

UN ACTION AGAINST
SEXUAL VIOLENCE
IN CONFLICT

**ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT**

2020

UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

UN ACTION NETWORK MEMBERS

	OCHA - Office For the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
	OHCHR - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
	OSRSG-SVC - Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
	UNAIDS - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids
	UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
	DPO - Department of Peace Operations
	DPPA - Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
	UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
	UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
	UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
	UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
	WHO - World Health Organization
	IOM - International Organization for Migration
	UNOCT - United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
	UNODA - United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
	OSGEY - Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
	OSAPG - Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
	OSRSG-CAAC - Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
	OSRSG-VAC - Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
	CTED - The Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

DONORS



Belgium



Estonia



Japan



Netherlands



Norway



Swedish
International
Development
Cooperation



Switzerland



Kingdom
of Bahrain

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CPPF	Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum	SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
CRSV	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
CRSV-MPTF	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund	SRSG-CAAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict
CSO	Civil Society Organisation		Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
DPPA	United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	SRSG-SVC	Social Science Research Council
DPO	United Nations Department of Peace Operations	SSRC	Sexual Violence in Conflict
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	SVC	Senior Women Protection Adviser
FoCs	Frameworks of Cooperation	SWPA	Theory of Change
GBV	Gender-based violence	ToC	UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict
GBVIMS	Gender-based Violence Information Management System	TOE	Terms of Reference
IOM	International Organization for Migration		United Nations
JCs	Joint Communiqués	TORs	UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict
MARA	Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements	UN	UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	UN Action	
		UN Action MPTF	
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
NGO	Non-governmental organization	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
OSAPG	United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
OSRSG-CAAC	United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict	UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
OSRSG-SVC	United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	UNODA	United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
OSRSG-VAC	United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children	UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
RMC	Resource Management Committee	UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
		WHO	World Health Organization
		WPA	Women's Protection Adviser
		WPS	Women, Peace and Security

A photograph of a woman wearing a blue hijab, seen from the side, looking out of a window. The window is covered with a brown and gold patterned curtain. The room is dimly lit, with a small red light visible on the wall to the right.

Overview of UN Action

Introduction

This Report provides an overview of the key initiatives and achievements of the UN Action Network from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020, as they relate to deliverables specified in UN Action's Strategic Framework for 2020 – 2025, and its attending 2020-2021 Workplan. This includes activities funded through the UN Action Window of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund (CRSV-MPTF).



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UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) is a network of 20 UN entities, united by the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of armed conflict. Working as one UN, UN Action aims to prevent and respond to CRSV, enhance accountability, and meet the needs of survivors of sexual violence through a survivor-centred approach. UN Action brings together the collective experience and institutional capacity of the UN system, and over the last decade has filled critical knowledge gaps, generated policy, guidance, and training materials to inform evidence-based prevention and response to CRSV. It has, furthermore, enhanced country-level capacity in this area. UN Action does so through the CRSV-MPTF, which (including activities funded through its predecessor, the UN Action MPTF), has funded 53 projects across 17 conflict-affected countries since 2008, as well as regional and global-level initiatives. These projects have fostered collaboration across UN entities and catalysed innovative initiatives and programming in the area of CRSV. Notably, the UN Action Network is the only UN system-wide initiative that leads advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilisation and joint programming to prevent and respond to CRSV.

¹ CTED, DPO, DPPA, IOM, OCHA, UNODA, OHCHR, OSAPG, OSRSG-CAAC, OSRSG-VAC, OSGEY, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCT, UNODC, UN Women and WHO

UN Action was created in 2007 in response to the “Call to Action” of the June 2006 Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, held in Brussels. The establishment of UN Action responded to calls from within the UN, as well as from women’s rights organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Member States to elevate sexual violence politically as a peace and security challenge, and as a humanitarian, human rights, gender and development issue.

In June 2007, the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee endorsed UN Action as “a critical joint UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilization, and joint programming around sexual violence in conflict”. In all relevant resolutions, notably 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2331 (2016) and 2467 (2019), the Security Council specifically highlights UN Action as the critical interagency coordination forum to address CRSV, through joint advocacy, knowledge generation and programming.

UN Action works through a network of Focal Points from each member entity and is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of Principals from the 20 UN entities. UN Action is chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) and is supported by a Secretariat, located in the Office of the SRSG-SVC.

In line with relevant Security Council resolutions mentioned above, UN Action seeks to synergise efforts of humanitarian, human rights, development, political, peacekeeping and security actors to address CRSV – reinforcing good practices, strengthening coordination, and avoiding duplication of effort. To achieve this, UN Action harnesses the comparative strengths of each UN entity for a force-multiplier effect, recognising that sexual violence requires a broad-based, multisectoral response.

Further, UN Action is the primary consultation forum for the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The Report serves not only as a public record of events, but also as a global advocacy instrument for driving the field of CRSV prevention and response forward. Annually, the Report brings new concerns and information on CRSV to light, and additionally, serves as a reference tool, as well as a basis for strategic advocacy, and enhanced operational response.

Subsequent annual Reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, have detailed critical dimensions and emerging challenges for addressing CRSV. Most recently, these include preventing and responding to CRSV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the specific rights and needs of women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict, along with their children born as a consequence of sexual violence, the use of sexual violence to pursue strategies and tactics of terrorism, sexual slavery and conflict-driven trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and forced marriage, as well as the need for enhanced justice and accountability, including reparations for survivors of CRSV. In 2019, the Security Council enshrined these new areas in resolution 2467, thereby providing strategic direction on essential elements that need to be considered in a survivor-centred approach to addressing CRSV. Further, the Security Council, under Operative Paragraph 34 in the same resolution, encouraged UN Action to revise and continue development of innovative operational tools and guidance, such as in these new areas.

Shortly after the issuance of Security Council resolution 2467, UN Action developed its new Strategic Framework (2020 – 2025), focusing particularly on a comprehensive and survivor-centred approach to CRSV, with a renewed emphasis on prevention of CRSV, including addressing its structural root causes.

The overarching goal of UN Action is that CRSV is prevented, survivors' needs are met and accountability of perpetrators is enhanced.

UN Action is also the main forum through which the SRSG-SVC promotes cooperation and coordination of efforts among all relevant stakeholders (as referenced in Security Council resolution 1888 (2009)). The SRSG-SVC, Ms. Pramila Patten, has articulated a three-pillar priority strategy that, alongside the successive Security Council resolutions on CRSV, serve as a guiding approach for UN Action's 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework. These are:

- a) Converting cultures of impunity into cultures of deterrence;
- b) Addressing structural gender-based inequality as the root cause and invisible driver of sexual violence in times of war and peace; and
- c) Fostering national ownership and leadership for a sustainable, survivor-centred response that empowers civil society and women's rights defenders.

