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

**Economic and Social Council  
Commission on the Status of Women  
Fifty-eighth session**

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Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters**

**Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

*Summary*

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Council the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution [50/166](#).

\* E/CN.6/2014/1.



## I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women is a multilateral grant-making mechanism established in 1996 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/166. It is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the United Nations system.

2. The Trust Fund reinforces the efforts of UN-Women to prevent and end violence against women and girls, while UN-Women provides the Trust Fund with a strong institutional foundation. Working in synergy with UN-Women and with other members of its Programme Advisory Committee, at the global level, and of the subregional inter-agency programme advisory committees, at the subregional level,<sup>1</sup> the role of the Trust Fund in accelerating all efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls is vital.

3. The Trust Fund supports local, national, regional and cross-regional programmes to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in all contexts. It provides funding for proven, innovative and catalytic multi-year programmes implemented by civil society organizations, national and local Governments and United Nations country teams. To date, the Trust Fund has awarded \$95 million to 368 initiatives in 132 countries and territories. It currently supports 78 active initiatives in 71 countries and territories, with grants totalling \$56.8 million.

4. The present report, prepared for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, describes the impact and achievements of the Trust Fund in 2013.

## II. Context

5. Grave manifestations of violence against women and girls attracted intense international attention in 2013, as did the courageous responses to them. Civilians and human rights defenders living and working in conflict settings continued to be the targets of gender-based violence. High-profile incidents of violence, widely covered in the media, generated public debate, sparked demonstrations and bolstered global activism. Women and girls made their message of non-violence

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

clearly heard, affirming that freedom from violence is not optional, but an inalienable human right.

6. Despite the increasing global focus on violence against women and girls, the right to live a life free of violence continues to be systematically violated in public and in private, in times of war and of peace, and in all societies. The most recent global estimates on the prevalence of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence suggest that one in three women worldwide will experience either physical violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner in her lifetime.<sup>2</sup> Globally, as many as 7 per cent of women reported ever having been sexually assaulted by a non-partner in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>

7. The international legal framework that obliges States to address violence against women and girls continued to develop during the year. Security Council resolutions 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) strengthen the operationalization of previous resolutions on sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and on the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict. Furthermore, 135 Member States have endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict (see A/68/633, annex). In addition, Member States made an important and welcome commitment to eradicate such widespread violations of human rights when, in March 2013, the Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-seventh session, adopted the agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (see E/CN.6/2013/11-E/2013/27, chap. I. A.). The agreed conclusions adopt a comprehensive approach in addressing violence against women and girls and place a special focus on prevention and on responses to survivors.

8. Eradicating violence against women and girls requires sustained social and political will and engagement, increased financial resources, effective legal and policy responses and comprehensive interventions. The present report details the contributions of the Trust Fund to achieving an impact in three specific areas: preventing violence against women and girls, expanding access to justice and support services for survivors of violence and expediting the implementation of laws and policies aimed at ending violence against women and girls.

### III. Translating promise into practice

9. The Trust Fund draws on more than 17 years of experience in its work to ensure that women and girls enjoy the right to live a life free of violence, exclusion

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<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council, *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence* (Geneva, 2013), p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 18. A different study conducted in 2013 by Partners for Prevention (a regional joint programme of UNDP, UNFPA, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and UN-Women), in six countries across Asia and the Pacific, found that nearly half of the men surveyed reported perpetrating physical or sexual violence against a female partner and that nearly a quarter of men reported raping a woman or a girl. Emma Fulu and others, “Why do some men use violence against women and how can we prevent it? Quantitative findings from the United Nations multi-country study on men and violence in Asia and the Pacific” (Bangkok, UNDP, UNFPA, UNV and UN-Women, 2013).

and discrimination. It supports effective responses to violence against women and girls around the globe by allocating resources where they are most needed and where they stand to have the most impact on the lives of women and girls.

10. The programmes supported by the Trust Fund have shown the potential for real and sustainable impact. The Fund's grantees demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be prevented by mobilizing communities. They show that access to justice and services can be enhanced even in challenging contexts, such as during and after conflict. They highlight how public institutions can be reformed and refocused to become more responsive to the specific needs of women and girls. The following examples illustrate the impact of the programmes supported by the Trust Fund in furthering progress in such areas.

### **Preventing violence against women and girls by mobilizing communities**

11. Social norms, attitudes and behaviours take shape, in part, at the community level. Approaches that mobilize communities are proven, effective strategies for preventing violence against women and girls.<sup>4</sup> They involve multi-tiered interventions that engage women and girls, men and boys, traditional and religious authorities, local Governments and service providers. They challenge power relations based on gender and other markers of social identity by creating spaces for critical reflection, dialogue and engagement.

