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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 (UN-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.6/2020/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. The United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women is a global, multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls. The trust fund, which was established in 1996 by the General Assembly in its resolution [50/166](#), is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on behalf of the United Nations system. With the strong institutional support of UN-Women and its regional, multi-country and country offices and working closely with the rest of the United Nations system through its inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee,¹ the trust fund plays a vital role in driving forward collective efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

2. The present report describes the impact and the achievements of the trust fund and its grantees in 2019.

3. Gender-based violence against women and girls cuts across all generations, has no geographical boundaries and has been recognized as a major obstacle to the fulfilment of human rights and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution [70/1](#)). As many as 70 per cent of women worldwide have experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes.² At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of female genital mutilation/cutting in the 30 countries where the practice is most prevalent; in the majority of cases girls were cut before the age of five.^{3,4} More than 750 million women alive today were married before their eighteenth birthday and about 250 million entered into union before the age of 15.⁵

4. The trust fund raises and distributes funds to support multi-year demand-driven projects to address, prevent and ultimately end violence against women and girls in three priority areas: improving access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services; furthering the implementation of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems; and promoting the prevention of violence against women and girls. It does so through its three strategic directions: supporting results-oriented approaches to prevent and end violence against women and girls; catalysing learning from global evidence collected from grantees; and leveraging its unique mandate and convening power to advocate for and foster

¹ In 2018, Programme Advisory Committee members at the global and regional levels included: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the International Labour Organization; the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Population Fund; the United Nations Children's Fund; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the International Organization for Migration; the World Food Programme; and the World Health Organization. Intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels, including representatives of the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Equality Now and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, were also actively involved in the grant-making process.

² World Health Organization, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and 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, World Health Organization, 2013).

³ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Female genital mutilation/cutting: a global concern" (New York, 2016).

⁴ [A/73/266](#), para. 13.

⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), "Ending child marriage: progress and prospects" (New York, 2014), pp. 2 and 4.

sustainable financing for national and local work on preventing and ending violence against women and girls.

5. The trust fund is proud to report that it achieved the resource mobilization targets set out in its strategic plan 2015–2020 in 2019, one year ahead of schedule. As a result, the trust fund was able to invest almost \$40 million in 79 civil society organization projects in 47 countries⁶ to prevent and end violence against women and girls, thus nearly doubling its 2020 grant-giving target.

6. In the context of the growing momentum to address and end violence against women, the trust fund continued to support meaningful opportunities to advocate for change by seeking to leverage milestones relevant to its work, such as the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security, in 2020. It is in that context that consultations have begun to develop the trust fund strategy for 2021–2025. In November, in Sarajevo, the trust fund held its first ever global grantee convention. At this unique gathering, more than 150 participants with expertise in different areas came together to reflect on and discuss their work to end violence against women and girls. Drawing on approximately 100 projects implemented around the world, the participants exchanged their knowledge, experiences, challenges and lessons learned on various topics such as current issues in ending violence against women programming, managing evidence and knowledge, building effective institutions, and ensuring that organizations working to create change and support survivors around the world receive sustainable funding. The first substantive session of the convention was focused on highlighting priority issues and identifying challenges in implementing effective projects to prevent and end violence against women and girls, including issues such as insufficient data and research, barriers to progress in the legal and policy environment, impunity for perpetrators and emerging challenges such as new forms of violence against women and girls. During the panel discussions, the conversation focused on key challenges to creating change in various contexts around the world and the barriers that often exist to reaching women and girls using programming aimed at ending violence against women.

7. At the convention, the participants took stock of the work done by the trust fund over three generations of grantees, the projects implemented and results delivered as part of the fund's current strategic priorities and focus areas. In their discussions, they also focused on practice-based learning, testing, implementing and adapting evidence-based methodologies to end violence against women and girls. Participants held working groups, which resulted in a consolidated set of recommendations presented to the Executive Director of UN-Women at the conclusion of the convention. The opportunities presented by the gathering of civil society activists and practitioners from around the world, representatives of Governments, the private sector and the United Nations system led to a rich exchange about knowledge and efforts, about what works and what does not, and about the opportunities for going forward. The recommendations will be taken forward into global consultations on the Beijing Plus 25 Conference. The convention was the first of a series of events aimed at collaboratively building the strategy of the trust fund for 2021–2025. A final consultation meeting on the strategy is planned for November 2020.

⁶ Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the State of Palestine.

