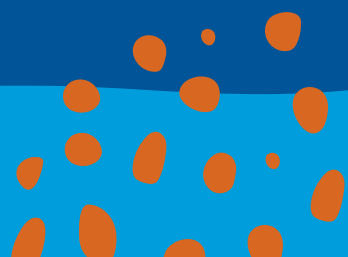
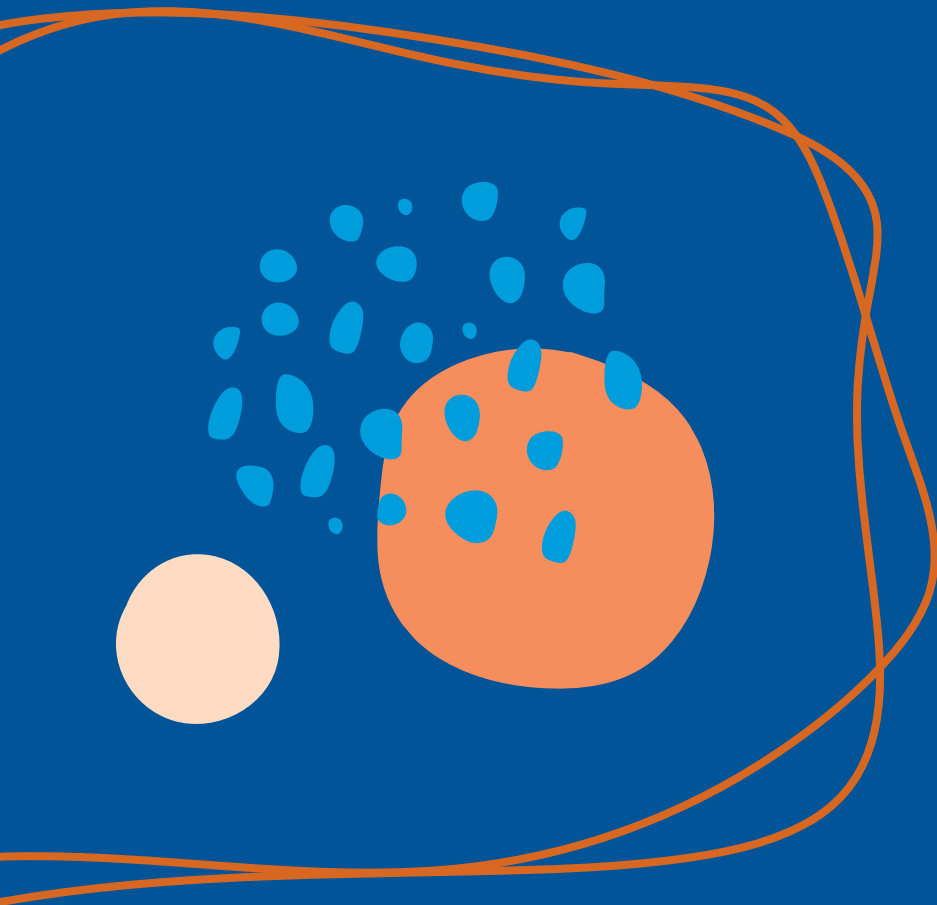




ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE AND/OR FORCIBLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS:

Results from UN Trust Fund's Special Window
on ending Violence against Women & Girls
who are Refugees and/or forcibly displaced





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About the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls. Managed by UN Women on behalf of the United Nations system since its establishment in 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 50/166, the UN Trust Fund has awarded \$215 million to 646 initiatives in 140 countries and territories. In 2022, the UN Trust Fund managed a grants portfolio of 186 projects aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in 70 countries and territories across five regions, with grants totalling \$87 million. Grant recipients are primarily civil society organizations (CSOs). Since 2018 (cycle 20), the UN Trust Fund has been funding only CSO projects. In 2022, the majority (62 per cent) of these CSOs were women's rights organizations.

About the Special Window on Ending Violence against Women & Girls who are Refugees and/or Forcibly Displaced

In 2016, the UN Trust Fund launched a special window of grant-making focused on providing funding to organizations specifically addressing the issue of VAWG experienced by refugees with an eye on the Syrian refugee crisis; the world's largest ongoing refugee and displacement crisis since the conflict began in 2011. This special window was designed to enhance protection efforts during the transit process and to increase the provision of basic information and adequate basic services targeting the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls in transit and host countries. This special funding window originally prioritized proposals from the following countries: Egypt, the Republic of North Macedonia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia, and Turkey. Succeeding calls under this window welcomed a wider pool of grants to address the growing challenge and inadequate response to the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Organizations working on refugee crisis related issues in other official development assistance (ODA) recipient countries were encouraged to apply through subsequent calls as part of this special funding window, which was maintained for four funding cycles until 2019. To date, the UN Trust Fund has supported 18 civil society-led projects through this special window for a combined total of USD 8.5 million across 13 countries.



The child of a gender-based violence survivor receives medical service.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- *Badabon Sangho*, in Bangladesh
- *Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI)*, in Nigeria
- *Facilitators of Community Transformation (FACT)*, in Malawi
- *For Human Development (FHD)*, in Yemen
- *Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF)*, in Iraq
- *Fundación Centro de Derechos Sociales de la Persona Migrante (CENDEROS)*, in Costa Rica
- *Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)*, in Kenya
- *Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración A.C. (IMUMI)*, in Mexico
- *Citizens Association for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and All Forms of Gender-based Violence (ATINA)*, in Serbia
- *Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA)*, in South Sudan
- *Arab Women's Organization of Jordan (AWO)*, in Jordan
- *Women for Afghan Women (WAW)*, in Afghanistan
- *Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC)*, in the State of Palestine

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

From 2016 –2023, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) implemented a special grant-making funding window (henceforth, special window) to support projects implemented by civil society organizations (CSOs) and women’s rights organizations (WROs) that aimed to prevent violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. The UN Trust Fund commissioned a **synthesis review** of lessons arising from this portfolio, which was launched in August 2023. Thirteen out of 18 projects funded through this special window were selected for the synthesis review to ensure representation of each of the countries where projects were implemented. Many of these important lessons translated into positive results in practice. This complementary report provides an overview of the key results of the special window.

In line with the UN Trust Fund’s commitment to practice-based knowledge (PBK), this study intentionally represents a wide array of results and applied an inductive approach. The synthesis review engaged with selected project-specific monitoring reports and the available external evaluations from 13 of the special window funded projects. Thematic analysis and coding were conducted of this data set for this results report, using an exploratory and grounded approach. Codes from the UN Trust Fund’s three outcome areas (prevention of violence, services, and laws and policies) were prioritized to form the basis of this results report.

Results Overview

\$8.5 million were awarded through this special window over a six-year period (2016-2022), to 18 projects across 13 countries, with 12 grantees receiving a large grant (\$150 000+) and six grantees receiving a small grant (under \$150,000). **35,324** refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls were reached directly as primary beneficiaries. The projects had numerous successes through diverse activities designed to meet the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls and address their particular risk factors to violence. Many grantees applied adaptive programming, which was critical given the challenging and fluctuating contexts that the projects operated in, and since several projects were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exploring results within and across the three UN Trust Fund outcome areas

Evidence of effectiveness in prevention of violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls: Looking across the 13 selected projects from this special window, three common strategies were applied to prevent violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls: 1) awareness raising efforts around the rights of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, including to lives free of violence; 2) community mobilization efforts to shift harmful social norms underlying violence, gender inequality, stigma and discrimination against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; and 3) training service providers and key stakeholders in VAWG prevention and response, including to support the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Three UN Trust Fund special window grantees are showcased as offering important examples of results in implementing projects that promoted the prevention of violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, and all three are discussed in more detail.

Evidence of improved access for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to multisectoral services:

Looking across the 13 selected projects from this special window, four general approaches to meet this outcome area emerged: 1) capacity building service providers to ensure they have the information, training and tools to respond to violence experienced by refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; 2) improving collaboration and referral between different stakeholders involved in service delivery; 3) providing counseling, psychosocial, and welfare support as part of comprehensive packages of services to survivors of VAWG; and 4) leveraging project experiences to make recommendations and influence system changes to improve service delivery, especially for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Four UN Trust Fund special window grantees are showcased as offering important examples of results in implementing interventions to promote and improve the access of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to safe and adequate multi-sectoral services, and all four are discussed in more detail.

Evidence of increased effectiveness of legislation and policies to address violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls:

Looking across the 13 selected projects from this special window, four strategies commonly emerged to meet this outcome area: 1) advocating for law and/or policy reforms around the rights of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; 2) capacitating duty bearers within government, police and judiciary systems to provide more inclusive responses to refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; 3) implementing accountability mechanisms of laws and policies designed to protect refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; and 4) providing legal aid and accompaniment through legal and justice systems for survivors of VAWG. Three UN Trust Fund special window grantees are showcased as offering important examples of results in implementing interventions to promote and improve the effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems, and all three are discussed in more detail.

Empowerment of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls:

Many of the projects funded through this special window had significant impacts on the empowerment of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, which falls across all three outcome areas of the UN Trust Fund. Three common strategies to empower refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls emerged across the 13 selected projects and include: 1) economic empowerment efforts of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to address this common risk factor of violence and increase financial independence and self-sufficiency; 2) equipping refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to act as activists, community facilitators, and leaders; and 3) trainings and awareness raising activities with refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to increase understanding of their rights. Three UN Trust Fund special window grantees are showcased as offering important examples of results in empowering refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, and all three are discussed in more detail.

