



A GLOBAL FUND FOR SURVIVORS OF
CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



ANNUAL REPORT
2020

1 Foreword



Ayesha, Clemente, Turko, Yasmin, Tatiana... An indefinite list of names, behind which lie the shattered lives of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

Hundreds and thousands of persons, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Many still in pain after all these years, some sent away from their homes, some outspoken, many silenced, some severely injured, all scarred for life.

What unites is the unspeakable suffering they bear and the obvious lack of recognition, be it from the state, their communities or the international community. All too often, the true extent of what survivors have suffered is barely recognised and their right to reparations is not upheld.



What also unites these people is their extraordinary ability to stand up and to bring people together, claiming their rights and dignity as women, wives, widows, professionals, girls, boys or men.

It is in these voices that the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) found its purpose in 2019. The voices of survivors who, together with the leading global network SEMA, the Mukwege Foundation and Nadia's Initiative, have united to make themselves heard and enhance access to reparations. GSF was created as a recognition that survivors can and should get access to interim reparative measures in situations where states or other duty-bearers are unable or unwilling to assume their responsibilities. In 2020, for the first time, a transformative change to survivors' lives has been made possible through the delivery of such reparative measures by the Global Survivors Fund.

It is our responsibility as a Fund to act, advocate and guide states and civil society organisations to enhance access to reparations to all survivors. Act, Advocate and Guide - these are the three pillars around which our work is structured.

We are excited to share the results of our first year of activity through this Annual Report, including how we have been able to create connections with survivors, instigate projects and provide expert advice.

This Annual Report is a snapshot of the activities we carried out from June to December 2020. We are only just getting started but it is already clear that a survivor-centered approach can make a real difference.

We wish to dedicate this Annual Report to all those who contributed to the first chapter of our story; to survivors, for whose immense contributions we are truly grateful, to our Board, to our international and local partners and to our donors and all other stakeholders who make this work possible.

We are All, Together, With and For Survivors.

Thank you and enjoy reading.

Dr. Denis Mukwege and Esther Dingemans

2 About GSF

GSF was launched by Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms Nadia Murad

Bringing stakeholders together in an innovative public-private partnership, GSF aims to enhance access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe.

The idea of a global fund for survivors first emerged from SEMA, the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence. At an event organised by the Mukwege Foundation in November 2018, survivors described why reparations are critical to releasing trauma and becoming empowered. Commitment to the idea then followed in October 2019 when the international community spoke in support of a global survivors' fund. In June 2020, GSF came into being and started its operations as an independent entity.

A Fund to mobilise around the issue of reparations

Despite the existence of different forms of reparation under international law, responsible states or parties are often reluctant or unable to provide reparations. Even where reparations are possible, accessing official state-awarded or judicial reparations often takes longer than a lifetime, in which case survivors never receive compensation or acknowledgement of the harm they have suffered. They are left to endure long-term injuries, trauma, stigmatisation and broken family ties, as well as socio-economic exclusion.

GSF works to address this by mobilising expertise and providing resources to enhance access to reparations and support programmes, run through a collaboration between survivors and local and international partners. From what we have already been able to observe, interim reparative measures, although not reparations in the formal sense, really do have the potential to transform survivors' lives for the better.

Our approach

We strongly believe that survivors should always have access to reparations, even in situations where states are unwilling or unable to fulfil their responsibilities. Our approach is based on accessibility to reparations and closing the implementation gap. We also believe that only survivors can know what will enable them to rebuild and move forward, and so we make sure survivors are at the centre of everything we do. Interim reparative measure programmes are co-created with survivors to ensure that such programmes meet their needs and expectations. As rights-holders, survivors play a key role in defining, implementing and evaluating GSF projects.

The three pillars of our work

All our work is constructed around [three main pillars](#):

ACT: We act to provide interim reparative measures to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. We support survivors and civil society organisations in designing community-based projects, which provide individual or collective reparative measures. These can take the form of financial compensation, livelihoods, coverage of education costs, medical bills and other needs as determined by survivors. Projects can also include symbolic measures such as commemoration initiatives.

ADVOCATE: We engage in advocacy at national and international levels, including through support to civil society actors, to improve access to reparations and other forms of redress for survivors, to influence the policy agenda to prioritise reparations and to get duty-bearers to take responsibility.

GUIDE: We assist states by providing expertise and technical support for the development and implementation of effective, gender-sensitive national reparations programmes.

2020 Highlights

- An innovative, bottom-up approach
- Three projects launched in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, and Iraq
- Scoping for new projects with survivors in countries
- Launch work on a Global Reparations Study on the status of and opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence
- A solid network of partners including the Mukwege Foundation, the SEMA network, multiple grassroots organisations, the United Nations and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- A Board composed of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds including survivors, government and civil society representatives
- A functioning secretariat with offices in Geneva



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2020 The Year In Review

3.1 Pilot Projects

We started work on three pilot projects in 2020, respectively in Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq. The parallel launch of projects in all three countries has been a major part of our activities. From selecting locations to identifying survivors and launching interim reparative measure projects; every part of the process has been a truly collective effort, **always putting survivors first**. These pilot projects have allowed us to put the core of our approach and methodology to the test, refining it for these and for future projects in other locations.

