

**UN ACTION**  
STOP RAPE NOW ✕

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

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UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict

**2024**

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

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CAR	Central African Republic
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape
CRSV	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
CRSV-MPTF	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CTED	United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
DPPA	United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DPO	United Nations Department of Peace Operations
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
FoC	Frameworks of Cooperation
GBV	Gender-based violence
GMSS	Global MARA Support System
IDP	Internally Displaced People
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ITC	International Trade Centre
JCs	Joint Communiqués
JPO	Junior Professional Officer
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex
MARA	Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangement
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MPTFO	UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPG	Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine
OSAPG	Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
OSGEY	Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

OSRSG-CAAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
OSRSG-SVC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
OSRSG-VAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
PUNOs	Participating UN Organizations
RMC	Resource Management Committee
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
SCC	Special Criminal Court
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SRSRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
SRSRSG-CAAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict
SRSRSG-SVC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
SSNPS	South Sudan National Police Service
SVC	Sexual Violence in Conflict
SWPA	Senior Women Protection Adviser
TOE	UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict
TORs	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UN Action	UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict
UN Action MPTF	UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDGC	United Nations Department of Global Communications
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAD	United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability Against Da'esh/ISIL Crimes
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
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
WFP	World Food Program
WPA	Women's Protection Adviser
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

# 01

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In 2024, the **United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Network** ([UN Action](#) or the Network) took concrete and comprehensive survivor-centred action, coordinating across the UN system in some of the world's most complex conflict and post-conflict settings to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).

At the global level, UN Action continued to function as the primary coordination platform of the United Nations (UN) on CRSV, aligning technical assistance, advocacy for action, and knowledge generation. The Network produced strategic guidance materials, facilitated peer learning, and met regularly with in-country colleagues to share vital information. A key achievement in 2024 was the finalization of the UN Action Strategic Framework evaluation, which affirmed the relevance and added-value of UN Action's approach, while providing recommendations to strengthen efficiency, coherence, and accountability.

In 2024, UN Action implemented four joint survivor-centred projects in Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, and Mali, all designed to deliver holistic care while strengthening national capacities and promoting long-term prevention and accountability.

In Ukraine, through UN Action's largest multi-agency joint project to date, UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNODC, WHO, and IOM delivered trauma-informed services through Survivor Relief Centres (SRCs) and mobile outreach teams. It also leveraged digital platforms like Aurora and the CMR Expert Guide to provide virtual mental health, legal, and medical support. Survivors influenced new legislation granting legal status and reparations, and peer-led networks ensured inclusive, rights-based programming. Coordination with national authorities and civil society underpinned all activities, including piloting the Framework for the Prevention of CRSV.

In Sudan, UNFPA and UNHCR delivered life-saving services and established community-based protection mechanisms in West and Central Darfur amid active conflict. Women and Girls Safe Spaces and a Multi-Purpose Community Centre provided psychosocial support, legal aid, vocational training, and clinical care to thousands in need, including survivors of CRSV. Community dialogues, survivor inclusion, and training of frontline workers helped embed sustainable local structures despite severe access constraints and bureaucratic impediments.

In South Sudan, the joint project of UNMISS, UNFPA, and ITC focused on socio-economic empowerment for survivors and at-risk groups in four conflict-affected areas. The project combined access to legal, medical, and psychosocial services with tailored vocational training and income-generation support. Survivors formed self-help groups and participated in community awareness campaigns, while the project also strengthened institutional capacity and secured renewed political engagement through high-level dialogues.

In Mali, UNFPA delivered a critical support in Gao and Menaka amid the UN peacekeeping mission's drawdown. **The project reached over 8,000 women and girls with psychosocial and medical care, cash transfers, life skills training, and the provision of safe spaces.** Community early warning systems and mobile clinics helped sustain service delivery despite deteriorating security and access challenges. Together, these projects demonstrated UN Action's ability to adapt to highly volatile contexts while advancing survivor-centred programming, national ownership, and multi-sectoral coordination.

In terms of knowledge production, UN Action led the development of guidance, tools, case studies, and training modules that were disseminated within the UN system as well as with implementing partners and civil society stakeholders. These resources contributed to strengthening capacity in key thematic areas, including survivor-centred approaches, ethical data collection, and CRSV risk mitigation in humanitarian action. Technical exchanges facilitated by UN Action helped to transfer good practices across contexts and strengthen global expertise in integrated CRSV prevention and response.

Central to these efforts is the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund (CRSV-MPTF or the Fund), a critical financial instrument that enables the Network to drive catalytic change and mobilize support where it is most urgently needed. The CRSV-MPTF continues to represent a uniquely agile and strategic vehicle for supporting transformative action on CRSV. The Fund's work in 2024 reaffirmed its relevance in rapidly shifting humanitarian and political landscapes and underscored the enduring need for sustained, predictable, and flexible funding.

Future priorities for the Network include deepening field-focused interventions, strengthening engagement with Member States to ensure long-term ownership, and reinforcing data harnessing systems to better capture impact and inform adaptive programming.

# 02

## INTRODUCTION

The UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Network ([UN Action](#) or the Network) brings together the collective experience and institutional capacity of the UN system, and since its inception in 2007 has filled critical knowledge gaps, generated policy, guidance, and training materials to inform evidence-based prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) at the global and country-level. UN Action funds these efforts through the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund ([CRSV-MPTF or the Fund](#)), which, including activities funded through its predecessor, the [UN Action MPTF](#), has supported over 60 projects across 22 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 addressing CRSV. Notably, UN Action is the only UN system-wide initiative that leads advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilisation, and joint programming to prevent and respond to CRSV and is comprised of 26 UN entities. This report details work undertaken by the Network in 2024, as it relates to deliverables specified in [UN Action’s Strategic Framework for 2020 – 2025](#) and its attending 2024 – 2025 Workplan.



# UN Action Overview

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, Belgium. 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 mobilisation, and joint programming around sexual violence in conflict”. In all relevant Security Council 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.



## Resolution 1820 (2008)

Provided the conceptual foundation and broad framing of CRSV and identified sexual violence as part of the Peace and Security Agenda

## Resolution 1960 (2010)

Established the UN’s reporting mechanism to collect data on CRSV cases and patterns at the local level and affirmed the Security Council’s commitment to leverage all means to address CRSV

## Resolution 2242 (2015)

Recognised that CRSV is used strategically by certain terrorist groups and used as a tactic of terrorism

## Resolution 2467 (2019)

Highlighted the need for a survivor-centred approach in the prevention and response to CRSV and acknowledged the need to tackle CRSV root causes

## Resolution 1888 (2009)

Created the role of the SRSG-SVC, as well as the role of UN Action to implement the CRSV mandate

## Resolution 2106 (2013)

Called for prevention efforts to address CRSV and noted that women and girls are disproportionately affected by CRSV

## Resolution 2106 (2013)

Called for prevention efforts to address CRSV and noted that women and girls are disproportionately affected by CRSV

## Resolution 2331 (2016)

Identified that human trafficking can be used to exacerbate conflict, while classifying human trafficking survivors as terrorism survivors

In line with the 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 efforts. To achieve this synergy of action, 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.

UN Action works through a network of Focal Points from each member entity and is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of UN Principals from each of the 26 entities. The Security Council appointed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (the SRSG-SVC) to provide strategic guidance as the Chair of the Network; this work is supported by a Secretariat, located in the Office of the SRSG-SVC.

Further, UN Action is the primary consultation forum for the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (the Report). The Report serves not only as a public record of this crime, but also as a global advocacy instrument for driving the field of CRSV prevention and response forward. Annually, the Report brings new trends and patterns on CRSV to light, and additionally, serves as an information base and reference tool 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 addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children born of wartime rape and their mothers, the use of sexual violence to pursue strategies and tactics of terrorism, sexual slavery and conflict-driven human 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 into 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 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.**

# SDG Achievements

UN Action plays a vital role in supporting governments and civil society actors in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals including contributing to the achievement of the following SDGs:



By addressing violence against women and girls, empowering survivors of CRSV, and promoting women's leadership.



By ensuring survivors can access medical, psychosocial, and legal services essential for recovery.



By fostering accountability, reducing impunity for CRSV, and strengthening survivor-centred protection mechanisms.



By ensuring UN system wide coordination through the 26 UN entities that comprise the UN Action Network.

# 03

## ADAPTING TO AN EVOLVING CONTEXT



In 2024, as is outlined in the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence<sup>1</sup>, CRSV continued to be used as a tactic of war, repression, and control. Over the past year, overlapping armed conflicts, mass displacement, shrinking humanitarian space, and the drawdown of UN peace operations have significantly worsened the risks and impacts of CRSV.

One of the most significant contextual shifts in 2024 has been the geographic expansion of CRSV linked to the proliferation of non-State armed groups, transnational criminal networks, and terrorist organizations. These actors routinely use sexual violence to dominate territory and control natural resources. Spillover from conflicts exacerbated regional instability and exposed new populations to harm, such as in Sudan. The availability of small arms directly enabled widespread CRSV in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, and Myanmar.

Simultaneously, the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping operations in locations such as Sudan and Mali has weakened the protection infrastructure in fragile states. These missions historically played a key role in supporting survivors, providing protection to human rights defenders, and reinforcing accountability. Their closure has left significant gaps, particularly where national forces assuming responsibility are themselves implicated in long-standing patterns of abuse. The drawdowns have also led to the deprioritization of WPS mandates, with no commensurate reallocation of resources for gender-focused peacebuilding efforts.

In 2024, access to services for survivors further deteriorated due to insecurity and attacks on humanitarian personnel and infrastructure. In contexts like Libya, Myanmar, Yemen, and the State of Palestine, essential health and psychosocial services were severely disrupted. Most survivors, particularly those in rural or conflict-affected areas, could not reach services within the critical 72-hour window for clinical management of rape (CMR). Stigma, insecurity, and logistical barriers compounded these challenges, leaving survivors without support and exposing them to long-term health and socioeconomic harm.

Displacement, both as a cause and consequence of CRSV, remained a central theme. The crisis in Sudan alone, has in 2024, created the world's largest displacement emergency, while climate-induced disasters in Somalia and South Sudan heightened conflict and resource-based violence. Women and girls have been particularly vulnerable to CRSV and trafficking in and around displacement sites.

