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TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before: Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera, Presiding Judge
Judge Kimberly Prost
Judge Nicolas Guillou

SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR v. BOSCO NTAGANDA

Public Document

Public redacted version of “Trust Fund for Victims' Third Update Report on the implementation of reparations for former child soldiers and for victims of the attacks, including for victims in urgent needs, in the Lubanga and the Ntaganda cases”, submitted on 28 February 2025, ICC-01/04-02/06-2915-Conf-Exp

Source: Trust Fund for Victims

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I. BACKGROUND

1. This update report pursuant to regulation 58 of the Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims (“TFV”) covers reparations related activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (“DRC”), in relation to the cases of *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga* (“*Lubanga case*”) and *The Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda* (“*Ntaganda case*”), from 1 October 2024 until 31 December 2024.

2. The structure of this report is guided by the status of implementation of TFV programmes for victims of both cases and focuses therefore in the following order on:

- i. reparations measures for former child soldiers in the *Lubanga* and *Ntaganda* cases through the component called “Former Child Soldiers Programme”,
- ii. reparations measures for victims of the attacks in the *Ntaganda* case through the component called “Victims of the Attacks Programme”, which includes the implementation of initial reparations measures for priority victims (victims of the attacks) in urgent needs in the *Ntaganda* case;
- iii. other programme support activities for victims in both cases which were conducted by the TFV in the relevant period; and
- iv. financial matters.

3. On 28 October 2024, the TFV submitted its second update report on the implementation of reparations for former child soldiers and for victims of the attacks, including for victims in urgent needs, in the *Lubanga* and the *Ntaganda* cases (“Second Joint Update Report”), and refers to the background and procedural history contained therein.¹

4. The TFV hereby submits its third update report pursuant to Regulation 58 of the Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims relevant to the combined implementation of reparations in the *Ntaganda* and *Lubanga* cases,² focusing on the fourth quarter of 2024 (1

¹ Trust Fund for Victims’ Second Update Report on the implementation of reparations for former child soldiers and for victims of the attacks, including for victims in urgent needs, in the *Lubanga* and the *Ntaganda* cases, 28 October 2024, ICC-01/04-02/06-2907-Conf-Exp. A public redacted version is available: [ICC-01/04-02/06-2907-Red](#) (“Second Joint Update Report”).

² Submitted pursuant to Order approving the proposed plan of the Trust Fund for Victims in relation to symbolic collective reparation, 21 October 2016, ICC-01/04-01/06-3251; Order approving the proposed programmatic framework for collective service-based reparations submitted by the Trust Fund for Victims, 6 April 2017, ICC-01/04-01/06-3289; Decision Approving the Proposals of the Trust Fund for Victims on the Process for Locating New Applicants and Determining their Eligibility for Reparations, 7 February 2019, ICC-01/04-01/06-3440-Red-

October 2024 to 31 December 2024).³ Activities of the TFV additional to those carried out by the implementing partners are reported, as appropriate, until the date of filing of this report.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF THE REPORT

5. The present update report is classified as confidential, in line with underlying decisions and filings.⁴ A public redacted version will be filed without undue delay. The two annexes are work products of the Registry for Court-internal purposes and have therefore been filed as confidential.

III. SECURITY SITUATION

6. The security situation in Eastern DRC has drastically changed since the Second update report. [REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF REPARATIONS FOR FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS

8. The reparations for former child soldiers, as implemented in the *Lubanga* case and as made available for this category of victims identified in the context of the *Ntaganda* case consist of two main programmes: (i) collective service-based reparations; and (ii) symbolic reparations.

A. Background

9. The TFV recalls the background presented in the First Update Report,⁵ summarising that former child soldiers and their relatives as well as other categories of indirect victims are entitled to the same reparations, regardless of the case – *Lubanga* or *Ntaganda* – in which they were identified and found eligible and noting the two additional aspects added to the scope of

tENG; Thirteenth Decision on the Trust Fund for Victims' administrative decisions on applications for reparations and additional matters, 5 April 2024, ICC-01/04-01/06-3567; Decision on the TFV's initial draft implementation plan with focus on priority victims, 23 July 2021, [ICC-01/04-02/06-2696](#); Second Decision on the Trust Fund for Victims' Draft Implementation Plan for Reparations, 27 February 2024, [ICC-01/04-02/06-2894-Conf](#).

³ As anticipated in the Twenty-fourth progress report on the implementation of collective reparations as per Trial Chamber II's decisions of 21 October 2016, 6 April 2017 and 7 February 2019 and request to amend the reporting schedule to the Trial Chamber, and submit reports on a quarterly basis in line with the contractually agreed reporting schedule of the TFV's implementing partners, 6 March 2024, [ICC-01/04-01/06-3653- Conf Exp](#) ("*Lubanga* Twenty-fourth Update Report"), para. 30.

⁴ See in particular, Second Decision on the Trust Fund for Victims' Draft Implementation Plan for Reparations, 27 February 2024, ICC-01/04-02/06-2894-Conf. A public redacted version is available: ICC-01/04-02/06-2894-Red ("*Ntaganda* Second Decision on DIP").

