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Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High  
Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

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**Economic and Social Council  
Commission on the Status of Women  
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Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**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**

### *Summary*

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 (UN-Women) on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women, which was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [50/166](#).

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\* E/CN.6/2023/1.



## I. Introduction

1. The United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women is a global, multilateral grant-giving mechanism that supports efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls. It was established by the General Assembly in 1996, 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. The trust fund raises and distributes funds to support multi-year projects to address, prevent and ultimately eliminate violence against women and girls. The trust fund benefits from strong institutional support from UN-Women and its regional, multi-country and country offices and works closely with the rest of the United Nations system through its inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee.<sup>1</sup>

2. The trust fund's long-term vision is a world in which all women and girls live free from all forms of violence and enjoy and exercise their human rights. This vision is in line with international human rights and humanitarian law, agreed norms and standard-setting instruments at the global, regional and national levels. The work of the trust fund aims at contributing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 5, and directly supports the achievement of three targets: end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (target 5.1); eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (target 5.2); and eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (target 5.3).

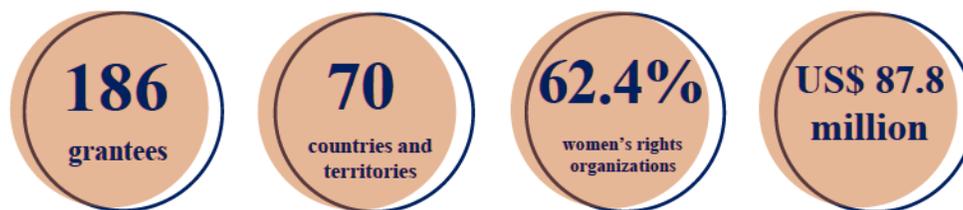
3. The present report, prepared for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the fifty-third session of the Human Rights Council, describes the impact and achievements of the trust fund and its grantees in 2022.

4. During the year, the trust fund managed a grants portfolio of 186 projects aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in 70 countries and territories, across five regions, with grants totalling \$87.8 million. Grant recipients were primarily civil society organizations, the majority (62.4 per cent) being women's rights organizations (see figure I). Since 1996, the trust fund has provided grants for 646 initiatives, across 140 countries and territories, with grants totalling \$214,744,697.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2022, the trust fund's Programme Advisory Committee at the global and regional levels included representatives from leading civil society organizations and other experts on ending violence against women and girls, as well as staff members from 11 United Nations organs and bodies that actively contributed to the trust fund's grant approval processes, providing strategic input to funding decisions and playing a vital role in driving forward collective efforts to engage the wider community in work to prevent and end violence against women and girls. This included representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization. It also included intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels, including representatives from the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Equality Now and the South African Medical Research Council, as well as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences.

Figure I  
2022 trust fund managed portfolio



5. As of December 2022, contributors to the trust fund included the Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Support was also received from the UN-Women national committees of Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States of America, the Spotlight Initiative of the European Union and the United Nations and partners including Conscious Step, Soko and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

6. In the second year of its strategic plan for 2021–2025, the trust fund continued to support grantees in the context of overlapping crises that plunged many into poverty, especially women and girls in marginalized communities, and that put women at risk of various forms of violence. The trust fund launched its twenty-sixth call for proposals for applications, with a special focus on protracted crises. This call for proposals also mainstreams preparedness and building grantees' organizational resilience as first responders to the needs of women and girls in crises, recognizing the increased likelihood of disruptive events due to climate change-related disasters, conflicts and the backlash against the women's rights agenda.

7. As the only United Nations system-wide grant-giving mechanism dedicated to ending violence against women, the trust fund brings together the collective voices of survivors, civil society, Member States and United Nations entities to focus attention on the efforts of key actors and the need for quality resourcing to reach Goal 5 targets by 2030. According to its survey of grantees and partners, in 2022 alone, with the trust fund's platforms and facilitation, 17 grantees established partnerships with UN-Women country offices, 9 partnered with other United Nations entities and 17 initiated collaboration with other trust fund grantees, in addition to numerous new partnerships with other networks, coalitions and government agencies. The trust fund's investment, engagement and commitment to building the organizational resilience of its grantees directly nurture inclusive feminist movements around the world, further contributing to achieving the goals set out in the UN-Women strategic plan for 2022–2025. Furthermore, the trust fund's results were featured in the reports of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (A/77/302), trafficking in women and girls (A/77/292) and intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (A/77/312), which were discussed in the meetings of the Third Committee.

8. The twenty-fifth call for proposals elicited 1,396 applications from 108 countries and territories. The trust fund awarded 37 new grants for a total of \$16,736,870, prioritizing civil society-led, demand-driven initiatives that adopt an intersectional approach and the principle of leaving no one behind, working to end violence against women and girls, especially in rapidly changing and complex contexts. All new grantees are women-led organizations, 73 per cent of which are

women's rights organizations, and nearly half are small organizations,<sup>2</sup> of which 82 per cent applied for a small grant.<sup>3</sup> Lessons learned during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and other overlapping crises informed this call for proposals. For example, the trust fund introduced more flexible and core support for civil society and women's rights organizations (up to 24 per cent of the grant for small organizations) and paid increased attention to contingency and self-care and collective care funding.

