ANNEX A.4

**MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND FOR**

**UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT COVER PAGE

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| **Participating UN Organization(s):**  UNICEF (lead) and OCHA | **Project[[1]](#footnote-1) Title:** Strengthening prevention of sexual violence in conflict with parties to armed conflict |
| **Focal Point of Participating UN Organization receiving funds:**  Name: Mendy Marsh, UNICEF  Telephone: Marsh 212 824 6313  Email: [mmarsh@unicef.org](mailto:mmarsh@unicef.org) | **Report Number:** |
| **Project Location(s): UNICEF** Headquarters (New York) and DRC |
| **UN Action pillar of activity**:  Advocacy  Knowledge building  Support to UN system at country level | **Reporting Period:** December 1, 2010 to August 2011. |
| **Project Budget:** US $ \_79,324 | |

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| **List Implementing Partners:**   * All UN Action agencies participated in this project as well as the OSRSG for Sexual Violence in Conflict. * A number of international NGOs participated in this project including: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CDH), Geneva Call, Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), Yale University, UNICEF, International Rescue Committee, WHO, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Bank, OCHA, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), and the Sonke Gender Justice Network. * **A number of independent consultants were consulted as well.** | **Project Coverage/Scope:**  Project was carried out from the headquarters level with engagement with interagency headquarters focal points and interviews with field actors. |

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| **Project Duration/Closed Project:**   * The project was approved on December 1 2009 and extended to August 2011. The original project period was for six months, but this was extended for an additional six months. No budget revisions were made. * The project was closed as expected at the end of the project period. |

# Purpose

Intra-state conflicts worldwide are frequently “waged for the control of populations, as much as territory” and as a result women and children are often the primary target for armed violence, including sexual violence.[[2]](#footnote-2) Yet, despite increased attention to the Women, Peace and Security agenda of the past ten years[[3]](#footnote-3) as well as an evolving set of humanitarian tools and approaches aimed at responding to the needs of sexual violence survivors, efforts that focus on *primary prevention* (see Section Two, below) of sexual violence in conflict are still limited. This is especially true in relation to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) that is committed by armed groups. And yet, it is these groups that are often implicated in egregious war-related human rights abuses, including sexual violence against civilians.

To fill this gap, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with funds from the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) Multi-donor Trust Fund, commenced a multi-phased initiative aimed at (i) improving the knowledge base about how to prevent armed actors from committing CRSV and (ii) developing prevention resources that can be used by international and field-based actors to mobilize prevention efforts.

This proposal falls under the *Knowledge Generation Pillar – “Develop a better understanding of the motivations and repertoire of violence used by Non State Actors to inform guidance and preventive diplomacy strategies.”*

1. **Resources**

While other specific funding sources were not allocated to this work, UNICEF contributed significant in-kind support through its GBV Specialist in Emergencies and the Senior Child Protection Advisor for Child Protection in Emergencies. No budget revisions were made.

1. **Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

UNICEF consulted with a number of UNICEF staff and inter-agency partners working in the Monitoring and Reporting Task Forces in 14 countries and the Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility Working Groups within those same 14 countries. The project consultant also had access to a number of UNICEF field staff who currently work in conflict affected countries and who were able to share their expertise in negotiating with armed groups in relation the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

UNICEF’s Specialist on GBV in Emergencies at the headquarters level monitored the progress of the project, and was readily available to the consultants hired under this project. The Specialist also provided overall project guidance in coordination with OCHA as well as with the UN Action Focal Points.

This project did not have implementing partners beyond UNICEF, however, it did include the establishment and involvement of a technical reference group composed of UN and NGO actors. The project also included all UN Action agencies as well as the Office for the Special Representative to the Secretary General for Sexual Violence in Conflict’s office.

