAPSHOT OF ACHIEVEMENTS



Over the past four years a total of

## 22,699,683 PEOPLE

of all genders, including government officials and the general public, were reached by UN Trust Fund projects<sup>2</sup>



Over the past four years, more than

### 1,056,750

#### WOMEN AND GIRLS

benefited directly from services, empowerment activities and protection from violence<sup>3</sup>, **including at least 107,428 survivors of violence**

In 2019, the UN Trust Fund surpassed its goal of raising

### USD20 MILLION

for grant giving by 2020

**REACHING ALMOST DOUBLE THE AMOUNT, USD35 MILLION A YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**



# IN 2019 THE UN TRUST FUND

INVESTED  
**USD7,459,803**

IN 29 SMALL GRANTS TO  
WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

**137**  
**PROJECTS**

IN 70 COUNTRIES  
AND TERRITORIES<sup>4</sup>

just **61** of the UN Trust Fund's  
active projects reached  
**2,173,004 PEOPLE**

AWARDED

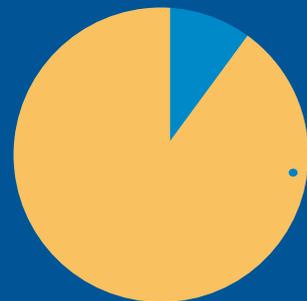
**79 NEW  
GRANTS**

IN VALUE OF

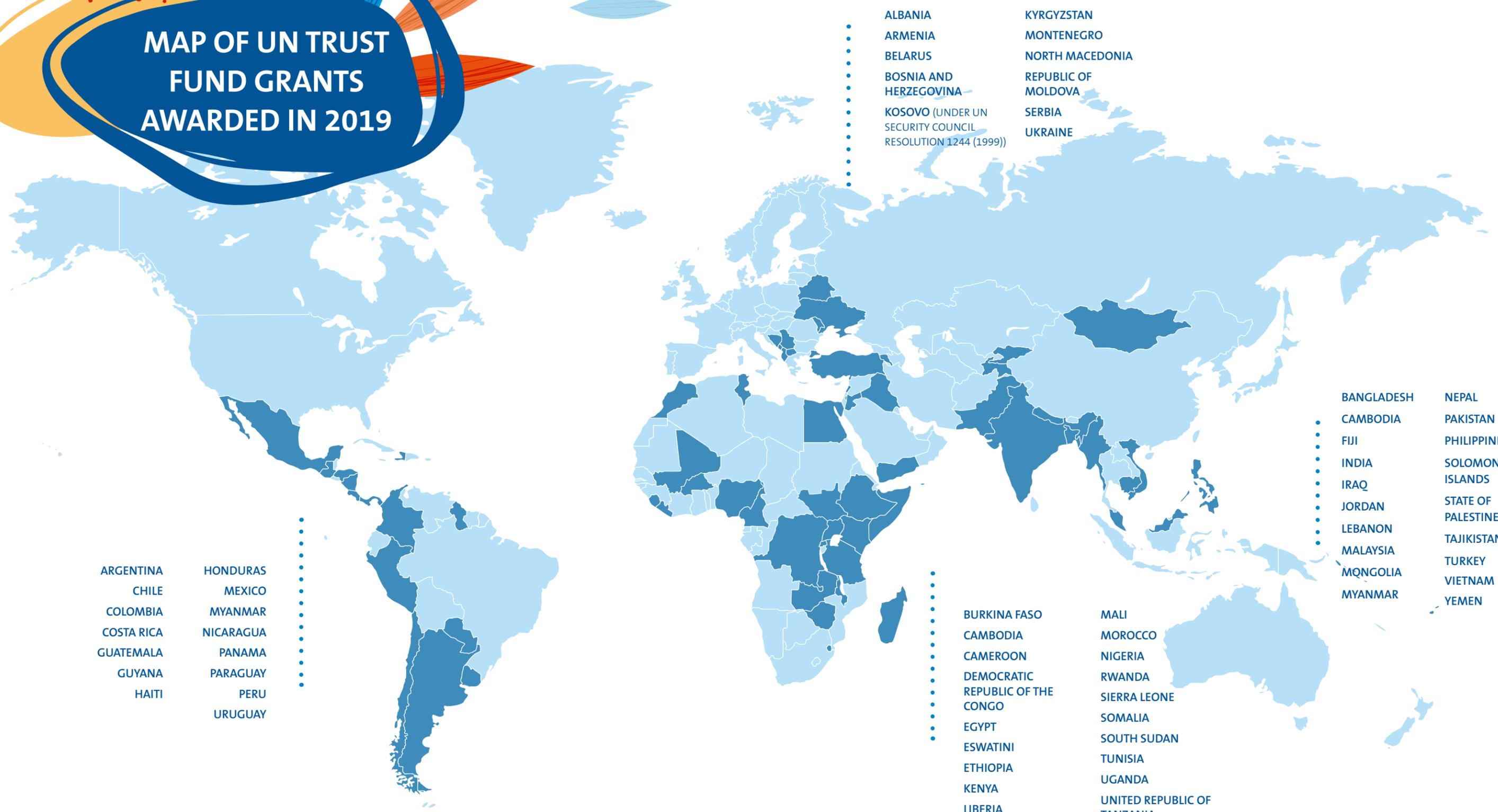
**USD35 MILLION**

**71 OF THE  
79 GRANTS**

awarded in 2019 were self-  
identified women-led organizations,  
representing 90% of the portfolio



# MAP OF UN TRUST FUND GRANTS AWARDED IN 2019



- ALBANIA
- ARMENIA
- BELARUS
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- KOSOVO (UNDER UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1244 (1999))
- KYRGYZSTAN
- MONTENEGRO
- NORTH MACEDONIA
- REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
- SERBIA
- UKRAINE

- ARGENTINA
- CHILE
- COLOMBIA
- COSTA RICA
- GUATEMALA
- GUYANA
- HAITI
- HONDURAS
- MEXICO
- MYANMAR
- NICARAGUA
- PANAMA
- PARAGUAY
- PERU
- URUGUAY

- BURKINA FASO
- CAMBODIA
- CAMEROON
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
- EGYPT
- ESWATINI
- ETHIOPIA
- KENYA
- LIBERIA
- MADAGASCAR
- MALAWI
- MALI
- MOROCCO
- NIGERIA
- RWANDA
- SIERRA LEONE
- SOMALIA
- SOUTH SUDAN
- TUNISIA
- UGANDA
- UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE

- BANGLADESH
- CAMBODIA
- FIJI
- INDIA
- IRAQ
- JORDAN
- LEBANON
- MALAYSIA
- MONGOLIA
- MYANMAR
- NEPAL
- PAKISTAN
- PHILIPPINES
- SOLOMON ISLANDS
- STATE OF PALESTINE
- TAJIKISTAN
- TURKEY
- VIETNAM
- YEMEN

# INTRODUCTION





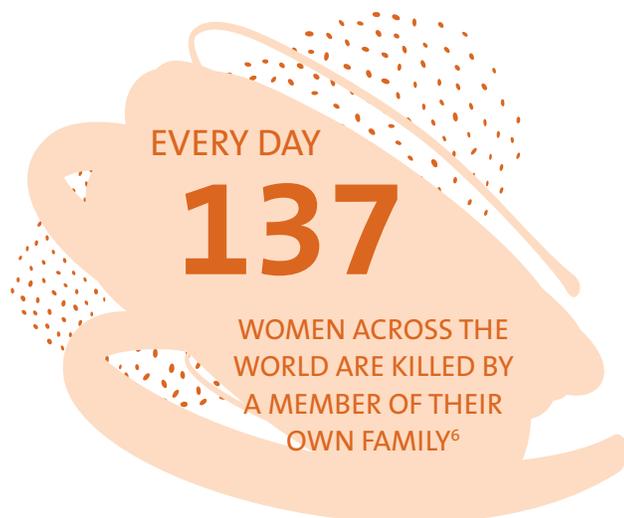
## Living a life free from violence is a basic human right.

This is not something to be given out of good will, allowed, permitted or tolerated – it is simply a right to which all human beings are inherently entitled. Yet millions of women and girls around the world encounter rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, acid attacks, cyberviolence among many other forms of violence. As many as 70 per cent of women worldwide have experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes<sup>5</sup>.

All too frequently, no one is held accountable for these crimes. Very often adequate services, laws and national action plans to address the problem are not in place or, if they are, resources and/or implementation are lacking or inadequate.

More than 650 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday and about 250 million entered into union before the age of 15<sup>7</sup>. Women and girls together account for 72 per cent of all human trafficking victims, with three out of every four girl victims being trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation<sup>8</sup>. These statistics are not new. Violence against women and girls cuts across all generations, geographical boundaries, races, ethnicities and socio-economic groups; it is recognized as a global pandemic and a major obstacle to the fulfillment of human rights and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>9</sup>.

Twenty-five years ago, 189 governments adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing Platform for Action), making a commitment to take strategic, bold action in 12 critical areas of concern in order to further the empowerment of women and girls – violence against women is one of them. Only one year later, in 1996, the UN General Assembly established the UN Trust Fund (Resolution 50/166) with the aim of providing support to civil society organizations (CSOs) in their efforts to address the issue at the national and local levels.

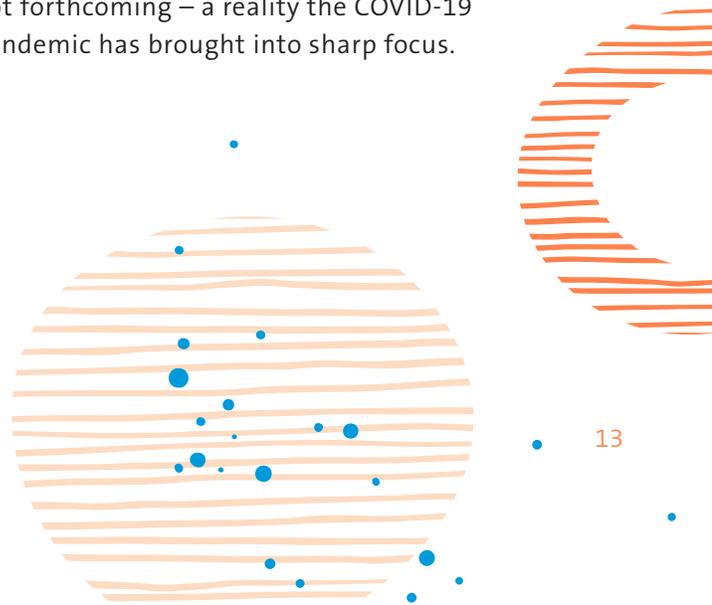


The UN Trust Fund, which is managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN System, works with CSOs, governments and UN country teams to deliver on three specific areas of its current Strategic Plan.

**These aim to:**

- Prevent violence against women and girls by empowering groups especially at risk of violence, including adolescent girls and indigenous or ethnic minority women, and engaging strategically with boys and men as well as traditional and faith-based leaders to prevent violence;
- Improve access to multisectoral services, such as legal assistance, psychosocial counselling and health care, by increasing the capacity of service providers to respond effectively to the needs of women and girls affected by violence; and
- Strengthen the implementation of laws, policies and action plans on violence against women and girls through data collection and analysis, and by ensuring that institutions are more effective, transparent and accountable in addressing violence against women.

Since its inception in 1996, the UN Trust Fund has responded to evolving challenges and opportunities, adapting its strategies to ensure its work has maximum impact. The global, national and local landscapes facing organizations seeking to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls have changed considerably over the past 25 years. The UN Trust Fund’s ongoing dialogue with CSOs, who are at the forefront of efforts to address and end violence against women and girls, has put it in a unique position to recognize with certainty two key things: these organizations know what they need and what works in their particular contexts; and, with relatively small investments, they can and do achieve profound and sustained changes in the lives of women and girls. A third clear constant is that the necessary investment to address the ongoing need of CSOs to be self-sufficient and able to address the challenges they face is still not forthcoming – a reality the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus.



# THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC





As 2019 drew to a close, a worrying threat was gathering pace and rapidly spreading to every corner of the world – the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The pandemic and ensuing social isolation measures have impacted every part of the world. Well over 100 countries worldwide had instituted either a full or partial lockdown by the end of March 2020, affecting billions of people. As we complete the writing of this Annual Report in June 2020, people around the world are still sheltering at home as a protective measure which has, according to emerging data, also given rise to unprecedented levels of violence against women and girls<sup>10</sup>. The COVID-19 pandemic also starkly exposed societies' lack of preparedness to respond to and deal with an already existing, ongoing and persistent global pandemic – violence against women and girls.

At the same time, the pandemic highlighted how CSOs funded by the UN Trust Fund are using their knowledge and expertise, built up over years of experience, to quickly adapt and create new response modalities to address the new challenges they face. As first responders to violence against women and girls, CSOs and women's rights organizations faced this rise in demand for services amid a context of cuts and the diversion of protection mechanisms, services and resources to dealing with COVID-19.

*“The hospitals are only taking the serious cases now... The burn wards have been converted into COVID wards. We are committed to ensuring our crisis services continue uninterrupted – our 24-hour hotline, and our crisis and rehabilitative services for burn survivors are accessible to those who require support. As an organization that works in providing crisis services to the most vulnerable, we are working round the clock to ensure that no woman is left behind even as we prioritize the health and safety of everyone.”*

Rashmi Singh, Programme Director of the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care, India

In response, the UN Trust Fund took immediate action to assess and respond to the needs of grantees (particularly small, women's organizations) and to provide support to women and girls at heightened risk of violence. As part of its initial response to the COVID-19 crisis, the UN Trust Fund conducted a rapid assessment of the global impact of the outbreak on the CSOs and women's rights organizations working to end violence against women and girls that it funds. Over the course of a month, 122 of the 144 active grantees shared their experiences of the impact of COVID-19, in 69 countries and territories. They

pointed to a sharp increase in multiple forms of violence against women and girls, including:

- Intimate partner violence;
- Sexual abuse;
- Violence against women and girls in humanitarian settings;
- Emotional and economic abuse; and
- Assault by law enforcement officials.

By April 2020, at least 4 billion people around the world were isolated in their homes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts to minimize



Christoffel-Blindenmission Deutschland (CBM) conducts an awareness raising session about domestic violence in Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic. © CBM

the spread of the virus intensified the threat of violence in the home. It was an emergency to which UN Trust Fund grantees responded immediately. On 16 April 2020, over 280 UN Trust Fund stakeholders – representing small organizations, women’s rights organizations, civil society actors, donors, government development agencies and UN partners from around the globe – came together on a virtual platform to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on global systems to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

UN Trust Fund grantees described the devastating impact of lockdowns and social distancing on women, and the role of women’s organizations as first responders. Some were able to share valuable experience about how they were adapting current projects, based on what they had done during previous health crises. For instance, Abiy Seifu from Episcopal Relief and Development in Liberia described how they were enhancing existing programmes based on their experiences during the Ebola crisis. Rashmi Singh, Programme Director of the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care (PCVC) in India noted that there had been a threefold increase in reports of violence and requests for psychosocial counselling on chat apps. She also described the health-care system’s reduced capacity to provide help to burn victims. Having identified this risk to women survivors, PCVC collaborated with local hospitals to provide direct, immediate support for women survivors of violence.

***“Many of them reported the fear of sexual violence because movement around their houses is restricted and therefore perpetrators may take advantage.”***

Rashmi Singh, Programme Director of the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care, India

Widespread under-reporting of all forms of violence against women and girls has always made gathering robust data and responding to it a challenge. The lockdown measures adopted during this period increased this invisibility.

### **Kosovo<sup>11</sup>: Medica Kosova**

“[The] pandemic is affecting everyone... but our concern remains with survivors of domestic violence who have to isolate with abusers and with limited possibilities for receiving direct support from organizations or other service providers.” - Vepore Shehu, Executive Director of Medica Kosova, a UN Trust Fund grantee, in Kosovo (Under UN SCR 1244 (1999))

As soon as emergency measures were announced Medica Kosova staff, who started working from home, began liaising with women survivors of violence and local services. Vepore Shehu explained:

“Five team members (a psychologist, lawyer, psychosocial counsellor, project assistant and executive director) make phone calls to survivors asking about their well-being, challenges they face during this period of isolation and their daily activities with their close families.”

However, challenges remained in reaching all survivors and although additional measures were put in place for shelters, such as an SOS line connected to the police, police responses were limited to cases of physical violence.

# OUR RESPONSE

The UN Trust Fund undertook a mapping exercise of the challenges grantees were experiencing as a result of COVID-19 and reviewed all projects to identify resources from grantees' existing budget lines that could be quickly reallocated for COVID-19 crisis response.

## The UN Trust Fund announced a five-point action plan to provide immediate support to grantees during the crisis:

- 1** Acknowledge and approve delays in grantee reporting, including final and evaluation reports
- 2** Exercise utmost flexibility to enable grantees to modify or delay project activities
- 3** Share resources and guidance to help grantees navigate the public health crisis
- 4** Accept budget reallocation requests to meet core costs to ensure business continuity and minimize the negative impact of COVID-19; and
- 5** Approve no-cost extension requests for grantee projects

In partnership with the Spotlight Initiative and the European Union, the UN Trust Fund announced in May the allocation of an additional USD9 million for immediate support to all its existing grantees in sub-Saharan Africa. Up to 44 CSOs were eligible for financial assistance, with a primary focus on institutional strengthening, risk mitigation and survivor recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to 43 per cent of the original grant amount can be allocated for core resources, which echoes calls and recommendations made by UN Trust Fund grantees at the first Global Grantee Convention in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in November 2019.

In September 2020, the UN Trust Fund will launch a global Call for Proposals for the new COVID-19 Crisis Response Window to fund projects specifically designed to support long-term interventions for women and girl survivors that are specific to the context of the current pandemic.

These steps aim to enable UN Trust Fund grantees to respond efficiently to pressing challenges and the safety needs of their staff, ensure institutional sustainability, manage potential organizational risks and make sure that women and girls receive essential support.

This flexibility and prompt responsiveness to the needs of grantees reflect the UN Trust Fund's long-standing and firm commitment to work in partnership, part of a global conversation, to share knowledge and support a truly resilient and sustainable coalition for action to end violence against women and girls. We cannot know what demands and new challenges the COVID-19 crisis or indeed other developments will bring, but what is certain is that the work of UN Trust Fund grantees is as necessary as ever and CSOs will continue to play a pivotal role in rising to these challenges.

# COVID-19, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown into stark relief the crucial role CSOs play. Measures introduced to contain the spread of the virus in many countries prevented them from carrying out some of the usual aspects of their work in the normal way in the first part of 2020. However, they were able to provide a critical source of practitioner-led evidence and represent the voice of organizations on the front line of the work to prevent and end violence against women and girls in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

CSOs served as an early warning system, drawing attention to how, across all five regions where the UN Trust Fund operates, social isolation measures introduced in their countries was leading to an alarming increase in violence against women and girls in their communities.

Maintaining their service provision to shelters, for example, ensuring supplies of food, hygiene, health care and education, against all odds

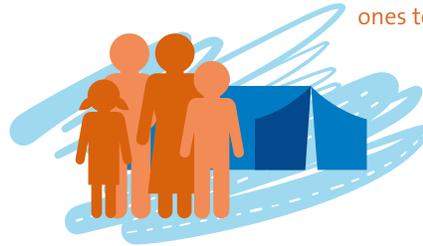


Expanding the reach of their services by adding hotlines to their existing services and mobilizing psychologists and lawyers trained in providing virtual consultations

THEIR RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS HAS BEEN SWIFT, COMMITTED AND EFFECTIVE.

FOR EXAMPLE, CSOs ARE:

Maintaining shelters and opening new ones to manage the surge in need



Acting as a source of accessible information on COVID-19 for survivors and at-risk women and girls



Striving to adapt service provision and integrate violence against women and girls into COVID-19 responses



Moving work on violence prevention programming to the radio or virtual spaces and, where feasible, bringing in public health experts to advise on linkages between COVID-19 and ending violence against women and girls



A service provider, Ibtisam Hamdan, trains women at the Arab Women's Organization centre in Irbid, Jordan as part of a project to prevent and end violence against refugee and Jordanian women and girls. © Walaa Fares/AWO

***Women's organizations, operating with meagre resources, are often on the front line of community response – supporting those most affected economically by the crisis, ensuring shelters remain open for domestic violence victims, and channelling public health education messages to women***

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General,  
SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, GLOBAL  
SOLIDARITY: Responding to the socio-  
economic impacts of COVID-19

In these and many other ways, UN Trust Fund grantees on the front line have shown an incredible resilience in responding to the crisis. At the same time, they are also having to prioritize adjustments to internal operations, with a focus on the safety and health of their staff and beneficiaries. CSOs report needing additional resources, support and flexibility to continue prevention programming and essential services.

- Resources are needed to retain project staff by providing salaries and health insurance, including for consultants that are vital for project continuation.
- Support is needed to build internal capacity, access essential knowledge and develop safety and ethical protocols and security plans tailored to the current crisis.
- Flexibility is needed as grantees seek to adjust their project plans to the context of this crisis to adjust budgets to match higher costs.

The importance of CSOs and their work is hard to overstate and has rarely been clearer than during the COVID-19 crisis and will remain so in its aftermath. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres recognized women's organizations as essential, first responders to the COVID-19 pandemic, given their position on the front line of community response and their role as primary, and often the only, points of reference for women and girl survivors. Despite operating with severely constrained resources, these organizations are supporting those most affected by the crisis, ensuring shelters and other specialist support services remain open for survivors of violence, and channelling public health education messages to women and girls. In order to scale up support at the grass-roots level, the UN Secretary-General has called for increased funding from national and international aid budgets for women's organizations through the "expansion and capitalization" of mechanisms such as the UN Trust Fund.

**CHAMPIONING  
SUSTAINABLE  
CHANGE**



CSOs play a vital role in all three areas of the UN Trust Fund's strategic focus, working with a wide range of different partners and in many diverse settings.

- Providing services that would not be otherwise available in specific contexts (such as SOS helplines, shelters, crisis centres and self-help groups);
- Leveraging the trust of local communities to reach groups that are underserved (including members of minority ethnic groups, women living with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women);
- Training general service providers; and
- Advocating for the recognition of the unmet needs of women and girl survivors of violence.

As part of ongoing efforts to help build the capacity and sustainability of organizations working to end and address violence against women and girls, in 2019 the UN Trust Fund has continued to invest in strengthening grantees' project management and monitoring and evaluation capacity – grantees have consistently provided positive feedback stressing how important this is to them. CSOs have also said that they value more capacity support, especially on data collection, fundraising and resource mobilization.

Strengthening the capacity of grantees in these areas has been an increasing focus of the UN Trust Fund's work. The response from participants at the first ever Global Grantee Convention held in November 2019 in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) underscored the importance of this aspect of ensuring the sustainability of grantees' efforts.



*The UN Trust Fund's focus on small, women's organizations has also led to specific lessons learned that have since been implemented over the course of the current Strategic Plan. These include:*



Providing a budget allocation of USD2,000 for self-care for staff working for small organizations



Providing a dedicated budget for final project evaluations for small projects and co-management support of the evaluation process to boost capacity in this area



Increasing the percentage of funding within a grant available for organizational costs (for core staff costs)

## 91% OF GRANTEES

*surveyed in 2019 report confidence that securing a UN Trust Fund grant will enable their organization to mobilize additional resources for their current or future projects to end violence against women and girls*

*In 2019, grantees reported raising an*

## ADDITIONAL USD18 MILLION

*for financing other projects to end violence against women and girls*

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again highlighted the chronic underfunding of efforts to address and eliminate violence against women and girls. In many other situations of crisis, the impact on women and girls has been missing from discussions on how to respond. COVID-19, and most especially the isolation and distancing needed to contain it, have forced governments to confront and acknowledge the pandemic of violence against women. In the current context “staying safe” at home is denied to so many women and girls around the world and the services to support survivors of violence and bring their abusers to justice continue to lack the attention and investment required.

