

# THE WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**



## FOREWORD BY UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new visibility and profile to the essential roles that women play in our social, political and economic systems, from frontline healthcare workers, trusted leaders, to household masterminds. It demonstrated

also how many public and private systems depend on women performing multiple and often underpaid roles, and the fragility of that construction.

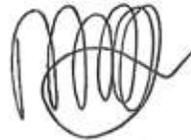
It is time to act on that understanding and to commit to building back in ways that reflect its sharp lessons. This report demonstrates multiple ways, both before and during the pandemic, in which intentional investment in and by women brings stronger, more just, equal and resilient societies.

Women are often the first to respond in a crisis; UN Women immediately took a leading part in the COVID-19 response, flagging essential areas for action like domestic violence and pointing out the implications of the digital gender divide for response

measures reliant on mobile technology. We joined UN entities and women's organizations across the world to extend information and services that keep women safe, establishing critical, gender-disaggregated datasets, bringing global expertise, extensive networks, and a legacy of trust.

I ask governments and all other service providers, including the private sector, to fully include a gender perspective in their response to the crisis and I appeal to funders to enhance support for women and women's organizations.

We must not rebuild the old world but make women and girls central to plans that bring a better future.



**Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and  
Executive Director*

## IN 2019, UN WOMEN WORKED WITH PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD TO:

EXTEND LEGAL AID TO  
MORE THAN

**150,000**  
WOMEN

BRING HUMANITARIAN  
RELIEF TO

**509,000**  
WOMEN AND GIRLS



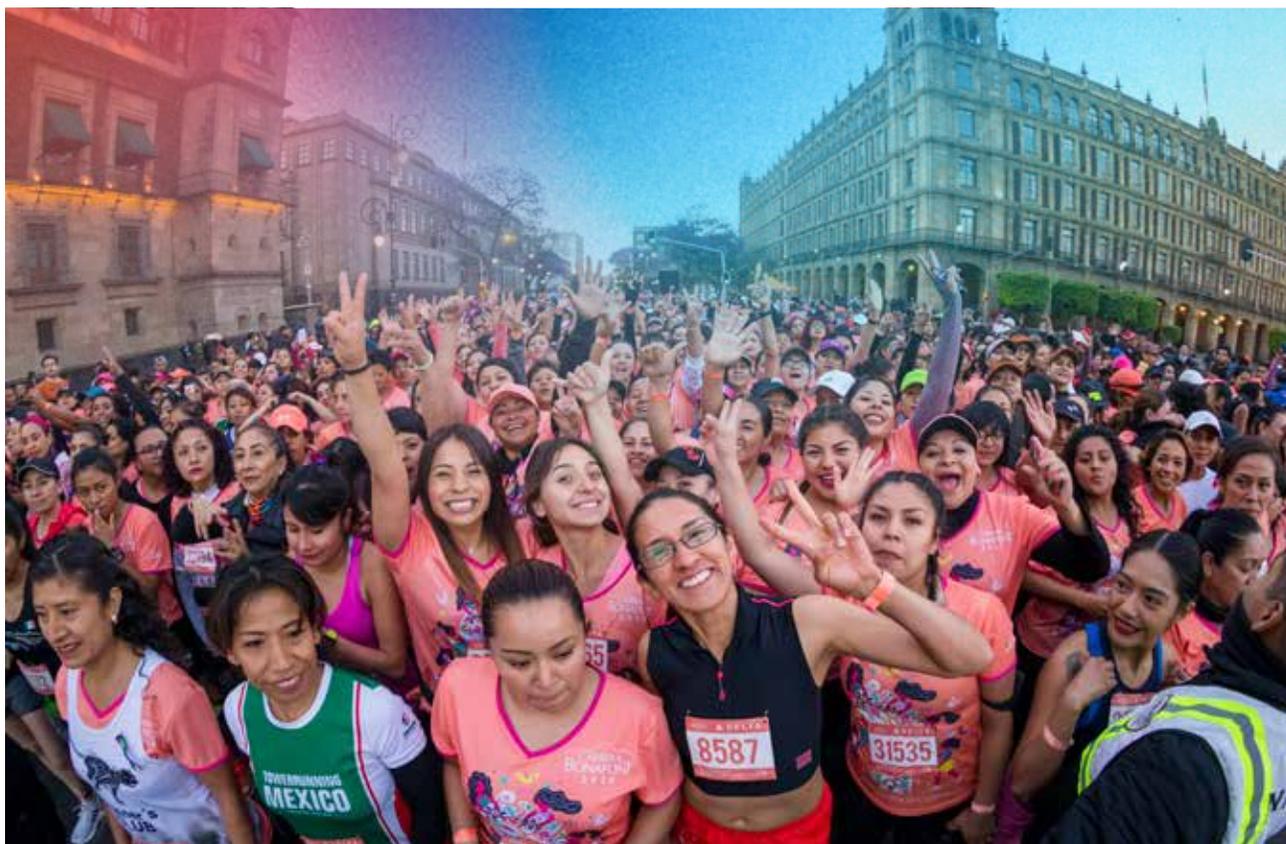
**“WE MUST NOT REBUILD THE OLD WORLD  
BUT MAKE WOMEN AND GIRLS CENTRAL  
TO PLANS THAT BRING A BETTER FUTURE.”**

REVIEW  
PROGRESS  
ON THE  
BEIJING  
PLATFORM FOR  
ACTION WITH  
**102**  
COUNTRIES

ADOPT  
**82**  
LAWS AND  
POLICIES IN  
**40**  
COUNTRIES TO  
EMPOWER WOMEN  
IN THE ECONOMY

SCALE UP  
SUPPORT  
FOR WOMEN  
AND GIRLS  
SURVIVORS OF  
VIOLENCE IN  
**49**  
COUNTRIES

# THE WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS: 2019-2020



**The current situation in the world is precarious for many people. But even more hangs in the balance for most women and girls.** Gender inequalities and discrimination filter through every issue, whether a new pandemic or longstanding conflicts, deep-seated disparities in income or a lack of political voice. Women and girls confront additional risks and obstacles simply because they are women and girls.