## II. Context in 2022

9. Violence against women and girls remains the most widespread breach of human rights globally. The year was marked by escalating conflict and further shrinking of civic spaces, with the lives, bodies, dignity and freedom of women and girls under assault from threats and acts of violence. For instance, the war in Ukraine resulted in mass displacement; as at 23 August 2022, Europe had recorded 6.8 million refugees from Ukraine, of whom more than 8 out of 10 were women and girls.<sup>4</sup> The impact of this war extended well beyond Europe, driving other global crises and exposing women and girls to hunger and increasing poverty.<sup>5</sup> Its impact on exchange rates and prices intensified economic stresses, which in turn affected the level of violence against women and girls. For example, in Tajikistan, the trust fund grantee organization Women's Centre "Gulrukhsor" saw an increase in women seeking help to address abuse and economic stress.

10. The effects of the war in Ukraine, combined with other ongoing and overlapping crises, such as the effects of climate change and the ongoing impact of COVID-19, are intensifying pre-existing crises and trends. Violence against women and girls is underreported, making it particularly difficult to monitor the effects of increasingly complex, longer, overlapping and intersecting crises on women and girls. However, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by humanitarian crises around the world,<sup>6</sup> and existing gender inequalities are exacerbated during and after a crisis. For example, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in crisis settings, 70 per cent of women experience gender-based violence, compared with 35 per cent of women worldwide.<sup>7</sup> In a rapid gender analysis of the Ukraine crisis, CARE International and UN-Women found that most civil society organizations do not have emergency budgets to adapt to such crises.<sup>8</sup> It is against this background that the trust fund focuses on flexible and long-term funding to support a scaled-up response to the long-term consequences of natural and human-made disasters. The provision of flexible multi-year support to civil society and women's rights organization is crucial to enable them to act in the context of rapidly changing, protracted and long-term crises. The trust fund is uniquely positioned to support and resource civil society and women's rights organizations in their efforts to deliver localized services to address violence against women and girls, which distinguishes its funding from that of others.

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<sup>2</sup> Small organizations are defined as those with an average annual operating budget of less than \$200,000 over the previous three years.

<sup>3</sup> Small grants are defined as those for organizations managing annual operating budgets of less than \$200,000 and that are eligible for a trust fund grant of up to \$150,000.

<sup>4</sup> UN-Women, "Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: the gender snapshot 2022" (New York, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> World Food Programme, "War in Ukraine Drives Global Food Crisis" (Rome, 2022).

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Population Fund, Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, Global Protection Cluster, strategy 2021–25 (Geneva, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian action", Global Humanitarian Overview 2021.

<sup>8</sup> UN-Women and CARE International, *Rapid Gender Analysis of Ukraine* (New York, 2022).

11. While the year's crises affected the prevalence of violence against women and girls in a wide range of contexts, marginalized women facing intersecting forms of discrimination continued to experience a disproportionately negative impact in unique, context-specific ways.<sup>9</sup> Trust fund grantees continued to work to build inclusive feminist movements to address these challenges. In Bangladesh, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, in partnership with the Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, created a movement of 10 groups of women and girls living with disabilities and disability rights activists to provide awareness-raising sessions on sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities. These sessions increased the knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights of 1,072 women and girls with disabilities and raised the awareness of 1,997 community members, including families of women and girls with disabilities.

12. Economic, conflict and environmental crises (natural disasters) have also challenged some grantees' progress in bringing about changes in the lives of women and girls. For instance, in Nigeria, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges faced by marginalized women and girls owing to the loss of livelihoods coupled with steep increases in food prices. Notwithstanding this challenging situation, trust fund grantee Society for Life Changers and Good Parental Care, a small women-led organization in Nigeria, continued its work, reaching 2,189 women and girls with disabilities. An evaluation found that 91 per cent of participants surveyed showed increased knowledge of and skills for responding to gender-based violence against women and girls. In addition, eight community leaders pledged their support to assist victims/survivors of gender-based violence in gaining access to help. The grantee initiated partnerships with two other civil society organizations that work on disability rights, the Festus Fajemilo Foundation and the Eco Centre for Women Development, to strengthen their collective advocacy, and legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities was submitted to the Osun State House of Assembly for approval.

13. Trust fund grantees have long-standing experience and robust capacity for ending violence against women and girls in various contexts, which has proven to be essential in the face of challenges such as COVID-19. Experience in effective adaptation illustrates the value of localized interventions to rapidly pivot to the needs of beneficiaries in changing contexts from development to humanitarian settings. To respond to COVID-19, the trust fund rolled out a contingency budget line and allowed flexibility for all grantees to adjust budgets. Strengthening preparedness and response to evolving and emerging crises that generate rapid changes in context will remain central to the work of the trust fund and the support provided to grantees to facilitate grantees' adaptive capacity and organizational resilience. In addition, the trust fund's next call for proposals includes a special focus on ending violence against women in protracted crises, recognizing the need for long-term, predictable and sustained funding for the life-saving work of women's rights organizations in such contexts.

