

dr. Denis **Mukwege** Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

www.mukwegefoundation.org

Table of CONTENTS

03	Letter from our director
04	Letter from a survivor
05	Programme impact
08	Where we work
09	Our programmes
10	I. Holistic care for survivors
20	II. Voice: connecting survivors
29	III. Justice & accountability
34	Management updates
36	Human resources
38	Communications
39	Fundraising
41	Conclusion
42	Acknowledgements

Letter from our **DIRECTOR**

In 2025, conflict, instability and injustice continued to shape the lives of millions globally. Conflict-related sexual violence remained widespread and devastating, impacting individuals, entire communities and future generations. The 2025 report of the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence highlighted an alarming rise in cases of conflict-related sexual violence worldwide, reporting an increase of around 25% compared to the previous year. Behind each of these cases is a person—a survivor whose body, dignity and future were targeted. Too many survivors continue to face trauma and significant obstacles in accessing care, justice and recovery.

And yet, in the face of these realities, survivors continued to show extraordinary strength. They spoke out, supported one another, and demanded justice. They reminded the world that they are not defined by the violence committed against them, but by their strength, their leadership, and their vision for change.

Throughout the year, we were reminded of what becomes possible when survivors come together. Their resilience reaffirmed the importance of the Mukwege Foundation's mission and Theory of Change.

Over the past year, we've made real progress in strengthening survivor-centred, holistic responses to conflict-related sexual violence. We helped expand access to care, amplified survivor voices, and continued to support survivors as powerful agents of change. Increasingly, survivors are influencing policies, shaping programmes, and leading efforts to challenge silence, stigma and impunity.

We also stepped up our global advocacy — pushing for greater recognition of sexual violence as a weapon of war and for stronger accountability. We called on governments and institutions to live up to their obligations under international law and the Women, Peace and Security agenda — not only to respond to these crimes, but to prevent them.

Among 2025's highlights were the [first regional survivor gathering in Southeast Asia](#) and the [surgical campaign in Dékoa, Central African Republic](#), which provided fistula repair surgery to women and girls after years of suffering



and stigma. Both initiatives reflect the breadth of our work and its impact — from community-level care to global movement-building.

At the same time, the year also saw troubling developments — the further erosion of respect for international norms, and a decline in political will to uphold accountability. These threats risk silencing survivors, weakening the systems meant to protect them, and constraining the funding needed to sustain this work.

In response, we took decisive steps to strengthen and diversify our funding base, and we were heartened by the growing support from foundations and individual donors who share our conviction that this work must continue.

Through it all, what gives me hope are the survivors themselves. Their resilience and their determination to turn pain into power. Their refusal to accept injustice. They push us to do more, to do better, to stand with them — not only in moments of crisis, but throughout the long journey toward justice, healing and lasting change.

I am very proud of what we achieved together in 2025, and I am deeply grateful to our partners, donors and supporters who stand with survivors and with us.

We will continue, because survivors continue. And because a world where conflict-related sexual violence is no longer tolerated is not only necessary — it is possible.

Katrien Coppens

Executive Director, Mukwege Foundation

Letter from a SURVIVOR

My name is Devi Khadka. I have been working with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Nepal since 2021. Nepal went through an internal armed conflict from 1996 to 2006. In 1998, during that conflict, I was abducted and subjected to sexual violence for six months by the then state security forces. I was just a 17-year-old girl.

Since 2021, we survivors in Nepal, have been fighting together for justice in an organised way. Our movement, which started with just 11 people, has now 3,809 members. We are called the Aparajit, which means 'the Undefeated' in Nepali.

Since 2022, I and two other Aparajit members have become members of SEMA, the Global Network of Survivors. After joining SEMA, we felt that our voice for justice, which was limited to a small circle, had grown much broader. We have also had the opportunity to strengthen our fight for justice by learning from the enormous knowledge and experiences of survivors from other countries. SEMA and the Mukwege Foundation have become an important source of trust and guidance for Nepal's survivor network. We firmly believe that SEMA and the Mukwege Foundation provide an important platform to amplify the voices of nearly 4,000 survivors from Nepal to the rest of the world. Through this platform and support, we believe that we can continue advancing our fight for social harmony and legal justice while upholding the dignity and self-respect of survivors in Nepal.

” **Through our continuous and collective struggle from 2021 to 2024, we succeeded in enacting survivor-centred legislation in Nepal. Based on this legislation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been formed in Nepal for the third time, and we are critically engaging with that commission.**



SEMA and the Mukwege Foundation have supported and stood with us throughout this difficult journey toward justice. There have been, and will certainly continue to be, important new learnings from Nepal's survivors' fight for justice, and we believe that SEMA will give us the opportunity to share and globalise those lessons on the international stage.

Finally, in this womb of the earth, we survivors of sexual violence — victims of one of the greatest crimes against humanity from across the world — although we are far apart geographically, in spirit we stand in the same place, and we always will. I personally and on behalf of every survivor from Nepal, wish to express my heartfelt gratitude once again to SEMA and the Mukwege Foundation for providing us the opportunity to bring this unbreakable spiritual solidarity into an organised and tangible reality.

Thank you,

Devi Khadka

SEMA member and Advisor
of the Aparajit Foundation in Nepal

PROGRAMME IMPACT

In 2025, the Mukwege Foundation supported thousands of survivors¹, professionals and community members via its Care, Voice, and Justice & Accountability programmes. Here are our key achievements in numbers.

We provided training and accompaniment to
1300+ survivors



In 2025, the Mukwege Foundation supported 1,313 survivors with capacity building across the world, including training and mentoring on topics such as network governance and strengthening, advocacy, conflict prevention, conducting referrals, and more.

We ensured
950+ survivors
had access to medical care



In 2025, we ensured 955 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence had access to medical care, including 542 survivors of sexual violence. In the Central African Republic, we ensured access to surgical care for 169 women and girls with grave gynaecological conditions such as fistula or prolapse, with an average 98 % success rate.

We provided psychosocial support to
2600+ survivors



2,614 survivors accessed mental health and psychosocial support with the Mukwege Foundation's support. This included individual and group counselling activities and contextualised group therapy options in the Central African Republic and Ethiopia.

We ensured
600+ survivors
participated in our programme
development and delivery.



633 survivors took part in consultations, contributed to the technical review of our materials and tools, and participated in drafting programmes and agendas for workshops and other conferences.

¹ Our main focus is on survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, but to ensure non-discrimination we care for survivors of other conflict-related atrocities or other forms of sexual and gender-based violence in our holistic care country programmes.

We supported survivor-led advocacy with

7400+ survivors

participating in national survivor networks and SEMA, the global survivor network.



In 2025, we were proud to support 7,423 survivors who participated in SEMA and national survivor networks. Among them, 82 survivors were engaged at the international or regional levels and 457 survivors were actively involved in awareness-raising and advocacy activities at the national level.

Socio-economic support for

1300+ survivors



The Mukwege Foundation supported 1,301 survivors of sexual and gender based-violence, including 1,114 survivors of sexual violence, with access to socio-economic support including the distribution of non-food items and dignity kits, emergency cash support, support for income generating activities, literacy and vocational training, capacity-building related to small business management, and village savings and loans groups.

We strengthened the knowledge, skills and capacities of

800+ professionals

working with survivors of sexual violence.



We trained 565 professionals on specific topics related to holistic care for survivors of sexual violence, such as psychosocial tools and approaches for working with survivors. We also conducted Training of Trainers in Ukraine and in the Central African Republic with national civil servants and university professors, respectively. Finally, an additional 255 professionals took our digital course in Ukraine on survivor-centred, holistic responses to conflict-related sexual violence.

We supported

300+ survivors'

individual and collective rights for justice and accountability.



We ensured that 379 survivors accessed legal support, including referrals to legal services and advice on their legal options and rights. Building on this work, we also conducted workshops in Uganda and Ukraine with representatives of survivor-led civil society organisations to develop their national Calls to Action as part of the Red Line Initiative. In both contexts, survivors went on to present their priorities to more than 50 authorities, organisations, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Selected quotes from survivors, professionals and partners

“ I am so proud of myself when I look at where I come from. I realised I can be important in my society. I can create something that never existed for me before.

– Survivor, Central African Republic

“ Earlier, when the incident happened, it was very difficult. I thought I was the only one who was suffering. I hated myself; I could not get out of the room. And now I am able to love myself. I have realised that there are people who have experienced different types of violence, but we are together in this.

