

UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

SUMMARY REPORT 2009–2019



MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



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INTRODUCTION



This publication summarises the Eleventh Annual Progress Report and Final Consolidated Report of the United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN Action MPTF) and provides an overview of the first decade of UN Action’s work, key achievements and milestones, funded through the UN Action MPTF. From 2009 to 2019, the UN Action MPTF disbursed 45 million USD, of which 22 million USD were dedicated to UN Action, for the funding of 52 projects aimed at the network’s three strategic priority areas — strengthening advocacy for action on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), building knowledge on CRSV prevention and response and supporting engagement at the country-level to address CRSV.¹ Activities outlined in this summary relate to deliverables specified in UN Action’s Strategic Approach and Results Frameworks from the launch of the UN Action MPTF in 2009 to its closure on 31 December 2019.²

Established in 2008, and made operational in January 2009, the UN Action MPTF is a pooled fund managed by the UNDP MPTF Office, with an initial voluntary contribution by Norway followed by Finland, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Bahrain, Japan and Switzerland.³ Since its inception, the UN Action MPTF has served as a vehicle for mobilising funds to support a range of joint catalytic activities of UN Action and its Secretariat. The UN Action MPTF aimed to support agencies to address CRSV in a transparent, multi-sectoral and holistic way by streamlining joint programming; strengthening governance and financial management systems; and standardising reporting to donors.

In January 2020, a successor fund was established, the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence MPTF (CRSV-MPTF). The CRSV-MPTF focuses on holistic survivor-centred prevention and response, the root causes of CRSV, greater justice and accountability, as well as improved system-wide response and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions (SCR) on CRSV through strengthened coordination and information-sharing between UN agencies. It also contributes to SDGs 5 and 16, i.e. *to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)* and *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 (SDG 16)*.

Looking forward, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), Pramila Patten, affirmed that **“UN Action is a critical platform for implementing my vision for this mandate since I took office, namely converting cultures of impunity into cultures of deterrence, addressing gender-based inequality and discrimination as the root cause of sexual violence and fostering national ownership for a sustainable survivor-centred response.”**



¹ The remaining 23 million USD financed the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE), which assists national authorities in strengthening the rule of law to ensure accountability and bolster prevention of CRSV.

² Detailed financial information is provided for the same period in the full report of the UN Action MPTF.

³ Australia, the Netherlands and the United States, dedicated funds to UNIFEM (now UN Women) and DPKO (now DPO), for projects initiated prior to the creation of the UN Action MPTF.

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UN ACTION'S STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC APPROACH



UN Action, chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), is a network of 15 departments and agencies across the UN system united in the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of armed conflict. Launched in March 2007, the network currently includes 15 UN entities, namely: [DPO](#), [DPPA](#), [OCHA](#), [OHCHR](#), [OSRSG-CAAC](#), [IOM](#), [UNAIDS](#), [UNDP](#), [UNFPA](#), [UNHCR](#), [UNICEF](#), [UNODA](#), [UNODC](#), [UN Women](#), and [WHO](#). UN Action is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of principals and senior officials from its member entities, is supported by a coordinating Secretariat located in the [Office of the SRSG-SVC](#) (OSRSG-SVC) and reporting to the SRSG-SVC in her capacity as the network's chair.

UN Action has evolved considerably in scope and focus since its establishment. In 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 December 2010, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee further called upon UN Action to mobilise the UN system behind the content, messaging and operational implications of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council pursuant to resolutions [1888](#) (2009) and [1960](#) (2010), including by supporting the advocacy and engagement of the SRSG-SVC as the UN-designated lead of the CRSV agenda. The Security Council in its resolutions has continued



UN colleagues in Mali demonstrate their commitment to ending CRSV by making the X sign of the "Get Cross! Stop Rape Now" campaign

Photo: United Nations



to affirm UN Action as a critical coordination platform on CRSV. In its most recent resolution [2467](#) (2019), it reiterated the role of UN Action “**as the interagency coordination forum chaired by the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to address the problem (CRSV)**” (OP 34) and encouraged the revision and continued development of innovative operational tools and guidance by United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

UN Action seeks to strengthen the UN’s response to survivors, and equally to prevent sexual violence from occurring, including through the empowerment and protection of women and girls, and by taking action to address impunity. The network’s strategic approach in achieving these goals has been summarised as the “4C Approach”, that is, strengthening CRSV Prevention and Response through “Coordinated, Coherent, Comprehensive and Catalytic Action”. The adoption of SCR [1888](#), in 2009, established the mandate of the SRSG-SVC, the purpose of which was to provide coherent and strategic leadership to the UN system, including dedicated leadership to the UN Action network. Thus the network promotes coordination, and through its diverse membership, ensures a comprehensive approach to addressing CRSV. As a system-wide initiative, UN Action aims to ensure that the full institutional weight of the UN system is harnessed to enable implementation of the UN SCRs on CRSV. The UN Action MPTF also promoted catalytic projects resulting in sustainable solutions. Importantly, UN Action plays a critical role as the primary consultation forum for preparing the annual report of the Secretary-General on CRSV, which serves as both a report of record on incidents, patterns and trends, as well as a global advocacy instrument for driving the mandate forward.⁴

Over the years, the network has increased its strategic support to the development and implementation of Joint Communiqués, Frameworks of Cooperation and other formal agreements gained by the SRSG-SVC on behalf of the UN system, through enhanced prevention and response to CRSV, including funding to support service provision to survivors of CRSV, improving awareness and capacity of duty bearers on CRSV to prevent future violations, addressing the root causes of CRSV, raising community awareness and enhancing access to justice and reparations for survivors of CRSV. In line with the vision of SRSG Pramila Patten and as reflected in SCR [2467](#) (2019), UN Action is focusing increasingly on the importance of a survivor-centred approach to prevention and response. This approach includes the need to enhance multi-sectoral services such as livelihood support, medical and psychosocial care such as specialised mental health services.



