



## Fonds au Profit des Victimes The Trust Fund for Victims



### Call for *Expressions of Interest*

**Open May 6 – August 5, 2011**

### Supporting the Rehabilitation of Victim Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the Central African Republic (CAR)



The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) invites *Expressions of Interest (EOI)* to support the rehabilitation of victim survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in the Central African Republic. The TFV funds projects that provide physical and psychological rehabilitation and material support to victims of crimes under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Implementing partners (intermediaries) may include interested states, intergovernmental organisations, national community-based groups, women's grassroots and victim survivor organisations, and international nongovernmental organisations working in close proximity with victims.

*Expressions of Interest* should be submitted electronically and provide a brief description of the organisation, beneficiary group and proposed project activities on the application form. This is the first of a two-stage process, and each *Expression* will be reviewed and shortlisted. Those organisations shortlisted will be invited to submit a detailed technical and financial proposal following a TFV proposal development workshop in Bangui, Central African Republic. Final awards will be dependant upon the approval of the TFV Board of Directors and the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber for the Central African Republic.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is frequently used as a tactic of war to displace civilians in order to achieve military or political objectives, punish communities for their political allegiances, or as a way of conducting inter-ethnic fighting.<sup>1</sup> Although severely underreported, information from the United Nations and nongovernmental organisations indicate that incidents of rapes and other forms of sexual violence have been a critical concern in the Central African Republic (CAR).<sup>2,3</sup>

All parties to the conflict in CAR have been responsible for rapes and other grave forms of sexual violence. There were often aggravating aspects of cruelty such as rapes committed by multiple perpetrators, in front of third persons, and sometimes with relatives forced to participate. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, over 15% of women and girls in CAR's violence-ridden north have been victims of sexual violence.<sup>4</sup> Domestic violence is also of concern and remains linked to the conflict and the subsequent general breakdown of law and order. There also remains a high level of impunity for such crimes against children.<sup>5</sup>

The violence has mainly affected women and girls, but men have also been targeted for rape, sexual torture, sexual slavery, sexual humiliation, and forced incest.<sup>6</sup> Just as in cases affecting women, societal stigma and legal impediments can act as barriers to assistance and medical treatment; according to the World Health Organisation, men and boys may be even less likely to report sexual abuse than women.<sup>7</sup>

Victim survivors of sexual violence often suffer from short-term and long-term consequences with regard to their health, psychological well-being, and social integration. In addition to physical injuries, potential health consequences include post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), miscarriages, forced pregnancy, and traumatic fistula—debilitating tears in the tissue of the vagina, bladder, and rectum. Years of crisis have left the healthcare system in Central African Republic in shambles. There is one doctor for every 3,000 people, a nurse for every 1,000, and 37 percent of the population have to walk an average 10km to reach the closest health centre.<sup>8</sup>

Addressing sexual and gender-based violence has remained a challenge in CAR with little donor support targeting these types of crimes at the grassroots level. The social stigmatization associated with SGBV, and cultural and traditional practices have prevented victims from reporting cases, or even discussing them, for fear of reprisals from the perpetrators and their families - particularly in a rural environment. The national authorities appear generally unable or unwilling to act in cases of sexual and gender-based violence or

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1 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Chaloka Beyani, Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly, December 20, 2010.

2 S/2009/66, United Nations Security Council, Distr.: General, 3 February 2009, Original: English

3 Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic, UN Security Council, 3 February 2009.

4 UNOCHA IRIN Report 2008.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 World Health Organisation (WHO), *World Report on Violence and Health*, 2002.

8 World Health Organisation Country Profile – Central African Republic.

to hold the perpetrators accountable. These challenges have contributed to perpetuating a cycle of impunity with respect to cases of sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>9</sup>

On 21 December 2004, the Government of CAR referred the situation to the ICC, which officially opened the *Situation in the Central African Republic* on 19 January 2005. In May 2007, the Prosecutor announced the opening of an investigation, stating that this is the first ICC investigation in which allegations of sexual crimes far outnumber alleged killings. The allegations of sexual crimes were detailed and substantiated, suggesting that the rape of civilians was committed in numbers that could not be ignored under international law.<sup>10</sup> In November 2010, the first trial commenced against Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, rape and pillaging.

## **RESPONSE FROM THE TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS (TFV)**

The TFV is mandated to support victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and/or crimes of genocide committed anywhere in the Central African territory after 1 July 2002. The TFV works through three categories of legally defined assistance: physical and psychological rehabilitation, and material support.

The overall goal of the TFV's call for expression of interest is to provide integrated rehabilitation assistance to victim survivors of SGBV, their families and affected communities so they are able to move from victim-hood to stability as survivors. In doing so, the TFV takes care to promote women and girls' empowerment and address the specific needs of victim survivors in different age groups – a fundamental requirement of any peace-building process.

The TFV considers providing support for SGBV victim survivors as a key step toward ending impunity, establishing durable peace and reconciliation, and successfully implementing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960. The TFV also informs its approach to SGBV programming using the *Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action* (IASC's Gender Handbook)<sup>11</sup> and the World Health Organisation's *Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies*.<sup>12</sup>

One of the key aims of the Trust Fund for Victims' rehabilitation assistance is to ensure that local organisations have the financial resources, technical expertise and oversight capacity required to rehabilitate and support the needs of victims impacted by war crimes, genocide or crimes against humanity. The TFV will target interventions in various provinces most affected by sexual and gender-based violence and encourages international organisations to integrate local capacity strengthening in partnerships with women grassroots and victim survivor groups as part of the programme.