12. Currently, 30 per cent of Trust Fund grantees are working to mobilize communities and to bolster their capacities to respond to violence against women and girls. The Trust Fund is scaling up and replicating two successful community mobilization approaches in seven countries in Africa (Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania).

13. In a survey conducted by the Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in six Malawian districts, 41 per cent of people living with HIV/AIDS reported incidents of sexual violence over the previous 12-month period. Among women who reported sexual violence, 25 per cent stated that they had been coerced by their partners into having unprotected sex.<sup>5</sup>

14. The work of the Coalition, which is a grass-roots women's organization, is providing tangible evidence of the effectiveness of the "Stepping Stones" training and communication methodology in preventing intimate partner violence against women living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi. The Coalition's programme to increase knowledge about gender-based violence, promote HIV/AIDS risk awareness and enhance communication skills reached 3,000 women living with HIV/AIDS, 311 survivors of intimate partner violence and more than 12,000 men and 28,000 women in 144 communities between 2012 and 2013. Each community has established a full-time facilitator team comprised of a couple previously trained in the "Stepping Stones"

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<sup>4</sup> See, for example, Lori L. Heise, *What works to prevent partner violence? An evidence overview* (London, STRIVE Research Consortium, Department for International Development, 2011), pp. 16-24, and WHO and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence* (Geneva, 2010), p. 40.

<sup>5</sup> Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, "Baseline report on intimate partner violence amongst people living with HIV/AIDS", (May 2012), pp. 14-16. The grantee is also advocating for the reform of Malawi's marital immunity rule, under which rape within marriage is not considered a crime.

methodology. The team leads a series of workshops in which participants question harmful constructs of masculinity and femininity and build positive alternatives.

15. The Coalition has detailed, in its second annual report to the Trust Fund, how the programme has decreased stigma, increased the use of condoms and reduced the number of men with concurrent sexual partners, all of which lessen the risk of contracting and spreading HIV/AIDS. Women report an increased ability to negotiate sexual practices, while couples report more fluid communication and a decrease in the use of physical and emotional violence as a means to settle conflict. In addition, village chiefs have banned harmful practices such as “sexual cleansing”.<sup>6</sup> These results demonstrate that, when owned by communities, sustained activities decrease the social acceptability of violence against women and of discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

16. The Uganda-based civil society organizations Raising Voices and the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention used community-led activism and mobilization to help bring about changes in behaviour and attitudes towards violence against women and girls. Support from the Trust Fund allowed the successful SASA! methodology, designed by Raising Voices, to be scaled up. This community-focused violence and HIV prevention programme challenges power imbalances between men and women through a series of sustained activities that support community members through different stages of behaviour change, from awareness of the issue, to support for women and men in creating change, to action against violence. For three years, the programme, which was recently the subject of an external evaluation in terms of its processes, provided technical assistance and mentored 13 grass-roots organizations in Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In feedback provided as part of the evaluation, participating organizations reported that the partnership gave them vital tools to continue rolling out the methodology in their communities. Grass-roots activists, women and men, also acknowledged that their own attitudes and behaviours towards gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS were positively transformed.

17. A separate evaluation of the impact of the SASA! programme was conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and included a randomized controlled trial in four intervention sites and four control sites in Uganda, which showed the impact of the initiatives over a period of 2.8 years. In communities where the programme had been implemented (intervention sites), 76 per cent of women and men believe that physical violence against a partner is not acceptable; the corresponding figure in the control communities is 26 per cent. In addition, 28 per cent more women and men in participating communities than in control communities consider that it is acceptable for a woman to refuse sex. Levels of physical partner violence against women are 52 per cent lower in intervention sites than in control communities. Finally, 27 per cent of men in participating communities reported having multiple concurrent sexual partners; the corresponding figure in the control communities is 45 per cent. These figures suggest that supporting systematic and sustained interventions can help to significantly reduce the social acceptability of intimate partner violence, the levels of physical violence and the prevalence of concurrent sexual partners among men.

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<sup>6</sup> Known as *kulowa kufa*, this practice involves having unprotected sexual relations with a man appointed by the community when a woman’s husband dies (according to the Coalition’s “Baseline report on intimate partner violence amongst people living with HIV/AIDS” p. 22).

18. In Latin America, community participatory approaches in indigenous communities supported by the Trust Fund resulted in increased empowerment, educational motivation and performance among girls. In Guatemala, a girl-centred community-based programme by the non-governmental organization Population Council used the “safescaping” approach, which entails a process to build safe spaces and protective assets for girls who face exclusion and discrimination, in order to engage 1,300 Mayan girls aged between 8 and 17. The safescaping strategy tapped into the social and cultural reality of Mayan girls, who leave the formal education system very early.<sup>7</sup> The Population Council established girls-only clubs in 12 communities, where girls were trained by young mentors to become community leaders and agents of social change.