UN Action Focal Points and members of the UN Action Secretariat.

Photo: United Nations

⁴ The 2019 Annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV can be found [here](#)



UN ACTION's THEORY OF CHANGE

Strengthening CRSV Prevention and Response through Coordinated, Coherent, Comprehensive and Catalytic UN Action ("4C Approach")

GOAL

CRSV is prevented, survivors' needs are met and accountability is enhanced

OUTCOMES

System-wide institutional support is mobilised to enable the delivery of UN Security Council Resolutions on CRSV in conflict-affected countries

1. Survivors and at-risk groups are supported and protected and CRSV risks are prevented (Res. 1820)
2. Reliable, timely and objective information on CRSV trends, risks and patterns supports evidence-based and impactful high-level political advocacy (Res.1820, Res 1888, Res. 1960, Res. 2106, Res. 2242)
3. The CRSV agenda is implemented and in particular neglected aspects of the CRSV/WPS response are addressed at policy and field level
4. Duty-bearers and decision-makers take action to address CRSV at the global and national level

Accountability Ceiling

STRATEGIC APPROACH

ADVOCACY / STRENGTHENING UN SYSTEM

COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTION

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

OUTPUT

Comprehensive and multisectoral assistance, including, medical, psychosocial, livelihoods and access to justice services are available for CRSV survivors

Strategies to address immediate risk and the root causes of CRSV and tackle harmful practices and stigma are designed and implemented for the benefit of survivors and persons at risk

Safe and ethical data collection, analysis and the implementation of prevention and response strategies to CRSV are enhanced through strengthening the MARA

Guidance exists and is used to consistently integrate CRSV in Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, peacebuilding and development processes

Collective and individual action by the network's 14 member entities is catalysed and coordinated to prevent and respond to CRSV at the global and national level

INPUT

Meetings, Communication, Field support

Catalytic Funding

Knowledge & Best Practices

Training

Human Resources

Technical & Policy Expertise

PROBLEM

Structural gender-based inequalities and harmful social norms, which drive sexual violence in peacetime, further expose affected populations (in particular women and girls) to sexual violence when protective systems and structures are weakened or destroyed during conflict. Lack of access to, and availability of, comprehensive, multisectoral services for CRSV survivors impedes their recovery and resilience, and a lack of monitoring and reporting of CRSV limits evidence-based and impactful solutions to CRSV. Ineffective coordination of simultaneous engagements by different UN Actors in supporting protection, peace and development in conflict and post-conflict countries results in missed opportunities to foster national ownership for prevention and sustainable, holistic survivor-centred responses, and restricts the UN's ability to deliver a system-wide, strategic and value-added approach to tackling CRSV.



UN ACTION'S GOALS, THEORY OF CHANGE AND RESULTS FRAMEWORK



The principal aim of UN Action has evolved over the years from putting CRSV onto the agenda of the Security Council as an international peace and security concern, to ensuring implementation of relevant SCRs. The network's overall Goal is that CRSV is prevented, survivors' needs are met and accountability is enhanced.

Since its creation in 2008, and operationalisation in 2009, the UN Action MPTF has served as a vehicle for mobilising funds to support a range of joint catalytic activities and the UN Action Secretariat. Since 2010, the UN Action MPTF has also supported, through a dedicated funding window, the work of the TOE, established pursuant to SCR 1888, which has enabled donors to earmark funds specifically for the work of the TOE.

UN Action's Theory of Change (TOC) has evolved over the years, as paradigms around CRSV and the requirements of the CRSV agenda shifted. The TOC was gradually adjusted as initial advocacy aims and objectives were achieved, and results-based planning became more prevalent in the UN. One of the first articulations of UN Action's TOC was **"that improved and effective UN coordination and advocacy across a range of UN entities will enhance understanding, policy, mandate delivery, and response and prevention of CRSV at international and national levels"**. The primary agents of change were the UN Action entities themselves.

Since 2016, UN Action has expressed its objectives in the form of a results frameworks which aimed to attribute concrete strategic results (outcomes and outputs) to the activities of the network. It aimed to be general enough so that activities the network pursued in subsequent years under evolving strategic frameworks could still be categorised under these results, and the impact measured. The country-level engagement, advocacy for action, and knowledge building sections of this report as summarised below, provide more comprehensive examples of activities, conducted within the UN Action results areas.⁵



UN Photo / Harandane Dicko

⁵ For more details on UN Action's Results Framework, see Annex 1 of the full report.



PILLARS OF ACTION



UN Action's activities are informed by SCRs on CRSV and were structured around **three broad pillars**:

1. Advocacy for Action

included raising public awareness and generating political will as part of the broader Stop Rape Now (SRN) campaign and the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign.

2. Knowledge Building

– earlier framed as “Learning by Doing” – constituted developing guidance and tools to improve data gathering, monitoring and reporting of CRSV;

3. Country-Level Action

included strategic support to Integrated UN Missions and UNCTs to help design comprehensive strategies to combat CRSV, in addition to efforts to strengthen capacity for prevention and response.

Illustrative examples of the network's initiatives under these broad pillars are summarised in the following sections.

ADVOCACY FOR ACTION

UN Action's early efforts focused on advocacy and knowledge-building in response to calls by women's rights organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Member States to elevate sexual violence as an international peace and security concern, in addition to being recognised as human rights and development issue. The network's advocacy efforts enhanced the understanding of sexual violence as a weapon of war and that sexual violence is not cultural or collateral, but criminal. It is not an inevitable by-product of war, but a tactic that can be commanded, condoned or condemned. The effect of this new understanding has been two-fold: it confirms that prevention is possible, and



UN Security Council adopts resolution 2467 (2019) on 23rd April 2019.

