

Fourth Annual Report of the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

2021



COPYRIGHT

Fourth Annual report of the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Published by the United Nations

Copyright © 2022 United Nations

All rights reserved

This publication in its entirety may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without written permission from the publisher.

All queries on rights and licenses, including subsidiary rights, should be addressed to:

United Nations Publications

405 East 42nd Street, S-09FW001

New York, NY 10017

United States of America

E-mail: permissions@un.org

Website: <http://shop.un.org>

Requests to reproduce excerpts or to photocopy should be addressed to:

Copyright Clearance Center (copyright.com)

Designed and produced by:

Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, United Nations, New York

Credits:

All photographs used in this publication have been sourced from the United Nations and its entities. Unless otherwise indicated, all data in this publication have been sourced from the United Nations.

Contents

Foreword	4
Governance of the Trust Fund	5
Funding	6
Our Work	7
Psychosocial support	7
Medical care	7
Income generation	7
Awareness-raising	8
Improving and Streamlining Processes	9
Trust Fund Projects	10
Status of Upcoming Projects in 2022	14
Impact	15
Financial Information	16
Way Forward	18

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the fourth annual report of the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (The Trust Fund). The report highlights activities conducted in 2021 and contains a financial overview for 2021, and recent updates. Most importantly, it details the positive impact of the projects on individual beneficiaries and communities.

The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC) remains engaged with entities across the United Nations system, including the Victims' Rights Advocate and Senior Victims' Rights Officers to assist victims of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and to provide, through the Trust Fund, seed funds to put them on the path to sustainable economic empowerment and independence.

Following disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust Fund continued to support a number of projects in 2021. The locations where Trust Fund projects are implemented are environments with constant risks for political instability, unpredictable security situations, and where the trauma which communities experience can be cyclical. Despite these conditions, the Trust Fund supports its implementing partners with flexibility and guidance on mitigation measures for projects when these events occur.

Five new Trust Fund projects were approved in late 2021 and implemented during the first half of 2022.

DMSPC also launched a call for new project proposals in 2022. Outreach to partners across the UN system and civil society organizations worldwide working in humanitarian, development and peacekeeping settings to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and non-staff personnel intensified and continues.



“ We remain engaged to put victims on the path to sustainable economic empowerment and independence. ”

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

DMSPC is grateful to the 24 Member States that support the Trust Fund and looks forward for the contributions. I encourage Member States and others to contribute.

The impact of Trust Fund projects is outlined in this report and underscores the importance of continuation of this critical work, supported by Member States and global and local partners. The years ahead will be pivotal in ensuring that the Trust Fund can continue to finance projects which benefit victims, those at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, and their communities.