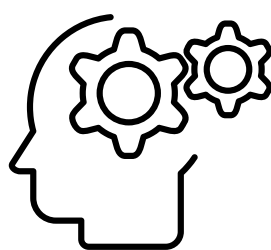
The year also saw alarming reports of sexual violence used as a method of torture, especially in detention settings, where men and boys were frequently targeted. In places such as Libya, Ukraine, and Myanmar, sexual violence was used systematically to humiliate and degrade detainees. Women and girls were also subjected to abuse in detention or captivity, often without access to medical care.

Important to highlight that while the majority of victims and survivors are female, it is important to recognise that men and boys too are targets of CRSV. The wide diversity of survivors, ranged in age from three to 75 and included women, men, boys, girls, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) individuals. These survivors face intersecting risks and barriers shaped by gender, age, identity, and perceived association with armed actors. Tailored, survivor-centred, and intersectional approaches remain urgently needed to close protection gaps and support recovery amid transitions and instability – noting the reality that protection and service delivery mechanisms for survivors remain inadequate, fragmented, offered based on available resources and donor interest.

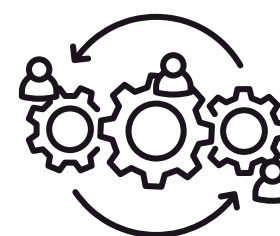
In addition to its core support to coordinating the UN system on addressing CRSV, UN Action’s work is tightly focused around producing tangible results in three strategic areas including:



Advocacy for Action



Knowledge Building



Operational Country-Level Support

Achievements under these areas for 2024 are highlighted in the Annual Report.



# 04

## RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2024

### Initiatives Related to Overall Cooperation and Coordination

With its now 26 members, UN Action has steadily grown its reach and capacity. The Network continued to be supported by the UN Action Secretariat, composed of the Senior Women's Protection Advisor (UN Action Coordinator) who, under the leadership of the Chair of UN Action, simultaneously serving as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), directs the work of UN Action in support of a coherent, comprehensive, and coordinated UN-wide approach to addressing CRSV, a Programme Officer (Deputy Coordinator) who supports the UN Action Coordinator in overseeing the work of UN Action to ensure system-wide implementation of the CRSV mandate and the implementation of UN Action's Strategic Framework and Work Plan, a Grants Management and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer who manages UN Action's joint catalytic, in-country programmes, resource mobilization efforts, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to demonstrate UN Action's impact, and a Knowledge Management Specialist, co-located at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) who leads UN Action's knowledge building activities articulated in the Network's Strategic Framework, including on prevention. The Secretariat also includes a Programmes Assistant who conducts essential administrative, financial, and programmatic operations that enable the Network and Secretariat to function. The Secretariat also benefits from the support of a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) funded by the Government of Italy.

UN Action's monthly Focal Points meetings are a vital platform for driving progress on the Network's Workplan and ensuring that critical coordination takes place across the UN's diverse efforts to address CRSV. These meetings facilitate direct consultations with key country counterparts, including Senior Women's Protection Advisers (SWPAs) and CRSV Focal Points, allowing stakeholders to assess how entities are addressing the CRSV mandate in areas of concern. A primary focus is supporting the effective implementation of Joint Communiqués (JCs), Frameworks of Cooperation (FoCs), and national strategies aimed at preventing and responding to CRSV. Moreover, these meetings serve as a crucial opportunity for identifying gaps in current efforts, brainstorming solutions, and developing actionable strategies to overcome obstacles. SWPAs and field-based personnel, who are on the front lines of implementing the CRSV mandate, are encouraged to openly share the challenges they face, ensuring that the Network can provide targeted, responsive and field-focused support where it's most needed.

Additionally, beyond fostering stronger data sharing, planning, and coordination among UN entities, the monthly Focal Point Meetings serve as a common platform for S/WPAs, mission and country teams, and civil society to discuss CRSV issues, while also supporting the expansion of the MARA arrangement to UN Action member entities who had not previously been involved as a pivotal point in comprehensively addressing CRSV.

As new crises and conflicts continue to emerge, UN Action's Focal Points convene quickly to exchange timely, on-the-ground information about CRSV reports and evolving trends. These discussions are essential for ensuring that UN Action remains synchronized, and that key messaging is consistent and effective in addressing these urgent issues. Specific situations such as emerging conflicts or crisis zones, are given focused attention in these meetings whenever possible, ensuring that the Network is agile and responsive. The table below illustrates some of these thematic and country-focused discussions, showcasing how the Focal Points meetings are a dynamic, real-time tool in coordinating a comprehensive and impactful UN response.

### *January: UN Action funded projects*

**Discussion:** The Secretariat provided a status update on ongoing and upcoming projects funded to Network members in the DRC, Mali, Ukraine and South Sudan, as well as an overview of key activities and challenges faced. UN Action members commended the projects' implementation and positive results, while noting the short implementation timelines and funding constraints.

**Entity's Support:** In 2024, UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC, ITC, WHO, UNDP and IOM co-implemented CRSV-MPTF funded projects

### *February: UN Action Principals' Steering Committee Meeting*

**Discussion:** The UN Action Steering Committee convened at the Principals' level to discuss and endorse the 15th annual Report of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict covering the period of January to December 2023, which was preceded by a presentation of the Report by the Chair of UN Action, the SRSG-SVC.

**Entity's Support:** UN Action members provided constructive contributions to the drafting of the Report, which enabled UN Action to remain the primary consultation forum for the development of the Report.

### *March: Addressing CRSV perpetrated in terrorism contexts*

**Discussion:** CTED presented its work on the prevention and response to CRSV perpetrated by terrorist actors, and emphasised efforts to support Member States in ensuring accountability for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) linked to terrorism.

**Entity's Support:** UNODC reported providing specialised trainings for female justice practitioners in charge of prosecuting, investigating, and adjudicating terrorism-related cases.

### *April: UN Action's Evaluation of Mid-Term Strategic Framework 2020-2025*

**Discussion:** The Secretariat presented findings from the mid-term evaluation of UN Action's Strategic Framework 2020 – 2025, which emphasised the Networks' relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and outlined lessons learned and recommendations.

**Entity's Support:** UN Action members contributed actively to the development of the mid-term review, by providing relevant input and feedback throughout the data collection and consultation phases.

### *May: Cybersecurity and technology-facilitated CRSV*

**Discussion:** UNODC presented on its activities related to CRSV and cybercrimes, an issue which crosscuts UNODC's mandate. Through its technical assistance in line with UNODC's Strategy 2021-2025, the entity elaborated on its works with criminal justice and law enforcement systems to implement a victim-centred and human-rights based approach.

**Entity's Support:** As part of its Global Programme on Cybercrime, UNODC focused on fostering the role of women in countering cybercrimes in Africa through a gender lens, namely by offering capacity-building trainings on the criminal justice sector and improving national frameworks against cybercrime.

### *June: UN Action Principals' Steering Committee Meeting*

**Discussion:** The Steering Committee convened for the second time on 24 June 2024 at the Principals level to discuss the achievements of the UN Action Network in 2023, as well as to agree collectively on the strategic priorities and direction of the Network for 2024 and 2025, with a particular focus on mission withdrawals and transitions, the monitoring, analysis and report arrangement workstream, and fundraising and advocacy.

**Entity's Support:** UN Action members continued to be increasingly active throughout 2025 and collectively contributed their expertise to leverage technical, financial, and political resources, ensuring survivor-centred responses to CRSV in situations of concern.

### *Haiti*

**Discussion:** UN Women and UNFPA Country Offices in Haiti briefed Focal Points on the alarming increase in CRSV cases perpetrated by armed gangs in Haiti and highlighted gaps and challenges that needed to be urgently met. Recommendations to fill existing gaps included scaling-up lifesaving services, reinforcing awareness campaigns as part of prevention efforts, providing dedicated funding, training the Multilateral Security Support (MSS) to ensure CRSV does not occur, and ensuring the meaningful participation of women at all leadership levels.

**Entity's Support:** Member entities reported on their efforts including: UNODA worked on issues related to arms control in Haiti, including a range of activities to provide technical support to the police force; UNICEF strengthened GBV prevention and response efforts through local partners to facilitate survivors' access to multi-sectoral services, including through mobile safe care spaces in Internally Displaced People (IDP) sites; OSRSG-CAAC informed on the annual Report of the Secretary-General covering 2023 included Haiti as a situation of concern, while documenting 400 grave violations against children verified in Haiti, including killing and maiming as the highest violations, followed by abduction and sexual violence; IOM worked with several UN entities to help the reconstruction of three safe shelters, in addition to providing cash assistance; WFP focused on digitalising safe delivery of cash assistance and distributing free SIM cards, noting that 66% of beneficiaries receiving cash transfers digitally are women.



### July: NGO briefings on the DRC and Ethiopia



**Discussion:** Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) was the first external partner to provide a standalone briefing to Focal Points, ensuring a broader and richer exchange on CRSV trends and patterns in the DRC, particularly North Kivu, and in Ethiopia, specifically Tigray. PHR provided invaluable insights and recommendations from the field on gaps and best approaches related to addressing CRSV cases in both countries.

**Entity's Support:** In the framework of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC's (MONUSCO) transition process in the DRC, UN Women outlined its support of the Government's efforts through a new country programme on social cohesion, which included women's protection activities related to CRSV prevention and response.

### August: Chad



**Discussion:** OSRSG-SVC and TOE briefed UN Action members on the mission to Chad conducted by the Chair of UN Action, the SRSG-SVC, in July, which aimed to assess the situation in the Ouaddaï Region, where more than 620,000 refugees who have fled the hostilities in Sudan, including survivors of CRSV.

**Entity's Support:** In order to ensure coordination and share information on complementary funding streams to the CRSV-MPTF, UN Women briefed that it launched the first-ever Call for Proposals in Chad through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), which provided new programmatic and institutional funding opportunities for local women's rights and women-led civil society organisations (CSOs) in Chad working to ensure an enabling environment for WPS, as well as the protection of women and girls in conflict and crisis contexts, including relating to GBV and CRSV. UNODC engaged with the national authorities and UNCT in Chad on providing technical assistance in the area of community policing with the objective of addressing recurrent cases of sexual abuse perpetrated against refugees, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, drug consumption, terrorism and violent extremism prevention and trafficking of firearms.