⁵ Trust Fund for Victims' First Update Report on the implementation of reparations for former child soldiers and for victims of the attacks, including for victims in urgent needs, in the *Lubanga* and the *Ntaganda* cases, 28 October 2024, ICC-01/04-02/06-2900-Conf-Exp. A public redacted version is available: [ICC-01/04-02/06-2900-Red](#) ("*First Joint Update Report*"), paras 12ff.

reparations in the *Lubanga* case through the *Ntaganda* case, insofar as former child soldiers are concerned.

10. First, Mr Ntaganda was additionally convicted of rape and sexual slavery against female UPC/FPLC members under the age of 15 years old. Specific measures shall be tailored to address the specificity of the harm they suffered,⁶ and of that of the children born out of rape or sexual slavery who were recognised as direct victims.⁷ Second, the Trial Chamber recognised transgenerational harm for all children of direct victims, provided that they can establish the existence of such harm.⁸

11. Upon the approval of the TFV's draft implementation plan (DIP) in the *Ntaganda* case, the *Lubanga* programme for former child soldiers has accordingly been transformed into the Former Child Soldiers Programme, which incorporates in addition to the reparation measures approved in the *Lubanga* case, reparations measures for the victims of sexual and gender-based violence, children born out of rape or sexual slavery and transgenerational harm victims. In addition, based on the approved DIP, a) victims outside of Ituri Province, whether found eligible in the *Lubanga* or the *Ntaganda* case, may receive a lump sum *in lieu* of socio-economic reparations, and b) all victims should receive a starter sum.

1. Overview of the collective service-based reparation programme

12. Collective service-based reparations are implemented through TFV partner [REDACTED], an organisation with headquarters in Italy, and registration and ample experience in the DRC. TFV staff are involved in overseeing day-to-day operations including monitoring delivery of services, communicating constantly with the victims, and troubleshooting issues raised by the implementing partner and other service providers, all to ensure that services are delivered and that they result in reparative value for the beneficiaries victims.⁹

13. The implementing partner was selected in 2020 based on a competitive procurement process. Following ICC procedures, the partner is then issued with annual contracts within a multi-year programmatic framework running from 2021 to 2026. The fourth contractual year started on 1 September 2024 comprising a programme of activities and the corresponding

⁶ *Ntaganda* Reparations Order, par. 119. This ruling was not affected by the appeal.

⁷ *Ntaganda* Reparations Order, para. 129. This ruling was not affected by the appeal.

⁸ *Ntaganda* Reparations Order, para. 73. This aspect was contested on appeal but the Trial Chamber maintained its ruling in the *Ntaganda* Addendum to the Reparations Order (See, *Ntaganda* Addendum, paras. 196-197).

⁹ See in this regard, in the *Lubanga* case, the *Rapport final des Représentants légaux des victimes V01* ("*Lubanga* V01 Final Report"), 27 March 2024, [ICC-01/04-01/06-3566](#), paras 40-43.

resources to implement all reparations measures under the Former Child Soldiers Programme for direct and indirect victims found eligible through the *Lubanga* case and for direct victims found eligible through the *Ntaganda* case. Accordingly, the actual implementation of the Former Child Soldiers Programme, as transformed by the *Ntaganda* DIP, started on 1 September 2024.

14. By 31 December 2024, the end of the reporting period, 1,691 or 69% of the direct and indirect 2,471 victims found eligible by the Trial Chamber in the *Lubanga* case, have been enrolled in the Former Child Soldiers Programme. Those individuals included in the programme thus far are direct victims, and the TFV expects that most direct victims yet to be included are those currently in the process of verification of identity for intake into the programme, and those who cannot yet be reached. All other eligible victims will fall under the category of indirect victims.

15. As of the end of the reporting period, no victim (former child soldier) found eligible through the *Ntaganda* case has been referred by VPRS to the TFV. The *Ntaganda* victims (former child soldiers) who took part in the IDIP programme are, at the time of the filing of this report, in the process of enrolment into the full-fledged programme.

16. The Reparation Programme consists of a holistic care system awarded to victims found eligible, covering medical support, psychological support, as well socio-economic support.

17. To receive reparations, victims undergo an enrolment phase which encompasses the validation of the identity of the individual; an intake or in-depth individualised assessment to determine the needs of the beneficiary in terms of rehabilitation; as well as the preferences of the beneficiary.¹⁰ This phase is essential to ensuring the satisfaction of the victims with the measures received. During enrolment a personal plan is also drawn up with the victims, detailing the services they will receive as well as the dates they will benefit from it. During enrolment, they are also provided with a physical phone, which facilitates communication between the beneficiary, TFV and the partner. Beneficiaries also receive the numbers of the two telephone lines that they can use for any questions concerning the programme.¹¹ Following their enrolment, the beneficiary may start immediately receiving tailored psychological or

¹⁰ Until 2023, prior to being referred to the partner, beneficiaries were informed of this upcoming contact with the implementing partner by their LRV. With the amendment to the role of the LRV (Twelfth decision on the TFV's administrative decisions on applications for reparations and additional matters, [ICC-01/04-02/06-2558](#), para. 19), updated contact information has been provided by the LRV and the TFV is now tasked with ensuring this first contact with the implementing partner.

¹¹ See in this regard, *Lubanga* V01 Final Report, paras 15-18 and 19-20.

physical treatment depending on the level of harm or urgency. While receiving medical and psychological treatment or attending training, beneficiaries also receive pre-set sums of financial support to offset transportation costs and the loss of earnings.

