

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Trust Fund
In Support
Of Victims Of
Sexual Exploitation
And Abuse



Designed and produced by:
Conduct and Discipline Service, Administrative Law Division, Office of Human Resources, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, United Nations, New York
Cover A participant in the victim assistance and support to Community-Based Complaint Networks programme, implemented by Siri Ya Mazingira UN Photo / Alban Mendes De Leon



"We must elevate the voice of victims; put their rights and dignity at the forefront of our efforts; and address the stigma and discrimination they face."

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

Honouring our values

FOREWORD



I am pleased to introduce the second annual report of the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. This report highlights activities conducted and provides a financial overview for 2019. We are grateful for the 21 countries who have supported the Trust Fund so far. We need to revitalize the support from Member States. Their funding is essential for the Trust Fund to continue to help restore the dignity of victims, break stigma, and facilitate their reintegration within their communities.

This report highlights the positive impact of our projects on the lives of communities. We are working with development actors, including United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes, to pursue the projects which provide seed funding for income generating activities and put these victims on the path to sustainable economic empowerment.

It also proposes ways to reinvigorate the Trust Fund, to enhance fundraising and identification of new projects. We aim to continue to capture the voices of victims, their feedback on the projects they participate in, and their ideas for the future. They are at the heart of our response and will always be at the core of the implementation of the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. I hope that we will be able to continue this important work with the support of Member States and global and local partners.

Catherine Pollard, Under Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance



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ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

C CAR Central African Republic

CBCN Community-Based Complaint Network

CDT Conduct and Discipline Team

DMSPC Department of Management Strategy, Policy and

Compliance

DRC Democratic Republic of the Congo

FVRA Field Victims' Rights Advocate

Gender-Base Violence

IRC International Rescue Committee

MINUSCA United Nations Multidimensional Integrated

Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

MONUSCO United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in

the Democratic Republic of the Congo

NAEAL National Adult Education Association of Liberia

SEA Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

SYAM Siri Ya Mazingira

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization

UNMIL United Nations Mission in Liberia

USG Under-Secretary-General

V VRA Victims' Rights Advocate



Since the issuance of the Trust Fund report in 2019 for the years 2017 and 2018, there have been concerted efforts bv the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC) to realize the vision of the Trust Fund.

The objective of the Trust Fund is to provide opportunities which are sustainable and serve as a catalyst for the restoration of victims' including through dignity, their economic empowerment.

The Trust Fund is the only dedicated mechanism to provide financial support for services and activities for greater and dignified support and assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The aspiration of the Trust Fund is to contribute to restoring the dignity of victims, help break stigma, and facilitate their reintegration within their communities. Reflecting the voices of victims and receiving their views and feedback on the

projects in which they participate, and inputs on future project needs also underpin the implementation of the Trust Fund.

Efforts have been directed to strengthening the Trust Fund in relation to fundraising, project identification of viable projects awareness-raisina on impact and the positive effects of Trust Fund projects on the lives of beneficiaries. The Victims' Rights Advocate (VRA) has been a close partner and provided guidance on projects and linkaaes prospective donors. She has also supported the development of a communications, awareness-raisina and fundraising strategy.

headquarters, the Strategic Communications Division in the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Global Communications have provided in documenting support implementation of projects in the Democratic Republic the



Congo, as well as showcasing the impact of the Trust Fund via social media.

