

25  
YEARS  
OF GRANT-MAKING



UNITED NATIONS  
TRUST FUND TO  
END VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN

**Multilateral Partner Consultation**

*2 June 2021*



# Results of the UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan 2016-2020

## 2010 - 2015



109 grants awarded with a total value of  
**USD54.5 MILLION**

**33 PER CENT**  
of grants awarded to WROs

**22 PER CENT**  
The total share of small grants<sup>15</sup>  
awarded to CSOs

## 2016 - 2020



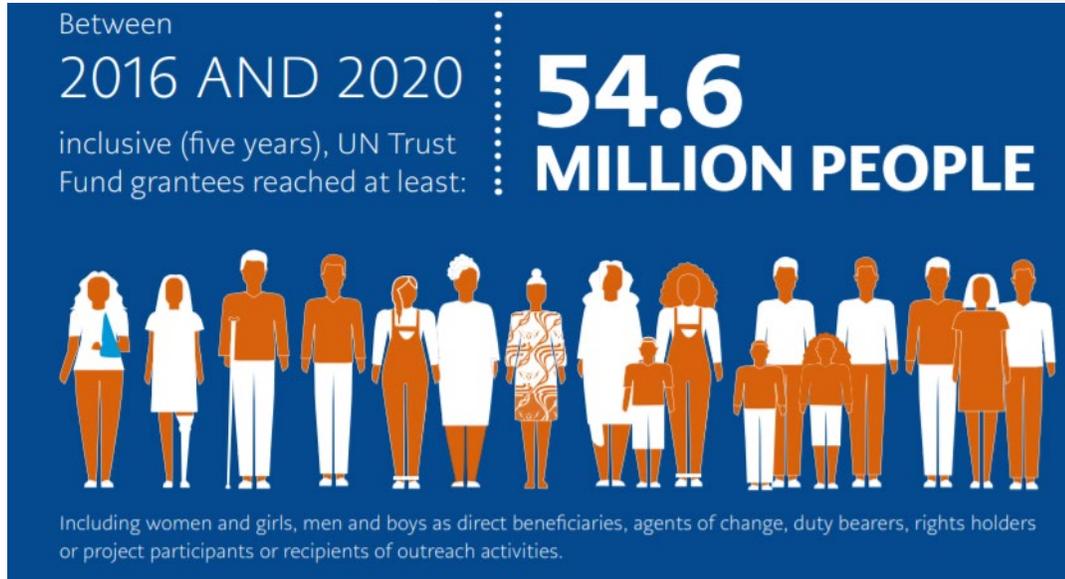
146 grants awarded with a total value of  
**USD67.2 MILLION**

**64 PER CENT**  
of grants awarded to WROs

**34 PER CENT**  
The total share of small grants  
awarded to CSO

- Increase in grant-giving capacity of almost 40% compared to previous strategic cycle
- Objective of reaching 100 million USD in grants by the end of the next Strategic Cycle

# Results of the UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan 2016-2020 at a glance



## Results at a glance

Over the course of 2016\*-2020, UN Trust Fund grantees reached at least

- **111,069** refugee and internally displaced women and girls;
- **67,439** women and girls living with disabilities;
- **47,823** indigenous women; and
- **at least 16,421** lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.

\*Results reported as of 2016

# Aggregate results: Common Indicators – 2017-2020

Since 2017, over three outcome areas:



- at least **158,736 women and girls** have accessed specialist support services through UN Trust Fund grantees



- Through the work of **71 grantees, 1,443 schools** have improved their curricula or implemented policies, practices or services to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.



- at least **1,373 local, sub-national or national government institutions** to improve their effectiveness in preventing and responding to VAW/G



# 2020 Results: A snapshot

## Context

- The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 rapidly changed the working context for grantees including a concerning backlash on women's rights around the world
- The UN Trust Fund's response was immediate and designed through listening to the voices of grantees.

CSOs/WROs proved to be first responders to women and girls. With their prompt adjustments:

- In 2020, **242,569 women and girls** benefitted directly by UN Trust Fund grantees.
- UN Trust Fund grantees reached in 2020 at least **31,071,058 people**, mostly women and girls

## COVID-19 adaptations

- Grantees reached **72,629 rights holders/beneficiaries** with food, hygiene supplies, sanitation and/or other emergency need parcels
- Support assisted **59 organizations** in developing and publishing response messages to COVID-19 and VAW/G.

***“Women at risk of femicide have no alternatives... Without economic resources, long distances and transportation difficulties, their only option is to stay with the aggressor.”*** – Adilia Solís, President at CENDEROS.

# UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan 2021-2025

## The 2021-2025 SP

Informed by the last 25 years of grant-making, lessons learned and last year's challenges; the Strategic Plan's vision is clear -

- **Grounded in feminist principles** and based on the following core values:
  - The UN Trust Fund's work will continue to be led and informed by women's experiences and civil society efforts to end VAW/G,
  - Fully recognizing women's and survivors' own agency;
  - Guided by the expertise and knowledge generated by CSOs/WROs.



## Building sustainable, transformative impact

- CSOs/WROs role in “leaving no one behind” and implementing an intersectional approach
- Elevating practitioner-based knowledge to inform programmatic, policy and funding decisions
- Ensuring organizational resilience; recognizing the need for long-term funding for projects to achieve transformative change in the lives of survivors, supported by flexible and core funding.

# Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition

The Generation Equality Forum and its Action Coalitions invite the global community to support our funding and advocacy efforts during the Paris Forum. **We count on your support and partnership.**

## Funding commitment

- UN Women and the UN Trust Fund commit to amplifying support to women's rights organizations and feminist movements to increase long-term, core and flexible funding to women's rights organizations including by securing a minimum of **USD 100 million** in grants to CSOs/WROs through the UN Trust Fund, over the period 2021-2025.

## Advocacy commitment

- UN Women, through the UN Trust Fund, commits to mobilize partners to increase quality resourcing to CSOs/WROs by providing up to **21% of grant budgets** allocated to core and flexible funding, to enable organizations to exercise their expertise in ERAW/G programming.



# Organizational Resilience – Key to achieving sustainable results in ERAW/G (1)

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The new UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan focus on organizational resilience:

Recognizing the essential role of CSOs, especially WROs, in sustaining transformational change beyond project duration, and with the objective of building long-term sustainability and resilience in a rapidly changing environment, the UN Trust Fund's understanding of *sustainability* will expand beyond programming results to include *organizational sustainability and resilience*.

Through our grant giving and capacity development, the UN Trust Fund aims to enable more CSOs, especially WROs, through UNTF organisational support, accompaniment, and capacity development to be resilient and adaptable organisations.

Activities will include:

- Create opportunities for CSOs and WROs to access long-term and more flexible funding suitable for different programmatic approaches, that can allow for programme results to mature, innovative ideas to flourish and learning and adaptation to take place;
- Accompany CSOs and WROs through project formulation, results-based management and reporting, finance and operational requirements through capacity development – based on needs assessments – to effectively plan and manage grant funds. The aim is to contribute to developing organizational and staff capacity that can lead to more resilient and sustainable organizations.

# Organizational Resilience – Key to achieving sustainable results in ERAW/G (2)



## THE NEED:

- The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact clearly demonstrated the need to invest in the resilience, sustainability and adaptive capacities of CSOs/WROs to increase their ability to offer more/adequate support to their communities towards ERAW, during and following this crisis (post COVID-19).
- At the start of the crisis, not all grantees requested support from the UN Trust Fund, but by August 2020, all 144 grantees needed to adjust their project plans for programmatic and operational reasons.
- In a sample of 44 organizations in sub-Saharan Africa funded by the UN Trust Fund, in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative and the EU, all 44 requested additional financial support, primarily for programmatic adaptations, ICT and additional expertise to help the organization become more resilient to COVID-19 and future crises.
- CSOs urgently needed to upgrade health and safety measures in their offices to enable staff to return to work. And very importantly, CSO staff were personally impacted and needed support to work from home, and/or personal protective equipment and additional training or assistance to adapt projects if working in the field.



# Organizational Resilience – Key to achieving sustainable results in EAW/G (3)

## THE RESPONSE:

The UN Trust Fund responded to this need by providing (a) more flexibility in budget reallocations, types of expenditure allowed & no cost extensions AND (b) with the support of the Spotlight Initiative provided an addition US\$9 million in funds to 44 grantees in Sub-Saharan Africa to mitigate the risk of the pandemic’s impact, including funds for both programmatic and organizational needs.

