



## Annex VI

### Summary of 2021 results of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

#### The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

##### *About the UN Trust Fund*

The [United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women](#) (UN Trust Fund) is the only global, multilateral, inter-agency grant-giving mechanism specialized in funding and building the capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's rights organizations (WROs) to: prevent violence against women and girls (VAW/G); improve access to adequate essential, specialist, multisectoral services for survivors; and support effective implementation of laws and policies. Established by [UN General Assembly Resolution 50/166](#) in 1996 and managed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the UN System. The UN Trust Fund contributes to the realization of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and UN-Women's strategic priorities on ending the pervasive human rights violation of VAW/G and supporting women's leadership, agency and autonomy, including through support to civil society (CSOs), especially women's rights organizations (WROs), to promote gender equality and human rights.

##### *Key results in 2021*

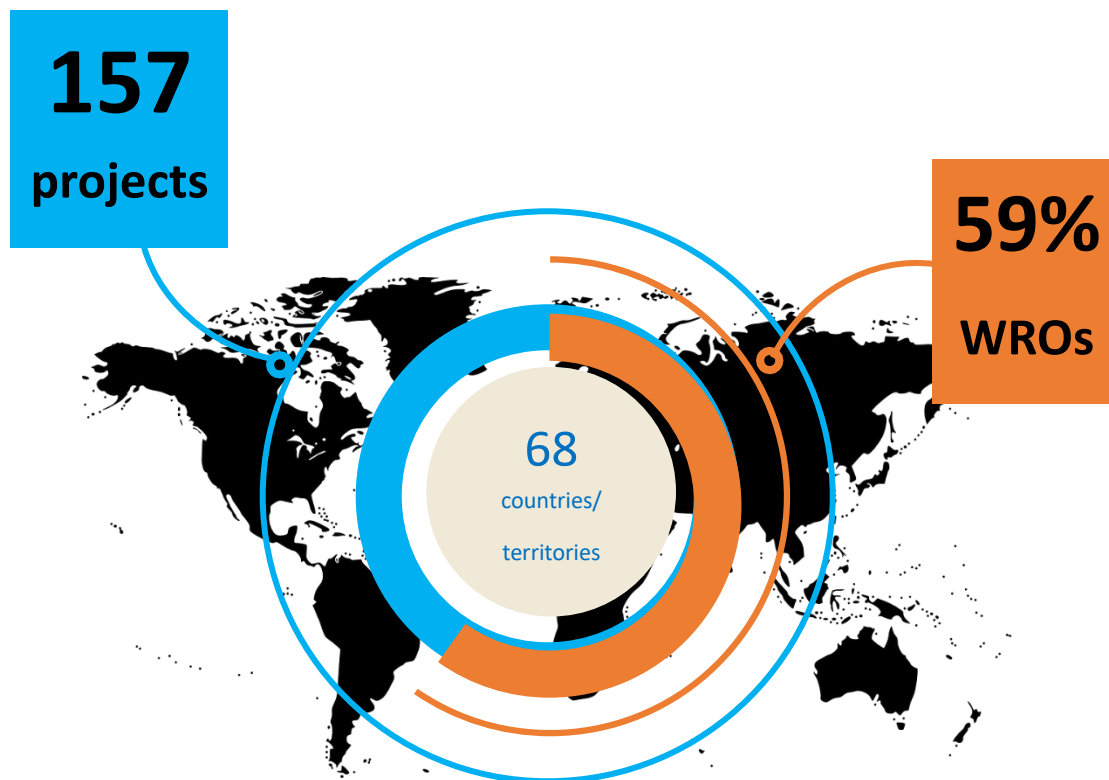
In 2021, the UN Trust Fund managed a grants portfolio of 157 projects aimed at preventing and addressing VAW/G in 68 countries and territories, across five regions,<sup>1</sup> with grants totalling USD 74.7 million. Grant recipients are primarily CSOs; the majority (59 per cent) are WROs.

In 2021, UN Trust Fund supported projects reached 41,782,089 people, including a minimum of 22,506,645 women and girls overall, and 260,587 women and girls were empowered to exercise their agency—specifically, through accessing specialist support services, prevention initiatives, and as co-creators in the design and implementation of projects to end violence against women and girls, including efforts to improve effectiveness of legislation, policies, and national action plans.

