

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
OF SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AS AN ELEMENT OF REPARATIONS:**



**INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND
GUIDELINES FOR UKRAINE**

Economic Empowerment of Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence as an Element of Reparations: International Experience and Guidelines for Ukraine

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- ADMSP** - Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison
- ART** - Agency for the Renovation of the Territory
- CEJ** - Center for Equality and Justice
- CRSV** - Conflict-related sexual violence
- CSO** - Civil society organization
- CVT** - Center for Victims of Torture
- DRC** - Democratic Republic of the Congo
- FARC** - Las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia
- FBiH** - Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- FRY** - Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
- GBV** - Gender-based violence
- GSF** - Global Survivors Fund
- IAWG** – Inter-Agency Working Group on Combating Sexual Violence Related to Russia’s Armed Aggression Against Ukraine and Assistance to the Survivors
- ICC** - International Criminal Court
- ICTJ** - International Center for Transitional Justice
- IISS** - International Institute for Strategic Studies
- IOM** - International Organization for Migration
- ILO** - International Labor Organization
- IDP** - Internally displaced person
- IRC** - International Rescue Committee
- ISIL** - Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
- ITC** - International trade center
- JEP** - Special Jurisdiction for Peace
- KLA** - Kosovo Liberation Army
- LGBTIQ+** - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, and other queer constructs

LTTE - Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

MOSUCA - Le Mouvement des Survivantes des Violences Sexuelles en Centrafrique

NAP - National Action Plan

NSARV - National System of Attention and Reparation for Victims

OHCHR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

PDET - Development Programs with a Regional Focus

RDAA - Rural Development Action Aid

Resolution 1325 - UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, Security

RUV - Registro Único de Víctimas

SENA - Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje

SGBV - Sexual and gender-based violence

SIDA - Swedish International Cooperation Agency

SPE - Public Employment Service of Colombia

SSLS - South Sudan Law Society

SUNS - Survivors Network of South Sudan

UARIV - Unidad Administrativa Especial para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas

UN - United Nations Organization

UN Women - United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNMISS - United Nations Mission in South Sudan

UNSOM - United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

USAID - US Agency for International Development

VISP - Victim Institutional Strengthening Program

WIF - Women's International Foundation

INTRODUCTION

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London has published its annual **Armed Conflict Survey**. The survey recorded 183 regional and local conflicts as of 2023, the highest number in the last three decades. Armed conflicts usually become a field for crimes, where the most brutal tools are used to humiliate, sow terror and destroy the social structure of communities with conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) as one of the most serious war crimes, crimes against humanity and a form of genocide.

In his **January 2022 report**, the UN Secretary-General defined CRSV as “*rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilization, forced marriage and any other forms of sexual violence of comparable severity committed against women, men, girls or boys and directly or indirectly related to the conflict*”. The Policy on Gender-Based Crimes adopted by the Office of the Prosecutor-General of the International Criminal Court in 2023 defines “sexual violence” as “a form of gender-based violence that involves completed or attempted sexual acts”.¹

Women, girls, children and other vulnerable groups usually suffer disproportionately from CRSV crimes. The **annual report of the UN Secretary-General on GBV** for 2023 states that more than 3,522 cases of CRSV registered for the year were committed against women and girls, i.e. 95% of all cases; in 1186 cases, the survivors were children, of which 1157 (98%) were girls.

Back in 2007, women's rights defenders and survivors of CRSV adopted **The Nairobi Declaration**², as they sought to guarantee the rights of women and girls to legal remedies and compensation after the crimes of CRSV. The declaration states that “*Women and girls have a right to a remedy and reparation under international law. They have a right to benefit from reparation programs designed to directly benefit the victims, by providing restitution, compensation, reintegration, and other key measures and initiatives under transitional justice that, if crafted with gender-aware forethought and care, could have reparative effects, namely reinsertion, satisfaction and the guarantee of non-recurrence*”.

Since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the number of survivors of CRSV in Ukraine has continued to grow. **As of May 1, 2024, the General Prosecutor's Office recorded 292 facts of CRSV.** At the same time, the real number of survivors is much higher and “*available information indicates that CRSV is happening in a gruesome manner, and that the reported*

¹ The ICC's Office of the Prosecutor Policy on Gender-Based Crimes: Crimes involving sexual, reproductive and other gender-based violence (December 2023).

² Nairobi Declaration on Women's and Girls' Right to a Remedy and Reparation. International Meeting on Women's and Girls' Right to a Remedy and Reparation. Paris: International Federation of Human Rights, 2007

incidents are feared to be the tip of the iceberg".³ Therefore, the need to create effective reparation mechanisms for survivors of CRSV on the path to the restoration of our state is particularly important, and the policy for creating such a mechanism *"must be gender-sensitive, intersectionally consider structural inequalities, and apply equally to persons harmed since the beginning of russia's aggression in 2014"*.⁴

Some of the states, which at one time or another were and/or are still in a state of armed conflict, are trying to fulfill their international obligations and prevent the recurrence of relevant violations, to create appropriate mechanisms for the protection and support of survivors of CRSV, as well as to ensure them reparations.

The creation of a reparation mechanism should include not only monetary compensation, but also a number of other measures to help the survivors. Reparation programs must be holistic and transformative, both for individual survivors and for society as a whole, to ensure that all existing needs are met. Therefore, they should take into account the needs of the most vulnerable groups, who especially need support to reintegrate and rebuild their lives.

Ensuring the availability of the necessary forms of reparations requires due consideration, first of all, of the legal, cultural, and economic obstacles faced by survivors of CRSV in a specific context.

Thus, in conflict and post-conflict situations, women are often engaged in dangerous work, and their economic security, as a result, is at a low level. The damage caused by CRSV crimes makes them even more vulnerable to economic hardship and reduces the scope of economic opportunities. The result is cycles of dependence that become more and more difficult for survivors to overcome. The economic marginalization of women, that is, the lack of livelihood and the impossibility of being included in the labor market, deepens and multiplies the negative consequences caused by the crimes of CRSV.

In this context, economic empowerment as one of the forms of reparations acquires considerable priority and importance. It is not only the formation or strengthening of skills to earn and save money or own assets, but also the ability to freely decide how to participate in economic life and how to save, spend, sell or invest money and other assets.

In general, the main economic need of survivors of CRSV is economic independence due to having their own means of securing the necessities of life. Such independence should be understood as the expansion of opportunities to

³ [Ukraine study on the status of and opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.](#)

⁴ [Kateryna Busol \(2024\). Reparations for Atrocity Victims in Ukraine: Survivors' Aspirations and the Emerging Legal Framework](#)

make real choices about any aspect of one's life and to ensure full participation in all spheres of public life. That is, in addition to immediate medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, survivors of CRSV also need long-term assistance and support in order to become economically independent. All these aspects are an integral part of their journey to healing. Therefore, economic empowerment programs should build the appropriate skills of survivors and provide them with the necessary resources so that they can learn to earn and save money, expand knowledge about their rights, restore their dignity and actively participate in public life.

Therefore, when choosing which forms of reparations to implement, the state should be guided by their potential to transform the lives of individual survivors and society as a whole. For example, under certain conditions, economic compensation focused on survivors of CRSV, or access to production resources or loans can contribute to the expansion of their economic opportunities and independence, and, therefore, have such a transformative effect.

Therefore, the economic empowerment as one of the reparation mechanisms:

- dignifies the lives of survivors and helps them improve their livelihoods (e.g. by supporting their entrepreneurship, creating new jobs through supporting entrepreneurship expansion, ensuring the stability of their businesses) and plays a vital role in supporting their families and communities;
- can play a crucial role in supporting survivors of CRSV in their recovery (for example, providing access to resources and material support), training leaders and agents of change, in particular, to advocate for changes to national legislation;
- through training and development, allows survivors who are in a vulnerable and economically unstable situation to overcome economic dependence and open the way to a better future, because the acquisition of education and professional skills is the basis for economic empowerment, networking and forming professional connections.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to identify ways to expand the economic opportunities of survivors of CRSV as one of the reparation mechanisms in Ukraine.

Within the scope of the study, the focus was on the survivors of CRSV (men, women, children) in different **countries of the world** (Europe, Asia, Africa, South America). The countries were selected according to the following criterion: armed conflicts took place on their territories and they have experience in the implementation of economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV (including through the activities of non-governmental organizations).

Actually, both the best practices and successful cases of such empowerment (for example, Colombia) and the negative experience of states that were unable to develop appropriate reparation mechanisms for survivors of CRSV and provide a regulatory framework in the relevant area for a long time (for example, Cambodia, Syria) are taken into account etc.).

Among **the tasks** facing the research team, the following can be highlighted:

- to determine the state of implementation of reparation mechanisms, in particular economic empowerment, for survivors of CRSV in Ukraine;
- to analyze the experience of countries that have survived armed conflicts in terms of promoting the expansion of economic opportunities of survivors of CRSV as one of the reparation mechanisms through state and public initiatives;
- on the basis of isolated experience, to propose recommendations for Ukraine, taking into account existing initiatives, existing obstacles and successful steps on the path to the formation of reparation mechanisms for survivors of CRSV.

The research methodology provided for the conduct of an **office study** during **January-May 2024**.

Within the framework of a cabinet study **based on the analysis** of international and national legal acts (including the NAP on the implementation of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security which contain provisions on reparations for survivors of CRSV), as well as reports, statistical data and the data of sociological surveys, international academic intelligence, the foreign experience of economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo⁵, Cote d'Ivoire, Nepal, Nigeria,

⁵ Ukraine did not recognize Kosovo's independence, referring to the "principle of unconditional respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states within internationally recognized borders."

Peru, South Sudan, Syria and Turkey, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka was analyzed.

The main limitation of the cabinet study was that the use of economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV as an independent type of reparations is not widespread and is mostly applied in combination with other reparation mechanisms.

UKRAINE ON THE PATH OF ESTABLISHING REPARATION MECHANISMS FOR SURVIVORS OF CRSV, INCLUDING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Reparations are mostly a post-war matter. However, taking into account the fact that survivors of CRSV suffer various consequences from the violence experienced and often cannot cope with their trauma on their own, the need for the state to provide urgent interim reparations becomes obvious. Because the longer a person lives with a trauma, the deeper the trauma becomes.

Reparations are considered to be *“a means of recognizing the suffering experienced (by the survivors – Ed.), the illegal nature of the actions against them, as well as confirmation that they have the right to compensation for the damage caused, which will alleviate their suffering and provide an opportunity to overcome the traumatic experience, as well as to awaken public consciousness”*⁶. As the First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska noted, *“this is not only economic support. This is an important step towards restoring justice”*⁷.

Given the importance of reparation mechanisms for the rapid recovery of survivors of CRSV and the state as a whole, Ukraine takes responsibility for the creation of a national mechanism for providing adequate and effective reparations as early as now, and not in the post-war period.

Currently, Ukraine is actively implementing interim compensation projects for CRSV survivors with the joint efforts of the government, survivor networks, and civil society organizations (for example, the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) project⁸). Such initiatives are certainly a positive step to support survivors of CRSV.

At the same time, such reparation measures are temporary. According to international law, it is primarily the Russian Federation that must pay reparations to survivors of CRSV in Ukraine. However, regardless of reparations from Russia, Ukraine must create a proper reparation mechanism that will ensure the rights of survivors, guarantee compensation at the state level and on a permanent basis, in particular with the help of economic empowerment tools.

Problems on the way to the formation of reparation mechanisms, including economic empowerment:

- 1) lack of a comprehensive system of identification of survivors of CRSV;
- 2) ambiguous prospects for bringing the culprits to justice even under the conditions of administration of justice in accordance with national and international standards;

⁶ [Kateryna Busol \(2024\). Reparations for Atrocity Victims in Ukraine: Survivors' Aspirations and the Emerging Legal Framework](#)

⁷ [The international conference "Restoring the rights of victims of conflict-related sexual violence: an element of peace and global security", which took place in Kyiv on March 4, 2024.](#)

⁸ [Ukraine study on the status of and opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.](#) The project provides for the provision of one-time interim compensation to all identified victims by the end of October 2024. Within the framework of the Pilot project, 500 people will be able to receive one-time interim compensation.

- 3) challenges in the formation of a holistic approach to the combination of various forms of reparations in the formation of special legislation;
- 4) survivors are not always sufficiently informed about reparation initiatives.

Key positive steps:

1) an advisory body was created to counter CRSV and provide assistance to survivors

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Combating Sexual Violence Related to Russia's Armed Aggression Against Ukraine and Assistance to the Survivors (IAWG) is an advisory body under the Commission coordinating the interaction of executive authorities to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

It was created in 2022 to implement the provisions of the Framework on Cooperation between the UN and the Government of Ukraine on prevention and response to CRSV.

The main areas of work of the IAGW include:

- effective investigation and documentation of crimes;
- provision of comprehensive assistance to survivors, including reparations;
- increasing the competence of specialists and informing society⁹.

The IAGW includes 5 subgroups, including subgroup No. 5 "Reparations and compensations". Important achievements of the subgroup for the period from March 2023 to March 2024 include:

- creation of a mechanism for conducting consultations with survivors of CRSV to ensure the participation of survivors in decision-making and policy development regarding the national mechanism for providing various forms of reparations, as well as conducting the first consultations;
- implementation of a pilot project for testing the mechanism of providing urgent interim reparations to survivors of CRSV;
- development of legislation on the introduction of a national program for providing reparations to survivors of CRSV;
- strengthening the government's capacity to implement a comprehensive, effective and survivor-centered reparation mechanism¹⁰.

At the same time, the declared areas of the work of the IAWG for 2024 in terms of economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV as one of the reparation mechanisms on the path to recovery are as follows¹¹:

⁹ [The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine: "The first meeting of the Interagency Working Group on combating sexual violence related to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and assistance to the survivors was held" on June 9, 2022](#)

¹⁰ [Summary document on the outcomes of the implementation plan for the implementation of the Framework on Cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the UN on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence. The reporting period is March 2023 - March 2024](#)

¹¹ [ibid.](#)

- development of a methodology for assessing the economic needs of the regions for the **involvement of vulnerable women and girls** (in particular, IDPs and survivors of CRSV) **in entrepreneurial activities**, improving conditions and informing about GBV/CRSV in the places of residence of IDPs with the help of enhanced coordination, including the promotion of intersectoral assistance of humanitarian organizations, government support and other local actors.
- creation of a national mechanism for providing adequate and effective reparations to survivors of CRSV **through advocacy of prepared draft laws in the field of reparations**, improvement of access of survivors of CRSV to urgent interim and long-term reparations and launch of the process of consultations with survivors within the scope of activities of the International Organization for Migration.
- conducting a survivor-centered **campaign to raise awareness** of how survivors of CRSV can report CRSV.

2) a body for the investigation of CRSV was established at the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

On September 20, 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a resolution "[On the formation of the Temporary Investigatory Commission on Investigation of Sexual Violence Committed as A Result of the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine](#)". The main tasks of the Temporary Investigatory Commission:

- investigation of facts of sexual violence committed as a result of armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine;
- initiating the bringing of persons guilty of sexual violence to justice, including the international search for such persons and the implementation of cooperation based on the principle of universal jurisdiction.