19. The programme’s final external evaluation found that the motivation and performance of girls was higher in spaces that integrated awareness-raising lectures, economic livelihood activities, such as handcrafts techniques, and sports. Girls who attended regularly reported a stronger sense of autonomy and empowerment, increased knowledge about their rights and greater self-esteem. The opportunity to have a close circle of friends also emerged as an important protective asset. The programme had an impact beyond the safe spaces, with mothers reporting girls’ improved communication within the family and increased awareness about their human rights. Girls also reported sharing their knowledge and skills with younger siblings.<sup>8</sup>

20. The Trust Fund is gathering valuable lessons on what is effective in preventing violence against women and girls. Community mobilization approaches acknowledge the relationship between individual and collective rights, highlight the relevance and impact of community participation in transforming behaviour and practices and underline the importance of revitalizing positive traditions and customs that promote the rights of women and girls.<sup>9</sup> These initiatives focus on power imbalances between women and men and address the resulting human rights violations without resorting to blaming or shaming. They recognize the importance of contextualizing and adapting activities to different settings and contexts so that communities are inspired to participate and programmes can be sustained. Lastly, these prevention strategies recognize that eliminating violence against women and girls requires harnessing the support of a critical mass of people and organizations that can issue a strong call for zero tolerance.

### **Expanding access to justice and support services for women and girl survivors of conflict-related violence**

21. Women and girl survivors of violence face many obstacles in getting access to justice and support services. Limited awareness of their rights and social and

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<sup>7</sup> According to UNICEF and the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women, indigenous women who live in rural areas attend school on average for only 1.2 years, as noted in their joint report “Look at me! Status of Indigenous Girls in Guatemala” (Guatemala, 2008), p. 32.

<sup>8</sup> External evaluation of Population Council’s programme “Safescaping Guatemala’s indigenous communities”. The results of the evaluation are based on qualitative research methods, including individual interviews and focus groups with mothers, girls and mentors.

<sup>9</sup> ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, “*Breaking the Silence on Violence against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Young Women: a call to action based on an overview of existing evidence from Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America*”, (New York, 2013), pp. 52-53.

institutional barriers often prevent them from exercising their human rights.<sup>10</sup> The pursuit of justice and of psychosocial, health-care and legal services is even more challenging in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings. Weakened social and community bonds, the inability to enforce legal sanctions and the erosion of response mechanisms in such contexts frequently result in entrenched impunity for gender-based violence.

22. Research on and documentation of the scale and impact of gender-based violence during conflict are growing.<sup>11</sup> Some research suggests that sexual violence affects between 4.3 per cent and 22 per cent of women in conflict situations. Other studies suggest that between one in four and one in three women experience sexual violence in conflict settings.<sup>12</sup>

23. Currently, 15 per cent of Trust Fund grantees are implementing programmes that address violence in conflict-related contexts. In 2012, the Trust Fund established a three-year thematic window on violence against women in conflict, post-conflict and transitional contexts. By 2015, this will generate much-needed knowledge on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in these settings.

24. The non-governmental organization Physicians for Human Rights is leveraging support from the Trust Fund to overcome obstacles in reporting and documenting conflict-related sexual violence and to improve survivors' access to services.

25. A critical challenge in addressing systematic sexual violence in conflict zones is the difficulty in prosecuting crimes and providing redress. Lawyers, police and health professionals often lack the requisite skills and experience, medical examinations are rarely conducted, medical charts fail to document findings and there is limited awareness of the roles and responsibilities of public officials. In order to address these obstacles, Physicians for Human Rights is building medico-legal networks in five African countries: the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda. The programme is improving data collection and the documentation of the forensic evidence required for criminal investigations by offering specialized forensic training and by strengthening the communication channels and coordination pathways between health, law enforcement and legal officials.

26. The organization has established two medico-legal networks of 340 professionals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Kenya. Network participants report improved communication and coordination across sectors, greater knowledge and awareness of the evidence required to strengthen legal cases and increased skills in documenting, collecting and preserving forensic evidence of sexual violence. Health-care and legal service providers are addressing the specific needs of survivors in order to mitigate the risk of further traumatization, creating an environment in which survivors can safely tell their story.

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<sup>10</sup> UN-Women, "Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice" (2011-2012) (New York, 2012), pp. 52-53.

<sup>11</sup> See the Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict dataset, available from [www.sexualviolencedata.org/dataset/](http://www.sexualviolencedata.org/dataset/).