18. Enrolment takes place on a rolling basis throughout the year. As soon as the implementing partner receives the updated contact information from the TFV regarding a new batch of beneficiaries' names, the implementing partner contacts the beneficiary without delay to provide them information about the intake. Upon intake, victims receive a schedule for the upcoming meetings and treatments.¹²

19. The programme is available to victims residing in any location within Ituri Province. Medical treatment is organised as closely as feasible to victims' locations, by relying on a network of partners such as hospitals and *centres de santé*. Complex cases requiring more specialised treatment may require transfer to facilities within or outside of Ituri Province, DRC. In cases requiring treatment limiting the ability of beneficiaries to care for themselves, transfers to suitable care facilities are arranged and adequate financial support is provided, as required. During the entire duration of the treatments regular coordination meetings take place between the various professionals to ensure the proper roll-out and holistic nature of the care provided. Once treatment is completed, the professionals involved in the treatment of the patient meet to ensure that the case can be closed. In some complex cases or when the victim refuses to complete treatment, the opinions of external experts are sought to inform any decisions of closing treatment.¹³

20. Mental healthcare is provided by professionals (psychologists or psychiatrist depending on the type of treatment required) and can take various forms depending on the diagnosis.¹⁴

21. Support for education (schooling and university), which is part of the socio-economic measures, starts in parallel to medical and psychological treatment. Victims receive cash destined for schooling support for up to two dependents for two years, and if eligible they are granted access to university studies, paid directly by the TFV to the educational institution, on an annual basis, for three years.

22. Other socio-economic measures commence only as soon as medical practitioners determine that the beneficiary is physically and mentally fit. Socio-economic rehabilitation starts with the provision of a lump sum that allows the beneficiaries the necessary financial

¹² See *Lubanga* V01 Final Report, paras 19-20 and paras 34-35 and 39.

¹³ See *Lubanga* V01 Final Report, paras 23-26.

¹⁴ See *Lubanga* V01 Final Report, paras 21-22.

support to attend a vocational training, and if applicable a literacy course. A starter kit for the training is also made available, composed of materials required to undergo the specific training and commence the chosen income generating activity.

23. Once the training ends, the beneficiaries develop a business plan and are guided through the start of their income generating activities; they receive a cash grant for the first year of implementation. The cash grant amount is set at the same level for all beneficiaries. The direct guidance of the implementing partner continues for a minimum of three months, while the implementing partner remains accessible to respond to requests of advice and support to the beneficiaries thereafter for the duration of the programme. Beneficiaries are always provided information on the possibility to make use of the *mutuelles de solidarité* (“MUSO”), a form of village savings and loans association, and the choice made by the victim is always respected.

24. For the vocational training beneficiaries may choose to participate in solely (i) a basic training that lasts 10 days and provides them with basic skills such as book-keeping and accounting and is recommended only for victims who already exercise an income generating activity and do not wish to undergo a vocational training; or an additional (ii) a full-fledged vocational training, which lasts between two to four months following the basic training and enables them to develop a new specific skill (for instance tailoring, cooking, carpentry etc). Prior to making a choice, each beneficiary benefits from personalised counselling, taking into account their ambitions, current situation, ability and results from the market research conducted by the implementing partner.¹⁵ The training component of the programme also employs the Start and Improve Your Business (“SYIB” or “GERME” in French) methodology developed by the International Labour Organisation (“ILO”) to reinforce the capacities of the beneficiaries in ensuring the sustainability of their business.¹⁶

25. Once socio-economic activities conclude, the service is considered completed. However, beneficiaries are met thereafter to monitor the use of the income generating activities and provide them with support when required.

26. Currently, it takes on average 18 month for a victim from the initial consultation to the last payment of educational support.

27. In the first three years of the programme, the implementation focused on victims in Ituri Province. From the fourth contractual year, the TFV will be able to address socio-economic

¹⁵ See *Lubanga V01 Final Report*, paras 27-29.

¹⁶ For more information on the SYIB methodology, see for instance, this [guide](#) (last consulted on 28 October 2024).

measures for eligible victims outside of Ituri Province, who will receive a lump sum *in lieu* of the socio-economic measures.¹⁷

28. In addition to the measures above described, a starter sum in cash for victims is envisaged, considering that cash payments, which are sorely needed and sought after by victims, do not happen until the final phase of the services. Therefore, the starter sum may be used by the TFV to bridge the waiting time between the information on the eligibility determination and the start of services. The TFV still needs to determine how to make the starter sum available within the context of the Former Child Soldiers Programme, given that most of the direct victims have already been included in the programme and have, or are soon to reach the phase when cash payments are available. A TFV-internal assessment of the financial and operational plan for the implementation of this measure will be carried out once the eligibility determinations by VPRS have further progressed. Until that time, the implementation of this measure in the context of the Former Child Soldiers Programme will be on hold.

29. *Indirect victims:* Five different categories of victims belong to the group of indirect victims.

30. Parents who lost their child before the child could be found eligible by the Court (1), victims who attempted to prevent the commission of the crime (2), and intervening victims (3) are considered indirect victims. These three categories of indirect victims receive the same reparations and are subject to the same process as direct victims. Where both parents were found eligible as indirect victims, only one of the parents will be treated in the same way as the direct victim, the other parent (and potential siblings) as indirect victims.¹⁸

31. Family members (4) of direct victims benefit from a personalised intake and thereafter will gain access to appropriate and tailored psychological and, if linked to the psychological harm suffered, physical support. The intake of this category of indirect victims is starting in the first quarter of 2025.