3) the legal framework is being formed

As early as May 3, 2022, the Framework on Cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the UN on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (hereinafter referred to as the Framework) was signed, the purpose of which is to create a holistic approach to responding to cases of sexual violence at the state and local levels.

It was developed by the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Government of Ukraine in cooperation with UN Women and other UN agencies.

The framework is based on Ukraine's NAP on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, Security. The latter establishes national goals for ensuring "access to justice" and "comprehensive assistance" to survivors of CRSV.¹²

¹² [Briefing document "Providing reparations for Ukraine" November 2023](#)

Today, the regulatory framework in this area is at the stage of formation. Legislative work of the Verkhovna Rada continues regarding the following draft laws:

- draft Law of Ukraine **“On accounting of persons whose lives and health were harmed as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine”**¹³ No. 10256 dated November 13, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as draft law No. 10256), submitted by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, D.A. Shmyhal. This draft law was adopted as a basis in April 2024 and is currently being prepared for the second reading in the Verkhovna Rada.
- draft Law of Ukraine **“On the status of victims of sexual violence related to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and urgent interim reparations”**¹⁴ No. 10132 dated October 9, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as draft law No.10132) submitted by People's Deputy of Ukraine Maryna Bardina and other people's deputies of Ukraine. This draft law was registered in the Verkhovna Rada in October 2023. The relevant committees of the Verkhovna Rada have recently provided conclusions and recommendations to it.

Draft law No.10132 is special to the provisions of draft law No. 10256, as the latter defines the organizational and legal basis for the creation and functioning of the state register of persons affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine in order to ensure compensation for damage caused to their lives and health.

Actually, the damage caused to life and health is understood as the damage that occurred as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and is associated with the death of a person or disappearance under special circumstances, injury, trauma, loss of working capacity, establishment of disability, **conflict-related violence**, the loss of the child's parents, loss of access to certain types of services, loss of income (clause 2, part 1, article 1 of draft law No.10256). Violence refers to both physical and sexual violence (clause 4, part 1, article 2 of draft law No.10256). In fact, this draft law regulates a wide range of issues, and CRSV is one of the cases of damage to life and health identified in it.

At the same time, draft law No.10132 is designed to establish a regulatory basis for regulating the reparation and compensation system¹⁵. It defines in detail the legal status of those persons who were affected by sexual violence related to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and the family members of the dead (deceased), and also determines the legal basis for providing them with urgent interim reparations.

The important provisions of this draft law include as follows:

¹³ [Draft Law of Ukraine “On accounting of persons whose lives and health were harmed as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine” No.10256 dated November 13, 2023.](#)

¹⁴ [Draft Law of Ukraine “On the status of victims of sexual violence related to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and urgent interim reparations” No.10132 dated October 9, 2023.](#)

¹⁵ [Final document based on the results of the implementation plan for the implementation of the Framework on Cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the UN on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.](#)

- the implementation of the right to immediate interim reparations does not mean a waiver of other rights, including the right to prosecute the guilty and bring them to justice (Part 2 of Article 2 of Draft law No.10132). This provision emphasizes the urgency of adequate and effective reparations and their belonging to transitional justice;
- the concept of sexual violence covers violence committed against any person during the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine starting from February 20, 2014 (clause 7, part 1, article 1 of draft law No.10132). This provision clearly establishes the fact that the aggression of the Russian Federation began in 2014 and does not put the survivors of CRSV of different periods in unfair conditions;
- the draft law details examples of acts that constitute sexual violence and does not set an exhaustive list (rape, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, forced abortion, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, coercion to sexual intercourse with a third person, coercion to watch intercourse, sexual slavery, forced circumcision, castration, mutilation of the genitals, forced nudity, or any other form of sexual violence of the relevant severity) (clause 7, part 1, article 1 of draft law No.10132). This provision allows differentiating various forms of sexual violence and reparations.

In addition, draft law No.10132 defines that urgent **compensation is a monetary payment aimed at meeting the urgent needs of persons** affected by sexual violence associated with the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which is introduced with the aim of restoring the rights of these persons and overcoming the consequences of the harm caused to them (clause 3, part 1, article 1, No.10132). Despite this, **the economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV is still not considered** as one of the reparation mechanisms on the path to recovery.

4) an online site - **the Survivor Assistance Platform**

- was created by the government on the initiative of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, with the assistance of the Government Commissioner for Gender Policy and the support of the UNFPA (the UN Population Fund in Ukraine);
- is aimed at facilitating the access of survivors to proven services and initiatives;
- is designed to provide support to Ukrainians in any corner of the country, as well as beyond its borders;
- the platform gathers key services that provide Ukrainians with psychological, legal, medical and humanitarian assistance (comprehensive professional support);
- contains contacts of key support services for survivors of various types of violence;
- informs about the following opportunities: economic, educational, for development, for children;
- all services are verified, confidential and free of charge;

- exists to create an environment of trust between survivors and service providers¹⁶.

5) 12 Survivor Relief Centers

- were created on the initiative of the Government of Ukraine in partnership with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund in Ukraine;
- location: Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Mukachevo, Kherson, Kharkiv, Poltava, Odesa, Kropyvnytskyi, Sumy;
- are aimed to respond to the challenges of war;
- operate in the “one-stop shop” format;
- provide free and complex socio-psychological, informational and legal support to all those affected by the war.

6) Aurora, an online platform of specialized psychotherapeutic support for survivors

- was created by UNFPA with the assistance of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration;
- its support services include, but are not limited to, specialist assistance in stabilizing the emotional state, finding resources for everyday activities and planning for the future;
- comprehensive nature of assistance, free service, confidentiality, anonymity, high standards of professional ethics, online counseling are guaranteed.

The listed steps are definitely important. At the same time, measures in the area of economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV as one of the important reparation mechanisms remain insufficient. In order to provide effective assistance to the survivors of CRSV in their recovery, there should be guarantees established at the legislative level and a system that does not include individual aspects of compensation for damage, but is a comprehensive mechanism of support for the survivors.

A holistic approach and combination¹⁷ of various forms of reparations, including financial compensation, medical and psychological assistance, the use of means of economic empowerment (for example, help in acquiring a profession), will allow the survivors to return to normal life, restore their dignity and place in society.

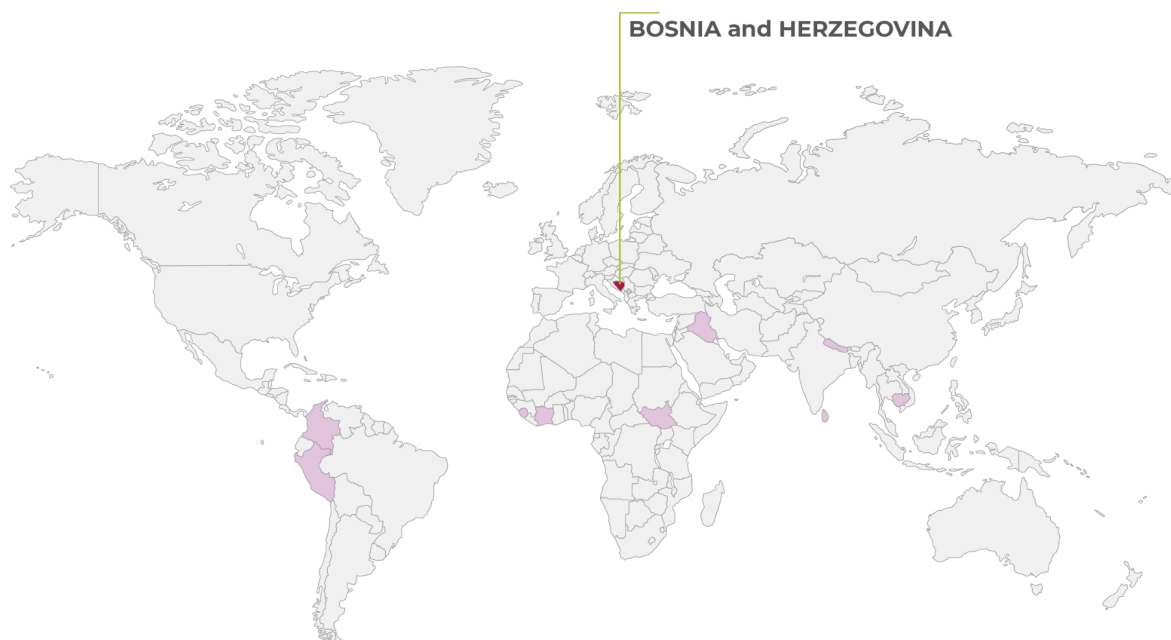
At the same time, studying and taking into account the foreign experience of providing economic empowerment for survivors of CRSV can be useful on the path to the formation of an effective and fair mechanism of reparations in Ukraine.

¹⁶ [The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine: “The government has launched a one-stop online platform to help Ukrainians affected by the war” dated March 15, 2023](#)

¹⁷ [Global reparations study executive summary report of preliminary findings “Reparations for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Status and Prospects” dated September 27, 2021](#)

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SURVIVORS OF CRSV AS ONE OF THE REPARATION MECHANISMS ON THE PATH TO RECOVERY

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA



Context. According to recent research, more than **20,000** women and men were raped and sexually abused in so-called “rape camps” by the army and paramilitary forces during the 1992-1995 armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.¹⁸

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- Almost 30 years after the end of the conflict, most survivors have not received reparations and continue to live with the physical and psychological consequences of the crimes they suffered. Children born as a result of rape committed during the conflict also faced stigma and a range of obstacles.¹⁹

¹⁸ [Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men “Sexual violence against women in armed conflict”, Belgium, 15 May 2009](#)

¹⁹ [United Nations Bosnia & Herzegovina. \(2022\). It is imperative that survivors of conflict-related sexual violence have access to adequate reparation.](#)

5 % 1000 survivors

95 %

- About 1,000 survivors of CRSV have received or are in the process of receiving some form of compensation. This is only 5% of the total number of survivors. This disproportionality can be explained by the numerous difficulties that prevent survivors from accessing their rights to compensation.²⁰
- Republika Srpska, as one of the entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina (another entity is the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina), started the procedure of adopting a new law that would address the status and rights of civilian war survivors back in 2018. *The Wartime Torture Survivors Protection Law*²¹ recognized persons who were subjected to rape or sexual violence in any form against their will as victims of torture. At the same time, the Law contains many shortcomings that create obstacles in its application. A significant disadvantage is the limitation of the deadline for a person to submit an application for the status of a wartime victim of torture — 5 years from the date of entry into force, which has already expired today.²²
- In 2019, the UN Committee against Torture called on Bosnia and Herzegovina to create an effective reparations scheme at the national level to provide all forms of reparations to survivors of war crimes, including those of CRSV.²³
- *The Joint Program for Seeking Help, Support and Justice for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aligned with the State Framework and UN National Strategies for 2020*, has been implemented with its key outcomes being as follows:
 - 1) one new law on the protection of torture survivors;
 - 2) 358 service providers of support to survivors;
 - 3) 1492 vulnerable persons who have access to free legal aid;
 - 4) 20,000 people who participated in public awareness campaigns about the stigmatization of CRSV;
 - 5) three initiatives to expand economic opportunities for survivors.

²⁰ [Bosnia and Herzegovina study on opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, March 2022](#)

²¹ Was adopted by the People's Assembly of the Republika Srpska on June 21, 2018 and entered into force on October 5, 2018.

²² [Challenges and implementation of the Wartime Torture Survivors Protection Law of the Republic of Serbia \(Izazovi i implementacija Zakona o zaštiti žrtava ratne torture Republike Srpske\)](#)

²³ [Bosnia and Herzegovina study on opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, March 2022](#)

- On July 14, 2022, the long-awaited **Law on War Survivors** was adopted in the Autonomous District of Brcko of Bosnia and Herzegovina to replace **the Decision on the Protection of Civilian War Survivors of August 8, 2012**. For the first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the law recognized persons who were born as a result of rape and sexual violence during the war as civilian survivors of war in addition to those who suffered physical or psychological harm as a result of sexual violence and rape (persons with a special status whose harm is not determined in percentage terms).
- In turn, the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted **the Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of War in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina** only on July 25, 2023 (entered into force on January 1, 2024), which granted persons who survived sexual violence or rape during the war, as well as children born as a result of rape the status of civilians affected by the war.

Application of economic empowerment as a form of reparations for survivors of CRSV

- **The Wartime Torture Survivors Protection Law** in the Republic of Serbia established certain rights for persons who have been granted the status of torture survivors which are relevant in the context of the application of economic empowerment, in particular:

- 1) the right to a monthly cash income;
- 2) the right to health insurance;
- 3) the right to sanatorium and resort rehabilitation;
- 4) encouraging employment and self-employment (according to special government programs that ensure employment and self-employment of the unemployed);
- 5) the right to free legal aid;
- 6) the right to exemption from payment of the court fee, as well as the administrative fee when exercising the right to monthly income.

At the same time, the monthly cash income is determined in the amount of the disability benefit of the relevant group and depends on certain qualifying circumstances, for example: sexual violence committed while in captivity, against a minor, forced pregnancy in this connection, forced abortion in this connection, birth of a child as a result of forced pregnancy due to sexual violence.

- According to **the Joint Program Report**, 3 economic empowerment initiatives were implemented for survivors, which included:

- 1) location A – training women to produce woolen woven products using the traditional carpet technique to be bought by local firms or to create a new brand

(28 women learned or improved their skills in traditional carpet weaving using conventional manual or semi-automatic machines);

2) location B – training in small-scale agriculture *(24 beneficiaries grew a total of 13,135 kg of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers, earning a total profit of 19,500 BAM²⁴ in just 2 months. Beneficiaries include 10 survivors of CRSV and 14 other civilian war survivors of whom 15 are women);*

3) location D – training in business planning and administration *(26 beneficiaries founded or expanded a small individual or family businesses, including 24 survivors of CRSV and 2 vulnerable persons, all women).*

The pilot economic empowerment schemes reached about 80 beneficiaries and about 150 family members of CRSV survivors, members of other marginalized groups such as civilian war survivors and survivors of domestic violence.

- **The Law on War Survivors of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides** for special rights for war survivors, among which the following should be highlighted:

1) the right to assistance in paying for treatment and purchasing orthopedic devices;

2) preparation for work in the form of professional rehabilitation, retraining and advanced training;

3) the right to special employment projects;

4) the right to priority housing;

5) the right to free legal aid.