UN Trust Fund grantees have shown – and continue to demonstrate – that progress is possible. They have achieved remarkable life-changing results with modest funding. Their hard work and the important lessons they have learned are a crucial contribution to the global effort to end and address all forms of violence against women and girls in all contexts.

A woman with short hair, wearing a plaid shirt, is speaking into a microphone. She is the central focus of a circular inset image. The background of the entire graphic is a vibrant orange. Overlaid on this are several abstract, colorful shapes: a large blue shape with white dots, a yellow shape with pink dots, a red shape with white dots, and a blue shape with orange dots. There are also white and blue dots scattered across the orange background. The overall aesthetic is modern and energetic.

# IMPLEMENTING OUR STRATEGY



The UN Trust Fund raises and distributes funds to support multi-year projects to address, prevent and ultimately end violence against women and girls. It does so through three strategic pathways:

1. Supporting results-oriented approaches to prevent and end violence against women and girls,
2. Catalysing learning from global evidence collected from grantees, and
3. Leveraging its unique mandate and convening power to advocate for and foster sustainable financing for national and local work on preventing and ending violence against women and girls.

In line with these pathways and its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, during 2019 the UN Trust Fund continued to focus its grant giving in support of three key programmatic objectives: primary prevention of violence against women and girls; enhancing access to multisectoral services for survivors of violence; and strengthening implementation of national laws, policies and action plans. The following captures some of the work and achievements of the UN Trust Fund grantees in 2019.

## PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Since the beginning of its current Strategic Plan in 2015, the UN Trust Fund has invested USD47 million in projects that are solely or partly focused on preventing violence against women and girls. The overwhelming majority of prevention projects combined other key areas of the UN Trust Fund's work, rather than being standalone prevention projects. The majority of grantees engaged in prevention projects were



women's organizations, which are also a deliberate focus of UN Trust Fund investment.

An analysis of these projects found a strong focus on community mobilization to change behaviours and attitudes. Beginning at the local level, grantees developed cross-sectoral networks of service providers, community leaders and programme participants. These networks were then mobilized and linked to regional and national networks and actors. This process of mobilization from the bottom-up has proven central to the increased access, uptake, reach and sustainability of projects.

*As a result of the work of  
34 grantees*

**816 SCHOOLS**

*have improved  
their curricula or  
implemented policies,  
practices or services to  
prevent and respond  
to violence against  
women (including  
extracurricular school  
activities).*

## Projects on school-based interventions

In 2019, the UN Trust Fund examined the work of its CSO grantees whose focus was addressing violence against women and girls in educational settings, with the intention of consolidating this knowledge for publication in 2020. Educational settings can play a crucial role in **prevention**, as well as providing appropriate responses when violence does occur and since 2015 the UN Trust Fund has supported a number of such projects.

The knowledge product drew on the work of 51 organizations carrying out funded projects in 42 countries to analyse entry points for CSOs, in particular small and women-led organizations, in enabling schools and communities around schools to reduce violence against girls.

It found that grantees have worked on the entire range of prevention and response activities relating to violence against girls in and around schools. They have engaged at-risk girls and survivors directly, but also their parents, the community, schoolteachers, administrations, service providers and policy makers. They have worked from within schools but have also identified girls who are most affected or most at risk of violence – for example out-of-school girls and/or girls who have dropped out specifically due to violence experienced in schools – to support their readmission into education.

The examination found that the projects which were most effective in changing attitudes,

behaviours and responses to violence against girls were peer-to-peer models, those which worked to creatively involve the community and balanced school-based interventions with community-based interventions and those which addressed the drivers of gender-based violence outside the school context.

The skills of front line facilitators and tailoring the approach to the context, bringing girls and survivors into the centre of project design, were design elements that were found to have a significant impact on the successful outcomes of projects. And finally, agility and the ability to make mid-course adaptations to the project were important factors influencing impact. This supports the UN Trust Fund's continuing efforts to enhance the monitoring and evaluation capacities of grantees to enable them to improve the systematic tracking and measuring of results to inform day-to-day decision making.

## Grantees at work

### Jordan: War Child Canada

In June 2017, War Child Canada designed a project aimed at safeguarding women and girls affected by the Syria crisis who had fled to Jordan. The two-year project sought to improve the safety of women and girls as well as to ensure prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence at the local community level.

An independent evaluation of the project, completed in June 2019, concluded that overall the project was highly effective in addressing some of the most pressing challenges and needs faced by vulnerable women and girls in the target areas of Amman (Sahab and Nuzha).

Although most of the girls reached were enrolled in school, a few participants were not in formal education; these girls emphasized the importance of the classes with War Child Canada as one of the only chances to get out of their homes, meet other girls their age and develop their own skills.

One of the most significant unforeseen outcomes



A beneficiary at the Arab Women's Center in Irbid, Jordan, participates in a skills training course as part of a project to support survivors of violence. © AWO

of this project has been the opportunity for women and girls to create their own networks of friends through War Child Canada's activities. Women explained that this network offers much-needed sources of support in addressing daily challenges with their families and finding information (about services or assistance). Women have also been supported through life skills sessions and psychosocial support.

Researcher-practitioner partnerships have been tested as a successful model for further exploration. For example, the UN Trust Fund invested in Raising Voices for six years, over the course of two grants, to adapt and test the SASA! prevention model in three countries. This project was based on a partnership model between Raising Voices, other NGOs and research institutions in each country. Today, more than 60 organizations – including NGOs, governments, UN agencies and faith-based groups – are implementing the SASA! methodology in over 20



countries. Several of these organizations are UN Trust Fund grantees, implementing adaptations of the methodology. In addition, as a focus of prevention programming, since 2016, at least 16,121 community and faith group leaders have advocated publicly for changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes towards ending violence against women and girls and harmful practices, supported by UN Trust Fund grantees.

### Kenya: Trocaire

In Kenya, the grantee Trocaire is implementing a project involving local advocacy using the SASA! Faith methodology, economic empowerment and working with girls in schools and service providers.

Among the highlights of the project's achievements so far are a more than doubling of support among the adolescent girls and young women targeted for a woman's right to refuse unwanted sexual activity (rising from a baseline figure of 20.3 per cent at the beginning of the project to 44.3 per cent at the mid-term point of the project).

A total of 312 of the adolescents, girls and young women directly engaged since the start of the project have demonstrated increased personal power, confidence, self-esteem, leadership and decision-making ability, attributed to life-skills training under the project.

Cumulatively, 7,302 community members (4,539 female and 2,763 male) have been reached through international events, radio programmes and general sensitization forums conducted in the eight informal settlements covered by the project.

In addition, 237 young survivors of violence received direct support. As a result of community sensitization and trainings on violence against women and girls, several cases were reported, most commonly of sexual violence and physical assault.

Groups of men reached so far through different forums, trainings, radio and events include 79 *Boda-Boda* (motorcycle taxi riders), 182 schoolboys, about 100 male community leaders and men in Catholic church groups who were reached through the SASA! Faith model.

This project also trains front line workers to strengthen their capacity to deliver quality services to women and girl survivors of violence. During the reporting period, the project engaged 214 front line workers.

Changing attitudes and behaviours and challenging the entrenched stereotypes about gender roles that underpin violence against women and girls are major components of this strand of grantees' work. Projects are working to bring about attitudinal change in communities, addressing men and boys, communities and service providers, and empowering women and girls.

### Cambodia Women's Crisis Centre and ADD International

The Cambodia Women's Crisis Centre and ADD International (CWCC/ADD International) projects focus on preventing violence against women and girls living with disabilities, especially those in remote communities. The projects are also strengthening the capacity of women-led organizations serving women living with disabilities and training women and girls living with disabilities to be volunteers and take an active role in project implementation. ADD International has already trained 85 village volunteers and leaders of women-led disabled persons' organizations to identify forms of violence against women.

***“Without prevention, violence will spread like cancer... I learned about disability and violence against women as a community issue. If we don't join together it will spread and carry on to the next generation.”***

Panha, community partner working with ADD International

ADD International's volunteers identified a family with a young girl survivor of sexual violence who lives with an intellectual disability.

*The change is not yet 100% but steps ahead can be observed. People in the community at large you see they no longer treat persons with disabilities as objects. Mindset is changing. Sincerely because of better understanding, community mobilization, they are not called by dehumanizing names. Although I cannot say they totally stopped, even discrimination and psychological mistreatment has reduced.”*

Uwineza Dieudonne, a community member who attended an organized community awareness session

Through ADD International’s identification and CWCC’s counselling and facilitation of justice she now knows her rights and her case is proceeding through the courts. She said:

*“I have 4 rights – the right to development, right to protection, participation, and right to be a survivor”.*

#### **Rwanda Organization of Women with Disabilities**

The project implemented by the Rwanda Organization of Women with Disabilities (UNABU), an organization managed by women living with disabilities for women living with disabilities, is working to change attitudes and behaviours by increasing knowledge and awareness of human rights and gender-based violence among women living with disabilities with members of self-advocacy groups and community members.

Overall, of 130 self-advocacy group members, 74 per cent reported that they experienced changes in their lives as a result of the project. Women and girls living with disabilities said that the project helped them to escape from isolation, know their rights and have the confidence to



In Rwanda, women participate in activities from UN Trust Fund grantee UNABU to prevent and end violence against women living with disabilities. © John Image/UN Trust Fund/UN Women

claim them and express themselves more freely.

During its first year, UNABU provided training for women and girls living with disabilities, conducted four community awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence. UNABU, which was visited by the UN Trust Fund during the year, has cumulatively reached 2,293 community members through awareness-raising activities.

#### **Mexico: Ciencia Social Alternativa AC**

*“Having this space for expression is very enriching. To have prevention measures in place for girls and boys, as well as increased attention to the issue, is a great step. I have taken away information and increased awareness in order to continue with the project. As civil society organizations, we are strengthening ourselves so that we can continue supporting.”* Workshop participant

Ciencia Social Alternativa AC is implementing a project in the state of Yucatán, Mexico, to reduce the incidence of violence against girls living with disabilities. The project works to create positive change by developing an intervention model for prevention and multisectoral responses to violence in the family and community and empowering girls living with disabilities.

The project is working to ensure that public officials and education and health professionals are better equipped both to prevent violence and to provide support to girls who experience it. It also organizes workshops to teach girls living with disabilities about their rights and about existing institutions that may provide them with

support, should they ever experience violence.

In 2019, the project organized 15 workshops, in which 268 people participated. These focused on designing ways to prevent and raise awareness of violence against girls living with disabilities.

A survey conducted after the workshops found that all parents who participated found them a useful source of information about different ways to prevent and raise awareness of violence against girls living with disabilities. In addition, 96 per cent of public officials said the workshops had increased their knowledge of the human rights of people living with disabilities and 91 per cent said they recognized they had a responsibility to prevent and raise awareness of violence against girls living with disabilities. Further, 93 per cent of civil society participants also found prevention and awareness-raising strategies highlighted in the workshops useful.

## **IMPROVING ACCESS TO MULTISECTORAL SERVICES**

Under this pillar of work, the UN Trust Fund supports projects to improve women and girls' access to specialized support services, including psychological counselling, medical services and shelters, as well as access to justice through the provision of legal aid. In 2019, 27,118 women and girls used specialized support services for survivors of violence against women delivered by 37 grantees. Since 2016, at least 60,048 women and girls accessed specialist support services through UN Trust Fund grantees. Training of service providers is also an important component of projects seeking to enhance access to essential, safe and adequate services for women and girls.

