

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



 **GLOBAL
SURVIVORS FUND**

FOR AND WITH SURVIVORS OF
CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

2023 was yet another year of tragedy for civilians in war zones around the globe. People continued to suffer immeasurable harms like torture, slavery, and rape - all of which a person has a right to reparation for.

As the year went on, more and more survivors of conflict-related sexual violence came forward to share their stories with the world. In places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan, and Colombia this meant new voices adding to a chorus of testimonies, generations old. Every crime of sexual violence that the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) learned of, either committed by State or non-State actors, fortified our devotion and urgency in supporting survivors to claim their right to reparation.

GSF took time to reflect and carefully consider our progress as an organisation in 2023. We asked ourselves, and our community of collaborators, how we may increase our impact, scale up our efforts, and reach more survivors in the coming years. Each interaction, each story shared, built our knowledge and sharpened our strategies. This is now captured in a refined theory of change, available in our Strategic Plan (2024-2030).

The impact we have witnessed in GSF's first interim reparative measures projects in Iraq, the DRC, Guinea, and Türkiye, serve as evidence that repair is possible. Though many survivors will never feel like they have returned to the person they were before, the transformation is evident, expressed in collected data and the words of survivors. As one survivor put it, "I feel human again". Our partners and teams worked diligently on new interim reparative measures projects with survivors in Timor-Leste, Nepal, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Cambodia. Our hope is that these new projects will attain similar impact. And it already looks promising.

In 2023, GSF placed additional emphasis on pushing and supporting governments to take up their responsibility for setting up administrative reparation programmes. We are encouraged by the momentum in Ukraine, where we are working with survivor-led networks, the government, and civil society in providing urgent interim reparation while the war is ongoing. This entirely unprecedented approach demonstrates that survivors should not and must not wait for a conflict to end to receive reparation from their government.

As we look back on the journey of our organisation over the past four years, we are filled with gratitude towards the extensive network of civil society organisations and survivor networks around the world who carry out inspirational work in the fight to make reparation a reality. Since our founding we have worked with over 44 organisations across 25 countries.

We also extend our sincere thanks to everyone else who has walked this path with us thus far – survivors, our donors, board members, Technical Advisory Panel, and our staff. Now, we move onwards, always led by survivors.

The Global Survivors Fund was founded in October 2019 by Dr Denis Mukwege and Ms Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureates 2018. Its mission is to enhance access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe, thus seeking to fill a gap long identified by survivors.

This report is a descriptive overview of the Global Survivors Fund's activities between January and December 2023. The key figures used in the Contexts in Focus pertain to the opening of a project up until December 2023. Figures within the text are applicable only to 2023 when described as such.

The places, names, and boundaries used in the texts or maps in this report do not reflect any position by the Global Survivors Fund on their legal status.

This activity report serves as a performance report and was produced in accordance with the recommendations of Swiss GAAP FER/RPC 21 on accounting for charitable non-profit organisations.

For more information on our activities, please visit www.globalsurvivorsfund.org



Nadia Murad, GSF Co-founder and Board Member, Dr Denis Mukwege, GSF Co-founder and Chair of the Board, and Esther Dingemans, GSF Executive Director
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ACBIT

Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita

ADMSP

Association of Detainees and the Missing of Sednaya Prison

AFJC

Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique

AJAR

Asia Justice and Rights

AVIPA

Association des victimes, parents et amis du 28 septembre

CAR

Central African Republic

CGE

Centre for Girls Education

CRSV

Conflict-related sexual violence

CVJRR

la Commission vérité, justice, réparation et réconciliation

DRC

Democratic Republic of the Congo

FONAREV

National Fund for Reparations to Victims

GRA

Grassroots Researchers Association

GRS

Global Reparations Study

GSF

Global Survivors Fund

HR

Human Resources

IRM

Interim reparative measures

ISIS

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

JEP

Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz

LGBTQI+

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and more

MOSUCA

Mouvement des Survivantes de Violences Sexuelles en Centrafrique

NGO

Non-governmental organisation

NSCR

Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

OGDH

Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen

RUV

Registro Único de Víctimas - Single Registry of Victims

SEMA

The Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence

UN

United Nations

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UNGA

United Nations General Assembly

YIAT

Youth Initiative Against Terrorism

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Non-judicial mechanisms or procedures that survivors can use to access their right to reparation and/or to prevent violations. These procedures have the potential of being more timely, inclusive, and accessible than courts. The usual administrative remedy for reparation is an administrative reparation programme.

CO-CREATION

Co-creation is a set of processes whereby survivors, as rights-holders, have an effective influence on decision making and play an active role in conceptualising, designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating reparation and its related measures.

CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Any act, including attempted or threatened, that is sexual in nature and is carried out without the consent of the victim that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. Conflict-related sexual violence can take many forms, including acts of rape, forced abortion, sexual enslavement, sexual torture, forced nudity, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity.

INTERIM REPARATIVE MEASURES

Measures provided to survivors by non-duty-bearers, such as non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations, to support their process of healing and rebuilding in circumstances where States or other duty-bearers have yet to comply with their obligation to provide reparations and where the need is urgent. Interim reparative measures are inspired by administrative reparation programmes. While they aim to have a transformative and sustainable impact on survivors' lives, they cannot and do not constitute comprehensive reparation. Receiving such measures does not substitute the obligations that States, or other responsible parties, have to provide full reparation.

KINSHASA DECLARATION

During a Survivors' Hearing on Reparations from 22-24 November 2021 held in Kinshasa, the DRC, survivors and victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence issued the Kinshasa Principles which have been developed into this [Declaration](#).

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The process of involving and encouraging collaboration among multiple stakeholders such as victims/survivors, international or civil society organisations, experts, and government bodies, in an activity. This approach aims to encourage a better appropriation by relevant stakeholders and further scaling up of efforts to fulfil the right to reparation.

REPARATION (THE RIGHT TO)

The legal right that victims of international wrongful acts have to be repaired for all harms they have suffered as a direct consequence of those violations. This right is recognised under international, and many domestic laws.

REPARATIONS MEASURES

The measures that victims of wrongful acts are entitled to from the State or other duty-bearers in fulfilment of their right to reparation. Such measures have been defined by international standards and may include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. These measures are not mutually exclusive but complement each other as each addresses different needs. Reparations measures can be individual (owed to individuals) and/or collective (owed to a group of people).

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV, OR GBV)

Any act, including attempted or threatened, that is sexual in nature and is carried out without the consent of the victim because of his/her/their sex, gender, or lack thereof.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Interim reparative measures projects have a Steering Committee composed of survivors, experts, and representatives of non-governmental organisations, including from the partner organisations of the project. Representatives of the State and international organisations may also be included in the Steering Committee. All members of the project Steering Committee must be agreed upon by survivors. The Steering Committee is responsible for overseeing each phase of the project, working alongside GSF, survivors, and our partner organisations.

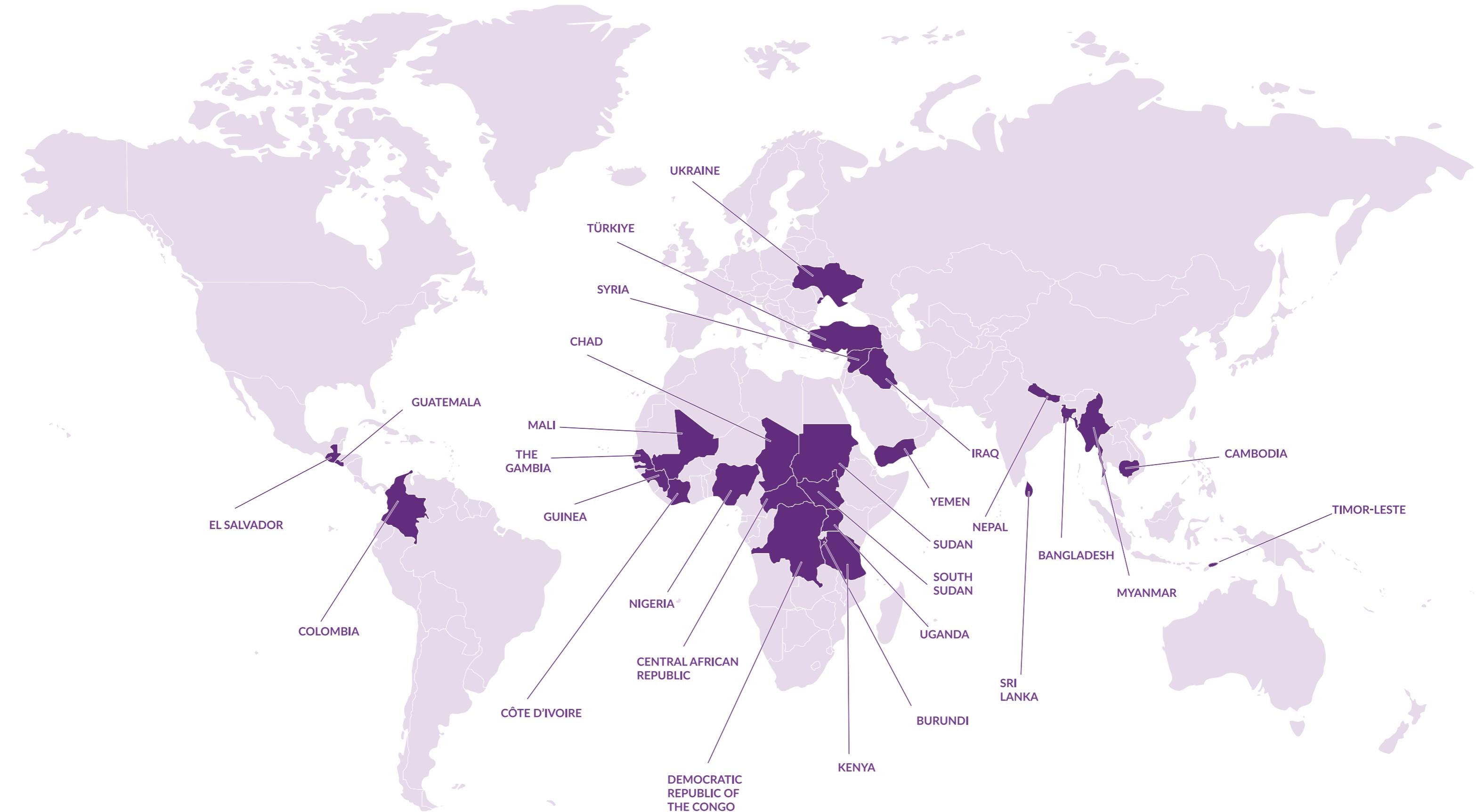
SURVIVOR / VICTIM

A person who individually or collectively suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss, or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that constitute a gross violation of international human rights law and/or serious violations of international humanitarian law. The term "victim" could refer to direct or indirect victims. In the work of GSF, direct victims are those who suffered an act of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as children born of conflict-related sexual violence. Indirect victims are those who suffered a violation and harm because of what happened to a direct victim, such as a child whose mother suffered rape. The term "survivor" is a non-legal term, preferred by many as it emphasises strength and resilience instead of focusing on suffering. However, survivor as a term does not include deceased victims, children born of conflict-related sexual violence, or indirect victims. GSF uses both terms, depending on the context and wishes of those who suffered harm.

SURVIVOR-CENTRED APPROACH

An approach that places survivors at the centre of the process by prioritising their rights, needs, and wishes and ensures they are treated with dignity and respect. Often, the term survivor-centred refers to the actual approach of working with victims/survivors. The term survivor-centric refers to the policies, procedures, and broad responses that prioritise the rights, needs, and wishes of survivors. A survivor-centred approach is key to promoting survivors' recovery and agency, also reducing the risk of further harm and re-traumatisation.

