

Annex IV: Summary of 2025 results of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

A. About the UN Trust Fund

The [United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls](#) (UN Trust Fund) is the only General Assembly–mandated, system-wide, inter-agency, pooled financing and accountability mechanism dedicated exclusively to ending violence against women and girls. Established in 1996 by [General Assembly Resolution 50/166](#), following the Fourth World Conference on Women, the UN Trust Fund institutionalized the demands of women’s and feminist movements and the commitments of Member States – by embedding the elimination of violence against women and girls as a standing United Nations priority.

Over three decades, the UN Trust Fund has invested more than \$252 million in 725 organizations across 140 countries and territories, advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5 by translating global gender equality commitments into concrete action and bridging grassroots women’s movements with international policy frameworks. The UN Trust Fund recognizes that civil society organizations (CSOs) — and especially women’s rights organizations (WROs) — are the most effective and sustainable drivers of change. By channeling dedicated, flexible and long-term funding to these actors, the UN Trust Fund directly advanced [UN-Women’s Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#), contributing to the elimination of violence against women and girls (Impact Area 3) and to strengthened women’s voice, leadership and agency (Outcome 5). Beyond financing, the UN Trust Fund’s wraparound model ensures that every partner has access to dedicated portfolio management, monitoring and evaluation support, and technical accompaniment throughout the grant lifecycle. This holistic approach — encompassing core funding for operating costs, contingency planning and staff wellbeing — strengthens grantee partners’ resilience and adaptability, enabling organizations to sustain life-saving work even in volatile and resource-constrained environments. Through its intentional intersectional approach, the UN Trust Fund directs resources towards women and girls facing intersectional forms of discrimination and exclusion — among them women and girls with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, Indigenous communities and those in the lowest income groups. Strategically positioned within the UN ecosystem, it brings together Member States, UN entities and feminist movements, elevating survivor and civil society voices into global advocacy and policy spaces.

As 2025 marks the close of UN-Women’s Strategic Plan 2022–2025, the [UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan \(2021–2025\)](#) and thirty years since its establishment, this year reflected a moment of stocktaking — assessing how far the UN Trust Fund and its partners have come on the commitments of the outgoing plan, while laying the groundwork for the [UN Trust Fund’s Strategic Plan 2026–2030](#).

B. 2022–2025 Cumulative Results

Over the years 2022–2025 that comprise UN-Women’s Strategic Plan, the UN Trust Fund achieved remarkable successes across its results framework. It reached 76.6 million people overall during UN-Women’s SP and 131.5 million people during the UN Trust Fund’s SP, with women and girls comprising 52.2% of those reached. 858,308 women and girls directly benefited from and/or actively participated in UN Trust Fund grantee partner initiatives. This includes women and girls accessing direct services like shelters, helplines, legal aid, and counseling. More than 1.1 million (1,102,371) people were directly engaged in projects as key agents of change who received training and capacity-building. These duty bearers, including service providers, leaders, teachers, police and government officials transformed norms, improved institutional practices, and created enabling environments supporting women and girls’ survivors and those at risk of violence. The UN Trust Fund and partners prioritize the most marginalized women and girls facing intersecting barriers and discrimination such as low-income groups, survivors of violence, Indigenous women, IDPs/refugees, those with disabilities, ethnic and racial minorities, and LGBTIQ+ individuals who are often excluded from services, justice, and protection. This focus directed grants to those with compounded discrimination, transforming access to safety and empowerment for those most excluded from formal systems and societal protections.

Between 2022–2025, across its three thematic outcome areas i.e. prevention, response and laws and policies the UN Trust Fund’s grantee partners: 1) improved services access (e.g., 226,729 women/girls were supported with access to quality services, 33,859 providers and 6,010 institutions capacitated, 62,116 sexual and gender based violence cases referred); 2)

violence prevention (e.g., 59,108 leaders mobilized for norm change, 995 methodologies developed, 9,809 safer spaces created); and 3) increased effectiveness of laws and policies (e.g., 3,453 government institutions strengthened, 1,300 guidelines improved, 4,091 multi-stakeholder dialogues facilitated)—UN Trust Fund grantees delivered substantial cumulative results, among many other examples.

