

## Review Conference of the Rome Statute

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## Registry and Trust Fund for Victims

Fact Sheet<sup>\*</sup>

## Victims Participation and Reparations Section

The VPRS facilitates victims' participation in ICC proceedings and their requests for reparations.

Since 2005, the Section has received a total of 2290 victims' applications for participation and 330 for reparation. The table below indicates the breakdown by case:

Proceedings	Victims applications for participation received	Victims authorized to participate
<b>DRC situation</b>	1042	196
Lubanga case		105
Katanga case		362
<b>Uganda situation</b>	701	21
Kony et al case		41
<b>Darfur situation</b>	141	11
Abu Garda case		85
Al Bashir case		12
<b>CAR situation</b>	366	0
Bemba case		54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>760</b>

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<sup>\*</sup> As of April 2010.

All victims participating in the proceedings have been represented by a lawyer, and all victims needing it have benefited from legal aid. VPRS staff have assisted a significant number of victims to make choices and/or express wishes with regard to their legal representation. VPRS facilitated the appointment of a legal representative (including OPCV) by the Court for 967 victims.

VPRS undertook 78 missions in the field and organized 251 meetings and seminars. Through those, the VPRS has reached and assisted various categories of victims, including women and children, and victims of gender based and sexual violence. Moreover, considerable efforts have been put in the improvement of the capacity of intermediaries and legal representatives to provide quality, secure and ethical assistance to victims, given the Court's limitations in this regard.

VPRS submitted 232 reports and filings to Chambers. The VPRS serves as the conduit to the Chambers in relation to victims' applications and actively assists the Chambers on numerous occasions in making sensitive and appropriate decisions with regards to requirements for victims participating, in order to ensure that the reality of the victims in the field is taken into consideration.

## **Outreach Unit**

The Outreach Unit aims to cultivate a level of awareness and understanding of judicial proceedings of affected communities by crimes in situations and cases heard before the Court, and to foster realistic expectations about the Court's work;

Since its inception in 2006, around 110,000 individuals have been directly engaged and participated in Outreach activities in the Field, including victims;

Since 2007, the Court has increased the number of Outreach activities undertaken to a total of 785 interactive sessions held in the field with target groups: 81 were conducted in 2007; 339 in 2008; and 365 in 2009;

From 2008 to March 2010, 370 audiovisual programmes have been produced. They are a valuable tool to introduce discussions during interactive Outreach sessions and are broadcast by local radio and television stations;

Since the establishment of an audio-visual team within the Outreach Unit in 2008, 220 audiovisual programmes have been produced which have been used to introduce discussions during interactive Outreach sessions and broadcasts by local radio and television stations;

Questions raised on the ICC during Outreach activities have tended to become more technical and in-depth over the years, showing that participants are developing a deeper understanding of the issues and the situations;

Respondents to internal surveys conducted in 2009 showed that the majority of people in all the situations had heard about the Court: 69% in the DRC; 51% in Uganda; 82% in the CAR; 80% amongst refugees, and 100% amongst the Sudanese diaspora in connection with Darfur; and

With regard to presence of the Court, the majority of people interviewed in 2009 in the four situations stated that they were happy with it and the split is as follows: 72% in the DRC; 91% in Uganda; 100% in the CAR – but some participants showed caution indicating the need to closely follow the judicial developments in the situation to see whether or not there has been progress. In Darfur, 98% of the refugees interviewed in eastern Chad were

happy with the intervention of the ICC, whilst 100% of the respondents amongst the diaspora were very happy with it.

*NB: It should be noted that results of internal surveys do not necessarily represent the views of populations from situation-related countries as a whole. Rather, the collated data shows the views of people directly engaged who have participated more than once in meetings organised by the Outreach Unit.*

### **Office of Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV)**

The mandate of the OPCV is to assist and support legal representatives of victims, as well as to represent victims when ordered to do so by the Chambers or when directly appointed by the victims themselves.

Since its inception in September of 2005, the Office has submitted approximately 300 filings in the various Situations and Cases before the Court pertaining to victims' participation issues, and provided more than 500 pieces of advice and research on victims' issues to external legal representatives, thus paving the way for victims' participation rights in international criminal law;

Since its inception in September 2005, the Office has provided support and assistance to 30 external legal representatives and over 1600 victims;

As of April 2010, the total number of victims assisted by the Office was 969: 109 in the DRC situation and related cases; 237 in the Uganda situation and the Kony, *et al.* case; 500 in the CAR and the Bemba case; and 23 in the Darfur (Sudan) situation and related cases.

Added to this is the number of victims (around 100) who contacted the Office for information on the participation of victims before the Court, particularly in the context of the Kenya proceedings and to whom the OPCV provided advice.

### **Victims and Witnesses Unit (VWU)**

The mandate of the VWU is to provide protection, support, and logistic arrangements to witnesses and victims appearing before the Court;

Not all witnesses will be victims, and some will be known as "dual status" witnesses meaning they are both victims and witnesses. The VWU must be informed of all dual status witnesses so that it can advise those concerned to seek the appropriate legal advice;

VWU organizes the appearance of victims and witnesses at the hearings which includes protection, support, and operational arrangements. It provides preparation of victims and witnesses for testifying before the Court through the means of process known as "familiarization", which familiarizes victims and witnesses with courtroom and procedure; and

The tasks of the support team also include the provision of psycho-social support, crisis intervention, information and debriefings before and after testimony, and access to medical care when needed. The VWU ensures that victims and witnesses appearing before the Court feel secure and comfortable during all stages of the trial.

**Trust Fund for Victims (TFV)**

€4.9 million raised from 24 countries since 2004:

- €2.7 million obligated for projects in northern Uganda and the DRC since 2007;
- 2008 Donor Appeal for projects addressing victims of Sexual Violence, from which €688 thousand has been raised from two countries.

€1 million held in reserve for future Court-ordered reparations;

- €600 thousand held in reserve for future general assistance projects in the Central African Republic.

Operational presence and partnerships established on the ground in northern Uganda and the DRC to provide assistance to victims under the Court's jurisdiction:

- Court-approval for 34 projects in northern Uganda and the DRC, of which 32 are ongoing, totalling an estimated €2.5 million in obligated funds;
- 39,000 victims benefiting directly from physical rehabilitation, psychological rehabilitation and/or material support, plus an additional 187,000 of their family and community members;
- Partnerships established with 32 grassroots, national, and international organizations on the ground in both countries;
- Capacity-building support for implementing partners in counselling, project planning, monitoring, evaluation and more;
- 5 Donor Technical Proposals – (2) Sexual Violence, Former Child Combatants, Institutional Strengthening, and Community Rehabilitation; and
- Implementation of Project Impact Baseline Surveys (Uganda & DRC), translated into seven languages and complemented by qualitative focus groups and interviews to better understand TFV impact on the ground.

Preparation for implementation of general assistance in the Central African Republic:

- CAR Mission Assessment Report (2009);
- Pre-Trial Chamber Filing to seek approval for Request for Proposals.

Court filings and Public Reports:

- 2 TFV Programme Reports (Spring 2009, Fall 2009);
- 6 Legal Briefs and Official Observations – Uganda & DRC (Pre-Trial Chamber Filings);

Communications and Branding to promote TFV and support fund raising:

- Communication Brochures – two versions (French & English); and

New branding, TFV logo and website.