<sup>12</sup> Jo Spangaro and others, "What is the evidence of the impact of initiatives to reduce risk and incidence of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict zones and other humanitarian crises in lower- and middle-income countries? A systematic review" (London, EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London, 2013), p. 17.

27. A mobile phone application, MediCapt, that securely documents, photographs and transmits forensic evidence of sexual violence to the police, hospitals and the courts is being piloted by the organization (see also para. 51). Officials from the medico-legal networks will be trained in the use of the application, which features a specialized medical uptake form for incidents of sexual violence against men and women, data mapping and cloud data storage. By harnessing the power of technology to document violence, the programme will also facilitate early warning and rapid response systems and assist in investigating and prosecuting sexual violence. Ultimately, the programme expects to strengthen accountability for such crimes.

28. Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is another organization that is working to enhance the capacity of civil society to document sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts and to support domestic and international accountability processes. The programme, which is being implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, the Sudan and Uganda, aims to increase women's participation in transitional justice mechanisms and to ensure that women's needs and perspectives are integrated into peace processes. In the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the organization is strengthening the capacities of women's rights advocates to document sexual violence. In 2013 alone, the programme documented more than 300 incidents of sexual violence. The information gathered is being used in the prosecution of crimes of sexual and gender-based violence and the organization is advocating its use by the International Criminal Court to support its ongoing investigations.

29. Prosecution is one aspect of achieving justice in conflict, post-conflict and transitional contexts. Institutional reform and non-judicial processes and mechanisms, including material and symbolic reparations, are also needed. In Cambodia, the Trust Fund is supporting the Victims Support Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia in its efforts to address gender-based violence during the Khmer Rouge era. Through dialogue and the sharing and dissemination of survivors' testimonies, the Victims Support Section is helping to raise awareness in communities and encouraging acknowledgement of the extent and impact of gender-based violence under the Khmer Rouge.

30. An unknown number of women were subjected to gender-based violence, including forced marriages, between 1975 and 1979. In order to document those crimes, in 2013 the Victims Support Section created the first online information platform on gender-based violence under the Khmer Rouge.<sup>13</sup> The platform disseminates research and data gathered by the Victims Support Section and its partners and has become a valuable resource for the Government of Cambodia, researchers and civil society groups worldwide.

31. The Victims Support Section is also fostering dialogue on gender-based crimes through a series of six national radio programmes, community forums, support groups and interactive theatre. Through these initiatives, many communities are learning for the first time about the lasting impact of gender-based violence under the Khmer Rouge.

32. In 2011 and 2012, in partnership with national and international human rights organizations, the Victims Support Section co-sponsored two regional women's hearings in which survivors from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal and Timor-Leste

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<sup>13</sup> Available from <http://gbvkr.org/>.



shared their experiences.<sup>14</sup> Women's hearings are a non-judicial space for truth-telling and memorializing in which survivors testify publicly and collectively advocate for justice. They provide survivors with symbolic redress and establish a historical record that aids investigations and potential prosecutions. The third women's hearing took place in September 2013. It centred on the Cambodian experience and on raising awareness among the post-Khmer Rouge generation.<sup>15</sup> The hearing was attended by more than 400 students who listened to the testimony of four women survivors. A panel of university students recommended the inclusion of forced marriage as a gender-based crime in the indictment in cases under investigation by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.<sup>16</sup>

33. State-building processes are an opportunity to integrate gender equality measures into Government structures. In South Sudan, the American Refugee Committee, in partnership with civil society organizations, international non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, community-based actors and Government ministries, is coordinating four state-level working groups on gender-based violence to promote the professionalization and availability of health-care and legal services. This Trust Fund grantee is also testing and operationalizing standard operating procedures for responding to gender-based violence.<sup>17</sup>

34. The Committee is establishing referral pathways for access to services, training medical officials to deal appropriately with medical intake forms and training midwives to provide psychosocial support to survivors. More than 42,000 people have benefited from programme activities and 287 survivors of gender-based violence have received comprehensive services. In two of the four states where the programme has been rolled out, an average of 80 per cent of cases of gender-based violence referred to medical and legal services are supported by community volunteers trained by the Committee, demonstrating community buy-in and the potential for sustainability.

35. Establishing a network of comprehensive services is also the goal of a programme implemented by the International Medical Corps in Iraq. The organization is working with social workers, lawyers and medical staff from the Ministry of Health. It helped broker a gender-based violence referral pathway system that provides survivors of gender-based violence with integrated services, including counselling, psychosocial support, legal assistance and medical care, at primary health-care centres. Social workers trained by the organization supported more than 5,000 women and girls. A survey among public officials trained by the organization indicates that, as a result of the programme, the number of cases referred by social workers to lawyers increased by 54 per cent and that the number of cases referred by social workers to primary health-care centres increased by 62 per cent.<sup>18</sup> The response of survivors to the programme is also favourable. A

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<sup>14</sup> In partnership with the Cambodian Defenders Project, the Victim Support Section premiered the short film "Women's Hearings 2012" which documents the proceedings (available on YouTube).