8. As of December 2019, the following parties had contributed to the trust fund and its annual grant-giving: the Governments of Austria, Canada, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, as had the Spotlight Initiative, the joint effort of the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate violence against women and girls. Support was also received from the UN-Women national committees of Austria, Germany, Iceland, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States, as well as from UN-Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman, and various organizations including Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and the United Nations Women for Peace Association, as well as from private sector partners in particular Mahendi Projects, Soko and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

9. The total funding requested in response to the trust fund's twenty-second call for proposals was more than \$434 million from 1,086 organizations. In total, 24 organizations in 21 countries and territories were awarded grants totalling \$9.2 million. In its call for proposals, the trust fund focused primarily on women's rights organizations and organizations led by women (defined as organizations in which women hold at least 51 per cent of the leadership positions). Twenty-two of the 24 grants were awarded to organizations led by women. In the light of findings that many organizations led by women around the world tend to request small grants because of their absorptive capacity,⁷ the trust fund has put particular emphasis on small organizations (defined as organizations with annual operating budgets under \$200,000). The proportion of small organizations applying for grants in the twenty-second cycle overtook that of large organizations (52 per cent, up from 43.2 per cent in the twenty-first cycle). In addition, the trust fund announced that grants totalling \$10.1 million had been awarded to 20 organizations in 18 countries and territories for its twenty-third cycle of grants. The grantees came from the same pool of applicants as the awardees of the twenty-second cycle.

10. In July, the trust fund also launched a call for proposals in Latin America and Africa as part of the Spotlight Initiative of the European Union and United Nations. The call was focused on those working on behalf of groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind in programming on ending violence against women and girls. The trust fund has partnered with the Spotlight Initiative to complement the outreach and resourcing activities of the Spotlight Initiative in support of civil society organizations, in particular small, local women's rights organizations in countries targeted under the Spotlight Initiative in the context of outcome 6 of the Initiative's theory of change. The trust fund has announced the award of 21 country-level projects in Africa for a total of \$7.7 million and three multi-country projects for \$2.7 million. In Latin America, a total of \$5.5 million was endorsed by its regional programme advisory committee.

11. In 2019, the trust fund's twenty-second cycle of funding included four new projects in Bangladesh, Kenya and Mexico on preventing and ending violence against women and girls in the context of the forced displacement and refugee crisis. The trust fund opened a special funding window for that work in 2017 in recognition of the high risk of gender-based violence experienced in displaced communities.

⁷ Angelika Arutyunova and Cindy Clark, *Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots: The Status of Financing for Women's Rights Organizing and Gender Equality*, Association for Women's Rights in Development (Toronto, Canada, 2013). In that report, the authors analyse the annual operational budgets of women's organizations and find that more than 90 per cent have annual operating budgets below \$200,000. This aligns with the trust fund's definition of a small organization.

12. The project in Bangladesh is focused on female landowners in the southwest of the country who have been displaced by private land investments. They were displaced in a context of high levels of physical, sexual and psychological violence against women exercised by their families and communities, in particular in rural areas. Grantee organization Badabon Sangho is using a small grant from the trust fund to support women who have been or remain at risk of being displaced in four subdistricts of Bagerhat District.

13. The project implemented in Mexico by the grantee organization Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración is aimed at strengthening protection measures offered to women and girls who seek asylum and are survivors of violence, as well as to improve the provision of services including legal aid, medical and psychological assistance, and expert advice, during the asylum process. An unprecedented number of women and girls from Central American countries are seeking asylum in Mexico. Many of them are survivors of gender-based violence.

14. In Kenya, a project led by the HIAS Refugee Trust of Kenya has as its purpose to encourage men to reject interpersonal violence and to increase reporting by women of gender-based violence, in three locations in Nairobi county that have large refugee populations. A second project, implemented by the Forum for Women in Development, Democracy and Justice, is focused on adolescent girls and young women who are refugees and are at particular risk of trafficking, sexual slavery and forced marriage because of their age and the disruption of their social networks, problems that are growing in areas with a high concentration of refugees in Nairobi and in Kajiado County.

15. Another special funding window that the trust fund opened in 2018 is focused on women and girls with disabilities. Globally, women and girls with disabilities are up to three times more likely to be raped, twice as likely to experience other forms of gender-based violence and likely to suffer worse injuries and more prolonged abuse than women and girls without disabilities.⁸ In 2019, in its twenty-second cycle, the trust fund awarded five new grants for projects focused on violence against women and girls with disabilities.