32. Since the start of the implementation of the Former Child Soldiers Programme, i.e. as of September 2024, victims who were found eligible as having suffered transgenerational harm (5) receive psychological care tailored to their harm.¹⁹ To date, no individual has yet been referred to the TFV by VPRS under this category.

¹⁷ This measure is subject of a separate filing to the Chamber.

¹⁸ This is different from the process of succession described in *Ntaganda* DIP, para. 399.

²⁰ First Update Report, paras 51-52.

33. *Sexual and gender-based violence victims*: Since the start of the implementation of the Former Child Soldiers Programme, i.e. as of the September 2024, the implementing partner ensures that former child soldiers who suffered sexual and gender-based violence when in the FPLC/UPC are appropriately accompanied throughout the service-provision and receive appropriate care. This extends as of the fourth year of the programme also to children born out of rape or sexual slavery who will have access to physical, psychological and socio-economic measures as the former child soldiers but tailored to their specific situation. No children born out of rape or sexual slavery have yet been referred as eligible by VPRS to the TFV.

34. *Monitoring*: Throughout the process, the TFV and the implementing partner monitor the effectiveness of the rehabilitative activities through constant communication with victims and service providers and through the complaints mechanism. This creates a direct line of communication between the TFV and the victims enabling remedial action.

2. Overview of symbolic reparations

35. Symbolic reparations are implemented by the TFV since October 2021, through Ituri-based implementing partners [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Implementing partners were selected via procurement procedure in 2020. The implementing partners are responsible for two activities: (i) the construction of symbolic structures, in the form of memorialisation centres aimed at hosting various communal activities of symbolic nature; and (ii) the development of mobile memorialisation initiatives in communities that will promote awareness raising about the crimes and resulting harms, reintegration, reconciliation, and memorialisation.

36. The location of the memorialisation centres was determined through four rounds of community consultations taking into account various criteria, including whether the community was particularly affected by the conscription, enlistment and use of child soldiers. As a result of the consultation process, four sites were chosen, in Katoto (53 kms North East of Bunia), Rwampara (36 kms South East of Bunia), Tchomia (80 kms South East of Bunia on the shore of Lake Albert) and Mahagi (north East of the province, near the border with Uganda),

37. To ensure the sustainability of the measures and ownership by the communities, local committees were set up to ensure oversight on the construction and to ultimately manage the centres upon completion of the construction. The buy-in of the communities is evidenced through the provision by the community of a piece of land and the granting of construction rights and land ownerships for these sites. The construction of the memorialisation centres started in 2023 and is in its final phase for two of the four sites (Rwampara and Mahagi) while

the other two sites (Tchomia and Katoto) are about 40% completed during to several reasons including security challenges in those regions .

38. For the awareness raising activities, the programme operates in Bunia and throughout the Irumu territory (in particular in Rwampara and Bogoro), Djugu territory (in particular in Katoto, Mandro and Tchomia) and the Mahagi territory. These activities aim at raising awareness and address the existence of stigmatisation on former child soldiers in the form of mobile memorialisation initiatives, including thematic workshops on the consolidation of peace, social cohesion and non-repetition of the recruitment of children under 15 years and their use in armed hostilities.

39. *Apology*: Measures related to an apology from Mr Ntaganda are planned for development per the parameters set out in the First Update Report.²⁰

B. Update Report on implementation of collective service-based reparations for former child soldiers

40. The present report covers activities that took place in the fourth quarter of 2024 (October through December).²¹

41. By the end of the reporting period, 1,691 out of the 2,471 victims found eligible by the Trial Chamber in the *Lubanga* case, have been enrolled in the Former Child Soldiers Programme. During the reporting period, 33 additional beneficiaries were enrolled in the programme.

42. In the reporting period, the TFV's implementing partner in close cooperation with the TFV staff in Bunia continued to contact additional victims found eligible in the case *Lubanga*, primarily based on the updated contact information that was provided by the various teams of legal representatives before ending their mandate in the first half of 2024, in line with the Trial Chamber's instruction. Before the intake, the TFV staff in Bunia met with the victims to verify their identity as eligible beneficiaries. During this contact, the TFV explained to the beneficiaries the next steps and provided them with a timeline for their first contact and intake with the partner.²²

43. As reported previously,²³ from September 2024 onwards, the TFV has enabled the implementing partner to increase the investment into a team responsible for searching for

²⁰ First Update Report, paras 51-52.

²¹ As anticipated in the *Lubanga* Twenty-fourth Update Report, para. 30.

²² See also *Lubanga* V01 Final Report, paras 15-17.

²³ Second Joint Update Report, paras. 69-70.

beneficiaries who have been unreachable, in part already since 2021. This measure has led to reaching 92 victims in the reporting period.

44. On 28 October 2024, the Registry submitted the Second Registry Eligibility Report on Reparations, issuing 224 positive eligibility determinations for reparations, among which 39 determinations were relevant to non-participating former child soldier victims, including 16 victims of sexual and gender-based crimes.²⁴ All 224 positive eligibility determinations were endorsed in December 2024 by the Chamber in its Decision on the Second Registry Periodic Report on Eligibility Determinations for Reparations.²⁵ As discussed between the TFV and VPRS in July 2024, the TFV will contact the victims within 30 days after VPRS has informed the victims of their eligibility and accordingly informed the TFV, including by transferring updated contact details to the TFV.

