

**FUNDING PROPOSAL
TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM**
April 2024

Purpose:	Support to the Global Survivors' Fund's work to ensure survivors of conflict-related sexual violence have access to reparations and other forms of redress globally, including where states and other parties responsible for the violence are unwilling or unable to provide reparation.
Contribution period:	01 January 2024 – 31 December 2025
Funding request:	EUR 2m (in two instalments of EUR 1m each)
GSF contact:	Esther Dingemans, Executive Director edingemans@globalsurvivorsfund.org

Introduction

The overall objective of the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) is to enhance access to reparations and other forms of redress for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence globally, including where the states or other parties responsible for the violence are unwilling or unable to providing reparations.

In 2020, GSF entered into a partnership agreement with the government of Belgium (DGDC), which awarded 800k EUR of funding to GSF's global work. This agreement was renewed in 2022 and split into two separate grant agreements with DGDC. For the year of 2022 – 2023, the government of Belgium provided support to GSF's global work and to GSF's work in Ukraine, for 1M EUR and 500k EUR respectively.

This proposal is for a funding renewal in the amount of 2M EUR to support the global activities of the Global Survivors Fund for 2024-2025.

Narrative of Activities for 2024 - 2025

2024 and 2025 will be an ambitious period of scaling up and increasing impact. Since GSF's establishment, more than 3000 survivors have received or started receiving comprehensive interim reparative measures through our projects in Guinea, DRC, Iraq, and Türkiye (with survivors from Syria). In 2024 alone, this number is expected to double, continuing to grow in 2025 and onward.

This will be achieved by scaling up interim reparative measures projects, expanding into new contexts, particularly in Asia and Latin America, and adopting an integrated country approach where the activities on the ground combine our three pillared ACT, ADVOCATE, and GUIDE work. KNOW is a fourth transversal pillar for all the knowledge and best practice gained through our projects, to exchange and share. GSF will continue to demonstrate to States and the international community that reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence are feasible, affordable, and transformative, as well as using existing outcomes as evidence to bolster future work and enhance access to reparations.

Background

As of March 2024, GSF has been running Interim Reparative Measures projects in Central African Republic (CAR), Turkey (for Syrian Survivors), Nepal, East Timor and Nigeria. GSF's pilot projects in DRC, Iraq and Guinea have concluded, although we are now beginning a project in DRC with children affected by conflict-related sexual violence.

Fifteen reports of the Global Reparations Study have been finalised, published, and launched for South Sudan, Colombia, Ukraine, The Gambia, Uganda, Nepal, Cambodia, Syria, Sudan, Chad, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Myanmar and Timor-Leste (not yet published).

GSF has provided technical assistance to the governments of Guinea, Colombia, DRC and Ukraine. In relation to Ukraine, GSF signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government in 2022 and is now beginning the delivery of urgent interim reparation to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in a pilot project supported by the State. This is an unprecedented achievement, since survivors will obtain urgent reparation in real time, not having to wait for decades to address the many harms caused as a result of sexual violence.

GSF has been actively advocating to further enhance access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Among other things, it has contributed language in the MLA Diplomatic Conference in Ljubljana, organised and participated in major events such as GSF's Expert Roundtable on Children Born of CRSV: Breaking Down Barriers to the Rights to Identity and Nationality, and has organised a high level side event to UNGA during the 78th session of the UN-General Assembly on financing reparation. GSF has finalized advocacy strategies on children and financing reparation, continuing to advocate strongly for the repurposing of assets to make available funding to provide urgent and effective reparations to victims and the inclusion of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence in all reparation programmes.

In 2022 and 2023, recruitment was necessary in order to strengthen our structural base, ensure that we can scale-up our projects, have the correct policies and procedures in place to ensure a healthy and sustainable growth, and to reach our ambition of reaching tens of thousands survivors in the coming years. In 2024, and continuing in 2025, GSF has entered a stage of consolidation, with a highly skilled team that is able to reach our ambition.

Programmes 2024 and 2025:

ACT Pillar: As we embark on implementing our new 7-year strategic plan, we have been successfully concluding several of our early projects (in Guinea, Iraq and DRC), and during this grant year, we will be publishing impact reports and lessons learned for those countries, which so crucially informed our approach and growth during our first years since inception.

In line with the ambitions outlined in our new strategic plan, GSF will – over the course of 2024 and 2025 - continue to expand the number of survivors reached by its interventions, with an interim target to hit at least 5,500 survivors by the end of 2024 alone (cumulative since 2020). We will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to implement projects in Central African Republic, Nigeria, East Timor, Nepal, South Sudan and Cambodia, kick off a new IRM project in Guatemala and launch a new project in DRC focusing on children born of war. We will also be carrying out scopings for work in Bangladesh and Myanmar, among other things. GSF will place particular focus on interim reparative measures for children impacted by conflict-related sexual violence in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and East Timor.

ADVOCATE Pillar: At an international level we seek to shift the narrative around conflict-related sexual violence from a focus that is limited to prevention and response, to the inclusion of holistic forms of justice and reparation. At a national level, we aim for governments to set up co-created, comprehensive, and timely reparation programmes that include survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. GSF will continue to participate in relevant international fora at the regional and international level, judicial and non-judicial, to advance the fulfilment of the right to reparations of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

GSF is operationalising a sound Advocacy and Policy Strategy, with specific emphasis on two key thematic priorities adopted in the new Strategic Plan 2024-30, namely innovative financing of reparations and children as rights holders.