16. In Eswatini, the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse is implementing a project in several communities in Lubombo Region, including the Malindza refugee camp, to change attitudes about gender, improve the delivery of services to those who have experienced violence and raise awareness about refugee rights and the rights of young women and girls with disabilities. In Indonesia, Organisasi Harapan Nusantara is implementing a project to end violence against women and girls living with disabilities. The target beneficiaries are women and girls with low levels of education and literacy and those living in poverty and in rural areas in five districts of Yogyakarta. In Nepal, the Nepal Disabled Women Association is working as part of a consortium to confront the growing violence against women and girls with disabilities in the country and to empower women and girls with disabilities to prevent violence and achieve justice. In Peru, Paz y Esperanza is leading a project to raise awareness of violence against women and girls with disabilities and improve access to multisectoral services for survivors in the Lima, Cusco and San Martín regions. And in Zimbabwe, Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe was one of the organizations awarded a grant for a project focused on violence against girls and women in six rural and underserved districts in Zimbabwe that have high rates of poverty and HIV/AIDS. The grant came under the trust fund's "by invitation only" window. A new aspect introduced with this second project is a focus on working with the Ministry of Health

⁸ Stephanie Ortoleva and Hope Lewis, *Forgotten Sisters: A Report on Violence against Women with Disabilities – An Overview of Its Nature, Scope, Causes and Consequences*, Northeastern University School of Law Research Paper No. 104–2012 (Boston, Massachusetts, 2012).

and Child Care to standardize and decentralize psychiatric assessments. This is a direct result of lessons learned in the first project, in which it was found that the legal requirement to travel to Harare for psychiatric assessment was a significant barrier to justice.

II. Midterm review of the strategic plan

17. The midterm review of the trust fund's strategic plan for 2015–2020 was issued in June. The review was informed by participatory and utilization-focused approaches to evaluation and followed a mixed-method approach that involved 51 interviews, questionnaires and a documentation review. Among the interviewees were trust fund donors and grantees, staff members of UN-Women other United Nations agencies, staff members of the trust fund secretariat, and representatives of women's rights organizations. Reviewers also distributed an online questionnaire to grantees. The trust fund received 101 responses.

18. The reviewers found that the trust fund was on track to deliver the targets set out in its strategic plan for 2015–2020 and concluded that its open and inclusive approach to grant selection was strategically sound and appropriate in fulfilling its mandate and to apply the principle of leaving no one behind. They also found that the trust fund was on track to reach its goal of \$20 million in fundraising by the end of 2019, one year earlier than planned, and to double the amount it could award in grants. The reviewers highlighted the trust fund's reputation for being independent, inclusive, thorough and reliable. They also found that for grantees, receiving funding from such a reputable institution is an important factor in increasing visibility and credibility. Moreover, it encourages them to approach other funders and boosts their sense of empowerment. The reviewers concluded that the trust fund had made significant strides in realizing its ambition to be more than a donor. They identified as the added value of the trust fund its focus on small women-led and women's rights organizations, so that it fills a gap in the sector by providing such organizations, which can be real catalysts for change, with resources and capacity-building.

19. The reviewers made a series of recommendations to build on the trust fund's current strengths by continuing and expanding the current practice of publicizing grantees' stories, being responsive to donors and exploring ways to diversify the funding base, and working towards creating the evidence hub and diversifying the production and exchange of knowledge, such as through communities of practice, to influence programming. They also recommended that the trust fund develop an explicit strategy around sustainability, that it develop a communications strategy to message its strategic priorities and ambitions, that it continue to develop the programme and evaluation capacity of grantees based on a systematic needs assessment while prioritizing small women's rights and women-led organizations in that area, and that it sharpen its unique strategic emphasis on small women's rights and women-led organizations.

III. Strategy-led grant giving

20. In line with its strategic plan for 2015–2020, the trust fund focuses its grant-giving so as to support three key objectives: primary prevention of violence against women and girls; enhancing access to support services for survivors of violence; and strengthening the implementation of national laws, policies and action plans. The following are some of the grantees' achievements in these areas in 2019.

A. Preventing violence against women and girls

21. Preventing violence against women and girls is a key element of most projects supported by the trust fund. Changing attitudes and behaviours and challenging the entrenched stereotypes about gender roles that underpin violence against women and girls are major components of this strand of grantees' work. Projects are being implemented to bring about attitudinal change in communities, addressing men and boys as well as women and girls, communities and service providers, and empowering women and girls.

22. A project in Cambodia is being implemented by ADD International in partnership with local organizations to empower disabled women's networks and strengthen their capacity to lead primary prevention efforts in six districts in which domestic violence is reported to be high. The target of the project is violence committed by relatives and caregivers against women and girls with disabilities. The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of women-led organizations that work for people with disabilities so that they may more effectively support women and girls through prevention interventions. Also under that programme, women and girls with disabilities will be trained to become volunteer role models and a methodology will be developed to analyse the incidence and causes of gender-based violence. The methodology will be disseminated in Cambodia and internationally.