<sup>15</sup> Available from [http://gbvkr.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Womens-Hearing-2013-Press-Release\\_26-Sept-2013.pdf](http://gbvkr.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Womens-Hearing-2013-Press-Release_26-Sept-2013.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> For the latest developments on Case 002, Case 003 and Case 004 see [www.eccc.gov.kh/en](http://www.eccc.gov.kh/en).

<sup>17</sup> Standard operating procedures are policy documents that establish official procedures and establish clear roles and responsibilities for officials who respond to gender-based violence.

<sup>18</sup> In addition, a media campaign on early marriage, domestic violence and related public services reached 100,000 people in five districts. The television campaign can be accessed on YouTube.

patient exit survey revealed that 98 per cent of survivors felt strongly satisfied or satisfied with the support services they received and that 95 per cent reported that their lives are much better or better as a result of the attention provided by primary health-care centres, civil society organizations and legal officers trained by the organization.

36. The Trust Fund has found that a comprehensive approach to justice that addresses survivors' psychosocial and health needs as well as their legal requirements is vital in addressing conflict-related gender-based violence. This requires effective coordination between Government officials from different sectors so that at every stage, from referral to evidence documentation and from prosecution to redress, they approach cases in an appropriate and professional manner that fully respects the human rights of survivors. Clear official guidelines on handling gender-based violence must be established and adhered to. Finally, justice goes beyond prosecution; full accountability for violence against women and girls in post-conflict and transitional settings also warrants the establishment of judicial and non-judicial remedies and assurances of non-repetition.

#### **Expediting the implementation of laws and policies to end violence against women and girls**

37. States have the primary responsibility for preventing, protecting, prosecuting, investigating, punishing and providing redress for violence against women and girls.<sup>19</sup> Civil society groups play a key role in advocating for the adoption or reform of laws and policies and in strengthening the capacity of State institutions to respond to violence against women and girls. Legislation that criminalizes gender-based violence not only places the issue on the public agenda, but also sends a message to the wider society that it will not be tolerated. Campaigns for law reform are of strategic importance and also strengthen networking and coordination among civil society groups and their allies in public institutions.<sup>20</sup> Once laws and policies are in place, clear guidelines and protocols that are in line with international standards must be adopted to guide the practices of health-care, legal and other officials.

38. The Trust Fund is supporting initiatives that expedite the adoption and implementation of laws to prevent and address violence against women. Currently, 32 per cent of Trust Fund grantees are promoting legal and policy adoption or reform.

39. In Mexico, the grantee *Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir* (Catholics for the Right to Free Choice), in partnership with the *Observatorio Ciudadano Nacional del Femicidio* (the National Citizens' Observatory on Femicide), is documenting gender-related killings<sup>21</sup> and promoting the adoption and implementation of protocols to investigate such crimes.

40. The Federal Criminal Code and most states' criminal codes in Mexico include femicide as a distinct, gender-based crime. In 2013, in order to operationalize these

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<sup>19</sup> See the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/HRC/23/49) and information regarding the "Due Diligence" project, available from [www.duediligenceproject.org/](http://www.duediligenceproject.org/).

<sup>20</sup> Lori L. Heise, *What works to prevent partner violence? An evidence overview*, p. 74.

<sup>21</sup> See also the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/HRC/20/16).

laws, Catholics for the Right to Free Choice, in partnership with state-level women's machineries and state attorneys' offices, established criminal investigation protocols for documenting gender-motivated killings in two states, Oaxaca and Colima. The protocols include technical guidelines and standardized judicial criteria for the investigation of such crimes. Oaxaca's protocol also includes provisions that take into account the state's pluralistic legal system and facilitate implementation in indigenous communities. The protocols provide for a multi-stakeholder monitoring and evaluation committee to guarantee State accountability (see also [A/HRC/20/16](#), para. 112, on the relevance of protocols).