### September: Sudan



**Discussion:** OCHA provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in Sudan, exacerbated by the rainy season, noting that a famine has been declared with 26 million people facing acute food insecurity and 755,000 people experiencing IPC Phase 5.

**Entity's Support:** UNHCR and UNFPA provided updates on the implementation of UN Action's joint project in Sudan, aiming to prevent and respond to CRSV in West and Central Darfur, with support from local partners.

### October: Somalia



**Discussion:** OCHA provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in Sudan, exacerbated by the rainy season, noting that a famine has been declared with 26 million people facing acute food insecurity and 755,000 people experiencing IPC Phase 5.

**Entity's Support:** UNHCR and UNFPA provided updates on the implementation of UN Action's joint project in Sudan, aiming to prevent and respond to CRSV in West and Central Darfur, with support from local partners.

## Colombia

**Discussion:** TOE briefed UN Action members on the outcomes of its technical assessment mission to Bogota in August 2024 in preparation for the official mission of the SRSG-SVC, as UN Action Chair. The technical mission informed TOE's wider strategy in Colombia and provided a space for engagement with a wide range of UN and national stakeholders, as well as with international donors

**Entity's Support:** UNICEF Country Office in Colombia reported that it advocated actively for the inclusion of sexual violence in the peace talks and ceasefire protocols with armed groups, as well as within the strategies developed by the Intersectoral Commission for Preventing Recruitment, Use, and Sexual Violence against Children by Armed Groups and Organized Criminal Groups (CIPRUNNA).

## November: South Sudan

**Discussion:** The SWPA in South Sudan provided an overview of the protection and CRSV situation in South Sudan, characterised by increased reports of CRSV, intercommunal violence, continued political instability, climate and conflict-driven displacement, and challenges in the implementation of the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangement (MARA). TOE also provided an overview of its work on justice in accountability in South Sudan.

**Entity's Support:** ITC presented updates on the implementation of the UN Action project in South Sudan and UN Action shared findings from its monitoring mission (4–14 September 2024), which included site visits and engagements with survivors, community leaders, and service providers to assess project progress.

## Lebanon

**Discussion:** OCHA provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in Lebanon, characterised by significant casualties amid escalating hostilities in Lebanon since September 2024, which led to mass displacement and widespread destruction of central infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and water facilities, severely impeding service delivery.

**Entity's Support:** UN Women updated on leveraging its network of 442 women peacebuilders and mediators at the community-level in Lebanon to promote the nexus between conflict and gender-sensitive humanitarian relief and enhance social cohesion efforts in collective shelters with a focus on preventing CRSV.

## Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory



**Discussion:** DPPA provided an update on the hostilities in Gaza from a political perspective, including ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire/hostage deal with the US, Egypt and Qatar in mediation roles. DPPA reported that hostilities and Israel's military operations led to significant casualties, displacement, and widespread destruction of infrastructure, while aid delivery remains severely restricted, leaving women and girls particularly vulnerable. Moreover, DPPA highlighted shifting international political dynamics and outlined various initiatives aimed at addressing the situation.

**Entity's Support:** UN Women that it has published a [gender alert](#) that focuses on women's health, as well as a [brief analysis](#) of the gendered impact of the conflict by collecting [stories](#) from Gaza as an effort to advocate for more attention and unimpeded humanitarian support.

## December: MARA 2.0 Needs Assessment Report

**Discussion:** Co-Chairs of UN Action’s MARA Core Group (Department of Peace Operations DPO and the UN Action Secretariat) presented an overview of key findings and recommendations of the MARA 2.0. Needs Assessment Report, which aimed to evaluate the existing MARA architecture and explored improvement areas to enable the MARA to achieve its objectives.

**Entity’s Support:** UN Action members were instrumental in providing relevant feedback and input throughout the data collection and consultation phase of the MARA 2.0. Needs Assessment Report. The monthly meeting allowed the members to collectively reflect on the findings and prioritise actionable recommendations, which would enhance and build on existing MARA tools.

## Mission Preparation and Updates

Given the reach of the 26 Network members in the field, UN Action monthly Focal Points meetings were also used as a platform for entities to support the preparation of and hear the outcomes from the SRSG-SVC’s field visits. In 2024, the Focal Points were invited to provide background information from their respective field colleagues for missions to Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ukraine, Kenya and Chad. Upon the SRSG-SVC’s return, colleagues who accompanied the missions briefed Focal Points on findings, challenges, lessons learned and recommended ways forward in order to ensure continuity between headquarters based political advocacy and country-level impact.

### UN Action Network Growth



In 2024, the Network continued to expand from 25 to 26 UN entities with the addition of UN Habitat in recognition of the fact that the outbreak of conflict and the resultant displacement, places women and children, who are already in harm’s way at further risk of CRSV. Bringing in the elements of urban crisis prevention and risk management, as well as ensuring access to safe and adequate housing support during and after conflict aids in the creation of a protective environment, with the potential of mitigating CRSV.

### Evaluating our Effectiveness

In 2024, having reached the final two years of its 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework, UN Action conducted a rigorous and independent evaluation to assess the Network’s shortfalls and successes since 2020. The **evaluation involved a comprehensive desk review, focus groups and key informant interviews with over 50 participants across UN Action’s key stakeholder groups including the leadership of the Network** (e.g. the Chair and Heads of Entities), technical-level Focal Points from member entities, SWPAs, UN Country Teams (UNCTs), agencies implementing UN Action funded projects, donor Member States, civil society partners, and organisations either representing or working closely with survivors.

Key results include that UN Action’s strategies and activities are firmly aligned with the mandate of the SRSG-SVC and remains highly relevant to the realities of current conflict dynamics. The Network’s ability to adapt to new challenges, including operating during the COVID-19 pandemic and taking immediate action to address CRSV in the face of the war in

Ukraine illustrates its resilience and strategic foresight. Stakeholders consulted noted the survivor-centred focus and the continued relevance of UN Action's Strategic Framework outcome areas. The report recommended increasing both internal and external communication and visibility so that the Strategic Framework's reach and relevance could be further amplified.

The governance structure of UN Action is well-established, enabling coordinated engagement across member entities, whilst Focal Points and the Resource Management Committee (RMC) of the CRSV-MPTF, comprising of a sub-set of Focal Points, are effectively positioned to connect policy and operational work. While some variations in engagement remain across its member entities, the evaluation identified strong opportunities to deepen coherence through a more strategic role for the Steering Committee and wider stakeholder alignment. The evaluation highlighted that the Secretariat's commitment and agility as instrumental in maintaining momentum, despite its limited staffing.

**The evaluation found that UN Action has delivered important results.** These include high-profile advocacy events during the UN General Assembly and CSW, strategic expert-led knowledge sharing sessions on priority themes such as economic empowerment, transitional justice, and violent extremism, as well as the finalization of the *Framework for the Prevention of CRSV* and completion of the MARA assessment, collectively harnessing the Network's unique role in driving thought leadership and joint action. The evaluation noted that within the current resource-limited environment, ambition should be tempered with practicality, recommending a targeted prioritization of outcomes, which would further sharpen focus and deliver greater results within existing capacity.

The report highlighted that **UN Action's grant-making processes and collaborative planning have contributed to operational efficiency and impact.** UN Action-funded initiatives have consistently centred on meeting survivor's needs and demonstrated flexibility in delivery. The evaluation recognized a clear opportunity to bolster efficiency and scale through a revised, joint fundraising strategy and enhanced engagement with donors seeking programmatic and field-focused results.

The evaluation found that **UN Action's work has laid critical groundwork for sustainable, nationally owned approaches to CRSV.** It recommended continuing these efforts by strengthening local partnerships, meaningfully engaging survivor's networks, and reinforcing technical support to field actors to ensure that interventions are durable and impactful. Unequivocally, continued support through the CRSV-MPTF remains essential to scale this work and deliver long-term change.

The evaluation suggests forward-looking, actionable recommendations aimed at building on the Strategic Framework's strong foundation. These include enhancing strategic leadership and ownership within the Steering Committee, refining priorities to align ambition with available resources, and strengthening communications with donors, civil society, and field partners. It found that there is also an opportunity to deepen engagement with survivors and local actors, foster shared leadership across the Network, and scale impact through joint fundraising efforts.



UN Photo/ Gregorio Cunha

The evaluation highlighted the pivotal role that donors and allied Member States can play in realizing the full potential of UN Action. With its strong foundation, responsive design, and proven results, UN Action provides a vital platform for collective impact and a means for donors to contribute directly to strengthening global prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict, anchored in the voices, rights, and needs of survivors.

UN Action’s strategic activities and the CRSV-MPTF were further validated through a comprehensive two-year audit process conducted by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), underscoring the strength and accountability of its approach and outcomes.

**UN ACTION PILLAR 1 - IN-COUNTRY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT: INITIATIVES RELATED TO PREVENTION, PROTECTION, AND SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS**

In line with Security Council resolution 2467 (2019), UN Action’s approach to funding ensures that all supported actions are meaningful for, and designed around, the needs and desires of CRSV survivors. Central to its resourcing priorities is that all projects funded must clearly articulate a survivor-centred approach, address the root causes of CRSV, support its prevention, foster national ownership and institutional capacity building, and ensure the projects’ sustainability amongst other Network priorities.

Through the CRSV-MPTF, in 2024, UN Action funded projects in Mali, Sudan, South Sudan, and Ukraine.



*CRSV response to the urgent needs of affected women and girls in Ménaka and Gao regions in Mali*

UN Action’s UNFPA-led project in Mali concluded in May. The project delivered a critical, survivor-centred response to CRSV and GBV in Menaka and Gao. Amid a backdrop of deepening insecurity, a worsening humanitarian crisis, and the withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the project still ensured service delivery, community mobilization, and systems strengthening, benefitting thousands of survivors and at-risk individuals.



UNFPA

The project's central aim was to strengthen the capacity of communities, health systems, and local institutions to prevent, respond to, and mitigate CRSV. By the project's end, **over 8,000 women and girls including survivors, had been reached, with 100% receiving psychosocial support and over 4,000 accessing medical services.** These services were delivered through mobile clinics, safe spaces, and the One Stop Centre in Menaka, which served as a hub for holistic care—including case management of rape (CMR), mental health care, and legal referrals. The deployment of three midwives to remote areas significantly enhanced the reach of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Through their work, 916 prenatal consultations and 190 assisted deliveries were completed, alongside expanded access to family planning and postnatal care.