23. In Turkey, the Mother Child Education Foundation (ACEV) has implemented a second-generation trust fund grant⁹ to run a community-based project that is focused on the role of fatherhood as an entry point to changing behaviours that give rise to violence against women and girls. ACEV instituted an innovative 10-week father support programme to transform gender-normative attitudes in the home. A final external evaluation showed that, following the trainings, 43 per cent of fathers took on more responsibility in child development and household duties and applied non-violent communication methods. It was also found that the number of incidents of physical violence towards women and children decreased after fathers had attended the training. The project reached 6,045 fathers through 471 father support programme groups in five provinces in Turkey. The project was also aimed at creating sustainable long-term change in Turkish society through three advocacy campaigns that promoted gender equality in the home with a view to preventing violence. The campaigns reached more than 2 million people. In addition, 150 graduates of the programme created, together with ACEV, nine new local fatherhood groups to extend the programme's reach and create a nationwide network of men who stand for gender equality.

24. Projects aimed at making schools and other educational settings safe places for girls are an important part of the trust fund's preventive focus. In the state of Yucatán, Mexico, the grantee Ciencia Social Alternativa is implementing a project to reduce the incidence of violence against girls living with disabilities. The aim of the project is to ensure that public officials and education and health professionals are better equipped both to prevent violence and to provide support to girls who experience violence. Also under the project, workshops are held to teach girls with disabilities about their rights and about existing institutions that may provide them with support, should they ever experience violence of one form or another. In 2019, as part of the project, three seminars were held on the human rights of people with disabilities. Among the attendees were public officials, health professionals, teachers, legal officers and other officials, who drafted 72 proposals for courses of action to further the rights of girls with disabilities. Public officials who took part said that the seminars had made them more aware of the role they should play in implementing

⁹ Second-generation trust fund grants are part of the "invitation only" funding window.

policies to protect girls with disabilities from violence; 97.7 per cent explained that the seminars had increased their knowledge of the human rights of people with disabilities.

25. The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) Network, funded by the trust fund, is implementing a project in the South Sudanese state of Wau to increase the knowledge of students, parents, teachers and administrators about gender-based violence through awareness-raising events in schools in the displaced communities of Wau. Also, women activists are being empowered to prevent gender-based violence more effectively by providing them with advocacy and engagement training, promoting networking among activists and facilitating their attendance at national meetings. Activities are being organized to engage the broader Wau community, in particular men and boys, and encourage community members to help to prevent gender-based violence. The Director General of the Ministry of Gender and the directors general and directors of planning of the ministry responsible for education and youth attended a stakeholder meeting and publicly committed to supporting the project's goals of ending gender-based violence in schools.

26. In Viet Nam, the Institute for Development and Community Health implemented an initiative that was focused on intimate partner violence against pregnant and lactating women in Kien Xuong District, Thai Binh Province. In a final evaluation, it was found that the project had increased the capacity for home visits and screening for intimate partner violence, and that household visits and counselling activities were an effective means for broaching issues around gender-based violence. As a result of such visits, 1,241 pregnant and lactating women received information on pregnancy care services, breastfeeding and intimate partner violence. It was also found that husbands and mothers-in-law actively participated in counselling and communication activities to raise their awareness regarding sexual and gender-based violence. Nearly 99 per cent of the pregnant and lactating mothers interviewed regarding the project stated that they had received counselling on health care.

27. In Fiji, the trust fund is supporting a project by the organization femLINKpacific to raise awareness of the root causes of violence against women and girls by using the organization's rural women leaders community network and women's weather watch system. Although recent years have seen an improvement in legal and policy efforts to end violence against women and girls in Fiji, cultural, structural and information gaps continue to be a hindrance, particularly in rural areas. The project works with existing networks in rural, urban and informal settlements. In 2019, a total of 30 beneficiaries gained access to innovative knowledge products that were focused on communicating the root causes of violence through the project. In the first phase of the initiative, eight female rural community leaders and participants in mother-daughter dialogues were identified. In addition, 198 women and girls were engaged through meetings convened at the district and divisional levels.

B. Improving access to multisectoral services

28. Improving access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services is one of the priority areas of focus for trust fund support. Grantees worked to ensure that women and girls had better access to specialized support services such as psychological counselling, medical services and shelters, as well as to justice, through the provision of legal aid. Training of service providers is also an important component of projects that are aimed at enhancing access to essential, safe and adequate services for women and girls.