– Survivor, Nepal

“ It was an important experience for me, both technically and humanly. Seeing patients smile after they have received their surgical interventions was an immeasurable motivation for me to now offer this type of care in my home country.

– Surgeon from the Central African Republic following hands-on training in fistula repair

“ The Mukwege Foundation is listening very closely to survivors. This is a difference compared to other organisations

– Civil society organisation, Ukraine

“ The Mukwege Foundation has helped us to make a revolution; we have been heard. It's as if we were whispering and, suddenly, we were given a microphone. The Mukwege Foundation is an amplifier of our voice in the eyes of the state.

– Survivor, Ukraine

“ Being in a network has been good for us. Before I was nervous, now I understand myself better. I am starting a new life. I am not only leading myself but also others. I am a voice for women in Tigray. Before I kept silent, but now I can be the voice for others.

– Survivor, Ethiopia

WHERE WE WORK

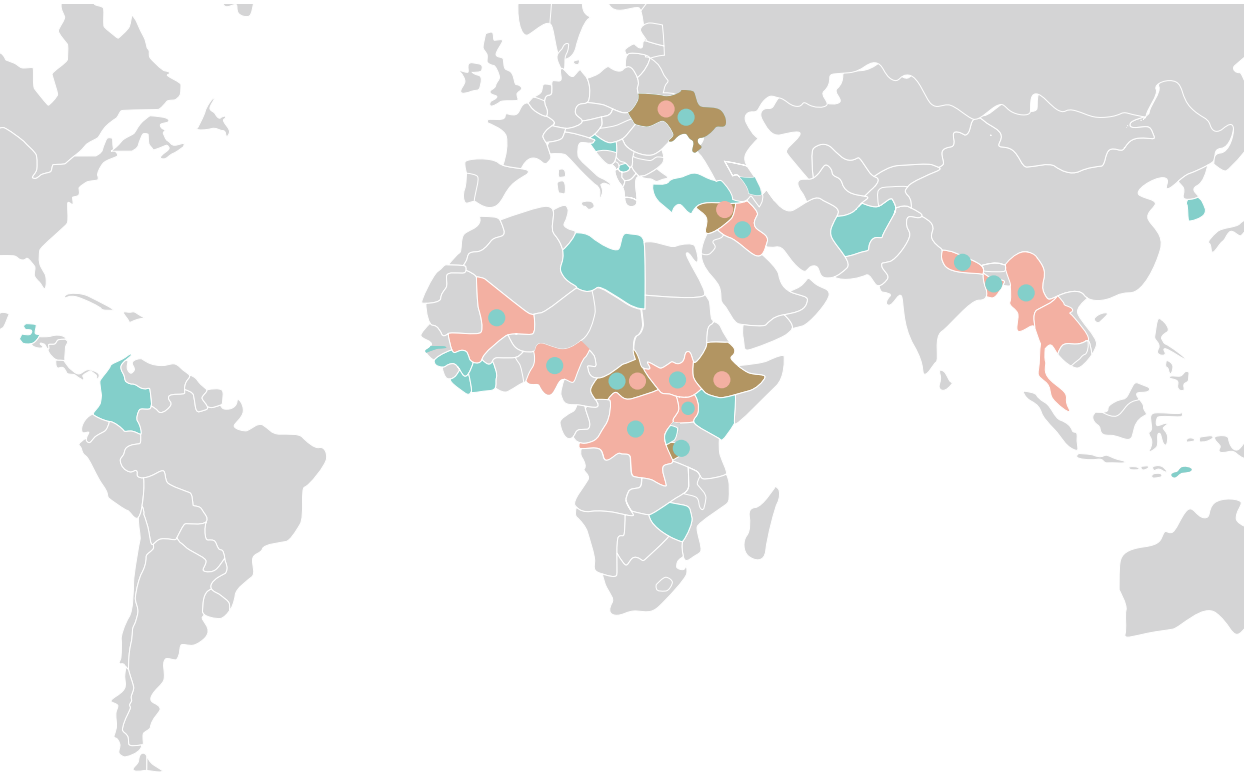
OUR SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS IN 2025




Survivors from over 29 countries are connected in the SEMA global network. We support 16 national survivor networks in 12 countries, and we ensure access to survivor-centred holistic care through

projects in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Syria and Ukraine. The map below shows where the Mukwege Foundation has an active presence.

dr. Denis
Mukwege
Foundation

PROJECT MAP

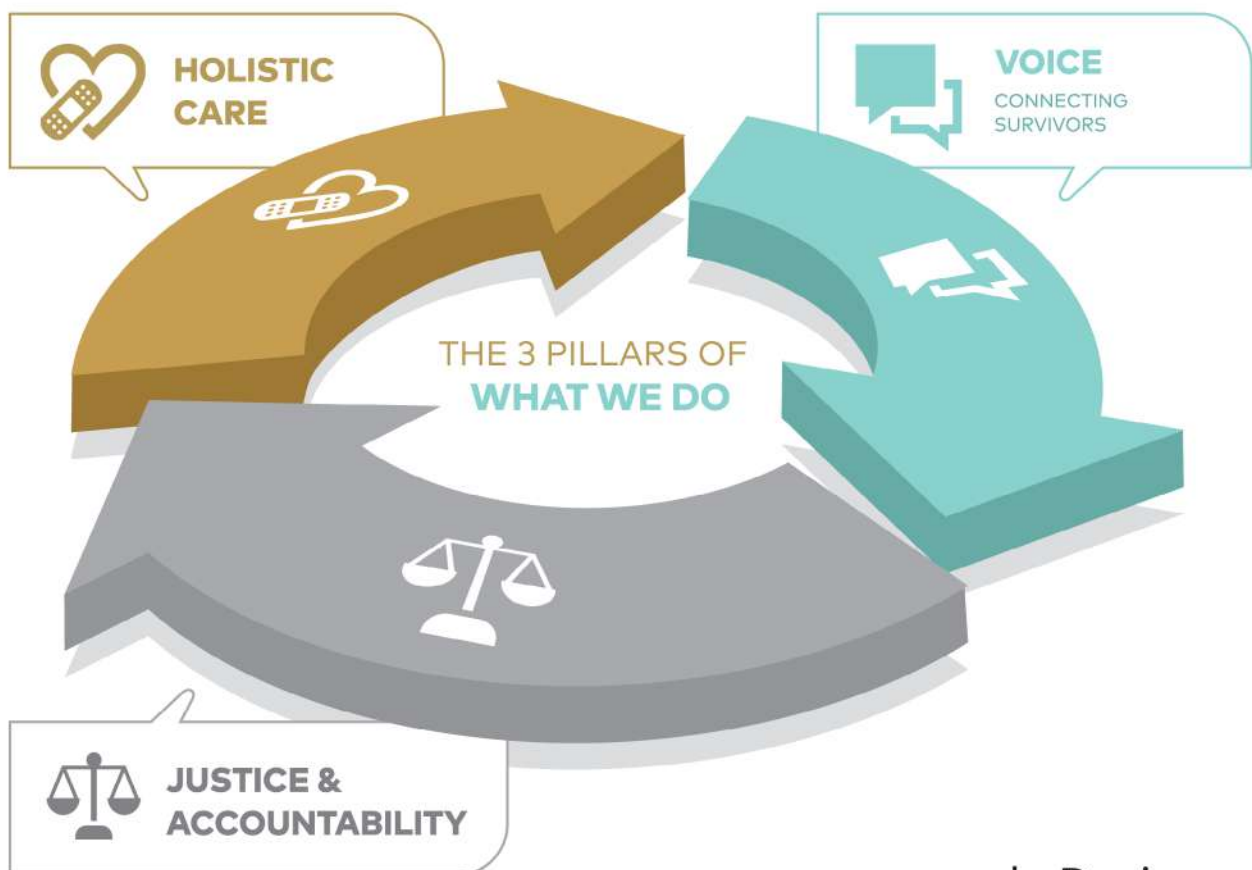


-  Survivors supported through holistic care programmes
-  Survivors supported through National Survivor Networks and other Mukwege Foundation programmes
-  Survivors and network allies represented in the SEMA Network

OUR PROGRAMMES

Our programmes stem from our Theory of Change, which recognises that in order to heal from the harms of sexual violence, victims need to regain agency and control over their lives, their decisions, and their bodies. Survivors' needs are complex and interconnected, and solutions need to be designed with this in mind. Survivors' feedback about their needs guides all of our programmes and activities. Our goal is to change the collective response to sexual violence in conflict.

