

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

ANDEAN

BOLIVIA
ECUADOR
PERU

CENTRAL AMERICA

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
GUATEMALA
MEXICO
NICARAGUA
PANAMA

SOUTHERN CONE

ARGENTINA
BRAZIL
CHILE
URUGUAY

CARIBBEAN

GRENADA
JAMAICA
SURINAME
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

WHAT IS THE UN TRUST FUND?

The 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 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN?¹

- 40% of women in Latin America have been victims of physical violence with the rate of psychological abuse within intimate relationships reaching as high as 50%.
- In Sao Paulo, Brazil, a woman is assaulted every 15 seconds.
- In Ecuador, adolescent girls reporting sexual violence in school identified teachers as the perpetrator in 37% of cases.
- In Guatemala, two women are murdered, on average, each day.

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

The UN Trust Fund is currently supporting 18 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean for a total amount of US\$ 11.8 million, representing 19% of its active portfolio. 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 Latin America and the Caribbean 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 Adolescent Girls:

- In **Guatemala**, the Population Council is implementing the first-of-its-kind GBV prevention project to “safescape” rural indigenous communities, making it possible for adolescent girls to use GPS systems to create maps of their communities (every household, building and route) in order to document where they felt safe or at risk. The project then empowered these girls to share the maps with community leaders, making their concerns visible.

Expanding Survivor Access to Services:

- In **Bolivia**, Asociación CUNA is piloting a unique 24-hour mobile programme of violence prevention, intervention, reintegration, and empowerment services for adolescent girls living on the streets in the country’s most crime ridden cities. Working as part of a network of 16 government and non-government institutions in El Alto advocating for the rights of at-risk girls, this grantee has drafted and submitted a number of bills to the Bolivian legislature aimed at preventing violence against this vulnerable population, including bills recently enacted into law that toughen the penalties for violence against children and adolescents and target trafficking. Nearly 1,200 girls and boys have received training on domestic violence and commercial sexual violence through this programme.

Supporting the Implementation of Laws and Policies:

- In **Suriname**, the Ilse Henar Foundation for Women’s Rights is piloting a model to address workplace sexual harassment and developing the first-of-its-kind Code of Conduct Integrity that is being implementing within 10 companies in the capital region. The response by the private sector has been so favorable that some companies have made it mandatory for all their employees to attend the sexual harassment awareness-raising sessions organized as part of the implementation process.

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



SPOTLIGHT ON PERU

The UN Trust Fund is currently investing over US\$ 2.5 million in Peru, supporting vital initiatives that are building the capacity of service providers and engaging indigenous and afro-descent youth in prevention efforts.

With a grant from the UN Trust Fund, *Movimiento Manuela Ramos* is coordinating government and civil society efforts to implement a local multi-sectoral strategy to end gender-based violence and provide treatment and care to survivors. The project empowers women with knowledge of their rights while developing the capacity of police officers, judges and health workers to respond to survivors of domestic violence with sensitivity. Assisted by *Movimiento Manuela Ramos*, the Ministries of Health and Women joined with local service providers to develop a 'referral pathway', or step-by-step protocol that connects survivors to appropriate services at every step of the process. The programme's empowerment activities spurred a 14% increase in the reporting rate for domestic violence in the Puno region in only one year.

With support from the UN Trust Fund, the *Asociación de Comunicadores Sociales Calandria* is working towards reducing the incidence of violence against rural adolescent girls – including indigenous and Afro-descendent populations – by strengthening their skills in political advocacy. By training youth to serve as leaders in an anti-violence movement, the initiative will empower them to engage local and regional governments directly to implement action plan for the rights of adolescents in the city of Piura. To date, the grantee has engaged nearly 90 public officials in indigenous regions in their efforts, ensuring that the unique intercultural model of violence prevention it established is systematically integrated at the local level, where it will have the most impact on community members' everyday lives.

UN TRUST FUND INVESTMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

ANDEAN:

US\$ 3,821,355

CENTRAL AMERICA:

US\$ 4,742,028

SOUTHERN CONE:

US\$ 1,119,999

CARIBBEAN:

US\$ 2,127,325

TOTAL INVESTMENT SINCE 1996:

US\$ 16.8 MILLION, 22% OF
THE TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

ACTIVE GRANTS IN 2011:

18 PROJECTS FOR A TOTAL
VALUE OF US\$ 11.8 MILLION
IN 15 COUNTRIES.

NEW GRANT AWARDS IN 2011:

4 GRANTS – IN 4 COUNTRIES –
FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF
US\$ 3.2 MILLION.

- In the **Dominican Republic**, Colectiva Mujer y Salud is working in five provinces on the Haitian-Dominican border to raise public awareness on how to prevent HIV and gender-based violence and build the capacity of local authorities managing these twin pandemics. As a result of their advocacy efforts, in 2011, the Congress of the Dominican Republic approved a law that explicitly acknowledges the connection between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.
- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) is addressing the persistent divide in responses to sexual violence, child abuse and HIV/AIDS and gathering critical data on HIV infections among girl survivors of sexual violence. In 2011, the grantee's intervention model and policy recommendations were adopted at the national level by the Ministry of the People and Social Development as part of the government's efforts to revise and improve their policies on child sexual abuse and incest.
- In **Mexico**, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir will support efforts to eliminate femicide by supporting criminal investigations, consolidating data-collection, and supporting knowledge-sharing for targeted police interventions.
Grant amount: US\$ 600,000
- In **Peru**, the Municipal Government of Lima will work to rid the city of discrimination and violence through effective gender-budgeting and consolidated planning to bring the city's approach to gender-based violence in line with national and international standards. Grant amount: US\$ 990,000
- In **Grenada**, the Ministry of Social Affairs will initiate a multi-sectoral effort to improve the government's response to violence against women and coordinate systematic data collection to ensure justice and accountability for survivors.
Grant amount: US\$ 674,172
- In **Uruguay**, a UN Country Team project led by UNDP will end impunity for violence by streamlining coordination of prevention initiatives, and systematically gathering evidence to ensure the effectiveness of these mechanisms.
Grant amount: US\$ 999,999

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

In 2011, the UN Trust Fund awarded US\$ 3.2 million in new grants to 4 initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean. These new programmes include:

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