



2012 Call for Proposals

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1. About the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (“The UN Trust Fund”) is a leading global multi-lateral mechanism supporting national efforts to end one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world. Established in 1996 by UN General Assembly Resolution 50/166,¹ the UN Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on behalf of the United Nations System.

Since its establishment, the UN Trust Fund has been an important source of support to women’s, grassroots and other civil society organizations, nurturing innovation, catalyzing change and mobilizing key actors and constituencies – from community to national and international levels. It has contributed to breaking the once nearly universal silence on violence against women through grants to broaden awareness, advocate for passage and implementation of laws grounded in human rights standards, promote access to services and develop sustainable capacities for continued progress. Grantees – comprising governments, non-governmental organizations, and since 2008, UN Country Teams – have engaged diverse actors, such as women’s, men’s, adolescents and youth groups, indigenous communities, religious and traditional leaders, human rights organizations and the media in action to stop violence against women and girls. To date, the UN Trust Fund has supported 351 initiatives in 128 countries and territories with more than US\$ 86 million.

The UN Trust Fund is also a vehicle for responding to the UN Secretary-General’s call to make violence against women “*never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable*”, in the context of the *UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign*,² launched in 2008. Through its grants, the UN Trust Fund contributes to the Secretary-General’s Campaign by placing emphasis “*on supporting action where it matters most – at country, and especially local and community levels*” – specifically by supporting the five key outcomes as regards to the enforcement of national laws, the implementation of multi-sectoral action plans, support to data collection systems, social mobilization and prevention strategies and addressing sexual violence in conflict situations.

The UN Trust Fund operates based on the voluntary contributions of UN Member States, non-profit organizations, foundations, the private sector and concerned individuals. Its governance and grant-making is guided by consultative committees at global and sub-regional levels comprised of UN agencies, leading experts and other key stakeholders.³ Information on the UN Trust Fund, including its history, past grantees and donors, can be found on UN Women’s website.⁴

¹ General Assembly Resolution 50/166: The Role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in Eliminating Violence against Women, 22 December 1995.

² See <http://endviolence.un.org/>.

³ In 2012, Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members at global and sub-regional levels included: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); the International Labor Organization (ILO); the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); the World Health Organization (WHO); and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. PACs also comprised of leading NGO representatives, intergovernmental organizations, and other experts at the global and field levels, including representatives from the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership, Equality Now, Open Society Institute, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), among others.

⁴ <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund/>

The UN Trust Fund receives many more requests for funding than it is able to support. In 2011-12, it was only able to approve less than one percent (1%) of all applications submitted. For additional sources of funding, see www.lifefreeofviolence.org

2. The 2012 Call for Proposals

2.1. Guiding Principles of the UN Trust Fund

The UN Trust Fund promotes initiatives based on the following approaches:

- *Human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches* that place paramount priority on promoting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of women and girls, as well as strengthening institutional capacities at local and national levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women. This includes addressing inequitable gender norms and power disparities as the root cause of violence against women and girls, and as a violation of human rights and an impediment to development.
- *Holistic and multi-sectoral responses* that address women's inter-related rights and needs in terms of prevention and response to violence against women and girls, including safety and protection, access to health, legal, property and inheritance rights, and economic security and rights.
- *Focus on priority groups* living in poverty and otherwise especially excluded or disadvantaged, ensuring *responsiveness to diversity* by tailoring interventions to particular population groups.
- *Coordination and partnership-building*, including among government entities, civil society organizations, especially women's groups, and networks.
- *Commitment to sharing knowledge*, by documenting, evaluating and disseminating results.
- *Evidence-based programming*, building on lessons learned and recommended practices, to ensure optimal results and use of resources.

2.2. Invitation for Proposals

The 2012 UN Trust Fund Call invites proposals in the following areas of action:

- i. Closing the Gap on the Implementation of National and Local Laws, Policies and Action Plans that Address Violence against Women
- ii. Addressing Violence against Adolescent and Young Girls

Through its grants, the UN Trust Fund aims to expand the global knowledge base on 'what works' by supporting the piloting, testing, up-scaling, evaluation, documentation and dissemination of catalytic, innovative and promising approaches on ending violence against women and girls. The ideal proposal will ensure rigorous documentation of effective approaches addressing violence against women, with a view to sharing lessons learned and providing practical guidance for other programmers.

In all cases, emphasis will be placed on the applicant's ability to clearly articulate the contextual challenges, expected results and strategies to achieve them, with a focus on tailored approaches to address the proposed form of violence or beneficiary age group targeted through the intervention. Programmes reaching especially marginalized populations including the internally displaced, refugees, victims of trafficking, and women with disabilities will receive special consideration. Additional information will also be requested of applicants shortlisted to submit a full-fledged proposal (see section 3.3 for details).

