

UNA004 Narrative Closeout Report

UNA 004 supported the UN Action Secretariat, which was administered by UN Women from 2009-2014. During this time period, The Secretariat provided substantive administrative and technical support to the UN Action network, coordinating a task force of Focal Points from the 13 UN entities, which meets every month. The UN Action Secretariat also supported quarterly meetings of the network's policy and governance body – the UN Action Steering Committee, which comprises Principals from the UN Action members and is chaired by the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The UN Action Secretariat was also responsible for developing the annual Strategic Framework for the UN Action network, and managing and monitoring its implementation. The Secretariat prepared the network's annual Progress Report every year, and spearheaded fundraising and reporting to donors. Extra-budgetary resources were mobilised from a range of donors and managed by a Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

The Secretariat led the network's advocacy effort using a diverse range of communications mechanisms and tools. For example, the UN Action Network's Stop Rape Now Campaign and website (www.stoprapenow.org) which were built and managed under this MPTF project.

UN Action's website is a repository of advocacy resources, news stories, and field updates on conflict-related sexual violence for use by practitioners and the public. It is an interactive site for social mobilization, featuring a 'global photo map' of people from all walks of life displaying the crossed-arm gesture in a show of solidarity with survivors. High-profile personalities have been engaged in the campaign, including UN Messenger of Peace Charlize Theron, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman, Congolese surgeon Dr. Denis Mukwege, former peacekeeper Major General Patrick Cammaert, Liberian peace activist and Nobel laureate, Leymah Gbowee, as well as actresses Heather Graham and Robin Wright and a number of UN Executive Heads. 2013 saw increased traffic to the website, as well as to the Stop Rape Now campaign's YouTube channel, Facebook page (over 15,000 fans) and Twitter (over 20,000 followers). In early 2014, UN Action launched a Stop Rape Now News App to provide practitioners and other interested parties with real-time reporting on conflict-related sexual violence.

The Secretariat also negotiated and managed strategic support to priority countries through developments of Comprehensive Strategies on Conflict Related Sexual Violence, as well as managed knowledge generation and dissemination. Since its inception, UN Action has sought to elevate sexual violence to a place on the international peace and security agenda. Its efforts have heightened awareness that conflict-related sexual violence is not just a gender or developmental issue, but a violation of human rights as well as a war tactic and illicit means of attaining military, political and economic ends. UN Action built its political and strategic advocacy on the foundation of international human rights law as well as on international humanitarian law and international criminal law, which recognize that sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, and an act of torture or genocide. This new paradigm affirms that sexual violence is not cultural or collateral, but criminal. It is not an inevitable by-product of war, but a tactic that can be commanded, condoned or condemned. The effect of this new understanding has been two-fold: it confirms that prevention is possible, and it expands the circle of stakeholders to embrace non-traditional constituencies such as peacemakers, peacekeepers and peace builders. Advocacy efforts have taken this message to the general public under the campaign banner: "Get Cross! Stop Rape Now". The aim has been to build a vocal, visible constituency for an issue that has been called "history's greatest silence" and "the world's least condemned war crime". "Get Cross" refers to the need to galvanize global outrage. It also explains the significance of the campaign's distinctive crossed-arm tag gesture and is shorthand for the "five key asks" of the campaign:

As part of this MPTF project, UN Action developed and disseminated key advocacy resources, including a tool kit on Resolution 1820 and successor resolutions, consisting of a PowerPoint presentation explaining how Security Council Resolution 1820 builds on its predecessor, Resolution 1325; a poster outlining the obligations of Member States, the UN system and NGOs; lapel pins that promote the message "Stop Rape in War"; and a pen with a retractable banner containing a "cheat-sheet" summary of 1820. In addition, UN Action has organized seminars for the academic community and posted advocacy articles and Op-eds to guide understanding of when sexual violence constitutes a threat to international peace and security, to publicize the use of rape as a

tool of political repression, and to explain why it has been war's "ultimate secret weapon". The UN Action Secretariat has helped to frame strategic advocacy messages for speeches of the SRSG-SVC, Op-eds, media interviews and official statements, helping the UN to speak with one voice on conflict-related sexual violence, including by continuing to translate and disseminate key advocacy documents and reference tools for use at both headquarters and country-level.

UN Action's global "Stop Rape Now" campaign frames the UN system's efforts to deliver on Outcome 5 of the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. In 2013, UN Action actively contributed to the UNiTE campaign "orange days" to end violence against women, particularly those focused on conflict-related sexual violence.

The UN Action Secretariat conducted briefings with strategic partners, such as UN Member States, Security Council members, the International Criminal Court (ICC), the G8, and supported a number of high-profile events featuring the SRSG-SVC, particularly during the General Assembly and Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Other highlights include the participation of the Secretariat in a student mobilization event and panel on sexual violence as a form of genocide, held in Washington, DC, and an event on transformative approaches to mainstreaming gender in peace and security institutions.

The UK's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) brought even more international attention to the issue of CRSV over the course of 2013, and UN Action has worked closely with the UK Government to identify opportunities for synergies, to avoid duplication of initiatives, and maximize the impact of the respective advocacy approaches and strategies. The UN Action Secretariat presented on the UN's collective approach to conflict-related sexual violence at the G8 meeting in Washington, DC, and has been working closely with the planning team for the Global Summit on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict, which was held in London in June 2014. The UN Action network is planned and participated in a number of policy and "fringe" events during the Summit and will run an advocacy booth where UN Action knowledge products and other advocacy resources were disseminated to a wide and diverse audience.