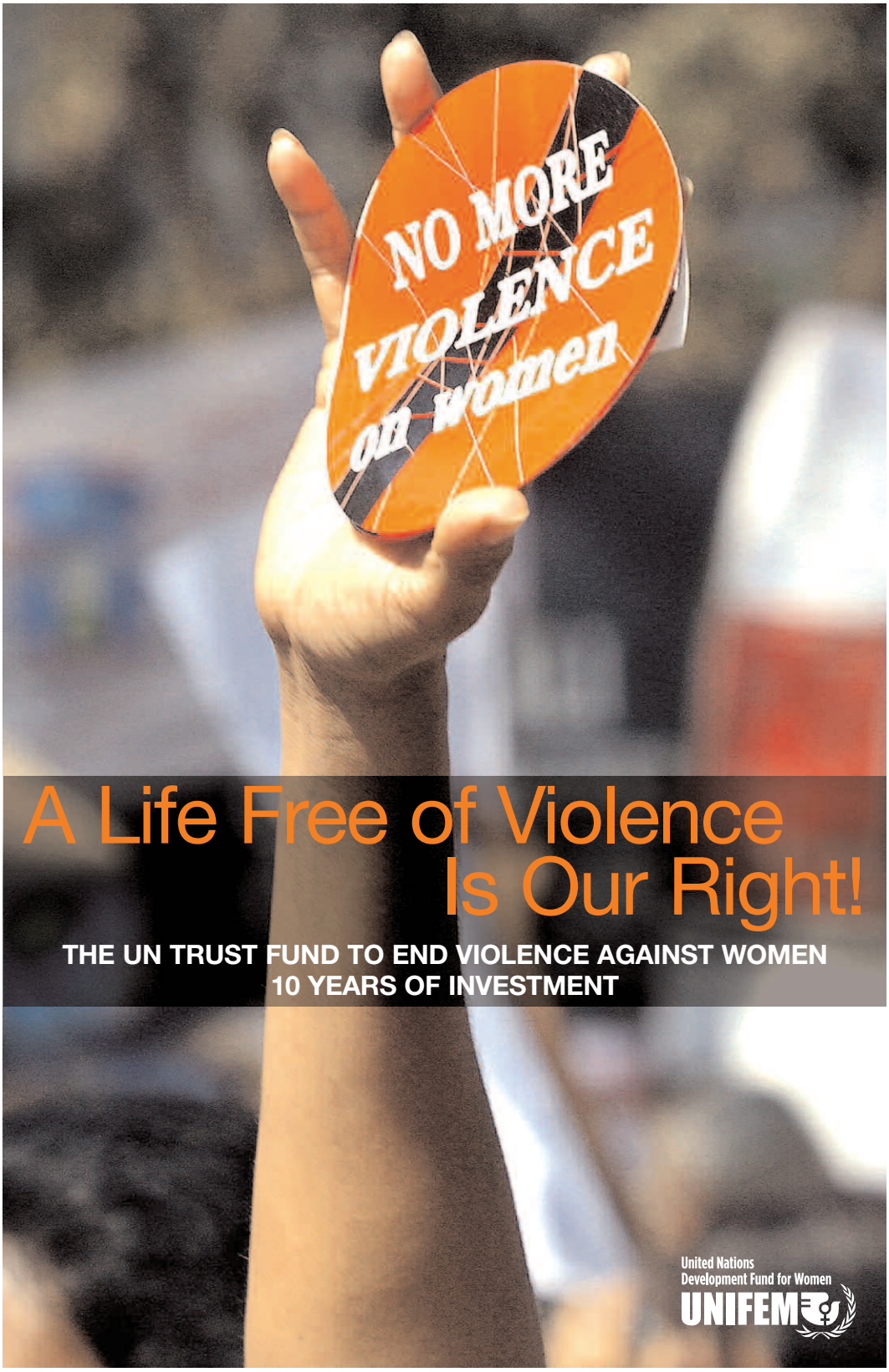


A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right!

THE UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
10 YEARS OF INVESTMENT

United Nations
Development Fund for Women
UNIFEM

UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. UNIFEM works in partnership with UN organizations, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks to promote gender equality. It links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.

A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right!
UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. 10 Years of Investment.
Copyright © 2007 United Nations Development Fund for Women

Acknowledgements

A number of UNIFEM colleagues and the UN Trust Fund grantees portrayed in this booklet have contributed and greatly assisted with this publication. Special thanks go to Noeleen Heyzer, Joanne Sandler, Lee Waldorf, Anne Marie Goetz, Nanette Braun, Michele Burger and Karen Judd, as well as to Suneeta Dhar and Angelika Kartusch who coordinated this publication.

UNIFEM is very grateful for the support from UN Member States for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. Governments that have contributed include Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, and United States of America. The UN Trust Fund also received valued support from individual donors, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Contributors include Johnson & Johnson, Macy's, TAG Heuer; Conrad Hilton Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, UN Foundation; World Day of Prayer – USA Committee, Zonta International; as well as the UNIFEM National Committees in Australia, Austria, Iceland, Italy, Singapore, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Text: Gretchen Sidhu
Design: Daniella Van Gennep
Photo Editor: Susan Ackermann
Copy Editor: Angela Stephens
Printer: Gist and Herlin Press (GHP)

Cover: INDIA, Bombay, January 2004: A delegate holds aloft a sticker during a protest against violence against women; Photo: Emmanuel Dunand, AFP/Getty Images
Photo page 7: Gianluigi Guercia—AFP/Getty Images; Photo page 11: Janet Jarman—Corbis; Photo page 17: Women's Media Centre of Cambodia: Photo page 21: Anna Ziemenski—AFP/Getty Images; Photo page 27: TASS/Sovfoto

Contents

Preface	2
UN Trust Fund Strategies to End Violence Against Women	4
Advancing Laws and Policies: Implementation Protects Women's Rights	6
Conducting Research: Knowledge Strengthens Advocacy, Empowers Women	10
Harnessing the Media: A New Awareness of Women's Rights	16
Taking Community Action: Empowered People, Transformed Lives	20
Reaching Adolescents: Prevention at the Start of Adulthood	26
Appendix: Projects Supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (1997-2006)	29

Preface

The UN General Assembly was visionary when it agreed to set up a UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women as a system-wide mechanism to support "national, regional and international actions, including those taken by Governments and non-governmental organizations, to eliminate violence against women" (A/RES/50/166).

The Trust Fund became operational in 1997. Ten years later, it has shown that visions can become realities. Managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Trust Fund enables UN partners and donors to come together to invest in practical steps to stop the violence that has fractured communities, devastated lives, and robbed the gifts and potential of millions of women and girls. Over the past 10 years, we have granted more than $13 million to 226 initiatives in over 100 countries.

The tenth anniversary of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women provides an opportunity to reflect on its cumulative impact. While Trust Fund grantees are located in very different countries and regions, their work is part of a collective effort to prevent violence, enhance women's protection and end impunity for violence; their work is connected by common strategies and extraordinary results.

Too often, the violence that is perpetrated against women and girls—whether in the home, on the street or in the community, or in the context of armed conflict—is viewed as random and accepted as inevitable. But grantees of the Trust Fund are demonstrating that violence is neither random nor inevitable—and never acceptable. Through creative community-based initiatives and multi-stakeholder coalitions in countries worldwide, they are demonstrating that a life free of violence is possible.

This booklet outlines examples of promising approaches that Trust Fund grantees are using to eliminate the multiple forms of violence in women's lives. In showcasing the work with diverse constituencies, including survivors of violence, men's groups, school teachers and students, in the media and in various contexts, it seeks to show people everywhere how grantees have succeeded in breaking intergenerational cycles of violence, in empowering survivors to make changes in their own lives, and in transforming communities and institutions into advocates for change in the struggle to end violence against women. The following page presents a list of interlinked strategies and component activities needed to build a comprehensive programme, together with the number of grantees we have supported in each category.

After succeeding through these and other initiatives in raising public

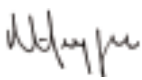
awareness and strengthening the capacity of constituencies to address violence against women, in 2004 the Trust Fund rolled out a new strategy: targeting grants specifically for implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and national plans of action. This was in response to the fact that so many countries have passed laws against domestic violence or instituted national plans of action to combat violence against women, but too often failed to allocate the requisite resources or set up institutional mechanisms to enforce these.

Three other innovations that have come out of the Trust Fund are worth mentioning.

- The Trust Fund opens special 'windows' to respond to specific issues: for instance, starting in 2005 and continuing through 2008, the Trust Fund will have a special window to support programmes that address the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.
- The Trust Fund is generating spin-offs at regional and national levels. For instance, there is now an Arab States Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, a national-level Trust Fund in Brazil and efforts to start another in Afghanistan.
- Recognizing that more rigorous evaluation is needed of what works to end violence against women, UNIFEM and the World Bank are partnering to devise a standard evaluation methodology for impact assessments of community-based strategies to end violence against women. Work on this is ongoing, with field-based testing anticipated for 2007.

Initiatives supported through the UN Trust Fund have significant potential to positively impact the lives of millions of women, men and their communities in countries worldwide. The biggest constraint on the Trust Fund is its inability to meet demand. While resources have quadrupled—from $800,000 in 2004 to $3.5 million in 2006—the demand for Trust Fund support continues to greatly exceed available funds. In 2006 alone, requests exceeded these funds 10 times over. We value our government, private sector, foundation, NGO and individual partners who have recognized the potential of the Trust Fund and hope that others will join them in helping to extend its reach.