Empowering survivors in Guinea

GSF's pilot [project](#) in Guinea was initiated in October 2019 under the remit of the Mukwege Foundation and is implemented in partnership with the Association of Victims, Parents and Friends of 28 September (AVIPA) and the Guinea Organisation for Human Rights (OGDH). It seeks to ensure that survivors of the sexual violence perpetrated in the Conakry Stadium on 28 September 2009 receive **individual and collective interim reparative measures**. Through a strong advocacy component, the project also strives to ensure that the long-delayed trial related to the events is held and that a national reparations policy is adopted.

During the first months, the project's steering committee worked with survivors to design a sensitisation plan and develop a process for the identification of survivors, creating a questionnaire and defining the requisite threshold of proof. Together, they also collected the individual interim reparations requests and put in place a system for supporting survivors throughout the process, as well as planning for interim collective reparations to be made.

A total of 157 living survivors were identified, six of whom now live abroad, and a further 10 deceased survivors that are entitled to reparations. The identification process alone has shown to have a restorative value as survivors have been able to speak freely and truly participate in the design and implementation of the project. It is on the basis of this co-creation that between June to December 2020, all identified survivors received the first of three monetary instalments to which they will be entitled over the course of one year. Some have used this money to buy a plot of land for agriculture, a taxi-motor or a boat, or to build or finish building their own house. Many survivors have dedicated part of this interim reparative measure towards their children or grandchildren's education, and many decided to inject part of their money in an existing "tontine", a mechanism whereby survivors pool their savings for a given period and share dividends with other survivors at maturity.

In addition to individual support provided by the team, survivors started a one-year training programme provided by Wakili-Entrepreneurs du Monde to support the creation of individual livelihood plans.

Together with our local partners, individual or collective therapies, as well as family support sessions for children and other relatives are also being organised depending on survivors' wishes. Urgent medical needs such as fistula surgery have also been identified and will be covered by a separate medical fund.

"The individual interim reparations allowed us to recognise ourselves, to feel alive among others. We were able to carry out and develop our activities, and those who saw us as losers now see us differently. Today we can send our children to school, we no longer have to choose, we are relieved. We are in better health thanks to medical support, and this is also important for work. Psychological support helps us to overcome our sorrows. The individual interim reparation measures have changed our lives"
~ **An anonymous survivor from Guinea, 2020**

As part of the project, survivors also requested two collective interim reparative measures: a book of collective memory based on their own testimonies and on pictures they took of themselves, and the establishment of a Survivors Centre for support and public awareness activities. We intend to follow through on these requests in 2021.

Over the past six months, we have also been very active in coordinating efforts with the United Nations, particularly the Expert Team of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to advocate for the creation of a government-led reparation fund, and for the trial related to the events of 28 September to be held. We are also grateful to be able to count on the support of a wide array of stakeholders as part of these advocacy efforts as this is an important aspect of our multi-stakeholder approach.

To date, this project has already contributed to a growing sense of being acknowledged and a marked increase in solidarity among survivors, and we are hopeful that this trend will persevere.



Working collaboratively across the Democratic Republic of Congo

Working in partnership with the Panzi Foundation and the National Survivors Movement of Sexual Violence in the DRC (MNSVS-RDC), our pilot [project](#) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) aims to provide individual and collective interim reparative measures to approximately 1,000 survivors. Through a strong advocacy component, we are also seeking the adoption of a national reparations policy.

The project steering committee selected the locations where the project would be implemented in July/August 2020 following consultations with survivors and other stakeholders and extensive explorative missions in the North and South Kivus. These locations are Bueremana, Minova, Kasika and Kaniola in the Kivus, the Kasai region as well as the Mulombodi and Katoka areas. During an exploratory phase, we were able to identify psycho-social assistants and psychologists to support the project, providing them specific training and arranging for them to benefit from regular mentorship missions organised with the National Survivors Movement. Local offices were also opened in the various locations during this time.

Between August and December 2020, we organised the **first sensitisation missions with survivors and community leaders** in the North and South and North Kivus, and in Kasai. These missions were crucial for us to exchange on the project and obtain not only the survivors' buy-in, but also their guidance on the process and methodology for the project's implementation. Survivors and community leaders shared valuable information and advised us on many issues, including on how to identify survivors, what the needs for individual and collective interim reparation measures were, and how best to implement such measures. These first missions laid a solid foundation for an intensive and continued consultation process, which persevered during the identification of survivors with local partners which started in September, and was followed by a series of individual interviews took place with survivors in December.

In partnership with the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement, we set up the first **PhotoVoice workshops** with survivors in Minova in November 2020, who proceeded in documenting the impact of interim reparative measures on their lives. Around this time commemoration events took place in Kaniola and Minova, further highlighting the need for reparations for survivors, and the role of the community in supporting them.



GSF project in DRC, Kaniola, August and September 2020, © Panzi Foundation

To mark the International Day for the Respect of Human Rights and the closing of the campaign 16 Days of Activism against Violence, we participated in public events organised in Kinshasa with the National Movement of Survivors. One such event was a screening of the SEMA movie, which was written and acted by survivors of sexual violence in DRC, followed by a debate in the presence of the First Lady, survivors, high-level personalities and experts.

