Newsletter, No. 01/2016



The year 2015 in donations

**Empowerment, Hope and Dignity** 

www.trustfundforvictims.org

15 February 2016



The Trust Fund wishes to express its gratitude for the contributions received in 2015 from states and from private donors. While the income from voluntary contributions last year showed a relative decline, several States Parties gave significant donations. The TFV received over  $\in$ 8,000 from individual contributions and over  $\in$ 2.9 million from donor states.

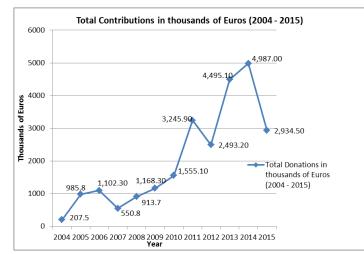
Since the creation of the Trust Fund for Victims, the TFV's donor country portfolio has significantly grown. In 2004, the TFV received the initial voluntary contributions of €207,500 from Finland, Ireland, Jordan and United Kingdom. By the end of 2015, 34 countries have supported the TFV. Contributions from these generous donors now total almost €24.7 million. Around €7 million has been earmarked to various themes and were allocated to projects for victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and for ex-child soldiers, as well

as to the TFV's reparations reserve. Unrestricted contributions, managed in the TFV's "common basket", were also used to support programmes under the TFV's assistance mandate in the Democratic Republic of Congo and northern Uganda.

As of 1 January 2016, the TFV disposes of over  $\leq$ 12.8 million and US\$ 61,300. Around  $\leq$ 1 million is slated for disbursement to current projects in Uganda and DRC. An allocation of  $\leq$ 600,000 has been mantained for assistance mandate activities in the Central African Republic. The TFV's reparations reserve is maintained at  $\leq$ 4.8 million. From this reserve, the TFV Board of Directors allocated  $\leq$ 1 million to implementation of reparations in the the Lubanga case. In addition,  $\leq$ 600,000 is allocated to conducting situational assessments for programmes under the assistance mandate in new situations. Furthermore,  $\leq$ 100,000 for capacity building of TFV implementing partners for gender mainstreaming and programme development & management and  $\leq$ 200,000 for the design and establishment of a Management Information System (MIS) for tracking and measuring programme results under the TFV's Performance Measurement Plan. Further budget allocation for projects in DRC and Uganda 2016-2017 will be decided during the Annual Board Meeting in March 2016.

Sweden contributed over €1.27 million to the Common Basket as the third and final instalment of a three-year agreement with the Government of Sweden, represented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The TFV is extremely grateful for Swedish commitment of unrestricted contribution from 2012–2015 totaling SEK 36,000,000 (close to EUR 4 million). This contribution reinforces Sida's strong support to the TFV as a vital institution working alongside the ICC to address the harm suffered by victims of the most serious international crimes.

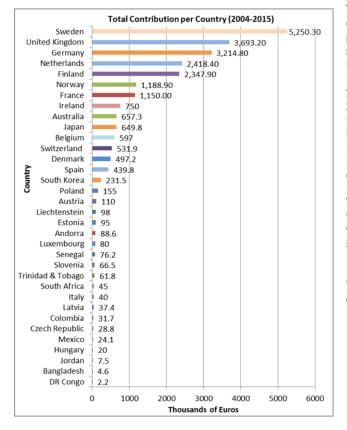
Finland continued with their fourth and final instalment of €200,000 earmarked donation. The TFV expresses its deep appreciation for the contribution by the Government of Finland during 2012-2015 with the total of €800,000, earmarked for addressing sexual violence and other forms of SGBV, as well as €485,000 unrestricted contributions during this period. In addition, the TFV received earmarked contribution from Japan and Estonia with the amount of €48,000 and €30,000 respectively for projects addressing SGBV.