Psychosocial support was a cornerstone of the project. A total of **2,984 women and girls—including 726 at-risk individuals—participated in individual and group listening sessions.** Beyond counselling, innovative psychosocial interventions such as culinary training were introduced to help survivors regain self-worth and economic agency. **One such participant from the IDP site in Taykarène, who had lost her husband in the conflict and suffered sexual violence during displacement, shared that the culinary activity gave her “a reason to wake up, to contribute to something again, and not feel invisible.”** More than 2,300 women engaged in these life skills sessions across ten IDP sites.

In parallel, the project delivered socio-economic reintegration support. A cash transfer program provided **450** survivors with \$250 each via mobile money, empowering them to meet immediate needs or invest in small-scale livelihoods. Some recipients used the funds to open food stalls or purchase sewing equipment, helping to rebuild their autonomy. The implementation of this modality was supported by training for Local Support Committees (CALs), local authorities, and IDP

site leaders, ensuring transparency and strong community ownership. Complaint feedback mechanisms were established to uphold accountability and responsiveness.

**Community mobilization was equally pivotal. Early Warning Systems (Comités de veille Communautaire) were created in 27 sites, designed to detect, refer, and respond to GBV and CRSV incidents.** These community groups developed action plans that included awareness-raising campaigns, radio broadcasts, and follow-up on cases reported via mobile teams. Regular meetings every three months allowed for adjustments and monitoring. In tandem, **130** women and girls were trained as mentors to disseminate key messages on CRSV prevention and survivor support. These mechanisms reached over **13,500** individuals, catalysing behavioural change and reducing stigma toward survivors.

**Dignity kits were distributed to 2,500 women and girls in IDP sites.** Safe spaces were made available in IDP camps, enabling women and girls to access services and build peer networks without fear. Meanwhile, a toll-free number was introduced for remote case management, through which **352** survivors received assistance. These combined efforts significantly improved survivors' access to services across multiple sectors, including medical, psychosocial, legal, security, and livelihoods.

Despite the closure of MINUSMA, co-implementer of the project, and the loss of their substantive complementary programming, which had included engagement with armed groups, UNFPA reprogrammed the associated activities and redirected the funds to expand service provision.

A significant enabler of this success was the strong partnership between UNFPA and IEDA Relief, a national NGO with deep roots in the target regions. As a trusted local actor, IEDA played a key role in maintaining access,

particularly after the deteriorating security environment prevented UNFPA staff from traveling to Ménaka beyond September 2023. Localization proved essential: with national staff embedded in affected communities, IEDA sustained service delivery, conducted remote case management, and facilitated ongoing data collection through the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS).

Coordination with local government bodies, such as the Regional Directorates of Health, Social Development, and the Promotion of Family and Women, ensured alignment with national priorities and long-term integration of services. These partnerships enabled continued deployment of mobile health teams and midwives under the oversight of the Regional Health Directorate. UNFPA also co- led the GBV and SRH sub-clusters at the regional level and engaged regularly with OCHA's access and coordination mechanisms to address humanitarian constraints and logistical challenges.

**The project succeeded in the face of significant hurdles.** Security conditions deteriorated rapidly following the MINUSMA withdrawal, with non-state armed groups expanding their presence. Road transport became unviable due to targeted attacks and looting, leaving costly air transport as the only option, albeit increasingly limited. The frequency of humanitarian flights to Ménaka fell sharply, compounding logistical difficulties and cost. UN Action addressed these challenges by rapidly adapting. UNFPA prepositioned supplies in advance of MINUSMA's exit, sourced dignity kits locally to minimize transport reliance, and shifted to remote monitoring using digital communication tools.

Key lessons emerged from this operating context. First, early investment in local partnerships paid dividends during crises. The selection of IEDA Relief as a partner



UN Photo/Gema Cortes

ensured continuity of care when external access was constrained. Second, community engagement is foundational to survivor-centred programming. Training local mentors, committees, and authorities enhanced not only coverage but also trust, accountability, and uptake of services. Third, diversification of service delivery (through mobile clinics, remote case management, and safe spaces) proved critical in reaching populations in inaccessible or conflict-affected zones.

From a sustainability perspective, the project laid solid groundwork through its mentorship programs, capacity-building for health personnel, and integration of services within local governance structures. Collaboration with sister UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR, and WFP as members of the UN Action Network strengthened multisectoral linkages, while UNFPA-led campaigns on menstrual hygiene and adolescent engagement extended the impact to younger populations. Nonetheless, ongoing insecurity posed a serious threat to continuity, underscoring the urgent need for sustained funding and flexible operational modalities.

At its conclusion, the project successfully responded to the urgent needs of conflict-affected populations in Ménaka and Gao despite facing extraordinary challenges. It offered comprehensive, survivor-centred services, reinforced community protection mechanisms, and built local capacity for long-term response. Many survivors, once silenced and isolated, reported feeling safer, more informed, and more empowered. One survivor captured this shift in a simple but powerful way:

**“Now I know I am not alone. There is a place I can go. There are people who listen.”**

With this legacy of trust, care, and resilience is the most enduring result of the project—and a vital foundation for future interventions.



### *Mitigating Risks and Enhancing the Response to GBV and CRSV in Conflict- Affected Areas of Sudan*

The joint project implemented by UNFPA and UNHCR provided a vital response to the urgent needs of women and girls in West and Central Darfur, Sudan. The project launched in April 2024, delivered life-saving services and established locally rooted protection structures for survivors of GBV and CRSV.

Activities focused on both prevention and response, working through local networks, health systems, safe spaces, and national coordination structures.

A key feature of the project was its investment in community-based protection systems. A total of 80 community members were trained to serve as focal points for identifying GBV risks, sharing information on available services, and safely referring survivors to care. In both Central and West Darfur, awareness campaigns were deployed to reach high-risk populations with life-saving messages. These efforts, including mobile sensitization teams and mass events such as the 16 Days of Activism, reached nearly 12,000 individuals. Community dialogues encouraged open discussion of harmful social norms and provided space for survivors and frontline workers to engage safely and respectfully.

At the heart of the project were the Women and Girls’ Safe Spaces (WGSS) and community centres established to provide critical support to survivors. In West Darfur, UNFPA fully rehabilitated and operationalized a WGSS in the Al Salam area of Geneina, offering a range of services including psychosocial support, GBV case management, legal assistance, and referrals to health and protection actors. Over 8,360 women and girls accessed services through this facility by December 2024. Meanwhile in Central Darfur, UNHCR opened a Multi-Purpose Community Center (MPCC) in Zalingei, equipped with private consultation rooms and a safe recreational space, managed through an inclusive, trained community committee. Both facilities were designed to be stigma-free, centrally located, and easily accessible to IDPs, refugees, and host communities.

The project also strengthened the capacity of service providers and GBV actors. Across the two states, over 100 individuals were trained in various aspects of GBV in emergencies, including survivor-centred care, trauma-informed practices, case management, and referral coordination. These trainings targeted frontline health workers, social workers, community focal points, and GBV coordinators. In West Darfur, three rounds of CMR training were conducted, equipping 90 health professionals with knowledge to provide emergency medical care and referrals for

survivors. The project also supported the refurbishment of a confidential GBV service corner within Geneina Hospital, further strengthening the integration of clinical and psychosocial care for survivors.

Building on existing mental health and protection services, the project trained more than **90** individuals—community members and service providers alike—in psychological first aid and stress management. These trained actors went on to support group counselling sessions and individual emotional care, particularly for displaced women and girls living in informal settlements and high-risk areas. Post-training assessments indicated an **80%** improvement in participants' knowledge and confidence to manage survivor-centred cases sensitively and ethically.

Recognising the connection between economic insecurity and GBV risk, the project also introduced targeted livelihoods support for women and girls, including survivors and persons with disabilities. A total of **44** women received vocational training in small business management and perfume production. Start-up kits and seed funding enabled participants to launch income-generating activities (IGAs). The design of these trainings was informed by market assessments and survivor consultations. Many of the women trained reported increased self-confidence, social connectedness, and reduced exposure to harmful coping mechanisms, including transactional sex. One participant shared that she had endured a series of challenging experiences that led her to withdraw from the community, opting to stay at home and cope with the emotional toll, including mental health struggles. However, after being selected for an IGA training, she noticed a positive shift. She said:

**“I felt some improvement, and now I feel that I am doing very well”**

Through the training, she gained the skills to make perfumes, and with the capital she received, she was able to purchase materials and start producing perfumes for sale. The participant explained that the opportunity has greatly boosted her self-confidence, and she can now even travel outside Zalingei to sell her products.

Coordination was a critical enabler of the project's impact. Fourteen inter-agency GBV coordination meetings were held in the target states to harmonize service delivery, address gaps, and strengthen referrals. In addition, 15 participants took part in a tailored GBV coordination training designed to reinforce understanding of IASC minimum standards and the core principles of survivor-centred programming. A learning brief on programming for adolescent girls was developed and shared with stakeholders to guide age-appropriate interventions.

However, the project also faced significant operational constraints. In Central Darfur, the MPCC in Zalingei came under threat of political interference by parties to the conflict, who attempted to repurpose the facility for their use. After sustained negotiations, the community's right to maintain the space for humanitarian purposes was upheld. Seasonal rains also delayed access to certain areas, including the Um Shalaya refugee camp. In West Darfur, the emergence of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)-aligned Sudanese Agency for Relief and Humanitarian Operations (SARHO) introduced new bureaucratic hurdles and delayed program rollout. The broader collapse of financial systems, limited access to cash, and telecommunications blackouts further complicated implementation across both states. However, by working with trusted community members, adopting flexible delivery methods, and engaging directly with local authorities, the project was able to sustain



service provision in difficult conditions.

One of the most promising aspects of the intervention was its emphasis on sustainability. Rather than creating parallel systems, the project embedded resources and knowledge within existing community structures. Trained focal points, locally managed safe spaces, and partnerships with state health institutions laid a foundation for continued support to survivors beyond the project's lifespan. The integration of women-led organizations and refugee and IDP voices into decision-making processes further enhanced the relevance and durability of the approach.