UN Action's work is funded by voluntary contributions² from a range of governments, including the Governments of Bahrain, Estonia, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and Sweden, and through which funds are directed to UN Action entities to support specific UN Action deliverables.

These funds are channelled through CRSV-MPTF (the Fund), which succeeds the UN Action Multi-Partner Trust Fund, that operated from 1st January 2009 to 31st December 2019. The CRSV-MPTF builds upon past achievements, best practices, and lessons learned, in an opportunity to reinforce synergies between UN entities, governments, and civil society in preventing and responding to CRSV, galvanised by resolution 2467 (2019). Priorities under the newly established CRSV-MPTF are that holistic and survivor-centred prevention and protections responses are provided; strengthened national and international institutions prevent CRSV by addressing gender-based inequality and discrimination as the root-cause and driver of sexual violence; greater justice and accountability for CRSV including a survivor-centred approach through strengthened capacity and technical expertise of national and international institutions and; better cooperation and information sharing between UN agencies reinforce coordination and improve system-wide response and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on CRSV.

In order to support the two operational arms of the CRSV mandate, two Windows were established under the CRSV-MPTF – one for the UN Action Network and the other for the Team of Experts (TOE) on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict^{3,4}. This report covers initiatives funded through the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF⁵.



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² UN Action is funded exclusively through extra-budgetary resources and voluntary contributions

³ The TOE assists national authorities in strengthening the rule of law with the aim of ensuring criminal accountability for perpetrators of CRSV.

⁴ A separate report is produced by the TOE and can be found at: [Team of Experts' 2020 Annual Report](#)

⁵ The Consolidated Annual Narrative and Financial Progress Report for the [Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(CRSV-MPTF\)](#), covering activities of both UN Action and the TOE can be found at the link.

ADAPTING TO A NEW CONTEXT

In 2020, the UN Action Network and the UN system more broadly, were confronted by unprecedented challenges due primarily to COVID-19. The pandemic has had far-reaching implications for the implementation of the CRSV agenda, with a number of the main considerations outlined by the SRSG-SVC in a Policy Brief issued in 2020. For example, the pandemic amplified gender-based inequality, a root cause and driver of sexual violence. It resulted in the contraction of routine health services, which increased barriers to service provision for victims of sexual violence, including access to emergency post-rape care and sexual and reproductive health. The pandemic also hampered capacity for oversight and monitoring of contexts in which CRSV occurs frequently, such as in detention facilities, displacement settings, and remote rural areas where women undertake essential livelihood activities.

However, despite these far-reaching consequences and challenges, the UN Action Network has adapted with speed to new ways of working, demonstrating agility, resilience, and a commitment to innovation. New methods of working have been explored and implemented, including modalities of staying connected to on-the-ground realities. UN Action has already seen the positive consequences of adaptations made, including time-saving and cost-efficiency. In an increasingly digitally reliant era, UN Action increased its social media presence and launched a redesigned website that is regularly updated with new content, and which contains more details on the work of UN Action and its members, as well as a document library containing tools, guidelines and reports produced over the years.

The UN Action Network has also recalibrated to better respond to new dimensions of the CRSV mandate, including both normative and operational aspects.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2020 - 2025 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Whilst acknowledging that achievements of the UN Action Network, since its creation in 2007, and the UN Action MPTF, from its establishment in 2009, have been significant, there has been considerable progress on the CRSV agenda in the past decade, particularly strengthening of the international normative framework including the series of five resolutions on this issue that are increasingly comprehensive and operationally precise. In addition, the adoption of the ground-breaking Security Council resolution 2647 (2019) in April 2019 was the first Security Council document to explicitly articulate a survivor-centre approach in the prevention and response to CRSV.

UN Action works on the implementation of these successive resolutions to move from resolutions to solutions on the ground that will manifest in tangible support for the most vulnerable populations.

In early 2020, the UN Action Network convened to articulate a new goal, develop its 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework, and attending governance and planning documents which are detailed further in this report.



UN PHOTO | JC McIlwaine
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⁶ 2020 annual Report of the Secretary General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, [2020-SG-Report.pdf \(stoprapenow.org\)](#)

REFINED PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES

In terms of the approach to programming, UN Action has renewed its focus to support the realisation of formal commitments made by affected countries, articulated in the form of Joint Communiqués (JCs) and Frameworks of Cooperation (FoCs) reached by the SRSG-SVC on behalf of the UN. Thus, UN Action currently focuses on 19 conflict and post-conflict situations, and increases its coverage when emerging situations of concern arise (for example, Ethiopia in 2020).

UN Action is currently working on a system-wide approach to conducting gaps assessments on the prevention and response to CRSV, in relation to commitments made by affected countries under the aforementioned JCs and FoCs. UN Action intends to inform programming by conducting joint technical assessments of the most urgent gaps, prioritising areas for intervention, and then developing comprehensive programmes to address these in conflict-affected contexts.

Reinforced by Security Council resolution 2467 (2019), going forward, UN Action has re-committed to ensuring all initiatives are framed through a survivor-centred approach in preventing and responding to CRSV, and focusing on supporting the long-term resilience of survivors. As the UN's knowledge-generation hub on CRSV, UN Action has initiated the development of guiding principles for a survivor-centred approach in preventing and responding to CRSV, building on existing guidance within the human rights and humanitarian sectors.



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UNWOMEN PHOTO | Ryan Brown

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Further, it intends to build on the successes of previous survivor-centred projects funded through UN Action, such as the establishment of One-Stop Centres that bring multisectoral and life-saving services, including free health, sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial, legal, and livelihoods services under one roof to reduce the burden on survivors travelling to multiple locations to access the services they need.

UN Action is also increasingly focused on addressing the structural root causes of CRSV, such as gender inequality, at all levels from legislative and policy to community, through the review, updating and development of knowledge products and tools, and the design and implementation of projects that explicitly address CRSV at its root.

Regarding the strengthening of data as a basis for evidence-driven response, UN Action is updating guidance in this area and is planning on rolling out training on safe and ethical data collection, management and particularly analysis. Further, UN Action is working to bridge data systems and actors for greater synergy of action, more comprehensive analysis and reporting, and a harmonised response. This includes consideration of the synergies between the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements on CRSV (MARA) as mandated by Security Council resolution 1960 (2010) and the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS).