**Since 2016, at least  
60,048  
women and girls  
accessed specialist  
support services**

## Projects addressing policing

One of the knowledge products prepared by the UN Trust Fund in 2019 for publication in 2020 looked at policing, one of the essential services of a coordinated multisectoral response to women and girls who experience violence. The review looked at the final evaluations of projects by 52 civil society women's organizations in all regions of the world over the past 10 years. Grantees have engaged with the police to strengthen initial contact with survivors; improve investigation and trial procedures; enhance internal systems and set up specialized

victim support units; coordinate with front line service providers; and bolster prevention.

At the institutional level, among the outcomes highlighted were: improved knowledge and attitudes among police officers when handling cases of violence against women and girls; increases in medical record documentation; the development of national referral protocols; the institutionalization of trainings developed for police officers which are included in the curricula of police academies; reduced bureaucracy and delays in case preparation and referral; and improved referral systems.

### Key outcomes for survivors that emerged included:



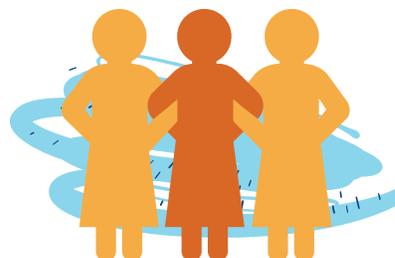
Increased likelihood of justice and reparations for women and girl survivors of sexual violence



The creation of enabling conditions for women's groups to come forward, particularly those from marginalized and previously excluded communities.



Improved awareness of survivors' needs among police



Reduced stigma towards vulnerable groups



Participants in an association for survivors of violence during the Khmer Rouge, which acts as a support group, gather in the Kampong Chhanang Province in Cambodia. © Adina Wolf/UN Trust Fund/UN Women

## Grantees at work

### **Nepal: Raksha Nepal**

A project implemented by Raksha Nepal provides comprehensive services, including initial trauma care and counselling, to women and girl survivors of violence, as well as assisting survivors economically to help them reintegrate into Nepali society.

In its first year of operation, with the support

of UN Women Nepal in addition to the UN Trust Fund grant, Raksha Nepal recruited and provided training to 20 master trainers so that they can deliver sessions to beneficiaries in subsequent years. There are two sets of training: 1) enterprise development and financial literacy and 2) gender, leadership and enterprise.

The master trainers went on to deliver pilot training to women and girls working in the

informal entertainment sector in Kathmandu who were members of the Raksha Union and Cooperative. Raksha also organized a stakeholders' meeting to explore partnership possibilities with 18 like-minded organizations working in the three target districts.

### **State of Palestine: Stars of Hope**

Stars of Hope, the only association in the State of Palestine run by women living with disabilities for women living with disabilities, is implementing a project in the West Bank and Gaza in collaboration with Al Marsad, an organization of academics and researchers who work on economic, social and civil rights in Palestine.

In its first year, the project focused mainly on building the infrastructure of the project and particularly on carrying out a context analysis and capacity building. This included producing a disability mainstreaming manual and training 22 representatives of women living with disabilities and disabled persons' organizations on ending violence against women and girls. As part of efforts to mainstream disability in data collection on violence, the grantee succeeded in ensuring the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics now includes four women sign language interpreters, one of whom is a woman living with disabilities, in its data collection team in addition to integrating a number of disability relevant questions into the data collection questionnaire.

### **Albania: Woman Forum Elbasan**

Using a small grant from the UN Trust Fund, Woman Forum Elbasan (WFE) is working to improve access to services for survivors of violence and raise awareness of domestic violence in the community in seven municipalities in the Elbasan Region, Albania.

WFE was able to offer services free of charge for survivors through collaboration with service providers including: the Counselling Center, the Advocates Studio and the Day Care Center. A total of 802 counselling sessions have



A training held with Police specialists by Woman Forum Elbasan in Albania to increase their knowledge and capacities in receiving and supporting survivors of violence. © Shpresa Banja/ Woman Forum Elbasan

been realized by the Counselling Center; 533 cases were supported by Advocates Studio; and 51 women and 34 children were placed in emergency shelter thanks to the Day Care Center. The project has been recognized as best practice in offering social care services through the selection process of a joint UN Programme in Albania called "Leave No One Behind".



Forty-three local professionals took part in training provided by the project on handling cases of violence, laws and regulations and the referral system, of whom 75 per cent stated they understood and would use the knowledge in their work. WFE has noted improved responses from local actors, an increase in case referrals and cooperation from local and state institutions and greater access for survivors of domestic

violence and gender-based violence to quality services. Better documentation of cases of violence by local professionals has had a positive impact on the processing of cases; in one instance, a survivor of violence and trafficking who is living with disabilities received payment ordered by the court after 36 years of struggling because her case was not followed up properly.

Additional funding was secured from UN Women's country office in Albania for USD40,000, enabling the grantee to build on the success of this project and ensure the gains made are sustained.

#### **North Macedonia: Women Forum Tetovo**

A small UN Trust Fund grant implemented by the Women's Forum – Tetovo (WTF) for a project empowering survivors of domestic violence in North Macedonia, worked to expand its free legal clinic for survivors of domestic violence to include financial skills courses, life skills training and group counselling.

Ninety-five women at risk of domestic violence successfully completed the personal, financial and legal literacy workshops as well as vocational courses. Gaining self-esteem and increased vocational and financial skills enabled five participants to immediately find employment and one to open her own business.

A multisectoral working group of service providers – which includes representatives of the Ministries of the Interior and of Health, the Centre for Social Work, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and representatives of the justice system and local government as well as the WTF Legal Clinic – has developed and disseminated a joint protocol for cooperation between institutions and organizations responsible for providing protection and services to survivors of violence against women. All the institutions involved have accepted the protocol and working group representatives have conducted training for 43 public administration employees from each sector on the coordinated strategy, women's rights, survivor identification and referral and gender sensitivity.

### Cameroon: Martin Luther King Junior Memorial Foundation

A project implemented by the Martin Luther King Junior Memorial Foundation (LUKMEF) worked to improve national multisectoral services in Cameroon for women and girl survivors of violence, as well as those at risk.

During the reporting period, LUKMEF achieved visible progress in reaching and supporting women and girls, including the most at risk in regions affected by conflict. In particular, LUKMEF has observed several changes, including: improved knowledge among women and girls as peer mobilizers to identify cases, deliver first line response and refer people to adequate services; increased understanding among women and girls about violence against women and girls and available services; and more engagement of national authorities, local leaders and civil society organizations.

The project reached

**1,331**

**women and girls who experienced violence and received the services they needed.**

For example, 231 internally displaced women and girls were provided with psychosocial support and other services and 140 people have been reached to access HIV-related services.

In addition, 153 women and girls were trained to assist survivors and those at risk of violence to access available services; 135 community and religious/traditional leaders committed to mainstream teachings on violence against women and girls in their sermons and change their counselling strategies; and 57 service providers were trained.

### Costa Rica: Fundación Centro de Derechos Sociales de la Persona Migrante

A project implemented in Costa Rica by the women-led organization Fundación Centro de Derechos Sociales de la Persona Migrante (CENDEROS) with a small grant from the UN Trust Fund focuses on violence against women and girls in the context of the refugee crisis in Costa Rica. This project specifically targets refugee women and girls from Nicaragua who are at risk of or who have experienced gender-based violence.

By providing information about rights and referring women and girls to specialized services and networks for financial and psychological support, the project aims to protect and empower women and girls. It also works to raise awareness among government officials, community groups, lawyers, the police and other organizations on how to prevent violence and discrimination against refugee women and girls.

To date, 225 migrant women have received psychosocial aid and information through 36 coffee afternoons in seven communities, 271 refugee applicants were provided with shelter, and 10 women at risk of femicide were placed in a safehouse administered by CENDEROS. In addition, 30 women migrants and asylum-seekers stated that, with the aid of CENDEROS, they now feel safe in community spaces and have found support within women's collectives to help them cope with their living conditions.

Looking to the sustainability of the impact of the project, 16 women migrants and asylum-seekers have been trained as community promoters. In addition, 81 participants have received leadership training and have made a commitment to lead on activities to protect and welcome women in situations of violence. Of these, 30 have received training from the first Public Communications School and strengthened their communications capacities to advance the strategy on community communications. Overall, building a strategy for community prevention and care for women victims of violence and developing a communications strategy within communities are among of the main areas of progress achieved.



Participants in a project from Centro de Intercambio y Servicios para el Cono Sur Argentina gather as part of a project to prevent and end violence against women and girls. © CISCSA

## FOSTERING IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW AND POLICY

The UN Trust Fund's third priority area of work focuses on implementing laws, policies and national action plans to end violence against women and girls and encouraging states to fulfil their obligation to exercise due diligence in preventing and ending violence against women and girls. Since 2016, UN Trust Fund grantees supported at least 1,062 local, sub-national or national government institutions to improve their institutional effectiveness in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. In addition, at least 97 institutional policies or protocols on violence against women and girls have been developed or improved at the various institutional levels over the last three years.

### Grantees at work

#### **Argentina: FUSA para la Salud Integral con Perspectiva de Género y Derechos Asociación Civil**

In Argentina, FUSA para la Salud Integral con Perspectiva de Género y Derechos Asociación Civil is implementing a project to help women living with disabilities access sexual and reproductive health services and information.

The project has formed an interdisciplinary workgroup to develop policy proposals and strategies to change local laws and policies on violence against women and girls living with disabilities so that they adhere to international human rights standards. The project is also engaging with and providing training for

organizations that advocate for the rights of people living with disabilities. To date, 82 women living with disabilities from 18 disabled people's organizations have participated in eight workshops organized since the start of the project.

Preliminary agreements have been reached with health centres to expand the services they offer and protocols are being reviewed by the ethics committees of these health centres. In addition, training was carried out for health professionals in six health centres.

Following an initial workshop in Salta in May 2019, women expressed their interest in organizing a meeting with state authorities. Such a meeting took place during a second workshop in November 2019 and at the end of the meeting, the authorities committed to keep hosting meetings with women living with disabilities to advance developing actions to include disability within state policies on sexual and reproductive health.

A third significant result was achieved with regards to generating communication methods to advocate for change. The development of the app "Our Choice" was completed. This will group documents and information, with an emphasis on issues that raised most interest among workshop participants.

### **Solomon Islands: Family Support Centre**

In the Solomon Islands, domestic violence was criminalized in 2014 (The Family Protection Act), but there are challenges in its implementation. A Family Support Centre (FSC) project is working to ensure survivors of family violence in remote provinces have access to counselling and legal services. The project replicates the FSC model (which has been operating successfully in Honiara since 1995) in the provinces and focuses on building strong links with civil society and local capabilities.

During this reporting period, the FSC achieved results in empowering women and girl survivors of sexual and gender-based violence through improved access to quality services, and promoting collective actions by involving community members in preventing and



Participants living with disabilities participate in an activity with FUSA in Argentina as agents of change. © Sofia Minieri/ FUSA

responding to sexual and gender-based violence.

So far the project has reached 1,707 people through awareness-raising and high-school talks; at least 90 per cent of those reached, rated their experience as positive or having learned useful information. Through training and mentorship, committee volunteers successfully used counselling and referral skills to help a client (a child survivor who was abused by her father) and a total of 10 clients were referred for counselling, seven of whom were further referred to legal support; one client was a person living with disabilities.



### **Sierra Leone: Muloma Women's Development Association**

In Sierra Leone, the Muloma Women's Development Association (MUWODA) is implementing a project using the Engaging Men through Accountable Practices curriculum, a gender transformative intervention developed by the International Rescue Committee that encourages men to prevent violence against women in post-conflict contexts.

In the project's 24 target communities, 720 men are working with community chiefs to sensitize other men to understand violence against women

and girls. As a result of the project, 288 local authorities and leaders are more willing to refer cases to the formal justice system and to prioritize enforcing by-laws under which perpetrators would be punished. In addition, some 600 members of the Women Discussion Group have gained greater confidence to communicate and speak out against and report violence against women and girls.

