



## **2009 Call for Proposals**

**March 6, 2009**

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## 1. About the United Nations Trust Fund

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,<sup>1</sup> the UN Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on behalf of the UN System.

Since its inception, the UN Trust Fund has been a catalyst for new ideas, a source of support for strategic action and a hub of knowledge on emerging good practices. 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 government and non-governmental organizations, have engaged diverse actors, such as women’s, men’s and adolescents and youth groups, indigenous communities, religious and traditional leaders, human rights organizations and the media. To date, the UN Trust Fund has supported 291 initiatives in 119 countries and territories with more than US\$44 million.

The UN Trust Fund awards grants through an annual open and competitive process. In order to address the serious gaps in the realization of national and international commitments and recommendations to end violence against women and girls<sup>2</sup>, UN Trust Fund grant-making focuses on *supporting the implementation of national and local laws, policies and action plans*. The UN Trust Fund places particular emphasis on documentation, monitoring and evaluation, in order to contribute to the global knowledge base on effective approaches to end violence against women and girls. It is also a vehicle for meeting the Secretary-General’s challenge to make violence against women “*never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable*”, in the context of the *UNite to End Violence against Women Campaign*,<sup>3</sup> launched in 2008.

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.<sup>4</sup> Information on the UN Trust Fund, including its history, past grantees and donors, can be found on UNIFEM’s website.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly Resolution 50/166: The Role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in Eliminating Violence against Women, 22 December 1995 ([www.un.org/documents/ga/res/50/ares50-166.htm](http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/50/ares50-166.htm)).

<sup>2</sup> In particular, the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals ([www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm](http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm)); the recommendations of the Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality Report ([www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/tf\\_gender.htm](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/tf_gender.htm)); the 2006 *In-Depth Study on Violence against Women: Report of the Secretary-General* (<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/419/74/PDF/N0641974.pdf?OpenElement>); General Assembly Resolutions on *Intensification of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women* of 61/143 of 2006 (<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/503/01/PDF/N0650301.pdf?OpenElement>), 62/133 of 2007 (<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/471/75/PDF/N0747175.pdf?OpenElement>) and 23/155 of 2008; 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 (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/index.htm>).

<sup>3</sup> See [endviolence.un.org/](http://endviolence.un.org/).

<sup>4</sup> In 2008, in addition to UNIFEM, Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) members at global and sub-regional levels included: the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW); the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO); the International Labor Organization (ILO); the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS); the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the UN Development Programme (UNDP); the UN Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the UN Office on Drugs and Crime

The UN Trust Fund receives many more requests for funding than it is able to support. In 2008, it was only able to approve 4% of all proposals submitted. For additional sources of funding, see [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/trust\\_fund\\_guidelines.php](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/trust_fund_guidelines.php)

## 2. The 2009 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. Focus: Closing the Gap on the Implementation of National and Local Laws, Policies and Action Plans that Address Violence against Women

The UN Trust Fund aims to expand the global knowledge base on effective approaches to implement national and local laws, policies and action plans 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 findings and evaluation with a view to sharing lessons learned and to providing practical guidance for other programmers.

Through its focus on national implementation of existing commitments, the UN Trust Fund also aims to contribute to the Secretary General's *UNite to End Violence against Women Campaign 2008-2015*—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. By way of illustration only, proposals might consider:

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(UNODC); the UN Population Fund (UNFPA); the World Food Programme (WFP); the World Health Organization (WHO); the World Bank and UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. PAC members also included leading NGO representatives and other experts. At the global level, these included representatives from MADRE, PATH, Amnesty International, the Centre for Women's Global Leadership and Human Rights Watch; at the national level, they included representatives from Oxfam, the Open Society Institute, the Heinrich Boll Foundation, Norwegian People's Aid and the Urgent Action Fund, among others.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/trust\\_fund.php](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/trust_fund.php)

- 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*.
- *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.<sup>6</sup>
- *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; 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 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee and of 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.

