



The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Strategy 2010–2015

Vision 2015

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Executive Summary: Vision 2015

Seizing the Opportunity

The international community is witnessing an unprecedented opportunity to **break new ground on ending the global pandemic of violence against women and girls**. After decades of struggle by the women's rights movement, a record number of countries have now adopted or strengthened laws, policies or action plans to end violence against women; the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council have passed resolutions urging decisive political action; and in 2008, the Secretary-General launched the signature Campaign *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* that catapulted the issue high on the United Nations' policy priorities. Moreover, practitioners have seen an upsurge in the number of partners joining this global movement, including the media and the private sector, as well as newer actors such as men, youth and faith-based leaders. These factors have all contributed to a historic swell of social and political mobilization for an issue that is now recognized not only as a priority human rights and gender equality concern, but also as a critical factor undermining the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other social and economic indicators.

The Challenge

Despite promising trends, there remains a vast gap between policy promises and the reach and impact of existing interventions, as well as a dearth of evidence-based knowledge on effective practices. Many women and girls remain at risk, without protection or access to services, and many laws and policies have been adopted without concrete implementation plans or budgets. Data and surveys available confirm the extraordinarily high rates and multiple forms of violence against women and girls: ranging from universally-prevalent forms such as domestic and sexual violence (with an estimated 15 to 76 per cent of women targeted during their lifetime, most often by an intimate partner) to harmful practices – including child marriage (with over 60 million girls worldwide married before the age of 18) and female genital mutilation/cutting (that has been practiced on approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide) – to trafficking (80 per cent of those trafficked across national borders annually are women and girls).¹ In addition, particular challenges remain in holistically addressing the complex inter-relationships of violence against women and the wider gender equality and development agenda at policy and programme levels; as well as its inter-cultural aspects in terms of ethnicity, race, religion and other key factors.

Bridging the Gap

As **the leading multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to ending violence against women and girls**, the UN Trust Fund is uniquely positioned to help bridge the gap between the increasing political will to address this pandemic and the need for vastly scaled up capacities and resources to do so. As the UN Trust Fund grows as an internationally-recognized source of support for efforts of government and non-governmental organizations to address violence against women, the demands on its resources grow as well. In 2009, the UN Trust Fund received over 1,600 applications for a record US\$ 850 million in grant requests, an increase of 63 percent in grant requests as compared to the previous year. The UN Trust Fund awarded US\$ 20 million, **meeting less than 5 percent of the total amount of funding requested**. The annual growth in demand – along with the diversity of organizations now applying to the Fund – is an important indication of

¹ See "End Violence Against Women and Girls: The Facts" (compiled by UNIFEM, 2010), available at: www.endvawnow.org/pampa/v0.1/library/filemanager/v1/files/EVAW%20Fact%20Sheet%20for%20KM_EN.pdf.

the growing willingness to address the multiple manifestations of violence against women, a pandemic that fractures families, communities, economies and countries.

‘Vision 2015’

Since its establishment in 1996 by the General Assembly, the UN Trust Fund has nurtured innovation and mobilized key actors and constituencies to affect change – at the community, national and international levels. Based on a competitive, annual grant-making process, the UN Trust Fund has provided funding to organizations that have successfully advocated for passage of national laws and policies, enhanced capacities of judges and law enforcement to address violence against women, and supported communities in finding local solutions.

Guided by the UN Trust Fund Strategy 2005-2009, the Fund grew from grant-making of approximately US\$ 1 million to US\$ 20 million annually over 5 years. “Vision 2015” – the UN Trust Fund’s strategy for 2010 to 2015 – builds on past successes and capitalizes on the unprecedented surge of social and political mobilization for ending violence against women. The UN Trust Fund, additionally, has attracted widespread participation from throughout the UN system, involving as many as 21 UN agencies in making grant decisions and providing overall policy guidance to the Fund at field and global levels. As such, the Strategy focuses on the following key areas, in line the Secretary General’s *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign 2008-2015*:

- **Translating the promise to end violence against women into practice** – *The UN Trust Fund will intensify efforts to turn policy pledges into reality for women and girls* by expanding the quality and quantity of support available for on-the-ground implementation of effective programmes. The Fund will prioritize efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations, women’s groups and networks, and UN Country Teams – including partnerships between them – that lead to measurable results, and generate leading practices.
- **Paving the way to knowledge-based action on ending violence against women** – *The UN Trust Fund will generate and disseminate knowledge on ‘what works’ in the field of ending violence against women* by serving as a global resource to policy-makers, practitioners and donors on model practices for adaptation and expansion. This includes a more rigorous focus on generating solid evidence of effective initiatives that will help to accelerate local, national and global learning.
- **Realizing the potential of a United Nations Global Fund** – *The UN Trust Fund will enhance the role and contributions of the UN System* at the global, regional and country levels to achieve the Fund’s potential as an inter-agency mechanism ‘delivering as one’ in support of national strategies to end violence against women.