### **Guatemala, Mujeres Transformando el Mundo (MTM)**

In Guatemala, Mujeres Transformando el Mundo (MTM) is implementing a project to improve access to justice and reparations for indigenous and mestiza women living with disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence.

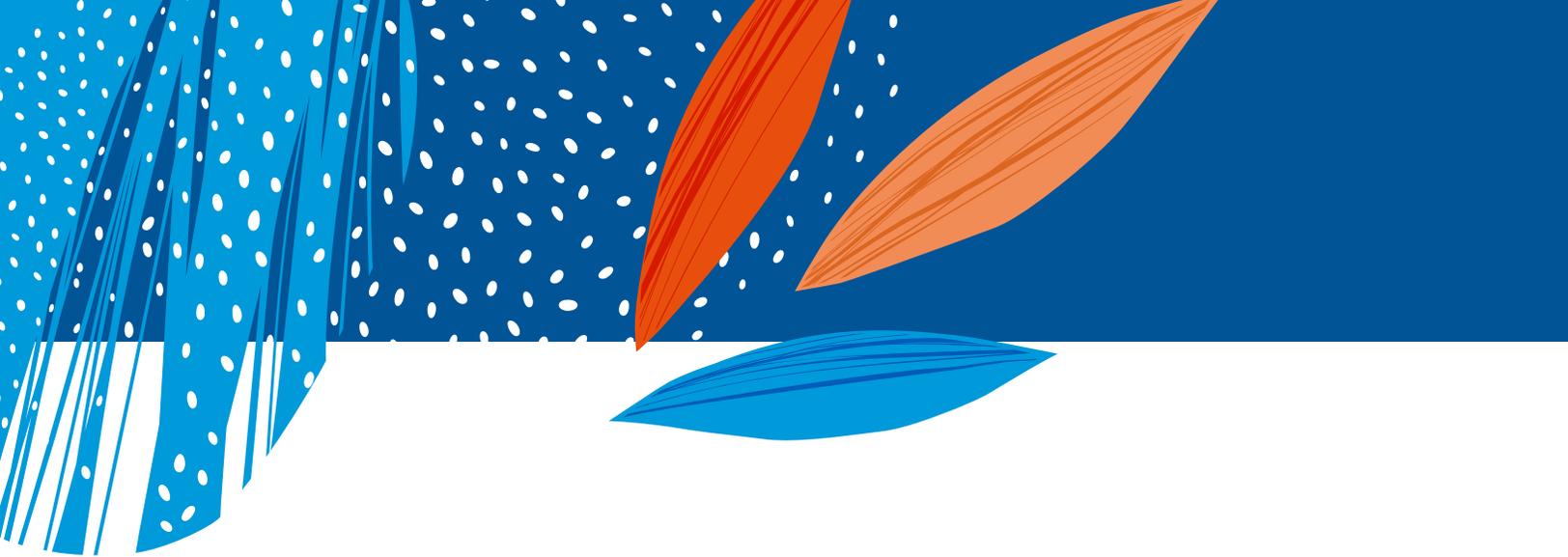
MTM works to facilitate strategic litigation and promote a comprehensive legal, psychological and social approach to ensure effective support to survivors. The project also provides capacity building and training on human rights and access to justice; offers institutional capacity building for the NGOs and other stakeholders collaborating on the project; and maintains ongoing advocacy and dialogue with government authorities.

During 2019, MTM published communications materials that allowed social media followers and justice officials to gain awareness and training on access to justice for women living with disabilities. It also organized five workshops that resulted in the elaboration of Prevention Plans with community authorities in the department of Chimaltenango.

Following the training, participants expressed a greater sensitization and increased knowledge regarding disability and intersectionality. The trainings resulted in: tools and materials for promoting information at the institutional level, as well as inter-institutional coordination. Elaborating materials in an accessible format also allowed MTM to coordinate with national and international organizations; for instance, producing materials in Braille was achieved in collaboration with the Committee for Deaf and Blind Persons of Guatemala.

**LEAVING NO  
ONE BEHIND**





# WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMANITARIAN CRISES



*During 2019, UN  
Trust Fund grantees  
implemented projects  
that reached almost*

**9,000**

*refugee or internally  
displaced women  
and girls.*

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a recognition of the need to reach people from every sector of society and that this requires a redoubled focus on those left furthest behind. In 2019, the UN Trust Fund continued to reach out to support projects working to prevent and address violence against women and girls to “leave no one behind”. At least **59** projects supported by the UN Trust Fund focused on women and girls who have historically been marginalized and underserved, including refugee and internally displaced women and girls; women and girls living with disabilities; indigenous women; and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, among others.

In 2017, the UN Trust Fund opened a special funding window on violence against women and girls in the context of humanitarian crises, in recognition of the high risk of gender-based violence experienced in displaced communities. In 2019, the UN

Trust Fund awarded USD 2,551,492 million to the eight new projects in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria and Yemen working on preventing and ending violence against women and girls in the context of humanitarian crises (see map on page 8).

### Grantees at work

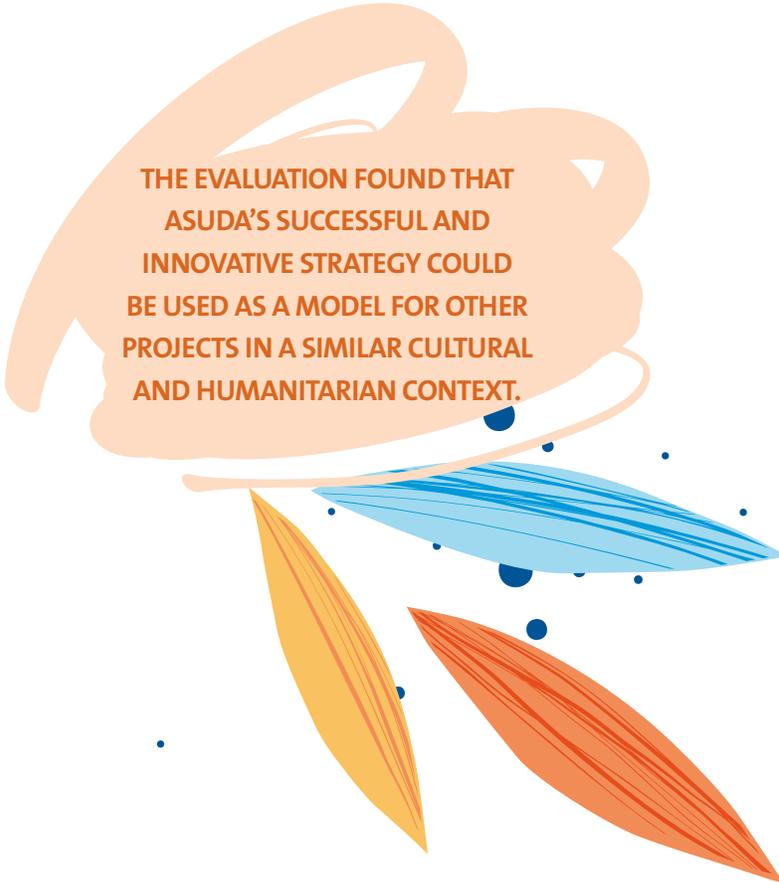
Among these was a project implemented from 2017-2019 by Asuda for Combating Violence against Women.

The project, which was visited by the UN Trust Fund Secretariat staff in 2019, worked to improve response mechanisms for Syrian refugee women and girls in Iraqi Kurdistan who experience sexual and/or gender-based violence in both camp and urban settings.

By the end of the project, 1,298 people (1,084 Syrian women, 88 stakeholders (men and women) and 126 Syrian men and boys) had participated in the project's activities.

An independent external final evaluation completed in July 2019 found that the project responded to the needs of Syrian refugee women in terms of training on women's roles and rights, psychological and

legal services and improving their well-being. It concluded that the community at large and stakeholders had improved their response and social attitudes towards gender-based and sexual violence within the Syrian refugee communities.



**THE EVALUATION FOUND THAT ASUDA'S SUCCESSFUL AND INNOVATIVE STRATEGY COULD BE USED AS A MODEL FOR OTHER PROJECTS IN A SIMILAR CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT.**

# WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Another special funding window opened in 2018 by the UN Trust Fund focuses on women and girls living with disabilities. Globally, women and girls living with disabilities are up to three times more likely to be raped, twice as likely to experience other forms of gender-based violence and more likely to suffer worse injuries and more prolonged abuse than women and girls without disabilities<sup>12</sup>. In 2019, the Trust Fund awarded new grants for projects worth a total of 5,661,081 million for projects focusing on violence against women and girls living with disabilities in Argentina, Bangladesh, Eswatini, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru and Zimbabwe.



*In 2019, UN Trust Fund supported projects reached more than*

# 5,000

*women or girls living with disabilities*

*“When I think of the women’s movement, it’s always images of very important women standing on their two radical feet that I imagine. Exclusion was there unconsciously, because for me there was a Secretariat in the government for people living with disabilities to take care of things – it wasn’t my battle. But with this project, I have another perspective on the [women’s] movement and inclusion in Haiti... I have come to see it as an obligation for me, every time I hear about the elimination of violence against women and girls, I should ensure that women and girls living with disabilities are involved... I feel like I am part of something that has gotten bigger than my little life project. The relationships with women and girls living with disabilities, my discourse, my ideas have all evolved and I feel like now I am really in the struggle to prevent violence against women and girls. I feel like the battle I’m in is more complete and the results will be bigger, for a different Haiti.”*

Emanuela Paul, Beyond Borders/  
DepaseFwontyèyo Rethinking Power  
Programme Coordinator

## Grantees at work

Among these was a project implemented in Haiti by the human rights organization Beyond Borders, in collaboration with two partner Haitian disability rights organizations.

The project aims to change social norms to prevent violence against women and girls living with disabilities in Lavale, with scale up around the country. In its first year of operation, Beyond Borders and its key partners successfully facilitated a variety of activities, including training to build a cadre of professional trainers on a range of topics around the rights of people

living with disabilities and the root causes of violence against women and girls living with disabilities. In addition, the project created a resource pack complementary to successful violence prevention methodologies like Raising Voices' SASA! methodology and Beyond Borders' own Power to Girls. The resource includes guidance on the inclusion of violence against women and girls living with disabilities into already-existing violence prevention programmes, evaluation methods and activities like training, posters, quick chats and dramas dealing with a number of issues including sexual and intimate partner violence, social exclusion and discrimination in the workplace experienced by women and girls living with disabilities.

## UNDERSERVED WOMEN AND GIRLS

Underserved women and girls are often caught at the intersection of different forms of discrimination and on the receiving end of social stigma and as a result their needs are frequently overlooked when efforts to address violence against women are being developed and implemented. This was the focus of several projects supported by the UN Trust Fund. For example, the Al Shehab Institute for Comprehensive Development implemented a project to provide essential services for the most marginalized and left-behind women in four informal, urban communities in Greater Cairo, Egypt.

Al Shehab was one of nine organizations that became part of a cohort of grantees that were invited to apply for a second round of funding as part of the UN Trust Fund's "by invitation only" modality. Under this window, projects whose results in the first round of

funding show potential for being scaled up or replicated, or demonstrate a significant impact that can be built on with a second grant, are invited to apply for a further grant.