In all cases, emphasis will be placed on demonstrating clear expected results and how they will be achieved; capacity development and sustainability strategies; synergies and coordination with existing initiatives to end violence against women and girls (including those supported by the governments, civil society organizations, donors and the UN system); and matching funds from UN agencies and governments, wherever possible. Proposals must summarize what *capacities* will have been installed by the end of the programme and how achievements will be *sustained* once the grant has ended. A clear indication of how the intervention will be *documented* and *evaluated*, and its results *disseminated*

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

should be included in the proposal. Applicants are encouraged to build in *partnerships with research institutions* to support data collection, analysis and results-based reporting for knowledge generation and sharing.

In addition, applicants should identify whether they are: (i) piloting promising approaches on ending violence against women and girls; and/or (ii) up-scaling promising or already proven approaches on ending violence against women and girls.

### 2.3 Budget and duration of proposals

Budget requests should be within the range of a minimum of \$300,000 to a maximum of \$1 million total for duration of two to three years. Proposals will be considered for a minimum \$100,000 for duration of up to three years for innovative approaches from small civil society organizations, especially grassroots women’s organizations and networks, and those working in conflict and unstable situations.

## 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”<sup>7</sup>, as follows:

- 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 UNCT 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).

Proposals should reflect partnerships among government and civil society. 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.

#### Notes for UNCT Applicants

Proposals by **UNCTs** must:

- Involve two or more UN agencies, through the UN Gender or Human Rights Thematic Groups, where they exist, under the Resident Coordinator’s overall leadership and endorsement. (This includes

<sup>7</sup> 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](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist)

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.)

- 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 on 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.
- Proposals by UNCTs are strongly encouraged to establish an explicit link to the Secretary-General's Campaign, and indicate how the proposal will contribute to the achievement of one, or several of the key outcomes of the Campaign.

**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 December 2009);
- 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 in the form of a brief **Concept Note**.

For preparation of Concept Notes, refer to the following annexes:

Annex 1:	Concept Note Form
Annex 2:	Budget Summary

Proposals submitted by government entities, civil society organizations and/or research institutions should be sent to the corresponding UNIFEM Sub-Regional Office. Proposals submitted by UNCTs, or by organizations working on cross-regional initiatives should be sent to the UN Trust Fund office (see Annex 3 for Contact Information).

Submissions should be sent preferably by e-mail with a signed cover letter and endorsement letters, wherever applicable. 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, applicants are advised to submit their concept notes in English, Spanish or French).

The **deadline for submissions of the Concept Note is April 17, 2009, 11:59pm New York Time**. Concept Notes received after the deadline will not be considered.

### 3.3 Appraisal and Selection Process

The Concept Notes will be appraised based on the overall quality and results-oriented nature of the proposal. The appraisal process will involve committees at global and sub-regional levels that will follow common criteria for reviews. 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 April-September 2009. Grant approvals and disbursements will be made before the end of 2009, once technical feedback is incorporated and proposals are resubmitted in their final form. All successful grantees are expected to work closely with the UN Trust Fund Management Team to 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 contributions of UN Member States, private sector companies, NGOs, UNIFEM National Committees and concerned individuals to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women are gratefully acknowledged.

Contributors to the UN Trust Fund in 2008 include:

Governments of Australia, Austria, Brazil, Finland, Ireland, Lichtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America.

Private sector donors include the Avon Products Inc., through its Avon Empowerment Fund; Johnson and Johnson and Tag Hauer.

Civil society funding partners include Zonta International and UNIFEM National Committees from Austria, Iceland, Italy, and the United States of America.

Foundation supporters include the United Nations Foundation and the Cinema for Peace Foundation based in Berlin, Germany.

The UN Trust Fund is also grateful to individual donors and supporters. UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman, has personally dedicated herself to mobilizing individual and corporate support, including as spokesperson for the "Say NO to Violence against Women" campaign (<http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/>).