



# UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013



*“I am not afraid anymore and I will not go back to him anymore. I have received a lot of help and I know I can do it now. I have my own place, my daughter goes to kindergarten and now I only need a job. I can do anything now.”*

*Elvedina, a survivor of intimate partner violence, Gorazde, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women (UN Trust Fund) was established by the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/166, in 1996 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. The UN Trust Fund is a global multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports local, national, regional and cross-regional efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

COVER PHOTO: Peaceful Families Initiative, Ban Mae Surin Refugee camp, Mae Hong Son province, Thailand

*I met Elvedina earlier this year during a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and was inspired by her confidence and courage. I have no doubt that she will go on not only to turn her own life around and secure a future for her daughter, but also to encourage and support others to overcome violence.*

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) was there to review a recently completed initiative of the UN Country Team (UNCT) Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project sought to improve multi-stakeholder referral processes for women and girls experiencing violence; in Elvedina's case this proved crucial. The first person Elvedina turned to when she decided to take action was a social worker, who was able to use the referral process to coordinate the work of a range of agencies (the police, health workers, education workers and judicial officials). Together, they secured a temporary safe place for Elvedina. That was her steppingstone to a new phase in her life.

This report highlights how in all regions during 2013 the UN Trust Fund has turned donors' support into concrete improvements in the lives of women and girls who, like Elvedina, have experienced or are at serious risk of violence.

We are publishing this Annual Report at a key moment in the global campaign to end violence against women and girls. The world is gearing up to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and its Declaration and Platform for Action. The next year is also the target year for the current development framework, the Millennium Development Goals. The Beijing Conference created the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights, a defining framework for change. It also brought violence against women definitively out of the shadows and put it centre stage at the UN. The Platform for Action set out key commitments regarding violence against women, which it identified as “an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development

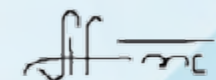
and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.” Despite this, in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals failed to address the issue of violence against women and girls.

This year represents a critical juncture for the future of efforts to end violence against women and girls and for positioning the issue firmly and unequivocally in the post-2015 development framework. The expectations are high and rightly so. They are founded on a conviction that the right to a life free of violence is a basic human right that all women and girls should enjoy. And we are guided by a vision that is shaped by collectively agreed commitments.

The UN Trust Fund is more determined than ever to turn such commitments into reality by securing a significant rise in available funding and reversing years of gross underfunding for work on violence against women and girls. In order to raise women's hopes and for Elvedina to meet her aspirations for the future, we, too, need to raise our sights. That is why, as a first step, we have set ourselves the challenge of doubling the amount available for grant-giving in 2014 by raising US\$15 million.

This report aims to show why this funding is crucial to the lives of women and girls all over the world. It also looks at how we have gone about fulfilling our commitment to support our common strategic goals, efficiently and with maximum impact.

Aldijana Šišić



Chief

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

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# OVERVIEW

## A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

In 2013, the UN Trust Fund awarded grants worth **US\$7.86 million**. It gave 17 grants – to 16 civil society organizations and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda – covering 18 countries and territories. By 2017, the impact of these grants is expected to affect the lives of **2.3 million people**.



This represents only a fraction of the requests for funding received. In 2013, the UN Trust Fund received 2,410 applications for a total of more than **US\$1.1 billion from 145 countries**. The majority of applications were from civil society organizations.



## TRANSFORMING LIVES

The reach and impact of the work of UN Trust Fund grantees in 2013 was global and ground-breaking.

**3 million people** including more than **30,000 survivors** of violence, benefited from the work of grantees during the year.

**1/3** of all funding went to organizations working with young and adolescent girls. By 2017, these programmes are expected to benefit more than **43,000 girls** across three regions.

**30 per cent** of Trust Fund grantees are working to mobilize communities.

**32 per cent** of Trust Fund grantees are promoting legal and policy reforms or advancing their implementation, with excellent results.

**15 per cent** of Trust Fund grantees are implementing programmes that address violence in conflict-related contexts.



**SOME OF UN TRUST FUND  
GRANTEES AROUND THE WORLD**

**SOUTH SUDAN**

More than 42,000 people were involved in community-based activities organized by the American Refugee Committee and 287 survivors of gender-based violence received comprehensive legal and health services.

**SERBIA**

12,091 people used the SOS hotline in Serbia and 662 survivors received practical help.

**IRAQ**

More than 5,000 people benefited from a gender-based violence referral pathway system initiated by the International Medical Corps to provide survivors of gender-based violence in Bagdad with integrated counselling, psychosocial support, legal assistance and medical care at primary health care centres. A patient exit survey revealed that 98 per cent of survivors were strongly satisfied or satisfied with the support services they received.

**CAMBODIA**

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court handed down the country's first conviction for an acid attack. The law that made this conviction possible was passed following extensive advocacy by the Acid Survivors Trust International, and their partner, the Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity.

**TONGA**

The first domestic violence legislation in the country was passed thanks in part to the advocacy efforts of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team.

**MEXICO**

Criminal investigation protocols for documenting gender-motivated killings were established in Oaxaca and Colima states as a result of a successful collaboration between Catholics for the Right to Free Choice and the state authorities.

**GUATEMALA**

5,000 girls were trained by young mentors to become community leaders and agents of social change through the work of girls-only clubs set up in 12 communities by the Population Council.

**SIERRA LEONE**

Standard Operating Procedures for holistic services to survivors of sexual and domestic violence were endorsed by the Sierra Leone Police, with support from the International Rescue Committee.

**THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO AND KENYA**

Two medico-legal networks bringing together 340 public officials were established by Physicians for Human Rights to address cases of sexual violence comprehensively, from collecting evidence to establishing redress measures.

**UGANDA**

Raising Voices and Uganda's Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention rolled out the successful SASA! methodology in 13 African countries.

**INDIA**

The Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative set up a mechanism for annual monitoring of the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. The mechanism is due to be integrated into the work of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Mission for Empowerment of Women.

# 2013 AWARD WINNERS

In 2013, several UN Trust Fund grantees received international recognition for their ground-breaking initiatives



**PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS** won first prize in the USAID-Humanity United Tech Challenge for Atrocity Prevention. They pioneered the mobile app “Medicapt” that equips health-care providers with the tools to collect, document and preserve court admissible forensic evidence of torture and sexual violence and enables them to transmit this data securely to the authorities. The app is being piloted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya.



**THE KARNATAKA HEALTH PROMOTION TRUST** in India, which supports and implements initiatives related to HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, received the World Health Organization Award for Excellence in Primary Healthcare in the category “Innovations for improving access and ensuring continuity of care”.



In Zimbabwe, the African regional organization **SAfAIDS** was awarded the National Non-Governmental Organization Award for Excellence in the fight against HIV and AIDS.



**EQUAL ACCESS NEPAL** received the Avon Communications Award: Speaking Out about Violence against Women for its Voices-Samajhdari project.

## INTRODUCTION

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996. The Fund is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the UN System and works closely with the rest of the System through the members of its Programme Advisory Committee.<sup>1</sup>

The Trust Fund supports and strengthens the work of UN-Women and the UN System to prevent and end violence against women and girls. UN-Women provides the Fund with a strong institutional foundation and field support through its regional, multi-country and country offices. Working in synergy with UN-Women, other UN agencies and members of the Programme Advisory Committee, the Trust Fund plays a vital role in driving forward collective efforts that engage the wider community, women and men, girls and boys, to eliminate violence against women and girls.

The Fund is dedicated to working to prevent and end violence against women and girls worldwide. Every year, without fail, we raise and distribute funds to support this ultimate goal. Grants are awarded to civil society organizations, governments, and United Nations country teams (UNCTs) to support initiatives to improve the lives of women and girls at the local, national, regional and cross-regional level.

So far, the UN Trust Fund has supported 368 initiatives in 132 countries and territories. The Fund currently supports 78 initiatives in 71 countries and territories with grants totalling US\$56.8 million.

A focused strategic plan has been the key to our past success and helped set clear and measurable goals for the future. The UN Trust Fund targets funding to its three priority programme areas:

- *preventing violence against women and girls;*
- *expanding access to services; and*
- *strengthening the implementation of laws, policies and action plans.*

Through its special thematic windows the Fund also focuses on initiatives that meet the multiple needs of survivors of violence in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings; that address the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women and girls; and that advance the rights of young and adolescent girls.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Much has been achieved since the UN Trust Fund was established. In 1995, at the time of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, only a handful of countries had policies to address violence against women and girls. Today, national governments are moving towards a more comprehensive response to this worldwide pandemic. This significant progress shows that change is possible.

<sup>1</sup> In 2013, Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members at the global and sub-regional levels included: the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as the World Bank. Leading civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels – including representatives from the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Equality Now, the Open Society Institute and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – were also actively involved in the grant-making process.



The right of women and girls to live free of violence continued to gain ground both at the level of policy and practice during 2013. For example, the 57th Commission on the Status of Women adopted the agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls; United Nations Security Council Resolution 2106 (2013) and Resolution 2122 (2013) strengthened previous resolutions on sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and on the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict; and more than 130 UN Member States endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

However, for millions of women systematic violations of this right are a daily reality, in their homes and communities, in time of war and of peace. This remains a truly global phenomenon, affecting women in every society and in every region. Recent estimates suggest that one in three women worldwide will experience either physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner in her lifetime.<sup>2</sup> Some of the attacks on women and girls in 2013 were widely covered in the media; they generated public debate, sparked demonstrations and bolstered global activism. At the same time, thousands of people around the world spoke out to say loud and clear: a life free from violence is a fundamental human right.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council, *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*, (Geneva, 2013), pp. 2. Available at <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en/>

Our message is also clear, consistent and compelling: eradicating violence against women and girls is imperative in order to achieve gender equality and advance development. As we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference in 2015, we can be proud of how far we have come while, at the same time, focusing with renewed energy on what remains to be done.

The Association of Women in Development (AWID), a global network of women’s civil society organizations, recently recognized the crucial role played by the UN Trust Fund, especially in the wake of a world financial crisis, in providing multilateral support for national and local organizations working to prevent and end violence against women and girls.<sup>3</sup>

Violence against women and girls is an area of work that has long suffered from chronic underfunding.<sup>4</sup> The UN Trust Fund is committed to reversing this trend.

We have announced that in 2014, in addition to our larger grants, we will begin to invest strategically in smaller, grass-roots women’s and youth-led organizations. The aim is to increase their resources by awarding grants of between US\$50,000 and US\$100,000 and to provide one-to-one technical support to bolster implementation of results-based interventions. By the end of the project, we hope that each of these organizations will have increased its operational and programming capacities and be in a position to attract new funding from other sources.

The experience of the UN Trust Fund shows that demand for funds is growing steadily. In the last five years alone, requests to the Fund have more than doubled. Our challenge is to close this gap between the



Emmy Award-winning television journalist for ABC News, Juju Chang moderates UN Trust Fund award ceremony

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