UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Annual Report 2025



UN WOMEN

FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

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We are grateful to all our partners for their invaluable collaboration and enduring commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

We extend our deepest thanks to all grantee partners for delivering vital, often lifesaving, services to survivors of violence; protecting hard-won gains; generating evidence; and driving transformative change. Special thanks go to the grantee partners who peer reviewed this report, and to the organizations featured in these pages, which represent only a portion of the work carried out across the portfolio supported by the UN Trust Fund.

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls (UN Trust Fund) is the only General Assembly–mandated, system-wide, inter-agency, pooled financing and accountability mechanism dedicated exclusively to this issue. Established by the General Assembly in 1996 (resolution 50/166), the UN Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on behalf of the United Nations system. The UN Trust Fund involves United Nations bodies and organs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and experts on ending violence against women and girls in its decision-making processes through its Programme Advisory Committees.[1] Over three decades, the UN Trust Fund has mobilized over US$250 million from nearly 40 Member States and supported 725 initiatives across 140 countries and territories, driving transformative change to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action to End Violence against Women
AI	artificial intelligence
AIPDF	L'Association Initiatives pour la Protection des Droits des Femmes
CAWTAR	Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research
CDIMA	Centro de Desarrollo Integral de la Mujer Aymara
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	civil society organization
ELiDA	Empathy for Life Integrated Development Association
FGM	female genital mutilation
GBV	gender-based violence
GBV AOR	Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility
GE	gender equality
LBTIQA+	lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual and other identities
NAFIS	Network Against Female Genital Mutilation in Somaliland
ODA	official development assistance
PROMSEX	Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos
PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
PYALARA	Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
SOFEPADI	Solidarité Féminine pour la paix et le Développement intégral
UN Trust Fund	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
US$	United States dollars
UN80	United Nations reform initiative
VAW/G	violence against women and girls
WCLAC	Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling
WRO	women's rights organization

FOREWORD

As we began drafting this Annual Report, just before the seventieth Commission on the Status of Women, we learned of the killing of Yanar Mohammed outside her home in Baghdad. Yanar co-founded the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) and opened the country's first women's shelters in 2003. For decades, she protected women from honour killings, trafficking and domestic violence, while facing death threats throughout her life. She never wavered in her pursuit of justice, safety, freedom and equality.

We are proud to have been a small part of Yanar's story and of OWFI – one of many extraordinary organizations the UN Trust Fund has partnered with. We are devastated and angered at Yanar's killing. She paid the ultimate price for defending women's rights – like so many women in so many places around the world.

2025 was hard. Violence against women and girls rose. Backlash against gender equality moved from rhetoric further into action, including in intergovernmental spaces. Civic space continued to shrink as did funding for the women's rights organizations holding the line, at the precise moment the line is hardest to hold.

In 2025, our Call for Proposals drew nearly 4,000 applications from 128 countries, requesting US$ 2.1 billion. We were able to fund less than 1 per cent – a gap that has held steady for years. As Chief of a fund dedicated to ending violence against women and girls, that number does not sit well with me. It measures the vast distance between what women's rights organizations are ready to deliver and the resources available to them.

With more funds we can achieve more. An independent meta-analysis of evaluations completed across our 2021–2025 Strategic Plan confirms what our grantee partners have demonstrated for years – that sustained investment in women's rights organizations shifts harmful social norms, expands access to survivor services, enables more responsive justice systems, and builds stronger and more resilient women's organizations. Solutions exist, and women and girls and the organizations they lead are delivering them. The results in our Annual Report are a testimony to that.

2025 marked 30 years since the Beijing Platform for Action and 2026 marks 30 years of the UN Trust Fund – the only General Assembly–mandated, system-wide, inter-agency pooled financing and accountability mechanism dedicated to ending violence against women and girls. As the United Nations system reforms, mechanisms like ours – proven, durable and built on decades-long partnerships between the United Nations, Member States and civil society – are exactly what should be protected and strengthened.

As we launch our new Strategic Plan, our organization is evolving to meet this moment. We have transitioned to a globally based Secretariat (Bangkok, Bonn, Istanbul, Nairobi, New York and Panama City), to reflect a simple commitment to be closer to our partners and drive every dollar possible where it is needed most.

I hope our Annual Report demonstrates what becomes possible when women's rights and civil society organizations have the resources, trust and flexibility to lead.

To our grantee partners: this report is yours. Thank you for shaping it with us. It reflects your courage, expertise and persistence. You continue to serve women and girls under conditions that would force many institutions to retreat – and you create new conditions that allow your work to thrive. Your leadership continues to move this field forward.

To our donors and Member State partners: thank you for standing with women's rights organizations at a time when multilateralism is under attack and when funding is under pressure from increasing investment in military expenditure.

Ending violence against women and girls is possible. We can do this. We have solutions, we have the will, we have the partners, we have the mandates and we have the commitments.

To Yanar Mohammed, and to every women's human rights defender: we carry your work forward, and we stand in solidarity with you.

Abigail Erikson, and the UN Trust Fund team

1

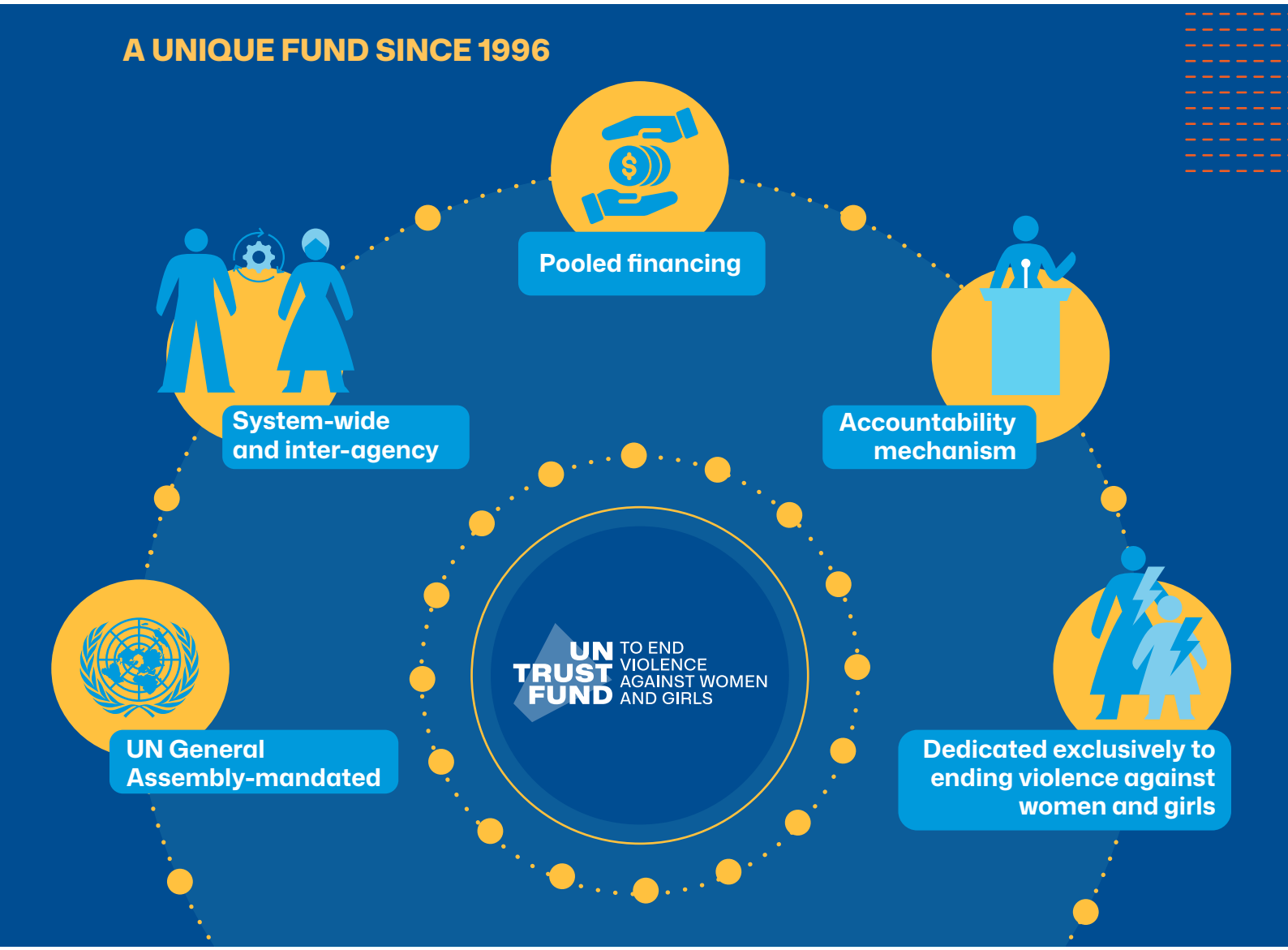
INTRODUCTION

1.1
ABOUT THE UN TRUST FUND AND ITS 2025 PORTFOLIO

The UN Trust Fund was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996 following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It is the only General Assembly–mandated, system-wide, inter-agency pooled financing and accountability mechanism dedicated exclusively to ending violence against women and girls.

For nearly three decades, the UN Trust Fund has played a distinct role in the global ecosystem addressing violence against women and girls: moving flexible resources directly to civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's rights organizations (WROs) on the front lines; generating evidence on what works; and strengthening accountability between Member States, civil society and the United Nations system.

The UN Trust Fund's unique model combines financing with wraparound support, convening, learning, evidence generation and advocacy. This is designed to help organizations not only deliver programmes, but also strengthen organizational resilience, scale what works and influence broader systems change.



This model has become increasingly important as CSOs and WROs face backlash, shrinking civic space and growing financial insecurity.

Over nearly 30 years, the UN Trust Fund has invested more than US$ 252 million in 725 organizations across 140 countries and territories, supporting prevention efforts, survivor services, access to justice, and women's movement building in some of the world's most complex operating environments.

In 2025 alone, the UN Trust Fund managed a portfolio of grants totalling US$ 74.5 million, supporting 159 CSOs and WROs in 71 countries and territories.

2025 PORTFOLIO - GLOBAL OVERVIEW

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund worked with:

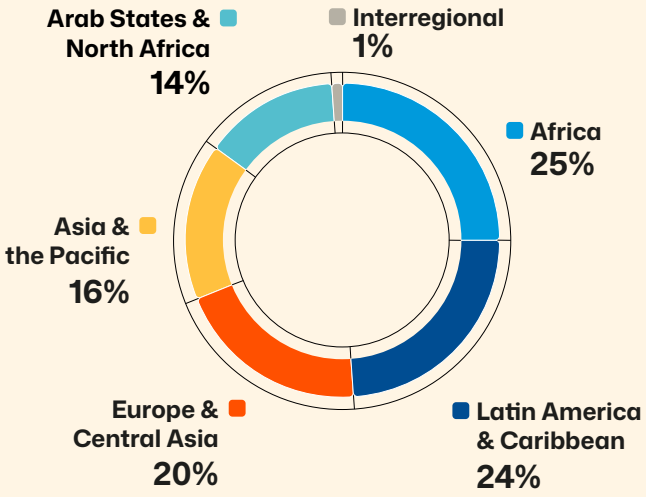
159 Civil Society & Women's Rights Partner Organizations*

in **71** Countries & Territories

With grants totalling US$ **74.5M**

*121 of them actively implementing initiativesin 65 countries with grants totalling US$ 58.4M.

GRANTS BY REGION



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

100% Women-led

71% Women's rights

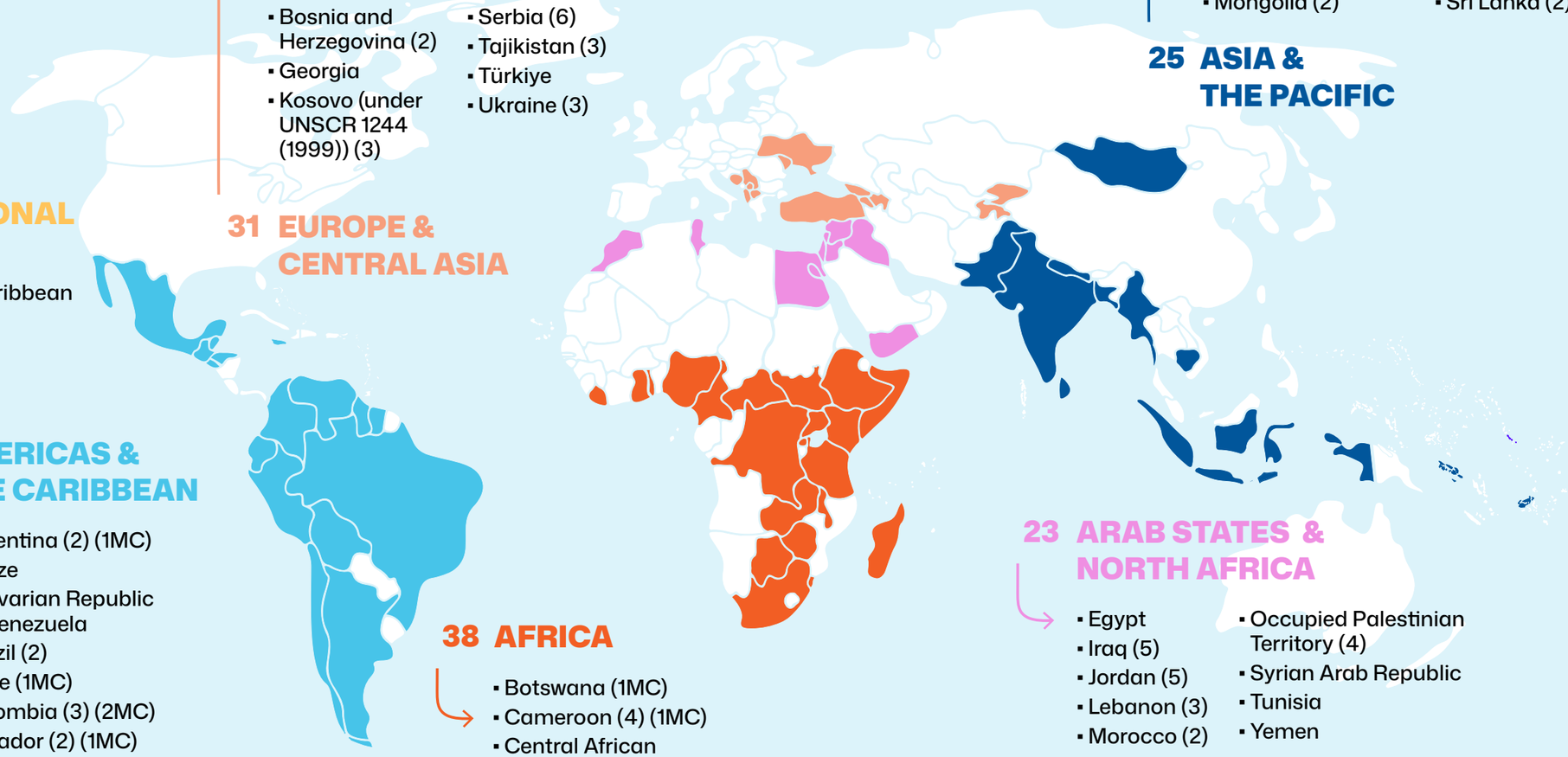
34% Grantees reported first-ever grant from the United Nations

53% Large organizations

47% Small organizations *(Average annual budget under US$ 200k)*

2025 ACTIVE PORTFOLIO

In 2025, 159 UN Trust Fund grantee partners created life-changing impact for over a hundred thousand women and girls around the world. The map below shows the locations of their initiatives, illustrating the global reach of the transformative work underway across diverse regions.