Overall contributions of the special window

The special window supported grantees to work at multiple levels of the socio-ecological model to prevent violence and their programming showed impact at all levels. Across this multi-level work done by grantees, four cross-cutting catalyzers consistently amplified their positive results. *Participatory approaches* to engagement were a catalyst when refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls were engaged in the design, implementation and monitoring of their projects. *Meeting prioritized needs* of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls was a catalyst to support their engagement with the projects and address these key risk factors to violence. *Coordinating multiple services* was a catalyst that could help avoid re-traumatizing participants and reduce their barriers to engaging with project activities. *Adaptive programming* was a catalyst that supported projects to better meet the often fluctuating circumstances and needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATINA	Citizens Association for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and All Forms of Gender-based Violence
AWO	Arab Women Organization of Jordan
CBO	Community-based organization
CENDEROS	Fundación Centro de Derechos Sociales de la Persona Migrante
COMAR	The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CSO	Civil society organization
EWEI	Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative
FACT	Facilitators of Community Transformation
FYF	Free Yazidi Foundation
FGD	Focus group discussion
FHD	For Human Development
GBV	Gender-based violence
IDI	In-depth interview
IDP	Internally displaced person
IPV	Intimate partner violence
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
IMUMI	Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración A.C.
MEAL	Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODA	Official development assistance
PBK	Practice-based knowledge
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
RCK	Refugee Consortium of Kenya
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SIHA	Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa
UN Trust Fund	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
UNHCR	United Nations Human Rights Commission
VAW	Violence against women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
VSLAs	Village savings and loan associations
WATC	Women's Affairs Technical Committee
WAW	Women for Afghan Women
WRO	Women's rights organization

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In 2016, the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls (the UN Trust Fund) launched a special grant-making window for projects implemented by civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's rights organizations (WROs) that aim to prevent violence against women and girls who are refugees and/or forcibly displaced. The UN Trust Fund Special Window on ending violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls (henceforth the "special window") was established as part of the Trust Fund's commitment to work with the most marginalized women and girls, as this sub-group is particularly vulnerable to violence. This special window also responds to the significant needs due to the global refugee crisis, alongside insufficient funding, particularly for localized responses to violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls.

The UN Trust Fund's special window was designed to enhance protection efforts during the transit process and to increase the provision of basic information and adequate basic services targeting refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls in transit and host countries. The special window was originally launched with an eye on the Syrian refugee crisis; the world's largest ongoing refugee and displacement crisis since the conflict began in 2011.¹ The first call as part of this special window prioritized proposals from the following countries: Egypt, the Republic of North Macedonia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia, and Turkey. Succeeding calls under this window welcomed a wider pool of grants to address the growing challenges and inadequate responses to the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Organizations working on refugee crisis related issues in other official development assistance (ODA) recipient countries were encouraged to apply through subsequent calls as part of this special window. This special window was maintained for four funding cycles until 2019, with all projects funded through this window completed by 2022. **To date, the UN Trust Fund supported 18 civil society-led projects through this special window for a combined total of USD 8.5 million across 13 countries.**

With these projects at an end and the special window closing, the UN Trust Fund commissioned a first report, which was a synthesis review of lessons learned arising from this portfolio. Thirteen out of 18 projects were selected for the synthesis review to ensure representation of each of the 13 different countries where projects under this special window were implemented. The synthesis review prioritized documentation of practice-based knowledge (PBK), which centres the cumulative knowledge and learning acquired by practitioners from designing and implementing diverse programmes in different contexts. This report, a second in this series, focuses on an overview of the key results of the special window. It complements the synthesis review by highlighting the positive impacts of the same selected projects.

¹ World Vision. Syrian Refugee Crisis. Accessed at: <https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syrian-refugee-crisis-facts>

1.2 Methodology

The overall aim of this process was to provide an integrated overview of key results documented across the 13 special window grantees selected for the synthesis review. The following research questions guided the process:

1. What evidence is there of project results in the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas (primary prevention of violence; improving access to safe and adequate services; increasing effectiveness and accountability of relevant legislation and policies)?
2. What evidence is there of beneficiaries/partners reached and lives changed?
3. What is the multi-level evidence of project impact on violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls?
4. What evidence is there of projects' effectiveness around addressing wider risk and protection factors to end violence against women and girls who are refugees and/or forcibly displaced?

This study intentionally represents a wide array of results and used an inductive approach. This avoids perpetuating any hierarchy of evidence that prioritizes quantitative over qualitative data. By drawing on both grantee-led reports and external evaluations, this study also remains sensitive to how grantees themselves defined and understood the evidence of impacts across their diverse contexts.

The synthesis review engaged with selected project-specific monitoring reports and the external evaluations of the special window funded projects. Thematic analysis was conducted of this data set, applying an exploratory and grounded approach. Eight out of 13 projects are large grants and have external evaluations that were part of this review. Five of the 13 projects were small-grant projects (implemented in Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Malawi, Nigeria and Yemen), and were thus not required to have final evaluations; however their final programme summaries based on ongoing project monitoring were analysed for this results report. All final monitoring and evaluation reports were thematically analysed. Codes from the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas (prevention of violence, services, and laws and policies) formed the basis of this results report. Additional codes: empowerment of women and girls, successes and failures, and M & E, were also included for offering important insights on key project results and achievements.

The study had certain limitations:

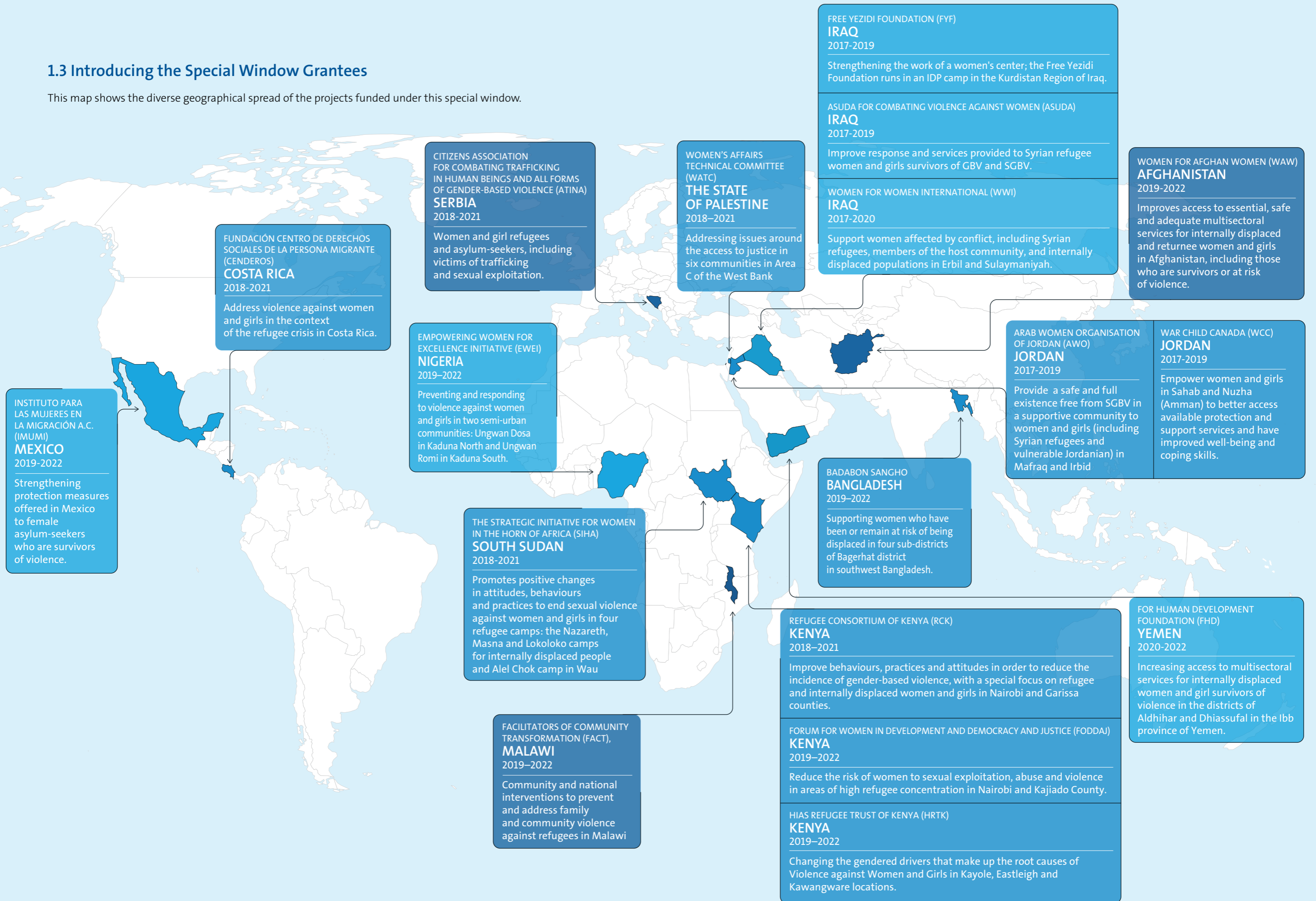
- All quantitative results reported primarily relied on grantees' self-reporting, which can be subject to social desirability bias. Moreover, none of the evaluations had a control arm, which limits the ability to determine causality of programme-related changes.
- The quality of the different external evaluations and programme summaries varied, which impacted the data being analysed.

While it is important to identify what does not work as much as what does work to prevent and address violence, this results report prioritizes a review of successes and perceived positive impacts of the special window. The complementary synthesis report has a broader focus on lessons learned, and thus includes more attention to challenges and programme limitations.

This results report is structured in three main sections. Section 2 offers a short overview of key cumulative results identified across the whole portfolio, while Section 3 shares specific examples of success from the 13 projects selected according to each of the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas, as well as an additional theme that emerged (empowerment of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls), which cuts across the outcome areas. In Section 4 a brief reflection on the contribution of this special window is offered, followed by a short conclusion.

1.3 Introducing the Special Window Grantees

This map shows the diverse geographical spread of the projects funded under this special window.



2. RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL WINDOW: A SHORT OVERVIEW

The reach and scope of the 18 projects funded through this special window is impressive.

Special Window Results box

- **\$8.5 million** awarded through the special window over a six-year period (2016-2022)
- **Eighteen projects** funded across **13 countries** (Africa, Asia, LAC, Middle East, Central Asia)
- **Twelve** grantees received a large grant (\$150 000+) **and six** received a small grant.
- **Four** projects implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic received additional COVID-19 related funds, enabling them to respond quickly to the new challenges facing violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Others received a one year, no-cost extension.
- **Seven** projects focused on the prevention of violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, **eight** projects focused on service provision and **three** projects focused on the effectiveness of legislation and policies as their primary, but not only, UN Trust Fund outcome area.
- **35,324** refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls were reached directly as primary beneficiaries and **40,572** other women and girl beneficiaries were reached directly by the special window.
- **51,339** secondary beneficiaries were reached by the special window including community members, government and justice officials, religious leaders and service providers.
- Nearly **16.3 million** beneficiaries were reached indirectly. A total of over **16.5 million** people were reached by the special window.