GSF will particularly focus on the potential of repurposing confiscated assets, proceeds of crime, as well as fines for breach of sanctions regimes to finance reparation as they offer an abundant source of untapped funding for reparation. As highlighted by survivors worldwide, using such assets for their benefit has tremendous symbolic value and would provide a sense of justice. Along with a multi-stakeholder coalition, we will advocate for the development of an international legal framework that will provide governments with normative references to repurpose these assets for the benefit of survivors. GSF will place particular emphasis on the repurposing of assets for Ukraine and Syria.

On children affected by conflict-related sexual violence, GSF will continue to work towards the inclusion of children as a specific victim category, both in State-led reparation programmes

and interim reparative measure projects. We will work to ensure that such programmes are co-created with children in a gender-responsive and age-appropriate manner that safeguards their interests, challenges stigmatisation, and avoids re-traumatisation.

GUIDE Pillar: GSF will continue to provide relevant technical assistance on reparations to the governments of CAR, Colombia, DRC, Guinea, Iraq, Mali and Ukraine. In 2023, major work took place in Ukraine with State involvement to prepare for GSF's pilot project, which is set to support some 500 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in 2024. Given that the State is ready to act on the delivery of reparations, GSF will continue to contribute to the enactment of a reparations policy, setting up of a Fund, and the creation of a registry of victims as well as the actual delivery of urgent forms of reparation until relevant government structures can take over. This would not be possible without the support from the Belgian government for the work in Ukraine, separate from Belgium's support to GSF's global programming. National advocacy and technical support will be led by partners in Kenya, Ivory Coast, Nepal, Uganda, Nigeria, South Sudan, Timor Leste and Uganda.

KNOW Pillar: Global Reparations Study: The Study will continue into 2024 with a focus on the finalisation, publication, and launch of reports on Bangladesh, Burundi, CAR, DRC, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mali, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Yemen. In 2024, a briefing will be published analysing the overall trends and patterns observed from every country report from the Global Reparations Study that has been conducted so far, providing valuable insight into the common opportunities and experiences of reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe. In 2025, GSF plans to publish its first 'Annual Report on the Global Status of Reparation for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence', designed to periodically assess progress and challenges in reparation for survivors across 1 to 2 years, acting as a tool for informing stakeholders, amplifying the voices of survivors, and catalysing positive changes in worldwide reparation policies. The Global Reparations Study will be central to our country selection process, informing the nature and levels of engagement in different contexts, illustrating where and how GSF can have added value.

From 2024, the GRS will become part of a newly established Reparation Praxis Hub, which is intended to generate and share knowledge and best practice on implementing meaningful reparation for survivors of CRSV, helping to guide the work of governments and practitioners defining or implementing such policies. The Hub will augment and strengthen the community of practice at national and international levels, connect survivors, practitioners and academia to help advance meaningful and victim-centred approaches. Among other things, it will create a repository of tools for practitioners, including a Handbook on Reparation for CRSV; provide guidance and input to key internal strategy and methodology development processes; organise exchanges with experts and develop a programme of interdisciplinary community of practice workshops and discussions.

Operations 2024 and 2025:

Finance: will focus on continuing to manage outgoing grants to our implementing partners with an emphasis on strong support to them and in particular when they are receiving funding from GSF. This will be done through operationalising the "Partnership" document which set

out what is expected of the partnership, what support partners can expect from GSF, what does GSF expect from partners and what is not feasible. In addition, we are putting in place a platform that will be able to manage the outgoing grants as the numbers are increasing as well as it being a project management tool.

Communications: will develop social media guidelines for staff and partners, offer in house media training for spokes people, share best practices on collecting consent and collecting comms material and curate an audio-visual database. The communications team is looking at increasing visibility and awareness around GSF's work, further establish GSF's thought leadership on reparations. Our communication will amplify survivors' voices, be substantiated in evidence, and provide strong calls to action.

Human Resources: will finalise the consolidation of recruitment. HR will focus on the implementation of staff policies, including an appraisal/performance policy, learning and development policy and ways of working policy as well as Active Listening Training. HR activities to promote staff well-being and collaborative work aim at promoting a safe and collegiate work environment. These will be done through sessions on stress management and mental health throughout the year with a focus on setting boundaries, grounding techniques and meditation. In addition, a trust person remains available to all staff.

Fundraising: will build the necessary fundraising infrastructure (including introduction of a CRM tool, update of compliance tracking mechanisms etc.), produce new outreach materials for different donor audiences and take over much of the grant management and donor servicing tasks previously shared by finance, programme and other colleagues. In terms of donor outreach, the initial focus will be on a further deepening and diversification of GSF's government relationships (which will continue to provide the lion's share of our income for the near future), and the establishment of a viable foundation income stream. The establishment of a US 501(c)3 and a US donor board will be a key stepping stone for our planned philanthropic outreach in North America.

Strategy: In December 2023, the GSF Board approved GSF's new Strategic Plan 2024-2030, which will guide our work this year and over the coming 7-year period. Key priorities identified in the plan include 1) a renewed commitment to co-creation as the core guiding principle of GSF's work across all pillars, 2) the ambition to scale up IRMs and explore different implementation models to reach significantly more survivors with fewer resources, 3) a thematic focus on innovative financing of reparations as one of two key advocacy priorities, and 4) an organisation-wide focus on children as rights-holders, to be prioritised both in our programming and in our advocacy for state-led reparation policy and practice. Education as a form of reparation will be central to this work.