2 CROSS-REGIONAL

- Africa
- Americas & The Caribbean
- Asia & The Pacific

31 EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

- Albania (3)
- Armenia (3)
- Azerbaijan (2)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (2)
- Georgia
- Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244 (1999)) (3)
- Kyrgyzstan
- North Macedonia (2)
- Republic of Moldova
- Serbia (6)
- Tajikistan (3)
- Türkiye
- Ukraine (3)

25 ASIA & THE PACIFIC

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia (3)
- Fiji
- India (5)
- Indonesia (2) (1MC)
- Mongolia (2)
- Myanmar
- Nepal (5)
- Pakistan
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka (2)

40 AMERICAS & THE CARIBBEAN

- Argentina (2) (1MC)
- Belize
- Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Brazil (2)
- Chile (1MC)
- Colombia (3) (2MC)
- Ecuador (2) (1MC)
- El Salvador (3) (1MC)
- Guatemala (5) (1MC)
- Guyana (2)
- Honduras (1) (2MC)
- Jamaica
- Mexico (7) (2MC)
- Peru (3) (1MC)
- Plurinational State of Bolivia (4) (1MC)
- Suriname

38 AFRICA

- Botswana (1MC)
- Cameroon (4) (1MC)
- Central African Republic (2MC)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (3) (1MC)
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia (2)
- Ghana
- Kenya (2) (3MC)
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi (1MC)
- Nigeria (7) (1MC)
- Rwanda (1) (2MC)
- Somalia
- South Africa (1) (1MC)
- South Sudan (1) (1MC)
- Togo
- Uganda (1) (2MC)
- United Republic of Tanzania (2) (2MC)
- Zambia (1MC)
- Zimbabwe (2)

23 ARAB STATES & NORTH AFRICA

- Egypt
- Iraq (5)
- Jordan (5)
- Lebanon (3)
- Morocco (2)
- Occupied Palestinian Territory (4)
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tunisia
- Yemen

LEGEND:

Number of initiatives

01 REGION
Countries (1) (1MC)

List of countries & territories per region

Multi-country initiatives

1.2
ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

This Annual Report documents the impact of the UN Trust Fund and its grantee partners during 2025, a year of significant global challenges. Since 2025 is the last year of the previous Strategic Plan (2021-2025), it also includes a brief section highlighting the key results and impact over the entire five year period.

It forms part of the UN Trust Fund's strongest evidence package to date and should be read alongside the Technical Annex and the independent meta-analysis of external evaluations conducted during the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan period.[2] Together, they show what was achieved in the lives of women and girls, why it matters for the evidence base, and where sustained investment is driving change.

Taken together, this report and its companion pieces show unequivocally that ending violence against women and girls is possible. Most initiatives deliver lasting impact, and this impact is driven by the leadership of CSOs and the women and girls in their communities supported by sustained, flexible investment by the UN Trust Fund.

The Annual Report 2025 also marks the conclusion of the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan and highlights impact data over the past five years and lessons that inform the next phase of work, under the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan.

1.3
DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The support and collective commitment of partners across the ecosystem – Member States, United Nations entities, philanthropic actors and feminist movements – remains essential to sustaining progress and advancing impact at the scale this moment demands.

In a year marked by global funding constraints, the UN Trust Fund retained its Member State donor base – reflecting continued confidence in its model and the critical role of civil society in ending violence against women and girls.

The UN Trust Fund thanks its donors and strategic partners for their generous support, leadership and solidarity.

2025 DONORS

Governmental


Australia


Austria


Canada


Cyprus


European Union


Germany


Hungary


Iceland

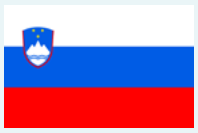

Ireland


Kazakhstan


Liechtenstein


The Kingdom of the Netherlands


Norway


Slovenia


Sweden


Switzerland


United Kingdom

UN Women National Committees

Australia

Austria

Finland

Germany

Japan

The Kingdom of the Netherlands

Sweden

United Kingdom

Private sector and philantropic partners

Conscious Step

Soko, Inc.

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

And Individuals worldwide

2

FAULTLINES

What women's organizations navigated in 2025

2025 was a year of significant global milestones and deepening contradictions for the ending violence against women and girls ecosystem.

In 2025, Member States commemorated Beijing+30, reaffirming that ending violence against women and girls remains central to achieving the promise of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations launched the UN80 Initiative for reform as it marked its eightieth anniversary, underscoring system-wide responsibility to protect and advance all human rights.[3]

These commitments – renewed at a moment of urgency – suggest a real opportunity for multilateral accountability.

TURNING POINT FOR EVAW/G FINANCING AND SYSTEMS

1. ODA funding decline - $17.2 Bn over next 5 years*
2. Surge in militarized spending
3. Threats to multilateralism & UN funding cuts
4. UN reform, humanitarian reset, GBV AOR under threat
5. Backlash, shrinking space eroding democracy
6. High rates of VAW/G & emerging forms
7. Economic risks, poverty, & food insecurity
8. Digital gap, emerging tech and AI
9. Conflict, polycrises, displacement
10. Progress on gender equality stalled

* ODI Global (2025): "Donors in a Post-Aid World: January 2025 Update"

In practice, however, grantee partners faced a more constrained, volatile and politically complex operating environment. Rising authoritarianism, militarism and digital repression have narrowed civic space and limited the ability of civil society actors to organize, advocate and deliver services.

Global defence spending reached an estimated US$ 2.63 trillion in 2025, up US$ 150 billion from 2024.[4] Development financing gaps widened as funding was diverted away from gender equality, prevention of violence, and protection.[5] Growing pressure on multilateralism created further uncertainty for organizations whose mandate depends on normative commitments being upheld.

Armed conflict also intensified. With 185 armed conflicts worldwide, approximately 676 million women and girls – the highest proportion reported in decades – now live within 50 kilometres of conflict zones.[6] More than 4,600 cases of conflict-related sexual violence were documented, and more than 60 million forcibly displaced women and girls faced heightened risk of violence and exploitation.[7]

Climate shocks – including droughts, floods and displacement – are increasingly intersecting with violence against women and girls, creating compounded risks, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence – including online harassment, non-consensual image sharing, surveillance, deepfakes and gendered disinformation – continued to expand, often faster than laws and services could respond.

2.1
SUSTAINED BACKLASH, SHARPER CONSEQUENCES

Intersecting global pressures intensified backlash against CSOs – shaping the increasingly contested environments in which the UN Trust Fund's partners operate.

In 2025, many UN Trust Fund grantee partners operated in complex political and security contexts, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

Across the UN Trust Fund's 2025 portfolio, backlash against women's rights became more widespread and coordinated. The proportion of UN Trust Fund partners reporting backlash rose by 30 per cent in 2025. Organizations across nearly 50 countries documented concrete operational and programmatic impacts.

Backlash was evident in the denial of gender-based violence data in several countries, public attacks during advocacy campaigns in Africa, new restrictions and tax laws in Latin America, difficulty and delays in obtaining approvals for programmes in Asia, criminalization of feminist organization in Europe and Central Asia, including the retaliatory eviction of one of our partners' offices, and increasing violence against women human rights defenders and funding conditionalities in Arab States.

2025 BACKLASH TRENDS: ESCALATING & MULTI-LAYERED



30%

more partners reported backlash in 2025 than in previous year



Increasing in **scale** and becoming **normalized**



Structural restrictions and **digital** attacks reinforcing each other



Funding cuts compounding risks and weakening sustainability

The UN Trust Fund and its partners documented three main forms of backlash in 2025: systemic restriction, "deny, distort and distract" tactics, and direct intimidation and violence.

Systemic restriction involved oversight laws and mechanisms, administrative controls, exclusionary directives and funding constraints that narrowed the space for civil society action. Grantee partners described new registration requirements, threats of closure, monitoring of bank accounts, eviction from public premises, and restrictions on alliance building, classroom engagement and public gatherings. Although not always overtly anti-rights, cumulatively these measures created a chilling effect, absorbed organizational energy, raised operating costs, created legal uncertainty, and directly weakened the conditions needed to sustain services and advocacy.

Deny, distort and distract tactics involved greater and sustained efforts to delegitimize feminist claims, minimize documentation of violence, and reframe demands for accountability as threats to national image. Specific tactics involved direct denial of abuse, mockery of femicide data, restrictions on discussing human rights in public, discrediting of international human rights bodies' statements and standards which CSOs rely on for advocacy, and pressure on CSOs and WROs not to speak publicly about their work. The result was to undermine evidence-based advocacy and reduce the urgency of addressing violence as a matter in public discourse.

Direct intimidation and violence targeted CSO and WROs, linked to their organizing. Coordinated police raids, politically motivated threats, coordinated digital attacks and defamation campaigns were intentionally coordinated to silence women and activists.

The UN Trust Fund's Beyond Backlash report and ongoing monitoring of backlash provide deeper analysis of these trends as a stand-alone knowledge contribution to the evidence base.[8]

> **The implementation of the Oversight Law imposed new mandatory registrations, drastically increasing the bureaucratic burden of maintaining legal status. [We] spent much of 2025 on in-person administrative procedures (2–4 times per month), fulfilling all requirements despite state inefficiency. Although we updated our registration, we are still awaiting a response on additional documentation, while most CSOs face legal uncertainty due to administrative silence – widely criticized as a tool of covert control over civil society. Furthermore, this oversight law has instilled a climate of criminalization against CSOs.**
>
> *Grantee partner*

> **Digital violence organized by pro-regime and tabloid media with national coverage or ruling political party activists, even former and current public officials, should be seen in the context of political pressure and mechanisms to silence and intimidate women … The most serious example of such a violation of rights is the illegal sharing of intimate photos of [a] student … after she spoke publicly about police brutality and threats of rape.**
>
> *Grantee partner*

> **Local authorities reported in the national newspaper that they have no knowledge of sexual abuse of girls.**
>
> *Grantee partner*

2.2
GLOBAL FUNDING CUTS

In 2025, backlash intensified from rhetoric into a wave of global funding cuts that dismantled the support systems women and girls depend on and pushed the organizations that sustain them to the brink.

In 2025, official development assistance (ODA) fell by 23.1 per cent to US$174.3 billion, the largest annual contraction on record. While most DAC donors reduced aid budgets, the sharp increase of funding cuts was driven by the United States, which fell by 56.9 per cent compared to 2024.[9] In response to the situation, the UN Trust Fund conducted a rapid impact assessment in February 2025 with its active portfolio of 134 grantee partner organizations. Direct impacts from immediate funding gaps included:

1. Reduced essential services for survivors, affecting 78 per cent of grantee partners
2. Suspension or closure of shelters, crisis centres, legal aid services and psychosocial and health care support, affecting 73 per cent of grantee partners.

Staff cuts and burn-out reduced capacity to meet rising demand for services. Many grantee partners also emphasized the emotional toll carried by technical and community teams working continuously on violence against women and girls. Psychosocial support, collective care, supervision and organizational wellbeing were identified not as secondary needs, but as essential conditions for sustaining ethical, safe and survivor-centred responses over time.

Nearly all grantee partners expressed deep concern about increased risks of violence for women and girls in their communities if support is not restored. They also flagged rising concerns about further funding reductions and conditionalities and increasingly limited spaces to discuss these life-threatening concerns.

A grantee partner in Africa suspended crucial programming for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In Arab States, women and girls in refugee camps lost access to case management and emergency response mechanisms. In Latin America and the Caribbean, programmes supporting at-risk Indigenous women and girls and survivors abruptly ceased with several months of implementation left, thereby increasing vulnerability and extreme poverty. In Asia, funding cuts to several grantee partners pushed women staff living with HIV into financial insecurity and uncertainty.

IMPACTS OF FUNDING CUTS BY MAJOR DONORS



3 out of 5

partners directly affected

Key impacts reported:



78%

reported reduction of essential services for survivors



73%

suspended or closed shelters, legal aid services, and healthcare support



Decrease

in staff capacity (burn-out and cuts)

* Source: UN Trust Fund Rapid Assessment, February 2025

2.3
THE UN TRUST FUND RESPONDS

In responding to backlash and funding cuts, grantee partners demonstrated enormous resilience. And the UN Trust Fund – with support from key donors – stepped up strategic adaptation, advocacy and additional emergency funding.

Organizations worked to maintain services, built solidarity networks, diversified funding, adapted delivery models, and continued to document and advocate – often at significant personal risk.

In solidarity with its grantee partners, the UN Trust Fund immediately responded with a Five-Point Action Plan to mitigate the negative impacts of this crisis – channeling bridge funding to partners at risk of closure, enabling budget reallocations, use of contingency budget lines, programme modifications, and no-cost extensions so that organizations could continue operating under rapidly changing conditions. At the same time, the UN Trust Fund and provided targeted support for safety and collective care, recognizing the growing risks faced by women's rights defenders and front-line staff.

The UN Trust Fund also built on its system-wide role by:

- Amplifying grantee partners' calls to action in key advocacy spaces
- Adapting its grant-making approach in real time to inform the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan

CALL TO ACTION FROM GRANTEE PARTNERS



Call for **immediate, core, flexible, long-term and unconditional funding to CSOs** working to end violence against women and girls.



Call for **intensifying and unifying advocacy initiatives** to resist the backlash and, expand civic space to continue provision of essential services to survivors and critical prevention work.



Call for **mental health support and safe spaces** for survivors and survivor-led organizations to convene and have critical conversations.



Call for **mobilization of proven and alternative resourcing strategies** from past crises to counter the current funding crisis.



Call for **funding that builds the resilience,** especially the technical resilience of organizations, networks and movements working to end violence against women and girls.

* Source: UN Trust Fund Rapid Assessment, February 2025

2.4 RISING DEMAND, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

It is also within this context that the UN Trust Fund launched its 2025 Call for Proposals on *Resourcing Resilience* – which revealed the scale, urgency, and nature of demand from organizations working on ending violence against women and girls. The call received 3,925 applications from organizations in 128 countries, requesting $2.1 billion.

The demand data offers a clear signal of where risks are intensifying and where civil society is positioned to respond. Applications showed rising demand for support to address gender-based violence in crisis and displacement settings, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in women and girls, and technology-facilitated violence – alongside continued focus on intimate partner violence, sexual violence by non-partners and harmful practices. More than half were from front-line organizations, closest to women and girls' lived realities and often filling critical gaps where public services have weakened or collapsed.

Yet the applications revealed more than rising need. They reflected the strength, adaptability and ambition of civil society organizations responding in real time – many working in contexts where public systems are absent, under-resourced or under strain. More than half of applicants were organizations deeply embedded in their communities, and many were seeking United Nations funding for the first time.



2025 DEMAND DATA AT A GLANCE

US$ 2.1
Billion

Across
128
countries & territories

To support
248M
women and girls

3,925
Applications

+36%
Increase since 2023

Follow-up feedback from more than 2,200 applicants in a survey reinforced another important signal: organizations appreciated the UN Trust Fund's open call, multilingual outreach, the accessibility of its processes, and the value of its flexible, multi-year support, while also pointing to opportunities to further improve accessibility.

The question is no longer whether solutions exist, but whether we are willing to resource them at scale. When resources match the ambition and leadership of women's organizations and that investment is sustained, the results are impactful.

2025 DEMAND DATA: EVAWG PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

TOP PRIORITY FORMS OF VIOLENCE TO ADDRESS

55% Intimate partner violence

42% Sexual violence by non-partners

31% Sexual harassment and violence in public spaces and institutions

30% Harmful practices

KEY TRENDS 2023–2025

Fastest growing demand to address:

- Crisis-related violence (increase of 70%-159%)
- Trafficking (+87%)
- Femicide (+72%)

Emerging areas:

- Climate-related violence (11%; US$ 225M)
- Technology-facilitated violence (10%; US$ 220M - 81% increase since 2023)

MAIN INTERVENTION FOCUS



46%

Prevention
US$ 1B



47%

Essential Services
US$ 1B



7%

Laws, Policies & Accountability
US$ 150M

3

IMPACT

What five years of investment made possible

The results in this section represent what UN Trust Fund grantee partners have achieved, documented and analysed across 2025 and the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period. This is not a comprehensive accounting; it is a synthesized picture of progress, presented to show what sustained investment in civil society–led approaches has made possible. Evidence is drawn from independent project evaluations, grantee monitoring data, grantees' most significant stories, and an independent meta-analysis of external project evaluations commissioned for this Strategic Plan period. Quantitative data across all five years is in the Technical Annex to this Annual Report.

