

Annual report

2024



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

This report is a descriptive overview of the Global Survivors Fund's activities between January and December 2024. The key figures used in the Contexts in focus pertain to the start of a project up until December 2024. Figures within the text are applicable only to 2024 when described as such.

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

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

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

Foreword

2024 was a year marked by ongoing conflict, with sexual violence continuing to be used as a weapon of war. With this, the urgency of reparation grows.

Time and time again, survivors have told us that reparation cannot wait, even in the most challenging situations. This year, we began to explore how reparative measures could be delivered more swiftly, especially in humanitarian contexts. Our visit to Chad, to meet with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence from Sudan and those supporting them, marked the beginning of a new effort: laying the foundation for reparation in humanitarian settings. The question driving us forward is simple - can we reduce the time between crimes being committed and survivors receiving co-created reparation?

Our work in Ukraine has shown that it is possible for survivors to receive some forms of reparation, even amid ongoing conflict. In 2024, survivors began to receive interim financial compensation and access to critical services via our urgent interim reparation project. This pilot, co-created with project participants, the government, and civil society, could be the start of a fully-fledged domestic reparation programme to reach thousands of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other human rights violations in the coming years.

This year also marked the first year of putting into motion our new [Strategic Plan](#) (2024-2030). Built in collaboration with survivors and partners, it also includes our newly updated theory of change. This reflects four core priorities: embedding co-creation in all aspects of our work, scaling up interim reparative measures, exploring innovative financing for reparation, and prioritising children as reparation rights-holders. This framework ensures that every project we undertake moves us closer to a world where survivors can access the reparation they are owed - quickly and with dignity.

In line with these strategic priorities, we deepened our focus on children, with an emphasis on education as a form of reparation. In Nigeria, our partner the Neem Foundation has been working with children affected by conflict for several years. During a visit to their school in Borno, our Executive Director saw first-hand how trauma-informed education is serving as a means of reparation, supporting children through value-based education and psychological support at school. Once sites of extreme violence, schools in Nigeria can become safe havens for healing. Owing to Neem's success, we hope to replicate this flagship project with children affected by conflict-related sexual violence elsewhere.

None of this work would be possible without the support of our donors, nor without the dedication of our team and extraordinary and growing network of partners, for which we are entirely grateful.



Nadia Murad, GSF Co-founder and Board Member, Dr Denis Mukwege, GSF Co-founder and Chair of the Board, and Esther Dingemans, GSF Executive Director © Nadia's Initiative and Magali Girardin

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ACBIT

Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita

AD MSP

Association of Detainees and Missing
of Sednaya Prison

AFJC

Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique

AJAR

Asia Justice and Rights

ANRP

*Alliance nationale de plaidoyer pour les réparations
des victimes des conflits en RDC*, National
Advocacy Alliance for Reparations for Victims of
Conflict in the DRC

ASF

Avocats Sans Frontières Belgique

AVIPA

*Association des Victimes, Parents et Amis
du 28 Septembre 2009*

AYA

Active Youth Agency

CALDH

Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos

CAR

Central African Republic

CGE

Centre for Girls Education

CEELI

Central and Eastern European Law Initiative

CIAF-RCA

Comité interAfricain-Centrafrrique

CICPG

Center for Inclusive Governance Peace and Justice

CNAV

*Coalition Nationale des Associations de Victimes
de Centrafrique*

CONAVIGUA

Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala

COPADEH

*Comisión Presidencial por la Paz y los
Derechos Humanos*

COVICI

*Confédération des Organisations des Victimes
de la Crise Ivoirienne*

CRA

Compensation and Reparation Authority

CTRH

Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing

CVJRR

*Commission vérité, justice, réparation et
réconciliation*, Truth, Justice, Reparation
and Reconciliation Commission

CVT

Center for Victims of Torture

DRC

Democratic Republic of the Congo

ECAP

Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial

FONAREV

*Fonds National des Réparations des Victimes des
Violences Sexuelles liées aux Conflits et des Victimes
des Crimes contre la paix et la sécurité de l'humanité*

FRAD

Future Resilience and Development Foundation

GREFFA

*Groupe de Recherche d'Étude, de Formation,
Femme-Action*

GRS

Global Reparations Study

GSF

Global Survivors Fund

HR

Human Resources

ICC

International Criminal Court

ICJ

International Commission of Jurists

ICTJ

International Center for Transitional Justice

IRM

Interim reparative measures

ISIS

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

JEP

Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz, Special
Jurisdiction for Peace

LGBTQIA+

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

LRA

Lord's Resistance Army

MNSVS-RDC

*Mouvement National des Survivant.e.s de Viols
et Violences Sexuelles en RD Congo*

MOSUCA

*Mouvement des Survivantes de Violences
Sexuelles en Centrafrique*

MSF

Médecins Sans Frontières

NI

Nadia's Initiative

OGDH

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

PRADET

Psychosocial Recovery and Development
in East Timor

RfP

Rights for Peace

SABEH

Saude Ba Ema Hotu

SEMA

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

SOFEPADI

Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement

SOS IJM

SOS Information Juridique Multisectorielle

STW

Steward Women

TRC

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

TPO

Transcultural Psychosocial Organization

UN

United Nations

UNGA

United Nations General Assembly

USAID

United States Agency for International
Development

WALT

Women Act for Living Together

WILDAF

Women In Law and Development in Africa

YIAT

Youth Initiative Against Terrorism

YSL

Yazidi Survivors Law

WHOQOL-BREF

World Health Organization Quality
of Life: Brief Version

Definitions

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

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

CO-CREATION

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

CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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

IMPACT MEASUREMENTS

The process of measuring the long-term effects of the project on survivors' lives. A baseline evaluation, conducted before the implementation of interim reparative measures, establishes a reference point to assess the current impact of conflict-related sexual violence on survivors' lives. Interim and final evaluations allow us to monitor and assess progress during and after the project. The goal is to understand the impact of the measures on survivors by investigating changes in their lives at the individual, family, and community level. The evaluation utilises participatory methods including a qualitative component (Photovoice) and a quantitative component (survey).

INTERIM REPARATIVE MEASURES

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

KINSHASA DECLARATION

A [declaration](#), issued by survivors and victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence from 12 African countries, calling for comprehensive and survivor-centred reparations. The declaration builds on the Kinshasa Principles, developed by survivors during a hearing on reparations held in 2021.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

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

PHOTOVOICE

A participatory qualitative method where survivors take photos as a way of expressing their experiences. This is followed by a concept mapping exercise, where survivors discuss key themes emerging from the photos.

REPARATION (THE RIGHT TO)

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

REPARATION MEASURES

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

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

Any act, including attempted or threatened, that is sexual in nature and is carried out because of his/her/their sex, gender, or lack thereof.

STEERING COMMITTEE

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

SURVIVOR / VICTIM

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

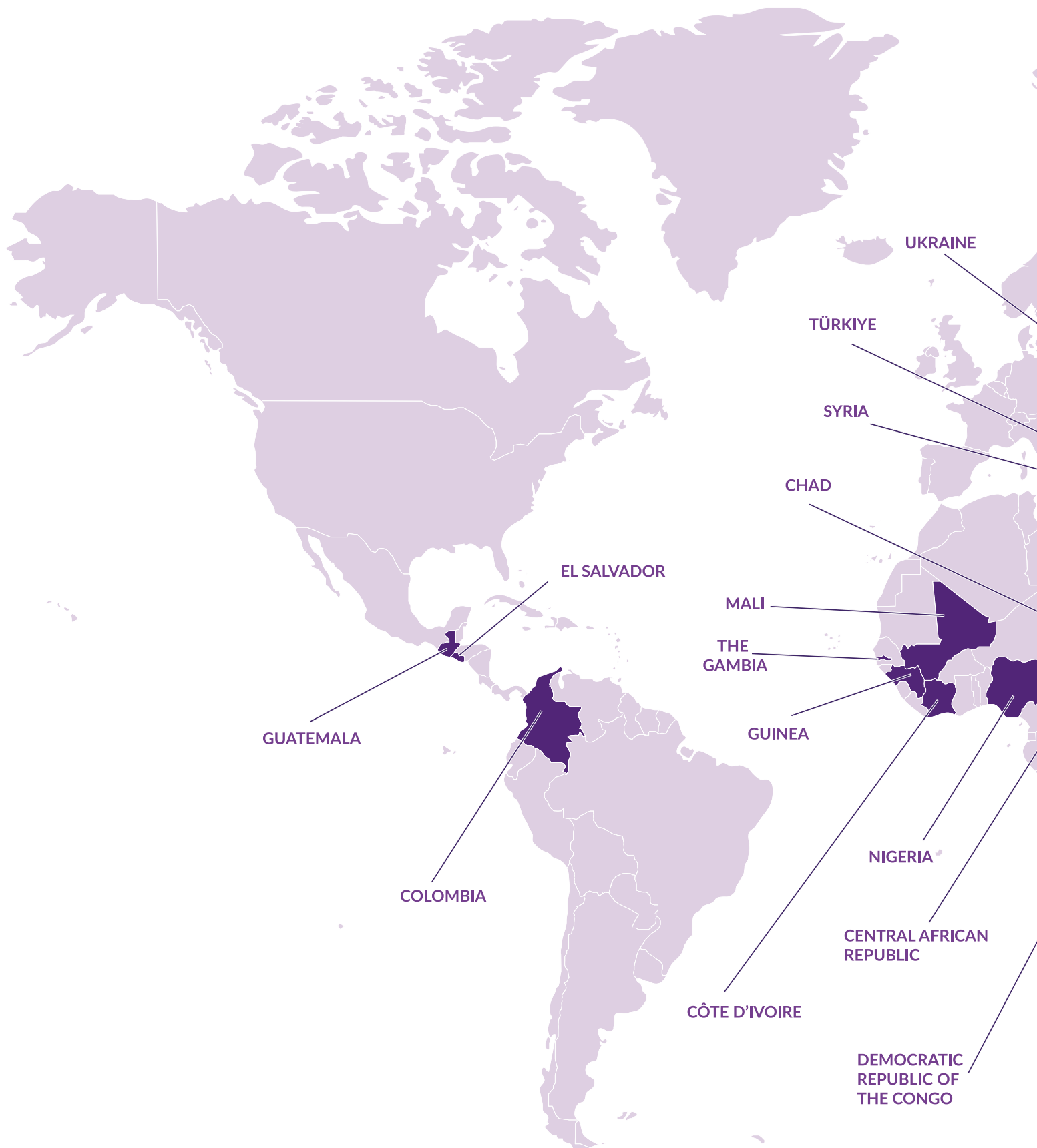
SURVIVOR-CENTRED APPROACH

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

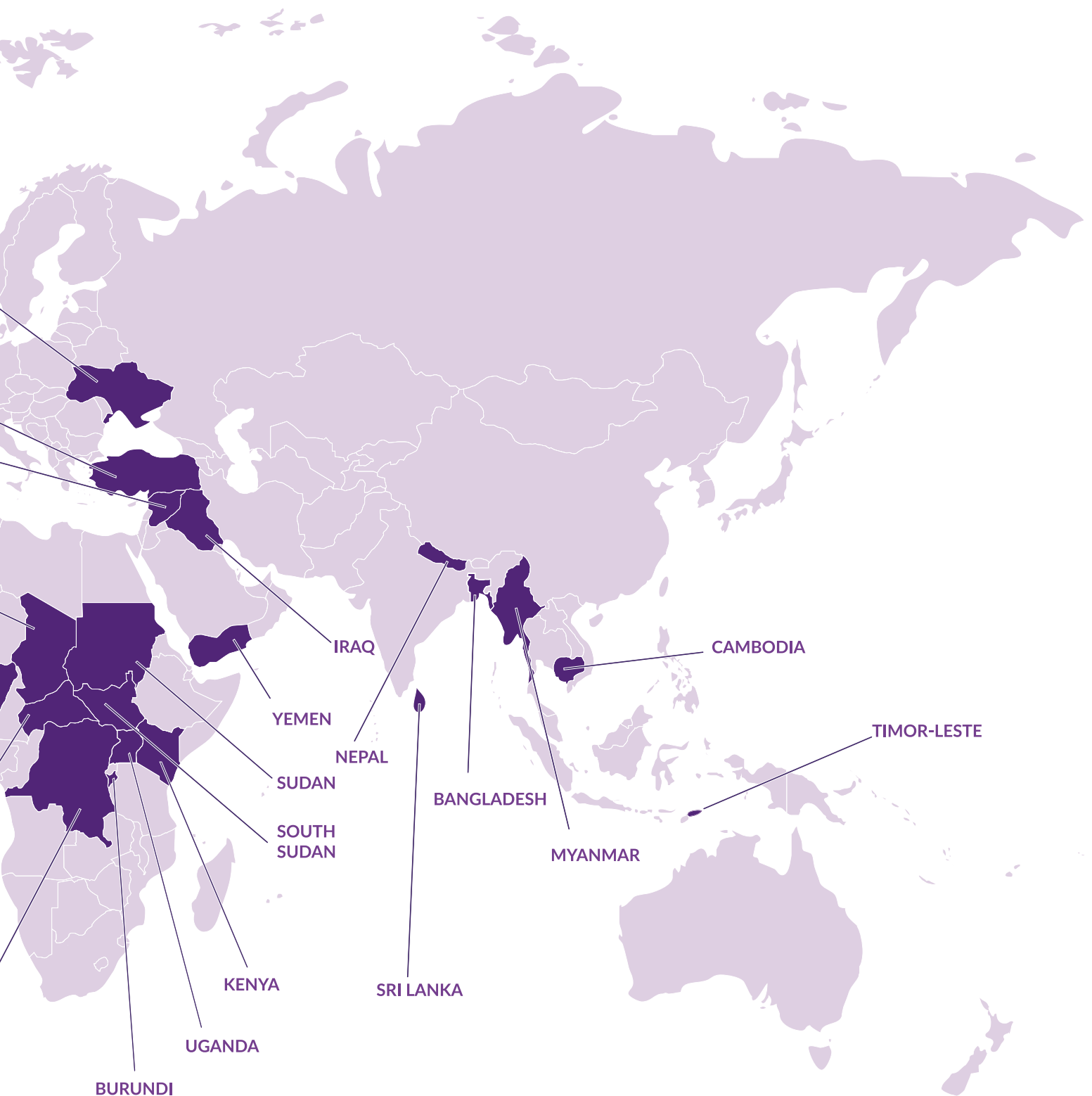
URGENT INTERIM REPARATION

Urgent interim reparation is an immediate response acknowledging a violation, providing a remedy for the most urgent needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, to avoid irreparable or exacerbation of harm. For example, survivors urgently need access to rehabilitation services and to monetary compensation, and cannot wait for reparations from those held responsible. Urgent interim reparation does not foreclose victims’ rights to full, adequate, and prompt reparation.