UN Photo

it expands the circle of stakeholders to embrace non-traditional constituencies such as peacemakers, peacekeepers and peacebuilders. UN Action rooted its strategic advocacy in international humanitarian law and international criminal law, underlining that sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, an act of torture, and/or a constituent act of genocide.

After the Security Council in its landmark resolution [1820](#) (2008) firmly established that **“sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war in order to deliberately target civilians or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security”** (OP1), substantive recognition of the issue also galvanised support for the creation of an institutional architecture on CRSV. In 2009, SCR [1888](#) established the role of the SRSG-SVC to provide strategic and coherent leadership. The resolution also created the TOE and the position of Women Protection Advisors (WPAs) in peacekeeping operations to support the SRSG’s initiatives including technical support to Member States and to catalyse the implementation of SCRs on SVC. While integrating this newly-created structure, UN Action, through its MPTF, operationalised key components, funding, from 2009 to 2010, the TOE, and, in 2010, supporting the start-up of the Office of the SRSG-SVC. Subsequent SCRs [1960](#) (2010), [2106](#) (2013), [2242](#) (2015), [2331](#) (2016) and [2467](#) (2019) cemented the position of CRSV as a peace and security issue, demanding appropriate action by the full spectrum of peace, security, political, human rights, humanitarian and development actors. In short, the network played a key role in developing the Security Council normative framework on CRSV and helped to ensure a feedback loop running through the promotion of UN SCRs, identification of gap areas, and advocacy for additional targeted legislation.

Among its multiple advocacy activities, UN Action contributes to the framing of strategic advocacy messages, conducts regular briefings with high-level partners (e.g. with UN Member States including Security Council members, the International Criminal Court, the NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security), supports high-profile events featuring the SRSG-SVC (particularly during the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV) and forges diverse partnerships on advocacy including with Member States (e.g. through providing support to the UK on the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative).

UN Action has developed and deployed a range of media products. The website www.stoprapenow.org is a repository of advocacy resources, guidance documents, news stories, and field updates on CRSV for use by practitioners and the public. It is also an interactive site for social mobilisation. The Stop Rape Now campaign, established in 2008, has garnered global support with its “Get Cross” initiative for which individuals and groups from 128 countries have uploaded photos on the website displaying the crossed-arm gesture of solidarity. Under the network’s umbrella, member entities have continued to join forces, significantly amplifying the impact of their individual efforts on a clear and focused agenda.

Since the establishment of the mandate of the SRSG-SVC, the network’s advocacy and programmatic responses have increasingly been directed in support of the high-level political engagement by the SRSG-SVC, focusing on the implementation of the formal agreements with concerned Member States. Backed by the full commitment of heads of entities and support of the network’s members, successive SRSGs-SVC have reached a series of Joint Communiqués or Frameworks of Cooperation on behalf of the UN system with government and non-state actors. These formal agreements outline specific commitments by parties to undertake CRSV response and prevention with support from the

UN. In key settings, UN Action developed projects (for example in South Sudan, Iraq and Myanmar), which served to operationalise commitments made in Joint Communiqués. These integrated efforts bring to bear the key components – political advocacy, accountability through judicial support, and programmatic efforts – of the CRSV structure and point to opportunities for the network and the fund going forward. This approach aims to ensure a through line from advocacy to implementation.



UN Action lapel pins

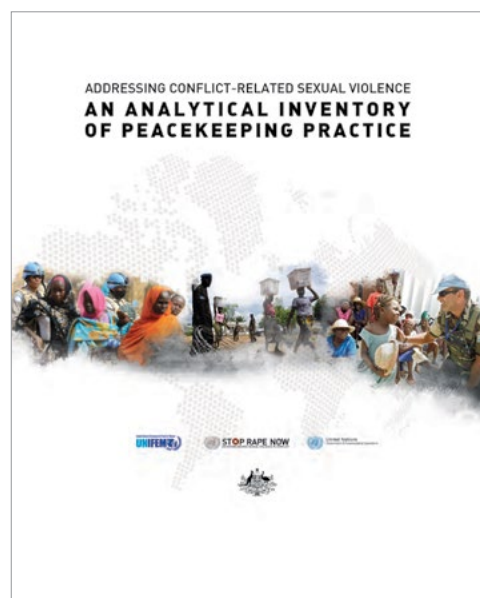
To promote core messaging, UN Action developed several products, including lapel pins featuring the message “Stop Rape in War” in English, “Non au Viol” in French, and “معا ضد الإغتصاب” in Arabic.

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Since its inception, UN Action has worked to build a knowledge base on CRSV, developing a diverse array of context-specific tools. UN Action played a crucial role in defining and framing CRSV, which paved the way for the network to initiate context-appropriate initiatives designed to standardise and hone data collection and analysis. The network improved the collection of information on trends and patterns of sexual violence in conflict. Building on this, the network sought to bolster technical expertise in support of a strengthened survivor-centred approach. UN Action also worked to collect best practices to inform policy-setting, and in 2009, initiated a “knowledge hub” on CRSV (on www.stoprapenow.org) to map promising approaches by the UN and its partners, particularly around preventing sexual violence. With funding from the MPTF, UN Action further developed tools to measure performance and impact, to bolster early warning and prevention and to support the implementation of the CRSV agenda.