- At the same time, **the Law on the Protection of Civilian War Survivors in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina** introduces the following benefits for civilian survivors of sexual violence or rape during the war in FBiH, which are aimed at expanding economic opportunities:

1) benefits when using health services, psychological aid, help in paying for treatment and purchasing orthopedic devices, sanatorium-climatic treatment and medical rehabilitation;

2) priority employment;

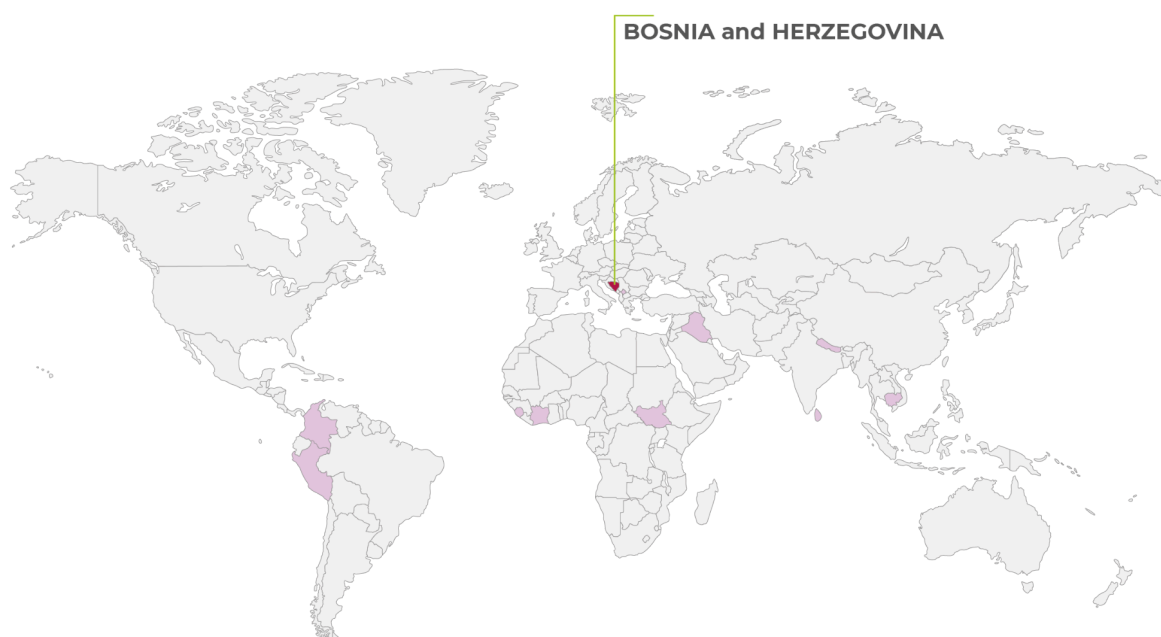
3) priority housing;

4) the right to monthly personal financial income;

5) reimbursement of procedural costs for the exercise of the relevant rights;

6) priority enrollment in secondary schools and higher educational institutions of children born as a result of CRSV (rape).

²⁴ BAM - Bosnia and Herzegovina convertible mark (official currency)



Context. In March 1998, an internal armed conflict broke out in Kosovo, then a province of the Republic of Serbia, part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). In the 1991 referendum, Kosovo Albanians declared independence. After that, almost a decade of systematic violations of the human rights of Kosovo Albanians began. In 1998, the situation escalated into an internal armed conflict between the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and other armed groups seeking independence, and the forces of the FRY, Serbian police and paramilitary formations. During this period, ethnic Albanians, men and women, were killed, assaulted, arbitrarily arrested, tortured and otherwise ill-treated, including through CRSV, by Serbian police and Yugoslav army soldiers. On March 24, 1999, after the failure of peace talks, NATO began a bombing campaign against the Yugoslav army, Serbian police, and paramilitary forces, which lasted until June 10, 1999. In June 1999, NATO concluded a military-technical agreement with the governments of the Republic of Serbia and the FRY and an agreement on the cessation of hostilities with the KLA. The withdrawal of the Yugoslav army and Serbian police between June and July 1999 was accompanied by increased human rights violations. Rape by policemen, representatives of paramilitary formations and armed forces became a mass and almost routine phenomenon “like taking a shower and having breakfast”.

²⁵ Ukraine did not recognize Kosovo's independence, referring to the “principle of unconditional respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states within internationally recognized borders”.

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

2014

In 2014, the Assembly of Kosovo approved a law that granted legal status to survivors of SGBV (Law No. 04/L-172).²⁶

2015

In 2015, the government passed a decree allowing survivors of SGBV to obtain official status as civilian war survivors entitled to reparations, including a monthly pension.

2017

In 2017, the government allocated a budget of EUR 1 million for the process of recognizing and verifying the status of CRSV survivors.

2018

In 2018, the Commission for the Verification and Recognition of Sexual Violence Victim Status in Kosovo was established and began to provide reparations to survivors of CRSV for the physical, psychological, economic and social trauma they suffered. Persons who have received this status are entitled to a monthly pension of 230 euros.

2023

In 2023, the deadline for submitting an application for such status to exercise pension and benefit rights was extended to May 15, 2025.²⁷

- Justice Rapid Response, with the support of UN Women, has from the very beginning provided the Commission with specialists that contribute to the implementation of best practices and compliance with international standards in the process of providing reparations. This should ultimately have a transformative impact on society as a whole, particularly through raising awareness of the prevalence and impact of CRSV and condemning these crimes and the existing culture of impunity around them.
- This model has become a new approach to reparation for survivors of CRSV, because it does not require prior prosecution of criminals in order to grant the status of a victim. As a result, Kosovo has become a leader in providing individual financial compensation to survivors of CRSV on a monthly basis. One of the challenges, however, is the fact that the Commission began functioning almost 20 years after the armed conflict, and thus faces a lack of evidence and limited access

²⁶ [Law no. 04/L-054 on the status and rights of martyrs, invalids, veterans, members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, civilian victims of war and their families. Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo / No. 26 / 23 April 2014](#)

²⁷ [Law No. 08/L-219 on amending and supplementing the Law No. 04/L-054 on the status and rights of martyrs, invalids, veterans, members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, sexual violence victims of the war, civilian victims and their families, amended and supplemented by the Law No. 04/L-172. \(n.d.\). Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo / No. 17 / 3 August 2023, Pristina.](#)

to information. In addition, there is the risk of retraumatization of survivors and societal pressures and expectations.²⁸

²⁸ [Guest article: Kosovo leads the way in reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence. \(2019, December 9\).](#)

COLOMBIA



Context. The armed conflict in Colombia lasted more than half a century. In 2016, the government signed a peace agreement with the largest guerrilla organization, the FARC ²⁹. According to UARIV data³⁰, **9,250,453** people affected by the armed conflict were recorded in the Uniform Register of Victims (RUV)³¹ as of February 28, 2022. Of these, **34,769** were registered specifically as survivors of crimes against sexual freedom and integrity during the armed conflict, of which approximately **31,303** are women, **2,906** are men and **559** people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or other queer constructs (LGBTIQ+) ³². On September 27, 2023, when instituting an investigation, the Special Jurisdiction Tribunal for Peace (JEP) ³³ said at least **35,178** people had suffered sexual, gender-based and reproductive violence during the armed conflict in Colombia ³⁴.

²⁹FARC (Las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - a leftist Colombian rebel organization.

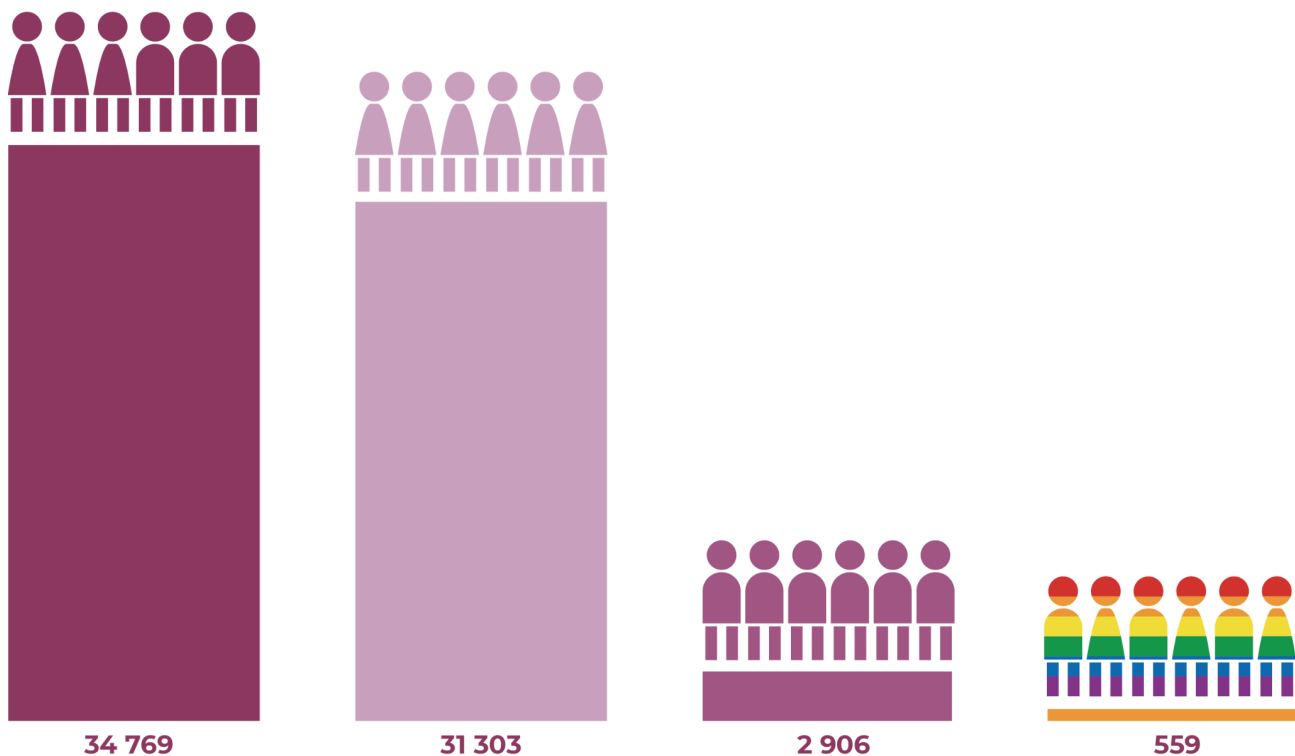
³⁰ UARIV (Unidad Administrativa Especial para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas) - Special Administrative Department for Complex Attention and Compensation for Victims - a state body responsible for the implementation of the national compensation program in Colombia for victims of the armed conflict.

³¹RUV (Registro Único de Víctimas) - The uniform register of victims in Colombia

³² Study on the situation and opportunities of the right to reparation for victims and survivors of conflict-related sexual and reproductive violence in Colombia: Victims at the center of reparation

³³JEP, Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz, also known as the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, is Colombia's transitional justice mechanism through which members of the FARC, members of civil forces and third parties involved in Colombia's armed conflict are investigated and tried.

³⁴ ICTJ - International Center for Transitional Justice



The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- In 2011, [Law 1448 on Survivors and Land Restitution](#) (hereinafter referred to as Law 1448/2011) was adopted, which recognized the rights of survivors of armed conflicts to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition. Among the restitution measures established by law is monetary compensation to survivors to help them rebuild their lives (the amount of compensation calculated on the minimum monthly wage depends on the crime committed against the survivor). Law 1448/2011 was originally planned to be in force for ten years (2011-2021), but in 2021 it was extended for another 10 years.
- **The National System of Attention and Reparation for Victims (NSARV)**³⁵ was established to implement the measures provided for by the Law (also valid until 2031), which coordinates programs and government institutions. Three institutions were created within the framework of the system: the Department of Land Restitution, the Department of Survivors ([UARIV](#)) and the National Center of Historical Memory.
- This law is considered the world's most ambitious and one that respects the rights of survivors. During the first decade of NSARV implementation:
 - humanitarian assistance was provided to more than 142,000 survivors;
 - 1,163,650 people received economic compensation;
 - more than 250,000 people received psychosocial assistance.

³⁵NSARV (National System of Attention and Reparation for Victims)

Despite this, the system still has many problems. Survivors often do not fully understand their rights. The main challenges include the lack of funding and the ongoing conflict and violence in the country.³⁶

- Survivors seek compensation to meet their needs, which are often related to the harm they have suffered. They require resources and support to help them move out of poverty, vulnerability and isolation. This includes requests for compensation or access to work, education or housing. There is also a high expectation of reparations provided by the domestic reparations program under the Law on Survivors and Land Restitution (Law 1448/2011 and its three decree-laws).³⁷

Application of economic empowerment as reparation to survivors of CRSV

- Among the measures aimed at the economic empowerment of survivors, **Law 1448/2011** provides for:
 - 1) exemption from all types of academic expenses in formal educational institutions at the preschool, primary and secondary levels for the survivors specified in this law until they have the resources to pay;
 - 2) establishing selection, admission and enrollment processes for vocational technical institutions, technological institutions, university institutions or schools of technology and public universities that enable access to their academic programs for survivors, especially women, heads of families, adolescents and persons with disabilities;
 - 3) ensuring the inclusion of survivors in special credit lines and subsidies;
 - 4) facilitating and guaranteeing access to training provided by the National Learning Service (SENA);
 - 5) adoption of measures that guarantee survivors access to plans, programs and complex projects of urban and rural development, offering them the necessary means to compensate for the damage caused while avoiding victimization processes ³⁸.
- **Entrelazando (Interwoven)** is a strategy created by UARIV to ensure the rehabilitation of survivors who have suffered collective harm, particularly peasants. Its success lies in its ability to build ownership and restore social fabric in communities by fostering participation, healing potential, and leadership³⁹.
- In 2015, UARIV developed a strategy to support women affected by sexual violence, called **"Vivificarte"**. The strategy, supported by USAID's Victims Institutional Strengthening Program (VISP⁴⁰), aims to promote women's

³⁶ Harvard Kennedy School. "Evaluation of Integral Reparations Measures in Colombia." USAID. October 2015

³⁷ Global Survivors Fund. (2022). Country Brief: Colombia.

³⁸ USAID. (2022). Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

³⁹ Global Survivors Fund. (2022). Country Brief: Colombia.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

autonomy and empowerment as part of the emotional recovery process. About 4,154 women who suffered from sexual violence participated in the strategy.⁴¹

- Thanks to the successful **implementation of the Conflict Survivors' Employment Strategy**, the Public Employment Service of Colombia (SPE) and the USAID VISP Program have contributed to solving the difficulties of conflict survivors in finding official work. The initiative not only encouraged large, medium, small and micro companies to hire conflict survivors as part of the inclusion policy, but also worked to empower survivors and reduce employment gaps through tailored training and psychosocial support. A total of 50 companies, 74% of which are small and medium-sized, hired 1,804 employees for long-term formal employment, exceeding the initial target of 1,300 vacancies. At the end of the project, a webinar was held with the participation of more than 500 people, which was broadcast through the Colombian magazine Portafolio ⁴².

- **The project to strengthen gender equality in the enterprises of female farmers in the municipality of Valencia-Córdoba:** female farmers were assisted by business advisers on economic initiatives who made progress in diagnosing the results of the application of the tool for measuring organizational and business capabilities in 4 targeted grassroots organizations, and also in the joint construction and implementation of a business development plan to strengthen the identified economic initiatives. It should be noted that this strategy to strengthen women's entrepreneurship is reproduced in the south of Córdoba, in particular in the municipalities of Tierraalta and Valencia, with the support of Alianza del Sur, which, due to its commitments, is interested in strengthening the gender component with the help of this strategy⁴³.