2.2.1. Focus Area 1: Closing the Gap on the Implementation of National and Local Laws, Policies and Action Plans that Address Violence against Women

Despite the adoption of a multitude of policies, laws, and action plans to address violence against women and girls, millions remain at risk without protection, access to critical services, or opportunities to seek justice. In many countries, strategies to advance prevention and interrupt the cycle of violence remain non-existent. In order to address serious gaps in the realization of national and international commitments to end violence against women and girls,⁵ this area of grant-making focuses on *supporting the implementation of national and local laws, policies and action plans* by expanding the quality and quantity of support available for on-the-ground implementation of effective programmes.

By way of illustration only, proposals might consider:

- *Developing high-impact strategies for primary prevention* of violence against women and girls, that is, strategies to stop violence from occurring altogether in the first place. Examples of this include: community-based approaches, early childhood interventions, working with men and boys on changing gender norms and the acceptability of violence, school-based interventions, among various others.
- *Ensuring survivors' access to protection and justice*, by strengthening enforcement of existing legislation and the rule of law, and alignment with human rights' standards; and to *quality health and other services and supports*. This may include establishing or expanding access to services such as hotlines, safe spaces, legal assistance and crisis counseling, among others.
- *Empowering women to claim their rights and mobilizing communities on 'zero tolerance'* through legal literacy and social mobilization about national and local laws, policies and action plans, as well as through socio-economic (including employment) opportunities for women to break out of the cycle of violence.
- *Strengthening efforts to prevent and address rape in conflict situations as a systematic method of warfare* by State and non-state actors.⁶
- *Responding to the needs and rights of especially excluded and neglected groups*, such as women and girls living in poverty and extreme poverty, adolescents and youth, migrant women workers, domestic workers, indigenous communities, women living with HIV, women and girls who have been trafficked, among others; or on *especially neglected forms of violence or issues*, such as sexual violence against girls and young women, abuse during pregnancy, political or economic violence, links with HIV and AIDS, and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- *Securing strategic policy commitments and budgets for implementation*, by working to ensure that ending violence against women and girls is incorporated into leading national development and funding frameworks, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies, National Development Plans, National HIV and AIDS Plans, Sector-Wide Approaches, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction frameworks, or other MDG-related plans. This includes support for *data collection and analysis; mapping services; supporting establishment of benchmarks and monitoring progress against them;*

⁵ In particular, the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals; the recommendations of the Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality Report (www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/tf_gender.htm); In-depth study on all forms of violence against women: Report of the Secretary-General, A/61/122/Add.1, 26 June 2006; General Assembly Resolutions on the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009. Security Council Resolution 1820: Women and Peace and Security, 19 June 2008; Security Council Resolution 1888: Women and Peace and Security, 30 September 2009; CEDAW Committee conclusions and recommendations, including General Recommendations 12 and 19 on Violence against Women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/index.html>); and the reports of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences.

⁶ See also UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, <http://www.stoprapenow.org>

gender-responsive budget initiatives; and capacity development of civil society organizations on policy-oriented advocacy to promote accountability and participate in public policy formulation and monitoring mechanisms.

- *Enlisting relatively ‘new’ actors who have a critical, but largely untapped, role to play in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls, such as working with men and boys, young people, faith-based organizations, employers and trade unions, among other strategic groups and sectors.*
- *Supporting the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments, and of recommendations on ending violence against women from human rights bodies, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, among other special procedures.*
- *Overall, supporting capacity development of implementers of national and local laws, policies and action plans, at inter-sectoral and sectoral levels.*

2.2.2 Focus Area 2: Addressing Violence against Adolescent and Young Girls

Throughout the world, adolescent and young girls are at an exceptionally high risk of violence, ranging from sexual abuse and exploitation to harmful practices including child marriage and female genital mutilation. Despite their heightened vulnerability to violence, adolescent and young girls remain largely underserved by existing development programmes, with far too few gender-sensitive and age-tailored responses for girl survivors of violence. Though largely untapped to date, adolescent and young people of both sexes are also a tremendous resource in the global movement to end gender-based violence and major assets among their peers, families and communities to achieve the societal transformations needed. This area of grant-making focuses on building girls protective assets so that they are able to prevent and respond to threats of violence, and ensuring that girls who do experience violence receive critical services and access to justice. This includes ensuring interventions are informed by girls’ experiences and address those at the highest risk of violence including girls who are out of school, isolated by marriage, and/or invisible as domestic workers.

