



**The Trust Fund
for Victims**



Programme Progress Report November 2009



I. Introduction¹



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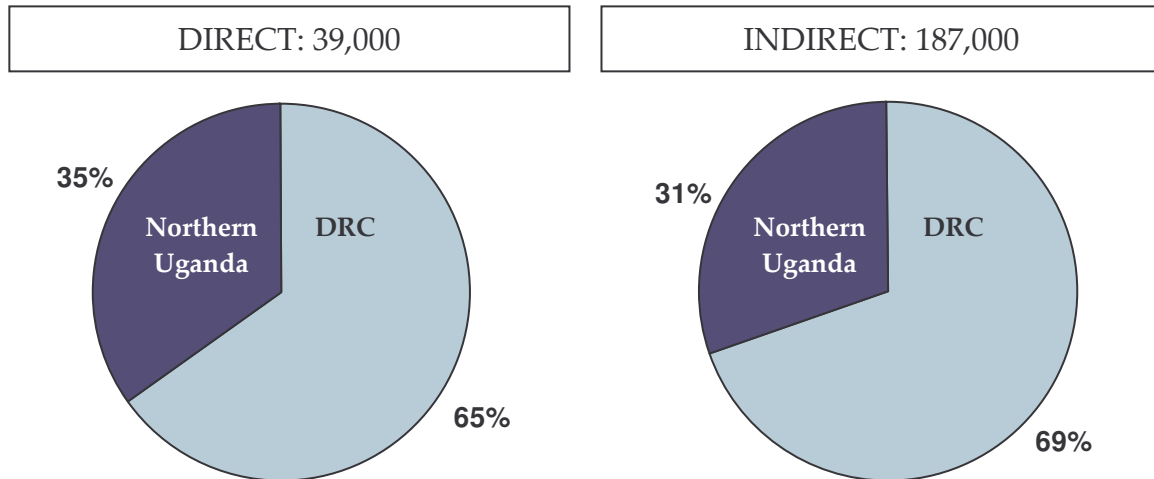
The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) supports activities which address the harm resulting from the crimes under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC or Court) by assisting victims to return to a dignified and contributory life within their communities. The TFV develops its activities with the victims themselves as partners, helping them rebuild their families and communities and regain their place as fully contributing members of their societies.

This report describes the status of the TFV's active projects in northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Currently, the TFV has 34 approved projects under its mandate to provide general, non-Court ordered assistance to victims of crimes under the ICC's jurisdiction. Of these, 29 projects are active and an additional 3 are in the final stages of programming. The remaining projects will be programmed in early 2010.

The TFV estimates that these 29 projects are currently reaching 226,000 victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity, both *directly* and *indirectly*. In northern Uganda and the DRC, these crimes include enlistment and conscription of child soldiers, sexual enslavement, rape, murder, pillage, destruction of property, attacks directed against a civilian population and more.² Approximately 39,000 victims are benefiting directly from TFV-supported services, including counselling, community reconciliation workshops, education grants, reconstructive surgery, start-up grants for income generating activities, and more. An estimated 187,000 of their family and community members are benefiting indirectly from these initiatives.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all photos in this report are of TFV-funded projects and were taken by staff from the TFV or its implementing partners with full permission of the identifiable subjects.

² As defined in Article 7 and Article 8 of the Rome Statute



Funding provided by the TFV is collected through voluntary contributions from States, individuals, organisations, and corporations. The TFV could also implement Court-ordered reparations through fines and forfeitures awarded against a convicted person if directed by the Court to do so.

Total TFV voluntary contributions by November 2009 were € 4.5 million. Out of these, approximately € 2.3 million have been obligated for grants in the DRC and northern Uganda since 2007/08. Another € 600,000 has been allocated for activities in the Central African Republic (CAR) to start in 2010. A current reserve of € 1 million is also available to complement any potential Court orders for reparations. The TFV also received € 191,081.31 from the Government of Norway as earmarked funding for victims of sexual violence.

II. TFV Programme Overview³

Mandates

In accordance with Rule 98 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the TFV fulfils two mandates:

- To implement awards for reparations ordered by the Court against a convicted person;⁴ and
- To use other resources for the benefit of victims subject to the provisions of article 79 of the Rome Statute.⁵

The ICC's restorative function, complementing its punitive function, is a key feature of the system established in Rome. It reflects growing international consensus that reparations play an important role in achieving justice for victims and is a concrete manifestation of the right to reparations for victims of grave human rights abuses. Combined with the ICC provisions

³ A schematic overview of the TFV's Programmatic Framework is provided on p. 38 of this report.

⁴ Rule 98 (2), (3), (4) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence

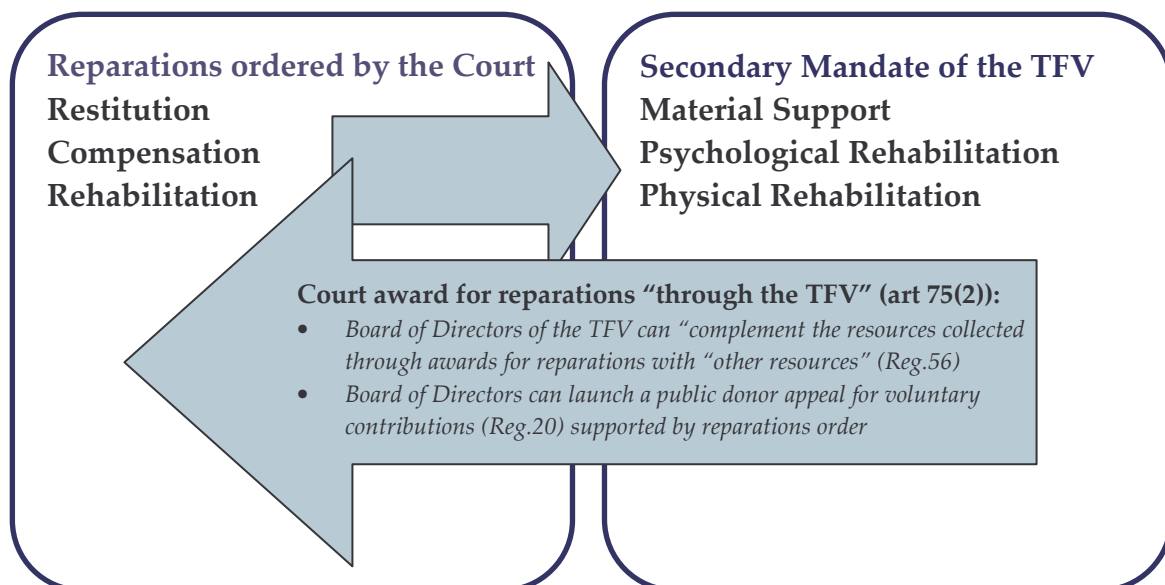
⁵ Rule 98 (5) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence

on victims' participation, the possibility to award reparation affirms the importance and centrality of victims' claims to reparation in international justice efforts. Indeed, the ICC's mandate in relation to reparations aims to serve as a catalyst for securing reparations for other victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes worldwide.

The TFV's first mandate is linked to a case. Resources are collected through fines or forfeiture and awards for reparations⁶ and complemented with "other resources of the Trust Fund" if the Board of Directors so determines.⁷ Reparations to or in respect of victims can take many different forms, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation. This broad mandate leaves room for the ICC to identify the most appropriate forms of reparation in light of the context of the situation and the wishes of the victims and their communities. Reparation is in no way limited to individual monetary compensation; it could instead include collective forms of reparation and symbolic or other measures that could promote reconciliation within divided communities.

The Court may order that an award for reparations against a convicted person be deposited with the TFV where at the time of making the order it is impossible or impracticable to make individual awards directly to each victim. The TFV shall take receipt of resources collected through awards for reparations and shall separate such resources from the remaining resources of the TFV in accordance with Rule 98 of the Rules.

In addition, the dual mandate of the TFV envisions the possibility for victims and their families to receive assistance separate from and prior to a conviction by the Court, using resources the TFV has raised through voluntary contributions. While this support is distinct from awards for reparations, in that it is not linked to a conviction, it is key in helping repair the harm that victims have suffered. This mandate aims to ensure that assistance is provided to those who were not able to participate in the judiciary process directly.



6 Regulations 43 to 46 of the Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims

7 Regulation 56 of the Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims

The TFV's second mandate is generic in nature. The resources referred to in Rule 98 (5) of the Rules are "resources other than those collected from awards for reparations, fines and forfeitures", as defined in Regulation 47 of the Regulations of the Trust Fund of Victims (Regulations) and shall be used, in accordance with Regulation 48, to benefit "victims of crimes as defined in Rule 85 of the Rules, and, where natural persons are concerned, their families, who have suffered physical, psychological and/or material harm as result of these crimes." Regulation 50 provides that "the TFV shall be considered to be seized" when the Board of Directors considers it necessary to provide physical or psychological rehabilitation and/or material support for the benefit of victims and their families, and has consulted with any relevant Chamber of the Court in accordance with the procedure specified.

*Legal Basis for Victims Assistance and Reparations*⁸

Pursuant to Article 75 of the Statute, the ICC shall establish principles relating to reparations to, or in respect of victims, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation, and may determine the scope and extent of any damage, loss or injury to or in respect of victims.

The ICC may make an order of reparations directly against a convicted person. Rule 97 of the Rules further provides that the Court may award reparations on an individualised basis or, where it deems it more appropriate, on a collective basis or both. These principles build upon international legal standards enshrined in other legal instruments.

Under Rule 94, victims may present written applications. Article 75 of the Statute also foresees the possibility for the ICC to deal with reparations on its own motion in cases of exceptional circumstances, by determining the scope and extent of any damage, loss and injury to or in respect of victims.⁹ Article 75 of the Statute also provides specifically that its provisions shall not be interpreted as prejudicing the rights of victims under national and international law.

Under the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and Regulations of the Court, the Registry will assist in developing and disseminating standard application forms for reparations, receiving and treating submitted applications, seeking additional information from victims and generally assisting victims in relation to reparations.¹⁰ Where appropriate, it does so in consultation with other entities. Before making any order for reparations the Court may invite and shall take account of representations from victims and other interested persons. It may also seek the assistance and advice of the TFV.

Victims have the right to appeal an order for reparations.¹¹ Reparations orders may also be appealed by the convicted person, as well as by a bona fide property owner whose rights are adversely affected by any such order. The Appeals Chamber has the power to confirm, reverse or amend an existing reparation order.

