

BUILDING PEACE AND RESILIENCE

**LIVING FREE
OF VIOLENCE**

**RUN
VOTE**

**WOMEN'S
NETWORKS**

GENDER ADVOCATES

**WOMEN
LEADING THE WAY**

**INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIES**

EQUAL PAY

EQUAL REPRESENTATION

**GENDER
EQUALITY**

**EMPOWERING
THROUGH ECONOMIES**

RESPONDING TO CRISIS

**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.**

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Progress and Equality for All

Foreword by UN Women Executive Director

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF REFORM AND RENEWAL.

WHILE SOME DIVIDES IN OPINION HAVE SHARPENED, THE HUNGER FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER,

with vigorous public debate, social mobilization and awareness-raising to transform social norms and strengthen accountability for the implementation of commitments. Persisting high levels of violence against women, economic exclusion and other systemic inequalities are of deep concern, galvanizing old and new partnerships in the drive for lasting solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



It has also been a year of profound change for the UN system. UN Women has been fully engaged in the ongoing reforms, to ensure that they strengthen system coherence in supporting gender equality and women's empowerment, and providing guidelines for working environments with inclusivity, diversity and equality. In tandem, we have been making the adjustments we need within UN Women to be well prepared for changes in the UN Development System, and to meet the challenges of a mobilizing world that is not yet sufficiently on track to meet the goals of 2030. This includes diversifying partnerships for change, focusing on interventions that we can scale up and replicate within and across countries, with results that we can measure quantitatively and qualitatively.

For example, around the world, over 2.5 billion women and girls suffer the consequences of discriminatory laws and gaps in legal protections. Our new strategy on Equality in the Law seeks to fast-track the repeal of discriminatory laws in 100 countries by 2023.

Our report underlines why it has never been more important to get results for those who suffer multiple forms of discrimination, including LGBTI people,

“... AROUND THE WORLD, OVER 2.5 BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AND GAPS IN LEGAL PROTECTIONS. OUR NEW STRATEGY ON EQUALITY IN THE LAW SEEKS TO FAST-TRACK THE REPEAL OF DISCRIMINATORY LAWS IN 100 COUNTRIES BY 2023.”

women and girls with disabilities, young girls in poor communities, women and girls in indigenous communities, and refugees and migrants. It shows how women like the historically marginalized Nofotane in Samoa, previously often exploited as domestic servants, can improve their access to sustainable employment and fair income at the same time as employers learn their legal responsibilities. Similarly, we tell the story of how in Cape Verde, 13,000 women domestic workers linked up in association and worked with the Government to develop standards related to their work hours, salaries and vacation time. The report describes how our work has helped women to gain historic victories in local elections in Tunisia and participate safely in general elections in Zimbabwe. It tells how the Republic of Serbia was encouraged to draw on the voices of those frequently left out of discussions on national reporting, like rural women, older women, women with disabilities and Roma women. And how our Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection programme in 2018 was able to assist nearly 29,000 South Sudanese refugees as well as the members of communities that host them, with similar programmes in 32 more countries, providing services to 235,000 crisis-affected women and girls.

Knowing where gaps exist is key to their speedy resolution. For example, we are working with partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to measure and monitor SDG indicators on women's land rights and tenure security, with the potential to use that knowledge to secure and protect the land rights of over 108 million women and girls in these countries. Through our joint work with partners on accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women, 315,000 women, men and children in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda have improved food security and nutrition, as well as income security.

As the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women concluded in 2019, better gender analysis is needed also to inform the development of and investment

in social protection, public services and infrastructure. For example, our cost-benefit analysis in Republic of North Macedonia is helping to support choices about scaling up government investment in early childhood education and care as a strategic use of resources that fuels stronger economies and the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

Flagship publications like our 2018 global monitoring report on the implementation of the SDGs, *Turning promises into action: gender equality in the 2030 Agenda*, are integral to the analysis and policy guidance we provide. Through such reports, we are able to take stock of ongoing trends and challenges, highlight continuing critical inequalities and lead policy-driven action. *Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a changing world* similarly challenges the boundaries of our world view and shifts us out of preconceptions into informed response.

