

UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Annual Report



2021



STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



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Please note that all photos included in this report are for illustration purposes only. Persons featured in the photos are not necessarily CRSV survivors.

Cover Photo: UNFPA Mozambique | Mbuto Machili
 Photo on Page 7: UN Women Rwanda
 Photos on Page 15 (L-R): UNDP Pakistan; UNFPA | Asad Zaidi; UN Women | Alioune Ndiaye






















Photos on Pages 34+35 (L-R): UNDP TimorLeste; UN Women Liberia; UN Women | Christopher Herwig; UN Women | Alioune Ndiaye; UN Women Americas and Caribbean | Carmen Martinez; UNDP Rwanda; GGPS Chappri
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CAR	Central African Republic	SRSR-CAAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape	SRSR-SVC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
CRSV	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	SRSR-VAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
CRSV-MPTF	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund	SVC	Sexual Violence in Conflict
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	SWPA	Senior Women Protection Adviser
FoC	Framework of Cooperation	ToC	Theory of Change
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	TOE	United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict
GBVIMS+	Gender-based Violence Information Management System+	TOR	Term of Reference
IDP	Internally Displaced Person	UAE	United Arab Emirates
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant	UMIRR	Joint Rapid Response and Prevention Unit for Sexual Violence against Women and Children
JC	Joint Communiqué	UN	United Nations
JPO	Junior Professional Officer	UN Action	United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex	UN Action MPTF	United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MARA	Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangement	UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	UNAMID	United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health	UNITAMS	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund	UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
MPTFO	UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office	UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation	WPA	Women's Protection Adviser
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organisation	WPS	Women, Peace and Security
RMC	Resource Management Committee		
SCR	Security Council resolution		
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence		
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure		
SRN	Stop Rape Now		
SRSR	Special Representative of the Secretary-General		



UN ACTION NETWORK MEMBERS

 CTED - UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	 OSAPG - Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide	 UNHCR - UN High Commissioner for Refugees
 DPPA - Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	 OSGEY - Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth	 UNICEF - UN Children's Fund
 DPO - Department of Peace Operations	 OSRSG-CAAC - Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict	 UNOCT - UN Office of Counter-Terrorism
 IOM - International Organization for Migration	 OSRSG-VAC - Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children	 UNODA - UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
 ITC - International Trade Centre	 UNAIDS - Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS	 UNODC - UN Office on Drugs and Crime
 OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	 UNDP - UN Development Programme	 UN Women - UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
 OHCHR - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	 UNFPA - UN Population Fund	 WHO - World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rising to the challenges of the 2021 reporting period, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Network (UN Action or the Network) persevered in its efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Working in alignment with its 2020-2025 Strategic Framework and 2020-2021 Workplan, the Network continued to ensure that CRSV is prevented, survivors' needs are met and accountability of perpetrators is enhanced through coordinated and multi-stakeholder initiatives and activities, at both the international and country level.

During this period, UN Action was able to coordinate at all levels, from convening its Steering Committee, to advancing initiatives at the technical-level through Network entity Focal Points, and to organising strategic retreats and public events. As the drivers of the Network, Focal Points continued to meet on a monthly basis for both regular meetings and emergency meetings to share timely information on CRSV reports and trends and to coordinate actions and messaging on the UN's response. In total, Focal Points were convened on eight situations of concern to strengthen capacity and technical expertise on CRSV.

To help increase the Network's visibility, UN Action launched its bi-annual newsletter in August 2021, highlighting the Network's initiatives, members, and supporters in the global response to CRSV. UN Action also hosted a Donor Roundtable on the margins of the 76th General Assembly in September 2021, which featured remarks from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) and high-level representatives of Member State who expressed their commitments to UN Action and the CRSV mandate. The Roundtable also included presentations from colleagues who supported UN Action's joint projects providing life-saving and life-changing support to survivors in Somalia and Iraq.

The Network also grew from 19 to 21 member entities, with the addition of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED). These new members will help contribute to economic empowerment initiatives for CRSV survivors, and enhance understanding of the nexus between CRSV and terrorism, respectively. Additionally, the UN Action Network had another successful year of consultations to inform the annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV, as well as the publication of the first Report of the Secretary-General on Women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict and children born of sexual violence in conflict.

2021 also saw the development of numerous UN Action guidance documents and knowledge products aimed at preventing and responding to CRSV. For example, the Network began conducting a joint gaps assessment of CRSV efforts in countries of concern by developing a methodology and drafting a comprehensive desk review of the gaps identified and priority areas for response. This assessment will be piloted in the Central African Republic, with the document finalised in 2022. In addition, under the strategic direction of the SRSG-SVC, development began on a Framework on the Prevention of CRSV through multiple rounds of consultations and technical inputs by member entities. This practical tool and guidance will be implemented at the regional, national and local levels to provide stakeholders with a roadmap to foster prevention efforts. The Framework will also be finalised and launched in 2022.



To integrate a survivor-centred approach into activities that advance the CRSV mandate, the Network created an outline for a guidance document titled, 'Advancing Principles of a Survivor-Centred Approach to the Prevention and Response to CRSV'. In 2022, UN Action will use a collection of case studies that illustrate when a survivor-centred approach was used successfully or unsuccessfully to help inform and finalise the document. Lastly, UN Action initiated an assessment of the operationalisation of the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (the MARA), which will ultimately lead to the update of the Provisional Guidance Note on Resolution 1960 (2010) in 2022.

Acknowledging these notable successes, UN Action continued to face challenges in garnering predictable and sustainable resources for its fund, the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund (CRSV-MPTF). As a result, UN Action was only able to support two projects: one in Somalia and one in the Middle East region, specifically in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. However, UN Action also began initiating new strategic partnerships and private sector engagement to respond to this identified need for dedicated financial resources to address CRSV. In November 2021, the SRSG-SVC and the UN Action Coordinator travelled to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to attend the Dubai Expo and engage with Emirati Government officials. Such endeavours will continue in 2022, with the SRSG-SVC and Coordinator returning to the Middle East region to further launch partnerships with Member States and private sector companies.

To help inform these fundraising efforts, UN Action also developed both an Advocacy and Fundraising Strategy for 2022-2026, through a wide consultation process with stakeholders in 2021. These strategies articulated the direction for the Network to reach its newly identified goal of raising \$100 million USD by 2026 from diverse sources, including private sector companies and foundations. To support this ambition, the Network will revitalise and re-brand the Stop Rape Now campaign in order to raise awareness and engage traditional and non-traditional stakeholders in support of CRSV survivors.

Moving forward, the Network will continue to prioritise advancing the needs of CRSV survivors. The Network's strategy focuses on ensuring that political agreements are translated into tangible actions at the country-level in ways that directly improve survivors' lives through expanded access to comprehensive, life-saving, multi-sectoral services, including quality medical and psychosocial services, sexual and reproductive health and rights, rehabilitation, livelihood support, enhanced accountability through judicial reforms, and support for reparations-related processes. The Network will also place an emphasis on economic empowerment and livelihood support of survivors of CRSV to ensure that survivors can achieve a life of personal and economic independence.

As always, UN Action will focus on its clear strategic priorities, while responding to rapidly shifting situations of concern, guided by the SRSG-SVC's vision, Security Council resolutions relevant to CRSV, and the needs of survivors of CRSV.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Network (UN Action or the Network) brings together the collective experience and institutional capacity of the UN system, and over the last 14 years has filled critical knowledge gaps, generated policy, guidance, and training materials to inform evidence-based prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) at the global and country-level. UN Action funds these efforts through the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund (CRSV-MPTF), which (including activities funded through its predecessor, the UN Action MPTF), has supported 54 projects across 22 conflict-affected countries since 2008, as well as regional and global-level initiatives. These projects have fostered collaboration across UN entities and catalysed innovative initiatives and programming in CRSV. Notably, the UN Action Network is the only UN system-wide initiative that leads advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilisation and joint programming to prevent and respond to CRSV and is comprised of 21 UN entities¹. This report details work undertaken by the Network in 2021, as it relates to deliverables specified in UN Action’s Strategic Framework for 2020 – 2025 and its attending 2020-2021 Workplan.

UN ACTION: OVERVIEW

UN Action was created in 2007 in response to the “*Call to Action*” of the June 2006 Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, held in Brussels. The establishment of UN Action responded to calls from within the UN, as well as from women’s rights organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Member States, to elevate sexual violence politically, as a peace and security challenge, and as a humanitarian, human rights, gender and development issue.