UNIFEM and our partners are proud to have supported the creative efforts of grantees to transform institutions, communities and families to help ensure that women can enjoy their right to a life free from violence.



Noeleen Heyzer
Executive Director
UNIFEM

UN Trust Fund Strategies to

The following are key strategies deployed by Trust Fund grantees to end violence against women, together with examples of the kind of actions that can be taken to carry them out. The numbers indicated for each refer to the 226 projects that have been supported by the Trust Fund between 1997 and 2006. As most projects apply more than one strategy, the overall number is higher than 226.

1. Legal and Policy Framework: women's rights are human rights 58 projects

- reviewing laws to eliminate provisions that discriminate against women
- formulating new laws to strengthen women's human rights
- allocating sufficient resources to ensure implementation

2. Institutional Accountability: improved access to justice 105 projects

- capacity-building and training for judges, lawyers, police; and others in the criminal justice system
- building women's agency to access justice and protect their rights

3. Advocacy and Awareness: changing public attitudes 157 projects

- developing interagency advocacy campaigns
- building partnerships with men and youth
- using media, theatre and information and communications technologies (ICTs) to challenge norms of violence against women

End Violence Against Women

4. Community Mobilization and Support: stand by your woman! **48 projects**

- working with traditional leaders, religious or faith-based groups, neighborhood associations, teachers, etc. to build communities of support
- building safer cities and neighborhoods

5. Cross-sector Alliances and Coalitions: power of partnerships **57 projects**

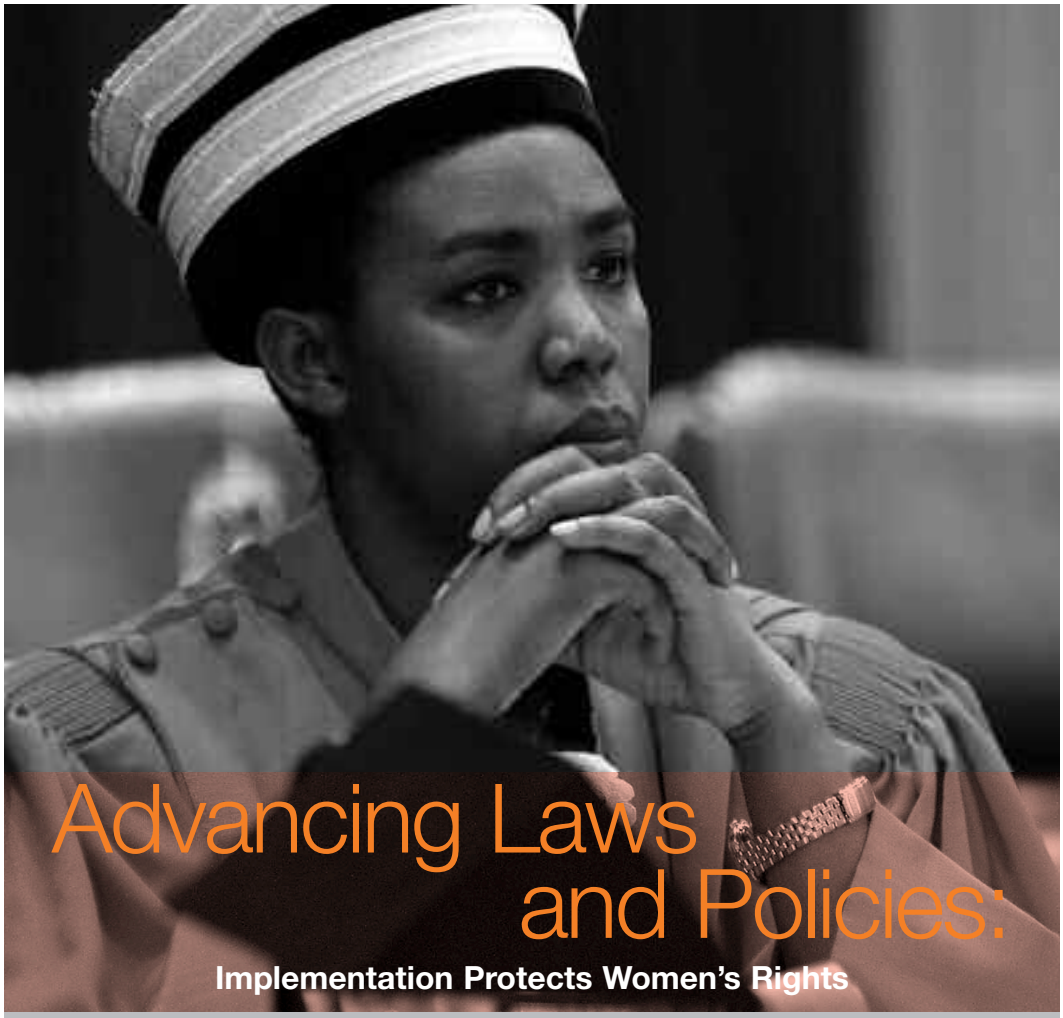
- bringing together governments and women's rights advocates
- bringing in all relevant ministries (health, justice, finance, education, etc.) as well as academic institutions and the private sector
- linking gender-based violence advocates with those working to eliminate poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDS

6. Social Support Services: strengthened institutional support **54 projects**

- providing witness protection programmes
- providing one-stop centres for shelter, trauma counselling, health care, job training and legal representation
- building capacity of service providers
- support for perpetrators – rehabilitation, training and problem-solving skills

7. Data and Research: evidence-based advocacy **65 projects**

- supporting studies and surveys on violence against women to empower women's rights advocates to press for needed change



Advancing Laws and Policies:

Implementation Protects Women's Rights

Just four years ago, only 45 countries had specific laws on domestic violence. Today, 89 states have adopted some form of legislative provision. This significant advance in national legislation testifies to the commitment of governments and the success that women's rights activists have had in advancing formal legal protection of women's right to physical security at home.

UN Trust Fund grants have supported efforts to introduce and strengthen laws, policies and plans in 51 countries since 1997. The Trust Fund has responded to proposals from all regions that highlight the need for laws and policies to address the different types of violence against women.

Backing the passage of laws and policies is not sufficient, however. Too often, laws and policies fail to secure the budgets and implementation support

necessary for them to make a concrete difference in advancing protection for women and girls. Since 2004, the Trust Fund has prioritized grant requests focused on implementing existing laws and policies. Grants have helped develop the capacities of lawyers, police and health-care workers to respond to cases of gender violence, and assisted the creation of data systems for monitoring the implementation of laws. In China, for example, law enforcement officials and citizens have jointly created complaint centres and shelters in 13 provinces. A project in Tanzania published judgements on violence cases in the local media, strengthening both legal accountability and public awareness.

The following two cases demonstrate some of the many creative strategies that Trust Fund grantees employ to enable women to more fully enjoy their human and legal rights.

Southern Africa: Removing Gender Biases from Judicial Processes

The scene was a courtroom in Tanzania, where the presiding judge was listening to an appellant contesting a ruling that had dissolved his marriage because he physically abused his wife. Her complaint, he claimed, was nothing more than a simple marital dispute.

Many judges might agree, given deeply rooted beliefs about marital privacy and male privilege. But this appellant had drawn then-Judge N. Kimaro. Judge Kimaro cited Tanzanian laws and international human rights conventions to describe his actions as a form of gender-based violence. The judge upheld the original ruling, including the equal division of their marital property under Tanzania's constitutional guarantee of equal protection before the law.

Kimaro, now a High Court justice, is one of more than 1,400 judges, male and female, who have taken part in the Jurisprudence of Equality Program run by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). With its national partners, the IAWJ has conducted successful training workshops for judges in over a dozen countries in South and Central America and in East Africa. A grant from the UN Trust Fund helped extend the training to three Southern African countries: Botswana, South Africa and Zambia.

The training is based on the premise that while many countries have laws to prevent violence against women and have agreed in principle to

After the Trust Fund-sponsored judges training project in Southern Africa, participants from all three countries formed associations to continue advocating for gender equality in judicial systems.

uphold international human rights standards, in practice, human biases get in the way. Courts, law enforcement agencies and other legal structures often reflect the same patterns of gender discrimination that are at work in societies at large. This restricts women's access to justice in many ways. Court systems, for example, might adhere to complex and expensive procedures. Women already traumatized by domestic abuse, especially those who are poor, will have little chance of obtaining a fair judgement.

Participants in the IAWJ programme examine how gender biases can work, even unconsciously, and explore what a true "jurisprudence of equality" grounded in human rights principles would look like. They probe the concrete meaning of abstract guarantees of equal protection and non-discrimination, looking at the practical side of how these can guide court cases, particularly those involving gender discrimination or violence against women.

After the Trust Fund-sponsored IAWJ project in Southern Africa, participants from all three countries formed associations to continue advocating for gender equality in judicial systems. Zambia is considering the inclusion of the IAWJ curriculum in the routine training of magistrates. Women who come before these judges can have some confidence that whatever troubles have brought them there, the resolution of their cases will not include additional forms of violence and discrimination.

Latin America: Making Cities Safer

Violence is now among the five main causes of death in Latin America and is the principal cause of death in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Venezuela. While young men remain the major victims of street violence, the rapid acceleration of criminality and violence in Latin American cities creates a high degree of insecurity for women and girls as well. Women in too many public spaces must fear rape, homicides, kidnapping or sexual harassment. Government protection and prevention policies have not always been adequate to meet these concerns. Many cities lag behind, even on basic safety measures, such as well-lit streets and sufficient policing.