Where we work



The countries highlighted on this map are where GSF is currently conducting activities, including the Global Reparations Study, the provision of interim reparative measures, advocacy at national and international level, and technical support to governments.



How we work



Participants in a workshop share their own reparation journey in Seville, Spain.
May 2024 © Jaime Martínez

GSF works to enhance access to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe. Our approach is based on three core pillars: Act, Advocate, and Guide. Each pillar is shaped by the needs and realities of survivors, ensuring that reparation is accessible, meaningful, and transformative. We clearly see the intersection between our three pillars of work. Through them we draw knowledge, lessons learnt and best practices, aiming to share this with others who want to advance the right to reparation of survivors. Our work is informed by survivors at every stage, ensuring that reparation is not only a legal obligation but a transformative process. This co-creation paves the way for adequate and effective reparations.

Act

GSF demonstrates that the harms experienced by survivors can and must be urgently addressed through reparation. While States bear the responsibility to provide reparation, many remain unwilling or unable to do so. In such cases, we work alongside survivors and civil society organisations to co-create projects that provide interim reparative measures (IRM), which include medical and psychosocial care, compensation for livelihood projects, and education.

When States are willing to provide reparation and recognise their international obligation to do so, we also act by setting up reparation projects that could set the foundations for national reparation programmes.

Through these initiatives, we show that reparation is possible, even in challenging contexts. We believe that it is never too late to act. Interim reparative measures transform the lives of survivors, and serve as models for sustainable, State-led reparation programmes.

Guide

We provide expertise and technical support to governments and other stakeholders committed to developing and implementing reparation programmes. Through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and collaboration, we work to shape laws and policies that are survivor-centred.

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

Advocate

We work at the local, regional, and international levels to promote policies that prioritise and advance reparation. Too often, decisions about reparation are made without the participation of survivors. We ensure that their voices are central to these conversations, advocating for policies that reflect their experiences and needs.

By engaging with governments, international bodies, and civil society organisations, we work to make survivor-centred reparation a reality. Our advocacy is informed by the experiences of survivors, ensuring that policies are both survivor-centric and effective.

The Reparation Praxis Hub

To deepen our understanding of how reparation works in practice, we established the Reparation Praxis Hub (or the Hub), supporting a wide range of actors in developing informed, impactful national reparation programmes.

The Hub is dedicated to examining what makes reparation effective in survivors' lives. It seeks to provide practical tools and insights for policymakers, practitioners, and survivors, ensuring that reparation efforts are grounded in real-world experiences. The Hub draws on lessons learned from our Global Reparations Studies and our projects across the globe to address key questions on reparation and policy programming.

Impact

In 2024, GSF activities supported and accompanied 42 partners in 26 countries. Since our creation in 2019, we have provided interim reparative measures to 4,327 survivors. Our evaluations, at the beginning, middle and end of each project, allow us to follow survivors' progress before, during and after the delivery of interim reparative measures. At the outset, they often state they feel beyond repair - but by the time the project ends, they express a renewed sense of dignity, healing and justice. In 2024, we continued to see this and more, from the improved quality of life for survivors of Syrian detention in Türkiye to the adoption of historic reparation legislation in Ukraine. Here is a summary of our impact this year:



Survivors plant a tree in the memorial garden created as a collective reparative measure in Sinjar, Iraq.
December 2023 © Nadia's Initiative

Interim reparative measures

As our interim reparative measures projects in Iraq, Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) drew to a close, our impact monitoring illustrated the improvements across various areas of survivors' lives. Survivor evaluations were based on metrics derived from methodology created by the [Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement](#) (NSCR), and the WHOQOL-BREF (World Health Organization Quality of Life: Brief Version) questionnaire, which measures changes in an individual's physical, psychological, and environmental wellbeing out of a score of 100. While the contexts differ from country to country, the data was clear; the interim reparative measures improved survivors' overall quality of life, including their personal relationships, self-esteem, and financial wellbeing. The outcome of our holistic approach is also evident: all forms of reparative measures contributed to higher mental health ratings; medical treatment, livelihood support and financial compensation strengthened their resolve and rehabilitation. Collective measures, such as the installation of a memorial garden for Yazidi survivors in Iraq, contributed to honouring survivors and victims of conflict-related sexual violence and recognising the abuse they were subjected to.

Collective measures chosen by participants, such as survivor community centres, continued to develop despite the end of our projects. In Guinea, survivors, who were often pushed out of their communities and former networks, are still working to reclaim their place in society. One way they work towards this is through opening the doors of the centres to others.

■ 96% of survivors in Guinea, 92% in Iraq and 85% in Türkiye reported an “improved sense of dignity, autonomy, and agency” by the end of the projects¹;

■ ‘Quality of life’ score increased from 26 to 71 for survivors in the DRC².

This creates a ripple effect far beyond their own lives. In Iraq, we saw this in the war-scarred Yazidi homeland of Sinjar, where survivors of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) captivity are using livelihood projects to boost their local area and economy, still largely destroyed and ravaged by conflict. As the project progressed, survivors noted more acceptance from their communities as their reparative measures – such as funding for small businesses and rebuilding homes – touched the lives of others in their towns and villages, showing how the project also began to change societal attitudes towards survivors.

1. Results extracted from impact reports to be published in 2025.
2. Extracted from impact report to be published in 2025.

Co-creation

Co-creation with survivors lies at the heart of everything we do. Throughout the year, we saw examples of how working with survivors at every level positively influenced our projects. This was clear through our Steering Committees, where survivors make up between 40 – 70 per cent of members. In Nepal, members faced the task of identifying survivors in a country where stigma remains rife, and victims often silent on their past. With survivor guidance, the Steering Committee decided on a tailored, sensitive identification process for our interim reparative measures project – using fellow survivors, known as Women Peace Facilitators, to identify potential participants and accompany them throughout the project. They met in survivors' place of choosing, including unconventional places, such as fields and forests, where women couldn't be singled out as victims of sexual violence. Here is a snapshot of the impact of co-creation:

■ 50% more survivors identified in Nepal than initial estimates;

■ 70 % male participation in Türkiye project;

■ Sustained survivor-led advocacy in the DRC, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and CAR.

Co-creation creates trust. What does this mean? In Nepal, our approach forged credibility and confidence with victims, encouraging more survivors to come forward. In Türkiye, this resulted in a high participation of male survivors among a traditionally patriarchal community, where sexual violence – especially against men – is rarely discussed. Placing survivors in the driving seat created a safe space for sharing. At the project's inception, men wanted no discussion or mention of conflict-related sexual violence. As the project progressed, so did their trust in our partner – the survivor-led Association of Detainees and Missing of Sednaya Prison (ADMSP). They then chose to create podcasts as their collective reparative measures, recording their journeys on a public platform; for many an unthinkable concept at the start of the project.

In the DRC, Kenya, Uganda, CAR and South Sudan, we saw the continued impact of the Kinshasa Declaration, signed in 2021. Our work with partners to disseminate the declaration, and emphasis on co-creation, has boosted survivor advocacy efforts; demonstrating their voices can be acknowledged and part of discussions at the highest levels. Survivor networks have continued, even with modest funding, to advocate for their right to reparation. In 2024, 12 survivors from the DRC presented recommendations to the national fund for reparations in Kinshasa, while survivor networks in CAR launched an advocacy initiative, targeting local and national authorities, focused on the positive and transformative impact of co-creation, and its impact on dialogue and peace in the country.

Impact

Ukraine: coming full circle

- World first in delivering urgent interim reparation in wartime;
- Reparation law for survivors adopted;
- 417 survivors received financial compensation.

In Ukraine, we see the full spectrum of GSF's model: we act to meet the immediate needs of survivors, we advocate for legislative change, and we guide the government in adopting and implementing such laws. Survivors have been at the table every step of the way.

Our work in Ukraine began in 2020 with the Global Reparations Study (GRS) on Ukraine, published in 2022. Following the Russian invasion in March 2022, we moved swiftly to explore options for working with survivors, and were invited to Ukraine in April of that year. Here, we proposed urgent interim reparation – spearheaded by the Ukrainian government – and partnered with ministers to provide technical support. In 2024, we saw the real impact of such a partnership. The success of our newly-launched pilot – delivering urgent financial compensation to survivors across Ukraine – helped inform the "Bardina Law", passed in December. This was tangible, historic impact; for the first time in an ongoing conflict, survivors of sexual violence were awarded interim reparation, demonstrating that they need not wait for decades for their rights to be realised. The law is expected to be implemented in 2025 and was made possible through sustained survivor-led advocacy at every level, facilitated by GSF and partners including the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence (SEMA).

Seeding the ecosystem

The impact of our work with partners on the lives of survivors is profound, but setting the ground for reparation doesn't happen overnight. This begins with the GRS, engaging with survivors to scope opportunities for reparation in different contexts. More than this, the Study creates and strengthens ties between survivors, civil society organisations, and in some cases government actors, stirring up wider attention on the topic of reparation at a national level. In 2024, together with our partners we finalised three reports, covering the DRC, Mali, and Guatemala. In Guatemala, the GRS launch demonstrated the impact of such work: in front of 200 people, government officials committed to integrating the findings, presented by survivors at the event, into its upcoming national policy on reparation.

Our work in familiarising civil society, governments and international actors with the concept of reparation – and what this looks like for survivors – aims at paving the way for future impact. Through our studies, sharing of expertise, and capacity building with partners, we are creating an environment for deeper discussion and action, with survivors at the helm. In 2024, we gathered a community of practice in Seville, bringing together academics and practitioners to hear survivors' perspectives on their own agency and role as changemakers. Looking to Uganda, GSF and partners took advantage of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Assembly of State Parties to promote the inclusion of survivor networks in delivering reparation following international atrocities. All of this seeks to prove the following: reparation is not an abstract concept, but a clear reality that can be reached now.

As we move into 2025, we will continue our work with survivors, partners, and governments, to make this a reality for a greater number.

53%

average of Steering Committee members are survivors (range between 40 and 70%)

662

survivors participated in focus group discussions

799

survivors co-created and began receiving interim reparative measures in 2024

416

survivors received urgent interim reparation

4,327

survivors have co-created and received interim reparative measures or urgent interim reparation since 2020

21,630

estimated total number of survivors' family members who benefited from interim reparative measures since 2020¹

38

new grants awarded in 2024

7

governments received technical support

13

countries with targeted advocacy activities (DRC, Iraq, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda, South Sudan, Mali, Guatemala, CAR, Ukraine, and Colombia)

3

Global Reparations Studies - 2 launched (Guatemala and Mali) and 1 published on GSF website (DRC)

123

survivors took part in the making of Global Reparations Studies (CAR, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mali, Nigeria, DRC)

16

submission papers, policy briefs and articles produced by the International and Advocacy Policy team

1. According to the average based on the latest UN indicators on household size and membership composition (2022) for the following countries: DRC, Guinea, Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, Timor-Leste, Ukraine.



A woman collecting grass for her goats in Lumbini province, Nepal.
November 2024 © Ganga Sagar Rai



Feature

A first in the world: making reparations possible during war

by Cristián Correa, Fedir Dunebabin

How can we respond to survivors of sexual violence during an ongoing war? How can we do something now, even with a small group of survivors, to ensure that all can access prompt reparation? In 2024, our work in Ukraine answered these questions through a blended approach of our key pillars: Act, Advocate and Guide. In Ukraine, we learnt by doing and guided by acting. We worked together with survivors, policymakers, and other stakeholders on crafting and delivering urgent interim reparation. With our support, a law was adopted on delivering such measures, and we are working on setting the stage for its implementation.



Act: a pilot project to provide urgent and immediate response

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, acts of sexual violence have been committed primarily in detention centres, but also during house searches and during periods of occupation by the Russian military.

These crimes have a severe impact on survivors, including profound psychological trauma, physical injuries, stigmatisation, and significant socio-economic challenges. Comprehensive reparative measures to address these acute harms and support the long-term recovery of survivors remain urgently needed, as already highlighted in our [GRS on Ukraine](#) in 2022.

Building on our partnership with the Ukrainian government established in 2022, this year we launched a pilot project to provide urgent interim reparation to survivors in collaboration with the national authorities and other stakeholders. The pilot lays the foundation to develop a mechanism, legislation, and policies for longer-term reparation for survivors and other victims of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The project was designed to identify and register 500 survivors, providing urgent compensation, acknowledgment, and referring them to medical services. Out of 646 applications, 417 received interim compensation after project partners developed a registration system and provided them with payments and support referrals. Key actors included the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality, and the Ukrainian chapter of the SEMA network.

“

I am very glad that such a project has been implemented in our country, because it is important to support people like me. Without support we feel left alone with our problems. I express my endless gratitude.

- A survivor from Kyiv

Survivor-centred

One of the challenges we encountered in delivering urgent interim reparation in Ukraine was how to determine eligible survivors in a rigorous but accessible and non-intimidating manner. Assistance policies implemented by the Ukrainian government for victims of other violations have been heavily focused on documenting violations and collecting evidence, while sexual violence is rarely documented, and many survivors have trouble sharing their experiences. We worked with organisations and survivors' groups to create safe and active listening conditions to complete application forms. This not only helped us reach more survivors, but also provided a positive experience for many of them, who felt listened to and recognised.

“

Helping people who have suffered from sexual violence is a great care, not only in financial terms, but also in terms of helping people to express their emotions, to not hold onto their suffering.

- A survivor from Kyiv

Through in-country partners, we provide a survivor-centred and confidential process for identifying survivors, collecting evidence, verifying cases, and making decisions on eligibility based on pre-developed criteria. Verified survivors are then provided with urgent interim reparation. The eligibility of applicants is determined by a Survivors Identification Council (instead of a Steering Committee), composed of two survivors, two representatives of government institutions, and two members of civil society.

