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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters**

## **Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women**

### **Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Council, the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution [50/166](#).

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\* [E/CN.6/2017/1](#).



## **Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In 2016, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women marked 20 years of global, multilateral grant-making in support of efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls. The Trust Fund was established in 1996 by the General Assembly, in its resolution [50/166](#), and is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the United Nations system. UN-Women provides the Trust Fund with a strong institutional foundation and field support through its regional, multi-country and country offices. The Trust Fund, working closely with the rest of the United Nations system through its inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee, plays a vital role in driving forward collective efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

2. The present report, prepared for the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the thirty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council, describes the impact and achievements of the Trust Fund in 2016.

3. The twentieth anniversary of the Trust Fund provided a key opportunity to reflect on its contribution to efforts to prevent and address violence against women and girls and review the evolution and continued relevance of its three priority areas of work: improving access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services; furthering implementation of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems; and promoting the prevention of violence against women and girls. The Trust Fund has achieved a truly global reach over the past two decades, providing support to 463 organizations in 139 countries and territories, with grants totalling over \$129 million.

4. In 2016, the Trust Fund supported 107 projects aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in 77 countries and territories. During the year, up to 250,000 women and girls benefited directly from services for survivors, empowerment activities and protection from violence. This number included at least 31,000 female migrant workers, 10,000 indigenous women, 3,400 lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and 1,300 women and girls with disabilities.

5. In total, Trust Fund projects reached over 6 million people in 2016, including men and boys, government officials and the general public, in efforts to end violence against women. The six-fold increase in total beneficiaries from the previous year was due to several large-scale awareness-raising campaigns, particularly in Africa. An analysis of Trust Fund projects showed that the cost of reaching beneficiaries in 2016 was \$2 per beneficiary, a significant reduction compared with 2015, when the equivalent figure stood at \$12. The impact achieved by Trust Fund grantees is showing just how great the return on often quite small investments can be in terms of the sustainable change.

6. In September, the Trust Fund joined a coalition of more than 30 core partners from the public, private and multilateral sectors as part of “No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project”, an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, to announce a series of commitments to action to advance the gender equality targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. These commitments will have an impact on more than 900,000 people in over 60 countries. Specifically, through its special funding window, the Trust Fund committed at least \$1 million in grants for projects to address violence against women and girls who are refugees or are internally displaced. In November, the Trust Fund awarded grants of up to \$2.5 million to five organizations through this window for efforts to address violence against women and girls in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis. The global migrant and refugee crisis continued to intensify in 2016, and women and girls made up almost half of the world’s 244 million migrants and half of the 19.6 million refugees worldwide. By opening a special window for refugee and migrant women and girls, the Trust Fund will seek to support the efforts that are aimed at ensuring that issues of violence against women and girls are addressed in the context of a humanitarian crisis and that effective strategies are developed, shared and built on to contribute to a more sustainable and effective response worldwide to the crisis. Projects implemented under this special window are included in the Trust Fund’s twentieth funding cycle.

7. The launch of the Trust Fund’s new website in 2016 was an important part of overall efforts to increase advocacy for sustainable giving and the visibility of the Trust Fund’s achievements and those of its grantees. The website offers a platform for sharing knowledge and evidence about grantees’ activities, progress and results; highlighting new and ongoing partnerships; providing access to the grants management system, a key accountability and transparency tool for the Trust Fund; and providing guidelines to assist potential applicants.

## **II. Context**

8. The global movement for human rights and women’s empowerment, including the work of Trust Fund grantees, has transformed the way that violence against women and girls is perceived. However, the challenges remain daunting. One in three women worldwide experience physical and/or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. As much as 70 per cent of women have experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of female genital mutilation/cutting in the 30 countries in which the practice is most prevalent. In the majority of cases, girls were cut before the age of five. More than 700 million women alive today were married before their eighteenth birthday, and around 250 million entered into marriage before the age of 15.

9. Sustainable Development Goal 5, approved by the General Assembly in September 2015, contains the specific targets of eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls and ending harmful practices, as part of reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and strengthening policies and enforceable legislation that promote gender equality. In the present report, the achievements of the Trust Fund in furthering this Goal are summarized.