Thirteen out of 18 projects were selected for the synthesis review and this complementary results report. Care was taken during the selection process to ensure the final set of projects were representative of the extensive portfolio of this special funding window. Of the 13 projects, five grantees identified as WROs, two grantees identified as regional networks for WROs, and six grantees identified as CSOs or non-governmental organizations for human rights advocacy and humanitarian assistance.

2.1 The importance of addressing diverse types of violence with multiple entry points

Projects selected for this review had a diversity of objectives. These included to improve the physical and mental health of survivors of violence and their children; to prevent family and community violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; to reduce acceptance of violence against women and girls (VAWG); to strengthen protection measures for female asylum-seekers; to prevent sexual violence in refugee camps; to enhance social and economic reintegration for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; improve access to justice for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls who are survivors of or at risk of violence; and address institutional violence against migrant women and girls perpetrated or tolerated by states.

Grantees applied a diversity of programmatic strategies including legal representation, education and trainings, community activism, psycho-social support, communications such as radio programming, and institutional advocacy. Grantees also operated across a multitude of settings including refugee camps, reception and asylum centres, project safe spaces, community courtyards, courtrooms, and schools. This diversity of entry points for working with refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls was influenced by the type and mandate of organizations as well as their social context.

2.2 The importance of centring refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls in programming

Alongside the diversity seen within the portfolio, one significant common factor emerged from grantees as key for overall success. This was the intentional centring of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls within programmes:

- as primary beneficiaries
- as rights holders
- as trusted peer supporters or counsellors to other refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls
- as programme designers and implementors
- as community activists

This approach recognizes the importance of involving refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls as not merely passive recipients but active participants in the delivery of projects. This refugee and/or forcibly displaced-centred specificity that the special window enabled was itself an important success. While all projects prioritized ending violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, other marginalized women and girls were also included as primary beneficiaries, including survivors of violence, women and girls living with disabilities and from low socio-economic backgrounds, and Indigenous women. For some grantees, involving primary beneficiaries from both host and refugee communities was an important strategy to prevent backlash or resistance against programming with refugee and/or forcibly displaced populations.

2.3 The importance of adaptive programming

Adaptiveness was an important element of success underlying many projects funded through this special window, many of which were implemented in emergency and humanitarian settings. Many grantees funded through this special window had to pivot projects because of the changing nature of refugees' needs or patterns of migration due to a range of external factors from climate change to conflicts to political crises. Some grantees had to grapple with the additional challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many projects notably included more economic empowerment activities and/or delivered emergency funds during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was important given the financial vulnerabilities of many refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. These projects filled a critical gap as this sub-group had little or no access to safety nets offered by governments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ways in which these projects provided additional support to refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic helped prevent this crisis from increasing violence against this sub-group even further. Furthermore, economic empowerment activities were also useful entry points for the delivery of other services and awareness-raising activities. The innovations and rapid changes made by many of the grantees suggest that they already had significant adaptive capabilities, which is commonly required for organizations operating in such challenging and uncertain contexts. Some grantees identified how their proximity and continuous contact with beneficiaries and key stakeholders, and participatory approaches to programme design and implementation enabled their adaptive capacities. Some grantees identified how baseline research carried out as part of their initial programming helped identify challenges faced by refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls and could inform adaptations to better meet their needs. The flexible, core funding provided by the UN Trust Fund also supported such critical adaptations.



Courtesy of Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh)

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3. EXPLORING KEY RESULTS ACROSS THE THREE UN TRUST FUND FOCUS AREAS

The UN Trust Fund aligns its funding interventions under three broad outcome areas:

- improved prevention of VAWG through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes.
- improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services.
- increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems.

In this section, selected results from 13 grantees are discussed, three under prevention, four under services, and three under laws and policies. This is followed by selected results from three grantees under the umbrella of empowerment of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. This was identified as a key theme considering results of the projects funded under this special window and illustrates programming that works across the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas.

3.1 Evidence of effectiveness in prevention of violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls

Seven grantees of the overall special window prioritized prevention of violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Grantees differed in terms of the nature of organization, the type of grant, and type of violence prioritized – yet they all reached important achievements to help prevent violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls as measured by their external evaluations and/or annual monitoring reports. Grantees used different strategies when implementing violence prevention interventions. Looking across the 13 selected projects from this special window, three strategies were commonly applied to prevent violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls: 1) awareness raising efforts around the rights of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls including to lives free of violence; 2) community mobilization efforts to shift harmful social norms underlying violence, gender inequality, stigma and discrimination against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; and 3) training service providers and key stakeholders in VAWG prevention and response, including to support the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls.

Three UN Trust Fund grantees offer particularly strong examples of successes in implementing projects that promoted the prevention of violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA)'s project in South Sudan aimed to promote the rights of women and girls to live free of violence and shift harmful attitudes, behaviours, and practices underlying sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) amongst internally displaced communities and in Wau Town. Badabon Sangho's small-grant project in Bangladesh aimed to reduce the rates of land grabs and related violence against women and girls. Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)'s project in Kenya was designed to prevent VAWG in Garissa township and Nairobi through enhancing community-based support for VAWG survivors, improving reporting and convicting rates of VAWG cases and strengthening coping mechanisms for women and girls, prioritizing refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.

3.1.1 SIHA: Shifting norms and attitudes underlying SGBV in South Sudan

One of SIHA's key project activities was a school curriculum delivered separately to boys and girls across five secondary schools. The curriculum aimed to teach children about the root causes of sexual violence, strategies to prevent and respond to sexual violence, and enhance awareness of their rights. Boys and girls school clubs established by the project, and facilitated by mentors, offered regular awareness-raising activities, and critically supporting student's ongoing learning. SIHA's project was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted the opening of schools. The project thus pivoted to prioritize out-of-school activities, including radio programmes and community-wide outreach activities through a coordinated Hag ta Mara (Women's Rights) campaign to raise awareness of the rights for women and girls to live free of violence. Advocacy activities in schools and communities were led primarily by women activists, who also acted as mentors for the school clubs. SIHA supported these women activists with trainings on prevention of SGBV, advocacy and theatre for change, as well as business skills and financial literacy. The women activists in turn reached multiple stakeholders, including religious and cultural leaders, through advocacy events and discussions.

All heads of schools that participated in the curriculum reported that boys and girls increasingly knew about their rights as students and their gender rights. Qualitative interviews with key project stakeholders, including school heads, identified a reduction in violence against students in participating schools, which they attributed to SIHA's intervention. The endline evaluation used the Gender Equitable Men (GEM) scale to assess changes among participating female and male students including their perceptions of gender norms and equity, violence, school norms and reporting of SGBV. Overall, both male and female students had significantly higher scores on this scale at endline compared to the baseline survey.

The evaluation of SIHA's project identified increased awareness of SGBV at endline across all beneficiaries, and not only among students. Several beneficiaries described how the project discussions on VAWG challenged their attitudes condoning violence against women, including early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence. Positive changes were found regarding gender equitable norms including improved attitudes towards men and women having equal decision-making power in the household. At baseline, teachers and administrators in schools demonstrated poor awareness around gender issues, including around property inheritance and ownership, whereas the final evaluation demonstrated increased awareness of such elements among this target group. Such changes were attributed to the awareness and sensitization sessions organized by women's groups, male mentors, teachers, student clubs and community leaders.

The endline evaluation found that SIHA's project generated changes among the women leaders themselves, who reported greater awareness about VAWG and more confidence in their roles to intervene in violence. The engaged women leaders also reported increased control and decision-making in their personal lives. The strategy of engaging young men as male mentors also proved to be a successful engagement strategy and through the endline evaluation, **many young men identified the importance of male engagement to end VAWG and promote women's rights.**

The final evaluation of SIHA's project suggested an increase in the proportion of survivors who are willing to identify SGBV as a crime and take cases through the formal justice system. Indeed, project monitoring suggested that more reports of SGBV were reported at schools, with male and female mentors helping to establish referral pathways for SGBV. The external evaluation suggests that the increased willingness of students to challenge VAWG and seek out services and justice were important indicators of change. Secondary beneficiaries also reported more willingness to openly discuss and challenge norms, attitudes and practices contributing to SGBV. A diversity of engaged beneficiaries including teachers and school administrators reported greater awareness of how to respond to violence; medical, legal, and psychosocial services available; and how to support and refer survivors.

An important element underlying the impact of this project was its adaptability to meet the needs of engaged participants. Although the focus of the project was to change harmful social norms and attitudes around SGBV, the dire economic circumstances of women and girls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic hindered their active project participation. SIHA's project monitoring of participants' engagement informed their decision to pivot to include economic empowerment activities. Community-Based Trainers (CBTs) were trained on how to support the establishment and operation of community-based savings and loan associations. These CBTs were then supported to work with 10 women's savings groups, and many women were able to use the funds from these savings groups for income generation. The women's groups were also paid to produce sanitary pads that were then distributed to young women, to help maintain their participation with the project activities. These economic empowerment efforts were well received for assisting women and girls through difficult times. Importantly, they supported the participation of women and girls with the project when they might not otherwise have been able to continue. Given the importance of regular and intensive engagement to change social norms and attitudes underlying violence and gender inequality, this adaptation was critical to the success of the project. Indeed, SIHA's project was effective at offering multiple opportunities for diffusing content to shift attitudes and norms, as noted in the final evaluation:

The variety of activities and the use of multiple entry-points for sensitization and awareness activities have had a steady impact on the community toward the aims of challenging norms and practices that enable SGBV.



Girls mentorship and advocacy workshop.

