



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

# United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

## *Summary of Grants Awarded in 2021*

More than 40 million people around the world remain enslaved today and the number is increasing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery is one of the UN anti-slavery mechanisms contributing towards the elimination of contemporary slavery globally. The Fund assists thousands of victims by awarding annual grants to civil society organizations that provide humanitarian, medical, psychological, legal, social assistance as well as vocational training to victims of contemporary slavery.

The Fund is characterised by its unique victim-centred approach and its universality. Its impact is felt on the ground in the everyday lives of victims and survivors. The Fund continuously shines a spotlight on contemporary forms of slavery, including serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, traditional slavery, trafficking in persons, sexual slavery, the worst forms of child labour, early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives and other forms of contemporary slavery. Since its establishment by the United Nations General Assembly in 1991 (resolution 46/122), the Fund has awarded more than four million dollars to 450 organizations, ranging from grassroots initiatives to well-established non-governmental organizations, providing rehabilitation and redress to tens of thousands of victims in all regions of the world.

In 2021, the Fund is awarding **37** annual grants in **30** countries, for a total of **\$729,650** - with an average grant size of \$20,000. The Fund will assist approximately **17,000** survivors of contemporary slavery and will continue to support organizations based in countries where UN funding is at times the only channel of support.

This document provides an overview and summaries of projects that were awarded grants in 2021.

## **AFRICAN GROUP**

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### **Centre D'Etudes Sur le Leadership et la Promotion des Droits Humains: Democratic Republic of Congo**

Centre D'Etudes Sur le Leadership et la Promotion des Droits Humains operates in South Kivu, a region prone to abductions, forced conscriptions and sexual violence. The project supported by the UN Slavery Fund provides holistic assistance (medical, psychological, social, legal, educational, and humanitarian) to 30 victims, including children, of sexual slavery and forced labour. The project also focuses on family reunification and reintegration of victims and provides particular attention to LGBTI victims.

### **Action des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda (ACADHOSHA): Democratic Republic of Congo**

Action des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda (ACADHOSHA) implements a project in the territories of Mwenga and Shabunda in the South Kivu Province, the artisanal mining sites. The project supported by the UN Slavery Fund provides psychosocial and legal support to 405 indigenous peoples in local communities who are victims of natural resource exploitation, including 332 child victims in the context of work in mining sites and sexual slavery.

### **Association Arc-en-Ciel: Gabon**

Association Arc-en-Ciel is part of Caritas Gabon and is run by the Congregation of Carmelite Sisters of Charity – Vedruna. The project supported by the UN Slavery Fund provides holistic assistance (medical, psychosocial, legal, educational, vocational and humanitarian) to 50 child victims of the worst forms of child labour including forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced and early marriages. Association Arc-en-Ciel further organizes summer camps for children to foster their integration and runs two shelters for children in need. The organization works closely with UNICEF and IOM.

### **Life Bloom Service International: Kenya**

Life Bloom Service International is a grass-roots organization based in Naivasha, Kenya. The project supported by the UN Slavery Fund provides specialized medical, psychological, legal, vocational and humanitarian assistance to 35 victims of child trafficking, trafficking for forced labour, servitude and child commercial sexual exploitation. The organization's former beneficiaries provide assistance through support groups. The organization also cooperates with UNODC.

### **Pathfinders Justice Initiative Inc.: Nigeria**

Pathfinders Justice Initiative is based in Benin City, focusing on combating trafficking and providing rehabilitation to victims of the practice, while creating a context to address the root causes. The project supported by the UN Slavery Fund provides a customised rehabilitation treatment plan to 40 women subjected to forced servitude and forced labour, debt bondage, and forced marriage. The victims benefit from comprehensive medical, psychological, social and legal assistance, as well as shelter and financial support. The project also collaborates with several vocational skills training centres to enable victims to access education.

### **Maison de la Gare: Senegal**

Maison de la Gare assists children attending traditional Quranic schools, known as Talibé, subjected to worst forms of child labour principally forced begging, by helping to integrate them into the schooling system and society. The project supported by the UN Slavery Fund assists 1180 Talibé children by providing them with medical treatment, sanitary facilities, education, professional skills training and emergency sleeping arrangements, as well as sports classes free of charge.