10. As the only global, multilateral, grant-making mechanism that is dedicated exclusively to addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, the Trust Fund is uniquely placed to help to achieve sustainable change at the local and national levels. It does so through its three strategic directions: catalysing learning with global evidence collected from its grantees; leveraging its unique mandate and convening power to advocate for and foster sustainable financing; and supporting results-oriented approaches to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

### **III. Gathering, sharing and building the evidence**

11. The Trust Fund made significant progress in 2016 in building an evidence hub on ending violence against women and girls, the second pillar of its strategic plan for 2015-2020. An independent meta-evaluation and meta-analysis of findings from a sample of project evaluations since 2008 provided a summary of the results achieved by grantees and a synthesis of recurrent findings, lessons and good practices. In their analysis, the independent evaluators found that 89.1 per cent of the projects assessed had been effective and that 70.7 per cent had achieved sustainable results, benefiting an estimated 4.2 million people. Projects that expanded access to multisectoral services were the most effective (95 per cent), and projects that strengthened the implementation of laws, policies and national action plans were the most sustainable (83.3 per cent). These findings and others recorded in the report of the independent evaluators will form the baseline for improving future Trust Fund projects.

12. In October, the Trust Fund organized a three-day workshop on multisectoral cooperation mechanisms in Sarajevo. The first in an annual series of knowledge-exchange events, the workshop brought together 16 organizations from 10 countries and territories in the region involved in providing multisectoral services. The aim of the workshop was to share knowledge, experience and lessons learned to inform best practice in service delivery to women survivors of violence, both in the region and beyond. The conclusions and recommendations arising from the workshop will be published in an upcoming Trust Fund knowledge product and presented at a side event at the sixty-first session of the Commission.

13. An annual partner survey has been instituted to garner the opinions of grantees. In 2016, 85 active grantees representing a good cross section of the Trust Fund's portfolio completed the survey. The overwhelming majority (97 per cent) of organizations that responded to the survey stated that they would recommend the Trust Fund as a source of funding to others working in the field, stressing the value of the programmatic advice, guidance and monitoring and evaluation training provided. One organization stated that it would recommend the Trust Fund as a source of funding because of the possibility of learning through cooperation, particularly on monitoring and evaluation.

14. The increased visibility and publicity provided by Trust Fund backing was another major benefit cited by most respondents. The overwhelming majority of respondents (82 per cent) felt that securing Trust Fund backing would enable them to mobilize further funding at the end of the grant period. The positive impact of Trust Fund support in terms of increased recognition by other donors was particularly marked among small organizations, thereby contributing to the Trust

Fund's strategic objective of helping to build the organizational capacity of smaller entities.

15. For example, the Sindh Community Foundation in Pakistan, which works to reduce instances of child and forced marriage through human rights education and advocacy, was able to leverage Trust Fund support to receive funding from the United States Agency for International Development. In Nepal, the Story Kitchen, which implemented the project "SAHAS (Courage) for Justice" in five districts and enabled 94 women survivors of conflict-related violence to share their stories, was awarded a grant to scale up a similar project by the Governance Facility, a new initiative agreed between the Government of Nepal, the embassies of Denmark and Switzerland and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

16. From 2010 to 2012, the Trust Fund supported the first cohort of organizations working with Raising Voices across Eastern and Southern Africa to scale up "SASA!", a community mobilization methodology to prevent violence against women and HIV infection. A randomized controlled trial conducted in Kampala demonstrated the effectiveness of the SASA! methodology, and organizations, funding agencies, Governments, United Nations agencies, faith-based groups and other actors are setting policy, earmarking funding and implementing SASA! in communities across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. Replicating and scaling up best practices is the focus of a new cross-regional Raising Voices project, which is being funded by the Trust Fund from 2016 to 2019. The new project will enable Raising Voices to study systematically the challenges and struggles that groups implementing SASA! have experienced in order to propose clear guidelines to overcome them. Raising Voices has teamed up with the University of California, San Diego, to collaborate with three partner organizations in rural United Republic of Tanzania, refugee camps in Kenya and a community in Haiti.

17. In 2016, the Trust Fund team conducted 26 monitoring missions to projects in 16 countries. The example of the Breakthrough Trust (India), illustrated below, shows some of the innovative methods and best practice that emerged during the visits.

18. During its visit in April, the Trust Fund team saw a project in which media such as video vans, wall writings and community radio are used to raise community awareness about domestic violence. The team observed activities including a street play followed by a meeting with young volunteers, illustrating how Breakthrough is engaging with young people on the ground and is helping to forge a link between online and offline activities. Its campaign with the hashtag #Askingforit encouraged bystanders to intervene and support girls when speaking out about harassment. Following training with men and boys, feedback from participants showed a 50 per cent increase in knowledge about gender issues among young boys.