The UN Trust Fund 2021–2025 Strategic Plan set a clear impact goal: **more women and girls, especially the most marginalized and those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, can exercise their human right to live a life free of all forms of violence**. Every grant, partnership and piece of evidence generated during this period has worked towards that goal, and towards maximizing impact.

The results described in this section do not belong to the UN Trust Fund. They belong to the CSOs and WROs – and above all, to the women and girls – who drove change in their own communities. The UN Trust Fund's role is to enable – through flexible, pooled, multi-year funding; solidarity across a global network of partners; and sustained investment in the organizations that communities trust most.

3.1 IMPACT GOAL: MORE WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING FREE FROM VIOLENCE

Ending violence against women and girls is possible. Many women's and girls' lives have changed. The UN Trust Fund's support for grantee partners is essential to this progress.

Across the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan, UN Trust Fund grantee partners **reached more than 130 million people – exceeding the target of 100 million**. In 2025 alone, more than 12 million people were reached, of whom about 6.5 million were women and girls. More than one million women and girls directly benefited from or were actively involved as primary partners in UN Trust Fund–supported initiatives over the five-year period.

OUR REACH - 2021–2025

IN NUMBERS



1,134,336

Primary Partners
i.e. women and girls



2,408,642

Secondary Beneficiaries



127,981,894

Indirect Beneficiaries

INCLUDING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM UNDERSERVED GROUPS



308,691
Survivors of violence



38,912
Women and girls from **ethnic minority groups**



58,746
Women and girls with **disabilities**



12,019
LBTIQA+ women and girls



76,273
Internally displaced persons or refugees



45,182
Women and girls experiencing **racial discrimination or injustice**



25,912
Women and girls living with **HIV/AIDS**



43,376
Women **human rights defenders** and **gender advocates**



148,033
Indigenous women and girls



344,059
Women and girls from the **lowest-income groups**

131,524,872
Total reach

of which



52.3%
Women & girls

The 2021–25 Strategic Plan committed the UN Trust Fund to reaching the most structurally marginalized women and girls – those facing intersecting forms of discrimination, the highest risks of violence and the greatest barriers to safety and justice, and at greatest risk of being left furthest behind. Progress on ending violence against women and girls is fragile and, in some contexts, has regressed. The most marginalized women and girls are the first to lose ground when it does. Prioritizing them is the most direct way to accelerate progress on SDG 5 Gender equality.

Through its support to WROs and constituency-led organizations, the UN Trust Fund reached hundreds of thousands of women and girls from the most structurally marginalized groups in 2025, and over one million across the Strategic Plan period.

Evidence from the meta-analysis, external evaluations and portfolio monitoring shows consistent success in reaching these groups and delivering results:

- **Economic independence emerged as one of the most consistent pathways out of violence.** Women with no prior access to income developed the capacity to earn, save and make decisions about their own lives. For **survivors** in particular, economic agency provided an escape from financial dependency and a route to safety that had not previously existed for them.
- **Women and girls who had been unrecognized by formal systems and unable to access services or justice gained formal acknowledgement of their rights.** Institutions that had excluded them began to treat their safety as an obligation. Protections that existed only on paper were made real.
- **Social norms and awareness of rights shifted, making violence more visible and less acceptable.** Women and girls came to better recognize and understand their rights. Communities began to question and challenge harmful attitudes and practices that had long silenced survivors. Crucially, survivors learned where to seek support and how to access services. This transformation in knowledge and perception opened pathways to action, protection and accountability.
- **Women who came into this work as survivors became its leaders.** Consistently, across the evidence, women who were supported to change their own circumstances became **agents of change** for others – in their households, communities and the systems around them. This is a significant, intentional result of the UN Trust Fund's investment in civil society.

PRIMARY PARTNERS

"Primary partners" matters as a term. Women and girls are not passive recipients of services. They are co-creators of transformative change – leading community campaigns, accompanying survivors, challenging harmful norms, and reshaping the institutions and systems around them.



CASE STORY

Survivors rebuilding their lives in Democratic Republic of the Congo

Solidarité Féminine Pour La Paix et le Développement Intégral (SOFEPADI)

Amid conflict and mass displacement in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, **women survivors of sexual violence** faced many barriers to safety – no income, no legal recourse, economic dependency on the men who had harmed them and impunity for perpetrators. A UN Trust Fund–supported initiative led by SOFEPADI supported survivors through economic reintegration, legal accompaniment and community outreach.

What was achieved: Real changes were made in women's lives, as documented in an independent evaluation:[10]

- 8,258 survivors received case management (target: 7,740) and 2,948 accessed emergency medical care within 72 hours (target: 450).
- 598 women survivors launched or expanded income-generating activities, with 69 per cent reporting higher income and reduced economic dependency on perpetrators.
- 669 survivors were supported through judicial processes (target: 180), resulting in 34 convictions.
- More than 6,400 people – **including women with disabilities and displaced persons** – accessed rights information and community support.
- Awareness activities reached close to 378,000 people, with 91 per cent reporting improved gender relations, 95 per cent less violent behaviour, and 96 per cent more equitable gender role attitudes. In Vuhovi, women who received economic support became community sensitizers, extending prevention and awareness to others beyond the initiative.

What this means for women, girls and communities: Women who arrived with no income, legal recognition or community support gained economic independence, a pathway to justice and a greater voice in their households and communities. When perpetrators faced consequences, trust in accountability began to grow. Women who had been supported became the ones who supported others.

What this shows for the evidence base: Integrated approaches are critical for women facing compounded marginalization in conflict settings. Linking economic support with judicial accountability reduced risk and shifted norms around impunity, while enabling survivor-led multiplier effects. This strengthens the evidence that such approaches can deliver measurable outcomes even where systems are constrained.



CASE STORY

Older women seen and supported in Moldova

HelpAge International

Older women are among those most consistently overlooked in violence prevention. In Moldova, many older women were isolated, economically dependent and experiencing violence that had never been named or reported. Age and gender together had placed these women outside the reach of most support systems.

A UN Trust Fund–supported initiative led by HelpAge reached older women where they were – through home visits, mobile counselling, community outreach and intergenerational income-generating activities that brought them back into economic and social life.

What was achieved: Real changes were made in women's lives, as documented in an external evaluation:[11]

- 2,866 older women were reached (exceeding the target by 253 per cent).
- 12,884 home visits were made and 343 referrals were completed.
- Awareness of rights increased by 15–29 percentage points between baseline and endline.
- 96 per cent of participants now know where to seek help.
- 79 per cent of participants report feeling safer.
- Businesses became joint family endeavours – in some cases, adult children invested alongside their mothers, shifting older women's role in the household from a dependant to an active economic partner.

What this means for women and communities: Women who had been isolated – in their homes, in their silence, in situations they had not known how to name – became connected to support, information and each other. Some women reported their experience of violence for the first time. Some launched small businesses alongside their children. Home visits communicated that these women's safety mattered and that help existed.

What this shows for the evidence base: The extent of reach, well above target, signals unmet need at scale. Older women are underserved and largely invisible in violence prevention systems. Economic empowerment reshapes household power dynamics, reducing risk and enabling help-seeking. Age-inclusive, community-based models are critical to reaching hidden populations and generating meaningful protection outcomes.



CASE STORY

Indigenous Women at the Centre of Justice in Peru

Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán

Indigenous women in rural Peru face violence in a context where Indigenous and national justice systems exist side by side but rarely work together. Community structures may offer the only accessible protection where state services are absent – but without coordination between them, survivors are at risk of falling through a gap that neither system takes responsibility for closing.

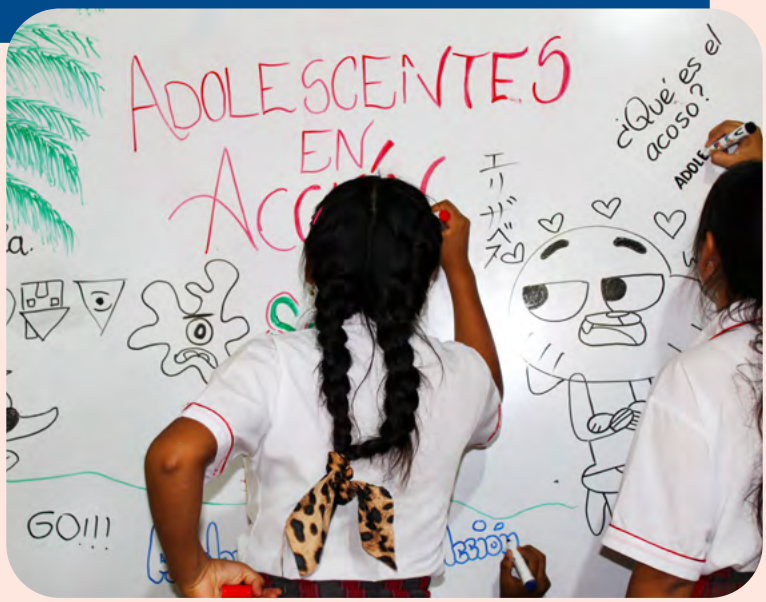
A UN Trust Fund–supported initiative led by Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán empowered Indigenous women and girls to lead change – identifying risk factors, shaping the regulatory response and holding institutions to account.

What was achieved: Concrete changes were made in protection and recognition, as reported by Flora Tristán:[12]

- A provincial ordinance formalized a culturally appropriate violence response pathway, integrating Indigenous authorities into national justice system processes.
- Four regulatory instruments were approved – establishing violence response pathways, prohibiting sexual harassment in public spaces, institutionalizing Indigenous Women's Week, and adopting a Plan against Gender Violence.
- Participatory processes led by Indigenous women and girls resulted in concrete corrective measures, including the closure of establishments identified as unsafe.
- Sustained capacity development and monitoring ensured commitments to protections were implemented appropriately at the community level.

What this means for women and communities: Indigenous women who had been invisible to formal justice systems now have legally recognized pathways to protection that reflect their culture and community structures. The state can no longer treat their safety as someone else's responsibility. Their voices did not just inform this process – they drove it.

What this shows for the evidence base: Participatory design is central to impact. It gives regulatory frameworks legitimacy and community ownership. For Indigenous women, formal systems can be responsive without erasing cultural difference. Legal and policy change is most durable when shaped by the groups it is intended to protect.



3.2
PROOF OF IMPACT: EVIDENCE THAT INITIATIVES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WORK

Knowing who was reached matters. **Knowing whether the work is reducing violence against women and girls, or changing the conditions that lead to violence, is what makes it credible – to donors, partners and the women and girls whose safety depends on continued investment**.

The UN Trust Fund measures impact through independent external evaluations. The findings described in this section draw on evaluations completed across the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan period and synthesized through an independent meta-analysis published in 2025. They represent the strongest available evidence that violence against women and girls can be reduced and prevented, and that the approaches supported by the UN Trust Fund work. In a global context where that proof is increasingly demanded – and increasingly contested – this evidence matters.

In 2025, 100 per cent of initiatives reviewed demonstrated effectiveness. Nearly two thirds demonstrated impact on violence against women and girls, including in some cases reductions in rates of violence and prevention of harmful norms.[13] This pattern is consistent over more than a decade of UN Trust Fund support.

The findings build on a decade of meta-analyses. They represent the strongest body of evidence the UN Trust Fund has assembled to date, reinforcing its role as a leading source of evidence on what works, as explored further in section 5.3.

HOW IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS ARE MEASURED IN THE 2021–2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Impact: Percentage/number of initiatives included in an external, independent meta-analysis sample that have evidence of impact on ending violence against women and girls (e.g. observed reduction in rates of violence against women and girls) as determined by external assessors/evaluators every 2 or more years.

Effectiveness: Percentage/number of initiatives included in an external, independent meta-analysis sample that have evidence of effectiveness on risk and protection factors to end violence against women and girls (e.g. changes in women's self-efficacy, shifts in social norms, changes in laws) as determined by external assessors/evaluators every 2 or more years.

CASE STORY

Harmful norms transformed, violence reduced in Cambodia

ADD International

Women and girls with disabilities are among those facing the highest rates of violence globally – and are among those with the least access to prevention and support. In Cambodia, ADD International worked with local WROs and organizations of people with disabilities to address this directly, using a community mobilization approach co-designed with the women it was intended to reach.

What was achieved: An independent external evaluation found:[14]

- Self-reported experience of violence among women with disabilities fell from 70 per cent at baseline to 21 per cent by the end of the initiative.
- Stigma and discrimination reduced significantly across the initiative period.

What this means for women and communities: Women with disabilities – one of the most consistently excluded groups in violence prevention – experienced profound changes in their safety and in their community's attitudes.

What this shows for the evidence base: Reducing violence against women from structurally marginalized groups is achievable within a project time frame when approaches are community-owned, disability-inclusive, and co-designed with the women concerned – not delivered to them.

Note: This initiative concluded during the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period. Results are reported here as part of the portfolio-level evidence base synthesized in 2025.



CASE STORY

Faith-based prevention, sustained over time in Liberia

Episcopal Relief & Development

In Liberia, Episcopal Relief & Development developed a faith-based social norms approach and tested it over two funding cycles – a six-year, two-phase initiative supported by the UN Trust Fund. The sustained, flexible funding enabled time to build trust, deepen change and rigorously measure results.

What was achieved: An independent evaluation against a control group (women who did not receive the intervention) found:[15]

- An 8 per cent decrease in intimate partner violence was documented by women participants.
- Attitudes, knowledge and practices around violence showed sustained transformation.
- Results held up in comparison with the control group, providing more robust evidence of change.

What this means for women and communities: Where religion and culture have long shaped gendered norms, working with faith leaders – rather than around them – produced change that communities owned. Women in areas reached by the programme experienced measurably less violence.

What this shows for the evidence base: Evaluation using a control group comparison provides particular evidential weight to the findings. Sustained, multi-year flexible investment in a trusted partner produces stronger results than short-term funding. The second funding cycle built directly on what the first had established. Long-term investment in civil society is not just good practice – it is what generates this kind of evidence.

Note: This initiative concluded during the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period. Results are reported here as part of the portfolio-level evidence base synthesized in 2025.



CASE STORY

Community-led abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM)

International Solidarity Foundation and the Network Against FGM in Somaliland (NAFIS)

At least 98 per cent of **women and girls** in Somaliland have undergone FGM. The practice has been sustained by deeply held social and religious beliefs, community pressure and fear of discrimination. Ending it required changing what communities believe – and who can speak publicly against the practice.

Working with local partner NAFIS, ISF took a multilevel approach: building women's self-help groups and cluster associations as community advocates; establishing community management committees that brought together religious leaders, traditional leaders and health professionals; and training university students and journalists as change agents. FGM practitioners were supported to access alternative livelihoods. The Somaliland Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family was engaged throughout to develop a national FGM policy.

What was achieved: The results – documented in the independent evaluation - were substantial:[16]

- Project monitoring data reports that 12,520 girls were supported to avoid FGM over the project period, against a target of 11,260.[17]
- Parents rejecting FGM for their daughters rose from 32 per cent to 83 per cent.
- Religious leaders who confirmed no type of FGM is mandated by Islam rose from 78 per cent to 100 per cent.
- 66 community management committees and cluster associations made collective public declarations to abandon FGM.

What this means for women and communities: More girls are growing up free from FGM. The shift in who can speak openly against the practice – from religious leaders to community members – is changing what is socially acceptable. Where opposition was once stigmatized, visibility is critical to sustaining abandonment.

What this shows for the evidence base: Ending FGM requires coordinated shifts across the actors who sustain it – religious authorities, traditional leaders, families and peers. Community-owned, multilevel approaches working through trusted local structures can align these actors simultaneously, enabling norm change to take hold across entire communities.