UN ACTION NETWORK GROWTH

The UN Action Network continues to grow at a steady pace. As of this writing, it welcomed four new members: the Office of the Youth Envoy, the Office of the SRSG on Violence Against Children, the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, and the UN Office of Counter Terrorism who will all make critical contributions to the CRSV mandate.

The UN Action Network, through its now 20 members, many with on-the-ground operational presence, has considerable reach and capacity.

However, it should be noted that in 2020 the CRSV-MPTF only had resources available to fund one field-based project (in Somalia) despite urgent and growing need.

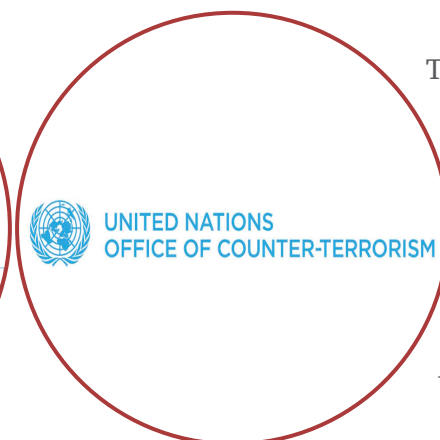
A planned, in person, donor-roundtable was delayed due to travel restrictions, however, the SRSG-SVC continued efforts to raise funds through high-level bilateral virtual engagements, which were followed-up at the technical level by the UN Action Secretariat.

UN Action has also developed a draft advocacy strategy with components such as fundraising, communications and social mobilisation (including reinvigoration of the Stop Rape Now Campaign). This strategy will be finalised and implemented in 2021.

RESOURCING CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 crisis has undoubtedly stymied efforts to raise funds for the CRSV-MPTF on a larger scale, and as such had implications on the ability to fund comprehensive projects in countries of concern.

The first section of this report summarises the new governance systems and structure of the CRSV-MPTF and UN Action, and the second section will report on achievements related to UN Action's five outcome areas.



Governance and Structure of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Periodic reviews and evaluations of the UN Action MPTF were undertaken during its operation, including of UN Action⁷ and the TOE⁸. Through these, several common themes emerged that were taken into consideration in developing the CRSV-MPTF, including the need to: (i) enhance communication and visibility; (ii) incorporate lessons learned from project implementation; (iii) enhance coordination and cooperation; and (iv) enhance impact at the country level. In addition to these common themes, the Fund also incorporates lessons learned and best practices drawn from the operation of the UN Action MPTF over the past ten years.

Thus, through the establishment of the CRSV-MPTF, the UN system seeks to increase coherence, bring attention to critical gaps and underfinanced priorities, consolidate and coordinate efforts to reduce fragmentation, and ensure impact at the country level.

Under the CRSV-MPTF, two Windows were established – one for UN Action and the other for the TOE. Each Window has its own oversight and decision-making body to facilitate the work of the respective entities, guided by the strategic leadership of SRSG-SVC,

and the three-pillar priority strategy set by the SRSG-SVC as described previously. The decision-making process for the use of funds by the CRSV-MPTF is outlined in relevant governance documents of the Fund and the joint programme of the TOE. The UN Action Steering Committee, chaired by the SRSG-SVC, provides oversight and strategic advice regarding the CRSV-MPTF overall.

The MPTF Office of UNDP serves as the Administrative Agent of the CRSV-MPTF, using the pass-through fund management modality.

While the direction of each of the windows are elaborated in their respective strategic and/or programmatic frameworks, in general, the CRSV-MPTF focuses on four CRSV-specific outcomes:

1. Holistic survivor-centred prevention and protection responses to CRSV are provided by international institutions and actors, in line with Security Council resolution 2467 (2019);
2. Strengthened national and international institutions prevent CRSV by addressing gender-based inequality and discrimination as the root-cause and driver of sexual violence;

⁷ Review of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict 2007-2012 – Final Report, dated January 2013; Review of the UN Action Multi-Partner Trust Fund, dated June 2019.

⁸ Mid-term Review of the 2015-2019 Joint Programme of the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law / Sexual Violence in Conflict, dated July 2018.

3. Greater justice and accountability for CRSV including a survivor-centred approach through strengthened capacity and technical expertise of national and international institutions.
4. Better cooperation and information sharing between UN agencies reinforce coordination and improve system-wide response and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on CRSV.

Further, jointly, the work of the TOE and UN Action contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), primarily SDGs 5 and 16:

To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



THE UN ACTION WINDOW OF THE CRSV-MPTF

Through the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF, UN Action Network members are eligible to receive funding from the CRSV-MPTF for proposals that fit under the UN Action Strategic Framework, based on a call for proposals issued on a biannual (twice-yearly) basis, if the funding situation allows.

To make resource allocation decisions for the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF, the UN Action Network established a Resource Management Committee (RMC), a sub-committee of UN Action Focal Points. The RMC comprises of five UN Action Focal Points, one of whom serves as the Chairperson, nominated every year by the broader group of UN Action Focal Points and endorsed by the UN Action Steering Committee Chairperson, the SRSG-SVC. Resource allocation decisions are made by the RMC based on its Operational Guidance, and the UN Action Network Funding Strategy. In 2020, the RMC comprised UNFPA (as Chair), UN Women, DPO, UNHCR and IOM.

The UN Action Secretariat supports the work of the RMC, Participating UN Organisations submitting proposals for consideration, the Administrative Agent, and the UN Action Steering Committee for the purpose of facilitating the CRSV-MPTF.

Governance and Structure of the UN Action Network

THE UN ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE

UN Action is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of principals and senior officials from its member entities, and is chaired by the SRSG-SVC. As per the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the

Steering Committee, it serves as a high-level forum for discussing and coordinating substantive policy and operational matters regarding CRSV, with a view to taking consensus-based decisions on concerted courses of action and follow up by UN Action. Principals meet three times a year (including once at the level of heads of agencies / departments) to undertake the following key tasks:

- a) Serving as a high-level forum for discussing and coordinating substantive policy and operational matters regarding CRSV;
- b) Endorsing the multi-year Strategic Framework for UN Action developed by Focal Points, which sets out clear tasks and outputs to be achieved by the UN Action Network, indicating the contributions and added value of each member entity;
- c) Providing leadership and advocacy within the member's own entity on addressing CRSV, and on the participation in UN Action;
- d) Ensuring that CRSV prevention and response is mainstreamed within the member's own entity;
- e) Ensuring that resources are made available within the member's own entity to implement UN Action's Workplan and the Strategic Framework;
- f) Reviewing and endorsing the annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV;
- g) Endorsing decisions by the UN Action RMC on the allocation of UN Action's resources from the CRSV-MPTF;
- h) Providing strategic advice and taking decisions related to the CRSV-MPTF.