**UN Women is at the forefront of the global drive to remove gender barriers, because we believe in a world of justice and human rights for everyone.** Towards that end, and as the only United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality, we marshal the world's best gender expertise and the considerable resources of the United Nations. We connect people in many realms, the national and international, the public and private, activists and officials. Together, our efforts are more than any of us could pursue alone.

**From 2019 to 2020, we saw many signs of progress in all parts of the world.** But as we arrived at a moment of intense challenges and concerns, it was also clear how much more we need to do.

## Unstoppable activism.

Across the globe, women’s activists are at the forefront of economic, social and environmental justice movements demanding systemic change. Their voices are unrelenting in calling for equality with no exceptions in any area of life. They remain undaunted even in the face of concerted pushbacks against women’s rights.

Increasingly, young women are making the case that their human rights require ending ALL forms of inequality, exclusion and injustice. They lead dynamic, diverse coalitions for democracy, migrant rights, LGBTQ+ equality, and climate justice. New impetus for gender equality also comes from men, some of whom are using their positions of power to challenge discrimination. UN Women has brought together activists of all types through our global call for a new “Generation Equality”.

## 25 years of moving forward, but...

2020 was cause for celebration, marking the 25th anniversary of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. There, 189 countries committed to equal rights and opportunities for all women and girls, encapsulating their promises in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

For the anniversary, people around the world took time to assess what’s happened since 1995—and what hasn’t. Under the guidance of UN Women, comprehensive regional reviews took place. They affirmed that more girls are in school than ever before, but the gender pay gap remains unwavering. More countries have passed laws to end violence against women, but violations are troublingly pervasive and have emerged in new forms online. The share of women in parliaments has doubled since 1995, but still hovers at only about 25 per cent. With complex challenges like climate change and COVID-19 threatening progress on all fronts, accelerated implementation

of the Beijing Platform for Action holds renewed urgency, including to meet the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals. Good news came from the 2020 Commission on the Status of Women, the largest annual gathering on gender equality and the empowerment of women at the United Nations. UN Member States adopted a Political Declaration pledging to ramp up actions to realize the promises of Beijing.

## The UN system steps up.

Recent reforms have heralded significant changes in the operations of the United Nations. Every part of the system has an obligation to act on gender equality, including through new frameworks for UN cooperation on development programmes in individual countries. This places an increased and welcome demand on UN Women to provide our globally recognized expertise on gender equality and women’s empowerment. We are coordinating actions to achieve gender equality across the entire UN system, in refugee camps and at peace tables, as well as in international political forums and through joint programmes for women’s empowerment.

## From a virus, heightened vulnerability.

In glaring relief, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the many broken systems in our world, where those who are most vulnerable—whether through age, poverty, race and/or gender—become exponentially more so. From the moment the pandemic broke, UN Women drew worldwide attention to specific tolls on women and girls. We were the first and most prominent voice urging action on escalating rates of gender-based violence during lockdowns. We collaborated with other UN organizations to define family-friendly policies and good workplace practices, and ensure that social protection efforts cushioned economic hardship for women and girls.

## Our story.

This report tells UN Women’s story over the last year. It shares how we and our many partners are striding forward to realize a better world for women and girls—one of equality and empowerment.

Looking forward, we will draw on our full resources and experiences in protecting and advancing the rights of all women and girls. That is what we do and who we are, as a leader, mobilizer, convenor, provider of programmes and partner for change. The challenges are large, but as we build bridges and bring people together to set an agenda for equality, not insurmountable.

**WE LED THE SETTING OF AGENDAS.**

**WE MOBILIZED PEOPLE TO ACT ON WOMEN’S RIGHTS.**

**WE SHARED KNOWLEDGE TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS.**

**WE TRANSFORMED LIVES ON THE GROUND.**

# WE LED THE SETTING OF AGENDAS



MILLIONS  
OF WOMEN  
GLOBALLY  
BENEFIT  
FROM OUR  
COVID-19  
RESPONSE

UN Women’s response to COVID-19 took off in countries around the world within the first weeks of the pandemic. In **Asia and the Pacific**, we conducted the first assessments showing the gender differences in the crisis. Smartphone surveys reached over 1 million people and pinpointed urgent issues, such as the fact that women in **Pakistan** were receiving less information than men about how to protect themselves. In the **Philippines**, mental health outlooks were worse for women than men.

Using insights like these, UN Women took immediate steps to steer policies and services to meet women’s needs—and rights. We set forth guidance on risk communication for marginalized groups that is now being used globally. We reached out to business leaders to commit to sustaining women’s livelihoods. We helped channel cash grants to women and forge national standards to protect women and children in quarantine facilities in **Indonesia**. A national campaign in **Afghanistan**, Salam for Safety, used images of strong Afghan women to encourage social distancing through traditional no-touch greetings.

Achievements in other regions included establishing online classrooms with partners such as Google and MTN in **South Africa** to assist 4,500 women-owned businesses to access stimulus funding. Advocacy in **Lebanon** backed expanded “cash for care” provisions for women struggling with increased domestic responsibilities. In **St. Lucia**, UN Women helped strengthen health, school meals, housing and other services for women reliant on public assistance.

WOMEN HOLD  
**30%**  
OF POSITIONS  
TO DRAFT  
A NEW  
CONSTITUTION

**Making peace with women.**

The long road to peace in **Syria** winds through agreement on a new Constitution. A major advance came in 2019 as women assumed nearly 30 per cent of the seats on the committee to draft the Constitution. It was a long way from the 10 per cent share in previous rounds. The achievement built on UN Women’s close partnership with the UN Special Envoy to Syria and ongoing support for the Women’s Advisory Board, an advocate in Syria’s political process.