⁸ For more information, please see the Annex to The ICC Strategy in Relation to Victims.

⁹ Article 75(4) of the Rome Statute.

¹⁰ Rule 94 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and Regulations 86 and 88 of the Regulations of the Court.

¹¹ Article 82(4) of the Rome Statute; Rule 150 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

In dealing with reparations, the Court may request the cooperation of the States Parties according to Part IX of the Rome Statute. States Parties are obliged to give effect to reparations orders awarded by the Court or, if they are unable to do so, to take measures to recover the value of the relevant assets.¹² In giving effect to reparations orders, States Parties may not modify them in any way.¹³

The Rome Statute also established the TFV for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC and their families (Article 79 of the Statute), to which money and other property collected through fines or forfeiture may be transferred; and which may also receive voluntary contributions from States, organisations, and individuals.

On 9 September, 2002, the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) created the TFV with Resolution ICC-ASP/1/Res.6¹⁴ "for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, and of the families of such victims."¹⁵ The TFV has filed to operate in three situations under the ICC's jurisdiction – **Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and northern Uganda.**

Programme Framework

The TFV aims to advocate for and assist the most vulnerable victims of the crimes within the Court's jurisdiction. The ICC has jurisdiction over crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed since 1 July 2002. To support the victims of these crimes, the TFV works with survivors and their communities as fully-fledged partners in designing sustainable, effective, and locally-relevant interventions.

The TFV listens to victims and survivors, amplifying their voices in the international arena. Victims of these most serious crimes have survived unspeakable horrors, but the harm done to them does not make them helpless or hopeless. Instead, they are the driving force in the process of rebuilding their lives and regaining hope and dignity. The TFV helps in this process by supporting sustainable self-help projects which engage victims as partners.

In other words, the TFV attempts to help the victims help themselves. It does so by assisting them in identifying their problems and the most appropriate means to address them. The TFV will then embark in a partnership with victims, their families, and communities through intermediaries in order to support these rehabilitation efforts. This approach reinforces the TFV's ultimate goals of promoting accountability, ownership, dignity and empowerment.

12 Articles 75(5) and 109 of the Rome Statute.

13 Rule 219 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

14 Resolution ICC-ASP/1/Res.6, ASP, 9th September 2002, Establishment of a fund for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, and of the families of such victims, Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, First session New York, 3-10 September 2002

15 According to article 79 (3) of the Rome Statute "a Trust Fund shall be established by decision of the Assembly of States Parties for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, and of the families of such victims".

At the implementation level, the TFV strategy relies on the following:

- a) Close partnerships with actors at the grassroots level (local NGOs, traditional/religious leaders, local authorities, and especially the victims themselves);
- b) Presence of TFV staff in the field to ensure proper technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
- c) Mobilizing victims in groups according to their levels of victimization and capacity for rehabilitation, in order to provide group assistance and encourage self-help initiatives;
- d) Ensuring the participation of families and communities alongside the victims in their rehabilitation efforts.

The TFV utilizes these strategies in support of programmes that benefit victims along two dimensions: (1) materially and symbolically, and (2) individually and collectively. It can, in turn, provide the Court with lessons learned from administering this assistance, especially related to advising on culturally appropriate and relevant means of reparation.

Because of the unique nature of its mandates, the TFV is well-placed to implement reparations for large numbers of victims. These advantages include: the ability to deal with victims beyond those participating in proceedings before the Court; the flexibility in procedures, including the ability to consult with victims without prejudicing a particular case; and the freedom from narrowly-defined legal principles and decision-making.

The TFV is also able to release donor appeals linked to Court orders for reparation. This enables Member States and other donors to provide additional support for administering awards for reparations, especially in a context where the individuals convicted might have limited resources.¹⁶ Currently, the TFV holds €1,000,000 in reserve to complement potential Court-ordered reparations.

With the unique role of implementing both Court-ordered and non-Court ordered assistance to victims of the gravest crimes, the TFV is the first of its kind in history and offers key advantages for promoting well-being and reconciliation in war-torn societies:

- The TFV's general assistance serves as an **immediate response** to the urgent needs of victims and their communities who have suffered from the worst crimes in international law;
- The TFV has developed an extensive **operational presence** in the countries where it is providing general assistance, through which it can provide a tested mechanism to deliver assistance to victims recognised as deserving of reparations;

¹⁶ In accordance with Regulation 56 of the Regulations of the TFV.

- With its presence on the ground and network of implementing partners, the TFV is also well positioned to **inform the Court of victims' needs and attitudes** about the broader processes of reconciliation, healing, and justice, and their link to the Court's judicial process;
- With over two dozen projects and two years of experience, the TFV has learned valuable lessons about the **operational realities** in countries where the Court might one day award reparations.

The TFV is learning valuable lessons in all these areas about the unique role that a legal institution can play in addressing the needs of victims of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Gender Mainstreaming

The TFV considers its assistance to victims of sexual and/or gender-based violence (SGBV) a key step toward ending impunity for perpetrators, establishing durable peace and reconciliation in conflict settings, and successfully implementing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, and 1889.¹⁷ To do so, the TFV has adopted two strategies:

- **Mainstreaming** a gender-based perspective across all programming; and
- **Specifically targeting** crimes of rape, enslavement, forced pregnancy, and other forms of sexual and/or gender-based violence.

Both are key steps in achieving the TFV's mission of addressing the harm resulting from crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC. The TFV informs its approach to gender mainstreaming using the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action (IASC's Gender Handbook)¹⁸ and the World Health Organisation's *Ethical Standards and Procedures for Research with Human Beings*.¹⁹ In doing so, the TFV takes care to promote women and girls' empowerment and address the specific needs of victims in different age groups – a fundamental requirement of any peace-building process.

The TFV also supports the *Nairobi Declaration on the Right of Women and Girls to a Remedy and Reparation* to inform its programming. This Declaration, agreed upon in 2007 by human rights advocates and truth commission participants, develops principles on reparation for women and girls in relation to sexual violence. It expands on the *UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law*, and puts all focus on the specificity of women. It adds key concepts to the principle of reparation, which the

¹⁷ More information on these Resolutions is provided in the spotlight section on Assistance to Victims of Sexual Violence, below.

¹⁸ The IASC Guidelines provide humanitarian actors with a set of minimum interventions in all sectors to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

¹⁹ The WHO's *Ethical Standards* provide guidelines for research with human subjects. More information can be found at <http://www.who.int/ethics/research/en/>.

TFV utilizes as core elements of its programming strategy: victims' reinsertion into society, access to information, participation, and consultation.

III. Victim Targeting Strategy

The TFV utilizes two definitions of victims pursuant to its two roles in supporting victims. For Court-ordered reparations, victims are defined in Rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and may apply to receive reparations in the context of a particular case according to orders made under Article 75 of the Rome Statute. Under the TFV's second mandate to provide assistance prior to a conviction from the Court, the category of "victims" is broader, encompassing all victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court and their families.

The main objectives relating to TFV-issued reparations and assistance is to ensure that as many victims as possible are able to exercise their rights in relation to these provisions and to benefit from them as active stakeholders.

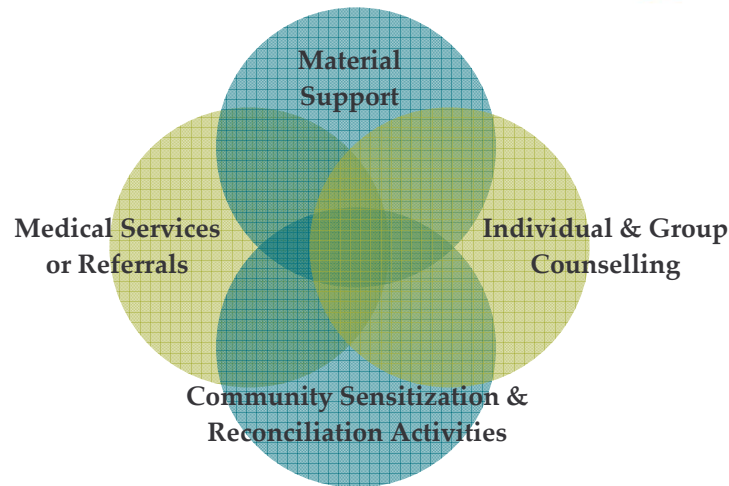
In order to facilitate local assessments to specifically identify victims under the jurisdiction of the ICC, tools and training are in development by the TFV to use with implementing partners so that they may better:

- ✓ Identify offences of the kind covered by the Court's mandate;
- ✓ List outbreaks of violence committed since the Court acquired jurisdiction in the country concerned;
- ✓ Identify and locate groups of victims;
- ✓ Gather information on the needs related to these crimes;
- ✓ Assess to what extent these needs are or are not met;
- ✓ Ascertain policies, strategies, issues at stake, and the involvement of the Court in the country in question;
- ✓ Envisage the medium and long-term consequences of providing assistance to victims and how this should be transitioned to local initiatives to ensure sustainability.

Under its non-Court ordered assistance, the TFV is presently employing two targeting strategies to ensure victims fall within the jurisdiction of the ICC: (1) assistance to victims of specific crimes, including sexual violence and conscription of child soldiers; and (2) assistance to communities victimized by pillage, massacre, and/or displacement. To further support reconciliation and healing at the individual and community levels, the TFV supports sensitization and awareness raising campaigns to reduce the added stigma and discrimination that victims of grave human rights abuses often face.

IV. Types of Assistance

To promote victims' full rehabilitation and reintegration, the TFV uses three types of assistance: *physical rehabilitation, psychological rehabilitation, and material support*. These are legally defined categories into which our support fits in each project. In practice, these can mean many things, but TFV-supported projects tend to implement integrated approaches for the most effective programming:



Material Support: including safe shelter, vocational training, reintegration kits, micro-credit support, education grants, and classes in accelerated literacy;

Individual and Group Counselling: including trauma-based counselling sessions with victims and/or for those who witnessed a family member killed, maimed and/or raped;

Community Sensitization and Reconciliation: including radio broadcasts, drama, information sessions, and large-scale community meetings to promote reconciliation and educate communities about the rights of victims;

Medical Services or Referrals: including reconstructive surgery, prosthetic devices, referrals to services like fistula repair, services for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV and/or AIDS treatment, care and support.

