



BUILDING EVIDENCE AND RESULTS



The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is the only global, multilateral, grant-making mechanism dedicated exclusively to ending all forms of violence against women and girls. It was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996 (resolution 50/166) and is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on behalf of the United Nations system. This report describes the impact and key achievements of the UN Trust Fund and its grantees in 2016.





**ONE BENEFICIARY
WAS REACHED
FOR EVERY US\$2
INVESTED IN 2016**

Comunicadoras, who are women's rights defenders, record programming for the radio show "Voices of the Women of Wangki Tangni" as part of a UN Trust Fund project in Nicaragua from MADRE.
Photo: UN Women/UN Trust Fund: Mildred Garcia

FOREWORD

Many events demanded the world's attention during the year; some we will all want to remember and celebrate; others will remain seared in our memories for many years to come.

From major humanitarian catastrophes, presidential impeachments and coups, to peace deals, referendums and national elections, the year was fast moving and full of surprise results and unexpected turns of events. As I look back and reflect on the year's momentous developments captured by mainstream media, three names in particular come to mind: Lady Gaga, Jean-Pierre Bemba and Hissène Habré.

The last two are both former government officials found guilty of rape. Jean-Pierre Bemba, former Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was found guilty by the International Criminal Court under the concept of "command responsibility" whereby civilian and military superiors can be held criminally liable for crimes committed by troops under their control. In Senegal, a court convicted Hissène Habré, former President of Chad, of personally committing rape as an international crime. It took years of anguish, persistence and patience on the part of survivors, their families and women's and human rights

organizations to see these prosecutions through to convictions, to achieve justice.

Lady Gaga is a survivor of a sexual assault. At the 2016 Oscars, she highlighted this issue with her powerful song "Til It Happens to You", which she co-wrote for the *Hunting Ground* documentary about sexual assault on college campuses in the United States of America [USA]. Introduced by then US Vice-President Joe Biden, who led a nationwide initiative to combat sexual assault on college campuses, Lady Gaga appeared on stage with 50 other survivors. "It gets better, it gets better, in time," she sang.

The power and the greatest significance of this musical testimony was unquestionably each individual's tragic experience and their willingness to step onto that stage and tell their story to the world watching the Oscars that night. Such an act of bravery is exceptional in itself; we are well aware from all our experiences in working on ending violence against women and girls around the world that many survivors never do speak out because of stigma, life-changing trauma, institutional failures, cover ups, or fear of retaliation and re-victimization.

Lady Gaga did not win an Oscar that night but she did put the issue of violence against women and girls onto the world stage and bring it back home to the USA. She powerfully conveyed a principal message: "it" does not happen just "over there" or "to someone else". In homes, in

schools, at work or on campuses in New York, London, Addis Ababa, Port Moresby, Mexico City or my native Sarajevo, women and girls experience violence on a regular basis and in many different forms. One in five women will be sexually assaulted in the USA before they finish college and one in three women worldwide has experienced sexual or physical violence – most likely from their intimate partner. Living free from violence is a basic human right that all of us should enjoy, yet women and girls in every country are denied that right disproportionately.

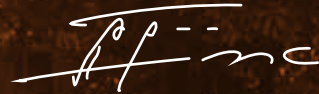
While the powerful musical performance at the Oscars may have been unique, the experiences of those on stage as well as of the survivors in the documentary *Hunting Ground* are unfortunately not. Sexual assaults on campuses, rapes in parks or in homes, female genital mutilation, acid throwing or sexual harassment at work are just a few forms of violence that women and girls around the world experience every day. At this very moment as I write, many of the women and girls who are crossing some dangerous sea in a tiny boat in search of refuge have already been raped in the country they are fleeing. When they arrive on new shores hoping for "safety", many of them will be "welcomed" by human traffickers who will use their vulnerability, lack of language knowledge and the desperate, desperate need for a better life, to lure them with false promises of security into the dark world of trafficking and sexual slavery.

This Annual Report is a testimony to the results and achievements of all of our grantees around the world who are striving to change this reality. They work to ensure prosecutions and justice and to create laws that are reflective of the best practices and not just minimum standards; it took 14 years to convict Jean-Pierre Bemba. Our grantees, like The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, an international women's human rights organization that advocates for gender justice through the International Criminal Court, have worked consistently and with unflagging

determination to ensure that justice is finally served.