19. In May, Trust Fund staff visited a project by Al Shehab Institution for Comprehensive Development, which works on the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women in Egypt. From January to July 2016, 448 women and girls used services offered at the drop-in community centre. The project engaged with 333 men and youth from the communities targeted and 170 women, who took part in awareness-raising activities.

20. A project implemented by the Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia was the subject of a visit in May. The Trust Fund team was able to observe how the project had improved joint efforts to address the issue of violence against indigenous women and girls, specifically in the context of armed conflict. The project was part of successful advocacy efforts for the enactment of a law on women, violence and access to justice, which enables the organization to put into operation the Consejo Nacional de Justicia Indígena, a national justice body responsible for establishing a strategy for prosecuting cases of violence, and to guarantee the participation of women.

21. In June, the Trust Fund team visited the Women's Support Centre in Armenia, which provides specialized support services for women survivors of violence, such as a shelter and an emergency helpline. The team visited the town of Metsamor, close to Yerevan, where previously the only social support available was that provided by a voluntary organization, occasionally supported through the mayor's private donations. The grantee identified the stakeholders in the targeted communities and partnered with them, building on local efforts and thereby enhancing sustainability. The Trust Fund team also visited two projects addressing harmful practices. In the United Republic of Tanzania, Amref Health Africa is working in collaboration with the Legal and Human Rights Centre to promote a community-driven alternative rites of passage model in communities in the Serengeti. The project is also engaging the health sector through in-person, e-learning and mobile learning strategies to raise awareness about the consequences of female genital mutilation/cutting and to ensure that interventions are culturally appropriate, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community.

22. The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, a Trust Fund grantee, has been recognized as one of the major advocates of a 2015 law banning female genital mutilation/cutting. The Government of the Gambia used the draft legislation prepared by the grantee when proposing the bill, confirming that the Trust Fund had invested wisely at a critical moment to support the final steps of the endeavour. Most (64 per cent) of the young mothers interviewed in two districts following training said that they did not intend to subject their daughters to female genital mutilation/cutting in the future. The project was also focused on reaching out to those who carry out the procedure to explore alternative employment opportunities to facilitate ending the practice.

#### **IV. Resource mobilization and advocacy**

23. In the 20 years since its creation, the Trust Fund has increased its donor portfolio from 3 to 20 donors, enabling the total amount it is able to award in grants to rise from \$1 million in 1997 to \$13 million in new grants in 2016. This is a great achievement in an area that still struggles to achieve the funding priority it deserves.

24. As of December 2016, the Governments of Australia, Austria, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom had contributed to the Trust Fund's twentieth grant-making cycle.

25. Support was also received from the UN-Women National Committees of Finland, Japan, Singapore and the United States of America, the Swedish Postcode Foundation, the UN-Women for Peace Association and new private sector partners.

26. In April, the Trust Fund kicked off activities to mark 20 years of grant-making in partnership with SeeMe, a fair trade jewellery company, which created a unique “Orange Heart” necklace as a symbol of the Trust Fund’s twentieth anniversary. The necklace was produced by survivors of violence in Tunisia using traditional local techniques; 50 per cent of proceeds from sales of the necklace will benefit Trust Fund-supported projects. Speakers at an event organized in Amsterdam included a representative of the Government of the Netherlands and the Director of Fund B92, a Trust Fund grantee working with women survivors of violence in Serbia.

27. In October, the Trust Fund, in partnership with the London College of Fashion in the United Kingdom, launched its own “Orange Label” project to symbolize a commitment to a bright, violence-free future for women and girls and raise resources for the Trust Fund. As part of the “Fashion says no to violence against women” competition, fashion students and educators were invited to produce a piece of work as part of the project to help to raise awareness. Established fashion designers were invited to produce special pieces as part of the project, incorporating the message of ending violence against women and girls. The eye-catching project is aimed at adorning a variety of products and engaging small and large-scale companies around the world. Designed by students of the college, the “Orange Label” will be used as a brand for cause-related marketing initiatives to benefit Trust Fund-supported programmes. Whether used as an actual label sewn into clothing or as a recognizable addition to any product outside of the fashion industry, the “Orange Label” will connect the private sector and Trust Fund-supported programmes in joint efforts to prevent and end the pandemic of violence against women and girls.