- 1** Promoting access to holistic, quality care for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence worldwide;
- 2** Supporting survivor-led activism for solidarity and recognition, and to end stigma;
- 3** Advocating for accountability and survivor-centred transitional justice, including reparations and redress.



dr. Denis
Mukwege
Foundation

1

HOLISTIC CARE FOR SURVIVORS



” Women who encountered sexual violence feel like a moth-eaten flower. They want to be flawlessly beautiful like other flowers but feel like they can never be. They need a lot of help to recover and to become confident that they are beautiful in their own ways.

Survivor from Myanmar

Our holistic care programme strengthens access to quality, holistic care for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. It equips professionals and community-based actors with the knowledge and capacities to provide trauma-informed, survivor-centred care, while advocating to duty-bearers and institutional stakeholders to recognise and uphold survivors' right to holistic care.

We launched our first in-country holistic care programme in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2020, followed by Ukraine in 2022 and Burundi in 2025. This growing in-country presence allows us to deliver high-quality programmes, responding to survivors' needs both immediately and in the long-term.

In 2025, we prioritised:

- 1 Ensuring survivors' access to holistic care in Central African Republic, Ukraine and Ethiopia through close collaboration with national authorities, civil society partners and healthcare providers, including specialised surgical campaigns to repair grave gynaecological conditions.
- 2 Developing knowledge and advocacy tools, and advancing standardised toolkits, including our case management toolkit for use in Central African Republic and Ethiopia.
- 3 Improving impact measurement, including piloting a tool in Central African Republic to assess changes in participants' resilience.

Holistic care programme highlights



- 1** We successfully organised two medical care interventions in the Central African Republic. The first, a medical screening in Dékoa, followed rehabilitation works and the donation of equipment to two Ministry of Health facilities. It reached 277 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence as part of an Interim Reparative Measures project, implemented with the Global Survivors Fund and other partners. The second intervention focused on fistula care, reaching 21 women and girls with fistula repair surgery, ensuring life-changing care after years of physical and emotional pain and stigma.
- 2** We finalised and published our digital course, [Survivor-Centred and Holistic Response to CRSV](#), on Ukrainian-language learning platforms, and in four additional languages. Designed for professionals across different sectors, the course builds a foundational understanding of what conflict-related sexual violence is, its consequences for survivors, and the key principles of a survivor-centred, trauma-informed and holistic response. The four-module self-paced programme also
- includes a dedicated module on self-care and stress management, addressing the risk of burnout and compassion fatigue among frontline professionals in conflict settings. In 2025, 255 Ukrainian professionals completed the course, and the versions on the Kaya learning platform will be disseminated more widely in 2026.
- 3** In Ethiopia, we facilitated referrals to specialised medical care for members of the survivor network in Tigray, in collaboration with our partner Help Generation and the Ayder One-Stop Centre in Mekelle, reaching 11 survivors. We also carried out two capacity-building initiatives with the One-Stop Centre to support longer-term improvements in holistic care. The first strengthened the mental health and psychosocial care package through a Training of Trainers and subsequent coaching for One-Stop Centre staff. 19 trainers participated and will go on to support others. The second initiative involved an analysis of medical-legal documentation, generating recommendations to improve access to care, including pathways to justice and accountability.

Central African Republic



In the Central African Republic, our work is guided by three objectives:

- 1 Ensure and improve access to quality holistic care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and women suffering from serious gynaecological conditions.
- 2 Support survivor networks by strengthening their capacities to advocate for and act on their own priorities.
- 3 Advocate for survivor-centred holistic care as a standard and a right.

In 2025, our programmes provided more than 1,300 survivors with access to life-changing, holistic care and support. We supported:

- ▶ **503** individuals including **459** survivors of sexual violence with access to medical care, including consultations during medical screening, fistula repair surgery, medicines, and transport assistance

- ▶ **1316** survivors with psychosocial support including counselling and ergotherapy sessions at our Listening and Psychotherapy Centres.

- ▶ **397** survivors of grave human rights violation including,

360 survivors of sexual violence with socio-economic support

including training on financial and small-business management, cash assistance for interim reparative measures and income-generating activities, as well as continuous follow-up from our socio-economic reintegration officer and psychosocial assistants.

- ▶ We also conducted a resilience assessment with 322 survivors who had participated in activities at the five Listening and Psychotherapy Centres we operate around Bangui. More than 66% reported high levels of resilience following their participation in holistic care activities.

Care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and women suffering from serious gynaecological pathologies.



10,958

survivors were supported during the project

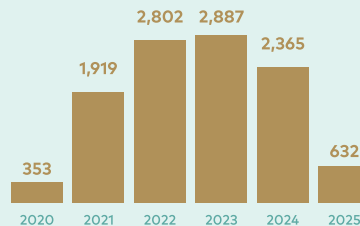
10,340

SGBV cases

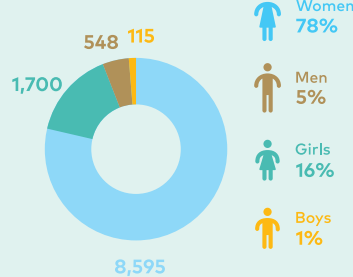
618

serious gynaecological pathologies

Number of survivors who joined the Nengo project per year



Survivor Profile



Types of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

4,661	Resource denial
3,001	Rape
1,513	Physical assault
998	Psychological violence
144	Sexual assault
23	Forced marriage

Kits Distributed

1,480	Dignity kits
1,704	Food kits
1,116	School kits
124	Professional kits
336	Literacy kits
602	IGA kits

Training and Information



+60,000

people reached through awareness campaigns

3,000

people trained

Psychosocial pillar*

- 16,138 support sessions carried out by psychosocial workers
- 3,722 consultations conducted by psychologists, with an average of 2 sessions per survivor

Legal pillar*

- 15,311 legal support sessions provided by the legal clinic
- Over 1,200 GBV cases in court proceedings; 631 judgments delivered with a 98% conviction rate
- Over 2,000 conciliations held with a 75% success rate

Medical pillar*

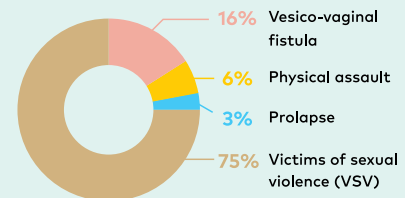
- 618 reconstructive surgeries performed, including 409 at mobile clinics and the Bimbo community hospital
- 99% surgical success rate

Socio-economic pillar*

- 1,275 school scholarships paid to direct and indirect victims, including catch-up schooling
- 140 vocational training scholarships paid to survivors
- 340 survivors enrolled in literacy programs
- 614 survivors benefiting from income-generating activities (IGA)

Emergency shelter

Monthly representation of sheltered survivors by case type:



(*) During the care process, the same survivors may consult the same service multiple times.

From 2020 to 2025, the Nengo project — inspired by the Panzi model and experience in the Democratic Republic of Congo — worked to establish a one-stop centre approach to holistic care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Within a consortium of international and national partners, the Mukwege Foundation and Panzi Foundation led on medical and psychological care, serving as custodians of the Panzi model.



To mark the project's closure and identify priorities for the future, the Mukwege Foundation convened a three-day advocacy conference, which brought together service providers, government representatives, survivors, and delegates of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region of Africa (ICGLR).

The series of events opened with two days of reflection to develop an advocacy strategy and key messages. On the third day, these were presented to high-level authorities, donors, and the diplomatic community, with survivors at the forefront, sharing their priorities. While progress under the Nengo project was recognised, participants agreed that significant gaps remain in access to quality, holistic care. Research by the Mukwege Foundation on progress towards these commitments shows that, while advances have been made, access to holistic care through One-Stop Centres remains inconsistent and far from systematic.

An impact evaluation conducted in mid-2025 reinforced these findings and highlighted several key lessons:

- 1 The Panzi model can be adapted and scaled in other conflict-affected contexts, but only with strong contextualisation, multi-institutional partnerships, flexible and adaptive programme design and sustained investment.
- 2 Knowledge transfer is critical to scaling the Panzi model, but must be sustained, structured, and embedded within institutions over the long-term.
- 3 Survivor-centred, compassionate care is transformative and essential to quality services. It is highly valued by professionals and survivors alike, and requires significant investment in human, material and infrastructural resources and capacities, and a commitment to continuous monitoring and improvement.

