



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



United Nations
Peacekeeping



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



United Nations
Team of Experts
Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
I. PURPOSE	8
A. MANDATE	8
B. THEORY OF CHANGE	10
II. RESULTS	12
A. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE	12
B. COUNTRY SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENTS	22
C. THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS	44
D. KNOWLEDGE BUILDING	46
E. PARTNERSHIPS	48
III. RESOURCES	56
A. CORE CONTRIBUTIONS	52
B. COUNTRY SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS	52
C. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	52

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CAR	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	SSPDF	SOUTH SUDAN PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCES
CEDAW	CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN	STG-EUI	SCHOOL OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNANCE - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE
CSO	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION	TEAM OF EXPERTS	UNITED NATIONS TEAM OF EXPERTS ON THE RULE OF LAW AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
DRC	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	UMIRR	UNITÉ MIXTE D'INTERVENTION RAPIDE ET DE RÉPRESSION DES VIOLENCES SEXUELLES (CAR)
IOM	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION	UN	UNITED NATIONS
ISIL	ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT	UN ACTION	UNITED NATIONS ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
MINUSCA	UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	UNAMI	UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ
MINUSMA	UNITED NATIONS MULTINATIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI	UNDP	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
MONUSCO	UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	UNICEF	UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION	UNMISS	UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
OHCHR	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	UNOCT	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
R-ARCSS	REVITALIZED AGREEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN SOUTH SUDAN	UNODC	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME
SCC	SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT	UNPOL	UNITED NATIONS POLICE
SDG	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	UNSMIL	UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA
SPLA-IO	SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IN OPPOSITION	UNSOM	UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA
SRSO-SVC	SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT	UN WOMEN	UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite the many challenges of the reporting period, including the lingering impact of COVID on the rule of law response, the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (“Team of Experts” or “Team”) ensured not only business continuity but achieved significant progress in meeting the needs of survivors and Member States.

During this period, the Team continued to directly engage in conflict-affected settings to address accountability for conflict-related sexual violence. In the Central African Republic (CAR), the Team of Experts assisted the Prosecutor of the High Court of Kaga Bandoro in organizing a field investigation to Kaga Bandoro by the Joint Rapid Response and Prevention Unit for Sexual Violence against Women and Children (Unité Mixte d'Intervention Rapide et de Répression des violences faites aux femmes et aux enfants, hereinafter the UMIRR) to collect additional evidence to build a case file on a case opened in 2019. In Colombia, the Team contributed to the development of a digest of International Standards on the Prosecution and Adjudication of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, launched on 25 November 2021, which will serve as tool for the transitional and ordinary justice systems to address these crimes. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), it co-organised a workshop for high-level military justice officials to identify lessons learned and good practices from the judicial response to the “Sheka” case and is finalizing a diagnostic report based on extensive field research. In November, the Team assisted the national authorities in the ongoing discussion of a new law on reparations and transitional justice. In Guinea, the Team continued to support national authorities to advance accountability for the crimes of 28 September 2009 and to advocate for trials to start without further delay, at national, regional and international levels. In Iraq, the Team worked with partners to strengthen the draft bill on reparations for survivors of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) captivity by including larger categories of victims’ groups, additional ethnicities and religious components and advising on standards of proof that

would ensure the implementation of the law would be survivor-centered. In Nigeria, the Team contributed to the training of members of the Attorney-General’s Office and the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, with a view to integrating sexual violence charges into ongoing cases leading for the first time to the inclusion of sexual violence crimes in an indictment against Boko Haram members. The Team also contributed to the training of journalists aimed at improving the understanding and coverage of sexual violence committed in the context of terrorism. In Somalia, the Team continued to advocate for the withdrawal of the draft bill on Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes (2020) and the reintroduction of the Sexual Offenses Bill (2018), which had been drafted with the support of government ministries, civil society, and reflected the input of religious leaders. In line with the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, the Team of Experts supported the finalisation, adoption and launch by the Republic of South Sudan Joint Defence Board of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan merging the action plans of the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces (SSPDF) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) on conflict-related sexual violence and resulting in prioritised activities and requests for strategic support.

The Team of Experts also built on its long-standing cooperation with academic and policy partners around sexual violence in conflict, international humanitarian law and international criminal law through the final three webinar sessions of the first edition of the Digital Dialogue Series started in June 2020 following the launch of the Special Issue of the Journal of International Criminal Justice, co-edited and published with Oxford University Press. The Team also pursued its partnership with the international law blog, *Opinio Juris*, ensuring the regular publication of the main findings and reflections in the webinars and contributing to the advancement of academic reflection and scholarship.

Photo right
PHOTO | Vinciane Boon



In June 2021, the Team provided advice and assisted in the launch of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC)’s Model Legislative Provisions on the Investigation and Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, which contains provisions that can be used by parliamentarians, experts and practitioners to strengthen laws on conflict-related sexual violence. The Team has also developed a dedicated workstream on legislative reform surrounding conflict-related sexual violence. The Team’s continued engagement with the Inter-

Parliamentary Union contributed to the signature of a Framework of Cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of the SRSG-SVC, in June 2021.

The Framework of Cooperation engages parliamentarians on law reform processes, advocacy, oversight and budgetary appropriations that ensure justice and support to survivors.

The Team continued to support Member States in addressing justice and accountability for sexual violence survivors using third State jurisdiction to

hold perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence accountable and ensuring those Member States include sexual violence charges as part of their investigations and prosecutions. The Team also renewed its following of universal jurisdiction as a means of accountability for sexual violence crimes committed in countries of concern.

These initiatives, among others, demonstrate how the Team has delivered on its mandate in 2021 under Security Council resolution 1888 (2009).

Photo bottom left
Team of Experts

Photo top right
UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

A. MANDATE

The Team of Experts was created by Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) to “deploy ... to situations of particular concern with respect to sexual violence in armed conflict, working through the United Nations presence on the ground and with the consent of the host government, to assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law.” Pursuant to resolution 1888 (2009), the mandate of the Team of Experts is to: (i) work closely with national legal and judicial officials and other personnel in the relevant governments’ civilian and military justice systems to address impunity, including by strengthening national capacity and drawing attention to the full range of justice mechanisms to be considered; (ii) identify gaps in national response and encourage a holistic national approach in addressing conflict-related sexual violence, including by enhancing criminal accountability, judicial capacity and responsiveness to victims (such as reparations mechanisms); (iii) make recommendations to coordinate domestic and international efforts and resources to reinforce governments’ ability to address conflict-related sexual violence; and (iv) work with other UN mechanisms including UN Missions, Country Teams, and the SRSG-SVC.

Since the adoption of resolution 1888 (2009), the Security Council has further encouraged Member States to draw upon the expertise of the Team of Experts in additional resolutions, for example:



UN Photo
Eskinder Debebe



- In resolution 2106 (2013), the Security Council “encourages concerned Member States to draw upon the expertise of the United Nations Team of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1888 (2009) as appropriate to strengthen the rule of law and the capacity of civilian and military justice systems to address sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations as part of broader efforts to strengthen institutional safeguards against impunity.”
- In resolution 2331 (2016), the Security Council “takes note with appreciation of the efforts undertaken by the [...] Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict to strengthen monitoring and analysis of sexual violence in conflict, including when associated with trafficking in persons in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, used as a tactic of war and also as a tactic by certain terrorist groups.”
- In resolution 2447 (2018), the Security Council “requests the United Nations to emphasize prevention and response to conflict[-]related sexual and gender-based violence and [...] assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law, for instance through the work of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict.”
- In resolution 2467 (2019) the Security Council “stresses the critical role of the domestic investigation and judicial systems of Member States to prevent and eliminate sexual violence in conflict and to ensure accountability for those responsible, and requests relevant United Nations entities including the Team of Experts [...] to support national authorities in their efforts in this regard.”

In line with its mandate, the Team of Experts focuses its efforts primarily on countries contained in the annual report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence¹. However, the Team of Experts may also engage in other countries, upon request of national authorities, as well as the strategic advice of the SRSG-SVC.

¹ S/2022/272.

B. THEORY OF CHANGE

I. OVERVIEW

The Team of Experts' theory of change is based on the premise that strong political will; improved technical and operational capacity of national rule of law institutions and actors; and enhanced cooperation, coordination, coherence and knowledge among actors will enable effective, victim sensitive criminal proceedings for conflict-related sexual violence in line with international standards, resulting in increased accountability for such crimes and ultimately contribute to long-term peace, security and development. Each of these three components is critical for criminal proceedings to be initiated and successfully concluded. Thus, no amount of technical assistance will be effective without a conducive political environment. Similarly, the lack of coordination with other relevant actors can seriously undermine efforts to pursue justice, regardless of the existence of strong political commitment to combat impunity or the development of necessary technical and operational capacities.

II. APPROACH

POLITICAL WILL

The lack of political will to promote accountability for conflict-related sexual violence at the national, regional and international levels undermines accountability efforts by preventing the adoption and implementation of internationally compliant laws, policies, and procedures; impeding criminal proceedings; maintaining discriminatory gender norms and gender-based discrimination and stereotypes that may negatively impact and stigmatize victims of conflict-related sexual violence; and limiting resources for rule of law institutions and actors.

Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) mandates the Team of Experts to work "with the consent of the host government [...] to assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law." Through engagement with Member States; international, regional, and national mechanisms and bodies, including the Security Council; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); civil society organisations (CSOs) and others, the Team of Experts seeks to generate political will to promote accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and ensure consistent political advocacy around accountability efforts. The Team of Experts also utilizes opportunities provided by the SRSG-SVC's formal agreements with Member States in the form of joint communiqués and frameworks of cooperation, the Security Council's country-specific mandates for UN peace operations, and the Secretary-General's country and thematic reports to highlight the need for justice and accountability.

Photo top

*PHOTO
Team of Experts*

Photo bottom

*Heroinat Memorial
Ilir Blakcori*



TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

The lack of technical and operational capacity of national rule of law institutions and actors to address accountability for conflict-related sexual violence limits the geographical presence and professionalism of justice authorities and other actors, leading to accountability processes which are not compliant with international standards, further undermining confidence in the justice system and contributing to continued instability and conflict.

Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) mandates the Team of Experts to "identify gaps in national responses and encourage a holistic national approach" as well as to "work closely with national legal and judicial officials and other personnel in the relevant governments' civilian and military justice systems to address impunity, including by the strengthening of national capacity, and drawing attention to the full range of justice mechanisms to be considered." In accordance with this mandate, the Team of Experts provides technical and operational support based on assessments it undertakes to strengthen the geographical presence and professionalism of rule of law authorities and other actors in areas including, inter alia, (i) criminal investigations and prosecutions; (ii) military justice; (iii) legislative reform; (iv) protection of victims and witnesses; and (v) reparations for victims. In addition to specific technical and operational support, the Team of Experts assists governments in developing strategies, plans of action and policy and guidance tools, to address accountability for conflict-related sexual violence.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

The lack of cooperation, coordination, coherence, and knowledge among the range of actors (governments, CSOs, NGOs, United Nations, etc.) working to promote accountability for conflict-related sexual violence limits information sharing, creates unrealistic expectations, contributes to fragmentation, reduces available resources and undermines efforts to deliver justice in an integrated, coherent and sustainable manner in line with international standards.

Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) mandates the Team of Experts to "make recommendations to coordinate domestic and international efforts and resources to reinforce the government's ability to address sexual violence." Based on this mandate, the Team of Experts tracks and analyses country situations for conflict-related sexual violence as well as any corresponding response by rule of law institutions and actors and utilizes its findings and analysis from assessments to inform its discussions with relevant authorities and partners to plan and coordinate future engagements. The Team of Experts also draws upon its engagements in a wide range of contexts to foster experience sharing and learning between counterparts in countries that have experienced conflict-related sexual violence.



A. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE



Given the complex nature and diverse contexts in which the Team of Experts works, relevant, consistent, and reliable data is generally not available and few global indices, if any, track criminal proceedings in these countries, which makes this information extremely difficult and resource-intensive to obtain. This is particularly true for higher level goals and outcomes.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16

GOAL 1

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

BASELINE: NONE

TARGET: PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS AND ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL [SDG TARGET 16.3](#)

INDICATOR: PROPORTION OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS WHO REPORT THEIR VICTIMIZATION TO COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OR OTHER OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED CONFLICT RESOLUTION MECHANISMS [SDG INDICATOR 16.3.1](#)

As of the writing of this report, there was no global data set for SDG indicator 16.3.1 for countries supported by the Team of Experts². However, it may be inferred from the content of this report as well as other similar reports that progress is being made toward the achievement of SDG 16 even in the absence of concrete data.

² <https://sdg-tracker.org/peace-justice#targets>

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SDG 5

GOAL 2

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

BASELINE: NONE

TARGET: ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES, INCLUDING TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL AND OTHER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION
[SDG TARGET 5.2](#)

INDICATOR: PROPORTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AGED 15 YEARS AND OLDER SUBJECT TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY PERSONS OTHER THAN AN INTIMATE PARTNER IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, BY AGE AND PLACE OF OCCURRENCE
[SDG INDICATOR 5.2.2](#)

As of the writing of this report, there was no global data set for SDG indicator 5.2.2 for countries supported by the Team of Experts³. However, it may be inferred from the content of this report as well as other similar reports that progress is being made toward the achievement of SDG 5 even in the absence of concrete data.

³ <https://sdg-tracker.org/gender-equality#targets>



Outcome: Greater accountability for conflict-related sexual violence through prompt, effective and victim sensitive criminal proceedings carried out in line with international standards

In 2021, the Team of Experts pursued initiatives supporting greater accountability for conflict-related sexual violence through prompt, effective and victim sensitive criminal proceedings carried out in line with international standards. These initiatives were undertaken in alignment with the three outputs presented in the Team's joint programme.

In terms of output one on enhancing political will to promote accountability for conflict-related sexual violence at national, regional, and international levels, the Team advocated for the adoption and provided technical support in drafting and implementing internationally compliant laws, policies, and procedures, such as in Somalia, where the Team continued to advocate for the withdrawal of the draft bill on Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes (2020) and the reintroduction of the Sexual Offenses Bill (2018), which had been drafted with the support of government ministries, civil society, and reflected the input of religious leaders; supported accountability through criminal proceedings, such as in CAR, DRC, and Guinea; advocated for the abolishment of discriminatory gender norms and gender-based discrimination and stereotypes that negatively impact and stigmatize victims of conflict-related sexual violence; and mobilized resources to support rule of law institutions and actors, such as in CAR and DRC.

In terms of output two on enhancing the capacity of national rule of law institutions and actors to address accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, the Team of Experts provided technical and financial support to the national judiciary in CAR, through the organization of trainings and mentoring sessions that benefitted 67 judicial police officers of the UMIRR and the investigative unit of the Special Criminal Court (SCC) better known by the French acronym

USPJ as well as 30 prosecutors and judges from the ordinary courts. In the DRC, it provided technical advice to the national authorities on the development of a national reparations scheme for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and assessed the state of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence. The Team continued to support the national authorities in Guinea to advance accountability for the crimes of 28 September 2009. In Colombia, the Team contributed to the development of a digest of International Standards on the Prosecution and Adjudication of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, aiming at supporting efforts of the transitional and ordinary justice system in Colombia in addressing these crimes. In Iraq, the Team worked with partners to strengthen the draft bill on reparations for survivors of ISIL captivity and ensure its compliance with international norms and standards. In Nigeria, the Team contributed to the training of members of the Attorney-General's Office, including the Complex Case Group and the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, with a view to integrating sexual violence considerations and where relevant charges into ongoing cases. The Team also participated in a training to the Nigeria media aimed at improving the understanding and coverage of sexual violence committed in the context of terrorism. In line with the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, the Team of Experts supported the finalisation, adoption and launch by the Republic of South Sudan Joint Defence Board of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan merging the action plans of the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO on conflict-related sexual violence and resulting in prioritised activities and requests for strategic support.

In terms of output three on enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence, and build expertise and awareness among the range of actors working towards accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, the Team held the final three webinar sessions of the first edition of the Digital Dialogue Series, reaching more than four thousand viewers including academics, policymakers, and practitioners, fostering a community of practice that transcends national borders and institutional divides. These discussions and their follow-up postings have allowed the Team to raise awareness further with Member States and other counterparts, share good practices and tools among national level practitioners, and refine the expertise of the Team while raising the profile of its work.

Such initiatives, among others during the reporting period, demonstrate that the Team is delivering on its mandate under Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) and contributing to the achievement of greater accountability for conflict-related sexual violence through prompt, effective and victim sensitive criminal proceedings carried out in line with international standards.



Output 1: Political will to promote accountability for conflict-related sexual violence at national, regional, and international levels enhanced.

BASELINE 1: 100%

TARGET 1: 100%

OF PEACE OPERATION MANDATES FOR WHICH THE TEAM OF EXPERTS HAS ADVOCATED THE INCLUSION OF THE PROMOTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

INDICATOR 1: PERCENTAGE OF PEACE OPERATION MANDATES FOR WHICH THE TEAM OF EXPERTS HAS ADVOCATED THE INCLUSION OF THE PROMOTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

BASELINE 2: 90%

TARGET 2: >90%

OF JOINT COMMUNIQUÉS AND FRAMEWORKS OF COOPERATION AGREED BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF THE SRSG-SVC AND THE RESPECTIVE MEMBER STATE THAT INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR TEAM OF EXPERTS TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

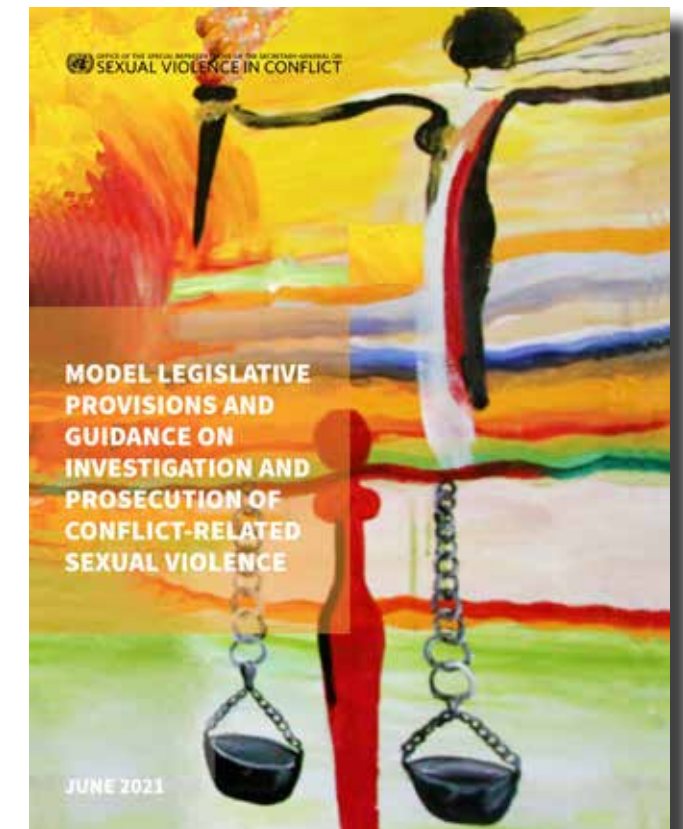
INDICATOR 2: PERCENTAGE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUÉS AND FRAMEWORKS OF COOPERATION ADOPTED BY THE RESPECTIVE MEMBER STATES THAT INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR TEAM OF EXPERTS TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

In 2021, the Team of Experts advocated for the maintenance of accountability for conflict-related sexual violence in relevant peace operation mandates.⁴ This contributed to the maintenance of provisions supporting the promotion of accountability for conflict-related sexual violence in all these mandates, meeting the 2021 target.

Though in 2021, no new country specific joint communiqués or frameworks of cooperation were adopted, the Team supported the drafting, negotiation and signing by SRSG-SVC of a framework of cooperation between the Office of the SRSG-SVC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to build synergies on parliamentary action aiming at enhancing domestic legislation on conflict-related sexual violence.

Beyond the specific targets and indicators, the Team of Experts continued to advocate for support across its countries of engagement, including advocating for the adoption and implementation of internationally compliant laws, policies, and procedures, such as in Somalia, where the Team continued to advocate for the withdrawal of the draft bill on Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes (2020) and the reintroduction of the Sexual Offenses Bill (2018), which had been drafted with the support of government ministries, civil society, and reflected the input of religious leaders. The Team of Experts also continued to advocate at national, regional, and international level on the need for accountability, such as in Guinea for the 28 September 2009 events. The Team also continued to brief and advocate for support by Member States in the Team's countries of engagement.

The Team of Experts provided input to numerous United Nations reports and policy documents ensuring accountability for sexual violence remained prominent. During the reporting period, the Team contributed to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security; conflict-related sexual violence; and strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities, including the development of the new vision for rule of law under the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda". Additionally, the Team provided input on the Secretary-General's Guidance Note on the United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice. On legislative reform, the Team contributed heavily to the Office of the SRSG-SVC's Model Legislative Provisions on the Investigation and Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in June 2021 and will be disseminating translations of this text in Arabic, French and Spanish. The Team is engaging



on a new workstream on legislative reform during 2022-2024 and is supporting the implementation of the Framework of Cooperation between the Office of the SRSG-SVC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to engage parliamentarians in the fight against sexual violence. In the same vein, the Team provided technical input to the sexual violence provisions of the Model Legislative Provisions To Support And Protect The Rights And Needs of Victims of Terrorism – a joint initiative of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)-CCT, and the IPU, which was released in 2022.

The Team of Experts also continued to provide extensive support to the SRSG-SVC and senior leadership of other co-lead entities in the preparation of a wide range of materials on rule of law and conflict-related sexual violence, including statements, legal analysis, and background documents in preparation for meetings, missions, etc.

⁴United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), United Nations Support Mission in Libya, United Nations Multinational Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) and United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan.



Output 2: Technical and operational capacity of national rule of law institutions and actors to address accountability for conflict-related sexual violence enhanced.

BASELINE: 12

TARGET: >2
ASSESSMENT REPORTS PER YEAR ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREPARED BY THE TEAM OF EXPERTS.

INDICATOR: NUMBER OF ASSESSMENT REPORTS PER YEAR ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREPARED BY THE TEAM OF EXPERTS.

In 2021, the Team of Experts finalized one assessment report for CAR and continued to work on an assessment for DRC on accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, meeting the target set for Output 2.

In CAR, the Team of Experts transmitted to the Government its in-depth diagnostic analysis of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence in the country. This report was developed based on a thorough desk-review and on-site research, including many interviews and consultations with key national judicial authorities, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations. The conclusions and recommendation of the report were officially endorsed by the Government. The report will form a basis for engagement of key ministries to establish a roadmap to implement its recommendations and adopt clear benchmarks to address some of the identified gaps and challenges.⁵

This report was also presented to member states in a briefing on 8 October.

In DRC, the Team of Experts and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC) jointly deployed to MONUSCO to assess the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence in country, particularly in the provinces where prioritization strategies have been developed. Based on the numerous exchanges held with national judicial authorities, UN representatives, and civil society organizations in Kinshasa as well as in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, an assessment report will be published next year to present the conclusions of the research team on the current state of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence and on the most pressing technical and strategic issues that need to be addressed to ensure the promotion of an effective victim-centered justice response to conflict-related sexual violence crimes in the DRC.⁶

In Mali, the Team of Experts and United Nations Multinational Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), building on the Team's prior work, partnered with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of the Promotion of Women to convene judicial authorities in a workshop to discuss the findings and recommendations of the 2019 assessment report and establish prioritization strategies for case-files to be prosecuted.