28. In November, the Trust Fund held a twentieth anniversary fundraising gala dinner in New York to celebrate its life-changing results and achievements over the past 20 years. The gala, which was hosted by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and UN-Women Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman, brought together internationally renowned figures from the world of cinema, theatre, journalism and philanthropy and Trust Fund beneficiaries who shared their stories about their direct experiences of efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

## **V. Grant giving and grantee achievements**

29. In 2016, the Trust Fund received 1,792 applications for funding, from 117 countries and territories. The overwhelming majority (90 per cent) of applicants were civil society organizations, and 5 per cent of applications were focused on measures to address violence against women and girls in the context of the current refugee crisis. The total funding requested was more than \$677 million. The Trust Fund awarded \$13 million, in 36 grants, covering 30 countries and territories. Grants were awarded for the first time to programmes in Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Montenegro. The regional distribution of funds allocated was 29 per cent to programmes in Africa; 26 per cent to programmes in the Arab States and North

Africa; 24 per cent to programmes in Asia and the Pacific; 14 per cent to programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 7 per cent to programmes in Europe and Central Asia.

30. Grants amounting to \$1.25 million were awarded in the form of small grants (less than \$125,000) to 11 small organizations with annual operational budgets below \$200,000. By adopting a strategic focus on smaller national organizations, the Trust Fund seeks to harness the enormous potential for fundamental and sustainable change embodied in grass-roots and women-led organizations. Projects awarded small grants in 2015 addressed a wide range of themes, as the following examples from Kyrgyzstan and Serbia illustrate.

31. In Kyrgyzstan, a Trust Fund grant helped the National Federation of Female Communities of Kyrgyzstan to develop the operational concept for an educational programme on life without violence to teach girls living in rural areas vital skills to prevent and respond to threats of violence in the family, school and society. A total of 750 girls, 485 boys and 351 adults (including 16 teachers) took a course on the right of girls to protection from violence. One participant commented, “We can see how consciousness, awareness and behaviour of our girls and boys are changing before our very eyes after taking the course”. A project implemented by the Association of Women — Sandglass in Serbia worked to strengthen prevention and response services in Rasina County, one of the most underdeveloped districts in the country. In the first half of 2016, 75 new women survivors of violence called the Sandglass emergency hotline and accessed support services from partner organizations. Beneficiaries reported that they felt more empowered after turning to Sandglass and that the organization had provided them with essential information that they could trust. Roma beneficiaries also reported that they felt safer, better informed about their rights and more empowered to demand them. The grantee provided essential services to 13 new Roma women, twice the number from 2015. Training has also been provided to 16 counsellors and 9 activists working to support women in situations of violence.

32. Sustainability is a core element of the Trust Fund’s strategy; one of the ways it is being pursued is by selecting successful projects for a further round of funding to further embed progress made and good practice. For example, Physicians for Human Rights is implementing a project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya that builds on the achievements of a previous project, scaling up successful cross-sectoral strategies to respond to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings. The project is focused on deepening and broadening the capacity of local partners to assume full ownership of training on forensic methods and documentation, including through MediCapt, a mobile application developed in the first phase of the project.

33. In the paragraphs below, a representative cross section of projects already supported by the Trust Fund in 2016 is provided. The projects cover the key areas of Trust Fund work: preventing violence against women, particularly through initiatives addressing young people in order to change attitudes about gender inequality; ensuring that survivors have access to appropriate multisectoral services; and supporting the implementation of legislation and regulations to prevent and address violence against women. The examples also cover the Trust Fund’s special thematic windows regarding conflict and post-conflict contexts, the intersection between HIV and violence against women and girls, and violence against adolescent girls.

## A. Prevention

34. Preventing violence against women and girls is a key element in most of the projects funded by the Trust Fund. Early intervention at a time when social attitudes are being formed is especially important for effecting change, and many grantees implemented projects that are focused on schools and educational settings and on youth organizations.

35. In Armenia, Society Without Violence worked to improve the educational aspect of the country's first national action plan to combat gender-based violence. The project achieved several crucial milestones, including the publication of a supplementary guidebook endorsed by the Ministry of Education, which is now the main tool used in teacher training in the country, and trained 95 social science teachers.

36. Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, a local women's organization in Bangladesh, is working with 80 secondary schools in four districts to challenge harmful norms and attitudes that condone and promote violence against women. By the end of the project, 95 per cent of students in all targeted schools had attended awareness-raising sessions, which are having a life-changing impact on students. Other activities implemented by the grantee included skills camps focusing on self-defence, which were attended by 160 young people. The camps were so popular that schools have decided to continue them beyond the end of the project.