These lessons learned were also shared during a workshop, 'A 5 year project to pilot a one-stop centre model in Bangui, Central African Republic inspired by the Panzi model of holistic care' at the sixth Mukwege Chair in Brussels, Belgium.

Ukraine



In 2024, we renewed our cooperation agreement with the Government of Ukraine to strengthen a holistic, survivor-centred response to conflict-related sexual violence.

In 2025, we focused on delivering high-quality programming despite the evolving conflict context, working closely with national government and civil society partners. Our programme in Ukraine is structured around 3 interconnected workstreams: Train, Care and Aware.

TRAIN

for capacity building and knowledge exchange;

CARE

for reinforcing access to coordinated, quality, survivor-centred and trauma-informed holistic care;

AWARE

for survivor-led and informed national and global advocacy and awareness-raising on conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine.

TRAIN



We accelerated the development and roll-out of our national training programme in collaboration with the High School of Public Governance.

- 1** We piloted a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme with the National Social Service, reaching 23 trainers. We supported three of these trainers to conduct cascade trainings in their home and neighbouring oblasts, reaching 194 professionals, including frontline service providers.
- 2** Our accredited digital course is available on the learning platforms of both the High School of Public Governance and the Office of the Prosecutor General. In 2025, **355 professionals** accessed the course, with 255 completing it.
- 3** We also strengthened our collaboration with the Office of the Prosecutor General, seconding a national expert to support the development of an onboarding programme on conflict-related sexual violence which will be piloted with incoming prosecutors from 2026.

” This training gave me food for thought. The topic was always painful for me, and for a long time I was afraid to even touch it. Now I've looked at it from different angles. Today, I feel ready to move forward with it – I'm still lacking knowledge, but in the next three months I plan to study to reach the level I need.

Training of Trainers participant

CARE



- 1** We organised three regional events with 70 stakeholders, including service providers, supporting them to document or update referral pathways and to improve coordination of care for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.
- 2** We continued our partnership with the Ukrainian Foundation of Public Health, supporting their Response and Care Units embedded within primary health care centres.
- 3** In partnership with Physicians for Human Rights, we provided advocacy and technical assistance to the Ministry of Health on health sector reforms to strengthen access to holistic care and to survivor-centred and trauma-informed medico-legal documentation.

AWARE



- 1** We continued supporting survivor-led advocacy in Ukraine, working with national survivor networks on campaigns, including their call to include the Russian Federation in annex to the UN Secretary-General's annual report on conflict-related sexual violence.
- 2** We supported collective memory initiatives such as the survivor-directed film, *Traces*.
- 3** We facilitated consultations with survivor networks to gather and share feedback on access to specific services.
- 4** We also supported the Government of Ukraine in translating and finalising a compendium created by members of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) during Ukraine's 2025 chairmanship of the PSVI Alliance.

Burundi



In 2025, the Mukwege Foundation opened its country office in Bujumbura, as part of the Tumaini (meaning 'hope') project. This project supports four one-stop centres across the country, focusing on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the promotion of sexual and reproductive health.

A key milestone was the completion of a baseline study to inform implementation. Conducted in Bujumbura, Gitega, Kayanza and Muyinga, the study surveyed or interviewed approximately 1400 participants to assess needs and contextual realities at the outset of the project.

Based on its findings, we organised workshops with partners at the end of the year to develop action plans for the next phase of the project. Our holistic care programme managers also worked closely with each one-stop centre to assess their needs for medicines and materials, with technical guidance from the Tumaini consortium lead, Université de Montréal.

The provision of medicines and material assistance is scheduled to begin in early 2026.

2

VOICE

CONNECTING SURVIVORS



“ The Mukwege Foundation has helped us to make a revolution — we have been heard. It’s as if we were whispering and suddenly we were given a microphone. The Mukwege Foundation is an amplifier of our voice in the eyes of the State.

SEMA Ukraine Member

In 2025, the Mukwege Foundation continued its support to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in building powerful movements at both national and global levels.

The SEMA Global Network expanded, welcoming members from three new countries and reaching representation across **29 countries**.

Our presence in Asia also grew, with support extended to four national survivor networks and the organisation of the first regional learning exchange in Bangkok. In total, we support **16 national survivor networks** across more than **12 contexts**, representing over **5,000 survivors** of conflict-related sexual violence — a powerful diversity of voices, expertise, and lived experiences.

We continued to support survivors to shape justice processes that are meaningful to them. In Nepal and South Sudan they led initiatives linked to

transitional justice, while in Ukraine they contributed to international accountability efforts. In Syria, we have begun laying the groundwork for future survivor networks to ensure that survivors are at the centre of emerging justice processes.

By strengthening survivors’ capacities as activists and ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making spaces, the Mukwege Foundation is contributing to a fundamental shift in the global response to conflict-related sexual violence. Survivor-led networks are increasingly recognised as essential to a truly survivor-centred approach, with a growing number of actors drawing on their expertise and leadership.

We also consolidated our network-building methodology into a comprehensive handbook. Drawn from eight years of programming, it captures lessons learned, best practices, and practical tools for staff and partners — ensuring our approach remains evidence-based, consistent and replicable.

SEMA

the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence



The Mukwege Foundation has supported SEMA, the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence, since 2019, creating an enabling, safe environment in which SEMA members can determine their own priorities, make decisions, and implement plans. We are committed to accompanying the network with strategic guidance, logistical support, fundraising, technical advice, and operational capacity-sharing to further SEMA's growth and autonomy.

SEMA highlights:

- 1** 40 survivors (35 women and 5 men) participated in trainings, workshops, and peer learning exchanges focused on collective memory, justice, and advocacy for accountability.
- 2** 39 SEMA members (36 women and 3 men) participated in high-level forums and speaking engagements, including the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security Signatory Event organised by the Government of the Netherlands in The Hague, a regional hearing with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture in Asia, and the Peace Boat global cruise.
- 3** 46 survivors (all women) received connectivity costs, enabling them to stay connected across borders.
- 4** During the year, 10 new members joined the network and 3 new countries joined the network – Afghanistan, Myanmar and Timor-Leste – expanding SEMA's geographic reach and strengthening the diversity of experiences represented within the network.
- 5** SEMA's Charter was formally adopted in 2025. This foundational document establishes the governance and principles of the network. Developed through consultations with SEMA members, the Charter outlines the network's mission, membership criteria, and decision-making processes, while reaffirming SEMA's commitment to survivor-led leadership and the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us."

Organising the first Asia regional survivors' exchange in Bangkok



To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Mukwege Foundation and the Global Survivors Fund co-hosted the first 'Asia Regional Survivors Exchange' in Bangkok on 19-20 June 2025. The event brought together conflict-related sexual violence survivors from Myanmar, Cambodia, Nepal and Timor-Leste, along with partners and allies, to share their experiences and explore joint priorities for regional advocacy. The meeting represented a crucial step towards building regional cooperation and survivor-led solidarity in Asia. It fostered a spirit of connection and mutual support among survivors.