“

I am grateful that this project exists, because it is about recognising pain. This amount can never compensate for the harm done. But it is the recognition, the visibility, the right to document the crime that allows human dignity, selfhood, and faith in oneself to be healed.

- A survivor from Kyiv

Advocacy: paving the way for a long-term reparation programme

The results and lessons learnt from GSF's pilot project have also shaped our advocacy work in Ukraine. Our approach to urgent interim reparation, and insights on how to register survivors helped adopt Law No. 4067, which established an urgent interim reparation policy for survivors of conflict related sexual violence - a first of its kind in the world. For this, GSF worked closely with survivors' organisations to ensure their voices informed the law. This aligns with GSF's core value of co-creation, recognising that survivors are the best people to know what must be done to repair the harms they have suffered, as well as with its multi-stakeholder approach, incorporating civil society and government into the implementation of the pilot. We also approached the Register of Damages for Ukraine, established by the Council of Europe, to support their efforts making their procedures more survivor-centred.

Guide: from pilot to comprehensive policy

The challenge that lays ahead is not insignificant. More survivors have come forward to register for the pilot – and our support must continue uninterrupted. As the project continues, we are also working with a wide coalition of government entities, civil society, and survivors' groups to define by-laws, procedures and the content of additional forms of interim reparations defined by the law, including rehabilitation. Together, we are also strengthening institutional capacity to implement the law. Nevertheless, our pilot is a strong foundation for the work to come. Urgent interim reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine is no longer a novel or foreign idea; it is a shared one, owned by multiple actors.

Feature

Implementing the Kinshasa Declaration: supporting co-creation of state reparation policy

by Hugo van der Merwe

Survivors can co-create state reparations programmes. Survivor organisations have demonstrated that, with the right support, they are able to engage state institutions in framing survivor-centred reparation policies and mechanisms. In the last few years, we have seen them take remarkable steps, increasingly occupying spaces where they are now directly shaping national reparation initiatives.



Kinshasa Declaration

Developed in Kinshasa following the Survivors' Hearing on Reparations in November 2021, survivors and victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence issued the [Kinshasa Declaration](#). This manifesto emphasises the rights of survivors to reparation and to participate in processes of formulating and setting up reparation programmes.

Since its inception, GSF has worked closely with various survivor organisations to make the declaration a reality, building skills and technical capacities to help them voice their demands and participate in reparation policy processes. While GSF has previously provided proof that co-creation of interim reparative measures is possible, we now seek to demonstrate that this principle of co-creation is just as relevant for state policies and laws. Since 2022, we have expanded our support to national advocacy initiatives and guided partners that position survivors at the centre of such policy processes.

Examples of survivors' participation in state reparation policies and laws are now emerging, demonstrating that this is feasible, and essential in ensuring effective and legitimate redress.

Guinea

In 2024, we saw this approach demonstrated very effectively through our work in Guinea. After the conclusion of the interim reparative measures project in 2023, GSF shifted its focus to support survivors and civil society organisations in working with the State to develop a national reparations programme. The interim reparative measures project facilitated the development of strong survivor capacity – leaders who understand reparations, know how to co-create, and have growing confidence to engage public officials in voicing their rights. The project also provided proof that reparations can be transformative when they are holistic and co-created with survivors.

We cultivated links with state authorities, leading the project to gain political recognition and wider public legitimacy. GSF's partnership with *l'Association des Victimes, Parents et Amis du 28 Septembre 2009* (AVIPA) bolstered the organisation's ability to play an active role in the policy process, resulting in a draft law that directly reflects the numerous inputs of survivors. Active survivor participation was visible throughout, from the initial call for such a law to workshops with stakeholders and technical meetings with legal professionals. This process was sustained by capacity building and debriefings with AVIPA members. These meetings and trainings, as described by AVIPA Project Coordinator Souleymane Camara, were carried out "to improve personal expression, break isolation, and highlight the importance of the involvement of survivors in the drafting process of the draft law on reparation."

What could have been an alienating, technical expert-driven process instead engaged survivors in a transparent and inclusive manner. As AVIPA President Asmaou Diallo remarked at the end of a joint workshop on drafting the law, the act of directly involving survivors in drafting legislation is relatively new; survivors are often excluded and overlooked. "For us, it is new to be directly involved in writing a law; usually we are not asked to do anything," she said. "During this workshop, the survivors were at ease because they felt important, and with the presence of advisors from the Ministry of Justice, they understood that their ideas were being taken into account."

GSF also worked to build a close working relationship between survivors, the State, and GSF staff and civil society, including our partner *l'Organisation Guinéenne des Droits de l'Homme* (OGDH). This helped frame appropriate policy dialogue forums and technical meetings where survivor voices were respected and considered valid. Bringing together survivors, state actors, and civil society helps to build trust and open communication. Regular exchanges helped avoid delays and misunderstandings, smoothing out what can be a complicated and lengthy process.

Promoting co-creation and multi-stakeholder engagement across the globe

This project exemplifies in many ways how the Kinshasa Declaration can be made a reality, and provides important lessons on how GSF support to survivor organisations can see survivors co-creating and implementing policies with diverse actors. Having well-informed and confident survivor voices in policy spaces has shifted discussions and reframed how they are viewed by other stakeholders.

However, each context is unique. Guinea provided a particularly fertile context for such an approach at the national level. In other countries, GSF engaged in partnerships with local survivor organisations that focused on more modest goals (such as building understanding and engagement with local government officials or creating awareness and support for survivors among their local communities). Even where they have not yet been able to impact state policy, these survivor-led initiatives have strengthened their agency and facilitated their societal reintegration in places such as Kenya, Uganda, and CAR.

In the DRC, survivors in South Kivu have been trained and informed about their rights to reparation and justice, and are now active participants in reclaiming their rights. Aline Mwamini Kaneg, coordinator of GSF's partner *Mouvement National des Survivantes de Viols et Violences Sexuelles en RD Congo* (MNSVS-RDC) sees the positive impact of this even after projects have come to an end. "The dialogue between survivors and different stakeholders at the community level continues beyond the project," she said. "This has strengthened the sense of belonging and community engagement of populations who have been affected by armed conflict."

Building on the promising results of the Kinshasa Declaration projects, GSF has adopted this partnership approach in other countries across the globe. In 2024, we supported 21 partners in 11 countries to ensure that survivors have strong and effective agency in advocacy and guide initiatives.

Feature

Building trust, driving change

by Danaé van der Straten Ponthoz, Zoé Bertrand, Ruth Quinn

In mid-2023, GSF launched new initiatives focused on financing reparations and addressing the harms suffered by children affected by conflict-related sexual violence. These topics were identified together with survivors as [strategic priorities](#) for our work for the period 2024-2030, alongside co-creation and survivors' meaningful participation in reparation processes. While these have formed the core of our work from the start, they are now more important than ever. In the face of repeated claims that financing reparation is unaffordable, and the shocking reality that children are almost entirely overlooked in reparation initiatives worldwide, GSF rose to the challenge and began to build an evidence base, re-write the narrative, and influence policy.



Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez, a Mayan leader from Guatemala, and Ruth Rubio-Marín, GSF Board Member, at a conference in Seville, Spain. Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez stresses the importance of protecting indigenous knowledge and rooting any reparation in their traditions and rituals. May 2025 © Jaime Martínez

Fast forward a year, and these once daunting topics, conveniently sidelined for too long, are now front and centre in many conversations. What's more? Previously an emerging voice, GSF's inputs are now actively sought after, and our advocacy messages play a central role in these conversations. In 2024, GSF was invited to share insights on traditional and innovative methods to finance reparations in various fora. From briefing the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Magnitsky Sanctions on innovative solutions to finance reparations for Ukraine, to presenting principles for a fund for survivors of atrocities in Myanmar at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), we have worked to bridge the gap between policymakers, financial experts and survivors' priorities. We also participated in a conference on asset repurposing for Ukraine at the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) Institute, and shared insights on public financing pathways at an event organised by the ICC Trust Fund for Victims at the Assembly of States Parties. Innovation, particularly in financial strategies, has been crucial to our work.

By broadening our focus beyond individual finance ministries or specific asset classes which might be available for repurposing, we have engaged with major international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Children

GSF also started to be recognised as a trusted partner and reference in addressing challenges faced by children born of conflict-related sexual violence. In 2024, we published an outcome report of our expert roundtable on [Children born of conflict-related sexual violence: Breaking down barriers to the rights to identity and nationality](#). This contains a set of practical recommendations to overcome challenges faced in obtaining identity documents for children affected by sexual violence, including discriminatory nationality laws and weak state services.

GSF also published a [Briefing on reparation for children born of conflict-related sexual violence](#), exploring the perspectives of survivors emerging from its GRS in over 20 countries. These reports informed five key submissions made by GSF on the right to reparation of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence, including on education as a form of reparation. These included contributions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for its General Comment N°27 on children's rights to access to justice and effective remedies, the African Union Guidelines on reparation for children, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on the rights of the child and violations of the human rights of children in armed conflicts, and to the UN Special Rapporteur on Education's report on safety in education.

By creating and sharing unique insights, we have gained visibility and credibility. This has led States and international institutions to consult with GSF to shape their policies. For instance, we were invited to brief members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the specific challenges faced by children born of conflict-related sexual violence regarding their missing legal identities. Additionally, GSF was approached by states seeking a better understanding into the complex issues impacting children affected by conflict-related sexual violence. Furthermore, following advocacy and the technical support provided by GSF to the government of Ukraine and Parliament, Law No. [4067](#) on reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence was adopted in December 2024. The law includes children born as a result of sexual violence - a promising step forward.

Contribution

Global reports featured our contributions and reflected GSF's positioning. For example, the ICC Office of the Prosecutor's new Policy on Slavery Crimes recognises that children born into enslavement are direct victims in their own right for the purposes of reparation. The Special Rapporteur on Torture's report on identifying, documenting, investigating and prosecuting crimes of sexual torture committed during war and armed conflict contains a reference to the Kinshasa Declaration on the rights to reparation and co-creation. The report recognises the specific challenges faced by children born of rape as a form of torture, including in relation to their lack of legal identity and nationality – issues explored in-depth by GSF. The report also recommends that survivors, as rights-holders, should not only be consulted but also be considered as co-creators of all policies and laws that affect them. This represents a huge achievement building on years of advocacy, and is the first time such strong language on co-creation is reflected in the recommendations of a UN special procedure.

This transformation did not happen by chance; it is the result of GSF's strengthened efforts to raise awareness, build trust and partnerships, increase knowledge, and offer concrete solutions to complex issues.

Treaty on crimes against humanity

GSF's approach combines expertise with our commitment to collaboration. We work alongside survivors, governments, international organisations, and grassroots actors, creating a network of allies. In 2024, GSF continued to advocate alongside multiple stakeholders for the adoption of an international treaty to prevent and punish crimes against humanity. This treaty will fill a gap in international law.

Unlike genocide and war crimes, no treaty currently defines State obligations to prevent and punish crimes against humanity. This has reinforced a sense of impunity for perpetrators. While UN Member States proceeded with treaty negotiations in 2024, we worked to strengthen the Draft Articles on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity, and took a leading role in the informal group working on children affected by these crimes. GSF also contributed to a joint policy submission focusing on recommendations to States on victims' rights in the convention.

Change will not happen overnight, but we know that every commitment, every policy change and every acknowledgment of the critical role of survivor participation is a step forward. For reparations to be truly effective, they must be properly financed and inclusive of even the most marginalised groups. Our work on innovative financing and reparation for children affected by conflict-related sexual violence brings us closer to our goals of guaranteeing sustainable, financed, victim-centred reparation for all survivors.

As we look to the future, we will continue to walk side by side with those whose rights are most overlooked, giving a platform to survivors' voices and demands. We will continue until systemic change happens and survivors can rebuild their lives, in dignity.

Contexts in focus

CAMBODIA

CAR

CHAD

COLOMBIA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

DRC

GUATEMALA

GUINEA

2022

Work began

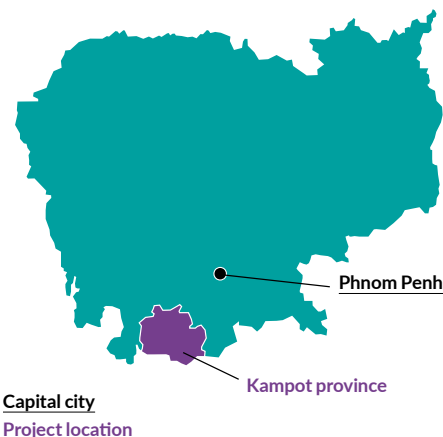
Cambodia

Conflict-related sexual violence during the Khmer Rouge regime (1975–1979) remains largely unacknowledged. Forced marriages were prevalent, imposed as a demographic control mechanism, and many survivors continue to live with the aftermath. Despite glaring evidence, sexual violence charges were excluded from previous tribunal proceedings. The Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts of Cambodia (a mixed tribunal) provided symbolic reparations including efforts like artistic memorialisation of shared experiences, intergenerational dialogue mechanisms, and participatory documentation. However, most survivors were excluded from these symbolic actions and considered them insufficient because of the lack of any tangible individual impact. Having never received recognition or repair, survivors continue to live with unaddressed trauma and have faced discrimination for many decades.

Following the publication of the GRS on Cambodia in 2022, GSF began scoping for an interim reparative measures project. We partnered with two Cambodian organisations: Kdei Karuna (KdK) and the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO). An agreement to develop and co-create the project with survivors was signed in February 2024. This involved group discussions with survivors, survivor activists, civil society organisations, lawyers, officials from the Khmer Rouge tribunal, academics, and researchers.

The project team conducted focus group discussions with 40 survivors, based on which 4 communes in 2 districts of Kampot province were selected for the project. In-depth discussions took place with survivors and local authorities in these communes to understand survivors' experiences, the harms suffered, and possible reparative measures. They expressed a need for financial independence, access to healthcare and mental health support, as well as aspirations for small business development, education for their grandchildren, and spiritual healing.

In December, the interim reparative measures project was launched with the aim of reaching about 300 survivors, including members of ethnic minority groups. Many survivors, now in their seventies or older, wish to come forward with their stories, driven by a will to be seen, heard and acknowledged before they pass, and to ensure that what they endured never happens again.