From the configuration of the political system to priorities to restart services and the economy, women will have a voice in decisions with far-reaching impacts on their country. Having a board dedicated to advising on women and peace has proven so effective that similar bodies have been created in Iraq, Libya and Yemen.



**Leading gender-responsive humanitarian action.**

In countries in crisis, 83 per cent of UN humanitarian teams now turn to UN Women for dedicated gender expertise, a testament to our global role in making humanitarian action meet the needs of women and girls. A key resource is the *Handbook on Gender in Humanitarian Action*, developed by UN Women, and now shaping humanitarian plans for some of the most acute crises. In the crowded camps of Rohingya refugees in **Bangladesh**, a Gender Hub advances rapid uptake of practices such as systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data to guide accurate provision of

**83%**  
OF  
HUMANITARIAN  
TEAMS  
USE OUR  
EXPERTISE

humanitarian services and supplies. That gives women and girls in dire straits a better chance at securing food, health care and protection from violence.

GENDER-  
RESPONSIVE  
DISASTER  
POLICIES COVER  
**181**  
MILLION  
PEOPLE

**No more turning a blind eye to women’s risks.**

Gender can define disaster risks, but risk reduction strategies and policies have often been gender blind. UN Women in 2019 led a drive to integrate specific provisions for women in disaster plans, policies and needs assessments that covered 181 million people in 40 countries. The gender dimensions of disaster risks are now a matter of national policy in **Fiji**, integrated in the national disaster management act and climate change bill, along with guidelines on displacement and relocation. Gender also features prominently in disaster preparedness training provided by central authorities to local communities.



**Protecting biodiversity, upholding equality.**

When Parties to the global Convention on Biological Diversity convened to come up with a framework for protecting the world’s biodiversity over the next decade, they backed UN Women’s call to embed a gender perspective. That means making specific commitments and adopting targets that, for instance, bring more women and girls into decision-making about biodiversity conservation, and ensure equitable sharing of considerable benefits from genetic resources, among many possibilities. Women have always been critical in safeguarding the diversity of plant and animal species. Achieving gender equality and protecting women’s rights opens prospects for sustainable work and income, and greater empowerment.

# WE MOBILIZED PEOPLE TO ACT ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS



**Be the change.  
Join Generation Equality!**

**660  
MILLION  
PEOPLE  
ENGAGED ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA**



Gender equality activists, young and old, from every corner of the globe. More than 660 million people on social media. Star-power like Nicole Kidman, Charlize Theron, Vidya Balan, Kristen Bell, Alyssa Milano, Ximena Sariñana, Denis Mukwege, Priyanka Chopra, Melinda Gates, Marcelo Ebrard and President Emmanuel Macron. Trend-setting businesses, including Netflix. UN Women mobilized them all to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women and its landmark commitments to gender equality. More than that, through our Generation Equality campaign, we asked them to imagine an equal future and take actions to make it real for all women and girls, from equal pay to an equal say in leadership to the end of gender-based violence.

In **Europe and Central Asia**, as part of regional actions under Generation Equality and to mark the Beijing anniversary, UN Women tapped individual women to share stories that resonated across the region—and exemplified the experiences of the billions of people who each day stand on the right side of history. Among many issues, women told of marshalling the courage to overcome the shame of being a child born of rape during conflict in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, fighting for transgender rights in **Ukraine**, using sports to demolish gender stereotypes in **Turkey** and spreading “green” values in **Kyrgyzstan**. Their voices were clearly heard, online and through social media, in events with political leaders and beyond.

MORE THAN  
**13,000**  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
SHIFTED NORMS



**Calling on entire societies to prevent gender-based violence.**

Everyone must take part in challenging the deeply entrenched norms that sustain violence against women and girls. In **Tanzania**, local governments, community activists, women’s groups, traditional leaders, police officers, health-care providers, and men and boys all heeded UN Women’s call to denounce

harmful norms that sustain violence against women and girls. Community dialogues with nearly 65,000 women stressed prevention and the right to live in safety. Over 13,000 young people led efforts to stop violence in their communities.



**Legislators+lawyers+magistrates+civil society equals free legal aid.**

In **Liberia**, UN Women stood with women legislators and advocates as they championed the successful adoption of a farsighted Legal Aid Policy. Women who cannot afford legal services now have free assistance in claiming their rights. With the policy in place, UN Women partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to mobilize all those involved in putting it into practice—legal aid providers to expand services, magistrates and public defenders to define their new roles, and civil society activists to make sure women know their rights. Related efforts saw passage of the landmark Domestic Violence Act, Liberia’s first formal legal ban on physical, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse.

**The ad industry unites to stop the stereotypes.**

Through the Unstereotype Alliance, UN Women drew together 96 companies committed to using new tools to unpack stereotypes and gender biases, and unleash creative talent for gender equality. Cutting-edge research has uncovered the true extent of stereotyping even in innocuous Google searches. Partnership with Cannes Lions defined “unstereotyped” judging criteria for the prestigious advertising awards, a practice that has now spread to two major regional awards, Spikes Asia and Dubai Lynx.



**96**  
COMPANIES CHALLENGED GENDER BIASES

# WE SHARED KNOWLEDGE TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS



**Defining a new take on the family.**

INNOVATIVE  
DATA AND  
CREATIVE POLICY  
IDEAS PROVIDE  
AN ESSENTIAL  
RESOURCE FOR  
ADVOCACY

Recent debates on families have been polarizing, at times denying women’s rights in favour of “traditional” family values. Robust evidence to counter this worrisome trend came in the 2019-2020 edition of UN Women’s flagship report, *Progress of the World’s Women*. Dedicated to exploring transformations in family life, *Families in a Changing World* finds that families, in all their diversity, can support women to enjoy their rights and achieve their full potential. A trove of innovative data, sound analysis and creative policy ideas has become an essential resource for gender advocates across the globe to reclaim and reframe the family as a space for equality and justice.