By way of illustration only, proposals might consider:

- *Fostering girls’ leadership and activism and mobilizing and supporting young and adolescent girls, especially indigenous and socially excluded girls, as champions of change for promoting equality and ending gender-based violence.*
- *Using girls’ knowledge and perspectives to design prevention programmes specifically tailored for this target group, including television and radio programming informed by girls’ experiences and exposure to violence.*
- *Supporting innovative approaches aimed at reducing the acceptance of child marriage and empowering girls as well as their family members with the knowledge, skills and resources to delay marriage and continue schooling.*
- *Initiating school-based and early education programmes to prevent violence against girls, including through the development of a comprehensive curriculum that covers health, sexual and reproductive rights, intimate relationships, and financial literacy combined with meaningful peer discussions and wider community conversations about violence.*
- *Supporting school administrators and teachers to develop strategies and codes of conduct for addressing and preventing sexual violence and harassment in the school environment, including methods for the early identification of abusive behavior.*
- *Establishing “safe spaces” for both in and out-of-school girls aimed at decreasing their social isolation by building their basic literacy, life skills, sexual and reproductive health awareness, and self-protection skills.*

- *Providing health and other support services* to already married girls such as schooling, sexual and reproductive health services, rights awareness, livelihoods skills, and supporting innovative outreach strategies for girls at risk or who have experienced violence to be able to report and seek support.
- *Reaching adolescent girls with community-based health and/or social initiatives* that pair them with dedicated mentors to learn about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, while developing the skills necessary to negotiate voluntary, safe, and protected sex.
- *Providing training to health workers and other service providers* on the harmful health consequences of sexual and gender based violence such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), sexual abuse, early marriage, rape and other forms of physical and psychological violence, equipping them with the skills necessary to adequately respond to the specific needs of girl survivors of violence and effectively engage their communities around strategies to eliminate these practices.
- *Increasing girls' access to justice*, including to legal and judicial services, and strengthening legal and judicial systems, to better protect the rights of girls who are survivors of sexual violence through special judicial and investigative measures aimed at avoiding re-traumatization.
- *Designing proactive community outreach and investigative strategies* to address the exploitation and violence experienced by child domestic workers in order to change prevalent attitudes and perceptions that both serve to push girls into domestic work and create demand for young girls to become domestic workers.
- *Promoting the healthy development and community re-integration of war-affected and displaced girls*, including those formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups, through psychosocial care, case management, and educational/vocational training.
- *Strengthening multi-sectoral services and referral networks* to ensure that young and adolescent girls at risk or who have experienced gender-based violence have prompt access to *tailored response services* including safety, health care, justice and other necessary supports specific to the needs of girls survivors.

2.3 Budget and duration of proposals

For large civil society organizations, governments and UN Country Teams, budget requests should be within the range of a minimum of US\$ 300,000 to a maximum of US\$ 1 million total for duration of two to three years.

For small civil society organizations, especially grassroots women's organizations and networks, budget requests will also be considered for a minimum of US\$ 100,000.

Determination of budget requests should be made based on an organization's operational and absorptive capacity.

3. Application and Selection Process

3.1. Who can Apply?

Applicants from, or working in, countries and/or territories in the "List of Eligible Countries"⁷, as follows:

⁷ The UN Trust Fund follows the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/DCD-DAC list of countries available at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.

- Government authorities at central/national, sub-national and/or local levels, including National Women’s Machineries and other sectoral Ministries. A government entity may either apply individually or as part of a UN Country Team proposal, but not both.
- Civil society organizations and networks, including non-governmental organizations that are legally registered in the country of implementation.
- Regional/international civil society organizations and networks that have national presence in the country(ies) and/or territory(ies) of implementation. In this case, the proposal must indicate how the proposed interventions will contribute to national capacity development and ownership of national and local organizations in the implementation.
- Operational research/evaluation institutions specialized in gender equality and gender-based violence.
- UN Country Teams (UNCTs) are eligible where requested by the government and in partnership with women’s groups, organizations and/or networks, as well as with other civil society organizations (see the box below). Only one application per country is permitted.

Proposals should ideally reflect partnerships among government and civil society. Special attention will be paid to organizations with a demonstrated record of working with local women’s organizations, especially grassroots women’s organizations and networks. Proposals from more than one organization or entity as co-applicants must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

Organizations proposing multi-country initiatives must also demonstrate that they or their national implementing partners are legally registered in each of the countries (or territories) of implementation.