The UN Trust Fund has consistently sustained a portfolio of between 159-191 grants annually, surpassing the annual target of 150 each year, with 62-71% being WROs. During this Strategic Plan, the UN Trust Fund has fully shifted to longer-term (4+ years), to support the resilience and adaptability of partners, including those working in crisis contexts.

C. Key Results in 2025: Grantee Partners Contributions to Ending Violence against Women and Girls

Against a backdrop of escalating backlash, shrinking civic space and deepening funding constraints, UN Trust Fund grantee partners sustained and deepened their contributions across the three outcome areas of the [UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#).

Improved prevention of violence against women and girls through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes. In 2025, 10,368 women and girls built new skills in self-efficacy, agency and assertiveness; 4,155 community, faith, traditional and youth leaders were engaged to publicly advocate for changes in behaviours and attitudes towards ending violence; 825 spaces were supported — including schools, public spaces and work environments — to be safer for women and girls; and 101 evidence- and practice-based methodologies were developed or implemented to advance social norms change. Prevention gains were strongest where women's leadership and community agency shifted power dynamics within households and communities. In **South Sudan**, **Women for Women International** combined women's empowerment, men's engagement and community change agents: over 75% of men improved gender-equitable attitudes, 97% of men participating in WFWI's initiatives supported female leadership. In **Bolivia**, through the work of **Centro de Desarrollo Integral de la Mujer Aymara or CDIMA** 461 women in Aymara communities gained feminist leadership skills, with 346 certified leaders replicating prevention workshops that reached 9,957 Indigenous Aymara women and broadcasting over 80 radio programmes to audiences exceeding 59,000 people — with 61% of participants certified as community promoters competent to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors. In the **Occupied Palestinian Territory**, **Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling** organized 244 group discussions engaging 2,440 men and boys on positive masculinity and protection pathways, with nearly 80% of participants showing increased knowledge and gender-equitable attitudes, and nearly 90% sharing information on protection and family law with peers.

Improved access for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services. In 2025, 74,300 women and girls used specialist support services supported by grantee partners — the highest figure under the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan. Grantee partners also improved the service provision of 3,906 individual service providers and 738 institutions; referred 8,504 cases of sexual and gender-based violence to state service providers; and supported 7,960 women and girls to access justice. An additional 581,198 women and girls accessed information, goods, resources and services to prevent or respond to violence. The most durable gains came where partners built integrated service ecosystems — combining access, quality and continuity — rather than isolated interventions. In **Cambodia**, **CHEC** strengthened referral pathways linking survivors, LGBTIQ individuals and women living with HIV to commune committees, police stations and health centers: reports to police rose from 30% to 81% between baseline and endline, and health centers that were previously absent from the response chain became active referral nodes. In **Serbia**, the **Center for Support of Women** strengthened five hospital-based Centers for Victims of Sexual Violence through standardized protocols and accredited training — survivor satisfaction rose from 40% to 93%, and the model proved so compelling that a sixth center was independently initiated by a hospital outside the project's original scope. In **Armenia**, the **Coalition to Stop Violence** against Women standardized operational processes across all 10 regional domestic violence support centers, with 95% of women surveyed reporting knowledgeable and supportive staff, 94% feeling safe, and 93% finding services accessible and inclusive.