As you read this report, I invite you to celebrate the rich progress evident in a multitude of countries, as communities large and small tackle violence, poverty, discrimination and exclusion with creativity and determination. **The massive challenges of the 2030 Agenda – and the forces opposing gender equality – demand accelerated and scaled up SDG implementation and partnerships, to bring progress and lived equality to even the most marginalized.**



Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director*

Our Shared Purpose: Gender Equality in Our Lifetime

UN WOMEN CONNECTS PEOPLE, ISSUES AND IDEAS BEHIND ONE SHARED PURPOSE: MAKING GENDER EQUALITY A REALITY IN OUR LIFETIME.

Working and thinking together propels global action that reaches women and girls the world over, going far beyond what any single organization could ever hope to do alone.



INEQUALITIES REMAIN ACUTE. REACTIONARY FORCES CONTINUE TO RISE. YET EVERYWHERE, WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE ON THE MOVE, CALLING FOR MORE PROGRESS.

IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, UN WOMEN IS THE ONLY ENTITY SOLELY DEDICATED TO ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS.

It helps advance internationally agreed standards on gender equality and support countries in translating them into practice through laws, policies and services.

Reactionary forces continue to rise. Yet everywhere, women and girls are on the move, calling for more progress. Governments, businesses, civil society, faith-based organizations, men's groups and other allies are coming on board to achieve gender equality, many through partnerships with UN Women.

on Women in 1995 as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, we are working to bring lasting change. Aimed at innovation and scale, our efforts are helping to shift markets and mindsets, strengthen statistical measurement, sharpen public policy-making and shape humanitarian action.

UN Women's commitment to reaching women marginalized by multiple forms of discrimination and bias is unwavering. At the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, United Nations Member States issued a Ministerial Declaration highlighting the role of gender equality in realizing the 2030 Agenda, and supporting UN Women's role in leaving no one behind.

Gender equality can never be a partial project. It must be a hope and a reality for every woman, man, girl and boy – in our lifetime and for generations to come.

AIMED AT INNOVATION AND SCALE, OUR EFFORTS ARE HELPING TO SHIFT MARKETS AND MINDSETS, STRENGTHEN STATISTICAL MEASUREMENT, SHARPEN PUBLIC POLICY-MAKING AND SHAPE HUMANITARIAN ACTION.

It uses experiences in countries to inform agreement on new gender equality norms. And through its links across the United Nations, it puts gender equality at the centre of all three pillars of global progress: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

In 2018-2019, the backdrop for UN Women's mission is a time of immense challenges in the world. Inequalities remain acute.

All over the world, people join forces with UN Women because they trust us as a champion of gender equality and women's empowerment. They value our expertise and reach, and our historic relationship with feminist and women's rights movements. They know we lead new thinking and alter the frontiers of public debate. And increasingly, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action agreed at the Fourth World Conference

Photo: In Nepal, Chandra Kala Thapa celebrates new earning power gained by switching to high-value crops on her small farm.

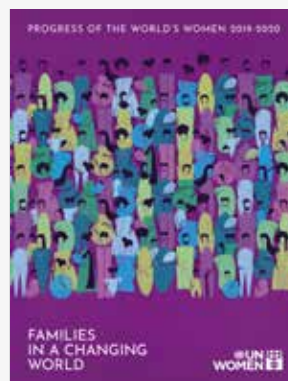


PROGRESS OF THE WORLD'S WOMEN 2019-2020: FAMILIES IN A CHANGING WORLD

UN WOMEN'S *PROGRESS OF THE WORLD'S WOMEN* REPORT PROVIDES FORWARD-THINKING ANALYSIS OF GLOBAL CONCERNS THAT ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO GENDER EQUALITY. The 2019 edition is no exception, taking up the theme "Families in a Changing World." It asks: How can laws, policies and public action support households and families so that women realize their rights to resources, bodily integrity and voice?

The report chronicles how families can make or break women's and girls' chances to realize their rights. Some families are places of love and care, but many others stifle rights and voices. The worst cases are sources of life-threatening violence.

Families are diverse and need society's support to ensure that all members can thrive. The report calls for a comprehensive, family-friendly policy agenda



oriented around gender equality. It envisions families as a home for equality and justice, where women can exercise choice and voice, and have economic security and physical safety. A series of recommendations summarize essential ways forward, such as ending discrimination in law, recognizing diverse families in laws and policies, adopting gender-responsive social protection and investing in care services.

Photo: A woman in Ghana takes advantage of free, high-quality child care for market vendors.