Sample results, as reported by grantees for 2020:

Common Indicators		2020
1.	Number of staff/partners that are able to work from home effectively (e.g., due to a new home working policy, or ICT provision) with UN Trust Fund support	1,149 (83 GRANTEES)
2.	Number of staff/partners, engaged through UN Trust Fund support, reporting improved knowledge and skills of how to integrate COVID-19 response into EAW interventions	3,321 (63 GRANTEES)
3.	Number of organizations reporting having developed and published COVID-19 and EAW integrated response messages (e.g. media stories, IEC materials, radio shows) with UN Trust Fund support)	59 (59 GRANTEES)
4.	Number of beneficiaries reached with food, hygiene, sanitation and/or other emergency need parcels (in order to ensure stability of project reach to the most vulnerable under the UN Trust Fund project)	72,629 (53 GRANTEES)
5.	Extent to which the organization and co-implementing partner(s) are able to maintain service delivery to beneficiaries under the UN Trust Fund project	45% (92 GRANTEES)



# Organizational Resilience – Key to achieving sustainable results in ERAW/G (4)

One year on, analysis of the use of the additional funds for Africa, demonstrates that CSOs/WROs have an ongoing need for flexible funding that allows them to invest in organizational effectiveness, resilience and adaptable programming including:

Examples: (use of the funds by the 44 grantees):

- Establishing policies or procedures that enable the organization to better protect the health and safety of their staff, including provision of health insurance in some cases
- Establishing working from home policies and procedures, including the provision of ICT equipment and internet for staff
- Self-care, mental health counselling and support services for staff for wellbeing, etc
- Establishing change management / risk management / business continuity plans, referring to resilience against COVID-19 and other crises
- Vehicles and transport to ensure safe transportation of staff to work and project sites
- Equipment that allows staff to work flexibly in the field and reach beneficiaries, including mobile/smart phones, laptops and tablets, with accessibility features
- Innovative ICT solutions, platforms and systems for management of information & data collection

***“Covid-19 challenged us to be innovative and devise new ways of working... At the end of the year, all team members were equipped with agile mindsets that were alive to the need for being flexible. Staff wellbeing therefore became an imperative and thanks to UNTF [UN Trust Fund ] and our alliances as we were able to learn from different processes and training.”***

Institute for Young Women Development in **Zimbabwe**

# Organizational Resilience – Key to achieving sustainable results in EAWW/G (5)

**These lessons are not entirely new**, the UN Trust Fund’s Small Grants portfolio over the last 5 years has been enabling smaller CSOs/WROs to invest in organizational capacities and resilience, including critical self-care. Lessons from our meta-analysis also support the case for flexible funding.

- For example, the UN Trust Fund introduced two new eligible budget allocations in 2019 for small grants: core funding of up to 7 per cent of the total amount allocated to project activities, and self-care costs for up to USD2,000.
- A survey carried out in 2020 among the 37 small organizations who had benefited from these allocations found that these funds had been used to make both critical and sustainable investments towards their organizational resilience (including paying for staff training, fundraising or office rent).
- 60% of respondents surveyed on the use of self- and collective care budgets spent these funds on health care for staff and mental health support, including management of “burn out” activities. In terms of impact, respondents said it decreased the overall level of stress and improved workplace relations.

**Applying these lessons to the next Cycle of grantees** and in recognition of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and impact on VAW/G, the UN Trust Fund provide more flexibility in budget allocations in the CFP 2020, e.g. contingency budgets, continuation of self care, greater % allowed for indirect

# 2020 Call for Proposals Features

➤ Open to **Civil Society Organizations** working on the front lines of the COVID-19 response and recovery to address and respond to VAWG in the context of the current pandemic

➤ Prioritize projects working with the most **marginalized women and girls** and those experiencing **intersecting forms of discrimination**

➤ Prioritize **women's rights, women-led & small organizations**

## New COVID-19 budget lines:

➤ **general operating and other direct costs** for small organizations

=> up to **3%** of direct activity costs for organizational capacity

**contingency budget line** for all grants => up to **4%** of direct project activity costs

## Maintained:

➤ **core funding** to small organizations (*requesting US\$ 50,000 – US\$ 150,000*)