In Rosario, Argentina, and Lima, Peru, two women's organizations used a UN Trust Fund grant to pilot ways of making cities safer for women. The

original project has since been expanded into a regional UNIFEM programme, with activities in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador.

The Peruvian group Flora Tristán and the Argentine organization Centro de Intercambios y Servicios Cono Sur-Argentina (CISCSA) convened focus groups of women to record their experiences. They analysed the prevalence of public violence and identified policy gaps hindering urban safety. In a survey of two districts in Lima, for example, they found that nearly 100 per cent of women feel they have the right to move freely without fear of aggression; only 12.5 per cent feel this right is actually respected.

In Lima and Rosario, Flora Tristán and CISCSA supported local women's groups to brief city planners and the media on the issues women face, and to discuss recommendations to improve safety. The city of Rosario, as an initial step, began printing anti-violence messages on prepaid transportation cards, informing commuters, "Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights." Municipal plans were revised to include steps to curtail violence, such as better signage and the installation of bus shelters allowing passengers clear visibility of the surrounding area. In Lima, city officials also took immediate action by improving lighting on streets and parks and fencing off empty lots.

As part of the project, CISCSA produced a guide to gender-sensitive municipal planning called *Tools for the Promotion of Safe Cities from a Gender Perspective*. The first regional compilation of information on urban violence against women in Latin America, the book makes the case that while women in recent decades have moved more firmly into public spaces, these spaces do not yet ensure women's right to safety. It showcases successful practices from the region and other parts of the world, and offers tools for formulating urban improvement strategies that improve women's safety.

Some Latin American cities have taken steps in recent years to address the specific types of violence and crime that women and girls face. Sao Paulo, Brazil, sponsors police stations with specially trained female staff. Bogota, Colombia, instituted specific guidelines on dealing with sex crimes. Mexico City has designated separate subway cars for women during rush hours. UNIFEM's new regional programme, inspired by the Trust Fund pilot, will encourage the continued expansion of strategies like these, promoting public awareness, policy changes and practical strategies that enhance safety and protection for women and girls.

Conducting Research:

Knowledge Strengthens Advocacy, Empowers Women

A lack of sufficient data on the nature and incidence of violence against women constrains official willingness to adopt policies and provide services to end it. Data limitations typically result from low rates of reporting and gender biases that prevent documentation on the frequency and severity of attacks on women. As a result, services to assist women affected by violence, including those to pursue justice against attackers, are either poorly designed or nonexistent.

The UN Trust Fund supports research and data collection that illuminates otherwise hidden problems and can be used to advocate for change. Well-documented and reliable evidence of the pervasive and horrific nature of violence against women can help persuade police, legislators, religious authorities and others to stop it. In Peru, for instance, a report on sexual violence during the country's armed conflict convinced

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to define rape as a weapon of war and grant reparations to victims of sexual violence.

Data about the prevalence and types of gender-based violence also give women information with which to demand legal and police protection, mobilize effective community support and find strength from knowing they are not alone. In Nigeria, the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at the University of Ibadan surveyed violence perpetrated against young female hawkers who trade at bus and truck stops in urban areas. Trainings and advocacy with police, members of the drivers unions and judicial officials resulted in measures ensuring a significant drop in the incidence of violence.

Activists working on the front lines with women survivors of gender-based violence are well placed to collect the necessary evidence, because they are aware of the difficulties women face in reporting incidents and seeking justice, and can build the trust required for women to share their stories in public. As the following examples show, Trust Fund-sponsored research is strongly rooted in the realities of women's lives.

Occupied Palestinian Territory: Chronicling a Tradition to Put an End to Murder

The evidence was everywhere: mysterious accidents, suddenly missing family members, and private, heartbreaking memories. So-called "honour killings"—the murder of those who dishonour the family—could happen in Palestinian communities whenever women or girls were thought to have shamed their families by engaging in sexual intimacy outside marriage, or by being subject to rape, sexual abuse or incest. Some unmarried women have faced an excruciating alternative: forced marriage to the perpetrator.

Over the last decade, these deeply embedded practices have begun to shift in some parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, due in large part to the efforts of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), a recipient of several UN Trust Fund grants.

Activists at WCLAC realized early on that the lack of reporting and documentation of "honour killings" presented an impediment to their efforts to eliminate the practice. They had set up some of the first services for women

victims of violence in the Territory, including a hotline. Trust Fund grants allowed them to develop an advocacy strategy, starting with the comprehensive documentation of information about cases that reached the centre. They also interviewed traditional community and religious leaders as well as the police, documenting the numerous ways in which their responses to crimes against women reflected cultural and social gender biases. Death certificates, for example, listed women as dying from "fate." One 26-year-old was said to have died of "old age."

The findings encouraged the centre to re-label "honour crimes" as femicide, and to broaden the definition of the practice beyond the actual killings to include the histories of psychological abuse, death threats, fears of scandal and social pressure that led up to them. WCLAC has used its research to raise public awareness, and press for improved services and legislative reform. Training for judges, also supported by the Trust Fund, has focused on opening the justice system to new ways of thinking about women's rights.

WCLAC activists have also applied their research to strategies to deal with individual cases. They go into communities to work with families, officials and religious leaders, offering Koranic verses, Arab sayings and knowledge of both Islamic sharia and modern court proceedings to convince families that they have options besides murder. One innovative approach has been the use of written contracts, with which families publicly commit to refrain from killing.

The road to eliminating harmful traditions such as "honour killings" can be long. Palestinian women's human rights advocates remain committed; stimulating discussion about what was formerly an unchallenged practice is a major step forward. As Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, who played a major role in the WCLAC research, says: "Getting society to acknowledge what's happening, and opening a national dialogue…it is only then that we can empower women to speak out and help themselves."

The Caribbean: Making the Link to Health for Excluded Sex Workers

For over 20 years, the Caribbean Association for Research and Action (CAFRA) has played a prominent role in advocacy for women's human rights in the region. It seeks to channel women's collective dynamism into more equitable economies and societies, often through research to inform policies advancing women's rights. In recent years, as rates of poverty and

The findings encouraged the centre to re-label "honour crimes" as femicide, and to broaden the definition of the practice beyond the actual killings to include the histories of psychological abuse, death threats, fears of scandal and social pressure that led up to them.

HIV/AIDS began to rise in the region, CAFRA used a UN Trust Fund grant to address issues faced by a neglected and excluded group of women: sex workers.

The Caribbean has the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world outside Africa. At the same time, growing economic disparities have pushed many women with few marketable skills into sex work, where patterns of violence and inequality pose barriers to safer sex, including condom usage. The Trust Fund project set out to understand the situation of sex workers through extensive interviews, work with them on strategies for health care and HIV/AIDS prevention, and change the attitudes of local officials. It targeted the countries of Belize, Guyana and St. Lucia.

Earlier CAFRA research had revealed that women sex workers have very little access to health service providers, many of whom showed little interest in them as clients. The newer research in St. Lucia found that most sex workers don't use health services because of the patronizing attitudes of clinic workers and the decline in the number of affordable public facilities. Health officials, however, are increasingly concerned about HIV, and even the Prime Minister has publicly stated the need to extend health care to sex workers. The CAFRA findings were widely featured in the media, and the National AIDS Department invited local CAFRA activists to work on strategies for meeting sex workers' needs.

Research in Guyana discovered that 90 per cent of the women interviewed had been assaulted by clients. Some women had sought testing for HIV, but had not gone back to clinics for the results because of fear and stigma. A number agreed to attend a workshop to create an action plan to support sex workers. They identified the characteristics of "friendly" health centres. Eight organizations, including the Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers and the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, committed to acting on the recommendations.

In Belize, CAFRA used the findings from interviews with sex workers for a workshop with health officials. They explained that sex workers often suffered violence that went unreported. Few went to clinics for sexually transmitted diseases, a factor making them more vulnerable to contracting HIV. As a result, agencies such as the local branch of the Pan American Health

Syostri used a UN Trust Fund grant to create information and training resources for regional use, with a special focus on working with partner NGOs in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Organization and the Ministry of Health agreed to work collaboratively on more inclusive HIV/AIDS prevention strategies. Media outlets have used the research for campaigns underscoring the need to refrain from unsafe sexual activity.

CAFRA concluded its research with a series of general recommendations, emphasizing the need to generate better employment opportunities for women and create more uniform wage and benefit regulations. It pointed out that most sex workers are victims of some kind of violence, whether through sex trafficking, abusive partners or poverty that has an overtly female face. CAFRA called on women's groups and their supporters to work towards ensuring that Caribbean women have more employment options and rights.

Commonwealth of Independent States: Shining Light on Human Trafficking

Economic decline and unmonitored borders following the collapse of the Soviet Union have combined to encourage a rise in human trafficking across the new countries of the CIS. For women, trafficking often means finding themselves in slave-like conditions in the sex industry or other parts of the informal economy.

Since many of both the demand and supply factors of trafficking are the same or similar across the CIS countries, and given the cross-border nature of the phenomenon, the Russian NGO Syostri realized it made sense for activists in different states to share information and experiences. Syostri used a UN Trust Fund grant to create information and training resources for regional use, with a special focus on working with partner NGOs in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The project created a website that has become a central source for information on trafficking. A database includes the national laws of different

countries and international anti-trafficking agreements. The site lists organizations involved in combating the problem, and includes basic facts and figures along with policy recommendations. Registered with the main Russian-language search engines, the site was designed to be useful for activists but also accessible to the general public, especially women at risk.