In June 2007, the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee endorsed UN Action as “a critical joint UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilisation, and joint programming around sexual violence in conflict”. In all relevant Security Council resolutions (SCRs), notably 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2331 (2016) and 2467 (2019), the Council specifically highlights UN Action as the critical interagency coordination forum to address CRSV.

In line with the relevant Security Council resolutions mentioned above, UN Action seeks to synergise efforts of humanitarian, human rights, development, political, peacekeeping, and security actors to address CRSV, reinforcing good practices, strengthening coordination, and avoiding duplication of efforts. To achieve this synergy of action, UN Action harnesses the comparative strengths of each UN entity for a force-multiplier effect, recognising that sexual violence requires a broad-based, multisectoral response.

UN Action works through a network of Focal Points from each member entity and is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of Principals from each of the 21 entities. The Security Council appointed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) to provide strategic guidance as the Chair to the Network; this work is supported by a Secretariat, located in the Office of the SRSG-SVC (OSRSG-SVC).

Further, UN Action is the primary consultation forum for the annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV. The Report serves not only as a public record of this crime, but also as a global advocacy instrument for driving the field of CRSV prevention and response forward. Annually, the Report brings to light new trends and patterns on CRSV and additionally serves as an information base and reference tool for strategic advocacy and enhanced operational response.

Subsequent annual Reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council have detailed critical dimensions and emerging challenges for addressing CRSV. Most recently, these include: addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children born of wartime rape and their mothers, the use of sexual violence to pursue strategies and tactics of terrorism, sexual slavery and conflict-driven human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and forced marriage, as well as the need for enhanced justice and accountability, including reparations for survivors of CRSV. In 2019, the Security Council enshrined these new areas into resolution 2467 (2019), thereby providing strategic direction on essential elements that need to be considered in a survivor-centred approach to addressing CRSV. Further, the Security Council, under Operative Paragraph 34 in the same resolution, encouraged UN Action to revise and continue development of innovative operational tools and guidance in these new areas.

2008

SC resolution 1820

Provided the conceptual foundation and broad framing of CRSV and identified sexual violence as part of the Peace and Security Agenda

2009

SC resolution 1888

Created the role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as the role of UN Action to implement the CRSV mandate

2010

SC resolution 1960

Established the UN’s reporting mechanism to collect data on CRSV cases and patterns at the local level and affirmed the Security Council’s commitment to leverage all means to address CRSV

2013

SC resolution 2106

Called for prevention efforts to address CRSV and noted that women and girls are disproportionately affected by CRSV

2015

SC resolution 2242

Recognised that CRSV is used strategically by certain terrorist groups and used as a tactic of terrorism

2016

SC resolution 2331

Identified that human trafficking can be used to exacerbate conflict, while classifying human trafficking survivors as terrorism survivors

2019

SC resolution 2467

Highlighted the need for a survivor-centred approach in the prevention and response to CRSV and acknowledged the need to tackle CRSV root causes

¹ CTED, DPPA, DPO, IOM, ITC, OCHA, OHCHR, OSAPG, OSG’s Youth Envoy, OSRSG-CAAC, OSRSG-VAC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCT, UNODA, UNODC, UN Women and WHO

Shortly after the issuance of Security Council resolution 2467 (2019), UN Action developed its new Strategic Framework (2020 – 2025), focusing particularly on a comprehensive and survivor-centred approach to addressing CRSV, with a renewed emphasis on the prevention of CRSV, including through preventing its structural root causes.

The overarching goal of UN Action is that CRSV is prevented, survivors' needs are met and accountability of perpetrators is enhanced.

SDG ACHIEVEMENTS

The work of UN Action contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), primarily SDGs 5 and 16:



To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



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

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE OF UN ACTION

The UN Action Network Steering Committee

UN Action is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of principals and senior officials from its member entities and is chaired by the SRSVC. As per the Terms of Reference (TOR), the Steering Committee serves as a high-level forum for driving the strategic direction of the Network and coordinating substantive policy and operational matters through consensus-based decisions on concerted courses of action.

The UN Action Network Focal Points

UN Action Focal Points serve as the main technical representatives for entities in the UN Action Network and act as liaisons between their entities, including country offices/missions, and UN Action, to ensure two-way communication, knowledge sharing and coordinated action.

The UN Action Secretariat

The UN Action Secretariat, located in the OSRSVC, coordinates and convenes the UN Action Network at the working-level, and provides technical and administrative support. It supports the preparation of the annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV, frames advocacy messages for UN Action and the SRSVC, supports and engages in joint missions in situations of concern, conducts training, briefings and outreach activities, and develops strategic partnerships with a broad range of actors. The Secretariat also facilitates UN Action's strategic planning, monitors implementation of agreed upon deliverables in line with UN Action's Strategic Framework and Workplan, and evaluates and reports on the impact of UN Action's activities.



UN ACTION'S FUND: THE CRSV-MPTF

Through the advocacy and concerted efforts of Network members, in 2009, Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) established the role of the SRSVC to provide strategic and coherent leadership on the CRSV mandate. The resolution also created the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (the TOE) and the position of Women's Protection Advisers (WPAs) in peacekeeping operations to support the SRSVC's initiatives, including technical support to Member States, and to catalyse the implementation of Security Council resolutions on sexual violence in conflict (SVC). While integrating this newly created structure, UN Action, through its first Fund, the UN Action MPTF, operationalised key components and in 2010 supported the start-up of the Office of the SRSVC. As the two operational arms of the CRSV mandate, UN Action and the TOE work in coordination, resourced entirely through voluntary contributions to the Fund².

Relaunched in 2020 as the CRSV-MPTF, the new Fund aims to increase coherence, bring attention to critical gaps and underfinanced priorities, consolidate and coordinate efforts to reduce fragmentation, and ensure impact at the country level across the UN system with regard to the CRSV agenda.

Under the CRSV-MPTF, two Windows were established – one for UN Action and the other for the TOE. Each Window has its own oversight and decision-making body and is guided by the strategic leadership of the SRSVC. The decision-making process for the use of funds is outlined in relevant governance documents. The UN Action Steering Committee provides oversight and strategic advice and the MPTF Office of UNDP serves as the Administrative Agent using the pass-through fund management modality.

² UN Action's work is funded by voluntary contributions from a range of Member States, including the Governments of Bahrain, Belgium, Estonia, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden, with funds directed to UN Action entities to support specific UN Action deliverables.



The CRSV-MPTF focuses on four CRSV-specific outcomes:

1. Holistic survivor-centred prevention and protection responses to CRSV are provided by international institutions and actors, in line with Security Council resolution 2467 (2019);
2. Strengthened national and international institutions prevent CRSV by addressing gender-based inequality and discrimination as the root-cause and driver of sexual violence;
3. Greater justice and accountability for CRSV including a victim-centred approach through strengthened capacity and technical expertise of national and international institutions; and
4. Better cooperation and information sharing between UN agencies reinforce coordination and improve system-wide response and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on CRSV.

The UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF

Through the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF, all 21 UN entities of the UN Action Network are eligible to receive funding from the CRSV-MPTF. If the funding situation allows, projects that fit under the UN Action Strategic Framework and the Network's Funding Strategy may be granted funds based on a call for proposals issued on a biannual (twice-yearly) basis.

To take resource allocation decisions for the UN Action Window of the CRSV-MPTF, the UN Action Network established a Resource Mobilisation Committee (RMC), a sub-committee of UN Action Focal Points. The RMC is comprised of five UN Action Focal Points, one of whom serves as the Chairperson, nominated every year by the broader group of UN Action Focal Points and endorsed by the SRSG-SVC. Resource allocation decisions are made by the RMC based on its Operational Guidance and the UN Action Network Funding Strategy. In 2021, the RMC was comprised of UNFPA (as Chair), UN Women, DPO, UNHCR and IOM.

