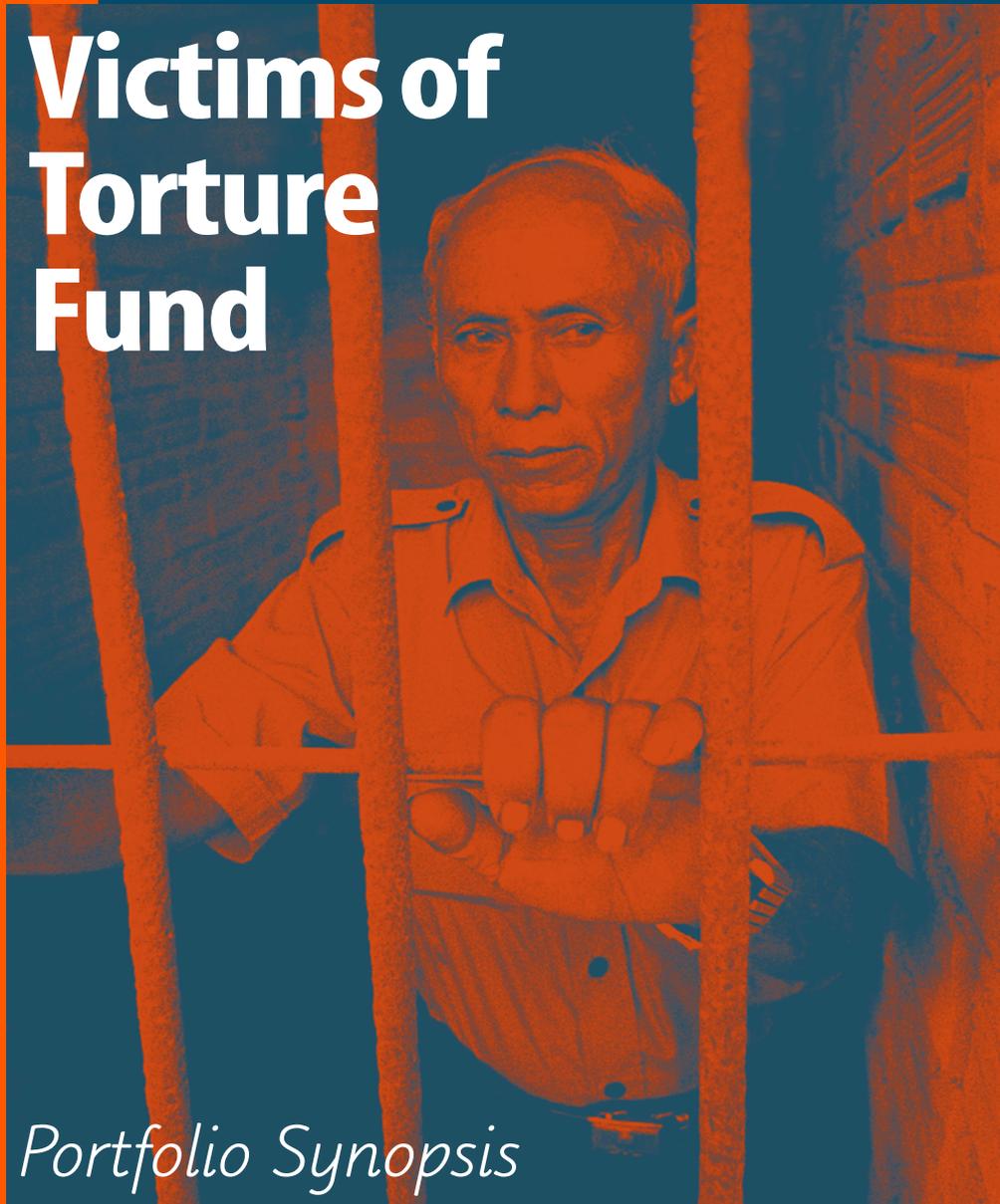




United States Agency  
for International  
Development

# Victims of Torture Fund



2003-04 *Portfolio Synopsis*

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Cover photograph courtesy of Mikel Flamm

Chum Mey is one of the few remaining survivors of the Tuol Sleng Torture Center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, a primary school that became a torture center during the Pol Pot regime.

## Mission

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), working through its Victims of Torture Fund (VTF), envisions a world free of torture where survivors, their families, and communities receive the support they need to quell their suffering and rekindle their connection to everyday life. With this aim, VTF primarily supports programs that help heal the psychological and physical trauma caused by torture.

Additionally, VTF recognizes that communities, along with survivors, need to heal and recover. To this end, VTF supports programs that affirm the dignity of the survivors by restoring their positions as functioning and contributing members of their families and communities. VTF also recognizes that restoring the dignity of those affected by torture involves strategies that help societies understand the consequences of torture. Through awareness raising and other meaningful activities, civil society can play an important role in protecting individuals against future acts of torture. VTF works through nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) overseas that (1) provide direct services to torture-affected survivors, their families, and communities; (2) train individuals to treat and help restore the functioning of those affected by torture; and (3) increase the level of knowledge and understanding about the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation methods.

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# Introduction

*The Victims of Torture Fund complements two other special USAID funds, The Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund and the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund. The Leahy War Victims Fund responds to the needs of victims of conflict in war-affected countries. The Displaced Children and Orphans Fund provides for the care and protection of war-affected children, unaccompanied minors, and orphans. Like these two funds, the Victims of Torture Fund works primarily through nongovernmental organizations to provide direct intervention and local capacity building.*

Since 1997, Amnesty International has documented torture and ill treatment by state agents in more than 150 countries. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 3.6 million people died during the past decade and countless others suffered at the hands of opposition and government-led groups during periods of civil unrest. Torture is the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering on another person. Survivors of torture may suffer the prolonged effects of trauma, which can affect their ability to perform tasks that are important to caring for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Recovery from the effects of torture and political violence requires thoughtful psychological and medical attention. Treatment aims to restore the survivor's position as a functioning and contributing member of the family and community. Communities, along with family members, often need to be drawn into the recovery process to promote healing.

In keeping with its legislative mandate under the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) works through the Victims of Torture Fund (VTF) to assist the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals who suffer from the physical and psychological effects of torture. According to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), rehabilitation aims to empower the torture victim to regain the capacity, confidence, and ability to resume as full a life as possible.

Toward this end, the Fund administers treatment programs based in 26 countries that span four regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Near East, and Europe and Eurasia). Currently, VTF is supporting treatment programs that attend to the medical, psychological, and social needs of torture survivors and their families. In addition to treatment services, some programs include advocacy, training, technical assistance, and research.

It is important to realize that due to limited resources, the Fund cannot work in all countries where there is evidence of torture. Consequently, the Fund gives priority to settings where needs far outweigh financial commitments of donors. Also, in an effort to extend itself to the broader community of organizations treating survivors of torture, the Fund maintains an open and collaborative spirit in sharing information and experience to better the state of the art of programming in the field in general.

We are committed to improving the capacity of our partners to study the impact of their interventions in order to improve the standards of practice. Similarly, we encourage collaboration among partners to strengthen networks of practitioners and the quality of service.

This synopsis describes programs that are currently being supported by VTF covering the period from 2002 through 2003. Additional activities for 2004 will be announced through future updates.

*In the aftermath of systematic political violence, entire communities can display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, trapped in alternating cycles of numbing and intrusion, silence and re-enactment. Recovery requires remembrance and mourning. Like traumatized individuals, traumatized countries need to remember, grieve, and atone for their wrongs in order to avoid reliving them.*

**—Judy Herman, MD**  
*Trauma and Recovery*  
New York: Basic Books 1997

# Global Initiative

## Capacity Building for Foreign Treatment Centers

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)
<b>Funding Period</b>	September 2000 – June 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$2,061,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Strengthen the capacity of 15 treatment centers located in Africa, Asia, the Near East, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Enhance their organizational and financial sustainability, clinical capacity and services, and advocacy campaigns.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Assess the needs of participating treatment centers.</li><li>■ Provide technical assistance to participating treatment centers on topics relevant to their needs, such as clinical advances and issues, fundraising, organizational development, and advocacy programming.</li><li>■ Strengthen networks and capacities of treatment centers through periodic regional workshops.</li><li>■ Support treatment centers through operational and technology grants.</li><li>■ Build and maintain a website to facilitate communication among participating organizations, CVT, and experts in the field.</li></ul>

## Accomplishments

- 15 organizational assessments were completed, with full reports shared with partners.
- All centers received Technology Enhancement, Operational Support, and on-site Technical Assistance sub-grants.
- All centers participated in CVT or International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims Regional Training Workshops.
- A client database was designed, developed, presented, and distributed by CVT to all centers.
- A project website for the exchange of information and resources was designed, developed, and activated in June 2002.
- 7 centers developed new strategic plans and organizational designs.
- 6 centers developed new financial management systems.
- All centers installed upgraded Internet technology equipment and received training. All have e-mail access.
- 6 centers have developed new websites or substantially updated their existing websites.
- 14 centers strengthened management staffing.
- 3 centers received direct funding from USAID missions.

**C**VT works locally, nationally, and internationally to heal the wounds of torture. Founded in 1985, CVT provides care and rehabilitative services to survivors of government-sponsored or politically motivated torture and members of their families. Care is provided on an outpatient basis and is tailored to meet each client's needs. This frequently includes medical treatment, psychotherapy, support in the political asylum process, assistance in finding a safe and stable place to live, and basic living necessities.