45. Table 1 illustrates the rate of intake of eligible victims into the Former Child Soldiers Programme, and deemed eligible in the case *Lubanga*, within 1,691 enrolled in the programme by 31 December 2024.

1. Progress concerning mental health and physical care

a) Mental health care

46. During the reporting period, 37 new beneficiaries were enrolled into and began to receive psychological care, bringing the total number of victims cared for since the start of the programme to 1,625.

Table 1: Total number of victims enrolled (Former Child Soldiers Programme)

Number of victims enrolled in the programme by 31 December 2024					
Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	35	132	103	158	428
Male	153	535	279	296	1,263
Total	188	667	382	454	1,691

²⁴ Second Registry Eligibility Report, paras 15, 21-23.

²⁵ Decision on the Second Registry Periodic Report on Eligibility Determinations for Reparations, 3 December 2024, ICC-01/04-02/06-2910-Conf.

47. Table 2 sets out the number of victims who have completed their course of psychological rehabilitation per year as of 31 December 2024. At the end of 2024, 1,005 victims had completed psychological rehabilitation.

Table 2: Mental health care (Former Child Soldiers Programme)					
Number of victims who have completed psychological rehabilitation					
(status: 31 December 2024)					
Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	18	101	78	29	226
Male	102	310	251	116	779
Total	120	411	329	145	1,005

b) Physical health care

48. During the reporting period, 66 beneficiaries were enrolled into physical care and started receiving at least one kind of physical health service, including medical diagnosis, bringing the total number of victims cared for since the start of the programme to 1,584. In the reporting period, 60 victims benefitted from primary and secondary care. A total of 6 individuals benefitted from specialist care (prosthesis and surgery).

49. Table 3 sets out the number of victims who have completed their course of medical rehabilitation/physical care per year as of 31 December 2024. At the end of 2024, 1,424 victims had completed the medical rehabilitation.

Table 3: Physical health care (Former Child Soldiers Programme)					
Number of victims who have completed medical rehabilitation					
(status: 31 December 2024)					
Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	23	40	61	134	258
Male	146	494	196	330	1,166
Total	169	534	257	464	1,424

2. Progress concerning socio-economic rehabilitation

a) Trainings offered (basic training and vocational training)

50. During the reporting period, 71 beneficiaries benefitted from the basic training, out of which 8 followed vocational training leading to a qualification in computer science. In total, 1,561 benefitted from basic training and all (1,561) victims completed their vocational training by the end of the reporting period.

51. Table 4 sets out the number of victims who have completed vocational training per year as of 31 December 2024.

Table 4: Vocational training (Former Child Soldiers Programme)
Number of victims who have completed vocational training
(status: 31 December 2024)

Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	6	115	54	231	460
Male	65	367	151	572	1,155
Total	71	482	205	803	1,561

b) Income-generating activities

52. During the reporting period, 156 beneficiaries, who were ready to develop a business plan and receive advice, were guided through the start of their income-generating activities and received a cash grant to help them set up a business. This brings the total number of beneficiaries having benefitted from the cash grant to set up their income generating activities to 1,514 beneficiaries.

53. Table 5 sets out the number of victims who have received the cash grant to set up their incoming generating activities per year as of 31 December 2024.

Table 5: IGA cash grant (Former Child Soldiers Programme)
Number of victims who received a cash grant to start IGAs
(status: 31 December 2024)

Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	0	87	86	285	458
Male	0	347	175	534	1,056
Total	0	434	261	819	1,514

c) Educational support

54. So far, 3,168 beneficiaries and their dependants benefitted from educational support since the beginning of the programme. In the reporting period, 194 new beneficiaries and dependants received education support to attend primary or secondary education.

55. A total of 289 victims have benefitted from university support since the start of the programme. In the reporting period, 54 new beneficiaries or their close family members (spouse or biological child) have benefitted from university support.

56. Table 6 set out: the number of victims in progress of receiving educational support as of 31 December 2024. Table 6.1 shows the number of victims and their dependents who completed the educational support component per year as of 31 December 2024. At the end of 2024, 1,371 victims and their dependents had completed the educational support component. Table 6.2 presents the number of victims who have completed university education per year as

of 31 December 2024. At the end of 2024, 159 victims have completed the university education component.

Table 6: Educational support (Former Child Soldiers Programme)
Number of new victims and dependents receiving educational support
(status: 31 December 2024)

Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	179	633	173	593	1,578
Male	185	635	171	599	1,590
Total	364	1,268	344	1,192	3,168

Table 6.1: Educational support (Former Child Soldiers Programme)
Number of victims and dependents who completed the educational support
component
(status: 31 December 2024)

Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	0	80	227	153	460
Male	0	286	204	421	911
Total	0	366	431	574	1,371

Table 6.2: Educational support (Former Child Soldiers Programme)
Number of victims who have completed university education
(status: 31 December 2024)

Gender	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Female	0	8	11	34	53
Male	0	30	22	54	106
Total	0	38	33	88	159

d) Socio-economic starter sum

57. As mentioned above, this measure has been put on hold.²⁶

²⁶ See above, para.28.

e) Lump sum in lieu of services²⁷

58. [REDACTED]. During this in-person verification exercise the TFV staff collected the required information to be communicated to the implementing partner for the payment of the lump sum *in lieu* of the socio-economic rehabilitation measures for these beneficiaries.