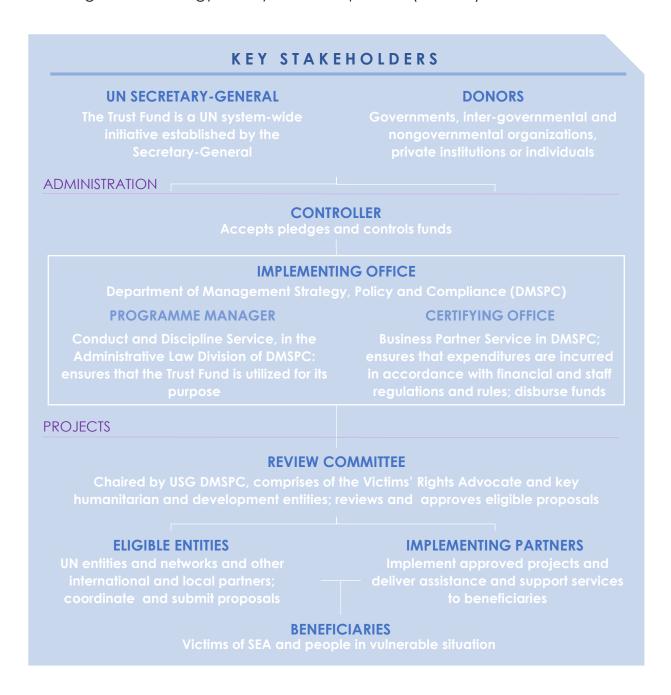
Additional voluntary contributions and commitments were received in 2019 from Italy, Portugal, Ecuador and Germany, increasing the number of donors to 21.

In 2019, six projects were initiated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo project was implemented in partnership with the International Rescue Committee in the Central African Republic. The education and vocational training project in Liberia featured sessions for training of trainers and community meetings in 2019, and literacy classes began in early 2020.

OVERVIEW		
FUNDS \$ 2.5 Million	CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES 21	WITHHELD PAYMENTS \$ 600 K
COUNTRIES OF IMPLEMENTATION 3	BENEFICIARIES 4,860	PROJECTS FUNDED 12

GOVERNANCE OF THE TRUST FUND

At 1 January 2019, the Trust Fund Implementing Office is the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC).





PROJECTS





The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges to projects initiated in 2019 and anticipated to beain in 2020. Restrictions on movement and curfews have

affected communications from, and interaction with, victims, and have also affected the availability of services provided to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

In April 2020, the Under-Secretary-General for DMSPC and the VRA sent a joint communication to Heads of United Nations peace operations and special political missions to provide guidance on the continuation of Trust Fund projects, recognizing the proactive efforts of field Conduct and Discipline Teams (CDTs) and Senior Victims' Rights Officers/Field Victims' Rights Advocates to ensure continued assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Ongoing projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia that require group activities have been suspended due to COVID-19 mitigation. measures.

In the Democratic republic of Congo, the Field Victims' Rights Advocate and the CDT continue to be in touch with victims by phone and other means. Over 60 percent of known victims had been contacted as of June 2020. Community-based complaint network (CBCN) focal points on the ground attempt to engage with the victims who cannot be reached.

The project partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia remain in regular contact with beneficiaries so they can be informed when the projects are fully reinitiated. The implementing partner in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Siri Ya Mazingira (SYAM), has a developed standard operating procedures to support prevention of the spread of COVID-19 in vocational training centres and other locations where people may gather.

In the Central African Republic, the members of the Gender-based Violence (GBV) network have sought to ensure that movement restrictions to mitigate COVID-19 do not have an adverse effect on the provision of services to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Technical Task Force has readjusted its action plan based of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19 and has developed a checklist to assist stakeholders to facilitate the provision of appropriate services to victims.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- ✓ Project title: Victim assistance and support to CBCNs in Bunia, Beni, Goma, Kavumu, Uvira and Kalemie
- ✓ Implementing partners: The United **Nations** Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and Siri Ya Mazingira (SYAM)

At the end of May 2019, the Trust Fund's Review Committee approved a one-year project to be implemented by Siri Ya Mazingira (SYAM), following its successful implementation of three projects in Kavumu, Sake and Bujovu which had begun in 2018. The project's goals and activities include:

- Training of 420 beneficiaries, in the six communities of Bunia, Beni, Goma, Kavumu, Uvira and Kalemie respectively, as follows: 120 in dressmaking; 90 in hairdressing; 60 in bread-40 in improving cooking stoves; 30 in basketbakina; weaving; 20 in farming/animal husbandry; 60 In small business.
- Provision of a two-year scholarship programme for 60 children in vulnerable situations.
- Capacity- building for 120 members of the local communitybased complaint networks (CBCNs) (20 in each community): to strengthen complaint reception and reporting/referrals in the six local communities; and on project management and income generation activities for beneficiaries of the projects.