Our grantees work with schools to make sure that girls and boys grow up not just knowing, but practising their own and others' right to live a life free of violence. They work with and for survivors to provide them with much needed services and support. As well as their knowledge, skills and national and local expertise, it takes time, patience, determination and adequate sustainable funding to achieve this.

So, where do we go from here? The facts are known. Speeches were delivered and most likely promises were made. The curtain has fallen. The Oscars have come and gone for another year. But the survivors are still "here" and "over- there". True, it will get better, in time. But, they are counting on us. Counting on you.



ALDIJANA SISIC

CHIEF, UN TRUST FUND TO END
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

UN TRUST FUND 1997—2016

1997

3

Donors

US\$1 Million

Total Grant Value

2016

25

Donors

US\$13 Million

Total Grant Value

106

Projects Supported

77

Countries and
Territories

Meeting with the Kankuamo indigenous community. The integral assistance route provides information on how to access protection and legal assistance in Valledupar, Colombia.
Photo: UN Women/UN Trust Fund: Mildred Garcia

LEAVING FEAR BEHIND

The Women's Justice Initiative (WJI) is working with Mayan women and girls in 16 rural communities in the municipality of Patzún, Guatemala. Combining a comprehensive legal literacy course with mobile legal outreach, WJI is the only organization in the country working to prevent gender-based violence specifically in rural Indigenous communities.

The project, supported with a small grant by the UN Trust Fund, is helping overcome key obstacles that Mayan women face in accessing justice; for example it provides legal services in Kaqchikel rather than in Spanish. The result has been an increase in the number of survivors of violence pursuing complaints and achieving positive outcomes for themselves and their families.

In baseline surveys for the WJI project, 4 per cent of the women surveyed reported having sought legal services in the past. During the first year of project implementation, 46 per cent of the project participants surveyed reported seeking legal advice from WJI. By providing legal services in Kaqchikel in Mayan women's communities, WJI is eliminating economic, linguistic and geographic barriers and greatly increasing women's access to justice.

The project achieved impressive results during 2016. For example, 187 survivors of violence sought assistance from the Justice of the Peace or the National Police during the year. Of these, 96 cases were reported to the Justice of the Peace and 91 to the National Police. This represents a 72 per cent increase in cases reported to the police and a 19 per cent increase in cases reported to the Justice of the Peace compared with 2015. WJI is now working with the police to identify what actions or strategies may have led to these increases.

WJI provided legal assistance to 288 women in cases linked to gender-based violence or securing economic rights. WJI believes this astonishing 136 per cent increase compared to the number of cases assisted in 2015 is due in large part to its mobile legal outreach in rural communities.

In addition, 256 Mayan women participated in legal literacy and skills-building courses and the overwhelming majority (96 per cent) completed the course. A further 270 women have signed up for courses in 2017.

As part of its work, WJI will incorporate the Population Council's Safescaping Methodology, which encourages participatory involvement in the identification of safe spaces and discussions of violence in a community.



“Before, [the WJI course] I almost never talked with other women. I was embarrassed to talk to them because I suffered violence and I was ashamed... But after participating, I began to talk with other women and I encouraged them and told them it was very important to love yourself.

I learned many things in the meetings... Every time I returned from the workshop, I shared what I learned that day with my children. My oldest son told me it was great that I was learning about these things and that I needed to share it with them.

The programme has helped me to improve my communication with my husband. It opened my mind... Through the programme, I started to value myself more and found the courage to talk to my husband about our problems. I told my husband that as a woman, I also have dignity and value and that he should treat me with respect, like I do with him.

I began to talk to my husband and tell him that I also have the right to leave the house and to learn... I know that what I do is for the good of my family, for example, in leaving my house to find work, so I can have an income and not always be dependent on my husband.”

—María Calcá, Legal Literacy Course Participant, in her home in Popabaj

OVERVIEW

In 2016, the UN Trust Fund marked 20 years of global, multilateral grant-making in support of efforts to prevent

IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, THE UN TRUST FUND HAS ACHIEVED GLOBAL REACH, PROVIDING SUPPORT TO 462 ORGANIZATIONS IN 139 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH GRANTS TOTALING

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