The UN Action Secretariat manages the technical and operational functioning of the CRSV-MPTF, including support to the SRSG-SVC, the UN Action Steering Committee and the RMC in matters related to funding through, and fundraising for the CRSV-MPTF. It also supports the Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs) submitting proposals for consideration through vetting of projects, grant administration, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

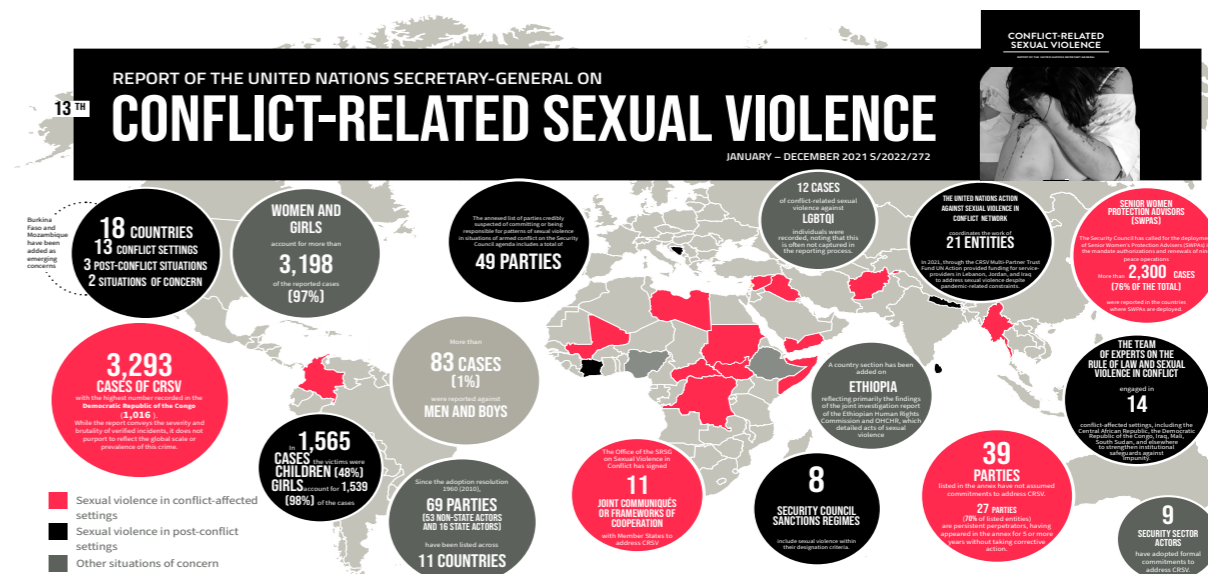
UN ACTION IN 2021: ADAPTING TO AN EVOLVING CONTEXT

In 2021, the UN Action Network and the UN system more broadly, were once again confronted by unprecedented challenges due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the CRSV agenda. As outlined in the 2021 annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence, increased militarisation and reduced civic space and the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons fuelled widespread and systematic CRSV, despite the ongoing global pandemic. Recourse to military interventions rather than diplomatic settlements and political solutions provoked displacement on a massive scale and exposed civilians to heightened levels of sexual violence. In particular, women peacebuilders and human rights defenders were directly targeted, including through sexual violence and harassment as a form of reprisal, in order to exclude them from public and political life. Activists and advocates working to highlight the plight and rights of survivors of CRSV, and to support their access to justice and services, were also subjected to reprisals and intimidation. Sexual violence further impeded women's livelihood activities, against the backdrop of economic shocks and poverty driven by protracted conflict and pandemic-related restrictions. These trends and patterns emerged at a time when the global public health crisis had already diminished humanitarian reach

and access and had diverted resources away from lifesaving gender-based violence (GBV) services, deeply impacting survivors, in particular displaced women and girls

Throughout 2021, military spending outpaced investment in pandemic-related healthcare in fragile and conflict-affected communities. These intersecting humanitarian, security and political crises exacerbated the root causes of CRSV, including militarisation, arms proliferation, impunity and institutional collapse, structural gender-based inequality, and harmful social norms. The Report further noted that protection is the bedrock for women's full, equal and meaningful participation in political, social and economic processes, which are critical to ending and preventing the recurrence of CRSV.

Nevertheless, having rapidly adapted to remote working arrangements and tested new virtual tools in 2020 at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021, the Network coordinated at all levels, from convening its Steering Committee meetings, to technical-level working groups of Focal Points, strategic retreats and public events. In doing so, and conducting these critical meetings entirely virtually, the Network exemplified how innovative digital platforms and creative modalities for engagement can lead to higher productivity.

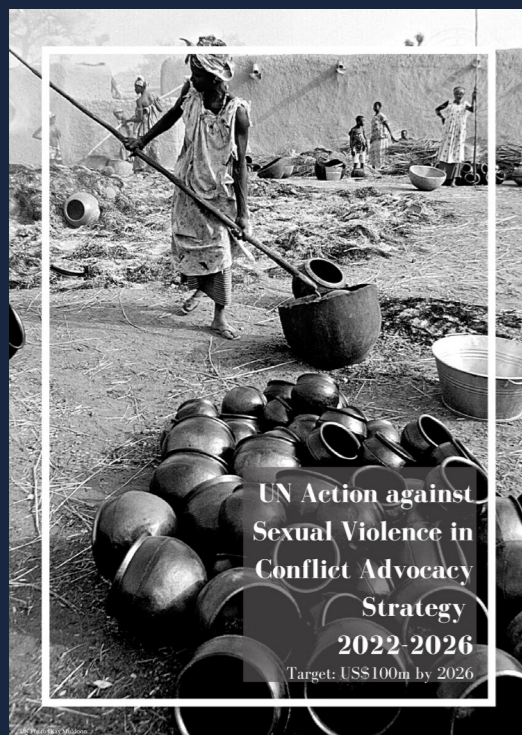


UN ACTION NETWORK GROWTH

The Network continued to expand over the past year, from 19 to 21 UN entities. In 2021, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) joined UN Action to contribute to several critical areas of the CRSV agenda, including the economic empowerment and livelihoods support of CRSV survivors and enhancing the understanding of the nexus of sexual violence, conflict and terrorism respectively.

RESPONDING TO NEW AND EXISTING SITUATIONS THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL ADVOCACY

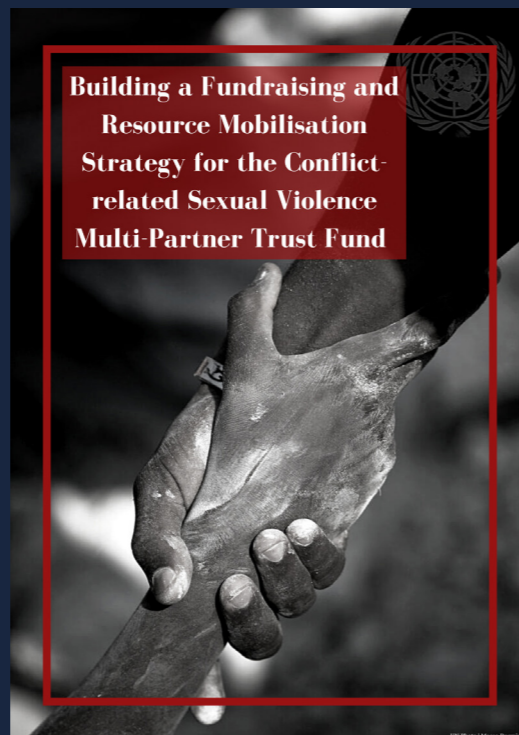
In her capacity as Chair of the UN Action Network and the CRSV mandate holder, the SRSG-SVC published nine statements, individually and jointly, on current and emerging situations of concern and commemorations for CRSV progress: two on Ethiopia, and one each on Myanmar, Sudan, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Iraq, and Guinea.



UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict Advocacy Strategy 2022-2026
Target: US\$100m by 2026

RESOURCING AND VISIBILITY CHALLENGES

Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic stymied efforts to raise funds for the CRSV-MPTF on a larger scale, UN Action redoubled its focus on the development of an Advocacy Strategy and Fundraising Strategy (the Strategies) in order to counter such challenges. The Strategies, which run parallel to UN Action's Strategic Framework until 2025, laid out the Network's goal of raising \$100 million by 2026. UN Action's Advocacy Strategy provides a framework with components such as fundraising, communications and social mobilisation, including the reinvigoration and/or rebranding of the Stop Rape Now (SRN) campaign to be launched in 2022. In implementing the Advocacy Strategy, the Network will be able to engage with the wider public and attract a broader range of individuals and institutions to support the CRSV mandate. The Fundraising Strategy calls for stronger engagement with traditional donors, as well as non-traditional partners such as the private sector and foundations. As such, the Network will be prioritising resource mobilisation and fundraising for the CRSV-MPTF moving forward.