Maya Shah and Tanim Kishore (GSF) meeting with survivors and local counsellors at the start of the interim reparative measures project in Kampot province, Cambodia. November 2024 © Sun Solida /TPO

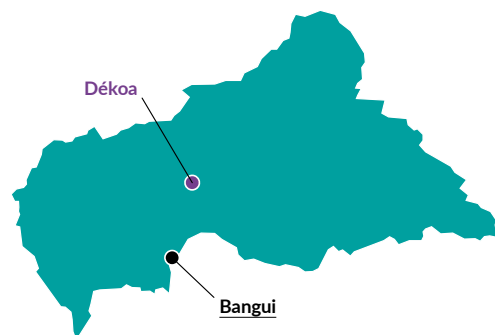
2020

597

Work began

Survivor participants identified

Central African Republic



Capital city

● Project location

In CAR, 597 survivors were identified during the first phase of the interim reparative measures project, carried out jointly with the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation and the *Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique* (AFJC) in Dékoa. The partnership with the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation was renewed for phase 2 of the project, during which survivors started to receive medical care, including prolapsus and fistula surgeries. In addition, some restoration work was carried out to the hospital in Dékoa, where future medical interim reparative measures will be carried out.

The partnership between GSF and AFJC ended this year. We initiated two new partnerships with *Comité interAfricain-Centrafrrique* (CIAF-RCA) and Women Act for Living Together (WALT) to start the implementation of psychological, financial and legal interim reparative measures.

An advocacy initiative, *I goué* ('Let's go' in Sango, the national language) began in July with the support of the *Mouvement des survivant.es de violences sexuelles en Centrafrique* (MOSUCA) and the *Coalition Nationale des Associations de Victimes de Centrafrique* (CNAV). The messages conveyed by survivors focused on the positive and transformative impact of co-creation, and its impact on dialogue and peace in the country. An exhibition of sculptures made by survivors was held in Dékoa in October to illustrate the concept of co-creation to other survivors and local authorities.

In September, the GRS on CAR was also reviewed and validated by contributing survivors during two workshops in Bangui and Dékoa. The study is expected to be launched in 2025.

2024 also witnessed political difficulties, with the suspension of the eleven commissioners of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR) after a long internal crisis. By the end of the year, the recruitment process for the new commissioners that had begun in June had still not been completed. By requiring a university degree, survivors found that they were excluded from this opportunity to participate.

We made submissions to the UN independent expert on the human rights situation in CAR that informed his report. We also communicated several recommendations to the minister in charge of the CVJRR and to the chair of the selection committee, urging a change in the criteria to allow survivors to apply.



Participants in the Global Reparations Study on CAR prepare for the launch event.
September 2024 © Antoine Stomboli /GSF

2024

Work began

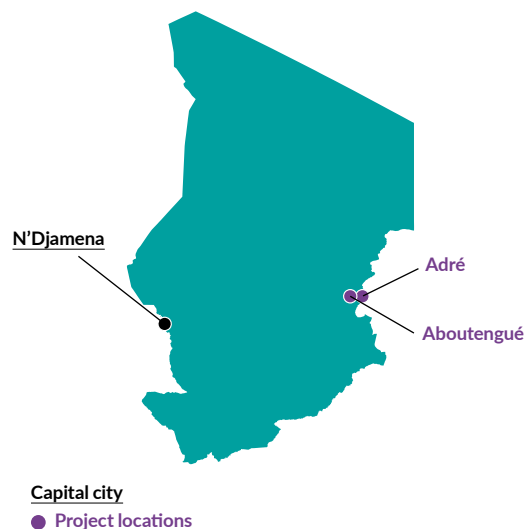
Chad

The war in neighbouring Sudan, which started in 2023, has severely impacted Chad. According to the UN, close to 740,000 people have left Sudan to seek refuge on the other side of the border, with women and children representing more than 80 per cent of the displaced. Sexual violence has been used widely by all parties to the conflict. In Adré, a border town 1,000 kilometres from the Chadian capital N'Djamena, the refugee camp is crowded and lacks basic services. It is estimated that more than 170,000 people live here, including an unknown number of victims of conflict-related sexual violence.

In July 2024, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) invited us to conduct an assessment on how to do survivor-centred work with Sudanese refugees. GSF undertook a visit to the different camps, and the partnership will be fully operational in 2025.

Partnering with humanitarian organisations is a key element of our strategic priority to scale up our work and reach more survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. While these actors have the capacity to provide essential medical and psychological support to victims, as well as other services, their emergency-driven focus can be complemented by survivor and reparation-centred approaches. While partnership discussions with MSF were ongoing, GSF started to provide emergency support to a local Sudanese organisation based in Adré. Hope and Haven for Refugees will continue to provide essential survivor-centred services to victims (mental health and livelihood support, and the creation of women-led safe spaces). This represents the foundational work for the development of a multi-stakeholder approach in a humanitarian context. We hope to connect and support other Sudanese and Chadian-led initiatives, which work closely with survivors, to this ecosystem.

We also continued our advocacy work surrounding conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan and the need to establish a survivor-centred registry of victims, so that they can eventually access full reparation. This comes as a lesson some 20 years after the Darfur genocide, where no registry of victims was established.



Survivors playing ayo, a traditional strategy game, during a psychosocial support group activity.
December 2024 © Ussah Yakubu /GSF

1. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/114191>.

2. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/sudan-un-fact-finding-mission-documents-large-scale-sexual-violence-and>.

2020

Work began

Colombia

For the first time in the history of transitional justice, a court is defining reparations with the active participation of survivors of large-scale violations, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Since 2023, GSF has been working with victims of macro-case 05 under the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the transitional justice judicial mechanism established by the peace agreement of 2016. The macro-case includes multiple violations, such as rape or other forms of sexual violence committed by both FARC and state forces in parts of the Cauca and Valle del Cauca provinces between 1993 and 2016.

This year, we continued working on co-creation with survivors of sexual violence, supporting their direct involvement in defining and shaping collective reparation measures, which would contribute to redressing the harm caused by these crimes. Participants from Indigenous and Afro communities, and Caucasian and mestizo persons converged on a common vision: the creation of survivor-led community centres for community, education, and psychosocial support. These centres will also affirm ethnic identities and culture, as well as providing access to professional and state services.

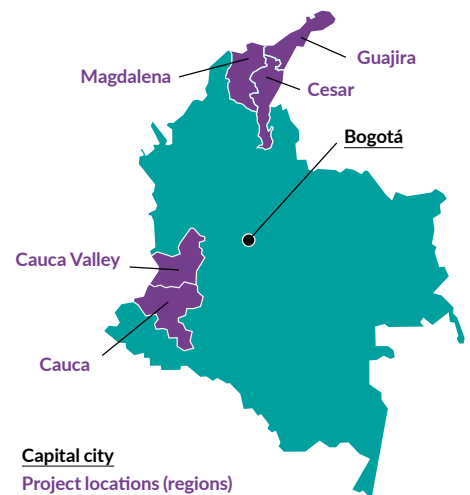
Under the JEP's restorative justice approach, perpetrators must also participate. Survivors made it clear that those responsible must first acknowledge their responsibility for the crimes committed, receive psychosocial preparation to ensure appropriate interaction with the community, and do not come face-to-face with survivors.

GSF also provided technical support to the Wiwa Indigenous women in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains to carry out advocacy activities, ensuring their perspectives and suffering are recognised. For Wiwa survivors, the sacred connection between their bodies and the earth was disrupted by the sexual violence. This must be acknowledged and repaired. As such, GSF is working to integrate a spiritual dimension of reparation into a second case (macro-case 09), with the goal of protecting survivors' territory, culture, and the spiritual leadership of Indigenous women. As a result, the Public Ministry filed a petition to the JEP for judicial protection for Indigenous territory and, most notably, sacred female sites.

In addition, GSF continued working on the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law, which put in place Colombia's national reparation programme. We provided support to survivors' organisations to improve their access to forms of reparation granted by the law, and gave technical support to government entities responsible for the implementation of the law and the 2016 peace agreement. GSF advocated for emotional rehabilitation measures as established in the peace treaty.

To this end, we promoted the adoption of survivor-centred strategies in the Victims Unit, as well as the strengthening of survivors' networks as key to enable their community healing. This can pave the way for access to other forms of reparations.

In collaboration with the Universidad del Rosario, we organised a side-event "Co-creation: an opportunity to build reparations processes with survivors of sexual violence" during Dr Mukwege's visit to Colombia in November. This event highlighted that victims should be co-creators in restorative justice processes, and identified concrete measures to address the implementation gap in the reparations programme. On this important occasion, survivors participating in macro-case 05 presented their proposals for restorative measures to both the government and the JEP.



2021

Work began

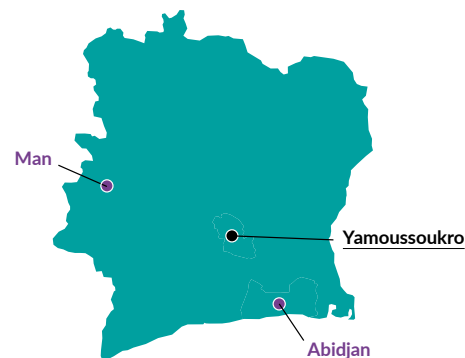
Côte d'Ivoire

From 2002 through 2011, Côte d'Ivoire experienced a series of violent conflicts, leading to rampant human rights abuses and widespread conflict-related sexual violence. The majority of survivors have received little to no repair. These unaddressed issues leave survivors enduring unemployment, poverty, health issues and intergenerational harms. Survivors and their children struggle to access state services, such as healthcare, employment assistance and education.

In the absence of major external funding and government commitment to reparation, GSF piloted a unique bottom-up approach that mobilises local resources to unblock access to state services. With our partner the *Confédération des Organisations des Victimes de la Crise Ivoirienne* (COVICI), the project matches survivors to services in a manner reminiscent of interim reparative measures in the individualised accompaniment provided.

The 12 survivors involved have seen tangible benefits: regular psychosocial and peer support are available; birth certificates, nationality and ID cards were issued; survivors registered for welfare, and their teenage children accessed work placements. Further inroads were made in accessing healthcare and livelihood assistance.

The service-matching framework aims to build a foundation for full reparation starting at the community level, by providing a base for survivors to advocate for expanded government support and acknowledgment.



Capital city

● Project locations

“

[The team] ... show they want to help me. They are the only people in my life doing that, talking to me about getting better, about getting reparation.

- A survivor from Côte d'Ivoire

2020

Work began

3

Survivor centres inaugurated

1,093

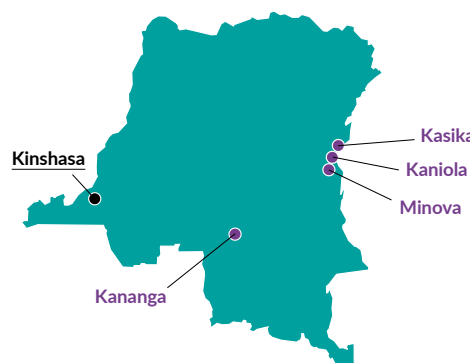
Survivor participants

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Our interim reparative measures project ended this year in the DRC, marking the completion of GSF's second pilot project. In September, three survivor centres, selected by participants as their preferred form of collective interim reparative measures, were inaugurated in North-Kivu (Minova), and South-Kivu (Kaniola and Kasika). The entire process, from planning to construction, was guided by the 1,093 survivors and community committees. The centres represent a safe space for them to heal and rebuild their lives. They offer emergency accommodation for survivors and their children, and are hubs for livelihood and literacy activities. The fourth and final centre, in Kasai-Central (Kananga), should be inaugurated in 2025.

This year, GSF provided two grants to local partners - *Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement* (SOFEPADI), and *Mouvement national des Survivant.e.s de Viols et de Violences Sexuelles en RD Congo* (MNSVS-RDC) to conduct survivor-led advocacy activities with the FONAREV, the national reparation fund. The overall objective of this work is for survivors to take charge of their own advocacy, ensuring their views are considered in the national reparation landscape. As part of these partnerships, 12 survivors travelled to Kinshasa in August to present an advocacy note to the FONAREV. They also held meetings with fund officials on the need for comprehensive, survivor-centred reparation in current and future reparation processes.

In our role as a member of the National Advocacy Alliance for Reparations for Victims of Conflict in the DRC (ANPR), and as part of a grant to support the alliance to the *SOS Information Juridique Multisectorielle* (SOS IJM), we also provided capacity-building trainings on reparation and transitional justice to members of the alliance. Through our partnerships, we were also able to disseminate the Kinshasa Declaration to survivors across the country. GSF's partners also translated the declaration into accessible formats for illiterate survivors, to widen its reach and raise awareness on their right to reparation.



Capital city

● Project locations

2023

1

Work began

GRS launched

Guatemala

Sexual violence was systematically used as a weapon of war against Mayan Indigenous communities during the internal armed conflict in Guatemala between 1960 and 1996. Despite the establishment of the now-defunct National Reparation Programme in 2003, survivors have spent decades without adequate reparation, with many passing away without ever receiving justice or recognition.

In February, the GRS, initiated in 2023, was validated by over 60 survivors from diverse communities during a gathering organised with *Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos* (CALDH) and *Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial* (ECAP). Survivors' priorities include land restitution, economic support, culturally relevant health services, and access to education for themselves, their children, and future generations. The study also emphasised the importance of preserving Indigenous culture, and bringing attention to the LGBTQIA+ community who were invisible for a long time.

In October, the study was launched during two events in Guatemala City in partnership with CALDH, ECAP, *Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala* (CONAVIGUA), and UN Women Guatemala. The first event was a private gathering with and for survivors, where participants from Colombia were also invited to share their experiences. The second launch was public and attracted over 200 guests, including civil society actors, government officials, and ancestral authorities. Survivors presented the study to the director of the government agency in charge of reparation (COPADEH), who committed to integrating its findings into a forthcoming National Policy on Dignification and Reparation. This acknowledgement signals a positive step towards full recognition and reparation.

Survivors expressed a strong sense of ownership over the study. They felt that the process of co-creating and presenting it to the government was a form of reparation in itself. For some, this was the most acknowledgement and recognition that they have ever received to date. Towards the end of the year, our team also began the initial steps to launch an interim reparative measures project in 2025.



Guatemala City

Capital city

“

For years we have spoken, but our words were lost in the air. Today I feel that what I shared is reflected in this book and will never disappear.