During this six-month period, we also started our advocacy for the establishment of a national reparations fund, to be managed and financed by the State. In September, together with the National Survivors Movement, we also participated in workshops in Kinshasa for the implementation of the Addendum to the Joint Release on conflict-related sexual violence signed between DRC and the United Nations. Regular interactions with the First Lady, the President of the National Assembly, the Conseillère Spéciale du Chef de l'État en charge de la Jeunesse et de la Violence faite à la Femme and the Minister of Human Rights further enabled us to design common approaches and strategies towards reparations for survivors.



GSF project in DRC, Minova, August and September 2020, © Panzi Foundation

Measuring impact

GSF works with the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) to monitor and evaluate the impact of all our projects, combining PhotoVoice and Concept Mapping methods. PhotoVoice is a participatory research method where survivors play a key role in determining what they want to see changed in their lives and documenting outcomes over the course of the project. The NSCR uses both quantitative and qualitative variables (such as socio-economic, psychological, family, sense of justice and dignity) to measure the impact of projects on survivors' lives

Setting the scene in Iraq

Implemented in partnership with Nadia's Initiative, this pilot [project](#) focuses on Yazidi survivors of ISIS captivity who now live in Sinjar and in Dohuk, Iraq.

We started mapping work on the ground in September 2020. This involved reaching out to international and national organisations and service providers, and youth/community leaders in Sinjar, and engaging with survivors through focus group discussions. Our main objective at the mapping stage was to define the criteria for identification, identify the location of survivors, and obtain advice as to how best to work with survivors within the project. We also sought to identify potential partners and advised on the composition of both the project team and the steering committee.

The **mapping phase** allowed us to gain an in-depth understanding of survivors' living conditions in Sinjar, of their basic social/political, economic and cultural needs, and what interim reparative measures they seek. Engagement with survivors have led us to reorient the focus of the project and to include all female survivors of ISIS captivity who had returned to Sinjar and lived in the Kurdistan region, as well as the male survivors who had been victims of conflict-related sexual violence. This mapping helped design the project, which is scheduled to start in 2021.

As part of the pilot project, we have also been actively advocating for the adoption of a national legal framework for reparations for survivors of ISIS captivity.



GSF project in Iraq, December 2020

The steering committee

A steering committee is set up for each of our projects to monitor and validate their implementation. It is a multidisciplinary body and is usually composed of survivors, civil society representatives, lawyers and psychologists. The steering committee has regular exchanges with other actors on the ground, such as the United Nations. It oversees the different stages of a project and approves decisions on key aspects (process for the identification of survivors; nature of the interim individual and collective interim measures; modalities for payment; etc.). The steering committee also plays a crucial role in assessing progress of a project's groundwork.



Meeting of the SEMA network, © Maud-Salomé Ekila

3.2 Strategy, Partnerships and Communications

Building up our strategy

In our maiden year, we needed to focus on building internal capacity, and defining a strategy for the next 3 years. In December 2020 our Board validated [GSF Strategic Plan 2021-2023](#), as well as our Action Plan for 2021.

As reflected in our strategic plan we strongly believe that efficient work can only be achieved with the close **cooperation of civil society organisations, national authorities, the international community and all other relevant stakeholders**. No matter how complex and challenging it might be, bringing survivors, lawyers, psychologists, experts, government representatives, judicial sector representatives and other key stakeholders together lays the foundation for real change. Collaboration is hence a corner stone of our strategic plan, and reflected in all we do: act, advocate and guide.

Networking

In the second half of 2020, we took part in several networking activities, establishing relevant networks and partnerships for our future advocacy and communication work, planning events and developing communication tools. For example, we have initiated a partnership with the Conjugal Slavery in War (CSiW), to organise a high-level Survivors Hearing in 2021. We are also engaging with global law firm Hogan Lovells on the issue of financing interim reparative measures for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence through the repurposing of assets. We are looking into the possibility of social bonds to finance interim reparative measures.

Events

GSF staff members have participated in several events, delivering speeches and contributions for various international bodies including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) on "Reparations for victims and survivors of crimes committed by Islamic State in Northern Iraq between 2014 and 2017", the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) on "Model Legislative Provisions: The Right to Compensation for Victims of Terrorism", the Heinrich Böll Foundation on "Sexual-Gender Based Violence as a Weapon of War" and the UN Executive Office of the Secretary-General (UNEOG) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on "Reparations in weakly institutionalized settings: Crafting a feasible way forward". These contributions were important to engage with the international community.



Survivors gathering in Guinea, © Gazelle Gaignaire

Raising our visibility

As part of our efforts to be more visible, we worked on building a website. This resulted in a mockup of the main webpages at the end of 2020, before its conversion to a fully functioning website in 2021.

We have also set up social media accounts ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) allowing us to gradually engage on topics and in events related to conflict-related sexual violence and the right to reparations.