59. [REDACTED].

60. [REDACTED].

3. Development of specific reparations measures to address specific forms of harm arising out of sexual and gender-based crimes

61. To realise the reparations programme to address the specific harm of victims of rape and sexual slavery for which Mr Ntaganda was convicted, the TFV and the implementing partner engaged a locally knowledgeable expert on sexual and gender-based violence²⁸ to evaluate the services already received by the victims and to identify potential gaps and additional measures to be developed. The assessment commenced in November 2024.

4. Complaints mechanism

62. The complaints mechanism put in place in 2022 has been continuously improved since its inception. Through this mechanism, the TFV receives a monthly beneficiary complaint management report, which records the beneficiaries' complaints, the actions taken to resolve the complaint and an assessment of the beneficiaries' satisfaction on action taken. These complaint management reports are analysed monthly by the TFV who can then contact the beneficiaries concerned for additional information. In the reporting period, the implementing partner received and handled 74 complaints.

5. Challenges, issues and incidents

63. *Victims who cannot be found:* Despite having found 92 previously unreachable victims in the reporting period, 169 direct victims remained unreachable by the end of the reporting period. Accordingly, the measure taken in 2024 to invest into a team responsible for searching for persons in their homes or the homes of their families continues in 2025.

64. *Verification of identity of beneficiaries for intake:* As informed in the previous report, the TFV has strengthened its mechanisms for the verification of identity of the beneficiaries.²⁹

²⁷ The amount of the lump sum *in lieu* will be subject to a separate submission to the Chamber.

²⁸ In compliance with the ruling of the Chamber, see *Ntaganda* Second Decision on the DIP, para. 37.

²⁹ Second Joint Update Report, paras. 71.

In the reporting period, the TFV continued the verification of the identity documents of all persons who presented themselves for intake, either because they had been invited by the TFV or on their own initiative. This verification exercise to identify individuals who may seek enrolment with the use of (falsified) identification documents under the name of eligible victims.

65. The TFV conducted the verification on an ongoing basis during the reporting period. However, due to the worsening of the security situation and the travel limitations of the relocated TFV staff, the *in situ* verifications have not taken place as planned since January 2025. As of 2025, this has impacted the intake of the victims who were previously unreachable but were contacted during the reporting period. The TFV plans to conduct *in situ* verifications for these cases as soon as the missions to Bunia can be resumed. In addition, the work of a liaison officer who will start work in Bunia shortly after the date of the filing of this report will likely enable progress in the verification process.

66. [REDACTED]

C. Update report on implementation of symbolic reparations for former child soldiers

67. In relation to the first component of the reparations, namely the construction of the centres:

- i. The building in Rwampara, is nearly fully constructed (95% complete), with remaining tasks including plumbing work on the multipurpose hall and sanitary facilities, the painting of these infrastructures, the construction of a kitchen shed and the development of the courtyard of the memorial center.
- ii. The building in Mahagi is 75% complete, with activity having recently resumed following a suspension of building due to the security situation. The tasks in progress include the finalization of the installation of sheet metal and plastering, the construction of sanitary facilities, painting, the laying of tiles and windows, plumbing and the installation of electrical devices.
- iii. The work at the Tchomia remains 40% complete. A recent reduction of violence has enabled resumption of activities, in particular the manufacture of monoblocks for the construction of the walls under the framework, while the sheets have been ordered. The remaining tasks include the installation of sheet metal, glass and tiles, plastering and the construction of sanitary facilities.

iv. In Katoto work is 30% complete. The construction of much of the foundation has been completed. Construction is on hold so that the partner can first focus on completing the construction of the more advanced sites.

68. An external expert engineer has been engaged to conduct the verification and quality certification of the structures.

69. The construction of the centres has faced several challenges. An increase in material prices at the market resulted in exceeding the initial budget forecasts, making the acquisition of supplies more expensive than expected. In addition, in some localities such as Mahagi and Katoto, the community has made specific requests that have required adjustment to plans and budgets, such as using baked bricks which are more resistant and therefore more expensive than the monoblocks initially planned to be used. The construction has been affected by insecurity which has resulted in delays in delivery of materials, or limited local labour force available due to displacement. This has caused significant delays and increased budgets.

70. The TFV has thus proceeded with a no-cost extension of the contract with the partner organisation [REDACTED] until 31 March 2025 to enable completion of the construction of the community centres. Due to the aforementioned ongoing challenges, it is anticipated that the construction of the symbolic centres will be extended until the end of 2025.

D. Update report on implementation of the IDIP for former child soldiers

71. In the Reparations Order, Trial Chamber VI directed the TFV to propose reparation measures for priority victims in urgent needs.³⁰ Accordingly, on 8 June 2021, the TFV submitted an initial draft implementation plan, (“IDIP”)³¹ and on 23 July 2021, the Trial Chamber partly approved it.³² Initial reparations measures were designed to address urgent needs of priority victims pending the availability of the full programme. Accordingly, pending completion of the appeals proceedings, the TFV maintained an arrangement in place with its assistance programme partner to ensure that, if any former child soldier with urgent needs was referred to it, they could readily access direct measures.