**The project has so far reached thousands of women and girls affected by violence and displacement in Sudan.** It has built essential protection infrastructure, supported healing and recovery, and empowered communities to take ownership of prevention and response efforts.



### *Building Socio-Economic Resilience for Survivors of CRSV in South Sudan*

Between December 2023 and December 2024, the joint project implemented by UNMISS, UNFPA and ITC achieved measurable and meaningful progress in empowering survivors of CRSV and at-risk groups across four conflict-affected areas (Yambio, Bor, Bentiu, and Juba). Amid ongoing political fragility, localized insecurity, and a deteriorating economic climate, the project provided an integrated package of support services and contributed to policy, institutional, and community-level transformations in CRSV prevention and response.

At its core, the project sought to rebuild the agency of survivors through a holistic, survivor-centred approach encompassing medical, psychosocial, legal, and economic empowerment assistance. It successfully reached **200 survivors, predominantly women and girls, but also inclusive of other vulnerable groups, who were provided with multisectoral services delivered through established one-stop centres and community-based platforms.** Survivors were referred to reproductive health services, received counselling and legal aid, and engaged in awareness sessions such as the "Know Your Laws" radio talk shows that demystified CRSV-related legislation and informed them of their rights.

Beyond immediate services, one of the project's most notable achievements was in fostering long-term economic empowerment. A total of **199 survivors underwent business and vocational skills training tailored to the local market demands and South Sudanese context, including soap-making, retail operations, and small-scale agriculture.** This was accompanied by training in soft skills such as business planning, time management, conflict resolution, and marketing.

These efforts culminated in an impressive SSP 47,902,800 (roughly USD \$368,000) in income generated across the four project locations—a significant indicator of progress toward self-reliance.

Survivors themselves reported transformation not only in their livelihoods, but also in their sense of dignity and confidence. One woman in Yambio, who received training in soap production and later joined a self-help group (SHG), remarked:

**“I no longer wait for someone to help me. Now I wake up knowing I can feed my children and pay for school.”**

Another survivor in Bentiu shared how she reinvested profits from her vegetable farming to lease additional land, gradually growing her small enterprise while mentoring other survivors in her SHG.

Group-based approaches played a critical role in enabling these outcomes. **Over 80 SHGs were formed or strengthened, providing survivors with not only a platform for collective economic activity but also vital psychosocial support.** These groups served as safe spaces where survivors could share experiences, challenge stigma, and rebuild a sense of solidarity. The SHGs were complemented by the creation of 55 Community Action Groups (CAGs), which were trained to promote awareness, prevent violence, and advocate for the rights of survivors at the community level.

The project also placed a strong emphasis on institutional strengthening. In total, **185 duty bearers**, including police, judiciary actors, armed forces, and social service authorities, were trained on CRSV legal frameworks and survivor-centred approaches. These trainings aimed to reduce secondary victimization, enhance survivor safety, and foster accountability within national systems. In tandem, **126 frontline workers, including staff at one-stop centres, local NGOs, and**

**self-help groups**, received training in trauma-informed care, legal referral processes, and community outreach. These capacity-building efforts ensure that quality services for survivors can continue beyond the project implementation period.

Recognizing the critical role of legislative and policy frameworks in combating CRSV, the project facilitated high-level engagement with the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and other national actors. A milestone event was the High-Level Parliamentary Dialogue convened in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, marking the 10th anniversary of South Sudan’s 2014 Joint Communiqué with the United Nations on the prevention of CRSV. **This dialogue, attended by over 60 parliamentarians, culminated in a renewed political commitment to review and strengthen CRSV-related legislation.** As part of their follow-up, parliamentarians committed to visiting CRSV hotspot areas and working closely with survivor networks on future reforms.

Meanwhile, the project’s communication and visibility strategy ensured that key messages reached broader audiences. Radio programmes, social media campaigns, and community events during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence helped disseminate legal knowledge and destigmatize CRSV, particularly in remote communities. **The project also engaged 200 community leaders, including chiefs and religious figures, to champion CRSV prevention, facilitate survivor reintegration, and reinforce local referral pathways.**

A survivor-centred approach underpinned all aspects of implementation. The project prioritized the inclusion of survivors with diverse and intersectional identities, including IDPs, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and those from marginalized ethnic groups.

In Yambio, special accommodations were made to ensure that survivors with mobility challenges could participate in training sessions. This inclusive design was supported by close collaboration with community-based organizations and leaders who helped identify and reach underserved individuals.

Safety and security considerations were also integrated into project delivery. Survivors engaged in livelihood activities in designated safe spaces: community compounds or women-friendly centres monitored by local partners. Legal aid referrals were facilitated through trusted civil society partners, with the principles of anonymity and confidentiality upheld throughout. These measures, coupled with survivors' growing economic independence, significantly reduced the risk of re-victimization and exploitation.

Monitoring data and qualitative feedback confirm strong beneficiary satisfaction with the services received. 70% of survivors expressed satisfaction with the integrated package of support, noting improvements in their mental health, social connectedness, and sense of control over their futures. Many reported a renewed ability to support their children, participate in community life, and advocate for the rights of others. In one account, a survivor who had remained silent for years found her voice through an SHG in Bor. During a group meeting, she said:

**“I thought I was alone. Now I know we are many, and we are stronger together”**

#### *Project Monitoring Visit*

Between 4 and 14 September 2024, the Secretariat visited South Sudan to better understand how the joint project was progressing. Through meetings with survivors, UN and government partners, and local organizations and by visiting key service centres, the Secretariat was able to assess what was working well, what was not, and map out possible next phases of the project.

As the project enters its final phase, the focus is shifting toward consolidation and sustainability. To this end, efforts are underway to link survivors to financial institutions and local cooperatives through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). Future iterations of the project may seek to scale up these financial inclusion models and enhance survivors' access to capital, markets, and technical assistance. Lessons learned have also underscored the need for continued investment in financial literacy, branding, post-harvest handling, and private sector engagement.

Importantly, the project's model, combining direct support with institutional engagement and community-level transformation, has been recognized as a replicable approach for other conflict-affected contexts.



Overall, the visit showed that the project is making a real difference in the lives of survivors within a challenging operating environment. One Stop Centres in Juba and Yambio are providing crucial medical, legal, and psychological support, whilst running on very limited resources. Staff are committed but stretched and centres also sometimes ran short on basic medical supplies, had limited space or were short-staffed. Frontline workers spoke openly about burnout and the lack of support systems for themselves due to continual budget cuts.

Discussions with survivors of CRSV gave important insights into how the project is impacting real lives. Many survivors shared how counselling and support have helped them heal and rejoin their communities. Outreach efforts to engage traditional leaders and challenge stigma seemed to be driving shifts in community attitudes. Still, serious gaps remain, especially for male survivors and children born as a result of sexual violence, who are often left out of support services entirely. Survivors stressed that these groups need to be recognized and included in future programming.

Government partners showed real commitment to addressing CRSV, for example, the Secretariat participated in a high-level dialogue held in Juba to mark 10 years since the signing of the UN-Government Joint Communiqué on CRSV, which was co-organised by the project partners with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. Survivors played a leading role in the event, voicing their priorities around reparations, better healthcare, education, and inclusion in national justice efforts, as well as to address the stigma and barriers faced by children born of CRSV, whilst government officials showed renewed willingness to listen and engage.

The Secretariat also gained more insight into the economic empowerment aspects of the project. Survivors explained that income-generating activities like farming and soap-making are critical to building their independence. While the latest phase of livelihood activities had not yet launched at the time of the visit, survivors voiced their support for such initiatives and advocated for expanding these opportunities to reach even more of their peers.



UN Photo/UNFPA

The Secretariat met with local CSOs and implementing partners who are playing a pivotal role in service delivery. Their strong relationships with communities have helped sustain the project through delays and challenges. However, rising costs and uncertain funding are putting them under severe straining to keep doing more with less.

The Secretariat was able to surmise that the project is making a tangible impact in assisting survivors to rebuild their lives in meaningful ways, and to reintegrate them into their communities – considering its relatively modest scope. Filling service gaps, reaching the most marginalized groups, and making sure efforts are sustainable over the long term will be critical to turning short-term success into lasting change.



### *The UNited Action to Empower Survivors of CRSV*

In Ukraine, UN Action's largest project to date, implemented by UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNODC, IOM, and the WHO made substantial strides in strengthening Ukraine's national and community-based response to CRSV. Despite the devastating toll of the ongoing full-scale invasion and mounting risks to civilians, the project delivered life-changing results for survivors and at-risk groups while advancing critical legal and institutional reforms.

A landmark achievement was the adoption of two pivotal laws: **Law No. 4067-IX, granting CRSV survivors' legal status and access to urgent interim reparations, and Law No. 4071-IX, establishing systems to record damages caused by the war.** Survivors' networks, including SEMA Ukraine and ALUMNI, were integral to shaping these laws, ensuring they reflected survivors' needs and centred dignity, justice, and reparative measures. This

legislative progress has laid a durable foundation for Ukraine's long-term reparations framework, offering survivors a pathway toward recognition, recovery, and restitution.

The project played a central role in ensuring survivor's access to comprehensive, trauma-informed support. **Over 8,000 individuals in need of support, including survivors were identified and provided with assistance, with 100% receiving psychosocial care.** Critical services were strengthened through an expanded network of Survivor Relief Centres (SRCs), strategically located in frontline and high-risk areas. Eight SRCs and Women and Girls Safe Spaces were equipped with innovative tools such as the "Ideas Cube" and "Ideas Box" digital libraries, provided by Libraries Without Borders/Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF), a UN Action global partner. These tools offer survivors offline access to vital information on rights, services, trauma recovery, and vocational skills, especially crucial in areas with damaged infrastructure and poor internet access. The SRCs served not only as safe spaces for accessing medical, legal, and psychosocial support but also became hubs for survivor-led peer groups, fostering resilience and solidarity.

Technology and innovation were key enablers throughout the project. Virtual platforms allowed continuous professional development and service provision even amid security restrictions.