Among our press and media activities was a [press release](#) on the commemoration of the Conakry Stadium events of 28 September in Guinea, with which we released two videos ([short](#) and [long](#) versions), also available on the GSF YouTube account, and a [press statement](#) from Dr. Denis Mukwege for the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict on 19 June 2020, which was covered by national and international media.



Global Survivors Fund calls for justice and reparation for survivors of sexual violence at the September 28 Stadium in Guinea

© September 28, 2020 at 7:01:30 09:09



Geneva, September 28, 2020

"As we commemorate the tragic events of September 28 in Guinea, the Global Survivors Fund calls on the government of Guinea to honor its commitment and immediately proceed with the organization of the trial and the establishment of a reparations program for survivors of sexual violence, and victims of other crimes, committed at the September 28 stadium, over ten years ago. Justice delayed is justice denied," said Dr Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global Survivor Fund. "Rape survivors and victims of other crimes that took place on September 28, 2009 must no longer wait for recognition, satisfaction and redress. " ...

Read

3.3 The Global Reparations Study

The first study of its kind

In 2020, we started work on a comprehensive study on the **status of and opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence** globally ("the Global Reparations Study" or "the Study"). The purpose of the study is to assess the impact of conflict-related sexual violence and survivors' access to reparations with a view to identifying opportunities for reparations and interim reparative measures. The study will provide recommendations on ways forward within each context assessed and will also provide important material for national and international advocacy efforts.

There are two key components to the study: **(i)** a process component, which is built around engagement with relevant stakeholders and includes capacity-building; and **(ii)** a research component, consisting of a systematic review of relevant publications, and an analysis of the legal framework and status of reparations as well as survivors' needs, perceptions, and expectations regarding reparations. The study will not only generate critical data regarding reparations but will also support our act, advocacy and guide pillars of work.

The study is intended to provide a knowledge base on which to build, to provide momentum for the development and implementation of reparations programmes and to strengthen the delivery of real reparations for survivors.

Countries covered

A total of 15 to 20 countries were considered for inclusion in the study. Research and engagement with local stakeholders began in 2020 in Colombia, Kenya, Mali, Syria and Ukraine. Together with our partners, we have sought creative solutions to conduct the study despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, favouring decisions on a case-by-case basis, in line with the health imperatives and travel restrictions in respect of the countries concerned.

Notwithstanding this challenging context, we were able to set up a mission to Kiev to conduct a joint workshop with the Mukwege Foundation for members of the SEMA Ukraine network and to conduct bilateral meetings with key stakeholders.

Joining forces with grassroots organisations

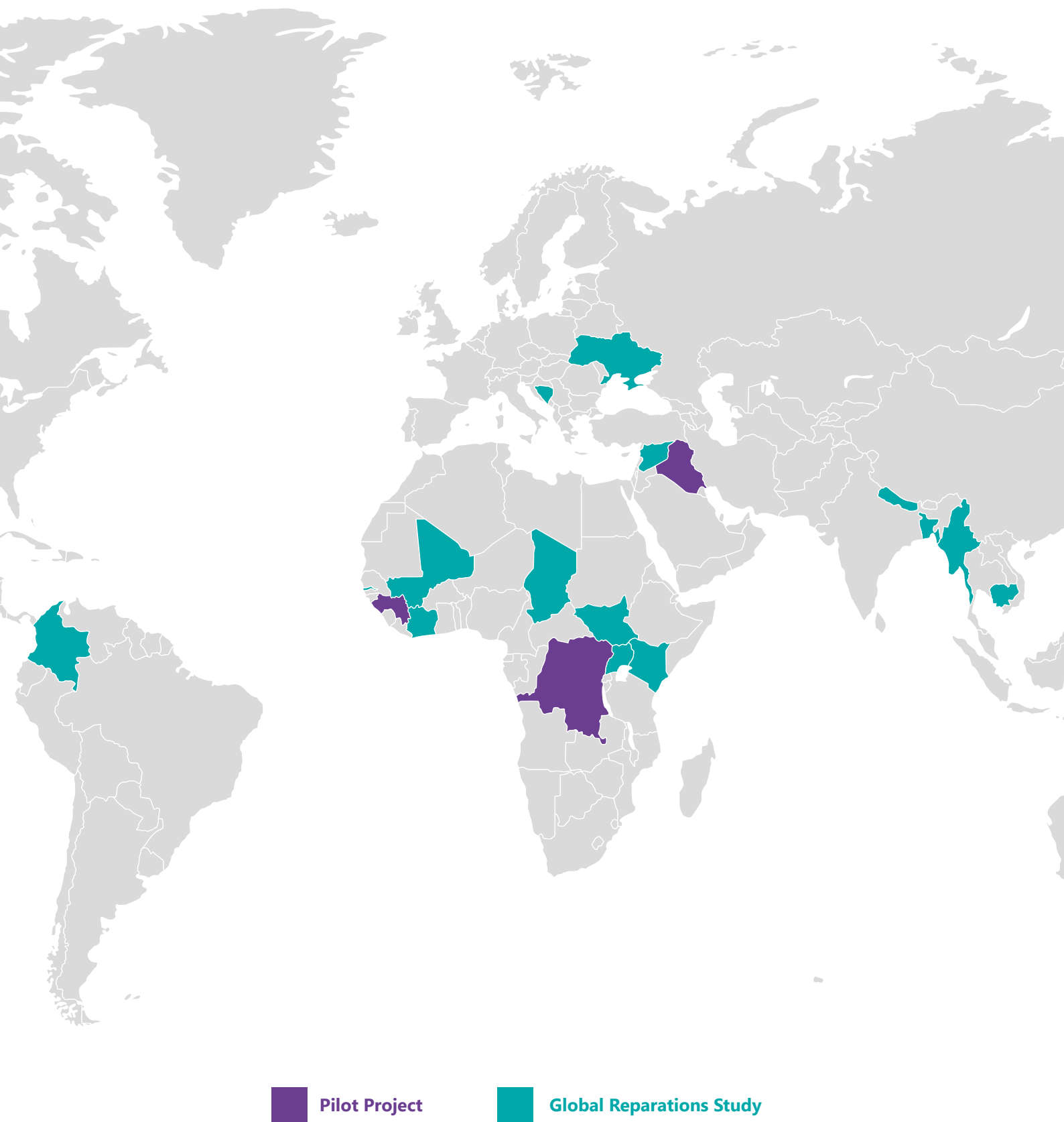
The study is a multi-actor effort in collaboration with grassroots organisations, survivors' networks and international partners. In 2020, GSF concluded a partnership with Rights for Peace in relation to South Sudan, and has been negotiating with other international partners including the International Centre for Transitional Justice, REDRESS and TRIAL International, in collaboration with national actors for Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, Myanmar, Nepal and Uganda.