3.1.2. Badabon Sangho: Preventing violence and land grabs against women and girls in Bangladesh

Badabon Sangho is a WRO that draws attention to women's equal rights to land and waterbodies, regardless of their social class, ethnicity, or religion. Their UN Trust Funded project aimed to reduce land grabs and violence against women and girls simultaneously. In the first year of implementation, Badabon Sangho conducted a household survey to ensure the inclusion of women affected or vulnerable to land displacement and suffering from landownership conflicts and dispute. The project then formed 60 women's groups comprising 2331 women. Mobilizing and organizing women and girls in groups continued through 84 weekly or monthly courtyard sessions. Through group-based discussions, the project educated women and girls, including survivors of violence and internally displaced women, about land ownership (including how to collect a land transfer and documents needed), and how to report related violence. Badabon Sangho offered direct assistance to women to access legal aid, obtain land succession certificates, and file charges at different stages of land administration. The project trained parishads, land offices, and police stations to be more responsive and assist women who had experienced violence related to land disputes. Women leaders were also trained around how to report VAWG cases and support survivors. Through engaging a diversity of key stakeholders, Badabon Sangho's project helped establish more systematic communication between women leaders and union councils, police stations, land offices, and legal aid committees.

As a result of the project's awareness raising sessions, women and girls reported greater knowledge of land ownership and increased confidence to respond to pressure from land brokers or officials to sell their land. Although there was no external evaluation for this small-grant project, the project monitoring suggests that women and girls had greater understanding of the importance of key landownership documents including succession certificates to claim inherited family property after their father's death. An increasing number of women and girls felt safer to report violence, including the common phenomenon of land grabs. Badabon Sangho's monitoring tracked a total of 113 VAWG cases that were reported to the project; all women received legal counseling, and 29 women received assistance from lawyers and legal aid committee members. The project directly supported 22 women landowners to protect their land from being grabbed by private corporations. Moreover, with help from the project, 35 women and girls received inheritance succession certificates from union councils. By facilitating union councils to register for and issue correct inheritance certificates, Badabon Sangho's project further reduced the rates of landownership conflict and violence.

A key factor underlying the success of this project was engaging and equipping women leaders to act as agents of change. In building women's leadership capacities, the project supported more women leaders to participate in community-wide consultations to prevent VAWG and to advocate for gender-sensitive COVID-19 response and recovery plans. Some women leaders became part of a women's rights and land rights network to address VAWG through advocating for improved violence response services. This network played a critical role in linking vulnerable women with public and private relief including food and emergency support offered during the COVID-19 pandemic. A programme summary of the project identified how this crucial element also empowered women leaders to improve their status within their communities:

Project activities needed to encourage, empower, and inform women in the community. The project, for this reason, worked closely with women community leaders. Collaboration with community leaders enabled the organization to help women and girls claim their rights to the land they owned and supported those who suffered from displacement-induced physical and mental violence. In return, participation in a community-based feminist movement enabled women to improve their status within their communities. To this end, structured discussions with women on their rights enabled women leaders to challenge injustice.

3.1.3 RCK: Community-wide approach to prevent violence against refugee and asylum seekers in Kenya

A key strategy of RCK's project was to offer counselling and psychosocial support to survivors of violence, to help rebuild their self-esteem, support them to process traumatic experiences, and develop healthier coping mechanisms. The project's theory of change suggested that in doing so, the re-occurrence of violence could be prevented. RCK's community-based counsellors, some of whom were refugees themselves, offered psychotherapy to 592 survivors of violence (438 women and 154 girls). Findings from the final evaluation focus group discussions suggest that these efforts improved survivors' capacities to cope with trauma and build their resilience, re-integration, and self-esteem. Notably, the external evaluation reported an improvement in all indicators for coping mechanisms and, on average, psychotherapy participants had a measure of 94% in terms of their perceptions of self-worth and resilience. The project's psychological support also importantly increased the confidence of survivors of SGBV to seek justice. RCK counsellors offered pre-trial counselling that helped prepare survivors for the typically extensive and emotionally draining court process. Community-based counsellors monitored survivors' progress including cases reported to police stations, conducted home visits to survivors, and made referrals, all of which further advanced survivors' access to justice.

Another key strategy of RCK's project was to offer trainings to female migrants and survivors of violence on laws and policies related to VAWG, how to report cases of VAWG, and how to preserve evidence. As a result of these trainings, more women indicated awareness of where they could access services and psychosocial support, and their rights to report abuse. For instance, between the project start and end, there was a 23% improvement in Nairobi and 13% improvement in Garissa among beneficiaries that agreed that survivors of VAWG have rights under the law if assaulted by someone they knew or lived with. The trainings also had an impact on women's attitudes towards SGBV. For instance, in Nairobi, there was a 43% improvement in the percentage of women who disagreed that a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.

RCK also conducted trainings with judiciary officials, law enforcement, NGO and CSO staff, probation officers and health professionals on VAWG and the role of institutions to prevent and respond to such violence. Health professionals were provided with knowledge and skills to address the immediate physical, emotional, and psychological health needs of women and girl survivors of SGBV. The external evaluation reported that these trainings improved participants' knowledge on prosecution and evidence gathering of VAWG cases, with an 18% increase in the self-reported learning curve in this domain. RCK identified changes in how police officers interact with survivors including escorting survivors to medical facilities after cases were reported and referring survivors to RCK for legal and psychosocial support. Women refugees provided triangulation to this finding as they reported increased access and efficiency of service provision by police, health professionals, court officials and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The trainings helped build a strong working relationship and referral pathway between duty bearers, supporting survivors to receive services in a timely manner. For instance, the judiciary started giving VAWG cases priority in allocating court hearing dates. This meant that approximately 45% of VAWG cases dealt with during an annual reporting year for RCK concluded within a period of less than six months. **RCK's community-wide approach was a key factor underlying the success of their project, which helped provide a more enabling environment for vulnerable refugee women and girls.** As the external evaluation noted:

The project acknowledged that the host community is a multidimensional concept, and therefore reached out to different stakeholders bringing together civil societies, local governments, different sectoral communities, religious institutions, and the private sector. Experience has shown that for successful integration to occur, host communities need to improve the provision of public services to the migrants.

Another key element of success underlying RCK's project was pivoting to meet the pressing needs of target participants. RCK found that the vulnerability of participants was so dire that they first had to address basic needs, such as food and rent, before women could effectively participate in the project activities. Women and girls were trained in entrepreneurship skills, including how to develop a business plan and trajectories, and basic business and savings skills. These trainings were complemented by booster grants, as well as ongoing mentorship and technical support from RCK. The external evaluation found that 76% of training participants indicated that they were able to develop new business ideas, and 71% of participants indicated that they were able to write a business plan. In addition, 78% of the respondents indicated that they were aware of where to get money to start a new business. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, RCK also provided social assistance to 42 (38 in Nairobi and 4 in Garissa) vulnerable refugee women and girls who had been adversely affected by the effects of COVID-19. These economic empowerment activities proved to be an important VAWG prevention strategy, as beneficiaries reported greater self-esteem and where applicable, less reliance on their spouses for financial support. Focus group discussions with the female refugees revealed appreciation for the livelihoods training for developing their knowledge and skills and identified how the accompanying grants helped cushion them against the effects of COVID-19 by supporting them to obtain necessities, including shelter and food for their families.

3.2 Evidence of improved access for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to multi-sectoral services

Eight grantees out of the entire special window prioritized improving the access of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multisectoral services. Grantees differed in terms of how their interventions aimed to improve service provision, but across the 13 selected projects from this special window, four general approaches to meet this outcome area emerged: 1) capacity building service providers to ensure they have the information, training and tools to respond to violence experienced by refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; 2) improving collaboration and referral between different stakeholders involved in service delivery; 3) providing counselling, psychosocial, and welfare support as part of comprehensive packages of services to survivors of VAWG; and 4) leveraging project experiences to make recommendations and influence system changes to improve service delivery, especially for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls.

Four UN Trust Fund Special Window grantees offer important examples of successes in implementing interventions to improve access to safe and adequate multi-sectoral services for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. One of the primary objectives of Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC)'s project across several governorates in Palestine was to enhance responses by service providers, including at the Sharia courts, to survivors of VAWG, with a focus on responses to refugee and internally displaced women and girls. Women for Afghan Women (WAW)'s project in Afghanistan aimed to improve the access of vulnerable populations and survivors of violence to multi-sectoral services in the context of forced displacement and refugee returnee crisis in the provinces of Balkh, Faryab, and Kunduz. Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF)'s project in Iraq offered both group and individual therapy among residents of the Khanki Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp to support trauma stabilization and processing for Yezidi women who had experienced sexual violence and displacement. Arab Women Organization of Jordan (AWO)'s project in Irbid and Mafrq governorates of Jordan established safe spaces offering psycho-social and legal services to Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women and girls.

3.2.1 WATC: Enhancing justice providers' responses to survivors of VAWG in Palestine

One of the key strategies of WATC's project in Palestine was to build the capacities of judges in the Sharia courts to improve responses to survivors of VAWG. The Sharia courts are where family disputes, including VAWG, are handled, yet they often neglect international frameworks to address the rights of women and girls, specifically regulations addressing violence. This can weaken women's accessibility to justice as judges will regularly rely on religious and political motivations for adjudicating cases of violence without due regard to human rights. WATC offered trainings to Sharia judges, as well as police and female informal justice actors, to complement their knowledge from a human rights perspective and provide them with information and skills to respond more appropriately to VAWG cases, including amongst refugee and internally displaced women and girls.

WATC established guidelines that synthesized principles and recommendations across the different legal and justice stages. The guidelines were intended to strengthen the provision of justice for VAWG cases among key formal and informal justice actors, change negative attitudes and promote gender equitable and local justice norms. The procedural guidelines offered insights around whether justice interventions are fair and in accordance with appropriate international standards. These guidelines were identified by WATC staff as a key success of the project.

As a result of WATC's trainings and accompanying guidelines, Sharia court representatives improved their understanding of the rights of VAWG survivors in justice proceedings. This in turn generated positive achievements on the entire Sharia court system. The endline evaluation suggested that WATC's project increased the capacities of police and female informal justice actors to provide gender-sensitive and rights-based support to women and girl survivors of VAWG. A critical factor underlying the success and impacts of these trainings was that WATC assessed knowledge of the Sharia judges, police and informal female justice actors through a needs' assessment and tailored the trainings accordingly. The information derived from the needs assessment allowed the trainings and guidelines to prioritize the most urgent problems that women face when receiving services from the Sharia courts.