### III. Strategic plan, 2021–2025

14. The trust fund's strategic plan for 2021–2025<sup>10</sup> is contributing to the implementation of the UN-Women strategic plan for 2022–2025 and is oriented towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5. As an inter-agency grant-giving mechanism, the trust fund is well situated to strengthen coordination efforts to end

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<sup>9</sup> Selina Palm and Elisabet Le Roux, "Learning from practice: exploring intersectional approaches to preventing violence against women and girls", (New York, UN-Women, 2021).

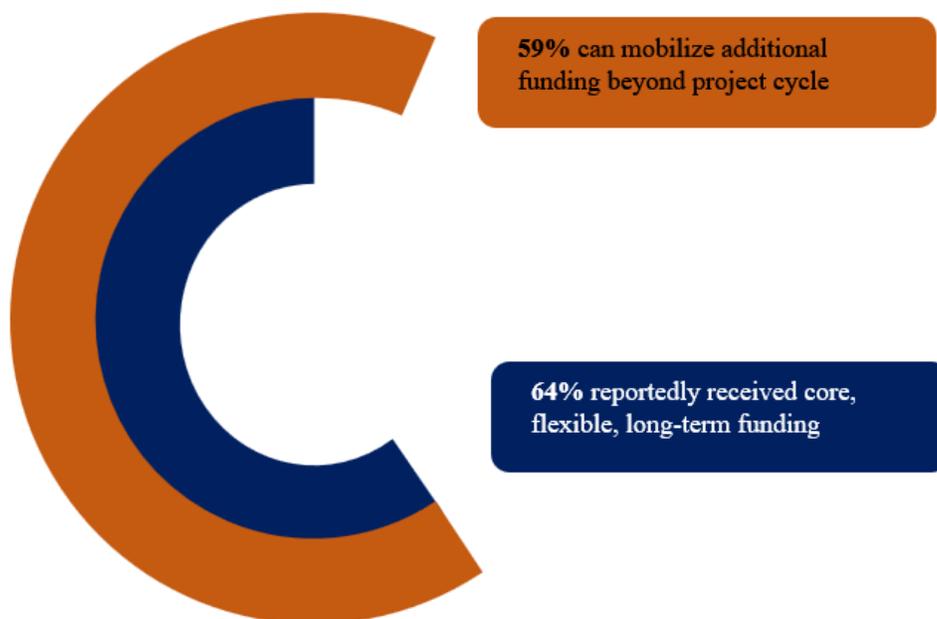
<sup>10</sup> United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women, *Strategic Plan 2021–2025* (New York, UN-Women, 2021).

violence against women and girls across the United Nations system and foster partnerships with civil society and feminist movements, including through the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, which is part of the Generation Equality initiative.

15. The trust fund continues to fund interventions to end violence against women and girls under three outcome areas of the current strategic plan: (a) improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services; (b) improved prevention of violence against women and girls through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes; and (c) increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems. Many funded projects work across these outcome areas, highlighting the grantees' holistic approach to meeting the needs of women and girls and supporting sustainable transformational change.

16. Through long-term and flexible funding, the trust fund enables civil society and women's rights organizations to implement demand-driven initiatives to end violence against women and girls, supporting both programmatic sustainability and organizational resilience. Through its annual grantee partner survey, the trust fund sought information on grantees' ability to mobilize additional funding with trust fund support, and 59 per cent of respondents reported that their organization was able to mobilize additional funding to continue, replicate or scale up either the project funded by the trust fund or other projects working to end violence against women and girls. The trust fund's focus on the importance of flexible, core and long-term funding remains relevant and important for its grantees. Of the respondents who had mobilized additional funding, 64 per cent reported that this was flexible, core and/or long-term funding (see figure II). One grantee respondent reported: "flexible funding means that the funds can be redirected for the needs of the beneficiaries [...] like recently in the pandemic, it enabled us to provide emergency interventions".

Figure II  
**Flexible funding mobilized by grantees in 2022**



17. The trust fund continues to foster collaborative and inclusive knowledge production, exchange and learning, and endeavours to ensure that the knowledge produced by civil society and women's rights organizations and the practice-based

learning on ending violence against women and girls have an increasing impact in informing the United Nations system, key partners and the field of ending violence against women. In 2022, a number of milestones were achieved by the trust fund, including a series of webinars on the topic of “Learning from practice”, which explored the prevention of violence against women and had a combined attendance of 1,746 people. The trust fund also released its first podcast series, entitled “Pathways to prevention”, and in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative secretariat, launched SHINE, an online knowledge exchange hub that encourages co-creation and knowledge exchange among practitioners and advocates for ending violence against women. At the conclusion of the “Learning from practice” webinar series, 89 per cent of surveyed respondents found the series of knowledge products useful for their roles in terms of informing the prevention policy, programming, advocacy and practice of their organizations. A further 84 per cent found the series of knowledge products and webinars on prevention inclusive and accessible.

#### IV. Grants awarded in the twenty-fifth cycle

18. In 2022, 37 new grants were awarded for a total of \$16,736,870. For the first time, organizations in the final stage of the selection process received tailored capacity development support to develop their proposal, with expert advice from the trust fund and external experts. In addition, four webinars were delivered on results-based management, financial planning, operationalizing an intersectional approach and programming principles for ending violence against women.