Our expectations

Since the launch of the study in June 2020, we have focused efforts on building up the team, developing the structural framework and designing the report template and the online and in-person training materials and research tools, doing so in consultation with all actors concerned.

As the first in-depth review of its kind, the Global Reparations Study is likely to span over more than a year with the first results to be published in the margins of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 76) in September 2021. It is intended that the study's findings be used to inform the selection of new projects, and that we can carry out preliminary research and scoping work for additional country studies in 2021.

GSF pilot projects and Countries covered by the Global Reparations Study (2020)



3.4 Our operations

Setting up

GSF was registered as a Swiss not-for-profit foundation in November 2019 with Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms Nadia Murad as co-founders. Initially hosted by the Mukwege Foundation, GSF set up its own offices in Geneva, Switzerland on 1st June 2020, at which point all operational activities were fully handed over to the GSF team. The decision to base the secretariat in Geneva was made to allow the team to benefit from the city's truly international environment and proximity to UN headquarters and diplomatic missions. The objective to have a fully functioning office with dedicated and high-skilled staff allowing GSF to be fully operational in 2020 has been met.

In addition to staff working on the pilot projects and global study, the team focused on setting up the secretariat, recruiting experienced staff, producing reference and guidance documents, setting up the IT infrastructure, systems, processes and support tools required.



The secretariat [team](#) consisted of eight staff members and two interns at the end of 2020. Seven consultants were also contracted to work on the Global Reparations Study. It is envisaged that the core team will remain based in Geneva, albeit with a flexibility allowing for staff members to be able to evolve and take positions of responsibility within the organisation, without necessarily being in Geneva. We believe that this flexible working culture will allow us to post staff close to the heart of the social challenges we address, while ensuring coherence throughout the Fund through its administration by the secretariat.

Regulatory matters

The Fund issued its first staff contracts as of June 2020, and we have ensured compliance with Swiss employment laws, putting in place the mandatory insurances, social contributions and pension fund contributions as required under Swiss regulations. Insurances have also been put in place for the office and a Directors & Officers policy for Board members.

We have also put in place our own Human Resources policies including Internal Regulations and an Integrity Policy applicable to staff and partners, an Abuse and Reporting policy, and an Appraisal policy. All GSF staff members and contracted consultants are required to sign up to our Code of Conduct prior to employment.

As part of our operational support to the pilot projects, we have also developed memoranda of understanding and partnership agreements with our implementing partners, and the secretariat offers support in developing budgets and reporting mechanisms, as well as providing various tools and templates.

COVID-19 impact

The restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have meant that our staff has been working from home since the creation of the secretariat. This is clearly not ideal for such a new team, but we have been able to maintain connection within the team through regular online meetings and have been particularly attentive to ensuring the well-being of team members. Undeterred by these difficult working conditions, the team has shown great commitment and motivation, and output does not appear to have been impacted.

4 Our Finances

A new entity

From November 2019 to May 2020, the Mukwege Foundation received seed-funding from France, Germany, Norway and the UK to launch GSF. This funding has allowed us to start pilot projects in Guinea (as of December 2019) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (as of April 2020). Early income and expenses related to these projects were included in the Mukwege Foundation's accounts up until end of May 2020. From 1st June 2020, the Mukwege Foundation handed over all operations to GSF, including the remaining unused funds and the supervision of the ongoing projects.