Beyond the specific target and indicator, in Guinea the Team of Experts conducted four deployments of its Senior Judicial Advisor to engage with national authorities, civil society, the UN system and the international community on critical issues relating to accountability for the 28 September 2009 events. This contributed to the resumption of the meetings of the Steering Committee tasked with overseeing the preparation of the trials for these events which resulted in the adoption of a roadmap toward the trial. This roadmap foresees dedicated training on sexual violence for trial magistrates and other relevant justice officials, the development of a witness and victims protection strategy, the establishment of a reparations fund, and the launch of a communication campaign focusing on the importance of the trials for sustainable peace in Guinea. In CAR, the Team of Experts conducted three trainings and several mentoring sessions for law enforcement officials and judges and organized a workshop to address the re-qualification of criminal acts of sexual violence (e.g., incidents of rape) as misdemeanors. The Expert in country also provided technical advice to the UMIRR to plan a new field investigation in Kaga Bandoro. In the DRC, the Team together with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) - United Nations Police (UNPOL) organized two trainings on criminal investigations on sexual violence crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence, for 40 judicial police officers of the Special Police for the Protection of Children and the Prevention of Sexual Violence (Police spéciale de Protection de l'Enfant et de Prévention des Violences Sexuelles, hereinafter EPEPVS) to enhance the expertise of the participants on conflict-related sexual violence investigations for a victim-centered judicial response. The Team also made use of technology to deliver virtual or hybrid trainings notably in Nigeria and Iraq. In Nigeria, the Team delivered three trainings; two trainings benefited the Attorney General's Office and the Complex Case Group focusing on conflict-related sexual violence and the preparation and use of electronic evidence. The third training, held with the Complex Case Group, focused on the definition of conflict-related sexual



RAPPORT-DIAGNOSTIC SUR LE TRAITEMENT JUDICIAIRE DES CAS DE VIOLENCES SEXUELLES ET BASÉES SUR LE GENRE, Y COMPRIS LES VIOLENCES SEXUELLES LIÉES AU CONFLIT, EN RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE



violence and related international criminal law obligations. In Iraq, the Team of Experts participated in a hybrid training of members of the Iraqi judiciary in conjunction with the UNODC terrorism branch on sexual violence committed by Daesh/ISIL. Further, the Team continues to follow the implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law whose bylaws were approved during the reporting period.

In sum, the Team was able to deploy experts both remotely and in the field; contribute at Headquarters level remotely on both country-specific and thematic issues related to the rule of law and sexual violence and conflict; and forge new partnerships and develop new methods of communicating with core constituencies throughout the pandemic with results described throughout this document.

⁵ See section B. Country Specific Engagements below on CAR.
⁶ See section B. Country Specific Engagements below on DRC.



Output 3: Cooperation, coordination, coherence, and knowledge among the range of actors (governments, CSOs, NGOs, United Nations, etc.) working to promote accountability for conflict-related sexual violence enhanced.

BASELINE: N/A

TARGET: >2
JOINT MISSIONS WITH OTHER UN ENTITIES, PARTNERS OR STAKEHOLDERS.

INDICATOR: NUMBER OF JOINT MISSIONS WITH OTHER UN ENTITIES, PARTNERS OR STAKEHOLDERS

In terms of joint missions, in 2021, the Team of Experts participated in the SRSG-SVC's mission to DRC to engage national authorities regarding the development of a reparations scheme for victims of conflict-related sexual violence⁷. The Team of Experts also participated in a joint mission with a representative of the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity to assess the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence since the development of provincial prioritization strategies. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Team of Experts was unable to undertake additional joint missions as initially planned. However, as the pandemic subsides, the Team of Experts anticipates being able to move forward with joint missions meeting future annual targets.

Beyond the specific target and indicator, it should be noted that the Team of Experts, in coordination with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic's (MINUSCA) Justice and Correction Services, the MONUSCO Justice Support Section, and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNDP in Guinea, deployed experts to the respective countries despite the pandemic restrictions.

Indeed, COVID-19 did not stop work by the Team with civil society in conjunction with the SRSG-SVC. As a representative example, at the invitation of Yazidi civil society organizations, the SRSG-SVC with the assistance of the Team participated in hybrid virtual

sessions on the seventh anniversary of the attacks on Sinjar, Iraq. This participation was to support demands from civil society across all religious and ethnic components for holistic, survivor-centred transitional justice in the wake of Daesh crimes. Other more in-depth examples of cooperation with civil society and other actors will be described in the country sections below.

The Team of Experts also built on its long-standing cooperation with academic and policy partners around sexual violence in conflict, international humanitarian law and international criminal law through the final three webinar sessions of the first edition of the Digital Dialogue Series started in June 2020 following the launch of the Special Issue of the Journal of International Criminal Justice, co-edited and published with Oxford University Press. The Team also pursued its partnership with the international law blog, *Opinio Juris*, ensuring the regular publication of the main findings and reflections in the webinars and contributing to the advancement of academic reflection and scholarship⁸.

The Team has recognized the need expressed by numerous practitioners globally of a comprehensive and searchable database of case law and practice on sexual violence in conflict. Recognizing the significant work already done by both non-governmental and academic institutions on creating such databases, the Team is in discussions with academics and other institutions on how to ensure that a database of case law and practice is globally available including to prosecutors and judges who may have limited electronic capacity; that meets high quality control standards; and encompasses case law from jurisdictions beyond English-language materials. This work will likely span from 2022 forward and involve entities from both academic and civil society, as well as the public and private sectors.



After ten years of engagement in the DRC, the Team is currently conducting a lessons learned study focusing on the innovative practices developed in the Team's supported projects. This exercise will allow national and international stakeholders, in the DRC and elsewhere, to identify and understand some of the good practices behind the substantive progress in the judicial response. Additionally, it will allow the Team and all relevant stakeholder to understand and identify some of the challenges and opportunities yet to be met in the next years.

As noted earlier, and will be explained in more detail below under Section II.C "Thematic Engagements", the Team is building a thematic workstream around two

key documents produced and adopted in 2021 – the Office of the SRSG-SVC's Model Legislative Provisions on Investigation and Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the Framework of Cooperation between the IPU and the Office of the SRSG-SVC to engage with national legislators on adopting laws and practice that address conflict-related sexual violence.

⁷ See section B. Country Specific Engagements below on DRC.

⁸ See Outcome under Results section.

B. COUNTRY SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENTS



SCC

I. Central African Republic

OBJECTIVE(S)

Within the framework of Security Council resolution 2605 (2021) on CAR and the Joint Communiqué on the prevention and fight against conflict-related sexual violence signed in 2019, the Team of Experts has set up a dedicated project with a dedicate in country expert to deliver on the requested support for the Government of CAR to ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual violence crimes. The project, which forms the bulk of the Team's action in CAR and contribution to the UN Joint Justice Project in CAR, aims at strengthening the capacity of the national authorities to investigate and prosecute sexual violence in conflict. This includes building the capacity of the UMIRR, national courts and the SCC, to work collaboratively to investigate and adjudicate conflict-related sexual violence cases and to respond adequately to the demands of the citizens of the CAR.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- The Team of Experts provided technical advice, mentoring and material support to the UMIRR, the investigative unit of the SCC (better known under the French acronym USPJ), including by supporting a field investigation of the UMIRR near the city of Kaga Bandoro in October 2021, as well as to prosecutors and judges of the ordinary courts.
- The Team of Experts also provided support for judicial authorities. Notably the Team organized a joint workshop with the Ministry of Justice, UNDP, and MINUSCA to discuss the persisting practice of re-qualifying criminal acts (e.g., incidents of rape) as misdemeanors or minor offences by judicial authorities.

Photo
Team of Experts/
Kaga Bandoro field
mission



ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2021, the Team of Experts continued to support the reinforcement of the national judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence crimes through the deployment of a Technical Specialist under the UN Joint Justice Project in CAR⁹ and embedded in the Justice and Correction Services of MINUSCA. Through this deployment, the Team of Experts provided advisory technical support and mentoring for the national authorities to build their capacity to investigate and prosecute conflict-related sexual violence crimes. The Team also provided material and financial support to the planning of field investigations on conflict-related sexual violence crimes outside of Bangui. Furthermore, the Team of Experts presented to the Government of CAR its in-depth diagnostic analysis of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence in the country, the conclusions of which were officially endorsed by the Government. The Team



is now planning a workshop that brings together key ministries to establish a roadmap to implement the recommendations of the report and adopt clear benchmarks. The key findings of the report have also been presented to Member States in New York during a virtual briefing organized in October 2021.

A primary focus of the Team's work was to continue strengthening the capacity of the UMIRR to conduct investigations into incidents of conflict-related sexual violence that would stand in court, while promoting a victim-centred approach. To deliver on this goal, the Team of Experts organized a series of trainings on evidence collection and some mentoring sessions on themes including investigative interviewing, good practices on how to draft police reports, record-keeping and case tracking with the support of a

⁹ Currently, the Team of Experts contributes with MINUSCA and UNDP to the implementation of the Joint Project titled "Project to support the restoration of the rule of law and the reform of the justice and security sectors in CAR," covering the period 2020-2023. In particular, the Team of Experts will focus on supporting the implementation of the third output of the Joint Project, aimed at improving women's access to justice and security, including through the prosecution, investigation and adjudication of sexual and gender-based violence cases.

police specialist hired by the Team of Experts. A total of 67 judicial police officers from the UMIRR and the USPJ benefitted from these trainings and mentoring sessions, which helped them strengthen their capacity to investigate conflict-related sexual violence cases based on a victim-centred approach.

In May, the Team of Experts assisted the Prosecutor of the High Court of Kaga Bandoro in organizing a lessons learned exercise on the field investigations conducted by the UMIRR in Bossangoa in 2018 and in Kaga-Bandoro in 2019 (150 and 264 victims of conflict-related sexual violence were interviewed respectively during these investigations). A wide range of stakeholders participated in this session, including the prosecutors, the acting director and ten judicial police officers of the UMIRR, a representative of the Office of the Prosecutor of the High Court of Bangui, as well as representatives of MINUSCA and UNDP. The participants were asked to identify and analyze the good practices and shortcomings that happened before, during and after these field investigations. Through this workshop, the participants were able to identify corrective actions and strategies for better documentation to facilitate more effective criminal procedures and better field investigations. Following this exercise, the Team of Experts provided technical support to the UMIRR to finalize and transfer to the Prosecutor's Office the investigative report of the field investigations conducted in Kaga Bandoro in 2019, which led to the Prosecutor requesting the deployment of a complementary field mission by the UMIRR. The Team of Experts, together with MINUSCA and UNDP, assisted the Prosecutor in planning this complementary field mission. The Team specifically deployed to Kaga Bandoro to provide technical advice in situ to the judicial authorities. Based on the preliminary findings, a follow-up deployment is currently being planned for the second quarter of 2022, under the leadership of the Prosecutor of the High Court of Kaga Bandoro and with the Team's continued technical support. Further investigations will considerably strengthen the investigative file and increase the probability of seeing the case brought to trial. In addition, the Team provided material support to the UMIRR through UNDP to ensure the unit could adequately finance basic logistical and material needs in the absence of adequate financing through the State budget.

The Team of Experts also worked with prosecution authorities to strengthen their capacity to build stronger cases. Together with MINUSCA and UNDP, the Team of Experts organized a training session on the prosecution and adjudication of conflict-related sexual violence as an international crime for 15 prosecutors and investigative judges of the Courts of Appeal of Bangui and Bouar. The training focused on the qualification of sexual violence as

Photo
UMIRR | Mentoring Session for UMIRR

international crimes, contextual elements, and the various forms of responsibility. The training covered the best practices to promote a victim-centered approach when prosecuting and adjudicating conflict-related sexual violence crimes. In addition, the Team of Experts started providing mentoring sessions to the focal points on gender and sexual violence organized under the framework of a taskforce instituted by the Ministry of Justice in 2019. The first mentoring session held in October allowed the participants to understand the rules regarding the most common types of evidence used in conflict-related sexual violence cases, with a specific focus on medical certificates.