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<sup>1</sup> Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean

**Figure: 2021 UN Trust Fund grants portfolio<sup>2</sup>**



The UN Trust Fund’s work is guided by the commitment to leave no one behind through an intersectional approach. A cornerstone of many projects is the recognition by grantees of the nexus of ending VAW/G and multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination and in 2021, grantees changed the lives of:

- 54,822 women and girl survivors of violence
- 22,455 women and girls living with disabilities
- 45,554 indigenous women or women from ethnic groups
- 10,681 women human rights defenders or gender advocates
- 10,803 women living with HIV and/or affected by AIDS

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<sup>2</sup> The boundaries and designations used on the map in this report does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Other types of organizations that were funded include: human rights organizations (10 per cent), international non-governmental organizations (10 per cent), development-focused organizations (4 per cent), organizations of persons with disabilities (2 per cent), with other types of organizations making up less than 1 per cent of grants each including faith based, girl/child focused, LGBT+ organizations, youth organizations etc.

- 86,511 women belonging to the lowest income-group

### *Aggregate portfolio results and examples from the field in 2021*

In 2021, the UN Trust Fund grantees increased capacities of 1,049 local, sub-national or national government institutions to design and **implement institutional reforms, strategies and/or policies** to prevent or respond to violence against women and girls. For example, *Alliances for Africa* in **Nigeria**, funded by the UN Trust Fund under the Spotlight Initiative, supported the setting up of the Imo State Committee on Ending Violence against Women and Girls, a network of CSOs/WROs, and other key stakeholders, including traditional leaders and government ministries. This is the first such network in Imo State, which works to increase platforms to engage on ending violence against women through 30 traditional institutions and 50 local women's rights groups across the 27 local government areas. The Committee's advocacy efforts led to the comprehensive **Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Bill** being reviewed and then passed by the Imo State House of Assembly.

In 2021, the UN Trust Fund's grantees supported 65,718 women and girls to access and use **specialist support services** to end VAW/G. In addition, 11,662 individual service providers and 1,423 institutions have improved service provision for survivors and women and girls at risk, supported by UN Trust Fund grantees. For example, in **India**, the *Organization for Community Development*, a small women-led organization, works **to increase awareness of services for survivors of violence** with the most marginalized fisherwomen in selected villages in Tamil Nadu to address the sharp increase in gender-based violence since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to their interventions, women survivors of violence have increased their awareness of services by 70 per cent. In 2021, they reached 4,418 participants with information about available services for survivors. The organization additionally aided 47 women survivors of violence to access services including counseling, during the reporting period.

In 2021, the UN Trust Fund supported grantees to adapt to rapidly changing context generated by COVID-19 and to build their beneficiaries' and organizational resilience to disruptive events and crises. In total 1,608 of grantees' staff and/or partners reported improved knowledge and skills of how to integrate COVID-19 response into ending violence against women and girl interventions. For example, in the **State of Palestine**, 46 women and girls with disabilities improved their coping mechanisms to better manage their lives and acquire new skills during the COVID-19 pandemic through peer-to-peer awareness sessions, thanks to the support of the grantee *Stars of Hope*. In addition, 96 per cent of women and girls and their families who participated in outreach sessions stated their knowledge on how to advocate for an end to violence against women with disabilities had improved after participating in the sessions.

### *Responding to emerging and overlapping crises by building organizational resilience*

The UN Trust Fund's lessons learned from the programmatic and operational adaptations due to the COVID-19 pandemic informed the UN Trust Fund's approach and response to other coinciding crises such as natural disasters (Haiti, Honduras) and conflict (Afghanistan, Ethiopia), among others.

In August 2021, **Haiti** was struck by a devastating earthquake, causing large-scale damage and affecting the activities of UN Trust Fund grantee *Initiative pour un développement équitable en Haïti (Initiative for equitable development in Haiti)*. The grantee developed an emergency fund as an operational adaptation to the crisis and responded to the immediate needs of women and girls, such as distributing food packages and sanitary kits to 150 women with disabilities who are survivors of violence. In addition, the grantee provided individual and group medical and psychological support to 90 women and set up a mobile clinic to reach those most at risk of being left behind.

In 2021, the UN Trust Fund grantees in aggregate supplied 59,917 right holders/beneficiaries with food, hygiene supplies, sanitation and/or with other essential items and reached those who were most marginalized and at risk of being left behind.