19. Among the new grantees were eight organizations in Africa focusing on the intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls that put them at higher risk of violence. For example, a project in Cameroon implemented by Leap Girl Africa, a young women-led organization, focuses on groups, including internally displaced people, in 30 target communities. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Solidarité féminine pour la paix et le développement intégral is working with survivors of violence and internally displaced and Indigenous women and girls, as well as women and girls living with disabilities and those on low incomes, to improve the availability of quality, comprehensive and specialist services in North Kivu. A project implemented in Nigeria by Circuit Pointe Charity Foundation focuses on changing societal attitudes and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, including preventing female genital mutilation/cutting.

20. In 2022, 11 new projects in the Americas and Caribbean region were awarded grants. Migrant women, women living with disabilities and transgender and non-binary persons are the main focus of a project implemented in Argentina by the Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos, a women-led eco-feminist organization. In Belize, the women’s rights organization Promoting Empowerment Through Awareness for Lesbian/Bisexual Women is working to empower lesbian and bisexual women of African and Indigenous descent with low levels of education by providing skills training and improved access to economic empowerment services. Empowering excluded women is also at the heart of a project implemented in El Salvador by the Asociación Comunicando y Capacitando a Mujeres Trans con VIH en El Salvador, a women-led, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer activist organization.

21. In the Arab States and North Africa, five organizations were awarded grants in 2022, several of which build on previously funded projects. For example, a project in Iraq to address family-based violence against women in rural and refugee communities as well as marginalized women and girls in the Kurdistan Region, implemented by Asuda for Combating Violence against Women Organization, scales

up an earlier project funded by the trust fund. The Jordanian Women's Union is working with local partners in areas where child and early marriage is widespread to address traditional attitudes that enable violence against women and girls. In Lebanon, Karama is implementing a project to improve access to justice for women and girls who are survivors of violence, with a focus on low-income and refugee communities.

22. Four new grantees are working in the Asia and the Pacific region: two in Cambodia, one in Fiji and one in India. The Cambodian Women's Crisis Center is implementing a project that focuses on preventing and responding to violence against women living with disabilities, women who are entertainment workers and/or self-identified sex workers, women in Cham communities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. In Fiji, Medical Services Pacific is working to address violence against women and girls at the community level by engaging community leaders, men and boys, youth, and women and girls to promote and protect women's human rights in the central and northern parts of Fiji. In India, Jan Sahas is implementing a project to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, focusing primarily on marginalized women and girls facing multiple intersecting forms of discrimination (Dalit and tribal women, Muslim women and single women), using a multisectoral approach to address their needs.

23. Eight organizations in Europe and Central Asia were awarded grants. In Armenia, the Coalition to Stop Violence against Women brings together 11 non-governmental organizations working with marginalized women and girls in a multipronged project that links service provision, primary prevention and advocacy to support and protect women and girls, improve societal awareness and drive institutional reform. In Azerbaijan, a project by the Azerbaijan Society of Disabled Women is working to improve public services for women and girls living with disabilities in settlements for internally displaced people.

## V. Achievements

24. In 2022, trust fund grantees made strides in preventing and ending violence against women and girls under the three outcome areas set out in its strategic plan for 2021–2025. The trust fund has facilitated the sharing of codified practice-based knowledge across its global portfolio through knowledge exchanges between practitioners and researchers on the prevention of violence against women. The trust fund utilizes its global platform to amplify practice-based knowledge in the global ecosystem on ending violence against women in order to ensure that such knowledge is widely recognized and used to inform policy, programming and funding decisions. For instance, in 2022, 55 per cent of respondents to the trust fund's grantee survey reported producing new or updated knowledge and learning products on the issue. The trust fund showcased knowledge and results at multiple points throughout the year, including through its webinar series and external events. This section outlines some of the key achievements of grantees during the year, illustrating the breadth and scope of programming and how they are contributing to the achievement of overall strategic goals, as outlined in the trust fund's strategic plan, in the field of ending violence against women and girls.

25. Trust fund grantees achieved results relating to building strong autonomous feminist movements. In the State of Palestine, the Palestinian Counseling Centre established community-based protection systems in six communities and trained counsellors in community-based organizations on group facilitation skills. Working together with six other organizations, the project established referral mechanisms as

part of a national referral system to effectively prevent and respond to violence against women in Hebron, Tubas and Qalqilyah.

26. In Iraq, the project implemented by the International Federation of Women Lawyers has been leveraging the power of community-based organizations. By investing in ongoing capacity-building of six community-based organizations in data collection and reporting of violence against women and girls, the project was able to map communities in which rates of violence were the highest and to focus on those communities with the project's activities. The creation of and support to a network of 40 community-based organizations have increased the reach of the project in local communities. Regular meetings organized by local people have been instrumental in the success of the prevention component of the project.