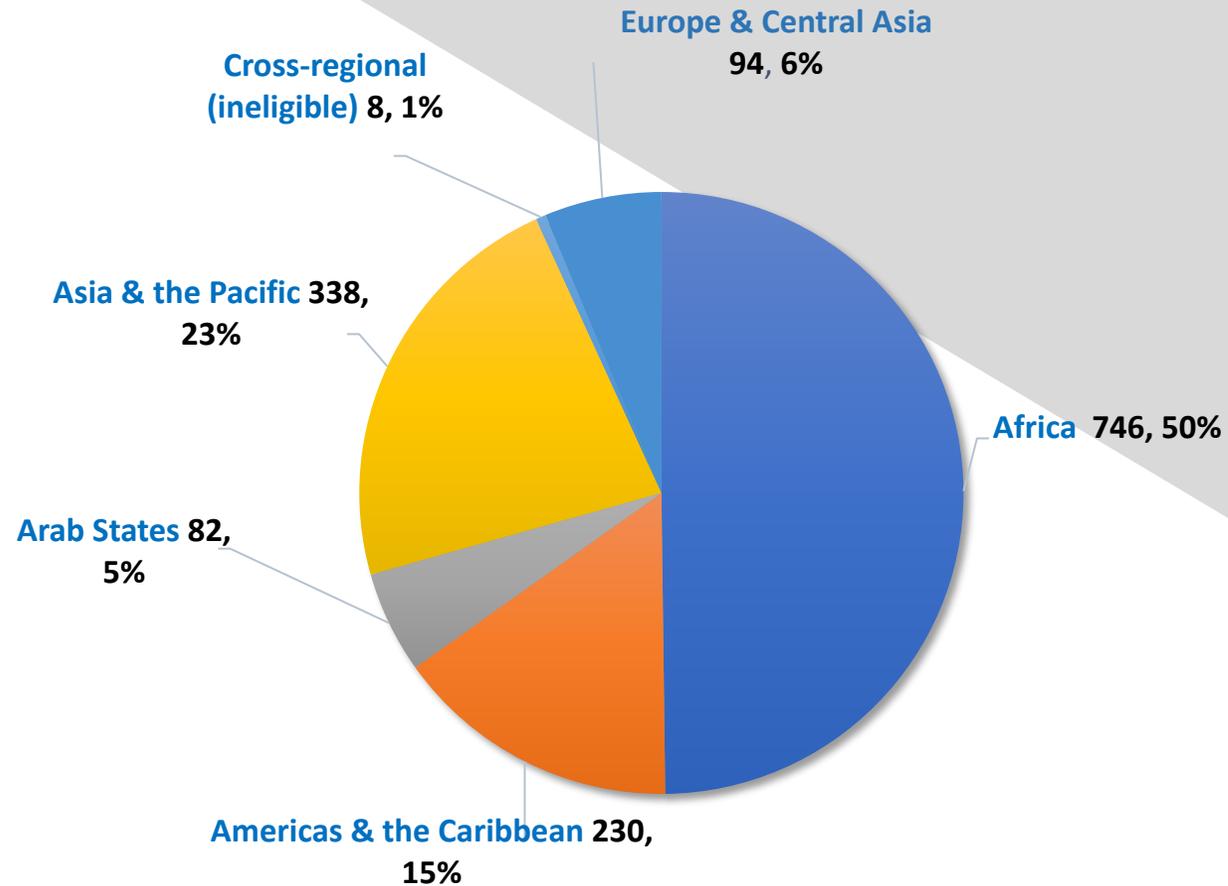
=> up to a max. of **7%** of direct activity costs

budget line for **self-care** for small organizations => US\$ 2,000

# Applications by Region



1498 applicants from 110 countries & territories requested US\$ 758.7 million



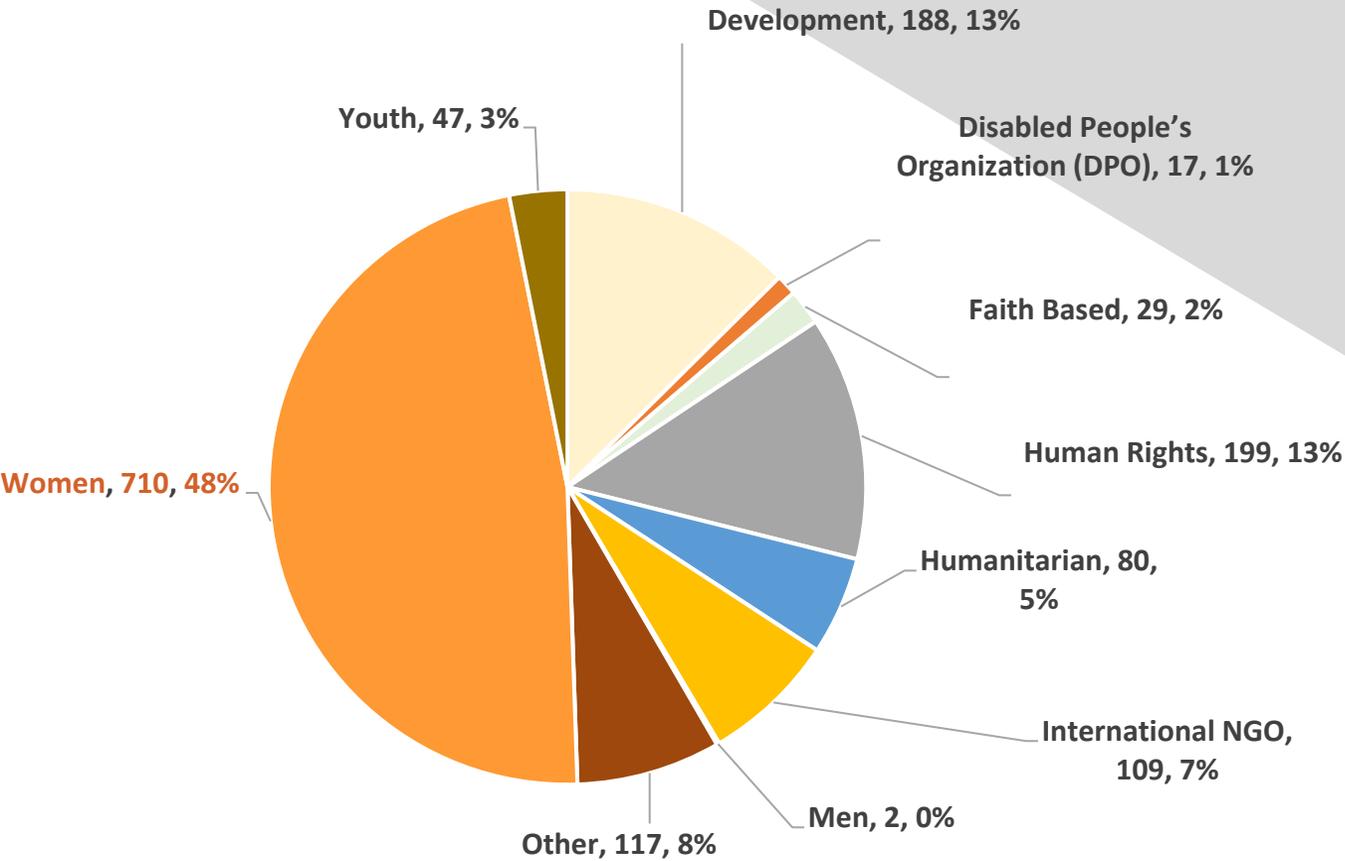
Total number of applications received = 1498  
No. of grants awarded = 37