Through the International Capacity-Building Project, CVT is providing training and technical assistance to 15 treatment centers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, West Bank, Peru, Guatemala, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Latin America  
and the Caribbean

## Regional Initiatives

## Psychological Support for Victims of Torture

### Implementing Partners

Inter-American Institute for Human Rights (IHR) and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)

### Funding Period

October 2002 – September 2005

### Amount

\$1,050,000

### Purpose

Provide psychological support for victims or relatives denouncing cases of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment before the IHR. Extend IHR psychological training for use by CEJIL attorneys in presenting victims' or relatives' cases.

### Objectives

- Advocate before the Inter-American Commission and Court in San José, Costa Rica and Washington, D.C. on behalf of torture victims. Ensure that decisions are upheld and observed at the domestic level.
- Form a network of specialists to provide psychological assistance to victims or relatives who present cases before the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights (Inter-American System, or IAS).
- Design a methodology for the psychological care and assistance of victims or relatives.
- Provide attorneys and NGOs presenting cases before the IAS with better knowledge on how to deal with victims who are affected by psychological trauma and how to handle cases involving victims of torture.
- Prepare reports on the psychological and physical trauma caused by cases of torture to raise awareness of the issue of psychological reparations in the work of the IAS.

## Accomplishments

- In fiscal year 2003, IIHR contacted and informed victims of torture-related NGOs and assistance centers to begin a network of support for victims of torture in each Latin American country.
- Psychological experts were also selected in each country where victims of torture cases are pending appearance before the IAS.
- A network of psychological experts and CEJIL lawyers joined for the first meeting of specialized victims of torture and IAS professionals and marked the first time experts from these arenas interacted to discuss patient needs and case preparation for stronger testimony and better-prepared plaintiffs facing the IAS.
- A systemization of the methodology for combined psychological and legal attention was established and training for CEJIL lawyers representing victims of torture cases began.
- IIHR has started to organize a library of victims of torture cases to influence the development of jurisprudence passed by the IAS regarding psychological reparations.
- IIHR and CEJIL have begun to share their preliminary analysis through information sessions with the IAS judges and commissioners.
- IIHR and CEJIL have begun to share their preliminary analysis through information sessions with the IAS judges and commissioners.
- In October 2003, CEJIL prepared and litigated four cases on torture and IIHR brought representatives from the team of experts to the first of two hearings in fiscal year 2004 before the Inter-American Commission in Washington, D.C. Together, they assisted in the individualized psychological and legal preparation of victims and their family members to testify and participate in the hearings.

**D**uring the dark era of the military dictatorships in Latin America, the use of torture was widespread as a means of intimidation, repression, and coercion throughout the region. Although democracy has begun to take root in Latin America and it is widely accepted that torture is a gross violation of any basic right, it continues to be a part of the reality of many Latin American countries and is practiced by government authorities and public officials.

The VTF-funded project, implemented jointly by CEJIL and IIHR, is designed to ensure that, in the short run, victims and their families are provided with the necessary psychological care while seeking justice and redress through the IIHR. In the long run, CEJIL and IIHR expect that the Inter-American System will be sensitive to individual victims, especially torture victims, and the aftermath of their traumatic experiences. CEJIL and IIHR hope that, in developing greater sensitivity to the role of psychological trauma, the Inter-American Commission and Court will issue recommendations and decisions that reflect a new awareness of torture cases.

CEJIL and IIHR also hope that added awareness could pressure the Organization of American States (OAS) member states in question to provide reparations to the individual victims and their families, sanction those responsible for such crimes, and create and implement necessary mechanisms to ensure that such atrocities do not recur. In doing so, the Inter-American System will have taken steps to eradicate torture in the Americas.

## Regional Initiatives

## Program to Assist Victims of Torture

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Inter-African Network for Human Rights and Development (Afronet), a host organization for the Southern Africa Human Rights NGO Network (SAHRINGON)
<b>Funding Period</b>	Two years
<b>Amount</b>	\$500,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Strengthen the capacity of selected human rights nongovernmental organizations in the region to monitor, document, and advocate against torture and violence.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Strengthen support mechanisms and networks within communities affected by torture.</li><li>■ Equip selected human rights organizations with skills for monitoring, reporting, and documenting incidences of torture and violence.</li><li>■ Raise public awareness about and enhance advocacy to prevent torture and state-sponsored violence.</li><li>■ Advocate for ratification, compliance, and implementation of international human rights instruments such as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT, 1984).</li></ul>

**D**espite the formal commitments made by Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states to protect and promote human rights at national, regional, and international levels, gross violations continue in the region. Human rights activists have identified police brutality, torture, and inhuman treatment that is cruel and degrading. Most of the abuses have gone unpunished or have been covered up by the institutions responsible. Documented case studies include beatings, shock treatment, and extra-judicial killings. Victims of such torture and police brutality often experience difficulties trying to access the justice system, and court cases are seldom brought to closure.

In 1996, southern African human rights organizations agreed to form a regional network, SAHRINGON. SAHRINGON now operates as a project of Afronet. A key objective of the network is strengthening the capacities of member organizations through training and information exchanges. SAHRINGON also undertakes regional advocacy and lobbying on key human rights issues. Through a grant from VTF, USAID will assist SAHRINGON in strengthening the capacity of its members to effectively monitor, document, and advocate against incidences of torture and violence in the region. Additionally, SAHRINGON will advocate for ratification, compliance, and implementation of international human rights instruments, as well as support information dissemination, including publications and electronic networking.

*The human rights violations occurring in southern Africa are seriously undermining the nascent democratic processes underway in almost all countries in the region. State-condoned torture and police brutality comprise a grave threat to freedoms of expression and association.*

West Africa

## Regional Initiatives

# Counseling, Rehabilitation, and Social Reintegration of Victims of Torture

<b>Implementing Partners</b>	International Rescue Committee (IRC), Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), and Search for Common Ground (SFCG)
<b>Funding Period</b>	March 2003 – February 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$750,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Using a cross-border approach and in collaboration with national and sub-regional social organizations, facilitate the return and rehabilitation of refugees and improve access to information.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Strengthen local facilities and services in the psychosocial, legal, medical, and protection sectors to ensure they can respond to and prevent incidents of gender violence.</li><li>■ Provide direct mental health services for traumatized individuals and increase the capacities of local mental health infrastructures.</li><li>■ Promote non-violent conflict resolution and social reintegration of returnees among communities living in the cross-border area of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.</li></ul>

## Accomplishments

- Project participants in the far-eastern district of Kailahun (bordering Guinea and Liberia) received basic information, psychosocial counseling, trauma rehabilitation, legal advice, and training in communication skills.
- Four local support groups have been formed and equipped to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Some 23 psychosocial agents have also been trained to rehabilitate traumatized persons.
- As of September 2003, 52 human rights infringements including rape, attempted rape, forced early marriage, domestic violence and harmful traditional practices were reported to the staff of the IRC through the police, United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), traditional authorities, and community volunteers. Survivors of such attacks received instant counseling, referrals, and support that enhanced their rehabilitation and social reintegration into their communities.
- CVT has identified and serviced over 200 clients in four project sites. The clients had been tortured or raped during the crisis and face mental health challenges including trauma, grief, loss, depression, physical constraint caused by amputations and disabilities, as well as recurring family problems, including domestic violence and child abuse incidents.
- The USAID-sponsored community radio station was completed, and *Radio Moa* was launched. The radio station is supporting the efforts of the consortium by promoting peace, stability, and the respect of human rights. Through local language programming, the radio station will provide accurate information that will ultimately facilitate the social reintegration of returnees and encourage peace-building dialogue in cross-border communities.

The conflict in the Mano River basin arises from political instability in the three-border area of Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia as it grapples with problems associated with continued armed conflict and post-conflict transition. The enduring regional conflict has disintegrated communities, destroyed infrastructure, stalled economies, and forced massive displacement of families internally and across borders. While the recent end of armed hostilities in Sierra Leone is an important step toward achieving harmony in the region, this fragile peace is currently challenged by the resurgence of violence in neighboring Liberia.

In collaboration with other USAID bilateral programs in the sub-region, the Victims of Torture project responds to the urgent needs of refugees returning to Sierra Leone from Guinea and Liberia. In particular, this project focuses attention on treating refugees who have suffered from trauma associated with forced abduction, torture, maiming, and sexual abuse. The program seeks to provide accurate information that will ultimately facilitate the social reintegration of returnees and encourage peace-building dialogue in cross-border communities.

# Burundi Initiative to Mitigate Acts of Torture and Strengthen Support to Victims

<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Search for Common Ground, Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services, Ligue ITEKA, and International Human Rights Law Group
<b>Funding Period</b>	March 2003 – March 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$1,200,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Address and mitigate acts of torture and violence and strengthen the ability of communities and victims to respond and cope.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Expand counseling and treatment centers for women and their children who have been victimized by conflict.</li><li>■ Strengthen community response, linkages, and advocacy through independent radio broadcasting nationwide and across borders to Burundian refugees.</li><li>■ Expand psychosocial trauma healing through new counseling and treatment centers.</li><li>■ Broaden a campaign of raising awareness of the brutality of torture, improve documentation and promulgation of cases of abuse, and extend judicial advice and assistance to victims of torture.</li><li>■ Extend services through mobile legal outreach clinics for victims seeking legal recourse for violations.</li></ul>

## Accomplishments

### ***Recruitment, training, and orientation***

- 365 volunteer listeners and referral sources.
- 187 paralegals.
- 192 *Bashingantahe* (traditional community arbitrators).