Note: This initiative concluded during the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period. Results are reported here as part of the portfolio-level evidence base synthesized in 2025.



3.3
REFRAMING IMPACT: BEYOND VIOLENCE REDUCTION

Across the five-year Strategic Plan period, grantee partners worked through the COVID-19 pandemic, shrinking civic space, conflict and displacement, fiscal tightening, reduced funding for services and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and a growing backlash against gender equality and women's rights. These pressures did not simply make implementation harder. They increased risk, weakened protection, disrupted services, and made progress more fragile. In these contexts, it is necessary to reframe our understanding of impact.

Impact cannot be understood only as a neat or immediate decline in rates of violence. Sometimes impact meant preventing regression where rights and protections were already under threat. Sometimes it meant keeping services open when public systems weakened or funding disappeared. Sometimes it meant reducing risk, strengthening trust in institutions, protecting referral pathways, or ensuring that women and girls still had somewhere safe to turn.

This is why the UN Trust Fund's theory of change matters. Across the Strategic Plan period, the UN Trust Fund invested not only in reducing violence directly, but also in strengthening the conditions that make long-term change possible. This broader view is not a weaker standard of evidence. It is the standard needed for the contexts in which this work takes place. In complex and unstable environments, not all meaningful change can be captured through prevalence data alone, especially in a 3–4-year period.

This matters especially now. When funding contracts, backlash intensifies and public systems weaken, impact may look like survival, continuity and resistance to reversal – as well as measurable change.



CASE STORY

Protection did not disappear in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, women face overlapping forms of violence shaped by occupation, displacement, economic collapse and entrenched patriarchal norms. The escalation of war in Gaza in October 2023 intensified these risks, further constraining access to justice and protection. Through a UN Trust Fund-supported initiative, WCLAC and the Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA) combined legal aid, psychosocial support, emergency shelter, youth mobilization and digital advocacy to ensure women could access protection while challenging the norms and systems enabling violence.

What was achieved: The results – drawn from final evaluation evidence – show critical systems holding under extreme pressure:[18]

- 803 women accessed legal, psychosocial and protection services, exceeding the target of 650.
- 92 per cent of survivors reported satisfaction with services and 98 per cent said the support was critical to accessing justice.
- 72 sharia lawyers were trained in gender-responsive litigation.
- 37 women activists reached 877 women through community awareness sessions.
- 63 youth mobilizers led 201 sessions, including outreach in displacement camps in Gaza.
- Media campaigns on femicide and violence against women reached thousands more across the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Women reported greater confidence, knowledge of their rights, and willingness to seek help. Some later became advocates in their own communities.

What this means for women and communities: Even as formal systems weakened, alternative pathways to safety, justice and support remained available to women.

What this shows for the evidence base: In conflict settings, impact is not only measured by declining violence. Often, a critical outcome is that protection systems do not disappear entirely – and that local feminist organizations continue holding the line.

CASE STORY

Making "invisible" violence visible in Honduras

Center for Reproductive Rights

In Honduras, women and girls faced a very restrictive policy environment for **sexual and reproductive health rights**. Access to safe abortion was heavily constrained, public discourse on reproductive autonomy was highly politicized, and institutional systems often failed to recognize denial of reproductive rights as part of the broader continuum of violence against women and girls.

Many women – particularly those facing poverty, geographic isolation or weak institutional protection – had few safe pathways to seek support, document abuse or demand accountability. Violence remained largely invisible within both national systems and public discourse.

Through a UN Trust Fund-supported initiative, the Center for Reproductive Rights worked with women's rights networks to improve access to reproductive health services, including abortion, for survivors of sexual violence and to advocate for a comprehensive law on violence against women. The initiative focused on making hidden harms visible – creating the evidence base required for future accountability, prevention and legal reform efforts.

What was achieved: The results – confirmed through the independent final evaluation – reflect changes in whether violence could be named, documented and acted upon in a very difficult context:

- 87 women's networks and community groups were supported through international legal advocacy, capacity-building and technical assistance to WROs.
- WROs played an essential role in preventing regression in times of legal and political backlash while also taking important systemic steps forward through strategic litigation for marginalized women.
- The issue gained greater public visibility, creating pathways for future legal and policy reform.

What this means for women and communities: Women facing reproductive rights violations were no longer entirely invisible within public systems. Harm that had remained hidden was named, documented and pushed into public accountability spaces. For many women, visibility was the first step towards justice.

What this shows for the evidence base: In highly restrictive contexts, impact may not immediately look like declining prevalence rates or large-scale legal reforms. In Honduras, progress looked like holding the line and emerged through slower, contributory steps – movement building, media advocacy, and alignment among local and international actors resisting backlash on sexual and reproductive health rights. These shifts are difficult to measure, but sustaining civil society's ability to keep these issues visible is a critical form of impact that preserves the foundation for future reform.

CASE STORY

Women leading change in their communities

Women for Women International in South Sudan

In South Sudan, women face some of the highest rates of violence globally, compounded by active conflict, displacement, disrupted institutions and deeply rooted gender norms. Prevention programming in fragile contexts has frequently been criticized for its reliance on external actors and its inability to produce change that outlasts a project cycle. In such settings, the question is not only whether change happens but whether it holds.

Through a UN Trust Fund–supported initiative, Women for Women International implemented a comprehensive package combining women's economic and social empowerment, structured engagement of men and boys to become allies and advocates for gender equality, trained community change agents, and outreach through radio and school clubs. This was designed from the outset so that communities, not the intervention, became the primary agents of prevention.

What was achieved: The results – drawn from 2025 monitoring data – show change across multiple areas of women's lives:[19]

- 90 per cent of women engaged in income-generating activities were participating in household decision-making – their economic security and their voice advancing together.
- More than 75 per cent of men engaged showed improved gender-equitable attitudes; 97 per cent reported actively supporting female leadership in their community.
- Nearly 100 per cent of trained community change agents were implementing community advocacy plans to address violence against women and girls at a local level.
- The change agent network reached communities beyond the direct initiative footprint, influencing social norms and local power structures to uphold women's rights. This indicates that prevention can persist and extend provided the right support is in place.

What this means for women and communities: Women in one of the world's most fragile and violence-affected settings gained income, decision-making power, and recognition of their leadership within households and communities. Men engaged as allies shifted attitudes and behaviours. Community change agents are now sustaining and extending prevention efforts within their own communities. This continuity reflects a change that is embedded locally despite the context of ongoing disruption.

What this shows for the evidence base: Prevention efforts can take root in fragile and conflict-affected settings through community ownership and locally sustained action. Change is sustained by women and communities, and reinforced through economic independence and collective action. In a global context of shrinking funding and pressure on civil society, locally led approaches can sustain progress and maintain protective conditions over time.

The UN Trust Fund's impact goal across the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan was clear – more women and girls, especially the most marginalized and those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, can exercise their human right to live a life free of all forms of violence. The evidence in this report shows that this goal has been advanced.

The sections that follow examine how impact is achieved across prevention, services and legal and policy change, and the approaches that connect them.



3.4
MULTIPLIER RESULTS: WIDER GAINS ACROSS SDGS

The 2030 Agenda's SDGs are interconnected and indivisible. These connections are evident in the results from grantee partner projects supported by the UN Trust Fund in 2021–2025. Work has simultaneously advanced gender equality, poverty reduction, health, justice, quality education, and peace, often within a single grant.



SDG 1 (No poverty)

Violence against women is both a consequence and driver of poverty. Financial dependency can trap women in abusive situations. Violence in workplaces and communities can push women out of livelihoods altogether. Across 27 grantees in 2025, more than 10,000 women built livelihood skills and strengthened their economic agency. Across the five years of the Strategic Plan, the UN Trust Fund **reached nearly 350,000 women and girls in the lowest income groups**. The meta-analysis found that socioeconomic empowerment gains were most durable when paired with protection systems, legal support and safer institutional environments.



- *In **Iraq**, Awan supported 72 private sector companies to adopt written anti-harassment policies with complaint mechanisms, investigation committees and penalties. These company-level frameworks function as*

interim accountability mechanisms, creating clear reporting channels and consequences for workplace harassment where national workplace protections remain limited. The initiative also trained 325 women on labour rights and economic empowerment, linking institutional policy change with women's increased ability to safely enter and remain in the workplace. As a result, women's confidence in reporting harassment increased from 5 per cent to 68 per cent; employer recognition of harassment policy importance increased from 10 per cent to 53 per cent; and legal advisory units provided consultations to 720 women survivors (exceeding the target of 500), with cases tracked through standardized data systems. These results demonstrate how economic empowerment and appropriate company policies can support accountability and safe environments when linked to complaint channels that survivors trust. This contributes to SDG 1 by addressing workplace violence and harassment that pushes women out of employment and into poverty. By making workplaces safer and improving women's economic agency, the initiative helped protect livelihoods and reduce economic vulnerability.[20]

SDG 3 (Good health and well-being)

Across 2021–2025, **7,433 institutions improved their capacity to deliver services** – many of them health facilities. The meta-analysis found that where grantee accompaniment strengthened health systems through protocols, training and multisectoral partnerships, benefits extended beyond the project cycle and into institutional practice. Sexual and gender-based violence is a health emergency. Building health systems' capacity to recognize, refer and respond improves prevention of violence and strengthens health systems as a response mechanism.



- *In **Nigeria**, Centre for Women's Health and Information built disability-inclusive response capacity in the community. The Centre trained 75 justice and security personnel on inclusive justice systems and ending violence against women. It trained 100 women and girls with disabilities as community psychological first aiders, establishing violence against women response groups recognized by government, and operationalizing Technical Action/Sustainability Plans in Lagos and Osun. Fifty-two women and girls with disabilities accessed support services and 87 per cent reported satisfaction with these community-owned response pathways.*[21] *This shows a direct contribution to SDG 3 through expanded access to psychosocial support for survivors of violence and by embedding community-based mental health and trauma response systems for women and girls with disabilities, who are often excluded from formal health services.*
- *In **Cambodia**, social norms, stigma and limited institutional capacity have historically deterred survivors of intimate partner violence from reporting abuse or seeking help. Weak referral structures, limited knowledge of women's rights among local authorities, and disruptions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic further constrained access to justice, especially for marginalized groups, including LBTIQA+ individuals and women living with HIV. Within this context, Cambodian Health and Education for Community, supported by youth and community educators, strengthened referral pathways, linking survivors, LBTIQA+ individuals, and women living with HIV to commune committees, police stations and health centres. Cumulative service access exceeded targets, reaching 530 survivors (target 250), 142 LBTIQA+ individuals (target 120), and 79 women living with HIV (target 50). The independent final evaluation commissioned by Cambodian Health and Education for Community found that the intervention generated a shift from informal to formal reporting channels, possibly reflecting greater trust in institutions: reports to police rose from 30 per cent to 81 per cent between baseline and endline.*[22] *Health centres, previously absent from the response chain for violence against women and girls, became active referral nodes, able to screen whether injuries were caused by domestic violence and to guide survivors towards legal support through commune committees and police. This system-level change has been corroborated by health centre staff.*[23]

SDG 4 (Quality education)

Violence is a major barrier to girls' education – driving absenteeism, school dropout, early marriage, exploitation and unsafe learning environments. SDG 4 is therefore closely linked to ending violence against women and girls. Across the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period, UN Trust Fund grantee partners helped make **2,803 schools safer for women and girls**, while also using schools as prevention platforms where girls can build knowledge of their rights, access support, and develop leadership skills that reduce long-term vulnerability to violence.



- *In **Kenya**, Maisha Girls Safe House combined shelter and comprehensive survivor services with a multisectoral referral team. The initiative provided services to 92 survivors during the reporting period, with 91 per cent survivor satisfaction and community sensitization reaching 44,752 people. Weekly calls for shelter placement increased from 3–4 to 5–7, indicating stronger referral connectivity. A total of **520 girls** were reached through empowerment sessions conducted in schools and safe spaces. These sessions have continued, serving as vital learning platforms, equipping girls with knowledge on sexual and gender-based violence, human rights and essential life skills. This is reflected in the growing leadership among participants, with many girls taking on various roles within their schools. Psychosocial support reached 254 individuals through 18 group sessions, while legal follow-up included 60 cases, 1 conviction, and 38 family reunifications – highlighting how Maisha's multisectoral coordination turned a shelter into a hub that links health, justice, psychosocial care and community reporting into a pathway that survivors can navigate.*[24]

SDG 5 (Gender equality)

The UN Trust Fund's portfolio is the strongest available civil society evidence base on progress against Target 5.2 – eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls – and Target 5.3 – ending harmful practices. Thirty-six high-quality independent evaluations, synthesized through the 2025 meta-analysis, represent the **most rigorous body of evidence any single funder has assembled on what works in this field**. This evidence base contributes to the global SDG accountability architecture – informing what the United Nations system, Member States and the wider development community understand about what civil society-led approaches can achieve.



- *In South-West **Somalia** and Somaliland, Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa helped shift harmful gender norms and expand access to justice in contexts where formal systems remain weak. Through community protection groups and paralegal networks that became trusted referral points, reliance on informal clan systems was significantly reduced. Where formal justice is limited, the initiative contributed to significant shifts: rejection of marital rape rose from 28.2 per cent to 81.3 per cent, and willingness to report sexual violence to police rose from 49.4 per cent to 75.5 per cent. Paralegal desks, community protection groups operating across 10 camps for internally displaced persons, and referral pathway directories created coordinated access to formal justice where none had existed. Service providers confirmed that hotlines now link survivors to shelters within hours. Moreover, a significant shift was seen among religious and traditional leaders: by endline, community elders in Hargeisa were actively encouraging families to report to formal mechanisms – a reversal of baseline norms. One community elder reflected, "we used to settle rape cases quietly; now we encourage families to report so perpetrators are punished."*[25]

SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities)



The UN Trust Fund's disaggregated beneficiary data across 2021–2025 is a direct SDG 10 record. Direct beneficiaries include more than 308,000 survivors of violence, 344,000 women and girls from the lowest income groups, more than 148,000 Indigenous women and girls, 76,000 displaced and refugee women, nearly 59,000 women with disabilities and more than 12,000 LBTIQA+ women and girls. These are populations experiencing compounded inequality – facing the highest risks of violence and the greatest structural barriers to protection. The meta-analysis affirms that **reaching them requires foundational investments in visibility, access and trust** that conventional metrics frequently fail to capture. Reaching them is SDG 10 work. The UN Trust Fund's commitment to leave no one behind means this work is done proactively and systematically across every funding cycle.

- *In **North Macedonia**, Roma Women and Youth Association LULUDI addressed systemic inequality experienced by Roma women and girls by producing monitoring reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention). The reports documented gaps in implementation, including weak coordination, limited budgeting, and the absence of accessible services for Roma women and girls, particularly in the Romani language. They continue to face systemic exclusion, discrimination and barriers to protection. The findings and gaps detected were presented to more than 70 stakeholders to inform dialogue with municipal and national actors. In parallel, the initiative addressed one of these gaps by expanding access to services for Roma women and girls. The NANA centre – the first and only support centre in North Macedonia for survivors and women and girls at risk of gender-based violence that is fully accessible in the Romani language – reached 402 women and girls against a target of 240 and recorded a more than threefold increase in reported cases, reflecting increased access, awareness and trust.*[26]

SDG 13 (Climate action)



Climate change is intensifying risks of violence against women and girls through displacement, livelihood loss, resource scarcity and weakened protection systems. This intersection is becoming more visible in the UN Trust Fund's portfolio: the 2025 Call for Proposals showed rising demand for responses to climate-related violence. Across the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period, grantee partners working in climate-affected settings helped strengthen community resilience, reduce protection risks and ensure women and girls were safer in contexts shaped by environmental instability.

