BUILDING A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS: CHANGING ATTITUDES AND MINDSETS

THE UN TRUST FUND IS CURRENTLY INVESTING

US$4.5 MILLION IN PROGRAMMES THAT WORK TO CHANGE ATTITUDES AND MINDSETS, INCLUDING PROJECTS THAT STRESS THE ROLE OF MEN AND BOYS AS AGENTS OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE

Transforming attitudes, beliefs and behaviours is an essential part of making progress towards a world without violence. The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) grantees use a wide range of approaches to deliver results that demonstrate how interventions can alter social norms, institutions and practices that normalize violence against women and girls. The success of these projects is building a body of evidence affirming that sustainable change is possible.

SONKE GENDER JUSTICE: CREATING POSITIVE MASCULINITIES

In Rwanda, Sonke Gender Justice is working with the Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre to implement an innovative model to deal with violence prevention and gender transformation. They organize exercises in which couples switch traditional gender roles for a couple of days to examine their own views about gender.

Florence Uzamunkunda and her husband, Samuel Munyaneza, took part in the Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre’s role reversal exercise. For three days, Florence milked the cows and cut the firewood while Samuel cooked rice and swept the courtyard. This exercise proved to be a critical step in resolving the couple’s marital tensions. Samuel is now a role model and frequently presides over umugoroba w’abashakanye, evening dialogue sessions for conflict resolution and discussing women’s rights.
RAISING VOICES: MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The SASA! methodology [SASA! means “Now!” in Kiswahili] is a groundbreaking community-wide reflection process developed by Raising Voices for the prevention of violence against women and HIV transmission. From 2010 to 2012, the UN Trust Fund supported Raising Voices’ implementation of SASA! in Eastern and Southern Africa. An independent evaluation of the project by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2013 found a 52 per cent reduction in the risk of physical intimate partner violence against women. It is now one of the most international recognized and comprehensive tools in the field of primary prevention addressing the intersections between the two epidemics. Building on that experience, the UN Trust Fund is now supporting a three-year project in which Raising Voices is working with three partner organizations – in rural Tanzania, in refugee camps in Ethiopia and in a community in Haiti.

ACTIONAID MYANMAR: PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

ActionAid Myanmar is implementing a comprehensive initiative that builds on a successful pilot project conducted in 2012 near Yangon. The project is providing legal aid services for rural women in order to promote access to justice. In addition, the project has helped train 20 male community leaders on ending violence against women and their involvement in changing attitudes has been key to the progress made so far. A mid-term survey identified a change of behaviour regarding violence against women and girls in some 40 per cent of those in the target communities. Reporting of gender-based violence has increased and several cases have been brought to trial and resulted in convictions.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), created in 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly, remains the only global, multilateral, grant-making body dedicated exclusively to addressing all forms of violence against women and girls.