Where we work



In 2023, our work revolved around :

- The Global Reparations Study in Bangladesh, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Timor-Leste, and Yemen;

- The provision of interim reparative measures in Central African Republic, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iraq, South Sudan, Nepal, Nigeria, Timor-Leste, and Türkiye (for Syrian survivors);

- Advocacy at national level in Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Guinea, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine and at international level in Syria and Ukraine;

- Technical support in Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan and Ukraine.



A survivor-centred approach is possible and the most effective way to go.

At the Global Survivors Fund (GSF), we seek to fulfil the right to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the world. This is done through our three core pillars of work: ACT, ADVOCATE, and GUIDE.

We ACT by showing that the harms caused to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence must be urgently addressed through the right to reparation. We recognise that satisfaction, rehabilitation, restitution, compensation, and guarantees of non-recurrence as reparation are key for survivors to rebuild their lives.

However, where States are unwilling or unable to meet their responsibilities to provide this reparation, we work with survivors in countries by co-creating projects that provide interim reparative measures. Interim in nature, our projects are not taking away the obligation of States to fulfil the right to reparation.

Not only do we address the immediate needs of survivors in our projects, but we also show States that reparation programmes can be operationalised and resourced, even whilst conflict is ongoing. We also ADVOCATE at local, regional, and international levels to influence policy agendas to prioritise reparation.

Policy conversations traditionally happen without survivors, and through our survivor-centred approach we ensure that there is a seat for them at every table. Survivors' voices must be heard.

We GUIDE by providing expertise and technical support to governments and other stakeholders that are willing to develop and implement reparation programmes. To this end, we work to ensure that laws and national programmes are survivor-centred. We identify and create best practice through knowledge sharing and convening communities of practice.

Wherever possible, we seek to combine activities under these three pillars to achieve greater transformative impact for survivors. Our work in countries is underpinned by the Global Reparations Study, which is carried out with a wide network of partners and survivors, allowing us to make informed decisions in our programmes.

Reparation must be adequate, prompt and effective. This is accomplished through co-creation with survivors.

How we work

Discovering co-creation with Syrian survivors

By Sabreen Shalabi, Senior Project Officer for Türkiye

Here at GSF, we speak about co-creation with passion. The idea is simple enough: survivors can and must be actively involved in conceptualising, designing, and evaluating all elements of our interim reparative measures projects. Survivors are the heart of every discussion held and every action taken.

Co-creation is unique in every context. Every group of survivors, and every survivor, takes the action of co-creation differently. Discovering what co-creation is for Syrian survivors in Türkiye, along with our partners, the Association for the Missing and Detained of Sednaya Prison (ADMSP) and the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), has only deepened my belief in the concept.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Since its establishment, GSF's team for interim reparative measures projects has developed methodologies to bring co-creation from theory to a practical approach. Too often, the norm is not to involve survivors in decision-making processes. Co-creation goes far beyond this; survivors make decisions.

At times, our partners are sceptical about the extent to which we urge survivors to take charge. In the fast-paced world of humanitarian and human rights organisations, who are understaffed and just trying to survive, the call for co-creation, along with the additional efforts required to co-create, is sometimes met with resistance.

Features

When we started thinking of an interim reparative measures project for Syrian survivors living in Türkiye, the co-founder of ADMSP, Riyad Avlar, said to me, "We are survivors ourselves and we already understand the needs."

Riyad Avlar is a journalist by training and spent 21 years in detention in Syria. ADMSP is truly an organisation for and by survivors, making them the best partner for the project. Many of Riyad's assumptions about the needs of survivors were correct, as is often the case. Afterall, our partner organisations know their communities. But we needed to hear survivors say it.

Co-creation is more than a process of finding out needs to deliver material reparations. Co-creation is the process of survivors acting autonomously and reclaiming the dignity that the Syrian regime tried to take from them. This moral reparation of taking the decision is what makes co-creation stand out as a truly reparative practice. So, in response to Riyad, I asked, "How can we begin to plan a project with survivors, without survivors?"

Turning the methodology of co-creation into practice comes at this moment. A project with survivors means with survivors, even from the first step. ADMSP began hosting focus group discussions across southern Türkiye, starting our horizontal knowledge exchange, where we learn from survivors just as much as they learn from us.

ACTIVE LISTENING

"The survivors made me think about things we had not considered before," Riyad said after our first focus group discussions. "Now, how will we use this?" This is a common question at GSF, and the answer is: through being flexible and adaptable.

Soon after GSF's establishment, we learned that adaptability and flexibility are needed for co-creation to succeed. Our interim reparative measures projects are consistently evolving to respond to survivor's wishes because they are the leaders. To that end, GSF and our partners cannot propose a pre-set list of measures.

Survivors have full autonomy in selecting the package of individual measures that they will receive. And in the case of the project in Türkiye, survivors did not want measures for only themselves. They wanted their children to be included too. Each person then curated their own reparative package from the possibilities proposed according to what was most meaningful to them. For some, this meant using their compensation to pay for their child's education.

WORKING FOR TRUST

Trust is a difficult but beautiful thing to earn. It is the cornerstone of a true partnership. Through the interim reparative measures, GSF works to establish this foundation of trust with our partners and with survivors.

In Türkiye, we gained trust by being with survivors during a devastating moment. On 6 February 2023, earthquakes struck northern Syria and southern Türkiye. Survivors had already lost so much to begin new lives in Türkiye, and now they had to begin again. At the time of the earthquake, over 500 survivors had joined our project, and we provided an emergency payment to all. Survivors have expressed to me that they did not fully believe in the project until the emergency payment. Then, they began to trust.

After the earthquake, in May, the project truly kicked off with the last survivor identified. As survivors received their chosen individual measures, co-creation continued. Debrief sessions with survivors, project staff, and the Steering Committee were held at the end of each project phase. By encouraging reflection, we probe into the efficacy of co-creation.

We may have gained trust after the earthquake but trust also takes work to sustain. It is in these sessions that we sustain trust. Co-creation means learning from survivors as the project goes on to ensure that it adapts.

At a group discussion in Reyhanli, a survivor said to me, "This project is work for us as survivors. This is the first time someone has built trust".

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Survivors travelled from across southern Türkiye to Gaziantep to join the launch of our Syria Global Reparations Study in December. The study was developed with survivors to understand the challenges of, and opportunities for, providing reparation in Syria. At the conference, people stood, one after another, to speak about how the interim reparative measures project impacted their lives.

What they expressed is that the process of co-creation changed their outlook on reparation and their future. Survivors found a sense of ownership and community. Seeing their words translate into tangible action through the realisation of the project provided recognition for the harm done to them.

Toward the end of the day, Riyad said to me, "We need to talk to survivors. How will we know what they want if we don't?"



Getting to know the Steering Committee

By Karine Bonneau, Head of Projects for Interim Reparative Measures

Fulfilling the right to reparation is the obligation of a State. But they should not – and I would argue, cannot – do it alone. A State does not have all the answers of what reparation is. Only the people who have suffered harms do.

Victims must develop reparation policies, along with people interested in the satisfaction of their rights, like civil society organisations, academics, United Nations (UN) agencies, and international organisations. With this pooled expertise, governments can gather lessons learnt and create a programme that is context specific and reparative for all victims, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

This is the multi-stakeholder approach that we take in our projects. We want to gather a group and strengthen their capacity for collaboration. By using our projects as a learning opportunity for all the people needed to make reparation happen, we hope our approach is taken forward in any future administrative reparation programme.

The spirit of collaboration materialises in our interim reparative measures projects through the formation of a Steering Committee. In countries without an administrative reparation programme, these projects lay the ground for developing national reparation policies – and they are overseen and guided by this multi-stakeholder Steering Committee.

CREATING A STEERING COMMITTEE

In every interim reparative measures project, at least 40 per cent of the Steering Committee members are survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The survivors who become members are sometimes elected by their fellow survivors to serve.

Other times, they are already members of well-established survivors' movements. In our project with Syrian survivors of detention living in Türkiye, 60 per cent of the Steering Committee members are survivors.

The remaining members are selected according to the expertise and technical support needed for the project. In the Central African Republic (CAR), the women protection expert of the UN mission and the child protection expert of UNICEF joined the Steering Committee to help design survivor and child-centred protocols for the project. In Timor-Leste, people from the *Centro National Chega!* (CNC) sit on the Steering Committee. The CNC was created in 2016 to execute recommendations from the Timorese Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation. By bringing people from the CNC to our Steering Committee, they can use their experience with the interim reparative measures project to make informed proposals for a national policy in Timor-Leste.

Because survivors' needs are central to the project, their interests must be protected in the Steering Committee. While people from a government body are invited to join the Steering Committee in Timor-Leste, survivors in Iraq decided their Steering Committee should not have any government representatives. Survivors come to these decisions during group discussions on the Steering Committee's composition.

The absence of government representatives on the Steering Committee does not mean an absence of involvement with the government, though. Steering Committees are always interacting with government officials to share our best practices and lessons learnt to advocate for survivor-centred reparation policies, and this requires constructive dialogue between the two.

“

My role as a survivor is to share my experiences, to participate in the decisions that concern other survivors. I accompany them before, during and after each stage. It's an approach that allows me to co-create the project with them, the way they want it.

- Myriam Fall, MOSUCA Coordinator and member of the Steering Committee of CAR

Steering Committees also need to be context specific. Where in Guinea we had one Steering Committee, there is a Steering Committee for each of the three states in the Nigeria project. The situation of survivors is so different across Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno it made sense to craft a Steering Committee that can better understand the local communities, types of violence, and safety and security situation in each state.

GUIDING PROJECT STRATEGIES

The Steering Committee is charged with the strategic development and implementation of the interim reparative measures project, while falling within boundaries set by GSF. From framing the scope, to identifying survivors, and validating the chosen reparative measures, the Steering Committee members are advising and following the project in its entirety.

In Timor-Leste, the Steering Committee decided the list of 104 villages that will participate in the project. Based on their knowledge of conflict-related sexual violence and the living conditions of survivors across the country, they chose 31 villages for the initial rollout of the project to address more urgent needs.

To identify survivors to participate in the project, the Timorese Steering Committee prioritised participatory methods such as body mapping and collective storytelling, when appropriate. These methods intend to follow the Do No Harm principle while adapting to the specific culture and experience of survivors in Timor-Leste. The presence of survivors on the Steering Committee was key in this decision.

The Steering Committee has to adapt as a project goes on. The security contexts we work in, as well as the principle of co-creation, call for it.

In the DRC, this meant expanding the project to a new region of the country. The project in DRC began with two provinces in 2020, but the Steering Committee decided the project had to include survivors from Kasai. Systematic conflict-related sexual violence happened some years before in the province, and survivors felt abandoned. The project then came to cover different periods of violence in DRC. As such, the composition of the Steering Committee itself had to change to include members from Kasai-Central going forward.

STEERING ADVOCACY FOR REPARATION

The active participation and leadership of survivors in the Steering Committees is integral to our interim reparative measures projects. With survivors at the centre of this project governing body, the Steering Committee is an embodiment of co-creation.

Working together, the variety of stakeholders that participate in GSF's Steering Committees can advance the right to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. With the knowledge that reparation is feasible, and most reparative when co-created, they can advocate for survivor-centred administrative reparation programmes.