Building a Fundraising and Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Conflict-related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund



UN ACTION'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

UN Action wrapped up its 2020 – 2021 Workplan and in December 2021, the Network held a virtual technical-level strategic planning retreat to take stock of the Network's key achievements, challenges, and plan for the coming two years, finalising its 2022 – 2023 Workplan shortly thereafter.

The UN Action Network developed its 2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework in 2020, through an intensive and iterative process that led to the delineation of a new Goal, Theory of Change (ToC), four main Outcome Areas and a General Outcome related to overall coordination and advocacy, as well as specific activities, which were further detailed in its 2020 – 2021 Workplan

The five attending Outcomes are:

General Outcome related to Overall Coordination of the UN Action Network: UN agencies cooperate and share information to reinforce coordination and coherence and improve the system-wide response and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on CRSV;

Outcome 1 related to Prevention, Protection and Support to Survivors: Survivors and at-risk groups are supported and protected and CRSV risks are prevented and mitigated;

Outcome 2 related to Capacity Building and Strategic Engagement: Duty-bearers and decision-makers take action to address both the immediate risks as well as the root causes of CRSV at the global and national level and promote compliance and accountability;

Outcome 3 related to Knowledge Building and the development of Policies, Guidance and Tools: UN Action member entities contribute to advancing the implementation of the CRSV/Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in a way that is informed by relevant guidance, policies, and tools on addressing CRSV and its root causes;

Outcome 4 related to Data Collection, Management, Monitoring, Analysis and Harmonisation: Reliable, timely and objective information on CRSV trends, risks and patterns, supports evidence-based high-level advocacy, enhances engagement with, and pressure on, parties to conflict, and informs impactful, survivor-centred solutions.

UN Action also developed targets with linked indicators for each of these Outcome areas. As living tools, UN Action's overall Governance Documents, Strategic Framework and Workplan are regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with decision-makers and key stakeholders, including country counterparts.

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY UN ACTION IN 2021



INITIATIVES UNDER GENERAL OUTCOME RELATED TO OVERALL COORDINATION OF THE NETWORK

With its now 21 members, UN Action has steadily grown its reach and capacity. The growth of the Network also saw the strengthening of the UN Action Secretariat, with the recruitment of a Programme Officer (serving as Deputy UN Action Coordinator and supporting knowledge management and learning), alongside the existing capacities of the UN Action Coordinator (coordinating the UN Action Secretariat), a Grants Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer (supporting the overall monitoring and evaluation of the Network's Strategic Framework, as well as oversight of and support to projects funded through the CRSV-MPTF), and an Administrative Assistant. The Secretariat continued to benefit from the support of a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) sponsored by the Government of Japan. Further, in supporting specific thematic areas of focus identified by the UN Action Network, entities were also encouraged to provide additional capacity. UNHCR and WHO provided experts in protection and prevention and the health dimensions (particularly Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)) of CRSV respectively. The contribution of these significant human resources not only bolsters expertise in priority areas for the CRSV agenda but also demonstrates these member entities' continued commitment to the success and strengthening of the Network.

Coordinated Strategic Planning

In December, the Network held a virtual technical-level strategic planning retreat, attended by all Focal Points, to take stock of the Network's key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned; review the implementation of the 2020-2021 Workplan; and recalibrate for a new context, new members and new thematic areas to inform the development of the next two-year Workplan (2022-2023). The retreat was also an opportunity for Focal Points to re-connect and strategise how to optimise coordination and cohesion in the service of survivors of CRSV.

Collective Advocacy and Fundraising

UN Action's advocacy efforts, including its social media engagements, have also grown significantly in the last year. Illustrative of the Network's growth on digital platforms, in 2021, UN Action's Twitter gained 378 new followers and garnered 260.6K impressions. As of 2022, the Twitter account has 51.5k followers. The website (www.stoprapenow.org) has continued to be a critical resource for Network members, partners and colleagues working on CRSV and WPS more generally, and the public. This year, UN Action also published its inaugural **bi-annual newsletter** in August 2021; and its second issue will be released in January 2022, showcasing the Network's initiatives, members, and supporters in the global response to CRSV. The purpose of this newsletter is to increase awareness of UN Action among UN entities, partners, donors, and the public.



Examples of UN Action's Social Media Posts and Newsletter

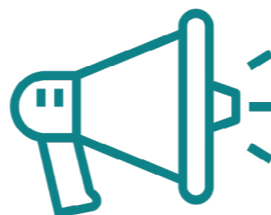
In the same vein, through a wide consultation process with stakeholders both inside and outside the Network, including survivors' networks, UN Action developed an Advocacy Strategy and a Fundraising Strategy, articulating the direction needed for the Network to reach its newly identified goal of raising \$100 million USD by 2026. The Advocacy Strategy was devised with several objectives in mind: to amplify survivors' voices; to create political support and engagements to address CRSV and its root causes; to mobilise resources for comprehensive, coordinated, localised, and survivor-centred CRSV prevention and response; to engage with leaders and influencers at all levels; and to increase awareness and visibility of UN Action. The Advocacy Strategy provides the framework for the implementation of a powerful and holistic campaign approach, consisting of interlinked and jointly reinforced components to address specific audiences and opportunities. These components are: strategic advocacy, communication, social mobilisation, and resource mobilisation. The Advocacy Strategy outlines the Network's advocacy outcomes and 'asks', details the various stakeholder groups with whom the Network should engage, both in order to achieve its goals and in the revitalisation of the SRN campaign. The Fundraising Strategy and its associated Workplan were developed in line with the Advocacy Strategy, to articulate how the Network can go beyond short-term fundraising to catalyse longer-term and exponential growth, and to form innovative partnerships with a larger cross-section of donors.



To create political support and engagements to address CRSV and its root causes



To mobilise resources for comprehensive, coordinated, localised, and survivor-centred CRSV prevention and response



To amplify survivors' voices



To engage with leaders and influencers at all levels



To increase awareness and visibility of UN Action

A planned in-person donor event scheduled for 2020, but delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was re-imagined as a virtual Donor Roundtable and held on 16 September as the first step in reinvigorating the political will to financially support the work of UN Action and fund the CRSV-MPTF. With 22 Member States in attendance, including past, current, and potential donors, the interactive virtual event resulted in expressions of political commitments to the CRSV mandate and raised awareness of UN Action's initiatives and impact. High-level representatives from the governments of Sweden, Norway, and Japan shared 'donors' perspectives' on the key role that UN Action plays in progressing the CRSV mandate and innovative ways to support UN Action. The Donor Roundtable also included presentations on two of UN Action's catalytic joint projects, providing life-saving and life-changing support to survivors in Iraq and Somalia by the Senior Women's Protection Adviser (SWPA) in Iraq and the implementing officer of the project in Somalia. A number of other Member States present also expressed their commitment to UN Action and the CRSV mandate.

In 2021, UN Action also began initiating new strategic partnerships and private sector engagement to respond to the identified need for dedicated human and financial resources commensurate with the scale of the challenge of eradicating sexual violence in conflict.

In November 2021, the SRSG-SVC, along with the Network's Coordinator, travelled to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and attended the Dubai Exposition (Dubai Expo 2020). There, the two engaged with Emirati Government officials, notably the Minister of State for International Cooperation, the Dubai Police, and the General Women's Union. Their engagements led to the donation of sewing machines to support livelihood activities for survivors of CRSV.

In line with the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" recommendation to boost partnerships with the private sector, the trip to the UAE provided UN Action with a platform to hold discussions with potential private sector partners to expand its circle of allies for the CRSV mandate. For example, the SRSG-SVC and the Coordinator met with a company who provides staffing solutions for humanitarian and development projects. Following this meeting, a strategic partnership was forged to explore further opportunities to second WPAs to UN peace missions and other conflict-affected countries, such as Somalia, Afghanistan, and Yemen. Following their return from the mission, the SRSG and the Coordinator look forward to continuing private sector engagement in 2022, including through a planned mission to other States in the Middle East region and a fundraising event for the private sector, philanthropies and foundations.