- On November 19, 2019, the first social business meeting took place in Montería, where projects were proposed for the implementation of the **Development Programs with a Territorial-Based Approach (PDET)** in Córdoba. The space aims to create public-private partnerships to co-finance and implement 15 projects on coexistence, peace and reconciliation, which aim, in particular, at the economic autonomy and leadership of conflict-affected women. The event was jointly organized by VISP and the Agency for Territorial Renewal (ART) ⁴⁴.

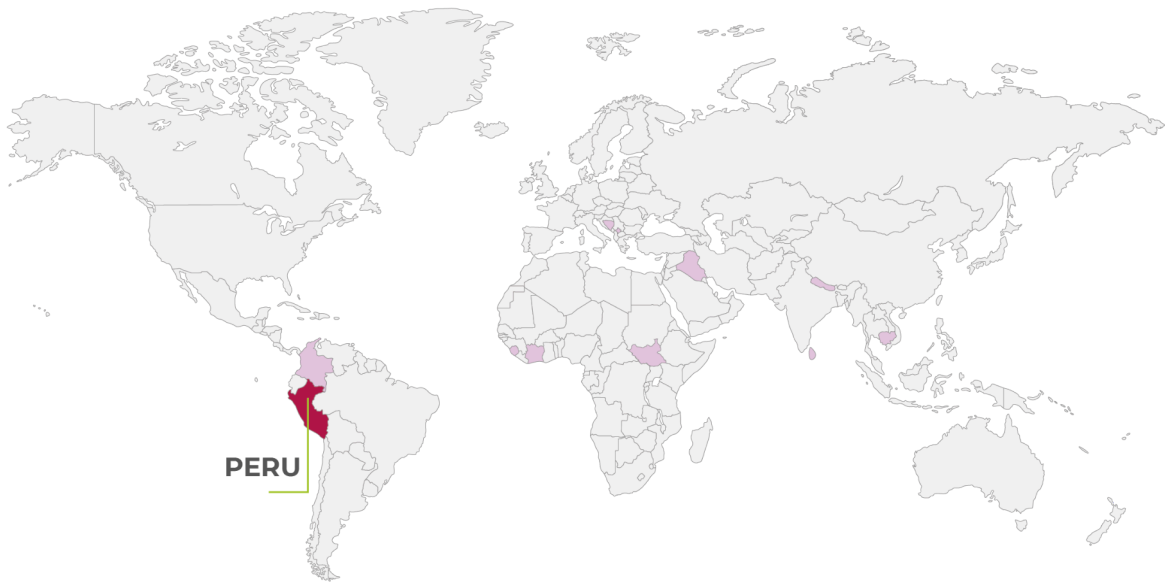
⁴¹ [Ibid.](#)

⁴² [Ibid.](#)

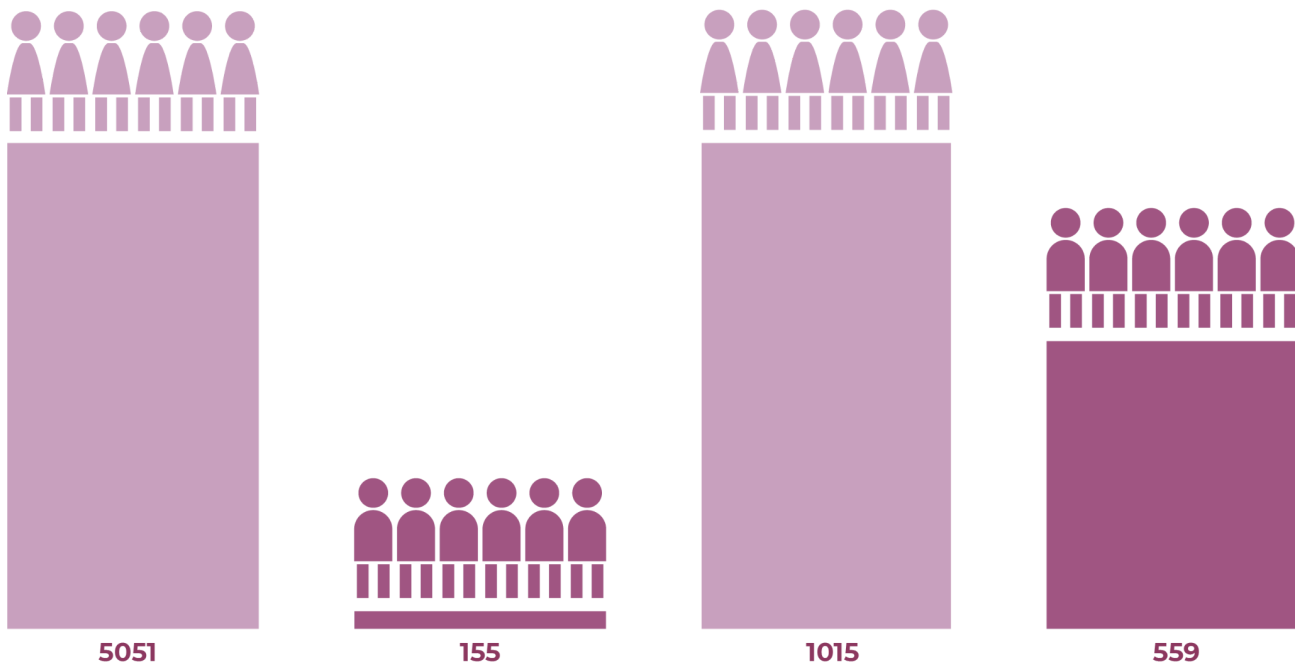
⁴³ [Victims Institutional Strengthening Program - VISP. Thirty Sixth Quarterly Status Report. April – June 2021. USAID/COLOMBIA](#)

⁴⁴ [Ib.](#)

PERU



Context. During the internal armed conflict and the authoritarian period in Peru in 1980-2000, **5,051** women and **155** men were affected by rape. As for other forms of sexual violence, the majority of survivors were also women and numbered **1,015** persons and the number of male survivors reached **599**⁴⁵.



⁴⁵ Report: Reparations in Peru – 15 Years Of Delivering Redress, September 2019





The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- Adoption in 2005 of Law No. 28592, that creates the Integral Plan of Reparations for survivors of violence between May 1980 and November 2000 and establishes an appropriate legal framework in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.
- According to Art. 2 of the Law, the Integral Plan of Reparations consists of the following programs, the modalities of which are described in more detail in Supreme Decree No. 015-2006-JUS that approves the Regulation of Law No. 28592, that creates the Integral Plan of Reparations:
 - Program for restoration of citizens' rights;
 - Education reimbursement program;
 - Health recovery program;
 - Collective reparations program;
 - Symbolic program of reparations;
 - Program to promote and facilitate access to housing;
 - other programs approved by the Multidisciplinary Commission.
- Nevertheless, in accordance with the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances regarding the report submitted by Peru under Article 29 (1) of the Convention dated May 8, 2019, the Committee considers that at the time of adoption of these concluding observations, the current legislation, its implementation and certain authorities' activity do not fully comply with the obligations of the participating state under the Convention.

Application of economic empowerment as reparation to survivors of CRSV

In accordance with the Supreme Decree No. 015-2006-JUS On the approval of the Provisions to Law No. 28592 which creates a Comprehensive Compensation Plan:

The education reimbursement program includes:

-  exemption from tuition fees, pensions, entrance exams and school certificates, as well as food and accommodation services where possible;
-  implementation of a comprehensive scholarship program;
-  adult education;
-  access and restoration of the right to regular basic education;



— access to relevant professional qualification opportunities.

The collective reparations program covers, in particular:

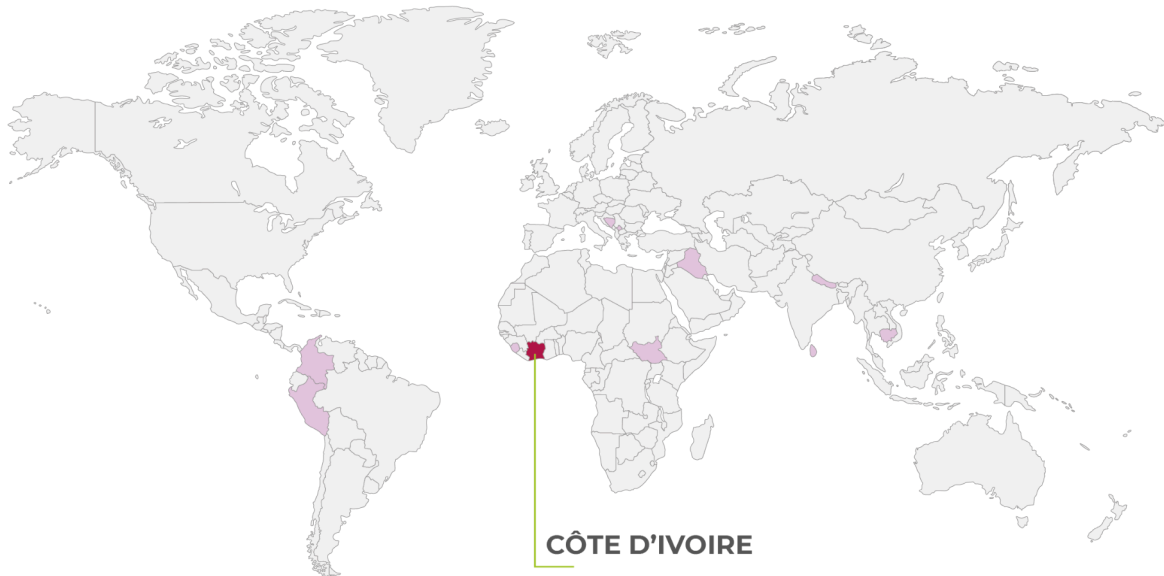


— restoration and reconstruction of economic, production and market infrastructure, as well as development of human potential and access to economic opportunities;



— assistance from the Ministry of Women and Social Development, in coordination with the High-level Multisectoral Commission and with the help of national programs, in the implementation of measures within its competence within the framework of collective reparations.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Context. From 2002 to 2007, Côte d'Ivoire experienced a **civil war** caused by ethnic conflict resulting from the xenophobic policies of the Gbagbo regime. The civil war ended in a multilaterally negotiated peace agreement that provided for power-sharing between the government and the opposition. Between 2010 and 2011, disputed presidential election results between incumbent Laurent Gbagbo and newly elected president Alassane Ouattara, who had the support of the international community, sparked a new wave of violence. Eventually, when Gbagbo refused to hand over power, Ouattara's forces, with the help of the UN and France, arrested him and handed him over to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC considered charges of crimes against humanity, but eventually issued an acquittal in 2021. Combatants committed CRSV crimes during all this time, about which the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire received specific reports. Both the rebel New Forces and the Ivorian government committed CRSV against civilians, sometimes targeting specific demographic groups based on ethnicity, and sometimes simply targeting the population as a whole.

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- Côte d'Ivoire created a national strategy to combat gender-based violence after the Second Civil War (2010-2011). As part of this strategy, the National Committee against Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (“Comité National de Lutte contre les Violences Sexuelles Liées aux Conflits”) was formed.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ [Ipo DWG, “Les Femmes, La Paix et La Sécurité : Les Violences Sexuelles Liées Aux Conflits” \(April 23, 2019\).](#)

- As part of providing assistance to survivors, the government primarily focuses on financing micro-projects with the help of micro-loans.
- However, the fight against gender-based violence, including CRSV, in Côte d'Ivoire is hampered by poor statistical data.

Application of economic empowerment as a form of reparations for survivors of CRSV

• In the field of women's empowerment, there are several funding programs developed by the Ministry of Women, Family and Childhood (“MoW”) and other social actors. Two of the most prominent of these are Finance, Women and Development (*Fonds, Femme et Développement*) of the MoW and the Ivorian Women’s Support Fund (*Fonds d'Appui aux Femmes de Côte d'Ivoire* or *FAFCI* (the French acronym)) of the Office of the First Lady. Both function within the framework of the Second NAP for the implementation of resolution 1325⁴⁷. It was formed on the basis of the evaluation of the first action plan 1325 which showed that the latter was not implemented systematically, and the planned activities were carried out unevenly and without a logical or programmatic connection to the plan.⁴⁸

• **Ivorian Women's Support Fund** was established by Decree No. 2012-1106 and provides low-interest loans with an initial capital of 10 billion (1,000,000,000) CFA francs.⁴⁹ The objectives of this program are as follows:

1. giving Ivorian women access to low-cost financial resources to increase their income;
2. training women in income-generating activities;
3. financing this activity through a decentralized financial system.⁵⁰

• According to the Office of the First Lady, to date there are more than 370,000 beneficiaries and 2 million people have been able to overcome the poverty line.⁵¹

• The conditions for obtaining access to this program are as follows:

1. be a woman or a group of women residing in Côte d'Ivoire;
2. be over 21 years of age;

⁴⁷ Plan d'Action National de Mise En Ouvre de La Résolution 1325 Du Conseil de Sécurité Des Nations Unies Sur Les Femmes, La Paix et La Sécurité (National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security).

⁴⁸ Ministère en charge de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfant. “Deuxième Plan d'Action National de Mise En Ouvre de La Résolution 1325 Du Conseil de Sécurité Des Nations Unies Sur Les Femmes, La Paix et La Sécurité 2019-2023”, accessed February 16, 2024, p.17 (“Second PAN 1325”).

⁴⁹ Décret n 2012-1106 du 8 novembre 2012 portant création et fonctionnement du Fonds d'Appui aux Femmes de Côte d'Ivoire, en abrégé FAFCI.

⁵⁰ “Fonds d'Appui aux Femmes de Côte d'Ivoire - Dominique Ouattara” (Dominique Ouattara, September 19, 2023).

⁵¹ “Couverture sociale: Le FAFCI lance la phase d'enrôlement de ses bénéficiaires au Régime Social des Travailleurs Indépendants (RSTI) - Dominique Ouattara” (Dominique Ouattara, December 29, 2023).

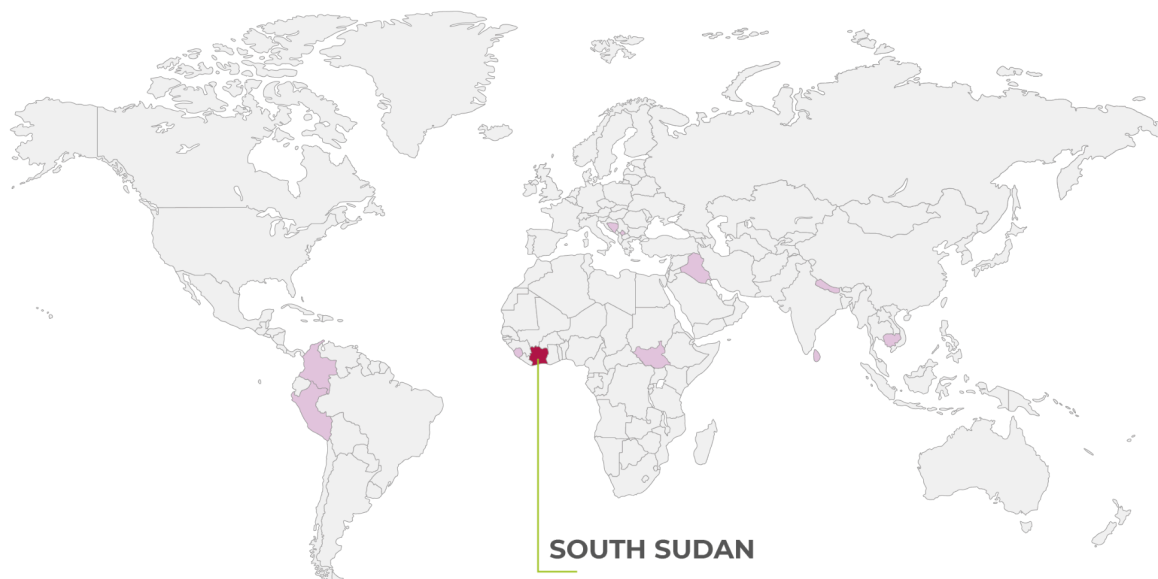
3. to plan or carry out income-generating activities.⁵²

- By mid-2023, the Ivorian Women's Support Fund will have reached CFAF 26 billion in capital and over CFAF 71 billion in funded activities, which was made possible by an excellent loan repayment rate of 98%.⁵³

⁵²Fonds d'Appui aux Femmes de Côte d'Ivoire - Dominique Ouattara.