27. A pre- and post-implementation evaluation survey among those reached by the grantee Association femme et citoyenneté in Tunisia showed that project workshops managed to reduce resistance to gender equality, improve knowledge on standards for the provision of quality services to women who are survivors of violence and strengthen the network of actors working on supporting survivors. The grantee trained workers on using a risk evaluation and management tool for survivors of violence in order to bolster those efforts and mitigate the risk of biases affecting the quality of the services provided to survivors and the risk of retraumatization of survivors. This tool provides a reference scale and has significantly contributed to improving the quality of services provided to survivors of violence. Consequently, the tool will be used more widely in the region.

28. In 2022, several crises, including the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, continued to exacerbate the various forms and manifestations of violence against women and affect grantees' efforts to address them. However, project delivery was enabled by attention to and investment in programmatic and operational adaptations. For example, the grantee Physicians for Human Rights continued to advance a diversity, equity and inclusion improvement process in Kenya, including aligning staff salaries, filling critical positions, addressing staff overload, providing leadership coaching and improving the staff complaints policy and procedure. Through those changes, the grantee has worked to remedy the gap between the demographics of the staff leadership and the people most affected by its work.

29. The trust fund has continued to invest in institutional strengthening and organizational resilience, developing the capacity of organizations through tailored capacity development sessions, coupled with a grantee handbook and guidance notes to facilitate project implementation. In 2022, 19 trust fund-produced capacity development training programmes involved at least 1,956 attendees delivered through 27 sessions (see figure III). In addition, the trust fund provided access to e-learning courses on: preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, produced by the United Nations Children's Fund; fraud awareness, developed by United Nations inter-agency partners including UN-Women; and project management, developed by the trust fund with support from the UN-Women training centre. In post-training surveys, grantees expressed their organizational needs, which included more information on project planning and enhanced technical skills in monitoring and reporting, communications, project modifications and external evaluations. In response to the needs identified by grantees, the trust fund delivered additional training on project modifications and evaluation planning and management, as well as knowledge-sharing webinars to facilitate conversations among all active grantees about good practices in advocacy through social media and to promote a mutually enabling environment through learning in response to this feedback.

Figure III  
Capacity development reach in 2022



#### A. Preventing violence against women and girls

30. Prevention continues to be a major aspect of grantees' work, often in combination with improving service provision or policy implementation. Approximately 78 per cent of the projects funded in 2022 have a prevention component. Results from the trust fund portfolio include a project implemented by the Forum for Women in Development, Democracy and Justice in Kenya to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation, abuse and violence against women, particularly adolescent girls and young women, in areas in Nairobi and Kajiado County where many refugees are hosted. During the year, the grantee reached 442 girls with skills-building, human rights education and service referral activities. Of the girls who participated in outreach activities, 123 reported visiting specialist support services during the reporting period, which the grantee saw as a reflection of increased knowledge and awareness of available services among the target groups. Some 25 refugee girls were trained as anti-trafficking champions to enhance community prevention and response in refugee and host communities, and 50 girls attended a "learn to earn" programme that was focused on providing vocational skills with which to generate income.

31. In India, the Martha Farrell Foundation is leading a project to prevent violence against domestic workers and end the culture of silence around sexual violence. Through participatory training, game-based and art-based methodologies in safe, empowering spaces, the grantee guided 2,722 women domestic workers on their rights under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013. The grantee developed research-based material to create a repository of data and research led by the community to prevent violence against women domestic workers. Women domestic workers associated with the project also led 25,000 peers in the domestic worker network in a campaign to demand safety in the world of work in Delhi.

32. The Collateral Repair Project in Jordan works to prevent violence against women, specifically intimate partner violence, and seeks to prevent harmful traditional practices and early/child and forced marriage, working with refugee and

internally displaced women who are survivors of violence. The project engages in prevention through cash transfers for the protection of women-led households, emergency assistance programmes, psychological support initiatives and livelihood training. In 2022, the project delivered economic and emotional resilience programming, including cash transfers, that reached 104 women, 72 per cent of whom reported improvements in their financial resilience. The project also worked to build the capacity of women and girls through livelihood training projects, including basic computer skills courses, that reached 52 women. Furthermore, the project increased the knowledge of human rights and violence against women among 93 per cent of the 37 community members who attended such courses.

33. Building on the momentum of the launch of the prevention series entitled “Learning from practice” in 2021, the trust fund continued to raise awareness of the series through six webinars with grantees and experts in the field of ending violence against women. Engaging with the lessons learned from civil society on 10 key prevention pathways, the trust fund’s webinar series created space for analyses and interventions that explored key findings and recommendations for different stakeholders, including practitioners, donors and researchers. An additional event was co-organized with the Spotlight Initiative to introduce SHINE, the online knowledge exchange hub, and present a special edition paper in the prevention series, entitled “Learning from practice: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Prevention of violence against women and girls”. Discussions continued online on SHINE and a special webinar was held during the year to present the results of the trust fund’s annual report for 2021.

34. To amplify the unique role played by civil society organizations, especially women’s rights organizations, in preventing violence against women and girls, the trust fund engaged in several events and created spaces to showcase the work of these organizations. In addition, the trust fund built on the growing interest of the public and partners in the “Learning from practice” prevention series to release its first podcast series. Through the voices of participating grantees, the eight-part series explored the 10 pathways to prevention and provided the space for conversations among practitioners around the conceptualization and implementation of prevention work in different contexts while navigating diverse challenges.

