FOCUS ON AT-RISK, MARGINALIZED AND DISADVANTAGED WOMEN

Groups such as women with disabilities; Indigenous; or older women; members of ethnic minority groups; refugees; and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women are more likely to live in poverty, to be at greater risk of violence and to have much more limited access to justice, redress and the integrated services they need to overcome violence.

The projects not only address the consequences of violence, but also focus on women facing multiple forms of discrimination as agents of change.

**ALBANIA**

The Alliance Against LGBT Discrimination aims to improve the quality of services available for lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women experiencing violence. Information from pilot studies revealed that, despite recent efforts to address violence against women in the country, there is a lack of awareness of the specific needs of LBT women, especially among service providers. The project is undertaking research, the first of its kind in the country, that will provide the basis for informed policy making on preventing discrimination and protecting LBT women from violence. The project will also include a nationwide awareness-raising campaign and a manual for women’s organizations, police, teachers and health service providers on how to better

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.

**CURRENT PORTFOLIO**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TOTAL GRANT VALUE</th>
<th>GRANTS</th>
<th>COUNTRIES &amp; TERRITORIES</th>
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<td>$57M</td>
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**AMOUNT AWARDED TO DATE**

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<th>COUNTRIES &amp; TERRITORIES</th>
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respond to the specific needs of LBT women. LBT women in various areas have been contacted and interviewed in order to better understand their situation and meet their specific needs. Contact points have been established in six communities and a number of local women’s NGOs are now providing a safe space for LBT women to report violence and receive basic services.

**COLOMBIA**

**150 SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE REGISTERED CASES**

In Colombia, violence against Indigenous women is widespread, with studies, like a 2003 study from Oxfam, showing that up to 70 per cent of Indigenous women experience some form of violence in their lifetime. Very few of those responsible for these crimes are ever held to account. The National Organization of Indigenous Peoples (Organización Nacional de Indígenas, ONIC) is working to promote measures to prevent and respond to this violence. ONIC documents and researches violence against Indigenous women, raises awareness among community and relevant authorities, trains Indigenous women as rights advocates and provides psychocultural, social, legal and psychological support to survivors of violence and their families. During implementation of the UN Trust Fund supported project, 150 cases have been registered, of which 48 per cent have received support services.

**ZIMBABWE**

The Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust (LCDZT) is implementing a project to provide specialized services for women and girls with disabilities who have experienced violence in 10 Zimbabwean districts. The project is responding to the findings of a pilot project, conducted by the LCDZT, which revealed that among the factors limiting access to justice for women and girls with disabilities is the fact that their impairments are not taken into account in mainstream evidence-gathering judicial policies. The project is, therefore, helping train police and court officials in sign language and on the impact of various impairments on reporting gender-based violence. The programme provides specialized services in cases involving girls and women with disabilities and has contributed to responses to 270 specific cases. The project supports beneficiaries with logistical support in accessing justice and other relevant survivor-friendly services.

1 According to a health assessment conducted by the International Rescue Committee within nine refugee camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

**THAILAND**

**MANAGEMENT OF 3 SAFE HOUSE SHELTERS TRANSFERRED TO A LOCAL ORGANIZATION**

Over 20 per cent of women living in nine Karenni refugee camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border had experienced some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime, according to a recent survey. Most of this violence was perpetrated by an intimate partner. The International Rescue Committee is implementing a capacity-building project with the local Karenni National Women’s Organization (KNWO) in order to ensure sustainable violence prevention and response services for women and girls in the Karenni camps. At the end of the three-year project, management of three safe house shelters providing services to the displaced Karenni community has successfully been transferred to the KNWO, which is now established as the lead agency for services to address gender-based violence in the camps. This is an extremely important shift for a camp population that had relied on direct service provisions from non-governmental organizations for more than 15 years.

“Progress has been particularly slow for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination”.