Another important impact of the project was strengthened partnerships between survivors of VAWG and multi-sectoral formal and informal actors, which equipped survivors' access to justice and more gender-sensitive responses. WATC's project emphasized building women's networks to bring together female justice providers and women wanting to access the justice system. Project monitoring suggests that these women's networks helped to increase the trust and willingness of women to report VAWG and increased their awareness of where they could seek representation, accompaniment, counselling, information and/or specific support.



Meeting of informal network.

3.2.2. WAW: Increasing access to basic humanitarian services for vulnerable women and girls in Afghanistan

WAW's project in Afghanistan aimed to raise awareness about VAWG among vulnerable community members and encourage individuals within these communities to seek appropriate services. WAW's project provided physical and mental health services to survivors of violence by connecting women and girls to their established Women's Protection Centers (women's shelters), which offer psycho-social, medical and/or legal support, trainings around women's rights, and life skills trainings. Under Taliban rule however, the women's shelters were forced to shut down and the project then focused on its outreach work, providing the same services through project mobile teams (PMTs). Each of these mobile teams were staffed with a psychologist, medical doctor, social worker, case worker, outreach trainer, and vocational trainer. Through such efforts, the project supported 1,294 survivors of violence in displaced and returnee communities with valuable legal counseling, psychotherapy, and medical services. The external evaluation suggested that the PMTs enhanced the successful implementation of activities and played a vital role in reaching hard-to-reach communities, which was extremely challenging given the insecurities in the project locations.

Throughout the duration of the project, WAW critically enrolled 324 survivors of violence in life skills trainings. WAW's project also offered supplies (i.e. sewing machines and tables) that helped vulnerable women and girls start their own businesses. The endline evaluation suggested that this livelihood support greatly aided women to better meet basic needs of their families. Quantitative data collected through the endline evaluation found that 18% of those who received life skills trainings reported that they had started operating businesses. The evaluation also indicated that there was more than 25% change in net income of the women and girl participants of the livelihood programmes. WAW supported families through their Family Guidance Centers, which help children of survivors of violence enroll in school and receive educational materials. WAW's project also distributed sanitary items and provided medical services to vulnerable community members. **Displaced women and survivors of VAWG in the three provinces where the project was implemented strongly appreciated WAW's legal, psycho-social, medical, and economic empowerment services.** Indeed, 90% of interviewed respondents reported that they were satisfied with the project services and support.

WAW's project intentionally reached the most vulnerable communities through selecting project locations with a high number of IDPs and refugee returnees and high prevalence of VAWG. The endline evaluation noted that the project did well to target the most deprived community members who were most in need of such basic humanitarian services provided by the project. To support an enabling project environment, WAW's project also offered outreach activities and trainings on women and children's rights and ending VAWG with community development Councils (CDCs), and community leaders in every community where the project operated.

Another factor underlying the success of WAW's project was to raise awareness and encourage women and girls to seek services, through providing outreach activities and trainings on women and children's rights and ending VAWG, including IPV and child marriage. The endline evaluation suggested that these trainings helped women to know their rights and raised their understanding of VAWG, which increased their willingness to seek available services, including those offered by WAW's project. Based on the final evaluation, 100% of family beneficiaries reported that they learned where to seek assistance if they face VAWG risks and 98% of the respondents reported that the project increased the willingness of women and girls to seek services and support.

3.2.3. FYF: Providing psycho-social support services in Iraq

One of the key activities offered by FYF's project in Iraq was psycho-trauma therapies for Yazidi survivors including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, intended to help process and alleviate distressing systems associated with traumatic experiences. FYF critically trained and supervised 30 Yazidi women to act as lay counsellors and deliver these therapies at a designated project centre, which was identified by many project participants as a safe space. These lay counsellors received ongoing weekly supervision in small groups and importantly facilitated community activities to raise awareness of the therapy services offered by FYF's project.

The endline evaluation suggested that the trauma therapy had a positive impact on survivors' mental health by decreasing trauma-related symptoms and increasing psychological well-being. The project evaluation, using clinical measurements, demonstrated a greater decrease in trauma-related symptoms for EMDR therapy than talking therapy alone. An important impact of the trainings was survivors' understanding that their psychological problems were the consequence of experienced violence and displacement. Families and communities also benefitted, as many survivors who received therapy reported sharing exercises learned with their family members, neighbors, and friends. A key factor underlying the success of this project was the accurate assessment of the mental health needs of the beneficiaries at intake.

Qualitative evaluation results suggested participants were very satisfied with the services and identified the value of having professional support and the opportunity to openly share difficulties after experiencing violence and displacement. Many women reported the value of learning soothing and relaxation exercises, and practising them when needed (i.e. to manage stress, anxiety and physical symptoms of trauma). Beneficiaries reported that the therapies helped reduce their use of physical punishment against their children, develop interpersonal skills, and diminish their sense of worry, sadness, and aggression. Many participants reported that due to the therapy provided, they felt more empowered and self-confident, and that their relationships with their children had improved. The group therapy sessions were highly appreciated and found to increase the sense of social connectedness among most beneficiaries. However, the evaluation suggested that more availability of individual sessions would allow for addressing issues that are difficult to discuss in groups.

Underlying the success of this project, women and girls could access trauma and mental health services with minimal financial or administrative burdens. Services were delivered in a way that considered the language needs of users including via translators. However, one important barrier to women engaging with the therapy that was not addressed through the project was accessing material and financial help. According to project staff, some women did not join or return to the sessions since no livelihood support was provided. Nonetheless, FYF's weekly community sensitization visits, raised awareness of services and helped to de-stigmatize coming forward for mental health support.

The project sensitization activities also generated changes among residents in the Khanki IDP camp. A community endline survey indicated a positive shift in the perception of mental disorders and the usefulness of psychological therapy as community members became more aware of the psychological impact of collective trauma. More than half of the respondents to the project's endline community survey were aware of FYF's project, indicating widespread diffusion.

Another key factor underlying the success of this project was FYF's investment in capacity-building Yezidi lay counsellors, ensuring sustainable and accessible services in the Khanki IDP camp. As noted in FYF's final annual report:

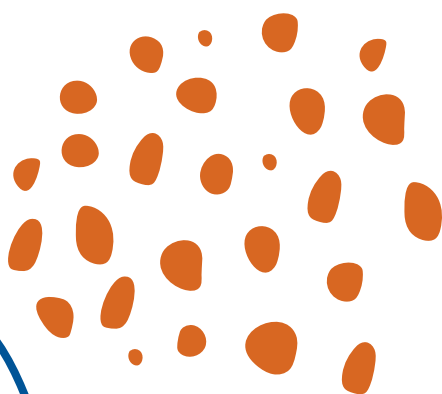
The greatest step in improving access and service delivery during this time was building capacity within the Yezidi community by training 30 Yezidi women. We now have a highly skilled and well experienced group of psycho-social support workers from within the IDP community, ready and eager to engage in further projects.

According to project staff and other stakeholders in the final evaluation, FYF's therapy services contributed to ending violence against women by treating trauma, which helped to reduce the impact of inter-generational violence against children. Although this could not be demonstrated through the evaluation, the theory is that FYF's services contributed to preventing the interpersonal and transgenerational transmission of trauma and stress related to displacement and violence.

3.2.4 AWO: Centres offering VAWG response and prevention services in Jordan

One of AWO's key activities was the establishment of two centres in Jordan (one in Irbid and one in Mafraq governorates to cover both project locations), which provided a range of services including cash assistance, psycho-social group or individual counselling, vocational and skills training. The centres primarily targeted Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women and girls. Through the project centres, AWO provided case management for violence, legal counselling, and referrals to services as needed. AWO's monitoring and case files show that women who suffered from violence and abuse were either referred to protection shelters, therapy and rehabilitation services or received services from the safe spaces, which helped to prevent ongoing violence against women. AWO also offered legal consultations and assistance designed to respond to the needs of the beneficiaries. This included consultations related to marriage and birth registration, early marriage, violence, and divorce.

The endline evaluation suggested that beneficiaries were very satisfied with the type and quality of services provided by the centres, and that they were compatible with their needs. 90% of the women surveyed (1499) reported being highly satisfied with the services provided. Beneficiaries emphasized the efficiency of the staff at the centres in terms of providing quality and confidential services, delivering supportive and regular communication. Through the focus groups, many women stated that the staff were skilled and trustworthy, and treated them with respect whereby they did not feel discriminated, including as older participants or as Syrians. The external evaluation identified that AWO's intensive staff training and ongoing supervision helped guarantee the quality of services provided.



AWO's services contributed to participants' socio-economic empowerment, as identified through the endline evaluation focus group discussions. Participations of the vocational trainings reported increased self-reliance and many women stated that they generated income because of the vocational trainings. AWO centres became a platform for beneficiaries' start-ups where many participants started their own business due to the skills gained through these trainings. Some women reported how AWO's socio-economic empowerment activities generated interpersonal changes, including that they became more assertive in their intimate relationships and that their relationships with their children improved.

A key factor underlying the impact of this project is that AWO provided a range of essential services in the same centre. This was found to encourage women to come to the centres and saved them time and money to access basic services. AWO also critically provided public transportation for beneficiaries to attend the centres. This helped women feel safe from facing any risk or danger on the way to the centres, such as harassment. **The external evaluation noted that a major lesson learned through this project was the importance of working simultaneously with both refugees and host communities.** In the context of an influx of Syrian refugees, providing a multitude of services at a safe and sheltered space that was accessible to all survivors of SGBV was essential.

AWO importantly conducted mobilization activities and household visits to raise awareness of women's rights, VAWG and the available services offered through the project. These efforts were designed to encourage survivors to access the services and to provide a more enabling environment for survivors of VAWG. Many beneficiaries of the centres also started to raise awareness with different groups from their communities. These awareness raising activities increased understanding of VAWG among survivors and other community members. For instance, evaluation focus groups conducted with young men suggests that they had greater knowledge about SGBV, women's rights, and the risks of early marriage. They also reported more flexible attitudes towards gender roles and more responsibility to participate in initiatives promoting women's rights.