### ***Legal assistance***

- 700 victims of torture have been identified, of which 500 are in detention.
- 4 lawyers are working full-time on behalf of victims.
- A preliminary study was completed on needed judicial reforms relating to torture.

### ***Social reintegration***

- 10 support groups for victims of torture have been established.
- 18 new listening centers have been set up.
- 157 victims have received listening and or counseling services.

### ***Awareness raising***

- Two weekly radio broadcasts of Studio Ijambo (aired on three radio stations) have raised the issue of torture, particularly focusing on rape, on eight occasions.
- 2,000 prisoners and prison personnel at a prison concert heard songs relating to human rights, torture, and peace.

War and endemic violence have plagued Burundi since 1962. The country is mired in an escalating socioeconomic crisis that continues to be fueled by years of instability following the assassination of the first democratically elected president in 1993. Nearly a million people who suffered extreme trauma and abuse have been displaced by the conflict, unable to return to their communities of origin. Even with the signature of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and installation of the transitional government in 2000, one of the primary rebel groups remains outside the peace process, leading to further insecurity and abuse.

Human rights violations continue on a daily basis. Whether perpetrated by the army, civil militias, or rebel groups, violations of the penal code with impunity persist. The VTF-supported initiative draws on the expertise and presence of several implementing partners in Burundi. Together, they are providing services to torture survivors and building a community response to the pervasive incidence of violence and abuse.



# Cambodia

## Helping the Victims of Khmer Rouge

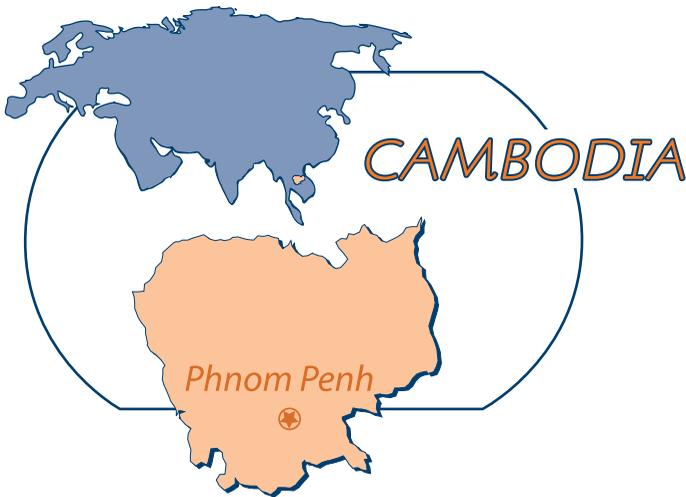
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) and the Transcultural Psychological Organization (TPO) through The Asia Foundation (TAF)
<b>Funding Period</b>	October 2003 – September 2005
<b>Amount</b>	\$100,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Through a pilot program, document the experiences of individuals traumatized by the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge and identify effective ways of helping the victims, including the perpetrators of the crimes, to cope with their trauma with the intent of eventually designing a national strategy to assist victims in coping with the memories surfaced by the tribunal.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Identify an appropriate village with survivors of the Khmer Rouge for a pilot program.</li><li>■ Create an accurate historical record of experiences.</li><li>■ Increase staff understanding of trauma counseling.</li><li>■ Provide psychotherapeutic support to villagers needing assistance and to family members.</li></ul>

**A**pproximately 1.7 million people (21 percent of the country's population) lost their lives during the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979. Many of those who survived carry the psychological burden of having lived through an era of brutal repression that sought to destroy individual and group identities in an attempt to bring about massive social change under a revolutionary movement. Despite the fact that the Pol Pot regime collapsed in January 1979, the Khmer Rouge continued to use torture to control areas for another two decades.

Although the Paris Peace Agreement was signed in 1991 and the United Nations peacekeepers arrived in 1992, the Khmer Rouge insurgency did not completely end until 1999. In March 2003, the United Nations signed an agreement with Cambodia to establish a Khmer Rouge Genocide Tribunal to bring to trial the surviving senior Khmer Rouge leaders who were most responsible for the crimes and serious violations during the period from April 1975 to January 1979.

Despite the relative calm of the past decade, Cambodia ranks as one of the poorest countries in Asia, more than 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line. With a population of more than 12 million that is growing rapidly, Cambodia faces immense challenges in trying to establish a foundation for democratic governance and economic development. Shattered by the Khmer Rouge, the very institutions of the country that can help people recover from traumatic events are weak or absent. The scarcity of human resources continues to impact the health and well-being of the population.

The opportunity for bringing perpetrators to justice under the auspices of the tribunal requires careful consideration of the possible impact on victims who come forth with their stories. The Khmer Rouge tribunal process may revive stressful memories for many people who suffered severe trauma under the Khmer Rouge regime. There is a need to develop an appropriate protective mechanism for those who are most affected by the retelling of their stories. Through a pilot program, USAID is supporting two leading organizations in Cambodia to develop a program that documents past abuses in selected sites by creating a climate that allows torture victims to come forward and addresses the emotional needs of victims, their families, and their communities through counseling.



# Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Survivors of Torture and Gender-Based Violence

### Implementing Partner

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

### Funding Period

April 2002 – August 2005

### Amount

\$1,788,000

### Purpose

Improve and expand community-based services for populations affected by gender-based violence in North and South Kivu provinces.

### Objectives

- Increase the access of communities and individuals affected by torture and gender-based violence to high-quality medical, psychosocial, and legal assistance.
- Improve the technical capacity and awareness of local actors and officials providing services to survivors of torture and gender-based violence.
- Through an umbrella grant, allow the local network of service providers, local associations, and NGOs to identify the needs of and provide culturally appropriate services to beneficiaries.

## Accomplishments

*Acts of torture and gender-based violence constitute a serious threat to the medical, psychological, and social health of the Congolese men, women, and children caught between rivaling militias and armed groups.*

- Up to 4,000 female rape victims have received project-funded services to date.
- 25 women per month are receiving post-rape reconstructive surgery, a dramatic increase over the past year due to a new referral system set up by the project.
- IRC grantees have participated in mobile clinics that respond quickly to reported incidents of rape. Counselors provided assistance to over 500 women within two weeks following the attacks on Walungu in April 2003.
- IRC is providing comprehensive technical assistance and training every six weeks to strengthen the organizational capacity of their eight grantees.
- A human rights grantee succeeded in prosecuting the perpetrator of a rape case, resulting in a 10-year jail sentence and \$10,000 fine. This was the first rape conviction in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are now 72 additional suits in process.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



**T**he Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is recovering from years of war between various foreign-backed factions that took the hardest toll on villagers, especially women and children, in the eastern provinces. The people in eastern DRC have been terrorized by armed groups and witnessed the destruction of the vital fabric of their communities. The physical and social service infrastructure of the region has been severely weakened and, in many areas, no longer functions. The second civil war, which began in eastern DRC in August 1998 and ended recently with a hard-brokered cease-fire and the installation of a transitional government, left 3.4 million people displaced from their towns and villages, and tens of thousands recovering from trauma, abuse, and gender-based violence.

Despite the hope that the transition from war to peace presents, human rights abuses (including attacks on women and girls) continue, particularly in parts of eastern DRC where local-level guerilla wars and banditry have raged. Local and international organizations have documented thousands of incidents of torture and sexual and gender-based violence in the rural areas and urban centers of North and South Kivu provinces. It is expected that the magnitude of the problem is much larger than these numbers suggest. Many attacks have occurred in remote areas to which these groups have had little access. Even in accessible areas, underreporting of abuses (as a result of the stigmatization of rape victims in some communities), fear of reprisals, collusion of authorities, or a lack of awareness about avenues of justice and available services limit the accuracy of estimates about the extent of the problem.

USAID's Victims of Torture Fund is addressing the issue of gender-based violence in the North and South Kivu provinces through a grant to the International Rescue Committee, which is expanding services to 10,000 female victims of torture, rape, and abduction.

*In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the legal and cultural systems that protect civilians from violent attacks, precarious even in peace, have been eroded by years of protracted and generalized insecurity, economic depression, social disruption, and political clashes.*

# Ethiopia

## Psychosocial Support to Deported and Displaced Children

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Save the Children (Denmark)
<b>Funding Period</b>	September 2002 – August 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$175,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Address the psychosocial needs of Ethiopian families and children deported from Eritrea through counseling and psychosocial support, research and analysis, support to community-based structures, support and empowerment of children at risk, and advocacy and awareness training.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Establish a database and conduct a survey of the physical and psychosocial needs of deportees to develop appropriate levels of counseling and other interventions.</li><li>■ Train community leaders to identify signs of trauma and to direct cases to paraprofessionals within the community who have been trained to operate group counseling sessions for moderate psychosocial problems. Severe trauma cases will be referred to a professional counseling center that is better able to treat more complex cases.</li><li>■ Provide counseling services.</li></ul>

## Accomplishments

- 26 teachers, social workers, and project staff participated in a five-day training of trainers workshop in children rights, psychosocial support, and counseling skills in Mekele. The workshop participants trained 216 teachers, students, youth association members, religious leaders, community-based organization leaders, and Woreda officials. In addition, the trained participants provided guidance to deportee children and ensured their participation in extracurricular activities.
- 100 deportee children and youth participated in a three-day life-skills training and vocational-skills training in Woldia. The life-skills training aimed to help them develop assertiveness and self-confidence, while the vocational-skills training aimed to make children employable and self-reliant. Continuous life-skills trainings will be offered to the 15 support groups formed by these participants.
- 25 youths in Tigray received training in skill areas (e.g., cosmetology, metalwork, woodwork, and food preparation), and 11 youths found employment.
- 379 religious leaders, community-based organization leaders, community members, deportees, teachers, local authorities, youth association members, and women's association members participated in sensitization workshops. Each sensitized group then understood the situation of deportees and began to assist them. For instance, the local authorities started to provide houses to deportee families on a priority basis.
- The Mekele city council and the regional Office of Rehabilitation and Social Affairs constructed a multi-purpose center where deportee and internally displaced children have access to counseling, reading and tutorial services, and recreational activities. The project provided reading materials and furniture to this center.