29. In North Macedonia, a small grant is being utilized by Women's Forum Tetovo for a project aimed at empowering survivors of domestic violence in the Tetovo

region. The grantee has free legal clinic for survivors of domestic violence that it is working to expand with group counselling and with training courses on financial skills and life skills. It is also conducting research among survivors about their experiences with service providers to identify key areas for improvement. Furthermore, the grantee is working with police, social service workers, local municipalities and health-care providers to create a multisectoral strategy aimed at better protecting women at risk of domestic violence and ensuring a more streamlined process of survivor support with better identification and referral. The grantee has established a working group made up of local and institutional service providers and has worked to increase public information and initiate dialogues about domestic violence through visits to women in rural areas and through rural community workshops.

30. In Serbia, the Mental Disability Rights Initiative is using a small grant from the trust fund to implement a project aimed at empowering women and girls with mental disabilities to report custodial violence and gain access to services. During the year, the grantee led a workshop in which women and girls with mental disabilities in custodial institutions learned about gender-based violence, were taught the skills to report it and given guidance on how to use the protection mechanisms available to them. Following the training, 19 women with mental disabilities reported that they knew of at least one prevention and protection mechanism they could turn to for support. The project is also working with service providers in custodial institutions and holding training sessions. Fourteen service providers attended the project's training sessions and 11 committed to making the services they offer more accessible to women and girls with disabilities. With support from the project, Iz Kruga Vojvodina, a local implementing partner of the Mental Disability Rights Initiative that supports women with disabilities who have experienced violence, has piloted a programme of group activities and psychological support for women in custodial institutions.

31. In Kenya, a project implemented by the Refugee Consortium of Kenya, an organization led by women, is working with Somali refugees in the Nairobi and Garissa areas. Many of those refugees have been in the area for almost two decades. The aim of the project is to improve access to justice for survivors of violence against women and girls and increase the rate of successful prosecution through better access to legal aid, representation and support. During 2019, a total of 519 women and girl survivors of violence received psychological counselling and education to address trauma and other issues related to violence. In addition, 10 community-based counsellors were trained to provide psychological first aid to survivors and to identify women and girl survivors and direct them to referral pathways. Thus far, 72 women survivors of violence (3 in Nairobi and 69 in Garissa) have been represented in court by the Refugee Consortium of Kenya. In addition, 12 community dialogue forums on the prevention of various forms of violence against women and girls, and response pathways were held, reaching 309 anti-violence champions, aimed at ending violence against women and girls and increasing awareness of gender-based violence. Furthermore, 118 members of the judiciary, law enforcement officers, probation officers and civil society members received training to enhance service delivery on access to justice for survivors.

32. As a result of discrimination, many indigenous women and girls living in extreme poverty and having very limited access to legal and social services are exposed to high levels of violence (see [E/CN.6/2015/3](#)). Addressing the needs of indigenous women and girls, one of the world's most underserved populations, is a priority for the trust fund in view of its objective to leave no one behind. One of the projects the trust fund is supporting in that connection is being implemented in Guatemala by Mujeres Transformando el Mundo. Its aim is to improve access to

justice and reparations for indigenous and mestiza women who have experienced gender-based violence. The organizers of the project work with public officials, justice officials and members of civil society organizations to increase their understanding of the human rights of women and girls, with a focus on topics related to intersectionality. To date, 125 public officials and members of civil society organizations have expressed their interest in such training. The course's curriculum has been reviewed and approved by the Women's Institute of the University of San Carlos. At the local level, alliances have been formed with the municipalities of Jalapa and Chimaltenango, and 200 municipal officials are expected to join the grantee in creating the project's local plans to prevent gender-based violence. Mujeres Transformando el Mundo has also met with public prosecutors to discuss ways in which the organizers of the project could become involved in criminal law processes. Ten women and girls reported that, as a result of the project, they have seen improvements in their access to justice and in the support they are receiving from government, and nine women and girls have gone through the necessary legal procedures for their cases to be processed by the justice system.

33. Stars of Hope Society, the only association in Palestine that is managed by women with disabilities for women with disabilities, is using a grant from the trust fund to improve access to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services. In the first six months of 2019, the grantee focused mainly on building the infrastructure of the project and, in particular, on carrying out a context analysis and building capacity. As part of that effort it produced a disability mainstreaming manual and trained 22 representatives of organizations for women with disabilities and for disabled people on ending violence against women and girls. As part of efforts to mainstream disability in data collection on violence, the grantee persuaded the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to include in its data collection team four female sign language interpreters, one of whom is living with disabilities.