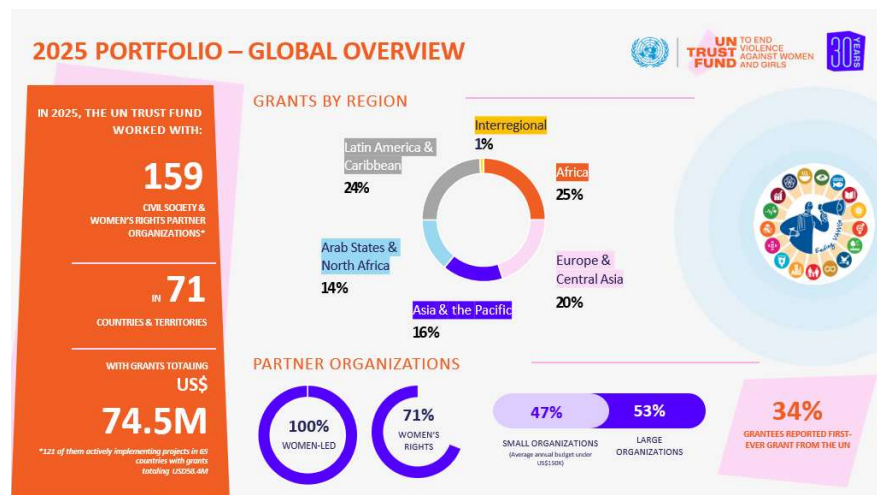
Increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems. In 2025, grantee partners strengthened 285 local, subnational or national government institutions to design and implement institutional reforms, strategies and policies; improved 77 guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures; built the capacities of 1,045 partners to develop or implement multisectoral strategies; supported 566 partners to advocate for and implement legislation; and facilitated 293 multi-stakeholder dialogue processes between government and civil society. Accountability gains were strongest where partners moved from awareness to enforceable routines — with clear roles, documentation and

mechanisms that endure. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the **Foundation of Local Democracy** led the drafting and adoption of the first Protocol on Procedures in Cases of Rape by the Sarajevo Canton Government, replacing fragmented approaches with clear, mandatory roles across health, social work, police and justice actors. In **Ecuador**, **Centro de Planificación y Estudio Social** or **CEPLAES** established three operational monitoring observatories that documented 24 cases of political violence against women, secured a landmark consolidated judgment, and informed Electoral Law reforms — demonstrating end-to-end accountability from documentation to institutional reform in a context where fewer than 20% of such cases historically received sentences. In **Somalia**, **Strategic Initiative for Women** in the Horn of Africa strengthened community accountability through paralegal networks and Community Protection Groups across 10 Internally Displaced Peoples’ (IDP) camps: rejection of marital rape rose from 28.2% to 81.3%, and willingness to report sexual violence to police rose from 49.4% to 75.5%, with community elders — previously gatekeepers of informal settlement — actively encouraging families to report to formal mechanisms by endline.

D. Catalyst: How the UN Trust Fund Enabled Change

Advancing Civil Society–Led responses to violence against women and girls (VAWG) through a robust active portfolio.

In 2025, 159 CSOs across 71 countries and territories — 71% of which were WROs — expanded prevention, service delivery and advocacy efforts to end violence against women and girls in diverse, crisis-affected and challenging settings globally. This was enabled through the UN Trust Fund’s management of a \$74.5 million portfolio and through close collaboration with the UN system, notably via the inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee (PAC). Overall, grantee partners reached 12,125,378 people, of whom



53.4 per cent were women and girls. Among them, 112,826 women and girls directly benefited from or were involved as primary partners in UN Trust Fund-supported initiatives, including 39,610 survivors of violence, 12,727 internally displaced or refugee women and girls, and 7,444 women and girls with disabilities.

Channeling resources where they are needed the most through a new cohort of grantees. The UN Trust Fund awarded US\$11 million in 2025 in new grants to 19 women-led organizations across 19 countries and territories through its [28th grant-making cycle](#) — all four-year grants, consolidating the UN Trust Fund's complete shift to longer-term funding, a deliberate shift that provides partners with greater predictability to sustain services, adapt to crisis and pursue longer-term systems change. Structured through a Special Window of US\$2.8 million for crisis-affected women and girls and a General Window of US\$8.2 million for marginalized women and girls, the new cohort reflects a deliberate investment in contexts and populations usually underserved. Taken together, in 2025, the UN Trust Fund operated in contexts such as Myanmar, Venezuela, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ukraine, Iraq, and several other countries where women’s rights organizations are working in extremely complex political and security environments, and supported them by moving flexible resources directly to them, generating evidence on what works and strengthening accountability between Member States, civil society and the UN system.