Contexts in focus

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
COLOMBIA
DRC
GUINEA
IRAQ
NEPAL
NIGERIA
TIMOR-LESTE
TÜRKIYE
UKRAINE

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



Flora Nendjime Ngaba (left), Nicette Boyaka (middle) and Prestige Mbetimale (right) during a training session for the interim reparative measures project staff members in Dekoa, Central African Republic, June 2023 ©Antoine Stomboli / GSF

People in the Central African Republic (CAR) have been caught in armed conflicts since 2002. Sexual violence has been used throughout the country and by all parties to the conflict, including foreign, government, and paramilitary armed forces. Impunity largely prevails.

GSF began working in CAR in 2021 with a Global Reparations Study. The Global Reparations Study laid the foundation for the project for interim reparative measures, as we saw that survivors have urgent needs which have not been addressed since the beginning of the conflict.

In 2023, a partnership agreement was signed by GSF, the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation and the Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrrique (AFJC) to begin the interim reparative measures project in Dekoa. The Steering Committee is now in place to provide technical and strategic guidance to the project. It will ensure that the project is entirely carried out with a survivor-centred approach. Six of its 12 members are survivors, and the remaining members represent civil society organisations, national institutions, and international organisations.

The Steering Committee designed the process for identifying survivors to participate based on known best practice of administrative reparation programmes. During various visits in Dekoa, members were able to interview local stakeholders and survivors. By the end of 2023, 285 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence were identified to participate in the project.

Advocacy and support to the government

Two bodies were created to design a reparation programme for victims of the most serious crimes: the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR) in 2020 and the Strategic Committee to Combat Sexual Gender Based Violence in 2021, which is linked to the Armed Conflicts in Central African Republic Strategic Committee. GSF has collaborated with these two institutions, supporting their strategic planning and sharing lessons learnt from reparation programmes in other countries. GSF ensured the active participation of survivor activists in dialogues to support the effort for designing survivor-centred policies.

I survived by telling myself that one day, the whole world will know what happened to me. I survived by telling myself that one day, I would come before you to testify, and that day has arrived, Mr. President of the Republic.

- A survivor addressing the President of the Central African Republic during an event in Bangui in June 2023

In August 2023, GSF collaborated with Professor Ruth Rubio, a member of our Board of Directors, to organise a workshop on the right to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The workshop was attended by representatives from the CVJRR and other authorities within the Strategic Committee, as well as survivors, and different civil society organisations.

Locations

BANGUI AND DEKOA

2021

WORK BEGAN

285

SURVIVOR PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED



Capital city
● Project location

Conflict-related sexual violence committed in the context of a 60-year-long internal armed conflict has devastated tens of thousands of lives in Colombia. Perpetrated by all actors, including the State and non-State armed groups, more than 37,000 survivors of conflict-related sexual and reproductive violence are registered with the Single Registry of Victims (RUV, Registro Único de Víctimas).

GSF started working in Colombia with the development of a Global Reparations Study, which was launched in 2022. The study reflected on obstacles for the effective implementation of survivor-centred reparation. The study is particularly focused on how survivors of sexual violence could participate in the definition of the restorative sanctions from perpetrators who recognised their responsibility at the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP, Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz).



Capital city
● Project locations

Another obstacle identified was the inadequate implementation and low satisfaction among survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as other victims, regarding the reparations mandated by a 2011 law, which was supposed to be a comprehensive administrative reparation policy.

Guaranteeing participation of survivors

JEP is a special system for justice created to provide restorative justice for large-scale violations. Crimes, such as massacres, torture, and conflict-related sexual violence, are investigated as macro-cases that cover multiple crimes committed in a given area by different armed groups or State security forces, or certain types of crimes committed by a group in multiple places.

In 2023, GSF started working with JEP to develop a participatory mechanism for survivors of macro-case 05, on the Territorial Situation of the Northern Cauca and Southern Cauca Valley Regions. This case represents over 120,000 victims of different atrocities, including approximately 80 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence who are members of Afro, indigenous, non-indigenous, and LGTBQI+ communities.

GSF organised two workshops to determine the harms survivors suffered because of conflict-related sexual violence and identify possible reparative actions. The harms were personal and communal, spanning from physical and psychological consequences, to impoverishment, and affecting cultural identity and connection to the land.

GSF commissioned *Dejusticia* to do a study on budgeting and financing of reparations in Colombia. The study was launched in October. Its recommendations include an estimation of the costs of each form of reparation, assigning resources specifically for reparations, establishing a clearer distinction between reparations and social services, and projected policy costs when considering the resurgence of armed groups resulting in new victims. GSF is currently using this study to help define policy changes for improving the delivery of reparations.

Today, many were able to let go of those tears. They were able to let go of their pain, because they were listened to.

- A survivor

Locations

17 MUNICIPALITIES OF THE CAUCA VALLEY AND SOUTH OF CAUCA

2020

WORK BEGAN

66

SURVIVOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

COLOMBIA



Launch event of a report on financing and budgeting of Colombia's reparation policy, organised by Dejusticia and GSF in Bogota. From left to right : Diana Guzman (Director of Dejusticia), Paola Molano (Transitional Justice Coordinator of Dejusticia) and Diana Bravo Rubio (Reparations expert). Colombia, October 2023 ©Dejusticia

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Martin lives in Kananga. Both he and his wife are survivors of conflict-related violence and participants in the interim reparative measures project. Kananga, DRC, November 2023 ©Trinity Studio DRC



Conflict-related sexual violence has been used on a massive scale and systematically in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since the 1990s. In 2023, the UN warned that the use of sexual violence was on the rise once more, as the unrelenting conflict in the east raged on. It is an exceptional case if a victim ever sees justice. While judicial reparations are theoretically available, they are entirely inaccessible for survivors, with procedural and financial obstacles. Recognition and comprehensive reparation are sorely lacking for the estimated hundreds of thousands of survivors.

Individual and collective measures

Initiated in 2020 by GSF and the Panzi Foundation, the interim reparative measures project in the DRC was entirely co-created with survivors. The goal of this project was to show that reparation is urgent and feasible; adopting a national survivor-centred reparation policy is possible.

In 2023, all survivors received their final financial payment. Other measures also continued in 2023, with 100 survivors receiving a psychiatric consultation included in the overall 634 survivors who received psychological care, and 27 survivors accessing medical care. Another 78 survivors completed their vocational training.

Judgments were obtained to establish birth certificates for 98 children born of conflict-related sexual violence. With birth certificates, these children now have legal recognition of their existence and will be able to enjoy all that citizenship offers, like access to social services.

One of my children was born as a result of these rapes... The community could not accept this child born of rape. But thanks to this project, she is being looked after and now she has her birth certificate. She is acknowledged and treated like any other child in the house.

- Martin Kalenda, a survivor

As their collective interim reparative measure, survivors chose to establish four survivors' centres in their project locations. For each centre, the site selection, purchasing of the land, and design was done in accordance with the wants of survivors and their communities. Each centre will offer specific activities. Construction of the three centres located in the Kivus was completed in 2023, with their inauguration planned for 2024.

A new national law

In December 2022, Law 22/065 on the protection and reparation of victims of conflict-related sexual violence and victims of crimes against the peace and security of humanity was adopted. As a result, GSF's advocacy and technical support in 2023 focused on the implementation of the law.

In February 2023, the National Advocacy Alliance for Reparations was established following our call to set up a working group on reparations made up of civil society organisations, victims' groups and other key actors. The Alliance has since become a key group in advocating to the FONAREV¹ and the government of DRC by acting as an informal tool for information exchange and advocacy planning.

Our advocacy activities sought to resolve imprecisions in the law around the definition and determination of victim status and the roles that FONAREV and the judicial system will play in the registration of victims. GSF called for these difficulties to be remedied by the FONAREV so that the legislation follows international obligations and standards, and so that reparations are harmonious with other transitional justice measures enacted in the country.

GSF built close relations with the *Mouvement National des Survivantes*, the Feminine Solidarity for Peace and Development, and SOS Multisector Juridical Information, three partners within the National Alliance for Reparations, in 2023. Our joint work seeks to enhance the technical capacity of survivors, so that they can better participate in the design and implementation of reparation policies.

Locations

KASAÏ-CENTRAL (Kananga), NORTH-KIVU (Minova), SOUTH-KIVU (Kaniola and Kasika)

2020

WORK BEGAN

1,093

SURVIVOR PARTICIPANTS

Interim reparative measures co-created

COMPENSATION :

1,093 financial awards

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT :

555 survivors provided individual sessions

968 survivors provided group sessions

MEDICAL CARE :

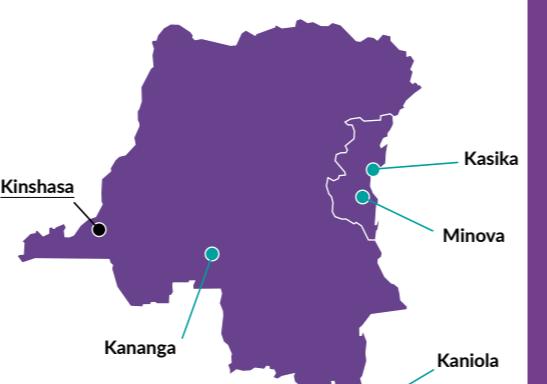
1,038 consultations, 45 surgeries

VOCATIONAL TRAINING :

606 survivors participated in vocational training

LEGAL SUPPORT :

98 birth certificates obtained for children born of conflict-related sexual violence



Capital city

● Project locations

In 2023, GSF's project in Guinea, our first interim reparative measures project, came to a close. This project, which began in 2019, was co-created with survivors of the 28 September massacre and carried out by *l'Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen* (OGDH) and *l'Association des victimes, parents et amis du 28 septembre* (AVIPA).

After the identification process, survivors received their individual interim reparative measures in 2020 and 2021; financial awards, medical care, and psychological support. In 2023, the project culminated in the opening of a centre created for and by survivors.

Survivors' creating a space of their own

Survivors co-created two collective interim reparative measures during the project. The first is a book of testimonies which was published in December 2021. In September 2023, they inaugurated their second collective measure, a survivors' centre.

The inauguration on 28 September 2023 in Maferinya, gathered survivors and their families, the Minister of Justice and other representatives from the government, representatives from the international community, civil society actors, and the media.

GUINEA

Locations

CONAKRY²

2019

WORK BEGAN

158

SURVIVOR PARTICIPANTS

Interim reparative measures co-created

COMPENSATION :

158 financial awards, which included a one-year management training for 151 survivors living in Guinea

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT :

269 individual sessions, 60 group sessions

MEDICAL CARE :

109 consultations, 6 surgeries

This day of celebration was facilitated by survivors and included musical performances, as well as speeches from Guinean officials and members of the international community. Survivors presented their call for the establishment of a national reparation programme in Guinea. A significant moment of the inauguration was the presentation of the commemorative monument to victims of the 28 September massacre, the only of its kind in the country. The inauguration was attended by four survivor activists on GSF's Board of Directors. This gave them an opportunity to exchange with Guinean survivors and partners and witness the impact of GSF's interim reparative measures project.

This centre is the embodiment of the work of survivors. It is the indelible mark that we are living here in Guinea, a symbol of the persistence and heroism of the survivors.

- Assmaou Dialo, AVIPA founder

Survivors chose the site for the centre, participated in its design, and defined its activities. It is a safe space where survivors of the 28 September massacre, and survivors of all sexual and gender-based violence, can come together, support each other, and work on collective activities like livelihood projects and awareness-raising sessions.



Capital city
● Project locations



Women singing at the inauguration event of the survivors centre in Maferinya, Guinea, September 2023 ©2k Studio commercial

The centre's Board of Directors is composed of three survivors and representatives from our two partner organisations. Survivor-managed activities began at the centre after its inauguration and will continue for years to come, with support from international donors.