**A**s a result of the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, an estimated 95,000 Ethiopians living in Eritrea were deported or returned to Ethiopia between May 1998 and August 2001. The number of people repatriated into Ethiopia increased significantly between late 2000 and mid-2001, with an average of 1,000 arriving weekly. Although this rate has reduced considerably, mandatory and induced returns continue. In addition, after Eritrea's independence in 1991, Ethiopians were forcibly deported from Eritrea, many having to walk back into Ethiopia through the physically demanding Danakil Depression. This deportation had a devastating psychological effect on many Ethiopians who were living in Eritrea.

Despite limited interventions to alleviate the physical needs of the returnees, almost no attention has been given to the various degrees of trauma and abuse suffered during the deportation process. Deportees report experiencing or witnessing various forms of trauma, such as the death or murder of a family member, torture, isolation from lost or kidnapped family members, and imprisonment. Many live in desperation and poverty.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable. Recent studies indicate that children, especially those above the age of 12, are emotionally distressed as they constantly compare their current situation with their previous lives. The protection traditionally provided by parents or guardians has deteriorated because of family disintegration and separation. Some children become aggressive, rebellious, withdrawn, or depressed, and as a result, engage in destructive activities such as dropping out of school, alcoholism, prostitution, and addiction.

Weldiya in the Amhara region is one of the areas with a large number of such deportees. USAID is targeting support for the needs of deportee children in Weldiya through a rehabilitation program. The Victims of Torture funds complement this support by providing counseling, rehabilitation, and treatment services that address the psychosocial needs of children traumatized by the abuse associated with targeted deportation.



# Guatemala

## Program to Restore Dignity and Psychological Well-Being of Victims of Torture

### Implementing Partners

Through a cooperative agreement, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is supporting the work of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), local NGOs, and the Ministry of Health.

### Funding Period

January 2001 – January 2004

### Amount

\$2,326,000

### Purpose

Dignify the victims of armed conflict and facilitate the healing process for survivors by exhuming clandestine cemeteries and providing mental health support.

### Objectives

- Complete forensic exhumations and analysis to identify victims and enable families to bury the remains of their loved ones in a dignified manner.
- Provide mental health services to conflict survivors.
- Facilitate the delivery of mental health services from NGOs and the Ministry of Health under the National Mental Health Plan.

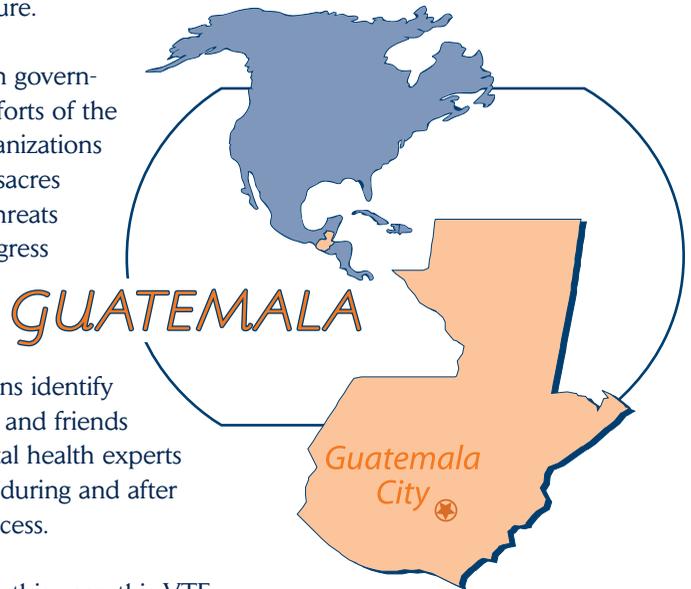
### Accomplishments

- More than 240 clandestine cemeteries or mass graves—far more than the original targets—were exhumed in the past three years.
- In the past two years, more than 5,750 people received mental health services .
- More than 55,000 indirect beneficiaries are living in affected communities where services have been provided.

The aftermath of the 36-year armed conflict in Guatemala (1960 to 1996), considered to have been one of the largest and bloodiest in all of Latin America, left more than 200,000 people dead or missing, a million refugees and internally displaced individuals, and thousands of widows and orphans. The Historical Clarification Commission, a national truth commission supported by the United Nations, documented 669 massacres, the vast majority committed by the Guatemalan army in rural Mayan villages in the north-west highlands. The massacres were part of a strategy of terror, and those killed were generally buried in mass graves and clandestine cemeteries without proper burial practices appropriate to the indigenous culture.

Since 1999, USAID and the Dutch government have been supporting the efforts of the FAFG and local mental health organizations working with survivors of the massacres and their families. Despite death threats received by staff of the FAFG, progress on exhumations has been rapid, exceeding original projections. Through a program managed by the UNDP, forensic exhumations identify victims and allow family members and friends to properly bury loved ones. Mental health experts accompany and support survivors during and after the trauma of the exhumation process.

By expanding geographic coverage this year, this VTF-supported program has been able to increase direct assistance to a greater number of survivors and their families and communities as well as institutionalize the provision of mental health services.



# Haiti Victims of Violence

**Implementing Partners** International Foundation for Election Systems and Organization of American States (OAS) Special Mission to Haiti

**Funding Period** September 2003 – August 2005

**Amount** \$800,000

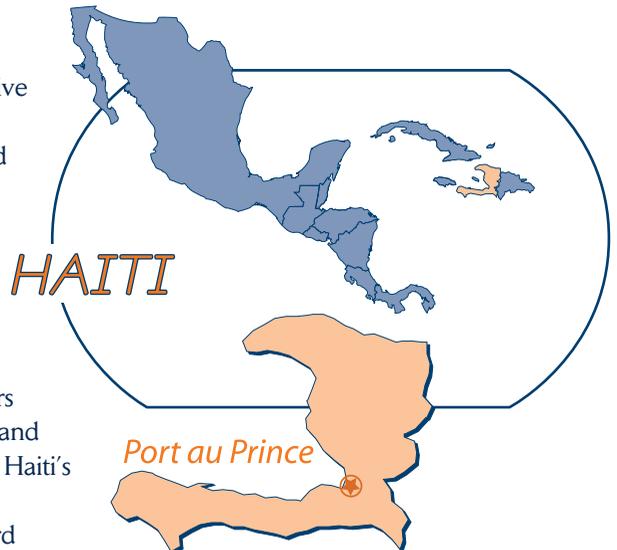
**Purpose** Increase the capacity of organizations to research and document incidence of torture, provide treatment and rehabilitation to victims, strengthen information on and understanding of torture, and increase organizational capacity through training.

- Objectives**
- Develop local capacity to document and report on victims of torture and to produce documents that analyze the systemic causes and consequences.
  - Assist torture victims through direct aid, legal assistance, medical treatment, and psychological counseling.
  - Increase awareness of torture through education and information campaigns.
  - Train professionals in research and documentation methods, management of emergency situations, rehabilitation, and human rights.

**A**s the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti suffers from the debilitating effects of a long tradition of political violence. More recently, the worsening economic situation has sparked renewed political instability and a resurgence in the use of torture.

Political dissidents, journalists, farmers, and others have been tortured by police and gangs. In many instances, the use of torture is difficult to distinguish from police brutality, particularly in cases in which political affiliation or motivation is unclear. The use of torture by law enforcement is widespread, and much of it is directed against the poorest and most vulnerable members of Haitian society. Some police torture appears to have been carried out as part of an overall strategy to intimidate Haiti's poorest communities and to prevent civil unrest.

Haiti retains a fairly open press and an active human rights community that is able to identify and report instances of torture and provide assistance for victims. Although elements of the Haitian government are complicit in the use of torture on opponents, other government officials are working toward greater accountability and rule of law and to reduce the use of torture by police. The next few years will determine whether the use of torture and other forms of violence remains central to Haiti's political culture or whether the Caribbean nation will make important progress toward achieving the goals of liberty and equality upon which it was founded.