Projected benefits/impact

a) Socio-economic reintegration of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and children in vulnerable situations:

- Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and communities in vulnerable situations gain self-esteem and employ skills gained by engaging in longterm income-generating activities in the community;
- Enhancement of victims' ability to self-sustain supporting their reintegration in the community;
- Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and women at risk, benefit through income generation activities;
- Children successfully complete a two-year education programme.

b) CBCNs are active partners in providing timely and effective support and assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- They contribute to the maintenance of safe and effective reporting pathways;
- They provide victim support and assistance, including through supporting the sustainability of income-generating activities for project beneficiaries;
- They contribute to a strengthened sexual exploitation and abuse response strategy, through external sensitization/outreach, and detection of and early warning of sexual exploitation and abuse risks in their communities.

Initiation of projects and activities

The CDT and SYAM have been using the recommendations and internal reviews and reports on the earlier three projects to take proactive steps to ensure that the current projects do not face similar challenges and included measures to mitigate security risks, compliance with timelines and enhance community.



Activities undertaken include:

Meetings with community leaders, elders and youth - It became clear from the earlier projects that the success and sustainability of a project are dependent on the level of involvement and ownership of the community. The Field Victims' Rights Advocate (FVRA) and CDT met frequently with community leaders, elders and the youth to ensure that their views and inputs central in the were conceptualization of the projects. This time was also used to sensitize leaders and groups meaning and impact of and how to report sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the CBCNs on ground.

Continuous and effective engagement with the CBCNs CBCNs are critical in encouraging receiving complaints and coordination and provision of victim assistance and support. They are a conduit for provision of information on the projects to the beneficiaries and the elders. They reassure local communities making clear that the projects will be implemented. The CBCNs also provide feedback to the United **Nations** and form an effective

interface between the community and the Organizations.

Since the approval of the projects, the Conduct and Discipline Team in MONUSCO, the FVRA and SYAM have enaaaed in been coordination relating to the construction of training spaces and infrastructures. Project beneficiaries in Bunia, Beni, Goma, Kavumu, Uvira and Kalemie were identified. In September 2019, SYAM visited the project locations and met with the CBCN to determine requirements necessary so training was adjusted to the needs of the beneficiaries. SYAM also identified host schools where children born as a result of sexual exploitation and abuse could be receive education and assessed requirements for school materials.



Visit of the Victims' Rights Advocate to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The VRA, Assistant Secretary-General Jane Connors, visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 21 to 29 November 2019.

The VRA visited the project sites in Sake and Kavumu and met victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and other the beneficiaries. She was impressed by the activities and was encouraged by their positive impact on rebuilding victims' self-esteem and dignity. The VRA and FVRA support projects directed at uplifting the victims, in particular by ensuring that the skills they learn are linked to viable markets where they can sell their products.



Monitoring and reporting

After the approval of the projects in Bunia, Beni, Goma, Kavumu, Uvira and Kalemie and the commencement of implementation, the CDT and SYAM examined lessons-learned through implementation of earlier projects, analyzed information from the feedback from beneficiaries, and, taking these into account, determined priorities and follow-up.

Monthly meetings will be conducted, and related reports will be provided. SYAM will adhere to required procedures, as guided by MONUSCO and the FVRA. Regular field coordination meetings with CBCN members will be held, as will training and open discussions to deepen capacity to understand sexual exploitation and abuse issues. In addition, participatory outreach activities, review of operational challenges, sharing of ideas on best practices and monitoring of activities, will take place.

