

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

In 2011, the UN Trust Fund supported programmes in the following countries:

EUROPE

ALBANIA
BELARUS
BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA
CROATIA
FYR MACEDONIA
MOLDOVA
RUSSIA
SERBIA
TURKEY
UKRAINE

CENTRAL ASIA

TAJIKISTAN

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 EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA?¹

- 60% of trafficked women in Europe experienced physical and/or sexual violence prior to being trafficked, pointing to gender-based violence as a push factor in the trafficking of women.
- Between 40% and 50% of women in the European Union experience unwanted sexual advances, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at work.
- In Serbia and Montenegro, 6% of women report experiencing sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

WHAT ARE THE UN TRUST FUND'S INVESTMENTS IN THIS REGION?

The UN Trust Fund is currently investing more than US\$ 7 million to address violence against women and girls in Europe and Central Asia, accounting for 12% of its active portfolio of 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 Eastern Europe and Central Asia 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 with New Allies:

- In **Turkey**, the Mother Child Education Foundation (ACEV) is implementing an innovative prevention programme targeting the beliefs and behaviors of men, particularly in their role as parents. A team of trained male teachers and guidance counselors run the 13-week parenting course, which examines the role of masculinity in the context of child well-being. The programme has reached over 1200 fathers, imparting vital knowledge and skills around anger management, conflict resolution, and the healthy expression of feelings.

Providing Critical Services to Survivors:

- In **Tajikistan**, the Child Rights Centre (CRC) responds to the needs of girls who have been abused or trafficked, and who, due to the subsequent stigmatization have fallen through the cracks in the child protection system. The grantee established the country's first nationwide network of specific services for girls in the target group and it directly supports the state's formal referral network and developing child protection system. In its first months of operation, over 330 girls were provided with assistance, while lawyers trained through the project have provided free legal services to 162 girls. The grantee has also influenced national policy by proposing amendments to the Family Code to increase the marriage age to 18 and changes to the education policy to increase the years of girls' compulsory education from nine to ten years. Both proposals were accepted and have now become law.
- In **Moldova**, the Centre for Support and Development for Civic Initiatives ("Resonance") established a women's centre and hotline to provide legal, psycho-social and financial support to survivors of violence including trafficking victims. The programme has reached over 600 women in the Transnistria region of Moldova. The grantee's mobile psycho-social and legal counselling units have filled a critical gap in support services for women and girls living in remote and rural regions of the country. Resonance's advocacy efforts were also instrumental in ensuring

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



SPOTLIGHT: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The UN Trust Fund is currently investing US\$ 1.3 million in Bosnia and Herzegovina to support two vital initiatives that are connecting Roma women with critical support services and strengthening the country's referral systems for survivors of violence.

With support from the UN Trust Fund, *Rights for All* is addressing violence against women in Roma communities by establishing a network of Roma women leaders to lead a comprehensive approach which includes awareness-raising, legal and human rights education, and paralegal support for Roma women at the grassroots level. The project is also documenting cases of violence in order to promote improvements in the implementation of national laws and policies.

The UN Trust Fund is also supporting a *United Nations Country Team* programme led by UNDP and UNFPA, which scales up a model referral mechanism to address sexual and gender-based violence in six municipalities in the Republic of Srpska and the Federation. The model includes a component of data collection and analysis, as well as awareness raising and capacity development for public officials, service providers, parliamentarians, municipal government officials, the private sector, gender centers, civil society organizations and the general public. The programme is significantly contributing to evidence-based policy-making and service provision across the country.

UN TRUST FUND INVESTMENTS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA:

EUROPE:
US\$ 6,621,000

CENTRAL ASIA:
US\$ 499,498

TOTAL INVESTMENT SINCE 1996:

US\$ 9.9 MILLION, 13% OF TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

ACTIVE GRANTS IN 2011:

11 PROJECTS FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF US \$7.1 MILLION IN 10 COUNTRIES.

NEW GRANT AWARDS IN 2011:

TWO GRANTS – IN CROATIA AND UKRAINE – FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF NEARLY US\$ 1 MILLION.

that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the government agency responsible for social policy in the Transnistrian region, would actively promote and advocate for the domestic violence law.

Strengthening National Capacities to Address Violence:

- In the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, gender-based violence, including domestic violence, has been reported to be a key area where national responses need strengthening. The United Nations Country Team scales up effective practices in multi-sectorial coordination to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence. The initiative focuses on community behavioural change, prevention efforts, local survivor support services and measurement of progress in reducing the prevalence of domestic violence.
- In the **Republic of Serbia**, the Provincial Secretariat for Labour, Employment and Gender Equality (PSLEGE) is strengthening cooperation between social service

providers, the police, legal professionals, local authorities and non-governmental organizations in order to build a more effective and coordinated response to domestic violence. The grantee is also developing a standardized database for recoding domestic violence cases at the provincial level.

WHO ARE THE UN TRUST FUND'S NEW PARTNERS IN THIS REGION?

- In the **Republic of Croatia**, Be active. Be emancipated (B.a.B.e.) will pilot a tailored psycho-social rehabilitation model to empower women in abusive relationship to build independent lives for themselves and their children.
Grant amount: US\$ 181,696
- In the **Ukraine**, the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health will provide quality health and legal services for survivors currently excluded or marginalized by the state, including women living on the streets or living with HIV/AIDS.
Grant amount: US\$ 720,874

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

Meryem Aslan, Chief, United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
Email: meryem.aslan@unwomen.org Phone: +1 917-484-8008 Fax: +1- 212-421-1276
www.lifefreeofviolence.org