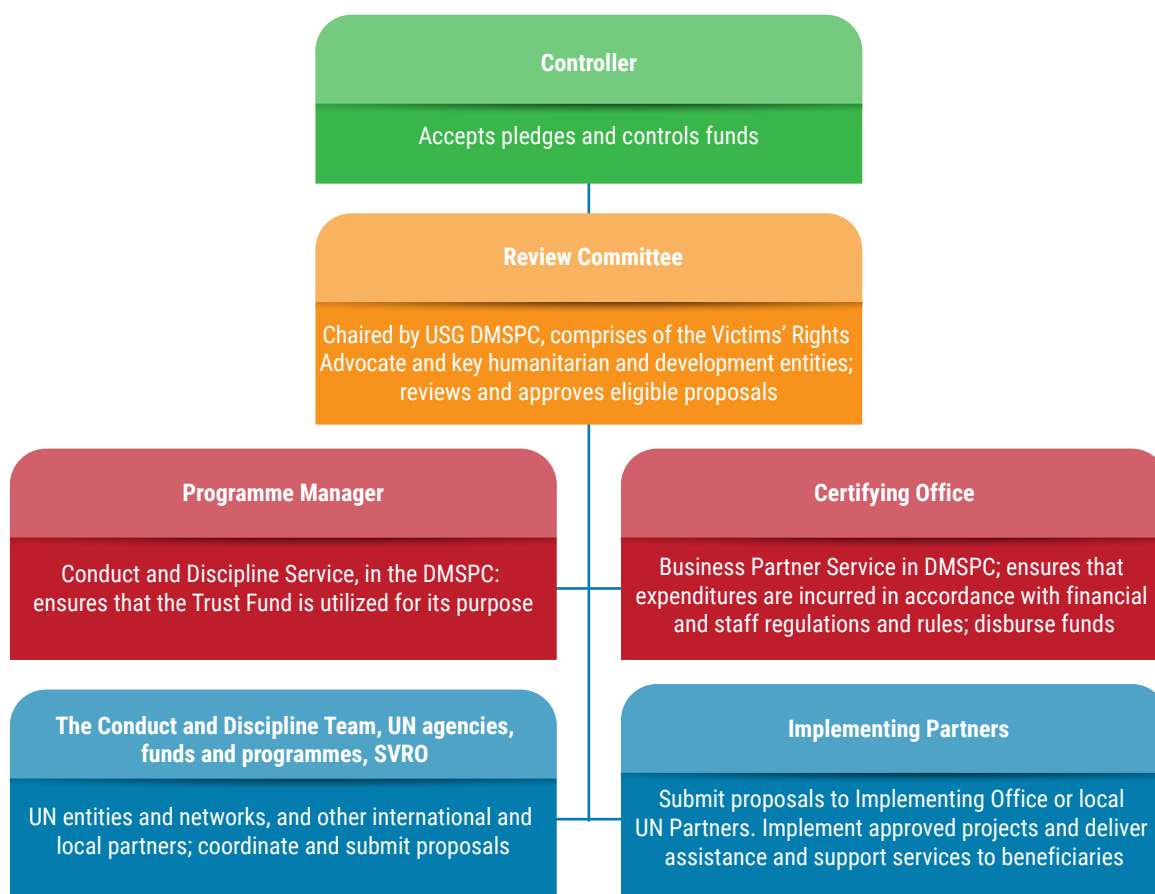
Catherine Pollard

Under Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

Governance of the Trust Fund

Administration: The Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC) is the Trust Fund Implementing Office (IO). The Trust Fund Programme Manager is the Conduct and Discipline Service (CDS) located in the Administrative Law Division of the Office of Human Resources, DMSPC. It monitors the status of projects and their performance indicators, ensures that disbursed funds are used in line with project proposals, and reviews final expenditures for each project in line with established procedures. The Trust Fund Certifying Officer is the DMSPC Executive Office.

The Trust Fund Review Committee¹ approves eligible proposals in accordance with the Trust Fund Terms of Reference, and existing regulatory and programme management frameworks. The Trust Fund Implementing Office consults with the Victims' Rights Advocate on eligible proposals prior to the meeting of the Review Committee. Members of the Review Committee are from Secretariat Offices, Departments and UN agencies, funds and programmes. The Victims' Rights Advocate is a Review Committee member and a key source of guidance on Trust Fund matters.



¹ The Review Committee members are the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (Chair), Victims' Rights Advocate, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, Development Coordination Office, and the Department of Peace Operations.

Funding

The Trust Fund portfolio comprises voluntary contributions from 24 Member States (contributors are listed in the Financial Information section on page 16) in the amount of over \$4.3 million, including approximately \$600,000 representing payments withheld

following substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel.

Contributions to the Trust Fund can be made by governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions, or individuals.



Project closing ceremony, Kavumu, DRC
Photo credit: Rachel Kiese Mbangi, Journaliste Radio Okapi, Bukavu

Our Work

The Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, administered by DMSPC, was created by the Secretary-General in 2016 to strengthen the response and support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. The objective of the Trust Fund is to provide seed funds to address gaps in services for victims. Funding is provided to United Nations Secretariat entities, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and non-governmental organizations to implement projects focused on:



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

One of the main purposes of Trust Fund projects is the provision of psychosocial services for women and children. They are provided with psychological first aid and counselling, and referred to specialized mental health clinics. They receive enhanced social support to facilitate their reintegration into their communities, or through the provision of peer-to-peer support.