MONUSCO is responsible for financial reporting as the Mission has direct access to the Umoja reporting tool. An Interim report at six months on use of funds and a final report at the end of the project will be issued by MONUSCO and submitted to the Implementing Office.





Liberia

✓ Project title: Adult Literacy Programme in eight communities in the Montserrado County



✓ Implementing partners: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL)

The project in Liberia is coordinated by UNESCO in partnership with the local implementing partner, the National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL) . The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) provided feedback on the inception of the project before the mission closed in 2018.

The project goals are:

- To address educational gaps of vulnerable groups, especially victims of sexual exploitation and abuse exposed to stigmatization and marginalization;
- To empower members of the communities of Monrovia and Monteserrado County, through an adult education and literacy programme;
- To provide participants with the knowledge and tools to improve skills necessary for self-sustainability;
- To engage participants in serving as advocates against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Volunteers from each community who are literate were selected trained as facilitators for adult literacy classes by the implementing partner. They are equipped with necessary materials.



The project is implemented in two phases.

Phase 1: completed in 2019

- 1. Awareness-raising meetings to inform community elders and stakeholders about the goals of the project. Meetings addressed the roles and responsibilities of NAEAL and the community to establish the project implementation framework.
- 2. Sites were selected; 4-6 community facilitators (2-3 per site) were recruited using standardized criteria established by NAEAL.
- The community facilitators received training in group facilitation and project goals, objectives and deliverables.

With the support of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education, UNESCO and community leaders and others, NAEAL consulted with eight communities where victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, and other beneficiaries reside. In some instances, the beneficiaries lived in indigent circumstances and required support on options for self-sustainability. UNMIL had been present in these communities over long periods and victims of sexual exploitation and abuse to be included in the project had been identified by the CDT in UNMIL prior to its closure. The victims were among the beneficiaries, but their participation was not highlighted to minimize stigmatization.



Phase II - Implementation of literacy classes (early 2020)

Literacy classes for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and communities in vulnerable situations began in January 2020 and continued until movement restrictions were put in place due to COVID-19, beginning in March 2020.

Projected Impact

- The victims and the larger local community do not need to turn to transactional sex due to poverty and lack of opportunities.
- Literacy classes empower victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and provide and pathways to vocational learning opportunities for those who may have been marginalized or stigmatized in their communities.



Central African Republic

- ✓ Project title: Programme of Assistance for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019)
- ✓ Implementing partner: MINUSCA and International Rescue Committee (IRC)



For MINUSCA, IRC is commonly the only partner operating in the area responding to all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse. The project is being reviewed for consideration of a second phase.

The project goals were:

- To provide support and assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse:
- To support and reinforce community-based protection mechanisms;
- To raise awareness among the community on risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and GBV and services and referral systems available to support victims.

Beneficiaries

The IRC reached a total of 1,460 beneficiaries through prevention and response activities and 16,670 members of communities through outreach efforts. Internally displaced persons (IDPs), and communities in the Central African Republic most affected or exposed to sexual exploitation and abuse and GBV were the focus.

Activities

- Training (community and religious leaders, community-based organization) (CBO) members and volunteers, members of the complaint mechanisms, health service providers) 372 beneficiaries
- Organization of discussion groups on sexual exploitation and abuse: 659 beneficiaries
- Support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse: 62 beneficiaries

The IRC assisted in 62 sexual exploitation and abuse cases. The 62 victims identified received psychosocial care at the IRC's listening center; 37 received food reimbursement and seven received reimbursement of transportation fees. Of the 62 sexual exploitation and abuse cases, 39 were referred to healthcare services and 28 out of the 62 also received a dignity kit, according to the needs identified in the individual action plans.



Impact

- Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse benefitted from direct provision of psychosocial and medical support, and gained knowledge and skills directed to a safe rehabilitation process and sustainable return to society;
- Support to efforts of MINUSCA in mitigating the risks of its personnel to in engage prohibited sexual activity with the vulnerable population.