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9 Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country, UN Security Council, 19 November 2010

10 Background, Situation in the Central African Republic, The Hague, 22 May 2007, ICC-OTP-BN-20070522-220-A\_EN, Office of the Prosecutor.

11 The IASC Guidelines provide humanitarian actors with a set of minimum interventions in all sectors to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

12 For more information can be found at [http://www.who.int/gender/documents/OMS\\_Ethics&Safety10Aug07.pdf](http://www.who.int/gender/documents/OMS_Ethics&Safety10Aug07.pdf).

Your *Expression of Interest* should state very clearly the experience, activities, and capacity of your organisation with regard to each of the TFFV's categories of intervention: physical and psychological rehabilitation and material support. It should outline the CAR Prefecture(s) where the interventions may be implemented, and how victim survivors of SGBV and their networks will be included in a meaningful way in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project.

## **TYPES OF SUPPORTED INTERVENTIONS**

Each of the the three programme responses (*physical and psychological rehabilitation, and material support* ) should be designed to provided integrated services and may include (but are not limited to):

- ❖ Providing medical and psychological assistance to victims, and facilitating their return to families and communities through psychosocial support, access to safe houses, and addressing stigma and discrimination in the community.
- ❖ Providing clinical management of rape including sanitary supplies, PEP, referrals to HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infection treatment (STI) services, supporting youth-friendly services, and a special focus on men and boys who are raped and supporting their needs.
- ❖ Working with the health sector to actively screen clients for sexual violence in a way that is respectful and supportive; support for fistula repair, ensure same-sex interviewers for survivors; respond to the immediate health and psychological needs of the survivor, and, wherever possible, provide those services free-of-cost.
- ❖ Provide physical rehabilitation and medical assistance services for acute physically injured victims through surgical interventions coupled with post-operative care and physiotherapy rehabilitation.
- ❖ Provide trauma-based counselling, supportive and ongoing psychological assistance; confidentially collect, document, and analyze client care data, and adjust programming accordingly; and offer safe haven for victims who choose to leave an unsafe environment.
- ❖ Material support initiatives may include livelihood activities, vocational training, or access to referral programmes that offer income generation and training opportunities to focus on longer-term economic empowerment as a means to address women's and girl's societal status. Material support may also include education grants for victim survivors and their children.
- ❖ Community awareness responses may include broad-based community education on sexual and gender-based violence and the links between peace, justice, reconciliation and rehabilitation. Activities could include enhancing citizens' access to locally developed and broadcasted news and information on gender-based violence and women's rights issues in remote communities.

- ❖ Special initiatives can provide support to children born as a result of rape because these children may be mistreated or even abandoned by their mothers and families. They must be closely monitored and support should be offered to the mother and her children. It is equally important to ensure that the family and the community do not stigmatise either the child or the mother. Support can include access to basic services, education, and nutrition support. Integrating inter-generational responses and stigma reduction programmes may also ensure these children are accepted and supported in their communities, thereby decreasing the likelihood of more disenfranchised youth creating instability in the community.

## **ABOUT THE TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS**

The TFV materializes the global commitment made under the Rome Statute to support the rehabilitation of victimized individuals and communities; and to restore dignity for survivors of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The TFV develops its activities with the victims themselves as partners. It does not give charity, but provides the tools for victims to help themselves, with a focus on local ownership and leadership empowering victim survivors as partners in the process of rebuilding their lives. The TFV aims to ensure that local organisations have the financial resources, technical expertise and oversight capacity they require to rehabilitate and support the needs of the victims of war crimes, genocide or crimes against humanity. This is accomplished through the provision of direct implementation grants, technical support, and through international nongovernmental organisations sub-granting to local grassroots organisations.

Currently operating in both northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), two thirds of the TFV's projects address the needs of victim survivors of SGBV related to the ICC's jurisdiction. Accompanying assistance and rehabilitation support provides them with the right to regain their dignity and ensure justice.

The Assembly of States Parties created the TFV with Resolution ICC-ASP/I/Res.6, ASP on 9th September 2002<sup>13</sup> "for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and of the families of such victims."<sup>14</sup> The TFV can provide rehabilitation assistance using voluntary contributions for the benefit of victims and their families subject to the provisions of Article 79 of the Rome Statute.<sup>15</sup> This call for Expressions of Interest falls under the general assistance mandate of the Trust Fund for Victims linked to the ICC's Central African Republic situation.

For more information on the TFV and EOI application requirements, including its legal background under the Rome Statute system and relationship to the International Criminal Court, please visit: [www.trustfundforvictims.org](http://www.trustfundforvictims.org) and [www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC/About+the+Court/Procurement/](http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC/About+the+Court/Procurement/).

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<sup>13</sup> Resolution ICC-ASP/I/Res.6, ASP, 9th September 2002, Establishment of a fund for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, and of the families of such victims, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, First session New York, 3-10 September 2002.

<sup>14</sup> According to article 79 (3) of the Rome Statute "a Trust Fund shall be established by decision of the Assembly of States Parties for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, and of the families of such victims".

<sup>15</sup> Rule 98 (5) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.