V. Status of Voluntary Contributions

Total TFV voluntary contributions by November 2009 were € 4.5 million. Out of this, approximately € 2.3 million have been obligated for grants in the DRC and northern Uganda since 2007/08. Another € 600,000 has been allocated for activities in the CAR to start in 2010. A current reserve of € 1 million is available to complement any potential Court orders for reparations. The TFV also received € 191,081.31 from the Government of Norway as earmarked funding for victims of sexual violence.

In September 2008, the TFV Board of Directors initiated a new programme specifically in support of victims of SGBV to launch its global appeal for €10 million to assist 1.7 million victims of sexual violence over three years. The earmarked funding provided toward this programme was used to support already approved activities in northern Uganda and the DRC, and will be used to fund new activities in the CAR. The following approved TFV projects are funded against this earmarked funding: Project TFV/UG/2007/R2/040 in northern Uganda and Projects TFV/DRC/2007/R1/021 and TFV/DRC/2007/R1/022 in the DRC.²⁰

²⁰ Details on these projects are provided in the Project Annexes below.

Top Ten Donors to the TFV
(Status as at 1 November 2009)

Countries	Cash contributions (in thousands of Euros)
Germany	999.8
Finland	469.8
Belgium	425.0
France	400.0
Ireland	275.0
United Kingdom	232.8
Sweden	215.0
Norway	191.1
Spain	169.9
Switzerland	156.9

In addition, the TFV received the following pledges:

Countries	Pledges for the years 2009/2010 (in thousands of Euros)
Denmark (DKK 3,720,000 for victims of sexual violence)	499.4
Germany (funds to cover the costs of a Legal Officer in 2010*)	128.3

* See ICC-ASP/6/11 para 33 when the Board of Directors of the TFV informed the ASP that "separate funding will be sought" for a Legal Officer, "possibly under an arrangement for secondment from the Government of one of the States Parties." The Government of Germany has offered providing the funds to cover the costs of a Legal Officer for up to two years (Euro 128,300 per year or Euro 256,600 for two years).

VI. Programme Spotlights

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Photo: Children participating in the TFV-funded “Peace School” in Ituri District, DRC, where youth collectively express their trauma and construct messages of hope, peace, and reconciliation through art and drama. Source: TFV Partner

Programme Spotlight: Sexual Violence

	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
Victims of SGBV	1,900	33,000
Children who are vulnerable to SGBV	320	
Children of SGBV Victims	780	
Community members and leaders (benefiting from sensitization activities)	7,000	
TOTAL:	10,000	33,000

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui face counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for sexual slavery and rape committed since 1 July, 2002. In Uganda, Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen are wanted for similar alleged crimes.

Rape is still endemic in parts of the DRC. In 2005, the New York Times had labelled it “the worst place on earth to be a woman.” Still today, some 1,100 rapes are reported each month in the DRC’s eastern provinces, with an average of 36 women and girls raped every day according to the Secretary-General’s latest report on the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 (September 2009).²¹ Most experts, however, regard this statistic as *deflated*.

The same report noted a “substantial increase” in reported incidents in areas controlled by rebel groups and the recently integrated Congolese army (FARDC).^{22, 23} Between January and May of this year, Human Rights Watch documented 250 cases of rape in North Kivu, 143 of which (57%) were committed by FARDC soldiers.²⁴ According to the UN’s Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, “alarm bells are ringing loudly in the DRC.”²⁵

In northern Uganda, sexual violence can take several forms, but two predominate. On the one hand, victims of LRA and UPDF soldiers still live with the consequences of violence in the form of psychological trauma, lost years of education, stigma, physical handicaps and much more. During the conflict, at least 85% of girls who arrived at the Gulu Trauma Centre for former LRA abductees had contracted sexually transmitted infections (STIs) during their captivity.²⁶

21 <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/WPS%20S%202009%20465.pdf>

22 In 2009, a rapid integration process in North Kivu swelled the army’s ranks in eastern DRC to an estimated 60,000 soldiers with the addition of 12,000 combatants from former rebel groups.

23 <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/07/16/soldiers-who-rape-commanders-who-condone-0>, p. 20

24 <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/07/16/soldiers-who-rape-commanders-who-condone-0>, p. 21

25 <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32560&Cr=drc&Cr1=>

26 <http://www.peacewomen.org/news/Uganda/July05/VAW.htm>

On the other hand, as is too often the case in post-conflict settings, SGBV can transition from “public” violence to the more “private” realm of domestic violence.²⁷ In 2005, UNICEF found that 60% of women and girls in Gulu district’s Pabbo IDP camp had been “physically and sexually assaulted, threatened and humiliated by the men in whom they have the greatest trust.”

The TFV considers its assistance to victims of SGBV a key step toward ending impunity for human rights abusers, establishing durable peace and reconciliation in conflict settings, and successfully implementing *United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, and 1889*.

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council recognised for the first time the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women with the unanimous passage of *Resolution 1325*. Highlighting the “under-valued and under-utilised contributions that women make to conflict prevention,



peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building,” the Resolution stressed the necessity of women’s equal and full participation throughout all of these processes.²⁸

A woman staying at the DORCAS transitional home for SGBV survivors in Bukavu, South Kivu. She was seen at Panzi Hospital and now lives at the home, where she receives classes in literacy and vocational training, and micro-credit from TFV implementing partner *Action for Living Together*. Source: ALT

Eight years later, the Security Council unanimously recognised one of the most vicious impediments to 1325’s successful implementation: the systematic use of rape as a weapon of war. *Resolution 1820* recognised that rape and other forms of sexual violence have reached “appalling levels of brutality,” and are used “to humiliate, dominate, instil fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group.”

The Security Council also recognised the role sexual violence plays in exacerbating armed conflict: destroying social safety nets, preventing victims’ full integration and participation in public life, and impeding the restoration of peace and security. This October, the Council again affirmed the key role women play in rebuilding war-torn societies with the unanimous adoption of *Resolution 1889*, calling on UN bodies, donors and civil society to focus on women’s empowerment and protection during post-conflict needs assessments, planning, and programming.

²⁷ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCPR/Resources/30494GenderConflictandDevelopment.pdf>, p. xxi

²⁸ <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/1325index.html>

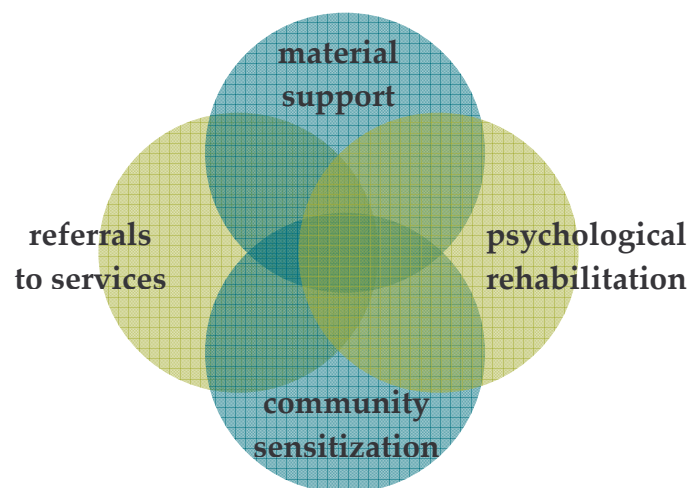
TFV Response

The TFV informs its approach to programming through the *IASC's Gender Handbook*²⁹ and the *Nairobi Declaration* and includes broad steps like gender mainstreaming, gender-based needs analyses, participation, and human rights-based approaches across its programming. It also programmes projects specifically targeted to survivors of SGBV, taking care to promote women's and girls' empowerment and addressing the specific needs of victims in different age groups.

Under the Rome Statute, rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, or constitutive acts with respect to genocide. As part of its mission to assist victims of crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC return to a dignified and contributory life within their communities, the TFV set in place two processes in 2008/09: (1) mainstreaming a gender-based perspective across all of its programming and (2) initiating targeted responses to SGBV against women, men, and children.

Of its 29 active projects, the TFV is supporting eight organisations – three international and five national – to implement seven projects in northern Uganda and the DRC. Three of these were made possible by direct support from the Norwegian Government.

The trauma associated with sexual violence is material, psychological, social, and physical. To meet the needs associated with this violence, all seven of the TFV's projects seek to promote survivors' holistic rehabilitation and reintegration through responses that combine four types of assistance:



Material support: safe shelter, vocational training, reintegration kits, micro-credit, education grants, classes in accelerated literacy, and more;

Psychological rehabilitation: trauma-based counselling (both individual and group), community reconciliation meetings, and more;

²⁹ The IASC Guidelines provide humanitarian actors with a set of minimum interventions in all sectors to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

Community sensitization: radio broadcasts, drama, and information sessions to educate community members and leaders about SGBV and the rights of victims, and more;

Referrals to services: referrals to services like fistula repair, services for STIs, HIV and/or AIDS, and more - in south Kivu, our partner is working with Panzi Hospital.

Material Support

In South Kivu (DRC), the TFV is supporting Action for Living Together (ALT), active in Bukavu since 1999. ALT works with Bukavu's Panzi General Hospital, where it runs the DORCAS transitional house for victims of SGBV who are unable to return home after their treatment. Panzi General Hospital treats at least 10 victims of sexual assault daily, averaging 3,600 cases a year. An estimated 16,000 victims of rape, some suffering from obstetric fistula, have been treated at the hospital since 2000. Survivors are able to stay at the transitional house for as long as they need, and are provided classes in reading, writing and handicraft production.

ALT is also providing small loans to survivors through a micro-lending programme that gradually increases the amount of money individuals receive (starting at \$30 and increasing up to \$80). Of those receiving loans, 33% are at the \$30 level, 32% at \$50, 25% at \$60 and the remaining 10% at \$80. Survivors are using the money to start



Beneficiaries of ALT's micro-credit scheme. Source: ALT

small income generating activities: selling items at the market, catering, tailoring, and other activities that traditionally depend on a minimum amount of capital. This system provides a number of advantages over single lump-sum loans, principally by reducing the risk of borrowing money, while at the same time helping women build valuable skills in financial management.



A teacher of basket weaving at ALT's transitional home for SGBV survivors. Source: ALT

ALT is also providing 784 children (two per project beneficiary) with small grants to attend school. You can read more about this component in our spotlight on **children & youth**.

In North Kivu and Bunia, four other projects are providing similar forms of material support that

combine vocational training with supplies needed for a range of small businesses: baking, tailoring, selling goods at the market, catering, and more. Survivors work with each organisation to select an activity of their choice. One of our confidential partners, for instance, is utilising reintegration kits for 193 victims of SGBV (including seven male victims) to help survivors gain both sustainable sources of livelihood and meaningful roles within their communities. The kits can take a variety of forms, including sowing machines, cooking oil, pots, pans, animals, cloth and more, depending on each beneficiary's chosen activity.