Generating evidence of CSO’s five-years impact on ending violence against women through an independent meta-analysis. To assess results under the [2021–2025 Strategic Plan](#), the UN Trust Fund commissioned an independent external meta-analysis of 36 high-quality end-of-project evaluations. All 36 initiatives i.e. 100% of initiatives demonstrated evidence of effectiveness, and 23 — nearly 65% — showed robust evidence of longer-term impact, including reductions in rates of violence, shifts in social norms, and strengthened access to services and justice. Impact was strongest where inclusion and norm change were pursued together, where community action was linked to system-level change, and where results were institutionalized and locally owned — confirming that long-term, flexible funding to civil society organizations

is capable of generating change that outlasts short project-based funding. This represents the strongest body of evidence the UN Trust Fund has assembled to date, building on a decade of meta-analyses since 2016 that have shown consistent results — reinforcing its role as a leading source of evidence on what works, as explored further in its meta-analysis of evaluations <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/learning-hub/strategic-assessments> here.

Driving system-wide change in how the UN finances women's rights organizations. The UN Trust Fund continued to lead the [UN Inter-Agency Initiative to Advance a UN-Wide Funding Framework](#), co-led with the Spotlight Initiative and supported by an Inter-Agency Task Force of 11 UN entities. By working to eliminate the [institutional barriers](#) — complex mechanisms, burdensome procedures, fragmented disbursements — that disproportionately exclude small and grassroots women's organizations from UN resources, this initiative addresses one of the structural roots of chronic underfunding of civil society. Recognized as a promising practice under the UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, it positions the UN Trust Fund as a catalyst for needed systemic change.

Coordinating across the UN system to deepen and sustain civil society impact. In 2025, structured country engagements across 12 countries in all five regions brought together UN Trust Fund grantee partners, UN-Women country offices and other UN entities — connecting civil society action to national policy processes and reducing the isolation that makes organizations vulnerable. In Albania, joint advocacy advanced the embedding of prevention work on female genital mutilation within national coordination spaces; in Liberia, civil society supported by the UN Trust Fund informed national legal reforms on domestic violence and gender equality. Moreover, through the [Advocacy, Coalition Building, and Transformative Feminist Action / ACT](#) initiative, supported by the European Union, the UN Trust Fund also collaborated with its partners to co-create a strategy and action framework for organizational resilience and coalitions building - helping women's rights organizations identify practical actions to strengthen financial sustainability, collective care, security and movement alliances in increasingly restrictive operating environments.

E. Progress Beyond Violence

Eliminating violence against women and girls accelerates progress across multiple Sustainable Development Goals, improving health outcomes, reducing inequalities, strengthening civic participation and enabling economic empowerment. In 2025, grantee partners' contributions extended well beyond direct violence prevention and response: 10,249 women and girls increased their capacities to participate in public life and exercise leadership; 29,924 women and girls in the lowest income groups directly benefited from UN Trust Fund-supported programming, reflecting the deliberate attention partners pay to the nexus between economic vulnerability and violence.

Strengthening organizational resilience as a prerequisite for sustained impact. the UN Trust Fund's wraparound support model — combining flexible and core funding, tailored technical accompaniment, self-care provisions and peer learning — proved decisive in enabling partners to maintain services and adapt programming in a year of intensifying pressure. In 2025, 79% of grantee partners reported improved organizational resilience as a direct result of UN Trust Fund support, and 81% reported improved adaptability. Flexible, core and contingency budget lines were the most frequently cited enablers of adaptive programming, with 83% of respondents to an annual survey confirming that these budget lines met their organizational resilience and capacity needs. Grantee partners described using flexible funds to purchase emergency medical supplies during the M23 crisis in North Kivu, to bridge sudden donor withdrawal in conflict-affected settings, and to accelerate prevention activities ahead of election-related restrictions in Tanzania. The self-care budget line — a distinctive feature of the UN Trust Fund model — was accessed by partners for the first time in many cases, prompting organizational reflection on staff wellbeing that in some instances led to the development of formal wellness policies.