- *In **India**, climate-related disasters and livelihood insecurity in coastal communities intensified economic stress and associated risks of violence against women and girls. In response, Organization for Community Development strengthened community-based prevention and response systems through Zero Violence Against Women Committees operating across affected villages. The initiative combined psychosocial support, legal assistance and livelihood training to support survivors while strengthening localized protection systems. Women accessed counselling and legal support, including assistance with protection orders, while livelihood initiatives such as fish processing training and women-led cooperatives helped strengthen economic independence in climate-affected communities. Survivors increasingly took on leadership roles within village committees and peer-support structures. This example shows how community-led approaches to ending violence against women and girls can also strengthen climate resilience by reinforcing social protection, economic security and local support systems in contexts shaped by environmental instability.*

SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)



The legal and policy change work across the Strategic Plan contributes to SDG 16. Across the five years of the Strategic Plan: 4,502 government institutions have been strengthened in capacity; 12,949 institutional partnerships for multisectoral strategies have been built; 5,725 multi-stakeholder dialogues have been convened; and 1,612 protocols and guidelines have been developed or improved. **These results improve governance as well as advancing efforts to end violence against women and girls**. The meta-analysis found that engagement with informal justice systems – especially in fragile and rural contexts – built structured bridges to formal mechanisms where state systems were weak, and built safer and more resilient communities, contributing to accountable, inclusive justice in contexts where it is most fragile.

- *In Eastern Shan State of **Myanmar**, women and girls face harassment, violence in public spaces, trafficking risk shaped by harmful gender norms and unsafe public infrastructure, compounded by conflict. Through the Women-led ending Violence Against Women approach by CARE International, women's groups implemented community action plans addressing both social norms and physical risk factors. Risk-mitigation initiatives, such as installing solar lighting, improving water access and rehabilitating roads, benefited 4,437 community members. In addition, women-led groups conducted regular community awareness sessions on violence against women and girls, strengthening knowledge on prevention, response and availability of essential services. Through these efforts, women are increasingly recognized as trusted first-line responders who proactively identify, support and refer gender-based violence cases in their communities. This example shows that preventing violence is not only about changing attitudes – it can also require changing the physical environment that enables harm. In a conflict-affected setting, women helped reshape community priorities to reduce violence risks, while strengthening their role in local decision-making and accountability systems. That is a powerful example of how work to end violence against women can advance both safer communities and more inclusive local governance.*
- *In **Lebanon**, Karama and their local partner, Justice Without Frontiers, developed and secured adoption of a specialized Internal Security Forces curriculum on gender-sensitive investigations and UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security. As a result of these efforts, survivor-centred investigation norms are now embedded into state security training. This has shifted practice norms at scale and increased the likelihood of consistent, rights-aligned case handling.*[27]

Localization as a development multiplier

All UN Trust Fund grants flow to CSOs and most are made to WROs with deep community roots. Development dividends are retained locally – in organizational capacity, institutional relationships and the feminist movements these organizations sustain. This is a contribution to the 2030 Agenda that no single SDG indicator fully captures, and one that sustainable development requires.

4

RESULTS

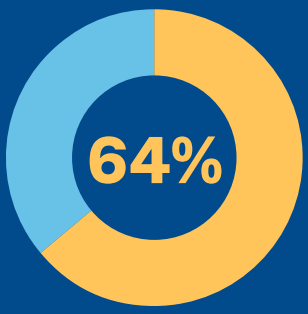
What partners delivered in 2025

4.1 INTEGRATED APPROACHES DRIVE CHANGE

Impact was most visible when prevention, services and legal accountability reinforced one another and were delivered by organizations embedded within communities and women's and feminist movements. In other words, integrated programming made change possible.

The strongest results were supported by trusted relationships, community legitimacy, sustained accompaniment, coalition-building, evidence generation and the ability to adapt in difficult contexts. These are organizational and movement capacities – not short-term project inputs.

THEMATIC OUTCOME AREAS



of grantee partners in 2025 worked across two or more areas



Improved prevention

of violence against women and girls through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes.



Improved access

for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services.



Increased effectiveness

of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end violence against women and girls.



+ Women's and Feminist Movement Building

2025 - OUR REACH

IN NUMBERS



112,826

Primary Partners
i.e. women and girls



256,975

Secondary Beneficiaries



11,755,577

Indirect Beneficiaries

INCLUDING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM UNDERSERVED GROUPS



39,610
Survivors of violence



6,029
Women and girls from **ethnic minority groups**



7,444
Women and girls with **disabilities**



2,736
LBTIQA+ women and girls



12,727
Internally displaced persons or refugees



8,252
Women and girls experiencing **racial discrimination or injustice**



3,223
Women and girls living with **HIV/AIDS**



3,321
Women **human rights defenders** and **gender advocates**



8,828
Indigenous women and girls



29,924
Women and girls from the **lowest-income groups**

12,125,378
Total reach

of which



53.4%
Women & girls

CASE STORY

Community midwives as a movement of prevention and protection in Guatemala

Haurralde Fundazioa and Tierra Viva

Community midwives are trusted at the most intimate moments of women's lives. In Guatemala, Haurralde Fundazioa and Tierra Viva built this existing trust into a networked protection movement. Their work equipped 170 midwives across six departments and 19 municipalities to identify violence, accompany survivors and connect women to services and local authorities.

What changed

- In the first half of 2025, more than 500 women received guidance, accompaniment and referrals to health and institutional services, including prenatal check-ups, childbirth assistance and support in cases related to sexual violence.
- 80 cases of sexual violence were actively accompanied through local coordination mechanisms.
- Midwife networks participated in municipal dialogue round tables and coordination spaces, bringing community evidence into local decision-making.

Why it matters This model connects prevention, services and accountability through women who already hold trust in their communities and it is important to recognize and resource this network of trust.



CASE STORY

Ten centres, new legislation and a national shift in protection in Armenia

Coalition to Stop Violence against Women

Over three years, the Coalition to Stop Violence against Women standardized practice across all 10 regional domestic violence support centres in Armenia. This improved intake, case management, hotline response and data systems, while building the institutional capacity required to sustain the changes. Service improvement and advocacy were pursued together. Sustained engagement alongside service reform contributed to comprehensive new domestic violence legislation that criminalized stalking, removed reconciliation procedures that had shielded perpetrators, and recognized intimate partners and child witnesses as victims.

What changed[28]

- 95 per cent of women surveyed reported that staff were knowledgeable and supportive.
- 94 per cent of women surveyed felt safe, and 93 per cent felt respected and found services accessible and inclusive.
- 23 service providers adopted standardized survivor-centred processes, strengthening consistency across the national support system.

New domestic violence legislation was enacted, strengthening protection for survivors across Armenia.

Why it matters Service quality, institutional standards and legal reform can reinforce one another when sustained by a strong CSO.



CASE STORY

One-stop services and a mobile unit reaching women who could not reach services in Morocco

L'Association Initiatives pour la Protection des Droits des Femmes (AIPDF)

In marginalized neighbourhoods across Morocco, AIPDF trained and mobilized community focal points – local women embedded in the communities they serve – to identify violence, orient survivors and accompany them through referral and recovery. Integrated legal, psychosocial and health support brought services closer to women who would otherwise face distance, stigma and insecurity. At the same time, participants proposed the "Mobile Garden for Equality," a community-owned public space initiative that combined prevention, visibility and the reclamation of safer shared spaces.

What changed

- 258 women were identified and referred by community focal points to services.
- 686 women accessed integrated services within six months.
- More than 40 per cent of participants completed legal and economic reintegration processes, up from 16 per cent at baseline.

Why it matters This model linked community trust, service access, legal support and economic reintegration – turning fragmented services into a usable pathway.



4.2 PREVENTION: CHANGING THE CONDITIONS THAT ENABLE VIOLENCE

In 2025, grantee partners supported thousands of community actors, women and girls, institutions and local spaces to shift the behaviours, practices and conditions that enable violence against women and girls.

Over the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period, UN Trust Fund grantee partners delivered prevention results at scale: mobilizing leaders for norm change, working across hundreds of thousands of households, communities and institutions to uphold gender-equitable attitudes, build women and girls' self-efficacy and agency, and support safe spaces.

The 2021–2025 meta-analysis found that prevention was most effective when grantee partners moved beyond general awareness-raising and worked to change the specific social norms, power relations and institutional behaviours that sustain violence. Three prevention strategies emerged most consistently.

1. Grantee partners achieved results by **transforming mindsets and social norms through trusted agents of change**. These included community, faith, traditional and youth leaders; men and boys; media actors; teachers; parents; and other locally influential actors. The point was not simply to deliver messages, but to shift the attitudes and practices of people who shape community norms and decision-making.
2. Prevention was stronger when grantee partners **increased the inclusion, leadership and empowerment of marginalized women and girls**. The meta-analysis found that women's and girls' agency, self-efficacy, participation and collective voice functioned as protective factors, especially for groups excluded from services, justice and community decision-making.
3. Grantee partners contributed to prevention by **building evidence and visibility around forms of violence that had been hidden, denied or underrecognized**. Visibility created the basis for future community action, institutional response, advocacy and accountability.





2021-2025 PREVENTION RESULTS AT SCALE

79,286
leaders mobilized for norm change

571,666
people supported to hold gender-equitable attitudes

370,958
women and girls supported to build self-efficacy and agency

+12,000
safer spaces supported

PREVENTION		
COMMON INDICATOR	**2025**	**2021–2025**
Community, faith, traditional and youth **leaders advocating** publicly for ending violence against women and girls	4,155	79,286
Evidence- or practice-based methodologies, approaches or models developed or implemented for **behaviour and social norms** change	101	1,366
Safer spaces supported, including schools, public spaces and work environments	825	12,286
Women and girls supported to build **skills and capacities in self-efficacy**, agency, assertiveness and self-confidence	10,368	370,958
People supported through strategies to hold **gender-equitable attitudes**	14,273	571,666
Women and girls with increased capacities to **participate in public life** and/or exercise leadership in efforts to end violence against women and girls	10,249	248,714

The strongest prevention results came when these strategies were combined. The meta-analysis found that impact was greatest when inclusion and norm change were pursued together, and when community-level prevention was linked to systems-level change.

In line with these strategies, grantee partners' initiatives delivered notable prevention results in 2025 across three areas:

- **Women as agents and multipliers of change.** For instance, in **Bolivia**, Centro de Desarrollo Integral de la Mujer Aymara (CDIMA) trained 461 feminist leaders in Aymara communities. In turn, 346 certified leaders replicated prevention workshops, reaching 9,957 Indigenous Aymara women, and broadcast 80+ radio programmes with an audience of more than 59,000 people in 2025. Evidence points to strong multiplier effects and readiness to identify and respond to gender-based violence risk, with 61 per cent of (171 of 280) Indigenous participants certified as community promoters and leaders competent to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors.[29]
- **Engaging men, boys and community institutions.** For instance, in **Guyana**, Help & Shelter conducted 12 awareness sessions across farming communities, reaching 216 participants aged 18 to 72, and delivered an Essential Service Providers Workshop to strengthen survivor-centred approaches and referral coordination across the police, health, education and community sectors. Results indicate strong attitudinal shifts: almost 95 per cent of participants reported a more survivor-centred, rights-based approach; 100 per cent reported increased confidence to address gender-based violence and share knowledge; and 32 participants assumed gender advocate roles – laying the groundwork for sustained community-level prevention and support. In rural and farming communities, prevention depends on both norm change and the readiness of local duty bearers to respond safely; otherwise "awareness" can increase risk without pathways to protection. Accordingly, Help & Shelter plans to strengthen and support a broader network of trained female gender advocates, strengthen coordination protocols with essential service providers, and institutionalize referral pathways.[30]
- **Community-owned prevention.** For instance, in **Nigeria**, the Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative established four women-led multipurpose cooperatives to strengthen women's economic resilience and collective support systems. Women members of these cooperatives demonstrated improved income-earning capacity and stronger financial decision-making. Several reported progress towards financial independence, including more stable income streams and expanded livelihood activities. Beyond economic gains, 74.77 per cent reported feeling more recognized and supported in addressing intersectional discrimination. Testimonies highlighted increased community respect, improved family support, and growing roles as peer counsellors and mediators.[31]

4.3 SERVICES: MAKING SUPPORT ACCESSIBLE, SAFE AND SURVIVOR-CENTRED

In 2025, grantee partners supported women and girls to access the care, referral and protection they needed, strengthened the capacity of providers and institutions, and worked to ensure that cases were identified, reported and channelled through functioning multisectoral service pathways.

Over the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period, UN Trust Fund grantee partners delivered specialist services to survivors at significant scale: supporting hundreds of thousands of survivors to access care, strengthening the capacity of tens of thousands of service providers and institutions, improving reporting and referral pathways, and expanding access to prevention and response information for millions of women and girls.

The 2021–2025 meta-analysis found that service delivery was most effective when grantee partners moved beyond direct provision alone and worked to strengthen the systems, providers and referral pathways through which survivors could access care over time. Three service strategies emerged most consistently.

1. **Grantee partners achieved the strongest results by capacitating statutory service providers.** Initiatives that showed evidence of greatest effectiveness took a multisectoral and comprehensive approach to the needs of survivors and at-risk women and girls, working alongside statutory service providers rather than creating parallel systems. The aim was not simply to deliver services but to strengthen the institutional capacity, protocols and practices of the actors charged with delivering them. Where grantee provision or accompaniment improved systems through training and multisectoral partnerships, benefits extended beyond the project cycle.
2. **In conflict-affected and fragile settings, providing trauma-informed services emerged as a distinct and effective strategy.** This approach was essential for reaching women and girls who faced specific access barriers, including those in crisis, those with disabilities, and those carrying the burden of historical trauma. The most effective models piloted trauma-informed care in ways designed for eventual integration within wider government systems.
3. **Grantee partners found that socioeconomic empowerment interventions strengthened service access, healing and agency.** This was especially the case when embedded in multisectoral partnerships. Combining economic inclusion with specialist support enabled survivors to rebuild self-sufficiency, reducing vulnerability to continued violence.



2021-2025 SERVICES RESULTS AT SCALE

5.5+ million
women and girls accessed information, resources or services

45,521
service providers and

7,433
institutions improved capacity to respond

86,037
cases reported and referred

ESSENTIAL SERVICES		
COMMON INDICATOR	**2025**	**2021–2025**
Women and girls accessed quality **specialist services**	74,300	292,447
Service providers and **institutions improved** service provision	4,644	52,954
Gender-based violence cases reported or referred to state service providers	8,504	86,037
Women and girls accessed **justice services**	7,960	74,624
Women and girls accessing **information, goods, resources or services**	581,198	5,514,450

The strongest service results were achieved when these approaches were combined and institutionalized. The meta-analysis found that where improvements were embedded in protocols, staff training and institutional systems, they were more likely to endure after grant cycles ended.

