

Annex V: Summary of 2021 results of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women



A. 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’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025 vision is situated under the Sustainable Development Goal 5 and 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”. The UN Trust Fund contributes to these by providing dedicated, flexible funding to CSOs /WROs to enable them 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. Resourcing and creating an enabling environment where women’s rights and feminist organizations can lead are essential to promote and protect women’s human rights and to systemically “dismantle colonial, racist, and patriarchal power structures”, as outlined in the [2022 Women7 \(W7\) Implementation plan to G7 leaders](#).¹

B. Key results in 2022

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund worked with 186 CSOs on preventing and addressing VAW/G in 70 countries and territories across five regions, supporting them with grants totalling USD 87.8 million. The majority of grant recipients, 62.4 per cent, were WROs.

In 2022, UN Trust Fund grantees reached a total of 47,578,975 people, including 24,408,861 women and girls,² through initiatives such as awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and end VAW/G. At least, 433,677 primary

¹ [Women7 \(W7\)](#) is a group of CSOs that come together to promote proposals on gender equality and women’s rights within the G7 process. Building on feminist principles of intersectionality and inclusion, W7 aims to bring together voices from civil society around the world to critically reflect on and inform G7 outcomes. Its objective is to ensure that G7 leaders make concrete political and financial commitments that can have a tangible, lasting and transformative impact on the lives of women and girls in all their diversity. <https://women7.org/>

² Estimated total number of women and girls reached through UN Trust fund projects, including primary, secondary and indirect beneficiaries. Indirect beneficiaries are typically reached through awareness-raising campaigns on TV, radio, public events etc. for which data disaggregated by

beneficiaries³ were empowered to exercise agency for transformational change in their own lives – specifically through accessing specialist support services and prevention initiatives and as co-creators in the design and implementation of projects to end VAW/G, including efforts to improve the effectiveness of legislation, policies and national action plans. The UN Trust Fund’s work is guided by the principle of leaving no one behind, implemented through an intentional and pro-active 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. In 2022, grantees changed the lives of at least 81,866 survivors of VAW/G; 41,780 Indigenous women and girls; 22,915 refugee and internally displaced women and girls; 13,737 women and girls living with disabilities; 6,242 women and girls living with HIV and/or affected by AIDS; and 105,686 women and girls belonging to the lowest income-group.⁴

C. Ending violence against women and girls in ever-changing contexts

In 2022, grantees continued respond to the needs of women and girls, including in contexts increasingly marked by overlapping and compound crises. Women and girls in many parts of the world were still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, while others were forcibly displaced, faced acute economic and financial challenges and found their rights and civic space curtailed – all factors known to drive an increase in VAW/G. For example, in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the grantee Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (DFJ) implementing a project in North Kivu province operated in multiple, overlapping crises throughout 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the functioning of institutions including courts and tribunals; the state of emergency imposed in the project area replaced civilian authorities with military authorities, including courts; the 2021 eruption of the Nyiragongo Volcano near the provincial capital, Goma, caused damage to infrastructure impacting women and girls; and the ongoing armed conflict, between the M23 armed group and the national army put women and girls at increasing risk of violence with very limited access to justice. In response, DFJ set up legal clinics, supported mobile court hearings, and trained magistrates and court officials on addressing VAW/G in crisis contexts, with the aim of ensuring that the transition of power would not disrupt justice for women and girls who had experienced violence. This practice was replicated at state headquarters and improved access to justice for survivors of VAW/G.

Across five regions, specific local socio-political contexts led to grantees experiencing increasing challenges and pressure as civic spaces continued to shrink, posing physical threats to staff and the women and girls they serve. For example, in **Zimbabwe**, CSOs/WROs like the Institution of Young Women Development (IYWD) informed the UN Trust Fund that restrictive legislation, increased surveillance of their activities and administration for CSOs introduced by the government in the run-up to general elections in 2023 have resulted in shrinking space for CSOs/WROs to operate and implement EVAW/G programming. In 2022, two IYWD staff members and one of IYWD’s area facilitators were arrested on a charge of convening a public meeting without police clearance while implementing project activities in the community, awaiting trial for this charge in March 2023. The UN Trust Fund organized a virtual country-focused convening of grantees and the UN Women Country Office in Zimbabwe to discuss these challenges and strengthen support and coordination. In this context, CSOs/WROs found different entry points to navigate the limited space. IYWD adapted by integrating the feminist movement building strategy into its programming, such as empowering women through Training of Trainers to engage with and influence positive changes in duty bearers’ behaviours, values and beliefs associated with perpetuating VAW/G.