GEARING UP FOR THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF A LANDMARK AGREEMENT



**IN 2020, THE
WORLD WILL
CELEBRATE
THE 25th
ANNIVERSARY**

OF THE LANDMARK 1995 WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, held in Beijing. It will be a chance to scrutinize what has – and has not – been done on the agreement negotiated at the conference. Known as the Beijing Platform for Action, the agreement outlines actions under 12 critical areas of concern.

The anniversary will be a rallying point to insist on finally achieving the human rights of all women and girls. As an essential part of global mobilization, UN Women is bringing together the next generations of women's rights activists with the gender equality advocates and visionaries who were instrumental in creating the Beijing Platform for Action. Collectively, these change-makers of all ages and genders can tackle the unfinished business of empowering women through a new, groundbreaking, multigenerational campaign: **“GENERATION EQUALITY: REALIZING WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR AN EQUAL FUTURE”**. It will demand equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and

girls, responsive health-care services and equal participation in decision-making in political and all other areas of life.

A series of national and regional reviews will mark the anniversary. By 2019, these were already underway, coordinated by UN Women in partnership with national institutions and the UN's regional economic and social commissions. The reviews look at progress as well as challenges in fulfilling the promises of the Beijing Platform for Action, including those that may influence the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In **JORDAN**, for example, UN Women has supported a national review aligned with the development of the next national women's strategy. A regional steering committee for **ASIA AND THE PACIFIC** will connect regional and sub-regional civil society organizations, and serve as a channel for diverse inputs into the regional review. To mobilize the next generation, a Young Women's Beijing Conference for those aged 25 and below is planned for **AFRICA**.

Photo: Racha Haffar, founder of the Tunisian organization “Not for Trade”, is among many young activists gearing up to tackle the unfinished business of the Beijing Platform for Action.

UN Women 2018 Key Results at a Glance

Leadership and Governance

44

LAWS ADOPTED OR REFORMED to strengthen women's rights in **25 COUNTRIES**



10,000+

aspiring **WOMEN LEADERS TRAINED** to run for office

18,000+

JUSTICE PERSONNEL TRAINED on women's human rights standards in **54 COUNTRIES**

21

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MACHINERIES and

211

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS BETTER EQUIPPED to advocate for and monitor gender-responsive plans and budgets

Almost

25,000

PEOPLE TRAINED on improving gender data collection and use

Ending Violence against Women

48

COUNTRIES ADOPTED THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES PACKAGE, providing better and more coordinated support for women and girl survivors of violence



2.2+ MILLION PRACTITIONERS ACCESSED

the Virtual Knowledge Centre to end violence against women and girls



8

NEW CITIES STARTED INITIATIVES to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women in public spaces

Global Norms and Standards



5,200+

civil society representatives from

640+

organizations and **137 COUNTRIES** **ATTENDED THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 63 IN MARCH 2019**



Coordinated/led by UN Women,

83%

OF UN COUNTRY TEAMS

reported to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Economic Empowerment



50,000+

WOMEN
INCREASED ACCESS
to and control over
productive
resources in
26 COUNTRIES



23,000+

WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS
HAVE BETTER
ACCESS to
financial services in
25 COUNTRIES



273

PARTNERS
DEVELOPED AND/
OR IMPLEMENTED
procurement policies
to prioritize
women-owned and
women-led
businesses

385

COMPANIES
SIGNED
the Women's
Empowerment
Principles,
bringing the total to
2,082

Women, Peace and Security Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction

76.5%

of UN Security Council resolutions and
other key documents
**INCLUDED REFERENCES TO WOMEN,
PEACE AND SECURITY**

77

MILLION
people live in
16 COUNTRIES
where disaster risk
reduction better
identifies and
addresses the needs
and inclusion of
women and girls

325,500

WOMEN AND GIRLS
RECEIVED
humanitarian
assistance and
benefitted from
disaster risk
reduction and
resilience work in
48 COUNTRIES



Survivors of sexual violence in
12 CONFLICTED-AFFECTED
COUNTRIES HAVE BETTER
ACCESS TO JUSTICE
through the deployment of
31 EXPERTS

Communications and Advocacy

8.2M

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
across 106 accounts in
17 languages



33,000

MENTIONS OF
UN Women in the
news

NEW UN WOMEN
GOODWILL
AMBASSADORS:

Jaha Dukureh
Danai Gurira
Marta Vieira da Silva

WOMEN LEADING THE WAY



Women gathered at one of the oldest Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia to share experiences in fostering peace in their communities.