In line with these strategies, grantee partners' initiatives delivered notable service results in 2025 across three areas:

- **Reaching those most excluded from services.** For instance, in **Nepal**, Setu Nepal provided inclusive services to women living with HIV and to survivors of gender-based violence, including LBTIQA+ (lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual and other identity) women: 145 women accessed essential services and 39 accessed shelter support in five districts where these groups are routinely excluded from formal systems. The intervention's success was anchored in adapting to the realities of women living with HIV (i.e. stigma, mobility barriers, the need to remain near families when formal shelters were restrictive), demonstrating that flexibility is essential to the safety and uptake of services for highly marginalized survivors.[32]
- **Survivor-centred approaches to service quality.** In **Serbia**, Center for Support of Women implemented standardized protocols and training across a network of six hospital-based sexual violence response centres. Survivor satisfaction rose from 40 per cent to 93 per cent. The project's final independent evaluation identified four factors behind this shift: survivors being believed, not being rushed, not having to retell their story repeatedly, and having someone present throughout the medical process and its aftermath. The evaluation emphasized Center for Support of Women's ongoing engagement beyond the training phase, highlighting the role of continuous mentoring and daily operational support. In other words, survivor satisfaction was linked to systemic changes in practice, not only individual provider behaviour.[33] In conflict-affected **Ukraine**, Insight operated two shelters and two community hubs to provide psychological counselling and legal assistance. More than 400 women accessed services and 77 per cent reported improved mental health and coping capacity. By maintaining service continuity, the initiative secured access to protection, prevented service disruption, and reinforced survivor safety during periods of acute instability.[34]
- **Community-based and mobile service delivery.** In **Peru**, violence against women and girls is compounded in regions affected by illegal mining. In these regions, human trafficking and sexual exploitation disproportionately impact migrant, refugee and Indigenous women, who face significant barriers to accessing state services. Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (PROMSEX) provided integrated services for survivors and women at risk of gender-based violence and trafficking across Piura, Madre de Dios and Lima. These services integrated psychosocial support, legal assistance, economic reintegration and outreach. The initiative reached 1,464 survivors and women at risk of sexual violence or trafficking, through psychological support, integral sexual education, and awareness campaigns. Of these women, 229 were supported to obtain national identity documents in coordination with the Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil (to 100 per cent satisfaction). A Business Training Initiatives Program was also implemented in Madre de Dios and Piura to provide economic alternatives that recognize participants' knowledge, trajectories and aspirations. More than 90 per cent of women in the Madre de Dios and Piura programmes reported changes in their knowledge of care mechanisms, reintegration processes and the negative effects of trafficking on health.[35]

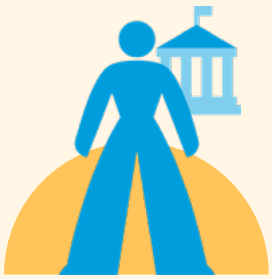
4.4 ACCESS TO JUSTICE: TURNING LAWS, POLICIES AND SYSTEMS INTO PROTECTION

In 2025, grantee partners supported thousands of women and girls through legal processes, strengthened the capacity of government institutions and civil society coalitions, and drove legislative changes that set new standards for accountability – including landmark rulings with regional precedent.

Across the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan period, UN Trust Fund grantee partners advanced accountability by supporting survivors to access justice, strengthening government and institutional responses, improving protocols and coordination systems, and enabling thousands of civil society actors to advocate for stronger laws and policy implementation.

The 2021–2025 meta-analysis found that legal and accountability work was most effective when grantee partners moved beyond advocacy for high-level legislative change and concentrated on building the capacity of justice and protection actors, translating existing legal frameworks into institutional practice, and – where formal systems were inaccessible – constructively bridging informal and formal justice pathways. Three strategies emerged most consistently.

1. **Grantee partners achieved results by equipping justice sector actors.** Survivor accompaniment improved reporting, case handling and reparations. Structured training of justice officials – when carefully designed, longitudinally embedded and accompanied by evidence – changed institutional attitudes and practices. The most effective approaches translated high-level legal commitments into practical regulatory protocols adapted to provincial or local contexts, and embedded them into the institutions responsible for implementation. This work was found to be more impactful than advocacy for new legislation alone when the gap was between law and practice.
2. **Grantee partners advanced accountability by supporting advocacy for and implementation of laws and policies.** This included equipping women, survivors and civil society allies for participation in advocacy and citizen accountability processes, and pursuing this work in combination with efforts to capacitate protection and justice actors. The meta-analysis highlighted the need for careful interpretation of results: an increase in formally reported violence incidents over an initiative's life was understood as a measure of success – reflecting improved reporting confidence rather than evidence of increased violence.



2021-2025 LAWS & POLICIES RESULTS AT SCALE

74,624
women and girls supported with access to justice

1,612
guidelines and, protocols developed or improved

12,949
institutional partners strengthened capacity for multisectoral strategies

5,725
multi-stakeholder dialogues between civil society and government

3. **In fragile, rural and conflict-affected contexts, engaging constructively with informal legal systems was a critical and distinct strategy.** Where state systems were weak or absent, informal systems supported access to justice that formal channels could not provide. The most effective approaches built structured bridges between informal and formal justice mechanisms rather than bypassing customary systems. This strategy was found to be especially important during periods of legal transition.

Combining these strategies with service delivery and prevention work delivered the strongest legal and accountability results. The meta-analysis found that 34 of 36 grantee partner initiatives in the sample operated across multiple thematic areas, and that legal and policy work was rarely effective in isolation. Narrow causality metrics risk undervaluing the shifts in trust, attitudes and survivor experience that underpin durable accountability. Indicators should explicitly capture contributory and catalytic roles within complex legal systems, recognizing that sustained institutional change is collaborative and long-term.

LAWS & POLICIES		
COMMON INDICATOR	**2025**	**2021–2025**
Government institutions with increased capacity to advance policy, legislative and institutional reforms	285	4,502
Guidelines, protocols or standard operating procedures developed or improved	77	1,612
Institutional partners with strengthened capacity for multisectoral strategies, policies or action plans	1,045	12,949
Partners with increased capacity to advocate for or implement legislation on violence against women and girls	566	9,874
Multi-stakeholder dialogues involving or led by grantee partners	479	5,725

In line with these strategies, grantee partners' initiatives delivered notable prevention results in 2025 across three areas:

- **Strategic litigation and landmark accountability.** In **Mexico**, Grupo de Acción por los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia Social, after 24 years of litigation, secured a landmark binding ruling – *García Andrade et al. v. Mexico*[36] – from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in December 2025, establishing mandatory gender-sensitive standards and contextual analysis for femicide investigation and mandating protection of children orphaned by femicide, among other elements setting a binding regional precedent across the Americas. Active engagement and compliance monitoring are now essential to ensure the ruling meaningfully advances the rights of women and girls.[37] In **Ecuador**, Centro de Planificación y Estudio Social established three operational *Observatorios Alerta* (Quito, Portoviejo, Morona), documenting 24 cases of political violence against women, of which 9 were formally denounced to administrative and judicial authorities. Strategic litigation led to a landmark ruling that included a US$ 10,000 sanction and public apology. Evidence generated also informed national reforms – specifically, a Protection Protocol for Political Organizations, creation of the *Unidad de Paridad y Género* within the National Electoral Council, and Electoral Law reforms – stressing the need to strengthen public policies for the prevention of violence against women. These reforms led to the adoption of the National Plan for the Prevention of Gender-Based Political Violence and enshrined guarantees of free access to justice, confidentiality and comprehensive reparation.[38]
- **Institutional capacity, protocols and training.** In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Foundation of Local Democracy led the drafting and institutional alignment of the first Protocol on Procedures in Cases of Rape, in collaboration with the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and adopted by the Sarajevo Canton Government.[39] The Protocol replaces fragmented approaches with clear, mandatory roles and coordinated obligations across healthcare, social work, police and justice actors. In addition, more than 500 individuals have participated in Foundation of Local Democracy sexual violence training. About 200 were trained in 2025 alone, representing a significant step forward in building a more informed and responsive support system for victims.[40]

- **Bridging formal and informal justice systems.** In **Zimbabwe**, Women and Law in Southern Africa trained and deployed 80 community paralegals to provide legal aid and court monitoring in remote districts. Through their efforts, 275 survivors accessed services, 45 secured protection orders and 102 received child maintenance. The initiative also advanced policy accountability through Model Regulations on Child Marriage endorsed by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, to enhance protection of women and girls at risk of intersectional gender-based violence.





4.5
MOVEMENT SUPPORT: STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S AND FEMINIST MOVEMENTS TO END VIOLENCE

The 2021–2025 Strategic Plan rests on an established foundation: WROs and women's and feminist movements are central to ending violence against women and girls. All UN Trust Fund grants go to CSOs. Most go to WROs and that proportion increased over the Strategic Plan period. In this way, local, community-based and feminist organizations are resourced to do the work that only they can: sustaining trust with communities, reaching women and girls excluded from formal systems, building coalitions and connecting local change to national and global advocacy.

In 2025, the need to support women's and feminist movements became more urgent still. Grantee partners were delivering prevention, services and accountability results while simultaneously navigating backlash, shrinking civic space, conflict, displacement, funding cuts and direct attacks on women's rights. CSOs functioned as a primary ecosystem of support.

The results documented across prevention, services and accountability were generated by organizations embedded in the communities they serve and accountable to the women and girls whose safety depends on their work. Sustaining this ecosystem – and the feminist movements it both reflects and strengthens – is essential for long-term impact.

Movement building across the portfolio

Movement support was visible across the UN Trust Fund's 2025 portfolio in the collective structures partners built and sustained. WROs – embedded within movements - are present before projects begin and long after they end. They hold trust, legitimacy and memory within communities. They sustain pressure when political attention shifts. They build coalitions that make legal and institutional change possible. Investing in feminist movements is at once an expression of solidarity and a core strategy for ending violence against women and girls at scale and over time.

BUILDING LOCAL MOVEMENTS

Empathy for Life Integrated Development Association (ELiDA)

Following the devastating northern **Ethiopia** conflict, ELiDA organized 1,200 women – many of them survivors of the conflict – into 60 self-help groups to strengthen social support and economic recovery in communities where cohesion had been severely weakened by conflict. As of mid-2025, the initiative achieved significant momentum, with 800 participants (66.67 per cent) completing comprehensive training that integrated gender-based violence prevention with essential business development skills. This dual approach empowered the women to manage their self-help groups more effectively while securing their personal safety. The impact is already evident: 77.4 per cent of those trained reported that these groups have become essential lifelines, providing both meaningful social support and a well-organized structure for regular savings. These early results signal a powerful shift towards post-conflict recovery, resilience and long-term empowerment of conflict-affected women, providing a blueprint for restoring livelihoods and rebuilding community bonds through grassroots collective initiatives and social cohesion.[41]

COALITION-BASED ADVOCACY ON FAMILY PROTECTION

Jordanian Women's Union

In **Jordan**, the Jordanian Women's Union combined legal literacy and advocacy with coalition-building, conducting workshops with Ministry of Social Development representatives – including male gender-based violence responders – on gaps in the Family Protection Law, and raising awareness among men and women on how the Personal Status Law enables violence and discrimination against women. These efforts were anchored by confidential listening points and an advocacy coalition of 23 CSOs committed to advancing legal amendments.[42]



The ACT Programme: cross-regional feminist movement building

The ACT (Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action) Programme – a joint initiative of the European Union, UN Women and the UN Trust Fund – represents the most concentrated investment in feminist movement building across the 2021–2025 period.

Through ACT, eight WROs lead cross-regional, coalition-based initiatives across 21 countries in Africa and Latin America, representing a US$ 2.34 million investment to address some of the most urgent and under-resourced issues: technology-facilitated gender-based violence, femicide, violence along migration routes, healthcare-related violence against women living with HIV, and the exclusion of women with disabilities from feminist movements.

ACT PROGRAMME – SELECTED INITIATIVES

Nigeria and Kenya: The Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre is building intergenerational feminist alliances to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Through mentorship and dialogue between younger and established women activists, the initiative strengthens unified advocacy across traditional and emerging threats.

Cameroon and Central African Republic: Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme is a 40-organization coalition combating femicide and sexual violence through systematic case monitoring and sustained engagement with decision makers to reform laws – a model for what coordinated movement action can achieve in fragile contexts.

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico: The Institute for Women in Migration is a 23-organization feminist coalition documenting patterns of violence against migrant women and girls, providing them with legal and psychological support, developing an impactful communications strategy to raise awareness, and creating a pilot programme for humanitarian visas for survivors.

Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda: The Coalition on Violence Against Women is bridging disability rights and feminist movements by centring women with disabilities as leaders in violence prevention advocacy – building a cross-country network equipped to document experience and drive inclusive policy.



5

CATALYST

How the UN Trust Fund enabled change

5.1 STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

The results in this report illustrate what is made possible through the UN Trust Fund's unique model of sustained, partnership-based support to CSOs and WROs. By combining flexible financing with technical accompaniment, capacity development and opportunities for learning and exchange, the UN Trust Fund enables partners to deliver results that are both contextually grounded and resilient over time.

THE UN TRUST FUND'S UNIQUE MODEL



Integrated programming

The UN Trust Fund is the only multilateral fund dedicated to ending violence against women and girls that resources civil society across all four interconnected dimensions of this work: prevention, essential services, legal and policy change, and feminist movement building. Grantee partners are encouraged to address two or more dimensions simultaneously. Feminist movement building is embedded across the entire portfolio – as both a distinct area of investment and the connective tissue that sustains results in the other three.



WROs and constituency-led organizations at the centre

Funding reaches WROs and organizations led by and for the communities they serve – including those working with women and girls who are structurally marginalized and can least access formal systems. Women's organizations are the primary drivers of progress towards ending violence against women and girls. They are trusted by communities and present where state systems are absent or inaccessible.



Demand-driven and localized

Grantees propose the outcome areas, strategies and approaches that respond to community priorities. No model is imposed. This genuine localization ensures that programming is matched to the women and girls it is designed to reach, appropriate to context, and grounded in local realities.



Quality funding for organizational resilience and long-term strategy

Three-to-four-year core and flexible grants support both programmatic delivery and organizational capacity. This enables the sustained, integrated work that short-term project funding cannot.

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRANTEE PARTNERS

44%
mobilizing more financing – with US$ 20.3 million raised

62%
mobilizing an increased proportion of flexible, core, long-term funding

55%
joining or creating useful partnerships in support of their work

> **"...we suggest incorporating a critical lens that prevents resilience from ultimately normalizing precarity, team overload, or the insufficient funding of women's and girls' rights. The resilience of organizations must not substitute the responsibility of States and the international community to guarantee stable, adequate, and long-term political, institutional, and financial commitments. Recognizing resilience is important; adequately funding rights is essential.**
>
> *Grantee partner*
> *(translated from original in Spanish)*

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund's unique model continued to help grantee partners build resilience and adaptability to sustain their work as backlash intensified, civic space contracted, and humanitarian and climate shocks and crises compounded. The **UN Trust Fund functioned as stabilizing ecosystem of support for women's organizations and feminist movements**, supporting the continuity of justice pathways and democratic participation in a year marked by intensifying hostility.

5.2 PRINCIPLED, DEMAND-DRIVEN GRANT-GIVING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Through ongoing oversight, technical support and learning engagement, the UN Trust Fund wraparound support model strengthened grantee partners' capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, adapt to evolving risks, translate evidence into action and operate effectively in complex environments.

In 2025, wraparound support included at least 378 virtual technical support meetings complemented by in-country monitoring missions to 16 partners across 6 countries. These efforts supported partners to:

- implement survivor-centred, evidence-driven and context-specific approaches to addressing violence against women and girls
- adapt to contexts of backlash and shrinking civic space
- deliver results-driven initiatives anchored in ethical data collection.



GRANT-MAKING & WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

US$ 11.1 million
funding mobilized

159
grantees partners supported

93%
of grantees partners satisfied or very satisfied with wraparound support

The 2025 Annual Grantee Survey reported high and sustained satisfaction with UN Trust Fund support: 99 per cent of respondents reported receiving advice or support from the UN Trust Fund during the year, and 93 per cent were satisfied or very satisfied with the wraparound support provided. All core service areas – programmatic and technical guidance, project management support, reporting guidance, capacity-development packages, and accessibility of Portfolio Managers and Finance Focal Points – received satisfaction ratings between 82 per cent and 91 per cent. This underscores the value partners place on ongoing close, tailored and timely accompaniment. This ongoing engagement strengthens grantee partners' compliance, knowledge of programme coherence in the delivery of initiatives, internal systems, organizational learning and evaluation quality, supporting more effective and sustainable implementation.

Grantee partners requested spaces to connect and reflect, recognizing that collective care and staff well-being are essential to sustaining front-line services and advocacy in high-pressure contexts. The UN Trust Fund responded through structured capacity development, including in-person engagement in Dakar, Nairobi and São Paulo, 23 multilingual webinars that reached 1,190 participants, peer "grantee cafés", solidarity circles and collective care webinars in partnership with the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and Raising Voices. An in-person capacity-development workshop in São Paulo deepened peer exchange, reinforced community at a time of isolation and backlash, and encouraged collaboration across the new grantee cohort. More than 80 per cent of participants reported strengthened implementation capacity and solidarity.