- A survivor from Guatemala



Mayan women survivors during a psychosocial activity following the GRS launch in Guatemala City, Guatemala. October 2024 © Berta Rosón /GSF

2019

1

Work began

Draft law and decrees

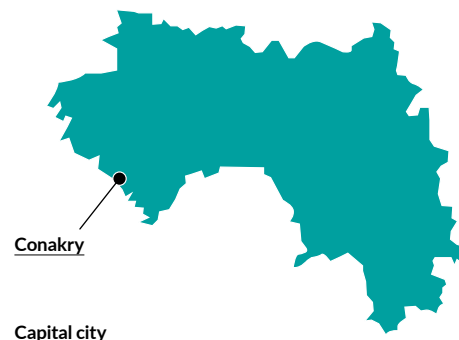
Guinea

Nearly 15 years after the 28 September massacre 2009 at the Conakry stadium, survivors in Guinea finally received justice and a form of reparation in July 2024. After a two-year trial, the Dixinn Criminal court convicted eight former military and government officials of crimes against humanity, including ordering and committing acts of sexual violence. This included former junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara, who ordered the violent repression of peaceful protests. They were sentenced to jail terms ranging from ten years to life, and ordered to collectively pay 160,000 euros to each survivor. The landmark decision came a year after our interim reparative measures project drew to a close. Former participants told GSF how the project, and the accompaniment they received, helped them prepare for the trial after so many years of waiting for redress. This was particularly significant for those who had to testify in public and directly face their aggressors.

Our activities this year focused on applying lessons learnt from our interim reparative measures project to provide technical support to the government. The then-justice minister asked us to support the development and adoption of a national reparation law, based on insights shared by GSF and survivors at the end of the project. Adhering to our core values, GSF focused on supporting survivors' participation to ensure this is a multi-stakeholder, co-created process. This work was made possible through our close collaboration with the OGDH and the survivors' organisation AVIPA.

Women survivors in Guinea play an important role in sensitising their communities to the impact of conflict-related sexual violence and the right to reparation. Throughout 2024, GSF worked to create and maintain links between them and government authorities, to ensure their role and voices remain central in enacting the law. Our efforts involved working with survivors, civil society, and state actors to share international best practices regarding reparations, examining international reparations norms, and unpacking the different forms of reparations prioritised by survivors in Guinea. These conclusions were later presented to the government for inclusion in the law.

In December, a dialogue workshop on the adoption of a law and decrees on the right to administrative reparation was convened in Conakry by the Ministry of Justice. The discussions were centred on the experience of survivors, who shared their ideas and views on how to identify victims, and on the need to set up expert committees. Validated by survivors of the events of 28 September 2009 and other local victims' associations, the draft law and its implementing decree should be adopted in 2025.



Participants in Conakry during a workshop on a draft law addressing conflict-related sexual violence in Guinea.
June 2024 © GSF

2020

1

Work began

Interim reparative measures pilot project completed

Iraq

A major milestone was reached in early 2024, with the completion of the collective interim reparative measure and thus the end of our project. Back in 2023, survivors collectively decided on the construction of a memorial statue and garden called *Roj Helat* ('sunrise' in Kurdish). This space symbolises the immense suffering endured by the Yazidi community, and the resilience of those who survived the genocide. Our partner Nadia's Initiative (NI) hosted the official inauguration ceremony on 26 February, attended by approximately 350 people, including survivors, their families, local community members, and representatives from civil society and international agencies.

Beyond this, GSF's work centred on national advocacy and technical support to advance the implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law (YSL), adopted in 2021. In January, we invited the head of the General Directorate for Survivors Affairs and representatives of the relevant ministry to Geneva to review the law's progress and address critical challenges, particularly around education as a form of reparation. We also shared the lessons learnt from our interim reparative measures project. Yazidi survivors attending the meetings shared the challenges they had experienced in accessing reparation, and provided suggestions for improving these services. Following this visit, the directorate asked for GSF's support to deliver its mandate of providing education as a form of reparation as part of the YSL. This led to the establishment of a task team, composed of GSF, survivor representatives, local civil society organisations, and a representative from the Neem Foundation, which provides trauma-informed education to children in Nigeria. During a visit to Iraq in June, the team conducted consultations with survivors, experts, service providers, and state officials to analyse the challenges and build consensus around potential options. The task team then produced a report outlining the educational needs and rights of survivors, and provided concrete recommendations to address the gaps.

GSF worked with NI to support survivor networks in building their understanding of the legal framework in Iraq, and strengthen their ability to mobilise and engage state institutions to improve reparation measures. This helped survivors' representatives to play an active part in the task team's workshops, ensuring that survivor voices shaped the process and outcomes.



In Sinjar, Iraq, a commemorative space with a statue of a Yazidi woman was created as a collective interim reparative measure. February 2024 © Nadia's Initiative

2021

Work began

200

Survivors supported

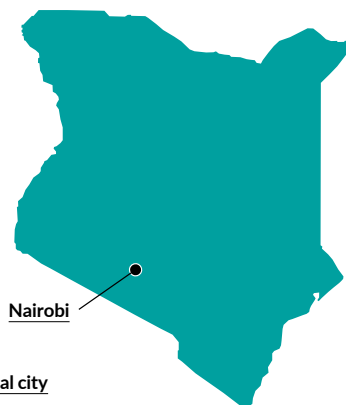
Kenya

In Kenya, GSF and partners Grace Agenda and the Utu Wetu Trust are addressing the aftermath of the 2007-2008 post-election violence, including the overlooked needs of children born of conflict-related sexual violence.

The first project is led by Grace Agenda, a survivor-led organisation, and focuses on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration. It supports around 200 survivors, including children born of war, by facilitating livelihood activities, and hosting community awareness forums that encourage changing societal perceptions of conflict-related sexual violence.

Through a survivor-led process, Grace Agenda advocates for the Kenyan government to fulfil its responsibility to provide reparation to survivors. This year, survivors and activists met directly with local officials, voicing their concerns and priorities for reparation and access to basic social services.

The second project, led by the Utu Wetu Trust, strengthens the civil society network and their engagement with state actors to re-activate a stalled national reparation policy process. This year, the trust pushed for the implementation of a court judgement, issued in 2020, which awarded reparation for some survivors of election-related sexual violence.



2021

Work began

1

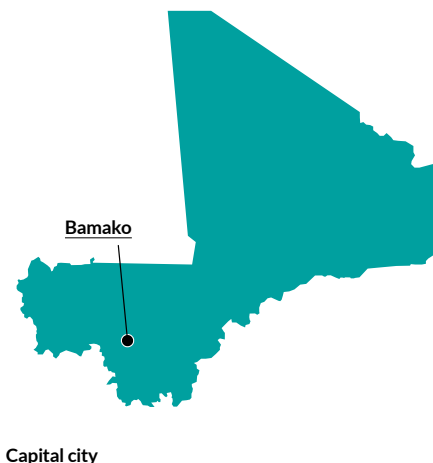
GRS launched

Mali

Since 2012, Mali has been engulfed in a security and political crisis pitting religious extremist groups against government forces, mainly in the north of the country. Acts of sexual violence have been committed since the early stages of the conflict, and to this day no survivors have received reparations. The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR), which was set up in 2017 and ended its activities in 2021, never published its report setting out plans for implementing reparations.

This year, GSF finalised the GRS on Mali which documented the nature and scope of conflict-related sexual violence, assessed existing policies and measures to provide reparation, and reflected survivors' experiences and perceptions. The report was validated by survivors and launched in Bamako and Gao in December, alongside our partners Women In Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and *Groupe de Recherche d'Étude, de Formation, Femme-Action* (GREFFA).

The study presents various recommendations for how different duty bearers should fulfil the rights of survivors. It emphasises the State's key responsibility to improve coordination to address survivors' needs, and ensure funds for reparations are used and allocated effectively.



2021

Work began

437

Survivors supported

Nepal

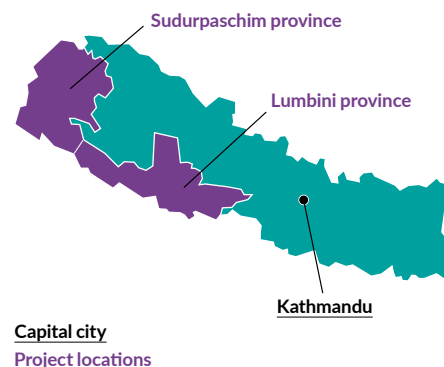
The passage of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Act in August marked a critical turning point for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Nepal, re-opening a long-awaited window for them to register their cases for reparation in a country where survivors are heavily stigmatised. Aparajit, a conflict-related sexual violence survivors' network, played a central role in shaping the advocacy agenda on this. GSF provided technical support to the network to develop recommendations on how the TRC should pursue survivor identification and registration.

At the national level, GSF partnered with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the Advocacy Forum (AF) to strengthen civil society and survivor advocacy. Together, they established a consortium of civil society organisations working with survivors, which meet regularly to share lessons learnt and collectively push for policy change. This marks the first time such synergy has been created between the two groups. The initiative aims to influence government reparation policy at the provincial and national level by engaging policymakers and amplifying survivor voices in policy spaces.

In the absence of any formal reparation, in 2024 we began identifying survivors for an interim reparative measures project across five districts in the Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces. This task, carried out with our partner Nagarik Aawaz, required patience and sensitivity, navigating both remote terrain and the pervasive stigma that keeps many survivors silent. It is difficult to have precise estimates of the numbers of survivors in each district, owing to both a lack of official data on survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and the stigma they face, which prevents them from even sharing their experiences with their families.

Confidentiality and respecting the privacy of survivors are at the core of our approach in Nepal. Thirty Women Peace Facilitators, all survivors themselves, took part in the identification process. This peer-to-peer approach made outreach easier, and allowed us to maintain privacy and build trust in the project. Meetings often took place in unconventional but private settings, such as nearby fields or forests. Caseworkers often travelled for days between different villages, with the remote location posing a challenge to our work. By the end of the year, 437 survivors had been identified. While developing the project, survivors insisted that psychosocial care was crucial to ensure their comfort. As such, counsellors were brought on board to provide individualised and trauma-informed accompaniment.

Measuring the impact of our interim reparative measures on the lives of survivors is an important part of our methodology. In late 2024, 26 survivors took part in Photovoice workshops, where photography is used to highlight positive elements of their lives. It revealed that survivors not only cherish their connections to nature and family, but also take great pride in their livelihoods, which include agriculture and small business ventures. These elements are essential to their sense of self-sufficiency and financial stability. However, the workshops also highlighted the severe challenges survivors face, including economic hardship, health issues, gender inequality, and deep-rooted trauma.



Woman Peace Facilitators meet with survivors during the initial phase of the interim reparative measures project in Lumbini province, Nepal. November 2024 © Ganga Sagar Rai

2022

Work began

120

Children identified

500

Survivor participants identified

Nigeria

In January 2024, GSF and partners identified almost 500 survivors to participate in our interim reparative measures project in Adamawa and Yobe states. Through a series of workshops and discussions, which were then validated by the Steering Committees, survivors defined their preferred forms of interim reparative measures. In addition to medical and psychosocial care, they decided to use the financial measures to start or expand small businesses, purchase business-related equipment, practice animal husbandry, buy land, undergo vocational training, and receive an education.

After finalising their individualised interim reparative measures plan, a certificate signing ceremony was held for survivors. These certificates acknowledge their participation in the project, confirm our collective commitment to fulfilling survivors' requests, and symbolically recognise their autonomy in shaping their path to repair. For many, this was an emotional event - and the first time they had ever received any formal certificate, given the fact that many survivors were abducted before they graduated from school.

As our partnership with the Centre for Girls Education (CGE) came to an end in Adamawa, we extended our collaboration with the Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT), covering both Adamawa and Yobe, to deliver the first interim reparative measures in September.

Before receiving compensation, participants attended trainings on financial literacy, profit management, business management, and livelihood activities such as tailoring and animal rearing. To ensure survivors manage their financial payments efficiently, the two Steering Committees agreed that the funds would be disbursed in two instalments. The first was paid in December.

Participants took part in group sessions that were led by trained counsellors and designed to be both therapeutic and participatory. 267 survivors also received medical care for cases directly or indirectly linked to conflict-related sexual violence.

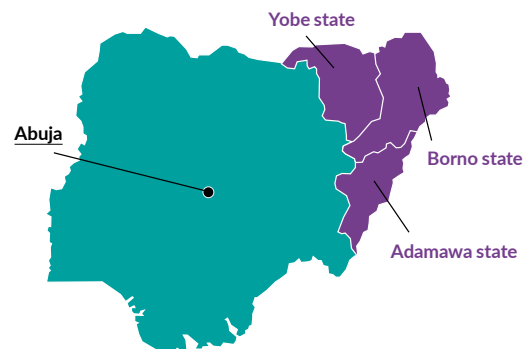
A baseline evaluation on the project was conducted in 2024, involving 25 survivors per session. Innovative tools and methodologies, such as Photovoice and concept mapping, allowed them to visually demonstrate how conflict-related sexual violence had impacted their lives. The evaluation will be used to measure the final impact of the project.

In Borno state, we began delivering interim reparative measures with the Future Resilience and Development Foundation (FRAD) in December. The project began with an extensive sensitisation campaign, during which teams met with community and religious leaders, and government agencies, to explain the project and ensure the safety and anonymity of survivors would be preserved. These meetings also helped to create trust within communities.

Also in Borno, GSF kickstarted a flagship initiative on education as a form of reparation in collaboration with the Neem Foundation. Neem, which signed a partnership agreement with GSF in February, brings extensive experience in trauma-informed and value-based education. Its approach goes beyond traditional schooling, recognising learning as an integral part of the reparative process, and integrates psychological support into the curriculum to meet the specific mental health needs of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence.

The project will involve 200 children between the ages of 8 and 14, including direct victims of the Boko Haram insurgency, children born of war, other children born to survivors, and children who witnessed the violence. Of this number, 120 have already been identified. In September, 31 children were enrolled at a trauma-informed school run by the Neem Foundation. The remaining 89 students were enrolled in an accelerated learning programme, that will last six to eight months, to prepare them for formal schooling.

In Yobe and Adamawa, 13 adult survivors also decided to resume their education journeys, choosing financial measures to support their enrolment in secondary school and universities. This process will last up to six years, depending on their curriculum.