Courtesy of the Arab Women's Organization (AWO)

© Arab Women's Organization (Jordan)

3.3 Evidence of increased effectiveness of legislation and policies to address violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls

Three grantees prioritized increasing the effectiveness of legislation and policies to address violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Grantees differed in terms of the nature of organization, the type of grant, and approaches used – yet all demonstrated some success in increasing the effectiveness of the legal and policy environment for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Looking across the 13 selected projects from this special window, four strategies commonly emerged to meet this outcome area: 1) advocating for law and/or policy reforms to ensure the rights of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; 2) capacitating duty bearers within government, police and judiciary systems to provide more inclusive responses to refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; 3) implementing accountability mechanisms of laws and policies designed to protect refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls; and 4) providing legal aid to refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to know their rights and access accompaniment through legal and justice systems.

Three UN Trust Fund Special Window grantees provide good examples of success in implementing interventions to improve the effectiveness of legal and policy systems for ending VAWG. Facilitators of Community Transformation (FACT)'s small-grant project in Malawi aimed to reduce SGBV targeted at women and girl refugees within Lilongwe, Dowa, and Mwanza districts and at the Dowa refugee camp by improving the implementation of laws and policies designed to protect refugees. Fundación Centro de Derechos Sociales de la Persona Migrante (CENDERO)'s small-grant project was implemented in the border canton of Upala in the Alajuela province of Costa Rica, which borders Nicaragua and is a site of significant transit of people from northern Central American countries. CENDERO's project trained immigration, judiciary, and public force officials on VAWG to apply regulations more effectively in the context of forced migration. Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración A.C. (IMUMI)'s project in Mexico aimed to find solutions in legal and government sectors to improve migrant women's access to public protection.

3.3.1 FACT: Enhancing implementation of laws and policies designed to protect refugee women and girls in Malawi

FACT's small-grant project in Malawi aimed to improve access to justice by bridging the gap between existing laws and policies to address SGBV and their effective implementation within the Dowa refugee camp and host communities. FACT initiated an assessment to ascertain the magnitude of policy and legal barriers to address SGBV among 120 women and girl refugees and people living with disabilities. This assessment helped to identify how certain laws and policies limit refugees from enjoying economic, sexual, and reproductive health rights. Outcomes of this exercise were used as preliminary evidence for policy dialogue and discussions with members of parliament, lawmakers, CSOs and WROs. FACT also generated policy briefs, which were submitted as petitions in parliament, to demand policies to better protect women's rights and reduce SGBV faced by women and girl refugees.

As a result of FACT's dialogues and petitions, members of the parliament become more aware of SGBV in the refugee camp and the government implemented stiffer penalties that were passed into law, whereby perpetrators of SGBV can face upwards of 14 years in prison. Changes were identified among stakeholders and members of the parliament regarding their roles and responsibilities to address SGBV within the refugee camp, including speaking out publicly against SGBV, and emphasizing the need for effective implementation of laws and policies affecting women and girls living in the camp.

A key strategy underlying the impact of this project was the establishment of community action groups. FACT trained 5 community action groups within the refugee camp on community activism and tracking progress towards the implementation of agreed laws and policies on ending violence against refugees. The engagement of these groups ensured wide sensitization on the rights of women and girls, including through FACT's monthly "know your rights" community campaign, which aimed to change perceptions of the host communities and within the refugee camp on ending violence, xenophobic attacks and SGBV. These opportunities for activism engaged female refugees, women's rights campaigners, and community IDP ambassadors to build momentum around implementing laws and policies that promote the rights of refugees. These community mobilization efforts increased awareness and changed perceptions among women and girl refugees. For instance, project monitoring suggests that 80% of women and girl refugees in the camp learned of their rights. These awareness raising activities were also found to strengthen understanding of VAWG among key actors including local community gatekeepers, women's groups in the refugee camp and service providers. Community action groups also monitored challenges or violations for implementing policies in the camp to relevant authorities including the police, which served as an important accountability mechanism.

FACT's project positively impacted access to services and justice for survivors of SGBV in the Dowa refugee camp. FACT established critical partnerships with the Women Judges Association of Malawi, Women Lawyers Association of Malawi and Gender and Justice Unit. These partnerships helped bring mobile courts within the refugee camp, making it easier for survivors in the camp to access and helping to expedite court processes. Approximately 25 cases of violence were identified and attended to in the mobile court, which in turn sent powerful messages condoning such violence in the Dowa refugee camp. A hotline service was also established to improve case reporting and tracking within the refugee camp. Although there was no endline evaluation due to FACT being a small-grant project, FACT's project monitoring recorded an increase in cases of violence being reported through this service, and that hotline cases were referred for necessary case management following UNHCR protocols in refugee camps. With the support of community outreach assistants, FACT's project importantly followed up with women and girls regarding progress on issues reported through the hotline service.



FACT hotline launch.

3.3.2 CENDEROS: Improving safety and access to justice for migrant women in Costa Rica

CENDEROS's small-grant project aimed to improve the safety and access to justice for migrant women who were survivors of violence and seeking refuge in Costa Rica. A key strategy of CENDEROS's project was to increase understanding of public servants about the realities of migrant women, including their vulnerability to VAWG. CENDEROS established a partnership with the Refugee Unit of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners to train its officials on the links between gender, forced migration and violence. CENDEROS also offered trainings with community leaders and staff from seven public institutions to raise awareness of the rights and vulnerabilities of women refugees to violence perpetrated by male partners and other refugees. Training participants gained awareness of the realities of migration and violence, under reporting of violence, difficulties in early detection of violence, and identification of gaps in care for survivors of violence. To improve community awareness and foster a more welcoming environment for migrant and displaced women, CENDEROS launched an awareness raising campaign 'Isolation without violence' through social media, community WhatsApp groups, and weekly community radio broadcasts. The radio programmes were produced and hosted by female promotoras trained as part of the project.

Another effective strategy applied by CENDEROS was to document institutional gaps by identifying issues migrant women face, legal and policy level gaps, and shortcomings in the application of the laws. Such monitoring was then used by CENDEROS for political advocacy to improve institutional responses to displaced women. Screening processes were implemented with two of the seven public institutions trained by CENDEROS to detect any violence suffered by migrant women. CENDEROS importantly presented research highlighting how forced displacement increases vulnerabilities and critical points of protection to the National Commission for the Improvement of the Administration of Justice, a public entity that coordinates efforts among different institutions of the justice sector. CENDEROS, alongside allied organizations, also filed complaints of maladministration and human rights abuses with national authorities and with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. As a result, the Ombudsman's Office issued guidelines for the Ministry of Justice, which was identified by CENDEROS as a critical tool for protecting the rights of women refugees.

CENDEROS's project established strategic alliances with key institutions including the domestic violence court, the general directorate of migration and foreigners, and police forces, which generated significant improvements in women refugees' access to justice. A key project achievement was an agreement established with the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) to raise awareness of CENDEROS services in all medical units and another agreement with the National Commission for the Improvement of the Administration of Justice to improve the response of the judiciary to better meet the needs of survivors of violence. Another key project achievement was a model of action created jointly by a judge specialized in domestic violence of the Mixed Court of Upala, CENDEROS and community leaders, which sped up immediate responses to cases of women at risk of femicide. Such strategic alliances helped ensure more coordinated and timely responses to better meet the needs of survivors of violence.

The perceived impacts of CENDEROS's efforts on institutions were triangulated with migrant women and survivors of violence themselves, who reported improved safety, access to justice and psychological care because of this project. Although this small-grant project did not have an external evaluation, as part of the project's monitoring, interviews and questionnaires were applied to 20 female project beneficiaries purposefully recruited for a representative sample. The endline results show an improvement in their perception of security, treatment, and timely approach received by institutions (51.3% of the target group), and improvements in their perceptions of security and community support (81% of the target group).

CENDEROS's project also offered a range of services designed to improve the lived realities for refugee women and survivors of violence. This included offering group-based psychological support and referral to shelters as needed. The project offered direct assistance to women to file complaints, and 42 women reached legal status as refugee claimants with the help of CENDEROS's project. Telephone helplines were set up to inform women about violence prevention services. A total of 276 women in forced displacement and at risk of or in situations of violence were assisted by the project. Additionally, 108 migrant and refugee women participated in coffee afternoons that provided safe and communal spaces for women, facilitated by female promotoras.

CENDEROS identified the importance of displaced women who participate in the project to be empowered to be advocates and support other women. Indeed, a factor underlying the success of this project is that CENDEROS supported and trained 64 female beneficiaries to become community promotoras to lead peer dialogue sessions, disseminate knowledge about VAWG and women's rights, support complaints processes, and refer VAWG cases to CENDEROS and other agencies. The *promotoras* were importantly given freedom to help develop community activities, which included reflection activities of a mural painting with youth and a creative writing activity resulting in the publication of a collection of short stories. *Promotoras* received community recognition for their involvement and the fact that many of them were survivors of violence generated trust among women who had lived through similar situations. In addition, 54 young people were trained as leaders and created a youth network for the prevention of violence. The thorough integration of a participatory and community-based approach helped the project achieve its overall objectives.



Active listening activity in meeting with civil servants

3.3.3 IMUMI: Influencing legal systems to protect migrant women in Mexico

IMUMI's project in Mexico offered legal representation, education, and psycho-social counselling to migrant women survivors of VAWG. IMUMI helped women locate housing and supported shelters and safe houses to increase the possibilities of women's integration and protection throughout their migration processes. IMUMI delivered workshops in shelters across different states, which contributed to more women knowing their rights, including to request asylum in Mexico. As a result of legal representation provided by IMUMI's project, a considerable number of families were kept together through re-opening cases, reuniting women with their children and/or partners, and preventing family separation. IMUMI also helped women prepare applications for asylum and visits for humanitarian reasons and importantly accompanied women to make such applications. As a result of IMUMI's project, about one third of cases obtained a positive resolution whereby asylum women obtained an identity document that allowed them to legally stay in Mexico. These positive resolutions were found to further increase migrant women's perceptions of personal security and emotional well-being.