INITIATIVES UNDER OUTCOME 1 RELATED TO PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS

Given UN Action's renewed prioritisation and focus on areas outlined in resolution 2467 (2019) and in keeping with promising practices on funding, the RMC refined the Network's approach to grant-making by setting clear criteria for the kinds of initiatives the Network would support through a newly developed Funding Strategy. The Funding Strategy's central focus is to ensure that all supported actions are meaningful to survivors with a focus on survivors' empowerment. Amongst other key criteria, the Strategy ensures that all projects funded clearly articulate a survivor-centred approach, address the root-causes of CRSV, support its prevention, foster national ownership and institutional capacity building, and ensure the projects' sustainability.

However, due to the continued funding short-falls within the CRSV-MPTF, UN Action was only able to support two projects in 2021.



UNDP Pakistan | Shuja Hakim

UN Action's Somalia-based Project

Running between April 2020 and March 2021, the Somalia-based project, *Leveraging the strength of women in Somalia to mitigate conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and prevent violent extremism (CRSV UNA02)*, implemented by IOM and UNSOM, supported the rehabilitation and reintegration of approximately 230 women who were formerly associated with violent extremist groups, many of whom are survivors of CRSV. The project used culturally grounded approaches to assist women recover from trauma and provided economic empowerment support to ultimately ensure that the women became active contributors to sustainable peacebuilding in their societies.

Survivors received individualised services, such as medical support, referrals, and specialised counselling. They also received dignity kits specifically designed for survivors of GBV, which included traditional Somali clothing (e.g. dresses (diric), shawls (garbosaar), headscarves (shalmad)), sanitary items, personal anti-bacterial cleaning items, and household products such as water buckets and mosquito nets.

Continuing with project adjustments related to the COVID-19 pandemic initiated in 2020, activities included COVID-19 preventative health trainings, provision of Personal Protective Equipment, and hybrid in-person and virtual capacity development trainings for national counterparts. This resulted in few delays and, in fact, enhanced opportunities to test new ways of conducting capacity building and provided an avenue through which public health messages could be integrated into GBV programming (and vice-versa).



IOM and UNSOM reported, that by using survivor-centred psychosocial approaches, they created opportunities for women to explore their identities, establish a sense of belonging within their communities, and build trust with other women. For the first time, survivors were able to share their stories and open up about their traumatic experiences in a space for healing. Therapeutic activities included arts and poetry-based expression and sports and the process of healing helped the women to build their confidence and increase trust and empathy. For example, in a pot breaking activity, the participants worked in pairs, where one of the women was blindfolded and the other guided her to break the hanging pot, which contained a gift. The activity stimulated discussions about trusting someone else to be a guide when one's eyes are blindfolded, as well as about the responsibility carried by the person who guides the blindfolded one. One of the women said: *"From this exercise, I learnt that a blind person can succeed in life if they get a trusted guardian and the support that they need. Trust is something important in order to reach your goals"*.

Survivors also participated in basic education, business development and livelihood skills training to enable them to rebuild their lives, tailored to adapt to each woman's unique interests, needs and goals. For example, some of the women chose to pool their money and start a collaborative business, including starting a small cooperative in goat-keeping and livestock trade. In 2021, realising the varied interests of the women involved in the project, through its civil society organisations' (CSOs) partners, IOM kickstarted new livelihood activities in industrial tailoring and permagardening. In the industrial tailoring class, women produced both canvas and leather handbags of their own designs. Women were also trained on how to plant a nursery following permaculture techniques as a food security measure, resulting in the establishment of a number of new plant nurseries. CSOs were supported in this by permagardening experts who provided weekly remote lectures, helped to navigate challenges that arose during implementation of the demonstration plots, and provided one-on-one support. Across all indicators related to economic wellbeing, the project reported success. For example, in one project location, women's ability to access loans rose by 93%, and 96% of women reported that they were satisfied with their economic status (compared to 35% at the beginning of the project).

The programme also contributed to reconciliation efforts within communities by promoting economic and personal resilience, social integration, and community engagement, which marked an important step towards empowering the women to become active members of their community and contribute to peacebuilding processes.

To ensure sustainability and continuity, over the course of the project the partners conducted 45 trainings for relevant government staff, women-led CSOs, and IOM rehabilitation centres' staff, on gender-responsive and survivor-centred assistance and support to women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab who are survivors of GBV, including CRSV. The trainings included: GBV technical guidance; case management; monitoring and evaluation (M&E); basic counselling skills; psychological first aid; clinical management of rape and how to work with GBV and CRSV survivors; skills and knowledge on trauma informed care and self-care; religious counselling for partners and staff; and online social cohesion sessions informed by IOM's Community-Based MHPSS Manual. The project engaged with female government focal points to address ongoing developments, including any challenges in the programme, and provided training and capacity building for government counterparts, including by supporting government policy development through the production of rehabilitation and reintegration programme standard operating procedures (SOPs). These SOPs will serve as an implementation guide for the Government of Somalia at federal and regional levels to effectively continue the programmes in the future.

The SRSG-SVC highlights that

“the UN-Action Network, through its CRSV-MPTF can transform survivors' lives. The results are tangible and visible. In my last visit to Somalia, I gained first-hand knowledge of the immense protection challenges faced by survivors, particularly in displacement settings. My dialogue with the national authorities was frank and constructive; they did not deny or downplay the gravity of the crimes of sexual violence. Such acknowledgement is critical as no problem in human history has ever been resolved through silence and denial.”



Amina's Story

Amina* is one of the women who took the brave and risky decision to leave the violent extremist group. She arrived at the centre seeking a better life for herself and her family. At the centre, for a first time in a decade, she found someone who listens to her, who she can tell about her burdens and help in a try to make sense of what has happened to her. *"She listens to me without interruption, without judgement. I can cry and it is okay. She even makes me laugh sometimes with her light-hearted sense of humour. For moments, sometimes, I forget about the problems I have,"* Amina explains about her conversations with her social worker. At the rehabilitation centre, Amina is supported emotionally and has access to economic opportunities. She is able to study, to learn how to read and write. Now, Amina is a mother who is able to pay for her children's education and help them with homework (*name changed).



UN Action's Middle East Region Project

A second project, running between June 2021 and July 2022, is being jointly implemented by UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA, in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. The project, *Equipping gender-based violence response services to meet the needs of women and girls within the COVID-19 outbreak (CRSV UNA03)*, recognises that the COVID-19 outbreak – and accompanying isolation policies – has led to increased risk of CRSV, while simultaneously creating a unique set of challenges for survivors' access to essential life-saving services. The project therefore supports existing CRSV prevention and response services in their adaptation to the context-specific human security challenges of COVID-19. The project strengthens the quality and accessibility of life-saving psychosocial and health services for survivors and those at-risk, while building the capacity of service providers to ensure quality support and use innovative technological solutions to safely manage, analyse, and share data on incidents of violence.



During 2021, in Lebanon, project partners increased the capacity of the implementing partners to provide case management and psychosocial support services to a larger segment of persons of concern. Services were provided both remotely and in-person based on the preferences of survivors. Prevention and response services were provided in safe spaces for survivors and people at risk including psychosocial support through a case management approach and referrals to specialised health, legal aid and shelter services. Women and adolescent girls also had the opportunity to participate in self-defence training. Through partnerships with NGOs, the project also reached the northern region of Lebanon bordering Syria, where a high percentage of Lebanon's refugee population resides. To fight the existing stigma around sexual violence, and CRSV in particular, the partners conducted awareness-raising activities among the women and girls accessing services, and within the communities residing in the region. A series of empowerment activities were organised within the safe space (including life skills training sessions) to strengthen networks among women and girls and to create an enabling and safe environment for survivors who would like to seek specialised services. Since the beginning of the project, 400 women and girls have been reached through services, outreach and awareness-raising activities.

In Jordan, the partners worked to improve the quality of GBV Case Management. Training sessions covered specialised topics, such as responding to male survivors of sexual violence, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI, and migrant workers who are survivors of GBV. Other topics covered in specialised sessions related to responding to the specific mental health needs of survivors including how to conduct a suicide assessment, as well as supervision and self-care of GBV case workers for supervisors and case managers alike. The case managers have seen different forms of GBV, including CRSV, that were perpetrated by actors in Syria or in the survivors' countries of origin. In most cases, refugees reported on incidents of GBV and CRSV once they trusted the services being provided. The case management initiative included monthly coaching sessions, covering topics such as case management of sexual violence, with attention on different categories of perpetrators and particular stigma associated. In addition, the Gender-based Violence Information Management System+ (GBVIMS+)³ focal points from each participating organisation were supported to fulfil the assessment requirements to determine readiness for the rollout of the GBVIMS+.