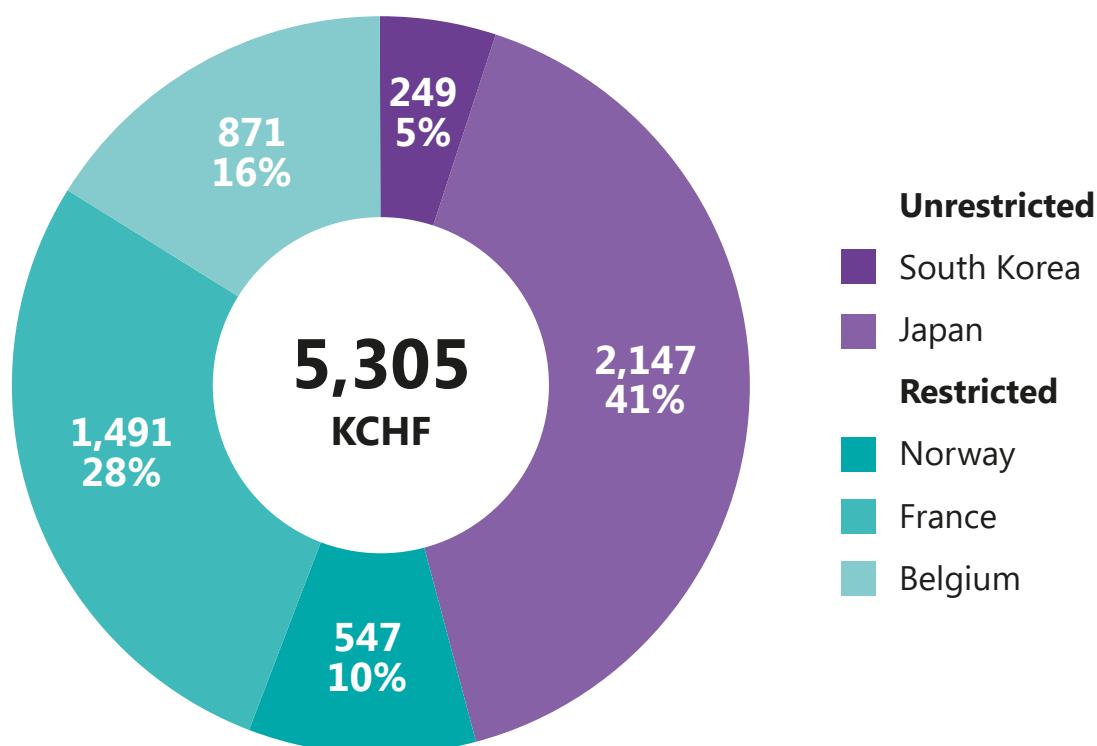
Although 2020 is the first year for which GSF will be producing annual accounts, these accounts will include only seven months of direct operations, from June to December 2020. Several Governments have also pledged to support our actions for the next two years.

Income

In 2020, we received more than 5.3 million Swiss francs of income, exclusively from public sources, with 55% restricted grants and the remaining 45% as more flexible unrestricted contributions (deposited into our reserves, allocated and to be spent over time as needed). GSF board member government contributions represented 73% of the total funds received.

In addition to the contributions from the board member governments, we also received direct contributions from the governments of Belgium and Norway, while the governments of Germany and the United Kingdom indirectly supported GSF projects in their early stages through the Mukwege Foundation. Their contributions are not included in GSF 2020 accounts.