⁵³ Cabinet du Premier Ministre de Côte d'Ivoire, "Fête Des Mères à Adzopé: Patrick Achi Célèbre Les Mamans Avec La Première Dame Qui Offre 500 Millions FCFA Aux Femmes de La Mé" (Primature.ci, July 6, 2023), accessed February 18, 2024

SOUTH SUDAN



Context. CRSV is a hallmark of the conflict that broke out on 15 December 2013 and spread to the Greater Equatoria region of South Sudan after the collapse of the 2015 peace agreement in July 2016⁵⁴. In South Sudan, there is no official government body that collects disaggregated data on the number of women and children affected by CRSV in South Sudan⁵⁵. The approximate real number of survivors of CRSV **exceeds 50,000**⁵⁶.

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- Since 2013, the ethno-political conflict in South Sudan has witnessed an escalation of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. Despite the signing of a **renewed Peace Agreement** to end the civil war in 2018, sexual violence and rape remain extremely common, and armed groups often target women as trophies of conflict⁵⁷.
- A **UN report** published on March 21, 2022 documents cases of CRSV that “are widespread and systematic” throughout South Sudan. It is about an extremely hostile environment in which women and children struggle to survive.

⁵⁴ [Amnesty International. \(2022\). "South Sudan: 'If you don't cooperate, I'll gun you down': Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Impunity in South Sudan"](#)

⁵⁵ [Human Rights Council. \(2022\). "Conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls in South Sudan"](#)

⁵⁶ [Country briefing: South Sudan . March 2022](#)

⁵⁷ [Human Rights Pulse. "The Spoils of War": South Sudan and the Surging Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women](#)

- The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) documented 194 survivors of CRSV in 2021, and 380 people as soon as in 2022.⁵⁸ Civilians continue to bear the brunt of violence in South Sudan according to the latest human rights report from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). In the period from April to June 2023, the Mission documented 29 cases of CRSV, which is twice as many as in the previous quarter (in January-March 2023, 14 cases of CRSV were detected).⁵⁹
- **The UN Human Rights Commission's report** to the Human Rights Council on South Sudan shows that as the country prepares for its first elections in December 2024, the government has failed to meet important milestones outlined in the 2018 peace agreement to promote accountability, including in respect of CRSV.
- Ongoing brutal sexual and gender-based violence is exacerbated by the lack of safety and protection measures for women and girls, coupled with their exclusion from national agenda-setting processes⁶⁰.

Application of economic empowerment as a form of reparations for survivors of CRSV

- Women and girls in South Sudan have relatively limited earning and income opportunities, so divorce from husbands, who traditionally have greater earning potential, tends to significantly affect a family's access to financial resources, including to pay for education and basic needs.⁶¹
- Economic empowerment of CRSV survivors in South Sudan is achieved only through public initiatives. At the state level, there is no mechanism for providing an appropriate form of reparations.

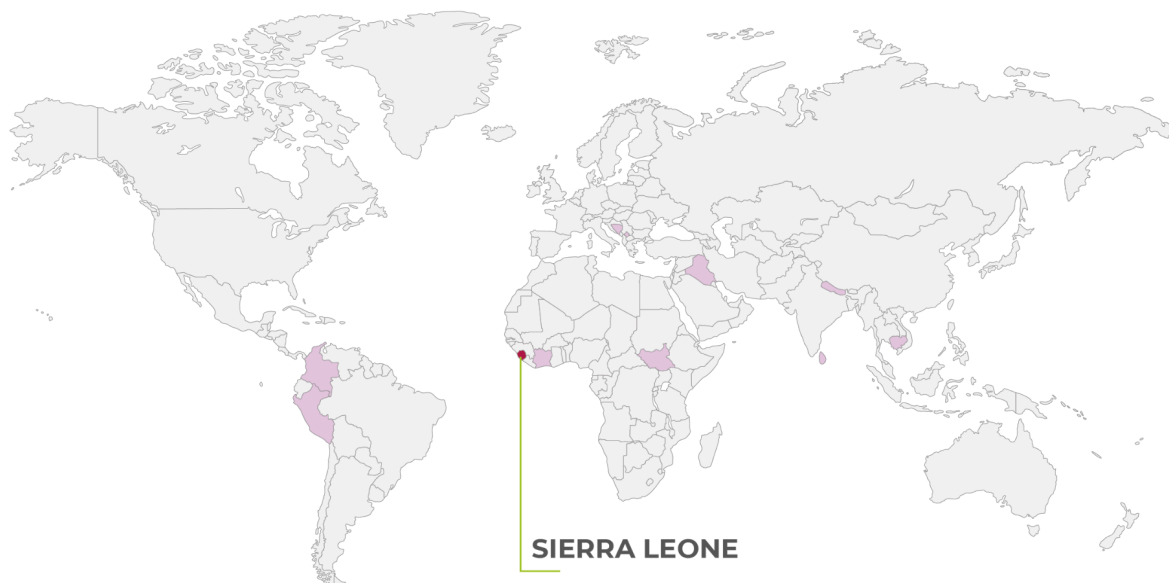
⁵⁸ [Human Rights Division United Nations Mission in South Sudan. \(2022\). Annual Brief on Violence Affecting Civilians.](#)

⁵⁹ [United Nations Mission in South Sudan \(UNMISS\) \(2023\). Press Release: Civilians Continue to Bear Brunt of Violence in South Sudan. According to Latest UNMISS Human Rights Report.](#)

⁶⁰ [Africans for the Horn. A Special Focus on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Horn of Africa.](#)

⁶¹ [Human Rights Council. \(2022\). "Conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls in South Sudan"](#)

SIERRA LEONE



Context. The civil war in Sierra Leone began in March 1991, when the Revolutionary United Front (supported by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia) launched an uprising against the National People's Congress, which was then in power in the country⁶². The conflict lasted 11 years. More than 50,000 were killed and 5,500 displaced⁶³. Rape, sexual slavery and forced marriage were common during the conflict. The majority of survivors were rural women and girls⁶⁴.

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- The International Rescue Committee, together with the government of Sierra Leone, established three Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) ⁶⁵in Freetown, Kenema and Koid, which provided free psychosocial and medical assistance, as well as legal advice⁶⁶.
- The National Commission for Social Action is a government organization responsible for implementing the reparations program. About 200 survivors of sexual violence received medical care, including fistula treatment. 20,000 survivors received \$100 as a micro-grant or as support for training⁶⁷.

⁶² [Sierra-Leone. Report. Human Rights Watch \(1999\)](#)

⁶³ [Ibid.](#)

⁶⁴ [Abdul Rahman Shour, Ronald Anguzu, Yuhong Zhou, Kirsten Beyer: Examining the Factors Associated With Sexual Violence Against Women in Sierra Leone: A Nationwide Cross-Sectional Study \(2022.\)](#)

⁶⁵ [GOV.UK: Information for survivors of rape and sexual assault in Sierra Leone](#)

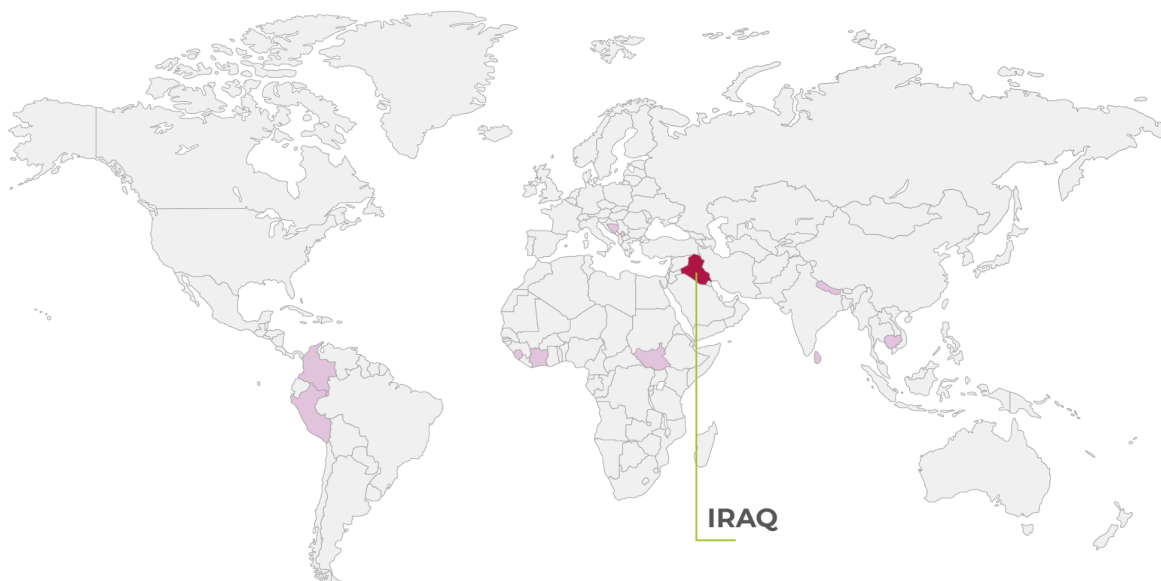
⁶⁶ [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\): Sierra-Le one Rainbow Centers-An Overview \(2013\)](#)

⁶⁷ [International Organization for Migration: What Hope of Reparations for Sierra Leone's War Victims?](#)

Application of economic empowerment as a form of reparations for survivors of CRSV

- “Rainbo”⁶⁸ initiative of the International Rescue Committee included such components as: measures to prevent violence against women and girls through community and men’s awareness as well as involvement in school gender clubs and educational activities at various levels; measures to expand the economic opportunities of women and girls through improved access to the economy; providing services to survivors through Rainbo centers and community-based systems.
- The government failed to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on social, economic and legal reforms (e.g., the adoption of a draft law on domestic violence, marriage registration and customary divorce; the appointment of the National Human Rights Commission as the institution responsible for the government's implementation of all recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission).

⁶⁸ [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\): Sierra-Leone Rainbow Centers-An Overview \(2013\)](#)



Context. On August 3, 2014, ISIL launched a genocidal campaign against the Yazidis, an ethno-religious minority indigenous to northern Iraq. In the years that followed, **3,548** women and girls were affected by sexual slavery and other human rights violations.⁶⁹

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- Violence against women persists in the country, while internally displaced women and girls remain particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, including early and forced marriage and kidnapping, and lack access to basic needs.
- The adoption of Iraq's first NAP pursuant to resolution 1325 in 2014 was a significant step towards protecting women and ensuring their meaningful participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts. However, the lack of political will, limited financial support and lack of local ownership prevented its expected results. However, after months of advocacy and collaboration led by the Women's Mechanism and supported by UN Women, the second Iraq NAP was adopted in December 2020⁷⁰.
- Within the framework of [the UN Development Program in Iraq regarding the support of women affected by CRSV and SGBV](#):

⁶⁹ Yazda. [Yazidi Genocide](#), Global Survivors Fund. Iraq

⁷⁰ [Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. Iraq](#)

- training and consultation meetings began to be conducted in October 2017 for 114 female social workers in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Iraq, in particular the Department of Social Protection of Women of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs;
- UNDP has started the development of a national analytical report for women affected by CRSV and SGBV in Iraq.

Value:

- through in-depth training in developing writing and listening skills to collect women's stories, social workers who are first responders were consulted on appropriate approaches to interviewing survivors and ways to address potential problems such as re-traumatization of survivors;
- such methods allow women to share their stories, detail their needs, and make their demands for rehabilitation and compensation in a sensitive and safe environment.
- On March 1, 2021, the Iraqi parliament adopted and on March 8, 2021, President Barham Salih ratified the [Yazidi \(Female\) Survivors' Law](#), which became an important step in providing the necessary assistance to survivors from ethno-religious communities who suffered from the self-proclaimed ISIL in 2014-2017. This revolutionary law provides several important reparation mechanisms for survivors of ISIL's crimes.

Objectives of the Law:

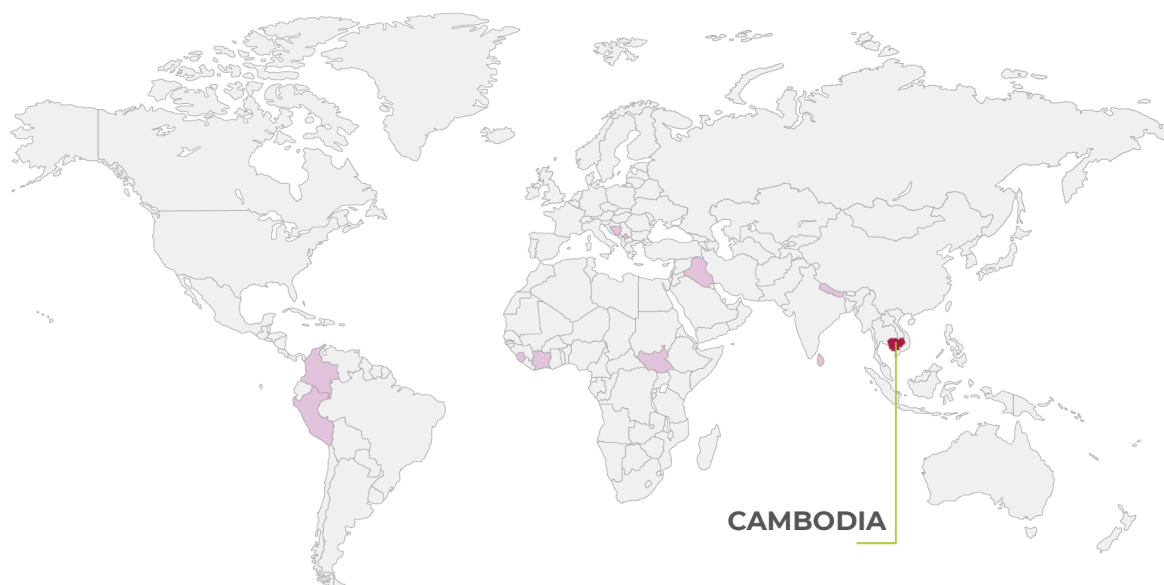
- 1) compensation in the form of financial and psychological assistance, ensuring a dignified life for surviving women;
- 2) rehabilitation and care of surviving women, preparation of the necessary means for their integration into society and prevention of repetition of violations that were caused against them.