41. Increasing accountability for violence against women is also the focus of the Women's Rights Initiative of the Lawyers Collective in India, a Trust Fund grantee. The organization designed an accountability tool, recognized as best practice, for monitoring the implementation of India's Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005. The Collective publishes the monitoring and evaluation report "Staying Alive", which collects information to measure progress and challenges in the law's implementation. The reports provide a detailed analysis of existing infrastructure and budgets, the pre-litigation, litigation and enforcement stages and court orders and judgements. They also analyse the increase in the number of protection orders being issued and estimate the budgetary allocation needed to fully implement the law.<sup>22</sup>

42. As a result of the organization's advocacy, two national institutions, the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Mission for Empowerment of Women, have committed to undertake annual monitoring of the law. In order to facilitate such monitoring, the Collective published a manual on monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, as well as a manual on best practice relating to the implementation of the Act. The manual will be adapted to monitor new laws relating to sexual harassment, dowry practices and sexual assault. The process undertaken by the Collective is also an example of cross-fertilization, as women's groups in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are using the methodology to expedite the implementation of laws in their countries.

43. Strengthening the capacities to monitor the implementation of laws and policies is also the main strategy of the Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia. The Provincial Secretariat, a Trust Fund grantee, supported the implementation of a strategy for protection against domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. It designed and piloted a web-based database to register cases of domestic violence and to facilitate case monitoring that improved multisectoral information exchange and the institutional response to violence. As a result of the programme's success, a new grantee, the United Nations country team in Serbia, is rolling out this system in other provinces of the country.

44. In addition to India, Mexico, Serbia and South Sudan, four other past and current Trust Fund grantees contributed substantially to the establishment and operationalization of laws and protocols to address violence against women and girls in 2013. In Cambodia, the Acid Survivors Trust International, a former grantee, and its partner, the Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity, played a central role in

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<sup>22</sup> Reports are available from [www.lawyerscollective.org/category/publications](http://www.lawyerscollective.org/category/publications).

developing and ensuring the enactment of the 2012 Acid Attack Law. As a result, in early 2013, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court handed down the first conviction for an acid attack. In the Pacific island of Tonga, advocacy and technical assistance by the Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, a former grantee, laid the foundation for the enactment in 2013 of the Family Protection Bill, the first domestic violence legislation in the country. In Grenada, the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Development is finalizing the first standard operating procedures for the health-care sector for the care, management and treatment of survivors of gender-based violence. In Sierra Leone, the International Rescue Committee provided technical assistance to the Government in drafting a more effective version of the standard operating procedures for handling sexual and domestic offences. The revised version, endorsed in June 2013 by the Sierra Leone Police, was prepared by the police and by the judiciary and will facilitate the implementation of the 2012 laws relating to gender justice.

#### **IV. Generating knowledge and developing capacities**

45. Through capacity-building initiatives and the evaluation of its programmes, the Trust Fund promotes the development of innovative, promising and sustainable practices to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

46. In 2013, the Trust Fund continued to support global learning initiatives through its thematic windows. The thematic windows focus on addressing the intersection of HIV/AIDS and violence against women and on addressing violence against women in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings. In 2013, the Trust Fund established a new thematic window on addressing violence against adolescent and young girls.

47. The thematic windows are particularly useful for generating knowledge and stimulating action in strategic programme areas. In this context, in June 2013 the Trust Fund and the multi-country office of UN-Women in South Africa organized a learning workshop to deepen the knowledge and strengthen the capacity of grantees addressing the intersection of HIV/AIDS and violence against women. The three-day event brought together 15 grantees from seven programmes working in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe to share promising practices and lessons learned, to measure progress towards the common outcomes and to strengthen coordination. Building on the first learning workshop held at the start of these programmes in 2011, the second workshop bridged knowledge gaps and improved the evidence base on how violence and HIV/AIDS interact in the lives of women and how these two interrelated issues can be effectively and holistically addressed.

48. The Trust Fund also convened a learning and sharing workshop in April 2013 for four grantees working to address violence against women in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings. As grantees shared their experiences, a set of synergies related to advocacy, research, knowledge generation and common indicators emerged. The thematic window will generate information on mainstreaming gender in transitional contexts and on documenting gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict settings.

49. The Trust Fund organized its tenth five-day capacity development workshop in New York in April and May 2013. The workshops are organized for each new cycle

of grantees to increase their capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and disseminate results and lessons learned and to assist new grantees in developing their monitoring and evaluation plans.

50. In 2012 and 2013, applicants and grantees utilized the online grant management system developed by the Trust Fund to monitor its grant portfolio. The second phase of the system is operational and the full version will be rolled out in the first half of 2014. The system is a tool that allows the Trust Fund to manage and monitor its grants more effectively, to identify issues and trends in programming and to provide timely support to its grantees. The system will aggregate data on the number of grants per country or region, the anticipated primary beneficiaries and those actually reached, the forms of violence addressed by country or region and financial data on strategic areas of intervention.

