

Examples of support provided by the Fund

- A project, operating in Ecuador, Thailand and Tanzania, provided legal assistance advice and representation to torture victims among asylum-seekers and refugees, in their first country of refuge, to enable them to assert their human rights in these countries, for example, right to employment, right to education and social benefits.
- A project, based in Switzerland, specialized in providing emergency assistance, including medical evacuation, to victims of torture in more than 27 countries. In selected cases, legal assistance is provided to bring cases at domestic and international courts as well as UN Human Rights mechanisms
- An association of lawyers in Guinea provided legal and medical assistance to victims of torture identified during their monitoring of places of detention in the country. The project aims at documenting torture cases, as well as fighting impunity and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- In Rwanda, through its grantees, the Fund contributes to the rehabilitation of victims of genocide, including by funding the retrovirals and nutritional packages for AIDS victims, sometimes at terminal stage of the disease, who became HIV positive as a result of rape.
- In Kenya, a grantee of the Fund rehabilitates about 200 torture survivors per year, including those of post-election violence, providing free physical/medical assistance. The physical examinations are carried out using a locally adapted format of the Istanbul Protocol and the findings are documented to provide forensic evidence of torture.
- In Southern Iraq, the Fund supported a project to provide reconstructive surgery to dozens of Iraqi victims of punitive ear amputation – a brutal method of torture systematically used under Ba’athist regime.
- In Italy, two organizations supported by the Fund have formed music, theatre and dance groups as part of their rehabilitation programmes. These activities can empower refugees victims to regain a sense of control over their bodies and voices that have been affected by torture and encourage them to take first steps toward building a new life.
- A grantee in Sri Lanka has set up a self-employment venture for victims who have lost their occupations as a result of torture. In consultation with project field officers, coordinators from the organization assess the employment status and capacity of beneficiaries, and consider opportunities that may be available in the local village. Successful ventures include fishing, vegetable gardening, carpentry, sewing, agriculture etc. the project is helping victims to re-establish their livelihoods, reintegrate in to their society and thereby live with dignity