MEDICAL CARE

Victims receive medical care and treatment to address the consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse. They are referred to services such as HIV post-exposure treatment, post-exposure prophylaxis, and reproductive and sexual health-care services. To address immediate needs, victims receive hygiene kits and other sanitary materials.



INCOME GENERATION

Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse experience consequences of these harms which go well beyond the psychological and physical. They are often stigmatized by their families and community members, and may be abandoned without support to provide for themselves. Trust Fund projects help to provide victims with knowledge and tools which empower them to become economically active and self-sustaining. This helps them reclaim their dignity and rebuilds their self-esteem. Through participation in vocational training, for example bread-baking, basket weaving, dressmaking or hairdressing, victims gain skills which enable them to start their businesses, sell their products to generate income, and provide for themselves and their families. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 375 beneficiaries participated in vocational training (e.g., sewing and



pastry making) and were provided with starter kits. Following the vocational training, some beneficiaries have been able to sew uniforms for schools, sell their baskets, including in partnership with larger shops and restaurants to provide regular wares, so that the selling of their products and income generation can be sustained. The Trust Fund, through projects and beyond, continues to seek sustainable pathways with UN and non-UN partners to provide information to beneficiaries on microfinancing, market rates, demands, and related resources.



AWARENESS-RAISING

Awareness-raising campaigns are an essential part of projects supported by the Trust Fund so that victims and their communities are aware of their rights and the support available to realize them. Project teams engage with communities throughout the entire life of a project.

Community-based Complaint Networks (CBCNs) are critical in encouraging reporting of complaints, and coordination and provision of victim assistance and support. CBCNs bring the United Nations, beneficiaries and community leaders together. CBCNs work to provide all stakeholders with accurate information



“ We work with Community-Based Complaint Networks (CBCN), to raise awareness within the community about sexual exploitation and abuse. Now the reporting of such cases has become a common practice. Whenever they see suspicious activities, the communities speak up to raise concerns with MONUSCO.

DELU LUSIAMBIA

SYAM
Civil Society Organization, DRC

about projects and their objectives, including how project activities address the needs of the victims.

Trust Fund projects support victims and those at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, or who are in the most vulnerable situations in their communities to avoid stigmatization of victims.

Improving and Streamlining Processes

From January 2021, the Trust Fund has used an Implementing Partner Module established for the United Nations Secretariat to facilitate project management and financial processes. This has resulted in a streamlined and organized system to secure administrative and financial accountability related to projects.

The Module also simplifies partner agreement processes by generating templates pre-approved by the Controller and the Office of Legal Affairs. While there is still room for negotiation with implementing partners on language in agreements, this has reduced the time required for the finalization of agreements.

In order to allow for a better assessment of the impact of the Trust Fund on the project beneficiaries and communities, partners implementing Trust Fund projects

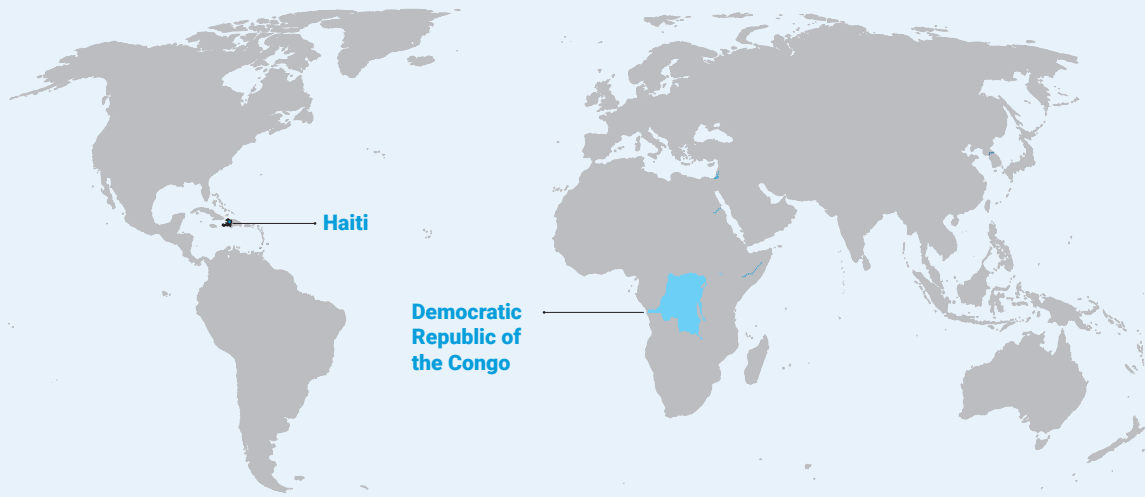
are required to develop and provide performance indicators against which the projects' impact is measured. Additionally, to improve the Trust Fund secretariat's oversight of the project's progress, implementing partners are required to provide quarterly and annual progress reports, including detailed information on how the funding provided has been used.