Notes for UN Country Team (UNCT) Applicants

Proposals by **UNCTs** must:

- Involve two or more UN agencies, as well as UN Gender or Human Rights Thematic Groups where they exist, under the Resident Coordinator’s overall leadership and endorsement. (This includes UNCTs from the pilot countries operating under the aegis of the Task Force on Violence against Women. Non-resident UN agencies may participate in the UNCT proposals.)
- Establish an explicit link to the Secretary-General’s UNiTE Campaign, and indicate how the proposal will contribute to the achievement of one, or several of the key outcomes of the Campaign.
- Reflect national ownership and partnership with both government and civil society, including women’s groups and networks. Proposals must provide evidence of a request by the government (a signed letter by the corresponding government authority requesting UNCT assistance), and name the main women’s and other civil society groups that will participate as implementing partners.
- Describe the linkages of the proposal to ongoing UNCT and UN-supported interventions in the area of violence against women and girls, including to the UNDAF and its budgetary allocations.
- Provide indications of matching funds from UNCTs, governments and other stakeholders, in addition to in-kind contributions (office space, staff, conference facilities, media outlets, supplies, other).
- Describe the participating UN agencies’ comparative advantages and demonstrated record of working on gender-based violence.
- Describe the expected roles in joint implementation for each of the UN agencies involved in the proposal, including the Resident Coordinator’s role. A signed endorsement letter by the corresponding Resident Coordinator is also required.

The UN Trust Fund will not consider applications:

- Submitted for interventions in countries and territories that are not in the “List of Eligible Countries”;
- Submitted by individual UN agencies;
- Submitted by individuals without any organizational affiliation;
- Submitted by organizations that do not have a legal status in the country of operation;
- Submitted by government entities, civil society organizations or UNCTs currently implementing a grant from the UN Trust Fund (unless the grant ends by June 2013);
- That have incomplete documentation, including blank or missing annexes;
- Requesting grants to fund on-going programmes or services - such as medications, counseling and treatment services, infrastructure or construction, etc. However, innovative piloting and evaluation of an existing programme or services intended as a model for learning and scaling up may be considered on a discretionary basis, provided it falls within the scope or purview of the overall objectives outlined in the UN Trust Fund Call;
- Requesting funds to cover costs of infrastructure such as purchase of land, property, acquisition of office space, construction or repair of existing buildings or offices, including for example, the building and furnishing of service facilities, shelters or short-stay homes;
- Requesting funds for stand-alone general awareness raising and campaigns;
- Requesting funds for stand-alone research and data collection;
- Submitted by UNCTs from countries that are recipients of funding under the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund Gender Window (government entities, civil society organizations and research institutions from those countries *are* eligible to apply).

3.2. Where and When to Apply?

Applicants are expected to submit proposals online in the form of a brief **Concept Note**. For preparation of the Concept Note, refer to the following annexes:

Annex 1:	Concept Note Form
Annex 2:	Budget Summary

Concept Notes can be submitted in the following languages only: **English, French and Spanish** (please note that while the call is available in Arabic, Portuguese and Russian, concept note applications will only be accepted in English, Spanish or French).

The **deadline for submission of the Concept Note is 21 January 2013, 11:59pm New York Time (EST)**. Concept Notes received after the deadline will not be considered.

All applications must be submitted online. The UN Trust Fund will not accept applications submitted via e-mail, regular post and/or facsimile.

The online application will be available from 21 November 2012 until 21 January 2013 at: <http://grants.unwomen.org>. All information must be entered using the online application software.

The UN Trust Fund will acknowledge receipt of a submitted online application through a confirmation e-mail. Due to the high volume of applications, the UN Trust Fund cannot respond individually to those not selected for further consideration.

Please contact the UN Trust Fund Secretariat (New York, USA) by email at untf-evaw@unwomen.org in the event of problems with the online application. Applicants will be informed of updates on the application process via email.

3.3 Appraisal and Selection Process

The UN Trust Fund awards grants through an annual open and competitive process. The application process consists of two rounds. The first round involves the submission of a Concept Note that will be assessed based on the overall quality and results-oriented nature of the proposed initiative. The appraisal process will involve committees at global and sub-regional levels that will follow common criteria for review. Those successful in the first round will be invited to develop full-fledged proposals. These proposals will be appraised and a smaller group will be selected as final grantees. This process will be undertaken during the period February-July 2013. Grant approvals and disbursements will be made by September 2013. All successful grantees are expected to work closely with the UN Trust Fund Team to incorporate technical feedback, and ensure high-quality standards of programme design and rigorous monitoring and evaluation plans in the final programme document.

4. Contributors to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

The UN Trust Fund is financed through voluntary contributions from United Nations Member States, partners in the private sector and civil society, as well as concerned individuals from around the world.

The UN Trust Fund gratefully acknowledges the support of the Member State governments who have contributed in 2011-2012: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

The UN Trust Fund is also grateful for the vital support of its partners in the private and non-profit sectors, including: Johnson & Johnson, M*A*C AIDS Fund, United Nations Federal Credit Union, the United Nations Foundation, Universal Peace Federation, UN Women National Committees in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Japan and the United Kingdom, and Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation.

The UN Trust Fund would also like to acknowledge the individuals who have donated to the Fund and/or voiced their commitment to ending violence against women and girls by taking action via UN Women's Say NO – UNiTE campaign.