Application of economic empowerment as reparation to survivors of CRSV

- Measures provided for by the [Yazidi \(Female\) Survivors' Law](#) regarding the economic empowerment of women affected by CRSV include as follows:
 - 1) providing educational opportunities for surviving women and their children;
 - 2) ensuring employment opportunities so that surviving women can achieve their economic growth and social well-being;
 - 3) benefits for women:
 - a) will receive a monthly salary, which should not be less than twice the minimum pension;

- b)** will receive a residential plot of land with a real estate loan or free housing;
- c)** will have the right to return to training regardless of age;
- d)** will have priority in employment for government work.

CAMBODIA (Cambodia)



Context. In 1975, the Cambodian civil war ended which brought about the beginning of the rule of the Khmer Rouge regime, led by dictator Pol Pot, in the country. The regime ruled until 1979⁷¹. According to the BBC, up to two million people died⁷² during the rule of the Khmer Rouge regime.

The GSF report on Cambodia states that CRSV in various forms was common during this period, but the exact number of survivors is still an understudied issue. However, according to research, there were cases of CRSV in all provinces of the country⁷³.

To destroy traditional social structures and family ties and increase the population, the Khmer Rouge regime organized forced marriage ceremonies. According to some estimates, approximately 250,000 women were forced into marriage during this period. Survivors reported that rape was the most common form of sexual violence they experienced or witnessed during the rule of the Khmer Rouge regime. Other forms that were also common during the regime were genital mutilation and forced nudity in prisons, sexual slavery, and sexual humiliation and abuse⁷⁴.

⁷¹[Global Survivors Fund. \(2022\). Cambodia study on opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.](#)

⁷² [BBC: Khmer Rouge: Cambodia's years of brutality \(2018\)](#)

⁷³ [Ibid.](#)

⁷⁴ [Ibid.](#)

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia were established as a mixed international tribunal under the auspices of the Royal Group and the United Nations to prosecute crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. Reparations were awarded in very different and limited amounts in several cases⁷⁵.
- In Cambodia, there is no specific national law dealing with material compensation for survivors of CRSV or a specific state body responsible for reparations.

Application of economic empowerment as a form of reparations for survivors of CRSV

- The Trial Chamber noted that requests for access to free health care or educational activities“ are not symbolic in nature, but are instead intended for a large number of survivors – beyond the reach of the Chamber’s available means of redress”⁷⁶.
- Unsuccessful advocacy for the inclusion of reparations in the NAP.

⁷⁵ [Cambodian Defenders Project \(CDP\): List of Critical Issues submitted to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women \(2013\)](#)

⁷⁶ [Killean, Rachel and Moffett, Luke. What's in a Name? 'Reparations' at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia \(May 17, 2020\). Melbourne Journal of International Law, 2020, Queen's University Belfast Law Research Paper No. 2022-10.](#)

NEPAL



Context. Between 1996 and 2006, the international armed conflict between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) left at least 13,000 people dead and 1,300 missing. By signing **the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on November 21, 2006**, the Government of Nepal and the CPN undertook to establish the truth about the conflict and ensure justice and reparations for the survivors of the conflict.

The general status of assistance to the survivors

- Survivors continue to face obstacles in accessing justice and reparation services⁷⁷.
- In February 2016, the first stage of the implementation of the NAP on resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security was completed⁷⁸. The government recognized gaps in the implementation of its obligations under resolution 1820 and committed to allocating a special budget, strengthening coordination, closely involving survivors' associations.
- Transitional justice operates with serious delays, with approximately 250 complaints received regarding CRSV. Recommendation of the UN Security Council: recognizing survivors of CRSV as survivors of armed conflict, providing

⁷⁷ [UN Women: Furthering comprehensive approaches to victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence: An analysis of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, and Timor-Leste \(2017\)](#)

⁷⁸ [The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal 'NAP for UNSC1325' \(2011\)](#).

them with access to national aid and rehabilitation programs and promoting stigma reduction; in support of transitional justice – creating commissions to implement survivor-centered justice and focus on the second stage of the NAP on services and reparations⁷⁹.

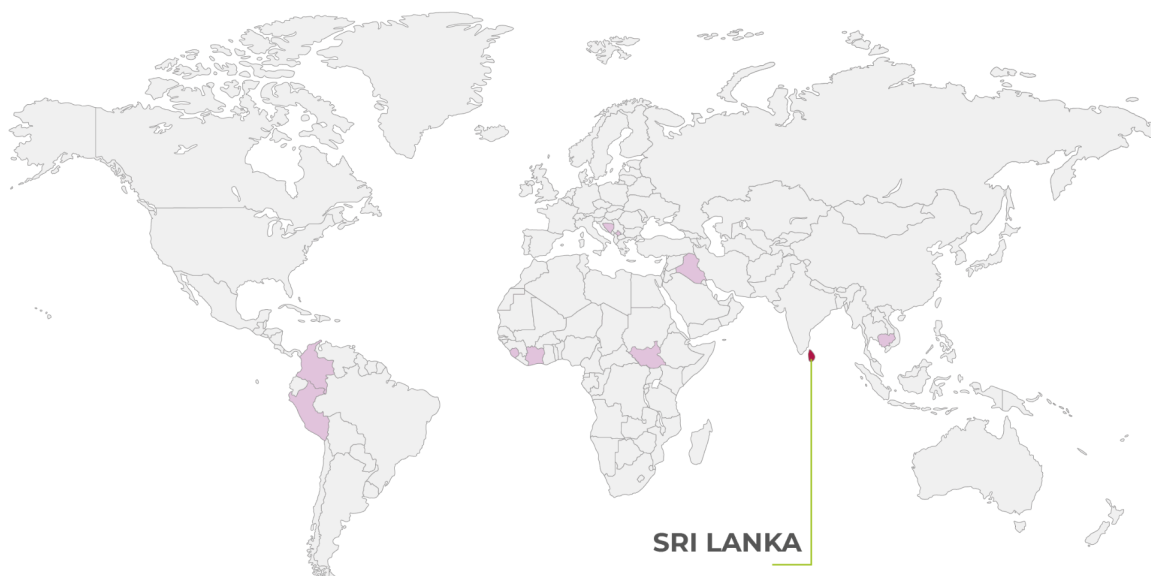
Application of economic empowerment as a form of reparations for survivors of CRSV

- Various events are held, including programs of economic assistance, treatment, advanced trainings and self-employment trainings, scholarships for girls, trainings on improving qualifications. It is recognized that there is a need to more effectively address the needs of all survivors by collecting separate data on the needs of women and girls who were affected by CRSV.
- Free medical services, psychosocial and legal consultations were provided.
- For the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820 for the 2022/2023-2024/2025 financial years, the Second NAP provides as follows⁸⁰:
 - to determine the special needs of survivors of CRSV, design and implement programs for the provision of educational and medical services and economic empowerment programs for them;
 - to annually include programs of economic empowerment of women and girls affected by CRSV in the programs of local governments.

⁷⁹ ibid.

⁸⁰ ibid.

SRI LANKA



Context. Women’s groups in Sri Lanka and international organizations outside Sri Lanka have documented CRSV against women in Sri Lanka both during and after the 26-year war that ended with the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May 2009⁸¹. A women’s organization working in Batticaloa documented 31 cases of sexual violence by armed men between 1996 and 2014. The war ended in 2009, but such organizations continue to document cases of sexual violence. The same organization reports that **3,279** cases of gender-based violence were reported between 2004 and 2014, an average of about 300 women who suffered violence each year. These reported cases include 143 serious crimes such as rape, murder, child rape, incest, sexual violence, human trafficking and sexual harassment.

The general status of assistance to survivors of CRSV

- In his 2021 report on CRSV, the UN Secretary-General noted that survivors of CRSV, especially those who have advocated for participation in the transitional justice process, face increasing obstacles to achieving justice in the current context. Wives of combatants who were killed in battle and other marginalized groups are at increased risk of sexual violence, particularly in heavily militarized

⁸¹ [A Measure of Justice: Alternatives to Pursuing Criminal Accountability for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Sri Lanka](#)

areas such as the Northern Province, due to an entrenched culture of post-conflict violence.⁸²

- **Reparations Law No. 34 dated October 22, 2018** established an independent body, The Office for Reparations, to administer the reparations regime in Sri Lanka and provide reparations to those affected by the conflict. Sri Lanka's approach to providing reparations to those affected by the conflict has been to establish an independent statutory body, **the Office for Reparations** with a mandate to provide reparations, which includes not only monetary compensation, but also a range of other measures to assist those affected by the conflict. The reparations regime introduced by Law No. 34 is an improvement on previous schemes which recognizes that the ultimate goal of reparations is to achieve national unity and reconciliation and to ensure that violence does not recur.
- Sri Lanka has adopted its first **NAP** for the period 2023-2027. It was launched by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of the Government of Sri Lanka. **The NAP** development process began in 2019 and was initiated with the assistance of the Government of Japan and technical support from UN Women, Sri Lanka. Among the goals of the NAP is to contribute to the assistance and rehabilitation of women and girls affected by the conflict.

Application of economic empowerment as a form of reparations for survivors of CRSV

- According to **Law No. 34 dated October 22, 2018**, "individual compensation" means such measures which are intended to recognize the right to an effective remedy and benefits for the survivor and includes:
 - a) any monetary payments or material benefit provided to the survivor;
 - b) microfinancing and soft loans;
 - c) educational programs, training and skills development programs;
 - d) administrative assistance and social security services, including psychosocial support, provided to the survivor;
 - e) restitution measures, including the provision of land and housing;
 - f) other relevant measures determined by the Office for Reparations.
- The **Compensation Policy and Guidelines of the Office for Reparations** define such a type of compensation as livelihood support. This would involve implementing broad-based measures and initiatives, as far as practicable, that would significantly help survivors rebuild their lives through economic empowerment. On the one hand, this would give the affected persons the opportunity to choose their own course, and on the other hand, it would relieve them of their dependence on state existence. Types of interventions that will contribute to supporting the livelihoods of survivors include:

⁸² [United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict: Sri Lanka](#)

- 1) access to water supply for irrigation/agricultural activities to assist farming communities;
- 2) integration of survivors into the numerous poverty alleviation programs implemented by the government;
- 3) creating livelihoods and self-employment opportunities in affected areas⁸³.

- To improve the living standards of the affected community, the Office for Reparations has developed the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program in Support of Livelihood Development, enabling the creation of new startups and entrepreneurship. This program is designed to provide survivors with the knowledge to start a new business using available local resources. This will allow the affected community to explore new opportunities for startups that are more competitive in the market than traditional industries.

Among the target groups are:

- women who head households;
- affected women;
- persons affected by the conflict;
- internally displaced women.

- The Office for Reparations also initiated the 2023 Livelihood Development Agenda, linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, including gender equality (*To end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. To expand the use of leading technologies, including information and communication technologies, to promote expanding women's rights and opportunities*):

- 1) **COIR BASED BRUSH PRODUCTION – MANNAR.** The title of the project: *“Economic empowerment of affected internally displaced women through livelihood support using public-private partnership”.*

10 affected IDP women were selected and trained by trainers from Alliance Five (Pvt.) Ltd. (AFPL) for the manufacture of fiber-based brushes.

The outcome of the project:

- creation of sustainable income generation and poverty reduction among the affected community;
- improving the physical, social and mental well-being of affected women;
- ensuring inclusiveness of affected women's households.⁸⁴

- 2) **COLORING HANDS – MANNAR.** 5 identified heads of female-headed households made Palmyra handicrafts as their income-generating activity. They produced eco-friendly Palmyras, fans, vaporizers, rugs, palm hats and

⁸³Reparations Policies & Guidelines. Office for Reparations. Sri Lanka. 2021

⁸⁴Office for Reparations - Sri Lanka. (2023) Coir based brush production - Mannar.

various bags. The produce is supplied to the local market and Palmyra Development Board (Katpagam).

The outcome of the project:

- improved livelihoods of 5 female-headed households in Mannar district through the provision of equipment and dyeing materials to produce more quality products;
- The Industrial Development Board provided an automatic broomstick processing machine to 3 IDP families who are engaged in small-scale ekel broom making business to improve their business;
- all beneficiaries were informed about sound financial management, product packaging and marketing for long-term sustainability of their income-generating activities.⁸⁵

3) LIGHT FOR LIFE — JAFNA. The project has provided livelihoods to 25 female-headed households in Kopai District Secretariat, Jaffna, through the exchange of candle processing knowledge and technology. Vidatha Resource Centre, Nallur provided resource persons for the project. The technology and practice of making simple candles and candles with additions (aromatic, colored and designer) was provided. Beneficiaries sell their candles to church societies, shops and restaurants. Paraffin from used candles in churches is given to the beneficiaries for the production of candles through recycling, which increases the sustainability of the project.

The outcome of the project:

- knowledge and technology of candle processing provided to 25 women heads of households in Kopai, Jaffna;
- financial literacy ensured for 25 female heads of households for long-term sustainability of their incomes;
- hands-on experience in candle processing provided, adding value to the product and providing resources to 4 female-headed households to start income-generating activities.⁸⁶

⁸⁵Office for Reparations - Sri Lanka. (2023). Coloring hands - Mannar livelihood development programs

⁸⁶Office for Reparations - Sri Lanka. (2023). Light for life.

THE USE OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF CRSV SURVIVORS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS ONE OF THE REPARATION MECHANISMS ON THE PATH TO RECOVERY

Implementation of the system of effective reparations is the responsibility of the state. At the same time, programs of urgent reparation measures as a form of temporary compensation can be implemented by other entities — international organizations or local non-governmental organizations.

Training and skill development

Education as a tool of reparations can have a transformative effect not only on specific survivors, but also on the affected society as a whole. Such projects are key within recovery and reintegration strategies. Not only do they provide education for the economic empowerment of CRSV survivors, but also support their psychosocial recovery. Such initiatives help to reduce stigma and improve the integration of both survivors and children born of war into society, restoring their sense of self-worth and improving their employment and development prospects.

The main characteristics of successful projects in the area of training and development of skills include:

1. A holistic approach

Such projects often include components that provide not only traditional education or skills acquisition, but also community integration and psychosocial support.

An example is the project *“Education Cannot Wait” (ECW)*⁸⁷, which is implemented in Nigeria on the initiative of GSF in partnership with two local organizations – **Center for the Education of Girls** and **Youth Initiative Against Terrorism** and includes survivors of Boko Haram’s violence, their children and families. Survivors and their children experience re-victimization, stigmatization and isolation in their communities. As a result, all aspects of their lives – social, educational and economic – are seriously damaged. That is why the project was created in such a way as to provide not only access to holistic quality education, but also psychiatric and psychosocial support through regular meetings with specialists. Such an approach is expected to contribute to the psychological, social and academic recovery of survivors.⁸⁸

Another example is the project *“La Cité de la Joie”* (The City of Joy), implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the initiative of V-Day, a global activist

⁸⁷ The world's first fund for providing education in emergency situations and protracted crises.

⁸⁸ Global Survivors Fund. (2023, December 18). Education Cannot Wait to support the Global Survivors Fund with a grant in Nigeria.

movement to end violence against women, and Panzi Foundation and supported by UNICEF (since 2011, 2,069 women has completed the program).⁸⁹ It is a center that accepts survivors of CRSV, where they have access to services such as group therapy, self-defense lessons, sex education, the basics of understanding entrepreneurship, art, ecology and gardening lessons.⁹⁰

2. Creation of educational programs together with the survivors

Programs are developed with the active participation of the survivors themselves.

For example, the already mentioned project “Education Cannot Wait” is based on the principle of co-creation with the survivors, who will determine what exactly reparations mean for them and how they see their implementation. “La Cité de la Joie” project also actively involves women in shaping the programs through a developed organizational structure with representatives and an elected “mayor” who represents the interests of the participants.⁹¹

3. Education and acquisition of professional skills as a basis for economic empowerment

A significant number of programs aim to improve entrepreneurial and professional skills, in particular to help affected women become economically independent and reduce their dependence on assistance.

Examples of such projects can be found in Somalia. They include the [project “Fostering Entrepreneurship Among Somali Survivor and At-Risk Women”](#) implemented by Mensch in partnership with IIDA, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Benadir University and Iftiin Foundation⁹², and [the project on women economic empowerment in Somalia](#), which is a joint initiative of UN Women and the ILO with the support of the Swedish International Cooperation Agency SIDA. They aim to train survivors in entrepreneurship and create a mentoring network that equips women with the mindset, skills and tools needed to start and build a viable business. The program called “Vagina Warrior Program” within the already mentioned project “La Cité de la Joie” has a similar goal, not only teaching women new skills and knowledge, but also building leadership skills.⁹³

4. Networking and connecting

⁸⁹ [“About City of Joy - City of Joy” \(City of Joy, December 21, 2023\).](#)

⁹⁰ [“La Cité de La Joie. Un Nouveau Center Révolutionnaire Pour Les Femmes Congolaises Rescapées de Viol - Democratic Republic of the Congo” \(ReliefWeb, February 3, 2011\).](#)

⁹¹ [“Life at the City of Joy - City of Joy” \(City of Joy, October 28, 2013\).](#)

⁹² [Elrha. Final Report: Fostering Entrepreneurship Among Somali Survivors and At-Risk Women](#)

⁹³ [Vagina Warrior Program - City of Joy” \(City of Joy, November 7, 2016\).](#)

Within some programs, platforms are created where survivors can freely discuss their experiences and create new social connections, which is critical for overcoming stigma and isolation in society.

In particular, **Women's International Fund (WIF)** provides structural interventions and knowledge exchange for women in rural Sri Lanka. Through this, women gain access to coaching, mentoring and networking to help them start, grow or sustain their businesses.

Within the framework of many of these projects, survivors of CRSV simultaneously received access to other forms of compensation, such as livelihood and housing in order to return to normal life. However, reparations in the form of education were often seen as transformative and long-term oriented. And not only for people who have received an education, but also for society as a whole, in particular for the perception of survivors of CRSV in communities.

During the survey, the survivors repeatedly noted that, along with the opportunity to realize their individual aspirations, education provides them with new opportunities and abilities to participate more actively in the life of the community. This, in turn, helps reduce stigma. Therefore, education as a tool of reparations can help survivors and their children reintegrate into society, acquire life skills and change the future. It can also help break the continuum of violence and transform society in general.⁹⁴

Support for entrepreneurship and job creation

1. Support of entrepreneurship related to traditional crafts and agriculture

Many successful projects aim to empower women economically by supporting their own businesses, often related to traditional handicrafts in the region or agriculture in traditionally agricultural areas.

For example, as part of the joint project of UN Action and IOM in Somalia, which was implemented in 2020-2021, 300 Somali women received support for the development of entrepreneurship. Some women pooled their contributions to start a joint business, such as a livestock trading cooperative. Other women made canvas and leather handbags with their own designs, thanks to the skills they had learned on the industrial tailoring training course. The women were also taught to plant a nursery using permaculture techniques for food security, resulting in several plant nurseries. As a result, women's borrowing capacity increased from 35% to 93% and their access to a reliable source of income increased from 24% to

⁹⁴ [Transformative Gender Justice : Constructions of Justice, Violence, and Reparations for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Northeastern Nigeria 2023](#)

92%. Women's economic empowerment has contributed to their more active participation in building sustainable peace in their communities.⁹⁵

In Kosovo, as part of the joint project of the UN Mission in Kosovo and the Jahjaga Foundation organization "Economic empowerment of women affected by conflict-related sexual violence", Women's Rights Promotion Centers have been established in several cities. According to statistics, women who turn to the centers for help open their own businesses in various spheres of economic activity: from cooking to sewing clothes and weaving necklaces. According to the director of one of the centers, having a job changes a lot for these women. This improves their position in society as they earn more and also improves their mental health.⁹⁶

2. Creation of new jobs by supporting the expansion of entrepreneurship

The next step from supporting the creation of their own businesses is supporting their growth and creating new jobs for other survivors.

So, for example, in Kosovo, a pilot project of the UN Mission in cooperation with the Jahjaga Foundation became a major part of the efforts to support and reintegrate survivors of CRSV. Importantly, the group of women selected for the pilot project is ethnically diverse and includes at least two women from national minorities.⁹⁷ After receiving help to start their own business, the affected women eventually started to create jobs for other survivors. As an example, we can mention the traditional Albanian clothing business created by Flora, which operates in a small village outside the city of Pejë/Peć and employs eight women affected by CRSV.⁹⁸

Another example can be a project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has been implemented by UN Action together with OHCHR and the UN Mission in the DRC since 2022. Its main objective is to support economic empowerment through the strengthening of women's jewelry cooperatives. To do this, two women were first taught how to teach others the art of cutting, the art of working with precious stones and the production of jewelry. After such a "training for trainers", these women have already started teaching other survivors of CRSV.⁹⁹

3. Ensuring the stability of new businesses

Based on the analyzed projects, two main approaches to ensuring sustainability of newly created businesses can be distinguished.

⁹⁵ [Addressing Conflict-related Sexual Violence. Private sector opportunities for engagement. UN Action. CTG.](#)

⁹⁶ [Taking matters into their own hands: the economic empowerment of. \(n.d.\). United Nations Peacekeeping.](#)

⁹⁷ [Gender Equality and Women, Peace and Security. Resource Package. UN Department of Peace operations. 2020. p.20](#)

⁹⁸ [United Nations. Taking matters into their own hands: Economic empowerment of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.](#)

⁹⁹ [United Nations. \(2023\). Conflict-related sexual violence: Multi-partner trust fund for conflict-related sexual violence annual progress report 2022.](#)

The first is the continuation of support for the main aspects of the work of international partners implementing reparations projects for survivors.

For example, in the above-mentioned project in the DRC, sponsors continue to support the legal and financial aspects of the work of jewelry cooperatives, which allows the survivors to have uninterrupted access to the necessary equipment for the production of granite products. It also enables them to adhere to industry-leading standards for ethical sourcing of raw materials and jewelry manufacturing. These aspects are extremely important for the realization of manufactured products. There are already examples of cooperatives that have drawn up business plans, and their founders are working on product branding.¹⁰⁰

The second is to create links between program participants and microfinance institutions to facilitate access to loans, which is key to sustaining and expanding businesses and increasing economic sustainability and self-sufficiency.

An example is the project “Building Socio-Economic Resilience for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan”, which is being implemented by **International trade center - ITC** together with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Population Fund. This project provides, *inter alia*, for the establishment of contractual relations between participants and employers, enterprises and actors of the sector, and connections are created between program participants and microfinance institutions.¹⁰¹

These projects highlight the importance of a holistic approach to the economic recovery of those affected by CRSV, including training, skills development, microfinance and job creation through entrepreneurship. Involvement in economic life not only promotes financial independence, but also plays a key role in social integration and participation in peace-building, leading to the sustainable development of affected communities.

Providing access to resources and material support

Another type of projects aimed at promoting economic reintegration and the creation of sustainable communities are projects to ensure access to resources and material support for survivors of CRSV. These include, *inter alia*, the provision of housing, land or resources.

One of the successful examples is the project by **Nadia's Initiative** aimed at meeting the needs of women and girls in Sinjar (Iraq). Among other things, it provides for the restoration of their agricultural land, which the women can use for agriculture, and the reconstruction of houses for the survivors. This helps increase

¹⁰⁰Ibid.

¹⁰¹ [RDAA South Sudan. \(2022\) RDAA Supports Survivors of CRSV in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan Funded by EU](#)

their influence in the community and, as a result, makes them agents of change on the ground.

Another unique experience of self-help and joint improvement of access to resources was the so-called “solidarity groups” created by the non-governmental organization “FORAL” in the South Kivu region of the DRC. Each group is formed of 20-25 women affected by CRSV with the aim of networking and community support, generating income and overcoming trauma together. Each group has its own governance structure with an elected leader and defines group goals at weekly meetings.¹⁰²

As members of the group, women have access to self-determined loans, livestock assets, community farming opportunities and group skills training. Each of the participants contributes 200 Congolese francs weekly. Whenever the collected amount reaches 10,000, the participants can submit their loan request, and the decision is made jointly by the group members. The given loan must be returned within 3 months with an interest rate of 10%. As for animal assets, members receive animals for breeding, and when new stock is born, they must return a certain amount to the group so that other members can receive the same “loan”. Joint farming consists in the joint cultivation of land plots.

Most of the participants say that this model has become economically beneficial for them, especially the credit system, because it allows them to use finance as an investment for opening their own business. Some of the women talk about how they gained financial independence thanks to the project, which created new opportunities for income generation.

Medical, psychological, legal and social support

In some countries, projects focus on providing survivors with medical care, psychosocial support and legal protection. This helps, *inter alia*, to form proactive networks of survivors of CRSV who are able to advocate for the further changes and programs they need. The main goal of these initiatives is to prevent violence, expand the rights and opportunities of women, and change the attitude of communities towards violence against women.

1. Comprehensive psychological, social and legal support services

Most of such projects provide comprehensive services for the protection and expansion of the rights and opportunities of survivors. These include psychological and legal support, cash and shelter, social empowerment and entrepreneurship programs for women and girls at risk or survivors of violence.

¹⁰² [Koegler E and others. “Understanding How Solidarity Groups—A Community-Based Economic and Psychosocial Support Intervention—Can Affect Mental Health for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Democratic Republic of the Congo” \(2018\) 25 Violence Against Women 359](#)

Among them, for example, are two projects in South Sudan: “Empowering women against violence”, implemented by the partner organizations Women for Women International, Women for Change and the South Sudan Law Society (SSLS)¹⁰³, and the project “Strengthening Survivor Leadership and Resilience to End Violence Against Women and Girls through Survivor-Led Networks”, implemented by the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation¹⁰⁴, as well as the project “Using the power of women in Somalia to mitigate CRSV and prevent violent extremism”, implemented by UN Action, IOM and UNSOM in Somalia¹⁰⁵ and a project by SEED Foundation in Kurdistan, Iraq.

2. Training of female leaders and agents of change

The programs mentioned above also pay a lot of attention to building the capacity and skills of survivors of CRSV to implement change at the community level, advocate for equal access to education, zero tolerance for violence in the community, and respond to the complex and sensitive needs of women. The main goal of this activity is to build leadership skills in the survivors and create opportunities for them to become agents of change at the local and national levels.

As an example, in South Sudan, UNMISS and the local CSO – Rural Development Action Aid (“RDAA”) are conducting the second phase of a European Union-sponsored project aimed at facilitating the reintegration of survivors into communities by increasing their socio-economic capabilities. One of the main components is, *inter alia*, building networks of survivors, training them in leadership skills and empowering them as agents of change in their respective communities so that they can advocate for their rights and the rights of other survivors of CRSV.¹⁰⁶

3. Building networks of survivors and strengthening resilience

Related to the previous ones are also projects aimed at expanding the opportunities of networks of survivors of CRSV to participate in advocacy initiatives of prevention and response to CRSV, as well as in educational activities to reduce the stigmatization of survivors in communities. For this purpose, relevant projects are working on providing such networks with appropriate resources and organizational stability.

One prominent example is the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation’s assistance to the Movement of Central African Republic Survivors of Sexual Violence (“MOSUCA”) and the Network of Survivors of Sexual Violence in South Sudan (“SUNS”). This

¹⁰³ [UN Women, Grantees, 26th cycle \(2023\)](#)

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁵ [United Nations, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict](#).

¹⁰⁶ [RDAA South Sudan, \(2022\) RDAA Supports Survivors of CRSV in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan Funded by EU](#)

project provides organizational resources to survivor networks to strengthen their organizational resilience and coherence, supports the exchange of knowledge and experience with other networks and survivors, and works to increase their capacity to identify and refer other survivors to appropriate services for assistance.¹⁰⁷ Another important initiative is the global SEMA NETWORK which was also started by the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation¹⁰⁸ and aims to unite survivors of sexual violence during war.

4. Legal assistance and advocacy for changes in national legislation

Legal aid and protection projects also play an important role in supporting survivors of CRSV. These include providing legal services, raising awareness of access to help and protection, and advocacy.

For example, the **Center for Equality and Justice (CEJ)** in Sri Lanka works on raising awareness. The center conducts workshops for victimized women, explaining to them how to obtain compensation and necessary resources, how to find solutions to the problems they face in the process of obtaining reparations, etc.

The **SEED Foundation** in Kurdistan, Iraq is an example of a project that takes an active part in advocating changes to legislation. The organization implements policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen laws, policies and practices, protect vulnerable populations, and promote social change in general. Organizations in Turkey are also successfully engaged in the advocacy of survivors' rights. These are the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison ("**ADMSP**") led by the survivors – former prisoners of Sednaya Prison in Syria – themselves, as well as the Center for Victims of Torture ("**CVT**").

Another example is the already mentioned project "Empowering women against violence" in South Sudan. Within the framework of the project, activities are carried out to raise awareness of mechanisms for the prevention of violence against women and referral, including educational activities and advocacy campaigns. Advocacy is also underway to change the legal framework and includes multi-stakeholder meetings, policy briefs and legal recommendations to prevent and end violence against women.

Through legal aid, networking and awareness-raising, such projects help to create a more sustainable environment, promoting the protection of survivors' rights and providing them with support, above all at the community level. Such projects are of particular importance, because they are aimed not only at immediate relief, but also contribute to long-term sustainability and social change, raising legal awareness and ensuring the protection of the rights of women and girls.

¹⁰⁷ [UN Women, Grantees, 26th cycle \(2023\)](#)

¹⁰⁸ [SEMA, Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence](#)

Initiatives to provide comprehensive assistance

You can also find examples of comprehensive assistance projects, such as [Women's Center "Nadia's Initiative"](#) in the Sinjar region of Iraq, whose primary goal is to address the diverse needs of women and girls, especially those affected by CRSV. The center aims to empower women by helping to create an environment where they can not only heal, but also thrive. Such a center would be open to all women in the region and designed to guarantee a safe, community-oriented space offering a full range of services:

- professional training and training in small business management;
- health care and psychosocial support;
- maternity and child care;
- legal assistance;
- educational support through literacy training and language courses etc.