72. In 2021, priority victims with urgent needs started receiving services. Former Child Soldiers in urgent needs were referred to the TFV by their legal representative and received

³⁰ *Ntaganda* Reparations Order, p.97. This ruling was unaffected by the appeal proceedings.

³¹ Report on Trust Fund’s Preparation for Draft Implementation Plan (notified on 9 June 2021), [ICC-01/04-02/06-2676-Conf](#), with [Annex A](#), Initial Draft Implementation Plan with focus on Priority Victims. A public redacted version is available: [ICC-01/04-02/06-2676-Red](#) with Annex: [ICC-01/04-02/06-2676-AnxA-Corr-Red](#).

³² Decision on the TFV’s initial draft implementation plan with focus on priority victims (‘Decision on the IDIP’), 23 July 2021, [ICC-01/04-02/06-2696](#).

services from the TFV, supported by the TFV implementing partner for the assistance programme, [REDACTED].

73. Apart from the 27 former child soldier victims in urgent needs who had received services under the IDIP programme from the partner [REDACTED] in 2022, no former child soldier in urgent needs was referred to the TFV in 2023.³³ In 2024, one former child soldier in urgent need was found eligible by the Court and referred to the TFV, as reported in the First Update Report.³⁴ Given this aligned in time with the Second Decision on the DIP that approved the operationalisation of the Former Child Soldiers Programme, this victim was directly included in the Former Child Soldiers Programme. The arrangement with the TFV assistance programme partner for the purpose of the IDIP ended with effect of 1 May 2024. Any other former child soldier victims to be found eligible going forward will benefit directly from the Former Child Soldiers Programme.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF REPARATIONS FOR VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS

74. The second group of victims in the case *Ntaganda* concerns the group of victims of the attacks by the UPC/FPLC, which is estimated by the Trial Chamber to consist of about 7,500 victims, including indirect victims.³⁵

a. Background

75. The TFV recalls that victims of the attacks are to be awarded reparations similar to those already ordered for former child soldier victims in the *Lubanga* case, to promote “equal reparations to avoid jealousy, animosity or stigmatisation among affected communities and different groups of victims”.³⁶ The Trial Chamber found it therefore appropriate, on the basis of the *Lubanga* reparation implementation, that all victims be provided “with service-based collective reparations with individualised components aimed at addressing their physical, mental, and socio-economic rehabilitation, together with other collective modalities of reparations, which include symbolic and community measures”.³⁷ Only victims of the attacks

³³ Trust Fund for Victims’ Ninth Update Report on the Implementation of the Initial Draft Implementation Plan, 30 January 2023, [ICC-01/04-02/06-2817-Conf](#). A public redacted version is available: [ICC-01/04-02/06-2817-Red](#).

³⁴ First Update Report, para. 88.

³⁵ *Ntaganda* Addendum to the Reparations Order, para. 343.

³⁶ *Ntaganda* Addendum to the Reparations Order, para. 20.

³⁷ *Ntaganda* Addendum to the Reparations Order, para. 20.

in urgent needs benefit, at this stage, from initial reparations in the context of the IDIP, as referred to in paragraph 73.

76. As such, the following measures were approved by the Trial Chamber: a programme providing the same services to the victims of the attacks as it does to the former child soldiers described above,³⁸ with the additional feature of symbolic and satisfaction measures in relation to the death of Abbé Bwanalunga and the destruction of the Sayo Health Centre.

b. Update report on implementation of reparations for victims of the attacks

77. On 28 October 2024, the Registry submitted the Second Registry Eligibility Report on Reparations, issuing 224 positive eligibility determinations for reparations, among which 185 determinations relevant to previously participating victims of the attacks.³⁹ The 224 positive eligibility determinations were endorsed by the Chamber in its Decision on the Second Registry Periodic Report on Eligibility Determinations for Reparations.⁴⁰ As discussed between the TFV and VPRS in July 2024, the TFV will contact the victims within 30 days after VPRS has informed the victims of their eligibility and accordingly informed the TFV, including by transferring updated contact details to the TFV.⁴¹ Once the information is received, eligible victims will be contacted by the TFV to communicate next steps, ensure that contact information and changes to the contact information are recorded, and inform them that they will be kept informed about the status of the development of the programme.

78. During the previous reporting period, the deadline to submit an expression of interest had expired, which formed the first step in the procurement process.⁴² Since then, the procurement process to select a suitable partner(s) to roll out the measures as approved by the Trial Chamber is ongoing.

c. Update report on implementation of the IDIP for victims of the attacks in urgent needs

79. In 2021, priority victims with urgent needs started receiving services through the IDIP programme. Victims of the Attacks in urgent needs were referred to the TFV by their legal representative and assessed for their eligibility and whether they were in urgent needs by the

³⁸ See *Ntaganda* First Decision on the DIP; *Ntaganda* Second Decision on the DIP.

³⁹ Second Registry Eligibility Report, paras 15, 18, 19.

⁴⁰ Decision on the Second Registry Periodic Report on Eligibility Determinations for Reparations, 3 December 2024, ICC-01/04-02/06-2910-Conf.

⁴¹ See above, para. 44.

⁴² See Second Joint Update Report, para. 83.

TFV before they received services from the TFV, supported by the TFV implementing partner for the assistance programme [REDACTED].