In preparation for the rollout, a training was held in October 2021, with expected access to the GBVIMS+ by the beginning of 2022. In addition, the partners continued to support the Ministry

³ The GBVIMS+ is used to harmonise data collection on GBV in humanitarian settings, to provide a simple system for GBV project managers to collect, store and analyse their data, and to enable the safe and ethical sharing of reported GBV incident data.

of Public Health (MoPH) in their implementation of the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) strategy, which included the selection of priority health facilities for the delivery of CMR services. The partners worked closely with the MoPH in identifying the capacity building needs of the selected facilities, and will further support targeted capacity building initiatives in the second quarter of 2022. A training session on the needs of CRSV survivors will be integrated in the overall training on CMR for health service providers. The procurement of post-exposure prophylaxis kits to assist survivors of rape, is currently under discussion with the MoPH, to identify the gaps and the specific needs of targeted health facilities. Finally, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, on 19th June, project partners collaborated with local organisations to conduct an activity with the participation of twelve adolescent girls and young women from the Zaatari Camp to speak out about CRSV through art. The activity included two sessions: on the first day, partners facilitated an awareness-raising session on forms of GBV and CRSV and their impact on women and girls specifically, but also on the society as a whole. The girls shared their reflections on the topic and indicated what they view as the most prevalent forms of violence and discrimination against girls in the Zaatari Camp, including denials of education, high rates of child marriage, and withholding dowries and inheritances from married women and girls.

Maha* (name changed), a 15-year-old Syrian adolescent girl from the Zaatari Camp highlighted: *"This has been decreased a bit because of the different community awareness raising efforts by different organisations in the camp; especially on gender-based violence topics. Now, the majority understands its meaning and the different services provided on that regard."*

Girls also highlighted their own roles in standing up against all forms of violence against girls in the camp. Girls found the term "conflict-related sexual violence" new to them, especially when its different forms were highlighted to them, such as rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation and others. During the discussion on CRSV, Rasha* (name changed), aged 16, expressed, "I can't imagine the feeling of a girl who has been subjected to any form of CRSV."

In Iraq, project partners completed an interagency capacity assessment for the rollout of the Primero/GBVIMS+. Based on this assessment, the partners will define an action plan which will structure, rationalise, and reinforce the efficiency of the initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of the GBV service providers – with special attention paid to the local organisations – to better respond to the needs of the survivors, including survivors of CRSV.

Drawings created by participants expressing their thoughts and feelings on CRSV



INITIATIVES UNDER OUTCOME 2 RELATED TO CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

Outcome 2 of UN Action's Strategic Framework 2020-2025 calls for activities that ensure that duty-bearers and decision-makers take action to address both the immediate risks and root causes of CRSV at the global and national levels to promote compliance and accountability. The Network advances such initiatives by strengthening the capacity and technical expertise of those engaging in CRSV efforts, as well as through joint and sustained high-level advocacy.

Monthly Focal Points Meeting

UN Action's monthly Focal Points meetings continued to serve as an important forum for coordinating progress on the Network's Workplan relating to capacity building and strategic engagement. The meetings also allow for consultations with country counterparts, including S/WPAs, to discuss how entities are individually and collectively engaging on the CRSV mandate in situations of concern, particularly in support of the implementation of Joint Communiqués (JCs), Frameworks of Cooperation (FoCs), and attending to CRSV-related national strategies and plans. UN Action also uses this forum to identify gaps in implementation and to strategise on how these can be filled. S/WPAs and field-based staff who are responsible for implementing the CRSV mandate are encouraged to be candid in sharing challenges they face and to recommend ways in which the Network can further support with mainstreaming CRSV. In turn, this allows for the capacity and technical expertise of institutional and operational actors to be strengthened to prevent CRSV and respond to survivors' needs, while scaling-up legislation, investigations and prosecutions.

With the emergence of new crises and conflicts, UN Action Focal Points convene rapidly to share timely information on CRSV reports and trends in situations of concern and to coordinate actions and key messaging on the UN's response. Discussions on specific countries of concern or emergencies were incorporated as a standing item in the monthly Focal Points meetings, if the space allowed for such a discussion.



Month	Country	Discussion Focus	Example of Entity's Support
January	Central African Republic (CAR)	Focal Points were briefed by the OSRSG-SVC on the status of the implementation of the JC, which provided an entry-point for engagement with non-state actors as well as governmental leaders.	OHCHR shared that it worked with the TOE on the implementation of a dedicated project on justice and accountability in the CAR. IOM expressed that it was also working with the TOE in the CAR, as well as on the nexus between trafficking and CRSV.
February	Somalia	The SWPA in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) briefed Focal Points on the progress of the JC implementation, noting that an assessment of the JC was conducted that focused on the establishment of one-stop centres and justice for survivors.	OSRSG-VAC noted that it met with the Somalia Resident Coordinator to discuss child marriages in the region.
	Ethiopia	An Emergency Focal Points meeting was called to share information on the evolving situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia and to discuss coordination of UN action and response, including ethical information gathering related to CRSV, coordinated funding for GBV services and capacity building, and support for justice and accountability for survivors.	
	Sudan (Darfur)	The SWPA and WPA in the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) briefed Focal Points on how their entities can support UNAMID as it hands over CRSV-related activities, such as the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangement (the MARA) Working Group, to the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) and other UN mechanisms.	
March	Mali	The SWPA in United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and a representative from UNFPA Mali briefed Focal Points about the status of the JC and its Action Plan, noting that progress had been stalled due to political turbulence, including a coup d'état, and Covid-19.	OCHA highlighted that it prioritised humanitarian financing and fundraising in the Sahel region, including in Mali, with a particular focus on the need for services. DPO expressed that its mission in Mali has human resource capacity for the implementation of the JC and enquired with the SWPA if MINUSMA could receive support.

Month	Country	Discussion Focus	Example of Entity's Support
April	Iraq	The SWPA in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and a representative from IOM Iraq briefed Focal Points on the implementation of the JC, including progress on the Yazidi Survivors Law, which provides reparations to CRSV survivors and legally recognises the magnitude of CRSV as a war crime.	UNHCR shared that it had a large-scale civil documentation programme that covered the largest internally displaced person (IDP) camp in Iraq, including work with the Yazidi community to reunify children born of CRSV.
June	Libya	A Human Rights Officer from the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) provided Focal Points with an update on the rising use of CRSV in Libya, particularly in detention centres, and the establishment of the MARA technical-level Working Group.	UN Women explained that it supported colleagues in Libya with the MARA and deployed a sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) investigator, gender and child rights advisor, and translator to OHCHR for a fact-finding mission. UNODC explained that one of its ongoing projects on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Libya works on the criminal justice angle as an entry point to CRSV work.
July	South Sudan	The SWPA in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan briefed Focal Points on the continuous concern of CRSV committed by all parties to the conflict, especially in Western Equatoria, in addition to the economic crisis occurring in South Sudan.	UNFPA shared that it leads the GBV Sub-Cluster in South Sudan and will establish a One-Stop Centre in Bentiu, while continuing operations in another One-Stop Centre in Malakal.
October	Myanmar	A Humanitarian Response Specialist in Myanmar gave Focal Points an overview of the CRSV situation in Myanmar, noting that the Government refused to sign a joint action plan and that reports of CRSV increased after the February 2021 coup d'état. Myanmar currently has no SWPA.	OSRSG-CAAC shared that it continued to monitor and report violence against children in Myanmar. DPPA noted that there is a Special Political Mission that covers Myanmar and is working to deploy more resources to the field.

High-Level Advocacy

Once data is collected from the field, it is vital that UN senior officials use the reliable and objective information on CRSV trends and patterns for further advocacy and engagement on CRSV. In 2021, the SRSG-SVC published ten press statements on various priority issues for the Network:

STATEMENTS ON SITUATIONS OF CONCERN

Ethiopia

21 January 2021

The SRSG-SVC urged all parties waging war in the Tigray region of Ethiopia to commit to a zero-tolerance policy for crimes of CRSV, allow for an independent inquiry into allegations of CRSV and other allegations, and cease hostilities immediately.

Myanmar

25 June 2021

The SRSG-SVC expressed grave concern over reports of CRSV in detention settings in Myanmar after the 1 February 2021 coup that saw a rise in human rights violations against civilians and commended women's rights organisations at the frontline providing services and support to victims.