# Applications & Grants by Organization Type



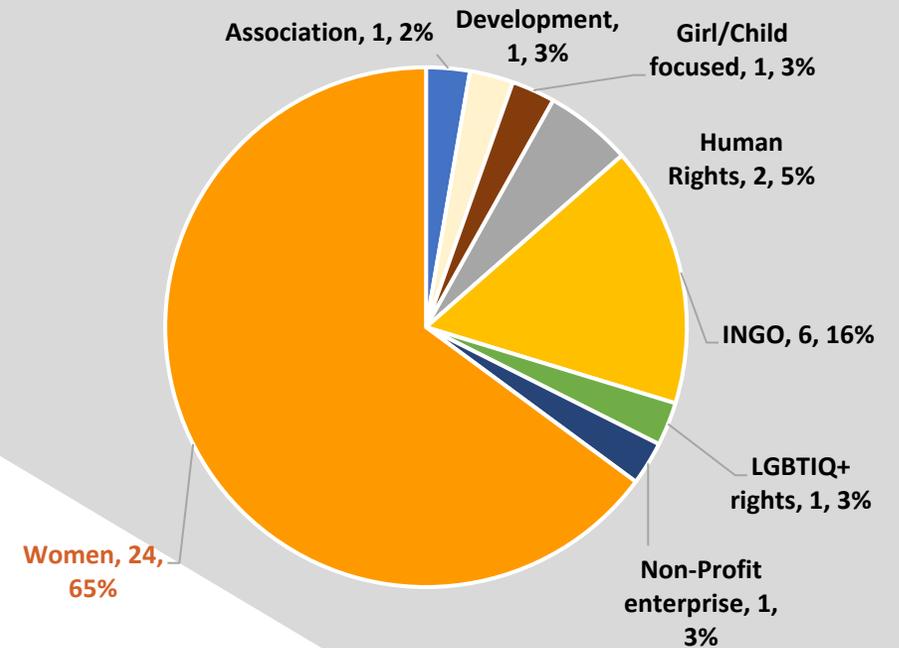
## NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE



Total No. of applications = 1498  
Total amount requested: US\$ 759 million



## NUMBER OF GRANTS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE



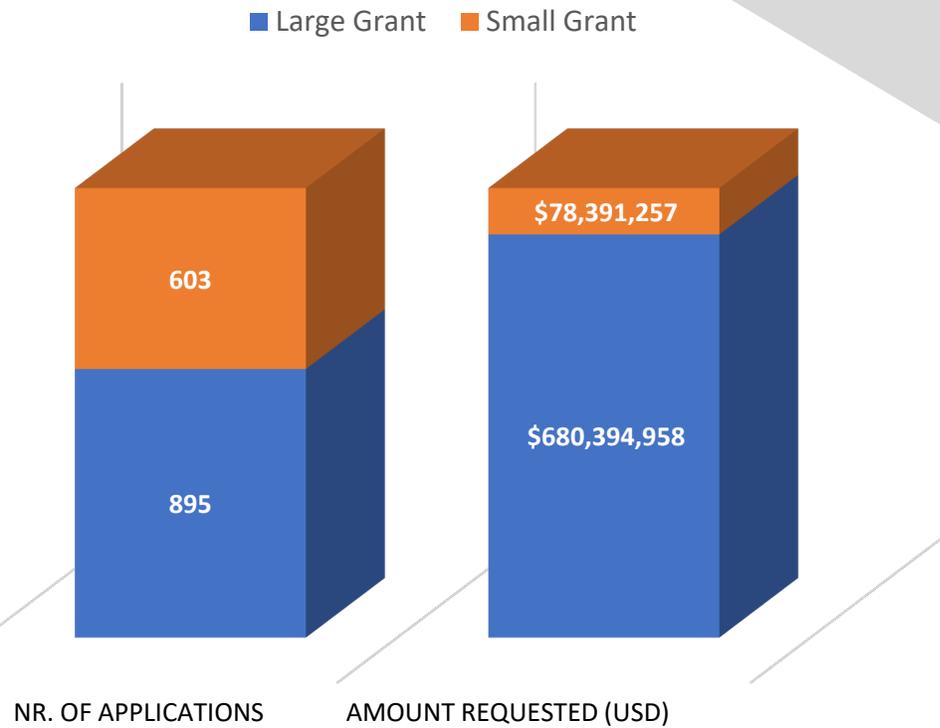
No. of grants = 37  
Total amount awarded: US\$ 15million