This partner, whose name is kept confidential for purposes of security, described to the TFV the kinds of violence its 193 project beneficiaries have experienced: rape, sexual slavery, forced labour, and more. In some cases, women were used as human shields in battle. Some were raped by several perpetrators at once, in one case by 10 armed men. Others were forced to witness the brutal murder of a loved one in their home. In the majority of cases, our partner tells us, the attackers pillaged almost all possessions.

Together, the project's kits and counselling provide survivors with a means to both regain their livelihoods and take on productive roles within their communities and families. This last function is key, as another TFV partner, working in North Kivu, pointed out in its most recent report:

"We have observed a significant change for the better in 141 subjects. The symptoms that the victims were suffering from have noticeably decreased and they have begun to recall their memories of the traumatic events that they experienced. We attribute this success to several factors such as regular visits to the beneficiaries, psychological support techniques, the positive involvement of the parents of child victims and the wider family circle, the medical treatment received, and the socio-economic reintegration through learning trades and the supply of a start-up kit.

However, 16 subjects are still suffering from profound trauma with no signs of improvement. *This is explained largely by the lack of positive involvement from their close family.* Worthlessness and total despair prevails in these patients [with] the additional stresses of stigmatization and the solitude for those who live alone."

Psychological Counselling

Psychological care is vital to helping survivors take advantage of the material support they receive. The trauma associated with rape and other forms of sexual violence is deep and enduring, but it is not insurmountable. The testimony below from Oyam District comes from a woman from northern Uganda. Congolese by nationality, she is receiving assistance from the TFV's partner COOPI, which maintains a counselling centre for victims of rape, physical abuse, harassment and more in Oyam district. It highlights both the trauma of sexual violence and the hope that can come with proper treatment and support. It also reflects the extent to which crimes of sexual violence can pervade war-torn societies even after conflict has subsided.

Every organisation working with the TFV has case workers, social workers, and counsellors on staff to work with victims. The TFV's confidential partner in North Kivu, for example, employs an in-house psychologist to work directly with staff from the TFV's three sub-

grantees. This includes training in therapy, interview techniques and more. As part of her assistance, the trainer also works directly with some of the most traumatised of the 550 survivors receiving support through this set of projects.

Testimony from Oyam District, Uganda

“He did not give me time. He kept on beating me with a club...while assuring me how many people he killed before, when he was still a soldier. I had a lot of bleeding that night and I could not raise my voice.

I thought I would die because I did not have any relative around. I really must appreciate what COOPI did for me. Even when I am okay, you (COOPI) are still making a follow-up to see how I am. Nobody, not even my relative, can do this.

Now I am settled at home and farming to get some food for next year. I feel okay now and the wounds have healed well. My child is healthy. I have also forgiven my husband.

My appeal to the community out there is: let us join hands to fight against this kind of violence against innocent people. Let us raise our voice to the nation and the law to help us create equality between men and women. Women should also stand up for our rights as women in the community. We should fight for freedom and peace in our community.”

One woman was raped by a demobilized soldier in North Kivu. At first, when the counsellor sat with her to hear her story, she could not speak. She could only communicate with gestures. According to the counsellor, she would lock herself in the bedroom and cry every day, “disgusted by life.” At first, she refused treatment, but eventually opened up, speaking first to the counsellor about her trauma and then to the group of women the counsellor regularly brought together to share their stories. Before treatment, she told them, her heart would beat uncontrollably fast. She was consumed by panic attacks. Now, she says, her “heart is healed.” In her latest group session, she shared that she had come to forgive the man who raped her, and with the worst of the depression and stress behind her is now focusing on building the tailoring business she has established with help from the TFV.

Another woman from a small village outside Goma was raped by three armed men in 2008 when they attacked her home. After the rape, she was rejected by her husband and forced to leave behind her house and eight children. The three men, she told the counsellor, “brought me halfway to death.” She was treated at a referral hospital in Goma and later identified by the TFV’s partner as a potential beneficiary of the TFV’s non-Court ordered assistance. Even being identified was a moving experience, she recalled. “It reminded me that there are others who care.” The TFV’s partner is providing her with individual and group-based trauma counselling and has helped her establish a small farming business with tools and seeds. Already, this assistance has enabled her to return home. She told the counsellor that she has come to forgive her husband for rejecting her and, in turn, has asked for his acceptance. “I asked for his forgiveness and he received me,” she said. Now, she has planted her first round of seeds and is working with the TFV’s partner to maintain her crop, which she will later bring to market.

Community Sensitization

To combat the stigma associated with SGBV, the TFV also supports implementing partners to conduct sensitization projects in their wider communities. These take many forms, including radio broadcasts, drama, information sessions, and more.

In South Kivu, for instance, ALT sees its beneficiaries' full success as partly dependent on the attitudes and understanding of their family and community members. It is utilising its expertise in SGBV to broadcast radio shows about sexual violence and the rights of survivors. So far, ten shows have aired, including:

- An explanation of ALT's mission and activities;
- Stories of reconciliation and conflict resolution between victims of SGBV and their communities and families;
- Stories about the products being sold by ALT beneficiaries with their micro-credit;
- Stories about the children receiving help from ALT to attend school;
- Information about the relationship between women's rights and Human Rights;
- Information about the state of sexual violence in South Kivu; and
- Information about the role that political and religious authorities can play to help reduce sexual violence in South Kivu.

In northern Uganda, COOPI is helping direct Uganda's Gender-Based Violence Information System, and is holding regular coordination meetings with other agencies in Oyam District. It is also working with community leaders to inform them about the prevalence of rape and other forms of SGBV in northern Uganda. The COOPI "Sensitization Team" has moved through 5 different sub-counties in Oyam District, so far reaching 2,114 people. Of these, 510 were specifically selected as women leaders, youth leaders, religious leaders, and local authorities to receive a more detailed full-day training.

One such participant is a member of the child protection committee in an Oyam sub-county. He had this to say to COOPI's project staff about the impact of their training:

"I attended a one-day training on sexual and gender based violence organised by COOPI for local leaders. We discussed the types, causes and consequences of SGBV, both for individuals and the community. As leaders we also learned how we can refer survivors of SGBV to services like COOPI's. Since the training, I have begun referring survivors from my parish to COOPI's centre, where they can receive counselling and treatment. Most are survivors of rape and physical assault.

I have also mobilized other community members to attend the sensitization workshops. Through the sensitization activities, I have also learned of the necessity of being a role model in my community, especially of not being a perpetrator of SGBV myself: to always say no to this bad practice.

On behalf of all those who attended the training, I would like to thank COOPI for the wonderful work it is doing in Oyam District because sexual and gender based violence is still a big problem in our community."



Programme Spotlight: Supporting Children & Youth

	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
Ex-child combatants and/or abductees	1,100	18,000
Girls abducted into fighting forces who bore children while in captivity	67	
Girls made vulnerable to sexual violence by war	320	
Children orphaned, injured, or otherwise made vulnerable by war	1,900	
Family members caring for children orphaned by war	400	
TOTAL	3,787	18,000

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict requires that children be active participants in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) campaigns, with special protections for girls in particular. Ten TFV projects are providing rehabilitation and support to youth victimised by war, including children associated with armed forces, children who lost their parents to the war, children of SGBV survivors, and other young people made vulnerable by crimes against humanity and war crimes.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Thomas Lubanga, Germain Katanga, Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, and Bosco Ntaganda all face counts of war crimes for using children under the age of 15 in hostilities since 1 July, 2002. In northern Uganda, Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen are wanted for similar alleged crimes.

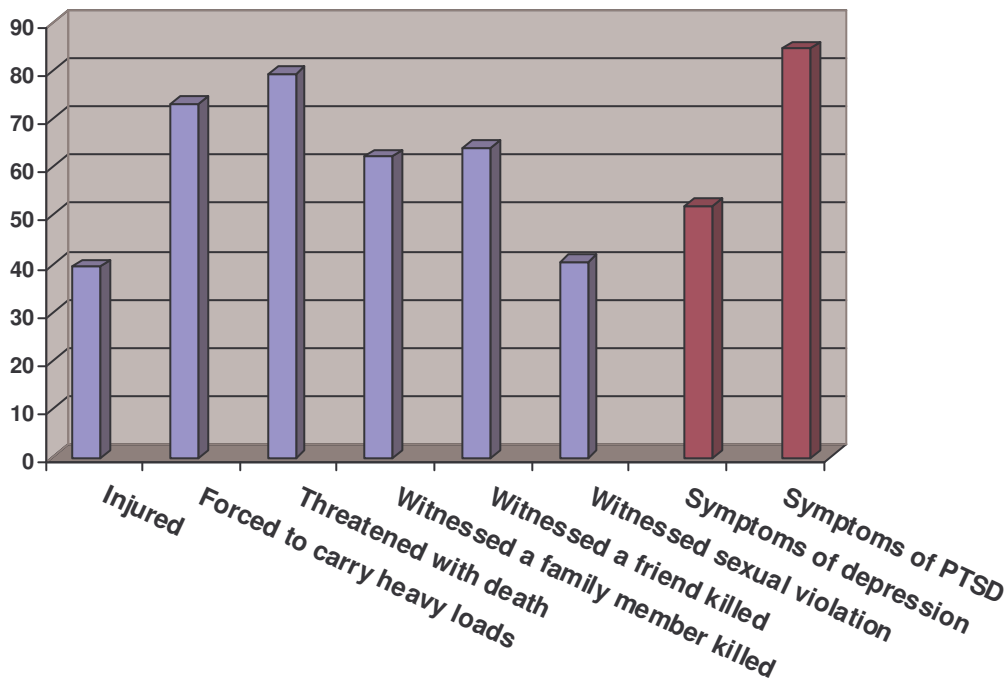
The consequences of child soldiering are deep and enduring. In northern Uganda, researchers found symptoms of depression – which can include sluggishness and suicidal thoughts – among 52% of abducted individuals, and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – which can include nightmares and disturbing memories – among 84%.³⁰ These stem from the traumatic experiences that abductees endure in captivity: 39% report being injured, 73% being forced to carry heavy loads, 79% being threatened with death, 62% witnessing a family member killed, 64% witnessing a friend killed, and 40% witnessing a sexual violation.