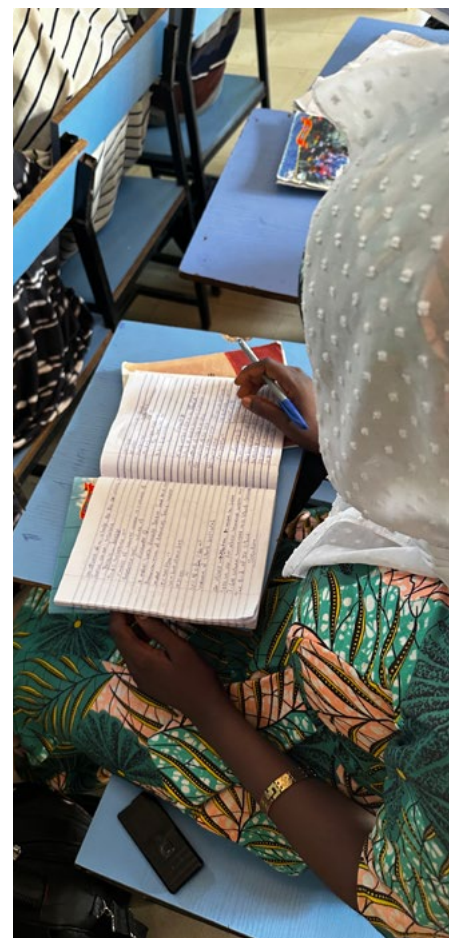
Capital city

Project locations (regions)

“

Signing this certificate today makes me feel like a graduate. I was called illiterate, but I believe this project will change everything. This is why I chose education.

- A survivor from Adamawa



A student in Adamawa state, Nigeria.
December 2024 © Ussah Yakubu /GSF

2021

Work began

South Sudan

Following 22 years of conflict, South Sudan became the youngest country in the world in July 2011, when a referendum delivered independence from Sudan. Peace was short-lived, and a civil war broke out in December 2013. Thousands of women, men and children have since been subjected to conflict-related sexual violence. Survivors have yet to receive reparation, despite transitional justice frameworks established under the 2018 peace agreement.

GSF published the GRS on South Sudan in 2022, following focus group discussions with survivors in six locations. Survivors reported urgent unmet needs, including the need for medical care, psychological support, destigmatisation, and livelihood support.

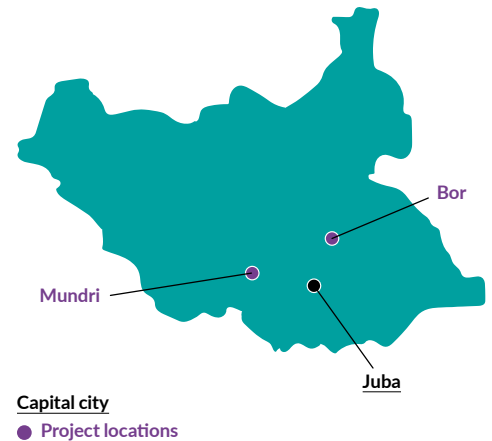
In 2024, we signed a partnership agreement to start an interim reparative measures project in Bor and Mundri, with the Active Youth Agency (AYA), Steward Women (STW), the Center for Inclusive Governance Peace and Justice (CIGPJ), and Rights for Peace (RfP). The latter two partners are particularly involved in the national advocacy strategy.

As per GSF's methodology, the implementation plan was co-created with survivors. The project started with the formation of Steering Committees in Bor and Mundri, which include survivors and trusted community members such as religious leaders, educators, and humanitarian workers. Ongoing discussions were held with survivors, women leaders, government representatives and community chiefs to explain and share insights on our project strategies and identifying survivors and members of the Steering Committees. Four focus group discussions were held to develop the plan, involving a total of 40 survivors. They described the importance of livelihood, education, compensation, and medical care to rebuild their lives and were given a platform to define their vision for interim reparative measures.

Together with 15 key informants in Bor, Mundri and Juba, survivors also collected and shared insights on survivor identification processes, contextual strategies for interim reparative measures, and the selection of Steering Committee members. These included women leaders, government representatives, and community chiefs. These discussions will continue with the 400 survivors who will co-create the project.

GSF also conducted three trainings on the interim reparative measures' methodology in Juba, Bor, and Mundri, which marked the official launch of the project in July.

Our partners continued engaging with the government's Peace and Reconciliation Committee to ensure the inclusion of survivors and children born of war in national transitional justice policies. GSF and advocacy partners have supported efforts to develop survivor-centred selection criteria for the Commissioners for the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA), laying the groundwork for a survivor-centred administrative reparation programme.



2022

Work began

455

Survivor participants identified

Timor-Leste

In 2024, the first phase of the interim reparative measures project kicked off across all 13 municipalities of Timor-Leste. Led in collaboration with Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) and *Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita* (ACbit), 455 participants were identified in 101 villages. Survivors chose to name the project 'Bukae' after a traditional Timorese basket used during long journeys, symbolising their hopes for a path toward reparations.

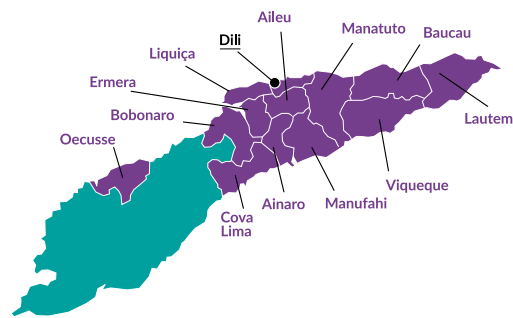
More than 200 people identified by the Steering Committee had never previously shared their stories, representing both a significant achievement and a challenge. This group includes survivors, their now-adult children born of war, as well as people who were children when they were forced to witness the violence. They took part in workshops which gave them an opportunity to acknowledge their trauma – allowing survivors to share the impact it has had on their lives, and make an informed decision about taking part in the project.

In July, participants began to work on the project design. Survivor community mobilisers, or *dinamisadoras*, facilitated discussions alongside our partners. In these meetings, survivors shared their desires for financial reparative measures which would provide tangible improvements to their lives, including compensation to cover housing and education-related costs, and the establishment of livelihood projects. For their collective interim reparative measures, survivors expressed a desire to receive government-issued recognition letters acknowledging their status as survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and create a memory book documenting their experiences during the conflict.

Decades have passed since the violence, and most survivors in Timor-Leste are now elderly. Years of discrimination, limited access to healthcare, and unaddressed trauma have left many in poor health, affecting their quality of life and ability to fully fight for their right to reparation. GSF adapted to this reality and set aside funding to address urgent medical needs, while also ensuring that medical issues related to conflict-related sexual violence are met.

The implementation of individual interim reparative measures started in September. In October, AJAR and ACbit commissioned the health organisation *Saude Ba Ema Hotu* (SABEH) and Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET) to provide medical and psychological care.

By the end of the year, 97 survivors had accessed medical care, and 101 had received the first instalment of financial measures. The now-adult children born of war primarily used this to pursue an education.



Capital city
Project locations

“

Recognition is not about money, but about preserving our stories. Women gave their bodies for liberation; why is there no letter of honour for us?

- Maria Carvalho Amaral, a survivor and Steering Committee member



Galuh Wandita (AJAR), Karine Bonneau and Tanima Kishore (GSF) with the project team in Dili, Timor-Leste.
July 2025 © Anastacio Madeira

2020

Work began

41

Audio podcasts produced

792

Financial compensations awarded

Türkiye

In December 2024, we ended our interim reparative measures project in southeast Türkiye for survivors of detention from Syria. A total of 792 survivors received financial compensation, enabling them to establish or scale up small business, resume their education, or seek medical care. Some opened coffee shops and hair salons, other kickstarted food-delivery services, or scaled up their existing businesses. This contributed to an enhanced sense of financial independence and stability.

During the first quarter of the year, more than 500 survivors took part in focus group discussions to select their collective measure. Ultimately, survivors decided that they wanted to publicly share their stories and what they endured during their detention. This culminated in the production of 41 audio podcasts and 10 video podcasts from March to December, highlighting survivor testimonies, reflecting on the impact of the interim reparative measures, and sharing messages of hope for those still in captivity. Some elements were translated into English for wider reach and advocacy.

Our two partners, the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) and the Association of Detainees and Missing of Sednaya Prison (ADMSP), continued to accompany survivors. CVT provided psychological care through tele-health sessions with mental health counsellors, and ADMSP provided group therapy sessions at their joint Family Center. Some of these sessions were specifically designed to prepare those who were involved in the podcast project to share their stories.

In August, GSF signed a partnership agreement with ADMSP to provide art therapy sessions and other forms of psychological support to Syrian adults affected by conflict-related sexual violence as children – an often-invisible group of survivors. The project, which began in November also aims to raise awareness of the specific struggles faced by this group.

In May, we conducted focus group discussions with survivors in Mersin, Reyhanlı, Şanlıurfa, and Gaziantep to identify their advocacy priorities and views on the establishment of a possible international fund for Syrian victims. They expressed that using the assets of the Assad regime and other perpetrators to address the harms they suffered would give them a greater sense of justice and dignity.

GSF also completed its impact evaluation of the interim reparative measures project. In August, 132 survivors participated in the final measurement through Photovoice workshops and surveys. Preliminary results showcase that the project improved survivors' quality of life. Psychological, physical, and environmental wellbeing also improved, reflecting better financial and living conditions. Results also show survivors felt a strong sense of recognition, dignity, and agency.

In December, an event was held in Gaziantep to mark the end of the project in Türkiye, bringing together survivors, project partners, representatives of Syrian civil society organisations, academics, and journalists. Survivors and partners spoke about the project's lasting impact and achievements. GSF and its partners also reflected on the main challenges and lessons learnt from the project and how this co-creation model could serve other projects led by our partners.

With the fall of the Assad regime that same month, a new chapter of reckoning and hope has opened for survivors of sexual violence in detention. GSF, ADMSP and CVT immediately explored scaling up opportunities and emergency response for survivors released from detention centres in Syria, as well as reshaping advocacy strategies. These measures will become operational in early 2025.



Capital city
Project locations

“

This experience helped me understand myself and the changes that occur after traumatic events on various levels - physical, social, and psychological. I feel stronger because I understand myself better.

- A survivor from Syria



Hanan lives in Gaziantep, Türkiye. As part of her individual interim measures, she began to cook and sell Syrian food from home. November 2024 © Marie Perrault /GSF

2021

Work began

Uganda

During the prolonged conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the national army in Uganda from 1986 to 2006, women, girls, men, and boys were abducted and subjected to conflict-related sexual violence. In 2019, the Ugandan government created a national transitional justice policy, but it has yet to take effect - preventing survivors from receiving reparations.

In 2024, momentum around transitional justice gathered speed when the ICC issued a [reparation order](#), and the Trust Fund for Victims produced a [draft implementation plan](#) in the Dominic Ongwen case. In response, we co-hosted two roundtables in October to highlight the importance of taking survivor-centred approaches to reparation, with a particular focus on the Ongwen case.

In December, we co-hosted a larger event on the same topic, together with REDRESS, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), *Avocats Sans Frontières Belgique* (ASF), and the ICC Trust Fund for Victims. Held on the sidelines of the 23rd ICC Assembly of States Parties, the event looked at lessons from the Ongwen case, promoting co-creation and the involvement of grassroots organisations and survivor networks in the delivery of reparations to victims of international crimes.

To support the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, GSF also partnered with the Refugee Law Project (RLP) and the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN). From January to October, we organised workshops to build the advocacy capacity of survivors. Capitalising on the current traction, participants advocated for both court-administered and government-led reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.



Capital city

416

Financial compensations awarded

1

Law on urgent interim reparation adopted

Ukraine

GSF's pilot project on urgent interim reparation successfully provided financial compensation to 416 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine, while laying the foundation for a government-led reparation programme adopted by the Ukrainian parliament in November.

The project, launched in May, involves survivors of conflict-related sexual violence committed since 2014. It includes survivors from all areas of Ukraine, including remote areas and communities near the frontlines, as well as Ukrainian survivors residing abroad.

GSF collaborated with several partners, including the Andreev Family Foundation, Blue Bird, Eleos Ukraine, and Truth Hound, to reach a diverse group of victims. The registration process had to be accessible and build trust between survivors and our partners – free of overwhelming bureaucracy or interrogations on what they endured. As such, a dedicated team of nine case managers conducted in-person and online interviews, accommodating to survivors' needs and availability. GSF also worked closely with the Office of the Prosecutor General in Ukraine to avoid the re-traumatisation of participants during registration. We ensured those who had opened criminal cases did not have to recount their story, instead retrieving previously shared information directly from the Office.

Of the survivors found eligible to receive compensation in 2024, 228 were men, 181 women, and 8 children. Survivors primarily chose to spend the compensation on covering basic life needs, medical care, housing restoration, and investment in activities that could help them secure an income. Feedback from survivors, gathered through case managers and anonymised forms, showed that this not only provided financial benefits, but also a sense of recognition.



Capital city
Project locations

Our pilot in Ukraine is proof that providing reparation, even in times of war, is feasible. However, it must also be adapted to the reality on the ground, responding to the current context. A multi-stakeholder approach is still essential, even if different to the Steering Committees set up in GSF's interim reparative measures projects. In Ukraine, various bodies were needed to ensure both the political buy-in and ownership of the process, and the day-to-day delivery of technical and survivor-centred work, including collecting and reviewing applications. As part of this, a special procedure tailored for receiving testimonies from children was put in place.

Since 2023, GSF has led advocacy and technical support efforts around a proposed law on urgent interim reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The Law on Legal and Social Protection of the Rights of Survivors of Sexual Violence Related to the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and Urgent Interim Reparations (No. 4067) was adopted in November 2024 and signed by the President of Ukraine in December.

This is the first time that a government will provide urgent interim reparation to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, acting in response to immediate needs during an ongoing war and focusing specifically on such devastating crimes. The successful adoption of the reparation law serves as a potential model for victims of other human rights abuses in Ukraine, such as victims of torture, and as a model for other governments involved in ongoing conflicts globally.