Advocating for an administrative reparation programme

2023 saw the start of AVIPA's advocacy project, funded by GSF, to promote the *Kinshasa Declaration* in Guinea.

Survivors participated in a training that strengthened their advocacy skills, coaching them on how to articulate their experiences and demands for justice. Through participatory methodology, like body mapping, survivors drafted their call for an administrative reparation programme. This technique, in which a person tells a story through a life-sized drawing of their own body, provides an alternate language for survivors to convey the trauma of their experiences. At the inauguration of their centre, survivors presented this call for reparation.

There was also progress on the establishment of an administrative reparation programme by the Guinean authorities. In March, GSF organised the first of two roundtables in Conakry, where we shared lessons learnt from the interim reparative measures project in hopes of supporting the development of a survivor-centred policy on reparation. The Minister of Justice and Human Rights subsequently requested to receive technical support from GSF.

The second roundtable, a high-level exchange, took place in September 2023. A comprehensive national reparation law was drafted as an outcome of the roundtable and was shared with the Minister of Justice and Human Rights. The draft covers all survivors of human rights violations in Guinea, from 1958 to today, while giving the priority to survivors of the 28 September massacre.

Locations

DOHUK AND NINEWA GOVERNORATES

In 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) initiated a genocidal campaign against the Yazidi, an ethno-religious minority living in northern Iraq. In 2020, GSF and Nadia's Initiative developed an interim reparative measures project with survivors of ISIS captivity, in Sinjar and Dohuk. This project addressed their urgent needs and will continue to advocate for a survivor-centred implementation of the Yazidi Survivors' Law, adopted in 2021.

In 2023, 65 survivors who wanted to go back to school but faced challenges in accessing formal education were offered English classes by Jesuit Worldwide Learning during the summer. With this, the individual interim reparative measures component of the project came to an end.

Survivors co-created their collective interim reparative measure, a monument in Sinjar, in 2023. During focus group discussions, 119 survivors shared their perspectives, preferences, and vision, and collectively decided for the construction of a memorial statue. Still in construction at the end of the year, the statue symbolises the resilience of survivors and commemorates their shared experiences.



Based on a methodology developed by the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) for GSF, the final impact measurement for the interim reparative measures project on survivors' lives was completed in Sinjar. Survivors reported increased recognition from their families and the Yazidi community during the project, underscoring its significance in restoring a sense of dignity and belonging among survivors.

Technical support on the Yazidi Survivors Law

Since the adoption of the Yazidi Survivors Law, survivors have encountered various challenges, including obstacles in filing their claims, and difficulties accessing promised forms of reparations such as education support and psychological care. In May, GSF and Nadia's Initiative began a collaborative project to assist survivors in Sinjar and Duhok with advocating for their rights. Male survivors, who have generally been neglected and excluded from reparative projects and activities, were also included in the project.

Our technical support work grew in July as we were engaging more with the General Directorate for Survivors Affairs to strengthen its capacity to deliver on the law's ambitious mandate. We are finding ways to alleviate the legal processes burdened by survivors, promote the inclusion of education and psychological care as measures, and respond more effectively to the overlooked needs of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence.

To ensure our approach to reparation is comprehensive, GSF also supported efforts to develop legislation for holding perpetrators of international crimes accountable in Iraq. The aim is to add survivor-sensitive prosecution measures, with a wide range of provisions such as consultative investigation processes and assurances of witness protection.

2020

WORK BEGAN

Interim reparative measures co-created

I want the statue to show our strength and our determination not to give up, and live freely again.

- A survivor

1,042

SURVIVOR PARTICIPANTS

COMPENSATION : 1,042 financial awards

LEGAL SUPPORT : 106 survivors and their children received documentation

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT : 156 survivors had individual sessions and appropriate follow-up

ACCESS TO EDUCATION : 65 survivors attended English classes



As part of the collective interim reparative measures project in Iraq, survivors chose to create a commemorative space in the city of Sinjar. The statue represents a Yazidi woman holding a child, as a former captive of the Islamic State, a figure who has become a powerful symbol for the community. Iraq, December 2023 ©Nadia's Initiative



A workshop in Kathmandu, during which the project team met with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to discuss the first phase of the project. Nepal, January 2023 ©Laetitia Bonnet / GSF

2021

WORK BEGAN

6

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

56

SURVIVOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

³From Nepal Study on Opportunities for Reparations for Victims and Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

Locations

KATHMANDU, LUMBINI PROVINCE, SUDURPASHCHIM PROVINCE



NIGERIA



A survivor's hands in Maiduguri, Nigeria, February 2024 ©Sarah-Eve Hammond / GSF

In 2009, Boko Haram's terrorist insurgency broke out in Nigeria's northeast, leading to the displacement of 2.1 million people inside the country. Sexual violence against women and youth has been used as a tactic of terror by the armed group, alongside killings, abductions, and suicide bombings.

GSF began scoping for an interim reparative measures project in 2022 with our partner organisations; the Centre for Girls Education (CGE) in Adamawa, the Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA) in Borno, and Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT) in Yobe. We began assessing survivors' needs in the three states, engaging with local actors on the potential project, and identified potential locations for its implementation.

In January 2023, we met with partners, survivors, host communities, and other stakeholders to understand their views on the project. In August 2023, the project started in Adamawa and Yobe states in partnership with CGE and YIAT. The framing of the project in Borno continued with the Neem Foundation.

Like in other interim reparative measures projects, the project in Nigeria is overseen by a Steering Committee. For the Nigeria project, the Steering Committee is made up of survivors, members of civil society organisations, representatives from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF, religious leaders, and local authorities. With their own unique landscapes, it was decided that each state should have its own Steering Committee to better address the specificities of each context.

Between August and December, 397 survivors were identified to participate in the project; 181 from Yobe and 216 from Adamawa. All survivors have been presented with cards affirming their participation and status as a survivor. This document was developed as an interim reparative measure to recognise survivors and acknowledge their right to reparation.

I am especially pleased about the interview's confidentiality. The one-on-one interview made me feel safe and respected.
- A survivor

Survivors are leading in almost every aspect of the project. They serve on the Steering Committee, and six are employed as community mobilisers for accompanying participants throughout the project.

We are already seeing the results of co-creation. Survivors have shared that being part of the Steering Committee has changed their status and recognition within their communities.

In 2023, GSF began working on the Nigerian Global Reparations Study with the Development Research and Projects Centre, GRA, and Explore Aid. This study will allow us to increase awareness and understanding on the right to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as frame the needs, perceptions, and expectations of survivors on individual and collective reparations. From the study, we will develop advocacy initiatives complemented by the lessons learnt that are already available from the interim reparative measures project.

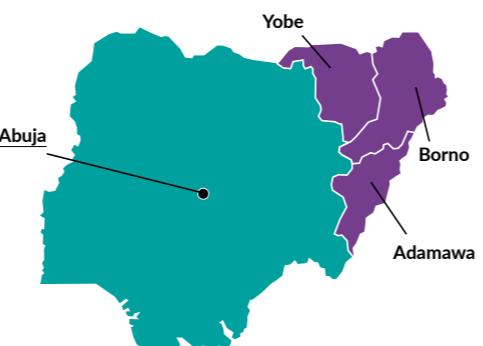
So far, data collection activities, including desk reviews and interviews, have taken place. We have also held meetings with personnel from the federal and state ministries of education, justice, and youth and women development.

Locations

ADAMAWA, BORNO AND YOBE STATES

2022
WORK BEGAN

397
SURVIVOR PARTICIPANTS
IDENTIFIED⁴



Capital city
● Project locations

The two decades of Indonesian occupation in Timor-Leste, from 1975-1999, that followed independence from Portuguese colonisation, were marred by extreme forms of violence and destruction. The sexual violence used included sexual slavery, sexualised torture, rape, and gang rape by Indonesian military personnel and others in positions of power.

Survivors in Timor-Leste are fighting for their right to reparation, and in 2023 they came together to call for concrete action and participate in an interim reparative measures project.



Capital city
● Project locations

TIMOR-LESTE

Locations

13 MUNICIPALITIES
Ainaro, Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro, Cova Lima, Dili, Lautém, Liquiça, Ermera, Manatuto, Manufahi, Oecusse, Viqueque

2022
WORK BEGAN

The urgent need for reparations in Timor-Leste was highlighted in the Timorese Global Reparations Study, initiated in 2022 by Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) and GSF. A participatory action research method devised by AJAR was used to complete the study. Survivors participated, expressed their needs, and made recommendations towards the development of a survivor-centred reparation policy. This resulted in the formation of a survivor group called *Pirlampu* (fireflies) Forum.

The role of *Pirlampu* Forum was instrumental in co-creating the interim reparative measures project by providing crucial input on key elements of the project, such as identification and the interim measures to be prioritised.

In March 2023, *Pirlampu* members reaffirmed their recommendations and identified 30 community mobilisers to work on the project team. Community mobilisers are survivors themselves and responsible for outreach to other survivors in their communities.

From March to October, the project was planned with survivors, and in October 2023, following the partnership agreement with AJAR and Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit), its implementation began. The partnership with AJAR and ACbit is crucial for the project because of the trusting relationship they have built with survivors.

The project is expected to include 450 survivors from all 13 of Timor-Leste's municipalities, and includes women, men and LGBTQI+ survivors of sexual violence, survivors who were "stolen children", and former boy logistics assistants.



Meeting of the project team in Liquiça. From left to right: Renezio de Carvalho (ACbit staff member), Juliana (survivor and community mobiliser), Merita de Araujo (ACbit staff member), Lucia Maria Martins (ACbit staff member) and Tanima Kishore (Asia Regional Programme Officer for GSF). Timor-Leste, November 2023 ©Elia de Fatima / ACBit

⁴ In Adamawa and Yobe, expected to be 500.

The project will also include children born from conflict-related sexual violence and the rights holders of deceased survivors.

The project is run by a Steering Committee of eight members, including four survivors, and a programme team involving the 30 community mobilisers and 13 municipality coordinators.

In November, the whole team came together for a workshop in Dili and discussed the modalities of the interim reparative measures project.

The workshop included sessions on different roles in the project team, co-creation, and the importance of a contextualised and multi-stakeholder approach. Trainings on psycho-social support and data management were also provided. Inputs on expected challenges from community mobilisers were considered and discussed by the Steering Committee for the finalisation of the implementation plan.

As a result of community level awareness sessions in December, as well as due to survivors already knowing the project team, several survivors have come forward to be a part of the project and share their stories.

We want to be like a candle for all survivors in the country. Our light can reach them and light their candles as well.
- A survivor



Mustafa serves coffee to his clients. Türkiye, December 2023. ©Katie van der Werf / GSF

Since 1971, the Assad regimes have used sexual violence as a means of oppression and control in detention centres in Syria. With the outbreak of the Syrian revolution in 2011, and the subsequent descent into war, these tactics expanded in scope and frequency. Similar practices were adopted by armed groups in their own detention settings.

The interim reparative measures project for Syrian survivors was developed in response to the initial findings of the Syria Global Reparations Study, which highlighted the widespread use of sexual violence and sexualised torture in detention facilities. Given the difficulties of conducting such a project in the country, GSF opted to work with Syrian survivors who have fled to Türkiye. This project is carried out in partnership with the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison (ADMSP) and the Center for Victims of Torture.

Earthquake response

While in the process of identifying survivors to participate in the project, earthquakes struck southern Türkiye on 6 February 2023. This natural disaster impacted everyone involved in the project, from the partner's staff to survivors. Faced with this unforeseen event, the project reached a critical point; either support survivors through another significant hardship in their lives or assess the earthquake's impact as too substantial for the project to overcome. GSF chose to be proactive and swiftly initiated the release of emergency earthquake response payments to offer survivors an opportunity to regain stability. A few days after the earthquake, 508 survivors received financial support, including 51 female-led households which received an additional sum. Unfortunately, six survivors lost their lives, and so, the sum was transferred to their families.