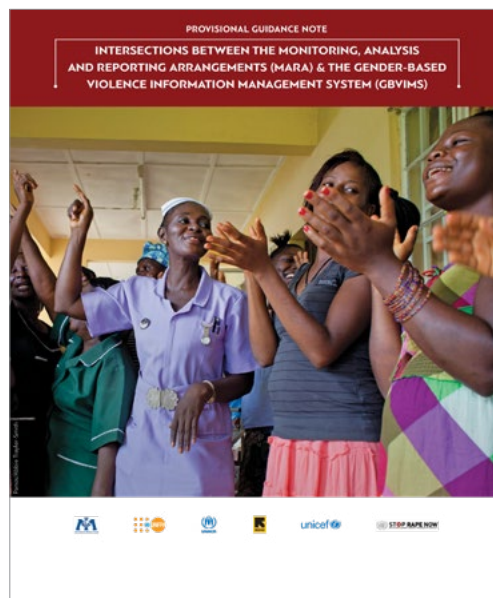
Critically, UN Action developed foundational knowledge products such as:

- *“Analytical and Conceptual Framing of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence”* (2011), which defines the scope of CRSV primarily for the purpose of standardising reporting through the MARA, i.e. the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on CRSV mandated by SCR 1960 (2015).
- *“Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence – An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice”* (2010) which provides an inventory of peacekeeping operations’ tasks and tactics to address CRSV, as well as a checklist of emerging elements for an effective response at the strategic level.
- *“Matrix: Early Warning Indicators on CRSV”* (2012), which is a system-wide reference tool to help field personnel



to detect and anticipate spikes in CRSV by providing indicators structured around six pillars, namely: military/ security; social/humanitarian; political/legal; economic; media-related and health.

- *“Provisional Guidance Note on the Intersections Between Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) & The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)”* (2012) which explains what the MARA and the GBVIMS are, how they work; and outlines guiding principles and recommendations on if, how and when data from the GBVIMS could contribute to data collection on CRSV. (UNA022)
- *“Guidance note of the United Nations Secretary-General: Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence”* (2012): which provides policy and operational guidance for the UN’s engagement on reparations for victims of CRSV, including advocacy, supporting the design, implementation and M&E of reparation programmes and initiatives. (UNA033)
- *“Guidance for Mediators on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements”* (2012): which provides practical guidance for mediators on how to address CRSV during ongoing hostilities and ceasefire agreements, in security arrangements, and in framing provisions for post-conflict justice and reparations. (UNA016)
- *“Course Self Help Plus (SH+)”* (2016): which is a five-session intervention to guide participants on how to self-manage their distress. It comprises psychoeducation on topics such as the effects of stress and ways to manage stress, guided practice in a range of stress management techniques (grounding, mindfulness, living by important values) and questions for small group discussions and interaction. (UNA034)
- *“Report on the linkages between reparations and a survivor-centred approach”* (2019): which is a report produced as part of the culmination of a UN Action funded project, and analyses the linkages between reparations and a survivor-centred approach and how a survivor-centred approach can be integrated into reparations and other transitional justice measures. (UNA064)⁶

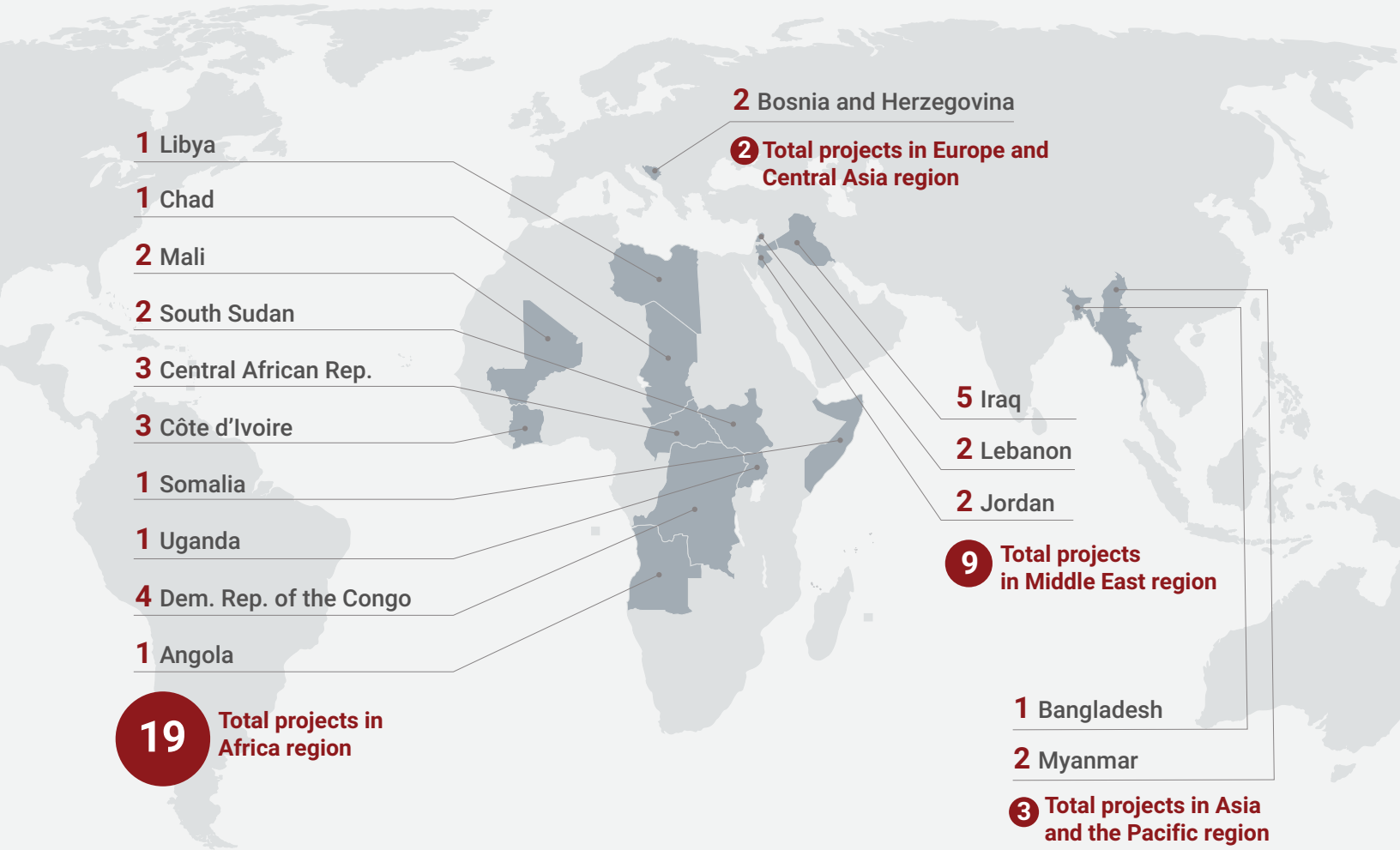


⁶ For a comprehensive list of all UN Action Knowledge Products developed and their summaries, see Annex 3 of the full report.