IT'S A LONG-STANDING GLOBAL AGREEMENT: WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AND LEAD IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Recognizing that right, more countries than ever before have moved towards gender parity in parliaments, local governments and political parties, as has the United Nations in its upper echelons. Yet to fully realize this right in our lifetime, much remains to be done. UN Women collaborates with legislatures, electoral management bodies, women's networks and other United Nations entities to end stereotypes that keep women out of leadership roles, increase the number of women leaders, and build their skills and capacities. We help countries plan and budget based on gender equality principles, measure progress through better gender data and guarantee equality under the law.

CLAIMING WOMEN'S RIGHTFUL ROLE IN POLITICS

TUNISIA is passing through its second revolution in recent years – a women's revolution. When polls for local elections closed in 2018, women had taken 47 per cent of the seats, the highest share by far in the Arab States and one of the highest in the world. Leading up to the poll, UN Women was a tireless supporter for women realizing their rights to participate in politics. After collaboration with women's advocates and others to push through a 2016 electoral law

requiring gender parity on electoral lists, training helped women candidates develop aptitudes to run and win. UN Women-sponsored research on women voters provided candidates with the insights needed to craft appealing campaigns, while gender-sensitive monitoring of elections entailed deploying 75 election observers who were alert to the barriers deterring women's participation.

UN Women convened all of the actors in the 2018 general elections in **ZIMBABWE** (government ministries, academia, civil society groups, gender advocates, security officers, Parliament and independent commissions on gender and human rights, among others) through a "Gender Observatory". The first institution of its kind in the country, the Observatory drew on UN Women's global experience of integrating gender issues in the electoral cycle. Each observer was charged with encouraging women's participation, better understanding women's equal rights and roles in elections and monitoring obstacles that might stand in the way.

IN TUNISIA'S 2018 LOCAL ELECTIONS, WOMEN TOOK 47% OF THE SEATS, THE HIGHEST SHARE BY FAR IN THE ARAB STATES AND ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.



UPHOLDING EQUALITY IN LAW AND JUSTICE

Around the world, over 2.5 billion women and girls suffer the consequences of discriminatory laws and gaps in legal protections. In 2019, UN Women joined other leading international and regional organizations to roll out a road map for eliminating discriminatory laws. It calls for fast-tracking repeals in 100 countries by 2023, removing some of the most egregious legal barriers. Over 50 million women and girls will no longer live with legal provisions allowing them to be paid less, for example, or denied full citizenship, among other priority issues. The initiative will build on UN Women's significant global track record in working with countries to 'level the law'. In 2018, assistance helped **UKRAINE** repeal discriminatory provisions against women in the armed forces. Women lawyers in **AFGHANISTAN** gained skills in gender-responsive legislative analysis and advocacy.

Across the **ARAB STATES**, legislative reforms are unfolding to protect women's rights, yet

the law still frequently fails to deliver for women and girls. In 2018, UN Women convened close to 200 gender experts, activists, legislators, jurists and government officials to debate what more must be done to end discrimination in laws and policies. The event followed the release of a UN Women-sponsored study of laws and policies in 18 Arab countries. The study was conducted with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia. One of the most comprehensive assessments ever of these issues, it shed much-needed light on gender in constitutions and a variety of laws. The findings provide sound evidence for future action. None of the 18 countries, for instance, grant women equal rights in marriage, divorce, guardianship and custody of children.

After UN Women shared a demonstrated practice from Mexico, **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

became the first of four Caribbean nations to establish a Gender Equality Protocol for Judicial Officers. It provides detailed guidance to make sure that women can access justice not just in theory, but in practice. In applying it, judicial officers can better respond to the difficulties some women face in getting to court, such as missed appearances related to a lack of childcare. Officers have reported being more informed on how to protect women's rights in cases determining child support and responding to gender-based violence.

In **INDONESIA**, UN Women supported the development of a training module that helps judges avoid gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours when adjudicating cases involving women in conflict with the law. The module has been adopted and piloted by Indonesia's Supreme Court, which has committed to institutionalizing it in the training of in-service judges.