Countries	Amount in thousands of EUR	Received in 2015
Andorra	9.9	December
Australia	205.9	June
Austria	10.0	May
Bangladesh	4.6	October
Belgium	25.0	September
Estonia*	30.0	December
Finland*	200.0	December
France	750.0	December
Ireland	75.0	July
Japan*	48.0	December
Latvia	10.0	November
Liechtenstein	9.6	June
Luxembourg	20.0	February
Netherlands	175.0	December
Poland	15.0	August
Rep. of Korea	45.6	November
Spain	30.0	July
Sweden	1,272.0	October
Total	2,935.5	

Figures in red indicate EUR value of contributions that were originally paid in USD \* Donation earmarked to SGBV

TFV BY NUMBERS		
<b>59,695</b> direct beneficiaries from DRC & Uganda projects, Oct 2014–June 2015	<b>126,703</b> indirect beneficiaries from DRC & Uganda projects, Oct 2014–June 2015	
<b>31</b> total implementing partners in DRC and Uganda 2008-2015	<b>34</b> donor countries to date	
A total contribution of <b>€2.9</b> million received in 2015 from states parties	<b>€8,000</b> received in 2015 from individual contributions	
€4.8 million reserved for reparations	<b>€1 million</b> reserved for Lubanga reparations order	



In December 2015, France returned as a major donor to the TFV with a voluntary contribution of €750,000 to the TFV, which is the single largest French donation to the TFV to date. The TFV hailed the significance of the contribution, recalling that France was a strong supporter of the creation of the TFV at the time of the establishment of the Rome Statute in 1998 and that Ms Simone Veil has been the first Chair of the Board of Directors of the TFV from 2003-2009.

Australia significantly increased its support for unrestricted donations to over €206,000 which was almost double from 2014. The Netherlands donated €175,000 also for the Common Basket. Ireland has increased its unrestricted contribution last year by 25% totaling €75,000. Republic of Korea continued its support with €45,600, followed by Spain €30,000, Belgium €25,000, Luxembourg €20,000, Poland €15,000, Austria and Latvia €10,000 each, Andorra and Liechtenstein close to €10,000. The TFV also welcomed the first donation from the Government of Bangladesh in 2015 with the amount close to €5,000 allocated to Common Basket.

The TFV continues to be immensely grateful to donors for their vital contributions, which allow the TFV to provide physical and psychological rehabilations including material support to victim survivors, their families, and affected communities. In addition, 31 local, and international NGOs in both DRC and northern Uganda have received technical assistance for their capacity building for the past 8 years under the TFV funds. During the last reporting period (October 2014 – June 2015) more than 59,695 direct beneficiaries and 126,703 indirect beneficiaries have received TFV assistance through implementing partners in DRC and northern Uganda.

Below is one of our success stories with regard to savings and lending groups acivities in DRC.

The TFV wishes States Parties and others to continue contributing to the Trust Fund, and reiterate its calls for earmarked contributions for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and to strengthen the Trust Fund's reparations reserve.

Visit <u>www.trustfundforvictims.org</u> to learn more about the TFV or contact us at <u>trust.fund@icc-cpi.int</u>

## Savings and Lending Groups

The *Mutuelle de Solidarité* (Muso) model is being used by all of the TFV partners in the DRC who are implementing SGBV programming. The Muso groups, typically involving 15-30 members, promote economic security through an emphasis on savings, access to emergency funds, and access to loans for supporting small business ventures. Some groups also engage in collective income-generating activities, such as community farming. The Muso group model aims to provide a means for subsistence and for facilitating successful reintegration of victim survivors into their homes and communities. As a result of their participation in the groups, members consistently report an improved ability to pay for school and medical fees, food, and other basic household items as needed to participate actively in and contribute to social and community functions.

In addition to the economic benefits to members, the Muso groups also foster a sense of group solidarity and support, and serve as a platform for other programme activities, including community dialogues, health education, and awareness raising on other topics, such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Implementing partners frequently report that the Muso groups help to restore a sense of dignity and self-worth to their members. The involvement of the victim survivors in IGAs has also given them a sense of hope, empowerment, and a voice in the community.

"I feel close to the other members [of my Muso group]. I share the joys and the troubles of the others, and it's a family for me." – Veronique, Muso member, South Kivu, DRC