These inter-related aims of the Strategy will guide the UN Trust Fund’s grant-making, operations and investments.

Achieving the Vision

Only through targeted, collective efforts will the UN Trust Fund’s vision of closing the implementation gap for ending violence against women and girls come to fruition. To operationalize the 2010-2015 Strategy, the UN Trust Fund will build on the lessons learned from the independent external evaluation of the Fund undertaken in 2009, as well as its consultations with experts, funders and partners worldwide. It seeks to marshal scaled up support in order to achieve the following:

1. **Identification and support of promising innovative practices to end violence against women** that have the potential to become models for widespread impact, and that can be replicated and expanded. This includes support for both larger-scale, multi-stakeholder programmes that can expand access to justice and services for survivors, as well as prevention efforts; while ensuring that smaller NGOs and grassroots organizations continue to have access to much-needed resources to catalyze innovation and local change;
2. **An expanded and vibrant network of partners that will pool their resources and talent base** to help end violence against women and girls. In this regard, the UN Trust Fund will: (i) enhance outreach and direct engagement of governments, philanthropists, women's networks and civil society organizations, men's and youth groups, faith-based organizations, the private sector, the media, and high-profile spokespersons; (ii) continue partnerships with leading research and expert institutions; and (iii) encourage increased ownership and expanded commitment to the UN Trust Fund throughout the UN System, by leveraging the comparative advantages of UN agencies in terms of policy access, expertise and programme assistance;
3. **Thriving cohorts of grantees with improved technical capabilities, capacities for evidence-based programming, and readiness to advance strong multi-stakeholder partnerships** – This includes the provision of rigorous technical training that will bolster evidence-based programming and encourage programmes that are rooted in strong partnerships and linked to relevant governmental policies;
4. **A globally recognized results-based knowledge management system** – The UN Trust Fund will: (i) launch a state-of-the art global monitoring system to facilitate results-based reporting and analysis across grants, as well as identify and manage risks, monitor progress and report on results achieved; and (ii) increase investment in knowledge management to ensure that learning from grantees is effectively captured, synthesized and made widely-accessible;
5. **A high-profile UN Trust Fund leadership team that will help bring the pandemic of violence against women to the global stage** – This includes creating a High-Level Committee to provide overall policy guidance on the strategic directions for the Fund and influencing the broader global agenda; as well as strengthening the Fund's inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee, at global, regional and sub-regional levels; and
6. **Expanded resources to support national and local action that more effectively address violence against women and girls.** Despite the expansive and alarming scope of violence against women (on par with global pandemics such as HIV/AIDS) financial commitments remain a small portion of global investments. Specifically, the UN Trust Fund will respond to the **UN Secretary-General's Campaign call to secure US\$ 100 million in annual grant-making to country efforts through the UN Trust Fund by 2015.**

Conclusion – A Call for Action

The UN Trust Fund has a key role to play in ending violence against women and girls by supporting the Secretary-General's *UNiTE* Campaign and by galvanizing governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to join in the effort. The UN Trust Fund calls upon the public and private spheres to seize the unprecedented opportunity available in the next five years to turn promise into reality for the vast numbers of women and girls who experience violence in their lifetime.

Vision Statement

By 2015, the UN Trust Fund is envisioned as a key supporter of translating promise into practice and as a centre of emerging good practice to end the pandemic of violence against women and girls.

1. Seizing the Global Momentum and Historic Opportunity

The international development community is witnessing an unprecedented opportunity to **break new ground on ending the global pandemic of violence against women and girls**. The intensification of political will, including at the highest levels of government and of the United Nations, as reflected in landmark General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions calling for decisive action and increased resources; the record number of countries adopting or strengthening laws, policies and action plans; the ever-growing range of partners and actors keen on continuing or joining in the struggle, including young people, men and faith-based leaders; and the launch in 2008 of the **Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women** – have all contributed to a historic surge of social and political mobilization for an issue that until recently was perceived as an inevitable consequence of gender inequality, receiving little policy attention and even fewer resources.

Long relegated as a private problem and a women's issue, violence against women and girls is now recognized not only as a priority human rights and gender equality concern, but as a critical issue that undermines the **achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** and countries' prospects for poverty reduction, economic growth and productivity, development, peace and security, educational and health improvements for women and children, and for halting the spread of HIV and AIDS.

The UN Trust Fund Strategy *Vision 2015* is cast within this overall favorable policy context, framed to capitalize on this global opportunity. It focuses on identifying key areas in which the Fund can help trigger critical trends and transformations on how to address violence against women, and make significant and lasting contributions by 2015, and beyond. As the **leading multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to supporting countries in addressing violence against women and girls**, the UN Trust Fund is uniquely positioned to help drive the agenda forward in the coming years.