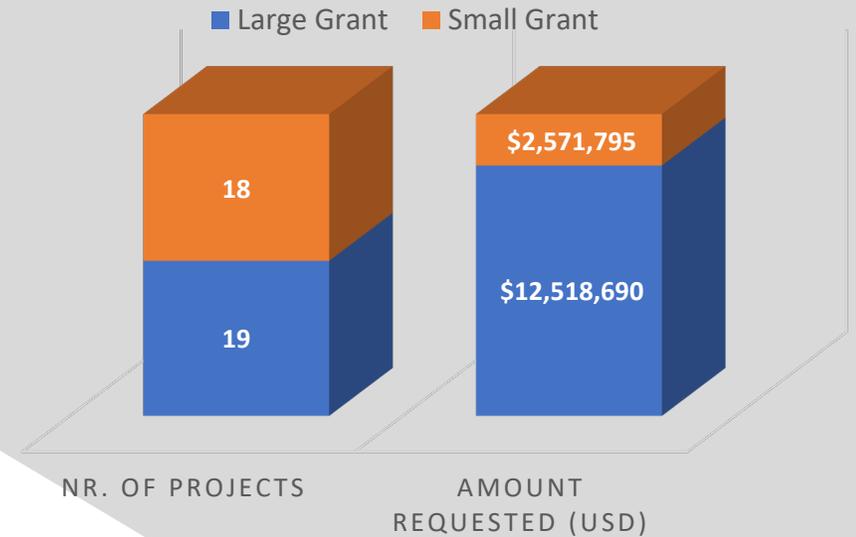
# Applications & Grants by Grant Size



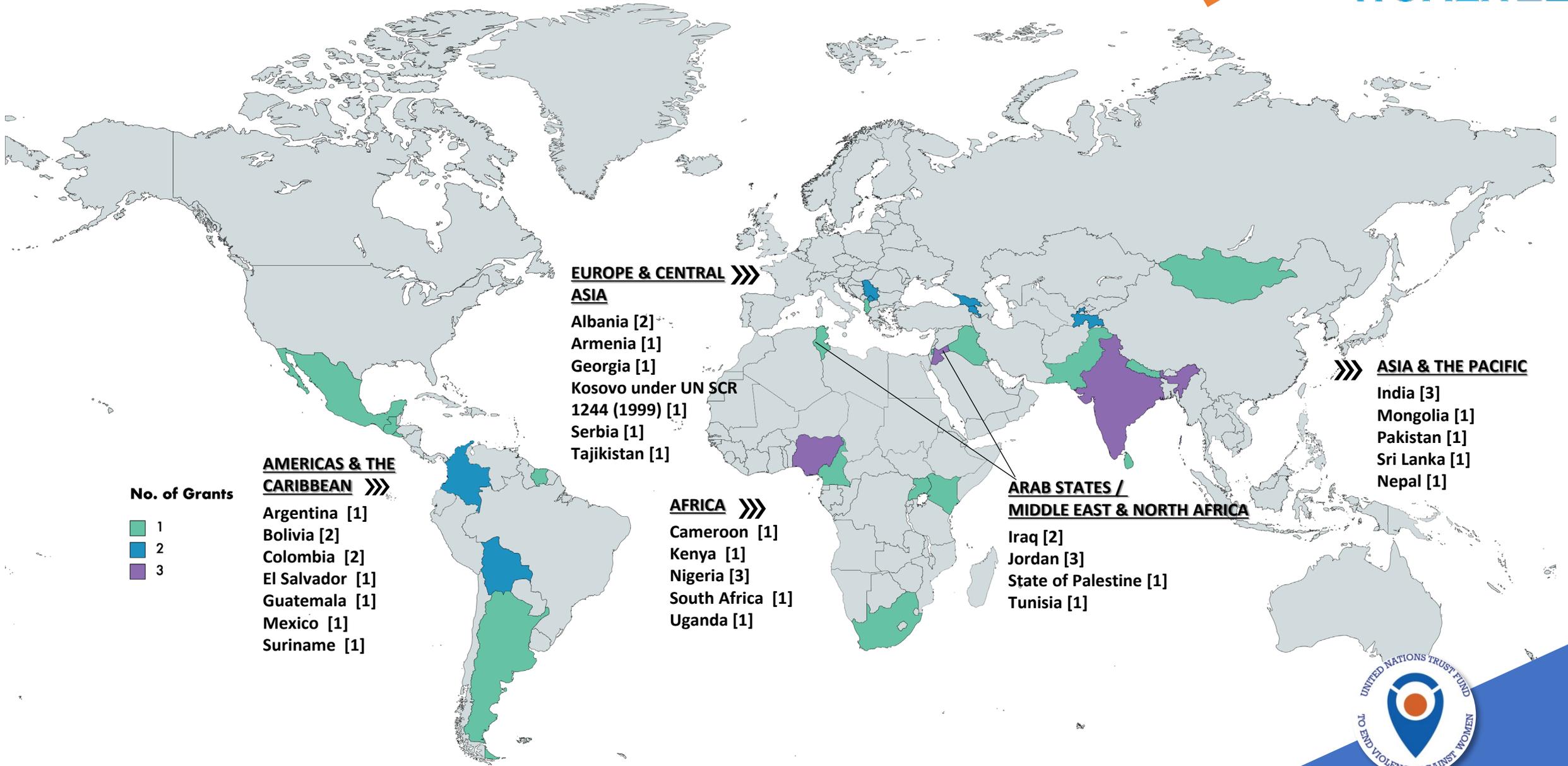
## APPLICATIONS BY GRANT SIZE AND AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED



## GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS BY GRANT SIZE AND AMOUNT OF FUNDING ALLOCATED



# Grants by Geographical Coverage



No. of grants = 37  
 Total amount awarded: US\$ 15million

\*The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.





- COVID-19 pandemic **exacerbated violence against women and girls** (e.g., IPV, DV, HP, institutional violence, etc.);
- Also **aggravated pre-existing gaps** (institutional, economical, technological).



## BENEFICIARIES :

- Focus on **most at risk of being left behind, missed or excluded** from response efforts.