CHANGING INSTITUTIONS TO ADVANCE EQUALITY

Across the **UNITED NATIONS**, UN Women coordinates actions to advance gender equality, accelerating momentum on many levels. In 2018, for the first time, gender parity was attained in both the UN Senior Management Group and among the Resident Coordinators who oversee country operations. Based on extensive consultations, UN Women issued the *Enabling Environment Guidelines and Supplementary Guidance*. The guidance provides comprehensive recommendations to achieve a working environment that prizes inclusivity, diversity and equality. A network of over 200 gender focal points continuously advocates for the advancement of women within individual organizations.

Updated accountability frameworks have mainstreamed gender into United Nations entities and country teams using the second generation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on Gender

A NETWORK OF OVER 200 GENDER FOCAL POINTS CONTINUOUSLY ADVOCATES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN WITHIN INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM.

Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard. The updates more closely aligned the frameworks to UN reform priorities, including new guidance on the 2030 Agenda. Sixty-six United Nations entities reported on performance indicators under the updated UN-SWAP; 24 UN country teams used the updated scorecard. Thirty-two teams piloted UN INFO, which includes a mandatory gender marker to keep spending in line with commitments to gender equality.

UN Women works on institutional changes within national governments as well. A partnership with the Legislative Assembly, the Ministry of Justice and the Women

Mayors and Councillors' Association in **BOLIVIA** hosted regional and national gatherings attended by over 20,000 women. The meetings shared information on international norms and standards, which women used to design a national agenda for dismantling patriarchy. The President of Bolivia created a Cabinet dedicated to implementing the agenda, which spells out measures to realize women's rights under seven pillars. Early priorities include better integration of gender equality in regional and local development plans, fully accounting for women's economic contributions in the national budget, and enacting a law upholding sexual and reproductive rights.

LISTENING TO EVERY VOICE

As the **REPUBLIC OF SERBIA** prepared its fourth report on national efforts to comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UN Women worked with women's non-governmental organizations on parallel "shadow" reports that actively encouraged the participation of women frequently left out of such discussions: rural

women, older women, women with disabilities and Roma women. After considering the reports, the UN committee that oversees CEDAW urged the Government of Serbia to take measures to achieve the equal representation of all women in all areas of public and political life, to provide free legal aid for all cases of gender-based discrimination, and

to strengthen the prevention of and responses to gender-based violence.

Towards opening more space for women to express their voices in media outlets in the **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**, where most journalists are men and gender stereotyping is common, UN Women has provided training on gender-balanced reporting. It has also stood behind the creation of a network of journalists committed to content free of sexism.

Photo: Justice Lisa Ramsumair-Hinds and Justice Judith Jones in Trinidad and Tobago and Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee of the Caribbean Court of Justice oversee training that makes court officers more responsive to gender issues.

The Fund for Gender Equality

The Fund for Gender Equality is UN Women's global grantmaking mechanism and multidonor fund dedicated to supporting civil society in its key role in realizing the SDGs. The Fund seeks to accelerate women's economic and political empowerment.



IN 2018, THE FUND MANAGED 25 PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF USD 7.6 MILLION REACHING 82,000 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES.

In **ALBANIA**, years of advocacy led by the Association for Women's Security and Peace (AWSP) contributed to the Government's adoption of the first National Action Plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The numbers of women in leadership positions in the State Police and the Ministry of Defense have already increased as a result. AWSP galvanized previously fragmented civil society groups around the first national coalition on resolution 1325. It is now testing new approaches to strengthen the coalition's capacities to monitor implementation of the national plan and generate further public awareness.

In **SAMOA**, through the support of the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG), historically marginalized Nofotane women – women married to men from a different village and living with their in-laws and often exploited as domestic servants – have improved their

access to sustainable employment. SVSG provided livelihood trainings to nearly 5,200 Nofotane women living in 182 villages, linked them to job markets and raised awareness among 630 employers about the legal responsibilities when employing them. Nofotane women now have an increased presence in jobs that are productive, secure and deliver a fair income.

Supported by the Fund, women-led organizations from a handful of countries have learned to apply human-centred design tools that boost engagement among project participants. In **PARAGUAY**, for example, the Centro de Documentación y Estudios helped establish a radio programme produced and led by domestic workers. The number of women planning to join domestic workers organizations rose by 40 per cent after only five weeks.

Photo: The launch of Albania's first National Action Plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security has already led to more women leaders in the police.

Investments that deliver

MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

Who helps UN Women make every woman and girl count?

Our partners include the Governments of Australia, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America as well as Alwaleed Philanthropies, Alibaba, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Revlon.

Photo: Detailed records tracking the cultivation and sales of crops allow women farmers in Brazil, like Glorinha Dantas de Paula Pereira, to know the full value of what they produce.



NUMBERS TELL A STORY. OR DON'T, IF THEY ARE MISSING, as is the case with sex-disaggregated statistics in much of the world. Too often, statistics fail to measure the specific issues and obstacles women, men, boys and girls face, such as why women are in or out of the labour market, and how pervasive the problem of domestic violence really is.

UN Women leads a global initiative, “Making Every Woman and Girl Count”, that marshals considerable technical expertise and a number of influential partners. The programme is committed to developing data that tells women’s and girls’ stories on all issues, and informs policy and budget choices that accelerate gender equality.

Collaboration with the World Bank, for example, produced the first ever global estimates of poverty by sex. Partnership with the International Labour Organization has resulted in new figures for 88 countries breaking down labour force participation rates by sex and marital status. The exercise has provided some of the first compelling evidence of how marriage, often linked to high burdens of unpaid care and domestic work, keeps women out of labour markets.

In 2018, UN Women joined the Government of **MEXICO** to launch the Center of Excellence on Gender Statistics, which will push forward the frontiers of gender statistics around the world by sharing research and innovation. Mexico also hosted the first Global Conference on Gender Equality and the Measurement of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, a dynamic exchange on gender, data and the global goals among representatives of national statistical agencies, international experts and leading academics. **COLOMBIA** is among the countries already moving forward with a new national agreement on innovative gender measurements capturing women’s status according to their level of income.

Six pathfinder countries under Making Every Woman and Girl Count – **BANGLADESH, KENYA, MOROCCO, NEPAL, TANZANIA** and **UGANDA** – conducted national assessments of gender statistics in 2018. **KENYA**, for example, has committed to integrating gender dimensions in all data-collection activities, including at the county level, where governments have a central role in making choices related to public services.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ECONOMIES



Tukuri Marie Chantal is an active member of a cooperative in Cameroon preparing to access expanded markets and economic opportunities linked to a new road.

DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL PROTECTION ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO REALIZING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING, AND BOOSTING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF ECONOMIES AT LARGE.

Yet women still occupy a disproportionate share of poor quality jobs, endure a long-standing gender pay gap, and shoulder an unfair burden of unpaid domestic and care work. Drawing together diverse partnerships, from grass-roots women's groups to international development banks, UN Women helps connect more women to economic opportunities and assets. Our efforts concentrate foremost on reaching women at the furthest and least-protected margins, such as domestic workers and smallholder farmers. On a broader scale, through evolving national policymaking and global norm-setting, we challenge the patterns in economies that continue to perpetuate women's exclusion.

REACHING THE MOST MARGINALIZED

For women on the margins of society, hopes for a better life often stir once they organize together to claim their rights. In **CAPE VERDE**, more than a quarter of employed women struggle to get by as domestic workers. Most lack contracts or social protections such as pensions. But they have started to claim their right to decent work through the Association of Cape Verdean Domestic Employees. Backed by UN Women, it now links 13,000 workers across the country. In 2018, the Association worked closely with government officials to develop regulations for domestic workers in line with international commitments under CEDAW and the conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Women once vulnerable to exploitation now have rules for contracts, and standards related to work hours, salaries and vacation time.

Reaching women who come from marginalized communities in **CAMEROON** has been linked to a rural road-building project initiated by the Government with funding from The Development Bank of Central African States. With trade and populations expected to boom, UN Women is supporting training for 20,000 women along the road to gain financial and entrepreneurial skills, and improve farming techniques to meet the demands of new markets.

Through UN Women's Markets for Change programme, women market vendors in remote rural communities in **FIJI, SOLOMON ISLANDS** and **VANUATU** have created 19 vendor associations with over 7,500 registered members, giving them a voice in making markets safe and well managed. Over 2,500 women have taken

part in training in financial literacy and business practices. Over 1,000 women have learned new agricultural practices to improve the produce they sell in the markets.