THE UN ACTION NETWORK FOCAL POINTS

UN Action Focal Points serve as the main technical representative for entities in the UN Action Network, serve as the liaison between the entity including its country offices/missions and UN Action, and ensure two-way communication, knowledge sharing and coordinated action.

As per the TORs for the Focal Points, their main role is:

- a) Supporting joint and coordinated action to prevent and respond to CRSV, such as jointly planning and leading initiatives to implement UN Action's Strategic Framework and Workplan;
- b) Supporting their entity's contribution for a coordinated approach on CRSV, such as by serving as a link to their entity's country-level initiatives, providing support, guidance, capacity-building and advice to field offices on the implementation of the CRSV mandate, collecting good practices on implementing the CRSV mandate from their entity, promoting institutionalisation of these practices within the organisation, sharing information and tools, and rolling-out guidance developed through UN Action within their entity, and facilitating mainstreaming of CRSV within the work of the entity;
- c) Supporting the awareness-raising, advocacy and public information aspects of the UN Action Network, including by contributing to the development and dissemination of joint advocacy messages and supporting amplification of the Stop Rape Now Campaign;
- d) Guiding the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF such as through participating in the RMC, advising on funding strategies and priorities, promoting coherence and complementarity with other funding mechanisms, supporting the development of joint projects and related project proposals and guiding resource mobilisation efforts;
- e) Providing technical advice to the SRSG-SVC, such as by bringing in technical insights from the perspective and expertise of their entity, supporting the process for, and preparation of the annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV, and, preparing for and accompanying the SRSG-SVC on missions.

Recent graphics from our social media:



THE UN ACTION SECRETARIAT

The UN Action Secretariat coordinates and convenes the UN Action Network at the working-level, and provides technical and administrative support. It supports the preparation of the annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV; frames advocacy messages for UN Action and the SRSG-SVC; supports and engages in joint missions to situations of concern; conducts training, briefings and outreach activities; and develops strategic partnerships with a broad range of actors.

The UN Action Secretariat manages the technical and operational functioning of the CRSV-MPTF (for example coordinating the preparation of the Consolidated Annual Progress Report of the CRSV-MPTF and supporting the UN Action Steering Committee vis a vis its role and responsibilities as relates to the CRSV-MPTF). Further, it supports the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF (for example supporting the functioning of the Resource Management Committee, vetting incoming project proposals, and monitoring progress of approved projects). The Secretariat also facilitates UN Action's strategic planning; monitors implementation of agreed-upon deliverables in line with UN Action's Strategic Framework and Workplan; evaluates and reports on the impact of the UN Action's activities and mobilises resources for the Fund.

The UN Action Secretariat is located in the Office of the SRSG-SVC. Its core capacity includes the UN Action Coordinator (coordinating the UN Action Secretariat), a Programme Officer (serving as Deputy UN Action Coordinator, supporting knowledge management and learning), a Grants Manager and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (supporting project proposal review, project monitoring and reporting processes); and an Administrative Assistant. In December 2020, the Government of Japan donated a Junior Professional Officer to the Secretariat. Further, in order to support specific thematic areas of focus identified by the UN Action Network, entities have been encouraged to second additional capacity – UNHCR has committed to providing such support for the 2021 year.

UN Action's 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework

In early 2020, the UN Action Network convened to develop its 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework, through an intensive and iterative process that led to the delineation of a new Goal, Theory of Change (ToC), four main Outcome Areas and a General Outcome related to overall coordination and advocacy, as well as specific activities, which were further detailed in its 2020 – 2021 Workplan.

Goal, Theory of Change and Outcome Areas

The overarching goal of UN Action is that CRSV is prevented, survivors' needs are met and accountability of perpetrators is enhanced.

The ToC outlines the goal that UN Action strives towards and maps backwards to articulate the five outcomes that need to be achieved for this goal to be realised⁹. Thus:

- 1) **If** the UN Action Network fulfils its role as a consultative forum on CRSV and a platform for coordinating advocacy and implementing joint gap-filling CRSV-focused interventions, **then** UN agencies cooperate and share information to reinforce coordination and coherence and improve the system-wide response and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on CRSV.
- 2) **If** comprehensive and multisectoral assistance, including medical, psychosocial, livelihoods and justice services are available and accessible to survivors, **and** CRSV prevention and risk mitigation measures are implemented in a survivor-centred manner, including through strategies and plans to implement Joint Communiqués, **then** survivors and at-risk groups are supported and protected and CRSV risks are prevented and mitigated.
- 3) **If** joint and sustained advocacy targets duty-bearers and decision makers to make and implement commitments to address CRSV, including its root causes and capacity and technical expertise of institutional, operational, national and other key actors is strengthened to prevent CRSV, respond to survivors' needs and strengthen legislation, investigations and prosecutions in line with guiding principles and a survivor centred approach, **then** duty-bearers and decision-makers take action to address both the immediate risks as well as the root causes of CRSV at the global and national level and promote compliance and accountability.

⁹ UN Action recognises that system-wide efforts and collaboration between States, UN entities including the Team of Experts, non-governmental organizations and civil society are required to realise this goal.

4) **If** guidance policies and tools are developed to fill gaps in knowledge, practices, advocacy and technical expertise for improved prevention of and response to CRSV and its root causes in conflict prevention/resolution, political, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, humanitarian and development processes, **and** such guidance, policies and tools are shared within the UN Action Network and other relevant actors, **then** UN Action member entities contribute to advancing the CRSV/WPS (Women, Peace and Security) agenda in a way that is informed by relevant guidance, policies and tools on addressing CRSV and its root causes.

5) **If** safe, ethical, and gender-responsive data management and analysis methods are used, WPAs (Women Protection Advisers) are deployed, **and** the MARA is strengthened, and safe, ethical, and effective coordination is promoted across CRSV information management platforms, **then** reliable, timely, and objective information on CRSV trends, risks and patterns supports evidence-based high-level advocacy, enhances pressure on parties to conflict and informs impactful, survivor-centred solutions.