> **The organization was significantly strengthened in project proposal development through regular, continuous, and intensive technical assistance from the UN Trust Fund Portfolio Manager throughout the full application process.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

> **The knowledge from webinar sessions by the UN Trust Fund [has] informed our work as our Centre has imbibed the learnings from PSEA [protection from sexual exploitation and abuse], Anti-fraud and Reporting sessions into the work we do. It has helped us to firm up organizational processes across departments including Financial management, Procurement, Communications and Programme implementation.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

> **We would like to acknowledge the exceptional support provided by the UN Trust Fund throughout the preparation and alignment of required documentation, particularly during the development of our project application. The consistent guidance, detailed feedback, and hands-on engagement of the assigned Portfolio Manager far exceeded our expectations, significantly strengthening both the robustness of our final application and the organization's internal capacity.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

> **The consistent, hands-on support from [the UN Trust Fund] went beyond our expectations and significantly strengthened our organizational capacity, learning, and ability to deliver impactful results. It would be extremely valuable if such tailored guidance and mentorship could continue for future projects, as it greatly enhances the quality and sustainability of our work.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

Through the ACT Programme, supported by the European Union, the UN Trust Fund collaborated with partners to co-create a strategy and action framework for organizational resilience and coalition-building. This occurred through two complementary regional workshops convened and co-hosted with UN Women in Nairobi, Kenya, and Somone, Senegal. A partnership with Raising Voices, which launched its "Rethink and Re-energize" sessions for members of the GBV Prevention Network in Africa, focused on advancing self- and collective care as essential components of feminist organizing.

> **Participation in the … [w]orkshop in São Paulo (April 2025) was transformative. The exchanges on ethical monitoring and evaluation and organizational risk management directly helped us refine our data collection tools for sensitive topics in rural settings and put in place well-being mechanisms for our team. The sessions on impact storytelling inspired us to better document and communicate our change narratives, such as the testimony of the teacher who saved a student from forced marriage.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025 (translated from original in French)*

> **The proactive and understanding support of our Portfolio Manager in the face of logistical challenges (rains, elections) was precious. The global workshop in Brazil exceeded our expectations in terms of learning and networking.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025 (translated from original in French)*

> **We fully utilized the self-care budget line. Our organization never had the opportunity before to have the budget line approved. Even though advocates and activists argue about burn-out it seemed to be irrelevant to donors. We were most appreciative to have been given the opportunity.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

> **[F]or the first time in our 15-year history as a community-based organization, having a self-care budget has prompted important reflection on the well-being of our staff as front-line advocates. This recognition of self-care's importance is already shaping our approach to sustaining staff resilience and capacity throughout the project. This budget line has made us aware of how CRU[C]IAL OUR well-being truly IS.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

> **The self-care budget was beneficial to the organization as the staff's mental health was taken care of … staff reported improved well-being, reduced burn-out, and greater motivation to continue advocacy work. Importantly, the retreat also laid the foundation for the development of [our] Wellness Policy.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

Across the portfolio, assurance and oversight supported accountability and continuity of services in volatile contexts. Systematic reviews of progress and final and off-cycle reports strengthened outcome-level reporting and evidence of change, while ensuring alignment with approved results frameworks and enhancing the reliability and usability of data for accountability and portfolio-level learning. For example, in 2025, seven grants were closed. Asset transfers were finalized and documentation was completed, supporting responsible and accountable grant closure. As risks emerged, 13 partners received additional funding and greater flexibility to adjust budgets, enabling them to sustain operations and respond to ongoing challenges. In parallel, audits and spot checks were done on 41 implementing partners and US$ 8.46 million in funding. Financial findings were below 1 per cent, demonstrating that flexible, partner-centred funding can be delivered alongside robust oversight and reinforcing confidence in the UN Trust Fund as a credible and accountable financing mechanism. The UN Trust Fund also produced 50 country briefs to support contextual analysis and coordination, enabling more informed ecosystem discussions, stronger alignment with country realities, more responsive engagement with partners and United Nations system actors, and more strategic engagement at country level.

The UN Trust Fund reduced the administrative burden for CSOs and WROs by simplifying application processes and allowing greater flexibility in budget allocations. The 2025 Call for Proposals on Resourcing Resilience covered two funding cycles, and embedded flexible and core funding as standard components, especially for organizations operating under backlash and funding cuts. The call allows small organizations to allocate up to 18 per cent of their grant for core and flexible funding and larger organizations up to 12 per cent. This gives partners more resources and flexibility to cover essential operational costs, respond to emerging needs in real time, and sustain staffing and core functions that are often underfunded but critical to continuity.

> **“Flexible funding is especially valuable, as it is rarely available from other sources and has greatly helped our organization to respond effectively to emerging needs.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*



5.3 COLLABORATIVE AND INCLUSIVE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION, EXCHANGE AND LEARNING

In 2025, collaborative knowledge production strengthened evidence-informed programming, influenced policy dialogue, and positioned feminist practice as a core driver of effective responses to violence against women and girls. This helped ensure responses were grounded in the lived experience and realities of women and girls in diverse contexts.

The UN Trust Fund's approach to knowledge generation and learning translates front-line experience into portfolio-level intelligence. It informs more adaptive programming, strengthens the evidence base, and shapes policy and financing decisions. The UN Trust Fund connects local practice and system-level responses, supporting more coherent, context-responsive and accountable approaches to ending violence against women and girls.

LEARNING

5
knowledge products

97%
of grantees report learning from knowledge products informs their decisions

3,572
SHINE users

> **The UNTF's knowledge products are well thought out, accessible and interesting. Evidence is presented clearly in reports and at events. We have used UNTF products to inform policy development and internal advocacy. As set out in the latest annual review, we see the UNTF's performance as positive. Excellent progress is being made in a very difficult context.**
>
> *United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office*

> **I love the practice-based knowledge series; such a contribution to the field.**
>
> *Civil society learning partner, Annual Partner Survey, 2025*

The independent meta-analysis informed a renewed vision of impact. It challenged narrow prevalence metrics and called for diversified definitions of success. Its recommendations have directly informed the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan's broadened definition of impact and how impact will be measured, recognizing that progress and success look different in different contexts.

Knowledge investments translated partner experience into actionable guidance for programming and advocacy. The UN Trust Fund co-produced thematic briefs on backlash, organizational resilience, access to justice, and essential services. In early 2025, it led one of the first rapid assessments on the impact of funding cuts, generating timely evidence to inform programmatic adaptation and strategic decision-making. Findings informed grant-making, advocacy and resource mobilization for grantee partners who needed emergency bridge funding. These resources enabled more targeted and responsive support to partners facing acute funding gaps. The knowledge co-produced with grantee partners on backlash, funding and resilience was also taken into high-level global policy and multilateral spaces and events – including the Human Rights Council, the Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations General Assembly, and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. The knowledge created also informed the 2025 Call for Proposals on Resourcing Resilience.

The "Shifting Power in Practice" learning collective, coordinated by the ACT Programme, brought partners into sustained peer exchange focused on coalition-building, feminist leadership and shared analytical capacity. This strengthened collective learning and enabled more coordinated engagement across movements and policy spaces. The learning collective is a capacity-development space to support UN Trust Fund ACT partner grantees to strengthen their practice-based knowledge and learning work. It responds to grantees' expressed needs for practical, low-burden and demand-driven support to generate, document and use practice-based learning to inform programming, advocacy and movement building.



The digital knowledge hub SHINE expanded to more than 3,500 practitioners. SHINE enables peer learning through continuous, real-time exchange of experience and practice across geographies, languages and contexts. In 2025, SHINE hosted 14 discussions, available in more than 100 languages across the platform. It hosted its most highly engaged discussion ever, with 128 comments, demonstrating strong demand for accessible, multilingual and practice-oriented learning spaces. This success arises from the active engagement of SHINE community members (mostly members of CSOs) and the activity planning and collaboration of SHINE partners – such as the Spotlight Initiative, ACT Programme and UN Women Civil Society Division.

The use of evaluation as an implementation and strategic tool remained strong across the portfolio. Evaluations supported programme adaptation, advocacy and resource mobilization, and enabled partners to use evidence more strategically across their work. In 2025, 197 evaluation reviews were conducted and 25 evaluations were finalized. The evaluation library expanded as a shared learning asset for partners and the broader ecosystem to end violence against women and girls, strengthening access to evidence and promoting its reuse across contexts. The 2025 evaluation uptake survey found that 82 per cent of partners used evaluations for programme learning and improvement, 50 per cent for fundraising and resource mobilization, 46 per cent for advocacy, and 43 per cent for communications and stakeholder engagement. Grantee partners highlighted how participatory evaluation processes strengthened reflection, learning and future programme design, and supported more inclusive and contextually grounded approaches to programme adaptation.

Respondents to the 2025 Annual Grantee Survey confirmed that the UN Trust Fund's knowledge and learning investments are practical and support implementation: 95 per cent of grantee partners accessed UN Trust Fund knowledge products, dissemination events or learning sources. Of those, 97 per cent indicated that the products had directly informed their work or practice – through organizational decision-making, project design, monitoring and evaluation, or programming adaptation. In the Annual Grant Survey, 95 per cent of respondents reported that UN Trust Fund-facilitated events and SHINE consultations in 2025 were inclusive, high quality, relevant and practice-oriented. This underscored the value of inclusive and partner-centred learning spaces.

> **[The organization] significantly integrated UN Trust Fund knowledge products and evidence-based resources – specifically those focusing on 'Survivor-Centred Monitoring and Evaluation' and 'Adaptive Management in Fragile Contexts' – into its organizational DNA. These resources directly informed our project design by shifting our focus from quantitative output tracking to qualitative impact assessment.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

> **These knowledge products directly informed strategic improvements across project planning, implementation, communications, monitoring, and evaluation, enabling us to embed survivor-centred, rights-based, and do-no-harm principles in every aspect of our work.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025*

5.4 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The UN Trust Fund brings front-line evidence into global policy and advocacy spaces, reinforcing a core message: progress does not depend on discovering new solutions; it depends on resourcing proven, locally led solutions at scale.

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund used its advocacy, partnership and communications functions to strengthen support for CSOs and WROs at a time of rising backlash, shrinking civic space and growing funding constraints. Through global and regional convening, targeted evidence and strategic engagement with partners, the UN Trust Fund helped keep long-term, flexible financing for locally led efforts to end violence against women and girls visible within policy and funding agendas. Across the year, the UN Trust Fund supported global advocacy events, country and regional networking events and public platforms to place CSOs and WROs at the centre of policy, advocacy and financing spaces.

The sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, served as a central advocacy moment. Ahead of the session, the UN Trust Fund convened a global solidarity call with partners to align messaging on the urgency of long-term, flexible funding. During the session, it co-organized high-level events with diverse partners, including the strategic dialogue "Beyond Beijing+30: Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality" with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and other feminist funders. The dialogue brought together WROs, funders, governments and United Nations representatives to elevate the experiences of organizations navigating backlash and funding constraints, while strengthening partnerships to advance sustainable financing for gender equality.

The UN Trust Fund elevated WRO leadership in key human rights and public advocacy spaces. At the fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, it co-hosted the side event "Voices of Resilience from the Frontlines: Advancing Efforts to End Violence against Women and Girls in the Context of Backlash" with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Women Geneva Office. This event brought together more than 90 feminist leaders, United Nations officials and Member State representatives. It amplified grantee partners' experiences of adapting and sustaining their work amid escalating backlash and provided a platform to launch the 2025 Call for Proposals. In September, the UN Trust Fund again co-hosted the Free Future event with the Ford Foundation, in partnership with Pivotal Ventures and under the theme "Our Money, Our Lives: Economic Pathways to a

ADVOCACY

11

global advocacy events featuring 28 grantee partners to advance the agenda to end violence against women and girls

20

country and regional level networking events with 68 grantee partners participating

83

public platforms co-created with grantee partners to enhance visibility of CSOs and WROs working to end violence against women and girls

> **The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and Girls plays a vital role in globally supporting local women rights organizations, LGBTQI+ communities, and persons with disabilities, who are disproportionately affected by violence and discrimination. At a time of growing anti-gender movements, it is even more important to support locally led solutions based on advancing human rights, protection, and equal participation. The Trust Fund is a key partner in this endeavor.**
>
> German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

> **Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. The UN Trust Fund is a vital partner in supporting locally led women's rights organizations to prevent violence and create lasting change.**
>
> *Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom*

> **The support of the UN Trust Fund is key not only because of the direct funding it provides, but also because of its institutional backing, which strengthens the organization's credibility with other donors and strategic actors. The Fund's accompaniment – through references, visibility, and linkages with other initiatives and potential partners – contributes significantly to expanding resource mobilization opportunities and to the sustainability of the project's impacts.**
>
> *Grantee partner, Annual Grantee Survey, 2025 (translated from original in Spanish)*

Violence-Free World". Held ahead of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the event engaged a new cohort of 40 global funders and helped keep violence against women and girls visible as a global priority linked to economic justice, sustainable development and collective accountability.

The UN Trust Fund used its position within the United Nations system to advance more coherent, trust-based approaches to financing civil society. Co-chaired with the Spotlight Initiative and involving 11 United Nations entities, the UN Interagency Task Force developed the UN-wide Funding Framework for Women's Organizations and Civil Society Organizations to address institutional barriers and promote more accessible, equitable, and sustainable funding modalities across the United Nations system. This work responded to long-standing calls from civil society and marked an important step towards more aligned system-wide guidance on civil society financing.

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund strengthened its role as a trusted multilateral financing mechanism for locally led efforts to end violence against women and girls. It engaged strategically with Member States, philanthropic foundations, national committees, United Nations entities and private sector actors to sustain core partnerships and expand connections with new and emerging partners. This led to broader recognition of the importance of long-term, flexible and equitable funding for WROs operating in increasingly constrained contexts, and diversified and strengthened the ecosystem of actors supporting work to end violence against women and girls. UN Trust Fund support also helped grantee partners strengthen their own credibility, visibility and access to further resources. In the 2025 Annual Grantee Survey, 44 per cent of respondents reported increased capacity to mobilize additional funding.

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund drew on its unique position to connect front-line evidence, grantee voices and demand data with policy and funding conversations. Through strategic engagements, partnerships and targeted communications products, it strengthened the case for long-term, flexible and equitable financing for proven, locally led solutions.

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund made more deliberate use of strategic communications to support advocacy, partnership and resource mobilization efforts, while keeping grantee partners' work and voices at the centre. Communications products and messaging helped donors, partners and the wider ecosystem better understand the UN Trust Fund's added value, portfolio reach, results and funding relevance, including through clearer positioning on priority issues such as shrinking civic space, technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and the links between ending violence against women and girls and the broader 2030 Agenda. The UN Trust Fund also began using demand data from its Calls for Proposals more systematically to identify emerging trends, priorities and funding gaps, and to bring these insights into advocacy and policy conversations.

This shift was reflected in more targeted and accessible products. These included report summaries, portfolio overviews, pitch materials and multimedia content tailored to different audiences, as well as tailored communications and advocacy guidance to grantee partners.

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund also undertook a major rebranding, formally adding "and Girls" to its name and introducing a stronger, more modern visual identity that reinforces the inclusivity and continued relevance of its mandate.

Together, these efforts helped create more opportunities for CSOs and WROs to be seen, heard and supported, while contributing to wider conversations on how locally led work to end violence against women and girls is resourced, recognized and sustained.