IMUMI's psycho-legal methodology for women asylum seekers was a key approach underlying the success of this project. This methodology was previously used on a case-by-case basis for IMUMI, but since the implementation of this project, has become institutionalized practice for the organization. The psycho-legal methodology consists in the participation of a psychologist alongside a lawyer for an initial intake interview. This strategy helped women obtain immigration documentation through legal representation, equipped women with tools for their cases, while also detecting and responding to any need for psychological care during all stages of the legal process. The psycho-legal approach helped make progress on cases for particularly marginalized groups who had struggled with their asylum applications, including transgender people. This approach was relevant as IMUMI's services users frequently presented symptoms associated with anxiety, depression, acute or severe stress. This methodology also meant decisions about the care route were made in a coordinated manner, preventing women from having to repeat answers to similar questions and reducing re-victimization. The psychological care was particularly important for women to receive due to the mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, from increased working hours, increased risk in VAWG, higher levels of unemployment and anxiety.

IMUMI's project aimed to influence and improve legal systems designed to protect migrant women from SGBV. A key strategy IMUMI used to do so was to draw on their experiences delivering legal services to hundreds of clients to generate evidence about laws and procedures that need to be changed to better ensure migrant women's access to protection. IMUMI developed guidelines synthesizing best practice from their experiences and allied organizations legally representing migrants. The guidelines were based on research conducted on the various types of violence commonly faced by women in origin and transit through Mexico, including institutional violence. IMUMI reviewed nearly 1,000 positive refugee status resolutions in women's cases and used extracts from the resolutions to demonstrate to public servants how to incorporate a gender perspective into refugee status determination processes. The guidelines offered policy recommendations taking into account Mexican regulations and international standards, including the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence. IMUMI's guidelines were an influential advocacy tool with decision-makers, including the national agency for migrants, and helped to improve asylum procedures by identifying gender violence in refugee status determination processes. These guidelines were identified by IMUMI as a major project success and helped garner attention and invitations for IMUMI to share their work at national and international convenings.

IMUMI maintained consistent and tailored communication with government sectors through offering trainings and convening regular meetings, and strategic litigation. The external evaluation suggested that these efforts led to an increase in recognizing VAWG among migrant women as a public policy concern for authorities. Decision-makers, organizations and journalists who participated in IMUMI's trainings and regular meetings had greater awareness about the international protection needs of women survivors of VAWG in migration and refuge contexts and learned about public policy proposals to improve their access to protection.

3.4 Evidence of empowerment of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls

Many of the projects funded through this special window had significant impacts on the empowerment of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. This was identified as a common theme from the projects' successes and falls across all three outcome areas of the UN Trust Fund. Three common strategies to empower refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls emerged across the 13 selected projects and included: 1) economic empowerment efforts of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to address this common risk factor of violence and increase financial independence and self-sufficiency; 2) equipping refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to act as activists or community resources; and 3) trainings and awareness raising activities with refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to increase understanding of their rights and how to access available resources or services.

Three UN Trust Fund grantees offer particularly strong examples of efforts to empower refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Citizens Association for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and All Forms of Gender-based Violence (Atina)'s project in Serbia aimed to combat IPV, sexual exploitation, and trafficking, and empower active participation and leadership of women and girl refugees and asylum seekers. Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI)'s small-grant project aimed to improve the economic status and resilience of displaced women and girls and survivors of violence in Kaduna State in Nigeria. For Human Development (FHD)'s small-grant project in the Sayun district of Yemen supported women with tailor and cloth design training in order to empower internally displaced women and girls and survivors of violence in the host community.



Community dialogue session on ending violence against women.

3.4.1 Atina: Encourage active participation and leadership of female refugees in Serbia

Atina's project in Serbia aimed to respond to and prevent violence against asylum-seeking women and girls, provide appropriate and adequate services for those who suffer violence, and equip refugee women's active participation and leadership. Atina's project provides a pertinent example of working across the UN Trust Fund's three outcome areas. Atina offered workshops in and outside of reception and asylum centres aimed at migrant survivors of trafficking, exploitation, family violence, partner violence, incest, and rape. Workshop attendees reported fundamental changes in their knowledge and attitudes about women's rights, and prevention of trafficking and violence. For instance, 92% of the 2002 women and girl participants could name at least three different mechanisms to protect against VAWG. Participants were importantly provided with ongoing support to practise what they had learned, including through peer support group meetings. The endline evaluation interviews revealed that women and girls appreciated Atina's participatory approach as they could actively participate in planning the content and topics of the workshops. Indeed, the external evaluation identified the highly participatory approach to programme delivery and ethics of care as main factors influencing the successful project outcomes.

Atina's workshops equipped communication and advocacy capacity of beneficiaries, which supported them to reach decision-makers and to advocate for changes to improve the asylum-seeking system in Serbia. Asylum-seeking women, empowered by the project, started voicing their concerns with Atina, other service providers, and in front of responsible institutions. They raised several strategic partnerships with NGOs, reported to various committees and became part of a wider group of migrant organizations in the European Union. The endline evaluation suggested that the joint efforts of women through the advocacy group positively contributed to their individual empowerment and significantly enhanced prospects of their integration into the local community. As the endline evaluation notes:

The engagement of refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls within the Advocacy Group (...) as well as their equal participation in conferences, panel discussions and meetings with representatives of both governmental and international institutions represents an innovative aspect in Serbia. Their participation in these events, as well as in the process of designing different policies, also contributed to their empowerment and to recognize themselves as agents of change.

Women and girl beneficiaries reported increased confidence, knowledge, skills, as well as improved position within society and attributed these changes to Atina's project for recognizing their existing capacities and working to build on them.

Atina's project provided direct support to 260 women and girl survivors of violence to provide opportunities to overcome trauma and increase self-empowerment. Offerings included safe accommodation and comprehensive VAWG response services. Based on the entrance and exit surveys assessing direct assistance from Atina, 94% of all 260 beneficiaries felt safer and better protected against VAWG. Importantly, beneficiaries could stay in the programme for as long as needed and could continue to draw on Atina's support even upon exit from the programme.

Atina also provided survivors of violence the opportunity to participate in livelihoods training and practice at the project's Bagel Bejgl shop. The external evaluation found that this provided participants an opportunity to gain new skills, and increased their sense of independence, purpose, and self-worth. Of the total number of women and girls who participated in the economic empowerment programme, 53% were employed during the 3-year project, while 30% of women and girls found jobs after they completed the training. This is an important impact of the project, especially given the difficulty that refugee women face in accessing their right to work in Serbia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, working hours in the hospitality industry were shortened, and there was a reduction in the number of employees in the sector where refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls most often manage to find jobs. In this regard, Atina's economic empowerment programme proved to be extremely important and was identified by beneficiaries as a key factor in helping them overcome violence, exercise their rights, and help resolve their asylum status. The final evaluation noted:

With the contextually innovative practices of women's empowerment – such as economic empowerment program with its key pillar – Atina's social enterprise Bagel Bejgl, as well as its dedication to the full and informed participation of the primary beneficiaries, individualized approach to services delivery and focus on beneficiaries' strengths and capacities, the project helped in creating momentum for women refugees' advocacy.



Interactive activity with girls.

3.4.2 EWEI: Building economic status and resilience of displaced women and girls and survivors of VAWG in Nigeria

EWEI's small-grant project was primarily aimed at empowering displaced women and girls, Indigenous women, and survivors of sexual exploitation due to communal conflict in Kaduna State, Nigeria. “Understanding Our Community” and “Inclusion in Community Life” trainings were conducted with 80 internally displaced women and other participants to raise their awareness of causes and consequences of VAWG, referral systems and gender equality, incorporating self-care, confidence building and advocacy skills. As a result of these trainings, participants were more informed of their rights to be involved in community life and learned to map out community resources and consider how to use them to address VAWG. Women and girl survivors of violence who participated in EWEI's trainings demonstrated increased confidence to share their stories of violence and re-integrate into their communities. EWEI also incorporated a buddy system in the trainings, which helped create a bond and build social capital among training participants. A key factor underlying the success of these trainings was that EWEI established multiple feedback channels including SMS, callback requests, emails, and accountability boxes, which participants actively used to express levels of satisfaction with the trainings and provide recommendations on how to improve them.

EWEI conducted trainings focused on business conceptualization, business management, and financial management, which helped participants increase financial literacy, capacity, and confidence to improve their economic status. EWEI importantly included beneficiaries in all processes of setting up a cooperative. Internally displaced women and girls used the cooperative's resources as they operated their businesses within their host community, which improved their source of income and made them less dependent on aid from community members and/or their spouses. Beneficiaries who participated in this economic empowerment component in turn supported other internally displaced women and girls by informing them of their rights and how they could mobilize resources to start small businesses. The economic empowerment component of EWEI's project was identified as critical to preventing violence against participants. As noted in one of EWEI's annual reports:

Financial independence is key to the reduction of GBV as spouses of project beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the support they get from their spouse. Likewise, the project beneficiaries are now less dependent thereby having less confrontation with their spouse. This helped in reducing the culture of silence in the community and with their family.

EWEI also conducted project activities to support a wider enabling environment and enhance safety and security of marginalized women and girls. This included a toll-free hotline, where survivors could call to report VAWG and receive support and referrals. EWEI also implemented advocacy activities including a social media campaign to encourage discussions, challenge norms and influence attitudes and behaviours underlying VAWG. Training participants demonstrated increased resilience and commitment to advocate against VAWG through leading engagement with community members and key stakeholders. A noteworthy result of these efforts is that the regional civilian joint task force unexpectedly offered an office space for project staff to operate from, where survivors could report VAWG cases. The joint task force recognized the benefits to survivors of violence when services are co-located. EWEI staff identified this gesture to demonstrate the positive impact of the project's enabling environment efforts with these key stakeholders.

3.4.3 FHD: Empowering women economically in Yemen

FHD's small-grant project was designed to build the resilience and confidence of women and girls by providing income-generating skills and opportunities. The project established a women's centre for tailor and cloth design training, which was designed to empower displaced women and girls and survivors of violence in the host community in the Sayun district of Yemen. This training was designed to elevate the sustainability of income generation for VAWG survivors and women at risk of violence while elevating their status in their communities.