One youth was forced to kill his brother and witness his sister’s death. He recalled to researchers, “I started dreaming of my brother a week after the incident, and at times I would see him during the day. How I beat him would all resurface.”³¹

³⁰ Patrick Vinck, Phuong N. Pham, Eric Stover, and Harvey M. Weinstein, 2007. “Exposure to War Crimes and Implications for Peace Building in Northern Uganda.”

³¹ Chris Blattman and Jeannie Annan, 2009. “The Consequences of Child Soldiering.” Findings are from the “Survey of War Affected Youth.”

Exposure to War Crimes among Abductees in Northern Uganda (%)



One boy receiving support from the TFV's partners in Gulu District, Uganda, was abducted at the age of nine from his family by the Lord's Resistance Army. He started as a porter, but ended up on the front lines, where he was forced to kill. He survived battles, fear and starvation for seven years.

Following his arrest and interrogation in a local army camp, he received some clothes and was sent back to his village. But his problems are far from over. His father died three years before his return. His stepfather rejected him and his three younger brothers and sisters. He wanted to go back to school, but was too old for elementary school and resorted to begging in order to provide for himself and for his siblings. He has recurrent nightmares about death, violence, and torture.



A 7 year-old boy born in captivity in Uganda is attacked by "demons" during a project meeting. He is receiving trauma counselling from TFV partner, WACA. Source: WACA

"My dream is that, some day, I can learn how to be a construction worker so I can build a house for my brothers and sisters. Then, who knows, maybe I can even make a living out of that trade." He is now receiving counselling and vocational training in construction from the TFV's implementing partner, WACA, in Gulu.

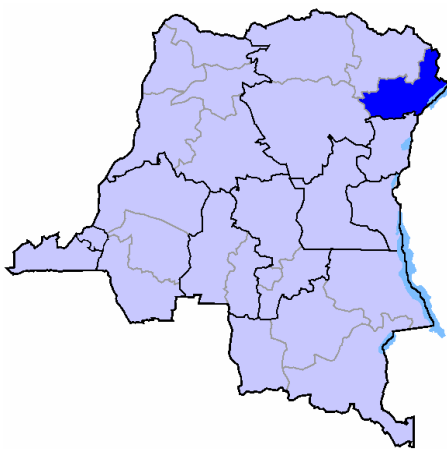
As this particular story highlights, the social and psychological trauma of abduction, war and violence is real, but it only tells part of the story. Researchers have also found that two other

consequences of child soldiering can have even worse effects: these are the interruption of education and employment.³²

They found that for former child soldiers in Uganda, schooling falls by nearly a year, skilled employment halves, and earnings drop by a third. These have severe consequences: abductees in Uganda are nearly twice as likely to be functionally illiterate than non-abductees. Abductees also tend to be engaged in lower-skilled, less capital-intensive work, which drives down their wages: formerly abducted youth in northern Uganda earn on average 32% less than their non-abducted peers.

Thus, educational and vocational programmes that include psychological support components are the best strategies to help children return to their communities. The TFV is supporting a number of projects that provide these services to children victimised by war. These include former soldiers and/or abductees, children orphaned by war, children whose parents were victimised by sexual violence, children who themselves are vulnerable to sexual violence, and children injured and otherwise made vulnerable by war.

The TFV is reaching about 1,100 children who were conscripted into armed forces, sometimes forced by their own families, in both the DRC and northern Uganda. Most are receiving support for income generating activities. In one project – for girls who bore children while in captivity – the children are participating in an accelerated educational programme that will let them catch-up to the regular school system and rejoin their peers.



The TFV is supporting income generating activities for about 450 children associated with fighting forces in Ituri, DRC.

The choice between educational and vocational support is a difficult one and depends in large part on the age and duration of captivity of former abductees. As one teacher in northern Uganda expressed to researchers, “some youth stayed for a long time in the bush, and when they came back to school, they found themselves older than the others in class. Such students take long to adjust.”³³

Youth in both countries who were not abducted and who are not in school often work in small entrepreneurial activities that require a slow accumulation of capital and skills. Young people will often begin with activities like collecting firewood, and build their way up to more capital-intensive activities like bicycle-taxiing. Eventually, such youth are able to establish small businesses that require specific skills, like construction, carpentry or tailoring.

Through five projects in Ituri District, DRC and northern Uganda, TFV implementing partners are providing equipment and training to help children and young adults by-pass

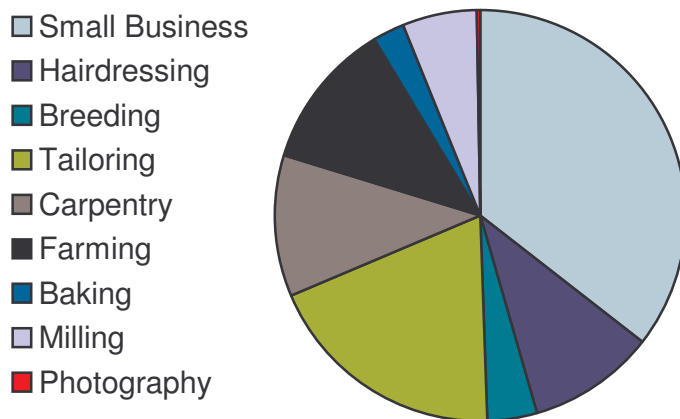
³² Chris Blattman and Jeannie Annan, 2009. “The Consequences of Child Soldiering.” Findings are from the “Survey of War Affected Youth.”

³³ Blattman and Annan, p. 8

this slow process of accumulating capital and skills. In the DRC, all children are registered in the national demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) programme (CONADER), which is estimated to have demobilized and disarmed some 30,000 children and 100,000 adults.

But a number of children from these communities never received reintegration assistance. In some cases, failure to complete the DDR cycle resulted in *re*-abduction. The TFV is specifically targeting these children, some of whom have been waiting for over a year to receive financial and vocational support to ease their return to civilian life. TFV partners conduct market assessments and work with children to choose an income generating activity. These activities serve two important functions: (1) providing children with an effective and sustainable source of livelihood and (2) providing children new roles within their communities and families.

Breakdown of Some Income Generating Activities for Ex-Child Combatants (%)



Goats are distributed to youth trained in breeding in the DRC. Source: TFV

But vocational training is not appropriate for all children. Children and youth can also benefit from accelerated education. In Bunia, DRC, for instance, the TFV is supporting COOPI, which runs an established programme for abducted girls who bore children while in captivity. While estimates put the total portion of female combatants in the DRC at 20%, only 3,000 women have received assistance through the DDR programme, and only a tiny fraction of these are girls.

But girls face unique challenges and have special needs. In addition to losing out on education, they face intense stigma and rejection from their families and communities, and bear the additional burden of supporting a child. In a representative survey of Congolese in Ituri and the Kivus, over a third (35%) said they would not accept a victim of sexual violence back into their household if she had a child as a result of the violence.³⁴

With support from the TFV, COOPI is providing 67 girls and their babies with accelerated education and day care. So far, the project’s impact has been substantial.

³⁴ Research conducted by the UC Berkeley’s Human Rights Center, the International Center for Transitional Justice and Tulane University’s Payson Center for International Development

Through its previous work with girl mothers, COOPI found that in addition to providing accelerated learning, specific activities were needed to help the girls bond with their children and come to understand and accept their new roles as mothers. Therefore, COOPI built a crèche alongside its school with support from the TFV to simultaneously promote the girls' education and nurture their relationships with their babies.

At first, the girls “were the incarnation of all evil in the neighbourhood, [representing] rape, shame and lost education,” according to COOPI’s project staff. The girls saw their babies as the main source of this stigma.

But very soon, COOPI began to see substantial changes. Several months into the project, the girls were not only spending more time with their babies while at school, but were also carrying them in public while wearing their school uniforms. This very public acknowledgment of their dual roles as both students and mothers was an early, powerful testament to the bond that COOPI was helping each girl establish with her child. The project’s quick and substantial impact has continued to impress both COOPI and TFV staff.

“The COOPI Crèche” – Bunia, DRC

- **Mother/child bond:** At first, the girls would simply leave their babies at the crèche at the beginning of the day, and pick them up at the end. Project staff had trouble knowing which baby belonged to which girl. Now, the girls regularly visit, care for and spend time with their own and the other girls’ children, and everyone knows exactly who belongs to whom.
- **Acceptance of new roles and responsibilities:** At first, the girls did not accept being called ‘mothers’. Now, the project staff report that over two-thirds of the girls agree that they are both ‘students’ and ‘mothers’.
- **Pride:** At first, all the girls refused to wear their school uniforms and carry their babies at the same time, especially in public. Now, all the girls will carry their babies in public while wearing their uniforms.
- **Improved health:** The girls are themselves receiving regular meals, and have begun to care for their babies more regularly, learning from the project staff.
- **Family integration:** At first, the girls’ own parents were not involved in the school: neither in the girls’ lives nor in the babies’ lives. Now, the parents will take their daughters’ babies to the doctor when the girls are in school, and visit the school for parents’ meetings. Many will also help the girls pay for extra school supplies when needed.
- **Community integration:** At first, the girls did not interact with students in the main school. Now, they regularly play and spend time with the other students.

After nine months of project implementation, 26 of the project's 67 girls have rejoined the regular school system. The remaining 40 will benefit from continued help from COOPI through the TFV's extended support into 2010.

Working with victims of gross human rights violations, especially children, requires special attention to ethical and safety concerns. For many former child soldiers, it can be a stigmatising experience to be seen by the community as a special recipient of additional services, especially when the same children were forced to attack their own communities.

To ameliorate this stigma, many projects have integrated a portion of children who are not associated with armed groups, but who are still victims of war. Some lost their parents during a village raid or attack; others lost their homes. And still others are considered vulnerable to sexual violence. UNICEF incorporates the special needs and rights of vulnerable children into all of its programming, recognising that "in conflict situations, involuntary separation from both family and community protection...greatly increases the child's risk of exposure to violence, physical abuse, exploitation and even death."³⁵



Students at the TFV-supported "Peace School" in Ituri District, DRC. Students work together to create stories about the conflicts they have faced and share messages of peace and reconciliation.

In northern Uganda, the TFV is supporting COOPI, which is providing safe shelter, education, and social activities to vulnerable youth in Oyam district. Oyam is a newly created district next to Gulu and was home to a number of major IDP camps, where youth were especially vulnerable, including to both forced prostitution and rape. COOPI is running several centres where these youth can receive protection and education. In addition, COOPI is conducting a sensitization and information campaign to educate community members and leaders about the prevalence of sexual violence and the rights of victims.