In line with the ToC, five attending Outcomes were developed:

General Outcome related to Overall Coordination of the UN Action Network: UN agencies cooperate and share information to reinforce coordination and coherence and improve the system-wide response and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on CRSV;

Outcome 1 related to Prevention, Protection and Support to Survivors: Survivors and at-risk groups are supported and protected and CRSV risks are prevented and mitigated;

Outcome 2 related to Capacity Building and Strategic Engagement: Duty-bearers and decision-makers take action to address both the immediate risks as well as the root causes of CRSV at the global and national level and promote compliance and accountability;

Outcome 3 related to Knowledge Building and the development of Policies, Guidance and Tools: UN Action member entities contribute to advancing the implementation of the CRSV/WPS agenda in a way that is informed by relevant guidance, policies, and tools on addressing CRSV and its root causes;

Outcome 4 related to Data Collection, Management, Monitoring, Analysis and Harmonisation: Reliable, timely and objective information on CRSV trends, risks and patterns supports evidence-based high-level advocacy, enhances engagement with, and pressure on, parties to conflict, and informs impactful, survivor-centred solutions.

UN Action also developed targets with linked indicators for each of these Outcome areas. Baseline data collection is underway, and progress will be monitored on an annual basis against these baselines. Activities to be achieved in the 2020 - 2021 were detailed and broken down into a joint Workplan based on the above Outcome areas. As living tools, UN Action's overall Governance Documents, Strategic Framework and Workplan are regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with decision-makers and key stakeholders, including country counterparts.

A woman wearing a purple headscarf is shown in profile, looking out of a window. The window has a metal frame, and the view outside shows a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The lighting is soft and natural.

Initiatives Undertaken by UN Action in 2020

UNICEF PHOTO | Tanya Bindra

Initiatives under General Outcome Related to Overall Coordination of the UN Action Network

The UN Action Network started its year by embarking on a Strategic Retreat to take stock of past achievements and lessons-learned, and develop an ambitious new Goal and Strategic Framework, with attending targets indicators, as well as a linked 2020 - 2021 Workplan.

Nineteen Focal Points representing 14 UN Action Network members participated in the Retreat, organised by the UN Action Secretariat and a number of Focal Points, with support from a consultant. The Retreat was hosted free of charge at the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) in the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), where the hosts also played a leading role in framing the work of UN Action within the broader context of Conflict Prevention and Peace Building. The objectives of the Retreat were to plan collectively on UN Action's future direction, begin drafting UN Action's Strategic Framework, develop indicators for a corresponding Results Framework; determine a set of activities for the 2020 - 2021 period; discuss the role of UN Action Focal Points; and create a space for UN Action Network members to interact with one another and deepen professional connections and take ownership of UN Action's future direction. On the second day of the Retreat, donors were invited to a roundtable to review the strategic direction that UN Action planned to take over the next years and receive their inputs, ideas, and recommendations.

Canada, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom participated in the roundtable.

Following the Retreat, and over the course of the next months, UN Action finalised the strategic and planning documents initiated at the Retreat. It also updated and / or developed a full set of Governance Documents including TORs for the CRSV-MPTF, the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF (as well as the Operational Guidance note of the RMC, and funding Criteria of the CRSV-MPTF); the UN Action Steering Committee, the UN Action Focal Points and the UN Action Secretariat. All these documents were duly endorsed by the Chair of the UN Action Network and the Steering Committee.

Focal Points met monthly to coordinate and implement the work of UN Action, and convened through additional "Core Groups" (a subset of Focal Points) to further strategic and thematic initiatives. Over the course of 2020, these Core Groups became a mainstay of how UN Action rapidly moved work forward, in fact learning the lesson that virtual meetings for both UN Action as a whole, and working through Core Groups allowed for more participation, shorter lead times in convening groups, taking decisions, and harnessing technology to develop and input into documents via virtual platforms.



On advocacy, one of the lessons-learned from the previous UN Action MPTF was that although UN Action had been savvy in its use of social media and celebrity diplomacy, which resulted in the Stop Rape Now website and Get Cross Campaign, both internal and external advocacy on UN Action could be strengthened. Further, UN Action's social media and public engagement had been strongest in its earlier years, and then entered a phase of dormancy, producing little original content, nor growing its reach. Efforts needed to be made to reinvigorate the Campaign, increase presence on social media, and redesign the now dated website.

Hence, in 2020, UN Action, through an Advocacy Core Group, developed a TOR for a consultant to design an Advocacy Strategy, including components related to communications, social mobilisation, and fundraising. The Core Group also developed a set of advocacy messages to be included in statements of UN Action Principals and for dissemination via social media on occasions such as the 75th UN General Assembly, the 20th Anniversary of the Women, Peace and

Security Agenda and UN Security Council resolution 1325, and the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Related to these events, UN Action's social media was most active in September when the Twitter account added new followers, and garnered 12,600 impressions and the Facebook page saw 5,563 impressions on our posts.

Following the Secretary-General's call for global ceasefire, and on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, UN Action issued a joint statement urging all parties to conflict to cease CRSV and reiterating its commitment to "finally putting an end to the scourge of CRSV and to achieving sustainable peace"¹⁰.

Further, UN Action updated, redesigned and soft-launched its new website (stoprapenow.org). This website contains pages on UN Action's past and present projects, an extensive Digital Library containing guidance, policies, and tools developed by, or supported by UN Action, and news on how

¹⁰ UN Action joins the call of the Secretary General for a Global Ceasefire



each member entity contributes to the CRSV mandate. The Secretariat has also been actively upgrading its social media presence on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and established an [Instagram](#) account in anticipation of the reinvigoration of the #StopRapeNow campaign in 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and related travel restrictions, the SRSG-SVC was not able to engage in physical field missions (although a number of virtual field visits were conducted)¹¹. However, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Action immediately convened to identify the implications of the pandemic for CRSV survivors and people at-risk in humanitarian contexts, and in May, supported the strategic advocacy of the SRSG-SVC, by advising on the development and publication of the [policy brief on the implications of COVID-19 for the prevention and response to CRSV](#), as referred to earlier in the report.

In parallel, in March, at the request of Japan, and as evidence emerged that the COVID-19 pandemic would have serious implications on CRSV survivors, and those at risk, UN Action submitted eight Concept Notes to fund rapid-response projects at the nexus of CRSV and COVID-19. Though, at that time no projects were funded, a short-list of these projects was updated and re-submitted to Japan upon

its invitation for funding under the 2020 Supplementary Budget. As a result, one project was approved in the MENA region, and is currently under final approval.

