

UNIFEM'S Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women

In 1996, the UN General Assembly in recognition of UNIFEM's pioneering role and leadership in the effort to end violence against women, established a unique trust fund within UNIFEM to support these actions. UNIFEM's Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women is the only multi-lateral grant-making mechanism that supports local, national and regional efforts to combat violence.

"We are learning how to stop the violence. These projects reflect the increasing commitment that exists worldwide to protect women's rights, provide services for victims and punish crimes of violence against women and girls."

*Noeleen Heyzer
Executive Director,
UNIFEM*

Since it began, \$7 million has been disbursed to programmes around the globe in 85 countries. Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$125,000, trust fund projects conduct public education campaigns, build coalitions, involve law-enforcement, judicial and government agencies, train educators, healthcare personnel and police officials to respond and prevent violence. Many projects strive to alter community attitudes and involve men as allies.

Trust Fund Projects 2002

- In **Rwanda and Burundi**, the experiences of rape survivors living with HIV/AIDS are being documented to raise awareness of the problems these women face and to promote protective laws and increased financial support.
- A gender-sensitive media code for journalists is being developed in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.
- Teachers are being trained in **Bolivia** to advocate for the inclusion of domestic violence issues in the school curricula.
- In **Cambodia**, a series of dramas will be broadcast over national radio to allow audience members to discuss violence and receive referrals for legal and psychological counseling.

Contributions from the governments of Japan, Italy, Denmark, Finland, Austria, the United Kingdom, as well as from the Conrad Hilton Foundation and others, enabled UNIFEM to award approximately \$1 million in grants in 2002 to 18 projects in 22 countries. They were selected from 270 proposals with funding requests of more than \$15 million. The overwhelmingly response demonstrates the commitment worldwide to expand work on the ground to combat gender-based violence. But the challenge is clear - the lack of resources severely constrains the scale and scope of comprehensive activities to change attitudes and laws, build constituency and accountability, provide shelter and services. UNIFEM continues to raise the profile of the issue of violence against women, and to urge that the necessary resources be invested to combat it.

AT-A-GLANCE

The Trust Fund At Work Around the World

- Child and Family Protection Units were established by the **Ugandan** Police Force in five troubled districts to investigate cases of violence against women and children, coordinate with civic leaders, provide legal counseling, and sensitize communities to the issue.
- In the Republic of Buryatia in **Siberia**, centers were established as focal points for networks with the judicial system and government agencies to provide a coordinated response to violence – the centres also provide legal and psychological counseling and shelter for victims of domestic violence.
- In **Mexico**, women's rights activists received legal, psychological, and self-defense training and formed a support network in response to increased violence against women and women activists in particular.
- In **China**, Trust Fund support to a public campaign against violence against women encouraged the government to establish the National Coordinating Group for the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. This institutional mechanism will be replicated in four provinces.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are trust fund projects selected for funding?

Projects are selected annually through a competitive request-for-proposal process publicized through UNIFEM's field offices and other networks. A committee of representatives from UN-agencies, NGOs working in related areas and UNIFEM determine the final selection of grantees.

How much money is available for grants each year?

The amount of money available annually depends on the amount received from donors. All monies contributed to the Trust Fund are allocated to initiatives. This amount is additional to what UNIFEM spends on its end-violence work from its core budget. Since 1996, UNIFEM has spent more than \$38 million on end-violence programmes.

Who can apply for funding and how do you go about it?

All information on application criteria, requirements and procedures can be found on UNIFEM's website, at <http://www.unifem.undp.org/trustfund/TFapplic.html>.

Further Information

Individuals, philanthropic institutions, organizations and corporations can support UNIFEM's Trust Fund. Every dollar contributed is passed on to grass roots organizations through Trust Fund grants. For details contact the Public Affairs Specialist, Joan Libby-Hawk, 212-906.6390, joan.libby-hawk@undp.org

Fighting for Their Lives – Preventing Femicide in Gaza and the West Bank

Like clock work, she was there everyday at the same time, waiting to see the girl who had been raped through the grating in the prison wall. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, project director of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC), had learned of the crime and persuaded the guards to let her speak with the victim. The girl was imprisoned to protect her from her own family, who, according to tribal tradition, was seeking her death as the only way to redeem their honor. WCLAC's work is a literal struggle between life and death – with UNIFEM support, a ground-breaking study has been used to bring the issue of femicide out into the open, and to allow for intervention into individual cases.

Soap Opera 'Sexto Sentido' - informing Nicaraguan teens about important social issues

Come 8pm every Wednesday night, 70% of Nicaragua's population is glued to their TV sets. They're watching the country's most popular soap opera, 'Sexto Sentido' (Sixth Sense), produced by NGO Puntos de Encuentro, with the help of a UNIFEM grant. Written by young people for their peers, the show explores important social issues such as gender-based violence. The TV show is supported by a daily radio programme and two advocacy campaigns on emergency contraception and domestic abuse. Focus groups with young viewers have revealed that the show's messages are beginning to build awareness among teens of their rights to make their own decisions and confront discrimination.