The Team of Experts also took part as a co-trainer in a training organized by UNDP for 25 lawyers of the nine legal clinics supported by the United Nations Joint Justice Project throughout the national territory. The Team particularly trained participants on the law governing criminal procedure for cases of sexual violence in CAR.

The Team supported the Working Groups on the Strengthening of the Criminal Justice Chain of the National Justice Sector Policy¹⁰ together with MINUSCA and UNDP, in organizing in March 2021 a workshop to sensitize judicial authorities on the persisting practice of re-qualifying criminal acts (e.g., incidents of rape) as misdemeanors or minor offences. This long-standing issue was identified in the diagnostic report as one of the key impediments preventing victims of sexual violence from accessing justice. The workshop allowed the participants (including UMIRR, prosecutors, investigative judges, and representatives from the Ministry of Justice) to exchange their views on the impact that the re-qualification of rape has on victims and to identify the factors promoting such practice, as well as potential strategies to address them.

Finally, as part of its victim-centred methodology, the Team of Experts, with MINUSCA and UNDP, continued providing financial and technical support



to Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, for the completion of the second of three perception surveys, aimed at collecting data representative of the adult population's perception on peace, justice and security in CAR. The perception surveys conducted over the past three years with more than thirty thousand people by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, in collaboration with the Central African NGO Echelle - Appui au Développement, provide important insights on sexual violence and gender-based violence, the restoration of State authority and transitional justice. The data collection for the second survey was finalized in December 2020¹¹ and conducted in 13 prefectures and the

LOOKING AHEAD

Based on the findings of the diagnostic report by the Team of Experts, in 2021, the Team of Experts will focus on: (i) training and mentoring police investigators and police officers serving in the UMIRR, the SCC, and the sexual violence desks of police stations; (ii) providing logistical and material support for the

city of Bangui. The findings of the survey, which was published in 2021, shed light on the high expectations of the populations regarding peace, justice, and to know the truth for about crimes perpetrated in CAR, particularly conflict-related sexual violence. The data collection for the final remaining survey is ongoing. These surveys provide national policymakers, Member States, UN actors, and civil society organizations supporting the fight against impunity for conflict-related sexual violence in CAR with objective information on the perceptions of the national population on the links between security, justice and peace.

UMIRR to conduct more investigations; (iii) providing technical advice and support for the ordinary criminal courts throughout the territory and the SCC, regarding the prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence cases; (iv) supporting legal information and legal aid; and (v) contributing to legislative reform.

¹⁰ The policy was adopted on 12 December 2019, which provides a roadmap for the reform of the justice system for the next five years.

¹¹ Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Peace Justice and Security Polls, Central African Republic, Report 6 – June 2021 (Data from December 2020), available at http://www.peacebuildingdata.org/sites/m/pdf/CAR_Polls_ENG.pdf.



II. Colombia



OBJECTIVE(S)

Building on its prior engagements in Colombia, and given the SRSO-SVC's explicit mention in the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) to provide an accompanying role in the implementation of the gender provisions, the Team of Experts seeks to support the Colombian authorities in their efforts to ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, and by developing tools and sharing good practices.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- The Team of Experts contributed to the finalization and launch of a digest on International Standards for the Prosecution and Adjudication of Conflict-related Sexual Violence to further inform and support the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence by the transitional and ordinary justice systems.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

On 25 May 2021, on the occasion of the National Day for the Dignity of Women Victims of Sexual Violence caused by the Internal Armed Conflict, the Team of Experts, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and OHCHR in Colombia released the publication "International Standards for the Prosecution and Adjudication of Conflict-related Sexual Violence". This publication, which was informed by and validated through a series of virtual consultations with national judicial authorities and civil society organizations throughout 2020, aims at informing and supporting the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence by the transitional and ordinary justice system. The publication provides reference information, good practices and lessons learned on the legal and conceptual advances for the prosecution of sexual violence at the national, regional and international levels. The publication, made possible with the support of Sweden, was launched in Spanish. The Team has funded its translation into English to ensure its wide dissemination, in 2022, among policymakers and practitioners beyond Colombia and Latin America.

Photo top left

ONU Mujeres Colombia

Photo right

The New Humanitarian | Megan Janetsky

The Team of Experts has been following very closely the developments by the transitional justice system, in particular the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, in addressing sexual violence. The Team has facilitated the engagement by SRSO-SVC with Colombian officials to discuss political and technical re-engagement in Colombia, including through the technical support of the Team of Experts. Building on these meetings, and in cooperation with co-lead entities and other counterparts, the Team of Experts conducted consultations to identify possible areas of technical support on the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of conflict-related sexual violence.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, the Team of Experts will focus on: (i) working with the UN Country Team in Colombia, as well as national justice institutions and women's rights organizations, in preparation for dissemination of the digest on International Standards for the Prosecution and Adjudication of Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Colombia; and (ii) conducting an internal assessment, building on meetings with Team of Experts co-lead entities and national counterparts, to identify areas of possible technical support to national accountability efforts for conflict-related sexual violence.





III. Democratic Republic of the Congo



OBJECTIVE(S)

In line with Security Council resolution 2612 (2021) on the DRC and the Joint Communiqué signed by the Government of the DRC and the United Nations in 2013, renewed by the signature of an Addendum to the Joint Communiqué in December 2019¹², the Team of Experts established a dedicated project in the DRC aimed at responding to requested support for the Government of DRC in ensuring accountability for conflict-related sexual violence crimes by strengthening the capacity of the national authorities, especially the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- The Team of Experts provided technical advice, mentoring and material support to the Special Police for the Protection of Children and the Prevention of Sexual Violence (Police spéciale de Protection de l'Enfant et de Prévention des Violences Sexuelles, acronym EPEPVS).
- The Team carried out an assessment of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence in DRC to assess and reflect on the progress made and the challenges remaining for law enforcement and the national jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute conflict-related sexual violence in line with international standards and best practices, while promoting a victim-centred approach.
- The Team of Experts organized a workshop in Kinshasa to identify and reflect on the lessons learned and best practices from the “Sheka” case, one of the most emblematic cases of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated in the DRC, to inform the judicial response in other prioritized cases of conflict-related sexual violence.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Building on years of engagement and the progress achieved, in 2021, the Team of Experts deepened its support to the reinforcement of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence crimes through the renewal of a dedicated project embedded in the UN Joint Justice Reform Program.

The Team of Experts, UNDP and MONUSCO-UNPOL organized two trainings on criminal investigations on sexual violence crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence, for 40 judicial police

officers of the EPEPVS of Goma and Bukavu. The participants gained a thorough understanding of the legal framework and of the investigation techniques most relevant when investigating sexual violence crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence. In addition, three training manuals on the investigation of crimes of international law in the DRC, on cellphone forensics, and on the prosecution of sexual violence were offered to all the participants. Through the trainings, the participants were able to enhance their expertise on conflict-related sexual violence

investigations for a victim-centered judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence.

In addition, the Team of Experts, UNDP and MONUSCO-UNPOL provided material support to the EPEPVS units of Goma and Bukavu. In the absence of fully adequate financing of basic logistical and material needs of the EPEPVS through the state budget, computers and other information technology equipment were provided to these two units, along with solar panel kits to allow these materials to be used during extended energy cuts. Additional equipment including stationery as well as hygiene products were also delivered. These materials did not only help improve the capacity of these two EPEPVS units to be better equipped to carry out their mandate, but they also helped ensure that the conditions of hygiene of the facilities of these units were optimum for victims soliciting their support, as well as for individuals held in custody.

The Team of Experts and UNDP supported the planning of six technical workshops in 2021 to evaluate and update the prioritization strategies adopted by the judicial authorities in conflict-affected provinces of the DRC. During these sessions, 137 civil and military officials discussed the prosecution of prioritized cases under the leadership of representatives of the Office of the Attorney General of the armed forces and of the Ministry of Justice. There were 106 cases identified as priority cases for the coming year, among which 50% are cases concerning conflict-related sexual violence incidents. The technical workshops provided a unique opportunity for judicial officials to exchange with their peers and their hierarchy on the progress made and the challenges they face regarding the prosecution of prioritized conflict-related sexual violence cases. Participants agreed on increasing advocacy with military justice authorities to ensure the provision of the operational and strategic support required to ensure the prompt investigation and prosecution of these prioritized cases. Specific litigation strategies were also defined and agreed upon regarding several ongoing cases.

In October and November, the Team of Experts conducted a technical mission in the DRC together with a Rule of Law Officer from Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC) deployed to MONUSCO. During this mission, the Team and JCSC-MONUSCO assessed the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence, particularly in the provinces of the DRC where prioritization strategies have been developed. Based on the numerous exchanges

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, the Team of Experts will focus on: (i) drafting and sharing with the relevant actors an assessment report on the progress made in the legal and judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence in the last five years, identifying the challenges and opportunities

held with national judicial authorities, UN representatives, and civil society organizations in Kinshasa as well as in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, an assessment report will be completed next year to present the conclusions of the research team shedding light on the current state of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence and on the most pressing technical and strategic issues that need to be addressed to ensure the promotion of an effective victim-centered justice response to conflict-related sexual violence crimes.

In November, the Team of Experts, JCSC-MONUSCO, and UNDP also organized a three-day workshop in Kinshasa to allow high-level military justice officials, together with representatives of the United Nations and civil society organizations, to identify and reflect on the lessons learned and best practices in the “Sheka” case, one of the most emblematic cases of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated in the DRC, and to discuss how this knowledge could be used to inform the judicial response in other prioritized cases of conflict-related sexual violence in DRC. The 40 participants exchanged on many issues during the workshop, including the challenges relating to the protection of victims and witnesses in active areas of conflict, evidence collection and preservation, prosecution strategies, the rights of the defendants, as well as the role of financial and technical partners. Concrete recommendations and action points were identified by the participating judicial actors and will be implemented at the provincial level including with the technical support of the Team of Experts through the UN Joint Justice Reform Program.

Finally, the Team of Experts accompanied the SRSO-SVC on her high-level mission to the DRC between 17 and 21 October. On this occasion, the Team of Experts especially focused on representing the Office of the SRSO-SVC during a two-day workshop on the establishment of a reparations fund for victims of international crimes (including victims of conflict-related sexual violence) in the DRC. Following the workshop, the Team of Experts addressed a technical memo to the national authorities summarizing its key recommendations. The Team was subsequently invited to provide further technical support to the newly established Commission on the establishment of a national reparations fund¹³. The Commission will work in 2022 on drafting a law on reparations aimed at developing a clear framework for victims of conflict-related sexual violence to access administrative and court-ordered reparations.

ahead; (ii) providing technical and material support to the EPEPVS and national judicial authorities; and (iii) strengthening its work on reparations, prioritizing support to the national Commission on the establishment of a national reparations fund.

TECHNICAL
SPECIALIST

IV. Guinea



Photos left & right
Tommy Trenchard

OBJECTIVE(S)

In line with the Joint Communiqué signed by the Government of Guinea and the United Nations in November 2011 in which the Government welcomes the support of the Team of Experts to fight impunity for sexual violence, the Team seeks to support national authorities to ensure accountability for the crimes committed at the Conakry Stadium on 28 September 2009, in particular in the context of the Steering Committee put in place to organize the trials. As part of these efforts, the Team has dedicated resources in the deployment of a Senior Judicial Advisor in country.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- The Team of Experts continued to advocate at national, regional, and international level on the need for accountability for the 28 September 2009 events. This engagement resulted in renewed public commitments, including by the transitional authorities following the 5 September 2021 military coup, to hold trials without further delay, and the resumption of the meetings by the Steering Committee tasked with overseeing the preparations of the trials.
- The Team of Experts continued to work with the new Minister of Justice and other members of the Steering Committee towards the elaboration of draft guidelines to operationalise the trials for the crimes of 28 September 2009.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2021, the Team of Experts continued to support national authorities towards ensuring accountability for the human rights violations that took place at the stadium in Conakry on 28 September 2009, in which at least 156 people were killed and at least 109 women and girls were raped and subjected to other forms of sexual violence. Despite COVID-19 travel restrictions, this support included the continued deployment of a Senior Judicial Advisor to Conakry, who is serving as a member of the Steering Committee put in place to organize the trials and its Technical Follow-up Committee, and is advising senior government officials, representatives of the UN system, members of the diplomatic community, civil society representatives victims' associations, and other actors closely following the situation in Guinea.