Survivors felt recognised and seen following our response. Many expressed how - for the first time - they felt something real was being done for them. This gesture significantly boosted their belief and trust in the project, encouraging other survivors to come forward and participate.

During the earthquake, not even my relatives were asking about me. But my caseworker was speaking to me every day. She made us feel present and supported. She made me feel human. This was different.

- A survivor

Completing phase I: identification, validation, and defining individual measures

The process of identifying survivors was completed in May. A team of 18 caseworkers collaborated with survivors to finalise their individual plans and to choose their measures. All survivors were offered psychological care and had autonomy in choosing their financial award for their livelihood (to initiate or expand a project, or use it as a basic financial support), education, and medical needs.

Start of phase II: survivors receive their individual measures

After finalising and committing to their plans with their caseworkers, survivors received their initial payment. Remarkably, over 60 per cent of survivors opted to use this money to start or expand a project. Given their living conditions after the earthquake and the economic conditions in southern Türkiye, there were no expectations that they would use it to start a project, but rather they would have to address urgent needs. The response from survivors upon receiving their first individual payment was overwhelming. Many conveyed feelings of validation and recognition, sharing how the project was transforming their lives.

At the end of 2023, the project completed its first individual payment, with a second payment planned for January 2024.

Locations

GAZIANTEP, HATAY, MERSIN AND ŞANLIURFA

2020

WORK BEGAN

818

SURVIVOR PARTICIPANTS

Interim reparative measures co-created

COMPENSATION :

821 financial awards

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AWARD DUE TO EARTHQUAKE :

508 survivors

Launch of the Syria Global Reparations Study

On December 7 2023, GSF with ADMSP and Women Now for Development launched the Global Reparations Study for Syria. Taking place in Gaziantep, the launch was attended by survivors from all project locations. The event shared the findings and recommendations of the study and was an opportunity for survivors to express the impact the project has had thus far on their lives.

Discussions to define the collective interim reparative measures and advocacy strategy for the project will continue into 2024.



Capital city

Project locations

In 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion in Ukraine, characterised by indiscriminatory attacks against civilians, including the frequent use of conflict-related sexual violence. While the war continues, so does this type of violence. During 2023, GSF's work in Ukraine focused on providing technical support on reparation for conflict-related sexual violence to policymakers, civil society, and SEMA⁵ Ukraine. With them, GSF worked on national legislation that advanced urgent interim reparations, the registration of victims, and explored additional sources for financing reparation.

Working with survivors, civil society, and the government on legislation

In April, GSF co-organised a week-long visit to Kyiv in September to meet with the Deputy Prime Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, and other high-level actors.

The group contributed to drafting a bill which has been sponsored by Maryna Bardina, Member of Parliament, on the status of survivors and urgent interim reparation.

GSF further supported the enactment of the legislation framework by proposing to introduce the definition of conflict-related sexual violence and urgent interim reparations into another law related to the establishment of a national registry of victims. We also supported the Ministry of Social Policy on how to word both definitions. Both draft laws were filed with parliament in October 2023.

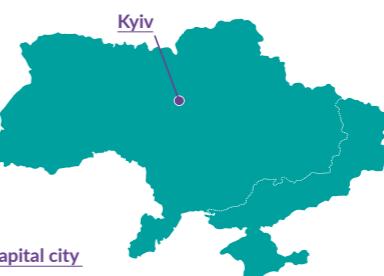
A first in the world

Following this visit in Geneva, GSF was invited to Kyiv in September to meet with the Deputy Prime Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, and other high-level actors.

To develop a survivor-centred registration process for conflict-related sexual violence for Ukraine, that could inform future reparation policies and the draft laws, GSF proposed to start an urgent interim reparation project. The Deputy Prime Minister accepted this proposal, and so the pilot project for urgent interim reparation will begin with 500 survivors in 2024.

This pilot project emulates a reparation fund and a registry of victims. This is an exciting step in the history of reparation in Ukraine. This is also the first time that a State is responding in real time to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence by providing them with urgent interim reparation for their most urgent needs, even whilst inter-State conflict is still ongoing.

The project will be co-managed by GSF together with two key bodies: a Project Supervisory Board, which is comprised of representatives from the government, including different ministries and offices, SEMA Ukraine, NGOs and international organisations, and a Victims Identification Council composed of survivors, experts on conflict-related sexual violence, and State representatives.



Capital city

Project location

UKRAINE

Location

KYIV

2020

WORK BEGAN

2

DRAFT LAWS FOR PARLIAMENT

The GSF delegation meeting with the Ukrainian authorities in Kyiv. From left to right: Fedir Duneabin (GSF Country Representative for Ukraine), Olena Sotnyk (Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration), Olha Stefanishyna (Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine), Esther Dingeman (GSF Executive Director), Kateryna Levchenko (Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy of Ukraine), Cristian Correa (GSF Senior Advisor) and Clara Sandoval (GSF Director of Programmes). Ukraine, October 2023 ©Clara Sandoval / GSF

These two newly created bodies will learn-by-doing how to register a survivor, how issues on eligibility are decided on, and how to provide interim reparations in a survivor-centred manner.

The objective of this pilot phase is to provide the evidence and know-how needed for Ukraine to scale-up the project, either through the adoption of the Bardina draft law or otherwise via the scaling up of the work done under the pilot project. The pilot project is not the fulfilment of the right to reparation, but it is defining a survivor-centred approach that could serve in designing and implementing further reparation policies. By laying the foundation for the establishment of survivor-centred reparation, we are making an important stride towards comprehensive reparation in the future.

Exploring avenues for affordability

In 2023, GSF went deeper into the topic of financing reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, particularly through the repurposing of assets. In the case of Ukraine, as a result of sanctions placed on Russian assets as well as pro-Russian interests and oligarchs, there has been a growing debate about the possibility of confiscated assets or fines levied for sanction evasion being used to fund reconstruction efforts. Our advocacy team has been working on this dossier.

This very topic was discussed during the GSF side event to the 78th UN General Assembly in New York, in September titled "Reparations are affordable: Innovative solutions to finance reparations owed to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence". During this event, Ukrainian guest speakers called for the exploration of all avenues to finance reparation in Ukraine, including through repurposing assets.

Together with REDRESS, GSF has also been working closely on an advocacy campaign which targets specific assets, like the £2.5 billion frozen by the United Kingdom from the sale of Chelsea Football Club, which belonged to Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich. The prospect of reparation becomes much more real when the hurdle of affordability is crossed, and these assets provide the right creative avenues to cross it.

⁵ SEMA is the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence.

⁶ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, GCPE, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Prosecutor General, Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Health and Parliament.

Global Reparations Study



Hannan Halimah (Women Now for Development), moderating the Syrian Global Reparations Study event in Gaziantep, Türkiye, December 2023 ©ADMSP

The Global Reparations Study (GRS) provides an in-depth analysis of the nature and scope of conflict-related sexual violence in various countries, evaluates existing reparation pathways, and identifies both opportunities and challenges in securing reparation. It is rooted in the belief that survivors of conflict-related sexual violence must take the lead in determining the most appropriate forms of reparation for the harms they have endured; a principle that is actively realised through the study's methodology, which places the participation of survivors at its core.

Since its launch in 2020, and in collaboration with more than 40 local and international partners, the GRS team has conducted studies across 25 different countries. To date, 15 have been published. It provides crucial evidence that informs GSF's work, whether for initiating new interim reparative measures projects or supporting advocacy efforts at a national or international level.

2023 was a significant year for the GRS. The publication of seven country studies -Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Sudan, and Syria- and the completion of the Timor-Leste study shed light on the complex challenges faced by survivors and emphasised potential avenues for reparation, providing GSF and other stakeholders with the evidence to act.

Recommendations are broad and inevitably vary according to the context. For instance, the Syria GRS calls donors and the international community to repurpose seized assets from perpetrators to finance reparations, while the Côte d'Ivoire GRS

recommends State actors draft and pass a reparations law in collaboration with survivors and civil society organisations, and the Myanmar GRS recommends humanitarian and development actors prioritise survivors in their initiatives, mainstreaming their needs while being cautious not to reinforce stigma.

In 2023, the GRS expanded its scope in the Americas and the Middle East, two regions previously underrepresented in GSF's portfolio. Studies were initiated in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Yemen. Furthermore, the work initiated of previous years in Bangladesh, Burundi, CAR, the DRC, Mali, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka continued.

A highlight of the GRS's activities included the validation workshops conducted in Kenya and the DRC. Validation workshops are a key element of the study, giving survivors the opportunity to review the findings and influence its content and recommendations. In the DRC, it led to the modification of recommendations to the authorities, incorporating suggestions for legal and community mechanisms to protect children born of conflict-related sexual violence against discrimination. Such participatory practices affirm survivors' experiences.

In 2023, due to the extensive information collected from the countries covered by the GRS, there was a concerted effort to continue systematising and analysing the data gathered through interviews, focus group discussions, and other participatory research methods. Given that the vast amount of information could not always be fully integrated into the country studies, GSF initiated the preparation of thematic research briefings. These briefings focus on key issues relevant to survivors and the right to reparation and their publication will begin in 2024.

“

It is wrong for an organisation to come up with a project on reparations before conducting a preliminary study on reparations. We cannot decide on behalf of survivors. We should gather information, study and analyse it, and identify commonalities.

- A survivor



A validation workshop in Kananga, during which survivors who participated in the Global Reparations Study reviewed and gave feedback on its final version before publication. Democratic Republic of the Congo, November 2023 ©Jean Jacques Nsibila / Panzi Foundation

Our impact in numbers

SURVIVORS AND THEIR RELATIVES

48%

of members of Steering Committees are survivors

597

survivors participated in focus group discussions to co-create interim reparative measures

3,111

survivors co-created and received interim reparative measure since 2020

15,555

estimated total number of survivors' family members who benefited from interim reparative measures since 2020⁷

862

survivors co-created and received interim reparative measures in 2023

5

new partnerships were signed to carry out interim reparative measures projects (Central African Republic, Nigeria, Timor-Leste, Nepal, and Türkiye)

8

governments received technical support (Colombia, Iraq, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Guinea, and Central African Republic)

9

countries with targeted advocacy activities (Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Guinea, The Gambia, Iraq, South Sudan, and Sudan)

7

Global Reparations Studies launched (Myanmar, Chad, Kenya, Nepal, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Syria)

345

survivors took part in the making of Global Reparations Studies in 2023 (Sri Lanka, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Kenya, and Nigeria)

500

people attended GSF's side-event at the UN General Assembly (online and in-person)

⁷ (An average of five household members were calculated for Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Syria, and Iraq.)
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/data/household-size-and-composition>

We see the transformative nature of co-creation with survivors in each country where we are present. The general appreciation and positive impact come across strongly and are echoed in the monitoring we carry out during the four phases of interim reparative measures projects (scoping, identification, implementation, and accompaniment).

A wider socio-economic impact is also seen when survivors are capable of sending their children to school, or when they set up businesses that provide work for people in their communities. While these projects create strong links between survivors, they also contribute to restoring dignity.

Less obvious to capture with traditional impact indicators is our immense work done around national, regional, and international advocacy. Four years since the creation of GSF, our targeted approach to advocating for the right to reparation is beginning to deliver results.

AT THE SAME TABLE

Our multi-stakeholder approach had governments sitting at the same table with experts and survivors.