A second component of the project focused on preparing analytical reports for each country, uncovering the fact that many women are vulnerable to trafficking within the CIS, and not just in the more conventional pattern from the CIS to other areas. This new knowledge was used in the preparation of educational materials, including brochures for adolescents explaining how trafficking can happen and what to do. The project also prepared a training curriculum to better equip NGO hotline consultants responding to questions. Fifteen training sessions were held in four countries and a number of regions of Russia.

In each of the five countries, Syostri conducted a seminar for people working on trafficking, including representatives from NGOs, governments, international organizations and the media. They compared trends and practices in the different countries, and identified national priorities for future work, such as the emerging trend in Russia of trafficking for exploitative labour. Participants from Ukraine, which has taken strong anti-trafficking actions, shared tips on Internet strategies. Information and policy recommendations from the seminars were later sent to both central and local government officials.

Working with activists from different countries has convinced Syostri to continue strengthening these ties. The group intends to continue updating its website and databases, and advocating for a regional CIS alliance against trafficking.

Harnessing the Media:

A New Awareness of Women's Rights

Outreach through media is a pivotal strategy in the effort to end violence against women. With violence still too often shrouded in secrecy and shame in most countries, providing information and messages that support women's right to be free from abuse can go far in helping individual women claim their rights. Individuals and communities can be persuaded to abandon harmful practices, and governments pressured to pass laws and offer new support services. The Kenyan Parliament, for example, has tabled a strong bill against domestic violence following the heavy media attention that stemmed from a UNIFEM-led anti-violence campaign.

UN Trust Fund-supported media projects have often sought to channel the immense power of large, mainstream media outlets. A soap opera in Nicaragua, with themes including the right of women to live free from violence, became one

of the country's most popular shows. In India, a music video linking violence to its impact on livelihoods delivered a message of empowerment to millions of women, and was broadcast globally during the 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

UNIFEM has played a central role in collecting and documenting successful media initiatives linked to ending violence against women. It has partnered with Johns Hopkins University in the United States to establish a catalogue of media and communications resources that groups worldwide could replicate in their own outreach and campaign efforts. It has provided training for grantees on strategic communications and support programmes to develop the capacities of journalists to more sensitively report on gender-based violence, such as through the creation of a gender-sensitive media code in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A number of Trust Fund projects have prioritized overcoming some of the barriers to information faced by women in poorer countries who are illiterate and/or live in remote locations. As the following two examples show, radio remains one of the most accessible media.

Cambodia: Radio Broadcasts Break the Silence

The radio show opened with a welcome to the Banteay Srei Talk Show on violence against women. The show was the seventh in a series of 15, and the topic at hand was the trafficking of women and girls. In the studio was State Secretary Yu Ay from the Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs. The interviewer asked her a series of questions: What does trafficking mean? How can existing laws prevent it? The State Secretary gave careful answers to each query, stressing the need for vigilance and awareness.

Subsequent talk show segments delved into the specific issue of sexual exploitation. Three members of the Sex Workers Union shared their experiences of getting involved in sex work. Interviews with ordinary people chronicled public perceptions of trafficking.

The talk shows—which also included segments on domestic violence and rape—were part of a novel project in Cambodia, where there has been little public discussion of violence against women despite high prevalence rates. Funded by the UN Trust Fund, Banteay Srei, a women's group,

worked with the Women's Media Centre and the Cambodia Health Education Media Service to produce the talk shows, along with 30 dramatic episodes. Over four months, the shows were broadcast on a national FM station with a potential audience of eight million listeners.

To create the scripts for the shows, Banteay Srei conducted surveys and consulted legal professionals and women's groups. It trained local people in two provinces—farmers, students, homemakers and others—to serve as community monitors. During the broadcasts, the monitors convened nearly 8,000 people in their communities to listen to and discuss the shows.

Surveys of listeners before and after the shows revealed increased knowledge of the laws and services to protect women from violence. After the broadcasts, for example, 97 per cent of listeners said perpetrators of rape should go to jail, compared to 48 per cent before. Other listeners said they have begun conveying information about gender-based violence during everyday tasks, such as selling watermelons. In one village, when a woman cried out as her husband threatened to rape her, neighbours came running. The village chief, an influential figure, warned the husband that he was about to commit a crime. The husband backed down.

Considering that before the broadcasts two-thirds of the women surveyed did not know marital rape is a crime, the project shows the value of equipping individuals with basic knowledge. Breaking the silence that feeds gender violence results in actions for a safer world.

Nepal: Sending Messages Across Mountains

Nepal's mountainous terrain, high illiteracy rates and civil conflict have posed daunting challenges to informing women about their right to live free from violence. In addition to domestic abuse and sex trafficking, some Nepali women face physical and mental harassment from their in-laws related to dowry.

Radio broadcasts, however, are one way of helping ensure that women understand and can claim their rights. The NGO Digital Broadcast Initiative/ Equal Access Nepal, in partnership with General Welfare Prathistan, secured a UN Trust Fund grant for a series of 26 radio programmes called "Changing Our World." The programmes reached out to two million listeners with information about human rights, peacebuilding, stopping violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

One woman listener wrote to the on-air hosts of the shows: “This programme…has encouraged me to speak up against the problems I face.”

The weekly episodes were rooted in women’s everyday experiences, collected by a group of 12 rural women whom the project trained as reporters. The 12 women learned the basics of broadcast technologies, content development and women’s rights, then worked in collaboration with a content advisory group comprising experts on women’s rights. The broadcasts included the voices and stories of over 350 local women and men. Sixty women facilitators learned how to convene and manage community listening groups, in which 15,000 people participated across the country.

The project created a space for women to learn about their rights and reflect on local practices that might once have seemed intractable. One woman listener wrote to the on-air hosts of the shows: “This programme…has encouraged me to speak up against the problems I face.” Another said, “(Sexual abuse) can happen to anyone anywhere. After listening, I learned that there is a law against such practices.”

A research and evaluation component built into the project found that knowledge about domestic violence had doubled in communities reached by the broadcasts. The percentage of listener group members reporting that they were following social messages in practice rose from 41 per cent to 60 per cent. Greater understanding of the connections between domestic violence and alcohol, for example, has led to community sanctions on excessive drinking.

Actions such as these will help the project’s impacts deepen, as will the women directly trained by the programme. Equipped with new confidence and leadership skills, they will bolster the capacity of rural community radio stations to provide ongoing shows on women’s rights. “I feel that I can resolve any problem,” says Archana Ghimire, one of the community reporters. “If I come across any woman with a problem, initially I will try to resolve the problem myself. If it does not work out, I will refer the woman to the concerned authority.”

Just after the broadcasts, two additional FM stations agreed to run them again, including the well-known Kalika FM. Equal Access Nepal, having confirmed the effectiveness of training local reporters, is now taking a similar approach in a much larger project sponsored by the US Agency for International Development. It focuses on peacebuilding, within which violence against women is a major theme.

Taking Community Action:

Empowered People, Transformed Lives

Concerted action within communities by women's human rights advocates and survivors of violence is critical to successfully uprooting entrenched patterns of abuse. Discriminatory attitudes and practices can otherwise continue to make violence acceptable, even if strong legislation to stop it is in place. A UN Trust Fund grant in Kenya, for example, supported women's groups to develop alternative, nonviolent rites of passage to replace the tradition of female genital mutilation.

Trust Fund grants help women's rights groups develop strategies to prevent violence and offer services to those affected by it. A grant in Haiti has enabled a women's group to assist women survivors to obtain medical care and legal redress. Communities in Honduras have formed watchdog groups to intervene in domestic violence cases.

Local activists often have the clearest understanding of which strategies will work in their communities. They can probe new entry points for action and inspire collective local commitment. They have been on the vanguard of identifying intersections among different sources and kinds of violence. Assisted by the Trust Fund, a women's network in Serbia and Montenegro has brought together activists across ethnic, religious and political lines to work on reconciliation and a common agenda of ending gender-based violence.

Successful community actions, initiated and refined on a small scale, have the potential for replication nationally, regionally or even internationally. As the examples that follow show, a modest investment may not only improve the life of a community, but also inspire those it touches to carry the work forward in the wider world.

South Africa: Making a Dramatic Link Between Violence and HIV/AIDS

One woman left her abusive boyfriend. Another, who is HIV-positive, began telling her partner "No condom, no sex." A woman whose husband infected her with HIV and then forced her out of her home started legal action against him. Another woman found the strength to report her abusive brother to the police.

All four came to a new understanding of their rights and choices after participating in a community theatre project organized by Mothertongue, a South African collective of artists and activists who believe in the power of theatre as a tool for personal and social transformation.

Women across the world face myriad forms of discrimination involving the intersection of HIV, violence and family relationships, but strategies to address these are still relatively new. In South Africa, after noticing the concurrent rise in HIV cases and gender-based violence, Mothertongue knew that theatre could be an effective method to help women identify and overcome the stigma and discrimination that fuels both phenomena.

Using a UN Trust Fund grant, the collective piloted a project in Khayelitsha, a rapidly growing township outside Cape Town with some of the highest rates of rape and HIV in the country. The first step was grass-roots research. Interviews with women in the community chronicled their vulnerability to violence and HIV. Discussions with local rape counselors and police

As a result of the project, the performers developed a greater sense of personal strength that allowed them to make changes in their own lives. Within their communities, they continue to serve as sources of advice and assistance on HIV and gender violence and have participated in live community radio debates.

revealed a need for services that reach out to the community to foster prevention and awareness, rather than being available only when crisis strikes.