Number of projects supported by UN Action per country, region and at the global level



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



COUNTRY-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

Early effective action by the network in advocacy and knowledge-building paved the way for innovative and catalytic project-based initiatives. Over the past decade, the UN Action MPTF has funded 52 projects, 33 at the country-level, 13 at the global-level, and 6 which were regionally focussed, or multi-country. These collaborative efforts brought together the existing work streams of several different mandates and provide a vital link and enhanced coordination on CRSV. As such, the network created synergies in the work of humanitarian, human rights, development, political and peacekeeping actors to tackle complex cross-cutting challenges. The added value of these key initiatives has consistently been recognised on the ground.

The network developed emblematic projects such as in Iraq, where project partners aimed to improve the response for children born of CRSV, in Myanmar, where support focussed on economic empowerment of refugees and displaced persons at risk of trafficking, and in Lebanon, where provision of services was tailored to meet the needs of LGBTI refugees. The fund also helped overcome numerous hurdles to tackling CRSV such as stigma. In several settings, the critical needs of CRSV survivors contrasted with an overall reluctance to deal with CRSV or the legacy of crimes. For example, catalytic funding by UN Action helped overcome this barrier in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) where a series of projects spotlighted challenges related to CRSV and opportunities to meet the needs of survivors. In South Sudan, and in a number of other settings, essential life-saving support services were provided through integrated “one-stop” centres offering legal, medical and psychosocial support to survivors of CRSV, as well referrals to other essential services.

Below are further examples of UN Action’s catalytic inter-agency projects.⁷

UN Action supported a number of projects which aimed to **provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral and essential life-saving support services**, notably through integrated “one-stop” centres offering legal, medical and psychosocial support to survivors of CRSV, as well referrals to other essential services. For instance in 2019, UN Action funded a project in South Sudan, *One Stop Centre: Rolling Out Provision of integrated GBV Response Services in South Sudan (UNA060)*, implemented by UNFPA and UNDP. Within this project, the partners established and provided services to 60 gender-based violence (GBV) survivors (59 of which were women). The project also improved coordination between different duty bearers, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender and other service providers for GBV case management which led to more effective and survivor-centred services. To enhance the capacity of legal support services, the project developed a paralegal training toolkit and trained 108 paralegals to support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The legal advice rendered to victims and survivors included advice on their right to



⁷ For a comprehensive list of UN Action projects per country and their key achievements, see the section Country-level Engagement from page 35 of the full report.

speak out and on navigating medical examinations, as well as the preservation of evidence, witness protection and personal safety. A total of 102 women and girls directly benefitted from various legal aid services, such as information, representation and accompaniment to court. This support resulted in the prosecution of 14 cases, for which perpetrators were sentenced to between 6 months and 5 years imprisonment.

Additionally, the network funded projects to **enhance accountability, strengthen legislation and lay the groundwork for reparations to survivors of CRSV**. For example, between 2015 and 2019, UN Action supported the project *Seeking Care, Support and Justice for Survivors of CRSV in BiH (UNA037)*. Jointly implemented by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and IOM, the project was part of a UN joint programme initiated in 2014. The project helped to enhance access to justice, services, economic empowerment and reparations for survivors of CRSV and their families, in line with UN and European standards, as well as the quality and sensitivity of free legal aid services accessed by CRSV survivors. Additionally, the project served to deepen knowledge about the situation and needs of children born of sexual violence in conflict and explore ways to target this group in future programming. The project coordinated two advisory bodies, comprising government counterparts in sectors including health, justice and human rights, and CSO representatives (e.g. survivors of CRSV and civilian victims of war). Both bodies were mandated to ensure effective monitoring of the project, generate lessons learned, as well as reach broader consensus on the activities to be implemented. The project expanded cooperation between the UN and the Ministry of Justice at State and entity-level and ensured that the key resources such as a package of tools for legal aid providers become official, internally adopted guidance for working with CRSV survivors.

Timely projects such as the accelerated **deployment of WPAs** in the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Iraq, enabled interim support and eventually led to inclusions of these vital posts in peace operations' regular budgets. For example, DPKO (now DPO) and OHCHR implemented the project *Strengthening the capacity of UNOCI in collaboration with the UNCT to implement the CRSV mandate through the deployment of a WPA* from 2014 to 2016 (UNA031). The WPA worked closely with the UNCT on the preparation and release of a report on rape, including CRSV cases, and their prosecution in Côte d'Ivoire in July 2016. Following the publication of the report, two ministerial circulars were adopted; one concerning the prosecution of rape and the other on the registration of complaints for GBV. In follow-up to the report recommendations, the WPA, together with OHCHR and UN Women organised a workshop presenting the results of the mapping of the National Strategy. The workshop ended with a final communiqué requesting the Government to accelerate the launch and implementation of the National Programme on SGBV that had been authorised in 2014. The communiqué was officially endorsed by the Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children. Moreover, following an intense advocacy campaign led by the WPA with the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces as well as the Presidential Adviser on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, President Alassane Ouattara signed a decree on 3 June 2016 (n°2016-373) establishing a National Committee on CRSV.