Exposure to war crimes has consequences for social healing as well. Researchers from UC Berkeley found that among victims of war in northern Uganda, those with symptoms of PTSD were 31% more likely to favour violent means as a way to achieve peace, while those with symptoms of depression were about 23% less likely to favour non-violent means.³⁶

³⁵ http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_orphans.html

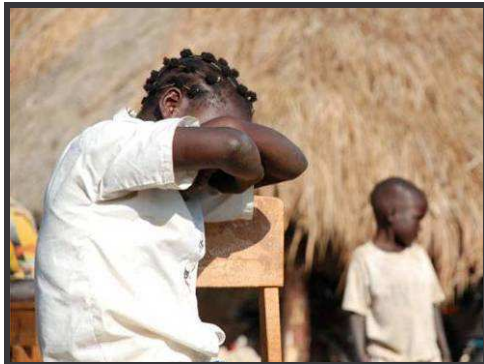
³⁶ Patrick Vinck, Phuong N. Pham, Eric Stover, and Harvey M. Weinstein, 2007. "Exposure to War Crimes and Implications for Peace Building in Northern Uganda.

To help establish a culture of peace in war-torn communities, the TFV is supporting the “Peace School” for about 1,600 children in Ituri District and North Kivu. The “Peace School” is a mobile, two-day camp run by university students trained in conflict resolution that helps children and young adults collectively address their trauma, construct messages of peace and healing, and share them with their wider communities.

The camp begins with a film and discussion, and continues with story telling, analysis, critical thinking, drawing, writing, and drama. Through collective, creative expression, children voice their trauma, and learn from each other about how to resolve conflict non-violently. At the end of the two days, children put together a play to sum up all that they have discussed and learned, and invite their families and community members to attend.

Children from the “Peace School” in Ituri, DRC Share Messages of Trauma & Hope

Source: TFV Partner



“God forgive me because my heart was preparing revenge against my executioner. Help me! How can I forgive? If I do not, I’ll end up committing a crime in the future.”



“I have long sought to avenge the man who raped me. I suffered because, unlike him, I did not have a weapon to kill him. The child I bore made me sick. I did not want to keep it. If I had not come here, perhaps I would have done worse than my attacker.”



“I fled with my big brother after we lost our parents in the war. But I soon grew tired and could not walk. He wanted to throw me into a river and save his own life, but a man saved us. I love my brother and I do not want him to be ashamed of what happened.”

In 2010, the “Peace School” will scale-up its activities with continued support from the TFV to integrate its lessons of peace and reconciliation into the regular school system so that the wider community may benefit from its messages.

In Gulu District, Uganda, the Anglican Diocese of Uganda (DNU) is also supporting children made vulnerable by conflict. It combines “Healing of Memory” seminars (for both adults and children) with education grants to help victims regain both psychological well-being and productive roles within their communities.

The DNU’s goal is to bring comprehensive healing and reconciliation to victims and their families to help end cycles of violence and poverty. One participant, Samuel, has been benefiting from both of DNU’s project components. A student from Amuru district, he told the project staff that he had dreamt of becoming a doctor in primary school. Instead, he was injured by a landmine planted in his compound during the war, and forced in and out of hospital for two years to undergo six different surgeries. “After the mine accident, I thought I had lost it all,” he recalled.



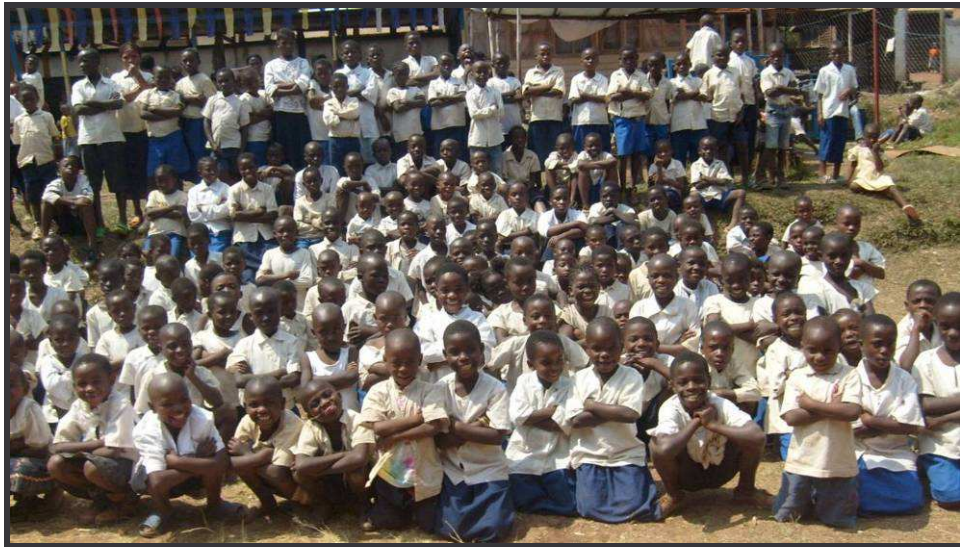
Participants from throughout northern Uganda work with Father Michael Lapsley in the “Healing of Memories” seminar.

Samuel has been participating in the DNU’s “Healing of Memories” seminar, which is run by Father Michael Lapsley, an internationally renowned reconciliation expert from South Africa. The seminar brings together victims from throughout northern Uganda to collectively express their trauma and share messages of healing and hope. Samuel has also benefited from a grant from the DNU to re-enrol in school, where he is making up the years that he missed. “I was full of hatred and self pity,” he told project staff. “But I found so many people like me in the [Healing of Memories] seminar. I learned that I can still achieve my dreams. I am encouraged to live life to the full[est].”

In Bukavu, South Kivu, the TFV’s partner ALT is providing support to the children of women who have been raped: 784 children attending about 90 different schools throughout South Kivu in total. This compliments ALT’s other project activities, described in more detail in our spotlight page on **sexual violence**.

Providing victims’ children with school grants has two key advantages for the project’s overall success: (1) school is one of the most effective and efficient means to help children avoid feelings of stigmatization, which improves their family life and supports their parents’ own rehabilitation and reintegration; and (2) with ALT’s micro-credit programme, survivors of rape have an additional source of income and, as such, are not as reliant on their children for bringing in money as they once were. ALT’s education grants allow survivors and their children to take advantage of this new-found freedom. In ALT’s own words: “So that

mothers are not forced to deplete the content of the micro-financing just to ensure schooling of their children, the project provides for a special allowance for these purposes.”

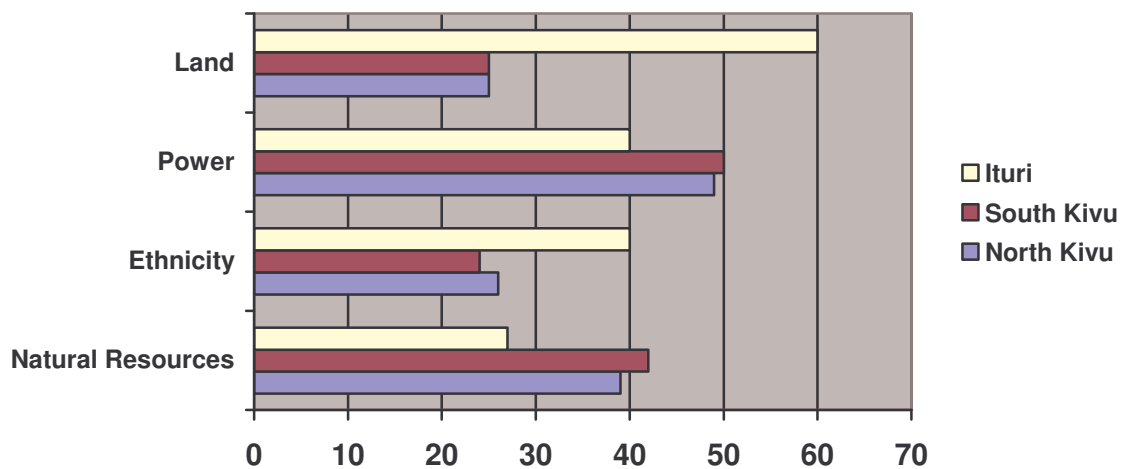


784 children of victims of SGBV are receiving grants to attend school while their parents develop small income generating activities through the TFV’s partner, *Action for Living Together*. Source: ALT

Programme Spotlight: Community Reconciliation

From the perspectives of Congolese, the underlying causes of conflict are seen differently in Ituri than in the Kivus.³⁷ While natural resources and struggles for power are considered the driving forces behind violence in the Kivus, *land* is the major issue in Ituri. When asked about the origins of conflict, 60% of Iturians mention *conflict over and/or access to land*. In the Kivus, only 25% mention land.

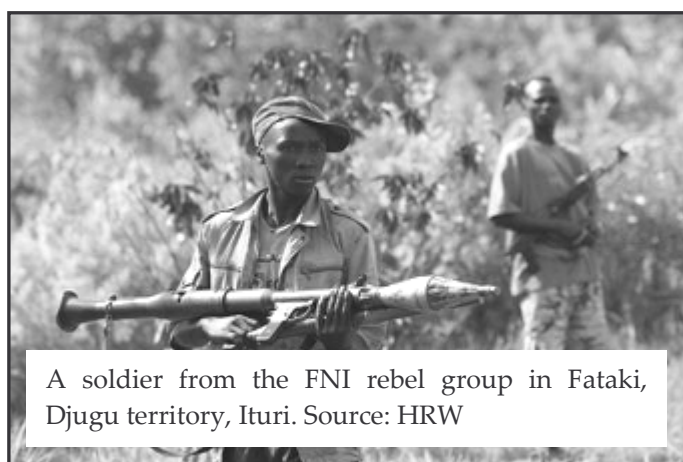
“In your opinion, what are the major sources of the conflicts in eastern Congo?” (%)



37 Research conducted by UC Berkeley’s Human Rights Center, the International Center for Transitional Justice and Tulane University’s Payson Center for International Development

Conflicts over land, ethnicity and power in Ituri extend back to colonial times and have remained present in all stages of the region's post-independence political and economic development. Still today, the region faces a pressing need for substantive land reform.

Natural resource extraction is clearly a major player in the conflict, with mining companies having been linked to rebel groups active in the region.³⁸ But to Iturians, land is the major issue. And *ethnicity* and *power* are inextricably linked to it.