2020 Contributions received (KCHF)

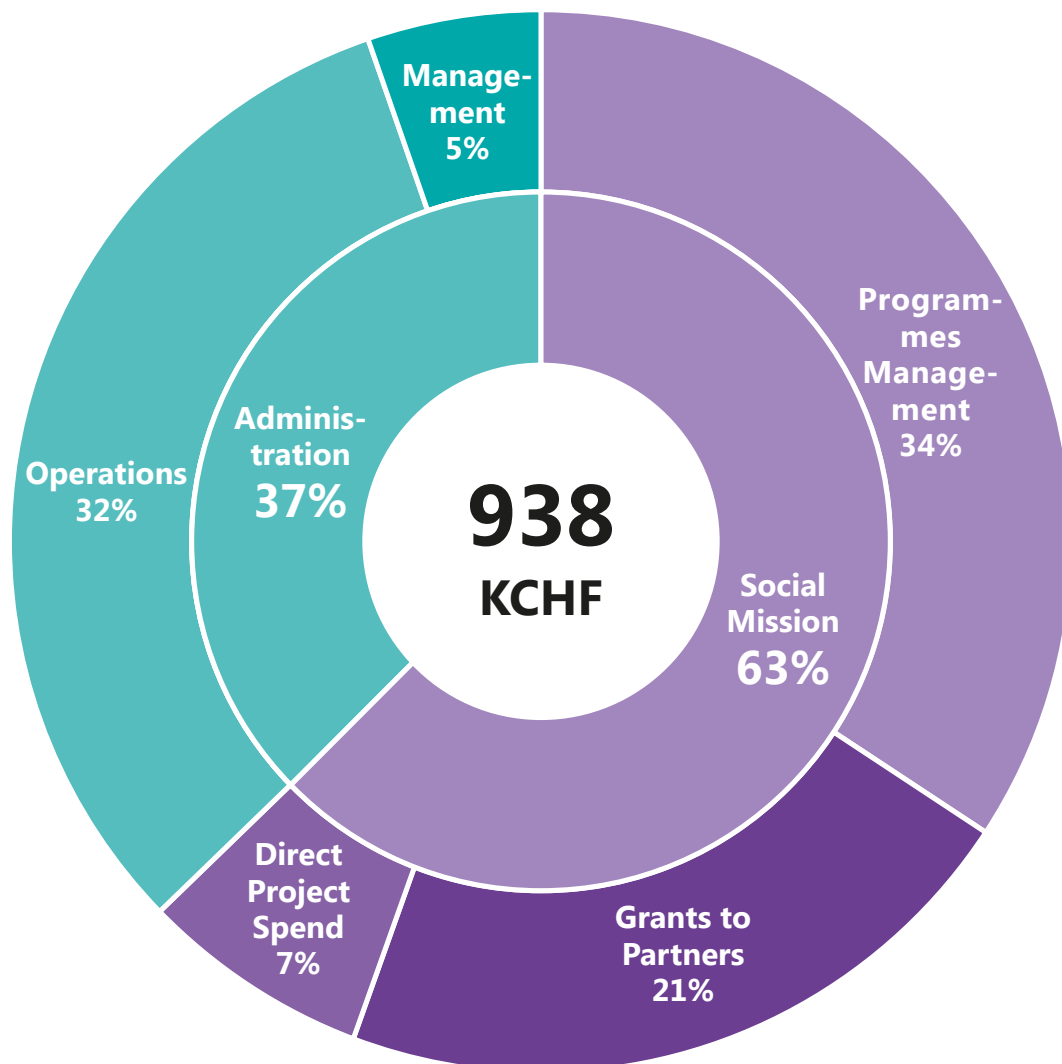


Expenditure

18% of the 2020 contributions received have been used in 2020, with total expenses amounting to slightly below one million Swiss francs. The time required to setup the secretariat, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions have resulted in a relatively small amount of contributions being used. The programme spend volume is also lower than would be expected. This is because costs related to phase 1 of the DRC project are not included in GSF accounts as it was entirely funded by the Mukwege Foundation before the project's handover to GSF. The 2020 accounts therefore only partially reflect the actual volume of activity managed by GSF since June 2020.

The total spend on administration was 37% in 2020, and this included the setting up of the Fund. We intend to significantly reduce this ratio in 2021, when partnerships for the Global Reparations Study and for the implementation of projects will be up and running. The remaining 63% of the spend for 2020 relates to our social mission and is detailed below.

2020 Total spend

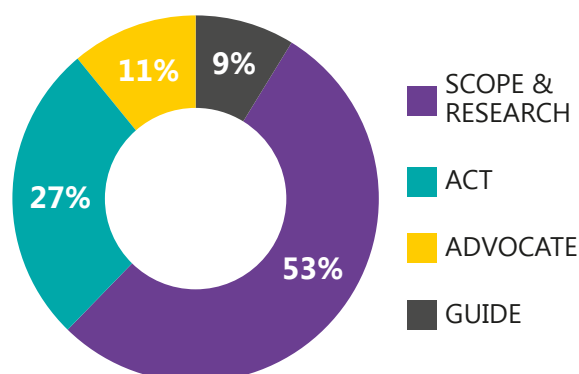


Social Mission - Programme implementation

Our preference is to implement interim reparative measure projects through grassroots partner organisations, who are more embedded into local communities, have a more granular understanding of the local context, and local human rights and sexual violence issues.

Once local partners are identified, we conclude partnership agreements, under which they receive technical, administrative and financial support from GSF to co-design the projects with survivors, in line with our survivor-centric approach. Through these agreements, we grant funds to implementing partners and provide for close and regular monitoring of progress within our projects. Grant disbursements amounted to CHF 200.741 in 2020. They were paid exclusively to implementing partners such as the Guinea Organisation for Human Rights in Guinea and Nadia's Initiative in Iraq. This amount did not include the funds transferred by the Mukwege Foundation to the Panzi Foundation for phase 1 of the project in DRC. This category of expense will grow significantly next year in line with our business model.

2020 Social Mission - by Pillar



The direct project spend covered other costs for specific country programmes that were incurred directly by GSF including consultants for the Global Reparations Study and pilot projects, field visits to countries, etc.

Overall programme management covered all other costs incurred at or on behalf of the secretariat and linked to the management of GSF programmes with a global scope.

Financial accounts

With more than five million Swiss francs received and less than one million spent in 2020, remaining funds at year-end amounted to almost 4.4 million Swiss francs. This amount is carried over for 2021 and beyond.

In 2020, GSF received a clean audit opinion from its Swiss auditors ECHO SA. Full financial data is available in our Financial Report.

GSF has also been praised by donors for its transparency and accountability.

2020 Income & Expense (KHCF)

Opening Funds	0
Governments - GSF board members	3,887
Other Governments & public institutions	1,418
TOTAL INCOME	5,305
Staff Costs	247
Third party service providers	387
Travel costs	1
Grants to partners	201
Office running costs	29
Events & communications	38
Other expenses	36
TOTAL EXPENSES	938
Funds balance @ yearend	4,367

5 Key Reflections

As a young organisation, we have been humbled to observe how our work has resonated since mid-2020. The significant resources that have been mobilised have allowed us to kick off our projects and start implementing our survivor-centered approach.