### **Creuset T.: Togo**

CREUSET T operates in central and northern Togo through its headquarters in Sokode and four local branches, where children are most prone to trafficking and forced and early marriage. The organization runs a transit centre, supported by UNICEF and recognised by UNDP. The project supported by the UN Slavery Fund provides comprehensive holistic assistance to 327 beneficiaries. The services include psychosocial, legal and medical assistance, in addition to family mediation, family reintegration, advocacy, awareness and social mobilization.

### **Centre KEKELI de l'association des Soeurs Carmélites de la Chartié Vedruna: Togo**

Centre KEKELI assists primarily girls from Togo, who were subjected to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, or forced and early marriage. With the support of the Fund, the project assists 100 beneficiaries by covering medical expenses and educational and vocational training. It also provides psychological support, legal accompaniment and humanitarian assistance. Centre KEKELI also facilitates search, visits and reintegration in families. The organization contributes to strengthening the foster family system and to improving access to justice for child victims of sexual violence.

### **Willow International: Uganda**

Willow International runs client-centred services, including safe shelter and direct assistance (psychosocial support, healthcare, family tracing and reintegration support, education and economic empowerment, legal aid, and basic needs) to victims of child trafficking and trafficking for sexual exploitation. Under the project supported by the Fund, Willow International is assisting 250 beneficiaries in 3 shelters and follow-up care outside the shelters. Willow International currently acts as the Secretariat of the Coalition against Trafficking in Persons Uganda.

## **ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP**

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### **Afghanistan Libre: Afghanistan**

Afghanistan Libre identifies and assists cases of forced and early marriages in Kabul. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, Afghanistan Libre provides medical, psychological, social and educational assistance to 800 women and girls who are victims of forced or child marriage, domestic violence and servitude. In addition, the project provides basic health and hygiene education.

### **Liberty Shared: Cambodia**

Liberty Shared, based in Phnom Penh, provides specialized legal representation to Cambodian child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the project focuses on cross-border litigation aimed to disrupt the criminal networks profiting from trafficking of Cambodian victims. For example, it lodges claims for monetary compensation on behalf of victims. It is also providing trainings to other stakeholders contributing to combatting trafficking, such as NGOs and travel agencies.

### **Kinonia karitas kypros (Caritas Cyprus): Cyprus**

Kinonia karitas kypros (Caritas Cyprus) runs a day centre for migrants and asylum-seekers, where victims of trafficking and contemporary slavery are initially identified and provided with medical, social, legal and humanitarian assistance. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides shelter and holistic assistance to 165 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrant victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

### ***Jan Sahas Social Development Society: India***

Jan Sahas Social Development Society is a grassroots organization, which focuses on empowerment of former manual scavengers and their family members through skills training, capacity, leadership and institution building. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides social and legal assistance, as well as vocational training, to 1,700 women survivors of manual scavenging. The project focuses on the eradication of the practice of manual scavenging and on ensuring comprehensive rehabilitation in five states in India.

### ***Vizhuthugal Education Development Trust: India***

Vizhuthugal Education Development Trust is a grassroots organization based in Tamil Nadu State. The project funded by the UN Slavery Fund contributes to providing holistic assistance to 1,708 inter-state migrants, including children, from extremely marginalised backgrounds who have survived trafficking and forced labour. Through its experience in addressing forced labour and rescuing victims of trafficking, the organization has developed a network of workers in the garments industry, including spinning mills, who directly identify victims of trafficking and refer them to the NGO.

### ***Anti-Racism Movement: Lebanon***

Anti-Racism Movement was established in 2010 by Lebanese feminist activists, in collaboration with migrant workers, including migrant domestic workers. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization assists 30 migrant women subjected to forced labour and domestic servitude by providing them with legal representation, social assistance and psychological support. It also advocates against the Kafala system, whereby employers sponsor foreign domestic workers with limited rights. The organization also runs a community centre for migrant domestic workers.

### ***Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON): Nepal***

The Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON) focuses on empowering women and girls by enhancing their political, economic, legal and social status through mainstreaming gender in public policies, plans and programmes. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides holistic assistance to 55 victims of trafficking for forced labour, debt bondage and sexual exploitation.

### ***LPOURAKHI: Nepal***

Pourakhi is an organization managed by Nepali women who are former migrants. The organization was established in 2003, by former women migrant workers with the objective of ensuring the rights of such women throughout the process of labour migration (pre-employment, pre-departure, employment stage, post-arrival support programs). With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides legal assistance, counselling, awareness-raising and temporary shelter home to 250 victims of domestic migrant workers. The organization collaborates with the Ministry of labour, the IOM and ILO.

### ***Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP): Pakistan***

Umeed Partnership Pakistan (UPP) focuses on empowering women, street children and transgender persons through education, skills training and awareness-raising programs. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization will provide holistic (psychological, medical, legal and educational) assistance to 500 slavery survivors (mostly women) from religious minority groups subjected to forced labour, debt-bondage and servitude, in the region of Punjab.

### ***Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization: Pakistan***

Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization was founded in 1997 by a group of community workers. The organization focuses on providing psychosocial counselling, medical assistance and non-formal education, to victims of worst forms of child labour, particularly in the agriculture sector. With the support of the Fund, the organization assists 250 children in 25 villages of the Bahawalpur District.

### ***Preda Foundation: Philippines***

The Preda Foundation, established in 1974, has 46 years of experience assisting victims of exploitation and abuse. The organization has an established victim-centred approach and some staff members are former beneficiaries of the organization. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides medical, psychological, social and legal assistance to 30 girls subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.

## ***EASTERN EUROPE GROUP***

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### ***Different & Equal: Albania***

Different & Equal is providing safe shelter and holistic reintegration services (medical, legal, psychological, social, education and vocational training) to victims of trafficking, exploitation and abuse. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization will assist 80 beneficiaries, mostly Albanian citizens, trafficked abroad. Different & Equal is the only service provider in Tirana and one of the five shelters operating in Albania. In addition, the organization is cooperating closely with State institutions for capacity building.

### ***Association Medica Zenica: Bosnia and Herzegovina***

Medica Zenica was established in 1993 and is based in Zenica. It runs a safe house for women victims of violence and a children's house for street children at risk of trafficking and exploitation; as well as a 24/7 SOS help-line for victims of violence. Under this project funded by the UN Slavery Fund, Medica Zenica is offering shelter through the safe house, psycho-social services, medical support, legal aid and economic empowerment through vocational training, to 12 women and children victims of human trafficking.

### ***Novi Put: Bosnia and Herzegovina***

Novi Put was established in 2010 and is based in Mostar. The work of the organization focuses on prevention of human trafficking and assistance for children victims of the practice, through a 24/7 help line, as well as legal, psychological, social and education services provided in their counselling centre. Under this project, Novi Put is assisting five women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 30 children victims of sexual slavery, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced begging and domestic servitude. The majority of the project's beneficiaries are children from the Roma community.

### ***Aryyjan Karakol: Kyrgyzstan***

Aryyjan Karakol, established in 2011, is based in Karakol and addresses a traditional practice known as 'bride kidnapping'. The organization maintains a hotline and an emergency shelter and collaborates with the local police department. With the grant of the UN slavery Fund, Aryyjan Karakol will deliver psychological, medical and legal consultation to 500 victims of forced and early marriage. Victims will also benefit from training in income generating activities, such as sewing and hairdressing, as well as literacy courses.

### ***Civic Assistance Committee: Russian Federation***

The Civic Assistance Committee assists migrants and refugees subjected to trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, as well as forced labour. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization assists 20 beneficiaries by providing them legal support (such as submission of claims against the employers or recovery of travel documents), as well as social and humanitarian assistance. It also assists in facilitating the return of victims to their countries of origin.

### ***ASTRA: Serbia***

ASTRA focuses its activities on direct victim assistance and reintegration, concurrently with prevention, education, public awareness raising, research and networking. It also supports building a functional and efficient counter-trafficking system. Under this project, the organization operates a 24/7 SOS hotline and a direct victim assistance program, launched in 2002, that is offering legal, psychological and medical assistance, as well as assistance in the process of return to the country of origin. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, ASTRA will assist 33 Serbian nationals trafficked domestically and abroad.

## ***LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN GROUP***

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### ***Centro de apoio e pastoral do migrante (CAMI): Brazil***

The Centro de apoio e pastoral do migrante (CAMI), based in Sao Paulo, provides legal and humanitarian assistance and vocational training to migrants, mainly from other Latin American countries, subjected to forced labour in the textile industry. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides social, legal and educational support to 40 Bolivian victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour in the textile industry. In addition, the organization maps conditions of sewing workshops and runs awareness raising activities on the rights of migrants subjected to forced labour.