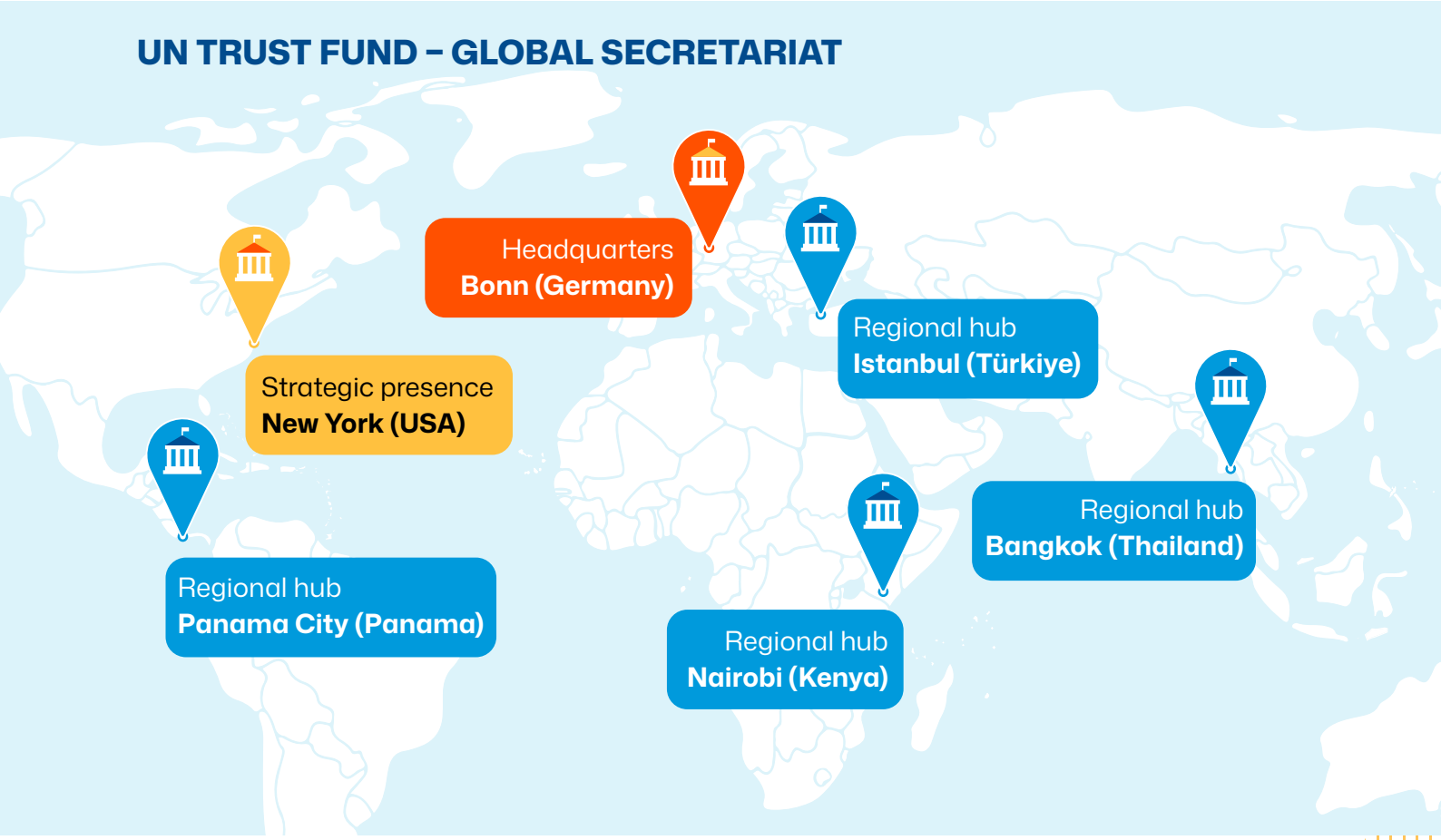
6

LOOKING AHEAD, MOVING FORWARD

The UN Trust Fund moves into the next phase of work to end violence against women and girls with the benefit of three decades of learning, a strengthened, decentralized Secretariat, and a shared purpose. Looking ahead, the Strategic Plan 2026–2030 reflects the lessons of the past five years – lessons which point towards hybrid, long-term funding, deeper accompaniment, and stronger alignment with the organizations closest to the realities faced by women and girl survivors and those at risk of violence.

A central pillar of this next phase is the UN Trust Fund's transition to a decentralized, globally structured Secretariat. In line with wider United Nations reform efforts, the Trust Fund is shifting from a centralized model based in New York (United States of America) to a structure with global headquarters in Bonn (Germany), supported by regional hubs in Bangkok (Thailand), Istanbul (Türkiye), Nairobi (Kenya) and Panama City (Panama), plus a small and strategic presence in New York. This transition positions staff closer to grantee partners, reduces overhead costs, and frees up resources for grant-making, while strengthening coordination with regional and global actors.

UN TRUST FUND – GLOBAL SECRETARIAT



Decentralization is not simply an operational adjustment; it is a strategic shift. By relocating functions to regions where partners operate, the UN Trust Fund model reflects the core recommendations of the Strategic Plan: to rebalance power, move closer to movements, and ensure that funding, knowledge and decision-making are grounded in the realities of those working to end violence against women and girls. In Africa, this is already under way through close coordination with UN Women in Nairobi, aligning the approach with regional priorities, business models and systems. While operational in form, these reforms are strategic in effect – positioning the Secretariat to remain agile, regionally responsive, more embedded within the regional architecture and scalable in the 2026–2030 period.

Three decades of evidence points to a clear conclusion. The global community is no longer searching for solutions to end violence against women and girls. Proven approaches exist: integrated prevention, survivor-centred services, and accountable justice systems led by WROs in diverse contexts around the world. **The defining question of the coming decade is not what the solutions are, but whether the global system will resource them at the required scale.**

The next five years therefore demand a shift from pilots to permanence, from fragmented support to sustained investment, and from short-term projects to resilient organizations and movements.

In 2025, the UN Trust Fund entered a new phase of institutional evolution with the launch of its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan: *Resourcing Resilience. Delivering Results. Realizing Rights.* Shaped by consultations with more than 160 stakeholders and grounded in three decades of evidence, the new Strategic Plan responds to a stark reality: WROs are being asked to do more in increasingly volatile contexts, with fewer resources and at greater risk. The new Strategic Plan positions the UN Trust Fund to meet this moment by strengthening resilience, deepening regional proximity, sharpening evidence and foresight, and ensuring that funding remains flexible, responsive and aligned with the realities of feminist movements working under pressure.

As it approaches its fourth decade, the UN Trust Fund is transforming funding and partnering to deliver impact at scale in a time of growing need. Grantee partners are achieving extraordinary results. Together, the UN Trust Fund, grantee partners, donors and the broader United Nations ecosystem must continue and prioritize this work.

STRATEGIC PLAN – INTENSIFYING EFFORTS FOR IMPACT



HOW WE FUND

Quality funding for all grants

Core, flexible fundingwith programmatic support. Minimum 4-year grant duration (ambition for 6+ years).

More agile and accessible grant-making

Annual cycles, open Calls and thematic windows. Simplified, multilingual processes.

Strategic prioritization in constrained contexts

Explicit prioritization where risk, exclusion and fundinggaps converge.



HOW WE PARTNER

Comprehensive, tailored support model

Wraparound accompaniment, peer learning, well-being and advocacy visibility.

Civil society at the centre of governance

Structural representation across advisory and oversight bodies.

Leave No One Behind & SDG impact

Twin-track approach prioritizing marginalized groups and advancing intersectionality.



SYSTEM-LEVEL IMPACT

Evidence for Impact

Co-creatinga context-sensitive definition of impact to inform policy.

Funding, learning & accountability role

Leveraging demand data and portfolio evidence for action and coherence.

Globally dispersed Secretariat closer to partners

Regional hubs supported by HQ and satellite presence.

ENDNOTES

[1] The Committee included representatives of leading civil society organizations and other experts on ending violence against women and girls, including representatives of Equality Now, the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and the South African Medical Research Council. The Committee also included staff members from 16 United Nations organs and bodies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the International Labour Organization; the International Organization for Migration; the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences; UNICEF; UNDP; UN-Women; the United Nations Office for Project Services; UNFPA; and WHO. The Spotlight Initiative is included as an observer.

[2] Selina Palm, *Understanding impact and reflecting on success: Not all that counts can be counted. UN Trust Fund meta-analysis 2025*. (New York, United Nations, 2025). https://untf.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/untf-meta-analysis-compressed.pdf

[3] UN80 Initiative, *Shifting Paradigms: United to Deliver. Workstream 3: Changing Structures and Realigning Programmes* (United Nations, New York, 2025).

[4] Fenella McGerty, "Global defence spending continues to grow amid geopolitical uncertainty", The Military Balance, International Institute for Strategic Studies, 24 February 2026.

[5] United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, *The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future* (New York, 2024).

[6] UN Women, "Facts and figures: Women, peace and security" (New York, 2025).

[7] Ibid.

[8] UN Trust Fund, *Beyond Backlash: Advancing Movements to End Violence Against Women* (UN Women, New York, 2025).

[9] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "A historic decline in foreign aid: Preliminary 2025 ODA data", OECD Data Insights, 9 April 2026. Available at: https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2026/04/a-historic-decline-in-foreign-aid-preliminary-2025-oda-data.html

[10] Vision Globale de Recherche, Entreprenariat Social et Leadership, *Final Evaluation: Amélioration de l'accès des Femmes et Filles Déplacées Internes aux Services de Prise en Charge Multisectorielle des Survivantes des VBG dans les Zones d'accueil et de retour au Nord-Kivu* (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Solidarité Féminine pour la paix et le Développement intégral, 2025) https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2026/05/final-evaluation-amelioration-de-lacces-aux-services-multisectoriels-pour-les-femmes-et-filles-deplacees-internes-au-nord-kivu-democratic-republic-of-congo.

[11] Andrei Iovu, *Final Evaluation: Preventing violence against older women in Moldova: Age inclusive support for older women survivors and those at risk* (Moldova, HelpAge Moldova, 2025) https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2026/05/final-evaluation-preventing-violence-against-older-women-in-moldova-age-inclusive-support-for-older-women-survivors-and-those-at-risk.

[12] Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán, response to the UN Trust Fund Key Performance Indicators Annual Survey, 2025.

[13] Based on evidence from grantee evaluations, the definition of impact for this meta-analysis and for the next Strategic Plan is expanded from observed reductions in violence prevalence to: (i) observed reductions in violence and stigma and discrimination (aligned with Targets 5.2 and 5.3 of the SDGs), with attention to intersecting forms of marginalization including those based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability, Indigeneity, SOGIESC [sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics] identities amongst others; (ii) access to quality services, effective prevention, efforts and implementation of laws, policies and national action plans; (iii) improvements in empowerment and changes in women's and girls' lives (e.g. self-efficacy, agency, school attendance, work); and (iv) institutional and organizational resilience and movement building, recognizing the critical role of WROs and feminist movements in sustaining gains. The measurement of effectiveness on the other hand is tied to the specific contexts and objectives of each grantee partner.

[14] Independent external evaluation, ADD International Cambodia, Carol Strickler and Pou Sovann, Final Evaluation: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Cambodia: A Community Mobilisation Model (Cambodia, ADD International, 2021) https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/08/final-evaluation-preventing-violence-against-women-and-girls-with-disabilities-in-cambodia-a-community-mobilisation-model

[15] Independent external evaluation, Episcopal Relief & Development Liberia, Dr Elisabet le Roux & Dr Julienne Corboz, Final Evaluation: Scaling Up Faith Leaders' Engagement to Prevent and Respond to VAWG (Liberia, Episcopal Relief & Development, 2023) https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/12/final-evaluation-scaling-up-faith-leaders-engagement-to-prevent-and-respond-to-vawg-liberia

[16] Final Evaluation Report, Community-Driven FGM/C Abandonment and Women Empowerment project, Somaliland, January 2020–December 2022. SORADI for International Solidarity Foundation, March 2023; meta-analysis Example 4-6, p. 20.

[17] Note on the 12,520 figure: this is implementing partners' monitoring data included in the evaluation report, not independently verified by the external evaluators. The attitude and knowledge-change data carries stronger evidentiary weight.

[18] GRIP Consulting, Final Evaluation: Towards increased social responsibility of Palestinian Community and higher accountability of Duty-bearers: consolidating efforts to combat GBV and Discrimination of marginalized Palestinian women project (State of Palestine, WCLAC, 2026) https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2026/05/final-evaluation-strengthening-accountability-and-community-responsibility-to-address-violence-against-marginalized-palestinian-women-palestine

[19] UN Trust Fund programme documentation; Women for Women International South Sudan monitoring data, 2025

[20] Awan, Standard procedures for workplace violence prevention: Annual Report 3, report submitted to the UN Trust Fund, February–July 2025.

[21] Centre for Women's Health and Information, Strengthening existing VAWG/SGBV prevention and response structure for women and girls with disabilities in Lagos and Osun State: Annual Report 2, report submitted to the UN Trust Fund, April–September 2025.

[22] Dinravy Khorn, Samrithy In, Hsandy Thovy and Margherita A.G. Maffii, *Final Evaluation: CEDAW Advocacy and Community Education to End Violence Against Women* (Phnom Penh, Cambodian Health and Education for Community, 2025) https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2026/05/final-evaluation-cedaw-advocacy-and-community-education-to-end-violence-against-women-cambodia.

[23] Ibid, p. 24.

[24] Maisha Girls Safe House, Safe and Thriving Survivors: Annual Report 2, report submitted to the UN Trust Fund, April–September 2025.

[25] Odimbe David Bwire, Jimale Mohamoud Gulleid, Abdillahi, Final Evaluation: We Have Rights: Protecting IDP and Minority Women and Girls from SGBV in Southwest Somalia and Somaliland (Somalia, The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa, 2025), p. 30 https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2026/05/final-evaluation-we-have-rights-protecting-idp-and-minority-women-and-girls-from-sgbv-in-southwest-somalia-and-somaliland-somalia

[26] Elizabeta Markovska Spasenoska and Nade Cvetkovska, *Final Evaluation: Support for Roma Women and Girls on Combating Gender Based Violence* (North Macedonia, LULUDI Roma Women and Youth Association, 2025) https://untf.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2026/05/final-evaluation-support-for-roma-women-and-girls-on-combating-gender-based-violence-north-macedonia.

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Scene from a sensitization activity with stakeholders and gatekeepers in the prevention of violence against women and girls in Fiji. Credit: Medical Service Pacific (Fiji)

Page 19: Paralegal discussion at a training in Java. Credit: Solidaritas Perempuan untuk Kemanusiaan dan Hak Asasi Manusia SPEK-HAM (Women's Solidarity for Humanity and Human Rights) (Indonesia).

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Page 26: A participant being interviewed at HelpAge Moldova's conference concluding its UN Trust Fund-supported initiative. Credit: Nina Gutu / HelpAge Moldova.

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"Three musketeers", at an awareness session. Credit: Episcopal Relief & Development (Liberia).

A COMUNEMA representative speaking with local press at a rally for Afro-descendent women and girls' rights. Credit: Coletivo de Mulheres Negras Maria Maria (COMUNEMA) (Brazil).

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An LGBTIQ+ community representative, at a panel discussion during 16 Days of Activism organized by SETU Nepal. Credit: SETU Nepal.

A woman tends her garden alongside HelpAge Moldova consultants as part of a greenhouse project supporting older women to grow produce, generate income and sell their products. Credit: Nina Gutu / HelpAge Moldova.

Page 41: Scene from a multistakeholder meeting in Central Java. Credit: Solidaritas Perempuan untuk Kemanusiaan dan Hak Asasi Manusia SPEK-HAM (Women's Solidarity for Humanity and Human Rights) (Indonesia).

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Page 68: UN Trust Fund grantee partners from Iraq, Sudan and Latin America speak at the CSW69 side event "Beyond Beijing+30: Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality", where the report Beyond Backlash was introduced. Credit: UN Trust Fund.

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