UN Action projects also aimed to **support specific vulnerable population groups** such as refugees and displaced persons at risk of trafficking through economic empowerment (e.g. in Myanmar, [UNA063](#)), LGBTI refugees through service provision (e.g. in Lebanon, [UNA039](#)) and children born of CRSV (e.g. in Iraq, [UNA053](#)). Regarding the latter, UN Action supported the project titled *Coordinated action to respond to the needs of child born of rape, children born to Islamic State in Iraq and the*

Levant (ISIL) fighters, and their survivor mothers (UNA053), which was implemented by UNICEF and UNAMI. The project aimed to support the Government's commitments made in the 2016 Joint Communiqué by reinforcing the capacity of stakeholders to ensure the provision of services, livelihood support and reparations for survivors and children born of sexual violence in conflict. Efforts of the implementing entities significantly contributed to enhancing the knowledge and the evidence base on the situation of children born of rape and individuals perceived as having affiliations with ISIL. This was done by conducting and disseminating two key studies namely, a review of existing legal and policy frameworks and an assessment of the situation. The resulting draft plan recommended covering three major areas for improvement (legal and policy reform, access to civil documentation and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, and community awareness-raising to assist social reintegration of children born of conflict-related sexual violence and to people with perceived affiliations to ISIL). The partners are expected to present the plan for consideration by high-level government and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in 2020. However, there are already some examples of increased awareness on this issue. For example, under the UN interagency Humanitarian Response Plan, there was an increase of support to civil documentation/birth registration from a 2015 target of 2,000 children, to 15,000 children in 2018.

Other projects covered a range of approaches and initiatives including **direct support services, as well as engagement with duty bearers**. For instance, in 2019, UNFPA, UNICEF and IOM implemented the project *Enhancing Capacity and Accountability to Prevent and Respond to CRSV in Myanmar (UNA059)*. The project's goal was to increase protection for women and girls affected by conflict and eliminate CRSV by enhancing the capacity of governmental and non-governmental service providers and by improving awareness around accountability of CRSV with service providers and with women, girls, men and boys at the community level. The project also had limited but notable success in strengthening the understanding of CRSV and accountability with some security actors through training and awareness raising sessions. The project resulted in improved access to services for survivors of sexual violence, with a focus on mental and physical health services. Importantly, the project partners worked towards adequate implementation of the Joint Communiqué with local CSOs and NGOs providing services to sexual violence survivors to build their capacity to advocate for their GBV response services to be survivor-centred and with the government to prevent future occurrences of CRSV.



Photo: UN Women / Asia Pacific Allison Joyce

LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD



Since its inception, the UN Action network has been considered innovative in its approach and its primary impact on global level norms, policy, coordination, and coherence for the UN to prevent and respond to CRSV. There is clear evidence that the network has played and continues to play a vital function in the successful coordination and coherence of the UN in developing its policies and responses on CRSV. Elevated by the leadership of successive SRSGs-SVC, UN Action's considerable platform has led to opportunities via entry points created by high-level agreements gained by the SRSG. This distinguishes it from other networks.

At the ten-year milestone of the [UN Action MPTF](#), UN Action reviewed challenges and opportunities in charting a way forward. This was particularly important with the closing of the MPTF and the establishment of a successor fund, the [CRSV-MPTF](#). Thus, UN Action embarked on a review of the functioning and impact of the UN Action MPTF to learn lessons and draw recommendations with the objective of informing the creation of the next phase of the trust fund. The network has sought to build on achievements identified and focus on areas requiring reinforcement.

One lesson learned was that though external advocacy has traditionally been a strength of UN Action, more work needs to be done on internal UN advocacy. This is not only about sharing information but entails fostering ownership and responsibility for CRSV response and prevention efforts. Critically, in the future, UN Action will work to support further articulation of strategies and approaches amongst all arms of the CRSV structure so that they work together to integrate political advocacy, a security response, judicial efforts and comprehensive programmatic approaches. In this vein, UN Action is also seeking to enhance high-level engagement and commitment of members to working level efforts to ensure a sustained focus on CRSV at strategic and political levels. Further, the network will focus on joint initiatives such as gap assessments to reinforce implementation of high-level Joint Communiqués and other commitments.

For all these key lines of action the UN Action Secretariat needs to be reinforced. For over a decade, the network has been supported by a relatively modest base. As the CRSV structure has expanded and honed its approach, the Secretariat's staff needs to be reinforced including on specialised capacities like M&E and knowledge management. Additional CRSV technical expertise will be required through secondments from UN Action member entities in order to support specific initiatives. This is in recognition of the fact that the Secretariat drives forward the unique network, ensuring coherence and focus on CRSV across the UN system and beyond. Thus, its vital coordination role needs to be pursued and enhanced to further realise the holistic vision that has emerged for the CRSV agenda.

UN Action started the new decade with a meeting of the Steering Committee to adopt key governing documents of the [CRSV-MPTF](#) in January 2020 and a Focal Points retreat in February to develop the network's strategic framework for the next five years (2020 – 2025). This strategic framework will be complemented by a funding strategy that will guide decisions of the Resources Management Committee. It will also be accompanied by a robust results-based framework which will ensure that the catalytic potential of projects is harnessed, leading to potentially longer timelines and increased funding where a significant impact is articulated. It will also amplify the impact of the MPTF and better capitalise on UN Action's strengths like the networks' diverse membership.



Moreover, UN Action will transparently engage donors to discuss not only project results but also challenges and setbacks.