# India

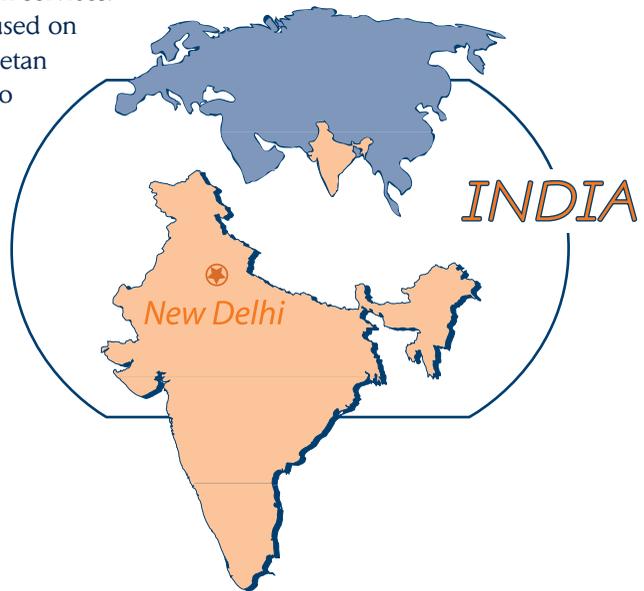
## Tibetan Torture Survivors Program

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Tibetan Voluntary Health Association (TVHA)
<b>Funding Period</b>	October 2002 – September 2005
<b>Amount</b>	\$185,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Provide comprehensive treatment services to torture survivors who escape into India from Tibet.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Rehabilitate torture victims through medical treatment and rehabilitation services aimed at helping survivors adjust to their new circumstances. Treatment includes traditional and modern medicine, psychotherapy, physiotherapy, and counseling.</li><li>■ Supervise health rehabilitees and create awareness among the general public about torture and its consequences.</li></ul>
<b>Accomplishments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ 120 torture survivors have been assisted.</li></ul>

**A**fter his departure from Tibet, the Dalai Lama set up the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) as a government-in-exile in Dharamsala, a small hill station in the north Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The CTA oversees the rehabilitation of thousands of Tibetan refugees who followed the XIV Dalai Lama into exile in India in 1959 and who continue to flee Tibet.

To assist torture victims among the 2,500 refugees who escape into India from Tibet each year, Tibetan authorities created the Tibetan Torture Survivors Program in 1991, which operates under the Tibetan Voluntary Health Association. The Victims of Torture Fund (VTF) grant will help TVHA continue to assist torture victims with medical treatment and rehabilitation services.

Although the program initially focused on providing medical treatment to Tibetan torture survivors, it has expanded to offer more holistic services that include psychological treatment and rehabilitation. The program also assists in the supervision of the rehabilitees and the creation of an awareness campaign in the refugee community in which they live.





**Victims of Torture  
Grant Fund Recipients**



**Bulgaria**

**Pakistan**

**Nepal**

**Bangladesh**

**India**

**Cambodia**

**Ethiopia**

**Kenya**

**Uganda**

**Sri Lanka**

**Rwanda**

**Burundi**

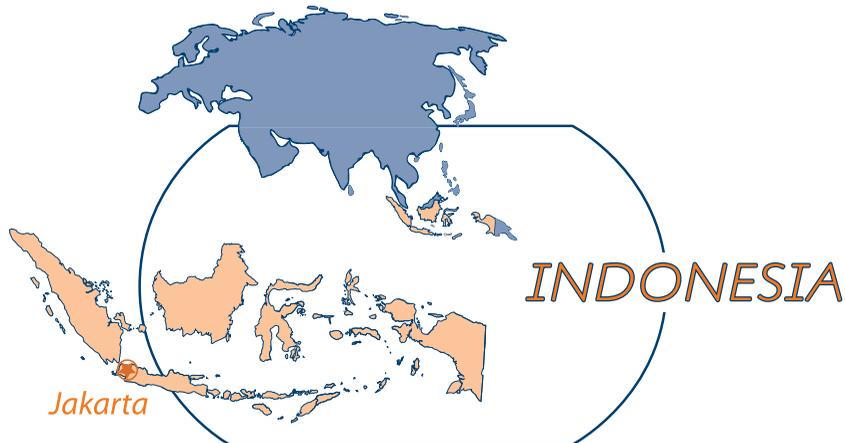
**Indonesia**

**Timor Leste**

# Indonesia

## Survivors of Torture: Addressing Their Needs

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
<b>Funding Period</b>	August 2002 – February 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$389,980
<b>Purpose</b>	Strengthen the capacity of NGOs based in high-prevalence areas to facilitate awareness raising, legal and psychosocial rehabilitation, and advocacy.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Identify national and local NGOs committed to improving the condition of torture survivors. In partnership with each NGO, facilitate a targeted needs assessment and develop a strategic plan to better identify their strengths, areas of concern, and vision for implementing their mandates.</li><li>■ Provide training in organizational capacity and technical assistance to increase the professional skills of all staff members.</li><li>■ Provide small grants to local NGOs to improve their ability to respond to an increasing number of torture survivors.</li><li>■ Develop a survivors-of-torture network within Indonesia and encourage linkages with the international survivors-of-torture network.</li></ul>
<b>Accomplishments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Strengthened skills of local NGOs in psychosocial counseling for torture survivors.</li><li>■ Torture survivors are receiving counseling services through ICMC partners in Papua and Aceh.</li><li>■ “Pocket books” to mobilize public awareness on issues of torture have been widely distributed.</li></ul>



**F**rom May 1990 to August 1998, thousands of civilians living in the Indonesian province of Aceh were killed, disappeared, or tortured as military forces carried out intensive counter-insurgency campaigns against Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM), or the Free Aceh Movement. Hopes for a peaceful solution to the conflict ended in May 2003 with the breakdown of a five-month cease-fire agreement and a resumption of open hostilities. In stepping up its operation in response, the military has forcefully displaced approximately 85,000 civilians. Although the period of displacement tends to be short lived, reports from the field indicate that fear of abuse by military forces tends to drive civilians from their homes in areas where the military is conducting operations.

In Papua, Indonesia's easternmost province, the indigenous population has endured much repression. The widespread appropriation of land for new settlement, forestry concessions, and mining have led to numerous conflicts between the Indonesian military and dispossessed, indigenous people. Specific statistics are difficult to obtain, but some NGOs claim that more than 100,000 persons have disappeared during the past 30 years, most of whom are believed to have been tortured or murdered.

As VTF's implementing organization, ICMC is working to strengthen the capacity of local NGOs in Papua, Aceh, and Jakarta to address the growing need for assistance to torture survivors.

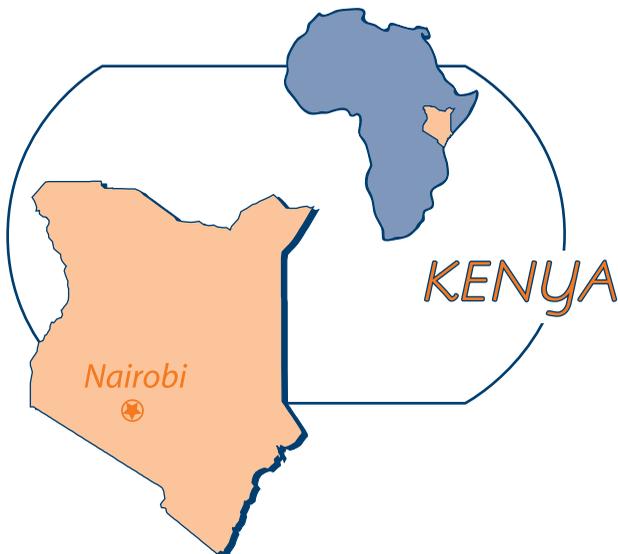
# Republic of Kenya

## Addressing the Needs of Victims of Torture and Trauma

<b>Implementing Partners</b>	United States International University-Africa (USIU-A) in cooperation with GOAL Kenya, People against Torture (PAT), Kenya Human Rights Commission – Litigation Fund against Torture, Mwatikho National Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (Mwatikho)
<b>Funding Period</b>	April 2002 – April 2005
<b>Amount</b>	\$815,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Develop a training program and comprehensive services to support programs for torture victims in Kenya.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Expand access to counseling and treatment services to Kenyan torture survivors, including refugees.</li><li>■ Increase legal assistance to victims of torture and trauma.</li><li>■ Research appropriate methodologies for treating victims of torture and trauma with emphasis on new modalities, such as multi-sensory trauma processing (MTP).</li><li>■ Continue to support ongoing treatment programs and offer university intervention where needed and requested.</li></ul>

## Accomplishments

- 200 torture survivors have received psychotherapy counseling; out of these, 123 received MTP.
- 23 counselors have been trained in MSP methodology.
- 187 clients have received lay counseling; 78 lay counselors have been trained.
- Through newly created self-help groups of torture survivors, 240 survivors and family members were trained in credit management. Credit funds were set up for 180 members.
- 38 torture survivors and 240 remanded juveniles received medical services.
- Two new treatment centers were established.
- A research committee and unit were created at USIU-A. Instrument development and data collection have been completed.
- 29 torture cases involving 70 victims and survivors have been presented before the judicial system. 187 clients have received legal advice; 8 visits to 2 police stations have been undertaken; and 4 cases of habeas corpus have been filed.



# Republic of Kenya

## Torture Project

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU)
<b>Funding Period</b>	September 2002 – September 2003
<b>Amount</b>	\$15,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Prevent torture by raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of medical and legal professionals to document torture cases, treat survivors, conduct postmortems, and assist survivors and family members in seeking legal redress.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Rehabilitate victims of torture and contribute to the prevention of torture through legal advocacy.</li><li>■ Increase awareness of torture and contribute to public outcry against torture.</li><li>■ Enhance documentation and identification of cases of torture.</li></ul>
<b>Accomplishments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ For the first time in Kenyan history, human rights organizations were allowed into the prisons. IMLU has since made 15 visits to the prisons.</li><li>■ 51 victims of torture were examined, and 15 postmortems were conducted.</li></ul>

The ongoing instability in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region is generating large numbers of displaced people and refugees who are settling in Kenya from the neighboring countries of Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Burundi. Within Kenya, national tensions arising from ethnic and tribal clashes during 1991 and 1997 continue. While the clashes have subsided, violence against and torture of Kenyan citizens in police custody and prisons continue intermittently.