Our technical support carried out in eight countries bolstered the capacity of States and civil society organisations to develop reparations programmes. This has resulted in State initiatives that engaged survivors as co-creators in draft laws and regulations.

In parallel, we supported survivors' participation in the development of administrative programmes, in building public awareness around conflict-related sexual violence, and challenging stigma within their communities. This will help sustain future advocacy work around the Kinshasa Declaration in the coming years.

RIGHT TO IDENTITY AND NATIONALITY

In June 2023, we organised a roundtable on breaking down barriers for children born of conflict-related sexual violence to access their rights to identity and nationality. The roundtable gathered a wide range of people from the humanitarian, transitional justice, and child-protection sectors, as well as civil society representatives, victim-survivor activists, academics, and experts from UN bodies and missions in Geneva.

By gathering experts for the first time on this topic, the roundtable allowed reflection on challenges, good practices, and ongoing initiatives. We were able to identify actionable and comprehensive recommendations to improve the access for children born of conflict-related sexual violence to the rights to identity and nationality. The implementation of those recommendations will begin in 2024.

After Oumou (right) participated in the interim reparative measures project, she began a soap production business at home. Conakry, Guinea, September 2023 ©2k Studio commercial

Impact

recommendations were submitted in evidence to the United Kingdom's Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee, highlighting the moral imperative to seize sanctioned assets and recommending repurposing of the funds for survivors.

A NEW MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY

After more than a decade of tireless work, we now have a new tool for fighting against impunity as the text of The Ljubljana - The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and other International Crimes was adopted in May.

This is a key instrument to improve the effectiveness of investigation and prosecution at national level, and protect and uphold survivors' rights, including to participation and reparation. GSF, along with other civil society organisations working on remedy and reparation, played a key role in crafting the language on the articles related to the recovery of assets of perpetrators.

EDUCATION AS A FORM OF REPARATION

In 2023, GSF engaged with the team the Special Rapporteur on the right to education on the recognition of education as a form of reparation. We shared a submission for the Rapporteur's report on Securing the right to education, in which she recognised that education may be considered as a form of reparation for victims of conflict-related sexual violence.

Grant making and working with partners

Working with national partners is a core approach to the work of GSF. This localisation, through organisations that are already operational in country and are closest to survivors, is what ensures that projects are contextualised and relevant, and that interim reparative measures will meet the real needs of survivors.

However, GSF does not consider itself to be a remote “donor”. We support our partners throughout the project implementation, including by providing reference documents and tools, organising regular meetings with key partner staff, and visiting projects at key moments to provide feedback, training, expert advice, and support as needed. We share the common objective of reaching the highest impact for survivors. Our supportive and flexible approach strengthens the capacity of partners and contributes to their sustainability.

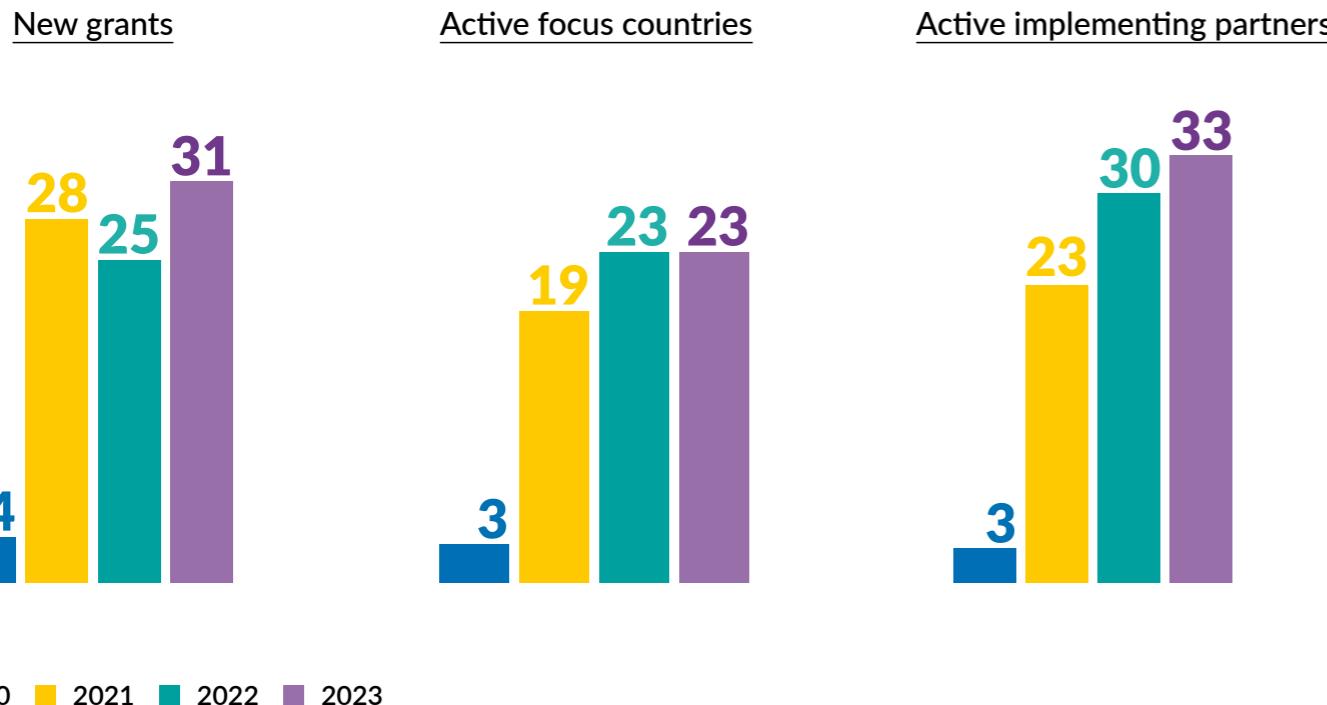
The grants awarded to partners are managed by the regional and country teams, which include both dedicated senior programmes and finance coordinators, with advice from the relevant thematic experts depending on the project type. They closely support each partner, ensuring not only that they follow the GSF approach, but interact in full transparency on the challenges and reality of carrying out each activity.

Fifty-six per cent of GSF's programmatic work in 2023 was delivered by civil society partners, through the awarding of grants to implement projects.

GSF awarded 31 new grants in 2023 (12 for advocacy & events projects, 11 for interim reparative measures projects, and 8 for the Global Reparations Study), bringing the total cumulated number since 2020 to 88 grants awarded to 45 different partners, and covering 26 countries.

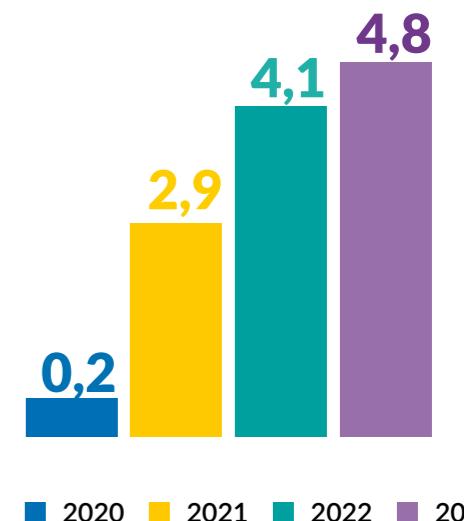
	ANNUAL			CUMULATED @ YEAR-END		
	2022	2023	Variance	2022	2023	Variance
NUMBER OF GRANTS	25	31	+24%	57	88	+54%
NUMBER OF FOCUS COUNTRIES	23	23		54	26	+8%
NUMBER OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	30	33	+10%	35	45	+29%

GRANTS TO PARTNERS



	ANNUAL			CUMULATED @ YEAR-END		
	2022	2023	Variance	2022	2023	Variance
DISBURSED FUNDS (CHF)	4,080,734	4,841,869	+19%	7,159,570	12,001,439	+68%
VS SOCIAL MISSION EXPENSES	63%	56%		62%	59%	
VS TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	50%	44%		50%	47%	

FUNDS DISBURSED (MCHF)



The increase is mostly related to the multi-year interim reparative measures projects, several of which started in 2021 and 2022, which in 2023 were in phases two and three. These project phases are more expensive as they include the payment of the financial compensation to survivors, as well as the implementation other forms of individual and collective measures. This includes the project for Syrian survivors in Türkiye (2.6 million CHF disbursed), survivors in CAR (0.6 million CHF), and the DRC (0.4 million CHF). Some smaller grants were also awarded to local partners in three new countries, for the development of an interim reparative measures project implementation plan in Cambodia, Nepal, and South Sudan.

For the Global Reparations Study, new awards were granted in 2023 for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nigeria. In 2023, the overall volume of the Global Reparations Study grants decreased.

The novelty in 2023 is the significant increase of the number of small grants awarded to local partner civil society organisations to contribute to the ADVOCATE and GUIDE pillars, particularly in six new countries: Nepal, Iraq, Guinea, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Türkiye. This includes both the organisation of launch events for Global Reparations Study reports and advocacy initiatives towards national governments. In addition, trainings and technical support were provided to civil society organisations and governments on the introduction of draft reparation laws and decrees that are survivor-centred.

For more details, please refer to the separate 2023 Annual Financial Accounts Report.

GSF disbursed nearly 5 million CHF to its partners in 2023. The total cumulated amount disbursed by GSF to its partners since its creation reached 12 million CHF at the end of 2023.⁸

Human resources

2023 marked an important year for the Human Resources (HR) team at GSF, with the establishment of new tools and policies for our dynamic and growing organisation.

We conducted our first staff survey to capture how GSF employees connect with each other, their work, and the organisation. The results indicate that the organisation has managed, even in its early stages, to foster a culture of integrity, respect, accountability, and commitment. These are the core values that we decided our organisation's work ethics should be guided by after a process with staff. The survey also showed the incredible commitment of our staff to our social mission.

The survey helped us identify key areas for improvement. To ensure that we acted on the recommendations that came out, we created a staff survey committee and thematic sub-committees on internal communications, healthy ways of working, and learning and development.

An external HR consultant supported us with the finalisation and implementation of key HR policies. The salary and function scales were presented and shared across the organisation for greater transparency.

The organisation's Learning and Development Policy was approved in November, and we look forward to introducing it to staff in early 2024.

⁹ Represented as 37 full time equivalents.

Finance

INCOME

In 2023, we received 11.8 million CHF of income. The funding came primarily (73%) from the four governments who sit on GSF's Board of Directors (France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom). The European Union also continued its support. In addition, the Government of Belgium, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Canada Global Affairs, and Canton of Geneva were new donors contributing to our 2023 income.

As part of our strategy to diversify our funds, 7% of our income in 2023 came from private foundations (Open Society Foundations). We will continue to raise private funds in the future, including from foundations, private organisations, corporations, and individuals.

A total of 32% of the income was labelled « unrestricted », in line with the previous year.¹⁰

EXPENDITURE

With the continuation of projects and the launch of new projects and activities in 2023, GSF grew its operational expenses by 36%, reaching 10.98 million CHF in 2023. This is compared to 8.1 million CHF in 2022. Activities were conducted in 25 different countries across all continents. The social mission expenses represented 79% of the 2023 operational spend.