34. In Lebanon, in a context of increasing pressure on women's rights organizations, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is using a grant from the trust fund for a project to respond to the needs of Palestinian and Syrian refugee women, as well as of Lebanese women, that have arisen from the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. The conflict in that country has led to a rise in poverty and an increase in the violence perpetrated against women among the Syrian refugee population, the Palestinian population and the Lebanese host community. The aim of the project is to ensure that women and girl survivors of gender-based violence in the target communities are aware of their rights and are able to identify what they have been subjected to as crimes and violations of their rights. The organizers of the project are supporting two local organizations in responding and in providing better services to survivors of violence. They are also working with men and boys through preventative awareness-raising activities. In 2019, a total of 3,747 women who were refugees or internally displaced, or who were seeking asylum, received services from partner organizations. A two-day training workshop on case management was held to increase the knowledge of social workers about best practices. Also, a case management guide has been developed. A survey of 129 survivors showed that all the women who had been reached felt that their well-being had improved since they had started receiving support. Of those, 85 per cent (110) stated that they were satisfied with the services provided and 89 per cent (115) indicated that there had been a positive change in their level of agency. Forty-seven staff members were offered group and individual self-care activities and 177 individual therapeutic sessions were held for 20 members of staff. The main aim of these activities was to alleviate the stress that staff experienced at both the personal and professional levels in order to avoid burn-out and improve the services provided.

35. In Egypt, Al Shehab Institution for Comprehensive Development submitted a second proposal for funding as part of the trust fund's "by invitation only" window.

The proposal was based on the success and learning potential of a previous project supported by the trust fund that had focused on the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women in the country. The current project primarily targets sexual and physical violence in the family and builds on the previous pilot project to scale up the provision of essential services, including psychosocial and legal support, HIV counselling and testing, and medical services for the most marginalized and left-behind women in four informal urban communities in greater Cairo. In the light of the key findings of the earlier project, the organizers of the current project are increasing the emphasis on changing attitudes and behaviours by working with men and boys, and are engaging influential faith and community leaders to promote behavioural change and help to strengthen the institutional capacities of service providers to ensure that services are sustained beyond the lifetime of the project. In the initial phase of the project, 451 women from various groups were reached, including 59 female domestic workers, whose awareness was raised of various means to protect themselves from HIV and the HIV-related services available. The project also worked with 25 women from the target communities who were living with HIV.

C. Fostering implementation of law and policy

36. The third priority area of focus for the trust fund is to bring legislation into line with international human rights standards; to implement laws, regulations and protocols to end harmful traditional practices; and to encourage States to fulfil their obligation to exercise due diligence in order to prevent violence, protect survivors and ensure their access to justice.

37. In Solomon Islands, the Regional Rights Resource Team of the Pacific Community is implementing a pilot project aimed at improving access to justice for women survivors of violence in the provinces of Guadalcanal and Malaita. The aim of the project is to assist the authorities of Solomon Islands in the implementation of the 2014 Family Protection Act. The Act provides for an integrated response by various government departments, for assistance to survivors of family and domestic violence, for improved access to justice and for redress for survivors of violence against women. The grantee has developed a national training curriculum and accreditation scheme to develop the capacity of selected informal justice mechanisms established in rural communities under the Family Protection Act to deliver quality services. Five capacity-building and monitoring missions at each of the 37 project sites have resulted in an increase in the number of cases reported and in discussions about domestic violence as a harmful practice. A total of 48 authorized justices have been trained. They continue to show a willingness to hold awareness-raising sessions and speak to their communities about their role and about the purpose of the Family Protection Act.

38. In Kosovo,¹⁰ Medica Kosova is using a small grant from the trust fund to implement a project whose aim is to protect the legal rights, including property rights, of women who have experienced gender-based violence during and after the armed conflict, and to improve institutional responses to gender-based violence. Medica Kosova is also providing monitoring and advocacy training for women's organizations and is working with those organizations to identify shortcomings in the implementation of the national strategy against domestic violence. Thus far, the project has assisted 17 survivors of gender-based violence in obtaining legal support and starting the process of registering their properties. Another nine women, who have obtained official status as survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, have

¹⁰ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

expressed an interest in following the legal procedures to register their houses and farms. In addition, 19 women have applied for the status of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and will be enrolled in the reparations scheme that provides them with a monthly lifetime pension.