51. Trust Fund grantees are increasingly being recognized for their knowledge, experience and impact. Physicians for Human Rights was awarded first prize in the 2013 United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-Humanity United Tech Challenge for Atrocity Prevention in the “Capture” category (see also para. 27). The Karnataka Health Promotion Trust in India received the 2013 World Health Organization Award for Excellence in Primary Health Care in the category “Innovations for improving access and ensuring continuity of care”. It was also recognized by India’s National Legal Services Authority for the development of best practice and contributions to strengthening access to services for marginalized communities. In Zimbabwe, the African regional organization SAFAIDS was awarded the 2013 National Non-Governmental Organization Award for Excellence in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Equal Access Nepal received the 2013 Avon Communications Award: Speaking Out about Violence against Women in the category of Community Change. This demonstrates that the Trust Fund is supporting organizations that are at the forefront of their fields.

## **V. Partnerships**

52. The Trust Fund enjoys the partnership of many stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations and concerned individuals from around the world. The financial contribution and political support of its partners are essential to the Trust Fund’s efforts to end violence against women and girls.

53. As of December 2013, Australia, Austria, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and South Africa had made generous contributions to the Trust Fund. Zonta International, the Saban Foundation and the United Nations Federal Credit Union continued to support Trust Fund initiatives. The work of the Trust Fund was also funded by national committees of UN-Women from Austria, Germany, Iceland, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

54. In 2013, the Trust Fund organized a number of events in order to raise its visibility, build new partnerships and expand its outreach to the corporate sector. In partnership with the Government of Japan, the Trust Fund hosted an event to highlight the achievements of programmes implemented by two Trust Fund grantees, The Population Council and Physicians for Human Rights, that harness technology to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. More than

80 representatives of Member States and the Japanese private sector attended the event, which was chaired by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Kazuyoshi Umemoto, and the Deputy Secretary-General.

55. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Trust Fund hosted a reception for the representatives of the permanent missions to the United Nations, public figures and the private sector to launch its 2014 fundraising drive with the message “They count on us, we count on you”. The reception also honoured change-makers in the field of ending violence against women and girls.

56. In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, the Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United States, Rudolf Simon Bekink, hosted a concert and a private reception in support of the Trust Fund. The event launched the “Scheherazade Initiative: celebrating the resilience of women and girls in the face of violence”, a new partnership between the Trust Fund and Music for Life International, that will result in a series of concerts to connect audiences to classical music and to highlight the extraordinary resilience of women and girls in the face of violence.<sup>23</sup>

## VI. Grant-making cycle 2013

57. The Trust Fund’s annual call for proposals, which is available in six languages, accepts multi-year grant applications for up to \$1 million in English, French and Spanish. In line with its strategy, the Trust Fund selects proposals that pave the way for concrete national change. Priority is given to applications that offer novel approaches, opportunities for expansion, replication and sustainability, and that reach a large number of beneficiaries.

58. Subregional inter-agency programme advisory committees ensure that grants respond to regional and national challenges and priorities, while the global Programme Advisory Committee, composed of members of civil society and the United Nations system, advises the Trust Fund secretariat on strategic priorities and on potential synergies among selected applications.

59. In 2013, the Trust Fund received 2,410 applications from 145 countries, with total funding requests of over \$1.1 billion. The majority of applications were from civil society organizations. The Fund awarded \$8 million in 17 grants, covering 18 countries and territories. 16 civil society organizations and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda received grants that are expected to reach 2.3 million beneficiaries by 2017. In terms of grant value, 48 per cent of the funds allocated went to programmes in Asia and the Pacific; 15 per cent to programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean; 12 per cent to Africa; 11 per cent to Europe and Central Asia; 9 per cent to cross-regional programmes; and 5 per cent to initiatives in the Arab States and North Africa. Grants amounting to 33 per cent of the total (\$2.6 million) were awarded to five grantees working on the thematic window on adolescent and young girls; this will benefit more than 43,000 girls by 2017.

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<sup>23</sup> Music for Life International is a not-for-profit organization based in the United States of America, which creates social impact through music around the world.

60. Trust Fund grantees are advancing proven and innovative programmes to counter and prevent violence against women and girls. In Mauritania, SOS-Esclaves is advocating for the reform of the 2007 Anti-Slavery Act to allow civil society organizations to pursue claims on behalf of female slaves, remove the burden of proof from the victims and ensure that the State shoulders its responsibilities.