The report, featuring a new global dataset unequivocally demonstrating that there is no “standard” family, has already sparked wide-ranging debates around scaled-up social protection for lone-mother families, and lent momentum to reforms of discriminatory family laws. In **Mexico**, findings from the *Progress* series have beefed-up protections of women’s sexual and reproductive rights, and the rights of migrant women and their families.

## NOW WE KNOW: THE TRUE BURDEN OF UNPAID CARE



disparity, and the costs and benefits of resolving it. **Colombia** is among the countries now developing a new national care policy to better share the burden, including through the provision of public services. Other recent measurement advances have come through statistical methods that in 2019 allowed the first global reporting on several key indicators tracking progress on gender equality under the global Sustainable Development Goals. The world can now see how well legal frameworks, budgets and local political systems uphold women's rights.

## Every woman and girl counts.

UN Women stands at the vanguard of solutions to a longstanding global concern: the absence of vital statistics reflecting the lives of women and girls. The gap renders many gender inequalities invisible. Take the hugely disproportionate amount of time that women and girls spend on unpaid care work, rarely measured or understood, yet resulting in lost opportunities for education and paid employment. UN Women has pioneered measures to generate detailed evidence on this



## Bring the data. Save lives.

UN Women in 2019 launched the Women Count Data Hub, already used by people in 192 countries. It quickly emerged as a vital resource in the COVID-19 crisis, issuing up-to-the minute sex-disaggregated data informing decisions and actions to save lives. Even as the pandemic broke, UN Women partnered with the World Health Organization to provide the first global data on COVID-19 cases by sex and age, drawing on reports from

over 125 countries. Featured data and research tell the real stories of what is happening to women and girls, including women's major roles in risky front-line health-care jobs. Preliminary data already shows the rate of infections among female health workers is twice that of their male counterparts. This finding fuels calls for adequate protection and better inclusion of women in decisions to improve COVID-19 detection and prevention.

THE WOMEN  
COUNT DATA  
HUB OFFERED  
THE FIRST  
COVID-19 DATA  
BY SEX FOR  
**125**  
COUNTRIES

## A sea change in national labour policy.

Profound changes in **Viet Nam's** Labour Code in 2019 built on two years of detailed analysis by UN Women. Research defined gender gaps in current laws, mapped ways to close them and generated compelling data, like the fact that women's lower retirement age would shave 1.3 per cent off gross domestic product. Women's lagging participation in paid labour was not helped by prohibitions on working in 77 occupations, and a burden of unpaid care work more than twice that of men. Insights like these shaped revised legislation centred on a shift from restricting women in the workforce to promoting their empowerment and gender equality. The new Labour Code reduces the gender gap in retirement age, ends bans on occupations for women, extends childcare, provides paternity leave and requires workplaces to address sexual harassment.



# WE TRANSFORMED LIVES ON THE GROUND



**Essential services keep up with crisis.**

**USD  
35  
MILLION  
WENT TO CIVIL  
SOCIETY IN  
2019, DOUBLE  
THE GRANT-  
GIVING  
TARGET**

Managed by UN Women, the **UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** became more critical than ever as the COVID-19 crisis took off. As evidence mounted that the pandemic was fanning gender-based violence, and as emergency services were quickly overwhelmed by health-care demands, the Trust Fund reached out to its 144 civil society grantees in 69 countries and territories to help them sustain essential services for violence survivors.

In **Egypt**, the Al Shehab Institution for Comprehensive Development continued providing psychosocial, legal and medical services for marginalized women in the sprawling slums around Cairo, but now with a hotline to ease access. It took further measures to maintain supplies of life-saving medicines, particularly for women living with HIV. In **Kosovo**<sup>1</sup>, Medica Kosova provided virtual services so that isolated survivors could continue reaching a psychologist, lawyer and other staff.

In 2019, the UN Trust Fund managed 137 projects in 70 countries and territories. Doubling its grant-giving target, it awarded grants worth USD 35 million to 79 organizations, including 35 projects in Africa and Latin America under the Spotlight Initiative, a partnership between the European Union and the United Nations.

1. All references to Kosovo are under Security Council resolution 1244.

## ENTREPRENEURS MADE GAINS IN 20 COUNTRIES

### Making market links for women in business.

“Gender equality means good business” is the rallying cry of WeEmpower, a partnership between UN Women, the European Union and the International Labour Organization. It works with businesses and women entrepreneurs to open doors for women in the private sector in 20 countries, including under the Win-Win initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean. In **Jamaica**, that has improved prospects for long-marginalized women coffee growers. They struck ties with the International Women’s Coffee Alliance, a conduit to major coffee purchasers and markets all over the world. Another new link has been to the global Coffee Quality Institute, where a three-year partnership will enhance product quality, towards moving up the coffee value chain to higher-return premium brands.



### Stop the violence, stop it now.

The global Spotlight Initiative fuels UN Women’s actions to change laws, strengthen institutions, promote new norms, and provide better data and services to end violence and discrimination against women and girls. Through Spotlight, an EU-UN partnership, in 2019 UN Women led United Nations teams in 27 countries in developing comprehensive programmes to stop all forms of violence.

Collaboration helped the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in **Argentina** to develop a Protocol for Investigating Femicide Cases and bolster the registration of cases, both essential to ending femicidal violence. Further impetus for change came during a national election, when UN Women aligned

with the women’s movement and civil society organizations to put gender-based violence and femicide at the centre of political debates and public awareness. In other parts of the world, Spotlight backed advocacy to strengthen legislation protecting women from violence in **Uganda**. It supported the Police Service Women’s Network in three districts of **Malawi** with community outreach to women and girls so more will claim their rights and report cases of violence.