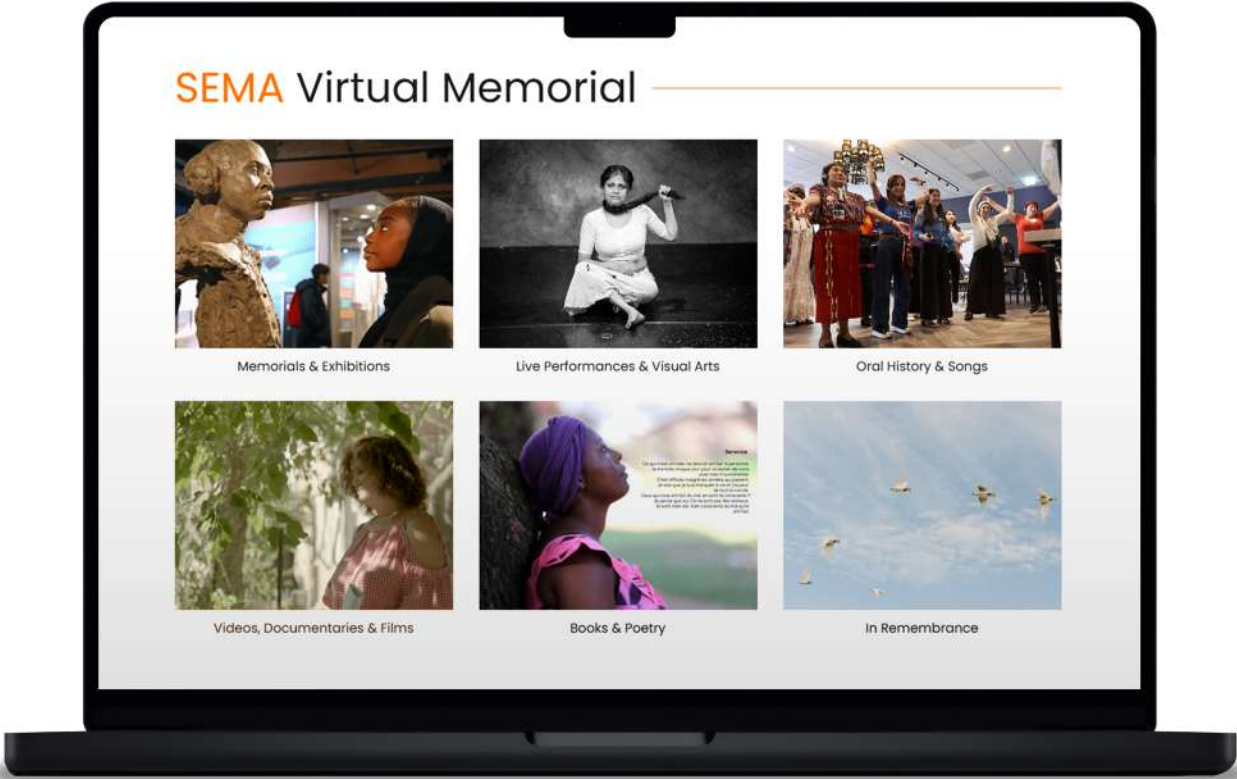
Sylvia Acan, a founding member of the SEMA Global Network from Uganda, joined the meeting to present SEMA's work. She highlighted:

“ Survivor-led advocacy is not only important – it is essential in the work against conflict-related sexual violence. Community trust is significantly higher when survivor activists are at the centre of programming.

By the end of the exchange, the survivors published a joint statement outlining their shared demands, which included:

- 1 Provide safe spaces for survivors to connect, heal, support each other and work together.
- 2 Facilitate access to holistic support for survivors through assistance programmes or reparations, as well as emergency support including safe shelters and relocation when needed.
- 3 Raise awareness about the causes and consequences of conflict-related sexual violence to combat stigmatisation and ensure survivors' safety.
- 4 Advocate for accountability and justice, including reparations, at all levels (local, national, regional and international).

Preserving survivors' memories through the SEMA Virtual Memorial



On 8 March 2025, International Women's Day, the Mukwege Foundation launched the SEMA Virtual Memorial, a unique online space dedicated to preserving and sharing the collective memory of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Hosted on the SEMA website, it brings together artistic works created by SEMA members, or developed with their involvement, in a curated online exhibition.

The memorial currently features more than 80 initiatives from 18 countries, spanning a range of artistic forms, including visual art, music, documentary and film. It provides a platform for survivors to share their stories creatively and to shape alternative narratives about conflict — placing voices that have long been silenced at the centre.

At the same time, it serves as a space of remembrance, documenting experiences often absent from official histories and preserving them for future generations.

The importance of collective memory, and the role of the virtual memorial, were highlighted at the 6th Chair Mukwege Conference in Brussels by our Executive Director, alongside Professor Renée Dickason (Université Rennes) and Mwamini, a SEMA member from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

National survivor networks

In 2025, the Mukwege Foundation supported national networks in Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar (Thailand), Nepal, Nigeria, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Uganda, while laying the groundwork for new survivor-led networks in Syria.

Our approach is to strengthen these networks through tailored organisational development, capacity-building, access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and subgrants that enable them to implement their own priorities. This portfolio now spans more than ten projects.

The Foundation also organises peer-to-peer learning exchanges, creating opportunities for networks to connect, learn from each other, and build synergies across contexts. Through collaboration, survivor networks support and inspire one another — turning individual courage into collective healing and action for holistic care, justice, and recognition.

Syria: launching a survivor-led path to care and justice



The year 2025 marked a significant moment for Syria. Following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime, a fragile but historic window has opened for accountability and reconstruction, and the foundations of justice and recovery for thousands of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and sexual torture in detention centres.

In this context, the Mukwege Foundation initiated a partnership with the Association of Detainees and the Missing Persons in Seydnyah Prison (ADMSP) to implement the joint project "A Survivor-Led Path to Care and Justice." The project aims to strengthen trauma-informed, holistic responses for survivors, as well as for the children and families of the disappeared.

Through this partnership, **150 survivors and 106 family members of the missing received mental health and psychosocial support services.** During the year, the Mukwege Foundation conducted two in-country visits to deliver capacity-building training on the Panzi holistic care model and to hold consultations with survivors.

To better understand survivors' needs and priorities — and to assess the presence of survivor networks or other survivor-led platforms, survivors' access to and satisfaction with care, and their interest in forming a network—the Foundation and ADMSP carried out consultations with survivors of detention in Damascus, Hama, Homs, Afrin, and Idlib, as well as in southern Türkiye.

Building on these insights, the December visit marked an important milestone in initiating survivor networks, with initial network-building sessions held with both women's and men's groups.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a critical year to deepen this partnership, expand access to care for survivors and families of the missing, and support the emergence of a survivor network that could play an important role in Syria's emerging transitional justice processes.

Uganda: bringing together the leaders of eight national survivor networks



Over three days in 2025, 18 leaders of national survivor networks from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine and Uganda exchanged experiences on supporting their peers, managing their networks, advancing survivor participation in transitional justice and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and leading survivor-led advocacy and awareness efforts.

“ A sense of togetherness, solidarity – that we were so far away geographically but so close with shared feelings, goals, challenges and programmes with a common global fight.

Workshop participant

On 16 October 2025, marking the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the Mukwege Foundation organised a high-level event in Kampala, in collaboration with UN Women and the Embassy of Ireland. The event brought together network leaders, Uganda’s Minister of State for Gender and Culture, the director of UN Women Uganda, ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions, government officials and civil society partners, for an afternoon of reflection, dialogue and collective action.

South Sudan: strengthening cross-border collaboration



The Survivors Network in South Sudan (SUNS) and the Network of South Sudanese Survivors in Uganda (NoSSSU) increased their collaboration in 2025, creating a stronger, more unified voice for survivors in South Sudan’s ever-changing political dynamic.

United by a shared vision, the two networks convened for a strategic advocacy workshop in May to align their engagement on the transitional justice process, followed by joint awareness-raising in Yei and a radio

programme that expanded their collective outreach. Their combined efforts also led to a joint statement articulating the priorities of children born of conflict-related sexual violence.

The SUNS network elected a new leadership team and added another member from South Sudan to participate in the SEMA Global Network.

Nepal: supporting survivor-led documentation for long overdue transitional justice



In 2025, Nepal took an important step forward in advancing justice for survivors. The documentary *Devi*, which sheds light on sexual violence during the 1996–2006 civil war, was screened at Movies that Matter and other international festivals, raising global awareness of Nepali survivors' long-standing struggle for recognition and justice. As an impact partner of the film, the Mukwege Foundation organised a screening in Bangkok, amplifying Nepali survivors' voices in regional advocacy spaces.

At the national level, the survivor-led Aparajit Foundation played a pivotal role in collecting nearly **4,000 survivor testimonies** and submitting them to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) through a

groundbreaking peer-to-peer approach. The Mukwege Foundation provided targeted support, including advocacy around amendments to the TRC bill that enabled the reopening of cases, as well as providing psychosocial support to survivor-documenters, and assistance in digitising the thousands of testimonies.

The year also marked the beginning of a collaboration with Synergy for Justice to pilot the *Conflict and Atrocity-Related Sexual Violence Stigma in Justice Toolkit*, building on Nepal's innovative survivor-led transitional justice model.