Generating and elevating practice-based knowledge to inform programming and policy. In 2025, the UN Trust Fund co-produced six knowledge products — 100% co-created with grantee partners and civil society actors — on [organizational resilience](#), [backlash](#), [practice-based knowledge](#) and country case studies; and published data-based stories on [funding cuts](#), and [self- and collective care](#). In parallel, the UN Trust Fund initiated a thematic brief series spotlighting the indispensable role of CSOs and WROs in delivering essential services — including access to justice, health and social services, and coordination and governance. These products directly informed grantmaking, advocacy and resource mobilization: for instance, findings from a rapid assessment on the impact of funding cuts and backlash, conducted in early 2025, were taken into global policy spaces including the [Human Rights Council](#), [Commission for Status of Women](#) and the [16 Days of Activism](#), reinforcing calls for sustained and equitable financing for women's rights organizations. The UN Trust Fund's digital learning hub, [SHINE](#), grew to 3,572 registered users and hosted 14 multilingual discussions — including the most highly engaged discussion since its launch — functioning as a living infrastructure for peer learning across the global

EVAW/G ecosystem. Critically, 97% of grantee partners reported that UN Trust Fund knowledge products and learning events had directly informed their organizational decision-making, project design or programming adaptation — evidence that knowledge co-produced with civil society reaches back into practice.

Elevating civil society voices through strategic advocacy and partnerships. The UN Trust Fund brought frontline civil society evidence into multilateral spaces and amplifying voices that are too often absent from global policy dialogue by participating in 11 global advocacy events featuring 28 grantee partners, and facilitated 20 country and regional networking events engaging 68 grantee partners. At CSW69, the Trust Fund co-hosted a [strategic dialogue](#) alongside the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Mama Cash, Equality Fund and the Alliance for Feminist Movements, issuing a collective call for sustainable, long-term and flexible funding as a precondition for progress on gender equality. A [presentation](#) at the Human Rights Council launched Voices of Resilience from the Frontlines, produced with the UN-Women Geneva Office and Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights / OHCHR, bringing grantee partner testimonies from Sudan, Chile and Kosovo directly into human rights global forums. These engagements reinforced a core message: progress does not depend on discovering new solutions, but on resourcing proven ones at scale. In 2025, the Trust Fund also completed a major rebranding, including the addition of "and Girls" to its name — reflecting growing evidence on violence against adolescent girls and the leadership of girl-led movements as a long-overdue recognition embedded in the institution's identity.

F. Civil Society Perspectives: 2025 Trends and Issues

The UN Trust Fund's close engagement with its global partner network in 2025 surfaced three mutually reinforcing trends that defined the operating environment: major donor funding cuts that directly threatened the continuity of life-saving services; demand for resources reaching historic levels, underscoring a widening structural gap; and an increasingly coordinated and institutionalized backlash against gender equality work.

A funding crisis with immediate, concrete consequences for women and girls. Major donor funding cuts in 2025 translated rapidly into service disruption. A [rapid assessment](#) conducted by the UN Trust Fund in February 2025, drawing on responses from 92 grantee partners across 53 countries, found that 60% were directly impacted: 78% reported reductions in essential services for survivors, and 73% reported the suspension or closure of shelters, crisis centres, legal aid and healthcare services. Many partners struggled to meet rising demand with reduced staff capacity and increasing burnout. Nearly all expressed deep concern about growing risks of violence for women and girls in their communities if support was not restored. These were not marginal disruptions — they represented the collapse of infrastructure that, in many contexts, was the only available protection pathway for survivors. The UN Trust Fund responded by enabling no-cost extensions, encouraging use of contingency and self-care budget lines, and accelerating advocacy to make the impacts of funding cuts visible to donors and policymakers.