A soldier from the FNI rebel group in Fataki, Djugu territory, Ituri. Source: HRW

But international organisations have been criticised for missing the seeds that continue to fuel conflict in the DRC.³⁹ By treating the DRC as a “post-conflict” zone even as violence has flared, and focusing on strategies like national elections at the expense of local reconciliation and conflict mitigation, they have failed to address the Congo wars at their roots.

To fill this gap, the TFV is supporting the Congolese organisation Reseu Haki na Amani (RHA) to implement a large-scale peace and reconciliation project for 20,000 victims of war from communities across the Irumu, Djugu and Mahagi territories in Ituri District. The project is being implemented in two primary stages.

First Stage: 2009

During the first stage (on target to be completed in 2009), RHA is sending “Peace Caravans” to communities throughout Itrui district. For a week, community members and leaders come together to express and discuss the very concrete conflicts that shape their everyday lives. In total, RHA has held 24 “peace weeks” throughout Ituri.



At one of RHA's Peace Caravans in Ituri. Source: TFV

RHA believes in the power and potential of people to address and solve their own problems, given the right opportunities and resources. Community members are divided into working groups and asked to identify the 5 or 6 major conflicts that they face in their daily lives. One by one, representatives from

38 <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2005/06/01/dr-congo-gold-fuels-massive-human-rights-atrocities>

39 <http://www.columbia.edu/~sa435/IOSev.pdf>

each group stand in front of the hall and deliver their list of grievances into the microphone: land occupied, homes attacked, money extracted, crops and livestock stolen, and more.

Once all parties have had a chance to express their concerns, RHA works with community leaders and representatives to craft concrete strategies to address and ameliorate the major conflicts. At the close of the week, a celebration marks the achievements made and highlights the importance of the weeks to come, when RHA passes the work of reconciliation into the hands of community members themselves.

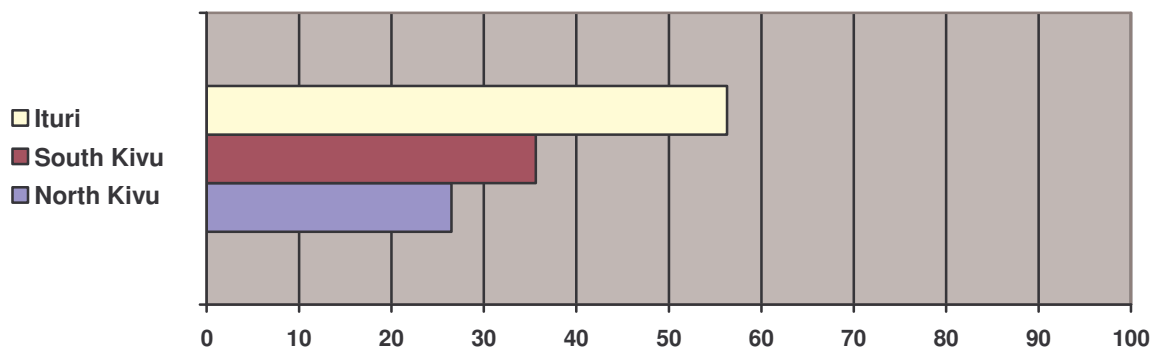
Second Stage: 2010

In its second stage, set to begin in late 2009/early 2010, RHA will begin working more closely with communities to implement and monitor these reconciliation plans, focusing on two major issues: land and displacement.

In Ituri, 75% of people report having been displaced at least once. And most people have been displaced more than once: Iturians report an average of 2.5 displacements per person. The major reasons they cite are armed conflict (90%) and social/ethnic tensions (23%).⁴⁰

These displacements fuel conflict over land. As internally displaced people (IDPs) return to their homes, they often find it occupied. Almost twice as many Iturians as those from the Kivus report having had a conflict with their neighbour over land: 56% versus 27% in North Kivu and 36% in South Kivu. And almost a third of Iturians report having had a conflict over land with an alleged owner. And because the conflict, and thus displacement, played out largely along ethnic lines in Ituri, the return of IDPs can exacerbate ethnic tension.

Percentage of Congolese who have experienced conflict with neighbour over land



These results illustrate a clear need for focused attention on land issues in Ituri. This is necessary to allow those affected by war to begin a process of social healing that can address the seeds of conflict and violence: “the results for Ituri support focused interventions in that district on *inter-communal reconciliation and conflict resolution regarding land issues.*”⁴¹

⁴⁰ Research conducted by UC Berkeley’s Human Rights Center, the International Center for Transitional Justice and Tulane University’s Payson Center for International Development

⁴¹ Research conducted by UC Berkeley’s Human Rights Center, the International Center for Transitional Justice and Tulane University’s Payson Center for International Development

In its second stage, RHA will begin providing this kind of intervention. In addition to focusing in on two core issues – land and displacement – it is instituting two new strategies: (1) a set of sensitization and lobbying efforts to help community members work more closely with local officials on issues of land reform, and (2) a more regular system of monitoring to ensure that reconciliation strategies are successfully implemented.

With help from the TFV, RHA will start to track how its work is making a difference in the lives of community members. With more regular feedback, RHA will be able to provide sustained help to communities as they work toward reconciliation, the most challenging and most important aspect of the “Peace Caravan.”

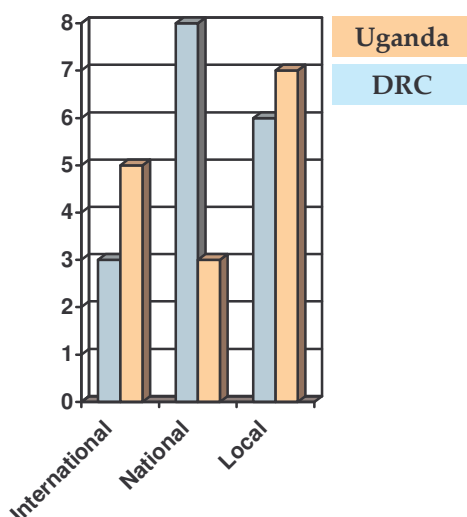
VII. Major Achievements & Lessons Learned - 2009

Through its 29 active projects in northern Uganda and the DRC, the TFV is directly reaching an estimated 39,000 beneficiaries through 32 organisations. Here, we conclude with some of the TFV’s major achievements and lessons learned for 2009.

1. Establishing an operational presence to deliver assistance and prepare for potential Court-ordered reparations

To cover the broad range of needs that victims face, the TFV is working with local and international implementing partners: 32 organisations in total. As noted, these provide a powerful mechanism through which the TFV can accomplish three key goals:

Number of Implementing Partners by Type



- a Meet the immediate needs of victims and their families before the conclusion of a trial; and
- b Conduct broad-reaching, quantitative and qualitative research to understand victims’ needs and attitudes, and inform the Court accordingly.
- c Developing a tested mechanism for delivering assistance to victims recognised as deserving of reparations

TFV partners all have strong community ties and experience working with the variety of crimes and experiences present in conflict and post-conflict settings. They also have experience with service delivery, and employ counsellors, social workers, and health professionals trained to work with individuals in their particular contexts. In some cases, the TFV is supporting larger international organisations to manage several smaller, local sub-grantee organisations (six sub-grantees in the DRC and seven sub-

grantees in northern Uganda). This arrangement has allowed the TFV to work with smaller organisations at the grass-roots level, while building their capacity to support victims in their communities.

The TFV has also provided direct capacity building support to intermediaries. For example, it has been training partners in survey technique to carry out a longitudinal impact evaluation that will measure the effectiveness of TFV support and its impact on victims' attitudes about justice, reparations, and the broader process of healing.

This survey will reach a random sample of victims in both northern Uganda and the DRC, including both victims of sexual violence and conscription, and includes questions such as:

- Do you feel you are an important part of your community?
- What needs to happen before you can forgive the person who harmed you?
- What should be provided to victims of the conflict in your area?
- Should these be provided to individuals or communities or both?
- Is it important to provide symbolic things like memorials to recognize and remember what happened during the conflict?
- In your opinion, what is justice?
- Do you feel that you have received justice?

The survey will be administered twice by the TFV's implementing partners, first this winter and again next fall, to track how the TFV's assistance is making a difference in victims' lives, feelings, and opinions.

2. Meeting the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of 7,500 victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity

As noted, the TFV works through two targeting strategies under its mandate to provide non-Court ordered assistance to ensure that its support reaches victims of crimes under the ICC's jurisdiction: (1) targeting victims of specific crimes, and (2) targeting victimized communities. The majority of TFV projects utilize the first strategy to meet the specific needs of victims of particular crimes:

- victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence, and their children
- youth such as former child combatants, abductees, and orphans
- victims of torture and/or mutilation

In total, active projects in both countries are reaching an estimated 7,500 victims of these crimes, including:

- **1,900** victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence
- **1,000** victims of torture and/or mutilation
- **1,100** ex- child soldiers and/or abductees
- **3,100** children orphaned by war and other vulnerable children under the ICC's jurisdiction

- 400 family members caring for children orphaned by war

Rehabilitating and reintegrating individual victims of such crimes takes time and commitment. Too often, the DDR assistance that children and youth have received from other agencies has fallen short. The TFV therefore works to ensure that its support meets the fundamental, long-term needs of victims and can be transitioned into sustainable self-help initiatives upon project completion.

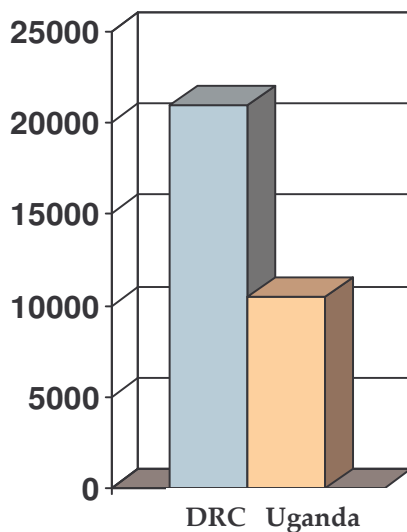
3. Promoting reconciliation and awareness among 31,500 victims at the community level

In addition to meeting the needs linked to specific crimes, the TFV supports projects that target victimized communities to strengthen broader processes of reconciliation and acceptance, and address the underlying causes of violence. These include:

- Assistance to communities victimised from pillaging and/or massacre
- Assistance to communities with longstanding conflicts and chronic violence
- Sensitization and information campaigns for community members and their leaders to reduce the stigma and promote the rights of victims

An estimated 24,000 people from communities in both northern Uganda and the DRC who were victimised by pillage, massacre, and/or displacement are benefiting from TFV supported projects. An additional 7,500 community leaders are being reached in both countries through information campaigns to reduce the stigmatization and discrimination associated with grave crimes and ease victims' reintegration.