## **B. Improving access to multisectoral services**

35. Grantees, in particular women’s rights organizations, played a crucial role in facilitating access to support services for those affected by violence against women and girls, with approximately 67 per cent of grantee projects having a component focused on improving access to specialized and safe multisectoral services. These services include long-term psychological counselling, medical care, shelters, helplines and legal aid. The urgent need for locally based services rooted in feminist principles is particularly evident in relation to groups of women and girls experiencing intersecting and multiple forms of oppression and discrimination, including women and girls living with disabilities, those living in poverty, internally displaced and refugee women, Indigenous women and members of religious or ethnic minorities.

36. For example, the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care is implementing a project in India that focuses on women affected by burns that were either self-inflicted or inflicted by relatives in the context of domestic and intimate partner violence. The grantee continued to support burn survivors across several districts of Tamil Nadu with nutrition, hygiene and psychosocial support services. During the year, 27 burn survivors and 37 domestic violence survivors were supported in the shelter run by the grantee, and 5,656 follow-up sessions (both

in-person and virtual) were carried out, including 895 counselling sessions, 50 home visits, 27 weekly group sessions, 4 monthly support group sessions and 41 group activities. The project also provided survivors with job opportunities and legal and psychiatric support to help them rebuild a better future for themselves.

37. A project implemented in Uganda under the Spotlight Initiative by the women's organization Integrated Disabled Women Activities is working to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities and refugee and internally displaced women and girls. The project focuses on promoting equitable access to disability-friendly multisectoral services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and empowering women and girls with disabilities to demand their rights. At least 300 women and girls with disabilities have been trained on referral mechanisms for survivors, 56 have been referred to health centres, 30 have been provided with legal and psychosocial support, 80 have been referred to local council courts, 80 have been referred to other services, and 60 cases have been referred to police officers. In addition, 85 community members have participated in community dialogues, bringing the total number of community members reached since the start of the project to 800.

38. In 2022, the Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, which works to strengthen protection measures for women asylum seekers in Mexico, provided comprehensive services to empower and protect migrant women who were survivors of violence, including through reaching 30 migrant survivors of violence with psychological first aid and psycho-legal support on migration and asylum issues. The project equipped 22 migrant women who were survivors of violence with tools to facilitate their applications for refugee status and to assist their integration into Mexico. The grantee also held a workshop for 20 local civil society organizations and shelters to exchange best practices on international protection application processes.

39. In 2022, the trust fund published a working paper focusing on practice-based knowledge in multisectoral coordination for service delivery to women who are survivors of violence in Europe and Central Asia. Drawing on the work and experiences of 13 trust fund grantees in the region, the paper shows results, recommendations and lessons learned for service delivery. Findings include that projects supported by the trust fund have resulted in successful models of multisectoral coordination between civil society and Government through formal processes, such as the drafting of policies and protocols, and informal means, such as relationship building and coordination. The paper also points to commonalities and challenges, including the need for sufficient capacity and resources to meet the needs of survivors, which is a theme taken forward by the trust fund in its current strategic plan.

### **C. Fostering implementation of law and policy**

40. In 2022, approximately 47 per cent of grantees had a project component focused on the implementation of laws and policies. For example, a project implemented by Corporación Sisma Mujer, a feminist organization in Colombia, is working to ensure that women who are survivors of sexual violence and forced displacement in Bolívar, Chocó, Valle del Cauca and Nariño Departments can exercise their rights to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition of abuses. To date, 48 cases of sexual violence against women in the context of the armed conflict have been identified and reported to the competent specialized judicial authority. Advocacy action has been undertaken at the Government and judicial levels to promote the adoption of a cross-cutting gender perspective and prosecution of those responsible for sexual violence committed in the context of the armed conflict. Workshops on referral mechanisms and women's rights were held for 75 women working for civil society organizations, women human rights defenders and women leaders.

41. A project implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Centre of Women's Rights is working to improve protection mechanisms for survivors of intimate partner violence. Seminars for judges and prosecutors were organized and had a positive impact on participants and their overall understanding of the influence of prejudices and stereotypes on prosecutions and decisions in cases of sexual violence against women. Nine judges and prosecutors changed their perceptions and attitudes regarding work on domestic violence cases. In addition, 19 members of multisectoral working groups endeavoured to influence the development of a better legislative and policy environment for women who are survivors of violence, including by proposing a review of and amendments to existing laws. The project also ensured that women who were survivors of violence could get access to comprehensive legal support and representation in a timely manner. In total, 275 women were provided with 622 legal services for exercising and/or protecting their rights in the fields of protection from violence, family law, social protection and labour law. Women who were assisted by the specialized legal aid and psychological support service developed through the project said that it was one of the few services in the country that gave them a sense of security and encouraged them to persevere in seeking protection and justice.