## UN WOMEN LEADS UN EFFORTS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN 27 COUNTRIES

### Election barriers fall for women with disabilities.

As in most countries, women across **Moldova** are still struggling to gain a fair share of elected offices. For women with disabilities, the barriers are even greater. So in the 2019 local elections, UN Women backed specialized training for them to run for seats as mayors and councillors. They learned campaigning skills as well as legal rights and strategies to push back discriminatory norms. Six out of seven triumphed in their races, showing just how far determination and courage can take a modicum of committed support. Elena Crasmari, pictured to the right, is one of them. With campaign platforms centred on issues like making public institutions fully accessible and improving health services, the women are well on the way to living their own potential, and delivering better lives for their communities.



# CONVENING PEOPLE, CONNE

At UN Women, beyond what we do ourselves, we know change is more powerful when many people demand it together



At the **FIFA Women's Football Convention** in Paris, FIFA President Gianni Infantino (right) and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (left) agreed on continued collaboration.



Among the activists, governments and change makers who convened at the **Women Deliver 2019 Global Conference**, UN Women fired up inspiration with its groundbreaking **Generation Equality** campaign.



At the **World Economic Forum**, UN Women mobilized 100 business leaders and celebrities, like Google CMO Lorraine Twohill, Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff and music legend Angélique Kidjo, to join the **Generation Equality Action Coalitions**.



As a consequence of the global COVID-19 pandemic, millions of people now find themselves indoors. The **#HeForSheAtHome** campaign spotlighted women's unfair burden of domestic work, and told men: Do your equal share!



At the **Elected Women Summit in Colombia**, women leaders reaffirmed their commitment to put women at the forefront of politics and policies to promote gender equality.



The SDG-inspired **Thomas & Friends™** episodes, with the new female engine created with support from UN Women, Nia, have aired in 36 countries and in 19 languages.



Philanthropist **Melinda Gates** believes the Generation Equality Forum "can be the organizing force behind a powerful agenda for change." The civil-society centered, global gathering by UN Women and co-hosted by Mexico and France has been rescheduled for 2021 tbc.



UN Women and **Nasdaq** launched the annual **Ring the Bell for Gender Equality** initiative, where stock exchanges globally took a moment to endorse the Women's Empowerment Principles.



**ADCOLOR's** Most Valuable Partners Award went to UN Women and **Google** for "Courage to Question", a virtual reality video series spotlighting four women's rights defenders fighting for equality.



Young activists like **Rania Ayman**, founder of **Entreprenele**, championed a new generation of issues at **Beijing+25 youth forums** held in Africa, Arab States and Latin America.



UN Women partnered with global communications and ad giant **WPP** to "**Unpack the Everyday**" with digital and outdoor campaign spots attracting 73+ million views in the United States. Using a creative take, the spots profiled everyday objects women carry to protect themselves, sending a powerful message against gender-based violence.



With prominent announcements in the Stockholm subway and 10,400 Instagram followers, the **Swedish National Committee** for UN Women galvanized attention to the **16 Days of Activism** against Gender-based Violence.

# ACTING OUR WORLD

## Partnership defines progress.



UN Women and other UN organizations joined **Hello Kitty** to raise awareness on the SDGs through #HelloGlobalGoals videos. Running on Hello Kitty's fan YouTube channel, they proved popular among young people.



With over 80 top-tier media outlets from across the world signing the **Media Compact**, UN Women reached new audiences and shifted narratives on gender equality.



Two young artists created a song to condemn rape and sensitize their peers as part of the **16 Days in Senegal**.

In **Thailand**, participants at the Asia-Pacific regional Beijing+25 Review took a stand under the global call to **"Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape"**.



On International Women's Day, **Netflix** and UN Women launched **"Because She Watched"**, a compelling collection of TV series, documentaries and films selected by female creators.

UN Women Goodwill Ambassadors (from left) **Jaha Dukureh, Marta Vieira da Silva, Emma Watson, Anne Hathaway, Danai Gurira** and **Nicole Kidman** offered powerful voices backing the quest for gender equality.



Partnerships among governments, civil society and beyond have shaped Beijing+25. The Political Declaration adopted at the 2020 **Commission on the Status of Women** committed to accelerated action.



UN Women leverages **social media platforms** in over 20 languages, reaching over 11.2 million followers by 2020. Besides traditional platforms like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram, it is active on TikTok to reach younger audiences.



A partnership with the **Alibaba Foundation** connected rural women farmers in **Liberia** to better information, finance and new markets, and improved products through labour-saving technology.



Sudanese activists (from left) Alah Salah, Samah Jamous and Huda Ali shared first-hand insights on peace at a **Civil Society Forum** in parallel to a UN Security Council session. UN Women, Sweden and NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security sponsored the event.

Through UN Women's civil society partners, over 3,000 women's rights and gender equality advocates spoke out at **regional Beijing+25 consultations**.



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

FOR THE  
FIRST TIME,  
UN WOMEN  
EXCEEDED THE  
USD  
500  
MILLION  
MARK IN  
REVENUES, AN  
INCREASE OF  
30%  
OVER 2018

In 2019, through the generosity of our funding partners, UN Women empowered and protected millions of women and girls. Our partners stood by their longstanding commitment to UN Women's purpose and increasing global influence as a champion of gender equality.

For the first time, UN Women exceeded the USD 500 million mark in revenues, a 30 per cent increase over 2018, largely driven by earmarked contributions. Voluntary contributions from 113 governments and intergovernmental organizations, 28 inter-organizational arrangements and international financial institutions, and 72 private sector and other partners accounted for 95 per cent of USD 500.4 million in total revenues. The remainder 5 per cent is comprised of assessed resources and other revenues from investment income, exchange transactions and other sources.

Unrestricted and flexible regular resources are critical for UN Women to make a far-reaching, lasting impact on the lives of women and girls, yet these funds fell by 4 per cent, to USD 143 million. Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom were the largest contributors to regular resources. France, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and Spain generously increased their regular resources contributions. The Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Saint Lucia and Sri Lanka made strategic and efficient multi-year commitments.