The UN Trust Fund’s investment in **organizational resilience and crisis preparedness** has supported this and other grantee organizations to adapt its policies, procedures, practices and systems to meet survivors’ needs in ever-changing circumstances. Simultaneously, grantees adjusted their operations to meet rapidly-evolving, emerging and inter-connected challenges by including in their programming community mobilization to build preparedness and

sex/gender is often unavailable. Where gender/sex is unknown, the percentage of the female population globally (49.7 per cent) has been used to estimate the total number of women and girls reached. Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS>

³ The UN Trust Fund’s definition of primary beneficiaries includes women and girls, regardless of how they self-identify or if gender identity is unknown/difficult to disaggregate. “Unknown” can be used to account for those who cannot be categorized due to safety/ethical concerns, or limitations in data collection systems. This inclusive approach covers all individuals at risk of VAW/G.

⁴ The UN Trust Fund requests that grantees report the number of beneficiaries reached annually, with a breakdown of primary beneficiaries by type, to track how projects are reaching marginalized groups. However, disaggregation by type is optional, hence final numbers are a sample and are probably an underestimate.

economic empowerment interventions to increase women’s chances to generate income and rebuild exit routes from violence.

Despite the war, the NGO “Club Eney”, a UN Trust Fund grantee in **Ukraine**, kept alive service provision for women and girls at high risk of violence and abuse: women who use drugs, self-identified women sex workers, women living with HIV and internally displaced women and girls. As part of the immediate response to the crisis, Club Eney, with support of the UN Trust Fund, repurposed some resources for an immediate response to keep their staff and beneficiaries safe. One of the facilitators implementing Women Initiating New Goals of Safety (WINGS), a screening and intervention tool to guide women at risk through risk assessment and safety planning, was evacuated from Kharkiv, while others received allowances for evacuation, food and medication for project staff and primary beneficiaries, as well as working tools and supplies to help internally displaced women grow vegetable and improve food security. A total of 315 women received humanitarian aid, 27 women received seeds, tools and supplies for work and 21 women received cash assistance for evacuation. In addition, responding to the fact that women who use drugs and women who engage in sex work experienced greater discrimination at shelters, Club Eney opened a shelter in Kyiv to serve women survivors and trained community activists to advocate for equal access to shelters to improve their safety.

Grantees’ experience of effective adaptations throughout 2022 illustrates the value of localized interventions to rapidly pivot to the needs of beneficiaries in changing contexts across the development-humanitarian-peace nexus. Strengthening preparedness and providing support to grantees to facilitate their adaptive capacity and organizational resilience remains central to the UN Trust Fund’s work.

Across the UN Trust Fund portfolio, **27,102 community, faith, traditional and/or youth leaders publicly advocated for changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes toward ending VAW/G, including harmful practices**, with the support of UN Trust Fund grantees.

In the **State of Palestine**, Women’s Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) engaged informal justice actors, including Sharia judges, traditional leaders and civil society actors, in open dialogues and provided training on how to provide comprehensive and appropriate services and uphold the rights of survivors of VAW/G. Additionally, networks of informal justice actors have also been trained and mobilized to provide safe spaces, important information and conflict mediation services, and to assist survivors with accessing counselling and representation. Overall, WATC provided 24 training sessions reaching 121 informal justice actors and 29 traditional leaders. A total of 333 men and boys were mobilized and had an increased understanding of harmful gender unequal norms and stereotypes aimed at helping them facilitate the safe participation and inclusion of women and girls in their communities.

Throughout 2022, at least **62,111 women and girls used specialist support services to end VAW/G** supported by UN Trust Fund grantees. In **Tunisia**, the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) conducted research on national and international laws on sensory disabilities which informed the design of a training kit focused on providing appropriate care for women and girls with disabilities. Additionally, CAWTAR engaged architectural firms in visits and consultations to advise on how to improve two shelters for women survivors of violence with visual and hearing impairments. Simultaneously, CAWTAR continued to develop the “SafeNess” reporting mobile application, in collaboration with the Ministry of Family Affairs, Women, Children and the Elderly, aimed at providing a crucial tool for raising awareness on gender-based violence and the rights of survivors.

During 2022, the UN Trust Fund continued its support to grantees fostering implementation and development of gender-responsive and inclusive domestic laws and policies that not only address VAW/G but also create enabling environments for CSOs/WROs and for women’s human rights defenders to continue their essential work. Women and girls continued to be at the centre of these advocacy efforts; **at least 1,275,730 were able to access information, goods and resources and/or services to help prevent or respond to VAW/G**. Additionally, **1,544 local, sub-national or national government institutions acquired increased capacities to design and implement institutional reforms, strategies and/or policies to prevent or respond to VAW/G** with support from the UN Trust Fund grantees. Such capacities led to **329 guidelines, protocols and/or standard operating procedures to strengthen, develop and/or improve services to end VAW/G** across all levels.