42. In Tunisia, the Association femme et citoyenneté works towards the full implementation of Tunisia's first law on ending violence against women, passed in 2017, which endorsed a broad definition of violence and new protection and response mechanisms. The organization works to strengthen local multisectoral coordination mechanisms in order to better monitor the application of the law and empower women to claim and exercise their rights, and supports survivors' access to essential services. The project builds upon an initial project funded by the trust fund (2016–2018) that supported the Manara Centre, the only centre for women who are survivors of violence in the north-western region of Tunisia. In 2022, 100 women who were survivors of violence were provided with sociolegal services, with 44 initiating legal processes. The Manara Centre provided services to 260 women who were at risk of, or survivors of, violence. In addition, 71 legal officers and court clerks increased their knowledge of the issue of violence against women through the project's capacity-building sessions.

43. A project implemented in Pakistan by the trust fund grantee Christian Blind Mission and their local partner Bedari works to end violence against women and girls through improving the quality of life of women and girls with disabilities who face high levels of abuse. During the year, the project engaged 10 provincial parliamentarians to advocate the implementation of pro-women laws with a disability lens. Furthermore, the project trained 159 service providers on building their capacity to improve the inclusiveness of their services for women with disabilities. The organization also supported 143 women with disabilities to apply for a special computerized national identity card, which facilitates their access to benefits from Government-run social protection schemes, including monthly financial support. In addition, 210 members of 14 community committees were trained on case identification and management.

44. One of the briefs from the "Learning from practice" series includes a paper focused on practice-based knowledge stemming from projects working to strengthen the legal and policy environment to prevent violence against women and girls. The paper brings together the voices of nine civil society organizations to better understand how civil society organizations contribute to legal and policy system changes. For instance, findings include that civil society organizations play an important role in building evidence and collecting data to inform advocacy for law and policy reforms, as well as holding lawmakers and policy-making institutions to account.

## **VI. Spotlight Initiative of the European Union and the United Nations**

45. The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. Projects funded by the trust fund under this initiative continued to focus on strengthening and supporting women's rights groups and autonomous civil society organizations (outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative "Theory of Change") in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and 5 countries in Latin America. In addition to the initial 35 projects funded in 2019, a further 20 grantees in sub-Saharan Africa were awarded funds provided by the Spotlight Initiative to promote institutional strengthening for crisis response and maintain or adapt existing interventions to end violence against women, with a focus on the most at-risk and marginalized women and girls. In total, \$24 million has been awarded under this initiative, including resources to create and manage SHINE, a hub to enhance the exchange of knowledge and information on the intersection of crisis response, organizational strengthening and ending violence against women and girls.

46. During the year, grantees under the Spotlight Initiative made significant strides in building and strengthening autonomous women's movements to serve women and girls who are survivors of violence. For example, a project in Honduras led by the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer – Honduras, implemented in partnership with Plataforma 25 de Noviembre, a network of 22 women's organizations, and CARE International (Honduras), focuses on preventing violence against women and girls in rural and urban settings in six municipalities and six secondary schools in the Departments of Francisco Morazán and Intibucá. The project involves organizations and networks that support Indigenous women and members of ethnic groups, women at risk of violence and young women, as well as teachers and parents, facilitating the women's movement by building up these networks. The project has facilitated self-help groups on preventing and ending violence against women and girls and on referral mechanisms. The resulting women's networks have been advocating at the national and territorial levels for an increase in the institutional budget allocated to preventing and ending gender-based violence. At least 10 women's networks have been trained on art therapy service provision and on the production of online advocacy content. In addition, at least 911 officials, 189 teachers from 10 educational centres and 120 students have been trained on preventing and ending violence against women and girls.

47. Another project in Honduras, funded under the Spotlight Initiative and implemented by the Centro de Derechos de Mujeres, conducted a training course for 20 selected women political leaders from grass-roots, community-based and environmental organizations. The participants included Indigenous women and women of African descent. In addition, the grantee strengthened the capacities of 45 community leaders from La Ceiba by increasing their knowledge of how to monitor cases of violence against women and girls in their communities and assess the quality of services provided to survivors.

48. The project interventions of grantees funded under the Spotlight Initiative also focus on reaching those at the highest risk of being left behind. A project implemented in Burundi, Ghana and South Africa by the International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS is working to address violence in the family, violence against the girl child (harmful traditional practices, child, early and forced marriage) and sexual harassment and violence in schools and places of worship. During the reporting period, women and girls who were survivors or at risk of violence, including Indigenous women, women living with HIV or affected by AIDS and self-identified sex workers, were provided with comprehensive

services, including training on gender-based violence and referral mechanisms. In total, 9,476 women and girls have increased their knowledge regarding violence against women and girls and the referral mechanisms available, and 2,398 women and girls have reported cases of violence. Faith communities were provided with training and dialogues on addressing violence against women and girls and referral mechanisms; 200 religious leaders and 106 traditional leaders were trained. In addition, 40 Government officials were trained on addressing violence against women and girls, including Indigenous women, and referral mechanisms and have become partners of the project.

49. Grantees focused on institutional strengthening and building the organizational resilience of their organizations in response to the ongoing challenges created by COVID-19 and drew on lessons learned from the pandemic to reach women and girls. For example, the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness in Kenya launched a cash transfer programme, providing financial support through a mobile money platform to women and girls who were survivors of violence. Having met the identification and selection criteria, 306 women benefited from the cash transfers to meet immediate and urgent needs and, in some cases, start small businesses.