In efforts to replenish the CRSV-MPTF, UN Action had originally planned to convene an in-person donor roundtable in mid-2020 to advocate for support to the CRSV agenda, raise the profile of the UN Action Network, and call for funding. Due to travel restrictions, UN Action decided that this initiative would be postponed to 2021. However, the SRSG-SVC led multiple efforts to raise funds for UN Action, including, in July, by sending communications to 30 Member States, both traditional donors and other countries who champion the CRSV agenda, to introduce the CRSV-MPTF and appeal for resources. This was followed up with high-level bilateral engagements by the SRSG-SVC, as well as technical-level meetings by the UN Action Secretariat and the TOE.

As a result, in 2020, the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF, received modest seed contributions from Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Estonia and Japan. The COVID-19 crisis has undoubtedly stymied efforts to raise funds for the CRSV-MPTF on a larger scale, and as such had implications on the ability to fund comprehensive projects in countries of concern.

UN Action's Website, stoprapenow.org



¹¹ The UN Action Network will support the preparation for and / or participate in such missions when travel resumes

Initiatives under Outcome 1

Related to Prevention, Protection and Support to Survivors

In 2020, the CRSV-MPTF only had the resources to support one country-level project. This Somalia based project, **Leveraging the strength of women in Somalia to mitigate conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and prevent violent extremism (CRSV_UNA02)**, initiated in April, and implemented by IOM and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), supports the rehabilitation and reintegration of approximately 400 women who were formerly associated with violent extremist groups, many of whom are survivors of CRSV. The project uses culturally grounded approaches to assist women to recover from trauma, and provides economic empowerment support, ultimately ensuring that these women become active contributors to sustainable peacebuilding in their societies.

In 2020, the project reached 123 women formerly associated with Al Shabaab, who have been enrolled with women-led Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Kismayo and in Baidoa to receive reintegration services and participate in social reintegration and community engagement activities.

Survivors received individualised services, such as medical support and referrals, specialised

counselling, and dignity kits, which include traditional Somali clothing (e.g. dresses (diric), shawls (garbosaar), headscarves (shalmad)), sanitary items, and cleaning products, as well as water buckets and mosquito nets.

The project also rapidly adjusted to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. It has adapted to include preventative health trainings, provision of Personal Protective Equipment, and hybrid in-person and virtual capacity development for national counterparts. This resulted in few delays, and, in fact, enhanced opportunities to test new ways of conducting capacity building and provided an avenue through which public health messages could be integrated in Gender-based violence (GBV) awareness-raising efforts, and vice-versa.

IOM and UNSOM reported, that by using survivor-centred psychosocial approaches, they have created opportunities for women to explore their identities, establish a sense of belonging within their communities, and build trust with other women. Survivors have been able, for the first time, to share their stories and open-up about their traumatic experiences, and be offered a space for healing. Therapeutic

activities include arts and poetry-based expression and sports.

The process of healing has helped the women to build their confidence.

Hafso* (name changed) is amongst the women participating in the programme. At the women's centre, she feels she has finally found a safe place.

“I am happy to be enrolled in this rehabilitation programme. I have a chance to build a network and share the secrets and the shame I have been hiding my whole life,” Hafso explained. “This feels good. Here I am not judged. I finally feel as if a burden has been lifted from my shoulders.”

IOM Somalia provides individual and group counselling to men and women at risk who have been affected by conflict.

"During the rehabilitation I felt the beauty of my community through coming together with people from different towns, different tribes, and different experiences."



IOM SOMALIA

Survivors are also participating in basic education, business development and livelihood skills training to enable them to rebuild their lives. Livelihood support has been tailored to adapt to women's wishes. For example, some of the women chose to pool their money to start a collaborative business that built a small cooperative in goat-keeping and livestock trade. The programme strives to contribute to reconciliation efforts within communities by promoting economic and personal resilience, social integration, and community engagement, and is an important step to empowering the women to become active members of their community and contribute to peacebuilding processes.

The project has also engaged with government female focal points to address ongoing developments, including any challenges in the programme, and has provided training and capacity building for government counterparts, including supporting government policy development by producing rehabilitation and reintegration programme standard operating procedures (SOPs). These SOPs will serve as an implementation guide for the Government of Somalia at federal and regional levels to effectively continue the programmes in the future.

The SMSG-SVC, Ms. Pramila Patten, highlights that

"the UN-Action Network through its CRSV-MPTF can transform survivors' lives. The results are tangible and visible. In my last visit to Somalia in July 2019, I gained first-hand knowledge of the immense protection challenges faced by survivors, particularly in displacement settings. My dialogue with the national authorities was frank and constructive; they did not deny or downplay the gravity of the crimes of sexual violence. Such acknowledgement is critical as no problem in human history has ever been resolved through silence and denial."

Initiatives under Outcome 2

Related to Capacity Building and Strategic Engagement

The monthly UN Action Focal Points meetings serve as an important forum through which the UN Action Network consults with country counterparts, including Women's Protection Adviser (S/WPAs) to discuss how entities are individually and collectively engaging on the CRSV mandate in situations of concern, particularly in support of the implementation of JCs and FOCs, and attending CRSV-related national strategies and plans. UN Action also uses this forum to identify gaps in implementation and strategise on how these can be filled. S/WPAs are encouraged to be candid in sharing challenges with the UN Action Network and recommending ways for it to further support the mandate.

Towards the latter part of 2020, discussions on specific countries of concern were incorporated as a standing item in the Focal Points meetings.

September	Somalia	The SWPA in UNSOM briefed the Focal Points on the current situation in Somalia, including information on the increase of GBV, and barriers such as the Parliament's failure to pass the Sexual Offenses Bill, for which advocacy has been underway since 2017.
October	Mali	The SWPA in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) briefed Focal Points on the situation in Mali, including the dire security situation, and fall-out from the coup in August.
November	Central African Republic	The SWPA highlighted challenges regarding monitoring and obtaining information on cases related to CRSV owing to limited capacity and logistics, including lack of transport and road systems which have created a high barrier for victims to report CRSV.
	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Progress on the draft Implementation Plan of the JC in the DRC was discussed.
December	Nigeria and Ethiopia	Focal Points shared information on the concerning situation of CRSV in Nigeria and Ethiopia in the December meeting, discussing also, the potential ways to provide rapid-response support, including engaging in high-level advocacy. Updates and reports shared at this meeting informed the development of the SRSG's press statement , released in early 2021, urging all parties to prohibit use of sexual violence and cease hostilities in the Tigray region.