The project operated in the Hadhramaut governorate, where there is a plurality of religious sects, including Al-Ashraf, Sunnis, and Sufis. During the selection phase of beneficiaries, the project was keen to include all ethnic groups in the region. A survey was conducted to ensure a diversity of ethnicities and that people from the refugee and internally displaced camps were included. More than one hundred women and girls were then trained, prioritizing displaced women and girls and VAWG survivors. The training covered sewing, business skills and marketing strategies. At the end of the project, a bazaar was organized to boost the participants' market growth.

The main achievement of this project was the growth in capacities of 120 women and girls around livelihood skills to support sustainable incomes. Through learning sewing skills, beneficiaries were able to improve their livelihoods and achieve more economic independence. Focus group discussions were conducted to run a market analysis to identify profitable businesses that could economically support participants. As a result of the project, many beneficiaries started to produce, sell their products, and earn income for their families. Despite an insufficient budget towards seed business grants, many participants still managed to market and sell their products. In addition, 20 women received offers to work permanently in the project centre to ensure the continuity of their production of clothes. While the project was not able to demonstrate an impact on violence, the project's theory of change assumed that economic empowerment activities would help displaced women and girls and VAWG survivors gain financial independence and more elevated status in communities, and in doing so, address key risk factors underlying their vulnerabilities to violence.



*Life skills training provided by
For Human Development*

4. OVERALL CONTRIBUTION OF THE SPECIAL WINDOW TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEE AND/OR FORCIBLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS

This special window impacted the lives of over 40,000 women and girls including 35,000 refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Through the projects' engagement of a diversity of key stakeholders, including service providers, government and justice officials, and policymakers, this special window also contributed to an enabling environment to support work with refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Indeed, grantees funded through this special window offered examples of programmes that work across the socio-ecological model to prevent violence, at individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels. This comprehensive approach is critical to address the multitude of risk factors that make refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls especially vulnerable to violence.

- **Individual level:** Many projects prioritized individual well-being and safety of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, including through offering mental health support, legal support, VAWG case management, and support with basic livelihoods (i.e. access to shelters, sanitary and educational supplies). Many projects offered economic empowerment activities, which provided participants with skills, tools, and opportunities to develop financial independence and critically supported their engagement with the intervention activities. Some projects supported refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to obtain immigration or succession documents, and secure permanent or temporary status. Importantly, many projects aimed to build the capacities of primary beneficiaries to be involved as project implementers including as counsellors, peer educators, and community activists.
- **Interpersonal level:** Some projects identified the importance of supporting family members of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, including through helping participants better meet the needs of their children (i.e. economic, educational needs), promoting healthier relations with their children, reuniting family members, and/or engaging spouses in the intervention activities. Many projects emphasized building social capital among refugee and/or displaced women and girls, including through buddy systems, peer groups, women leader networks, community action groups, and group counselling.
- **Community level:** Many projects aimed to change social and gender norms that underlie VAWG through awareness raising activities around women's rights and the causes and consequences of violence. Some projects also aimed to increase awareness among community members and key stakeholders about the vulnerabilities of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to violence and their rights. Many projects built the capacities of service providers and duty bearers from health, education, social and

justice sectors to gain awareness of and better respond to the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls and address their vulnerabilities to VAWG.

- **Societal level:** Some grantees leveraged information gathered during their projects to advocate for improved policies, laws, and practices to better meet the needs and protect refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and survivors of VAWG. Across the projects, procedural guidelines and policy recommendations were produced, public sector actors and governments were consulted, and legal actions were applied to demand institutional accountability and encourage necessary changes around legislation and enforcement.

Although the findings were separated according to the UN Trust Fund's different outcome areas for the purposes of this report, grantees delivered integrated projects that had impacts across these outcome areas. The fourth main outcome identified for this report: empowerment of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, was a common outcome for all projects that cuts across the three outcome areas. **Across this multi-level work done by grantees, four cross-cutting catalyzers consistently amplified their positive results.** These catalyzers could have an impact across the UN Trust Fund's outcome areas and different levels of the socio-ecological model to prevent violence.

- **Participatory approaches to engagement:** Many grantees applied participatory approaches in the design, implementation and monitoring of their projects. Refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls were engaged and equipped to be counsellors, leaders, peer supporters, community facilitators and activists. Across many projects, they were actively involved in designing trainings or activities, and had regular opportunities to provide feedback to improve project activities, which helped ensure programming better met their needs. Participatory engagement of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls helped to increase their confidence, allowed for the identification of key issues or gaps for advocacy purposes, and could help build trust for other refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to be involved with the projects.
- **Meeting prioritized needs:** For many grantees, it was important to meet prioritized needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to support their engagement with the projects and address these key risk factors to violence. Across many projects this warranted inclusion of economic empowerment activities, given the financial vulnerabilities of many of the beneficiaries. Some projects critically offered documentation and asylum-seeking support, which helped beneficiaries achieve legal status or minimize their risk of displacement. Striving to address such prioritized needs helped alleviate anxieties of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls, supported them to achieve their rights including to work and to property, and reduced their vulnerabilities to violence.
- **Coordinating multiple services:** Some projects identified the value of offering coordinated, multiple services to beneficiaries. This included offering legal and mental health support together (as in Mexico), delivering services at one-stop centres (as in Jordan), or through mobile teams (as in Afghanistan). Many projects offered a variety of services including mental health services, legal services, and VAWG case management, and such coordination of services under the same project appeared to be critical to success. Doing so could help avoid re-traumatizing beneficiaries, who are already at risk of poor mental health given their typical high levels of exposure to trauma. Offering multiple services in one place could reduce barriers to participants' engagement, including by reducing transportation, costs, and time needed.
- **Adaptive programming:** Many projects applied adaptive approaches to programming, to navigate fluctuating and challenging circumstances, and for some grantees, adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. These innovations and pivots supported projects to better meet the needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Adaptive programming also helped ensure the meaningful engagement of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls with projects, such as by raising awareness of rights and available services to encourage participants to access such resources and including economic empowerment activities.

5. CONCLUSION

This report showcased key cumulative highlights of the UN Trust Fund's special window, and detailed examples of project successes across different geographies, contexts and the three main outcome areas of the UN Trust Fund. Projects funded through this special window demonstrated various successes to address violence against refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls across individual, interpersonal, community and societal levels. This special window critically funded grantees to deliver high-quality, transformational, and sustainable programmes to prevent and respond to violence against this sub-group, amidst complex and challenging settings. This special window was able to capitalize on political and legal momentum to respond to the global refugee crisis, enabling WROs and CSOs to translate this attention into impacts on the actual lives of more than 35,000 refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. The four catalyzers (named in section four) of participatory approaches to engagement, meeting prioritized needs, coordinating multiple services, and adaptive programming emerged as effective across different grantees, outcome areas, socio-ecological levels and intersecting risk factors underlying violence for refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls.

Given the ongoing global refugee crisis, and the particular vulnerabilities of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls to violence, addressing violence against this sub-group requires ongoing attention, commitment and funding. The special window shows that CSOs and WROs, if properly equipped and with dedicated resources, can play a crucial role in reducing violence and meeting the particular needs of refugee and/or forcibly displaced women and girls. Moreover, this special window gives attention to the value of engaging and equipping refugee and/or displaced women and girls themselves as critical players in efforts to end VAWG.

ANNEX

Organization, Country	Project Title	Cycle	Year	Size	Knowledge Product
Women for Afghan Women Afghanistan	Prevention and Response to GBV in IDPs and Returnees Communities in Balkh, Faryab, and Kunduz provinces of Afghanistan	23	2019	Large	Not yet published
Badabon Sangho Bangladesh	Confront landownership transfer induced violence against women and girls	22	2019	Small	Not yet published
Fundación Centro de Derechos Sociales de la Persona Migrante Costa Rica	Mejora de Capacidades para proteger, asistir e integrar a mujeres centroamericanas víctimas de violencia	21	2018	Small	Hyperlink
ASUDA for Combating Violence against Women Iraq	Improving the response mechanisms to sexual and gender-based violence against Syrian refugee women and girls in Iraqi Kurdistan	20	2016	Large	Hyperlink
Free Yezidi Foundation Iraq	Psycho-social Counseling and Trauma Therapy: Free Yezidi Foundation Women's Center	20	2016	Large	Not permitted to publish
Women for Women International Iraq	Addressing Violence Against Syrian Refugee Women in the Kurdistan Region of Northern Iraq	20	2016	Large	Hyperlink
Arab Women Organization of Jordan Jordan	Improving the well-being of SGBV survivors among Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian Women	20	2016	Large	Hyperlink
War Child Canada Jordan	Safeguarding Women and Girls Affected by the Syrian Crisis in Jordan	20	2016	Large	Hyperlink
Forum For Women in Development and Democracy and Justice Kenya	Strengthening SGBV emergency response for refugee hosting communities to secure access to services for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) refugees.	22	2019	Small	Not yet published
HIAS Refugee Trust of Kenya Kenya	Community Based Prevention of Violence Against Refugee Women and Girls in Nairobi	22	2019	Large	Hyperlink
Refugee Consortium of Kenya Kenya	Towards improved prevention of VAWG among urban refugees in Nairobi and Garissa Counties	21	2018	Large	Hyperlink

Organization, Country	Project Title	Cycle	Year	Size	Knowledge Product
Facilitators of Community Transformation Malawi	Strengthening national legal and policy instruments to end violence against Women and Girls affected by civil and political conflicts	23	2019	Small	Not yet published
Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, A.C. Mexico	Contribución a la protección internacional de México a mujeres víctimas de violencia de género	22	2019	Large	Not yet published
Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative Nigeria	Our Safe Spaces	23	2019	Small	Not yet published
NGO ATINA - Citizens' Association for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings and All Forms of Gender-based Violence Serbia	Making a difference for refugee women and girls in Serbia	21	2018	Large	Hyperlink
The Strategic Initiative for Women in The Horn Of Africa (SIHA) Network South Sudan	Challenging Patterns and Drivers of Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Wau State, South Sudan	21	2018	Large	Hyperlink
Women's Affairs Technical Committee State of Palestine	Gender Justice to end Violence against Women & Girls	21	2018	Large	Hyperlink
For Human Development Yemen	Promotion of GBV services for IDP Women and Girls and vulnerable host community in Aldhihar district in Ibb governorate.	23	2019	Small	Not yet published



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