WHO launched the Ukrainian-language “CMR ExpertGuide”, a Telegram-based mentoring tool offering on-demand training, guidelines, and case support for healthcare providers dealing with sexual violence survivors. This innovative approach provided a critical lifeline to frontline health workers facing immense caseloads and mobility challenges. In parallel, the Aurora online psychotherapy platform expanded access to mental health services for CRSV survivors nationwide. Through Aurora, survivors could receive confidential virtual counselling and therapeutic support, overcoming barriers of distance, stigma, and ongoing insecurity. The platform recorded a significant increase in survivors of sexual violence among its users—95% of new clients by late 2024—demonstrating its role as a vital channel for trauma recovery. Additionally, JurFem, a women-led CSO project implementing partners developed a mobile application designed to assist newly trained female paralegals—many of whom are survivors themselves—in providing real-time legal advice and connecting survivors with appropriate services, even from remote or conflict-affected areas.

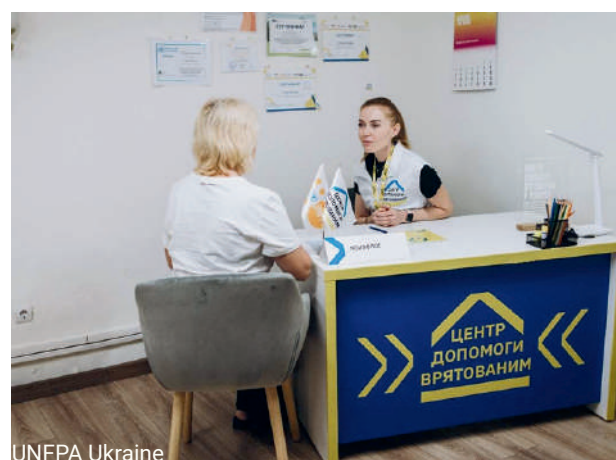
One survivor from Zaporizhzhia, who received legal aid through a paralegal trained under the project, captured the broader impact:

**“When the world around you is broken, it matters to know there are hands reaching for you—some near, some through a phone, but always there. It saved my life and gave me hope to rebuild.”**

In many cases, the combination of in-person safe spaces like the Survivor Relief Centers and digital platforms like the Aurora psychotherapy platform created a continuum of care, allowing survivors to access urgent support, counselling, legal aid, and information whether onsite or remotely. This flexible methodology, reinforced by mobile apps, virtual mentorship, and peer networks,

ensured that no matter the shifting frontlines or personal barriers, survivors had visible pathways to healing and empowerment.

Rehabilitation programming was another cornerstone. **A co-designed holistic rehabilitation retreat for 36 female CRSV survivors delivered stabilization therapy, psychoeducation, medical care, and case management before, during, and after participation.** Outcomes showed dramatic improvements in mental health indicators, including reductions in PTSD, depression, and anxiety. Participants described the retreat as life-changing, noting that it provided not just healing, but also a renewed sense of purpose and community. Inspired by its success, a new CSO was established by psychotherapists trained under the program to further specialize in trauma recovery for CRSV survivors.



The project also advanced access to medical care and strengthened Ukraine's healthcare system for GBV/CRSV response. UNFPA and WHO trained 105 healthcare providers on comprehensive CMR-Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) protocols, with another 66 receiving targeted training on gender-sensitive service delivery. WHO disseminated over 150 PEP kits to frontline healthcare facilities. Importantly, coordination with Ukraine's Ministry of Health helped revise outdated mandatory reporting policies that previously deterred survivors from seeking care. Plans were initiated to institutionalize CMR-IPV training into medical university curricula, ensuring sustainability beyond the project lifecycle.

In the justice sector, UNDP, UNODC, and IOM collectively strengthened victim and witness support mechanisms. A new cadre of psychologists was deployed to accompany prosecutors during survivor interviews, minimizing re-traumatization and building trust with survivors. Training and guidelines for prosecutors were developed to enhance trauma-sensitive investigations.

Simultaneously, UNDP trained 264 free legal aid specialists to deliver survivor-centred support, while UN Women's partnership with JurFem created a network of paralegals, including trained survivors, offering grassroots legal aid.

Meanwhile, the project invested heavily in localization and community mobilization. Three women-led CSOs, La Strada Ukraine, JurFem, and the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health, were engaged to implement targeted activities. These included research on online risks of trafficking, public awareness campaigns promoting digital safety for women and girls, and the roll-out of small grants to eight grassroots CSOs, including newly registered male and female survivor-led organizations, reflective of the project's deliberate strategy to empower



survivors and local actors as agents of change within their own communities. Meaningful survivor participation was woven into every stage of programming. Survivors shaped rehabilitation programs, informed legislative advocacy, and advised on communication campaigns. Meetings with senior UN officials, including SRSG-SVC Patten, provided survivors direct platforms to influence policy dialogue and donor priorities. This participatory model not only amplified survivor voices but also ensured programming was grounded in real needs and experiences.

Coordination across the humanitarian, development, and protection sectors was a major achievement. PUNOs co-chaired key government-led CRSV response working groups, launched a new UN CRSV Response (MARA) Working Group to strengthen data management and coordination, and engaged actively with Ukraine's Inter-Agency Working Group on CRSV. Regular technical meetings and joint missions, as well as high-level donor roundtables coordinated by the Secretariat ensured coherence, resource optimization, and strategic alignment with the Framework of Cooperation on CRSV. PUNOs also participated in and supported the implementation of the Practice-Based Symposium on CRSV Prevention implemented by the Secretariat, which was held in Kyiv in July.

While achievements were significant, challenges remained. Intensified hostilities, displacement, destruction of services, and funding uncertainties threatened program continuity. In response, the project's adaptability, leveraging digital solutions, local partnerships, and remote support systems, ensured services continued reaching survivors even during the most difficult periods.

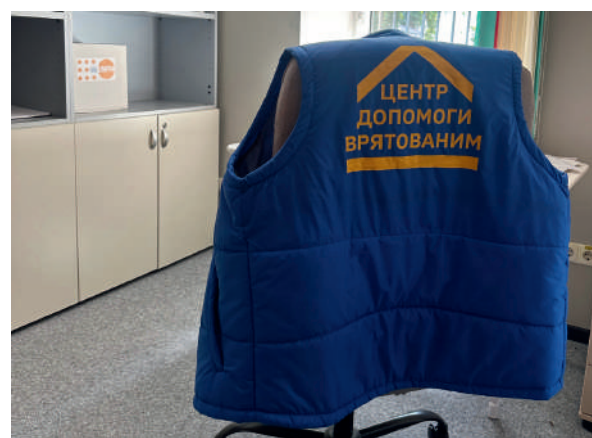
Across the duration of the year, project catalysed major, tangible progress: it strengthened national legislation, scaled up holistic services, empowered survivor leadership, localized interventions, and institutionalized innovation. By fusing traditional service delivery with technology-driven solutions, and embedding survivor participation at its core, the project has helped create a more resilient, survivor-centred response ecosystem. These results not only advance support in accessing immediate needs but also lay the foundation for a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future for CRSV survivors in Ukraine.

### *Project Monitoring Visit*

In July 2024, the Secretariat undertook a monitoring visit to Ukraine to assess the mid-term progress of the UNited Action Project. This monitoring visit formed part of a broader technical mission requested by the Government of Ukraine with the aim of reinforcing coordination among the UN, national authorities, civil society actors, and survivor networks. The objectives of the mission were to conduct project site visits, formally present the UNited Action Project to national authorities and donors, and engage with UNCT members, CSOs, and survivor organizations to evaluate project achievements, challenges, and alignment with the national FoC implementation plan.

The mission included a mix of stakeholder meetings as well as six project site visits, held across Kyiv, Dnipro, and Zaporizhzhia at the frontlines of the conflict. Meetings involved consultations with government counterparts supporting project roll-out, and key civil society and survivor networks. Site visits provided critical insights into project delivery at SRCs, a Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS), and a Maternal and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) service delivery point. These engagements offered a valuable opportunity to observe first-hand the range of services provided, hear directly from frontline service providers and survivors, and gather reflections on gaps and opportunities for improvement.

Key findings from the monitoring mission indicate that the project has established strong and effective partnerships with the Government of Ukraine, CSOs, and survivor-led networks, delivering a comprehensive and holistic set of services. SRCs operating in 12 locations, along with mobile outreach teams, are providing essential mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), legal aid, and case management to survivors, including those displaced or living in hard-to-reach areas. Awareness campaigns and digital platforms have further expanded access to information and services. Importantly, the project has pioneered specialized programming for male survivors of CRSV, including the formation of the ALUMNI survivor network to promote peer-to-peer support and foster greater inclusivity in CRSV response efforts.



Government engagement has been a notable strength, with national authorities actively integrating the project within the FoC Implementation Plan and demonstrating ownership of CRSV prevention and response efforts. However, the mission also identified persistent challenges in the operating environment including severe resource limitations, particularly staffing shortages, outdated equipment, and underfunded mental health services, which constrain service delivery capacity. Regional discrepancies in law and service implementation coupled with coordination gaps among PUNOs and CSO partners were also observed, highlighting areas requiring urgent attention to ensure a more uniform and survivor-centred approach nationwide.

To address these challenges, several recommendations emerged from the mission. Expanding and institutionalizing specialized trauma-informed training across both government and civil society sectors is essential, with a focus on complex needs such as support for children born of CRSV. Greater, more equitable and de-centralised resource allocation is needed to sustain high-quality service delivery and to prevent staff burnout, especially in conflict-affected areas. Coordination mechanisms among PUNOs and CSOs should be reinforced through regular joint planning and review meetings, moving toward an integrated and complementary approach. Furthermore, continued advocacy for legal and policy reforms, particularly regarding mandatory reporting laws, is crucial to ensuring survivors' rights and agency are fully respected. Finally, deeper investment in economic empowerment initiatives, such as entrepreneurship training and support, will strengthen survivors' resilience and long-term recovery.

The mission confirmed that while substantial progress has been made, particularly in fostering trust, inclusivity, and government collaboration, strategic adjustments and continued support will be essential to sustain momentum and achieve transformative change.