Number of Victims Reached at Community Level in Northern Ugandan & the DRC



Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- Sensitization projects to inform community leaders about sexual violence and the rights of victims
- Large-scale community meetings to collectively address the underlying causes of conflict and create solutions

Uganda:

- Sensitization projects to inform community leaders about sexual violence, disability & rights of victims
- Large-scale projects to help communities rebuild themselves through material support and psychological rehabilitation



VIII. Project Annexes

Assistance for victims of sexual and/or gender-based violence

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R1/001 TFV/DRC/2007/R2/036
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	USD 200,000 (beginning in late 2009)
Location(s)	Fizi, Walungu and Uvira territories, South Kivu, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselling, vocational training, education, and village savings and loan association for about 1,250 victims of SGBV• Community mobilization and education to protect and promote the rights of victims of SGBV
Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R1/021
Partner(s)	Action for Living Together (ALT)
Amount	USD 74,878 + USD 70,096 for extension
Location(s)	Bukavu, South Kivu, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe shelter for victims of SGBV seen at Bukavu's Panzi Hospital• Counselling, vocational training, education, and micro-credit for about 370 victims of SGBV• Education grants for 784 of the women's children to attend school• Radio broadcasts to inform community about SGBV & rights of victims
Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R1/022
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	USD 67,490 + USD 30,680 for extension
Location(s)	Bunia, Urumu Territory, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselling, vocational training, and micro-credit for about 200 victims of SGBV
Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R2/029
Partner(s)	Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)
Amount	USD 75,315 + USD 124,142 for extension
Location(s)	Bunia, Urumu Territory, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accelerated education for 67 girls abducted by armed forces who bore children while in captivity• Day care centre integrated into the school to promote the bond between girls and their babies, provide basic healthcare, and reduce the stigma of being both a student and a mother
Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R2/031 TFV/DRC/2007/R2/033 TFV/DRC/2007/R2/043
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	<i>Integrated with TFV/DRC/2007/R1/026 and TFV/DRC/2007/R2/028. NOTE: the total value of all five integrated projects is USD 487,415</i>
Location(s)	Goma, Masisi and Bunia Territories, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselling, vocational training, and vocational equipment for about 550 victims of SGBV



Project Number(s)	TFV/UG/2007/R2/040
Partner(s)	Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)
Amount	EUR 75,000 + EUR 75,000 for extension
Location(s)	Oyam District, Lango Sub-Region, Uganda
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protection, counselling and shelter for about 500 victims of SGBV• Ambulance for victims in need of emergency care• Education, counselling & protection for 320 girls at risk of sexual violence• Sensitization and education for about 7,000 community members and leaders to inform them about sexual violence and the rights of victims

Assistance for children & youth

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R1/011
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	USD 70,573
Location(s)	Mahagi Territory, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselling, vocational training and reintegration kits for about 100 ex-child combatants and/or abductees• Counselling, vocational training and reintegration kits for about 150 children orphaned by war or other vulnerable children• Counselling and material support for about 400 family members caring for children who lost their parents during the war

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R1/019
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	USD 80,663 + USD 93,500 for extension
Location(s)	Bunia, Irumu Territory, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peace and reconciliation activities for about 1,600 children abducted into armed forces, orphaned, or otherwise made vulnerable by war• Activities organized into a two-day "Peace School" where children collectively express their trauma and construct messages of hope through drawings, drama, and other forms of artwork

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R1/026 TFV/DRC/2007/R2/028
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	<i>Integrated with TFV/DRC/2007/R2/031 & TFV/DRC/2007/R2/033 & TFV/DRC/2007/R2/043. NOTE: the total value of all five integrated projects is USD 487,415</i>
Location(s)	Irumu, Djugu, and Mahagi Territories, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselling, vocational training and reintegration kits for about 250 ex-child combatants and/or abductees• Counselling, vocational training and reintegration kits for about 150 children orphaned by war or other vulnerable children

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R2/030
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	USD 74,907 + USD 38,997 for extension
Location(s)	Mahagi Territory; DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselling, vocational training and reintegration kits for about 150 ex-child combatants and/or abductees



Assistance for victims of torture and/or mutilation

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R2/032
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	USD 29,690 + USD 12,957 for extension
Location(s)	Bukavu Territory, South Kivu, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling, micro-credit, and vocational training for 117 victims of torture and mutilation

Project Number(s)	TFV/UG/2007/R1/14(a) TFV/UG/2007/R1/14(b) TFV/UG/2007/R1/14(c)
Partner(s)	Interplast, African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET), & Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT)
Amount	EUR 28,310 + UGX 147,400,000 + UGX 246,249,045
Location(s)	Northern Uganda
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstructive surgery for about 160 victims of mutilation, including nose, ear and lip reconstruction • Transportation to the central hospital in Gulu, Uganda • Post-care follow-up and counselling for victims and their families • Training for TFV partners in trauma-based psychological care

Project Number(s)	TFV/UG/2007/R1/018 TFV/UG/2007/R2/042
Partner(s)	The AVSI Foundation
Amount	EUR 45,000 + EUR 76,625 for extension
Location(s)	Northern Uganda
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosthetic limbs and orthopaedic support for about 140 amputees and other victims of torture or mutilation • Construction of ramps at health centres to allow access for disabled victims • Sensitization and information sessions to inform around 115 community leaders about disability and the rights of disabled people under Uganda's national law

Project Number(s)	TFV/UG/2007/R2/039 TFV/UG/2007/R2/041
Partner(s)	Anglican Diocese of Northern Uganda
Amount	UGX 95,866,200 + UGX 99,990,000 for extension
Location(s)	Gulu and Amuru Districts, Northern Uganda
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Healing of Memory" sessions for about 50 victims of torture and mutilation to express their trauma in small groups and help each other reach a point of forgiveness and reconciliation • Vocational training and school fees for about 100 victims of torture or mutilation • Referrals to healthcare services for victims who are still in need of physical rehabilitation



Assistance to help victims rebuild their communities

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R1/004
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	USD 78,701 (beginning in late 2009)
Location(s)	Aru Territory, Ituri District, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community meetings and workshops for about 450 victims to resolve conflicts at root of local violence • Counselling for victims most traumatized by war

Project Number(s)	TFV/DRC/2007/R2/027
Partner(s)	Reseu Haki na Amani (RHA)
Amount	USD 99,865 + USD 109,000 for extension
Location(s)	Irumu, Djugu, and Mahagi Territories, Ituri District, DRC
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale community "Peace Weeks" for about 20,000 victims members in 24 communities throughout Ituri district • Community representatives work together to identify sources of violence revolving around land and displacement and strategize about solutions • Counselling for those victims most traumatized by war

Project Number(s)	TFV/UG/2007/R1/003 TFV/UG/2007/R1/005 TFV/UG/2007/R1/006 TFV/UG/2007/R1/016 TFV/UG/2007/R1/020 TFV/UG/2007/R1/025 TFV/UG/2007/R2/035
Partner(s)	CONFIDENTIAL
Amount	UGX 597,032,889 + UGX 600,000,310 for extension
Location(s)	Northern Uganda
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TFV is working with one international NGO to help manage seven Ugandan sub-grantees implanting a broad range of services for about 950 victims throughout northern Uganda • Projects combine a variety of activities, including micro-credit, village savings and loan associations, vocational training, counselling, and more

Project Number(s)	TFV/UG/2007/R2/038
Partner(s)	Northeast Chilli Producers Association (NECPA)
Amount	UGX 188,700,000 + UGX 190,000,000 for extension
Location(s)	Lira and Amuria Districts, Uganda
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling, training, seeds, animals, and farm tools for about 2,700 victims in the process of rebuilding their communities. • Victims work through farmers' collectives to sell their crops and establish durable sources of livelihood

Trust Fund for Victims Programme Overview

Mission: To support programs which address the harm resulting from the crimes under the jurisdiction of ICC by assisting the victims to return to a dignified and contributory life within their communities.

Goals

- Identifying and raising awareness on the situation of victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Mobilizing resources and partners in reaching out to these victims and helping them rebuild their lives and the ones of their communities.
- Advocating for, and facilitate a dignified reconciliation within the affected families, communities, states, striving to prevent the reoccurrence of such crimes in the future.

Reparations Purpose: to implement awards of *reparations** to ensure hope, dignity and empowerment for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Restitution

Compensation

Rehabilitation

Other Resources Purpose: to implement the mandate to use *other resources* to ensure hope, dignity and empowerment for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Physical
Rehabilitation

Psychological
Rehabilitation

Material
Support

Cross-cutting issues:

- Mainstreaming gender to include addressing the impact of gender-based violence and other sexual violence of women, men and children
- Integrating and rehabilitating child soldiers and abductees into communities, including support of intergenerational responses
- Promoting community reconciliation, acceptance; and rebuilding community safety nets
- Addressing issues of victims' stigma, discrimination, and/or trauma

* Article 75 (1) of the Rome Statute of the International Court states that the Court shall establish principles relating to reparations. The Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, A/RES/60/147 divide reparations into 5 categories: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. Until the Court has developed a reparations strategy, the TFV has identified restitution, compensation and rehabilitation as key priorities and will ensure that satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition -prevention- are integrated into the abovementioned categories.

Make a donation to the Trust Fund for Victims

The survivors of the gravest human rights crimes need your help. We welcome financial contributions from private individuals, foundations, corporations and other entities, and we will use these voluntary contributions to fund projects to the benefit of victims.

You can make a financial contribution through the following TFV accounts:

€ account

Bank Name: ABN AMRO
Account Holder: Trust Fund for Victims
Currency: Euro (€)
Account Number: 53.84.65.115
IBAN: NL54ABNA0538465115
Swift: ABNANL2A

US \$ account

Bank Name: ABN AMRO
Account Holder: Trust Fund for Victims
Currency: US dollar (US \$)
Account Number: 53.86.21.176
IBAN: NL87ABNA0538621176
Swift: ABNANL2A

Bank address:
Postbus 949
NL-3000 DD Rotterdam
Netherlands

Please note that the FORTIS account is being closed during 2009.

For more information, or to make a donation, please contact us at trust.fund@icc-cpi.int.