Revenue from private corporations, foundations and UN Women National Committees rose by 31 per cent over 2018, reaching USD 32.8 million.

## 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Thousands of USD

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Contributions	
Regular resources	142,963
Other resources	357,430
Assessed resources	10,162
Investment income	12,829
Other revenue	3,857
Revenue: exchange transactions	161
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>527,402</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>420,890</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>106,512</b>

#### NOTES:

These statements have been prepared on an accrual basis, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues and expenses are recognized in the financial statements in the period to which they relate.

Assessed contributions are issued as an annual allotment from the United Nations regular budget, and are assessed and approved for a two-year budget period. The amount of these contributions is then apportioned between the two years.

### TOP 15 GOVERNMENT DONORS

(expressed in USD)

COUNTRY	Regular Resources (Core)	Other Resources (Non-Core)	TOTAL
1. European Commission <sup>1</sup>	-	84,427,239	84,427,239
2. Sweden	13,051,394	43,089,537	56,140,931
3. Norway	11,700,012	19,550,780	31,250,792
4. United Kingdom	16,224,386	10,515,059	26,739,445
5. Finland	11,123,471	8,952,907	20,076,378
6. Switzerland	16,032,064	3,328,743	19,360,807
7. Japan	3,926,139	13,724,712	17,650,851
8. Denmark	8,999,704	6,462,470	15,462,174
9. Canada	4,887,229	9,554,462	14,441,691
10. Australia	5,539,455	8,845,771	14,385,226
11. United States of America	7,225,000	6,947,939	14,172,939
12. Germany	8,905,800	5,262,022	14,167,822
13. Netherlands (the)	4,444,444	5,357,021	9,801,466
14. Italy	2,200,220	6,499,062	8,699,282
15. United Arab Emirates (the)	5,108,903	-	5,108,903

<sup>1</sup> The European Commission is a Government member organization. This amount includes funding towards the Spotlight Initiative (USD 59.21 million).

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN WOMEN IN 2019

From governments and other donors (expressed in USD)

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL
<b>GOVERNMENTS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
Afghanistan	1,000	-	1,000
Albania	500	-	500
Algeria	1,000	-	1,000
Andorra	45,181	-	45,181
Argentina	190,540	250,000	440,540
Armenia	2,500	-	2,500
Australia	5,539,455	8,845,771	14,385,226
Austria	285,388	3,943,851	4,229,239
Bahamas (the)	5,000	-	5,000
Bahrain	20,000	-	20,000
Bangladesh	16,500	-	16,500
Barbados	216,657	-	216,657
Belgium	4,545,455	-	4,545,455
Bhutan	500	-	500
Bulgaria	15,000	-	15,000
Burundi	979	-	979
Cambodia	5,000	-	5,000
Cameroon	-	71,444	71,444
Canada	4,887,229	9,554,462	14,441,691
China	2,000,000	10,000	2,010,000
Colombia	-	57,971	57,971
Costa Rica	10,000	-	10,000
Côte d'Ivoire	26,348	-	26,348
Croatia	-	200,000	200,000
Cuba	1,000	-	1,000
Cyprus	11,200	-	11,200
Czech Republic	17,298	-	17,298
Denmark	8,999,704	6,462,470	15,462,174
Dominican Republic (the)	73,930	-	73,930
Eritrea	1,000	-	1,000
Estonia	90,909	-	90,909
Ethiopia	5,000	-	5,000
European Commission <sup>1</sup>	-	84,427,239	84,427,239
Fiji	4,543	-	4,543
Finland	11,123,471	8,952,907	20,076,378
France	1,365,188	2,243,030	3,608,218
Gabon	52,692	-	52,692
Gambia (the)	10,000	-	10,000
Georgia	10,000	-	10,000
Germany	8,905,800	5,262,022	14,167,822
Greece	500	-	500
Grenada	-	54,648	54,648
Guyana	4,836	-	4,836
Hungary	-	20,000	20,000
Iceland	1,115,180	1,640,699	2,755,879
Indonesia	147,000	-	147,000
Iraq	1,000	-	1,000
Ireland	1,668,521	2,075,575	3,744,096
Israel	10,000	40,000	50,000
Italy	2,200,220	6,499,062	8,699,282
Jamaica	3,990	-	3,990
Japan	3,926,139	13,724,712	17,650,851
Kazakhstan	44,962	835,842	880,804
Kuwait	50,000	-	50,000
Latvia	11,001	-	11,001
Lebanon	300	-	300
Libya	500	-	500
Liechtenstein	25,426	15,255	40,681
Lithuania	5,501	-	5,501
Luxembourg	1,677,852	910,125	2,587,977
Malawi	-	419,616	419,616
Malaysia	50,000	-	50,000
Malta	227	34,110	34,336
Marshall Islands (the)	100	-	100
Mauritius	2,500	-	2,500
Mexico	69,589	372,145	441,734
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1,000	-	1,000
Monaco	22,222	-	22,222
Mongolia	7,000	-	7,000
Montenegro	2,188	-	2,188
Morocco	20,000	256,546	276,546
Mozambique	5,000	-	5,000

1. The European Commission is a Government member organization. This amount includes funding towards the Spotlight Initiative (USD 59.21 million).

2. Other UN Donors include: UNAIDS, UNOPS, UNTFHS, UNAMID, IOM, UNICEF, UNOCT, UNESCO, World Bank, UNODC, UNCDF, UNIDO, UNDP, MONUSCO, FAO, UNMIK, MINUSTAH, UNHCR, and ILO.