In February 2021, upon appointment of the new Government, the Team of Experts Senior Judicial Advisor deployed to Guinea

to engage with the new Minister of Justice and other senior government officials to reaffirm the Team's continued support to the organization of the trials for the 28 September 2009 events, following the delays experienced in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the tense political climate resulting from the March 2020 constitutional referendum and the October 2020 presidential elections which led to President Conde's third term. This deployment also allowed for discussions with senior UN officials, members of the international community, in particular those represented in the Steering Committee put in place to organize the trials, and civil society organizations. In the context of the Team's visit, on 22 February 2021, the new Minister of Justice called for a meeting of the Steering Committee in which he reaffirmed the Government's commitment to expedite the organization of the trials and approved simplified operational guidelines, put forward by the Team to advance on areas such as witness and victims' protection, advocacy and reparations.

The Senior Judicial Advisor deployed once again to Guinea in May 2021 to follow up with the Minister of Justice and other relevant counterparts on progress made since the meeting of the Steering Committee and to discuss specifically the earlier offer of support made by the SRS-G-SVC to provide training on sexual violence for trial magistrates and other justice officials. In a new meeting of the Steering Committee on 27 May 2021, the Minister of Justice thanked the SRS-G-SVC and the Team of Experts for its continued support over the years and welcomed their offer to support to the development of a training curriculum to build the capacity of magistrates and other justice officials involved in the trials.

Progress made in the resumption of the Steering Committee meetings and the commitment of authorities to expedite trials was halted by the military coup on 5 September 2021 by the National Committee for Reconciliation and Development (NCRD). The Team closely monitored the situation on the ground in the aftermath of the coup, in particular following the NCRDCRND first statement indicating that justice would be the compass that would guide the transition, and in the context of NCRD NCRD-led consultations to determine the priorities under a new Transitional Charter adopted on 27 September 2021. In this regard, the Team engaged with a number of national actors involved in the consultations to stress the opportunity offered by the transition to place justice and rule of law at the centre. On the 12th anniversary of the 28 September 2009 events, the Team supported the preparation of a statement by the SRS-G-SVC in which she called on all relevant actors to place accountability for the 28 September 2009 events at the heart of the transition and to ensure that trials are expedited, perpetrators are held accountable and that victims receive justice, support and reparations. These advocacy efforts contributed to the stated commitment by the transitional authorities, including the transitional President and the transitional Minister of Justice, to ensure accountability for the 28 September 2009 events.

Following these statements, in November 2021, the Senior Judicial Advisor deployed to Guinea to brief the new transitional Minister of Justice on the continued work by the Team of Experts since the signature of the Joint Communiqué in 2011 and impress upon the authorities the need to expedite preparations, with UN support, to start of the trials without further delays. The Team of Experts deployment coincided with a technical visit of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the context of its preliminary examination. During the visit of the

LOOKING AHEAD

In the upcoming year, the Team plans to increase its engagement to ensure that trials for the 28 September 2009 events can commence without delay and remain a priority of the political transition. The Team will propose the establishment of a Sub-Working Group of the Inter Agency Task Force on Guinea to facilitate UN coordination and collaboration around possible technical, programmatic and/or financial assistance for the trials, with specific focus on: (i) strengthening the capacity of



Senior Judicial Advisor, the transitional Minister of Justice called for a meeting of the Steering Committee, on 3 December 2021, in which the Minister committed to holding monthly Steering Committee meetings, informed of the imminent appointment of magistrates and other justice officials to hold the trials, and welcomed the offer of support by the SRS-G-SVC to provide dedicated training on sexual violence.

In addition to his engagement with senior officials, the Senior Judicial Advisor deployed again in December 2021 to Guinea to participate in an event on reparations for victims of sexual violence of the 28 September 2009 events, organized by the Global Survivor Fund, the Association of Victims, Parents and Friends of 28 September (AVIPA) and the Guinean Organization of Defence of Human Rights (OGDH), with the support of the Office of the SRS-G-SVC.

The accountability process is now at a critical crossroad and needs to be supported to reach a successful end. In this new phase, support from all members of the Steering Committee to accountability efforts at technical and political levels, and the continued involvement of civil society, particularly victims' associations and their lawyers, including in advocacy and awareness raising efforts, will be critical.

The Team of Experts has committed to supporting the ongoing process until the end of the trials, given their potential to showcase the success by an entirely national-led judicial process, with technical support from the international community, in combatting impunity for international crimes.

trial magistrates and other judicial officials, once appointed, on the prosecution and adjudication of sexual violence crimes, in line with international standards; (ii) development of a communication/awareness campaign on the importance of the trials for sustainable peace and reconciliation; and (iii) and implementation of a protection strategy for the trials, including measures for the protection of witnesses, victims and justice officials.



V. Iraq

PHOTO
Maurício Lima



OBJECTIVE(S)

In line the Joint Communiqué between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations of 2016, the Team of Experts seeks to support the Government of Iraq (including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq) on the implementation of its rule of law provisions. These provisions include legislative and policy reform for victims of sexual violence; ensuring accountability for sexual violence crimes in the country; and the provision of reparations and other forms of victims' assistance measures

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- In 2021, the Team continued advising the Government of Iraq on legislative reform measures that resulted in March 2021 with the enactment of the Yazidi Survivors Law by the Iraqi Council of Representatives to ensure beneficiaries of inter alia sexual violence committed by Daesh against Yazidis, Turkmen Shi'a, Christians, and Shaback communities to be eligible for compensation, residential plots of land, public employment, and rehabilitative measures for survivors. The Team of Experts continued to work with Iraqi authorities and through partners including International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) on the ground on the bylaws, which were adopted in autumn of 2021. The Team's technical advice was to ensure as far as possible that individuals will have the ability to access the assistance offered in the law in safe and secure environments within Iraq, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and abroad/online.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Based on initial assessments in Iraq conducted from 2015 through 2017 at the request of the Government, the Team of Experts found that there were three major areas for rule of law activities in the wake of ISIL's use of both widespread and systematic sexual violence: (i) criminal accountability for the sexual violence committed in Iraq; (ii) the need for holistic transitional justice measures that benefited victims/survivors of ISIL's crimes; and (iii) the reform of law and policies relating to sexual violence. Based on these assessments, the Team formed a programme of work in the country.

While legal provisions may not fully capture international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, the Team of Experts has assessed that existing domestic law such as on trafficking in persons or rape under national law might provide interim avenues for prosecutions, without undercutting the development of, serious international crimes legislation in Iraq. In this respect, the Team with the UNODC Terrorism Branch participated in a hybrid virtual training of judges from the Iraqi

federal and Kurdistan-regional judiciary regarding commitments on accountability under the Joint Communiqué referenced above; national laws about sexual violence, terrorism, and trafficking in persons, as well as best practices in this area; and discussions regarding cumulative charging of offences, without prejudice to future laws on serious international crimes.

On transitional justice, the last annual report of the Team of Experts noted the enactment of the Yazidi Survivors Law in March 2021, a landmark in Iraq's history that recognizes that genocide and crimes against humanity occurred against Yazidis, Turkmen Shi'a, and Shabak communities and provides individuals with concrete benefits, which include, inter alia, compensation, residential land, and quotas in public employment, and rehabilitative and medical measures. The Team provided technical assistance to the Iraqi authorities on ensuring the draft law was expansive as to the affected communities that benefited from the law, the scope of available reparation measures; and the methodology on how beneficiaries might receive benefits.

PHOTO UNICEF
Alessio Romenzi



Pursuant to the Yazidi Survivors Law, bylaws were meant to be enacted within ninety days and a director for survivors' affairs appointed. Accompanying national actors on the ground was IOM and UNAMI. The Team of Experts provided technical advice on the bylaws from New York. One of the most important issues to arise during the drafting process of the bylaws was where and how individuals could receive benefits and ensuring that beneficiaries could apply from several safe locations as well as online. Bylaws for the Yazidi Survivors Law that reflected the input of the Team of Experts were adopted in autumn 2021 and provide the basis for

LOOKING AHEAD

It remains the Team's position that there is a need for broader legislative reform and capacity building in Iraq particularly on the penal and criminal procedure codes with respect to the prosecution of sexual violence. For example, though the statute of the Iraqi High Tribunal that dealt with crimes related to the Baath party regime had provisions on sexual violence that were in line with the Rome Statute, the focus on serious international crimes alone meant that there was no further development of the criminal code in cases of sexual violence, including provisions where perpetrators can still evade justice by offering to marry their victim – a provision that has been reformed in numerous countries throughout the Middle East & North Africa over the past decade. Reforming criminal codes, personal status laws that govern the treatment of survivors (including their children) and their identities, and

moving forward with the implementation of the law in a survivor-centered fashion. A Director of Survivors Affairs to oversee the implementation of the law was appointed by the government of Iraq and the Team continues to be a part of a group of international partners of both UN entities and civil society organizations to support the law's full implementation. The SRSO-SVC with support from the Team continues to advocate for budgetary appropriations to support the Yazidi Survivors Law as a key element of national ownership and delivery.

strengthening institutions already empowered to deal with sexual violence crimes under Iraqi law and law of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq are necessary to guarantee that ISIL's sexual violence crimes can never recur in Iraq and to elevate victims into rights holders through holistic transitional justice. In line with this analysis, in 2022, the Team of Experts will focus on: (i) advancing the ability of survivors of ISIL to have sexual violence cases prosecuted in a survivor-sensitive manner; (ii) working with the Government of Iraq (including the regional government of Kurdistan Region of Iraq) to build the capacity of the Iraqi judicial system to handle cases of conflict-related sexual violence alongside UN partners; and (iii) providing support to the full implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law and other transitional justice measures in Iraq as well as legislative and policy reform on sexual violence more broadly.



VI. Mali

PHOTO MINUSMA
Gema Cortes



OBJECTIVE(S)

In line with Security Council resolution 2584 (2021), the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, adopted in 2013, and the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence signed in 2019, the Team of Experts seeks to ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual violence crimes by strengthening the capacity of the national authorities, especially the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence crimes committed in the context of the 2012 and 2013 crisis.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- Following its 2019 joint assessment report analyzing the national judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence committed in the context of the 2012-2013 crisis, in 2021, the Team of Experts, in partnership with the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC), MINUSMA's Justice and Corrections Section (JCS) and the Women's Protection Adviser Office, co-organized a workshop with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family to discuss the findings and recommendations of the assessment report. The workshop allowed judicial authorities to discuss, define and agree on a strategy prioritizing the prosecution of some emblematic cases and the sequential treatment of the totality of complaints. The prioritization of cases was defined through criteria discussed and identified by judicial authorities including, inter alia, the vulnerability of the victims, the cruelty of the crimes and the impact on victims and communities.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2021, amidst the political situation in country and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Team of Experts financed and supported the deployment of a Rule of Law Officer from JCSC to Mali to follow-up on next steps for judicial authorities. Working closely with the Justice and Corrections and the Women's Protection Advisor Sections of MINUSMA and in partnership with JCSC, the Team continued to build on the 2019 comprehensive assessment of the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence cases from the 2012-2013 crisis in order to support the authorities in defining a way forward to the completion of the existing case-files and the promotion of justice to the victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

In June 2021, in partnership with JCSC, the Justice and Corrections and the Women's Protection Advisor Sections of MINUSMA, the Team Experts financed and supported the organization of a national workshop on conflict-related sexual violence cases committed in northern Mali during the 2012-2013 crisis. Organised jointly with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family, the workshop brought together Malian magistrates, senior judicial and political authorities and civil society organizations representing the victims. Building on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the 2019 assessment, as endorsed by the national authorities, the workshop convened key national stakeholder to discuss, define and agree on a strategy to move forward the judicial proceedings in these cases. This resulted in the adoption of a strategy to prioritize three emblematic cases, comprising six complaints and involving a total of 146 victims. The prioritization of cases was defined through criteria discussed and identified by judicial authorities, including the severity of the crime, the nature of crime, the scale of crimes, the number of victims, the particular vulnerability of victims, the profile of the perpetrators, the degree of responsibility of the perpetrators, the particular cruelty of the crime and the impact of the crimes on the victims and the population.