Many survivors suffer prolonged and psychologically debilitating effects of torture that can last a lifetime. Psychological support and treatment modalities available to both Kenyan citizens and refugees are either limited or costly, eliminating options for many who require treatment. Furthermore, there are not enough trained counselors to adequately treat survivors.

USAID hopes to remedy this situation by enhancing the capacity of selected organizations and individuals to address the long-term effects of torture. Through a grant to the USIU-A, the Victims of Torture Fund will help meet demand for affordable services. The university has begun training counselors and will promote psychosocial interventions and disseminate appropriate resources through partner organizations. Similarly, prevention activities have been strengthened through a grant to IMLU.

# Mexico

## Addressing Torture through Early Identification, Treatment, and Rehabilitation

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Freedom House
<b>Funding Period</b>	September 2003 – May 2005
<b>Amount</b>	\$1,400,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Advocate for the elimination of torture and strengthen treatment centers for torture survivors by integrating components of the Rule of Law program.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Increase the capacity of human rights, legal, and medical professionals to (a) identify and document torture; (b) present cases before Mexican federal and state courts and public human rights institutions for intervention, recourse, and rehabilitative effect; and (c) research, document, report, and advocate for policy changes to better prevent torture and sanction torturers.</li><li>■ Improve, support, and expand programs providing medical, psychological, and social treatment to torture victims, including enhancing treatment methodologies.</li></ul>

Mexico harbors a legacy of human rights abuses that has proved difficult to overcome. Mexican human rights organizations report that the use of torture is pervasive within law enforcement agencies and the armed forces, indicating that in some parts of the country the incidence of torture has risen during recent years. Torture is routinely used as a method of extracting confessions from suspects, punishing detainees, and oppressing indigenous populations. Judges continue to admit evidence obtained through coerced confessions in spite of procedural laws prohibiting it. Abuses by military personnel against criminal suspects and members of indigenous populations often go unpunished in the military court system. Mexico's failure to eradicate torture and the impunity enjoyed by its perpetrators is causing the Mexican people to lose faith in their public security and justice systems, and it could ultimately damage the consolidation of democracy in Mexico.

Recent developments in Mexico provide new opportunities for addressing torture through public policy and institutional reform, improving the environment for human rights defenders, strengthening the preventive work of human rights organizations, and expanding the supply and quality of treatment. On the political front, the current administration has demonstrated an unprecedented interest in combating torture and other human rights abuses. Despite these opportunities, the government and NGOs need to continue to work collaboratively to develop a coherent vision to abolish torture in the justice system.

The current political environment in Mexico provides both opportunities and challenges to stop the use of torture by state agents, identify torture when it occurs, intervene at the earliest stage possible to prevent further infliction, and pursue legal recourse and treatment for torture survivors. The USAID mission in Mexico is implementing a two-year program aimed at increasing the response to instances of reported torture in selected states.



# Nepal

## Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors and Capacity Building for Health Professionals

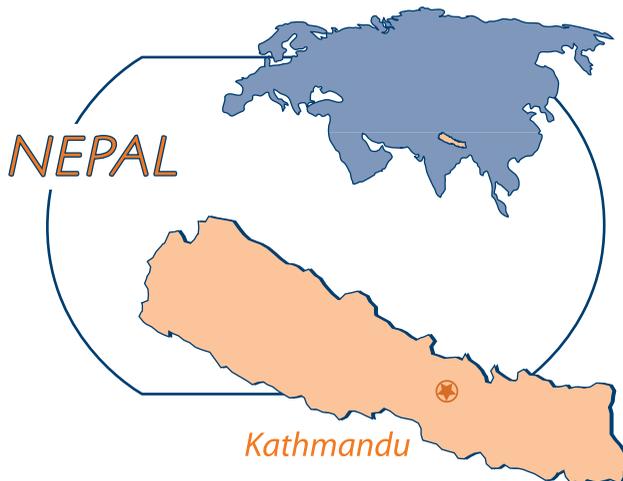
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT)
<b>Funding Period</b>	June 2002 – September 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$600,000 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Purpose</b>	Provide comprehensive rehabilitation and care for torture survivors and their families and develop skilled human resources to support victims of torture and document cases of human rights violations.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Expand medical, social, and psychological treatment and rehabilitation services at the Biratnagar Sub-center to support an increased number of rural torture survivors and their families.</li><li>■ Conduct fact-finding missions to record human rights abuses.</li><li>■ Train district health professionals in the rehabilitation of torture survivors and the proper documentation and reporting of torture cases.</li><li>■ Establish a shelter-based rehabilitation center for the comprehensive care of female trauma victims and their families.</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/Nepal is programming an additional \$1,613,000 to address the needs of survivors.

- Conduct mobile clinics to reach torture survivors in remote areas and to increase community awareness on human rights.
- Train counselors and establish services for torture survivors in 10 of the districts most affected by the insurgency.

### Accomplishments

- Nine mobile clinics were established.
- Six fact-finding missions were conducted.
- Shelter for rehabilitation of female torture and trauma survivors was established.
- 102 female torture and trauma survivors received comprehensive shelter-based rehabilitation services.
- 10 District Psychosocial Support Units were established in conflict-affected districts.
- More than 400 torture and trauma survivors received psychosocial care at District Psychosocial Support Units.
- 26 court cases were filed under Nepal's Torture Compensation Act.



**T**he ongoing, seven-year-old Maoist insurgency has claimed thousands of lives and taken a tremendous toll on Nepal's economic development. Despite constitutional guarantees and legal protection, reports of torture and human rights abuses by the Maoist rebels and security forces are increasing substantially, particularly in insurgency-affected regions.

Through a grant to Nepal's CVICT, the Victims of Torture Fund is supporting a program for the rehabilitation of torture victims and their families. CVICT aims to treat 400 survivors and 100 family members during the two-year program period. In addition, CVICT will conduct six fact-finding missions in Nepal in order to prepare independent human rights violation reports, create public awareness about torture and human rights issues, and disseminate information on the center's activities.

Because research shows women are less likely to come to the center due to family pressures, CVICT will establish a shelter-based program to provide the environment necessary for their care.

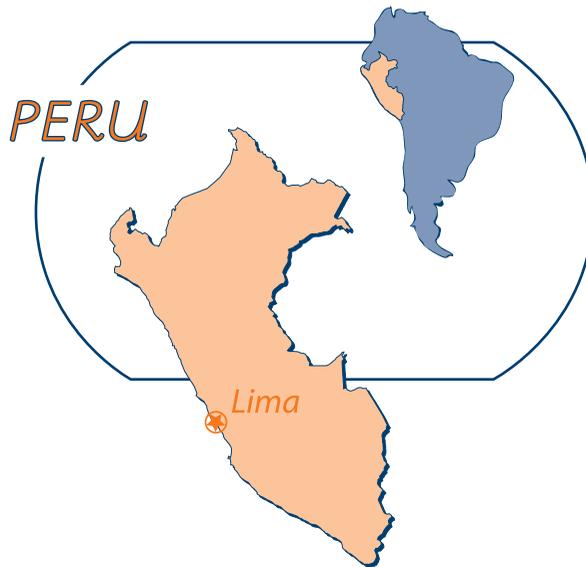
*To date, CVICT has provided rehabilitation services to 1,180 torture survivors and family members at the Biratnagar Sub-center; trained 100 professionals in medico-legal examination, documentation, reporting, and rehabilitation; and reached 624 victims through mobile clinics.*

# Peru

## Mental Rehabilitation and Psychosocial Support to Victims of Torture and Political Violence

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Center for Psychosocial Attention
<b>Funding Period</b>	May 2002 – May 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$350,000 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Purpose</b>	Alleviate the consequences of political and social violence through mental rehabilitation and improved quality of life for victims of torture and their families.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Provide services designed to support the mental, physical, and social recuperation of victims and their families.</li><li>■ Create self-help groups in communities where exhumations of mass graves take place.</li><li>■ Train human rights promoters to work with torture victims.</li><li>■ Develop and strengthen a network for mental health services and human rights.</li><li>■ Provide specific assistance to prepare victims to testify as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work.</li><li>■ Strengthen the overall capacity of the Center for Psychosocial Attention.</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup>USAID/Peru is programming an additional \$1,000,000 to address the needs of survivors.



### Accomplishments

- At least 600 victims of political violence were provided with integrated counseling services, including group and individual counseling, home visits, physiotherapy, or psychiatric advice.
- At least 220 family members were provided with counseling support and therapy when a mass grave was exhumed.
- Counseling services were expanded to at least 300 new victims in 2003.
- The Center for Psychosocial Attention was registered as an independent organization.

**B**etween 1980 and 2000, during a period of political violence in Peru, thousands fell victim to abuse. Based on the latest estimates from the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, more than 69,000 people died or disappeared, and at least 6,000 others were tortured. More than 4,000 mass graves dating from 1980 to the mid-1990s were also identified. In 2001, the government established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate abuses, seek redress, and address the underlying causes of the violence through recommendations aimed at preventing similar abuses from happening in the future. The Commission completed its work in August 2003.