Flexibility for adaptations need to be planned and intentionally woven into programmatic and operational approaches and shared with a broad base of partners through advocacy. The lessons learned such as this during the COVID-19 crisis and other coinciding crises informed the UN Trust Fund's 25<sup>th</sup> call for proposals released in 2021, which focused on addressing the rise of VAW/G in the context of multiple, coinciding crises and ensuring that no woman is left behind through intentional and proactive intersectional approaches. The 25<sup>th</sup> annual grant-giving cycle introduced more flexible and core support for the CSOs/WROs, paying increased attention to self and collective care and contingency funding and increased core funding. Concretely, and corresponding to goals laid out in the UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021-2025, up to 24% of the total grant can be now allocated in core and flexible funding budget lines for small organizations to ensure the organizational resilience of CSOs/WROs and allow for quick adaptations in rapidly changing contexts. This includes funds for general operating and other direct costs as well as an additional seven per cent of core funding to small organizations requesting small grants. In addition, the UN Trust Fund increased and expanded the selfcare and collective care budget line to \$5,000 to support grantees in taking care of their staff members' physical and mental health and well-being.

These consolidated lessons informed not only the UN Trust Fund's funding approach, but also advocacy objectives embraced by the Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition Blueprint that recognizes core and flexible resourcing of the expertise of women's rights organizations as one of the key pathways to change.

### *Practice-Based Knowledge Management*

The UN Trust Fund co-produced a **practice-based knowledge** prevention series of [10 papers on "Learning from practice"](#) in collaboration with 89 grantees and external researchers. The lessons learned and adaptation results show how civil society and WROs respond in rapidly changing contexts to remain vital resources for women and girls. Grantees, partners, and external individuals explored further pathways to prevention through a series of webinars, beginning in 2021. In 2021, the UN Trust Fund and the Spotlight Initiative engaged in collaborative efforts to design and build SHINE, a new online hub for global knowledge exchange on ending violence against women and girls. The hub connects a range of partners and change-makers to co-create, collaborate and

amplify knowledge in multiple languages, with a focus on the practice-based knowledge of civil society. The hub extracts lessons across grantees on common themes, and the consolidation of lessons on prevention is co-created with CSOs. In 2021 the hub was designed by the UN Trust Fund in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative including through consultations and testing with 20 civil society partners and launched in 2022.

The UN Trust Fund's focus on fostering collaborative and inclusive practice-based knowledge production, exchange and learning will remain a growing and expanding area of the UN Trust Fund's work in line with its Strategic Plan 2021-2025. This investment supports the UN system and key partners to make programmatic, policy and funding decisions informed by practice-based knowledge co-produced by the UN Trust Fund with CSOs/WROs and researchers' community.

### *Implementing the UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021-2025*

The UN Trust Fund made strides in 2021 in the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2021-2025. This included commissioning an external, independent assessment on the contribution to feminist and women's movement building to inform learning activities over the next years and its Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The review concluded that: "The UN Trust Fund team is agile, strategic, thoughtful, discerning, and astutely action oriented and this makes them very well placed and appropriately equipped to continue holding a baton up for resourcing WROs/CSOs to support/build women's/feminist movements for ending VAW/G". The report recommended the continuation of the learning journey and provided concrete recommendations on how to evolve and improve grant making for the benefit of CSOs/WROs involved in women's/feminist movement building and support, some of which are already being implemented.

The UN Trust Fund's mission, situated under the Sustainable Development Goal 5, is integral to the achievement of Outcome 5 of UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025 on "Voice, leadership & agency of women and girls" and Impact 3 on "Ending Violence against Women", towards which the UN Trust Fund contributes by enabling civil society and women's right organizations through the provision of dedicated, flexible funding to exercise their expertise in ending VAW/G. The strength of CSOs, especially WROs – and feminist movements as a whole – is a key factor in driving positive change to end VAW/G. This essential leadership role of CSOs has been recognized time and again at the highest levels of the UN system, with the UN Secretary-General noting CSOs, and especially WROs, in the Beijing Platform for Action Review (2020) as key actors in advancing gender equality and ending VAW/G and calling on Member States to support this role, including through funding. These objectives are underpinned by UN Women and the UN Trust Fund's commitment under the [Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence](#).

The UN Trust Fund will further build on its investment in long term and flexible funding to foster movement building by organizations. Grounding these next steps are the key role played by CSOs/WROs in reaching the needs of women and girls facing intersecting forms of violence and discrimination which represents an essential component of building resilient and stable feminist movements. The importance of providing CSOs and WROs with long-term and more flexible

funding, coupled with programmatic and operational support during the grant implementation period will continue to inform the UN Trust Fund's work.