The workshop was followed by a briefing held in December 2021 for relevant stakeholders in Mali, including civil society organizations and members of the diplomatic community who expressed particular interest in following the cases with the aim to ensure that technical, operational, and strategic support is provided to Malian magistrates to sustain momentum, promote coordination, and maximize resources for the adjudication of the cases.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, to the Team of Experts will focus on: (i) co-organizing a high-level conference with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of the Promotion of Women, in partnership with MINUSMA to maintain the momentum and ensure political support to the national judicial authorities to effectively prosecute and adjudicate the prioritized cases; and (ii) deploying relevant technical experts able to provide sustained and in country specialised technical mentoring to national judicial authorities to ensure the completion of existing case-files.



Rapport d'Atelier, 9-10 Juin, Bamako, Hotel Amitié

RÉPONSE JUDICIAIRE AUX CRIMES DE VIOLENCES SEXUELLES LIÉES AU CONFLIT

COMMIS AU MALI EN 2012-2013



Nations Unies
Equipe d'Experts
Etat de Droit | Violence Sexuelle en période de conflit

UN PHOTO | Marco Dormino



VII. Nigeria



OBJECTIVE(S)

In line with the calls made by the Security Council in 2016 and 2017 to collect and preserve evidence related to the crimes of trafficking as well as conflict-related sexual violence and other serious human rights violations committed by Boko Haram, and the calls made by the African Union Peace and Security Council for accountability for those crimes, the Team of Experts seeks to support the judicial authorities in Nigeria in ensuring accountability for conflict-related sexual violence crimes by strengthening the capacity of the relevant national authorities, especially the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence crimes committed in the context of terrorism.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- The Team of Experts developed and delivered tailored training sessions on accountability for conflict-related sexual violence to strengthen the expertise of the Serious Crimes Response Team on the investigation and prosecution of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Nigeria resulting in a first case of sexual violence being filed on charges of bodily harm under the Terrorism Prevention Act among the charges to be brought to trial in 2022, before the Nigerian national courts.
- The Team of Experts participated in delivering a specialized training for 14 journalists reporting on serious international crimes committed in Nigeria, raising awareness on accountability for core international crimes including crimes of conflict-related sexual violence as well as on the role and need for responsible, knowledgeable and accurate journalism.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Despite the severe impact of the COVID-19 crisis in Nigeria, the Team of Experts continued to collaborate through innovative means with its partners, UNODC, Wayamo and the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, in their capacity building work with national judicial authorities. Building on the work previously undertaken with the Complex Case Group, the Team continued to work closely with the Wayamo Foundation to strengthen the capacity of members of Nigeria's Complex Case Group, a specialised unit under the Directorate of Public Prosecutions of the Federal Ministry of Justice, namely on case management and the use of different types of evidence in the prosecution of international crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence crimes. As a result of the different trainings, initiated in 2017, the Complex Case Group has now included incidents of sexual violence among the charges to be brought to trial in 2022, before

the Nigerian national courts. Furthermore, the Team took part in a one-day workshop organized together with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) to institutionalize International Criminal Law and International Humanitarian Law training in Nigeria. The Team of Experts also contributed to strengthening the capacity of military investigators and prosecutors of the Serious Crimes Response Team, established under the Nigerian national armed forces, through tailored training sessions on accountability for conflict-related sexual violence using the Nigerian and international legal frameworks. Ensuring accountability for crimes committed during counter-terrorism operations will be a key in achieving greater transparency and enhance public trust in security actors and strengthening the rule of law. Further work on enhancing public awareness included the Team's participation in a training on media engagement on

Photo UNICEF
Ashley Gilbertson VII



"Networking for Justice and Accountability," to deliver a session on conflict-related sexual violence crimes and accountability to a

group of 14 journalists currently engaged in reporting on serious international crimes in Nigeria.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, the Team of Experts will focus on: (i) strengthening the institutional engagement with the Nigerian authorities to ensure the mainstreaming and prioritization of sexual violence cases in the judicial response to terrorism and counter-terrorism; (ii) supporting the Complex Case Group, including through strengthening its capacity of criminal analysis for, and

interpretation of criminal patterns in system-crimes as terrorism; (iii) supporting the Complex Case Group in conducting missions and trials, including the first cases containing crimes of sexual violence committed by terrorists; and (iv) strengthening work on capacity building with the Attorney General's Office and with civil society to secure the participation of victims in the proceedings.



VIII. Somalia



OBJECTIVE(S)

In line with Security Council resolution 2592 (2021) and the Joint Communiqué of the Federal Republic of Somalia and the United Nations on the Prevention of Sexual Violence of 7 May 2013, the Team seeks to ensure the development of robust legislation on conflict-related sexual violence and institutional capacity building to lay the foundation for future survivor-sensitive accountability efforts. The Team also seeks to support the Government of Somalia in the implementation of the Joint Communiqué and in particular the rule of law provisions therein.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- The Team continued to advocate for the withdrawal of the draft bill on Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes (2020) and the reintroduction and adoption of the Sexual Offences Bill (2018), which had been drafted with the support of government ministries, civil society, and reflected the input of religious leaders. As a result of these efforts and the advocacy of the international community, the draft bill on Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes (2020) has not moved forward.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In Somalia, persistent armed conflict, structural gender inequality and successive humanitarian crises exposed women and girls to particularly heightened levels of conflict-related sexual violence. The Federal Republic of Somalia, in partnership with the international community, has been working to address these weaknesses. In particular, the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Federal Member States have made commitments and taken steps to strengthen the legislative framework to address sexual violence. One of the most important contributions was the draft Sexual Offences Bill that was introduced to the Somali legislature in 2018. The Sexual Offences Bill was developed by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development starting in 2013. After five years of work with extensive consultation with Somali civil society, government ministries, and religious leaders, it was endorsed unanimously by the Somali Council of Ministers and sent to Parliament. In 2019, the Speaker of the House of the People returned the bill to the cabinet in a process that may have deviated from established law and procedure in Somalia and requested amendment. In an unexpected turn of events, new draft legislation, the Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes Bill, was introduced in June 2020 to the House of the People after the opening of the seventh session of the Federal Parliament.

The Team of Experts prepared a preliminary legal analysis of the new draft bill outlining serious concerns, including the new legislation's tying the age of consent with the maturation of an individual's reproductive organs; criminal penalties for forced marriage only if an individual was "strongly" forced into marriage and without the knowledge and consent of the individual's family; and the lack of numerous substantive offences and modes of liability that could hold perpetrators

Photo left
UNICEF Photo | Karel Prinsloo
Photo right
UN Photo | Tobin Jones



accountable for sexual violence whether as a grave domestic, transnational, or serious international crime. Concerns were also raised that the new draft bill was not consulted with impacted constituencies within Somalia. The analysis noted that the new draft legislation contravened established Somali legislative procedure and Somalia's human rights commitments. This analysis formed the basis for United Nations Assistance Mission

in Somalia (UNSOM)'s advocacy efforts to withdraw the 2020 bill and reintroduce the bill of 2018. Beyond UNSOM, these efforts were supported by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Office of the SRSG-SVC and OHCHR. As a result of these continued efforts, the 2020 draft bill did not move forward at federal level; however, progress on enacting the 2018 legislation has equally remained stalled.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, the Team of Experts will continue to closely follow the situation in Somalia, provide technical support for Government partners for accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and engage when and where opportunities arise in line with the mandate of the Team of Experts. Circumstances permitting,

a joint mission will be undertaken by the Office of the SRSG-SVC Programme Team, UN Action, and the Team of Experts to reinvigorate the implementation of the Joint Communiqué.



IX. South Sudan



OBJECTIVE(S)

In line with Security Council resolution 2567 (2021) and the Joint Communiqué of the Republic of South Sudan and the United Nations on addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence of 11 October 2014, the Team of Experts seeks to ensure the Government of South Sudan develops nationally owned strategic frameworks that enhance the capacity of criminal justice institutions and lays the foundation for future accountability efforts for conflict-related sexual violence. The Team also seeks to support the Government of South Sudan in the implementation of the Joint Communiqué and in particular the rule of law provisions therein.

2021 KEY RESULT(S)

- In line with the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the Team of Experts supported the finalisation, adoption and launch in 2021 by the Republic of South Sudan Joint Defence Board of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan merging the action plans of the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO on conflict-related sexual violence and resulting in the prioritisation of activities and requests for strategic support.
- The Team of Experts successfully advocated for the inclusion of a benchmark regarding the effective implementation of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan in UN Security Council resolution 2577 (2021), which renewed the South Sudan sanctions regime until 31 May 2022.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2021, the Team of Experts worked with United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) in line with the R-ARCSS to support the finalisation, adoption and launch by the Republic of South Sudan Joint Defence Board of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan (the Action Plan) merging the action plans of the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO on conflict-related sexual violence. This process was supported by a joint committee established by the Government and SPLA-IO to lead the consolidation process. The joint committee was comprised of eleven representatives (six of whom are women), including three from the SSPDF, five from SPLA-IO, two from the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, and one from the South Sudan Opposition Alliance. The finalized Action Plan includes pillars on (i) mainstreaming sexual violence considerations in security arrangements under the R-ARCSS; (ii) external communication and outreach; (iii) training, awareness raising and sensitization; (iv) accountability and oversight; (v) protection of victims, witnesses and judicial actors; and (vi) monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Photo left and right
UNICEF | Sebastian Rich



On 19 June 2021, the Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Hon. Angelina Teny, and senior leadership of the Joint Defence Board launched the Action Plan. This was a significant event as it coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict and was attended by senior personnel from the armed forces and members of the diplomatic community in Juba. During the event representatives of the Joint Defence Board acknowledged the prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence and the importance of addressing sexual violence as part of the formation of a unified professional national army and to the de-listing of groups from the annex of the Secretary-General's annual report on conflict-related sexual violence.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, the Team of Experts will focus on: (i) supporting the implementation of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan and (ii) supporting the implementation of the South Sudan National Police Service action plan. Such support is aimed at developing

The Team of Experts also successfully advocated for the inclusion of a benchmark regarding the effective implementation of the Action Plan in UN Security Council resolution 2577 (2021) adopted on 28 May 2021. The inclusion of this benchmark provides further incentive to the Government to implement the provisions of the Action Plan as well as a means of accountability for the Security Council to encourage and monitor government implementation.

nationally owned strategic frameworks and at enhancing the capacity of criminal justice institutions to lay the foundation for future accountability efforts for conflict-related sexual violence.



Photo top left
Ethiopia

Yasuyoshi Chiba

Photo bottom left
Libya

UNHCR | Jason Founten

Photo top right
Myanmar

IRIN | Stefanie Glinski

Photo bottom right
Sudan

IRIN | Giovanni Diffidenti

In Ethiopia, the Team of Experts supported the SRSO-SVC in her engagements on the Tigray conflict with Ethiopian counterparts, UN entities, civil society organizations, and members of the international community. The Team of Experts has been following closely the joint investigation by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and OHCHR, covering the period from November 2020 to June 2021, and the establishment of an inter-ministerial task force by the Ethiopian authorities to design and implement a strategy to investigate allegations in the report, provide justice and redress to victims, in particular those of gender-based violence. In 2022, the Team of Experts will work closely with OHCHR to support the implementation of the recommendations, including through the provision of training on the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence.