In **Honduras**, where femicide rates are among the highest in Latin America, the grantee Centro de Estudios de la Mujer – Honduras (CEM-H) influenced policy changes through engaging with individuals, groups and networks. Among them were, 189 teachers from 10 educational centres, who were trained on VAW/G prevention and referral mechanisms, and 180 young people, who participated in feminist political schools and were trained on new masculinities and advocacy spaces. Additionally, 30 women’s networks increased their knowledge and their technical and political capacities for advocacy and the elimination of VAW/G. CEM-H’s participation in nine inter-institutional roundtables on femicides led to 12 proposals for legislative reform, budgets, solidarity credit for women and public policies being presented to President Xiomara Castro.

In **India**, the Martha Farrell Foundation improved the knowledge of 3,055 women domestic workers (WDWs) on their rights under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (SHW) Act (2013). WDW leaders were identified across all 13 districts covered by the project who have continued to actively mobilize their peers for advocacy and lobbying. In 2022, WDW leaders led a state level consultation with prominent local authorities, civil society and union members to consolidate recommendations on strengthening the SHW Act. The recommendations led the Delhi Labour Department to notify district authorities across Delhi to form and empower Local Committees, including nodal officers and police personnel, to prevent sexual harassment in workplaces and ensure timely redress for complainants.

From equipping CSOs/WROs with the capacity to navigate the UN system and manage grant funds, to mutually informing and learning about how to respond to survivors’ needs in crises, the UN Trust Fund and its grantees are redefining donor-grantee partnerships and enabling the collective efforts to power global feminist movements. In 2022, the UN Trust Fund continued to implement capacity development activities based on grantees’ needs and demands, which not only accompany grantees to effectively plan and manage grants, but also support them to develop or access additional capacities needed for programming, learning and knowledge management to end VAW/G beyond this project cycle.

D. Practice-based knowledge management

The UN Trust Fund, in collaboration with 70 grantees and external researchers, co-produced a **practice-based knowledge** prevention series of [10 knowledge briefs titled “Learning from practice: Lessons from Civil Society Organizations on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls”](#). The briefs explored 10 pathways to prevention, validated through global consultations with 250+ ending VAW/G practitioners, and set the stage for a continuous learning and dialogue on SHINE, a virtual knowledge exchange hub produced by the UN Trust Fund and developed in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative. The Prevention Series was launched through eight webinars between November 2021 and June 2022 and also through the UN Trust Fund’s first-ever eight-part podcast series guided by the voices of grantee organizations implementing prevention projects. The diverse formats of these knowledge products are the result of a learning journey grounded in mutual enablement, inclusion and participation that celebrates practitioners’ expertise, experience and knowledge. Accompanied by social media promotion, the webinars reached over 39,700 people on Twitter alone and the podcast peaked at #15 on US non-profit podcasts and remained among the top five and 10 for several months following their virtual launch. This series became an important entry point and opportunity for the UN Trust Fund to continue advocating for practice-based knowledge led by and centring the voices of CSOs/WROs at different international convenings. From UN Women’s Multi-stakeholder Workshop on What Works for Prevention of Violence against Women in India, to attending the Spotlight Initiative Global Learning Symposium together with representatives from 11 UN Trust Fund-supported CSOs/WROs in Latin America region, and presenting knowledge and practices at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum, the UN Trust Fund is expanding key partnerships and leveraging its unique relationship with CSOs/WROs and contributing to UN Women’s positioning as a thought leader on practice-based knowledge in the EAW/G ecosystem at-large.

In 2022, the UN Trust Fund capitalized on its convening potential facilitating exchange among practitioners to codify insights in practice-based solutions for ending VAW/G as a building foundation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SHINE hub offers the combined power of a virtual exchange space, convening platform and multilingual tool in more than 50 languages to inform global policy, programming and advocacy on ending VAW/G. In the nine months since its introduction, SHINE welcomed 1,445 registered users, five times the target

number, and opened six discussions that attracted active engagements from practitioners representing CSOs/WROs globally. SHINE has emerged as one of the key tools to elevate practice-based knowledge and honour the continuous efforts of CSOs/WROs not only to end VAW/G but also to enrich the entire ending VAW/G ecosystem.

E. The UN Trust Fund's next steps

Through its 26th Call for Proposals, launched in November 2022, the UN Trust Fund aims to respond to the emerging needs and contextual challenges voiced by CSOs/WROs by recognizing the need to intentionally invest in building the preparedness and organizational resilience of grantees as key drivers of transformative change towards ending VAW/G. It does so through the provision of increased core and flexible funding, along with capacity development coupled with budget for self- and collective care. In addition, the special focus on contexts of protracted and overlapping crises aims to expose the underutilized potential of CSOs/WROs to improve lives of women and girls whose needs would otherwise have remained unmet.