**IV. Results**

The first phase of the UNICEF/OCHA initiative was completed in 2011. Given the novelty of investigating how to undertake prevention of CRSV with armed groups, the first phase of research focused specifically on non-state armed groups (NSAGs). It involved mapping and analyzing research and practice that might have relevance to prevention of CRSV committed by NSAGs, as well as identifying key “influencers”— at the international, regional, national and local levels who might effect change in the behavior of armed groups.[[4]](#footnote-4) The first phase also included a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)[[5]](#footnote-5), the purpose of which was to collect information about sexual violence committed by the various NSAGs operating across the DRC and solicit recommendations from field programmers about methods of reducing CRSV.

To provide oversight and guidance to the study, an inter-agency steering group was created including Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CDH), Geneva Call, Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), Yale University, UNICEF, International Rescue Committee, WHO, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Bank, OCHA, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), and the Sonke Gender Justice Network.

In so far as it explored a variety of different themes and approaches (e.g. sexual violence, work with NSAGs, prevention, humanitarian dialogue and conflict resolution) the information generated during the first phase of research was extensive. A proposed framework based on the *Ecological Model* has been developed to share findings of phase one and provides a basis for guiding future research and action.

The findings show that there are examples of contact/relationship-building between humanitarian actors and armed groups but very few on engagements specifically to prevent sexual violence against civilians. In addition, protection efforts have had limited effect in areas controlled by armed groups. There is a need to better understand the motivations and behavior of armed groups in order to allow a more proactive approach to prevent sexual violence in conflict-affected settings.

Phase one also led to the development of a concept note for an expert group meeting to discuss how best to strengthen the prevention of CRSV by armed groups (See Annex 4). This meeting will bring together a small group of experts with experience of working in conflict-affected areas and in negotiating with armed groups or CRSV as well as experts working in the field of CRSV. The overall objectives of the meeting are to:

* Strengthen understanding of key issues related to negotiation with armed actors around sensitive topics;
* Exchange experiences and ideas on possible best practices for engaging with armed actors around the prevention of sexual violence;
* Summarize main challenges and opportunities for the prevention of CRSV by armed actors in the field; and
* Identification of next steps required in order to develop a manual and guidelines on how to engage with state and NSAGs on the prevention of sexual violence.

*Phase II*

The second phase of the UNICEF/OCHA initiative will attempt to build on the outputs of phase one—and expand the focus from NSAGs to include state militaries—in order to develop and field-test draft tools, messages and approaches that could be used to prevent perpetration of sexual violence by all armed groups. More specifically, phase two will include: 1) the development and field-testing of draft tools and approaches to prevent perpetration of sexual violence by armed actors, including gaining a better understanding of the motivations behind the perpetration of CRSV; 2) linking with UNICEF’s work on social norms with the aim of developing a toolkit for use across humanitarian settings to guide primary prevention efforts targeting social norms related to sexual violence committed in conflict-affected settings, 3) the development of a Manual and of Guidelines on how to engage with state and non-state armed actors; and finally 4) the development of a training package based on the manual and guidelines once they are piloted.

Outputs associated with the proposal that were developed include:

* Strengthening Prevention of Conflict-related Sexual Violence with Non-state Armed Groups: Overview of Influencers, Approaches and Experiences for Working with Armed Groups
* Strengthening Prevention of Conflict-related Sexual Violence with Non-state Armed Groups: A Preliminary Framework for Key Prevention Strategies and Annex
* Concept Note: Technical Meeting for Strengthening Prevention of Conflict-related Sexual Violence by Non-state Armed Groups

1. The term “project” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice (UN), UNIFEM & UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, United Nations, June 2010, p.12. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See in particular, Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1882 (2009), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The research was overseen by an inter-agency steering group made up of Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CDH), Geneva Call, Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), Yale University, UNICEF, International Rescue Committee, WHO, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Bank, OCHA, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), and the Sonke Gender Justice Network. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The draft Mission Report is available from by contacting mmarsh@unicef.org [↑](#footnote-ref-5)