Enhancing access to reparations for survivors is a challenging task at the best of times, but we have also had to factor the ongoing pandemic and its impact on the global health, national institutions, budgets, and the most vulnerable populations into the planning of our work. As COVID-19 spread worldwide, impacting survivors and their activities, we had to keep pace to ensure that reparations and reaching survivors remained a priority. In this difficult context, we are proud to have been able to make progress and grow in intensity throughout the latter half of 2020. Growing recognition of the urgency to **fill an important gap in implementing reparations worldwide** has been our most precious reward. We have long argued that survivors should always have access to reparations, and this message is increasingly resonating in 2020 as we set up and operationalise GSF.

Notwithstanding growing recognition, big challenges still lie ahead. The distinction between granting interim reparative measures and providing humanitarian assistance is a question often asked. Our work could at first seem to blur this distinction between interim reparative measures and humanitarian assistance, but the two remain clearly different and we are succeeding in conveying and showing this difference.

Several elements make the Fund's work distinct from assistance:

First, the underlying assumption: While we recognise the immediate needs of survivors, we also recognise that they have rights for these needs to be addressed. Whereas assistance can be considered needs-based, reparations as a right for victims underpins the GSF's work from start to finish.

Second, the process: Survivors play an active role in defining and implementing interim reparative measures, which is fundamentally restorative in nature. They are not passive beneficiaries of assistance, and their critical involvement helps transform them into actors of change. The importance of the process and the difference between humanitarian assistance and reparations is frequently emphasised by survivors themselves. One survivor expressed that as opposed to the provision of humanitarian assistance, "*where they have no choice*", they know they are "*at the center*" when it comes to co-designing and implementing interim reparative measures with the Fund.

Third, the projects supported by GSF also include advocacy for government-led reparations, in which survivors and GSF collaborate in designing advocacy goals, priorities and messages.

Fourth, the focus on compensation and acknowledgement clearly distinguishes GSF's work from humanitarian assistance. Generally speaking, financial compensation and medical funds would normally not be covered under assistance projects, and neither would individual and collective aspects of commemoration aimed at preserving memory and restoring the sense of honour and dignity of survivors. In addition to their material elements, the programmes supported by the GSF have indeed a strong symbolic component. These programmes aim at recognising the wrongdoing and affirming CRSV survivors' rights, dignity and their sense of membership and belonging to their community.

Going forward, we need to maintain this course; continue to demonstrate that reparative measures should and can be taken from the onset, during the humanitarian phase, and post-conflict. Reparative measures are due to the person to whom harm has been committed and there is no time to wait.

"Reparations are a sign of recognition and support. It is the most human way of compassion"

~ Tatiana Mukanire, survivor from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council in July 2020.

Over the coming year, we will be reaching out to new audiences and reinforcing GSF's visibility internationally; we will continue to learn from survivors and to advocate locally and internationally for robust reparations mechanisms using evidence-based knowledge. We have entered 2021 with high hopes, aspiring to strengthen our position as a global actor, always and assuredly working for and with survivors.



Hands of a Guinean survivor, 2020 © Raegan Hodge

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Our Partners and Donors

We would like to thank all the organisations that have worked with and supported us in 2020. Their unwavering support has allowed us to build a strong foundation for GSF and to look to the future with great hope and ambition.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with them and for and with survivors in 2021!

Partners

dr. Denis
Mukwege
Foundation



NADIA'S
INITIATIVE



REDRESS
Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

ICTJ | Justice
Truth
Dignity



"Nadia's Initiative recognises the importance of partnering with those who center their work around the voices and needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The GSF team's expertise in reparations and survivor engagement make them a strategic partner for Nadia's Initiative, who has been implementing projects to empower survivors in Sinjar, Iraq through community-led programming.

Nadia's Initiative hopes the pilot project in Iraq will address critical gaps in service provision and support to survivors of ISIS captivity and sexual violence. Many survivors have been waiting years for support from their government and INGOs operating in the region. In lieu of tangible support, they have been left with empty promises. Nadia's Initiative hopes this project will signal to survivors that their needs matter and must be prioritized.

In 2020, Nadia's initiative improved its understanding of the current needs of female survivors in Sinjar, Iraq through focus group discussions, interviews, and mapping of service providers. What our community engagement revealed is that the needs of survivors are not being met in a tangible way. Nadia's Initiative believes this pilot project with GSF will provide a blueprint for future engagement with survivors."

~ **Nadia's Initiative**

"Victims of conflict-related sexual violence often risk being expelled from their communities on top of having to deal with the extreme trauma. The Global Survivors Fund not only seek to help victims find a path to social and economic stability, but also to find back to dignity. This life-changing approach is why Norway supports the fund.

The Global Survivors Fund builds a bridge between humanitarian and development assistance. This "nexus" approach provides the necessary humanitarian assistance alongside the development aid that can provide a path back to life for victims of conflict-related sexual violence."

~ **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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