## UN ACTION PILLAR 2 - KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

UN Action serves as the global knowledge hub for the UN system as well as the wider policy/practice community on CRSV. In 2024, UN Action continued to identify and fill knowledge gaps and provide capacity building support. UN Action modernised and updated its CRSV guidance, policies, and tools through a mapping exercise. This mapping allowed the Network to better understand existing knowledge gaps and strategically plan to fill them. UN Action also adapted and disseminated a training on the fundamentals of CRSV developed in 2024, and actively engaged in other member entities' training initiatives, including DPO's validation of the Integrated Training Materials package to train peacekeeping components.



### *Data Collection, Management, Monitoring, Analysis and Harmonisation:*

In 2022, UN Action finalised an assessment of the operationalisation of the MARA and related monitoring and analysis mechanisms, which are critical for coordination and programmatic responses by the UN system and partners in affected countries. Acting on the assessment's recommendations, the Network developed a Terms of Reference (ToR) in 2023 and secured UK Government funding to engage an expert in designing a global MARA support system (GMSS). The expert conducted a detailed needs assessment and, in 2024, delivered an in-depth trend analysis across multiple contexts. This work culminated in the report MARA 2.0: Strengthening the MARA on CRSV, along with a concept and budget framework for a Global MARA Hub. The findings and proposed framework were rigorously reviewed by the Working Group, co-led by DPO and the UN Action Secretariat. In December, DPO and the UN Action Secretariat convened the entire UN Action Network and key stakeholders to present identified needs, discuss recommendations, and define the next steps for advancing MARA 2.0.

### *Framework for the Prevention of CRSV:*

In 2022, the Network led the development and launch of the Framework for the Prevention of CRSV, a practical tool and guidance that can be implemented at the regional, national, and local levels to provide stakeholders, especially governments and UN agencies, a guideline to foster stronger prevention efforts. Since then it has been making efforts to roll-out the Framework in select settings.

In July 2024, UN Action (UN Women, UNFPA, and the UN Action Secretariat) piloted the roll-out of the Framework in Kyiv, Ukraine. The pilot country was decided based on political will expressed by the Government of Ukraine, primarily through the Office of the Commissioner on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and opportunity based on the active UN Action joint catalytic programme implemented in Ukraine.



**The 'Practice-based Symposium on the Prevention of CRSV' brought together over 60 representatives from relevant national ministries, CSOs based in Kyiv and in other oblasts, the UNCT, supportive members of the diplomatic community, and survivors of CRSV.**

Focusing on secondary prevention – that is preventing further harm to communities and survivors after CRSV has occurred – the Symposium resulted in concrete solutions for implementation by the national security sector, justice mechanisms, national policies, and the international community. Survivors' voices were elevated as they led conversations and recommended specific action points. The learnings from the Symposium have since informed and accelerated progress in the implementation of activities under the Framework of Cooperation on CRSV signed between the Government of Ukraine and the UN, through the SRSG-SVC, in May 2022.

The UN Action Secretariat also presented the Framework and learnings from the pilot on several occasions, including at an online event for the UK's PSVI International Alliance.

### *Principles of a Survivor-Centred Approach:*

UN Action frames all its initiatives through a survivor-centred lens when it comes to preventing and responding to CRSV. This requires that initiatives are informed by basic principles that foster empowerment, allow participation and leadership of survivors, and promotes their safety, well-being, and recovery in a manner that deliberately centres their wishes and needs. Following Security Council resolution 2467 (2019), where a survivor-centred approach to CRSV was articulated for the first time at the highest-levels of the UN, the Network identified the need to build new knowledge to inform what it means to take a survivor-centred approach in the specific context of the prevention and response to CRSV. Since 2022, UN Action, under the leadership of UN Women, has had a working group focused on this theme. In 2024, UN Action developed internal guidance on compensating survivors of CRSV for their time, efforts, and participation in UN Action-led activities, external to projects. This guidance was used to compensate survivors' participation in the pilot roll-out of the Prevention Framework in Ukraine.



### *CRSV in the digital space*

While largely having a positive impact on society, the proliferation and innovation of information and communication technologies and the rise of artificial intelligence have led to their exploitation for nefarious purposes, including gender-based hate speech, image-based sexual abuse, online harassment, trafficking-in-persons, and other technology-facilitated forms of violence. In 2024, UN Action started a working group co-chaired by UNODC and UN Women seeking to better understand the impact of information and communication technologies on CRSV. UNODC led a presentation on cybercrimes, and several working group meetings took place to strategise on how to best tackle this topic as a Network. UN Action conducted thorough research and developed a resource page for the nexus of technology and CRSV, now available online and consistently updated.



## *Economic Empowerment for Survivors of CRSV:*

In conflict and post-conflict settings, women are often engaged in insecure work which hinders their economic security. After exposure to CRSV, they can become even more vulnerable to economic hardship with even less access to economic opportunity, creating cycles of dependency and poverty. Recognising that survivors of CRSV require not only immediate medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, but also, in the long-term, to become economically self-reliant as part of their journey to healing, UN Action has increased focus on economic empowerment. In 2023, UN Action, led by ITC, hosted two expert interagency roundtables to lay the groundwork for the Network's engagement on this topic. UN Action articulated the concept of economic empowerment for survivors of CRSV, and shared promising economic empowerment and livelihood practices implemented by entities. In 2024, UN Action began implementing a project in South Sudan providing market-driven economic empowerment support to survivors of CRSV and impacted communities. It also developed an online resources page which brings together key knowledge products, tools and examples on how to establish economic empowerment support services for CRSV survivors.

### UN ACTION PILLAR 3 – ADVOCACY FOR ACTION: INITIATIVES RELATED TO INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

**105,000**

*unique visitors to our website*

**200+**

*subscribers to our biannual newsletter*



UN Photo/ Loey Felipe

UN Action's public engagement efforts, including through social media and web presence have also grown significantly in the last year. The Network maintains and regularly updates its social media accounts including on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. The website ([www.stoprapenow.org](http://www.stoprapenow.org)) has continued to be a critical resource for Network members, partners and colleagues working on CRSV, WPS more generally, and the public. In 2023, the website was visited by 105,000 users, of which 82% were through organic searches. This year, UN Action also published its bi-annual newsletter in January, July, and December, showcasing the Network's initiatives, members, and supporters in the global response to CRSV. The purpose of this newsletter is to increase awareness of UN Action among UN entities, partners, donors, and the public.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence, commemorated on 19<sup>th</sup> June under the theme of "Attacks against healthcare in conflict-affected areas: impacts for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence", Heads of Entities, including of UNFPA, spoke as members of the Network. The event also featured the voices of survivors in countries supported through UN Action funded projects including in South Sudan.

In October 2024, the United Nations commemorated the 15-year anniversary of the CRSV mandate. At the heart of the commemorative event, hosted by the OSRSG-SVC, was the Survivors' Hearing, a powerful platform where we heard from survivors and frontline activists. Survivors from the DRC, Ukraine, Israel, Sudan, South Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Syria, and Myanmar courageously spoke about their experiences and made concrete recommendations about how the international community can prevent what happened to them from ever happening again. Additionally, UN Action developed and screened an original documentary showcasing the progress made on CRSV since the mandate's inception. **16 Member States and Regional Groups reiterated their support for the mandate, including the UN Action Network specifically.**

The SRSR-SVC, as Chair of the Network, continued to strategically engage with Governments and partners in situations of concern, as well as traditional and non-traditional stakeholders with the primary purpose of fostering partnerships and advocating for an increase in support to the CRSV mandate. Additionally, UN Action provided comprehensive training to the newly elected Security Council Member States on WPS and CRSV and the pivotal role of UN Action in this regard. This training covered the mandates' priorities, key objectives, and the critical role Member States can play in advancing those agendas, aiming to equip Member States with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively contribute to the ongoing efforts to address and prevent CRSV

### *Engagement with Academic Institutions:*

UN Action accompanied the SRSR-SVC to a Symposium at the University of Cote D'Azur which was co-organized with Bibliothèques sans Frontières which was entitled "Combating Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Normative Frameworks and Operational Action". The symposium examined international legal framework related to CRSV as well as both the challenges and successes encountered in prosecutions of CRSV crimes using international legal instruments, by analysing different practical experiences and sharing successful practices on the judicial response to CRSV at the international level. The SRSR delivered the keynote remarks to open the Symposium and UN Action was invited to present on the Prevention Framework, which focused on nation-wide prevention strategies and early warning systems designed to detect CRSV incidents. UN Action presented concrete examples from country projects which provided support services for CRSV survivors, covering post-trauma care, psychosocial support, and rehabilitation programs. Additionally, this session provided an opportunity for UN Action to highlight the role of local communities and civil society partners in preventing and addressing CRSV in support of UN Action member entities.



In recognising that the circle of allies for the CRSV mandate needed to be expanded, the SRSG-SVC also signed a framework of cooperation with the University of Ottawa to expand academic research and involvement in the fight against CRSV. In February, UN Action represented the SRSG at the third annual Symposium of the Research Network on Women Peace and Security co-hosted by the University of Ottawa's Gender, Peace and Security Collaboratory. The 2024 Symposium built on insights from the previous two years with a focus on "‘Because we Must’: Taking Action to Address Gender Equality, Peace and Security". The Symposium focused on crises of GBV and insecurity facing women and other marginalized groups in conflict-affected and colonized spaces also requires overcoming adversity and challenging unjust and violent behaviours. Achieving gender equality, peace and security begins with understanding changing environments; a critical examination of the structural barriers to peace; and support for as well as scaling up of initiatives by activists, human rights defenders and policy-makers around the world who are working to end conflict-related sexual violence and to expose overlapping experiences of insecurity (climate change, food insecurity, migration, and militarization and war, among other insecurities). UN Action delivered the keynote address and participated in a panel discussion on prevention.

### *Advocacy and Fundraising Efforts:*

As a result of the SRSG-SVC's advocacy efforts, in 2023, the Canadian Government made its first ever contribution to UN Action for CRSV prevention and response efforts in Ukraine. Given the urgent needs of the mandate, the SRSG-SVC conducted a follow-up mission in May 2024. The main objective of the mission was to update on mandate developments, including with respect to the Office, UN Action and the Team of Experts. The SRSG-SVC met with the University of Ottawa and key Government Officials.

