

Evaluation Report



United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women



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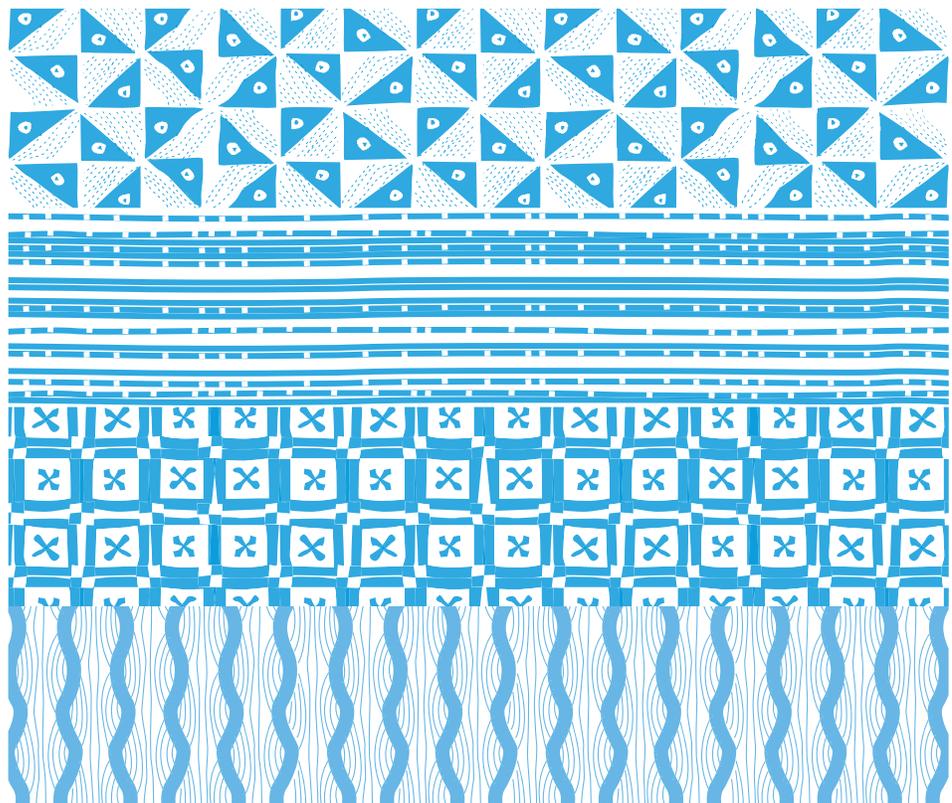
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Foreword

This report presents the results of the evaluation of the *United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women*. Its importance is closely related to the current growing global momentum on ending violence against women and girls, including the General Assembly Resolutions from 2006 and 2007 on *Intensification of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women* and most recently, with the launch of the Secretary-General's Campaign 'UNiTE to end violence against women'.

Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions and one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world. There is an increasing commitment by governments and donors to respond to this huge problem, evidenced by the adoption of a growing number of national policies and laws, and increased resources being made available for programme implementation – including for the UN Trust Fund (UNTF).

Established in 1996 by a UN General Assembly Resolution, the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women is a multilateral mechanism supporting national efforts to end violence against women and girls. It is administered by UNIFEM on behalf of the UN System and follows an inter-agency consultative mechanism at global and subregional levels comprised of UN sister agencies, non-governmental organizations and other experts constituted in Programme Appraisal Committees (PAC). Between 2005 and 2008 the UNTF developed a strategy intended to strengthen the effectiveness of the Fund in different aspects related with its impact on laws and policies, broader involvement of stakeholders, more efficient management and broader generation of knowledge and resources.

The evaluation analyses the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the UN Trust Fund Strategy from both a global perspective and at country level through a selected number of case studies in Bulgaria, Cameroon, Ecuador, Haiti, India, Nepal, Rwanda, and Ukraine to evaluate UN Trust Fund projects in the field.

The evaluation process took place between December 2008 and November 2009. It was managed by the UNIFEM's Evaluation Unit and commissioned to an external and independent evaluation team. It benefited from the continuous inputs of a reference group composed of the UNTF Secretariat, UNIFEM's Ending Violence Against Women section, UNIFEM focal points in sections and subregional offices, and members of the PAC. It also counted inputs from donors who were able to provide comments at different stages of the evaluation process. The Evaluation Unit would like to thank all these contributors without whom this exercise would not have been successfully completed. We also extend our gratitude to all the staff, grantees, civil society organizations' representatives, government officials and UN organizations who agreed to participate in interviews, surveys and focus groups for their valuable time and contributions. Special thanks to the evaluation team for their dedication - the team leader, Marie-Hélène Adrien and team members Elisabetta Micaro, Magda Seydegart, Suzanne Laberge, the re-

search assistants Emilie Peter and Kim McGrath, and the national consultants Gad Runezerwa in Rwanda, Marilyn Nguemo in Cameroon, Elena Stoykova in Bulgaria, Larysa Magdyuk in Ukraine, Javita Narang in India, Purna Shresta in Nepal. In addition, thank you to Cecilia Ljungman who ably task managed this evaluation process. Finally, thanks to our UNIFEM colleagues – Emilie Rees-Smith, Inga Sniukaite, Zamira Djabarova and Laura Gonzalez for their review of the translations, to Rhonda de Freitas and Isabel Suarez in the Evaluation Unit who coordinated the publication process of this report and to Sonila Aliaj who handled administrative support.

The evaluation report presents key findings and recommendations for the UNTF, noting the importance of the UNTF's role in contributing to advocacy and raising awareness of violence against women, and effectively responding to the needs of women and girls with an increased focus on the implementation of existing laws and policies. A key finding was the significant impact made by the increase in donor contributions to the fund that directly impacted on grants awarded between 2005 and 2008 - this allowed the number of and size of grants annually awarded to be increased and allowed for a greater diversification of eligible organizations; it was also determined that the UNTF made considerable effort to link ending violence against women initiatives with other issues affecting women such as HIV/AIDS. Some challenges were identified by the evaluation that are stated in the report, with recommendations addressing the need of additional human and financial resources in order to maintain the current level of effectiveness in light of the planned growth of the Trust Fund, strengthened capacity development efforts for grantees and enhanced systems for tracking results. The UNTF has responded to these recommendations and is taking measures to address the weaknesses identified. Finalizing the UNTF strategy for 2010 – 2015 is a major step towards implementing the changes associated with the programming, staffing structure and management processes recommended by this evaluation.

We hope that this evaluation will lead to further enhancement of the UN Trust Fund's work as it builds upon present successes and develops mechanisms to improve its processes in order to continue spearheading the vital work on ending violence against women. We also hope it contributes to building knowledge on what are the best practices and most successful strategies in the multilateral efforts to end violence against women.



Belen Sanz

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December 2009

Abstract

The overall findings of the independent evaluation of UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women are positive. The UN Trust Fund is at all levels a relevant mechanism to eliminate violence against women. It addresses a gap regarded as important by all stakeholders; it is aligned with the priorities set out in the Millennium Development Goals, and it meets the needs of both grantees and beneficiaries. The results of projects supported by the UN Trust Fund are congruent with the UN Trust Fund 2005–2008 Strategy. Supported projects achieved numerous short-term results and some have even contributed to macrolevel changes. Overall, however, there is less evidence of long-term results. The management of the UN Trust Fund is efficient, but lean, which led to some limitations in knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation. The UN Trust Fund Secretariat is making significant progress in addressing limitations and developing its systems, but more is required to ensure adequate staffing and a pace of adjustment that is fast enough to embrace planned growth.

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