50. A project implemented by the Scripture Union West Africa in Nigeria focuses on violence in schools and ending early/child marriage. Among its activities, the project has trained gender champions to counsel women and girl who are survivors or at risk of violence, including internally displaced women and girls. Students have been provided with school protocols, committees and clubs to prevent and end violence against women and girls in school settings; 3,284 students have taken part in 136 school clubs. In addition, community dialogue sessions have been held on ending violence against women and girls. These activities have contributed to significant attitudinal change: 95 per cent of women and girls participating in the programme reported feeling free, regaining their self-esteem, being empowered and feeling bolder to speak out when facing incidents of violence. In addition, 95 per cent of programme participants reported changes in their mindsets and perceptions, for example agreeing that sex should not be forced but consensual, and have become advocates for gender equity.

## VII. Knowledge and learning

51. The trust fund's strategic plan for 2021–2025 includes a commitment to elevate practitioner-based knowledge and evidence to inform global agenda-setting to end violence against women and girls. This involves the commitment to learning to better understand and inform the needs of the ecosystem on ending violence against women and respond to survivors. Furthermore, the trust fund commissioned an assessment of its added value in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, which is especially relevant in the light of the recent membership of UN-Women in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The results of the assessment highlight the trust fund's key role in supporting coordination and collaboration platforms for local women's organizations. The assessment shows that the key added value of the trust fund is in its systems to strengthen the capacity of women's rights organizations to operate in the context of overlapping, protracted crises. The assessment also addresses the trust fund's impact on violence against women and girls, along with its ability to effectively support women's rights organizations to build preparedness and organizational resilience, so that they can promptly adapt at the outset of crises.

52. In addition, the trust fund is completing two meta-analysis reports covering the fund's past special funding windows for work on ending violence against women living with disabilities (projects implemented between 2018 and 2021) and the

window for work on ending violence against refugee and internally displaced women and girls (projects implemented between 2016 and 2021) in order to further refine the fund's intersectional approach and inform the selection for the twenty-sixth call for proposals.

53. The SHINE platform offers the combined power of a virtual exchange hub, convening platform and multilingual tool to inform global policy, programming and advocacy. In 2022, there were consultations in over 50 languages on the prevention knowledge briefs issued in 2021 and 2022, making the practice-based knowledge from this series more dynamic.

54. In 2022, the SHINE platform hosted six community discussions and one group open to the public to enable networking, exchange and sharing of knowledge on preventing and ending violence against women. In total, the platform welcomed 1,235 members, many of whom were representatives of civil society and women's rights organizations funded by the trust fund and the Spotlight Initiative.

55. The trust fund published an external literature review, produced by an external consultant, to draw the link between the feminist and women's movements in the context of ending violence against women and girls. The review presents foundational evidence and rich examples of how strong, autonomous feminist and/or women's movements are playing a key role in ending violence against women and girls. Nevertheless, women's rights organizations and movements are critically underresourced. Building on the lessons learned from the trust fund projects awarded grants under the Spotlight Initiative, which focused on supporting women's movements, the review continues the learning journey to reflect on and better understand progress on and challenges relating to supporting feminist and women's movements to end violence against women and girls.

56. In addition, in 2022, representatives of the trust fund attended and presented key lessons learned during the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in Cancún, Mexico. During the week-long event, three trust fund staff members presented five sessions on topics including ending violence against women with disabilities, practice-based knowledge, faith-based approaches to preventing violence against women and the trust fund's lessons learned on self-care and collective care. They also presented the trust fund's "Learning from practice" prevention series.

57. In 2022, as part of its commitment to elevating practice-based knowledge, the trust fund completed the publication of its prevention series of 10 briefs on "Learning from practice". In collaboration with over 100 trust fund grantees and external researchers, the 10 papers explore 10 pathways to prevention through the practice-based knowledge of grantee monitoring reports, evaluation reports and focus group discussions to better understand the "how" and "why" of prevention programming. The 10 papers were explored further in webinars presenting the perspectives of 29 different grantee organizations, together with the researchers who produced the papers, as well as other key partners and grant-makers. Finally, the trust fund complemented its webinar series in 2022 with a special session exploring the grantees' approaches to building feminist movements.

## **VIII. The way forward**

58. Throughout the second year of the implementation of its strategic plan for 2021–2025, in the face of disruptive events and adverse environments, the trust fund documented encouraging results and achievements, supported by comprehensive iterative capacity development and collaborative learning engagements aimed at facilitating participatory knowledge production. Core, flexible, long-term funding

continued to be highlighted as essential elements for building organizational resilience to ensure that no woman or girl is left behind, especially in the context of overlapping crises. Lessons learned from civil society and women's rights organizations emerging in this context have been invaluable in informing how transformational change is built and sustained to the benefit of women and girls, especially those at the highest risk of exclusion and marginalization. Solidarity in action by recognizing and resourcing civil society and women's rights organizations to continue their work in informing the field, while meeting the needs of women and girls, and advocating on their behalf, will drive global feminist movements forward and increase the possibility of ending violence against women and girls once and for all.

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