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL
Nauru	100	-	100
Nepal	2,000	-	2,000
Netherlands (the)	4,444,444	5,357,021	9,801,466
New Zealand	1,678,750	1,016,438	2,695,188
Nicaragua	5,000	-	5,000
Niger (the)	100	-	100
Nigeria	57,858	-	57,858
Norway	11,700,012	19,550,780	31,250,792
Palau	100	-	100
Panama	15,000	-	15,000
Paraguay	550	-	550
Peru	6,118	-	6,118
Philippines (the)	2,500	-	2,500
Poland	51,387	-	51,387
Republic of Korea (the)	3,406,629	1,043,048	4,449,677
Republic of Moldova (the)	3,000	-	3,000
Saint Lucia	100	-	100
Samoa	3,261	-	3,261
Senegal	576,805	-	576,805
Serbia	28,578	-	28,578
Sierra Leone	12,500	-	12,500
Singapore	50,000	-	50,000
Slovak Republic (the)	55,006	-	55,006
Slovenia	11,001	22,753	33,754
South Africa	42,553	-	42,553
Spain	770,077	1,688,288	2,458,365
Sri Lanka	5,000	-	5,000
Sweden	13,051,394	43,089,537	56,140,931
Switzerland	16,032,064	3,328,743	19,360,807
Thailand	20,000	-	20,000
Timor-Leste	72,676	-	72,676
Tonga	5,618	-	5,618
Trinidad and Tobago	5,000	5,000	10,000
Turkey	236,641	125,000	361,641
Ukraine	10,000	-	10,000
United Arab Emirates (the)	5,108,903	-	5,108,903
United Kingdom	16,224,386	10,515,059	26,739,445
United States of America (the)	7,225,000	6,947,939	14,172,939
Uruguay	6,000	-	6,000
Viet Nam	85,372	-	85,372
Zambia	500	-	500
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>140,570,703</b>	<b>249,869,109</b>	<b>390,439,812</b>

## UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO)		31,571,126	31,571,126
Peacebuilding Fund	12,657,737		12,657,737
UNDP	6,242,695		6,242,695
UNFPA	4,651,604		4,651,604
UNOCHA	3,196,136		3,196,136
Other UN Agencies <sup>2</sup>	11,091,901		11,091,901
UN Women-administered Joint Programmes	3,328,193		3,328,193
<b>TOTAL UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,739,392</b>	<b>72,739,392</b>

## NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Australia	705,622	145,490	851,112
Austria	1,953	13,216	15,168
Finland	475,137	-	475,137
France	-	283,418	283,418
Germany	103,932	80,775	184,707
Iceland	823,002	206,768	1,029,769
Japan	16,638	60,823	77,461
Netherlands	7,604	9,588	17,193
New Zealand	6,341	10,000	16,341
Singapore	16,171	250,573	266,744
Sweden	61,366	38,808	100,174
United Kingdom	77,749	943,465	1,021,214
United States of America (the)	60,915	2,989,369	3,050,284
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>2,356,431</b>	<b>5,032,291</b>	<b>7,388,722</b>

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL
<b>FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS &amp; OTHERS<sup>3</sup></b>			
African Development Bank	-	231,120	231,120
Alcance	-	21,500	21,500
Alibaba Group Holding Limited <sup>4</sup>	-	30,000	30,000
Alwaleed Philanthropies	-	750,000	750,000
American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. <sup>4</sup>	-	30,000	30,000
Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, Spain	-	100,970	100,970
Beijing Liujiu	-	99,093	99,093
BHP Billiton Foundation	-	5,448,600	5,448,600
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	-	9,402,299	9,402,299
BNP Paribas	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bonafont S.A. (Danone)	-	100,000	100,000
Caribbean Development Bank	-	53,600	53,600
Chanel Foundation	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
China Women's Development Foundation	-	72,557	72,557
City Government of Canelones, Uruguay (Gobierno de Canelones)	-	49,363	49,363
City Government of Montevideo, Uruguay (Intendencia de Montevideo)	-	26,433	26,433
De Beers PLC	-	990,000	990,000
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd	-	600,000	600,000
Ford Foundation	-	198,020	198,020
Foundation to Promote Open Society	-	150,000	150,000
Government of Nariño, Colombia (Gobernación de Nariño)	-	69,688	69,688
Hewlett Packard Foundation	-	25,000	25,000
Ibero-American General Secretariat (Secretaría General Iberoamericana-SEGIB)	-	13,806	13,806
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	-	106,918	106,918
International Olympic Committee	-	856,440	856,440
Inter-Parliamentary Union	-	40,000	40,000
Interpublic Group (IPG) <sup>4</sup>	-	150,000	150,000
Itabora Municipal, Brazil	-	97,041	97,041
Itaipu Binacional	-	259,908	259,908
Justice Rapid Response	-	247,019	247,019
Lojas Renner Institute (Instituto Lojas Renner)	-	61,895	61,895
Mars, Incorporated <sup>3</sup>	-	60,000	60,000
Microsoft Corporation <sup>4</sup>	-	30,000	30,000
Municipality of Guadalajara, Mexico (Municipalidad de Guadalajara)	-	156,987	156,987
Municipality of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (Ayuntamiento Distrito Nacional)	-	67,496	67,496
National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía -INEGI)	-	660,008	660,008
Omnicom Group Inc. <sup>4</sup>	-	30,000	30,000
Princes Exchange Foundation	-	161,290	161,290
Revlon (Elizabeth Arden)	-	325,000	325,000
SAER-EMPLOI, Mali	-	24,963	24,963
Safaricom PLC <sup>4</sup>	-	112,500	112,500
SAP China	-	133,453	133,453
Shiseido	-	409,197	409,197
Soko, Inc.	-	20,004	20,004
Standard Bank of South Africa Limited	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
State Government of Coahuila, Mexico (Gobierno de Coahuila)	-	287,149	287,149
Supreme Council for Women, Kingdom of Bahrain	-	75,000	75,000
Teck Resources Ltd.	-	72,000	72,000
Tides Foundation	-	400,000	400,000
Turkish Petroleum Refineries Co.	-	250,000	250,000
Twitter Inc. <sup>4</sup>	-	30,000	30,000

