WHAT IS THE UN TRUST FUND?

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to supporting local and national efforts to end violence against women and girls. Since its establishment by the UN General Assembly in 1996, the UN Trust Fund has delivered more than US$ 78 million to support 339 vital initiatives in 127 countries and territories. By the end of 2011, the UN Trust Fund had an active portfolio of 96 active grants, covering 86 countries, with a total value of over US$ 61 million.

HOW WIDESPREAD IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN AFRICA?

• 92 million girls over the age of 10 in Africa have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), with more than 3 million at risk of the practice in the region each year.

• In South Africa, a woman is killed every 6 hours by an intimate partner.

• 64% of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo have experienced physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime.

WHAT IS THE UN TRUST FUND DOING TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THIS REGION?

The UN Trust Fund is currently investing more than US$ 19.8 million to address violence against women and girls in Africa, accounting for the largest share of its portfolio, nearly 33% of its active grants. These investments are supporting local and national initiatives aimed at transforming the day-to-day lives of women and girls throughout the region.

The following provides a snapshot of the UN Trust Fund-supported programmes in Africa that are preventing violence against women and girls by addressing its root causes, delivering critical services to survivors, and strengthening the capacity of state institutions to respond effectively to these crimes:

Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls:

• Save the Children Sweden is working to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Gambia, Guinea, Mali and Senegal by up-scaling a proven human rights-based model of community mobilization. Using existing community channels to implement awareness-raising activities, the grantee is engaging a range of strategic partners, including youth, police officers, health workers, and traditional leaders in order to establish an effective mechanism for the prevention of FGM by 2012. The grantee is collaborating with Ministries of Education in each of the target countries to ensure that awareness-raising programmes are integrated into school curricula with the view to empowering youth to help end this harmful practice.

Building the Capacity of First Responders:

• In Mozambique, Pathfinder is enhancing coordination mechanisms between the police, medical, psychological, and legal services in order to better respond to the needs of survivors. By building the capacity of over 1300 community health workers, the programme is reaching a range of women and girls including adolescents, women living with HIV, and other underserved groups.

Supporting the Implementation of Laws and Policies:

• In Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zambia, Genderlinks is supporting the effective implementation of plans of action to end gender violence at the local, national and regional levels. The programme is linking the overarching regional framework set out by Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development with these multi-sector action plans at the national level.

• In Sierra Leone, the National Commission for Social Action is providing survivors of sexual violence with the tools necessary to build sustainable livelihoods, including vocational skills trainings and micro-grants. The programme registered 3,600 victims of crimes in Sierra Leone and prioritized 650 of the most vulnerable survivors of sexual violence to receive reparations from the national reparations programme. Over 300 women are currently participating in this grantee’s economic empowerment initiatives across 14 districts of the country.

1 Information excerpted from World Health Organization (WHO) publications, Demographic Health Surveys, and from the UN Women website.
SPOTLIGHT ON ZAMBIA

The UN Trust Fund is investing over US$ 2.8 million in vital initiatives throughout Zambia that are improving access to justice for survivors of violence, engaging boys in violence prevention through school-based programmes, and sensitizing government officials on the newly-enacted gender-based violence legislation.

With support from the UN Trust Fund, the Zambia Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) is promoting community awareness and action through data collection, sensitization of parliamentarians to support the new Gender-Based Violence Bill, and gender-sensitive media training while establishing nearly 200 men’s networks to advocate against violence.

With a grant from the UN Trust Fund, Equality Now is improving adolescent girls’ access to information about sexual violence and to reproductive health while introducing awareness-raising and violence prevention programmes in schools. This grantee has established boys’ networks in five schools with approximately 100 members each to develop radio programmes aimed at challenging stereotypes that condone sexual violence against girls.

While the International Association of Women Judges in partnership with the Zambian Association of Women Judges is implementing a programme to develop the capacities of law enforcement personnel and the judiciary to adjudicate cases of violence against women and girls in Zambia. The project has trained over 80 rural magistrates and 30 judges across the country. As a result of the training seminars, magistrates in Zambia reported using the knowledge and skills acquired to promote women’s access to justice. The trained magistrates and judges also improved their capacity to use international human rights instruments ratified by Zambia to adjudicate cases of violence against women.

WHO ARE THE UN TRUST FUND’S NEW PARTNERS IN AFRICA?

- In 2011, the UN Trust Fund awarded US$ 7 million in new grants to 8 initiatives in 11 African countries. These programmes are expected to reach over 3.3 million people across the region between 2011 and 2014.

- In the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) will train local legal and medical professionals in rural areas to use mobile phone applications to photograph and securely transmit forensic evidence to the authorities while creating a network of specialized forensic experts across the target countries.

- In Malawi, the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA) will pilot a programme to train women as paralegals in violence cases, mobilize communities to criminalize marital rape, and upscale existing support services for women living with HIV.

- In Sierra Leone, the International Rescue Committee will ensure access to justice for survivors of violence through piloted mobile legal clinics, training of justice officials, and community mobilization.

- In South Africa, the AIDS Legal Network will empower women in abusive relationships to demand the rights and the support services they are entitled to while raising awareness of the link between HIV and violence against women.

- In the newly-independent Republic of South Sudan, the American Refugee Committee will support the new government to prevent violence by introducing an integrated model to provide justice and health services to survivors.

For more information and to donate to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, please contact:

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