Administered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) is to provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons through existing channels of assistance, including governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

What is human trafficking?

Under the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, trafficking in persons is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at the minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of other or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”
What is the objective of the Trust Fund?

The Trust Fund supports actions by specialized NGOs around the world to ensure women, children and men exploited by human traffickers are identified, treated humanely as victims of a crime, and are provided with the necessary assistance, protection and support for their physical, psychological and social recovery and reintegration back into their communities. This includes emphasis on legal advice and prosecution assistance, as well as access to justice, remedies, compensation and similar aid packages. UNVTF seeks to prevent trafficking in persons, and to reduce the vulnerability of victims being discriminated, re-victimized and re-trafficked.

How is the Trust Fund helping victims of human trafficking?

SMALL GRANTS CYCLE:
In its first and second grant cycle (2011-2014, and 2014-2017), 34 NGOs from across the globe were selected and awarded grants for up to three years, totalling USD 750,000 and USD 1.25 million respectively. In the third grant cycle (2017-2020), up to USD 1.5 million in total has been disbursed to 29 NGOs in 24 countries. The priority of the third call focussed on victims arising from armed conflict and those identified among large migration flows.

The fourth Global Call for Proposals was launched in November 2019. It reiterates girls and women trafficked for sexual exploitation as the first priority and further revised the guidelines aiming to reach as many victims as possible through the NGOs that operate on the front lines via a more agile and flexible approach.

The new Grant Cycle offers two sub-programmes for which applicants can apply focusing on comprehensive support and emergent humanitarian aid to human trafficking victims, of which the latter provides multiple application windows a year for swift response to the needs of victims in or fleeing from imperative crisis.

2020 Fourth Grant Cycle

Under sub-grant programme, the first ever, fast-track emergency aid window under its small grants programme, 10 NGO projects across five world regions that provide emergency aid to human trafficking survivors globally have been selected for award, thus far. The Trust Fund received 78 applications from 27 countries. The new short-term, compact sub-programme one focuses on delivering swift humanitarian aid to victims of human trafficking in or fleeing from imperative crisis scenarios.

The Trust Fund remains at the forefront of global emergency crises in supporting grassroots organizations worldwide to respond exclusively to the immediate needs of human trafficking victims in regions hardest-hit by humanitarian and natural disasters, such as armed conflict, COVID-19, and other crisis scenarios, through the provision of vital aid.

Who is contributing to the Trust Fund?

As of June 2020, the Trust Fund received USD 7 million in contributions from a wide range of supporters. These include 31 Member States, 33 private sector organizations and scores of individual donors. In 2017 and 2018, the Trust Fund witnessed substantive increase in donations: USD 1 million and USD 2.275 million were deposited respectively. In 2019, UNVTF received close to half a million dollars in donations, below the annual funding target of USD 1 million needed to ensure a sustainable and effective functioning of the Trust Fund.

However, the donor base of the Trust Fund continues to grow every year. With renewed Member State commitment to the replenishment of the Fund based on the growing demand in 2020, the Trust Fund can make a greater impact and reach even more victims in need of urgent support.

With more focus on strengthening private sector partnerships this year, the Trust Fund will increase its engagement with the private sector to further diversify its donor base.
UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED
November 2010 - June 2020 (in USD)

DONORS
I. Member States
II. Private Donors
SUM TOTAL

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (in USD)

DONORS
I. Member States
II. Private Donors
SUM TOTAL

UN MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTING TO THE TRUST FUND

MEMBER STATES TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED MEMBER STATES TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED
Australia 358,091 Malta 23,466
Austria 109,034 Myanmar 2,900
Azerbaijan 9,907 Philippines 29,853
Bangladesh 2,000 Portugal 51,485
Belarus 121,291 Qatar 499,079
Belgium 2,282,371 Thailand 49,625
Cyprus 41,882 Russian Federation 30,000
Denmark 168,584 Saudi Arabia 100,307
Ecuador 10,000 Singapore 38,000
France 359,519 Slovakia 17,776
Israel 15,640 Slovenia 13,793
Italy 1,000,000 Sri Lanka 10,000
Kazakhstan 10,000 Sweden 514,984
Liechtenstein 40,448 Switzerland 80,000
Luxembourg 77,428 United Arab Emirates 174,725
Malaysia 5,062

Largest contributors to UNVTF (in USD, as of June 2020)

Contributions to the UNVTF (in USD)