The project worked with local organizations to select 28 women, many from affiliated support groups, who were willing to perform in community dramas. The vast majority of the women were HIV-positive and survivors of gender-based violence. Together, using participatory theatre techniques infused with traditional African performance modes, they wove their personal stories into eight dramas designed to challenge negative attitudes towards women and provoke people to reflect on change.

Over two months, the group gave 12 performances before diverse audiences in public venues across Khayelitsha. As a result, the performers developed a greater sense of personal strength that allowed them to make changes in their own lives. Within their communities, they continue to serve as sources of advice and assistance on HIV and gender violence and have participated in live community radio debates. Counseling centres have seen increased reporting of violent incidents.

Mothertongue plans to build on the project by focusing next on local counselors and HIV/AIDS service providers, helping to inculcate a fuller understanding of the twin concerns of gender violence and HIV. It will encourage the broader use of drama therapy, especially to reach those who, like battered women, tend to be limited in their ability to access conventional forms of support.

Rwanda: Women Ex-Combatants Advocate for Peace and Rights

Violence has affected nearly every aspect of the lives of women in Rwanda. The 1994 genocide killed 800,000 people and resulted in the rape of at least 500,000 women. Amidst massive upheaval, including the spillover of the conflict into the Democratic Republic of the Congo, some women became

combatants. In general, social values defining women as distinctly second-class citizens have turned families and communities into places where the risk of gender violence is high.

Despite enormous recovery challenges, women in Rwanda have impressed the world with their leadership of reconciliation efforts and initiatives to build a society where terrible violations of women's rights no longer occur. One group, the Forum for Activists against Torture (FACT), has used a UN Trust Fund grant to work with women ex-combatants on raising awareness about women's human rights and the devastating impacts of gender violence, including high rates of HIV/AIDS among women.

The ex-combatants all have had first-hand experiences as both perpetrators and victims of violence. Initially, 20 women gathered in Kigali, the capital, from each of Rwanda's 12 provinces. They shared their own experiences, studied international human rights principles, discussed the impacts of sexual violence on reproductive health, and learned ways to manage trauma.

The training was designed to equip participants with the skills to hold sessions on similar issues for other ex-combatants, who, in a ripple effect, could then serve as advocates in their own communities. Subsequent provincial sessions managed by the 20 women involved the 400 members of Ndabaga, an advocacy group comprising former women fighters from different sides. Simultaneously, FACT and Ndabaga collaborated on two radio programmes, aired on a leading national station that disseminated information on women's rights to the general public.

Today, as a result of the project, a core group of women community leaders has a demonstrated capacity to work with other women and men on issues critical to improving women's status in Rwanda. Some of the trainees have gone on to form local women's groups and human rights clubs, or have become involved with other organizations supporting women victims of violence. Other participants are helping local women seek out counseling and legal recourse against perpetrators of violence. A few have become trainers at the Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, where they contribute essential perspectives on women's rights and needs.

FACT reports an increased number of calls to its hotline related to gender violence, and a higher number of cases reported to the police. As an organization, it has built on the knowledge gained from the project for new initiatives to provide education on gender-based violence in schools, and to monitor human rights violations related to gender-based violence and tor-

ture in Rwandan prisons. Additional funding for these activities came from Cordaid and ICCO Netherlands, respectively. FACT plans in the future to focus on concerted advocacy for stronger policies and legal reforms, having learned from the ex-combatants project that stopping violence requires involvement on all levels.

For their part, trainees in the ex-combatants project have identified what they feel are pressing current needs. They have called for education for men so they learn to change their attitudes and violent behaviours. They have stressed that women across Rwanda need information about existing laws and services, so that whenever violence is real or threatened, they have the knowledge to protect themselves.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Men Become Partners for Change

Men are the primary perpetrators of violence against women. They are also critical partners in eliminating it, as members of families and communities, and as people involved in upholding or changing social norms. "Gender violence serves nobody," says Nelson Banda, a 28-year-old journalist in Zambia. "As men, we need to reassess ourselves on how we have been socialized, make positive changes and influence other men to live exemplary lives."

Banda is part of a groundbreaking project funded by the UN Trust Fund in sub-Saharan Africa. In a handful of countries, the regional African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) has worked with national organizations to rally men around advocating an end to gender violence. Along the way, the group has found that even in deeply patriarchal societies, at least some influential men are convinced that there will be no development, no peace and no social justice as long as gender inequalities persist.

The FEMNET project began with a survey of existing initiatives involving men. It showed that while men had an interest in being involved in anti-violence activities, most men's groups had a limited ability to conduct ongoing activities. FEMNET decided that creating a regional network of men would help build capacity through the sharing of knowledge and experiences. In 2001, it drew fledgling network members together for initial training on gender violence and a discussion of the strategies that men could use to address it.

"Gender violence serves nobody," says Nelson Banda, a 28-year-old journalist in Zambia. "As men, we need to reassess ourselves on how we have been socialized, make positive changes and influence other men to live exemplary lives."

Since then, through the Regional Network of Men Against Gender-Based Violence, FEMNET has helped men in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Somaliland and Zambia get involved nationally and regionally. Events to raise awareness have targeted men of different ages, professions and religions for discussions on concepts of manhood, gender relations and violence. Specially prepared media materials have been translated into local languages and picked up by media outlets. They advocate for changing negative male stereotypes about women and abandoning harmful sexual practices—such as wife swapping and general promiscuity—that increase the risk of contracting HIV.

In 2003, 100 men from four countries boarded buses as part of the Men's Traveling Conference. It took place during the Sixteen Days Against Gender Violence campaign, a worldwide initiative that rolls out each year through an array of local and global activities. All along the Great North Road, from Kenya to Malawi, men used drama and music, banners and T-shirts to convey the vital role men can play in stopping both gender violence and HIV/AIDS.

Since then, the network has established a series of national chapters. They regularly contribute to media interviews and conduct training on gender and violence, including the link to HIV/AIDS. In Kenya, a new referral service offers comprehensive support to men who test positive for HIV. It provides guidance on caring for ill partners, and educates men on issues such as the proper use of condoms and the need to negotiate consensual sex.

The Regional Network of Men provoked some controversy when it began, since men are considered the primary source of violence against women. But the steady growth of the network and the willingness of new donors to come on board, including Heinrich Böll Stiftung and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, proves the value of investing in new partnerships. Everyone has a role in protecting women's human rights.

Reaching Adolescents:

Prevention at the Start of Adulthood

Adolescents are especially vulnerable to violence. Adolescent girls suffer from sexual and other forms of abuse in places where they should feel safe, such as homes and schools. They are more physically susceptible to HIV, and, given gender inequality, too often unable to insist on protection from unsafe sex or from domestic and sexual violence.

While efforts to step up measures to address violence against women have generated new or strengthened laws and policies in many countries over the past decade, inadequate attention has been paid to the specific needs of adolescents—both boys and girls. A greater focus on this age group is critical. Adolescents are at a formative stage where they can absorb the knowledge and behaviours—good or bad—that can shape a lifetime of relationships. Exposed to the values of non-violence and respect, they can break the intergenerational cycle of violence that might otherwise result in them becoming perpetrators or victims as adults.

The UN Trust Fund supports projects that involve adolescents in preventing gender-based violence by fostering knowledge and practical strategies to counter harmful gender stereotypes. They help young men to learn non-violent behaviours and young women to stand up for their rights. An initiative in Fiji, for example, educated young men on alternative methods of resolving conflicts in their homes and communities. A grant in Croatia described here drew teachers and students into championing awareness about safe teen relationships.

The Trust Fund also invests in young leaders who can carry forward the work against violence, and peer educators who can speak with other adolescents to spread anti-violence messages far and wide.

Croatia: Safe Teen Relationships Become a National Concern

Before 2003, teenage boys and girls in Croatia could find little information in their high schools about the potential for violence in relationships—even as many were making their first forays into dating and sexual intimacy. But the potential was obviously there: A survey of 600 students from different regions and backgrounds found that 60 per cent had experienced some form of violence in an intimate relationship. Twenty-five per cent of young men and 12 per cent of young women surveyed did not consider that forcing a person to have sex is violent behaviour. Half of young men and a third of young women thought women should be careful not to provoke men.

The survey was conducted by Croatia's Centre for Education and Counselling of Women (CESI) through a UN Trust Fund grant, with additional financing from the Croatian Government and the city of Zagreb. As the first research on a previously hidden topic—the incidence and attitudes towards dating violence among teenagers—it sparked national debate and action.

CESI, with previous experience in creating courses on gender for schools, used the survey data to design a Dating Violence Prevention Programme. A comprehensive curriculum, it explains gender inequality, power imbalances and other causes of violence in intimate relationships, and presents strategies to stop teen dating violence. Experiential exercises accompany discussion topics and stories targeted to adolescents.

The UN Trust Fund has helped CESI move towards its overarching goal of advocating for including dating violence information in the standard school curriculum.

Thirty trained educators have since offered the programme to 2,700 students in 22 cities, igniting numerous local initiatives. Participants have staged plays and art exhibits, and produced T-shirts and posters for public information campaigns. A CESI-produced brochure and website (www.sezam-hr.net) have ensured that basic information about teen dating violence can be found by tens of thousands of young people across the country.

As a result of the project, some local governments have stepped forward with funding for additional work. A handful of the educators formed a new non-governmental organization to back ongoing advocacy for civic education on intimate partner violence and other issues. Both national and local media widely reported the results of the survey and, with public attention raised, have continued to track the activities that followed.

The UN Trust Fund has helped CESI move towards its overarching goal of advocating for including dating violence information in the standard school curriculum. This will be an essential part of a follow-up project funded in part by the European Commission and the Ministry of Education.

CESI is now working with a national media group to further develop the research on gender-based violence among adolescents, and to conduct media campaigns on domestic violence, date rape and trafficking. The target audiences of the campaigns: policymakers and 250,000 Croatian youth.

Appendix

Projects Supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (1997-2006)

GLOBAL PROJECTS

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Housing without Violence: An International Working Group on Violence Against Women and the Right to Adequate Housing, Land and Property

CHANGE, Non-Consensual Sex in Marriage

Equality Now and Division for the Advancement of Women, Global Project on Domestic Violence Against Women

Television Trust for the Environment, Lifelines: a Series of One-Minute Dramatized 'Spots' Focusing on Elimination of Violence Against Women

World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), Violence Against Women Programme

AFRICA

African Rights, Researching Stories of Women Living with HIV/AIDS from the 1994 Genocide, Rwanda

African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), The Regional Network of Men Against Gender Violence, Regional

Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT), Educational Campaign Against Gender Violence in High Schools, South Africa

Association des Femmes Juristes, Implementation of Laws, Policies & Action Plans of Violence Against Women, Niger

Association Ivoirienne de Défense des Droits des Femmes (AIDF), Social Mobilization for Women's Rights Against Violence, Côte d'Ivoire

Association pour la Défense des Droits de la Femme, Sensitization Project on Violence Against Women through Popular Theatre and Video, Burundi

Association pour la Ré-Insertion et le Développement de la Femme Handicapée, Research on and Prevention of Violence Against Handicapped Girls and Women, Morocco

Association pour le Progrès, Défense des Droits des Femmes (APDF), Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in the Mopti Region of Mali, Mali

Babiker Badri Scientific Association for Women Studies and Ahfad University for Women (BBSAWS and AUW), Integrated Initiative to Eliminate and Overcome the Impact of Violence Against Women on Women in Conflict Situations in Darfur, Sudan

Badya Centre for Integrated Development Services, Combating "Honor Killings" in the Nuba Mountains Region, Sudan

Centre Djoliba, National Coalition to Combat Excision, Mali

Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), End Violence Against Women, Uganda

Coalition of Grassroots for Women (COGWO), Violence Against Women, Somalia

Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), Breaking the Silence about Domestic Violence, Kenya

Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité, Degree of Commitment to Gender Equality in the Algerian Population, Algeria

Comité National Femme et Développement (CONAFED), Campagne "Femmes Contre la Violence," Democratic Republic of the Congo

Dallaalo Humanitarian Organization, Violence Against Women, Somalia

Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Interventions for Violence Prevention Among Young Female Hawkers in Bus and Truck Stations in Three Cities in Southwestern Nigeria, Nigeria

El Taller, The Court of Women in Africa: Addressing Violence Against Women, Regional

EQUITY Tanzania and PRO-WOMEN, Protecting Women's Human Rights through Effective Application of the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act of 1998, Tanzania

Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA), Paralegal Training for Community-Based Women, Ethiopia

Fondation Djilali Belkhenchir/SOS Femmes en Détresse, Support for Trauma Management of Women Victims of Violence, Algeria

Forum for Activists Against Torture (FACT), Sensitisation of Women Ex-Combatants on SGBV, HIV/AIDS and its Consequences on Reproductive Health, Rwanda

Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), Implementation of Existing Laws, Policies and Plans of Action that Address Violence Against Women, Liberia

Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre, Towards Eradication of Violence Against Women in Ghana - A Research Project, Ghana

Groupe de Réflexion et d'Action, Femme, Démocratie et Développement/Centre de Recherche d'Information et de Formation pour la Femme (GT2D/CRIFF), Three Years to Alleviate Violence Related to Widowhood and Rites and Reduce Women's Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, Togo

Center of Human Rights Peace Advocacy (CHRAPA), Human Rights-Based Approach to Combating Violence Against Women in Cameroon, Cameroon

International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Towards a Jurisprudence of Equality: Advancing Women's Human Rights through Judicial Training in Southern Africa, Regional

International Association of Women Judges/International Women Judges Foundation (IAWJ-IWJF), Towards a Jurisprudence of Equality, Regional

International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Ending Violence Against Kenyan Women, Kenya

International Needs Ghana, Trokosi Advocacy and Rehabilitation Program, Ghana

International Rescue Committee (IRC), Sexual Violence Project, Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo

Isis Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), Documentary Film on Women's Experiences During the Armed Conflict in Uganda (1980-97), Uganda

Isis Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), Documentation of Women's Realities of Armed Conflict in Southern Sudan, Sudan

Juba Women Development Center, Awareness Raising and Capacity-Building to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, Somalia

Kivulini, Prevention of Adolescent Trafficking, Tanzania

Legal Assistance Centre, Gender Research and Advocacy Project, Namibia

Legal Defense and Assistance Project (LEDAP), Domestic Violence Bill Advocacy Project, Nigeria

Metlhaetsile Women's Information Centre, Lobbying and Advocacy for Policy and Legislative Reforms and Promotion of Police Responsiveness to Violence Against Women, Botswana

Ministry of Family Welfare and Social Development in Somaliland, Violence Against Women, Somalia

Ministry of Women and Family Affairs in Puntland and Samo Development Organization (SDO), Advocating for Prevention of Violence Against Women through Implementation of National & International Laws Stemming the Cycle of Violence Against Women in Somalia, Somalia

Ministry of Women, Family Welfare and Child Development, Republic of Mauritius Programme to Combat Domestic Violence in Mauritius, Mauritius

Mouvement pour la Jeunesse Congolaise, Assistance to Women and Girl Victims of Violence and HIV/AIDS, Democratic Republic of the Congo

National Association of Women's Organizations in Uganda (NAWOU), Training and Campaigning for Elimination of Violence Against Women in Three Districts of Uganda, Uganda

Network of Zimbabwean Positive Women (NZPW+), Women, Violence and HIV/AIDS, Zimbabwe

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Effort to Reduce Female Genital Mutilation through Alternative Coming of Age Initiation Program, Kenya

Project Alert on Violence Against Women, Television Drama Series on Violence Against Women in Nigeria, Nigeria

Project Alert on Violence Against Women, Media Advocacy/Training Workshops on Violence Against Women in Nigeria, Nigeria

Réseau Africain pour le Développement Intègre (RADI), Violence Against Women: Legal Reform, Senegal

Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development, Overcoming Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda, Rwanda

South African National Network on Violence Against Women and Vuleka Productions Strategic Media Intervention to Combat Gender-Based Violence in South Africa, South Africa

Story Workshop Educational Trust and Women's Voice, Tingathe: We Can Do It!, Malawi

Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse, Popularising the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill, Swaziland

Swiss Scientific Research Center (CSRS), Prevention of Violence Against Women on HIV/AIDS, Ivory Coast

The Mothertongue Project, Gender-Based Violence and HIV Transmission Arts Project, South Africa

Uganda Police Force, Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU), Capacity-Building to Handle Cases of Violence Against Women and Children in Armed Conflict Areas, Uganda

West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Increasing Awareness to End Violence Against Women, Liberia

Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC), Women in Conflict Zones, Nigeria

Women Aid Collective, Implementing Policies and Laws in Anambra, Bayelsa and Edo States, Nigeria

Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Monitoring the Implementation of the Sexual Offences Act of 2003, Zimbabwe

Women for Women International (WWI), Men's Leadership Training/Addressing the Communal Impact of Violence Against Women in Eastern DRC, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Women National NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL), Empowering Rural Communities to Work on Violence Against Women, Liberia

Women's Centre for Peace and Development, Social Advocacy on Violence Against Women for Communities in Southern Nigeria, Nigeria

ASIA/PACIFIC AND THE ARAB STATES

All-China Women's Federation, Sharing Strategies for Elimination of Violence Against Women in Selected Provinces, China

Arab Feminist Movement in Support of Victims of Sexual Abuse (ASSIWAR), Awareness and Improvement of Social Services to Arab Women in Israel, Israel

Banteay Srei, Pilot Radio Drama Program Addressing Violence Against Women and Gender Issues, Cambodia

Bisan Centre for Research and Development, Working with Health-Care Workers to Eliminate Violence Against Women, Occupied Palestinian Territory

Breakthrough, Awareness and Action through Popular Culture: Women's Dreams for the New Century, India

Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC), Ending Violence Against Women, Cambodia

Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC), Prevention and Deterrence of Violence Against Women through Popular Education, Cambodia

Center for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), Gender Sensitivity Training of Police Personnel and the Community to Combat Violence, Bangladesh

Centre for Citizen's Alliance (CCA), Strengthen the Implementation of Laws on Domestic Violence, Trafficking in Women, Rape and Sexual Harassment in Mongolia, Mongolia

Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité, Status of Equality and Non-Violence in the Maghreb, Regional

Earth Rights International (ERI), The Women's Rights Project: Training, Education and Documentation Initiative, Myanmar and Thailand

Equal Access Nepal/Digital Broadcast Initiative, "Changing Our Worlds," Raising Awareness About Women's Rights and Encouraging Women to Participate In Peacebuilding within the Conflict Situation in Nepal, Nepal

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, National Domestic Violence Research Project, Fiji

Hotline Center Foundation, Television and Docudramas of Thai Women Moving from Victim to Victor, Thailand

Human Forum for Women's Rights, Field Study to Research and Document the Prevalence of Domestic Violence Against Women in Jordan, Jordan

International Women's Development Agency, Working with Police on Eliminating Violence Against Women, Papua New Guinea