Disbursements to our partners accounted for 56% of the social mission expenses, and 44% of our total operational spend, showing that grant making is a key vehicle of our programme delivery.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION BY PILLAR AND REGION

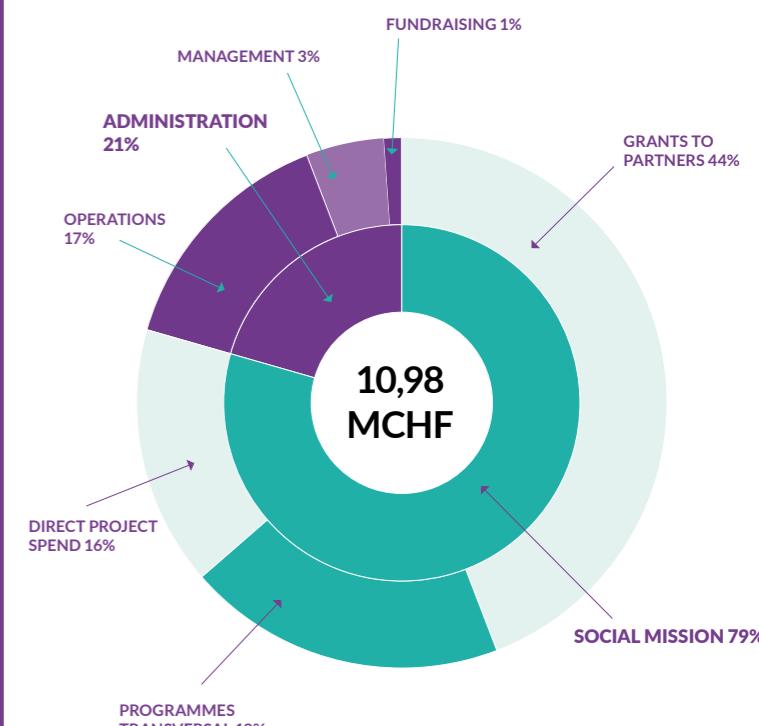
The breakdown of social mission spend between our pillars in 2023 showed a higher level of spending for the ACT pillar (62%) through our interim reparative measures projects, which include direct individual benefits to survivors. This is followed by the ADVOCATE pillar (12%), which included numerous advocacy events and initiatives at local, regional, or global level. The GUIDE pillar reached 8% of social mission spend in providing technical support to governments. The Global Reparations Study amounted to 10%. Finally, 8% of the social mission spend was related to transversal Programmes management.

In terms of geographic scope, our focus was the Middle East & North Africa region this year, which represented 45% (2.94 million CHF) of spending. This was mostly in Türkiye for Syrian survivors of detention (2.75 million CHF) and in Iraq for survivors of ISIS (0.16 million CHF).

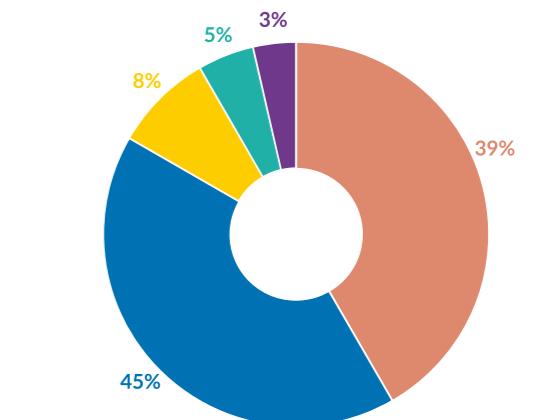
Sub-Saharan Africa was also significant this year, representing 39% of our spending (2.54 million CHF) across 12 countries, with the greatest spend in CAR (0.82 million CHF), then the DRC (0.69 million CHF), followed by Nigeria (0.35 million CHF), Guinea (0.21 million CHF), and South Sudan (0.20 million CHF).

We increased our spend in Asia which reached 8% (with 0.24 million CHF in Timor-Leste and 0.14 million CHF in Nepal). The spend in Europe represented 5%, which was exclusively for Ukraine (0.32 million CHF). The novelty in 2023 is the increased weight of The Americas, which represented 3% of spending (including 0.14 million CHF for continued activities in Colombia, as well as new activities in Guatemala and El Salvador).

2023 TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES



2023 BREAKDOWN BY REGION



Finance

RESULTS

In 2023, the total annual expenses were slightly lower than contributions, with an annual surplus of 85,000 CHF.

Summary 2023 annual accounts (CHF)	2023
Annual contributions from board member governments	8,675
Bilateral grants from governments and public institutions	1,161
Multilateral grants	1,189
Foundations and private organisations	802
Corporations	13
Other income	4
Total income	11,844
of which restricted	8,052
of which unrestricted	3,792
Staff costs	4,298
Third-party service providers	921
Travel costs	444
Grants to partners	4,842
Office running costs	118
Events & communication	234
Other expenses	64
Depreciation	64
Total operational expenses	10,984
EBIT ¹¹	860
Financial expenses	827
Financial income	51
Total financial result	775
Total expenses (including financial result)	11,759
Result before changes in restricted funds and capital	85

For more details, please refer to the separate 2023 Annual Financial Accounts Report.

¹¹ Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT).

Communications

In 2023, communications took a more prominent role within GSF as the team provided sustained support to develop a clear and impactful public position for the organisation. We also transformed our visual identity and ways of storytelling.

OUR POSITIONING

Our communications revolved around the core message that our unique co-creation approach is a game changer in a sector where fast-paced interventions with a pre-set list of activities are often the norm. We wrapped up the year with 50 media mentions from news outlets around the globe. Relations with journalists are expanding and our efforts in this realm will continue into 2024.

EXPERIMENTING AND LEARNING ON SOCIAL

We also explored new ways of posting on social media to reach a wider audience. We used simple evergreen content to explain legal concepts and tested new methods of storytelling through testimonies, photos, explainer videos, and infographics.

By following best practice for posting on each platform in 2023 we had almost doubled our followers across Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn- going from 6,800 to 11,000 followers. The communications team also developed the LinkedIn profile of GSF's Executive Director to deliver public messaging.

NEW LOOK, NEW TONE

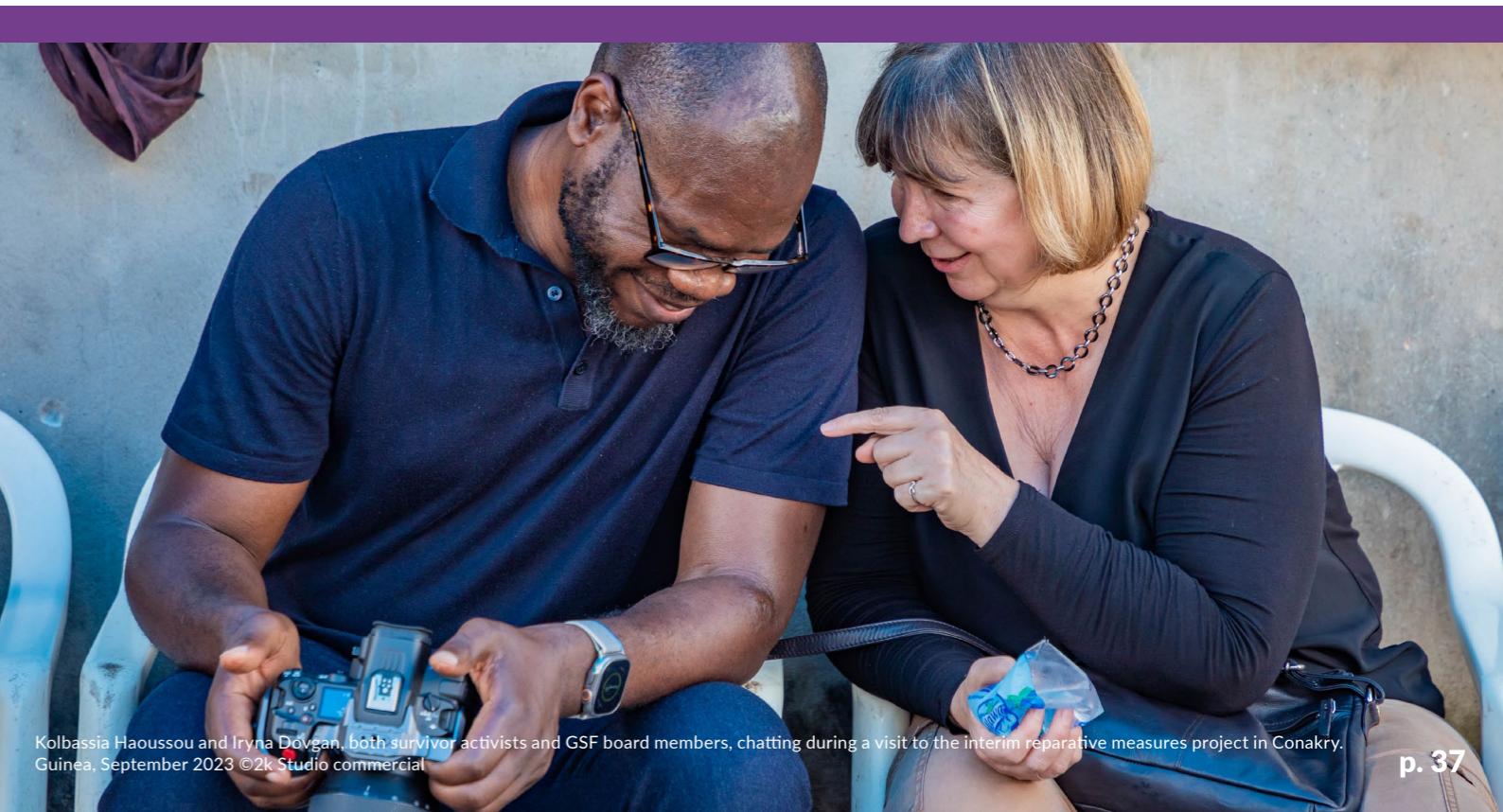
In September, we launched a re-designed website to reflect GSF's growing authoritative voice on reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

The creation of the GSF brand book allowed us to define precisely how we want to portray our work and which tone and terminology we want to use to ensure our social mission is well understood by the public. Following the creation of this new tool, GSF started to organise its audio-visual assets to ensure better management, data protection, and use of our photos and videos.

A WEALTH OF NEW TOOLS

Key tools were developed by the communications team to help GSF improve its coordination on communications including a strategy framework, guidance on public positioning, and an exhaustive guideline around inclusive writing. The official GSF glossary was also revised and is available in four languages.

The communications team continued to provide unwavering support to our colleagues and partners for event management, audio-visual commissions, and publications through in-house editing and design services.



Data protection

GSF took significant steps to enhance its data protection practices in 2023, whilst also recognising the need to strengthen its overall risk management strategy in response to evolving challenges across our work.

We emphasised the safeguarding of sensitive information and the privacy of survivors and GSF staff through the reinforcement of our data protection framework. This included enforcing comprehensive policies, procedures, and controls to uphold the highest standards of data privacy and security. Notable achievements included providing staff training on cybersecurity and consent, conducting Data Protection Impact Assessments and data mapping for new projects, and establishing a registry of data processing activities in compliance with relevant laws on data protection.

While data protection remains an important focus, we understand that effective risk management is essential for the security and success of our programmes. Considering this, we created a position of Risk and Compliance senior focal point. This position will focus on risk management both at the project and institutional level.

Governance

GSF's Board of Directors is composed of a group of diverse stakeholders including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, government and civil society representatives, and reparation experts. It oversees the strategy, policy guidance, and accountability of GSF's work. The board is composed of 16 members. In 2023, three board meetings were held, with one in-person in Geneva and two online.

In October 2023, Dr Denis Mukwege stepped down from his function as Chair of the Board following the announcement of his candidacy for the Presidency of the DRC. Co-chair, Norbert Wöhler, assumed the responsibilities of the Chair until the end of the year.

CHAMPIONING OUR VISION

The inauguration of the survivors' centre in Maferinya, Guinea in September 2023, was attended by four board members. They expressed their deep appreciation of the work carried out after witnessing the impact the project had on survivors' lives.