Building upon the deepening of UN Action's individual and collective support for the implementation of CRSV related commitments, during UN Action's Strategic Retreat in early 2020, it identified that there is currently no common approach / methodology within UN Action for conducting joint gap assessments on the prevention and response to CRSV in countries of concern. Thus, one of the activities in the UN Action 2020-2021 Workplan is to develop such an approach. The objectives of developing the approach for, and then conducting gap assessments are multiple, but would allow for a better understanding of which CRSV prevention and response commitments are being upheld, which ones are not and to what extent. In practical terms, this would furnish UN Action with the necessary information to plan for and support comprehensive gap-filling initiatives in countries of concern. UN Action is currently developing a methodology for conducting this exercise, which was to be piloted through an in-person joint mission between Focal Points in 2021. However, given the ongoing travel restrictions, it decided to adapt the methodology so that it can be employed as a hybrid (virtual and in-person) or entirely virtual exercise. Consultations are under way to select a country of concern where the approach can be piloted in 2021. It is anticipated that the outputs of this exercise will be:

1. A piloted approach for conducting a gap assessment in a country of concern, for use by UN Action Network entities, and as a reference tool for the UN Action Network and wider audience to conduct similar exercises in other countries of concern.
2. The production and dissemination of an Outcome Document and an Action Plan for the UN Action Network in the country of concern, based on the gaps identified and needs prioritised during the gaps assessment exercise.
3. The development and implementation of joint comprehensive programmes by UN Action Network entities to address the needs identified.

Art-based creative workshops enable Somali women to express their thoughts about what identity and belonging mean to them.

"I drew a heart that symbolizes love. I want to have a good partner, who will give me happiness and love. In love there is belonging."



Initiatives under Outcome 3

Related to Knowledge Building, and the Development of Policies, Guidance and Tools

Since 2010, the UN Action Network has filled critical knowledge gaps, and generated policy, guidance, and training materials to inform CRSV prevention and response. This was further reiterated by the Security Council, under Operative Paragraph 34 of its resolution 2467 (2019), where it encouraged UN Action to revise and continue development of innovative operational tools and guidance. As the UN's knowledge-generation hub on CRSV, UN Action has initiated the development of knowledge products, guidance and tools that will allow for a more universal understanding, and context-based application of commitments made under, and new dimensions, of resolution 2467 (2019), with the hope of translating these into evidence-based and best practice programmes on the ground.



UN WOMEN PHOTO | Ryan Brown



UN WOMEN PHOTO | Catianne Tijerina

To this end, in 2020, UN Action:



Identified the implications of COVID-19 for CRSV survivors and people at-risk in humanitarian contexts. This informed and supported the SRSG -SVC to develop and publish a policy brief on the implications of COVID-19 for the prevention and response to CRSV.



Initiated the development of Guiding Principles for a Survivor-Centred Approach in Preventing and Responding to Conflict-related Sexual Violence, which will be expanded into a guidance document outlining guiding principles on how a survivor-centred approach is applied in the context of CRSV prevention and response.



Initiated the development of knowledge products on CRSV prevention.

The UN Action Network is also committed to ensuring CRSV is sufficiently reflected and “mainstreamed” as entities develop their own mandate-specific policies, guidance and tools. It will make concerted efforts in this area in 2021.

Across all of the areas for which the UN Action Network is currently building knowledge, it has committed to ensuring that all products will be disseminated not only through traditional channels such as websites and social media, but also through tailored webinar sessions which will provide the context of the tool, explain applicability in situations of concern, and provide hands-on support for roll-out.



UN PHOTO | Marco Dormino



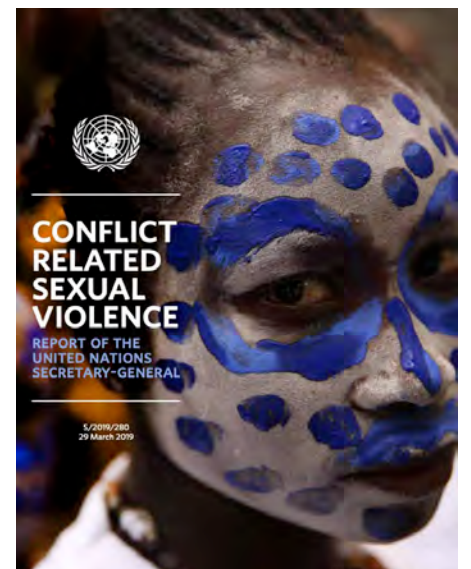
UN PHOTO | Iason Founten

Initiatives under Outcome 4

Related to Data Collection, Management, Monitoring, Analysis and Harmonisation

Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

UN Action is the primary consultation forum for the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The Report serves not only as a public record of events, but also as a global advocacy instrument for driving the field of CRSV prevention and response forward. Annually, the Report brings new concerns and information on CRSV to light, and additionally, serves as a reference tool, as well as a basis for strategic advocacy, and enhanced operational response. In 2020, as per usual practise, Focal Points worked with the OSRSG-SVC and country counterparts to bring timely and quality data into the report. The UN Action Steering Committee also met in March to review and endorse the 11th annual Report. Following its publication, UN Action engaged in an “after action review” to bring to light key challenges during the process for report development, in preparation for the 12th annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The utility of this exercise was clear, and will now become an established annual practice.



Harmonisation across the MARA, MRM, and GBVIMS

Another linked area of focus for UN Action in the coming years, will be to increase information sharing and harmonisation across data collection and analysis systems and platforms related to CRSV, namely the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), the MARA and the GBVIMS. Though each of these serve different purposes, intersections are clear, and more precise and standardised triangulation mechanisms are required.

As a kick-off to this ambitious initiative, an informal virtual “drop-in” session was organised for country counterparts in order to increase their understanding on the intersections between the MARA and the GBVIMS. At this session, counterparts identified the need for further training that goes beyond data gathering, but also focuses on analysis in order to identify early warnings, trends, and patterns – enabling identification and rapid response in hotspots before CRSV escalates.

In parallel, UN Action plans a long-needed update to the Provisional Guidance Note: Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010) On Women, Peace and Security (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence), first published in 2011 with support from the UN Action Network.