80. The TFV refers to its previous reports enumerating the IDIP measures provided to eligible victims according to their urgent needs, which are organised around three pillars: psychological support, medical support and socio-economic support. Measures provided to priority victims in urgent needs will need to be complemented once the Victims of the Attacks Programme is in place to ensure that all victims in the Victims of the Attacks Programme are treated equally and may receive the same measures.

81. Of the 16 victims in urgent needs whose eligibility was approved in the Decision on the First Registry Report, all 16 were victims of the attacks. Pursuant to the First Decision on the DIP,⁴³ the TFV contacted them within 30 days of the Trial Chamber's decision on their eligibility.⁴⁴ Two individuals remain unreachable despite attempts of contact made at least once a week by way of phone calls and messages. The TFV keeps reaching out to these two victims to include them in the IDIP programme.

82. As mentioned above, the TFV is currently working on procuring a partner for the Victims of the Attacks Programme. Accordingly, the TFV has maintained its programme for victims in urgent needs. As set out in the Second Joint Update Report, the programme will be able to accommodate a maximum of 200 victims with urgent needs in the course of approximately 12 months, so long as they are referred to the TFV on a rolling basis. The end of the programme was previously foreseen by 30 April 2025.⁴⁵

83. As the provision of services takes a few months (so that the medical support can be provided, as well as psychological support, training and income generating activities), it had been foreseen that new IDIP beneficiaries be referred to the TFV at the latest during the last quarter of 2024, so that services can be rolled out for them in the first half of 2025.

84. [REDACTED],⁴⁶ additional victims in urgent needs were referred to the TFV in February 2025. The TFV is therefore currently considering extending the contract with the relevant implementing partner to accommodate the additional 94 beneficiaries referred to the

⁴³ First Registry Periodic Report on Eligibility Determinations for Reparations, ICC-01/04-02/06-2901-Conf, 28 June 2024, para. 16; Email by VPRS to the TFV of 21 August 2024.

⁴⁴ *Ntaganda* First Decision on the DIP, para. 170.

⁴⁵ Second Joint Update Report, para. 88.

⁴⁶ [REDACTED].

TFV as eligible victims.⁴⁷ Given the impediments to travel to Ituri province, the TFV is contacting victims from outside the DRC to inform them about the intake into the IDIP programme, as process that is ongoing at the time of the filing of this report.

85. All victims found eligible in 2024 and who the TFV managed to contact went through intake and started receiving services. In the reporting period, no new victims were admitted in the programme. In total, to date since the start of the programme for the victims of the attacks, 108 beneficiaries received medical and psychological support, of which 93 have additionally participated in a training or income-generating activity.

VI. OVERARCHING PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

86. *Collaboration with ICC's sections* – as the implementation of the reparations measures by the TFV is contingent upon the work of PIOS in terms of outreach and that of VPRS in terms of identification, collection of information and determination on the eligibility of victims, the TFV, VPRS and PIOS inform each other of the progress made and challenges encountered on a regular basis, in particular through a monthly coordination meeting instituted in August 2024, which relates interchangeably to the cases *Ntaganda* and *Ongwen*. At these meetings, VPRS, PIOS and TFV exchange on updates related to the identification, verification, communication with victims and affected communities, and other actions undertaken by VPRS and PIOS respectively. In the reporting period, the TFV has contributed to PIOS' radio campaign and general outreach campaign.

87. *Retreat in January 2025* – Upon the re-deployment of the TFV staff of the professional category from Bunia, DRC, to Kampala, Uganda in January 2025, the TFV held a retreat in The Hague in relation to the *Lubanga* and *Ntaganda* cases to address a number of pending programmatic matters, including the amount of the lump sum *in lieu*. This retreat was in part open to attend for staff of PIOS and VPRS, and important sessions were held together with those sections of the Registry, including in relation to programmatic risks and outreach.

VII. FINANCIAL MATTERS

88. In the reporting period, the TFV obligated a total of USD 2,818,720 for the fourth contractual year with the implementing partner of the Former Child Soldiers Programme. These resources came from contributions earmarked to the *Lubanga* case by Finland (2023), Ireland

⁴⁷ Transmission of VPRS determination of victims' eligibility for reparations and priority status, with confidential *ex parte* annex available only to the TFV and the relevant CLRV, ICC-01/04-02/06-2913, 5 January 2025; (corrigendum to the *ex parte* annex notified on 13 February 2025, ICC-01/04-02/06-2913-Conf-Exp-Anx-Corr-Anx; explanatory note corrigendum to ICC-01/04-02/06-2913-Conf-Exp-Anx); Third decision on the VPRS determinations of victims' eligibility for reparations and priority status, ICC-01/04-02/06-2914, 14 February 2025.

(2022) and Spain (2024) and from contributions earmarked to the *Ntaganda* case from Australia (2021), as well as from other countries' unrestricted contributions, in particular Belgium (2023) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) (2024).

89. In December 2024, the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) approved the constitution of a fund mobilization team that had not existed in the TFV to date, this includes one position to be based in Kinshasa to reinforce DRC-specific mobilisation efforts. All the positions are under classification for recruitment as of the date of the present submission.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The Trust Fund for Victims respectfully requests the Trial Chamber to take note of the present report.



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Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Victims

Dated this 2nd Day of September 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands