



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**VICTIMS OF
TORTURE FUND**
PORTFOLIO SYNOPSIS 2005–2006



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MISSION STATEMENT

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 (NGO) 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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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, 90 percent of deaths in wars are civilian, 11 million refugees are seeking protection, and there are 20 to 25 million internally displaced persons around the world. Many of these victims have suffered the effects of torture.

Torture is defined as the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering on another person. Survivors 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 contributing and functioning 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, families, and community members who suffer from the physical and psychological effects of torture. VTF administers treatment programs based in twenty-seven¹

¹ This number includes seven countries in which the VTF funds country or regional programs and ten additional countries in which USAID funds treatment centers under the Center for Victims of Torture global initiative.

countries that span four regions—Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Near East, and Europe and Eurasia—and supports ninety local organizations based in the communities where survivors live.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

During the past year, VTF-supported projects continued to work with various community stakeholders to treat and rehabilitate individuals and communities affected by torture. In particular, effort was made to increase access to and integrate the provision of services that improve the status and function of survivors; bolster the capacity of organizations and individuals delivering services to torture-affected individuals, families, and communities; and improve the quality of interventions through evaluation related to improvements in function.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY

Enlisting local organizations and strengthening their ability to deliver services and effectively assist target populations has long been a central component of VTF's approach. In countries where torture has been widespread or systematic—with effects reaching into all or most communities and regions—it is unrealistic to expect a single group or organization to effectively tackle all areas of social reintegration and healing.

For this reason, while VTF projects support well-resourced implementing agencies, they include a deliberate “multiplier effect” that incorporates local subgrantees, NGOs, and community-based organizations and supports them in identifying and meeting the needs of the populations they serve.

Ultimately, the responsibility for sustaining these interventions—and maintaining and monitoring human rights protections—rests in the hands of local groups, agencies, and the government. Building the critical threshold of local services for survivors through local organizations is an important feature of VTF as it strives to bring services to where survivors live. Projects in Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Mexico, Indonesia, Timor Leste, and Burundi build capacity of local staff and organizations as a means to improve and sustain services for torture survivors through local providers.

Beginning in 2005, for example, responsibility for VTF efforts in Guatemala is being gradually transitioned to the Guatemalan government after several years of capacity-building work. The government must continue the work to heal and support victims and their families. Over the four years of the project, VTF activities have expanded the reach of and access to services in Guatemala, enabling more than 12,000 people to receive physical and mental health services—and indirectly benefiting more than 100,000 people in affected communities.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, VTF is supporting local providers in their efforts to increase access to and quality of medical, psychological, and social services for survivors of rape and sexual violence when used as a tool of war. More than 14,000 survivors received direct services from local NGOs in North and South Kivu provinces. Due to an improved referral system, in the first quarter of 2005, 1,942 women survivors benefited from medical services, including post-rape reconstructive surgery.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to expanding organizations' capacity, VTF works to build networks and coalitions—and strengthen connections among diverse providers of supports and services to meet the wide range of practical, psychological, and social needs of people and communities affected by conflict and torture. In Mexico, VTF provided technical support for the formation of the Northeastern Network, a coalition of NGOs working to strengthen responses to torture.

Bridging divides between organizations and individuals, and among various community members, is also an important aspect of healing and prevention. In Burundi, the VTF project has provided training on management skills and conflict resolution and helped create numerous victims associations to maximize the social reintegration of affected Burundians. Through community healing events, memorials, and solidarity events, victims and families have joined with their communities to speak out against torture in conjunction with the United National Day Against Torture in Burundi and Timor Leste. In Guatemala, community-wide ceremonies accompany the inhumations of remains of loved ones found in clandestine graves in Guatemala.

INTEGRATING SERVICES

VTF projects, wherever possible, incorporate diverse components to holistically address affected people and communities. In addition to mental and physical health supports, many projects specifically identify as goals the legal, political, and/or social accountability of perpetrators and recourse for victims. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, a lo-

cal partner successfully won fifty-seven of the sixty cases of sexual violence they brought to court, and mediated another twenty-three cases winning compensations for victims and families in out-of-court settlements with perpetrators.

The program in Peru integrates a documentation center, legal assistance, and counseling for victims as measures that respond to recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The center has received more than 3,118 requests for information and 2,411 visitors. The legal status of many has been restored and the suffering of others alleviated through mental health treatment.

In Cambodia, a spirited program aiming to reach victims of the Khmer Rouge and improve access to mental health support is ongoing. Documents related to the past regime are available to the public as efforts to continue to learn the stories of others build in preparation for the Tribunal. By increasing access to information, and providing opportunities for exchange, VTF is aiming to help heal the wounds of the past regime while strengthening access to mental health services for survivors through local partners.

MEASURING IMPACT

Generating comprehensive and consistent evaluations across programs and regions is an ongoing challenge. Because contexts and countries vary, there can be no one-size-fits-all measurement system.

Nevertheless, an understanding of programs' impacts is essential to identifying best practices and lessons learned, replicating and scaling programs, and ensuring the ongoing

sustainability of efforts. VTF is interested in learning more about what interventions result in the improved functioning and well-being of survivors.

In 2004, VTF partnered with Boston University and The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) on an initiative to improve the quality of impact and evaluation data by building the capacity of local partners.

In February 2005, VTF sponsored a workshop in Guatemala that convened 17 local organizations to discuss their approaches and develop methodology for consistent assessment. To improve the skills of individual grantees, VTF has arranged for Boston University researchers to work with partners in the field to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems and begin measuring impact. Technical assistance missions are being planned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Mexico, and Haiti in the coming months. Similarly, CVT will be working with selected treatment centers in their capacity-building network to develop appropriate research skills to measure impact.

Measuring and understanding impacts are among the most complex and difficult tasks facing any intervention. Nevertheless, as new information becomes available, VTF will continue to identify best practices and support innovations and proven approaches to help survivors, their families, and communities recover from torture, and prevent further incidence and trauma.

GLOBAL INITIATIVE

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE (CVT)

FUNDING PERIOD:
SEPTEMBER 2000–JUNE 2006

AMOUNT:
\$4,138,784

PURPOSE:
Strengthen the organizational viability, service delivery, and advocacy capacity of foreign treatment centers.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FOREIGN TREATMENT CENTERS

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the capacity of seventeen 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
- Build clinical capacity among community torture treatment resources, and NGOs and government health and social services organizations in Cambodia to have a broad impact on torture survivors, and formalize linkages between these organizations
- Strengthen research capabilities of selected centers to enable them to measure the impact of rehabilitation interventions and treatment on the functioning and well-being of torture survivors
- Build the capacity of Paraprofessional Psychosocial Agents (PSA) to provide counseling services to torture survivors in Kono District, Sierra Leone

GLOBAL INITIATIVE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed seventeen organizational assessments, with full reports shared with partners
- All centers received technology enhancement, operational support, and on-site technical assistance subgrants
- All centers participated in CVT or International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims Training Workshops
- Eight centers reported an increase in their client bases
- Five centers developed new strategic plans and organizational designs
- Eight centers developed new financial management systems or received additional financial management training
- Fifteen centers have purchased new office equipment and software to improve functionality, database management, and client confidentiality
- Eight centers strengthened management staffing
- Three centers received direct funding from USAID missions
- Four centers reported an increase in fundraising capability and effectiveness
- Three healing centers established in Kono District, Sierra Leone, treating more than 1,500 clients; seventeen PSAs have been trained and are supervised by a CVT staff clinician
- In Cambodia, a core group of five governmental and nongovernmental organizations has been identified to plan for the development of trauma treatment resources and community education under the guidance of a local lead agency

GLOBAL INITIATIVE

CVT works locally, nationally, and internationally to heal the wounds of torture. Founded in 1985, CVT provides care and rehabilitative services in Minneapolis 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 provides training and technical assistance to seventeen treatment centers in Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Kosovo, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda. Names and addresses of treatment centers are available on the Victims of Torture Web site: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/the_funds/vot/text_writeups/cvt_list.pdf.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (IIHR) 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, inhumane, and degrading treatment before the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights; and extend psychological training for use by CEJIL attorneys in presenting victims' or relatives' cases.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

OBJECTIVES

- Advocate before the Inter-American Commission and Court in San José, Costa Rica, and Washington, DC, on behalf of torture victims; ensure that decisions are upheld and observed at the domestic level
- 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
- 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)
- Prepare reports on the psychological and physical trauma caused by torture in order to raise awareness in the IAS of the issue of reparations for psychological trauma
- Design a methodology for the psychological care and assistance of victims or relatives presenting cases before the IAS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A network of psychological experts and CEJIL lawyers are working together to discuss patient needs and case preparation for stronger testimony and better-prepared plaintiffs facing the IAS
- The regional network of country-based organizations supporting the psychological needs of victims of torture met in March 2005 and continues to exchange experiences via the Internet
- The project facilitated psychological support to nine cases being presented to the court; witnesses presenting testimony before the court called the assistance invaluable
- The methodology for combined psychological and legal attention is being established, and training for CEJIL lawyers representing victims of torture cases continues; IIHR and CEJIL are sharing their preliminary analysis through information sessions with the IAS judges and commissioners
- IIHR has organized a library of victims of torture cases to influence the development of jurisprudence passed by the IAS regarding reparations for psychological trauma
- IIHR and CEJIL trained IAS judges and commissioners to raise sensitivity to torture victims' cases and have shared their research findings on past cases

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

During the era of the military dictatorships in Latin America, the use of torture was widespread as a means of intimidation, repression, and coercion. 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 where government authorities and public officials are either complicit or directly involved.

This USAID-funded VTF project, implemented jointly by IIHR and CEJIL, is designed to ensure that in the short term, victims and their families are provided with the necessary psychological care while seeking justice and redress through the IAS. In the longer term, IIHR and CEJIL expect that the Inter-American System will be sensitive to individual victims, especially torture victims, and the aftermath of their traumatic experiences. IIHR and CEJIL hope that by 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.

Added awareness could also serve to compel the Organization of American States member states to provide reparations to 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.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

BURUNDI

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND (SFCG), TRAUMA HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SERVICES (THARS), LIGUE ITEKA, ASSOCIATION POUR LA PROTECTION DES DROITS HUMAINS ET DES PERSONNES DÉTENUÉS (APRODH)

FUNDING PERIOD:

MARCH 2003–SEPTEMBER 2005

AMOUNT:

\$1,700,000

PURPOSE:

Effectively build capacity for sustainable support to victims of torture; and prevent future incidences of torture.

MITIGATE ACTS OF TORTURE AND STRENGTHEN SUPPORT TO VICTIMS

OBJECTIVES

- Further the trauma healing process
- Increase opportunities for legal recourse and access to legal resources
- Facilitate social reintegration
- Raise public and political awareness about the prevalence of torture and its effects

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(October 2004–March 2005)

- Recruitment, training, and orientation
- A total of 1,636 volunteers trained
 - Thirty-eight lawyers (and twenty-two others) participated in a policy session that recommended that the state indemnify victims whose perpetrators were agents of the state

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

MITIGATE ACTS OF TORTURE AND STRENGTHEN SUPPORT TO VICTIMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Training sessions held in management skills and conflict resolution (1,230 participants)

Legal assistance

- 779 new victims identified
- 116 cases heard in court; 188 cases pending

Trauma healing

- Eighteen Healing Memory Group activities (785 participants) held to provide psychological healing for victims
- 372 victims of torture received psychological support and 567 received medical services; 289 referred to partners; 750 transported to medical facilities

Social reintegration

- Twenty-seven victims associations created
- Thirteen ongoing series of monthly healing sessions/retreats (1,636 participants)

Awareness-Raising

- Four weekly radio broadcasts raised issues of sexual violence, violence against women, consequences of sexual violence, and torture; seven spot messages on the same issues were produced
- Forty-two sensitization activities on torture, trauma, and their available resources were held for 5,826 participants
- Solidarity events were organized for victims, their families, and members of the community, in conjunction with the United Nations Day Against Torture and International Women's Day
- "Campaign Against Sexual Violence" organized for 2,399 attendees

War and violence have plagued Burundi since 1962. The country is mired in an escalating socio-economic crisis 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 daily and perpetrators—whether members of the army, civil militias, rebel groups, or civil servants—violate the penal code with impunity.

This VTF-supported initiative brings together several organizations to provide services to torture survivors and facilitate a community-based response to the pervasive incidence of violence and abuse.

Given the culture of violence and widespread human rights violations in Burundi, Search for Common Ground and its partners will continue efforts through 2007 to provide medical, psychological, and legal assistance to victims of torture; facilitate their social reintegration; and encourage preventative advocacy against the use of torture. A new partner, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, which has extensive international experience in providing psychological support to people affected by conflict, will provide training for all psychological project staff and ensure quality supervision of the mental health aides/listeners as well as standards of practice.

FUNDING PERIOD:
OCTOBER 2003–AUGUST 2007

AMOUNT:
\$850,000

PURPOSE:
Healing victims of torture through documentation, justice, reconciliation, and counseling.

COUNSELING, LIVING DOCUMENTS, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ROOM

**ACTIVITY I: THE COUNSELING PROJECT:
HELPING THE VICTIMS OF THE KHMER ROUGE**

**ACTIVITY II: THE LIVING DOCUMENTS PROJECT:
ENCOURAGING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE KHMER ROUGE TRIBUNAL**

**ACTIVITY III: THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ROOM PROJECT:
INCREASING ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE ON THE KHMER ROUGE**

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

CAMBODIA

Activity I: The Counseling Project: Helping the Victims of the Khmer Rouge

AMOUNT:
\$100,000

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF
CAMBODIA (DC-CAM) AND THE
TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHOLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION (TPO) THROUGH THE
ASIA FOUNDATION (TAF)

PURPOSE:
Document abuses and survivors' views in
Kandal, Takeo, and Kampot; encourage victims to
come forward; counsel survivors, families, and
communities; and promote reconciliation.

FUNDING PERIOD:
OCTOBER 2003–SEPTEMBER 2005

OBJECTIVES

- Train DC-Cam staff to identify survivors (both victims and perpetrators) from the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) regime who need care and refer them to services
- Provide counseling and treatment for survivors
- Create an accurate historical record of experiences

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- After training from TPO, DC-Cam staff worked with village authorities to identify individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Staff conducted 252 interviews with former Khmer Rouge cadre; eighty of whom were determined to have PTSD. Of the eighty, only three or four had been Khmer Rouge, and sixty-two were women
- Since January 2004, TPO has provided PTSD counseling, treatment, and services—including basic medications and instruction in Buddhist relaxation concepts—to seventy-eight victims; many sufferers report some relief from symptoms, increased confidence, and ability to link current symptoms with past experiences

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

COUNSELING, LIVING DOCUMENTS, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ROOM

Activity II: The Living Documents Project: Encouraging Public Participation in the Khmer Rouge Tribunal

AMOUNT:
\$367,500

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
DC-CAMBODIA

PURPOSE:
Promote healing in 1,700 communes by
educating and involving victims in the tribunal;
assist in preparing for the tribunal; and
encourage open public participation.

FUNDING PERIOD:
OCTOBER 2004–SEPTEMBER 2007

OBJECTIVES

- Allow 1,200 commune members to briefly attend one of five trials during the three-year tribunal
- Contribute to the country's oral history of the DK by helping victims reconstruct experiences and discuss them with younger generations
- Empower torture victims by allowing them to serve as surrogate tribunal witnesses and "judges," holding open forums, and making people aware of their "right to know"
- Train commune representatives to speak publicly and lead discussions

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Explained the tribunal process and its importance to nearly 400 Cham Muslim leaders (hakem), thirty-two Buddhist nuns, and members of twelve youth and student associations
- Organized 500 nuns to march for peace and justice in Phnom Penh and participate in village forums where victims and perpetrators discussed the impacts of sexual abuse during the DK; DC-Cam will produce films and prepare radio broadcasts on the forums
- Provided comprehensive training for and mobilized nearly 200 student volunteers to go door-to-door throughout the countryside to distribute materials and allow victims and perpetrators to discuss the tribunal

Activity III: The Public Information Room Project: Increasing Access to Knowledge on the Khmer Rouge

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
DC-CAMBODIA

FUNDING PERIOD:
OCTOBER 2004–SEPTEMBER 2007

AMOUNT:
\$382,500

PURPOSE:
Increase public awareness/understanding of and participation in tribunals by providing access to DC-Cam’s archives and resources and helping potential witnesses prepare for the trials.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Opened DC-Cam’s Public Information Room (PIR) in April 2004 to receive 1,900 visitors and host lectures and film screenings
- Recorded a recent increase—from one or two to forty per month—in PIR visitors seeking information on DK atrocities
- Providing tracing services to those searching for missing DK victims
- Hosting writing contests and radio programs to collect, record, and disseminate information on the DK and the tribunal process
- Providing a neutral response team to help tribunal officials and participants research and document tribunal-related information
- Assisting Cambodian NGOs involved in the tribunal process

COUNSELING, LIVING DOCUMENTS, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ROOM

At least 1.7 million Cambodians lost their lives during the DK regime of 1975–1979. The quarter of the population killed by the Khmer Rouge constitutes the largest proportional death toll of any modern genocide. Even after the 1979 collapse of its regime, the Khmer Rouge continued its reign of terror until 1999.

The DK regime continues to take a psychological toll on survivors: an estimated two in five Cambodians suffer from PTSD. Care for these victims is limited because of the scarcity of human resources—for example, Cambodia has only twenty trained psychiatrists. Additionally, survivors of the Khmer Rouge’s brutality have been denied closure, the most critical element in the healing process, because twenty-five years later, regime leaders have still not been held legally accountable.

A March 2003 agreement between the United Nations and the Cambodian government delineated plans for a tribunal for the surviving senior Khmer Rouge. In October 2004, the government and the United Nations agreed to prosecute crimes committed during the regime and try its senior leaders. With international funding largely in place, planning of the tribunal is underway. While this is a positive development, care and attention must be given to survivors participating in the tribunal who are likely to experience a resurfacing of painful memories.

Against this backdrop, the DC-Cam is implementing three projects to empower Cambodians to learn their own history; participate in their justice system; and begin to recon-

cile their past experiences. DC-Cam has amassed well more than 600,000 pages of documentation from the DK era, petitions and transcripts from regime survivors, and other potential tribunal evidence, making it the largest repository of such materials. In addition, DC-Cam's PIR provides a wealth of services and activities. Among them:

- **Family tracing**, which uses databases, documents, photographs, and magazine postings to assist Cambodians searching for the missing
- A **library** that offers copies of Khmer Rouge documents, scholarly works on the DK, documentaries, tribunal-related materials, and DC-Cam publications
- The **Education Center**, which presents lectures on such topics as researching, collecting, and preserving documentation, and tribunal law
- **Radio programs** that now reach an audience of 2 million in Phnom Penh, Kampot, Preah Vihear, and Battambang with literary readings, talk shows, and other tribunal-related information
- The **Khmer Rouge History Preservation Forum**, which offers a competition in which Cambodians submit essays on Khmer Rouge issues or their lives during the regime; winners receive cash awards and essays are published in DC-Cam's monthly magazine, *Searching for the Truth*
- A **Tribunal Response Team** of lawyers, political scientists/historians that helps the public and officials gather information for the tribunals

COUNSELING, LIVING DOCUMENTS, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ROOM

- An **NGO Forum** to assist local NGOs involved in the tribunal process; one NGO received help in writing lecture materials, another received extensive data for Internet databases of tribunal information

Next year, DC-Cam plans to bring the PIR "on the road" to serve remote provinces.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

FUNDING PERIOD:
JUNE 2002–MARCH 2006

AMOUNT:
\$3,188,688

PURPOSE:
Provide holistic services through a fully integrated program to treat survivors of torture and sexual violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ACTIVITY I: SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AND NORTH KIVU PROVINCES

ACTIVITY II: ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN MANIEMA AND ITURI PROVINCE

ACTIVITY III: LEGAL AND JUDICIAL STRATEGIES TO COMBAT TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING ARMED CONFLICT

ACTIVITY IV: ATTENDING TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN MANIEMA PROVINCE

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Activity I: Support Survivors of Torture and Gender-Based Violence in South and North Kivu Provinces

AMOUNT:
\$2,757,688

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)

FUNDING PERIOD:
JUNE 2002–MARCH 2006

PURPOSE:
Increase access to and quality of essential medical, psychological, economic, and legal care for survivors of torture and gender-based violence in South and North Kivu Provinces.

OBJECTIVES

- Enable approximately twelve first-contact health centers to provide quality services in health response related to HIV, gender-based violence, and sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and counseling, as well as appropriate referral to psychosocial, economic, and legal services
- Reinforce the technical and organizational capacities of twelve local NGOs and 20 CBOs to manage and sustain their own institutions while providing quality services to survivors of sexual violence, their families, and communities
- Strengthen the referral network of services, including but not limited to, health, psychosocial care, legal, and economic integration

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- As of December 2004, 14,147 survivors of gender-based violence received direct services from local NGOs and CBOs supported by IRC; 32,680 community members were sensitized on issues of gender-based violence
- The number of women receiving medical assistance, including post-rape reconstructive surgery, has increased due to the referral system set up by the program; in the first quarter of 2005 alone, 1,942 women survivors and five of their male partners benefited from medical services provided by local organizations

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

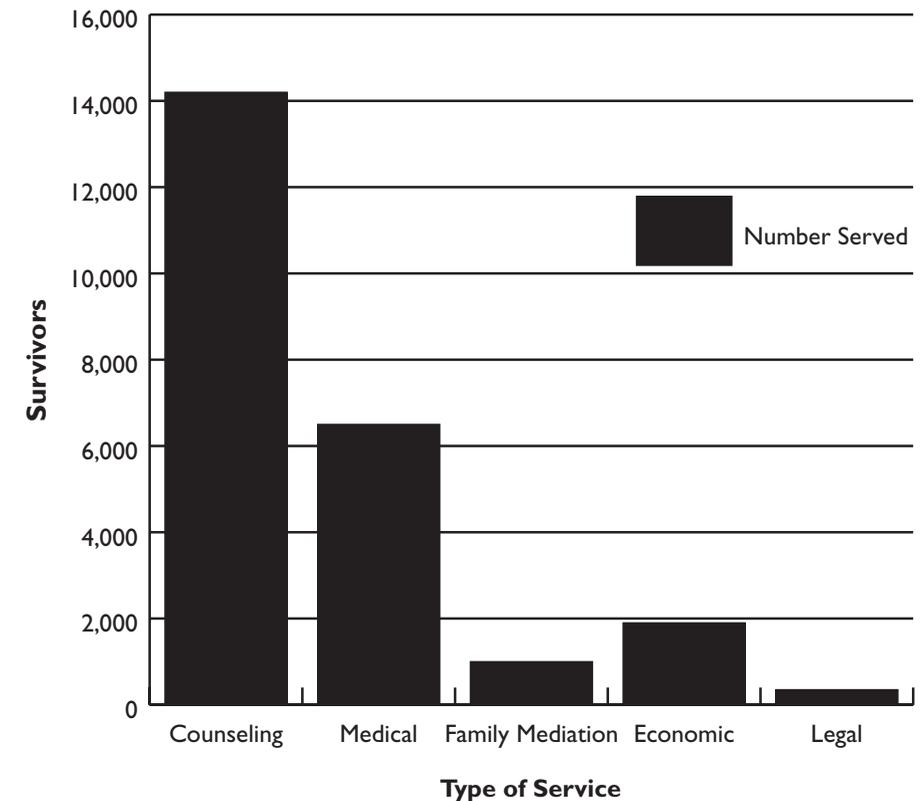
- Five new NGO partners have been selected to receive support in providing services to survivors in target sites, bringing the total number of partners to twelve; to date, IRC has supported thirteen NGOs and twenty-six CBO partners in providing psychosocial, medical, economic, and legal services to survivors and strengthened the referral network among partners
- IRC provides comprehensive technical assistance and training every six weeks to strengthen the organizational capacity of their twelve grantees
- IRC has provided emergency support to five health structures in Kalehe in response to mass rape and pillaging in the area following the events that unfolded in South Kivu in May and June 2004²
- In early 2005, a human rights grantee enabled a woman survivor to win a case against the Captain of Police in Bukavu; he was convicted of rape, sentenced to twenty years in prison and a \$40,000 payment, and was expelled from the national police force. Local partners successfully won fifty-seven of the sixty cases of sexual violence brought to court, and mediated another twenty-three cases winning compensations for victims and families in out-of-court settlements with perpetrators

² On May 26, 2004, fighting broke out in the town of Bukavu, in eastern DRC, when dissident forces under Brigadier General Laurent Nkunda and Colonel Jules Mutebutsi started an uprising against the unified national army of the 10th Military Region, commanded by General Mbuza Mabe. The two opposing camps accused each other of launching the hostilities, which were followed by several more days of heavy combat during which government troops killed at least fifteen civilians, including those from the minority Congolese ethnic group known as Banyamulenge.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL PARTNER NGOS
MARCH 2003–DECEMBER 2004



COUNTRY PROGRAMS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Activity II: Assisting Survivors of Torture and Gender-Based Violence in Maniema and Ituri Provinces

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (COOPI)

FUNDING PERIOD:
SEPTEMBER 2003–MARCH 2006

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the capacities of local NGOs to provide psychosocial assistance to survivors
- Identify victims needing services and link to local service providers
- Raise community awareness about women's rights, prevention, and available assistance
- Inform teachers about women's rights and sexual education
- Provide psychosocial, medical, and socio-economic assistance to survivors

AMOUNT:
\$1,050,000

PURPOSE:
Provide psychosocial, medical, and socioeconomic assistance to victims of torture and gender-based violence.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A total of 237 people attended training modules; provided continuous supervision and follow-up to psychosocial agents and others providing of services to survivors
- Agents and NGO staff have received training and refresher courses on physical and social consequences of sexual violence, prevention, helping and listening skills, psychosocial support, and cultural context issues
- Identified and documented 3,133 victims

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Project services expanded to reach victims living in outlying areas where communities remain isolated and access to medical and psychosocial care is limited (mobile teams comprise trained psychosocial agents and NGO staff)
- Reached 161,242 people through community awareness about women's rights, medical and psychological effects of violence. Activities included door-to-door contacts and meetings with community associations and vigilance committees at water sources and in communal fields, schools, and churches
- Created new forms of media to reach communities, including radio messages in local languages, street theatre, debates in local languages, songs for and by children, and video; themes include community reintegration, care of survivors, and rapid response to cases of rape; these approaches have had a positive impact on identifying new victims
- Trained 45 teachers to improve protection, prevention, and information to students about sexual violence
- Provided psychological assistance to 2,877 victims, many of whom continue to suffer from flashbacks and nightmares requiring ongoing care and treatment, especially cases involving medical complications related to the assault
- Organized group therapy sessions organized for young victims of rape
- Provided medical treatment to 3,022 victims and 755 partners, and psychosocial agents worked with medical staff to ensure follow-up; the importance of including partners is emphasized in community awareness activities
- Provided 1,130 victims of gender-based violence with social and economic assistance
- Formed community associations to organize efforts and build skills in areas such as agriculture, animal husbandry, soap making, tailoring, sewing, physiotherapy, baking, and production of cooking oil

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Activity III: Legal and Judicial Strategies to Combat Torture and Gender-Based Violence during Armed Conflict

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
GLOBAL RIGHTS

FUNDING PERIOD:
OCTOBER 2005–MARCH 2005

AMOUNT:
\$300,000

OBJECTIVES

- Build the capacity of Congolese women's and human rights organizations to investigate and document information on sexual and gender-based crimes for future prosecution
- Empower Congolese organizations to increase awareness and understanding among the Congolese population, authorities, government, combatants, and the international community about sexual and gender-based violence committed in the DRC and the rights of women
- Support and accompany Congolese women's and human rights organizations in advocating for legislative reform and a commitment to put an end to sexual and gender-based violence

PURPOSE:

Build the capacities of civil society organizations to systematically document human rights cases; compile a joint report on torture against women and girls; lead education and anti-torture sensitization and advocacy campaigns; and combat impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes in DRC.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held a series of six workshops in Goma, Beni, Bunia, Kisangani, Katango, Kindu, and Kinshasa on proposed legislation to curb sexual violence and create a publicly supported victims unit to care for survivors
- Developed a legal analysis of legislative, judicial, and policy actions aimed at ending impunity for sexual and gender-based violence; it was presented at a national workshop attended by twenty-one advocacy organizations and other legal and human rights experts

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Produced a document synthesizing legal provisions related to sexual violence and judicial mechanisms, and distributed it to organizations and members of the national campaign to end sexual and gender-based violence
- Wrote legislation to modify provisions and procedures related to sexual violence as contained under present penal and family codes and to strengthen measures to assist victims
- Raised awareness of the need for legislative action through a broad-based, national workshop organized in conjunction with leading United Nations agencies, Catholic Relief Services, and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (more than forty-nine civil society organizations, members of public institutions, deputies, magistrates, and lawyers participated)
- Developed terms of reference and reviewed tenders on developing a protocol for documenting, classifying, retrieving, and protecting stored data on cases of sexual and gender-based violence and torture

“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.”

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Activity IV: Attending to the Medical and Health Needs of Victims of Torture and Sexual Violence in Maniema Province

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
CARE INTERNATIONAL–DRC

FUNDING PERIOD:
OCTOBER 2004–SEPTEMBER 2006

AMOUNT:
\$191,181

PURPOSE:
Improve the health of survivors of torture and sexual violence in the Kibombo Territory of Maniema Province.

OBJECTIVES

- Build the capacity of health providers to treat and counsel survivors of gender-based violence
- Distribute medicines and testing kits to health clinics specific to illnesses and problems associated with gender-based violence
- Increase referrals of survivors for treatment at health centers
- Develop a community-based advocacy strategy that will increase the number of survivors accessing services

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Treated 1,660 cases, of which 1,176 people (70.8 percent) directly incurred sexual violence and 484 (29.2 percent) were survivors' partners
- Trained forty-two nurses in Kibombo Territory in the two health zones of Kibombo and Tunda; the nurses work in health centers and the reference hospital
- Distributed medicines (antibiotics) in thirteen health centers that provide treatment for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

TORTURE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Provided these centers with equipment, including examination tables, surgical sets, and gowns; the reference hospital in Kibombo has already provided surgical treatment for four patients
- CARE partners with COOPI in Kibombo to provide psychosocial support and to refer survivors to CARE-supported health centers for medical treatment; CARE, COOPI, and the health zones where CARE works have signed memoranda of understanding clarifying their roles and responsibilities
- CARE staff maintain regular contact with the network of traditional birth attendants and community health committees that have been trained and regularly supervised since 2002 under a separate ECHO-funded primary health-care project (fifty-eight traditional birth attendants and ninety-nine peer educators have been trained)
- CARE is finalizing an operational research study to better understand the phenomenon of torture and gender-based violence in Kibombo territory—the information from this study will help CARE to better respond to the survivors and develop an appropriate advocacy strategy at the community level

The DRC is recovering from years of war among various foreign-backed factions that took the hardest toll on the women and children in villages in the eastern provinces. These areas have been terrorized by armed groups and their citizens have witnessed the destruction of the vital fabric of their communities. The physical and social service infrastructure of the region has been severely weakened; in many areas, it 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 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 continue, particularly in parts of eastern DRC where local-level guerilla wars and banditry have raged. 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. Local and international organizations have documented thousands of incidents of torture involving 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, under-reporting 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 VTF is addressing the issue of gender-based violence as torture in the provinces of the east through a series of four grants which cover the geographical areas of North and South Kivu, Maniema, and Ituri. Though this project, VTF is addressing one of the most hidden yet traumatizing acts of torture perpetrated against women, especially during periods of conflict and unrest. Our four grantees—IRC, Global Rights, COOPI and CARE—provide integrated services that address the multiple needs of women who have been sexually violated and traumatized during the conflict. The IRC is expanding services to over 10,000 female survivors of torture, rape, and abduction. CARE provides health services to survivors of gender-based violence through its work with more than 100 health centers. In addition to health supports, the interventions include psychological services and re-integration activities to help survivors become productive participants in their communities. COOPI provides the psychosocial component and such re-integration opportunities as participation in income-generating activities. Global Rights is addressing gender-based violence through legal and judicial strategies based on strengthening technical capacity to build dossiers for prosecution, building public and official awareness, and advocating for an end to sexual and gender-based violence through legal and policy reforms.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

GUATEMALA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) IS SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE GUATEMALAN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY FOUNDATION (FAFG), 17 LOCAL NGOS, AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

FUNDING PERIOD:

JANUARY 2001–JUNE 2005

AMOUNT:

\$3,326,000

PURPOSE:

Facilitate the healing process for survivors most affected by the armed conflict.

RESTORE THE DIGNITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

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 survivors
- Facilitate the delivery of mental health services from NGOs and the Ministry of Health under the National Mental Health Plan
- Facilitate interrelations between stakeholders and the recently established National Reparation Commission; and guarantee the transition of responsibilities during the next two to three years

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 328 clandestine cemeteries or mass graves within 273 communities were exhumed in the past four years, far exceeding the original targets
- In the past four years, more than 12,000 people received direct mental health services
- Approximately 100,000 individuals living in the affected communities have indirectly benefited from services

“By expanding geographic coverage this past year, the 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 in cases where longer-term assistance is needed.”

From 1960 to 1996, Guatemala experienced one of the largest and bloodiest conflicts in all of Latin America. It 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 northwest 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 FAFG and local mental health organizations in their work with survivors and their families. 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 exhumation process. Despite death threats against FAFG staff, progress on exhumations has been rapid, exceeding original projections.

By expanding geographic coverage this past year, the 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 in cases where longer-term assistance is needed.

RESTORE THE DIGNITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

USAID-VTF monies have leveraged investment by the government of Guatemala, which, for the first time since the end of the conflict, will be assuming responsibility for activities supported through this program in the coming year.

VICTIMS OF TORTURE FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS



COUNTRY PROGRAMS

HAITI

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

FUNDING PERIOD:
SEPTEMBER 2003–SEPTEMBER 2005

AMOUNT:
\$1,711,000

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.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

OBJECTIVES

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

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided shelter assistance to more than 200 victims
- Provided direct medical assistance to more than 300 victims of violence with clinical signs of distress
- Provided direct therapy to the fifteen most traumatized victims of the massacre of La Scirie, St. Marc
- Reinforced the basic services for victims at five emergency services and external (outpatient) clinics by providing basic material and generic drugs
- Trained more than 650 physicians, health care providers, human rights monitors, police instructors, and sociologists on the physical, psychological, and social effects of political violence
- Trained a local NGO in order to improve the quality and availability of forensic evaluation of injuries due to human rights violations

“The next few years will determine whether torture and other forms of violence remain central to Haiti’s political culture or whether the Caribbean nation will make important progress toward greater liberty and equality.”

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

HAITI

As 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 use of torture.

Political dissidents, journalists, farmers, students, women, 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, much of it directed against the 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. Elements of the former Haitian government are complicit in the use of torture on opponents—but such practices are not promoted by the current transitional government, and other government officials are working toward greater accountability and rule of law to reduce the use of torture by the police. The next few years will determine whether torture and other forms of violence remain central to Haiti's political culture or whether the Caribbean nation will make important progress toward greater liberty and equality.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

INDIA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
TIBETAN VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION (TVHA)

FUNDING PERIOD:
SEPTEMBER 2002–SEPTEMBER 2005

AMOUNT:
\$185,000

PURPOSE:
Provide comprehensive treatment services to torture survivors who flee Tibet to seek asylum in India.

TIBETAN TORTURE SURVIVORS PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

- 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
- Supervise health rehabilitees and create awareness among the general public about torture and its consequences

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Assisted an average of 100 torture survivors per year

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

INDIA

After 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 those who continue to flee Tibet.

Many of the 2,500 refugees who escape into India from Tibet each year are victims of torture. To assist them, Tibetan authorities created the Tibetan Torture Survivors Program in 1991. The VTF grant helps the TVHA continue to provide torture victims with medical treatment and rehabilitation services.

In recent years, the program has expanded to offer more holistic services that include psychological treatment, follow-up, and supervision. The program also includes a campaign to raise awareness of the issues and treatment available in the refugee community in which survivors live.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

INDONESIA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MIGRATION COMMISSION (ICMC)

FUNDING PERIOD:
AUGUST 2002–MAY 2006

AMOUNT:
\$1,014,979

PURPOSE:
Strengthen the capacity of NGOs to meet the needs of survivors of torture through psychosocial and legal services, awareness building, and advocacy.

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

OBJECTIVES

(May 2004–May 2006)

- Raise public awareness of torture and related issues
- Through small grants, support NGOs providing services to survivors and their families and building awareness through advocacy
- Ensure the sustainability of each NGO by strengthening organizational capacity through training and technical assistance
- Assess the needs of torture survivors in Sumatra and design assistance to NGOs working with survivors and families
- Increase professional and technical skills of NGO staff through training, mentoring, and technical assistance
- Support networks of NGOs within Indonesia and link them to the larger international networks supporting victims of torture

OBJECTIVES CONT.

- Collaborate with the health department and train health professionals in governmental primary health care units
- Link NGOs with governmental entities working on the State Report and Alternative Country Report on the Convention Against Torture

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Strengthened skills of local NGOs in psychosocial counseling for torture survivors
- Torture survivors are receiving counseling services through ICMC partners in Jakarta, Papua, and Aceh
- Trained partners providing psychosocial assistance in methods of monitoring client improvement and in the use of the Hopkins Checklist, World Health Organization (WHO) list of seven common somatic problems, and questionnaires on levels of functioning
- Produced a pocket-sized agenda to raise awareness of international mechanisms and options for litigation of torture based on Indonesia's judicial system and legal norms
- Facilitated policy creation through the Ministry of Health for mental health services in conflict areas
- Provided technical expertise during a workshop for local branches of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Empowerment, Ministry of Human Rights and Justice, and NGOs in setting up referral systems for survivors of conflict and trauma in Aceh
- Staff from two partner organizations attended a conference in Turkey organized by the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) Minneapolis—in addition to learning new tactics in human rights work, they networked with other torture treatment centers from around the world

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

From May 1990 to August 1998, thousands of civilians living in the Indonesian province of Aceh disappeared, were tortured, or were killed 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 ceasefire agreement and the resumption of open hostilities. In stepping up its operation, the government imposed martial law restricting the presence of expatriates in the province. Local human rights organizations report that arbitrary arrests, torture, rape, and killing of civilians were common. The fear of abuse by military forces also drove civilians from their homes in areas where the military was conducting operations, although the displacements tended to be short lived.

The talks between GAM and the government have resumed in Helsinki after the tsunami of December 26, which had a devastating effect on Aceh. An earthquake set off powerful tsunamis across the Indian Ocean leading to more than 113,306 deaths, 10,088 missing persons, and more than 655,000 internally displaced people in the province of Aceh. All survivors are dealing with multiple traumas—the loss of loved ones, caregivers, property, and livelihoods. These are compounded by fear for physical safety and a struggle to access basic foodstuffs, clean water, and supplies at distribution centers. Aid workers continue to report swelling numbers of survivors at temporary shelters and the survivors in the interior. All survivors need health care, food, water, tools, building materials, and counseling in order to start rebuilding their lives.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

INDONESIA

Even before the tsunami, the indigenous population in Papua, Indonesia's easternmost province, 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 survivors of torture and trauma.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA
(USIU-A)

FUNDING PERIOD:
APRIL 2002–JUNE 2005

AMOUNT:
\$1,165,000

PURPOSE:
Develop a training program and comprehensive services to support torture victims in Kenya.

PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA

OBJECTIVES

- Expand access to counseling and treatment services to Kenyan torture survivors, including refugees
- Increase legal assistance to victims of torture and trauma
- Research appropriate methodologies of treating victims of torture and trauma with emphasis on seeking new methodologies such as Multi-Sensory Trauma Processing (MTP)
- Continue to support on-going treatment programs and offer university intervention where needed and requested

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided psychotherapeutic counseling to 313 victims of torture, the majority of whom report significant improvements in their stress status as a result
 - Provided lay counseling services to 306 clients, which included completion of a problem-solving process to determine the kind of services or information required to enhance their ability to deal with their situations
 - Assisted counselors involved in data collection with work on lessons-learned papers to be published and presented together with the MTP research project
 - Provided legal aid to 270 victims and survivors for both criminal and constitutional reference cases; a total of 410 clients have received legal advice since the project's inception; forty-three applications for bail/bond involving over fifty people were posted, and eight habeas corpus have been filed since the project's inception
- Provided medical service to 1,210 victims of torture, including 240 remanded juveniles, 586 prisoners, and twenty-three children accompanying mothers in prison
 - Initiated prison outreach program and increased medical camps from one per quarter to two per quarter to address the deteriorating conditions and high incidences of disease in Kenyan prisons; the project is considering a refugee camp program that will lead to the establishment of a third treatment center

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA

Kenya is surrounded by countries either in or emerging from crises. Wars among its neighbours have had a profound impact on Kenya's stability, resulting in an influx of refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Burundi. A recent escalation in the conflict in several countries has led to a dramatic growth in refugee numbers. Most of these refugees have been victims of torture and require rehabilitation services to enable them to become productive members of their communities.

From 1991 through 1997, Kenya itself faced ethnic and tribal clashes. Surviving victims of this conflict—primarily subsistence farmers, micro-enterprise and small-business owners, women, and children—not only lost property but were also typically displaced and stripped of their livelihoods and self-sufficiency. Although the clashes have subsided, ethnic violence continues intermittently in Kenya, causing untold casualties per year, particularly in the northern part of the country. The majority of beneficiaries of this USAID-sponsored VTF project are victims of this turmoil.

A large number of 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.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

USAID addresses this situation by enhancing the capacity of selected organizations and individuals to deal with the long-term effects of torture. Through a grant to the USIU-A, VTF has helped to meet the demand for affordable services. The university has been involved in training counselors, promoting psychological interventions, and disseminating appropriate resources through partner organizations.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

MEXICO

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
FREEDOM HOUSE

FUNDING PERIOD:
OCTOBER 2003–APRIL 2006

AMOUNT:
\$1,400,000

PURPOSE:

Advocate for the elimination of torture, and strengthen the capacity for treatment and prevention of torture by integrating components of the Rule of Law program.

ADDRESSING TORTURE WITH EARLY IDENTIFICATION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION

OBJECTIVES

- 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
- Improve, support, and expand programs providing medical, psychological, and social treatment to torture victims, including enhancing treatment methodologies through subgrants to NGOs working on treatment, legal assistance, and prevention of torture; professional exchanges; on-site technical assistance; and in-country workshops

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

MEXICO

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

October 2003–September 2004

- Held five workshops involving 113 human rights defenders/NGO leaders representing over twenty-five organizations in six states and provided training on the Istanbul Protocol
- Formed the Northern Network of NGOs—which currently comprises twelve NGOs from five northern border states—for the purpose of strengthening responses to torture and other human rights violations
- Awarded three NGO subgrants, totaling \$95,000
- Seven human rights defenders/NGO leaders participated in a study tour to treatment centers in the United States
- Eight Mexican professionals participated in regional exchanges with treatment centers in Guatemala and Peru
- Six Mexican human rights defenders participated in the New Tactics workshop in Peru and the New Tactics Symposium in Turkey, a human rights advocacy training conducted by the CVT

October 2004–September 2005

- Signed a contract with a long-term Mexican clinical consultant
- Between February and March 2005, completed three assessment/technical assistance visits to Ciudad Juárez with Mexican and international clinical consultants; an increased focus on Ciudad Juárez was specifically recommended in the November 2004 VTF report
- Developed a partnership with CEDIMAC in Ciudad Juárez to assist families of victims with psychological treatment; CEDIMAC was awarded a five-month subgrant of \$11,500
- Awarded four additional grants to NGOs in the amount of \$67,155
- To date, six workshops have been conducted on the Istanbul Protocol with 171 participants representing seven states
- Held a successful Visiting Fellows Program in March/April 2005; participants spent a month visiting U.S. treatment centers and returned home committed to developing local interventions

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Organized a June 2005 clinical program development workshop provided by Survivors of Torture International (SOTI) in San Diego, Community Studies in Psychosocial Action (Equipo de Estudio Comunitarios y Accion Psicossocial [ECAP]) from Guatemala, and long-term Freedom House clinical consultants from Mexico and Chile; twenty-three Mexican professionals (ten men, thirteen women) representing fifteen organizations participated
- Created partnerships with SOTI and ECAP, drawing on their clinical expertise to provide technical assistance to targeted NGOs
- Five clinical staff from CEDIMAC and one independent psychologist participated in a ten-day professional exchange with ECAP in Guatemala; Freedom House conducted an exchange with ECAP in May 2004, and ECAP provided clinical leadership in the clinical program development workshop

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

“... recent developments provide new opportunities to address torture through public policy and institutional reform, thereby improving the environment for human rights defenders, strengthening the preventive work of human rights organizations, and expanding the supply and quality of treatment.”

Mexico harbors a legacy of human rights abuses that has proved difficult to overcome. Progress has been made at the federal level and in Mexico City, but severe problems remain at state and municipal levels. 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 actually risen during recent years. 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.

Deficiencies in the criminal justice system—including arbitrary detention, denial of access to effective legal representation, poor quality of forensic services, and impunity for human rights violators—serve to facilitate torture.

However, recent developments provide new opportunities to address torture through public policy and institutional reform, thereby 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.

With appropriate partnership and cooperation, government and NGOs can develop a coherent strategy for ending the use of torture by state agents—which includes identifying

ADDRESSING TORTURE THROUGH EARLY IDENTIFICATION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION

torture when it occurs, intervening at the earliest possible stage, and facilitating legal recourse and treatment for torture survivors.

To this end, VTF is providing technical assistance and training to boost local capacity to prevent torture and provide treatment services to victims. Among the activities was a March/April 2005 Visiting Fellows Program. Four Mexican professionals representing CEFPROD HAC, ACAT, Without Border (Sin Fronteras), and the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District spent a month visiting four U.S. treatment centers—SOTI in San Diego, Program for Torture Victims (PTV) in Los Angeles, the Liberty Center for Survivors of Torture in Philadelphia, and the International Institute of New Jersey in Jersey City. Each returned home committed to developing local interventions, and SOTI and PTV made commitments to provide ongoing technical assistance to the Freedom House project.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

NEPAL

FUNDING PERIOD:
JUNE 2002–SEPTEMBER 2007

AMOUNT:
\$2,463,000

PURPOSE:
Treat, rehabilitate, and protect torture survivors and their families.

VICTIMS OF TORTURE FUND PROGRAMS

ACTIVITY I: REHABILITATION OF TORTURE SURVIVORS AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

ACTIVITY II: TREATING TORTURE SURVIVORS THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES

ACTIVITY III: DOCUMENTING CASES OF TORTURE

ACTIVITY IV: BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF COUNSELORS TO WORK WITH TORTURE SURVIVORS

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

VICTIMS OF TORTURE FUND PROGRAMS

Activity I: Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors and Capacity Building for Health Professionals

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE (CVICT)

FUNDING PERIOD:
JUNE 2002–DECEMBER 2004

AMOUNT:
\$668,825*

PURPOSE:
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.

OBJECTIVES

- 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
- Conduct fact-finding missions to record human rights abuses
- Train district health professionals in the rehabilitation of torture survivors and proper documentation and reporting of torture cases
- Establish a shelter-based rehabilitation center for the comprehensive care of female trauma victims and their families

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted thirteen mobile clinics to reach torture survivors in remote areas and to increase community awareness on human rights
- Conducted seven fact-finding missions
- Provided 240 female torture and trauma survivors with comprehensive shelter-based rehabilitation services
- Established ten District Psychosocial Support Units in conflict-affected districts, and trained counselors
- Provided more than 600 torture and trauma survivors with psychosocial care through District Psychosocial Support Units
- Filed forty-seven court cases under Nepal's Torture Compensation Act

* USAID/Nepal is programming an additional \$430,604 to meet needs of survivors.

NEPAL

Activity II: Treating Torture Survivors through Community-Based Strategies

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
 SAVE THE CHILDREN/US WITH HEALTHNET INTERNATIONAL/
 TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHOSOCIAL ORGANIZATION, ANTARANG PSYCHOSOCIAL AND RESEARCH AND TRAINING ORGANIZATION, AND LAW ASSOCIATES/NEPAL

FUNDING PERIOD:
 OCTOBER 2004–SEPTEMBER 2007

AMOUNT:
 \$863,000

PURPOSE:
 Increase access to and quality of services at the community level.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve access to and quality of psychosocial services through intensive training of community counselors and community psychosocial workers
- Improve access to and quality of legal, medical, education, and economic services
- Increase identification of victims needing services through the formation and strengthening of protection committees at the community level

VICTIMS OF TORTURE COMPONENT

Community-based psychosocial activities will be conducted in collaboration with the protection committees that SAVE and its local partners are establishing in order to identify victims of torture in need of support. This will ensure a strong linkage between community structures and Community Psychosocial Workers (CPSWs) and/or Community Counselors (CCs) who will be the primary implementers of the psychosocial component. An intensive training program will be developed for counselors working with torture survivors. These counselors will provide local support to survivors at the district level. In cases with more serious need, counselors will refer survivors to CVICT’s center in Nepalganj, which remains open.

VICTIMS OF TORTURE COMPONENT CONT.

In addition, medical professionals (a small group of doctors and [sub-]health post workers) will be provided special training in identifying and treating torture victims. A referral network will be established among sub-health post workers, doctors, and torture counselors. Torture counselors, sub-health post workers, and doctors will also be linked to a network of lawyers for legal support as necessary.

The legal aid component consists of counseling victims of torture; training lawyers on aspects of the Torture Compensation Act; filing cases for torture compensation; establishing networks; and advocating for necessary legal changes in Nepali laws concerning torture.

“VTF is supporting an integrated program to assist torture survivors through multiple partners that will increase the access and quality of service provision through center- and community-based approaches in areas of counseling, treatment, legal assistance, and documentation of abuses.”

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

NEPAL

Activity III: Documenting Cases of Torture

AMOUNT:
\$500,000

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (UNOHCHR) IN NEPAL

PURPOSE:
Support international monitoring of human rights abuses throughout the country; document cases of torture; and identify strategies for protecting victims and prosecuting offenders.

FUNDING PERIOD:
JULY 2005–JULY 2007

OBJECTIVES

- Establish accountability for serious and systematic human rights abuses with a view to preventing their reoccurrence through detailed and analytic public reports on human rights abuses
- Identify concrete follow-up actions with responsible authorities in order to increase protection of victims
- Work closely with national partners to promote respect for human rights and international humanitarian law and strengthen the rule of law in Nepal
- Provide advice and assistance to strengthen national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights by partners in government, including the National Human Rights Commission, and civil society
- Improve public awareness and response to torture and ensure a consistent and informed approach
- VTF monies support program costs for international human rights monitoring in field offices

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

VICTIMS OF TORTURE FUND PROGRAMS

Activity IV: Building the Capacity of Counselors to Work with Torture Survivors

AMOUNT:
\$27,571

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
SAHARA PARAMARSHA KENDRA (SPK)

PURPOSE:
Strengthen the capacity of SPK and selected CBOs and NGOs to provide psychosocial counseling services to survivors of torture and conflict.

FUNDING PERIOD:
18 MONTHS (PENDING AWARD)

OBJECTIVES

- Provide comprehensive psychosocial counseling services in the Kathmandu valley by establishing a psychosocial counseling and resource training center
- Train counselors from Kathmandu Valley CBOs/NGOs
- Strengthen the capacity of CBOs/NGOs outside Kathmandu to respond to the needs of survivors
- Establish psychosocial support, referral, and counseling networks consisting of psychosocial counselors, community stakeholders, and concerned CBOs/NGO organizations
- Establish a revolving fund to enable CBOs/NGOs to provide sustainable psychosocial counseling services to survivors

EXPECTED IMPACT/RESULTS

- Re-integrate up to 1,000 survivors into their communities
- Establish a support network and sustainable funding to meet the long-term needs of survivors and to encourage sustainability of services
- Increase community stakeholders' awareness of the psychosocial issues that confront survivors

The most pressing problem facing Nepal today is undoubtedly the profound impact of a rebel insurgency on its political and economic development and security. The Maoist insurgency, which began in 1996, found fertile ground largely in response to Nepal's poor governance, poverty, and exclusion. The initial pro-people approach, which won the Maoists converts among the disenfranchised of Nepal, has been abandoned in favor of a campaign of violence, lawlessness, intimidation, and destruction. More than 10,000 people have been killed by the Maoists and security forces, with the bulk of these deaths—almost 9,000—occurring since 2001. Nepal has attracted international attention by having the highest number of new cases of disappearance of any country in the world. While the Maoists have adopted terror as an instrument of policy, human rights abuses committed by both parties to the conflict are rampant. Incidents of kidnapping, torture, bombings, intimidation, killings, and conscription of children by the Maoists are common. Poorly trained police sometimes use excessive force in quelling violent demonstrations. In addition, there have been reports of torture under detention and widespread reports of custodial abuse. In addition to the devastating human toll, the continuing violence drains budget resources, restricts the delivery of services and prospects for socioeconomic development, and stifles economic growth.

Since the transition from absolute monarchy to multiparty democracy in the spring of 1990, Nepal has seen 15 governments. The country remains without locally elected officials and a parliament. On February 1, 2005, the king dismissed the third cabinet and assumed executive powers as “chair-

man,” appointing two vice chairmen and a council of ministers. The subsequent imposition of emergency rule and suspension of many rights—including freedom of expression, assembly, and privacy—represent serious setbacks for human rights in Nepal. The security forces have arrested many political leaders, student leaders, journalists, and human rights activists under the Public Security Act of 1989. The government deployed censors to newspapers and issued notices stating no media can publish news items against the spirit of the royal proclamation of February 1 or supporting “terrorist and destructive activities” for six months. In 2005, new patterns of human rights violations continued to emerge, including incitement to vigilante violence by high government officials. Once the initial vigilante violence subsides, Maoist retribution against civilians involved in the committees follows with regularity.

In 2000, the government established the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), a government-appointed commission with a mandate to investigate human rights violations. However, by January 2005, the ability of the NHRC to monitor places of detention in accordance with the Human Rights Commission Act and the government's “commitment on the implementation of human rights and international humanitarian law” of March 26, 2004, was limited. Further complicating the situation was the May 2005 expiration of terms of the NHRC commissioners, and given the legal complexities and the political sensitivities surrounding the appointment of new commissioners under these conditions, it was unclear how the quality or independence of the commissioners would be ensured beyond the expiry of the

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

NEPAL

current terms. It was also unclear how the credibility and impartiality of NHRC, which was already badly damaged by its ineffective response to the human rights abuses stemming from the state of emergency, would be restored.

As a result of deliberations regarding the human rights situation in Nepal at the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights in 2005, an agreement was signed by the high commissioner for human rights in Geneva on April 8, 2005, and by the minister for foreign affairs in Kathmandu on April 10, 2005. Under that agreement, UNOHCHR is establishing an office in Nepal to monitor the situation of human rights and observance of international humanitarian law, including investigation and verification through the deployment of international human rights officers throughout the country as required. The agreement also includes provisions for technical assistance to national partners to promote respect for human rights.

VTF is supporting an integrated program to assist torture survivors through multiple partners that will increase the access and quality of service provision through center- and community-based approaches in areas of counseling, treatment, legal assistance, and documentation of abuses. The capacity of professionals to identify, refer, and provide treatment will be increased. Through the UNOHCHR, VTF is working with other donors to strengthen protection options for survivors through improved reporting on human rights abuses.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

PERU

FUNDING PERIOD:
DECEMBER 2003–JUNE 2006

AMOUNT:
\$1,200,000

PURPOSE:
Respond to recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for victims of torture.



VICTIMS OF TORTURE FUND PROGRAMS

ACTIVITY I: SUPPORT THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PUBLIC DOCUMENTATION CENTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTIVITY II: REGULARIZE JUDICIAL/LEGAL STATUS OF VICTIMS

ACTIVITY III: MENTAL REHABILITATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

PERU

Activity I: Support the Creation and Implementation of a Public Documentation Center on Human Rights

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

FUNDING PERIOD:
DECEMBER 2003–DECEMBER 2005

AMOUNT:
\$550,000

PURPOSE:
Provide citizen access to information collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

OBJECTIVES

- Establish a public information center for citizens to consult written information, video and audiotapes, and databases used by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Increase access to information collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by victims of the political violence, family members, prosecutors, judges, researchers, and citizens in general
- Provide a central repository for information to be used in the prosecution of cases related to political violence and for the identification of those exhumed from mass grave sites

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established the Center for Collective Memory and Human Rights, which is considered a reference for victims, the justice system, and researchers on past political violence
- More than 3,118 requests for information have been received by the center in Lima and more than 2,411 people have visited the center

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

VICTIMS OF TORTURE FUND PROGRAMS

Activity II: Regularize Judicial/Legal Status of Victims

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL DEFENSE (ILD)

FUNDING PERIOD:
FEBRUARY 2004–MARCH 2005

AMOUNT:
\$200,000

PURPOSE:
Regularize victims' judicial and legal status.

OBJECTIVES

- Review outstanding arrest warrants related to involvement in terrorism
- Eliminate outstanding arrest warrants related to people who were already detained or pardoned or which were duplicative or incomplete
- Help people whose outstanding arrest warrants were eliminated to re-integrate into their community
- Support people whose outstanding arrest warrants have been eliminated to exercise their rights as citizens

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed an inventory of outstanding arrest warrants for terrorism
- Reviewed 51,684 outstanding warrants covering 12,582 people
- Eliminated 2,780 warrants, affecting 790 people, based on a review of case files
- Eliminated 2,739 warrants related to treason
- Recommended for elimination 859 arrest warrants against eighty-three people

Activity III: Mental Rehabilitation and Psychosocial Support to Victims of Torture and Political Violence

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
CENTER FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL
ATTENTION**

**FUNDING PERIOD:
JUNE 2004–JUNE 2006**

OBJECTIVES

- Provide services designed to support the mental, physical, and social recuperation of victims and their families
- Strengthen the mental health services and human rights network
- Create an internal system to strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity of Center for Psycho-Social Attention (CAPS)

**AMOUNT:
\$450,000**

PURPOSE:
Alleviate the consequences of political and social violence through mental support, rehabilitation, and improved quality of life for victims of torture and their families.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided psychotherapy and social support to approximately 350 victims of political violence (including family members) from June 2004 to March 2005
- Consolidated networks of mental health and human rights organizations in regions outside of Lima
- Developed and implemented a database system to process information to improve CAPS' internal capacity to monitor and evaluate the impact of their assistance
- Beneficiaries are showing positive changes in their interpersonal relationships and are starting to become re-integrated into their communities, improving their mental and physical well-being

The Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission was formed in 2001 to, among other purposes, help clarify the crimes and human rights violations that occurred in Peru between 1980 and 2000. The Commission released their final report in August 2003. Its work was mainly based on the collection of more than 16,800 testimonies, a number of public hearings, exhumations of three mass grave sites, and analyses of the causes of the political violence.

The Commission's final report recommended that the Peruvian Human Rights Ombudsman serve as the repository for all of the information that was collected during its two-year mandate. To respond to this recommendation, the ombudsman opened the Center for Collective Memory and Human Rights in April 2004 with the financial support of USAID's VTF monies. The center is open to the public, and provides access to more than 19,000 audio and videotapes, 17,000 files containing testimonies of victims and their families, books related to political violence and human rights, press articles, background information collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, judicial case files of the 43 cases processed during the commission's mandate, and photos.

The commission has also documented a large number of arrest warrants between 1980 and 2000 for crimes related to terrorism, a significant percentage of which were not substantiated. Under the Peruvian system, these warrants remain valid until an action is taken to eliminate them. As a result, many Peruvians who either have or believe they might have an outstanding warrant do not vote, register their property,

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

PERU

or get an identity document. USAID's VTF has helped to review the list of those wrongly accused of terrorism as well as all outstanding arrest warrants for these crimes. The review included tracking the actual status of the arrest warrant from where it was issued, determining if the arrest warrant was valid, and closing out invalid or duplicative ones. The elimination of arrest warrants allows people to exercise their rights, re-integrate into their communities, and get an identity document.

Approximately 40 percent of arrest warrants issued outside of Lima still need to be reviewed. ILD has proposed a program expansion to continue working with the judicial system to review and recommend the elimination of those remaining arrest warrants and to create mechanisms for informing those who have benefited from this activity that the arrest warrant no longer exists.

With respect to the activities developed by CAPS, the number of victims receiving integrated counseling services has increased since June 2004. CAPS activities in communities outside Lima in particular need to be expanded, since there is very limited access to the psychological and health services required for mental health recovery and community re-integration. Mental health and human rights networks consider the advice they receive from CAPS to be of great importance. Through VTF, CAPS has been able to help consolidate organizational networks, which is critical due to the large number of coordination bodies created by the government of Peru and the significant number of victims needing assistance.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA (IDASA)

FUNDING PERIOD:
JANUARY–JULY 2005 (NO-COST EXTENSION TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2005)

AMOUNT:
\$400,000

PURPOSE:
To provide services that are accessible and holistic and that ensure the inclusion and participation of victims/survivors in their rehabilitation.

ZIMBABWE TORTURE VICTIMS PROJECT (ZTVP)

OBJECTIVES

Assist the most-vulnerable primary victims/survivors of organized violence and torture in Zimbabwe who have subsequently fled to South Africa with access to—

- Psychological and psychosocial services
- Medical and psychiatric services
- Legal and humanitarian services

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The project has opened files for ninety-five clients deemed to be primary victims/survivors of organized violence and torture—seventy-one males and twenty-four females; the project receives on average twenty new clients per month; most clients are indigent, even though some have professional backgrounds (i.e., teachers, police officers, etc.)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- In a number of cases, interventions are ongoing and incrementally increasing ZTVP's workload
- Twenty-six clients have been referred for medical treatment—at both public and private health facilities; ZTVP has had some success in securing access to public sector health facilities, although the quality of the treatment is often difficult to assess, and these facilities do not provide ZTVP with reports; for a number of our clients, their situation is further compounded by HIV/AIDS infection
- Forty-three clients have been referred for psychiatric evaluations and treatment—ZTVP has a consulting psychiatrist who visits the project on a weekly (or twice-weekly) basis
- Sixty-three clients have been referred for individual psychotherapy/counseling; clients are referred to professional counselors based at the Trauma Clinic at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (where ZTVP currently rents offices); in addition, ZTVP refers its clients to alternative healing and empowerment processes run under the auspices of the “Tree of Life” program
- Seventy-two clients have been referred for legal assistance; in all these cases, clients have received some assistance to access the political asylum process; to date, ZTVP has managed to assist four clients in securing their refugee status; ZTVP has also assisted a number of clients who have been arrested and face deportation by intervening with the appropriate authorities
- ZTVP has secured accommodation/shelter and provides humanitarian support (i.e., food, blankets, toiletries) for a small number of clients (approximately twenty) on a discretionary basis

Between 2000 and 2005, Zimbabwe has experienced an ongoing and inter-related set of political, economic, social, and humanitarian crises. These crises have been characterized by an array of human rights violations perpetrated primarily by state agencies and their proxies against an array of real or perceived enemies. Tens of thousands of Zimbabweans have been deliberately targeted in a series of systematic and random attacks aimed primarily at activists and the broader support base of the main political opposition, the Movement for Democratic Change, as well as other civil society groupings seen as opposed to the ruling ZANU-PF party, and subsequently depicted as “enemies of the state.”

The rule of law has been replaced with “rule by law,” and an increasingly repressive legislative environment has been compounded by the politicization of the criminal justice system and security forces, as well a more general militarization of society. Perpetrators of human rights violations remain insulated from processes of accountability, in a context of de jure and de facto impunity. Thousands of incidents of organized violence and torture have been recorded by an embattled human rights sector. Thousands more cases have not been captured. Hundreds of perpetrators have been identified. In recent developments, since mid-May 2005 hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans, in primarily urban and peri-urban areas, have been forcibly removed from their homes, in an unprecedented exercise of social engineering orchestrated by the ruling party.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

As many as 3 million Zimbabweans have now left the country. Any number between 750,000 and 2,000,000 are believed to be in South Africa. It is unclear how many of these are primary (i.e., direct) victims of organized violence and torture. Access to the asylum process in South Africa remains restrictive. The ZTVP estimates, based upon informal sources in the South African Department of Home Affairs and UNHCR, that approximately 10,000 Zimbabweans are now believed to have secured asylum application permits. To date, less than 60 applicants have been granted asylum. Lack of access to documentation and dire socioeconomic circumstances leave many victims of organized violence and torture extremely vulnerable.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

SRI LANKA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
THE ASIA FOUNDATION (WITH LOCAL PARTNERS)

FUNDING PERIOD:
JUNE 2005–JUNE 2008

AMOUNT:
\$1,485,000

PURPOSE:
Enable torture-affected individuals to resume their roles within family and community and strengthen the public response against torture.

REDUCING EFFECTS AND INCIDENCES OF TORTURE

OBJECTIVES

- Improve access to services that improve functioning among torture-affected individuals and communities
- Improve the quality of interventions for torture-affected individuals and communities through the study of the impact
- 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 between the government of Sri Lanka and a terrorist separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. 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.

As a result, violence of all derivations—domestic, communal, political, and ethnic—has increased dramatically. The country's national infrastructure and capacity for service delivery have been eroded, and the government has shown varying degrees of commitment in providing services to the people living in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. 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 VTF program in Sri Lanka addressing the needs of torture-affected individuals, families, and communities through a program designed to improve the quality of and access to services. Additionally, the program seeks to raise awareness and strengthen the public response to torture.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MIGRATION COMMISSION
(ICMC)

FUNDING PERIOD:
SEPTEMBER 2002–NOVEMBER 2005

AMOUNT:
\$749,913

PURPOSE:
Develop working partnerships between NGOs and government offices to help survivors of torture regain their functional capacities at the individual, family, and community levels.

SURVIVORS OF TORTURE: DEVELOPING COMMUNITY RESPONSES

OBJECTIVES

Phase II (June 2004–November 2005):

- Strengthen service provision for survivors of torture and their families through training and technical assistance to governmental and nongovernmental partners on community development strategies and psychological interventions, including coping skills and secondary stress management for service providers
- Complement government initiatives that address survivors' needs through small project grants to NGOs involved in direct service provision; strengthen organizational and technical capacity through training and technical assistance
- Promote collaborative activities and projects among NGOs and government partners

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

TIMOR LESTE

OBJECTIVES CONT.

- Build a network of NGO and government service providers for victims and their families and link it with regional resource partners
- Improve the quality of partner programs through the use of scientific methods to measure the impact of psychosocial interventions

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Increased capacity of local partners to provide direct services to torture survivors and their families through training and technical assistance in listening skills, monitoring client improvement, community resource identification and mobilization, and “train the trainer” efforts; these inputs are enabling seventeen local partners to provide psychosocial support to survivors in their communities through the small grants program
 - Through consultations with formal and traditional leaders and concerned community members, local partners continue to identify survivors who need services
 - Provided survivors and families with access to ongoing psychological support services including home visits, action plan creation, and service referrals;
- twelve local partners have identified 652 survivors from sixty-seven villages in six districts who need psychosocial (non-clinical) support—335 of these individuals are women, most are adults, and ten are minors (six girls, four boys)
- Assisted the Timor Leste National Mental Health Program Working Group—which comprises NGOs and the Ministry of Health, State Secretariat for Labor and Solidarity, and the national police—in establishing a referral network at the district levels and linking them to Dili-based members
 - Increased awareness of torture issues in communities served by the twenty-two local partners in seven districts—two in the east, four in the west, and Dili—through eleven community workshops in nineteen villages involving over 600 residents

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Held commemorative activities in Dili and the districts for some 3,074 community members; events included panel discussions on television and radio, a photo exhibit, a seminar, Holy Mass at Motael Church, the repair of gravestones, and the construction of community monuments
- Involved some 1,000 individuals in inaugural activities for the community monument in Bobonaro, which honors victims of torture and those who died during the struggle for independence from eighteen villages
- Carried out seven gravestones projects that constructed or repaired gravestones of eighty-three victims of torture in eleven villages in six districts; dedication ceremonies for these gravestones involved over 1,000 members of the communities
- Brought together numerous parties and leaders to complete three community memorial initiatives—two community monuments and a booklet of stories of victims and survivors—that honor 525 victims of torture and members of twenty-one villages who lost their lives during the struggle for independence

“The ICMC program offers training, technical assistance, and small projects grants that allow partners to examine and respond to the psychosocial and practical/material needs of survivors and families.”

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

TIMOR LESTE

Timor Leste is working to confront the effects of a brutal twenty-five-year regime. The country recently codified assistance for torture survivors and protection from torture in Articles 11 and 30 of its Constitution. These provisions are further strengthened by the government's ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture. The Timor East government continues to design programs to serve survivors of torture and the families of victims, and address the social services and livelihood needs of veterans, former combatants, widows, the physically challenged, orphans, and elderly. Service initiatives are also pursued by the civil society sector, although these tend to be more generic in their approach and address various marginalized sectors of the communities.

This USAID-funded program has enabled at least twenty-four local partners from both NGO (twenty-two) and government (two) sectors to reach out to survivors of torture and families of torture victims. Common among the needs identified by torture survivors to improve their functioning and well-being are recognition, medical assistance, livelihood opportunities and/or skills, and education for their children. The ICMC program offers training, technical assistance, and small projects grants that allow partners to examine and respond to the psychosocial and practical/material needs of survivors and families. Program inputs include building linkages with other NGO partners, pertinent government agencies, donors, and resource partners and promoting cooperation among NGOs and government agencies.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

UGANDA

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:
A CONSORTIUM LED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) WITH ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE INTERNATIONAL (AVSI), CARE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, SAVE THE CHILDREN IN UGANDA

FUNDING PERIOD:
SEPTEMBER 2002-AUGUST 2007

AMOUNT:
\$3,305,000

PURPOSE:
Strengthen the prospects for stability through comprehensive treatment services in areas severely affected by destabilizing insurgent forces.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND DIALOGUE

OBJECTIVES

- Provide counseling and treatment services at reception centers for formerly abducted children and victims of torture; assist their re-integration within families and communities
- Strengthen support mechanisms and networks within communities to address the needs of victims of torture
- Treat war- and torture-affected communities to avoid stigmatization of victims
- Coordinate with key local government structures and partner with Ugandan NGOs and civil society

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

UGANDA

OBJECTIVES CONT.

- 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
- Document human rights abuses in affected districts and provide legal assistance to those victimized by the LRA, ADF, or others
- Document and share lessons learned and best practices

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fed, clothed, accommodated, medically screened, and provided psychosocial rehabilitation to 7,010 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, and victims of torture in four reception centers in northern and western Uganda
- Reunified with their families 5,741 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, and victims of torture in northern and western Uganda, including refugee victims of ethnic warfare in eastern DRC
- Organized community sensitization, mobilization and dialogue programs on psychosocial and protections issues reaching 37,403 people
- Trained 3,712 Ugandan teachers and vocational instructors in psychosocial issues, child rights, and improved class management
- Enrolled 4,519 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, orphans, and vulnerable children, and victims of torture in remedial and vocational education and apprenticeship programs
- Improved the technical capacity of 2,708 local partner staff and volunteers, including district officials, community volunteers, and reception center staff
- Provided economic development support activities for sustainable livelihoods to 16,760 formerly abducted children, adult returnees, orphans, vulnerable children, victims of torture, and internally displaced populations

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

- Promoted and supported peer support groups for 9,177 out-of-school youth
- 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

“Under present conditions of continued uncertainty and inadequate support, formerly abducted children who return to their families and communities are at risk for prolonged psychological trauma, damaging prospects for their future.”

Since late 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) 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. In June 2003 the LRA conflict expanded into the Lango and Teso subregions, causing mass displacement and terror to a population not previously targeted by the LRA. VTF responded with psychosocial programming and interventions to assist the abductees and victims of torture.

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 suffered from trauma and girls were either forced into marriage at a young age or were raped, many experiencing early pregnancies without adequate care. Although the majority of the population has returned to their homes in these districts, CRD still supports psychosocial programming to address the trauma faced during the conflict.

Under present conditions of continued uncertainty and inadequate support, formerly abducted children who return to their families and communities are at risk for prolonged psychological trauma, damaging prospects for their future. VTF-supported activities help children and their families re-adjust and re-integrate with improved chances for regional security.

The following information is provided for those interested in applying for funding from the Victims of Torture Fund (VTF). It is intended to provide general guidance, not definitive criteria, for organizations interested in applying for funding.

GRANTEES

VTF's projects are, for the most part, implemented through grants and cooperative agreements awarded to domestic, foreign, and international nongovernmental organizations. In order to be considered for a grant or cooperative agreement, all organizations must first register with USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation (www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/private_voluntary_cooperation/reg.html) or have the equivalent recognition in their country of origin.

DECISION PROCESS

Organizations interested in being considered for a grant/cooperative agreement through VTF must first submit a proposal (See Proposals). Please note that submission of a proposal is not a guarantee of receiving a grant/cooperative agreement. All proposals are evaluated based on a prescribed set of selections criteria (see Selection Criteria).

PROPOSALS

Proposals for programs can be solicited or unsolicited.

Solicited Proposals. Solicited proposals are those submitted in response to a solicitation (Annual Program Statement [APS], Request for Applications [RFA], or Request for Proposals [RFP]) that has been issued by USAID. Informa-

tion on in-country solicitations can be obtained through the local USAID mission. All open APSs, RFAs, and RFPs can be found at FedGrants (www.fedgrants.gov), the government-wide portal for grant opportunities. Guidelines for what should be contained in the proposal are outlined in the solicitation.

Unsolicited Proposals. Organizations interested in submitting unsolicited proposals should first consider submitting a concept paper to the appropriate USAID mission and/or to the USAID program manager at the address listed on the back inside cover of this publication. Concept papers should be no more than five pages.

SELECTION CRITERIA

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. 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 and promote healing
- 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 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 improvements in function and healing

Within these objectives, VTF evaluates programs according to the following core principles:

Community-Based. Interventions need to be based in communities where survivors live. Too frequently services are based in large urban settings that are difficult to reach. Building on organizations and professionals with regular contact with community members helps expand the range of services. Referral networks incorporating professionals at all levels of technical expertise in rural and urban settings improve coverage and opportunities for survivors to receive the services they most need.

Culturally Grounded. VTF recognizes the importance of understanding local definitions of function and well-being. Ethnographic assessment methods can help identify local meanings, evolve appropriate strategies and interventions to improve the status of survivors, and contribute to a baseline of information that can serve as a marker of progress.

Impact Focused. The organizations that VTF supports must demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of interventions to improve the functioning and well-being of torture-affected individuals. VTF provides technical assistance and training

to its grantees to support monitoring and evaluation systems and the development of tools to measure improvements.

Holistic. Services for torture-affected individuals should incorporate several avenues to healing, such as medical attention, physical rehabilitation, documentation of experiences, mental health support, legal assistance, and socioeconomic activities that help individuals reintegrate into families and communities.

Collaborative. Collaboration with and among other organizations is critical to ensuring a holistic and integrated approach. VTF supports interventions that build and strengthen existing community networks and resources. Working through local organizations, VTF hopes to improve access to services and strengthen responses to torture.

FUNDING

After the award of a grant/cooperative agreement, funds from VTF are usually transferred to USAID's overseas missions where the details of the grant/cooperative agreement are negotiated and managed. When circumstances preclude this type of arrangement (e.g., in countries with no USAID mission, multiple-country projects, etc.), programs are managed directly from USAID's Democracy and Governance Office in Washington, DC.

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FUNDING

VICTIMS OF TORTURE FUNDING FY 2001–FY 2005 (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Burundi		1,200		500	1,200	2,900
Cambodia		100		750		850
DRC	500		1,289	1,400	1,100	4,289
Ethiopia		175				175
Guatemala	1,326	1,000		1,000	1,000	4,326
Haiti		800		1,000		1,800
India (Tibet)	185					185
Indonesia	390		625			1,015
Kenya	830			350		1,180
Mexico		1,400			800	2,200
Nepal	600	1,613		250		2,463
Peru	350		1,000	200	590	2,140
Rwanda	1,328					1,328
Sri Lanka	250	1,500				1,750
Timor Leste	380		375		500	1,255
South Africa				400		400
Uganda	1,650		1,000	650	725	4,025
Other Africa	500	812	461	660	1,175	3,608
Regional Initiative/LAC	650	400			900	1,950
Regional Initiative/ Southern Africa		250	250			500
Regional Initiative/ West Africa		750				750
Global Initiative	561		2,077			2,638
Technical Assistance	500		873	790	510	2,673
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	7,950	7,950	8,500	44,400

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