37. The Mongolian Women's Fund is working with local councils in Mongolia's Dornod Province and Baganuur District on awareness-raising programmes in schools. The training was trialled in four selected schools, and an improved understanding of gender-based violence and positive changes in the attitudes of both students and staff confirmed that the classes were both very much needed and effective. The grantee also managed to secure funding from the municipal government to ensure the sustainable continued implementation of the piloted curriculum.

38. In the State of Palestine, the Community Media Center in Gaza worked to raise awareness of the pervasive nature of violence against women and to put pressure on decision makers to formulate policies and procedures to protect women. Thirty-two women media students were trained and, in the first six months of 2016, 114 media stories and reports were produced; 75 were published on the Center's website and Facebook page and on the websites of other local news agencies. Ten awareness-raising workshops were held in three governorates in Gaza and were attended by 449 women and 206 men.

39. In South Africa, Grassroot Soccer, a youth organization, implemented a girl-centred project in coordination with its partners to foster girls' empowerment and awareness of sexual and reproductive rights. From January to June 2016, it engaged 668 boys and 847 girls in the "Generation Skillz" programme. Findings from an end-of-project study showed that adolescent girls reported fewer experiences of violence and were less likely to justify violence. They also showed an increase in knowledge about HIV, violence against women and girls and the community health services available.

40. The Trust Fund supported a project by Plan Viet Nam to address gender-based violence in and around schools, one of the main barriers to girls' empowerment and gender equality. The project reached more than 31,000 adolescent girls and boys aged 11 to 18 in 20 schools across Hanoi. On the basis of the model's success, the Hanoi Department of Education planned to replicate the initiative across 766 schools in the city, potentially reaching over 500,000 adolescents.

## **B. Services**

41. Another pillar of the Trust Fund's strategy to address violence against women and girls, which is an important part of many projects, is the provision of essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services to ensure that survivors are protected and reintegrated into their communities. This requires staff and policymakers who are well trained and properly sensitized and service providers that are coordinated effectively and are responsive to the needs of survivors of violence.

42. For example, in El Salvador, which continues to have the highest rate of femicides in the world, a project implemented by the Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz is working to improve institutional responses and coordination and to enhance oversight and advocacy skills among local women's and youth organizations. The project has provided specialist training for 60 police officials in 17 municipalities on how to respond more effectively to cases of violence against women, and at least 1,000 people have been made aware of the services available to those affected by violence against women and girls.

43. In Liberia, a project implemented by Episcopal Relief and Development, which is working with Christian, Muslim and interfaith leaders, has trained six youth faith leaders and facilitators in participatory methods appropriate to the issue of gender-based violence to prepare them for their roles as facilitators. In addition, 30 young people have become members of two national interfaith coalitions against gender-based violence.

44. In Morocco, Initiatives pour la protection des droits des femmes implemented a comprehensive intervention model to enhance women's access to protection and justice. Over the lifetime of the project, its "Batha" multifunctional centre in Fez received four times the number of users originally envisaged and provided 2,049 women and girl survivors of violence with quality psychological counselling, health services and legal assistance. In 2016, at least 54 survivors accessed the economic livelihoods service offered by the Batha centre.

45. ActionAid Myanmar implemented a comprehensive initiative to improve service delivery in Yangon. The project, which built on a successful pilot project conducted in 2012, placed special emphasis on promoting access to justice by providing legal aid services to rural women. Most of the paralegals interviewed reported greater confidence in dealing with cases of violence against women and girls as a result of project training, and 196 women benefited from consultations with paralegals, who referred 11 cases to Legal Clinic Myanmar for further case support.

46. Najoti kudakon, which runs the only shelter for women survivors of violence in Tajikistan, is working to improve access to services for rural women in the mountainous Kulob region. In the project coverage areas, 135 women, 61 of whom

are survivors of domestic violence, completed training to acquire the skills to assist other women. The project supported the establishment of 12 women's support groups in villages of the Kulob region, which became referral mechanisms to the shelter and other essential services provided by the organization. During the first year of implementation, 51 survivors were referred to support and legal services, 38 of whom had experienced domestic violence.

47. Access to justice was the focus of a project implemented in Timor-Leste by the Chega Ba Ita Association to empower women survivors of sexual violence under the Indonesian occupation (1975-1999). Operating in 13 districts, the programme is working directly with survivors and a national women's organization and is continuing to engage policymakers and parliamentarians. Fifteen survivors of violence were involved in training to enhance their leadership and organizational capacity, and four women made films about their experiences during the conflict. Three women have started working groups in their communities to support one another to be economically independent.