Private fundraising projects

Approaches to charitable activities are taking on a new form – social marketing or emotional marketing, as it can be called because it appeals to the feelings of buyers. The essence of such marketing is to combine a product and a company with a non-profit organization to create both economic and social benefits. That is, it involves telling the story of the product in such a way that potential buyers understand how they can contribute to the improvement of someone else's situation through their own choice.

Many companies and corporations strive to be perceived as politically and socially responsible. For this purpose, they develop communication strategies and advocacy campaigns. Thus, some companies are involved in the development and implementation of campaigns for assistance and economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV.

The stories of survivors of CRSV have become part of the product and component of communication campaigns for the general public in the countries of the Global North. This partnership with survivors increases the visibility and awareness of CRSV crimes and helps survivors shape their narrative.

Examples of successful initiatives:

- ["The Congo Coffee Project"](#): it was created by the American company, Equal Exchange Coffee, and the American NGO, Panzi Foundation, which provides gynecological services to survivors of CRSV, in partnership with small farmers of the Congolese cooperative, SOPACDI, with one third of its employees being the women affected by CRSV. The Panzi Foundation wanted this product to tell the

story of the survivors and raise funds for them while creating a connection between women farmers and consumers.¹⁰⁹

- “**Pour Les Femmes**” (PLF): In 2015, PLF started cooperation with the NGOs – Action Kivu and Give Work. It was a social entrepreneurship project that connected the manufactured product with donations. They sell women’s sleepwear hand-made by CRSV survivors. The idea is to connect the feeling of comfort and protection that sleepwear provides with the feeling that by purchasing this product, customers are providing protection to the survivors who made it. 100% of the profit from the sale of goods is given to women in the DRC.¹¹⁰
- “**Hot Lips**” is a partnership between the cosmetics brand “Charlotte Tilbury” and the organization “Women for Women International” that started in 2016. In cooperation, they released a collection of lipsticks “Hot Lips”, the profit from the sale of which was used to implement a program of economic empowerment of women affected by CRSV and other crimes during the armed conflict. With these funds, they were provided with the tools necessary to increase their income or create a new source of income and, as a result, restore confidence and involvement in active participation in the life of their communities. This campaign was inspired by cases where survivors of CRSV in the DRC asked to be given lipstick as a gift in order to regain their self-confidence.¹¹¹

The main idea behind these projects is to use social or emotional marketing to “connect” consumers and producers who are affected by CRSV. The goal is for consumers to feel connected to survivors. One tool used to do this is women’s solidarity, in this case between women in the Global North and women affected by CRSV in the DRC. It allows creating new economic opportunities for survivors through social projects, while at the same time returning all costs to producers.

Non-governmental initiatives implemented in different countries demonstrate the importance of public input in solving problems related to CRSV and ensuring the rights of survivors. Successful projects show how programs of economic empowerment and socio-economic reintegration, enhanced by psychological support and legal assistance, can be effectively implemented. Ukraine can adopt the most successful of these practices, adapting them to its own needs in order to increase the effectiveness of reparation mechanisms.

¹⁰⁹ [“Congo Coffee Project — Equal Exchange Resource Center” \(Equal Exchange Resource Center, January 25, 2024\).](#)

¹¹⁰ [“Our Story” \(Pour Les Femmes\).](#)

¹¹¹ [“Women for Women International Partnership | Charlotte Tilbury” \(Charlotte Tilbury\).](#)

GUIDELINES

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PRACTICES FOR CRSV SURVIVORS AS ONE OF THE REPARATION MECHANISMS ON THE PATH TO RECOVERY OF UKRAINE

The approach to expanding the economic opportunities of survivors of CRSV in Ukraine should meet their specific needs, as well as take into account practical and strategic aspects, that is, be multi-level and comprehensive.

I. Macro level (laws, state programs and policies aimed at improving approaches to ensuring economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV)

- To determine budgetary mechanisms or create a fund to pay compensation to survivors of CRSV at the national level.
- To create programs of recurring individual compensation and financial assistance taking into account the needs of survivors of CRSV in Ukraine.
- To introduce benefits and priority rights for survivors of CRSV in access to education, medicine, social services, land and housing, as well as in access to positions and employment.
- To develop and implement an advocacy plan to overcome the social stigmatization of survivors of CRSV.
- To actively involve all categories of survivors, both women and men, in the development, implementation and revision of economic empowerment programs. This is not only an important part of ensuring the right of survivors to make decisions, but also a guarantee that programs will meet the diverse needs of all categories of survivors. Involvement of all categories of survivors in the decision-making process will also contribute to the reduction of stigma and special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of survivors.
- To provide funding to local civil society organizations and human rights organizations that work to prevent CRSV, support survivors of CRSV and help expand their economic opportunities, with the involvement of primarily state funds and, optionally, funds from donors and the international community.
- To ensure the inclusion of survivors of CRSV in special credit lines and subsidies.

II. Meso level (international and national support projects, educational activities)

- Organization of targeted schemes to expand the economic opportunities of survivors of CRSV, such as:
 - 1)** creation of a state microcredit platform that would connect investors and survivors who want to open their own business (on the crowdfunding model or on the MICROWD model);

- 2) creation of a public-private partnership for co-financing and implementation of projects aimed, *inter alia*, at the economic autonomy and leadership of women affected by CRSV;
- 3) conducting trainings and providing advisory services on the development of entrepreneurial skills, business planning and administration, in particular, based on the results of identifying conflict-sensitive and market opportunities for expanding the economic empowerment of survivors of CRSV;
- 4) organization of information sessions on access to the labor market and employment opportunities for survivors of CRSV;
- 5) conducting training for survivors of CRSV in the most common and accessible areas, organizing trainings on development, professional development or acquisition of new professional skills.

- Structured knowledge-sharing interventions for women in rural areas and small and medium-sized enterprises to provide them with access to capacity building, coaching, mentoring and networking and to help them establish, develop or sustain their businesses.
- Provision of psychological and legal support for social empowerment and entrepreneurship for survivors of CRSV, implementation of capacity building programs, strengthening of resilience and leadership.
- Provision of organizational resources to survivor networks to strengthen their organizational resilience and coherence, supporting the exchange of training, knowledge and experience with other networks led by survivors of CRSV.

III. Micro level (local access)

- Holding joint meetings with survivors of CRSV, which will allow them to share their stories, exchange knowledge, detail their needs, put forward demands for rehabilitation, compensation and economic empowerment in a sensitive and safe environment.
- Providing an opportunity for CRSV survivors who have the necessary skills or have achieved success in the relevant field to conduct educational and training courses for CRSV survivors who intend to engage in entrepreneurship in order to build their confidence, share their experiences and become a mentor for others.
- Creation of specific initiatives aimed at promoting the agricultural productivity of those affected by CRSV, increasing the level of knowledge and improving practical skills of profitable farming, where relevant.
- Facilitating access to information and grants for starting a small business for survivors of CRSV.
- Conducting on-site workshops for survivors of CRSV to teach them how to deal with the effects of sexual violence they have experienced, help with reparations and an access to income-generating opportunities, sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurial initiatives.

- Conducting round tables, joint meetings with local employers, enterprises and actors of various sectors, as well as with microfinance institutions on expanding the economic opportunities of survivors of CRSV and facilitating their access to a reliable source of income, work and microcredits.
- Networking of survivors of CRSV with the aim of uniting to start a joint business.

Examples of opportunities for implementing initiatives in Ukraine

MICROWD, Latin America



- Microwd is an excellent example of a large-scale and effective private initiative, the model of which can be used by Ukraine. Microwd is a Spanish fintech company that provides microcredit to women in Latin American countries¹¹². It is currently represented in Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Peru and Uruguay¹¹³. They create connections between investors and women entrepreneurs.
- This can be considered "crowdfunding" for small economic projects. The company's goal is both to create social impact and increase economic profitability in local communities¹¹⁴. They operate on a peer-to-peer lending system similar to that used by Grameen Bank¹¹⁵.
- The weakness of this model is that it is not useful for women in extreme poverty who do not have any fixed income¹¹⁶. It is essential that the beneficiaries have the ability to cover their basic needs, otherwise there is a risk that they will be over-indebted, which could put them at even greater risk¹¹⁷. In addition, Microwd is still a private, profit-driven company, so not every woman is guaranteed to be eligible for a loan. However, if the state implements a similar model, these weaknesses can be eliminated.

¹¹² "Microwd".

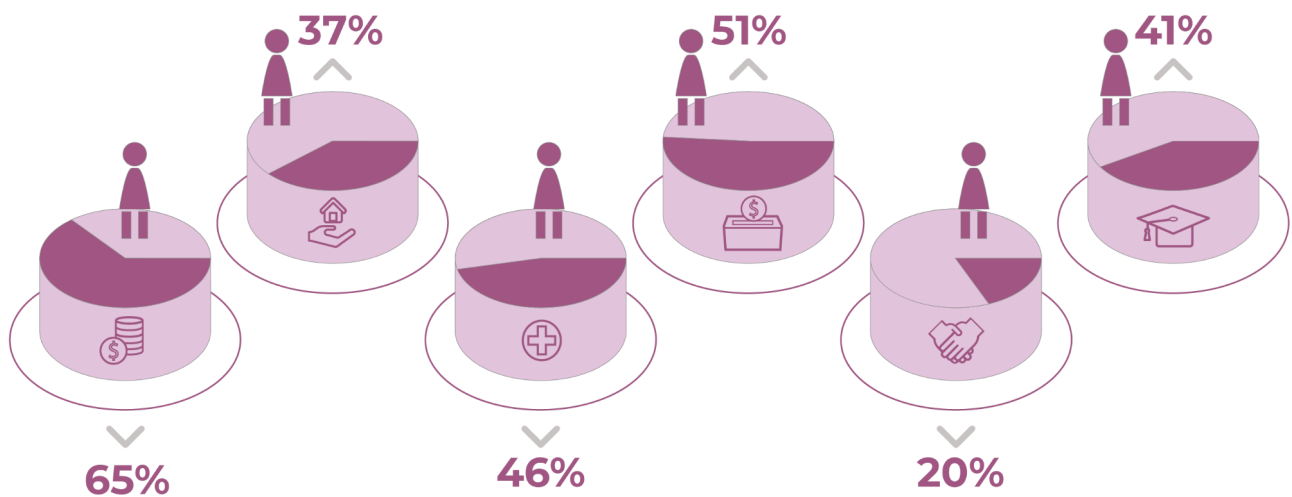
¹¹³ Microwd (n.d.). "Microwd. Tu Inversión. Su Cambio. Accessed February 18, 2024. p. 13.

¹¹⁴ "Microwd (English version)".

¹¹⁵ "Grameen Bank - Bank for the Poor".

¹¹⁶ Microwd. "Our Mistakes". February 18, 2024

¹¹⁷ Microwd. "Teoría Del Cambio". February 18, 2024. p. 4.



- So far, **10,214 women** have benefited from the initiative, which has impacted **20,000 people** and **157 local communities** through **14,914 microcredits** provided by **1,318 investors**¹¹⁸. According to the company, **65%** of their beneficiaries increase their income, and **51%** of them also increase their savings. In addition, **37%** of them improved the living conditions of their households¹¹⁹. It is especially important to emphasize that **46%** of the beneficiaries can now afford health care expenses, and **41%** are increasing their children's education expenses¹²⁰. In addition, **20%** of women were able to create at least 1 workplace¹²¹. Another advantage of this model is that microcredits are an effective tool for ensuring financial inclusion¹²².

How Microwd works¹²³

1. Microwd is a fintech company, meaning it works online. Therefore, the first step is to register on the website www.microwd.es with provision of personal data and confirm the information provided (this can include an ID card/passport and bank information).
2. A potential investor chooses a project from those presented on the website and selects the "invest" option. Information about the investment will later be displayed in a personal profile on the website with the following data: a brief description of the current status of the investment; breakdown of each investment; social influence; personal finance.

¹¹⁸ Microwd. "Informe de Impacto Febrero 2024" (2024). Accessed February 18, 2024, pp. 5-6.

¹¹⁹ Ibid., p. 10.

¹²⁰ Ibid., p. 12.

¹²¹ Ibid., p. 14.

¹²² "Financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way." "Financial Inclusion" (World Bank), February 18, 2024.

¹²³ Microwd. "Instrucciones para invertir"

3. The loan debt is to be repaid at the end of the 12-month period (however, some projects have a shorter duration), plus 15-30 days of confirmation of the investment. The first two months are a grace period for the beneficiary. After that, they have to start repaying the loan with quotas of 10% plus interest. All financial transactions and account status are displayed on the user's personal page in Microwd. The rate of return is about 12% of IRR (the internal rate of return that evaluates the profitability of an investment, equating the net present value (NPV) to 0).
4. Microwd has a social purpose, so the interest rate is lower than in other financial institutions; it offers a grace period of two months, does not require security or deposit, and does not penalize late payment or delays. However, beneficiaries who have not made all payments by the final deadline will have difficulty obtaining a new loan from Microwd. But usually, under similar circumstances, the loan is restructured for another 12 months. After the 24-month period, credit monitoring continues. If the entrepreneur has the finances to pay off the loan debt, but she refuses, her case is transferred to the legal department. If the investment does not work, the risk lies with the investor.

How to apply this initiative in Ukraine

- Microwd is essentially a crowdfunding project. Ukraine already has experience in similar initiatives, among which United24 is probably the most important. So, the first step has already been taken: Ukraine has the opportunity to create funds and collect funds from around the world through already developed platforms.
- On the other hand, Ukraine also has a great “marketing” team (comprising both public and private actors) on social media (eg @saintjavelin). Ukraine already has the technical capabilities and know-how for such an initiative. Therefore, all that is lacking is to create a platform for implementing the microcredit process.
- In addition, Ukraine has approximately the same positions in terms of GDP per capita as the participants of the Microwd project (according to the World Bank)¹²⁴: Uruguay (45), Mexico (69), Peru (86), Ukraine (112), Nicaragua (142). Therefore, the attractiveness for Western micro-investments can be predicted as at least equivalent.

Solidarity groups

- One of the requirements for joining the EU for Ukraine is the formalization of the informal economy. Therefore, economic activity similar to the example of the

¹²⁴ [World Bank, GDP per capita](#)

solidarity groups successfully operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be registered as a legal entity. In this case, a cooperative structure would be best suited, which legally facilitates the joining and exit of persons from such groups without mandatory financial contributions. After joining such a group in the form of a cooperative, participants will be able to carry out transactions with livestock or seeds as payment in kind.

- In the conditions of Ukraine, such a model can be beneficial given the traditional inclination of the population to work in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry (before the full-scale invasion, the share of agriculture in the economy of Ukraine was about 3%), as well as many successful examples of farms and households that sell their products both in Ukraine and abroad.

Sister partnerships

- Such initiatives as sister partnerships also have potential and can be implemented in Ukraine. Ukrainian handmade products are already successfully sold on online platforms, such as Etsy, and interest in Ukrainian products is quite high.

- This can be used as a starting point for creating enterprises or collaborations with large companies and connecting women from other countries with goods produced by survivors of CRSV in Ukraine.