In terms of international advocacy and policy development, GSF briefed the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Magnitsky Sanctions on Innovative Solutions to Finance Reparations. The team also drafted and coordinated an advocacy call - co-signed by over 30 organisations - to the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), urging them to allocate a portion of immobilised Russian assets, set to be repurposed under the REPO for Ukrainians Act, for urgent interim reparation.

Additionally, through a grant to REDRESS, GSF collaborated on the research and drafting of a paper titled 'Principles on Repurposing Funds from Assets for Reparation to Victims of the Conflict between Russia & Ukraine'. This paper, to be published in 2025, outlines a repurposing for reparation framework that could be adopted by governments or the European Union to channel funds toward reparations, prioritising the most vulnerable survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other gross human rights violations resulting from the war.



Lyudmila Huseynova, a survivor activist, during a conference on the urgent needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Kyiv, Ukraine. March 2024 © JurFem

Global Reparations Study

& the Reparation Praxis Hub

The Global Reparations Study focuses on the status of and opportunities for reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe. To date, GSF has published studies across 18 countries, working with 1,043 survivors and 42 partners. Another seven reports will be launched in 2025.



Launch event for the GRS in Guatemala City, Guatemala.
November 2024 © Skarabajo Rodríguez /CALDH

The studies involve survivors as much as possible, depending on the context in each country. In Côte d'Ivoire, we adopted a peer-to-peer research approach, proposed by participants, which trained survivors to interview and collect information from fellow survivors. In Yemen, security risks prevented survivor participation this year. Instead, a study was conducted to provide a thorough understanding of the realities on the ground, in the hope that it will serve as the basis for future, survivor-led efforts.

Many survivors have never spoken of the suffering they endured. By bringing them together in a safe space where they can freely share their experiences and perspectives, feel recognised, and be heard, the studies can represent the beginning of healing and repair. GSF and partners offer psychosocial support as part of the process, as seen this year in Mali, CAR, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nigeria.

To ensure that survivors' perspectives are represented accurately in the study, validation workshops are also organised before publication of most reports. In 2024, such workshops were organised in CAR, Guatemala, Mali, and Nigeria.

The discussions with survivors yield valuable information, which cannot always be summarised into country studies. Consequently, GSF began producing thematic research briefings, and the [briefing on reparation for children born of conflict-related sexual violence](#) was published in June. The report zooms in on survivors' perspectives on reparation for their children and their unique needs and concerns.

The briefing highlighted recurring issues in the lives of children born of conflict-related sexual violence, including stigma, the need for mental and physical healthcare, and the importance of recognising them as individuals distinct from their parents. Parents expressed the need for education, community acceptance, and child-centred reparations.

The participatory nature of the studies reflects the vision of survivors and identifies possible areas for advancing reparation. They serve as a guide for future GSF actions, and as contributions to survivors' groups and civil society organisations working on reparation and conflict-related sexual violence.

Reparation Praxis Hub

The Reparation Praxis Hub (or the Hub) builds on the knowledge derived from our studies, and was set up to guide policymakers, practitioners, and survivors in advancing reparation. This unit is dedicated to understanding how reparation for conflict-related sexual violence works in practice, identifying what truly makes an impact in survivors' lives, and making this information available to a large audience. Drawing from empirical research, the Hub identifies lessons that could be used by different actors to define their own strategies for advancing reparation.

This year, the Hub organised a community of practice in Seville, which brought together academics, practitioners, and survivors from Guatemala, Colombia, and El Salvador. Discussions centred on survivors' agency as protagonists and changemakers in their own stories.

Additionally, the Hub is also developing a set of tools that contain the most compelling questions for developing reparation policies and programmes. The tools identify the dilemmas these programmes usually face, how they have been addressed in different countries, and what impact those choices had on survivors. They are to be presented in a way that is accessible to international policymakers, civil society organisations, and survivors themselves, with a focus on real-world impact and lessons drawn from the field.

Operations

Grant-making & working with partners

In our work to provide effective, meaningful interim reparative measures to survivors, partnerships are key. At GSF, we choose to collaborate with organisations that are closest to survivors and understand the often complex reality on the ground. As both a donor and partner, we provide both financial and methodological support to create projects that respond to the local contexts and needs of each survivor, coming together with our partners under the common goal of creating the highest level of impact.

We provide practical resources, and feedback, training, expert advice and support through regular project visits. This support is also provided in regard to financial management, risk management, data protection and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. Our supportive and flexible approach strengthens the capacity of partners and contributes to their sustainability.

Grants are managed by regional and country teams, which include both dedicated senior programmes and finance coordinators, with advice from the relevant thematic experts. They closely support each partner, ensuring not only that they follow the GSF approach, but exchange in full transparency on the challenges and reality of delivering each activity.

Fifty-five per cent of GSF's programmatic work in 2024 was delivered through civil society partners, through providing grants to implement projects.

GSF awarded 38 new grants in 2024 (19 for advocacy projects, 14 for interim reparative measures projects, 4 for urgent interim measures projects and 1 for the Global Reparations Study. This brings the total since 2020 to 126 grants awarded to 62 different partners, covering 26 focus countries.

Grants to partners

	ANNUAL			CUMULATED @ YEAR-END		
	2023	2024	Variance	2023	2024	Variance
NUMBER OF GRANTS	31	38	23%	88	126	43%
NUMBER OF FOCUS COUNTRIES	23	18	-22%	26	26	-
NUMBER OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	33	42	27%	45	62	38%



2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

GSF disbursed nearly 6 million CHF to its partners in 2024. The total cumulated amount disbursed by GSF to its partners since its creation reached 17.8 million CHF at the end of 2024, (an overall increase of 48 per cent compared to the end of 2023).

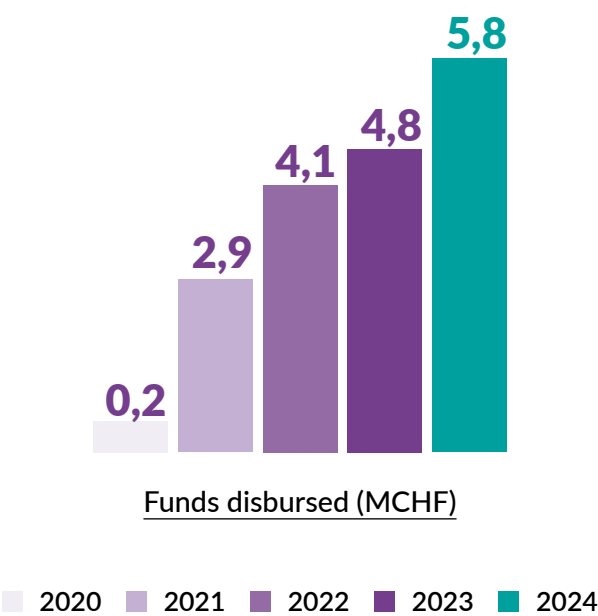
In 2024, we saw a 20 per cent increase in disbursed funds from last year, owing to our reparation work in Ukraine and the launch of new multi-year interim reparative measures projects in Timor-Leste, Nigeria, South Sudan, Nepal and Cambodia. In 2024, we doubled the grants awarded to our interim reparative measures project partners compared to 2023, as most of our projects enter their second phase in 2025. This will lead to an increase in disbursements.

The small grants awarded to national partner civil society organisations contributing to the ADVOCATE and GUIDE pillars doubled in 2024. These were made to partners in the DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Iraq, Guinea, Mali, Guatemala, Côte d'Ivoire, CAR, and Mali. They include both the organisation of launch events for GRS country reports and advocacy initiatives following on from the Kinshasa Declaration. In addition, grants were disbursed to conduct trainings and provide advice to both civil society and governments on how to work in synergy to improve the texts of draft reparation laws and decrees, ensuring that they are survivor-centred.

For more details, please refer to the separate 2024 Financial Report.

Funds disbursed (MCHF)

	ANNUAL			CUMULATED @ YEAR-END		
	2023	2024	Variance	2023	2024	Variance
DISBURSED FUNDS	4,841,869	5,804,315	20%	12,001,439	17,805,754	48%
VS SOCIAL MISSION EXPENSES	56%	55%	-	59%	58%	-
VS TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	44%	45%	-	47%	46%	-



Operations

Finance

Income

In 2024 we received an income of 14 million Swiss francs (CHF). Annual contributions from the governments of France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom, all of whom sit on our Board of Directors, amounted to 64% of our funding this year. In addition, other institutional funding continued from the Government of Belgium, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Canada Global Affairs and the Canton of Geneva. The US Department of State, Education Cannot Wait, and a private foundation are new donors contributing to our 2024 income.

2.9 million CHF was earmarked for Ukraine, and came from the governments of France, under the *Centre de crise et soutien* (CDCS), and Belgium.

A total of 26% of our 2024 income was labelled “unrestricted”, slightly lower than the previous year (32% in 2023).

We will continue to raise funds in the future, both from foundations and private organisations, as well as corporations and individuals.

Expenditure

With the continuation of ongoing projects and the launch of new projects and activities in 2024, GSF continued its growth with a 19% increase in operational expenses, reaching 13 million CHF in 2024 compared to 11.0 million CHF the previous year. Activities were conducted in 26 different countries.

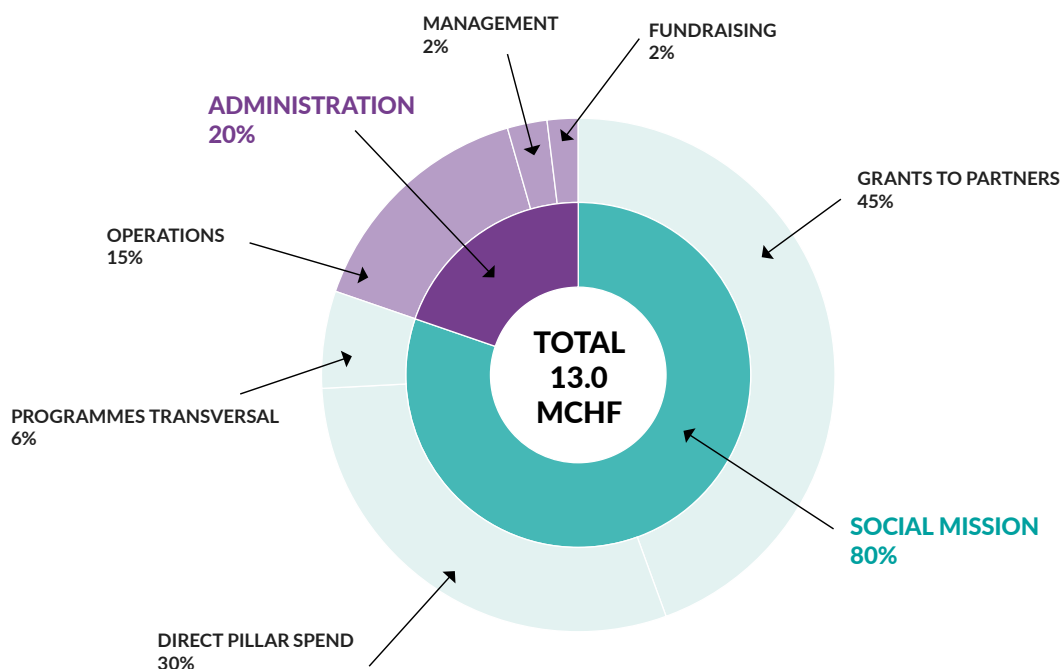
Disbursements of funds to our partners accounted for 55% of social mission expenses, and 45% of our total operational spend, showing that grant-making is a key component of our programme delivery.

Social mission expenses represented 80% of the 2024 operational spend.

Result

In 2024, total annual expenses were lower than contributions, with an annual surplus of +1.1 million CHF.

2024 TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES



Programme implementation by pillar and region

The breakdown of social mission spend between our pillars in 2024 showed a higher level of spending for the ACT pillar (62%) owing to our interim reparative measures and urgent interim reparations projects, which include direct individual benefits to survivors. This is followed by the ADVOCATE pillar (12%), which included numerous advocacy events and initiatives at local, regional, or global level. The GUIDE pillar totalled 11% of the social mission spend, involving technical support to governments, and the KNOW pillar represented 7% of the social mission spend, composed of both the Global Reparations Study and the Reparation Praxis Hub. Finally, 8% of the social spend was related to transversal programme management.

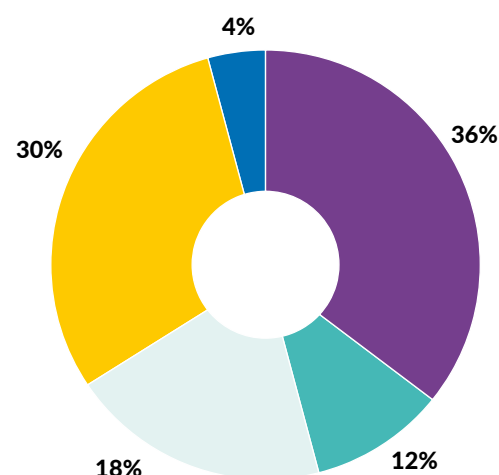
In terms of geographic scope, Africa remained our largest region of expenditure, representing 36% (2.93 million CHF), across 13 countries. The greatest proportion was allocated to CAR (1.08 million CHF), followed by Nigeria (0.56 million CHF), South Sudan (0.56 million CHF), and the DRC (0.36 million CHF). The spend in Europe was also significant, with 30% (2.45 million CHF) exclusively for Ukraine.

We increased funds allocated to Asia to 18% (0.66 million CHF in Timor-Leste, 0.46 million CHF in Nepal, and 0.25 million CHF in Cambodia).

The 2024 spend in the Middle East decreased to 12% with the end of projects in Türkiye for the survivors of detention in Syria and in Iraq, for survivors of ISIS captivity.

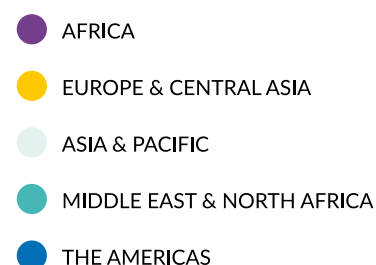
The spend in Americas represented 4% (0.18 million CHF for continued activities in Colombia, plus new activities in Guatemala and El Salvador).