61. Building on a successful initiative previously supported by the Trust Fund, CARE International is scaling up interventions to address sexual harassment in the garment, tourism and hospitality industries in Cambodia. The Breakthrough Trust is replicating its proven “edutainment” methodology in six Hindi-speaking states in India. The Danish Refugee Council is establishing mobile legal aid clinics to meet the needs of returnees and internally displaced women in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

62. Five new grantees are strengthening the implementation of laws and policies to end violence against women. In Antigua and Barbuda, the Directorate of Gender Affairs is implementing the 2013-2018 National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. In Morocco, Initiatives pour la Protection des Droits de la Femme is enhancing women’s access to justice and to economic and social rights in a multifunctional centre known as “Batha centre”. In Myanmar, Action Aid is rolling out a successful pilot programme to increase access to justice in rural areas. In Armenia, Society Without Violence is promoting the integration of a gender perspective in public education policies. In Serbia, the B92 Foundation is expediting the implementation of the National Strategy for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women in the Family and in Intimate Partner Relationships by developing an agribusiness economic empowerment programme for survivors.

63. Addressing the intersection of HIV/AIDS and violence against women remains a global concern. Two new grantees, Jamaica AIDS Support for Life and the Association of Positive Women Indonesia, are working to increase access to health-care services and to integrate into the health sector the needs of women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, women living with disabilities and sex workers. In Fiji, Medical Services in the Pacific is operating mobile clinics in seven rural market locations, bringing services and information into women’s workplaces.

64. Five programmes will address the needs of adolescent girls. In South Africa, Grassroot Soccer is expanding its “Skillz Plus” sports-based curriculum to foster girls’ empowerment, expand girls’ awareness of sexual and reproductive rights and increase access to services for survivors of gender-based violence. In Bangladesh, Nari Progati Sangha is working with schools to create safe learning environments for girls. Plan International in Viet Nam is piloting a research-based model for building gender-responsive schools in Hanoi. The Ukrainian Women’s Fund is promoting zero tolerance for violence among Ukrainian youth. In Kosovo, the European Centre for Minority Issues is improving access to violence prevention and protection services for girls and adolescents from minority communities.

## **VII. The way forward**

65. Trust Fund programmes to prevent violence against women and girls are mobilizing communities in order to change beliefs, attitudes and practices that perpetuate and normalize violence. These initiatives are opening up safe spaces for girls in which they can thrive and develop their potential. They are promoting

strategies to end impunity for gender-based violence in conflict situations, including by gathering evidence, strengthening prosecution systems and establishing non-judicial, truth-telling mechanisms. Through the Trust Fund's support, grantees have made great advances in enabling the implementation of legislation that addresses all forms of violence against women and girls. In 2013 alone, the Trust Fund supported programmes that reached more than 3 million women, men, girls and boys around the world, including more than 30,000 survivors of violence. The work of the Trust Fund remains vital in closing the gap between promises and action.

66. As the examples in previous sections of the present report show, the Trust Fund's initiatives have achieved notable results and demonstrate that with political will, social commitment and allocation of resources, a world without violence against women and girls could be just a generation away. In its 17 years of existence, the Trust Fund has worked ceaselessly to turn this aspiration into a reality. Each year, without fail, it has issued its call for proposals, despite the challenging global financial environment.

67. The Trust Fund announced its eighteenth call for proposals on 25 November 2013. Given the promising results of community-based approaches and the central role of social mobilization to enact change, in this grant cycle the Fund will specifically and strategically invest in grass-roots women's organizations and youth-led organizations, in addition to well-established civil society organizations, Governments and United Nations country teams. Programmes that engage groups facing discrimination and exclusion, such as internally displaced people; refugees; women and girls living in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings; and women with disabilities, will also receive special consideration.

68. The Trust Fund will continue to deepen the knowledge and expertise it has acquired over the years in identifying and supporting promising initiatives. Building on this wealth of experience, the Fund is able to continually adapt and refine the focus of its activities, prioritizing programmes with the greatest potential. It is this analysis based on knowledge that underpins the increased focus on community mobilization.

69. In the past five years, requests for funds have more than doubled. Conversely, the amount distributed by the Trust Fund has fallen more than 60 per cent since 2008, when a total of \$21.1 million was distributed in grants, to 2013, when the total amount was \$8 million. In 2008, the Trust Fund awarded grants to 4.2 per cent of applicants. By 2010 that figure had fallen to 1.1 per cent and by 2013 only 0.7 per cent of applicants received grants.

70. To fulfil its mandate and vision, the Trust Fund is stepping up its efforts to increase its pool of funds. The goal is to reach \$15 million in grant-making funds for 2014. The Trust Fund is confident that Member States, the private sector and concerned individuals will work with the Fund to achieve this aim.

71. As the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session discusses the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, the Trust Fund shares the commitment of Member States to expedite all efforts to end violence against women and girls. The Fund is confident that the issue will be integrated as a central component in the development agenda beyond 2015 and in the discussions surrounding the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.