Board members represent an important support to our social mission. Their participation to high-level events around the world, including the UN General Assembly in New York, ensures a greater visibility for the right to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. We are grateful to our board members for their ambassadorship.

We will continue to coordinate our risk management efforts by looking at security, safeguarding, financial, and regulatory compliance risks. GSF will conduct comprehensive risk assessments, craft tailored risk management strategies, and collaborate with our partners, external referral pathways for reporting, and experienced trainers to carry out proactive measures and contingency plans.

This underscores our commitment to integrated risk management, emphasising informed decision-making, organisational accountability, and safeguarding the interests of survivors.

Through this approach we aim to enhance our resilience, proactively address challenges, uphold privacy standards, and safeguard sensitive data to affirm the positive impacts of our programmes.

By Esther Dingemans, Executive Director

With the inspiration and leadership of survivors, the dedication of our partners, and the passion of our own team, as well as the solid support of our community of donors and board members. GSF is ready for its next phase as an organisation.

In 2024, we will begin to put in motion our new Strategic Plan (2024-2030). This plan was developed entirely in the spirit of co-creation, through consultations with all our collaborators. We identified four strategic priorities for GSF in the coming years to expand our reach and impact.

CO-CREATION AT THE CORE

Central to our approach is the concept of co-creation, wherein projects are actively designed and implemented with survivors. Our research has shown that the process of co-creation is reparative, while enhancing the effectiveness of our programming through alignment with survivors' lived experiences and needs. Moving forward, we will work to further integrate co-creation into our ACT, ADVOCATE, and GUIDE pillars.

SCALING UP INTERIM REPARATIVE MEASURES

The call from survivors that have yet to receive reparation remains urgent. We know that the impact of interim reparative measures, both personally for survivors and through the ripple effect on their families and communities, is immense. We will explore different strategies in our interim reparative measures projects that could enable us to reach a larger number of survivors, while preserving our ethos of co-creation.

INNOVATIVE FINANCING OF REPARATION

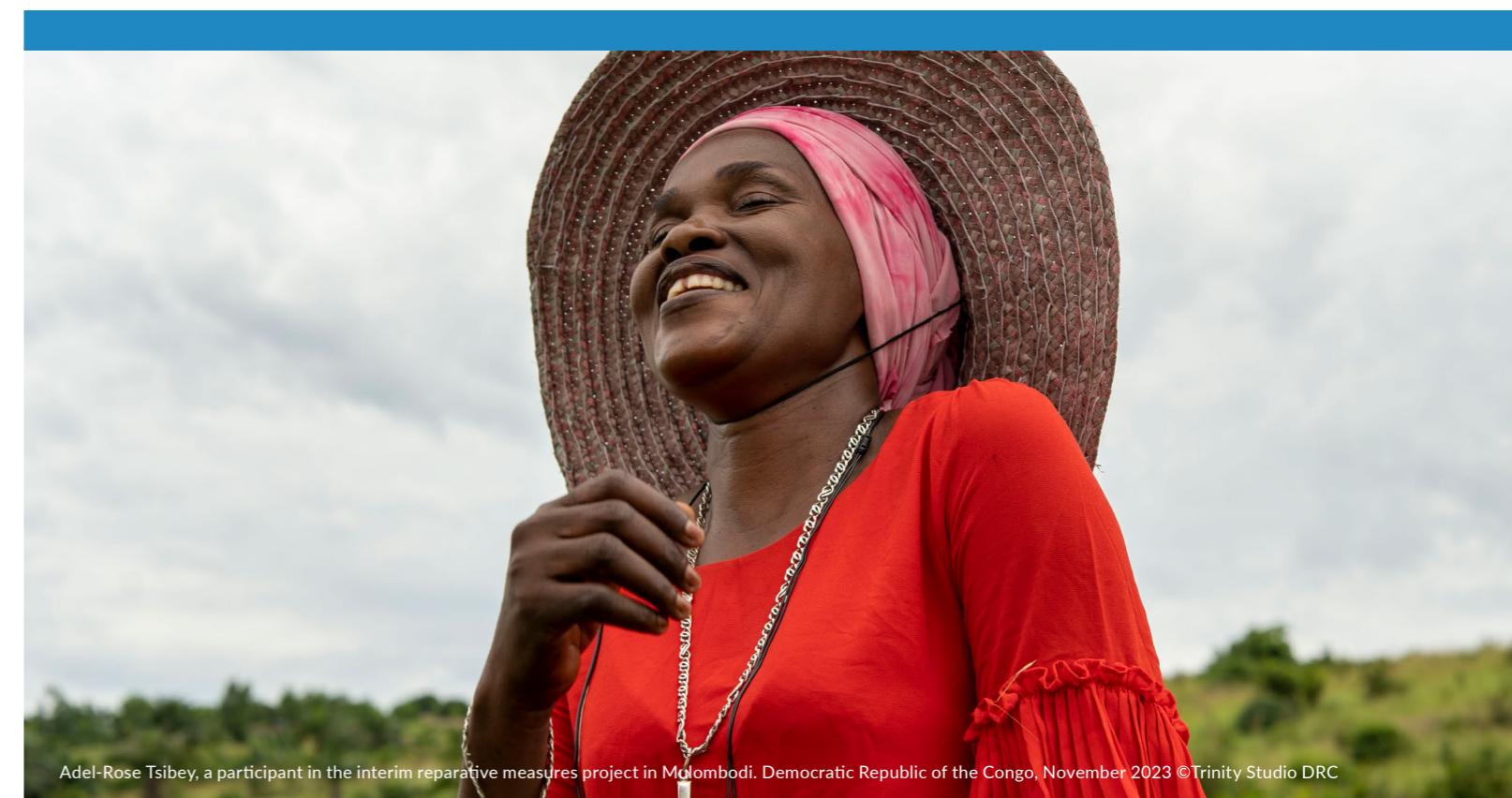
With the known transformative impact of reparations, they ought to be financed. Alongside conventional funding avenues, we are exploring and advocating for innovative channels to finance reparation programmes. We will investigate innovative financing mechanisms for government-led initiatives and our own interim reparative measures.

CHILDREN AS RIGHTS-HOLDERS

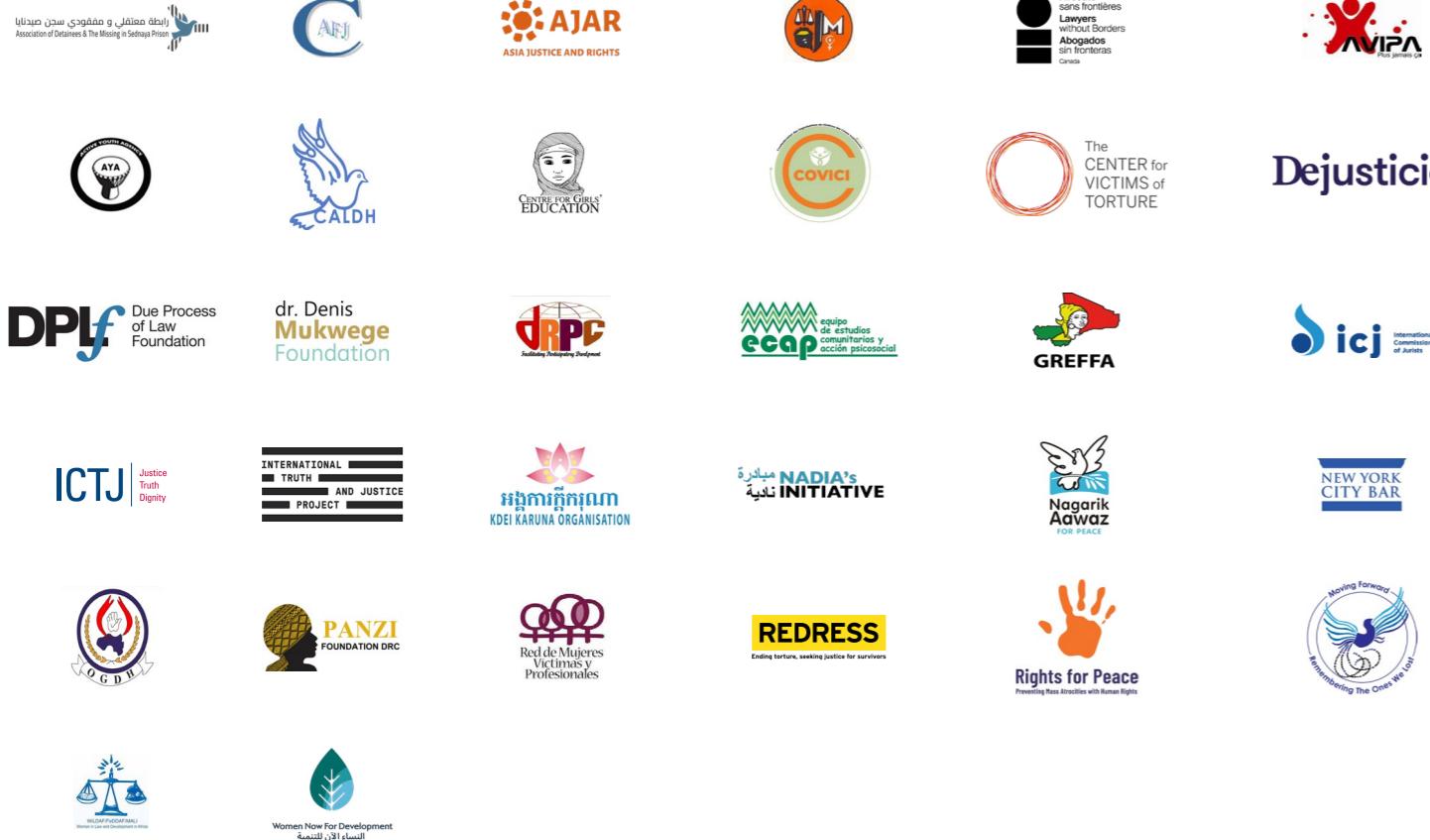
Children affected by conflict-related sexual violence are often overlooked and underserved in conversations on reparation. We will prioritise children, both in our programmatic and advocacy work. Central to our efforts in this realm is the recognition that education is a fundamental aspect of reparation for children.

Advancing the right to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence is not something that GSF can do alone. Realising the right to reparation is a process that requires a wider effort where survivors, governments, activists, the private sector, and international organisations all contribute.

Through our three pillars of ACT, ADVOCATE, and GUIDE, we want to provide a community of changemakers with the necessary tools to fight for the fulfilment of the right to reparation.



Implementing partners



Technical partners

Asosiasaun Chegal Ba Ita (ACbit), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Center for Inclusive Governance Peace and Justice (CIGPJ), Crown the Woman (CREW), Cristosal, Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), Justice Center Iraq, Klibur Pirilampu, Mission East (ME), Naripokkho, Network of South Sudanese Survivors in Uganda (NoSSSU), South Sudanese Network of Survivors (SSNS), Steward Women (STW), and Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT).

Other meaningful partners

Coalition Nationale des Associations de Victimes (CNAV), CSO Network, Grace Agenda, Mouvement des Survivant.es de Centrafrique (MOSUCA), LIMPAL, Mouvement National des Survivantes de Viols et violences Sexuelles en RDC (MNSVS-RDC), SEMA, Survivors' Voices Network, Utu Wetu.

Donors



We also extend our thanks to Open Society Foundations and ZENITH for their generous support to GSF in 2023.

Partners and donors

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Front cover photo: *Sawsa and Aliye at the salon they opened together in Reyhanlı, Türkiye, December 2023* ©Katie van der Werf / GSF

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