## STRATEGIES:

### > Emergency programmatic response

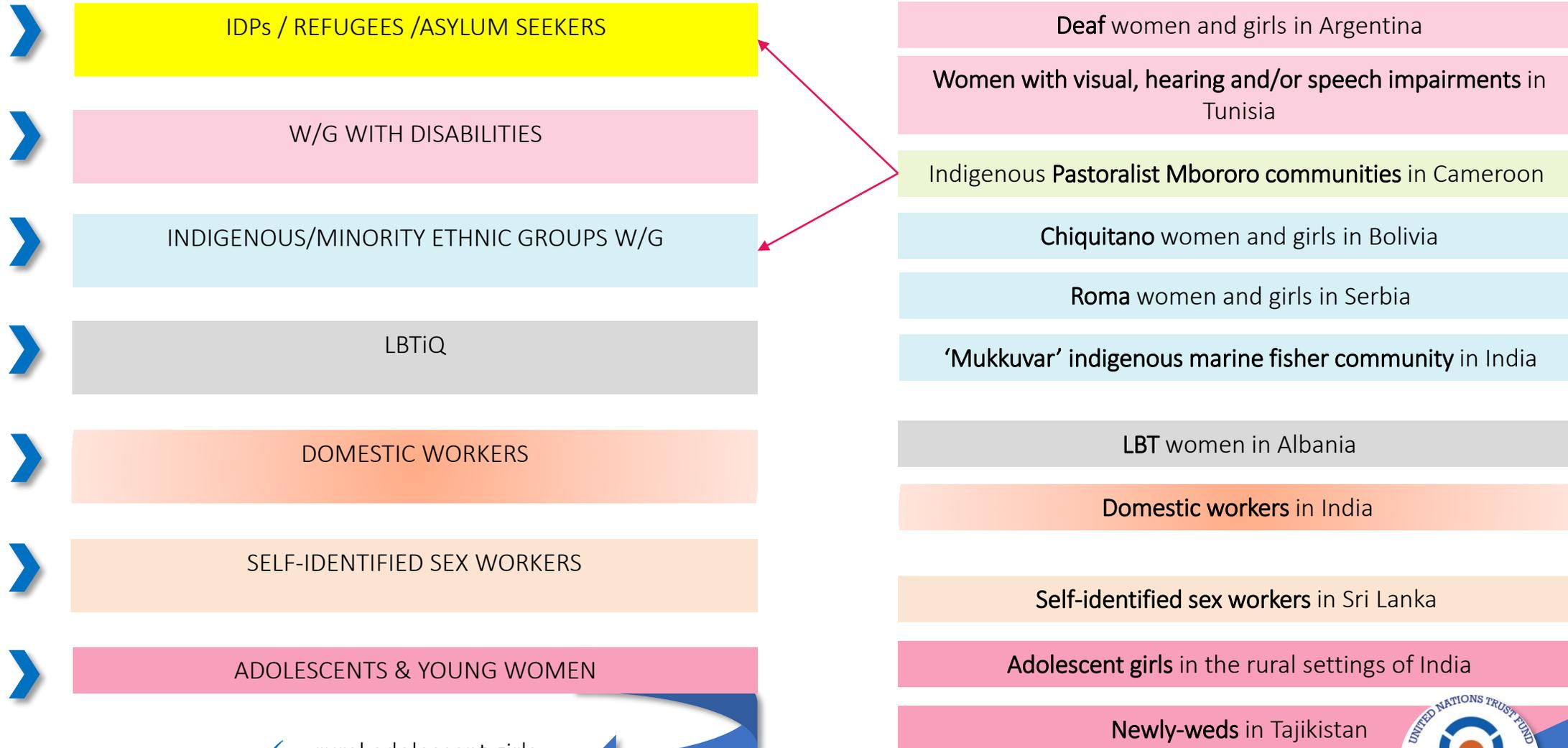
- Immediate assistance at **the community level**;
- **Economic empowerment** as sustainable alternative.



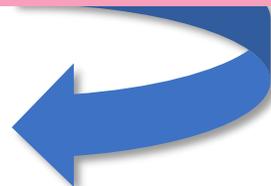
### > Need for continued adaptation

- Need for PPE, virtual trainings, IT equipment;
- Invest in **organizational resilience**.

# Beneficiaries profile



- ✓ rural adolescent girls
- ✓ young refugee/IDP
- newlywed women





## Emergency programmatic response

- **COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY LED/BASED APPROACH**
  - Community dialogues
  - Trainings & CD for service providers
  - Discussion groups & workshops
- **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**
  - Structured livelihood/EE program
  - Business skills trainings
  - Direct cash

## Need for continued adaptation

- **VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING**
  - Virtual case management hubs
  - Digital data collection
  - Mobile helplines
- **ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE**
  - Knowledge exchange/team building
  - Organizational infrastructure
  - Information technology equipment

# Organizational Resilience



Activities which have been identified as alternatives to **support operations and build the adaptive capacity** necessary to prepare and recover quickly from the impacts of a dynamic and rapidly changing external environment:

- Development of **automated tools** for monitoring the results (Mobiles-Based Monitoring Information System (MIS), Radio Programming Evaluation, Specialized Cloud Data Collection Software)
- **IT Equipment** requests which *reflect potential efforts to acclimatization* to the global pandemic situation
- Development **e-toolkits** on gender sensitization, advocacy, effective media mobilization; gender equity and equality
- Development of **Standard Operating Procedures and Management Plans** (built around COVID-19 response) for:
  - Shelters and CT frontline worker,
  - Data management and data collection tools



- Development of **helpdesk infrastructure, Accounting Software and Digital Service Web-Based Platforms** (including Web, Social Media, Phone Apps and GBV referral pathway with innovative ICT solutions)



## Accounting Software



- **COVID-19 response kits** (Dignity, Psychological Aid, Biosecurity and Hygiene kits)



Resilience requires a culture of creative planning, flexibility, continued learning, and self-care embedded across all levels.



**THANK YOU!**