"This training has enabled us to acquire positive skills and techniques to contribute in a methodical and effective way to actions to combat SEA against women/girls, which are still taboo subjects for communities."

A woman who attended the training in Paoua on 22-23 July 2019

Honouring our values

Monitoring and reporting

The IRC submitted quarterly and final financial and narrative reports. The Field Victims' Rights Advocate in the Central African Republic and the CDT reviewed good practices and coordination aspects in order to inform future partnerships with the IRC.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Several projects are under review:

Central African Republic



A two-year project to provide legal support and assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse to be implemented by the American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative in Central African Republic will be initiated in 2020.

Haiti



A project proposal to support socio-economic, psychosocial and incomegeneration activities for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, and education for children born as a result of sexual exploitation and abuse is under review.

South Sudan



Proposals to support legal services and psychological support for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and community-awareness are being developed.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS **IN 2019**

Funds received/pledged in 2019



Donor country	Amount
Cyprus	\$ 5,000
Ecuador	\$ 1,000
Germany	\$ 120,000
Italy	\$ 178,000
Total	\$ 304,000

Withheld payments (A/RES/70/286)

Withheld payments \$ 600,000

Funds disbursed in 2019

Project location and description	Amount
Democratic Republic of the Congo disbursed	- 6 projects
Victim assistance and support to CBCNs in Bunia, Beni, Goma, Kavumu, Uvira and Kalemie	\$ 377,000
Central African Republic	
Country-wide assistance and support to victims of SEA - disbursed	\$ 211,215
Liberia - disbursed	
Literacy project for victims and community members	\$ 107,000
Total:	\$ 695,215

PROJECTED 2019/2020



Project location/description	Amount
CAR	
Legal support and assistance to victims of SEA projected	\$ 339,000
Haiti	
Socio-economic support for children born of SEA; psychological support; economic empowerment (income generation activities); legal assistance (national, regional, international); community awareness-raising on SEA	\$ 252,013
Total	\$ 591,013

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS



Project location/description	Amount
Funds received since 2016	\$ 1,957,807
Withheld Payments	\$ 600,000
Total received	\$ 2,557,807
Funds Disbursed since 2018 for 11 projects (DRC, CAR, Liberia including first three projects in DRC)	\$ 959,917
Projections 2020	\$ 591,013
Balance	\$ 1,006,877

150054

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST FUND

Pledges to the Trust Fund can be made from Governments, interaovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, private institutions or individuals.

The making of a pledge and its acceptance are to be recorded in an exchange of letters (letter of commitment or Note Verbale) between the UN and contributing party, or, if deemed appropriate, in a more formal agreement.

Pledges of contributions will be accepted by the Controller, in the following bank account:

- Account Name: United Nations General Trust Fund
- Account Number: 485-0019-69
- Bank: J. P. Morgan Chase, International Agencies Bank Group
- ABA Number: 021-000-02
- SWIFT: CHASUS33



Funds by country in USD

Total:	\$ 1,957,807
Uganda	\$ 10,000
Switzerland	\$ 52,000
Sri-Lanka	\$ 10,000
Slovakia	\$ 35,352
Portugal	\$ 10,000
Pakistan	\$ 10,000
Norway	\$ 123,337
Nigeria	\$ 100,000
Luxembourg	\$ 50,000
Japan	\$ 200,000
Italy	\$ 576,000
India	\$ 100,000
Germany	\$ 120,000
Finland	\$ 60,045
Ecuador	\$ 1,000
Cyprus	\$ 6,120
Canada	\$ 230,999
Bhutan	\$ 10,000
Bangladesh	\$ 100,000
Albania	\$ 2,000
Australia	\$ 150,954



MONITORING AND REPORTING

Guidance was prepared for project coordinators and implementing partners in 2019. The guidance indicates that project reports should review performance and lessons learned against the Trust Fund's strategic objectives and to contribute towards organizational learning.