39. In four regions of Argentina, a project led by the organization FUSA para la Salud Integral con Perspectiva de Género y Derechos Asociación Civil has formed an interdisciplinary workgroup to develop policy proposals and strategies to change local laws and policies on violence against women and girls with disabilities so that they adhere to international human rights standards. The organizers of the project are also engaging with and providing training for organizations that advocate for the rights of people with disabilities; thus far, 24 women and girls from such organizations have received training on the rights of women and girls with disabilities and acquired the tools necessary to share what they have learned with a wider audience. Preliminary agreements have been reached with health centres to expand the services they offer, and revised protocols are being reviewed by the ethics committees of those health centres.

40. In Chile, Corporación Humanas implemented a project that brought together groups of migrant women; lesbian, bisexual and transgender women; women living with disabilities; and women living with HIV/AIDS to advocate for a comprehensive law that ends violence against women and girls and under which such violence is recognized not only in the private sphere, but also outside the family context. As part of the project, Corporación Humanas worked with six Chilean women's rights organizations, namely Corporación Círculo Emancipador de Mujeres y Niñas con Discapacidad de Chile, Fondo Alquimia, the Amanda Jofré syndicate, Agrupación Lésbica Rompiendo el Silencio, the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS and Warmipura, to draft the bill on the rights of women to a life free of violence. The bill, which was presented to Congress at the end of the project, reflects the many manifestations of gender-based violence, incorporates provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and is aimed at encouraging institutions and regulations to take an intersectional approach to ending violence against women. More than 600 underrepresented women and girls participated in active discussions about what should be in the bill. The inclusion of the diversity of women's experiences in the language of the bill is a historic milestone for Chile. During the project, the six organizations formed alliances and networks that increased their visibility and expanded their local impact to new arenas including government and local institutions. Advocacy around the bill also raised the awareness of professionals working in public service institutions of the prevalence of violence against women within those institutions.

IV. Results and evidence

41. Between January and November 2019, the trust fund team conducted 20 monitoring missions to projects in 12 countries and territories. Apart from the monitoring and evaluation components, the visits enabled stronger and more direct dialogue with grantees to increase the team's understanding of the challenges faced and the kind of support and capacity-building that would be most beneficial, with a particular focus on providing training and support to small organizations.

42. In 2019, another step forward was taken with the evidence hub, one of the pillars of the current strategic plan, with new knowledge products, including two evidence briefs focusing on the work of grantees on prevention and service provision in school-based interventions and on projects involving police.

43. An evidence brief was developed about the work of civil society organizations in educational settings to address and end violence against women and girls. Such enabling settings can play a crucial role in prevention, as well as providing appropriate responses when violence does occur. The importance of this area of work is reflected in the trust fund's investment in projects which include a prevention component (124 of the 141 projects in the past five years) and the work of grantees around schools. For example, as a result of the work of 34 grantees in the past five years, 816 schools have improved their curricula or implemented policies, practices or services to prevent and respond to violence against women (including extracurricular school activities). However, while the importance of school-based interventions is well understood, little is known about the work done on the ground by civil society in moving this agenda forward. The developers of this knowledge product drew on the work of 51 organizations carrying out projects funded by the trust fund in 42 countries. They looked at entry points for civil society organizations, in particular small and women-led organizations, in terms of enabling schools and communities around schools to reduce violence against girls.

44. As found in the analysis, grantees have worked on the entire range of prevention and response activities relating to sexual and gender-based violence in and around schools. They have not only engaged girls and survivors directly, but have also engaged their parents, the community, schoolteachers, administrations, service providers and policymakers. They have not only worked from within schools, but have also identified girls who are most affected or most at risk of school-based violence – for example, girls who have dropped out of school due to violence and out-of-school girls – and have worked incrementally to support their readmission into education.

45. All the projects focusing on girls or girls and boys have primarily measured outcomes in terms of changes in attitudes and norms. Another key outcome in many of the projects was an increase in knowledge about gender-based violence, women's rights and new laws on domestic violence. Also in the analysis, the importance was noted of increased cohesion and social support through mutual solidarity, access to the wider community and confidence in the power of group action. This was especially the case with out-of-school girls in cases where interventions had helped to create a social network where none existed before. Stakeholders also highlighted young people's increased confidence and ability to articulate, debate and advocate for themselves.

46. In the evidence brief, the developers point to several overarching lessons that have been learned from the work under the projects and that can inform future initiatives. There are processes and mechanisms that make certain activities and projects more effective than others and that cut across various project types. They have a number of features in common. Among those is the fact that, while awareness-raising is crucial, shared awareness is more powerful and the peer-to-peer model is most effective in increasing community engagement and awareness. Under most projects, the organizers have worked towards getting buy-in from ministries of education and local authorities, which is particularly important for projects led by civil society organizations. For the projects that were the most effective, they worked to creatively involve the community; they balanced school-based interventions with community-based interventions and interventions that addressed the drivers of non-school-related gender-based violence. The skills and gender of frontline facilitators who were able to tailor their approach to the context by carefully co-creating a discourse with girls and survivors through careful groundwork and creative improvisation and thus bringing them into the centre of the project design, had a very significant impact on the successful outcomes of projects. Finally, agility and the ability to make mid-course adaptations to the project were important factors

that influenced outcomes, thereby underscoring the importance of the trust fund's continuing efforts to enhance the monitoring and evaluation capacities of grantees to enable them to improve the systematic tracking and measuring of results to inform day-to-day decision-making.

47. In a second knowledge product developed in 2019, the trust fund looked at policing, one of the essential services as part of a coordinated multisectoral response to support women and girls who experience violence. A well-functioning frontline of police officers has the potential to increase the likelihood of justice being done and reparations being awarded to women and girl survivors of violence. Police can do so by improving documentation (including medical and psychological documentation), strengthening investigations and, overall, deepening cross-sector responses to cases of violence against women and girls. While the importance of police training is well understood, little is known about the role that non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups can play in bolstering the ability of law enforcement agencies and frontline officers to end violence against women. The reviewers looked at the final evaluations of projects by 52 civil society women's organizations in all regions of the world that had received grants from the trust fund and had worked on police training as part of a larger multisectoral approach to coordinate key actors within the police, medical and justice services to end violence against women and girls. Grantees have engaged with police to strengthen initial contact with survivors at the investigation and trial stages; to improve internal systems and coordination with other frontline service providers; and to bolster prevention.

48. The reviewers divided outcomes of police training led by civil society organizations into two categories: survivor-level outcomes and institution-level outcomes. At the institutional level, the outcomes highlighted included: improved knowledge and attitudes among police officers handling cases of violence against women and girls; improved keeping of medical records; the development of national referral protocols; the institutionalization of trainings developed for police officers that are included in the curricula of police academies; reduced bureaucracy and delays in case preparation and referral; and improved referral systems. While the outcomes at the level of law enforcement agencies are clear, in terms of their improved and coordinated functioning, the evaluations of projects show that connections between police trainings and survivor-level outcomes are harder to attribute and measure. Nevertheless, the following survivor-level outcomes have emerged from the review: an increased likelihood of justice being done and reparations being awarded to women and girl survivors of sexual violence; reduced stigmatization of vulnerable groups; improved awareness of survivors' needs among police; and the creation of conditions that enable women's groups to come forward, particularly women's groups in marginalized and previously excluded communities.

49. During the year, the trust fund also commissioned an independent meta-evaluation and a meta-analysis to provide insights into what makes trust fund supported projects effective as well as into the strengths and weaknesses in evaluation practices. This work also established a database that will enable the trust fund to analyse future evaluations and advance the standards and rigour of its overall evaluation practice. Overall, the evaluators found an upward trend in the quality of the evaluations. The meta-evaluation was concluded with a number of recommendations to improve the quality and usefulness of evaluations, which included reviewing the questions to assist evaluators in writing more nuanced findings, greater disaggregation of data and ensuring that recommendations create a pathway for identifying recommendations that are clear, realistic, actionable and timebound.

V. The way ahead

50. The reviews and analyses undertaken in the latter part of the current strategic plan clearly indicate that the trust fund is playing an important role in filling a specific funding gap concerning small women-led organizations that are often at the forefront in reaching survivors of violence against women and girls. This is a key understanding that will inform the consultations to develop the trust fund's next strategic plan. It also appears to suggest that it could be useful to increase the number of small grants, as those are more likely to respond to the needs of such organizations, and focus on providing a larger number of small grants rather than increasing the total amount awarded in grants. Such an approach would reflect the growing body of evidence that this is a particularly effective way to bring about sustainable change and prevent and end violence against women and girls. It also highlights what grantees particularly value in the way in which the trust fund interacts with them, namely its ongoing support in terms of methodology, programming and organizational capacity-building; training on aspects such as monitoring and evaluation and project development; the bringing together of diverse experiences and evidence about what works; and its role as a source of information and expertise that grantees can access. In short, this encourages the trust fund to strengthen its pursuit of its vision of being, in the words of its grantees, "more than just a donor".