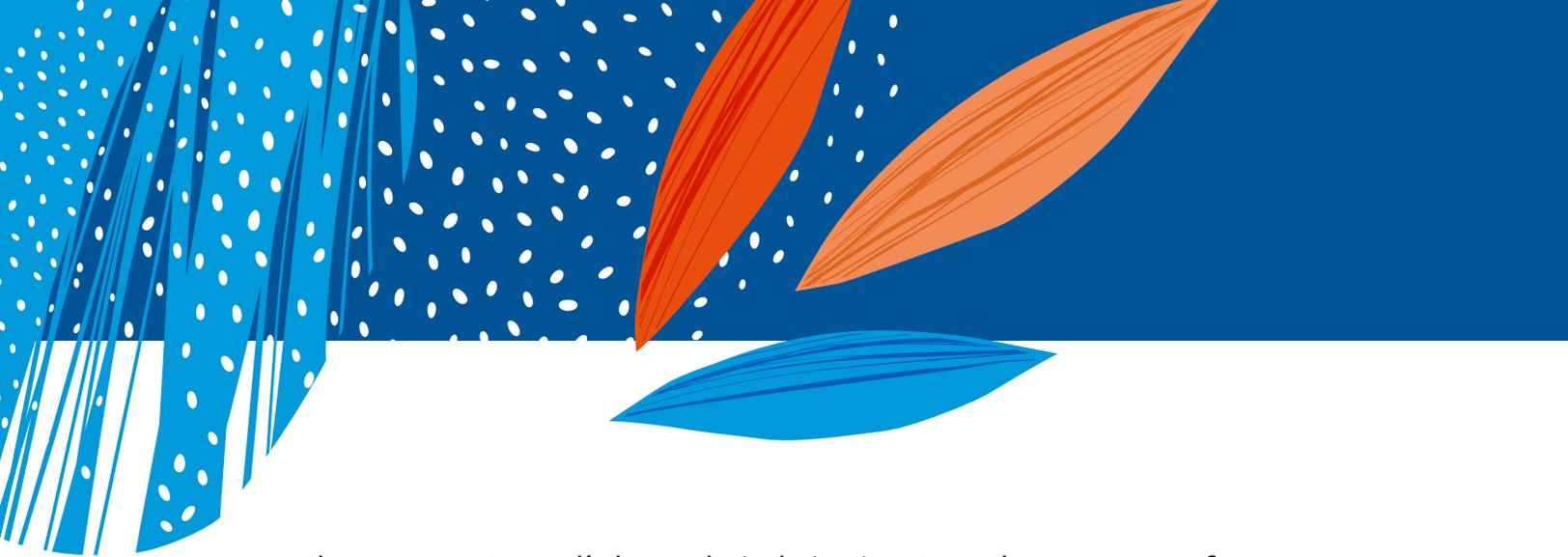
Based on the success and learning potential of a previous project, which focused on the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women, Al Shehab was invited to submit a new proposal. The aim of the second project was to build on the previous pilot to scale up the provision of essential services, including psychosocial and legal support, HIV counselling and testing and medical services. In light of the key findings of the earlier project, this initiative placed increased emphasis on changing attitudes and behaviours by working with men and boys and on engaging influential faith and community leaders to promote behavioural change and help strengthen the institutional capacities of service providers to ensure services are sustained beyond the lifetime of the project.

The COVID-19 pandemic has, however, had an impact on initial plans. Al Shehab, responded quickly, adjusting its operations so it could continue to provide essential services to marginalized women and girls in informal settlements in ways that are safe for everyone involved. As an immediate response to the crisis, Al Shehab surveyed its beneficiaries to help it design interventions that could reduce the adverse effects of the pandemic. Some 82 per cent of the initial 161 respondents reported an increase in violence against women, mostly in the home but also on public transport, at work and when accessing health services.



**BUILDING  
EVIDENCE FOR  
CHANGE**





The UN Trust Fund’s key role in bringing together a range of experiences on how best to prevent and address violence against women and girls also makes it an important repository of information.

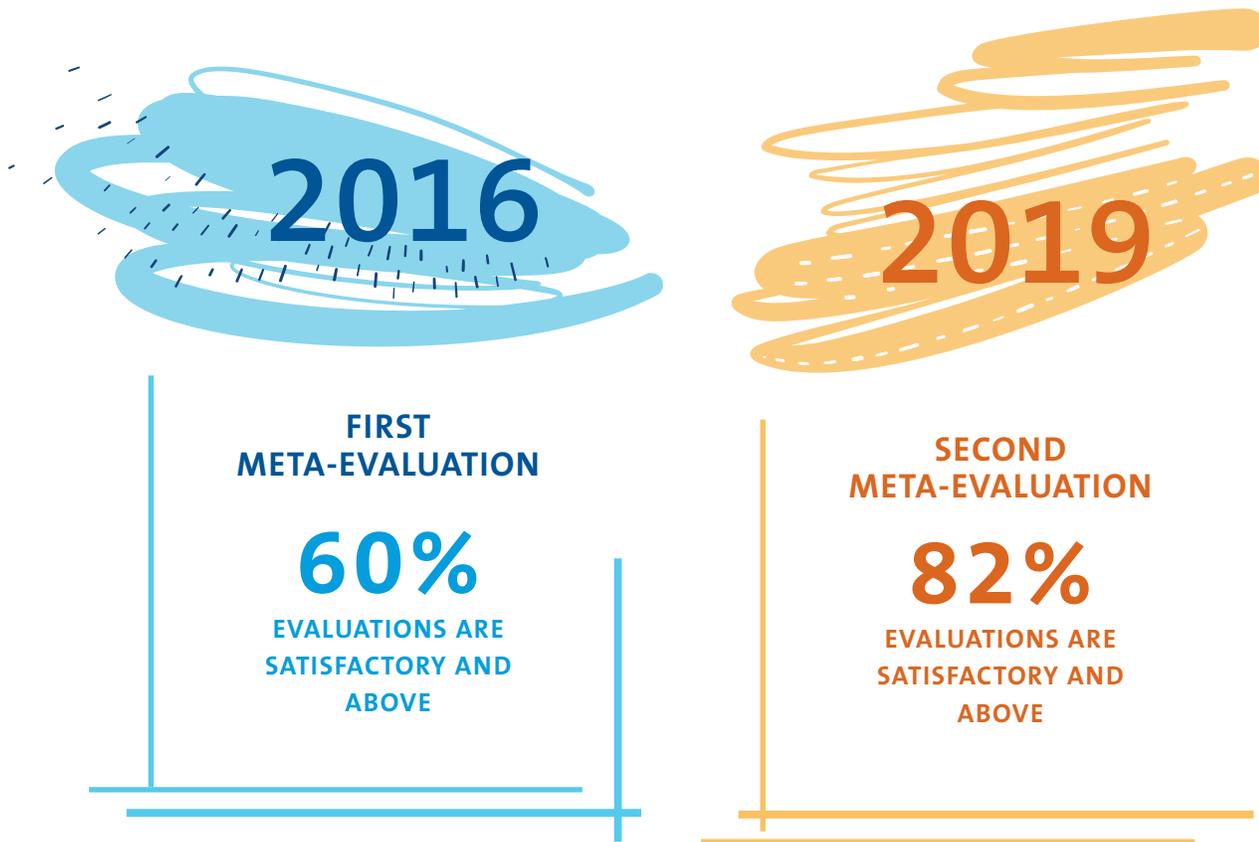
Analysing this knowledge and sharing the lessons learned about what works, where and why are a crucial part of the UN Trust Fund’s work and specifically during the years of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Examples of this work are the knowledge products which were outlined in 2019 and focused on school-based interventions and working with the police (see page 29).

In addition, during 2019, 29 per cent of UN Trust Fund grantees partnered with research institutions, universities and academic institutions on research and evidence gathering on ending violence against women and girls. The UN Trust Fund also presented evidence to experts gathered during the year at meetings such as the Wilton Park (UK) meeting on *Building a shared agenda on prevention of violence against women and girls*, organized in partnership with the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, as well as the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum held in Cape Town (South Africa). For example, the key lessons shared at the SVRI conference relating to the UN Trust Fund’s thematic funding window for women and girls living with disabilities, stressed the importance of building absorptive management capacity and fostering partnerships between women’s organizations and disabled persons’ organizations. Experience also shows that ensuring beneficiaries are the agents of change in policies to end violence against women and girls is vital to a project’s effectiveness in both the short and the longer term. The areas of learning for the UN Trust Fund itself included ensuring that it reaches marginalized groups through accessible calls for proposals, inclusive budgets, targeting and mainstreaming.

During 2019, lessons learned as well as analysis of what is effective and what works in specific areas of the UN Trust Fund’s work were presented in a two key reviews: *UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Meta-Evaluation Report* and *Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan 2015-2020*.

### Meta-evaluation

Building the capacity of UN Trust Fund grantees in terms of their management of projects, operations and evaluations aims to improve their sustainability over the long term. The UN Trust Fund has invested in improving evaluation management by grantees in order



to promote a culture of learning by ensuring they are well placed to show their results, qualify for future funding and support the development of national evaluation capacity.

An independent meta-evaluation was commissioned by the UN Trust Fund in 2019 to capture and understand the quality of independent and external evaluation reports that were submitted by grantees. This looked at 79 evaluation reports for the grant cycles 16 to 20 (covering interventions which began in 2011-2016) for projects across all regions. The analysis looked at evaluation quality, lessons learned and how the UN Trust Fund can work with grantees to ensure future high-quality evaluations. The meta-evaluation adopted the Global evaluation reports assessment and analysis system (GERAAS) used to assess evaluation reports across UN Women. Using eight key parameters this generates an overall score (very good, good, satisfactory or unsatisfactory). An initial meta-evaluation was completed in 2016 and the 2019 meta-evaluation clearly shows positive changes in the quality of evaluations since then over the course of the Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

Overall the meta-evaluation found a positive upward trend in the quality of grantee

evaluations, with the proportion achieving satisfactory or above and reaching 100 per cent in cycle 20 (projects which began in 2016), a significant improvement over all previous cycles. This reflects UN Trust Fund's efforts over the course of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan to improve the current evaluation practice and provide targeted support to grantees on evaluation management. The meta-evaluation concluded with a number of recommendations to improve the quality and usefulness of future evaluations based on the successes and shortfalls of those included in this assessment including:

- Considering having two different types of evaluations, depending on the grantee organization's size and capacity and the skills and background of the evaluator and with two different outcomes: (a) improving the learning and adaptive capacity of the grantee and (b) generating knowledge for the field;
- Increasing the disaggregation of data;
- Reviewing the questions to assist evaluators in writing more nuanced findings; and
- Ensuring that recommendations create a pathway for identifying recommendations that are clear, realistic, actionable and timebound.

The increased quality of the UN Trust Fund's evaluations will help to show what works in terms of ending violence against women and girls. In addition, having high quality evaluation reports aid in the ability of practitioners to use the evaluations to implement future projects to end violence against women with a high level of confidence. The meta-evaluation also established a database that will enable the UN Trust Fund to analyse future evaluations and advance the standards and rigour of its overall evaluation practice.

## Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan 2015-2020

The Mid-Term Review of the Trust Fund's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan was completed in June 2019. The review was based on 51 interviews with donors and grantees; staff from UN Women and other UN agencies; and representatives from women's rights organizations. Reviewers also received 101 responses from grantees to an online questionnaire.

***“Continue being such a dynamic and enthusiastic organisation and donor.”***

Grantee

***“The UN Trust Fund's strength is the capability of giving grants: lots of stakeholders are not able to live up to the accountability expectations that the UN Trust Fund provides.”***

Donor

***“Being able to award grants on the grassroots level is one of the strongest added-value of the UN Trust Fund.”***

UN Women

***“Being a UN Trust Fund beneficiary opens doors for us.”***

Grantee

The review found that the main added value of the UN Trust Fund was its increased focus

on small, women-led and women's rights organizations, filling a gap in the sector by providing organizations with resources and capacity building, which can be a real catalyst for change. It noted that this connection with civil society on the ground sets the UN Trust Fund apart from other initiatives within the UN and elsewhere to end violence against women and girls. The review set out a series of recommendations on how to build on the UN Trust Fund's current strengths. These included developing an explicit strategy around sustainability and sharpening the strategic emphasis around its unique focus on small, women's rights and women-led organizations.