2024 BREAKDOWN BY REGION
(EXCL. TRANSVERSAL EXPENSES)



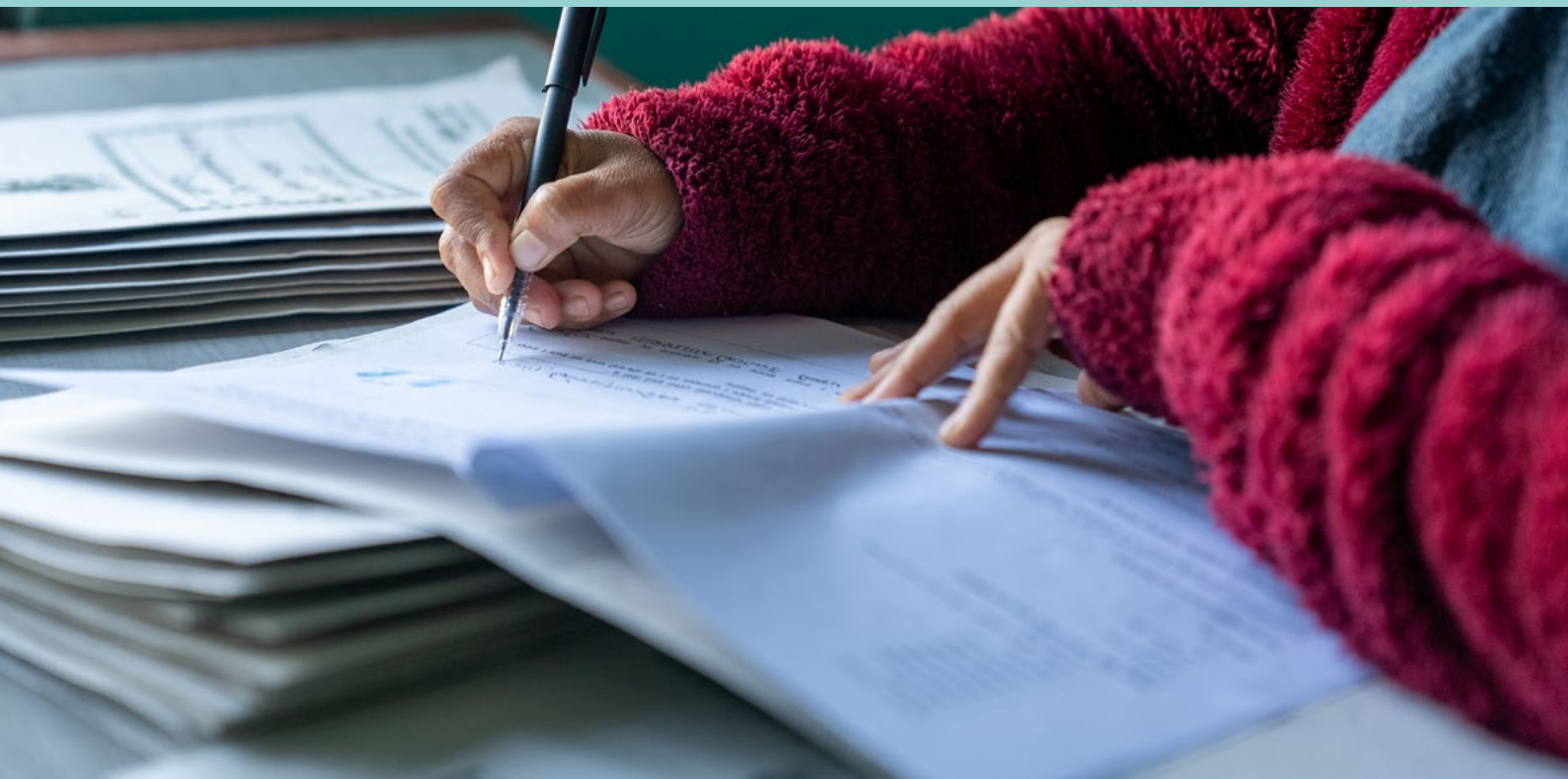
Summary 2024 annual accounts (in thousand CHF)

	2024
Annual contributions from Board Member governments	8,919
Bilateral grants from governments and public institutions	4,602
Multilateral grants	287
Foundations and private organisations	176
Private individuals	5
Other income	4
Total income	13,993
of which restricted	10,292
of which unrestricted	3,701
EXPENSES	
Staff costs	5,542
Third-party service providers	821
Travel costs	426
Grants to partners	5,804
Office running costs	190
Events & communications	123
Other expenses	78
Depreciation	59
Total operational expenses	13,043
EBIT ¹¹	951
FINANCIAL RESULT	
Financial expenses	
Financial income	199
Total financial result	198
Total expenses (including financial result)	12,844
Result before changes in restricted funds and capital	1,149



Operations

Human resources



A counsellor fills out survivor identification paperwork in Lumbini province, Nepal.
November 2024 © Ganga Sagar Rai

This year, the Human Resources (HR) team's efforts continued to focus on the consolidation of tools, policies, and best practices for the organisation.

A key achievement was the fine-tuning and rolling out of the new Learning and Development policy. As part of our desire to encourage the professional growth of our staff, all managers in the organisation were trained in people management. Other thematic trainings were organised for specific groups: Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT), dealing with vicarious trauma, business intelligence, media training, effective communication skills, stress management and grounding techniques. In addition, six colleagues attended sessions on Action Learning, which involves active listening and problem-solving. Organised as a training of trainers, participants will be equipped to put this in practice with colleagues starting from 2025. Professional coaching was also delivered at the end of the year.

We conducted our second staff survey in 2024. The results showed a high level of engagement and alignment with GSF's mission and values across the team. The positive working environment emerged as the aspect most valued and prioritised by staff. Scores for areas such as management, learning and development, and internal policies and procedures greatly increased from 2023, while other areas for improvement have been identified and will be at the centre of follow-up work. The survey will be done every year to monitor feedback and engagement from all GSF staff in a consistent manner.

We also conducted our first benchmarking exercise, with the objective of further consolidating our benefits and compensation policy. The results confirmed GSF's competitiveness within its sector in Switzerland.

The HR unit also rolled out a new online leave-management platform. This allows us to refine our compliance with labour law requirements and provides a better overview and analysis of our teams' attendance.

Our organisation was composed of 60 staff members in 2024¹, representing 29 nationalities across 17 countries. With at least 50 per cent of the decision-making and financial responsibilities based outside of Switzerland, we continue to favour the presence of our staff close to the projects. Moreover, 86 per cent of our project staff are based in-country, as close as possible to their area of responsibility.

We also welcomed 19 interns this year, thanks to tripartite agreements with universities and academic institutions from Belgium, Colombia, France, Italy, South Africa, and Switzerland.

1. Represented as 52 full time equivalents (FTE).

Risk management

As GSF expands its work with partners in diverse and often volatile contexts, we have adapted our approach to align with our Strategic Plan 2024-2030, taking structured and proactive measures to mitigate potential challenges.

The position of senior Risk and Compliance focal point was established to help coordinate and strengthen risk-related efforts across five key areas: implementing risk-based approaches at country and project level, partner capacity-building and training, providing operational support to project teams, strengthening due diligence and risk prevention, and complying with donor and legal requirements.

Risk assessments were conducted in three of the six countries where we currently have new interim reparative measures projects, working with in-country staff and partners to identify and assess risks from the very beginning. This will continue in other locations in the first quarter of 2025, and will allow GSF to better understand and mitigate issues our teams and partners face.

Throughout 2024, we continued work with our partners to build their risk management capacity. We shared resources, provided briefings, and delivered online or in-person trainings to various individuals involved in our projects, including managers, project staff, and Steering Committee members. Key topics included preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, fraud prevention and response, data protection, security and safety, and general risk management.

Specific awareness sessions were conducted with survivor participants of our projects to ensure they are aware of their rights and further protected from possible harms. We also worked on developing a database to support partners with the management of survivors' personal data. This tool will be available to those who do not have a secure means of storage for sensitive data.

Our senior focal point worked closely with project teams to address specific issues throughout the year. This included managing challenges with partners and sub-grantees and addressing governance concerns.

GSF continued to fine-tune its risk management policies. The Fraud Prevention and Response policy was developed and rolled out, and work began on drafting the Child Safeguarding policy - a key focus for GSF moving forward. Additionally, a component was added to our partnership policy to guide partners and ensure they understand GSF's expectations regarding risk management.

To comply with international anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regulations, GSF started using a new screening software and conducted checks on partners. The related policy and procedures will be rolled out in 2025, and the system will be extended to suppliers, staff, and board members.

Efforts continued to strengthen risk management at institutional level. The institutional register was further refined to track key risks; integrating a component into the due diligence tool to guide decision-making; developing the 2025 Risk Annual Plan to align with GSF's strategy; ensuring compliance with donor requirements, and conducting record of processing activities to ensure compliance with data protection regulations and improve oversight of data management practices.

Communications

Throughout 2024, the communications team focused on media engagement, digital outreach, and internal communication to ensure alignment with GSF's broader goals.

This year marked the introduction of a more structured communications approach, ensuring all initiatives align with one of three key purposes: visibility, accountability, or positioning.

Communications efforts supported key events in Colombia, Ukraine, and Guatemala, allowing for the collection of high-quality materials.

Significant projects were initiated, including the documentation of projects in Türkiye and Nepal, with a focus on ethical storytelling that protects survivor anonymity.

We advanced the management of our audio-visual content by migrating assets to a new online media database. More than 5,000 items were screened, captioned and encoded, allowing us to store and retrieve content efficiently. This work informed the development of a retention policy for audio-visual material, ensuring ethical and secure use of survivor stories in line with data protection standards, and to be accountable to survivors who accept to share their stories with us.

Social media engagement progression was maintained across the year, with an average increase of 300-500 new followers per month across all platforms. LinkedIn emerged as our top-performing platform, and March saw record-breaking engagement on GSF's social media. Our social media team led the 16 Days of Activism campaign, generating 52,000 impressions and 3,400 engagements, reflecting a 187 per cent and 25 per cent increase respectively from the previous year. We expanded our digital reach by publishing video content on Instagram, targeting new audiences interested in human rights.

The Senior Management Team and all Heads of Unit participated in media training sessions, equipping them with skills to better represent GSF in interviews.

Throughout the year we maintained proactive media outreach, resulting in coverage from Just Security, The Guardian, *El Diario*, *Libération*, RTL, *Agence France-Presse* (AFP), *Le Monde*, and The Independent. GSF wrapped up the year with over 100 high-quality media mentions, with Ukraine being the most covered topic. Additionally, our work was recognised by the governments of Ukraine and France and cited in the UK's House of Lords.

Operations

Governance



Participants during an event on co-creation at the University of Rosario, Colombia.
November 2024 © Valentina Alfonso Guarín

GSF's Board of Directors remains composed of a diverse group of stakeholders, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, government and civil society representatives, and reparation experts. The board provides strategic oversight, policy guidance, and ensures accountability across GSF's work. In 2024, it convened three times - in February, June, and December.

In February 2024, Dr Denis Mukwege resumed his role as Chair of the Board, following a temporary leave during his candidacy for the Presidency of the DRC. Co-chair Norbert Wühler led the board in the interim.

Board members continue to play a crucial role in championing our mission. For example, Ruth Rubio Marín was pivotal in advising us on the Seville community of practice in 2024, bringing together survivors from Colombia, Guatemala and El Salvador. Dr. Mukwege participated in a key event in Colombia, where Indigenous views on reparation and the co-creation methodology were presented to the Government and the president of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

A defining strength of GSF's governance remains the voices of survivors on our board. For five years, they have played a central role in shaping our strategic direction. As Grace Achan, a board member and survivor activist, puts it: "In giving strategic support to GSF, my expertise helps to bring just that other angle to the exchanges. As survivor activists on the board, we always keep that critical question on the radar: how will this impact survivors, now and in the long run?".

We are deeply grateful to our board members for their dedication.

Expanding our reach

In 2024 we took the first steps toward the establishment of a 501(c)(3) organisation in the United States. GSF USA will have its own governance structure, and will focus on the mobilisation of resources to sustain our growing global work.

Looking ahead

We spent 2024 focused on how to put our strategic plan in action. As we move into 2025, our attention shifts to implementation.

Education as a form of reparation will be a central focus. Building on the inspirational work of our partners in Nigeria, in 2025 we will step up efforts to elevate education as a globally-recognised pillar of reparation, and launch an ambitious plan for making this a reality.

In the face of shrinking foreign aid and increasing strain on funding, the innovative financing of reparation remains an even more critical priority. We will increase our advocacy efforts and create momentum for the repurposing of confiscated assets and sanction breach fines, with a focus on several countries.

We will scale up interim reparative measures for survivors in multiple ways, including through strategic collaboration with other actors, both national and international. In 2025, we envision exciting partnerships with humanitarian actors, particularly in contexts where reparation is urgent and conflict is ongoing.

Co-creation with survivors remains at the core of all our work. We look forward to launching our handbook on co-creation with children and young people. This, and many other resources for policy makers and practitioners, are being prepared by our Reparation Praxis Hub. These tools are designed to support the implementation of national reparation programmes, from the earliest stages of development through to delivery.

In all of this, we remain committed to supporting a wide range of national and community-based organisations. And in doing so, we will continue to seek and provide flexible financing and collaborative project design and implementation.



Esther Dingemans, GSF Executive Director, Fanny Escobar, a survivor, and Dr Denis Mukwege, GSF Co-founder and Chair of the Board, at an event on co-creation at the University of Rosario, Colombia.
November 2024 © Valentina Alfonso Guarín

Partners & donors

Implementing partners



Technical partners

ACbit - Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita; Advocacy Forum; Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST); Center for Inclusive Governance Peace and Justice (CIGPJ); *Coalition Nationale des Associations de Victimes* (CNAV); Crown the Woman (CREW); *Cristosal*; Grace Agenda; Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL); Justice Center Iraq (JCI); *Klibur Pirilampu*; *Maison de la Mémoire Centrafrique*; Network of South Sudanese Survivors in Uganda (NoSSSU); Rights for Peace (RfP); Steward Women (STW); Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO); and Women Advocacy Network (WAN).

Other meaningful partners

SEMA.

Donors



We also extend our thanks to Open Society Foundations for their generous support.

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Front cover photo: Sikha Bhattarai, GSF Project coordinator, during a meeting with Women Peace Facilitators in Lumbini province, Nepal.
November 2024 © Ganga Sagar Rai

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