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL
United Nations Women for Peace Association	-	50,000	50,000
Unilever	-	1,287,338	1,287,338
University of Central America, (Universidad Centroamericana "José Simeón Cañas")	-	710,776	710,776
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	-	150,000	150,000
Zonta International	-	333,000	333,000
HeforShe (Donate Button)	-	43,528	43,528
Miscellaneous Donors <sup>5</sup>	35,644	128,803	164,447
<b>TOTAL FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS &amp; OTHERS</b>	<b>35,644</b>	<b>29,789,763</b>	<b>29,825,407</b>
<b>TOTAL 2019 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>142,962,777</b>	<b>357,430,555</b>	<b>500,393,332</b>

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN 2019<sup>6</sup>

From governments and other donors (expressed in USD)

CONTRIBUTORS	TOTAL
<b>GOVERNMENTS</b>	
Austria	55,741
Canada	745,291
European Commission <sup>7</sup>	26,297,170
Hungary	20,000
Ireland	277,778
Israel	20,000
Liechtenstein	15,255
Netherlands (the)	2,405,882
Norway	1,089,918
Sweden	3,127,932
Switzerland	101,535
Trinidad and Tobago	5,000
United Kingdom	5,148,005
United States of America	850,000
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>40,159,509</b>

## UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	1,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	2,500
<b>TOTAL UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>3,500</b>

## NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Australia	13,456
Austria	2,408
Germany	56,186
Iceland	121,768
Japan	18,050
Netherlands	9,588
Sweden	13,776
United Kingdom	6,554
United States of America	512,043
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>753,827</b>

## FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS & OTHERS

Soko International	20,003
UN Women for Peace Association	50,000
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	150,000
Miscellaneous Donors	12,140
<b>TOTAL FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS &amp; OTHERS CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>232,143</b>
<b>TOTAL 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>41,148,979</b>

3. In-kind services provided to UN Women in 2019 amounted to USD 7.2 million. Amongst the top contributors were WPP and GNT Globo TV, Brazil.

4. Private sector contributors to the Unstereotype Alliance.

5. Miscellaneous Donors includes online and individual giving donations for HeforShe, UNTF and UN Women.

6. Contributions to UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, which was phased out during 2019, were received from Israel (USD 20,000) and the UN Women National Committees of Germany, UK and USA (total USD 14,387).

7. The European Commission is a Government member organization. This amount includes funding towards the Spotlight Initiative (USD 59.21 million).

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## PHOTOS:

**Cover photo:** Volunteer Charmaine Ladot supports planning and logistical arrangements for distributing supplies donated to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in South Cotabato, Philippines. UN Women/Louie Pacardo.

**P. 1:** On International Rural Women's Day, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka visited a project in Oromia, Ethiopia. She listened to stories of some of the over 3,000 women empowered through better livelihoods. UN Women/Zina Alam.

**P. 2:** More than 70,000 women in four cities of Mexico celebrated International Women's Day by joining the Bonafont Race for a Cause, the world's largest women-only run and part of the global partnership between UN Women and Grupo Danone. UN Women/Dzilam Méndez.

**P. 4:** Women play prominent roles as health-care workers and volunteers, like these in Bangkok, Thailand, who serve on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response. UN Women/Ploy Phutpheng.

**P.5 (from top to bottom):** UN Women/Nadira Islam; UN Women/Lauretta Ah Sam; UN Women/Ryan Brown.

**P. 6:** In Kyiv, Ukraine, thousands of women took to the streets to demand ratification of the Istanbul Convention to stop gender-based violence. UN Women/Volodymyr Shuvayev.

**P.7 (from top to bottom):** UN Women/Deepika Nath; UNMIL Photo/Staton Winter; UN Women/Images D'Azur.

**P. 8:** The "Because I am a Man" campaign encouraged thinking about family roles in new ways, demonstrated by a father practicing martial arts with his daughter. UN Women/Zaki Qutteineh.

**P.9 (from top to bottom):** UN Women; U.S. Army National Guard/Sgt. Amouris Coss via Flickr; UN Viet Nam/Aidan Dockery.

**P. 10:** UN Trust Fund grantees like Medica Kosova, an NGO in Kosovo, have made sure that essential services for survivors of gender-based violence keep up despite the COVID-19 crisis. Photo Courtesy Medica Kosova.

**P. 11 (from top to bottom):** Photo courtesy Jamaican Women in Coffee (IWCA Jamaica); Spotlight Initiative; UN Women/Tara Milutis.

**P. 12: (from top to bottom, left to right):** Mike Hewitt, FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images; UN Women/Elif Gulec; Joe Short for Project Everyone; UN Women; UN Women/Juan Camilo Arias; Thomas & Friends UN collaboration; @melindafrenchgates via Instagram; NASDAQ/Libby Greene; UN Women/Angeline Martyn; UN Women/Lauren Rooney; Wunderman Thompson, GroupM, Hogarth, Big Leo Productions, Paul Sirisalee, Raina Kattelson, Tee Hundley; UN Women Sweden.

**P. 13: (from top to bottom, left to right):** UN Women/Lauren Rooney; France24 (screenshot); UN Women/Dieynaba Niabaly; UN Women/Younghwa Choi; Netflix (screenshot); Photo credits left to right: UN Women/Ryan Brown, UN Women/Ryan Brown, UN Women/Simon Luethi, UN Women/Celeste Sloman, UN Women/Ryan Brown, UN/Mark Garten; UN Women/Ryan Brown; UN Women; Courtesy Alibaba Foundation; UN Women/Ryan Brown; UN Women/Antoine Tardy.

**UN WOMEN IS THE  
UN ORGANIZATION  
DEDICATED TO GENDER  
EQUALITY AND THE  
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN.  
A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR  
WOMEN AND GIRLS,  
UN WOMEN WAS  
ESTABLISHED TO  
ACCELERATE PROGRESS  
ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS  
WORLDWIDE.**



UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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