In Libya, the Team of Experts contributed to a legislative review process undertaken by Libyan national authorities in conjunction with UN partners to identify gaps in the Libyan penal code to address the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and to prevent trafficking in persons. Any support to legislative initiatives in Libya remains a long-term effort due to the instability of Libya's democratic institutions and resultant threats against women participating in civic

life. Nevertheless in 2022, the Team of Experts will focus on supporting the Libyan justice actors to hold accountable perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence including by conducting a thorough assessment of needs, gaps, and opportunities; and supporting legislative reform initiatives that aim to strengthen accountability for conflict-related sexual violence.

In Myanmar, although the Government of Myanmar and the Office of the SRSO-SVC were conducting discussions on the implementation of the Joint Communiqué, a coup d'état in February 2021 led to those efforts on the ground being stalled. The mandate therefore has focused consistently on political advocacy surrounding Myanmar rather than the provision of specific technical expertise that the Team provides. The Team however continued to follow developments within the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. In 2022, the Team of Experts will continue to monitor developments and will engage directly in Myanmar when there are opportunities to do so in complementarity with its UN partners and in line with the Team's Security Council mandate.

In Sudan, the Team of Experts supported the SRSO-SVC in her advocacy efforts following mass protests in Khartoum on 19 December during which serious allegations of rape and gang rape against women, girls and boys by elements of the security forces were documented by the United Nations. In her statement the SRSO-SVC stressed the need to accelerate the implementation of the Framework of Cooperation of the Republic of the Sudan and the United Nations on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict of 10 March 2020 through concrete measures including the documentation, investigation and prosecution of sexual violence to reinforce individual and command responsibility as well as accountability. In 2022, the Team of Experts will conduct a technical assessment mission to explore programmatic engagement opportunities.

X. OTHER SITUATIONS OF CONCERN

In addition to the specific country engagements described above, the Team of Experts also followed several other situations of concern.

C. THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

I. POLICING

Since its establishment, the Team of Experts has worked closely with national law enforcement authorities. This work has included providing mentoring, capacity building and operational support for the establishment in CAR of the



first investigative unit specialized on sexual violence, the UMIRR, as well as providing training and mentoring for the Special Police for the Protection of Children and the Prevention of Sexual Violence (Police spéciale de Protection de l'Enfant et de Prévention des Violences Sexuelles) in the DRC. This engagement has resulted in positive outcomes, notably allowing to conclude a number of investigations into conflict-related sexual crimes opening the road to their prosecution.¹⁴

Between 2017 and 2019, the Team of Experts benefitted from the expertise of a Police Expert seconded by Sweden. The work of this Police Expert helped the Team deepen its capacity building support to national judicial institutions responsible for carrying out investigations of sexual violence cases in the countries of intervention, as well as developed new partnerships, especially with the Police Division of the UNPOL. Since 2019, the Team of Experts has not benefitted from the expertise of a dedicated Police Expert. Nevertheless, the Team of Experts continues expanding its country specific projects to improve the national capacity to investigate and prosecute conflict-related sexual violence, and the collaboration with UNPOL is growing and joint activities are currently being developed. Building on the needs identified during its field work, in 2022 the Team of Experts plans to consolidate its police expertise through a new Police Expert which will be embedded in UNPOL to allow the Team to provide specialised technical policing and investigation expertise and operational support for the national judicial institutions responsible for investigating sexual violence crimes in the countries of intervention, as well as to deepen the collaboration between the Team of Experts and UNPOL.

II. TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND REPARATIONS

The Team of Experts is mandated to draw Member States' attention to the "full range of justice mechanisms to be considered" in the aftermath of crimes of conflict-related sexual violence. Although criminal justice is at the core of the Team of Experts' Security Council mandate and work, transitional justice including reparations are core areas where the Team focuses throughout each country situation in order to transform the underlying conditions that led to conflict-related sexual violence occurring at all. As noted above, this has included ensuring active work on reparations measures from Colombia to DRC to Iraq. It has included working with Guinean authorities to ensure that their criminal justice procedures for the 28 September 2009 events include advance thinking on transitional justice measures including reparations. Further, legislative and security sector reform, as well as amplifying the advocacy of CSOs to government officials on the full range of survivors' needs is an important part of the Team of Experts' work. In the instances outlined above, the Team of Experts has achieved concrete results in either advancing new legislation (such as in Colombia and Iraq); framing measures of reparation while pursuing criminal justice in tandem (as in Guinea); and working with CSOs that provide victims representation and the Congolese government to ensure reparations judgements are paid (ongoing). For example, in the DRC, the Team provided technical advice to the Presidency and the Ministry of Human Rights to inform the establishment of a reparations fund for victims of international crimes, including victims of conflict-related sexual violence.



Photos
Team of Experts



III. TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES - TERRORISM AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

In 2021, building on its previous work, the Team of Experts continued expanding its workstream specifically focusing on the judicial response to the transnational crimes of conflict-related sexual violence committed in the context of terrorism and trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual violence and/or exploitation, when committed in situations of conflict.

While both crimes continued to be increasingly documented in 2021, the absence of judicial response has resulted in a significant and concerning impunity gap. Acknowledging this challenge, in 2021 the Team of Experts continued to comprehensively map the legal and judicial response provided to conflict-related sexual violence committed in the context of terrorism in key situations, identifying gaps, opportunities and specific recommendations that should allow the relevant actors – Member States, national, regional, and international organisations – to address it. The findings of this analysis should shape discussions with relevant partners and Member States in 2022 and the Team's engagement.

In parallel to this study, the Team continued to actively engage with relevant working groups – within the UN and other intergovernmental fora – in the area of terrorism and trafficking to acknowledge and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. In September 2021, in collaboration with UNODC and the School of Transnational Governance of the European University Institute (EUI) the Team co-hosted the first course on Gender Dimensions and Women's Rights in Terrorism. The course was attended by 20 mid-career professionals namely from Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC; OSCE; MINUSMA; UNODC; Nigeria National Judicial Institute; UN Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity; UN Sanctions Committees; and Myanmar Independent Investigation Mechanism. The course explored the role of gender in terrorism and counter-terrorism; the role of women and men in terrorist groups and the

impact terrorism has on victims with a highly significant gender dimension. The Team focused specifically on the relation between conflict-related sexual violence and terrorism, criminal patterns, and existing rule of law responses

In its country engagements, the Team of Experts has continued to develop specific activities to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence committed in the context of terrorism. In Nigeria, the Team continued to work with the Attorney General's specialised unit focusing on crimes committed by Boko Haram, as well as other institutions¹⁵. In Mali, the Team continued to actively work alongside national authorities to ensure a judicial response to the crimes of sexual violence attributed to non-state armed groups, including terrorist groups that occupied Northern Mali in 2012-13¹⁶. In Iraq, the Team continued to monitor the implementation of the Yazidi Women Survivors Law and provided capacity building to judges from the federal government of Iraq and the Kurdistan regional government. on the rights of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence¹⁷. In Mozambique, the Team built expertise and awareness on conflict-related sexual violence crimes among national investigators and prosecutors attending a UNODC training course on Strengthening Capacity for Effective Investigation of Terrorism Offences. Further, the Team of Experts continued to examine ways in which to use third State jurisdiction to ensure coverage of serious international crimes, terrorism, and trafficking in persons with Member State consent.

Based on this work, the Team will develop a strategy for engagement in terrorism and counter-terrorism contexts, in order to provide support to the national stakeholders' efforts toward accountability for conflict related sexual violence.

¹⁴ See section B. Country Specific Engagements on CAR and DRC.

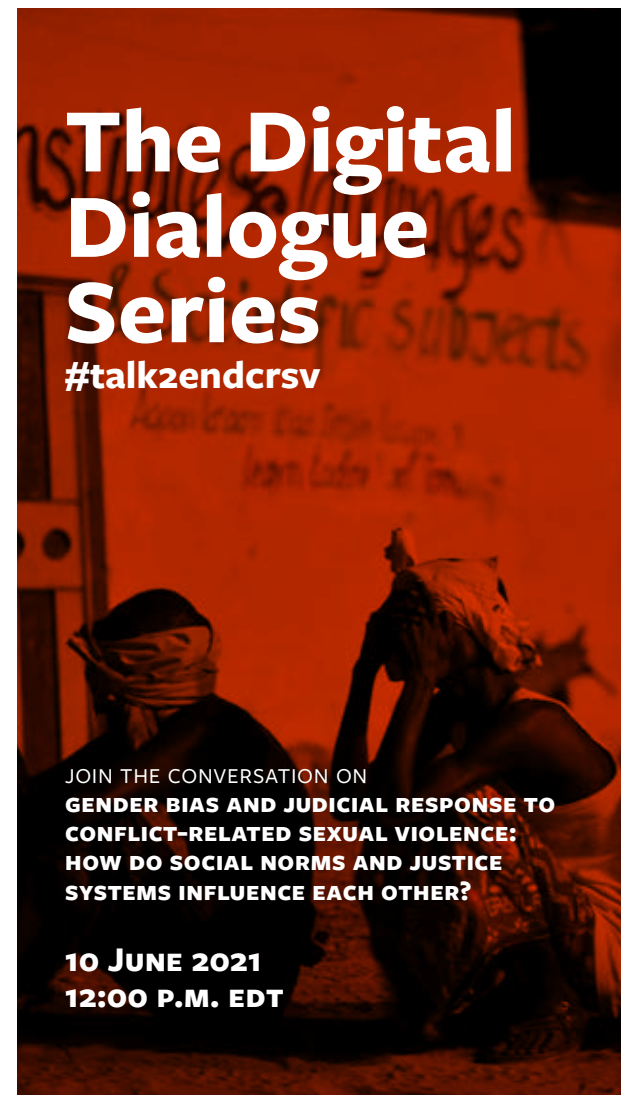
¹⁵ See section B. Country Specific Engagements on Nigeria.
¹⁶ See section B. Country Specific Engagements on Mali.
¹⁷ See section B. Country Specific Engagements on Iraq.

D. KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

I. DIGITAL DIALOGUE SERIES

Faced with the challenges of COVID-19, the Team set up an innovative initiative to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience contained in the Special Issue of the Journal of International and Criminal Justice that was edited and published with the Team in 2020¹⁸. Instead of an in-person launch of the Special Issue, the Team of Experts, together with partners¹⁹, initiated a webinar series, the Digital Dialogue Series, addressing topics covered in the Special Issue with some of the leading practitioners in the field. The Digital Dialogue Series was designed to ensure that academics, policymakers, and practitioners can share their experiences including successes and challenges, provide best practice examples to others, provoke critical reflections, and inspire a community of practice to deliver truly accessible and effective victim-sensitive justice. This initiative was an overwhelming success. In 2021, the Team and its partners held the final three webinars of the Digital Dialogue Series. The Series brought together dozens of contributing authors to the Special Issue of the Journal of International Criminal Justice, academics, experts, and practitioners to have critical discussions on challenges affecting the provision of survivor-sensitive justice for conflict-related sexual violence²⁰. The last three Dialogues allowed leading experts to exchange on the justice response to conflict-related sexual violence crimes associated with the slave trade, slavery, and trafficking; on the normative, legal, and operational response to providing reparations; as well as on how justice systems address, or fail to address, gender in their institutional structures, processes, and jurisprudence. The Digital Dialogue Series brought together more than 4,200 viewers across the globe and has formed the basis for a community of practice.

Overall, the initiative has given the agenda of accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and the Team of Experts renewed visibility. Analysis shows that it has also resulted in creating a small community of practitioners with the same viewers regularly following the webinar. The quality of the series, including, its technical added-value to practitioners pursuing accountability for conflict-related sexual violence has been repeatedly praised.