ISIS International – Manila, Developing a Media Code of Conduct on Gender-Fair Reporting, Regional

Kanlungan Centre Foundation, Inc., Participatory Video Production on Women in Labor Migration, Philippines

Kapatiran Komunidad People's Coalition (KKPC), Community-Based Legal Advocacy Project, Philippines

Lawyers Collective/Women's Rights Initiative (LCWRI), Staying Alive, Empowerment through Law, India

Lao Women's Union (LWU), Building the Capacity of the Lao Women's Union to Provide Services to Survivors, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Lao Women's Union (LWU), Building Capacity of LWU to Develop Their Ability to Provide Services to Survivors of Violence Against Women, Lao People's Democratic Republic

LAYA, The Empowerment of Women in Tribal India: Capacity-Building for Tribal Women, India

Media Alert and Relief Foundation, Production of a Film about the Problem of Sexual Trafficking in Women and Girls in Nepal, Nepal

Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (MEND), Empowering Palestinian Women Against Violence via Video and Non-Violence Training, Occupied Palestinian Territory

Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum (MWRAF), Violence Against Women in the Muslim Community, Sri Lanka

National CEDAW Watch Network Center, Violence Against Women in Mongolia, Mongolia

National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), Curbing Violence Against Women by Working with Police and the Judiciary, Bhutan

Positive Women Network, Increasing Awareness of Violence Against Women Living with HIV/AIDS, India

Refugee Women in Development, Afghan Women's Human Rights and Leadership Project, Afghanistan

SAATHI, Mobilizing Youth to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal, Nepal

SAKSHI, Gender and Judges Programme, India

SAKSHI, Preventing and Eliminating Violence Against Women: An Umbrella Project in South Asia, India

Samanata Institute for Gender Equality, Empowering Nepali Women and Girls through Increased Knowledge of Violence Against Women, Reproductive Rights and HIV/AIDS, Nepal

Samoa AIDS Foundation (SAF), Theatre: A Dynamic Tool for Changing Awareness about Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS, Samoa

SIMORGH, Planting the Seeds of Change: Teaching Human Rights to Students in Pakistan, Pakistan

Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI), Claiming Our Rights: A Manual for Women's Human Rights Education in the Muslim World, Regional

Society for Social Uplift through Rural Section (SUTRA), To Make Nyaya Panchayat Instrumental in Implementation of PWDV-Act 2005, India

Syrian Family Planning Association, Making Communities More Sensitive towards Women's Legal Rights and Violence Against Women, Syria

Thailand Criminal Law Institute, Reducing Violence Against Women by Amending the Criminal Law on Sexual Offenses, Thailand

Tunisian Women's Association for Research and Development (AFTURD) and Tunisian Focal Point for Collectif 95 Maghreb-Egalité, Degree of Adherence to Equality Principles among the Tunisian Population, Tunisia

Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), Combating Domestic Violence Against Women in Viet Nam, Viet Nam

Vietnam Handicraft Research and Promotion Centre, Prevention of Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS in Haiti Province, Viet Nam

War Against Rape (WAR), Providing Medico-Legal Services for Victims of Violence Against Women, Pakistan

Women Affairs Support Center (WASC), Improving Yemeni Women's Access to Justice by Training Legal and Judicial Professionals, Yemen

Women Affairs Support Center (WASC), Integrating Violence Against Women and International Standards on Women's Rights with Yemeni Law Enforcement Duties, Yemen

Women's Action for Change (WAC), Preventing Violence Against Women through Theatre and by Educating Young Men in Non-Violent Behavior, Fiji

Women's Aid Organization, Monitoring the Domestic Violence Act, Malaysia

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC), Legal Victimization of Women in the Arab World: The Palestinian Case Study, Occupied Palestinian Territory

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC) Helping Victims of Sexual Abuse in Palestinian and Jordanian Societies: Strategies to Aid Disclosure and Promote Greater Awareness within the Criminal Justice System, Occupied Palestinian Territory/Jordan

Women's Legal Bureau, Promoting Feminist Legal Advocacy on Violence Against Women in the Philippines, Philippines

Women's Resource Centre, Domestic Violence Against Women: Training Workshops on Safety Issues and Legal Strategies for Empowering Battered Women, Cambodia

Women's Unit, Ministry of Environment & Social Development of Kiribati, Education and Training Project on Violence Against Women, Kiribati

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Fiji, Empowering Community Leaders & YWCA Members to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Promote Gender Equity, Fiji

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE & COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Association of Citizens/Akcija Zdruzenska, Establishing Unified Practices in Combating Domestic Violence, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Association of NGOs for Gender Equality and EVAW, Implementation of Chapter on Eliminating Violence Against Women of National State Programme, Tajikistan

Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre, Domestic Violence and Women's Human Rights Protection, Azerbaijan

"Bonus" Agency, Russian Women Against Violence, Russia

Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF), Advanced Strategy for Combating Violence Against Women through Sensitization of Male Perpetrators, Bulgaria

Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF), Coordinated Efforts towards Building an Enabling Environment for Sustainable and Effective Implementation of the Bulgarian Law on Protection of Domestic Violence, Bulgaria

Center for Education and Counseling of Women (CESI), Awareness-Raising Campaign on Violence Against Women, Croatia

Center for Education and Counselling of Women (CESI), Powerful Alternatives to Gender-Based Violence: Gender-Focused Prevention, Education and Media Program for Teenagers, Croatia

Centre for Women in Media of Central Asia (WIMCA), Journalists for Elimination of Violence Against Women, Kyrgyzstan

Centre for Women War Victims, Empowerment of Women from Survival to Social Change, Croatia

Centre for Women's Studies – Zagreb, Sexual Harassment: Prevention and Education within Academia, Croatia

Community Safety and Mediation Center (CMSC) and Equal Opportunity for Women (SEF), Regional and Community Participation to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Women, Romania

Diamond Association, Rural Women of Kyrgyzstan Against Violence, Kyrgyzstan

Embassy of Local Democracy Barcelona-Sarajevo (ADL), You Can Make It!, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Foundation for Women's Solidarity, Rehabilitating Counseling Centers and Raising Women's Awareness of their Rights and Services, Turkey

Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation (GPBF), The Combating Violence Against Women Campaign, Bulgaria

Humanitarian Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women, Lobbying the Domestic Violence Draft Changes to the Existing Laws in the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonia

Independent Charitable Center for Sexual Assault Recovery "Syostri," Trafficking in CIS, Russia

Institute for Social Policy and Social Work, Development of Integrated Practices to Address Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities, Bulgaria

International Humanitarian Centre "Rozrada," Prevention of Violence Against Women: An Educational and Psychological Training Programme, Ukraine

International Humanitarian Centre "Rozrada," Implementation of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence in Ukraine, Ukraine

Kiev School of Equality, Violence Against Women: Efficiency and Regularity of Counteraction, Ukraine

Miramed Institute, Direct Intervention with Highest Risk Girls to Avert Unwitting Recruitment into International Sexual Slavery and Economic Imprisonment, Russia

Moscow Sexual Assault Recovery Centre "Syostri," Increasing Public Awareness to Sexual Violence and Changing Negative Stereotypes of Women, Russia

Rural Women's NGO "Alga," Coordinated Community Response to Violence Against Women, Kyrgyzstan

VESTA, A Gender-Sensitive Media Code and Advocacy for Legal Strategies to End Violence, Bosnia-Herzegovina

WomenAid International, Understanding Gender Violence, Georgia/Azerbaijan

WomenAid International Caucasus, Understanding Gender Violence Training Programme, Georgia

Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR), Strategic Intervention to Eliminate Violence Against Women in Turkey, Turkey

Women in Black, Women, Peace and Democracy, Serbia and Montenegro

Women's Association FEMINA, Anti-Violence Video School for Women in Russia, Russia

Women's Association Medica Zenica, Infoteka, Advocacy for Women's Human Right to Life without Violence, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Women's Club "Artemida," Creation of a Social Counseling Service Network in Remote Areas of the Republic of Buryatia, Russia

Women's Forum of the United List of Social Democrats, How to Say 'No' to the Boss, Slovenia

Women's Issues Information Centre, Stopping Violence Against Women in Lithuania, Lithuania

Women's Organization of Moldova "Civic Initiative" (WOM), Women's Rights = Human Rights, Moldova

Women's Rights Centre (WRC), Research and Awareness-Raising Project on Violence Against Women, Poland

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Alter Vida - Centro de Estudios y Formación para el Ecodesarrollo, Gender Violence and Communication within the Community, Paraguay

Asociación Minga Peru, Intercultural Radio Educational Project to Fight Violence and HIV/AIDS, Peru

Asociación Venezolana para una Educación Sexual Alternativa (AVESA), Project in Support of the Law Against Domestic Violence, Venezuela

Association of Women's Organisations in Jamaica (AWOJA), Public Education Campaign to Raise Awareness of Violence Against Women, Jamacia

Association for Popular Livelihoods (AVP), Women's Leadership and Municipal Alliance with La Paz and La Convivencia, Colombia

Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), Enabling Sex Workers to Realise their Human Rights through Strategizing for Access to Adequate Health Care, including HIV/AIDS Prevention Interventions, Regional

Cataolicas Pelo Direito de Decidier Brazil (CDD-Br), Gender Violence and the Catholic Church, Brazil

Centro Feminista de Información y Acción (CEFEMINA), Femicide in Central America, Regional

CEMINA - Communication, Education and Information on Gender, The Women of the Hip Hop Culture United for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Brazil

Center for Research and Actions for Development (CRAD), Promoting and Supporting Initiatives to End Violence Against Women, Haiti