The review predicted that the UN Trust Fund would reach its goal, set out in the Strategic Plan 2015-2020, to raise USD20 million in 2019, a year early. This milestone was indeed achieved during the year, enabling the UN Trust Fund to almost double the amount it could award in grants compared

to its 2020 target. Finally, all the lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review are being actively incorporated into the UN Trust Fund's development of its new Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

## Towards the new Strategic Plan: 2021 - 2025

In partnership with CSOs, global movements for human rights and gender equality and with the support of governments and the UN System, the UN Trust Fund has continued to evolve; it has come a long way since it was established in 1996. In the almost 25 years of its existence, the UN Trust Fund, through its grantees, has made a compelling case for how much can be accomplished at the national and local level by providing strategic and direct grants to demand driven projects of high quality led by effective organizations.

In the past five years of its current Strategic Plan, the scope of the UN Trust Fund's portfolio has broadened, the group of grantees has



Participants including (from right to left) Vepore Shehu, Executive Director Medica Kosova, Wangechi Moegi, Executive Director CREAM, Vanthon Srey, Country Director ADD International participate in the first Global Grantee convention. © Sulejman Omerbasic/UN Trust Fund/UN Women

*“Having this global convening shows how far we’ve come since the establishment of the UN Trust Fund in 1996. However, as we mark 25 years of the Beijing Platform for Action next year and the progress made on gender equality, there is still more to be done. Violence against women and girls remains one of the most widespread human rights violations globally and knows no boundaries. We all must work harder to support the global activism with our collective knowledge to ensure a life free of violence for all women and girls.”*

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

*“...the vision of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is very simple: “A world without violence against women and girls”. Human rights are at the core of the [UN Trust Fund’s] work. Its mandate and implementing strategies are derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international human rights treaties and instruments that followed it. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.”*

diversified, the funding envelope has increased considerably, and special funding windows have been launched (for example, on violence against women and girls living with disabilities and the humanitarian window). The Mid Term Review of the UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2015-2020, which was completed in 2019, found that the UN Trust Fund’s current Strategic Plan is very relevant, its delivery is on track and that its focus on women-led and women’s rights organizations is addressing an important gap in efforts to end violence against women and girls. The lessons learned through the Mid-Term Review provided the foundation for the development of the UN Trust Fund’s new Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which was taken forward by the UN Trust Fund’s first ever Global Grantee Convention in November in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The Convention brought together more than 150 participants with different areas of expertise – civil society activists and practitioners from around the world and representatives of governments, the private sector and the UN system – to reflect on and discuss their work to end violence against women and girls over three generations of projects implemented in the framework of the current Strategic Plan (2015-2020). Drawing on approximately 100 projects, participants were able to exchange their knowledge, experiences, challenges and lessons learned. They took part in discussions in large forums and small breakout sessions on what works and what is needed in the field of preventing and ending violence against women and girls.

Analysis and findings from the Convention will be used as direct input from civil society in the new UN Trust Fund Strategy 2021 – 2025. This will be accompanied by a Results Framework that aims to translate the strategic direction into measurable results to enable the UN Trust Fund and stakeholders to assess progress, monitor achievements, learn lessons and hold the organization accountable for the funds entrusted to it.

*“Core funding is so important... we are doing social transformation work that involves talking about social injustice and changing social norms – all of this takes a long time”.*

Kanaka Sandhya Yatirajula, Assistant Coordinator Sahayog Society for Participatory Rural Development, India

*“[T]he final evaluation was critical, we needed to show that the project could work, that the intervention could prevent sexual violence against girls... to use evidence that was generated to get more funding to go into more schools as it showed that the project did work”.*

Chinyere Eyoh, Executive Director, Sexual Offences Awareness and Victims Rehabilitation (SOAR) Initiative, Nigeria

*“The Convention itself was an inspiring event: it was really thought-provoking to meet activists who have been working on a variety of projects and systems to support women and girls and minority groups across the world. There was a great sense of energy and optimism throughout the event, as well as a recognition of the complexity of the issues faced in tackling gender-based violence – particularly when navigating government agencies, funding issues and the immense work of bringing about cultural change.”*

Frances Corner, Warden, Goldsmiths College, University of London



The Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka receives recommendations at the conclusion of the convention from Lama Kilzar, National Programme Officer at Kvinna Till Kvinna, Lebanon and Nurulnabillah (Bella) Hijazu, Research and Resource Development Officer, Empower Malaysia, the two youngest grantee representatives at the UN Trust Fund Global Grantee Convention. © Sulejman Omerbasic/ UN Trust Fund/ UN Women

## CONVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The rich, open and wide-ranging exchange of experiences and views resulted in a series of recommendations from civil society on what movements to end violence against women need in order to ensure they continue to grow in a sustainable way.

These were presented at the conclusion of the Convention to the Executive Director of UN Women for inclusion in the broader global and regional discussions on the issue of ending violence against women and girls, in preparations for markings of the 25th Anniversary of Beijing Platform for Action and the 20th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. These recommendations will also guide the



development of the UN Trust Fund's new Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and are also being employed in the current response to the impact of COVID-19.

## **PROGRAMMING**

- Ensure that women's CSOs are meaningfully represented and substantially inform funding decisions in order to establish trust and balance power dynamics.
- Invest in longer term (minimum five years) funding for transformative and durable programming results to end violence against women.

## **EVIDENCE**

- Invest in capacity development of women's rights organizations for ethical and safe data collection, documentation and use of knowledge, including for feminist analysis.
- Incentivize collaboration around knowledge generation and sharing at the regional level, including an honest sharing of failures and successes.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

- Provide capacity building (which includes funding not just training) to organizations around strengthening administration, operational and monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Recognize that transformative change requires long-term, continuous support and increase core funding for women's organizations, including funding for self-care across all organizations.

## **SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

- Recognize the needs of grassroots organizations and create access to funding sources by adapting policies and funding streams to their needs.
- Create space for a mediating body that can bridge the gap between the economic incentives of the private sector on the one hand and core values and gender politics of women's rights organizations on the other.

## **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Ensure governments and NGOs work together to integrate understanding of sexual and gender-based violence into education and improve services to change norms.
- Rethink how organizations learn; spaces need to be created for organizations to share their journey with other practitioners and donors.
- Promote collective management (shared leadership) as a way to deconcentrate power, encouraging young people to engage and increase passion for new ideas and innovation.



Spotlight  
Initiative

# THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE: MOVEMENT BUILDING





*“Movement building can be a very organic and ‘messy’ process that can’t be squarely measured in results-based frameworks. Years of what are seemingly disconnected actions and activism become full of meaning when catalytic events take place.”*

Angelica Pino, Programme Director,  
Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa

*“When these come together, public awareness about the issue, groups have united under a common front and build stable infrastructure for communication and there has been a mobilization event that has led to mass mobilization, social movement can truly have potential for making change.”*

Representative of the Centre for Women  
Studies and Intervention, Nigeria

## Resourcing movements

The Spotlight Initiative, a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations that aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030, was launched with a seed funding commitment of €500 million from the European Union in 2017. Promoting strong and empowered CSOs and autonomous women’s movements is one of the Spotlight Initiative’s six mutually reinforcing areas of focus. Facilitating resilient networks and women’s movements is crucial to ensuring sustainable change in the lives of women and girls. And while all six of Spotlight’s areas of work align closely with the UN Trust Fund’s strategic priority areas, movement building is the central focus of this collaboration<sup>13</sup>.

In July 2019, the UN Trust Fund launched a new Call for Proposals in Africa and Latin America as part of its partnership with the Spotlight Initiative. For Sub-Saharan Africa, emphasis was placed on interventions addressing sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, while in Latin America the focus was on those addressing femicide, a prevalent form of violence against women in the region.

After an assessment of all submitted applications, grants were awarded to a total of 35 projects. All the projects awarded grants included a strong element of building, supporting or encouraging networks and community engagement as part of the overall goal of strengthening empowered

women's movements to take forward and consolidate progress in ending violence against women and girls.

The importance of movement building was reinforced by the current cohort of Spotlight grantees in interviews the UN Trust Fund collected in early 2020. They highlighted how strong and empowering movements are crucial in equipping women and girls with the skills and confidence to demand and ensure their rights. Such movements are the springboard for collective action, engaging communities, households and individuals, bringing different perspectives and expertise together, providing mutual support and creating resilient networks with the power to bring about and embed change. Some grantees expressed this in terms of working together towards a common goal, others stressed the crucial role of movements in raising awareness, building relationships with other project actors and stakeholders and strengthening communication and coordination.

In support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aim to leave no one behind, the grants awarded focus on organizations working on behalf of groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination and most of the 35 projects are working on interventions with groups that have historically been underserved. Through these 35 projects, an estimated 73,000 women and girls will be reached by the end of the implementation period. In addition, an estimated 30,000 women survivors of violence will be reached in the lifetime of these projects, 20,000 women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, 8,000 indigenous women and women from minority ethnic groups and 5,000 women and girls living with disabilities.

The projects were scheduled to start on 1 January 2020 and to run for 36 months, until December 2022. However, at the time of writing this Annual Report, the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic means urgent and unforeseen actions are needed to support grantees and plans and projects are being altered to take into account this unprecedented challenge.



*“For the creation of movements, we consider that the diversity and heterogeneity of the organizational processes of indigenous and non-indigenous women must be taken into account. An intercultural approach and intercultural dialogue... nurtures the creation of alliances. Spaces for dialogue, discussion and exchanging experiences with women’s organizational processes should be promoted.*

*We also believe that it is important to know the socio-economic, political and security conditions of the organization, as well as of the beneficiaries. In order to exercise the defence of rights with dignity, above all of those who we are in the territories.*

Member of Conservación Investigación y Aprovechamiento de los Recursos Naturales (CIARENA), México

# BUILDING MOVEMENTS DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it resulted in a rapid and alarming rise in rates of violence against women and girls. At the same time, it made it harder, if not impossible, for many organizations, and especially small, women's organizations, to continue their essential work to prevent and address that violence. It was clear that the pandemic posed a challenge for the implementation of projects in the current situation.

Empowered women's movements are a vital force for change, bringing together the collective creativity and strength of those on the front line of preventing and addressing violence against women and girls. UN Trust Fund grantees' ability to respond flexibly, speedily and practically is being severely tested by the pandemic. But with support and adequate resourcing, they can and are rising to that challenge, as they always do. Adequate funding and knowing that they are part of powerful movements learning, sharing and driving forward change, means they can do so with greater confidence.

In response to challenges jeopardizing projects and, in some cases, institutional survival – and in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative and the European Union – an additional USD9 million was allocated for immediate support to grantees in sub-Saharan Africa. All UN Trust Fund active grantees in Sub-Saharan Africa were invited to submit a request for additional funding of up to 43 per cent of their previously approved grant for existing UN Trust Fund-supported projects. This additional financial support is designed to assist

*“It is clear that the increased rate of violence against women and girls is a result of the effects of the pandemic. There have been increased reports of rape cases, including gang rape and child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, intimate partner violence, domestic violence, [and] assaults by law enforcement agents coupled with poor access to sexual and reproductive health care.”*

AfA Executive Director, Iheoma Obibi

CSOs with a range of expenses, with an emphasis on institutional strengthening, risk mitigation and recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One example of how grantees are rising to the challenge is a project led by Alliances for Africa (AfA) based in Nigeria's Imo state and funded by the UN Trust Fund under the Spotlight Initiative. This project engages government actors, civil society groups and members of communities to better protect women and girls from violence. As COVID-19 spread, AfA became increasingly concerned about the surge in violence against women and girls in Nigeria.

AfA quickly took steps to mitigate risks of violence against women and girls. Among the practical measures it implemented were mobilizing support for the inclusion of women in all COVID-19 taskforce committees; monitoring the distribution of government relief materials to increase accountability and reduce corruption; and broadcasting reliable information about COVID-19 to counter misinformation and help stop the spread of the virus.