II. MODEL LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS AND GUIDANCE ON THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND LEGISLATIVE WORKSTREAMS

To meet the request of Member States and regional organizations, the Team of Experts provided technical expertise to the Office of the SRSO-SVCs Model Legislative Provisions and Guidance on the Investigation and Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, which was released in English on 19 June 2021 on the International Day for the Elimination of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The Model Legislative Provisions provide a tool for survivor-sensitive legal reform on conflict-related sexual violence as a serious international crime, based on international law precedents and comparative precedents from numerous national jurisdictions. The Team has funded translations of the Model Legislative Provisions into Arabic, French and Spanish for broad use with its partners. Further in early 2022, the Team will be hiring a consultant to review and map the laws on conflict-related sexual violence from each of the jurisdictions mentioned in the annual report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence. The aim of this exercise is to identify countries most in need and most interested in legal reforms at national level. This exercise will likely run through the period 2022-2024.

The Team also contributed to the sexual violence aspects of the IPU/UNOCT/UNCCT/UNODC Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism in compliance with resolution 2331 (2016) of the Security Council. The Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism will be released in early 2022.

III. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

After more than a decade of operation, the Team of Experts has developed significant knowledge of both internal and external practice in supporting survivor-sensitive accountability for crimes of conflict-related sexual violence in some of the world's most challenging and fragile contexts. In order to improve the efficiency of delivery and to be able to share its practices with others working in the field, the Team of Experts has developed a more robust knowledge management initiative in 2021 and is

beginning its archiving of existing files in 2022. It is hoped that with a more robust knowledge management programme the Team can better facilitate the use of best practices to address conflict-related sexual violence it has developed over the Team's existence. The Team is also exploring other ways of ensuring stronger use of legal technology given the volume of data and information the Team and its national governmental partners receive.



¹⁸ Published by Oxford University Press, the Table of Contents of the Special Issue is located here: <https://academic.oup.com/jicj/issue/18/2>.

¹⁹ The Institute for Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis; Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard University; the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University; and the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute.

²⁰ The recordings of each session can be accessed here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwZuW_WzKHq56ULnyhy_MKB72eIgtJya.

E. PARTNERSHIPS

The work of the Team of Experts is based on partnerships, from its “co-lead entity” structure that currently includes United Nations Department of Peace Operations, OHCHR, the Office of the SRSO-SVC and UNDP and helps the United Nations to deliver as one, to its engagement with Member States. The Team of Experts works closely with a variety of partners to ensure complementarity and sustainability at international, regional, and national levels noting that the fight against impunity for conflict-related sexual violence will only succeed if international, regional and national stakeholders work in synergy, based on common priorities and approaches.

I. INTERNATIONAL

United Nations



The Team of Experts works in close partnership with its co-lead entities, in line with the SRSO-SVC’s strategic leadership within the United Nations to ensure coordination and coherence of efforts to address criminal accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and leverage the comparative advantage of co-leads. Specifically, the Team of Experts makes recommendations to the SRSO-SVC for high-level political advocacy; focuses on priority countries identified by the SRSO-SVC; and contributes to the justice-related components of joint communiqués or frameworks of cooperation and their associated implementation or action plans.

The Team of Experts also relies on and partners with relevant human rights mechanisms, including special procedures of the Human Rights Council and UN treaty bodies on issues that cut across mandates and areas of mutual concern. In line with the Frameworks of Cooperation signed between the Office of the SRSO-SVC and the CEDAW and CRC Committees, in July 2018 and 4 February 2020 respectively, the Team contributed to the SRSO-SVC’s engagement with the Committees which resulted in the Committees’ joint statement, on 19 November 2021, to inform the forthcoming Secretary-General’s special thematic report on women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict and children born of sexual violence in conflict. The Team also continued to contribute to the Office of SRSO-SVC’s submissions

on countries under examination by the CEDAW Committee, including South Sudan, whose concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SSD/CO/1) included a call to implement the Joint Communiqué of the Republic of South Sudan and the United Nations on addressing conflict-related sexual violence (2014) and avail itself of international assistance, including from the Team of Experts, to promote zero tolerance on the commission of such acts through clear orders prohibiting sexual violence, reinforcement of the military justice system, and training for military personnel. In 2021, the Team continued to facilitate engagement with special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the SRSO-SVC identifying potential areas of collaboration with several mandate holders, including the Independent Experts on the situation of human rights in the CAR and Somalia, and the Special Rapporteurs on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. The Team has also facilitated engagement with relevant international commissions of inquiry, commissions on human rights, fact-finding missions and other investigative bodies. The Team of Experts also works in partnership with the UN Global Focal Point for Rule of Law to enhance the coordination and coherence of its work in the areas of security, police, justice, and corrections and in partnership with UN Action to facilitate coordination and information sharing with UN Action member entities.

In 2021 the Team continued to explore increased partnerships with UNPOL and UNODC as two major actors on issues related to the mandate and initiatives of the Team. These efforts will be pursued in the upcoming year.

The Team of Experts works closely with a variety of partners to ensure complementarity and sustainability at international, regional, and national levels noting that the fight against impunity for conflict-related sexual violence will only succeed if international, regional and national stakeholders work in synergy, based on common priorities and approaches.

Inter-governmental



The Team of Experts works in partnership with Member States to share information and coordinate its efforts and engages with international NGOs working on issues related to accountability for conflict-related sexual violence.

In 2021, the Team of Experts facilitated the Office of the SRSO-SVC’s engagement with and signature of a Framework of Cooperation with the IPU on 18 June 2021 to ensure operational engagement with parliamentarians to address conflict-related sexual violence. In 2022, the Team will accompany the SRSO to the 144th Assembly of the IPU in Indonesia and where she will brief the IPU’s committees on the work of the mandate, including the Team’s efforts to support rule of law reform on conflict-related sexual violence.

Academic Research

The Team of Experts works with world renowned academics and researchers to share information, to contribute to academic research and the expansion of knowledge and expertise on conflict-related sexual violence, as well as to undertake joint activities. In 2020, the Team of Experts partnered with four preeminent universities – the Institute for Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis; Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard University; the Institute for the Study of Human

Rights, the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University; and the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute (STG-EUI) – to produce together a series of seven webinars, the Digital Dialogue Series, to deepen the analysis of specific topics related to the national judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence covered in the Special Issue that the Team of Experts edited and published with the Journal of International Criminal Justice. The series concluded in June 2021, with the final three sessions of the series that covered topics including the justice response to conflict-related sexual violence crimes associated with the slave trade, slavery and trafficking, the normative, legal, and operational response to providing reparations, as well as on how justice systems address (or fail to) gender in their institutional structures, processes, and jurisprudence. Overall, the Digital Dialogue Series reached more than four thousand viewers. Following each webinar, in collaboration with the international law blog *Opinio Juris*, the Team of Experts produced a blog post targeting academics and international law practitioners to further advance discussions. In June 2021, this partnership even led to the publication of a dedicated joint blog symposium on accountability for conflict-related sexual violence crimes associated with slave trade, slavery and trafficking. Also, in June and in November 2021, in collaboration with UNODC and STG-EUI, the Team of Experts launched two sessions of the Executive Training on Gender Dimensions and Women’s Rights in Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism, which brought together 25 junior and mid-career professionals. The course explored the role of gender in terrorism and counterterrorism; the role of women and men in terrorist groups and the impact terrorism has on victims with a highly significant gender dimension. The Team focused specifically on the relation between conflict-related sexual violence and terrorism, criminal patterns, and existing rule of law responses.

Photo
UKRINFORM

II. REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL

United Nations

At the regional and sub-regional levels, the Team of Experts engages and coordinates with UN regional offices, including those of the co-lead entities, as appropriate.

Regional and Sub-Regional Bodies

The Team of Experts engages and coordinates with organizations including the African Union, the European Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes, the League of Arab States, and CSOs among others to achieve economies of scale and to exchange experiences from different regions.



III. NATIONAL

United Nations

The Team of Experts works in coordination with the senior most UN official in-country (Special Representatives of the Secretary-General or Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, or in non-mission settings, Resident Coordinators) in partnership with UN country teams, UN peace operations, and other UN actors including the Development Coordination Office to enhance the predictability, coherence, accountability, and effectiveness of the work of the Team of Experts.

The Team of Experts' approach, in line with its unique co-lead entity structure, allows it to leverage the United Nations presence in-country to integrate the Team's strategic goals, projects, and programmes into existing United Nations structures and initiatives. For example, the Team is currently implementing within existing United Nations joint rule of law programmes two dedicated projects in CAR and DRC. Technical experts are deployed within Peace Operations or country offices of co-lead entities as appropriate. This allows the Team to ensure coherence and minimize cost in responding crimes of sexual violence.

Host Government

With the consent of the host government, the Team of Experts works in partnership with national authorities and engages with parties to conflict to secure time-bound commitments and implementation plans, to assess efforts to address criminal accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and to strengthen existing capacity in line with relevant UN policies.

Civil Society

The Team of Experts also engages with relevant CSOs, victims' associations and national human rights institutions working to advance accountability for conflict-related sexual violence to ensure that the views and objectives of victims and affected communities inform the work of the Team of Experts.

Academic

The Team of Experts continued providing material and technical support to Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, for the completion of three new perception surveys that started in 2019 in CAR. These surveys will provide important insights on sexual violence and gender-based violence, the restoration of State authority and transitional justice²¹.



Photo
Team of Experts



Photo
Team of Experts

²¹ For the last report, see HHI, Peace Justice and Security Polls, Central African Republic, Report 6 - June 2021 (Data from December 2020), available at http://www.peacebuildingdata.org/sites/m/pdf/CAR_Poll6_ENG.pdf.

RESOURCES

Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) recommended that the Team of Experts make use of “existing human resources within the United Nations system and voluntary contributions.” From the outset, the Team of Experts has been funded entirely through voluntary contributions for all staffing, programmatic and operational costs, and considerable effort is dedicated to ensuring that adequate resources are mobilised to meet current commitments and fulfil the Team’s obligations under its Security Council mandate. In 2021, the Team of Experts received voluntary contributions totalling \$2,236,198 from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

A. CORE CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributor	Contribution Amount (2021)	Total Contribution
Belgium	\$281,741	\$464,167
Denmark	\$0	\$490,915
Estonia	\$56,642	\$190,835
Germany	\$588,519	\$709,610
Italy	\$48,850	\$76,398
Japan	\$0	\$448,932 ²²
Luxembourg	\$3,327	\$3,327
Netherlands	\$0	\$346,588
Sweden (SIDA) ²³	\$0	\$2,192,007
Turkey	\$0	\$2,552
United Arab Emirates	\$51,043	\$51,043
United Kingdom	\$2,081,828	\$2,081,828
Total	\$1,030,122	\$7,908,283

B. COUNTRY SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributor	Contribution Amount (2021)	Total Contribution	Countries Supported
Finland	\$112,834	\$348,390	Africa
Japan	\$0	\$2,262,986	CAR, DRC, Iraq
United Kingdom	\$1,093,242	\$1,093,242	CAR, DRC
TOTAL	\$1,206,076	\$3,704,618	

C. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributor	In-Kind Contribution	Location of Support
Belgium	JPO	USA (New York)
France	JPO	USA (New York)

“ In 2021, the Team of Experts received voluntary contributions totalling

\$2,236,198

from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and United Kingdom.

JOINT PROGRAMME 2020-2024

DURATION: **5 YEARS**
START DATE: **1 JANUARY 2020**
END DATE: **31 DECEMBER 2024**
BUDGET: **\$14,449,317**

Please follow the team on twitter, facebook and instagram

@endrapeinwar
#UNTOExperts

for more information, contact:
Ms. Chloe Marnay-Baszanger
marnay-baszanger@un.org
TOE-ROL-SVC@un.org