To date, the Trust Fund project proposals have been received on an ad hoc basis or through direct solicitation. A focused annual cycle for the submission of proposals will be launched in September 2022. This will result in a smoother, time-sensitive, and efficient process for receipt of proposals. It will also facilitate enhanced planning for matching funds to projects. Ad hoc projects will be considered if received outside the annual cycle and will be shared with the Review Committee.

Trust Fund Projects



During 2021, the Trust Fund implemented the following projects





PROJECT: Victim Assistance and Support in Beni, Bunia, Goma, Kalemie, Kavumu, and Uvira

LOCATION: The Democratic Republic of the Congo

PROJECT BUDGET: \$360,000

FUNDS DISBURSED: \$362,495

STATUS: Completed

Noted: It is to be noted that project budgets are subject to change given the evolving situation where projects are being implemented, and based on the identified need e.g., security situation in DRC led to additional funds being disbursed to construct a fence around the training centre.

Implementation of the victim assistance and support to CBCNs projects was launched in September 2020 by a non-governmental organization called the Samani Ya Mazingira (SYAM). With support from the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the projects were implemented in six locations, Beni, Goma, Bunia, Kavumu, Uvira, and Kalemie.

The projects objectives were:

- Train 420 beneficiaries in the six communities of Beni, Bunia, Goma, Kalemie, Kavumu, and Uvira in dressmaking, hairdressing, bread-baking, pastry-making, improved cooking methods, basket weaving, farming/animal husbandry, and small business management.
- Provide two-year scholarships for 60 affected children.
- Build the capacity of 120 members of the local CBCNs to receive and report complaints, and provide support to income generation activities for beneficiaries.

To ensure a safe and secure training environment for victims, the SYAM also supported the development

of local infrastructure, such as building a fence and a gate for the bakery-training centre.

Despite mitigation measures related to the COVID-10 pandemic, beneficiaries maintained a high level of commitment and participation in projects' activities.

Over the course of the projects, the following activities were implemented:

- 375 project beneficiaries participated in six months of vocational training. The beneficiaries gained the skills in the following:
 - Sewing (130 beneficiaries)
 - Pastry making (90 beneficiaries)
 - Hairdressing (75 beneficiaries)
 - Improved cooking methods (20)
 - Dyeing (60)
- 83 affected children in vulnerable situations were provided with two-year scholarships and school materials, such as pens and pencils, erasers, notebooks, school bags, shoes, and school uniforms.
- To strengthen communities' capacity in addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, the SYAM and MONUSCO worked closely with CBCNs and local authorities. One-hundred and twenty members of CBCNs were trained on issues including gender, human rights, children's rights, prevention, and reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse, and victims' rights.



Beneficiaries training, DRC

Following the vocational training, participants were provided with starter kits to support them to enhance their skills further and establish businesses. Project beneficiaries, as set out above, were able to generate sustainable income.

Implementation of income generation activities enabled victims to build their skills, as well as share

their experiences in a dynamic group of their peers, which bolstered their self-esteem. In addition to avoiding the risk of stigmatization, the inclusion of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, and those at risk of such wrongs allowed for interaction between the project beneficiaries and the community members, thus strengthening ties within the communities.



