

EVALUATION BRIEFS

MID-TERM INDEPENDENT PROJECT EVALUATION

Management of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, GLOX42

Region: Global – 55 countries

Donors: The 10 largest contributor Governments: Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Qatar, France, Australia, Liechtenstein, United Arab Emirates, Denmark, and Austria.

Duration covered: mid-2014–June 2022

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Full report:

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports_year_2023.html

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Trafficking in Persons is a global criminal activity, closely interlinked with human rights violations, illegal or forced migration, violence against trafficked persons, poverty, and social exclusion. Globally, most victims are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, followed by trafficking for forced labour, female victims continuing to be the majority. The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund (UNVTF) for victims in trafficking of persons was established in August 2010, its establishment stemming from the UN General Assembly Resolution 64/293. The Secretariat is based at the Co-Financing and Partnerships Section (CPS), UNODC, whereby the Fund is registered as a project, for fund operationalization purposes, with the project code GLOX42.

MAIN FINDINGS

The Fund remains crucially relevant in supporting and providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking, being one of the few tools specifically addressing the needs of victims of trafficking and addressing in-country institutional gaps. The objective of the Fund has been achieved, of providing humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking, via grantee in-situ civil society organizations (CSOs) who are on the frontlines of tackling human trafficking. Despite being faced with resource constraints, CPS has been successfully operating the Calls-for-Proposals, which have been appreciated as fair, objective, and transparent. Financial management of the Fund is in compliance with UNODC's rules and procedures. Due to lack of continuous and long-term funding, sustainability remains a challenge. CPS has provided assistance to 129 projects of 110 grantee CSOs, between 2014 to mid-2022 through seven CfPs, taking into consideration wide geographical coverage, providing direct assistance to around 3,500-5,000 victims annually. The establishment of the Fund is based on support for human rights and gender issues, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has taken these aspects into account in its implementation. While data on gender, age dimensions and intersectionality aspects of trafficking in persons and impact has been collected and compiled, both by the grantee CSOs and by CPS, knowledge management and analysis can be strengthened further for usage and dissemination of related information by the Fund.



Website: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/human-trafficking-fund.html>

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Despite human resource constraints, CPS has been able to successfully operationalize the Fund, leveraging internal resources, as well as support from other UNODC Units.
2. Grantee CSOs confirmed that UNVTF funds achieve longer-term impact which stretch beyond project completion and hence, there may be relevance in pursuing further impact data.
3. UNVTF funds were the only source of funding for the grantee CSOs for example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNVTF funds were regarded as extremely important as there was lack of alternative funding for direct assistance of victims.

GOOD PRACTICES

1. UNVTF's fast-track emergency aid sub-program has been appreciated as an effective, useful, and timely response to the crisis presented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Grantee CSOs praised the flexible approach in the utilisation of UNVTF funding; this is in terms of funding activities that otherwise are very difficult to cover by other funding sources. The CFP application process and templates have been appreciated to be non-complicated, easy to fill, fair and objective.
3. UNVTF has increased its digital media footprint (website, Facebook, Twitter, and Weibo), with over 700,000 annual website visits that spike during key advocacy event dates. As part of its innovative fundraising initiative, CPS also added the first and only donate button on the UNODC website, which seeks direct contributions to the Fund through the UN Foundation.

- **Stakeholders interviewed: 21**
- **Stakeholders participated in the FGDs: 53**
- **Stakeholders participated in E-survey: 68**

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation covered the period from mid-2014 to June 2022 and made efforts to reach out to stakeholders in all the regions of the Fund, that is, Africa and the Middle East, Europe and Central and West Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific. It was conducted in line with UNODC evaluation norms and standards, ensuring professionalism, independence, impartiality, doing no harm and leaving no one behind. It was carried out based on a participatory approach and used a mixed-methods approach. Data collection included both quantitative and qualitative data via



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document review,

electronic survey, regional focus group discussions (FGDs) and semi-structured interviews of key stakeholders. As the evaluation team could not ensure do-no-harm principle and confidentiality of data, it decided not to interview victims of trafficking, speaking with and receiving information from grantee institutions.

Implementing Office: CPS, UNODC

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Efficiency:** Continue with the implementation of the GLOX42 project, in line with UN GA Resolution 64/293 and being the only Trust Fund managed at UNODC and ensure that it is included in the organization's strategic priorities.
2. **Fundraising and Private Donor Relations:** Develop a more comprehensive and tailored UNVTF fundraising strategy and include innovative fundraising to attract more steadier private donor interest.
3. **Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships:** Prepare a tailored UNVTF strategy for communication, advocacy, and partnership that targets potential partners and synergies for increasing digital and offline visibility.
4. **Results-based monitoring:** Revise guidelines for staff for virtual and on-site monitoring visits and develop interview guidelines with victims to mainstream more efficient data gathering.
5. **Gender mainstreaming, human rights, disability inclusion, leaving no one behind:** Strengthen collection and analysis of information, including information related to LGBTQI+ and persons with disabilities and consider intersectionality aspects of victims' backgrounds, as well as inclusion of survivors' voices in policy, decision-making and operational processes.
6. **Capacity-building for grantee CSOs:** Facilitate the establishment of a network of grantee CSOs, as well as forum for regular dialogues, with and amongst the grantee CSOs, and include them in other knowledge and networking initiatives of the UNODC.
7. **Information, knowledge management:** Prepare a consolidated database with all relevant data, including impact data, summary of projects, target indicators achieved, as well as number of victims supported with gender-disaggregated data.