Ukraine: strengthening survivor-led networks to unite for accountability



Four years after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the number of survivor-led organisations continues to grow. In 2025, the Mukwege Foundation encouraged closer collaboration between these networks, building on efforts that began in December 2024 through the Interagency Working Group on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

With our support, three leading Ukrainian survivor-led organisations signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding, strengthening cooperation between networks of women and men survivors and enabling more coordinated support and exchange across Ukraine.

This collaboration also led to a large-scale advocacy campaign by four civil society organisations—SEMA Ukraine, 29th December, ALUMNI, and Numo, Sisters! — calling for the Russian Federation to be added to the “list of shame” in the UN Secretary-General’s annual report on sexual violence in conflict. The campaign achieved an initial breakthrough when the UN Secretary-General warned that Russian armed groups and affiliated security forces could be included in the *List of Parties Credibly Suspected of Committing Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict*.

3

JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY



“ These crimes never happen accidentally. It is a choice to employ or tolerate them: therefore, they can be stopped.

Dr Denis Mukwege

Launched in 2022, the Red Line Initiative rests on a simple but urgent premise: conflict-related sexual violence is not an inevitable by-product of war. It is a deliberate tactic – one that violates our shared humanity and must be treated as wholly unacceptable. Ending it requires moral clarity, robust legal frameworks, sustained political will, and above all, survivors at the centre of every effort.

The Initiative pursues three core objectives:

- 1 Foster a clear, unified moral rejection of conflict-related sexual violence in all its forms.
- 2 Strengthen and clarify States' legal obligations to prevent and punish these crimes.
- 3 Build the political will needed for timely, robust State action in line with international law.

Its two principal tools are the Guidebook on State Obligations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence – a consolidated reference on international legal standards covering prevention, justice, reparations and humanitarian response – and the SEMA Survivors' Call to Action, which translates those standards into 13 concrete demands that survivors can use to hold governments to account.

In 2025, the Initiative reached important milestones across all three objectives: survivors led national advocacy processes in Uganda and Ukraine; the Guidebook was made more accessible than ever through an AI-powered tool; and the Foundation deepened engagement with governments, international bodies and civil society at the highest levels.

Survivors leading national advocacy



Uganda

In March 2025, 22 survivors from 14 groups came together in Kampala for a three-day workshop. Working from the SEMA Global Call to Action, and guided by legal expertise and their own lived experience, they developed a national Call to Action containing 16 concrete demands directed at the Ugandan government.

Three priority areas emerged: ensuring the effective implementation of birth registration directives for children born of conflict-related sexual violence; increasing community awareness of national prevention strategies; and advancing comprehensive transitional justice legislation that includes survivor participation and reparations.

The workshop also catalysed something beyond its formal outputs — the formation of a survivor coalition that continues to coordinate advocacy efforts and is working towards formal registration. In the months that followed, participants disseminated the Call to Action through public events and media engagement, gathering community feedback to refine its content.

By the end of the year, the Ugandan Call to Action had been finalised, with translation into local languages underway to broaden its reach.



Ukraine

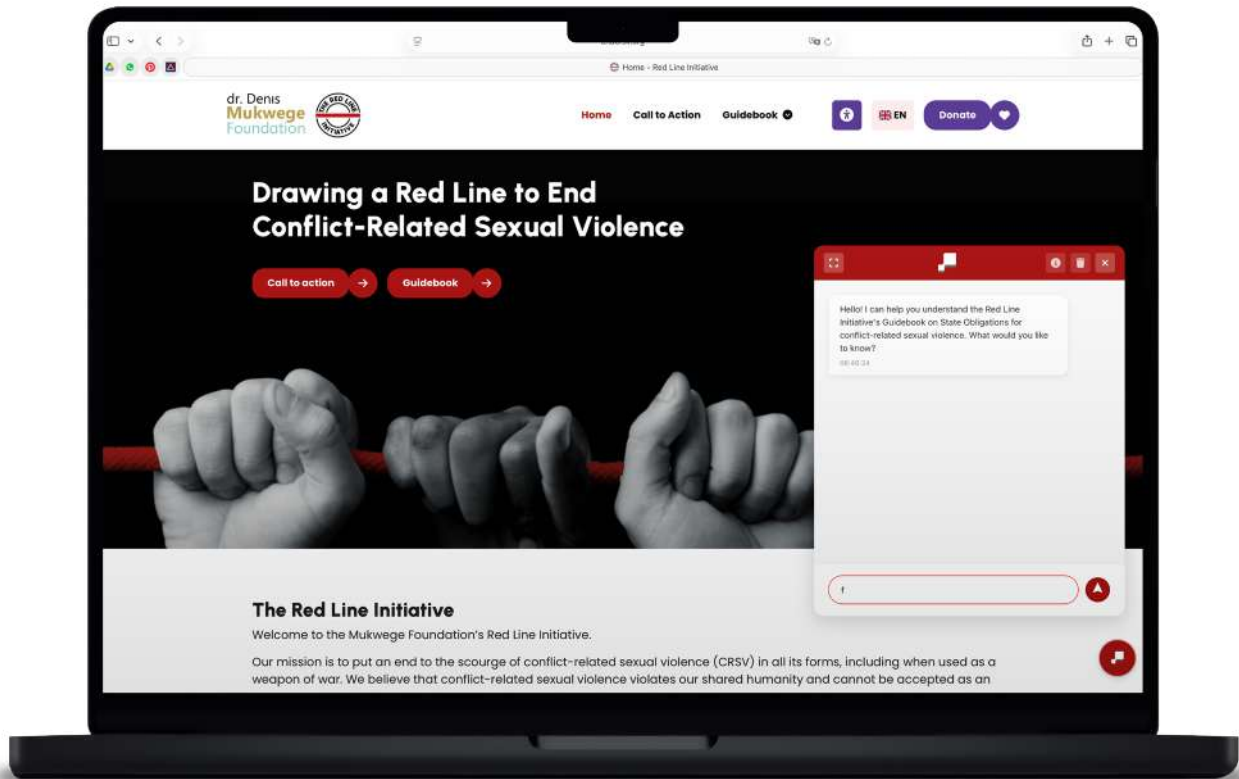
Work in Ukraine unfolded across the year in close collaboration with four survivor networks. Initial consultations in early 2025 were followed by a workshop in July, where participants reviewed the global Call to Action and developed their Ukrainian Call to Action into a set of concrete demands addressed to the Government of Ukraine and the international community.

Three demands received particular advocacy focus: expanding the Damage Register's mandate to include all survivors from 2014 onwards to ensure no survivor is left behind; pressing the international community to demonstrate zero tolerance for torture and conflict-related sexual violence through concrete political and legal action; and urging the UN Secretary-General to formally recognise the Russian Federation's

responsibility by placing it on the list of parties credibly suspected of committing sexual violence in armed conflict.

In November, ahead of the PSVI International Alliance Global Conference in Kyiv, the Red Line Initiative brought the four networks together to sharpen their messaging and prepare for the public launch of their Call to Action. At the conference, survivors took the stage — each delivering a powerful statement, and pressing PSVI Alliance Member States to act on their demands. The event was titled *"Nothing About Us Without Us: Ukrainian Survivors' Leadership on the Path to Justice and Reparations."*

Making legal knowledge accessible



The Guidebook on State Obligations has, since its launch in 2023, become a go-to resource for survivor networks, policymakers, civil society and researchers in more than 130 countries, attracting an average of 2,800 active users per month on the endcrsv.org website.

In 2025, the Foundation — in partnership with Bibliothèques Sans Frontières and Pleias — took a significant step to make this resource even more accessible: the launch of an AI-powered chatbot, available in English, French and Ukrainian. The tool provides clear, plain-language answers to user queries with direct links to relevant Guidebook sections.

Before launch, it was tested with survivor groups, civil society, humanitarian organisations, UN and government representatives in Ukraine, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Their feedback shaped the final version, which went live in October 2025.

A social media campaign supporting the launch ran through November and December, bringing 5,300 active users from over 133 countries to the site in a single month — nearly double the monthly average.

The Guidebook is continuously updated to reflect evolving legal standards. In 2025, this included a new section on the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.



Building a global movement

Ending conflict-related sexual violence cannot be achieved by any single organisation. Throughout 2025, the Red Line Initiative continued to deepen its engagement across governments, international institutions, academic circles and civil society — supporting a range of activities from joint advocacy and knowledge-sharing to the development of shared tools and resources.

In November, our Executive Director and Senior Legal and Policy Advisor participated in high-level engagements at the annual PSVI International Alliance Global Conference. The Guidebook was presented to member States and civil society partners as a practical tool for meeting international obligations — on prevention, accountability and reparations. The Foundation co-hosted a dedicated side event with JurFem, *"International Framework of Obligations to Respond to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: From Provision to Action"*, which brought the Guidebook and the Ukraine Call to Action together to show how global legal standards can become concrete survivor-led demands at the national level.

Through these collaborations, the Red Line Initiative ensures that efforts are coordinated, complementary and aligned toward a common goal: a world in which conflict-related sexual violence is no longer tolerated and survivors can access the justice and care they deserve.

Expert engagement

The team also participated in a series of high-level forums. In July, our Senior Legal and Policy Advisor contributed to an expert conference on the legal protection of children born of conflict-related sexual violence. In October, our Executive Director joined an international dialogue at Wilton Park on accountability and the pursuit of criminal justice for Ukraine. In December, we participated in the Council of Europe's Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine's 8th Plenary Meeting — helping to keep legal standards on remedies for child victims central to ongoing policy discussions.

These engagements generated strong follow-up interest, with multiple requests for additional briefings and presentations, reflecting the Guidebook's growing relevance as a tool for policy and advocacy.

Supporting 'The Crimes Against Humanity Convention'

The Red Line Initiative continued its support for the global campaign for a Crimes Against Humanity convention. In 2025, this included contributing to an updated, more accessible legal brief for use during the UN Sixth Committee negotiations — now being used by campaign partners to advance a robust international legal framework covering conflict-related sexual violence.

MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Organisational development

In recent years, the Mukwege Foundation has grown steadily, expanding its programme reach across multiple contexts. This growth has required parallel investment in core functions, including finance, compliance, fundraising, communications, and operations.

In 2025, we further strengthened the systems and structures needed to support this expansion. This included updating and rolling out finance, HR, and internal procedures manuals to improve budget control and project management.

We also began a review of our safeguarding policies with external support to ensure they align with current international standards. The updated policies will be implemented in 2026.

Alongside these efforts, we continued to invest in our staff and organisational set-up to ensure we can deliver programmes effectively, sustainably and responsibly as we grow.

These improvements have reinforced our operational capacity and accountability. In 2025, two projects underwent external audits, which identified no major risks or significant errors—confirming the strength and reliability of our systems.

Country offices and in-country presence

In 2020, we made a strategic decision to establish country programmes with dedicated in-country teams. This approach enables us to deliver high-quality holistic care closer to survivors, in partnership with local organisations and structures.

Central African Republic



Opening our first country office in Central African Republic has proven to be a pivotal step for our organisation. It has strengthened our capacities and readiness, tested our Theory of Change, and significantly increased our reach—enabling us to support thousands more survivors than would otherwise have been possible.

Assessments conducted in 2025 point to tangible changes linked to our work, including improvements in the lives of survivors receiving care, stronger survivor networks, and broader shifts in the national context. The programme has also deepened regional partnerships and created opportunities to scale the Panzi model through new and more strategic partnerships.

The programme also secured new funding in 2025, ensuring its continuation through 2026. At the same time, we reduced our reliance on core funding— from €240,000 in 2024 to €25,000 in 2025. Moving forward, our goal is to sustain and grow the programme over the next years, while continuing to diversify funding sources.

Ukraine



In 2022, following a request from the Government of Ukraine's Commissioner of Gender Equality Policy and the Deputy Prime Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, we established our country office in Kyiv. This in-country presence has been essential to delivering our programme and implementing the framework agreement between the Mukwege Foundation, the Global Survivors Fund, and the Government of Ukraine. Our team has played a key role in supporting survivor networks, engaging with national authorities and partners, and facilitating referrals to care, alongside training, advocacy, and the development of coordinated referral pathways.

We are currently present in Central African Republic (since 2021), Ukraine (since 2022) and Burundi (since 2025).

Operating in a rapidly evolving security context has posed challenges, particularly in recruiting and retaining specialised staff. As a result, our headquarters team in The Hague has provided additional technical and operational support to ensure the continuity and quality of activities. Funding for the current phase of the programme ended in December 2025, and efforts are ongoing to secure funding for a second phase, planned for 2026–2028.

Burundi



Following two years of consultations, preparation, and engagement with the Burundian authorities responsible for registering international non-governmental organisations, we began implementing the TUMAINI ("Hope" in Swahili) project.

This consortium project, led by the Université de Montréal and funded by Global Affairs Canada, focuses on strengthening the capacities of Panzi Foundation to transfer knowledge and expertise on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as sexual and reproductive health, in South Kivu (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Burundi. We established a branch office in Burundi in February 2025 and recruited a programme manager to lead the office and oversee implementation. As a new operational context for the Mukwege Foundation, Burundi requires careful attention to national regulatory requirements and compliance.

We will continue to provide close oversight and dedicated support to ensure the programme is implemented effectively and in line with national frameworks.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2025, a total of 56 individuals worked for the Mukwege Foundation, corresponding to approximately 44.5 FTE. Of this, 16 FTE were based at the Head Office in the Netherlands, while 28.5 FTE are based in our in-country programmes. The ratio between programme and support staff was 65% to 35%.

The total number of FTE decreased in comparison to 2024 (44.5 versus 48.5 FTE), mainly due to several positions remaining vacant for extended periods because of long-term illness.

	Linked to HQ	Based in programme countries	Total	%
Programme staff* (FTE)	10	19	29	65
Programme support staff** (FTE)	6	6	12	27
Support staff*** (FTE)	0	3.5	3.5	8
Total FTE	16	28.5	44.5	100

* Content specialists, senior management and programme staff
 ** Finance, HR, communications, fundraising, logistics
 *** Drivers, cooks, cleaners, guards

New roles and leadership

Following a review aimed at strengthening our leadership structure and ensuring alignment with our three strategies, the decision was taken to phase out the Programme Director role by mid-2025 as it no longer reflected our organisation’s evolving needs.

We explored several options to create a leadership setup that effectively supports our growth. As a result, two new positions were established:

- ▶ Director of Care and Country Programmes: responsible for managing the Holistic Care team and overseeing the Mukwege Foundation’s country programmes.
- ▶ Voice Team Lead: leads the Voice team, which includes the National Survivor Network and SEMA programme managers.

The new Management Team, comprising the Executive Director, the Director of Resources, and the Director of Care and Country Programmes, meets weekly to ensure coordinated leadership across the organisation.

To strengthen alignment across our three integrated strategies, we established the Programme Platform, a coordination mechanism including the Director of Care and Country Programmes, Voice Team Lead, and Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, with standing invitations for the Executive Director and Director of Resources. This group meets bi-weekly to ensure effective coordination, strategic alignment and timely execution of initiatives.

This new structure has provided strong support to all teams, enabling high-quality implementation of our activities. It has also freed the programme team and Executive Director to dedicate more time to networking, partnership development, and fundraising activities.

To better support our growing programme team in both The Hague and in programme countries, we added a new position to our Finance and Administration team in The Hague, a Finance Assistant.

In 2023–2024, we established a Roster of Specialists and Consultants to provide flexible capacity for timely, high-quality programme delivery. In 2025, this pool proved invaluable, offering both additional project management support and specialised expertise for short-term assignments, including monitoring and evaluation, case studies, training-of-trainers and programme assessments.

Complaints

In 2025, the Mukwege Foundation received five complaints. All were promptly investigated, addressed with appropriate measures, and reported to the Supervisory Council. The receipt of complaints reflects both the Foundation's growth and the effectiveness of our established complaint-handling procedures.

Of the five complaints, one involved a fraud-related issue, constituting a breach of the Foundation's Integrity Policy and Code of Conduct. This incident was reported to the relevant project donor and resolved satisfactorily, with appropriate measures implemented to prevent recurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

As a survivor-centred, rights-based organisation, the Mukwege Foundation uses its communications to advance its mission: amplifying survivors' demands for a world where sexual violence as a weapon of war is no longer tolerated. By ensuring survivors are heard, our communications contribute to breaking the silence and changing the global response to conflict-related sexual violence.

In 2025, we strengthened our online presence through targeted campaigns, actively raising awareness of the need to draw a red line against sexual violence in conflicts. Working closely with SEMA and national survivor networks we produced long-form content – including news articles and in-depth features – alongside short-form social media content to amplify survivors' voices. The results speak for themselves: engagement rates rose significantly across all digital channels compared to 2024, reflecting growing public interest in supporting survivors and demanding justice. The direct involvement of SEMA and national survivor

networks were central to two of the year's most powerful impact campaigns: the official launch of the [SEMA Virtual Memorial](#) and the [16 Days of Activism \(2025\)](#). Their direct involvement ensured that survivors were not only the subject of these campaigns, but their driving force – showcased as agents of change within their own communities. We also deepened our approach to storytelling, commissioning original video content and survivor-centred photography that brought individual experiences to the foreground. These creative formats allowed us to reach new audiences and generate stronger emotional connection with our mission.

Looking ahead, we will continue to develop communications that place survivors at the centre – using every channel available to us to amplify their voices advance accountability, and drive the systemic change they are calling for.

Audience Growth

Channel	Year on Year Follower/Subscriber Growth	Engagement Rate Comparison				
LinkedIn	YoY growth +7.56%	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Industry benchmark (per follower)⁷</td> <td>Mukwege Foundation rate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+3%</td> <td>+11.81%</td> </tr> </table>	Industry benchmark (per follower) ⁷	Mukwege Foundation rate	+3%	+11.81%
	Industry benchmark (per follower) ⁷		Mukwege Foundation rate			
+3%	+11.81%					
	30,281 32,569					
Instagram	YoY growth +1.25%	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Industry benchmark (per follower)⁷</td> <td>Mukwege Foundation rate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+4.4%</td> <td>+6.75%</td> </tr> </table>	Industry benchmark (per follower) ⁷	Mukwege Foundation rate	+4.4%	+6.75%
	Industry benchmark (per follower) ⁷		Mukwege Foundation rate			
+4.4%	+6.75%					
	10,031 10,156					
Facebook	YoY growth -0.96%	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Industry benchmark (per follower)⁷</td> <td>Mukwege Foundation rate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+1.8%</td> <td>+11.05%</td> </tr> </table>	Industry benchmark (per follower) ⁷	Mukwege Foundation rate	+1.8%	+11.05%
	Industry benchmark (per follower) ⁷		Mukwege Foundation rate			
+1.8%	+11.05%					
	39,059 38,684					
Mailchimp	YoY growth +0.95%	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Industry benchmark (open rate)</td> <td>Mukwege Foundation rate (open rate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+28.30%</td> <td>+28.03%</td> </tr> </table>	Industry benchmark (open rate)	Mukwege Foundation rate (open rate)	+28.30%	+28.03%
	Industry benchmark (open rate)		Mukwege Foundation rate (open rate)			
+28.30%	+28.03%					
	5,685 5,739					

7 Sources: [LinkedIn Benchmark Report 2025](#), Rival IQ and [Hootsuite 2025](#).

FUNDRAISING

Total funding acquired per year (rounded) in Euros	2023		2024		2025	
Total contracted projects and donations	6.271.991		5.463.273		5.126.491	
<i>of which unearmarked</i>	1.218.948	19%	1.227.818	22%	1.498.182	29%
<i>of which earmarked</i>	5.053.043	81%	4.235.455	78%	3.628.309	71%

Despite an exceptionally challenging fundraising environment, we succeeded in reaching our fundraising target of **€5 million** in 2025, securing just over €5.1 million in funding, including just under €1.5 million in unearmarked support.

A challenging global context

The past year has seen significant shifts in our donor landscape. Several major Western government donors have sharply reduced aid budgets and, in some cases, deprioritised gender equality and gender-based violence programming.

We are also seeing a gradual shift towards larger, pooled funding mechanisms, which can be less accessible to smaller organisations.

Against this backdrop, our fundraising efforts have relied both on the strength of long-standing partnerships and on the proactive development of new donor relationships.

Partnerships that sustain our work

We are deeply grateful to all of our long-term donors and partners for their continued commitment and trust. Their support enables us to stand alongside survivors and strengthen survivor-led movements for justice around the world.

A cornerstone of this support is the continued commitment of the Postcode Loterij, whose multi-year, unearmarked funding provides essential stability and flexibility. In 2025, we were also delighted to establish a new multi-annual partnership with Stichting Sub3, marking the beginning of what we hope will be a long and impactful collaboration.

Alongside this, we benefit from a wide range of institutional partnerships that provide funding for specific programmes and country initiatives. In 2025, these included the Agence Française de Développement; the French Government's Centre de Crise et de Soutien (CDCS); Bibliothèque Sans Frontières (with funding from the CDCS); the Embassy of France in Ethiopia; Fondation Pro Victimis; the German Federal Government, Human Rights Division; the Global Survivors Fund; the ICC Trust Fund for Victims in the Central African Republic; the International Center for Transitional Justice (with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs); the International Organization for Migration; Legal Action Worldwide (with funding from the US State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor); Stichting Doelwijk; the University of Montreal and Panzi Foundation (with funding from the Government of Canada); the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and Girls; and Weeshuis der Doopsgezinden.

We began new project collaborations with Expertise France, Fistula Foundation, and Synergy for Justice, further expanding our network of partnerships. We also welcomed a new partnership with the Swiss Agency

for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in the Central African Republic, supporting our country programme. In addition, the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation provided timely support that enabled the continuity of our work with survivor networks from Myanmar during a period of uncertainty following the US State Department's "stop work" announcement.

Expanding our foundation partnerships

In response to the changing funding landscape, we intensified our engagement with Dutch family foundations and private philanthropy, with encouraging results.

In 2025, we established new partnerships with Familiefonds Wierda-Baas, Stichting Elema, and several private family foundations that wish to remain anonymous. We thank each of them for their trust and support.

Individual donors

Unrestricted gifts of all sizes remain a vital part of our funding model, providing flexibility, stability, and the ability to respond quickly to emerging needs, support innovation, and invest in organisational development. Our base of regular donors remains stable, providing a solid foundation for future growth.

During the year we invested in strengthening our Customer Relationship Management systems and donor journeys, improving how we engage with and care for our supporters.

CONCLUSIONS

2025 was a year of meaningful progress — and, in many ways, a test of the Mukwege Foundation's resilience. In a world where conflict-related sexual violence remains widespread, international norms are under increasing pressure, and funding landscapes are shifting, we held firm and continued to move forward.

Across our three programme strategies, we deepened our impact. In the Central African Republic, Ukraine, Burundi and Ethiopia, survivors received holistic care addressing their physical, psychological, socio-economic and legal needs. In Nepal, South Sudan, Syria, Uganda and beyond, survivor-led networks grew stronger, better organised, and increasingly present in the decision-making spaces that shape their futures. Through the Red Line Initiative, we advanced a global legal and political movement that recognises conflict-related sexual violence not as an inevitable by-product of war, but as a deliberate crime — one that demands accountability, prevention and redress.

Several moments from the year illustrate what becomes possible when survivors lead: the first regional survivors' exchange in Asia; the launch of the SEMA Virtual Memorial, preserving survivors' collective memory across 18 countries; the national Calls to Action in Uganda and Ukraine, crafted by survivors themselves, translated into concrete demands directed to their governments. These are not small achievements. They represent years of trust-building, sustained accompaniment, and a firm belief in survivors as powerful agents of change.

At the same time, we strengthened our organisational foundations. A reinforced continuity reserve, improved operational systems, an evolved leadership structure, and a broadened donor base have positioned us well for the years ahead — even as the funding environment grows more complex.

None of this progress would have been possible without our partners, donors and supporters, whose trust and commitment sustained us throughout a demanding year. Above all, none of it would be possible without survivors themselves — whose courage, leadership and refusal to accept injustice remain the driving force behind everything we do.

Building on the strong results achieved in 2025, we enter 2026 with a solid foundation for continued progress. The year ahead will bring both challenges and opportunities: to deepen impact, strengthen partnerships, and advance the global movement to transform the response to conflict-related sexual violence.

At the heart of our work are survivors, whose courage, leadership, and lived experience continue to guide and shape our efforts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all our donors and partners for their continued support of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the world.





dr. Denis
MukwegeFoundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Hague Office

Alexanderveld 5
2585 DB The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 616 209 560

Chamber of Commerce

63545861



[@MukwegeFoundation](#)



fb.com/Mukwegefoundation



[@MukwegeFoundation.org](#)



[dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation](#)