Demand for resources to end violence against women and girls reached historic levels. In November 2025, the UN Trust Fund's Global [Call for Proposals](#) received 3,925 applications from 128 countries requesting US\$2.1 billion — a 36% increase compared to 2023 and the [highest level ever recorded](#) — while only US\$20 million was available. Over three decades, civil society organizations have requested an estimated US\$14.5 billion from the Trust Fund, with only approximately US\$273 million awarded, reflecting a persistent and structural financing gap that no amount of organizational efficiency can bridge. The composition of demand offers a real-time map of CSO priorities and where systems are failing: nearly half of applications focused on essential multisectoral services (47%) and prevention (46%); nearly half were designed for crisis settings (45%); and approximately 10% — representing US\$219.7 million in requested support — addressed technology-facilitated gender-based violence, signalling a rapidly growing frontier of harm that existing laws and services are struggling to reach.

Backlash against gender equality became more coordinated, institutionalized and severe. Drawing on responses from 120 organizations to the UN Trust Fund's annual grantee survey and findings from the 2025 [Beyond Backlash](#) report, three backlash patterns emerged. The first is systemic restriction: in many contexts, backlash took the form of new registration requirements, monitoring of bank accounts, threats of closure, eviction from public premises, and restrictions on classroom engagement and public gatherings — measures that absorb organizational energy, raise costs and weaken the conditions needed to sustain services and advocacy. The second is deny, distort, distract tactics: partners documented efforts to delegitimize feminist claims, minimize gender-based violence, mock femicide data, and reframe demands for accountability as reputational threats or ideological excess — working to blur responsibility and make violence appear less urgent or credible than it is. The third is direct intimidation and targeting: feminist actors faced police raids, politically

motivated threats, public attacks by officials, coordinated online abuse, and in some contexts, directives to institutions at every level of government to end alliances with civil society organizations. The proportion of UN Trust Fund partners reporting backlash rose by 30% in 2025, with organizations across nearly 50 countries documenting concrete examples. Civil society organizations were not only responding to violence against women and girls — they were increasingly doing so while navigating systems designed to constrain, delay or disrupt their work.

G. Way Forward

The UN Trust Fund has served as a critical delivery vehicle for the [UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#), translating its commitments on ending violence against women and girls and strengthening women’s leadership into concrete, large-scale results. As the UN Trust Fund closes its [2021–2025 Strategic Plan](#) and enters its fourth decade, three decades of evidence confirm that the defining challenge ahead is not whether solutions exist, but whether the global system will resource them at the scale required, and in ways that genuinely reach and strengthen the organizations closest to survivors. It is precisely this challenge that the [UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2026–2030](#) is designed to meet.

The UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2026–2030 is built directly on evidence and demands surfaced through extensive consultations with grantee partners, donors, UN entities and feminist movements. It introduces two intentional strategic shifts: transforming how the UN Trust Fund funds — through longer-term grants of a minimum four years and up to six years, core and flexible funding as standard, and more agile and accessible grant-making processes — and transforming how it partners, through a comprehensive wraparound support model, peer learning, staff wellbeing provisions, and structural representation of civil society across governance bodies. Together, these shifts reflect a fundamental rebalancing of power towards the organizations closest to survivors.

Central to this next phase is the UN Trust Fund's transition to a decentralized, [globally structured Secretariat](#) — shifting from a New York-based model to a global headquarters in Bonn, Germany, supported by regional hubs in Bangkok, Istanbul, Nairobi and Panama. By positioning staff closer to the regions and movements they serve, this transition reduces overhead, frees resources for grant-making, and embeds the Secretariat more deeply within the realities partners face on the ground.