Ethiopia

7 December 2021

The SRSG-SVC urged the Government of Ethiopia to promptly sign onto a FoC with the UN to prevent and respond to CRSV and urged the Government to implement the recommendations of the UN and Ethiopian Human Rights Commission joint investigation report.

Sudan

21 December 2021

The SRSG-SVC expressed grave concern over alleged acts of sexual violence against women and girls during the 19 December 2021 demonstrations in Sudan and called for restraint and accountability for those responsible.

JOINT STATEMENTS

SRSG-CAAC, Virginia Gamba, SRSG-SVC, Pramila Patten, and SRSG-VAC, Najat Maalla M'jid

31 March 2021

The three Special Representatives collectively expressed alarm at escalating violence against civilians, including CRSV towards women and children, in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, and called for an increase of protection and assistance to the vulnerable population in need.

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, and SRSG-SVC, Pramila Patten

18 June 2021

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the joint statement condemned the use and threat of CRSV and urged state and non-state parties to adopt specific commitments to address CRSV.

SRSG-CAAC, Virginia Gamba, and SRSG-SVC, Pramila Patten

5 August 2021

Following two reports of the UN Secretary-General, the joint statement expressed grave concern over rising levels of CRSV in Somalia and called on the Government of Somalia to expedite the implementation of protection commitments, particularly towards women and girls.

OTHER PRESS STATEMENTS

South Sudan

11 February 2021

The SRSG-SVC welcomed the announcement by the Government of South Sudan to establish traditional justice institutions of the African Union Hybrid Court to address CRSV and other grave violations of human rights and called for the adoption of a survivor-centred approach.

Iraq

4 March 2021

The SRSG-SVC welcomed the Iraqi Yazidi Survivors' Law, adopted on 1 March 2021, that provided survivors of CRSV with measures of reparations, rehabilitation, and reintegration, and called for its swift and full implementation to benefit survivors of CRSV perpetrated by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Guinea

28 September 2021

The SRSG-SVC urged for justice and accountability for the 28 September 2009 events in Guinea to be at the heart of political transition on the 12th anniversary of the massacre in Guinea Conakry, where at least 109 women and girls were subjected to sexual violence.





INITIATIVES UNDER OUTCOME 3 RELATED TO KNOWLEDGE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES, GUIDANCE AND TOOLS

Under Outcome 3 of the UN Action Strategic Framework 2020-2025, entities committed to advancing the implementation of the CRSV and WPS agenda through the development of guidance, policies and tools. Such products would help fill gaps in knowledge, practices, advocacy and technical expertise to improve CRSV prevention and response. Therefore, through UN Action's thematic working groups, numerous knowledge building tools were conceptualised and/or created throughout 2021.

Gaps Assessment

During UN Action's Strategic Retreat in early 2020, the Network identified that there is currently no common approach or methodology within UN Action for conducting joint gaps assessments on the prevention and response to CRSV in countries of concern. Thus, one of the activities set out in the UN Action 2020-2021 Workplan was to develop such an approach. The objectives of developing the approach for, and then conducting gap assessments, are multiple, but would allow for a better understanding of which CRSV prevention and response commitments are being upheld, which ones are not, and to what extent. In practical terms, this would furnish UN Action with the necessary information to plan for and support comprehensive gap-filling initiatives in countries of concern. UN Action, with the SWPA and their team in the CAR, developed a methodology for conducting this exercise and drafted a comprehensive desk review of the gaps identified, as well as priority areas for response. The methodology will be piloted through an in-person joint mission with UN Action Focal Points in 2022. It is anticipated that the outputs of this exercise will be:

1. A piloted approach for conducting a gaps assessment in a country of concern, for use by UN Action Network entities, and as a reference tool for the UN Action Network and wider audience to conduct similar exercises in other countries of concern.
2. The production and dissemination of an Outcome Document and an Action Plan for the UN Action Network in the CAR, based on the gaps identified and needs prioritised during the gaps assessment exercise.
3. The development and implementation of joint comprehensive programmes by Network entities to address the needs identified.



Prevention Framework

The prevention of CRSV has been foremost amongst the SRSG-SVC's priorities on the CRSV mandate. The human cost, particularly to women and girls, that might have been avoided through effective measures of prevention, compelled the SRSG-SVC to request UN Action to develop a comprehensive guidance document on prevention: the Framework on the Prevention of CRSV. A thematic working group led by UNHCR was established in May 2021 for this undertaking. The work has advanced, now having gone through multiple rounds of consultation and technical input by member entities, based on their respective mandates and expertise. The Framework will have a strong emphasis on addressing root causes and justice and accountability. Ultimately, it will be a practical tool and guidance that can be implemented at the regional, national, and local levels to provide stakeholders, especially governments and UN agencies, a road map to foster stronger prevention efforts, accompanied by commensurate programmatic components in support of these efforts. In 2022, this project will be previewed on 17 June 2022, commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict and later launched in September 2022.



Survivor-Centred Approach Principles

UN Action frames all of its initiatives through a survivor-centred lens when it comes to preventing and responding to CRSV. This requires that initiatives are informed by basic principles that foster empowerment, allow control and direction by survivors, and promotes their safety, well-being, and recovery in a manner that deliberately centres around their wishes and needs. Following Security Council resolution 2467 (2019), where a survivor-centred approach to CRSV was articulated for the first time at the highest-levels of the UN, the Network identified the need to build new knowledge to inform what it means to take a survivor-centred approach in the specific context of the prevention and response to CRSV. In 2021, a thematic working group led by OSRSG-VAC developed an outline for a guidance document titled, 'Advancing Principles of a Survivor-Centred Approach to the Prevention and Response of CRSV' and began collecting case studies illustrating when a survivor-centred approach was successfully, or unsuccessfully, applied in the response to CRSV from UN Action members and CSO partners, including the *All Survivors Project* and *Nadia's Initiative*; these case studies will inform the guidance document, which will be finalised in 2022.



The Terrorism and Violent Extremism Nexus

UN Action is also increasing its focus on the conceptualisation and response to CRSV committed in the context of terrorism and violent extremism. Under the leadership of UNODC and the TOE, and with expertise from key members with a mandate in this area, the Network is more effectively collaborating to prevent and address the use of sexual violence in the context of terrorism and violent extremism. The Network has, in anticipation of mounting a coordinated response, planned a series of exercises for 2022, including expert-led discussions and webinars to better understand the challenges and good practices in judicial response, and in tailoring support and services for survivors of CRSV committed in the context of terrorism and violent extremism.

INITIATIVES UNDER OUTCOME 4 RELATED TO DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND HARMONISATION

A main priority in advancing the CRSV mandate is ensuring that reliable, timely and objective information on CRSV trends, risk and patterns are gathered. In turn, this crucial information supports evidence-based high-level advocacy, therefore, enhancing engagement with and pressure on parties to conflict and informing survivor-centred solutions. As a platform to adopt a “One UN” approach, the UN Action Network provides reporting on CRSV trends from the field, which can, and often is, translated into political advocacy and strategic engagement at the international level.

Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence

UN Action is the primary consultation forum for the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The Report serves not only as a public record of events, but also as a global advocacy instrument for driving the field of CRSV prevention and response forward. Annually, the Report brings new concerns and information on CRSV to light, and additionally, serves as a reference tool, as well as a basis for strategic advocacy and enhanced operational response. In 2021, as per usual practise, Focal Points worked with the OSRSG-SVC and country counterparts to bring timely and quality data into the Report. The UN Action Steering Committee also met in March 2022 to review and endorse the 13th annual Report.

Report of the Secretary-General on Women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict and children born of sexual violence in conflict

UN Action participated intensively through a technical advisory group, which also acted as a consultation forum, for the Security Council mandated special 2021 Report on the specific needs of women and girls who become pregnant as a result of conflict-related sexual violence and of the children born of such violence, as well as the connected, distinct, and sometimes life-threatening risks and harms they face in conflict-affected settings. The Report outlines the hardships experienced by survivors and children born of conflict-related rape, and brings into focus the full range of corrosive political, security and socioeconomic ramifications of these crimes. It calls for the condemnation of all acts of sexual violence in conflict and for greater support for survivors and for children born of rape, with greater efforts to be made to ensure their rights are upheld and perpetrators are brought to justice.