PROJECT: Assistance for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and their Children Born as a Result of these Misconducts

LOCATION: Haiti

PROJECT BUDGET: \$249,738

FUNDS DISBURSED: \$249,738 (\$149,842.80 disbursed in 2021²)

STATUS: Ongoing

In 2020, the Trust Fund supported an initial project to assist children born as a result of sexual exploitation and abuse in Haiti. The two-year project was initiated in January 2021, with the Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) providing oversight and leading its implementation. Despite continued political instability, unstable security situations, and trauma experienced by beneficiaries in Haiti due to the earthquake in the south of the country in August 2021, the project activities were carried out as intended.

The main objectives of the project are:

- Provide educational support to 34 children (17 girls and 17 boys) born of sexual exploitation or abuse.
- Provide socioeconomic, psychological and medical assistance to 28 victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Provide legal assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, including on resolution of paternity/child support claims.
- Increase community awareness of prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Over the course of 2021, the following activities were implemented:

- Provision of monthly payment to 30 families for uniforms, school supplies, school fees, school meals, and medical care allowing 34 children (17 girls and 17 boys) to return to school.

- Initiation of income generation activities, with training to be provided during the second year of the project.
- Delivery of 22 psychological sessions for children and beneficiaries; and provision of psychological support through home visits where needed.
- Coverage of beneficiaries' medical costs.
- Awareness-raising session for 25 families on COVID-19 mitigation measures and provision of hygiene and protection kits; awareness-raising sessions for 10 beneficiaries.
- Development of communication materials such as banners, posters, leaflets to raise community awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse; Development of audio spots and short films in Creole for broadcast on community radios.
- Provision of financial support for administrative services for ongoing paternity and child-support claims.

In August 2021, Haiti was hit by an earthquake, which affected 24 project beneficiaries (12 victims of sexual exploitation or abuse, and 12 children) living in the South and Grand Anse. Additional financial support for their income generation activities was provided to the beneficiaries through the project.

² The remainder of the funds to be disbursed in 2022.

Status of Upcoming Projects in 2022



PROJECT: Enhancing Support for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Providing Timely, Quality and Victim-Centred Services in Rubkona of Unity State, Malakal Protection of Civilians sites of Upper Nile State, and Pibor of Jonglei State of South Sudan.

LOCATION: South Sudan

BUDGET: \$337,872

FUNDS DISBURSED: \$161,987 (as of Aug 2022)³

In 2022, the first Trust Fund project in South Sudan was initiated. The 12-month project, implemented by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will serve members of communities affected or at risk of sexual exploitation abuse. It will provide direct, specialized services, including psychosocial, medical and legal counselling support, and income generation activities for 60 SEA victims, and those in vulnerable situations in Rubkona, Malakal, and Pibor. Established services, such as the UNFPA Women's and Girls' Friendly Spaces, gender-based violence one-stop centres and

health facilities, will support delivery. The project will also increase community-awareness, including on sexual exploitation and abuse, and how to report allegations, through activities conducted with the CBCNs. This will help to reduce the stigma and fear of retaliation against victims by the alleged perpetrators.

Proposals for Trust Fund projects in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia have been received and approved by the Review Committee. Preparations for implementation are ongoing.



Workshop with Victim Assistance Focal Points on the Victim Assistance Protocol, South Sudan
Photo credit: CDT UNMISS

³ The remainder of the funds to be disbursed in 2023.

Impact

Analysis of the implementation of projects to date which reflect an expansion of the pool of beneficiaries demonstrates that the Fund has had a significant positive impact on victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, and those at risk of such wrongs. The secretariat has adjusted its approach to management of the Fund based on feedback from victims and those managing and implementing the projects, and lessons learned, and continues to improve its processes. In particular, flexibility in management of the Fund is essential, particularly as projects are implemented

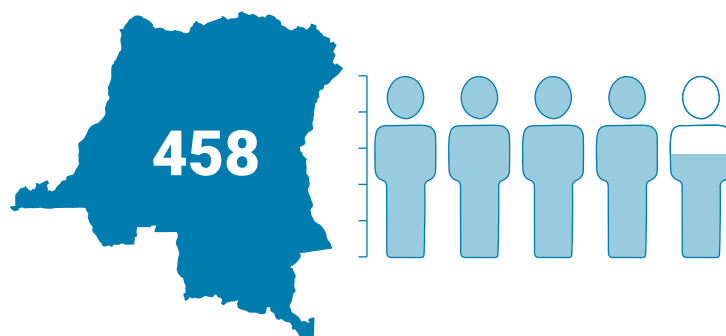
in insecure and conflict affected contexts, as well as those subject to natural disasters. Monitoring the impact of projects is also crucial.