'*Vision 2015*' thus seizes on the UN Trust Fund's global vantage point with a focus on:

- **turning policy pledges into reality for women and girls and their communities**, by intensifying support to national and local implementation of existing commitments;
- **generating knowledge on 'what works'**, to provide guidance to policy-makers, practitioners and donors on good practices for adaptation and upscaling, including through a more rigorous focus on generating solid evidence of **innovative and catalytic initiatives** that can help chart a roadmap for the future; and,

- **realizing the potential of a United Nations global fund to end violence against women**, by deepening UN system-wide partnerships, ownership and commitment to the Fund, and enhancing the UN's efforts to deliver as one to end gender-based violence.

The Strategy is presented in **two parts**. The first delineates the vision of **what** the UN Trust Fund could accomplish by 2015, explaining the Strategy's rationale and aims with regard to its implementation and learning agenda, with a focus on advancing strategic and catalytic areas of implementation. This is followed by a discussion of **how** this vision will be realized, describing the UN Trust Fund's standards and process for grant-making, and efforts to widen UN Trust Fund partnerships and shared ownership, including through enhanced UN system roles, strengthened stewardship, and resource mobilization.

Violence against Women & the MDGs

"...women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence... violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals ..."

General Assembly Resolution 62/133 on Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, 18 December 2007.

1.1 UN Trust Fund Trends

The UN Trust Fund Strategy, *Vision 2015*, is framed in the context of highly favorable policy trends in recent years, as well as those specific to the UN Trust Fund itself. These include the scope and scale of work it supports; the expanding engagement of UN, donor and other partners; and importantly, a significant expansion of its resource base. This rapid growth has enabled the UN Trust Fund's support to shift from seed funding for small-scale projects to larger, multi-stakeholder efforts working to close the implementation gap.

Table 1: Snapshot of UN Trust Fund Trends: 2004-2010

	<u>2004</u>		<u>2009/2010</u>
Grant making:	Less than US\$ 1 million	→	Over US\$ 20 million
Grant size	Up to US\$ 100,000	→	Up to US\$ 1 million
Average Duration:	1 year	→	3 years
Demand:	US\$ 21M (382 proposals)	→	US\$ 857M (1,643 proposals)
No. of Donors:	7	→	24
No. of Participating UN entities*:	10	→	21 (5 Resident Coordinators)
	Seed Funding	→	Closing the gap on Implementation

*UN agencies participating in the UN Trust Fund's Programme Appraisal Committees (PACs).

Trends in scope and scale: As part of ongoing global scanning of priority needs in the field of ending violence against women, the types of grants supported have shifted from activity-based, smaller and shorter-term projects to more **holistic, programmatically-oriented interventions with an extended time frame to mature for achievement and documentation of higher-level results**. The annual Calls for Proposals and the approval process emphasize **evidence-based approaches**, to ensure that grants are based on lessons learned and good practice, and on **quality standards** of programming. The Calls also make an explicit appeal to work in **especially strategic, priority and emerging issues** (see Section 3.1 for details). These measures and trends are also in line with the effort in recent years (especially as resources began to enable larger, multi-partner and multi-year funding) to capitalize on the Fund's potential as a centre for learning, capturing and disseminating knowledge on promising practices.

Trends in Shared Ownership and Partner Engagement: As the issue of violence against women has gained traction and attention, the UN Trust Fund is benefitting from **strengthened and new partnerships**. UN sister agencies, which have been part of the UN Trust Fund's stewardship since its founding in 1996, are deepening their commitment to the issue and support for the Fund on various levels (see Section 3.2). For example, in recent years, in some cases the highest country-level representatives of the UN System – UN Resident Coordinators – have participated in the grant-making process; UN Country Team members have met at national and sub-regional levels to advise on selection; and UN agencies have ensured the continuation of successful initiatives once UN Trust Fund support ended. This positive trend is also a response to the call for greater UN System-wide action by General Assembly Resolutions and the Secretary-General's Campaign, which is translating into **more sustained and deepened involvement by UN System partners, as well as other private sector and non-traditional partners** coming on board on the issue. Since 2005, Johnson & Johnson and Avon have become key corporate partners, positive experiences that the UN Trust Fund hopes to build on in the coming years; and in 2009, the UN Trust Fund was also brought into the fold of the Clinton Global Initiative as a new Commitment to Action.

Trends in Resources: The intensification of political will in recent years has been a major force behind the significant increase in resources, especially from bilateral donors – resulting in a jump in total grant-making from under US\$ 1 million in 2004 to over US\$ 20 million by 2009. Between 2007 and 2008, **in one year alone, resources for grant-making quadrupled and the encouraging trend continues**. At the same time, however, in tandem with the surge of mobilization on the issue, there has been an exponential growth in global demand for support that far outstrips resources available. In 2009, for example, over 1,600 applications were received with needs totaling US\$ 857 million. On

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