Photo: UNFPA Mozambique


The Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (the MARA)

In 2021 UN Action worked extensively on an assessment of the operationalisation of the MARA and related monitoring and analysis mechanisms, which are critical for coordination and programmatic responses by the UN system and partners in affected countries. The data presented in the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, which is debated before the Security Council and is the only historical record of this crime, primarily comes (80%) from information gathered from the MARA. With this in-depth and investigative assessment to be concluding in the third quarter of 2022, the Network will be equipped to conduct a much-needed update of the Provisional Guidance Note on Resolution 1960 (2010). It is a priority for the Network to work collectively to optimise the MARA where it currently exists; this assessment will also help the Network to plan the rollout of the MARA in emerging and shifting conflict contexts such as the Ukraine, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Myanmar, as well as a regional approach in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The UN Action Secretariat tracks the progress and effectiveness of UN Action’s work on an annual basis through an extensive M&E exercise in line with its Strategic Framework 2020-2025. In 2021, the baseline data for the Strategic Framework was established through surveys completed by both SWPAs/United Nation Country Teams (UNCTs) and UN Action Focal Points, collecting data from the country and international levels respectively. The data collected was both qualitative and quantitative.


At the country level, the results of the SWPA/ UNCT survey were used to identify gaps and areas of improvement for the Network to focus on in the future. This included recommendations to strengthen support to UNCTs after the completion of a UN Action-funded project, to translate knowledge products and guidance documents into languages other than English, and to increase dialogue and information sharing between those working at headquarters and those in the field. One consistent piece of feedback was for increased advocacy and lobbying with Governments to strengthen national policies on CRSV. Additionally, the 2021 SWPA survey results overwhelmingly reaffirmed the usefulness of UN Action guidance documents and advocacy to inform strategies and raise awareness around CRSV.

	<p>An SWPA informed that an additional “One Stop Centre” was established to provide services to CRSV survivors as a result of UN Action support.</p>
<p>“I regularly refer to the www.stoprapenow.org website for updates on CRSV policies and briefs, specifically related to the MARA.”</p>	<p>“Resources and tools are aligned to the UN Action Network’s mandate and mission.”</p>

The results from the Focal Points survey informed the range of political advocacy and strategic engagement on CRSV at the international level. The exercise acted as forum for Focal Points to express how the Network can better engage in CRSV efforts, including how UN Action can ensure the meaningful participation of local women’s organisations and survivor’s networks in the development of JCs or FoCs. In addition, Focal Points were able to rate the coordination, cooperation and coherence of the Network, acting as the baseline data for the Results Framework.

Top 3 countries/entities supported to include CRSV into national policies, strategies and laws:	Top 3 UN Action products disseminated:	Top 3 occasions UN Action Principals raised CRSV:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> CAR Democratic Republic of Congo Mali and South Sudan (tied) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Statement on the Global Ceasefire Social media messages Covid-Policy Brief 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women International Women’s Day 16 Days of Activism against GBV

The M+E exercise informed the strategic direction and priorities of the Network moving forward, which will later be reflected in its 2022-2023 Workplan.

<p>Areas for Growth</p> 	<p>“In my view, the UN Action Network is functioning reasonably well in terms of fostering cooperation between its member entities. For example, the thematic discussions provide a forum to exchange information and identify entry points for operational cooperation or implementation of technical assistance”</p> <p>“UN Action entities’ day-to-day advocacy and communication messaging could look for further opportunities to align with the UN Action objectives”</p>
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MOVING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

As in previous years, UN Action continued to face severe shortfalls in funding, resulting in the ability to support only two projects, implemented in Somalia, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The projects, however, demonstrate the immense positive changes that can be brought to the lives of CRSV survivors when the UN acts together, and in consort with civil society partners, to achieve the shared goal of ending CRSV and supporting survivors to recover, reclaim their dignity and achieve economic independence. Through a united and dedicated network membership, in 2021, UN Action demonstrated its strength and necessity, not only adapting to the virtual ways of working but also exemplifying how innovative online tools and creative modalities for engagement can lead to productivity.

With the finalisation of the Advocacy and Fundraising Strategies, UN Action’s main priority going forward is resource mobilisation for the CRSV-MPTF to reach the goal of raising US\$100 million by 2026. To support this ambition, the Network will revitalise the Stop Rape Now campaign in order to raise awareness and engage traditional and non-traditional stakeholders to directly or indirectly support survivors of CRSV.

To complement these fundraising activities, and to mobilise political will and financial resources for the CRSV-MPTF, the SRSB-SVC will also be embarking on a mission to the Middle East in early 2022. This tour will help UN Action launch strategic partnerships with Member States and private sector companies. In addition, UN Action will host a private sector roundtable in mid-2022.

Further, following the technical-level Strategic Retreat in December 2021, UN Action will finalise its new Workplan 2022-2023. This Workplan will include the completion and rollout of knowledge products to fill existing gaps and to inform the implementation of the CRSV mandate and support to survivor-centred projects. With the addition of its newest member, the ITC, UN Action will ramp up initiatives related to livelihoods and the economic empowerment of survivors.

On the occasion of the International Day of the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2022, UN Action will launch the preview of the Framework on the Prevention of CRSV, which will serve to translate the concept of CRSV prevention as an international norm, into a practical reality that can be implemented at the national level. The Framework will also galvanise UN Action’s work on early-warning systems for CRSV prevention and will be completed in September 2022.

The Network will finalise the assessment of the operationalisation of the MARA and related monitoring and analysis mechanisms, which will lead to the update of the Provisional Guidance Note on Resolution 1960 (2010) as well as the optimisation of the MARA where it currently exists.

To further bolster the implementation of programmes and initiatives on CRSV and amplify learning, following the momentum of Security Council resolution 2467 (2019), UN Action will also be finalising a lessons-oriented brief on what it means to take a survivor-centred approach in the context of CRSV.

The Network will also pilot new modalities of engagement with those working on CRSV, gender, and related subjects, including the UN, its partners, and Member States, through ‘brownbag’ webinars on thematic issues. The first series will focus on the nexus of CRSV and violent extremism/terrorism, led by a thematic working group co-chaired by UNODC and the TOE.

The Network’s strategy is thus to focus on ensuring that political agreements are translated into tangible actions at the country-level that improve survivors’ lives through expanded access to comprehensive, life-saving, multi-sectoral services, including quality medical and psychosocial services, sexual and reproductive health and rights, rehabilitation, livelihood support, enhanced accountability through judicial reforms, and support for reparations-related processes. The Network will place an emphasis on economic empowerment and livelihood support of survivors of CRSV to ensure that survivors achieve a life of personal and economic independence.

UN Action will work through a progressively inclusive and intersectional lens as part of its survivor-centred approach to preventing and responding to CRSV. This will recognise that survivors are unique individuals. The Network’s initiatives will seek to empower survivors by prioritising their unique needs, perspectives and wishes, and will pay special attention to intersecting inequalities, namely ethnicity, religion, migratory status, disabilities, age, political affiliation, sexual orientation and gender identity, and HIV status, among others. UN Action will be able to ensure that survivors’ rights are respected, that they are treated with dignity, and that their capacity to make informed decisions and to guide interventions to prevent future incidents of CRSV is embraced, as outlined in the 2021 annual Report of the Secretary-General on CRSV.

As always, UN Action will focus on its clear strategic priorities, while responding to rapidly shifting situations of concern, guided by the SRSB-SVC’s vision, Security Council resolutions relevant to CRSV, and the needs of survivors of CRSV.

RESOURCES

The 2021 Secretary-General’s annual Report on CRSV called upon Member States, donors and regional and intergovernmental organisations to provide “predictable financial support to the conflict-related sexual violence multi-partner trust fund for the work of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network”. Even before UN Action was officially established in 2007, the Network has been funded through voluntary contributions for all staffing, programmatic and operational costs. The Network ensures that adequate resources are mobilised to addressing the chronic funding shortfalls for preventing and addressing CRSV.

A. CORE CONTRIBUTORS



B. PROJECT-SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Project	Participating Organisation	Countries Supported	Total \$USD
CRSV_UNA2	IOM	Somalia	363,636
CRSV_UNA_03	UNFPA	Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq	295,100
CRSV_UNA_03	UNHCR	Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq	295,303
CRSV_UNA_03	UNICEF	Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq	295,421

Net Funded Amount Total: \$1,239,460

C. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributor	In-Kind Contribution	Location of Support
Japan	JPO	USA (New York, UN Headquarters)



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