In 2020, UN Action initiated planning for this update, including the identification of key issues, challenges, and best practices. UN Action’s Core Group on this decided the UN Action Network would carry out a global assessment of the MARA, to understand whether the purpose of the MARA and the functions foreseen for it have been fulfilled, and to develop a set of recommendations that will serve to inform an update of the aforementioned Provisional Guidance Note, and strengthen the operationalisation of the MARA across various settings. This will be done through a review of the operationalisation of the MARA from 2009 to 2021 in country settings where such arrangements have been established, and, case studies of

selected country settings of concern for the Security Council where the MARA has not been established. The assessment will entail a comprehensive desk review, a survey, and interviews.

It is envisaged that the recommendations from the assessment and the revision of the Provisional Guidance Note will contribute to strengthening the operationalisation of the MARA in the field, including the collection of timely information that can inform access to services for survivors, assist in engaging with Parties to Conflict to prevent and respond to CRSV, and be used to inform and engage with the Security Council to take necessary steps, including imposing of sanctions for the crime of CRSV.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1960
Adopted 16 December 2010



Set up accountability mechanisms to end impunity for perpetrators of CRSV through:

1. Monitoring, analysis, and reporting arrangements
2. Listing of parties to conflict involved in CRSV in the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence to the Security Council
3. Create a platform for country level engagement with responsible parties
4. Tracking measures to prevent and punish CRSV



Help prevent and respond to all forms of conflict related sexual violence at
stoprapenow.org





UN ACTION IS A GROWING AND THRIVING NETWORK WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREDIBLE REACH, THROUGH ITS 20 MEMBERS, MANY OF WHOME HAVE IN-COUNTRY PRESENCE, AND THE CAPACITY TO ABSORB SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE COMMITMENTS MADE BY PARTIES TO CONFLICT AND TO SERVE SURVIVORS DIRECTLY.



IN 2020 THE CRSV-MPTF
ONLY HAD RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO FUND ONE
FIELD-BASED PROJECT (IN
SOMALIA) DESPITE URGENT
AND GROWING NEED

Moving Forward: Challenges and Priorities

In 2020, for the UN Action Network, as for the entire UN system, a seismic shift occurred in previously unimaginable ways, in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has had far-reaching implications across all corners of the globe, and in turn for the implementation of the CRSV agenda.





The COVID-19 crisis had undoubtedly stymied efforts to raise funds for the CRSV-MPTF on a larger scale, and as such had implications on the ability to fund comprehensive projects in countries of concern. A planned, in person donor-roundtable was delayed due to travel restrictions, however, the SRSG-SVC continued efforts to raise funds through high-level bilateral engagements, which were followed up at the technical-level by the UN Action Secretariat.

Resourcing challenges aside, the UN Action Network adapted with speed to new ways of working, demonstrating agility, resilience, and a commitment to innovation. It embarked in rapid information gathering and coordination to deal with the intersecting crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the scourge of CRSV. It explored new methods of working through nimble Core Groups, each led by entities that are mandate-holders in their specific areas, at the intersection of CRSV prevention and response, and are chaired by Focal Points who are technical-level subject matter experts.

Not only did UN Action hold steady, as of this writing, it grew from 15 to 20 members, welcoming the Office of the Youth Envoy, the OSRSG on Violence Against Children, the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, the Office of Counter Terrorism, and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. These new members are already making critical contributions to areas of the CRSV mandate.

For the coming year, UN Action will continue to implement activities detailed in its 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework and linked 2020 – 2021 Workplan, and will focus on critical dimensions and emerging challenges for addressing CRSV, particularly as outlined in resolution 2467 (2019). These include addressing the specific rights and needs of women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict, along with their children born as a consequence of sexual violence, the use of sexual violence to pursue strategies and tactics of terrorism, sexual slavery and conflict-driven trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and forced marriage, as well as the need for enhanced justice and accountability, including reparations for survivors of CRSV. On the increasingly complex issue of the nexus between terrorism / violent extremism and CRSV, including how best to support survivors, UNODC is leading the way on new initiatives UN Action can collectively undertake in this area.

UN Action has also renewed its commitment to working with survivors through a survivor-centred approach; it is developing guiding principles on how a survivor-centred approach is applied in the context of CRSV prevention and response, for use by the UN Action Network, and relevant stakeholders. It is ready to support evidence-based programming, for example through the establishment of One-Stop Centres for survivors



UN PHOTO | Amanda Voisard

and those-at risk, and will pilot innovations to ensure comprehensive and life-saving, survivor-centred services are available where they are most needed.

In 2020, UN Action explored and implemented new modalities of staying connected to on-the-ground realities, such as through initiating the development of virtual methods for data-collection, gaps assessments and regularly consulting with S/WPAs and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTS), to receive guidance on where UN Action should focus its priorities. It has absorbed these lessons, and seen positive consequences of adaptations made, including time-saving and cost-efficiency. Virtual, and in-person/ virtual hybrid data collection mechanisms such as gaps assessment exercises will be conducted in priority countries in 2021. The virtual model will also be utilised for the roll-out of new guidance and tools.

UN Action is increasingly focused on prevention of CRSV and eradicating the structural root causes of CRSV at all levels from legislative and policy to community, thus in 2021 it will produce:

- A Guidance Document containing defined principles and its practical applications for a survivor-centred approach to CRSV prevention and response.

On data, UN Action is updating guidance in this area, and in 2021, is planning on rolling out training on data collection, management and particularly analysis. Further, UN Action is working to bridge data systems and actors for greater synergy of action, more comprehensive reporting, and a harmonised response, particularly as relates to strengthening the MARA, and its harmonisation with the MRM and the GBVIMS.

With the finalisation of an advocacy strategy, scheduled for mid-2021, the UN Action Network plans to reinvigorate the Stop Rape Now Campaign, increase its reach on social media and step-up targeted resource mobilisation efforts. It will also regularly update and encourage wide use of its newly redesigned website, which contains more details on the work of UN Action and its members, as well as a document library with tools, guidelines and reports produced over the years.

Finally, UN Action is a growing and thriving network with the potential for incredible reach, through its 20 members, many of whom have in-country presence, and the capacity to absorb significant resources to support the commitments made by parties to conflict and to serve survivors directly. UN Action's clear and ambitious agenda for action, and attending results-based strategic framework, is hampered in realisation, only by the resources available. Yet, the UN Action Network is unwavering in its commitment to providing support in conflict-affected countries, where survivors of CRSV are many, but resources remain scarce.

UN ACTION AGAINST
SEXUAL VIOLENCE
IN CONFLICT

**ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT**

2020



STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT