

Annex IV: Summary of 2024 results of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

A. About the UN Trust Fund

The [United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women](#) (UN Trust Fund) is the only global, multilateral, inter-agency grant-making mechanism exclusively focused on ending violence against women and girls. Established by [General Assembly resolution 50/166](#) in 1996 and managed by UN-Women, the Fund provides vital resources to civil society and women's rights organizations to prevent violence against women and girls; improve access to adequate essential, multisectoral services for survivors; and support effective implementation of laws and policies.

Since its inception, the UN Trust Fund has invested over \$240 million in 706 survivor-centered initiatives across 140 countries and territories, advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5 by translating global gender equality commitments into concrete action and bridging grassroots women's movements with international policy frameworks, as well as multiple other Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Trust Fund recognizes that civil society organizations, particularly women-led and women's rights organizations, drive the most effective and sustainable efforts to end violence against women and girls. Through dedicated flexible funding, it directly contributes to UN-Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, strengthening "Women's voice, leadership, and agency" (Outcome 5) and advancing "Ending violence against women and girls" (Impact 3).

By providing core support covering general operating costs, contingency planning, and staff wellbeing, the UN Trust Fund seeks to strengthen grantee partners' organizational resilience, enabling organizations to withstand challenges, particularly in volatile environments. Its intentional intersectional approach prioritizes initiatives addressing multiple forms of discrimination, ensuring resources reach particularly marginalized women and girls. Strategically positioned within the UN ecosystem, it connects its partner organizations with UN entities, donors, and policymakers, nurturing innovation, elevating frontline voices, and catalyzing collaboration to strengthen collective knowledge and resources.

Based on grantee partners' experience addressing violence against women and girls, the UN Trust Fund co-creates knowledge resources to inform more effective approaches across the field. This collaborative work yielded 9 knowledge products in 2024 and three global knowledge exchange webinars on intersectionality and organizational resilience, as well as multiple knowledge exchanges at country level.

In 2024, the Trust Fund faced unprecedented demand for its support, receiving an 81% increase in applications for its 2024 funding cycle, representing over \$1.5 billion in requested support. This surge demonstrates the significant unmet need for resources to address violence against women and girls globally.

B. Key Results in 2024

In 2024, the UN Trust Fund managed a portfolio of 180 initiatives across 74 countries and territories in five regions, with grants totaling US\$ 87.5 million. Over 98% of grantee partners were women-led civil society organizations, with 69% identifying as women's rights organizations. Overall, grantee partners reached 14,685,108 people, including 7,727,854 women and girls.

In 2024, the UN Trust Fund awarded a total of \$15.9 million in new grants to 36 civil society organizations in 41 countries and territories through two strategic channels. The first was the established twenty-seventh annual grant cycle, through which \$13.5 million was awarded to 28 organizations working to address violence against marginalized women and girls, and those affected by crisis. This cycle also marked the first expansion of grant durations from three to four years. The second was through the UN Trust Fund's contribution to the Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) Programme, a joint initiative between the European Commission and UN-Women in partnership with the UN Trust Fund. Under the ACT grant cycle, \$2.34 million was awarded to eight sub-regional initiatives aimed at strengthening

emerging movements to end violence against women and girls across Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. All grant recipients were women-led organizations, with 68% identifying as women's rights organizations and more than half being constituent-led—ensuring resources reached those with direct connections to affected communities.

The [findings of the midterm review of UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan \(2021-2025\)](#) published in 2024 confirmed that the UN Trust Fund successfully fulfills its unique role by providing long-term, flexible funding to grassroots and women's rights organizations, especially those in high-risk and crisis settings. It highlighted results in resource management, evidence-based "wraparound service delivery model," and value for money, noting it lives up to its ambition of being "more than a donor", while recommending improved communications of its unique role and grantee partners' achievements.

C. Grantee Partners' Contributions to Ending Violence against Women and Girls

The UN Trust Fund provided both funding and technical assistance to civil society partners, achieving results across the three outcome areas of its Strategic Plan 2021–2025:

- Improved access for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services. In 2024, across the portfolio, 41,359 women and girls used specialist services supported by UN Trust Fund grantee partners. For instance, an initiative by THRIVEGulu in northern **Uganda** achieved a 93% increase in access to essential services including mental health and counseling for women and girls with disabilities and refugee survivors of violence. In **Moldova**, HelpAge International strengthened older women's protection networks by improving collaboration with authorities, training 148 volunteers across 10 partner organizations, supporting over 700 women through 8,900 home visits, and providing 105 women with specialized counseling and legal assistance.
- Increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability. In 2024, at least 13,236 women and girls accessed justice services in cases of violence against women and girls through support from UN Trust Fund grantee partners. An initiative by Karama and Justice Without Frontiers in **Lebanon** secured approval from the Ministry of Justice to produce and distribute separate court registry books for violence against women and girls' cases, protecting survivors' privacy while facilitating data collection and documentation. In 2024, the initiative provided 116 legal consultations, supporting three survivors of violence through court proceedings, and secured authorization from the Ministry of Social Affairs to operate across all social development centers in Lebanon, paving the way for expanded reach.
- Improved prevention of violence against women and girls through changes in behaviors, practices and attitudes. In 2024, 35,410 women and girls built skills in self-efficacy, agency and assertiveness to prevent violence against women, and a total of 196 practice-based methodologies, approaches or models to advance behavior and social norms change for ending violence were developed or implemented by 60 grantee partners. ECPAT France transformed social attitudes in **Madagascar** through a coordinated multi-level approach, training youth as peer educators, engaging men and religious leaders, educating parents, and strengthening legal responses, resulting in an increase in community rejection of gender-based violence from 30% to 68%.

The UN Trust Fund's work is guided by the principle of leaving no one behind, implemented through an intentional **intersectional approach** to its programming. Nearly 80 percent of the grant portfolio focuses on reaching those most likely to be marginalized, including women and girls with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, Indigenous communities, and other underserved populations. In **Bolivia**, for example, the Centro de Desarrollo Integral de la Mujer Aymara has empowered Indigenous Aymara women as agents of change while fostering a supportive environment in seven municipalities. By the end of 2024, over 170 trained Aymara women had shared legal protection information with more than 5,000 people in their communities through robust support networks.

Women and girls with disabilities, in particular, face heightened risks from violence. The overwhelming demand for specialized support demonstrated by the US\$ 643 million in proposals for this group in the latest UN Trust Fund call for proposals, highlights the urgent need for increased investment. In 2024, 30% of the UN Trust Fund's active initiatives specifically focused on supporting women with disabilities, directly benefitting or engaging 8,413 of them as partners in that year alone. In **Argentina**, Enlaces Territoriales para la Equidad de Género empowered deaf women by creating specific

signs in sign language to precisely communicate different types of violence. By placing deaf women as workshop leaders, the intervention fostered agency and self-efficacy, fundamentally changing how violence is discussed within both the deaf community and broader society.

The UN Trust Fund published an additional two knowledge products in its Disability, Inclusion and Intersectionality Series: one of which examined [the results from the 22 organizations awarded grants under 2018-2023 special window](#), and another extracting [lessons on effective programming from 62 interventions that engaged women and girls with disabilities](#).

In response to increasingly complex global crises that heighten women's risk to violence, and following the [results of a 2016-2022 special funding window on ending violence against refugee or forcibly displaced women and girls](#) that directly reached over 35,000 women and girls, the UN Trust Fund allocated \$5.7 million (43% of new funding) in 2024 to support **crisis-affected women and girls** through a special thematic window in its 27th grantmaking cycle .

At least half of the UN Trust Fund's active partners in 2024 provided essential support to women and girls affected by crises, implementing interventions across the humanitarian-development-peace continuum. In **Democratic Republic of the Congo's** North Kivu region, where conflict and natural disasters have displaced 7 million people, SOFEPADI provided medical and psychosocial care to over 3,000 survivors, secured 17 court judgments with significant sentences (5-20 years), and helped 135 survivors reintegrate economically. Their comprehensive approach reached over 66,000 community members through awareness campaigns across 18 areas despite the volatile conflict. In **Myanmar's** Shan State, where women face increasing violence amid escalating conflict and mandatory military service laws, an organization supported by the UN Trust Fund established 10 women-led groups, provided legal awareness to 402 women, delivered legal aid to 42 survivors, and trained 62 community paralegals.

D. Progress Beyond Violence: Fostering Systemic Change

Eliminating violence against women accelerates progress across at least 8 **Sustainable Development Goals**, improving health outcomes, reducing inequalities, and enhancing economic participation globally. In 2024, 66 grantee partners across 41 countries increased their capacities to advance ending violence against women and girls through national or local multi-sectoral strategies, policies, or action plans. Their impact beyond direct violence prevention and response extended, for instance, to economic empowerment and poverty reduction, with 35,410 women and girls improving capacities and agency through economic and social empowerment initiatives; health outcomes, with 41,359 survivors accessing specialist support services; education environments, with 503 schools becoming safer for girls; and civic participation, with 26,621 women and girls increasing their capacities to participate in public life and exercise leadership in efforts to end violence.

In 2024, the UN Trust Fund advanced its commitment to fostering **organizational resilience** among its grantee partners by extending grant durations, raising the core funding threshold for small grants, expanding self-care and collective care budgets, and allocating contingency and capacity-development funds within grants. Grantee partners confirmed through an annual survey the role of flexible, multi-year funding in strengthening their resilience and adaptability, with almost 80% reporting improvements in that domain during the grant period. In addition, almost 50% reported raising additional funding for interventions to end violence – totaling US\$ 21 million, and 54% have joined or created useful partnerships thanks to the UN Trust Fund.

The UN Trust Fund's **small grants funding modality**^[OBJ] has proven to be instrumental in enhancing the resilience of small grassroots women's rights organizations and promoting local women's movements, as surfaced through two meta-analyses of projects implemented through this and another one on [18 other interventions supported by the UN Trust Fund between 2018 and 2022](#). The research highlighted the critical role of the self-care fund in improving staff well-being and retention, and the role of flexible funding in enabling rapid crisis response and organizational growth.⁹ [initiatives supported under the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative](#) and another one on [18 other interventions supported by the UN Trust Fund between 2018 and 2022](#). The research highlighted the critical role of the self-care fund in improving staff well-being and retention, and the role of flexible funding in enabling rapid crisis response and organizational growth.

At the same time, the UN Trust Fund deepened the understanding of **organizational resilience** based on the experience of 34 organizations across 25 countries, offering a definition and a conceptual framework, an important contribution that transforms practical experience into lasting guidance to strengthen civil society organizations' ability to adapt, sustain their work, and respond to future challenges. [comprehensive study](#) based on the experience of 34 organizations across 25 countries, offering a definition and a conceptual framework, an important contribution that transforms practical experience into lasting guidance to strengthen civil society organizations' ability to adapt, sustain their work, and respond to future challenges.

The UN Trust Fund also strengthened its programmatic and knowledge contributions to **movement building** as a critical strategy to stop violence. The eight grants awarded as part of the ACT Programme intentionally aim to strengthen emerging movements to address violence against women through collective action and systematic change, with an emphasis on practice-based knowledge and learning, and prioritization of women facing intersecting discrimination. The qualitative study '[Building Power in Feminist and Women's Movements to End Violence against Women and Girls](#)', jointly conducted with Spotlight Initiative partners, offered a practice-based conceptual framework for feminist and women's movements. These movements, characterized by their strategic and iterative nature, build collective power, amplify marginalized voices and dismantle systems that perpetuate violence. The UN Trust Fund also hosted the first of two global convenings as part of the ACT programme, which brought together ACT partners, UN Trust Fund grantees, UN-system specialists on ending violence against women and girls and feminist allies in Cape Town, South Africa from 27-28 November 2024 and provided a space for knowledge exchange around movement strengthening, strategizing around key advocacy priorities, and networking.

In 2024, the UN Trust Fund strengthened its advocacy work to secure **quality funding for women's rights organizations** addressing violence against women through strategic engagement at key global fora. Most notably, the UN Trust Fund leveraged its inter-agency mandate to launch an initiative with the UN Spotlight Initiative and 9 UN entities and partners, to transform how the UN System resources women's rights and civil society organizations. Responding to civil society's call to end fragmented and underfunded international development and humanitarian efforts towards gender equality, the initiative emphasizes the need to eliminate institutional barriers such as complex funding mechanisms and burdensome administrative procedures which limit access to UN resources, particularly for small organizations. Now shaping what will be a new 'UN Funding Framework', this initiative has been identified as a promising practice in implementing the UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan.

E. Civil Society Perspectives: 2024 Trends and Issues

Drawing from close engagement with a wide partner network and real-time information, the UN Trust Fund monitors persisting and emerging challenges facing organizations tackling violence against women globally. In 2024, organizations continued addressing the structural marginalization of women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination - including those with disabilities, LGBTQI women and Afro-indigenous women - while confronting the consequences of escalating, interconnected crises increased violence risks and multiplied threats to women's lives, dignity and freedom.

Beyond these ongoing challenges, the UN Trust Fund conducted an in-depth analysis of two emerging trends significantly impacting the work of grantee partners in 2024: the intensifying backlash against gender equality work and the rising technology-facilitated violence.

Analysis from over 100 partners across 50+ countries revealed nearly 70% of organizations faced **systematic backlash** through legal, digital, bureaucratic and political channels in 2024. This has directly impacted women's safety, for instance by reducing survivor services, creating justice backlogs, and leaving survivors without recourse due to legal restrictions.

Simultaneously, grantee partners reported growing challenges associated with the rise of **technology-facilitated gender-based violence**, with testimonies highlighting distinct regional patterns, from photo blackmail targeting married women in the Arab States, digital domestic control in Central Asia, and non-consensual image sharing affecting young indigenous women in Latin America.

As organizations strive to deepen their understanding of these constantly evolving issues, they are advancing innovative solutions to address them, by enhancing security measures, strengthening international ties, and translating grassroots

insights into policy reform. The UN Trust Fund is responding by expanding flexible funding to adapt to emerging needs and ensure security support, while leveraging practice-based knowledge for stronger advocacy towards higher investments in women's organizations.

F. Way Forward

As the UN Trust Fund progresses through the final year of its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, it faces urgent challenges amid a significant funding crisis for work to end violence against women. Recent developments, including several governmental donors' decisions to freeze or divert funds previously allocated to efforts in this field, have created severe disruptions across the ecosystem of organizations addressing violence against women. A rapid assessment conducted by the UN Trust Fund with its grantee partners reveals serious consequences, such as program closures, staff layoffs, and discontinued survivor services, threatening to reverse decades of progress.

This crisis coincides with organizations already navigating intense backlash against gender equality efforts while responding to humanitarian emergencies and technological threats. Small, community-based organizations with limited alternative resources are particularly vulnerable, yet essential to addressing these issues.

Building on insights from 2024, the UN Trust Fund will enhance its demand-driven grantmaking model by expanding its funding base, strengthening partnerships within the feminist funding ecosystem, adapting its processes based on partner experiences, enhancing its positioning as an inter-agency resource delivery mechanism, and exploring further operational decentralization. These same insights will form the foundation for the Fund's next Strategic Plan (2026-2030).

The path forward requires steadfast dedication and collaborative action as the UN Trust Fund works with partners, donors, and the global community to deliver survivor-centered initiatives.