Looking forward, UN Action is prioritising a comprehensive, survivor-centred approach, underpinned by multi-sectoral assistance, including medical, psychosocial, livelihoods and justice services, including reparations. Overall, the network will reinforce the provision of reliable, timely and objective information on CRSV based on the MARA and the GBVIMS to support evidence-based high-level advocacy and to further operationalise the CRSV agenda, drawing on existing policies and the UN legislative framework. The network also intends to strengthen synergies between the MARA on CRSV and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Children and Armed Conflict. The network will furthermore focus on joint initiatives such as gap assessments to reinforce implementation of high-level Joint Communiqués and other commitments. UN Action will work to bolster rapid responses as required, and build the capacity of service-providers, including national and local authorities, on preventing and responding to CRSV, as well as on addressing its root causes. Finally, UN Action will also continue to focus on developing and sharing guidance, policies and tools, such as on prevention of CRSV and on addressing its root causes; such as an update of the provisional guidance note on resolution 1960 on the MARA; and an update of early warning indicators to include new trends such as the nexus between terrorism and CRSV. UN Action's annual work-plans for the coming years will provide more details.

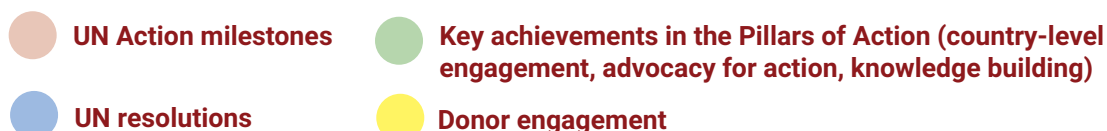
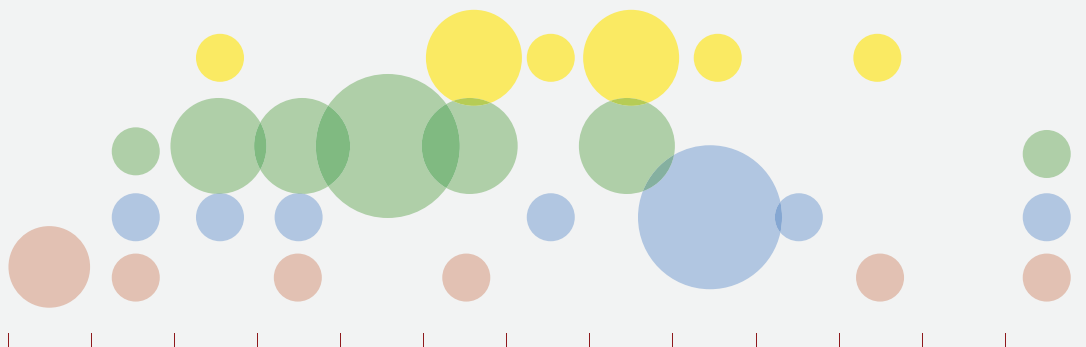


The new **CRSV-MPTF** will be essential in supporting this work. The programmatic focus of the CRSV-MPTF is articulated in line with the priorities of the SVC mandate and UN Action's priorities, including resolution [2467](#) (2019). As such, the overarching goal of the new fund is that CRSV is prevented, survivor's needs are met and accountability for CRSV is enhanced. Importantly, the CRSV-MPTF will go beyond country-focused projects to engage on global initiatives, like the 2019 reparations-focused workshop, which included a range of participants from survivors to academics.

Going forward, the network will continue to leverage its diverse expertise to bring into focus and address a range of complex issues such as on challenges faced by children born of CRSV. In short, UN Action is poised to harness the lessons and strengths of the past decade in service of a renewed coordinated, coherent and comprehensive approach to end the scourge of CRSV and support survivors in rebuilding their lives.



UN Action milestones and key achievements by type of activity, 2007-2019



MILESTONES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This timeline indicates key achievements and milestones accomplished by UN Action from its creation to the end of 2019



2007 key achievements and milestones

2007	<p>Establishment of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict network (UN Action)</p> <p>UN Action unites efforts across the UN system with the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of armed conflict.</p> <p>Founding members included DPA, DPKO, PBSO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, and WHO</p>
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2008 key achievements and milestones

2008	<p><u>Creation of the UN Action Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)</u></p> <p>Creation of the UN Action MPTF to mobilise funds to support the Secretariat of the UN Action network and a range of joint catalytic activities.</p>
	<p><u>UNSC resolution 1820</u></p> <p>First UNSC resolution in which CRSV was recognised as a tactic of war, a core security challenge and an impediment to the maintenance of international peace and security.</p>
	<p><u>Launch of the Stop Rape Now (SRN) website</u></p> <p>SRN website launched as a repository for advocacy resources, guidance documents, news stories and field updates on CRSV for use by practitioners and the public</p>





2009 key achievements and milestones

2009	Norway becomes the first donor to the UN Action MPTF followed by Finland and Sweden
	UNSC resolution 1888
	Established the UN Security Council architecture on CRSV. Called for the UN Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) to provide coherent and strategic leadership, and to promote cooperation and coordination “primarily through the inter-agency initiative United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict”.
	Called for a rapidly deployable Team of Experts on the Rule of Law (TOE) and Women’s Protection Advisers (WPAs) in Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions.
	Launch of the campaign “Get Cross! Stop Rape Now”
	“Get Cross! SRN” campaign launched to build a vocal, visible, global community to raise awareness on “history’s greatest silence” and “the world’s least condemned war crime”.
	Creation of UN Action social media accounts. As of 2020, the UN Action Twitter Account has 49,500 followers and Facebook Page has 32,800 likes.