### ***Centro de Defensa de la Vida y los Derechos Humanos Carmen Bascarán: Brazil***

The Centro de Defensa de la Vida y los Derechos Humanos Carmen Bascarán was established in 1996 in Maranhão, and has received a number of prizes in recognition for their work. With the assistance of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization will provide social, legal and humanitarian assistance to 100 Brazilian victims of forced labour in agriculture. The organization works with the governmental Mobile Inspection Group to release workers and collaborates with the various state actors.

### ***Corporación ONG Raíces: Chile***

The Corporación ONG Raíces is specialized in research, awareness-raising, prevention, monitoring and advocating for the development of public policies, as well as training of key actors, in particular on issues of sexual violence and trafficking in persons. It also provides holistic direct assistance and with the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, 20 child victims of commercial sexual exploitation will access social, educational and humanitarian aid.

### ***Fundación Alas de Colibrí: Ecuador***

The Fundación Alas de Colibrí is a grassroots organization based in Quito, which is part of a national human rights network and works closely with the IOM. With the support of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides medical, psychological, social, legal and humanitarian assistance to 35 children and adolescents survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.

### ***Consejo Nacional de Desplazados (CONDEG): Guatemala***

The Consejo Nacional de Desplazados de Guatemala (CONDEG) is a grassroots indigenous rights organization, committed to ending contemporary slavery in the palm oil sector. The only organization active in the isolated region of Peten, it focuses on documenting labour violations and providing legal advice on labour cases. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides social and legal assistance to 700 indigenous Mayan Q'eqchi victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour in palm oil plantations.

### ***Restavek Freedom Foundation: Haiti***

The Restavek Freedom Foundation focuses on ending child slavery, in particular a form of domestic servitude known as "restavek" in Haiti. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides education and training to 250 victims of child servitude and traditional slavery. The assistance also includes covering tuition fees, school supplies and food, with the purpose of facilitating the employment opportunities. In extreme circumstances, the organization also removes children from the host families and place them in a safe group care shelter.

## **WESTERN EUROPE & OTHERS GROUP**

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### ***Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH): Australia***

The Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking in Humans is an established faith-based organization specialised in combatting trafficking in human beings and has a seat at the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, it provides holistic assistance to 19 victims of trafficking from Malaysia, Thailand, Sudan and Australia, submitted to forced and early marriage, forced labour and sexual exploitation. The organization has developed an innovative system of voluntary companionship to assist its beneficiaries.

### ***Comité contre l'esclavage Moderne (CCEM): France***

The Comité contre l'esclavage Moderne (CCEM) focuses on combating all forms of slavery, particularly domestic servitude and human trafficking. The organization has an extensive network of national and international partnerships. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, CCEM provides multi-faceted assistance to 40 victims of domestic servitude and forced labour, with a strong legal and social component. The strong litigation component includes representing landmark cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

### ***Migrant Rights Centre Ireland: Ireland***

The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland focuses on the promotion of justice, empowerment and equality for migrant workers and their families. In its drop-in clinic, the organization provides free legal information and advocacy services to migrant workers experiencing violations of their rights at the workplace. It assists its beneficiaries to lodge formal complaints, including submitting claims for unpaid wages and other violations of their employment rights. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides legal, social and psychological assistance to 19 migrant victims of forced labour and domestic servitude.

### **FairWork: Netherlands**

FairWork focuses on combating human trafficking and forced labour. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides legal and social assistance to 100 victims of forced labour and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation in the agriculture sector. It operates through its cultural mediators. In addition, the organization informs victims about their rights and legal possibilities, with the aim to empowering them and preventing their return to exploitative situations.

### **Helen Bamber Foundation: United Kingdom**

The Helen Bamber Foundation provides comprehensive rehabilitative services. With the grant of the UN Slavery Fund, the organization provides a range of individually tailored integrated assistance through a three-stage process: stabilisation, intervention and integration. Ninety victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour will be assisted. Services include psychological and physical rehabilitation, welfare and housing support, as well as creative and employment skills programmes.

***In 2021 the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery is present in 30 countries in all world regions***