Centro de Criação de Imagem Popular (CECIP), Prevention of Violence Against Women, Brazil

Centro de Investigación en Salud de Comita AC (CISC), Violencia Basada en Genero y VIH/SIDA en Contextos Multiculturales, Mexico

Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán, Advisory, Training and Support to Municipal Authorities and Functionaries, Peru

Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán, Prevention and Awareness of Violence Against Women in Peru, Peru

Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán, Centro de Intercambios y Servicios Cono Sur-Argentina (CISCSA), Cities without Violence for Women: Safe Cities for All, Regional

Centro de Promoción de la Mujer Gregora Apaza, Prevention of Gender-Based Violence among Adolescents & Young Adults in the Municipality of El Alto, Bolivia

Centro de Recursos Integrales para la Familia (CERFAMI), Improving the Quality of Assistance to Women Victims of Domestic, Sexual and Socio-Political Violence in Four Provinces of Colombia, Colombia

Centro Ecuatoriano para la Promoción y Acción de la Mujer (CEPAM Quito) and Dirección Nacional de Género del Ministerio de Gobierno (DINAGE), Strengthening the Civil and Penal System through Training and Inter-Institutional Coordination to Reduce Impunity, Ecuador

Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho, Prevention of Violence Against Women in the Atlantic Department, Colombia

Colectivo Radial Feminista, Project for Non-Violence Against Women: Production of Radio Programmes, Peru

Comisaria de la Mujer y Niñez, Intervention/Prevention Model on Violence Against Women in Differentiated Populations, Nicaragua

Comision de Derechos Humanos (COMSIDEH), Sexual Violence During Armed Conflict in Peru, Peru

Comision Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH), Strategies for Legal Defense and Communication for Women's Human Rights, Mexico

Comisión para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Centroamérica (CODEHUCA), Education on Women's Human Rights for a Life without Violence, Regional

Comité de América Latina y Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM) Monitoring and Capacity-Building for Improving Access to Justice Among Women who Suffer from Violence, Paraguay

Corporación Casa de la Mujer, Training Health Care Professionals on How to Serve Women Victims of Violence, Colombia

Corporación Mujer a Mujer, Violencia Intrafamiliar: Redes Interinstitucionales y Modelos de Intervención Comunitarias, Ecuador

Criola, Iyà Àgbá – Black Women Network Against Violence, Brazil

DEMUS (Estudio para la Defensa y los Derechos de la Mujer), Women in Manta and Vilca and Sexual Violence during the Armed Conflict, Peru

ELIGE - Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Generating Alternatives to Eliminate Violence Against Women in Mexico: A Young Women's Proposal, Mexico

Family Care International (FCI), Violence Against Women among the Population Bordering Bolivia and Ecuador, Bolivia and Ecuador

FEMINA, Living without Violence, Bolivia

Fundación Esperanza por un Retorno Seguro, Proyecto Programa de Capacitación de Funcionarios Estatales sobre el Trafico de Mujeres en Colombia, Colombia

Fundación Justicia y Genero, Regional, Implementing Domestic Law in Central America and the Dominican Republic, Regional

Fundación "María Guare," Prevention of Violence Against Women, Ecuador

Fundación Mujer y Futuro, Making Memories and Leaving Footprints: Memoirs of Women Ex-Combatants of Northeastern Colombia, Regional

Fundación para la Integración Social y Educativa (FISOE), Preventing Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic

Fundación Puntos de Encuentro para Transformar la Vida Cotidiana, We're Different, We're Equal: A Multi-Media Strategy to Promote Young Nicaraguan Women's Rights to Live without Violence, Nicaragua

Grenada National Organization of Women (GNOW), Community "Watchdog" to Support Women who are Experiencing Gender-Based Violence, Grenada

Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (GIRE), Pilot Campaign to Raise Awareness about the Legal Rights of Survivors of Rape, Mexico

Help and Shelter, Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative: Community/Police Outreach and Rehabilitation of Male Perpetrators, Guyana

Instituto Brasileiro de Administração Municipal (IBAM), Program of Technical Assistance to Brazilian Mercocities Local Governments – Actions and Public Policies to Eliminate Violence Against Women, Brazil

Instituto de la Mujer, Early Prevention of Domestic Violence Among Adolescents: A Challenge for Peace, Chile

Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicios Legales (ILSA), Regional Tourism and the Sex Trade in the Caribbean, Regional

Instituto Mexicano de Investigación de Familia y Población, A.C., Changing Adolescent Attitudes on Violence Against Women, Mexico

Instituto Social y Politica de la Mujer (ISPM), Campaign to Promote the Inclusion of Violence Against Women on the National Political Agenda, Argentina

Instituto Social y Politico de la Mujer (ISPM), Project on Media Campaign on Violence Against Women, Argentina

ISIS Internacional, Violence Against Women Networking Programme, Regional

Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN), Campaign for Action to Eliminate Violence Against Girls and Women of the Latin American Health Network, Regional

Lugar de Mujer (Argentina), Violence Against Women: A Comparative Analysis of Legislation and Draft Bills Regarding Violence Against Women in MERCOSUR Countries, Regional

Municipality of Comayagua, Honduras, Participatory Education Programme on Domestic Violence Against Women, Honduras

National Council of Women, Employing an Integrated, Coordinated, Multisectoral Approach to Effectively Respond to Violence Against Women & Girls & Domestic Violence in Dominica, Dominica

National Women's Movement of Suriname, Partner Relations of Young Women with Special Emphasis on Issues of Relational Conflict and Violence, Suriname

Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women, Gender Media Monitor, Regional

Promotion, Investigation and Education on Health (PIES) Association, Promotion of Human Rights of Mayan Women for a Life Free of Violence, Guatemala

Pinelands Creative Workshop, A Regional Tour of "Shades of I-She" - Every Woman's Story, Regional

Centre of Studies for the Development of Women (CEDEM), Indoors: Domestic and Sexual Violence, A Regional and Local Strategy for the Advocacy of Women's Human Rights, Chile

Rape Crisis Society, Family Link Outreach Counseling and Training, Trinidad & Tobago

Red Thread, Documenting Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls in the Race/Ethnic/Political Conflict in Guyana, Guyana

Secretaría de Derechos Humanos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Generating Sustainable Mechanisms to Diminish the Causes and Consequences of Violence Against Women, Argentina

Semillas – Sociedad Mexicana por Derechos de la Mujer, A.C. and Comision Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CMDPDH), Strategic Action Plan to Counteract Femicide and Violence Against Women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

Servicios del Pueblo Mixe, A.C. (SER), Mixe Indigenous Women Empowerment Project, Mexico

Vizyon Dwa Ayisyen/Haitian Rights Vision (VIDWA) through its programme Komisyon Fanm Viktim Pou Viktim/Commission of Women Victims for Victims (KOFAVIV), Responding to the HIV/AIDS Threat to Rape Victims in Poor Communities, Haiti

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Confronting Gender-Based Violence in Central America: Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society Organizations to Extend and Defend the Rights of Women, Regional

WOMAN INC., Changing Male Attitudes to Violence Against Women in Jamaica, Jamaica

Womankind Worldwide and DEMUS, Municipal Services for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence: A Replicable Approach, Peru

Women's Media Watch Jamaica, Addressing Violence Against Women through Gender Training and Media Advocacy, Jamaica

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

In its Resolution 50/166 of 22 December 1995, the General Assembly gave the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) the mandate to strengthen its activities to eliminate violence against women in order to accelerate the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This resolution also established the Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women as a key inter-agency mechanism to advance actions to address violence against women. The Trust Fund was set up in 1996 and became operational in 1997, with UNIFEM as the Fund's administrator.

Since its inception, the Trust Fund has identified and supported innovative and catalytic initiatives from around the world that aim to break new ground, create new models and mobilize new constituencies in the growing movement to eliminate violence against women in all of its manifestations. It targets critical areas of support for advancing national-level implementation and has instituted special windows to address cross-cutting issues, such as the intersection of violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

The Trust Fund's decision-making body has, since the Fund's inception, been composed of representatives of a range of United Nations entities, international organizations, experts and civil society. Beginning in 2005, key aspects of decision-making have been devolved to the subregional level. United Nations entities that participate in the Trust Fund include: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Division for the Advancement of Women, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization.

"I have witnessed too much violence in my lifetime, and am, sadly, all too familiar with the terror, abuse and wreckage of lives and communities. (…) I urge us all to use this 10th anniversary moment in time to end violence against women (…) and to grow the UN Trust Fund, an essential tool and support in this critical effort."

—President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia

"Violence against women is an issue that cannot wait. (…) It was so important that the General Assembly set up the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 10 years ago. Through this system-wide mechanism, Member States, UN entities and civil society can come together to address the pandemic that violence against women represents. (…) As Deputy Secretary-General, I pledge to do all I can to keep the UN united for the advancement of women everywhere, and at the forefront of the cause of ending violence against women."

—UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro

"I am working with UNIFEM so I can amplify the voices of women I met (…). For the past 10 years, UNIFEM and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women have been a key ally and supporter of this movement for change and gender equality. The more I've learned about the people and organizations this Trust Fund supports, the more I've wanted to get involved. (…) As UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador, I am urging people everywhere to get involved, to get informed and to support the Trust Fund."

—UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman

Remarks by speakers on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary Commemoration of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, 16 February 2007, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNIFEM

UNIFEM
304 East 45th Street, New York
NY 10017, USA
tel: +1-212-906-6294, fax: +1-212-906-6705
http://www.unifem.org