In June, UN Action accompanied the SRSG-SVC to Finland and Norway. The objectives of the mission were to update on mandate developments, including with respect to UN Action and the TOE and specifically to update on UN Action's achievements and upcoming priorities vis-à-vis Norway's core contributions to UN Action. The SRSG also provided the keynote remarks the PRIO Conference on gender, accountability and atrocity prevention and attended the closed roundtable discussion at the Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies to commemorate the Rwandan genocide.

Additional fundraising and advocacy missions were undertaken by the SRSG-SVC to the European Union (EU), the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria amongst others, to which the UN Action Network contributed its efforts in preparation and follow-up.

The Secretariat also engaged on a regular basis with donors and supportive Member States, by providing updates on the Network's progress including with Japan, Norway, the U.K., Canada, Germany and the Netherlands.

In December, the UN Action Steering Committee formally endorsed the extension of the CRSV-MPTF to December 2030, based on the aforementioned evaluation of its effectiveness and the ever-increasing demand for the country-focused resourcing required to address CRSV.

**The SRSG-SVC published ten individual or joint press statements in 2024 on the mandate, including on various priority issues for the Network.**

### *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 CRSV. 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 2024, as per usual practise, Focal Points worked with the OSRSG-SVC and country counterparts to bring timely and quality data and analysis into the report. The UN Action Steering Committee also met in April 2024 to review and endorse the annual Report.



## 05

## MOVING FORWARD: Challenges and Priorities

While in previous years UN Action could rely for the most part on regular, multi-year core funding, in acknowledgement of the changing funding landscape and donor attention, the Network has increased its efforts to secure core contributions for its strategic priorities, whilst bringing on board new Member State donors for country and/or thematically delineated funds, and encouraged donors to provide in kind support such as the contribution of JPOs, as received from Italy. This approach will continue in 2025 as UN Action actively reassess its fundraising strategy in this new environment. In addition, the Network has established a new fundraising platform through which it is able to accept donations from the public, including concerned citizens and philanthropists, which it has not done previously.

Through a united and growing network working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, UN Action will continue to build and roll-out new areas of knowledge that have been requested by colleagues from the field. This includes continuing to expand its work to support the long-term recovery of survivors of CRSV through economic empowerment, increasing focus on protection from CRSV by working with new members such UN Habitat on linkages to adequate and secure housing and with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the nexus of climate change, environmental degradation, peace and security, including by building the evidence base on climate and environment-related risks for GBV in conflict-affected contexts and identifying opportunities for enhancing prevention, protection and resilience.

Along the lines of holistic prevention, the Network will roll-out the Prevention Framework in pilot countries who seek this assistance. With the increasing reality being faced of mission drawdowns and the need to ensure the continuity of the MARA and sustain protection and response measures for CRSV survivors and those at risk in the absence of peacekeeping or special political missions, the Network has leveraged its knowledge and experience to facilitate the sharing of lessons and practical advice between UNCTs and UN agencies who have faced such situations with those experiencing a transition. As this trend is likely to accelerate in 2025, UN Action will build in mechanisms that allow for rapid deployment of SWPAs to ensure minimal disruption to the work of MARA and country-level leadership in the area of CRSV.

UN Action will also work through a progressively inclusive and intersectional lens as part of its survivor-centred approach to preventing and responding to CRSV. This will recognise that survivors are unique individuals. The Network's initiatives will seek to advocate for and to empower survivors by prioritising their needs, perspectives and wishes, and will pay special attention to intersecting inequalities, namely ethnicity, religion, migratory status, disability, age, political affiliation, sexual orientation and gender identity, and HIV status, among others. Through these shared tenets, UN Action will be able to ensure that survivors' rights are respected, that they are treated with dignity, and that their capacity to make informed decisions and to guide interventions to prevent future incidents of CRSV is embraced.

As always, UN Action will focus on its clear strategic priorities while responding to rapidly shifting situations of concern, utilising all means at its disposal to stay field-focused, build in sustainability by ensuring its work is localised and placing the prevention of CRSV as of primary priority. It will work with creativity in the current challenging financial operating environment and will maintain momentum in a moment of regression on the WPS agenda, guided by the SRSG-SVC's vision, the shared goals of its 26 Network members, Security Council resolutions relevant to CRSV, and above all, the needs of survivors themselves.

















# CONTRIBUTIONS

## I. UN Action Financial and In-Kind Contributions 2024

In 2024, UN Action received voluntary contributions through the CRSV-MPTF totalling \$4,408,897 from the European Union, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Switzerland and the UK.

In addition contributions were received from Estonia, France, Japan and Latvia through the OSRSG-SVC.

CORE CONTRIBUTIONS		
Contributor	Contribution Amount (2024)	Total Contribution
 Belgium	-	\$459,525
 European Union	\$1,084,480	\$1,084,480
 Estonia	-	\$106,413
 Lithuania	\$43,274	\$129,052
 Luxembourg	-	\$59,214
 Norway	\$668,239	\$3,210,349
 Sweden	-	\$486,035
 Switzerland	\$167,396	\$546,375
 United Kingdom	\$320,594	\$680,498
<b>TOTAL</b>		

COUNTRY SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS			
Contributor	Contribution Amount (2024)	Total Contribution	Countries Supported
 Canada	-	\$1,679,246	Ukraine
 Germany	-	\$1,719,023	South Sudan, Ukraine
 Japan	\$538,631	\$3,224,001	Somalia, MENA, DRC, Mali, Sudan
 Netherlands	-	\$1,447,265	Ukraine
 Norway	\$1,666,283	\$4,751,142	Ukraine
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,204,914</b>	<b>\$12,820,677</b>	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS		
Contributor	In-Kind Contribution	Location of Support
Italy	Junior Professional Officer	USA (New York)

## II. Contributors

UN Action is grateful for the generous support from our partners, without whom our life-saving, catalytic work would not be possible.



Government of  
Canada



Government of  
Germany



Government of  
Belgium



Government of  
Estonia



Government of  
Norway



European Union



Government of the  
United Kingdom



Government of  
Japan



Government of  
Netherlands



Government of  
Luxembourg



Government of  
Sweden



Government of  
Lithuania



Government of  
Switzerland



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# ANNEX

## A . About UN Action

UN Action brings together the collective experience and institutional capacity of the UN system, and since inception in 2007 has filled critical knowledge gaps, generated policy, guidance, and training materials to inform evidence-based prevention and response to CRSV at the global and country-level. UN Action funds these efforts through the CRSV-MPTF, which (including activities funded through its predecessor, the UN Action MTFP), has supported 60 projects across 22 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 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.

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, 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 Security Council resolutions, notably [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1888 \(2009\)](#), [1960 \(2010\)](#), [2106 \(2013\)](#), [2331 \(2016\)](#), and [2467 \(2019\)](#), the Council specifically highlights UN Action as the critical interagency coordination forum to address CRSV.

In line with the 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 efforts. To achieve this synergy of action, 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.

UN Action works through a network of Focal Points from each member entity and is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of UN Principals from each of the 27 entities. The Security Council appointed the SRSG-SVC to provide strategic guidance as the Chair to the Network; this work supported by a Secretariat, located in the Office of the SRSG-SVC.

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 this crime, but also as a global advocacy instrument for driving the field of CRSV prevention and response forward.

Annually, the Report brings new trends and patterns on CRSV to light, and additionally, serves as an information base and reference tool 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 addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children born of wartime rape and their mothers, the use of sexual violence to pursue strategies and tactics of terrorism, sexual slavery and conflict-driven human 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 into 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 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's Strategic Framework*

The UN Action Network developed its 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework in 2020, through an intensive and iterative process that led to the delineation of a new Goal, Theory of Change 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 biannual Workplans.

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

The five attending Outcomes are:

● **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. 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.

### *Governance and Structure of UN Action*



UN Photo/ Loey Felipe

#### **The UN Action Network 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 SRSB-SVC. As per the Terms of Reference (TORs), the Steering Committee serves as a high-level forum for discussing and coordinating substantive policy and operational matters regarding CRSV, to take consensus-based decisions on concerted courses of action.

#### **The UN Action Network Focal Points**

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

#### **The UN Action Secretariat**

The UN Action Secretariat, located in the Office of the SRSB-SVC, 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 SRSB-SVC, supports and engages in joint missions of situations of concern, conducts training, briefings and outreach activities, and develops strategic partnerships with a broad range of actors. The Secretariat also facilitates UN Action’s strategic planning, monitors the implementation of agreed-upon deliverables in line with UN Action’s Strategic Framework and Workplan, and evaluates and reports on the impact of UN Action’s activities.



## UN Action's Fund: The CRSV-MPTF



The CRSV-MPTF succeeds the UN Action MPTF, which operated from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2019, and builds upon past achievements, best practices, and lessons learned, in an effort to reinforce synergies between UN entities, governments, and their partners in preventing and responding to CRSV, galvanised by Security Council resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#).

Relaunched in 2020 as the CRSV-MPTF, the new Fund aims 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 across the UN system with regard to the CRSV agenda. Under the CRSV-MPTF, two Windows were established – one for UN Action and the other for the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE). Each Window has its oversight and decision-making body and is guided by the strategic leadership of the SRSG-SVC. The decision-making process for the use of funds is outlined in relevant governance documents. The UN Action Steering Committee, chaired by the SRSG-SVC, provides oversight and strategic advice. The MPTF Office of UNDP serves as the Administrative Agent using the pass-through fund management modality.



### **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;
3. Greater justice and accountability for CRSV including a victim-centred approach through strengthened capacity and technical expertise of national and international institutions; and
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.

## The UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF

Through the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF, all 25 UN entities who are members of the UN Action Network are eligible to receive funding from the CRSV-MPTF. If the funding situation allows, projects that fit under the UN Action Strategic Framework and the Network's Funding Strategy may be granted funds based on a call for proposals issued on a biannual (twice-yearly) basis.

To take 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 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 SRSG-SVC. Resource allocation decisions are made by the RMC based on its Operational Guidance and the UN Action Network Funding Strategy. In 2024, the RMC comprised UN Women (as Chair), UNODC, DPO, OCHA and IOM.

The UN Action Secretariat manages the technical and operational functioning of the CRSV-MPTF, including support to the SRSG-SVC, the UN Action Steering Committee and the RMC in matters related to funding through, and fundraising for the CRSV-MPTF. It also supports the PUNOs submitting proposals for consideration through vetting of projects, grant administration, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

## UN Action Network Members