USAID's Victims of Torture Fund is helping to provide counseling and other forms of assistance to those directly affected by torture, abuse, and political violence through a grant to the Center for Psychosocial Attention. The Center is affiliated with the office of the National Human Rights Coordinator, which sponsors a network of 61 local NGOs dedicated to the protection of human rights. The grant is supporting multiple activities aimed at assisting victims and their families and the ongoing work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

With the issuance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, USAID will be expanding its assistance in 2004 to include the creation of a documentation center and outreach program with the Human Rights Ombudsman as well as working with the judiciary and local human rights organizations to clear thousands of unsubstantiated or duplicative arrest warrants issued in the 1980s and 1990s to help victims become reincorporated into society.

# Rwanda Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Project

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
<b>Funding Period</b>	March 2002 – May 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$993,728
<b>Purpose</b>	Increase the capacity of government, national, and community-based institutions to develop and institutionalize appropriate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response mechanisms.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Increase awareness of SGBV through advocacy, information, and media campaigns.</li><li>■ Strengthen the capacity of Rwandan ministries to respond to cases of SGBV and to advocate for its prevention.</li><li>■ Sensitize police; Gacaca, or community tribunals, judges; criminal investigators; and health officials to the psychological impact of SGBV and appropriate responses.</li><li>■ Develop and implement community-based prevention and support programs across Rwanda.</li></ul>
<b>Accomplishments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ In conjunction with the Ministry of Gender and Women Promotion (MIGEPROFE), IRC trained 19 staff from three local partner organizations to implement a multi-sector provincial sensitization program. Sensitization activities in all 12 provinces were completed in November 2002 and included more than 900 participants who included <i>Gacaca</i> judges, representatives from local NGOs, church leaders, health officials, and deputy mayors.</li></ul>



- Beginning in October 2002, MIGEPROFE and IRC teamed with local partner, the Forum for Activists Against Torture (Forum des Activistes Contre la Torture [FACT]), to sensitize police on SGBV issues. FACT has reached 446 police officers nationwide.
- In March 2003, MIGEPROFE, IRC, and IRC's local partners, the Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted Rwanda's first national quantitative survey aimed to establish incidence rates of the most common forms of contemporary gender-based violence. In addition, a qualitative situational analysis was conducted in an attempt to gather information from men, women, and service providers to better inform program decisions about which disease prevention and support mechanisms should be put in place or strengthened.
- Since August 2002, MIGEPROFE and IRC have worked with local partners to develop regular weekly radio programs. The radio campaign aims to build awareness on issues related to SGBV and *Gacaca*. More than 35 programs have been broadcast since the beginning of the project. It is estimated that IRC has reached 30 percent of women survivors of the genocide.

# Rwanda Advancing Healing, Reconciliation and Preventing Retraumatization

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Trauma Research, Education, and Training Institute, Inc. (TREATI)
<b>Funding Period</b>	November 2002 – April 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$334,112
<b>Purpose</b>	Provide training and resources to promote healing among genocide survivors, reconciliation between groups, and understanding of the origins of genocide to prevent retraumatization during the <i>Gacaca</i> process.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Increase awareness about coping with and healing from traumatic events.</li><li>■ Educate people on the causes and means of preventing genocide.</li><li>■ Assist the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) in helping the population respond to current national processes (such as <i>Gacaca</i>, elections, and the release of prisoners) in a manner that promotes healing and limits retraumatization.</li><li>■ Limit possible hostility between groups during these processes and help the population to use them as an avenue for reconciliation.</li><li>■ Develop sensitization and training-of-trainers programs for local and international NGOs on trauma, healing, the origins of genocide, reconciliation, and the prevention of future violence.</li><li>■ Support a nationwide media campaign incorporating key project concepts to promote healing and reconciliation at a grassroots level.</li></ul>

## Accomplishments

*It is believed that most rape and sexual torture survivors may not come forward to participate in the Gacaca trials because of the stigma of rape, fear of reprisal, and lack of supportive services.*

- Participants from local and international NGOs have been trained in key concepts related to trauma, healing, the origins of genocide, reconciliation, and violence prevention. Participants meet monthly to discuss the integration of these concepts into their work. These participants have applied their new knowledge and skills in community settings to address issues related to *Gacaca*, elections, and the release of prisoners.
- In partnership with a Dutch NGO, TREATI has supported the formation of Rwanda Reconciliation Radio. This organization received accreditation from the Rwandan government in September 2003 and plans to begin broadcasting programs in March 2004. TREATI has provided staff training, guidance on program design, and intensive support of evaluation planning for Rwanda Reconciliation Radio. This work has included training of a larger group of journalists who can use these concepts in a broad range of media outlets.
- TREATI has conducted a seminar for national leaders on the implications of reconciliation and violence prevention for the development of government policy.
- The local field coordinator, along with a representative from NURC, met with the National Electoral Commission in July 2003, to assist with the November 2003 election process. Community leaders who attended the training-of-trainers were part of the commission's provincial-level teams that implemented their electoral awareness programs.
- Project staff members attended a conference in September 2003 for psychologists actively engaged with international crisis and post-conflict interventions.

An estimated 700,000 people were killed in 100 days during Rwanda's genocide of 1994, which uprooted over 2 million people who fled to neighboring countries. The killings were accompanied by wide-scale rape and massive psychological trauma at all levels of society—the survivors, returnees, passive bystanders, and accused perpetrators, as well as their families and communities.

Justice is being rendered through *Gacaca*, a grassroots adjudication system inspired by Rwandan tradition, to approximately 110,000 detainees currently held on genocide-related charges, or provisionally released and awaiting trial. *Gacaca* has the potential to renew tensions as witnesses testify and perpetrators are tried for their alleged crimes. The process could also unleash new accusations; re-ignite unspoken memories; heighten the existing trauma of survivors, their families, and the families of the accused; and intensify divisions within the community.

In response to the current situation, USAID's Victims of Torture Fund has provided a grant to the International Rescue Committee to address the issues associated with sexual and gender-based trauma and the *Gacaca* process, in particular strengthening services to victims and preventing further abuse. USAID also supports the Connecticut-based TREATI to train social workers, develop radio programs, and work with leaders to promote trauma healing and reconciliation.

# Sri Lanka Assistance to Victims of Torture

**Implementing Partner** To be determined

**Funding Period** Two to three years

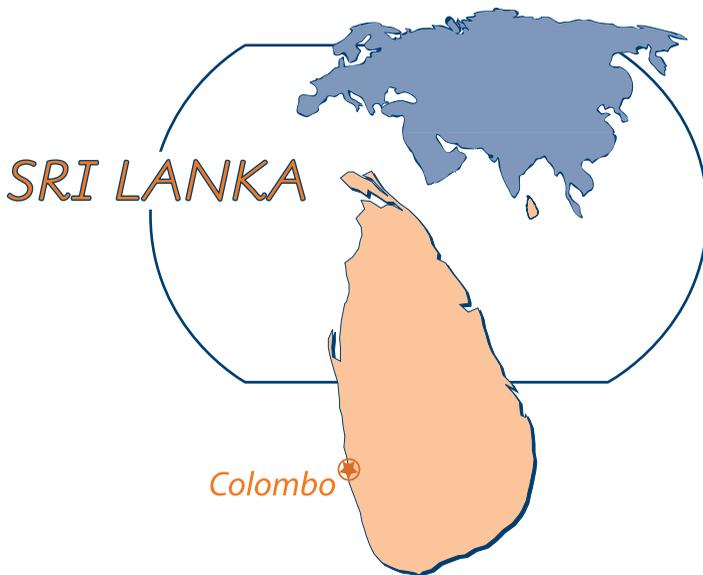
**Amount** \$1,750,000

**Purpose** Enable torture-affected persons to resume their roles within family and community and strengthen public response against torture.

**Objectives**

- Improve access to services that improve functioning in torture-affected individuals and communities.

- Improve the quality of interventions for torture-affected individuals and communities through the study of the impact of interventions.
- Improve public awareness of the consequences of torture and specific actions that might reduce incidents of torture, particularly at the local level.



Since 1983, Sri Lanka has endured an armed conflict in the North and the East between the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) and a terrorist separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Attacks on villages, internal displacement, indiscriminate shelling, placing of landmines, and the consequences of family members joining the fighting forces have resulted in numbers of Sri Lankans experiencing firsthand systematic violence, terror, and torture, as well as the social, cultural, and economic impacts of extended war.

Because of the war, violence of all derivations—domestic, communal, political, and ethnic—has increased dramatically. The country’s national infrastructure and capacity for service delivery have decayed, and the government, with scarce resources, has shown varying degrees of commitment in providing services to the people living in the North and East. Primarily for security reasons, the movement of people, goods, and some services to these areas is tightly controlled or restricted, thereby limiting access to health, medical, and counseling services.

USAID’s Victims of Torture program in Sri Lanka will address the needs of torture-affected individuals, families, and communities through a program that aims to improve the quality of services as well as access to these services. Additionally, the program seeks to strengthen public response to torture.