Grantees at work - a selection of awarded projects

## MULTI-COUNTRY/REGIONAL PROPOSAL

# SONKE GENDER JUSTICE

*“As we observed during the last 3 years, local manifestations of the global #Metoo movement in South Africa [...] captured people’s imagination and sparked debate around the power and role of young womxn in catalyzing change, as well as the power of social media to shift discourses and reach out to multitudes in innovative ways... Every donor interested in promoting movement building to end [gender-based violence] should take note of this and leave space for – and promote – creativity and spontaneity that acts as catalyst for change in a bigger scale.”*

Angelica Pino, Programme Director, Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa

A project by Sonke Gender Justice, a women-led human rights CSO, focuses on intimate partner violence/violence in the family and femicide in Eswatini and South Africa. Both countries have robust laws in place to promote gender equality and respond to domestic violence, but implementation remains inconsistent.

The project is implemented by three partner organizations, which engage with and support various coalitions and networks to broaden civil society’s capacity to influence policy processes and monitor policy implementation. It employs strategies including community-driven gender transformative workshops and dialogues with individuals and community-based organizations. It also seeks to improve the implementation of laws, policies and plans by bolstering referral networks, counselling and legal support as well as strengthening coalitions to advocate for change and hold government to account.



# ARGENTINA

## FUNDACIÓN ANDHES

(ABOGADOS Y ABOGADAS DEL NOROESTE ARGENTINO EN DERECHOS HUMANOS Y ESTUDIOS SOCIALES)

*“At the Andhes Foundation we understand the construction of movements as social and political phenomena that break into the daily routine of society. Movements question and challenge the reproduction of certain structures, with a clear message of criticism, emancipation and struggle, these discourses are representative of a group that constitutes itself as a political-historical subject. This political subject is dynamic and is the product of a synergy of different forces that come together for a common goal, which at the same time changes over time. It’s very important that there be a relationship based on dialogue on the one hand contributing to the movements being able to attract people by reaching out and challenging different actors and places where public policies are inadequate. On the other hand, donors should be able to look at the state and companies as key entities that need to listen to movements for social justice.”*

Fernanda María Marchese, Executive Director, Abogadas y abogados del Noroeste Argentino en Derechos Humanos y Estudios Sociales (Andhes), Argentina

A project implemented by the Fundación Andhes (Abogados y abogadas del Noroeste argentino en Derechos Humanos y estudios sociales), a women-led NGO, is working to address violence against women in the Tucuman and Jujuy provinces of Argentina. For this project, Fundación Andhes is working in partnership with CLADEM, an international network of women’s organizations and activists.

This project focuses in particular on violence in public spaces, including sexual violence by non-partners, sexual harassment, femicide and institutional violence. It aims to map obstacles to access justice and equip cisgender, transgender and lesbian women at risk of violence with the tools to defend, demand and promote their rights.



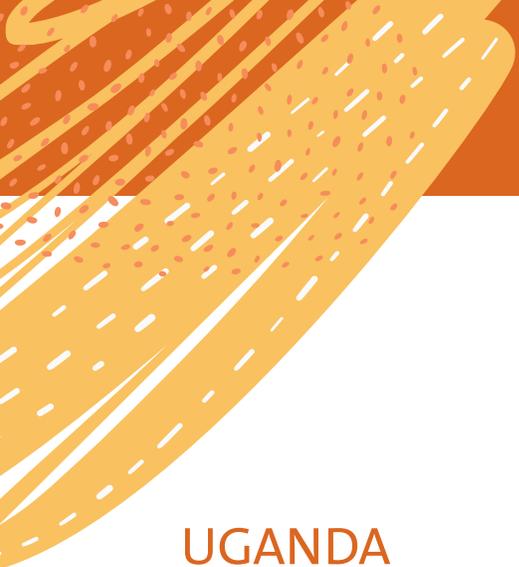
## ZIMBABWE

# FAMILY AIDS CARING TRUST (FACT) ZIMBABWE

*“For sustainable change on social challenges such as sexual and gender-based violence donors ought to invest more in interventions that promote social cohesion and agency of the affected and usually marginalized groups. This investment entails employing more long-term funding strategies; this is so because social change takes long to happen. Long term funding would allow marginalized groups to come out of tainted self-images that keep them from mainstream community action. Additionally, long term funding would allow community movements to establish before real change can be realized. World over most promising social movements failed to sustain owing to funding constraints.”*

Gertrude Shumba, Executive Director,  
Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT), Zimbabwe

A project implemented by the Family AIDS Caring Trust Zimbabwe, a faith-based CSO, contributes to movement building by strengthening organizations focused on ending violence against certain groups and integrating their specific concerns into the agendas of women’s movements in order to ensure that their needs are addressed in national level policy discussions. The project, which is implemented in collaboration with both national and community-based CSOs to foster coalitions, focuses on the high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence and HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women in Zimbabwe.



UGANDA

# INTEGRATED DISABLED WOMEN ACTIVITIES

*“From IDIWA’s perspective, movement building is about a group of people working together for a common goal. A social movement requires collective power beyond a small group organizing to build and sustain a long term change. Movement building takes a number of steps to build a movement including understanding the actions to undertake and by who; educating ourselves about the concerns for the movement, rallying troops and setting up communication systems to make the movement popular.”*

Elizabeth Kayanga, Executive Director of Integrated Disabled Women Activities (IDIWA), Uganda

A project implemented in Uganda by the women’s organization IDIWA works to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls living with disabilities.

The project works to bolster the capacity of women and girls living with a disability and disabled person’s organizations to promote gender equality and effective responses to sexual and gender-based violence and to act as liaison/focal people and advocate for others.

It focuses on promoting equitable access to disability-friendly multisectoral services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and empowering women and girls living with disabilities to demand their rights.

# CAMEROON

## CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

*“Movement building from our perspective means creating a network or platform of organizations, institutions, individuals with shared values to reinforce and compliment advocacy efforts, complement and build each other to achieve their desired goals.*

*Given the fact that most of these Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Women Led institutions share similar objectives and pursue similar goals, it is imperative that donors encourage grants that are awarded to such coalitions not only to encourage resource mobilization but to promote effective implementation of the goals they pursue and greater quantitative/qualitative impact vis-a-vis beneficiaries”*

Violet YighaFokum, Executive Director, Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, Cameroon

A project implemented by the Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa works to improve the prevention of violence against women and girls in 13 communities in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon.

Collaboration with other organizations with similar objectives is a central element in building strong and resilient movements and this project works closely with women’s organizations on the ground, including the Ngora Africa Center for Women Empowerment and Development and the Rural Women Center for Education and Development. The grantee also works with the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family and involves autonomous social movements and CSOs at the local and national levels to engage the authorities in improving the prevention of violence against women and girls.



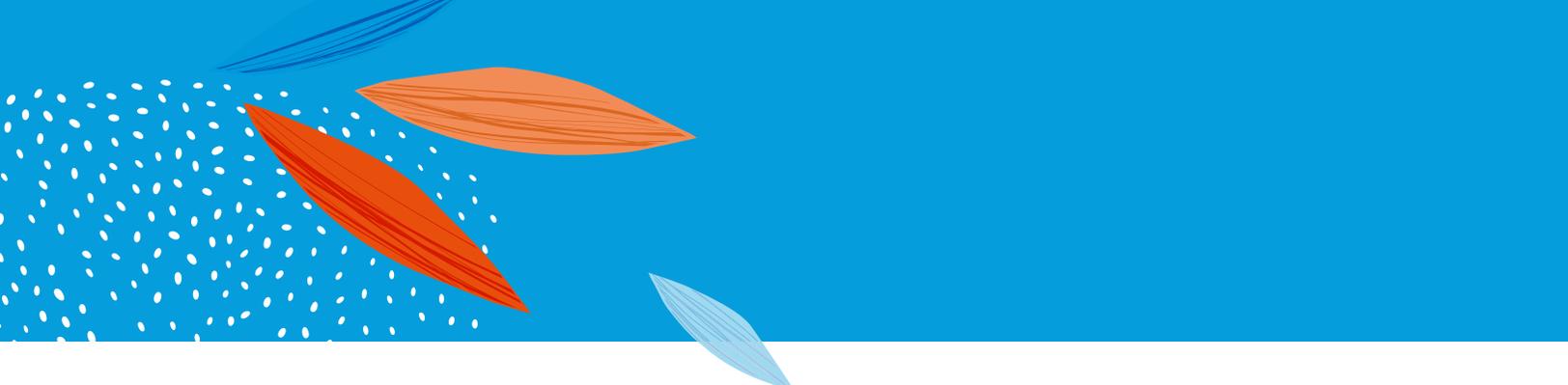
**THANK YOU  
FOR MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE!**



As of December 2019, the following parties had contributed to the UN Trust Fund and its annual grant-giving:

- The Governments of Austria, Canada, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
- The Spotlight Initiative, a joint effort of the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate violence against women and girls.
- Support was also received from the UN Women National Committees of Australia, Austria, Germany, Iceland, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
- A special thank you to UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman.
- Foundations and private sector partners included the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, the United Nations Women for Peace Association, Conscious Step, Mahendi Projects, Soko and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTED DURING THE YEAR.**



# ENDNOTES

- 1** In 2019, members of the Programme Advisory Committee at the global and regional levels included the: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; International Labour Organization; Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Children’s Fund; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; International Organization for Migration; World Food Programme; and World Health Organization. Intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels, including representatives from the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership, Equality Now, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, CARE, WAVE Network (Women Against Violence Europe), Plan International, Advocates for Social Change Kenya (ADSOCK), Child Fund, Espacio de Encuentro de Mujeres Panamá, and the International Commission of Jurists were also actively involved in the grant-making process.
- 2** Data is aggregated from reports for each year from 2016-2019. Data collection in 2020 on beneficiary information for 2019 has been impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic which caused delays in reporting, therefore only a sample of beneficiaries reached can be presented.
- 3** Aggregated based on numbers of individuals benefiting each year, as reported by grantees. Please note that the same individuals may benefit in more than one year.
- 4** Albania, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo (under UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)), Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- 5** 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, <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en/>
- 6** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2019). Global Study on Homicide 2019, p. 10.
- 7** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(2014), Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects, pp. 2 and 4, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/ending-child-marriage-progress-and-prospects/>
- 8** UNODC (2018). Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018, p. 25, 28.
- 9** Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)
- 10** UN Women, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls>
- 11** All references to Kosovo are under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)
- 12** S. Ortoleva and H. Lewis, Forgotten Sisters - A Report on Violence against Women with Disabilities: An Overview of Its Nature, Scope, Causes and Consequences (2012).
- 13** UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Call for Proposals for Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa: The Spotlight Initiative: Theory of Change for Outcome 6, [https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20untf/publications/2019/spotlight%20cfp%20docs/english/untfevaw\\_spotlight\\_annex%201\\_outcome6.pdf?la=en&vs=3542](https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20untf/publications/2019/spotlight%20cfp%20docs/english/untfevaw_spotlight_annex%201_outcome6.pdf?la=en&vs=3542)

**Chapter Openings credits:**

Page 10 © FACT Zimbabwe

Page 11 © Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa

Page 14 © Beyond Borders

Page 15 © CBM

Page 23 © Imrana Kapetanovic/UN Trust Fund

Page 27 © Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative

Page 43 © Sulejman Omerbasic/ UN Trust Fund (right); Flora Tristan (left)

Page 49 © Refugee Consortium of Kenya

Page 59 © Fiona Dalmier/ UN Trust Fund/UN Women

**Editor in Chief:** Aldijana Sisic

**Produced by:** Adina Wolf

**Editing:** Lina Nicolli

**With contributions by the UN Trust Fund team:**

Anna Alaszewski, Amélie Gontharet, Charlotte Lecomte, Chloe Meyerson, Daniele Elizaire, Diep H N Nguyen, Fiona Dalmier, Gemma Wood, Jeevan Kanakkassery, Lorna Mesina, Mila Loncheva, Mildred Garcia, Nadia Kreshchuk, Sandra Hollinger, Shruti Majumdar, Tanya Ghani, Tiruaalem Habtegebriel, Valentina Logiudice, Vesna Jaric.

**Layout and design:** Rec-Design



220 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017, USA

@UNTrustFundEVAW #UNTF  
[www.untf.unwomen.org](http://www.untf.unwomen.org)