So far, project reports examine:

- Relevance of project design and planning and the extent to which these respond to victims' needs;
- Extent to which the intervention's results were achieved, from the immediate objectives of the project to the longer-term sustainability of results:
- Efficiency (use of funds, expertise, time etc.);
- Project management capacities and arrangements, including project monitoring processes;
- Lessons-learned which should inform project stakeholders, including donors and national partners.

The guidance on project evaluations is being developed with support from experts on results- based management. Options being considered: internal evaluations, by the project team or other stakeholders in the United Nations system; external evaluations by independent entities.

As the Trust Fund grows and builds on the experiences of projects and programme management experts in agencies, funds and programmes, more focused monitoring and evaluation is envisaged.

GOOD PRACTICE

- Funding projects and supporting programmes implemented by nongovernmental organizations complements local capacity by enabling the implementing partner to become an active participant in providing assistance and support to victims. This has been seen with SYAM in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the communities in the Central African Republic through the IRC project, and with NAEAL in Liberia.
- The active engagement of Members States, United Nations missions,' agencies,' funds' and programmes' field offices, non-governmental organizations and the communities illustrates the importance of a coordinated and holistic approach to support and empower victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Projects funded by the Trust Fund contribute to restoring the dignity of victims, helps break stigma, and facilitates the reintegration of victims within their communities.

CHALLENGES

- The Trust Fund is young, and experience over its first three years have highlighted the need for a dedicated staffing capacity to administer the fund and a proactive outreach strategy targeted at showcasing impact and personal stories of victims and the impact on their communities.
- The generous voluntary contributions are mainly provided as pooled funds but some contributions are time-bound. Time-bound funding is less flexible and can cause constraints if no projects are imminent in that period.



GOING FORWARD

Priorities for 2020 and 2021 include enhancing the visibility of the Trust Fund the development of a proactive strategy continuina on communications, awareness-raising and fundraising. This will include:

- Renewal and regular updating of the Trust Fund website.
- Advocacy campaign to raise awareness of, and contributions to, the Trust Fund.
- Development of online toolkit of materials on guidance for proposals, guidance on monitoring and evaluation and impact-based reporting on projects.
- Development of online application functions, reference tools and materials for showcasing impact, and "success stories" of Trust Fund projects, included related social media campaigns.

Consultations are ongoing with other actors in the UN system who manage Trust Funds so that their experiences can inform an awareness-raising strategy for the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

DMSPC is also exploring:

- Broader fundraising efforts for pooled funds targeted to all Member States.
- A minimum funding requirement to sustain projects on an annual basis.

 Continued collaboration with the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate, including in light of the results of its mapping project to support the identification of gaps in services to be funded by the Trust Fund, and ones which cannot be covered by existing GBV and country programmes.

CONCLUSION

The Trust Fund has provided seed funds to address gaps or provide additional support for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. The vision of the Trust Fund is to provide opportunities which are sustainable and serve as a catalyst for the restoration of victims' dignity, self-esteem and their economic empowerment. The Trust Fund is not intended as a means to provide financial resources for all victim assistance and support, nor is it intended to provide direct financial assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Its role is to inspire the creation of projects in partnership with humanitarian and development actors, primarily United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on the ground and other international, national and local partners which lead to sustainable economic empowerment for those who have been affected by sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel.

THE TRUST FUND IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE



















































LUXEMBOURG

Includes \$1.9 million of contributions from Member States and \$600K of withheld payments

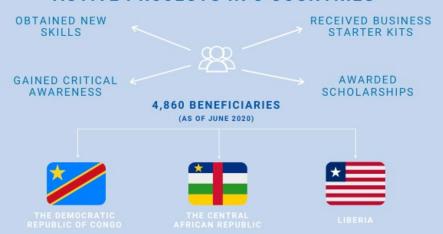
USD \$2.5M



USD \$600K

Withheld payments for substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse

ACTIVE PROJECTS IN 3 COUNTRIES







For more information contact:

Conduct and Discipline Service / Administrative Law Division / Office of Human Resources / Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

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