*Sri Lanka’s youth suicide rate is one of the highest in the world, and the World Health Organization has identified mental health problems as the country’s most significant health issue.*

# Timor Leste

## Survivors of Torture: Developing Community Responses

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
<b>Funding Period</b>	September 2002 – March 2004
<b>Amount</b>	\$374,915
<b>Purpose</b>	Develop a network of NGO community specialists to address the needs of torture survivors through medical, legal, and psychosocial rehabilitation services.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Provide training and technical assistance to NGO community specialists in survivors-of-torture programming and services.</li><li>■ Set up referral and support services for survivors needing counseling and clinical services.</li><li>■ Build NGO networks and NGO capacity to serve torture survivors through grants to develop and strengthen programs.</li></ul>
<b>Accomplishments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Community leaders and members, NGOs, and government service providers from seven districts have an increased understanding and recognition of torture issues through their participation in ICMC workshops, seminars, and community discussions.</li><li>■ A network of stakeholders has been established to promote coordination and collaboration not only between and among community groups and NGOs but also between sectors of civil society and government agencies providing social services.</li><li>■ Increased public awareness of torture through the commemorative activities for June 26 United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.</li></ul>

**T**imor Leste has suffered under Indonesian occupation for nearly 25 years. From 1975 to 1999, the Timorese were subjected to systematic oppression, torture, and killings, producing untold suffering and widespread fear. Although the exact number of torture victims is not available, the Association of Ex-Political Prisoners estimated that at least 10,000 former political prisoners in Timor Leste have been tortured.

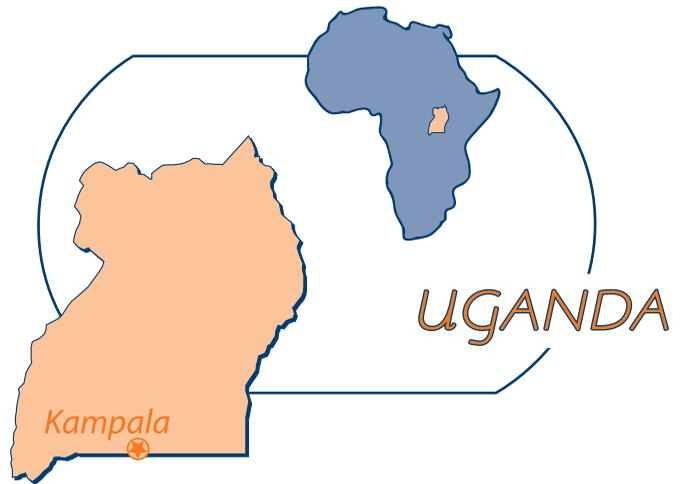
Even though torture is a painful, emotional, and uncomfortable subject to explore, its damaging effects upon the Timorese psyche cannot be ignored. Through the USAID-funded Survivors of Torture program, which provides opportunity for physical and emotional rehabilitation, ICMC is providing space for the Timorese people to revisit their country's past in order to move on with their lives.



# Uganda

## Community Resilience and Dialogue

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	A consortium led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with CARE, Association of Volunteers in Service International (AVSI), Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children (Denmark), and Save the Children (UK)
<b>Funding Period</b>	September 2002 - August 2007
<b>Amount</b>	\$2,655,000
<b>Purpose</b>	Strengthen the prospects for stability and readjustment through comprehensive treatment services in areas severely affected by destabilizing insurgent forces.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Provide counseling and treatment services at reception centers for formerly abducted children and other victims of torture, including assistance in reintegrating them with families and communities.</li><li>■ Strengthen support mechanisms and networks within communities to address the needs of victims of torture.</li><li>■ Treat war- and torture-affected communities as a whole to avoid stigmatization of individuals.</li><li>■ Coordinate with key local government structures and partner with Ugandan NGOs and civil society.</li><li>■ Advocate on behalf of victims and raise the level of local and international public awareness about the Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) and Allied Democratic Forces' (ADF) abduction of children and use of child soldiers.</li><li>■ Document human rights abuses in affected districts and provide legal assistance to those victimized by the LRA, ADF, or others.</li><li>■ Document and share lessons learned and best practices.</li></ul>



### Accomplishments

- Fed, clothed, accommodated, medically screened, and provided psychosocial rehabilitation to 3,585 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, and victims of torture in four reception centers in northern and western Uganda.
- Reunified with their families 2,987 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, and victims of torture in northern and western Uganda, including refugee victims of ethnic warfare in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- Sensitized 1,681 local leaders—including government staff, religious leaders, and other key persons—on psychosocial issues in 10 conflict-affected districts of Uganda.
- Trained 1,675 Ugandan teachers and vocational instructors in psychosocial issues, child rights, and improved class management.
- Enrolled 1,796 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, orphans and vulnerable children, and victims of torture in remedial and vocational education and apprenticeship programs.
- Provided small loans and grants and business-skills training to 3,541 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, orphans and vulnerable children, and victims of torture.
- Facilitated key Ugandan and East African regional working groups including the Uganda National Psychosocial Core Team, the Uganda Amnesty Commission Sub-Committee on Reception Center Minimum Standards, and the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

*Due to the unpredictable and often deadly nature of attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, the civilian population of northern Uganda lives in a constant state of fear and uncertainty.*

Since late 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army has been terrorizing the inhabitants of northern Uganda, notably in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader. Noted for random and exceedingly brutal attacks, the LRA has avoided police or military force by conducting a campaign of terror against civilians. Abduction is common, especially of children who are used as guides, porters, or concubines. Those who try to escape, or who outlive their usefulness, are brutalized and often summarily executed.

Displaced by the violence, many families and children continue to live in camps in lamentable conditions, too afraid to return to their homes. People living in the western Ugandan districts of Bundibugyo, Kasese, and Kabarole suffered similar abuses at the hands of the Allied Democratic Forces from 1996 through 2002. Formerly abducted children were beaten and suffer from trauma and girls were either forced into marriage at a young age or were defiled, many experiencing early pregnancies without adequate care.

Without adequate support and under present conditions of continued uncertainty, formerly abducted children who return to their families and communities risk prolonged psychological trauma, damaging prospects for their future. Through a concerted effort on many fronts, VTF-supported activities aim to help children and their families readjust and reintegrate with improved chances for regional security.

# Funding Guidelines

The following information is provided for organizations interested in applying for funding from USAID's Victims of Torture Fund. It is intended to provide general guidelines, not definitive criteria.

## Grantees

Country-based programs are, for the most part, implemented through grants and cooperative agreements to domestic, foreign, and international NGOs that are registered with USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation (PVC). Grantee organizations work in partnership with local NGOs capable of implementing the project and other international agencies working with the needs of torture-affected survivors, their families, and communities.

## Funding

Funds from VTF are usually transferred to USAID's overseas missions. The missions manage and negotiate grants and cooperative agreements. When circumstances preclude this type of arrangement (e.g., in countries with no USAID mission, multiple-country projects), programs are managed directly from USAID in Washington. In keeping with its legislative mandate, VTF gives priority to programs that treat and rehabilitate torture-affected individuals. Proposals for training and research are also considered.

*Additional information on funding guidelines can be obtained by contacting the USAID in-country mission or by contacting the manager of the Victims of Torture Fund, Mr. Lloyd Feinberg, at the address noted on the inside back cover of this publication.*

## Proposals

Proposals can be solicited or unsolicited. Solicited tenders include Annual Program Statements (APS), Requests for Applications (RFA), and Requests for Proposals (RFP). General information on in-country solicitations can be obtained through the local USAID mission or through **USAID's website at [www.usaid.gov/business/business\\_opportunities/](http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/)**. Current APSs and RFAs are posted on the FedGrants ([www.fedgrants.gov](http://www.fedgrants.gov)) website, the government portal for grant opportunities.

Contact information for USAID missions is found at **[www.usaid.gov/locationsmissiondirectory.html](http://www.usaid.gov/locationsmissiondirectory.html)**. USAID's webpage, **[www.usaid.gov/missions/](http://www.usaid.gov/missions/)**, has links to individual mission webpages.

## Outcomes

VTF primarily supports programs that (1) enable torture-affected persons and communities to resume their roles within family and community and (2) protect individuals against future incidents of torture.

Program activities eligible for funding should aim to

- Increase access to services that improve the status and function of torture-affected individuals, their families, and communities.
- Improve quality of interventions for torture-affected individuals and communities through the study of the impact of interventions.

- Improve public awareness of the consequences of torture and specific actions that might reduce future incidents of torture.
- Increase the capacity of organizations and individuals involved in delivering services to torture-affected individuals, their families, and communities.
- Increase knowledge and dissemination of findings related to long-term improvement in function.

## **Selection Criteria**

Although selection criteria for funding may vary from country to country and program to program, decisions are guided by several principles. Programs should

- Target individuals who suffer reduced function due to direct or indirect exposure to torture and target communities with many such persons.
- Increase access to quality services.
- Build on existing community networks and resources.
- Break the silence experienced by individuals and communities affected by torture.
- Strengthen public response to torture in order to protect individuals against future incidents of torture.
- Demonstrate the impact of interventions in terms of improvements in the functioning of their clients (individuals, families, and communities).

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## Victims of Torture Funding FY 2001 - FY 2004

(in thousands of dollars)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Burundi		1,200		500	1,200
Cambodia		100		750	850
DROC	500		1,289	1,500	3,539
Ethiopia		175			175
Guatemala	1,326	1,000		1,000	3,326
Haiti		800		1,000	1,800
India (Tibet)	185				185
Indonesia	390		375		765
Kenya	830			350	1,180
Mexico		1,400			1,400
Nepal	600	1,613		250	2,463
Peru	350		1,000	200	1,550
Rwanda	1,328				1,628
Sri Lanka	250	1,500			1,750
Timor Leste	380		625		1,005
Uganda	1,650		1,000	650	3,450
Other Africa	500	812	461	1,075	2,648
Regional Initiative/LAC	650	400			1,050
Regional Initiative/Southern Afr.		250	250		500
Regional Initiative/West Africa		750			750
Global Initiative	561		2,355		2,916
Technical Asst.	500		595	675	1,770
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>35,900</b>

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