2010 key achievements and milestones

2010	Appointment of the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), Margot Wallström
	First country-level UN Action project
	Project implemented by OCHA to facilitate the development of a Comprehensive Strategy to Combat GBV, including CRSV in Eastern Chad .
	UNSC resolution 1960
	Called for an accountability regime to end impunity for perpetrators of rape as a tactic of war structured around four pillars: (1) monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements; (2) listing of parties to conflicts suspected of being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of CRSV in an annex to the SG’s annual report to the SC; (3) platform for country level to engagement with responsible parties; and (4) tracking measures to prevent and punish sexual violence.
	Acknowledged UN Action as the primary mechanism for improving cooperation, coordination and a “system-wide response” to CRSV by UN actors.
	Knowledge product developed:
	“Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence — An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice” Captured innovative strategies at the tactical level, as well as a checklist of emerging elements for an effective response at the strategic level



2011 key achievements and milestones

2011	Knowledge products developed:
	“Conceptual and Analytical Framing of CRSV” Defined CRSV as it relates to the mandate and concerns of the Security Council.
	“Matrix: Early Warning Indicators on CRSV” Set up early warning indicators, or factors, to detect and anticipate spikes in CRSV.
	“Provisional Guidance Note on the Implementation of UNSC resolution 1960” Provided information on key operational elements of the UNSC resolution 1960.





2012 key achievements and milestones

2012	Appointment of the second SRSG-SVC, Zainab Hawa Bangura
	Switzerland becomes a donor to the UN Action MPTF
	The UN Action Secretariat supports the UK Launch of the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative
	The UN Action Secretariat worked closely with the UK Government in preparation of the PSVI, with the purpose of identifying opportunities for synergies, avoiding duplication, and maximizing the impact of their respective advocacy strategies.
	Deployment of the first WPA supported by the UN Action MPTF
	WPA deployed to the Central African Republic .
	Knowledge products developed
	<u>"Guidance for Mediators: Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements"</u> Provided practical guidance for mediators on how to address CRSV during ongoing hostilities and ceasefire agreements, in security arrangements, and in framing provisions for post-conflict justice and reparations.
	<u>"Guidance Note: Comprehensive Strategies to Combat CRSV"</u> Provided practical guidance on shaping Comprehensive Strategies and highlighted examples of countries where, with the support of UN Action, such Strategies have already been developed and/or implemented.



2013 key achievements and milestones

2013	The United Kingdom becomes a donor to the UN Action MPTF
	<u>UNSC resolution 2106</u>
	Stressed women's participation as essential to any conflict prevention or resolution efforts.



2014 key achievements and milestones

2014	Japan becomes a donor to the UN Action MPTF
	First UN Action Donor's Conference
	The UN Action Secretariat participates in the Global Summit on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict
	UN Action hosted a number of policy and "fringe" events during the Summit and ran a Stop Rape Now advocacy booth to disseminate UN Action knowledge products and advocacy resources. The Secretariat gave live interviews to the media on various CRSV related issues such as including the use of celebrity diplomacy, the need for training of peacekeepers on SVC, sexual violence against men and boys, and the UN system response.
	Knowledge products developed:
	<u>"Guidance note of the United Nations Secretary-General: Reparations for conflict-related sexual violence"</u> Provided policy and operational guidance for UN's engagement on reparations for victims of CRSV, including advocacy, supporting the design, implementation and M&E of reparation programmes and initiatives.
	<u>"Provisional Guidance Note on the Intersections between Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) & the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)"</u> Explained what the MARA and GBVIMS are, how they work; and outlined guiding principles and recommendations on if, how and when data from the GBVIMS could contribute to data collection on CRSV.





2015 key achievements and milestones

2015	Bahrain becomes a donor to the UN Action MPTF
	First joint mission by Donor Representatives and UN Action
	UK and Sweden join the UN Action Secretariat in a mission to Sudan. This enabled the donors to become familiar with the work, tools and approaches of the network, as well as the operational coordination challenges of addressing CRSV in integrated mission settings.
	UNSC resolution 2242
	Recognized the specific impact of terrorism and violent extremism on the human rights of women and girls, including SGBV as a tactic of terrorism.
Creation of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	



2016 key achievements and milestones

2016	UNSC resolution 2331
	Addressed the nexus between trafficking, sexual violence, terrorism and transnational organized crime. Affirmed that victims of trafficking and sexual violence be eligible for official redress as victims of terrorism.



2017 key achievements and milestones

2017	Appointment of the third SRSG-SVC, Pramila Patten
	Spain becomes a donor to the UN Action MPTF



2019 key achievements and milestones

2019	The UN Action network embraces 15 UN entities
	As of 2019 entities included DPPA, DPO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, OSRSG-SVC, UNAIDS, UNODA, UNODC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO . In observer status – OSRSG-CAAC .
	UNSC resolution 2467
	Encouraged Member States to respect the rights and prioritize the needs of survivors, and to further ensure that prevention and response are non-discriminatory, specific and utilise a survivor-centred approach. Recognized that CRSV occurs on a continuum of violence against women and girls. Recognized national ownership and responsibility in addressing the root-causes of sexual violence.
Adoption of Policy: Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in United Nations Field Missions	
Key policy document that institutionalizes the prevention and response to CRSV in UN Peace Operations.	

MOVING FORWARD — 2020 and BEYOND

	Launch of the CRSV-MPTF
	The Conflict-Related Sexual Violence MPTF succeeds the UN Action MPTF and aims to enhance prevention, response and accountability efforts towards addressing CRSV.



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

UN Action unites the work of 15 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings by improving coordination and accountability, amplifying programming and advocacy, and supporting national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors.



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* The Governments of Belgium, Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates contributed only to the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict



GET CROSS!

Take a stand against the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war by adding your crossed arm picture to our global campaign <http://www.stoprapenow.org>





Photo: UN Women / Alison Joyce

UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) unites the work of 15 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings by improving coordination and accountability, amplifying programming and advocacy, and supporting national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors.



STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

www.stoprapenow.org



[UN Action Twitter account \(@UNAAction\)](https://twitter.com/UNAAction)



[UN Action Facebook page \(@UNAAction\)](https://www.facebook.com/UNAAction)



[UN Action Stop Rape Now YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/UNAAction)



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