48. The Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust is implementing a project in 10 districts in Zimbabwe, which has reached around 500 women and girls with disabilities, providing them with information on violence against women, reporting procedures and relevant laws that protect women from violence. It also provided 93 survivors of violence with practical help. In addition, the project helped to train 41 police and court officials in sign language and on the impact of various impairments on reporting gender-based violence.

### **C. Implementing laws**

49. Around two thirds of applications received every year by the Trust Fund seek to ensure the effective implementation of laws against violence against women. A key challenge addressed by many grantees is to ensure that States fulfil their obligations to enforce laws and fully implement national action plans and policies to prevent and address violence against women.

50. Restless Development Nepal, a Trust Fund grantee, is using its proven direct delivery methodology to provide 4,504 young people in 32 schools in Nepal with knowledge on sexual and reproductive health. The students organized 121 events against Chhaupadi, the harmful traditional practice of segregating menstruating women from their families and communities, which was outlawed by the Supreme Court of Nepal in 2005. In addition, community leaders and traditional healers from four districts received training on sexual and reproductive health, and six partner civil society organizations received technical assistance on how to mainstream work against Chhaupadi and gender-based violence in their regular programming.

51. In the State of Palestine, the Psychosocial Counselling Centre for Women is working to eliminate gender-related killings of women owing to so-called "family honour". The grantee began a training programme for government officials from the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs and the police in Hebron and Bethlehem to encourage them to implement the existing national referral system. Forty workshops were held in 10 locations to raise community understanding of the justice system and how women can increase their access to protection services. The organization

referred 1,439 cases of violence against women to the police and provided legal representation or support in court to 400 women.

52. In Peru, Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer implemented a project to address impunity for sexual violence through improved application of the new Peruvian Code of Criminal Procedure. The project provided training to 4,721 officials, including judges and prosecutors. The city of Junin has approved a protocol on the constitution of a unified declaration procedure for victims of sexual violence, drafted by the grantee. In addition, 627 women leaders from 75 organizations representing 33,700 women received training, of whom 115 initiated proceedings with the authorities.

53. Building on the success of the regional Safe Cities programme in Latin America, Sur Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación worked with survivors and the police to ensure effective institutional responses to violence against women in private and public spaces in Chile, Colombia and El Salvador. The project ensured that more than 385 women and girls and 85 survivors of violence knew about the protection systems available to them. A total of 436 officers from the three police forces targeted by the project received training on integrating a gender perspective into their work.

54. In Togo, Alafia, a small, young and committed organization, is working to eradicate harmful traditional widowhood practices that increase the risk of HIV infection. Although a law adopted in 2012 grants widows the right to refuse such practices, most communities are not aware of it and the practices remain widespread, especially in rural areas. In March and April, two capacity-building workshops were organized across 24 villages, involving 1,960 community leaders and village chiefs, of whom 1,193 were women. By the end of the workshops, 95 per cent of village chiefs and 90 per cent of community leaders demonstrated better knowledge and understanding about women's rights and committed to continue to sensitize their peers to help to eradicate this harmful traditional practice.

#### **D. Conflict**

55. Several grantees implemented projects to address the particular needs of women and girl survivors of violence in conflict or post-conflict settings through one of the Trust Fund's special funding windows. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Panzi Foundation is scaling up its integrated human rights-based psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic support provision in one-stop centres in two districts. So far, 119 sexual violence survivors have received information on services available at the centres. They received legal counselling from paralegals and were referred to the Panzi Legal Clinic after the initial legal counselling session. In partnership with Physicians for Human Rights, the programme will also train medical, legal and psychosocial professionals on the principles of the Panzi model and on the adequate collection of forensic evidence of sexual violence.

56. Promundo is implementing a project that builds on its evidence-based experience to prevent violence against girls in the context of high levels of urban violence (Brazil) and in conflict-affected settings (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Working directly with adolescent girls and boys who have experienced or

witnessed violence, the project uses group education and counselling to foster critical reflections on their experiences and healthy, non-violent attitudes and behaviours. Two “living peace” manuals for youth were tested and a 16-hour training programme based on the manuals is being delivered. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 32 students of clinical psychology and psychologists from local universities have been identified as facilitators. In Brazil, Promundo hosted meetings with 19 key stakeholders in education policy.

57. The Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice, the only international women’s organization to be granted *amicus curiae* status by the International Criminal Court, worked to strengthen local capacity to gather credible data on gender-based crimes in armed conflict and expand access to justice for war-affected women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, the Sudan and Uganda. During the period of the grant, the project in North and South Kivu assisted 2,072 survivors of sexual and gender-based crimes to access medical treatment and psychosocial support (in comparison, in 2012, the figure was less than 250). Of those, 85 per cent were also assisted through the project to undergo surgery for rape-related injuries. A total of 78,675 direct and indirect beneficiaries in all intervention countries participated in the programme and activities. Among the beneficiaries were more than 36,300 women and girl survivors of sexual and gender-based crimes.

58. The achievements of the Victims Support Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia during a previous project showed potential for significant and sustainable impact, and the grantee was invited to apply for further funding. The current project is aimed at reinforcing and enhancing gender sensitivity among stakeholders and ensuring the meaningful participation of women survivors of gender-based violence in the Court’s proceedings with regard to widespread human rights violations committed by the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979. A new component of the project is to connect women survivors with skills training for income generation in recognition of the financial impact such trauma has had on families.

## **E. Underserved groups**

59. The Trust Fund is investing more than \$22 million to support underserved and marginalized women and girls. This represents a significant increase from 2015. Among the groups benefiting from these grants are migrants and refugees; women with disabilities; indigenous women; domestic workers; women sex workers; women living with HIV; lesbian, bisexual and transgender women; and elderly women. The examples below reflect the diversity of the initiatives supported and the methodologies adopted.

60. In Albania, the Alliance against LGBT Discrimination implemented a project to improve the quality of response services available for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women experiencing violence. The project published the first-ever nationwide research that provided the basis for informed policymaking on preventing discrimination and violence. In addition, the grantee trained contact points in six cities to address the specific needs of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women in those communities.

61. In Mauritania, the Trust Fund grantee SOS-Esclaves supported 44 women and children survivors of slavery. The project also delivered two workshops on female leadership training and monthly sensitization meetings led by women mentors. More than 1,260 people, the majority of them women, attended these meetings. The National Coordinator of SOS-Esclaves attended the eighth session of the Forum on Minority Issues, held in Geneva on 24 and 25 November 2015, and gave a presentation on the systematic discrimination faced by Haratin and Afro-Mauritanians in the criminal justice system in Mauritania. SOS-Esclaves secured the convictions of two slave owners from a very influential and powerful tribe: the first-ever convictions by the special courts for slavery.

62. Fundacio Sida i Societat implemented a project to prevent and reduce sexual violence against sex workers in Guatemala. The female sex workers' network established by the project raised awareness about sexual and reproductive rights, HIV, gender-based violence and the services available among 418 sex workers, 33 indigenous women and 187 girl survivors of violence through peer education.

63. Jamaica AIDS Support for Life is the only non-governmental organization providing clinical services to people living with HIV and other key populations in Jamaica and has consistently been part of the best practices submission to the Global AIDS Response Progress Report. The perspective of more than 90 per cent of all clients who accessed the organization's services was that they are enjoying better health. Targets were surpassed throughout the project's duration. At least 1,469 women, girls and transgender people affected by HIV and violence against women accessed services during the reporting period. The three clinic sites reported increased clinic attendance, HIV and syphilis testing and uptake of other services. In addition, more than 532 women and girls now have knowledge and training in life skills, legal literacy and advocacy to respond to violence against women. Fifty-two law enforcement officials and 36 administrative resident magistrates and judges took part in sensitization training to enable them to respond appropriately to the needs of women and girls affected by HIV and violence.

64. In the United Republic of Tanzania, Equality for Growth, a local women's organization, is working to bolster women's economic rights and reduce their vulnerability to violence by creating safe environments in six markets in two districts of Dar es Salaam. The programme builds on beneficiary recommendations gathered in a previous project implemented by the organization in five marketplaces. A network of 40 legal community supporters and paralegals has been established, and 25 paralegals attended a two-day training session to gain greater knowledge about violence against women and women's rights and on how to support women and girls in reporting gender-based violence.

## **F. Grantees in the twentieth cycle**

65. Building on the previous success of the Trust Fund's focus on small organizations, the twentieth funding cycle, completed in November 2016, continues and expands this special funding window with projects in Belarus, Burkina Faso and Serbia focused on adolescent girls. These projects are aimed at improving access to information about issues related to sexuality and health, to provide knowledge and skills to identify and respond to violence and to develop and disseminate materials to

address societal attitudes that underlie intimate partner violence. Other new projects will work to improve access to justice for survivors of violence (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mexico); mobilize communities and schools to develop mechanisms to protect girls from sexual violence (Nigeria); and use art and sport to promote women's leadership and empowerment and end violence against women and girls (Rwanda). Improving access to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services for survivors is the focus of new projects in Cambodia, Montenegro, Solomon Islands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

66. The Trust Fund is supporting five new projects through the special window addressing violence against women in the context of the refugee crisis. Based in Iraq and Jordan, the aims of the projects are to monitor, document and report sexual and gender-based violence against Syrian refugees; raise awareness of these crimes and improve access to support services; provide assistance to Yazidi women and girl survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; empower individual women and engage multiple stakeholders to create a better environment to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in the Kurdistan region of Iraq; and provide outreach to highly vulnerable and isolated women and girls in Jordan with education about available support services, women's rights and violence prevention.

67. In Africa, new grants were awarded to projects in Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali and Sierra Leone, which will be focused on providing multisectoral services; preventing violence against women and adolescent girls through empowerment activities; changing social norms in order to end harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting and early marriage; preventing the commercial sexual exploitation of girls; and improving access to justice for survivors of sexual violence. Primary beneficiaries will include adolescent girls, refugees and underserved women, including those living with HIV/AIDS and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.

68. New projects receiving Trust Fund support in Latin America and the Caribbean seek to increase the effective implementation of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end violence against women and girls through public awareness campaigns, and to encourage women to become agents for change in their communities. Projects will be active in three countries (Chile, Colombia and Guatemala) and work with underserved groups, such as indigenous and Afro-descendent women.

69. In the Arab States, a new project in Lebanon will be focused on refugees, women human rights defenders and women and girls who have been trafficked or subjected to intimate partner violence in the context of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. A project will be implemented in the State of Palestine that seeks to ensure that women and girl survivors of violence have access to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services.

70. In Asia and the Pacific, women with disabilities are the focus of a Trust Fund-supported project in Cambodia, while a project in India will work on preventing intimate partner violence and child and forced marriage in rural communities, especially among Dalit domestic workers. Projects in Myanmar and Solomon Islands will be focused on access to justice and ending impunity; the project in Myanmar will seek to meet the needs of transgender sex workers. Lastly, a project

in Pakistan will work to build women's leadership capacity and explore economic self-help solutions for survivors.

71. In Europe and Central Asia, Trust Fund-supported projects will focus on the protection and service needs of older women who are at risk of or have experienced violence (Republic of Moldova) and enhance the economic empowerment of survivors of violence by providing educational and mentoring support, as well as opportunities for self-employment (Serbia).

## **VI. The way ahead**

72. The meta-evaluation and survey of grantees undertaken by the Trust Fund in 2016 have provided a solid platform for the future. They have allowed the Trust Fund to reflect and to move forward with confidence as it continues to amass and leverage a unique body of knowledge and experience from its grantees on preventing and ending violence against women and girls, and at the same time increasing its own effectiveness.

73. The Trust Fund's work over the next five years will be underpinned by a vision of sustainable development that aims to change the funding model from a "donor dependent" model towards the creation of a sustainable programme of work embedded in broader State institutional responses. A key challenge will be to encourage and support Governments to meet the standard of due diligence and ensure that they fulfil their obligations to enforce laws and implement and allocate adequate resources for national action plans and policies to prevent and address violence against women.

74. The Trust Fund will continue to strive to assist policymakers and legislators to be both proactive and responsive in advancing the realization of women's human rights, working fully in partnership with Member States, the United Nations system and civil society organizations. Economic disadvantage is a pervasive consequence of gender-based discrimination, both driving violence against women and restricting women's options to protect themselves from such violence. Supported projects seek to address this through a range of methodologies and approaches, from helping women to protect themselves in the workplace to skills acquisition that can foster economic independence.

75. In order to meet these vital and ambitious aims, the Trust Fund will continue to expand its portfolio of partners and to seek new and creative ways to engage with potential allies in order to increase support for grantees, large and small, in addressing violence against women and girls in all its forms in every corner of the world. The imagination and energy sparked by the Secretary-General's "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign and its "orange" initiatives have brought greater global attention to violence against women and girls and, most importantly, have given a clear indication of the enormous potential for change that the Trust Fund is committed to continuing to foster.