Victims are at the center of our efforts, and the experience of the Fund has shown that beneficiaries require continuity in projects and follow-up. Supported by the Victims' Rights Advocate and the Senior Victims' Rights Officers who operate on the ground, the Trust Fund secretariat will continue to seek victims' feedback so projects can respond appropriately to their needs.

492 NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES FOR PROJECTS IN 2021:



HAITI



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

120 number of indirect beneficiaries

(An indirect beneficiary is someone who is not directly connected with a project but will still benefit from it, for example, community members who have benefited from awareness raising activities.)

Financial Information



Summary of all funds disbursed between 2017 and August 2022

\$3,829,534

Contributions received since 2016

\$547,714

Withheld payments

\$4,377,048

Total

\$1,732,492⁴







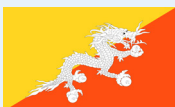

















Funds disbursed/committed between 2017 and May 2021 for 12 projects (Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Liberia, Haiti including first project in the South Sudan)

\$2,644,556

Projected balance

⁴ Between January and August 2022, the Trust Fund disbursed \$261,881.97 in support of the project in Haiti (second tranche) and South Sudan (first tranche).

List of the 24 Member States which provided contributions to the Trust Fund (as of August 2022).

	Albania 2,000		Luxembourg 50,000
	Australia 150,954		Nigeria 100,000
	Bangladesh 100,000		Norway 288,135
	Bhutan 10,000		Pakistan 10,000
	Canada 232,132		Philippines 15,000
	Cyprus 17,900		Portugal 66,680
	Ecuador 1,000		Slovakia 35,352
	Finland 60,045		Sri Lanka 10,000
	Germany 120,000		Switzerland 52,000
	India 100,000		Uganda 10,000
	Italy 578,816		United Kingdom 1,099,520
	Japan 200,000		United States 520,000

TOTAL: 3,829,534
WITHHELD
PAYMENTS⁵: **547,714**

OVERALL TOTAL
4,377,048

⁵ Payments withheld from troop and police contributing countries as a result of substantiated allegations.

Way Forward

The Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse aims to assist victims of United Nations personnel across the entire UN system. DMSPC will soon launch its annual call for project proposals from UN Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes, and non-governmental organizations to support victims from all UN entities, agencies, funds and programmes. The call will mark the introduction of a new cycle for receipt of project proposals to respond to suggestions received from our partners.

Priorities for 2022 include:

- Initiate annual project cycle.
 - Finalize agreements for new projects in the following locations:
 - Liberia - where a new project will support SEA victims, who participated in the earlier project and who acquired literacy skills, with vocational skills.
 - DRC - where support will be provided for two new projects. The first project is a continuation of a project implemented by SYAM. Encouraged by the positive results of past projects and motivated by the expressed needs of beneficiaries and community members, SYAM proposes extending the project to other beneficiaries in the same locations. The second project aims to enhance mental health and psychosocial support to SEA victims and children born as a result of SEA.
 - The Central African Republic - where the project will focus on the realization of the rights of victims in Alindao, Pombolo and Mobaye through provision of support and assistance.
- Strengthen outreach to agencies, funds, programmes and civil society partners to encourage more project ideas and proposals from them and more countries.
 - Continue collaboration with the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate and Senior Victims' Rights Officers on mapping gaps in services and specialized projects.
 - Collaborate with the communications team in the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Global Communications to strengthen awareness-raising activities and capacity-building for CBCMs.
 - Continue gathering information and documentation on the impact of projects.
 - Collaborate with the Victims' Rights Advocate in implementing methodologies to seek feedback from beneficiaries.
 - Disseminate information on the impact of the Trust Fund and testimonies of beneficiaries through the Trust Fund website, social media campaigns and various United Nations and Member States' events.