For many women, migration for work is an empowering choice, but many others are left vulnerable to a litany of risks and human rights violations, including exploitative labour. In 2018, the first international blueprint for keeping migration safe was agreed: the Global Compact for Migration. As a result of UN Women's efforts and the commitment of UN Member States and other actors, the Global Compact includes human rights and gender-responsive approaches as core guiding principles, along with provisions to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.



CALLING FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

Around the world, widening economic inequalities have become an increasingly stark reality, driven by stagnating wages and poor quality employment, among other factors. Yet proposed solutions mainly revolve around giving employers more flexibility, even if that means weakening workers' rights, and lowering taxes for corporations and the wealthy. In 2019, UN Women called **GLOBAL** attention to how current economic models have failed to address the gender dimension of inclusiveness. A compendium of thought pieces by leading feminist economists, *Gender Equality and Inclusive Growth: Economic Policies to Achieve Sustainable Development*, considers what genuinely gender-inclusive economies might look like. It argues for patterns of growth that 'equalize up,' including by creating decent work and

productive employment for all women and men, and ending the discriminatory burden of unpaid care and domestic work placed on women and girls. Guarding against harmful inclusion requires applying human rights principles to guide all trade, industrial, macroeconomic, finance and investment policies.

In **ETHIOPIA**, UN Women plays an active part in both shaping national economic policy and transforming local economies to open more opportunities for women. Partnership with the World Bank and other major donors factored gender into the 2019 national Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessment for the first time, based on a gender gap analysis supported by UN Women. Collaboration with the International Monetary Fund drew the attention of high-level officials in the Ministry

of Finance to new evidence on the profound contribution gender equality can make to economic growth.

In tandem, to reach women directly in remote and impoverished rural areas, UN Women helped lead a coordinated UN drive to boost the livelihoods of smallholder women farmers. Nearly 3,000 have now gone through training on planting techniques that has improved productivity, strengthened food security and raised incomes. Women-led local cooperatives teach leadership and management skills – and allow the women to pool their resources to purchase equipment such as tractors. The benefits of the programme extend far beyond the women themselves, accruing to 14,000 family members and 32,000 community members.



INCREASING RESILIENCE TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

Under its Global Flagship Programme on Climate Smart Agriculture, UN Women has piloted the innovative Buy from Women platform. An open source ERP (enterprise resource planning) system developed specifically for women farmers helps them gain fast access to information, markets and finance – all the essentials for establishing viable commercial enterprises. Digital land records aid women in securing their assets; mobile wallets mean they can easily access banking services. Several countries are now adopting the system, including **HAITI**, where the focus is on opportunities for women in cocoa production, given rising global demand.

Photo, left: In rural Ethiopia, Kamso Bame plans to install a new roof with higher earnings from more productive methods to breed sheep. Above: A safe and clean place to rest after travelling long distances is among the many facilities that now support women market vendors in Fiji.

WOMEN IN SENEGAL LEARN CLIMATE-SMART FARMING TECHNIQUES, GAIN LINKS TO LARGER PRIVATE SECTOR MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS, AND CULTIVATE MARKETING SKILLS.

A partnership between UN Women and the BNP Paribas Group in **SENEGAL** is aimed at reaching more than 30,000 women farmers in five areas of the country that are vulnerable to poverty and climate change. The programme fosters access to finance and productive resources, and brings women into higher-value agriculture, such as shea butter and rice production. Women learn climate-smart farming techniques, gain links to larger private sector manufacturers and exporters, and cultivate marketing skills.

In line with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UN Women worked with governments in the **CARIBBEAN**, the **PHILIPPINES** and **SERBIA** to ensure that plans to combat land degradation and drought involve women in decision-making, strengthen women's land rights and access to resources, integrate women's economic empowerment, and enhance their access to knowledge and technologies.

A global gathering agrees to close infrastructure and service gaps

UN Women serves as the substantive Secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the world's largest annual gathering on gender equality.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM MORE THAN 163 STATES AND OVER 5,200 MEMBERS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDED THE 63RD SESSION IN MARCH 2019.

In two weeks of intense dialogue, ministers, senior government officials and other stakeholders deliberated on a comprehensive agenda for achieving social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure that are gender-responsive and advance the rights of women and girls. Persistent and often large gender gaps in these areas, such as in pensions, parental leave, health care, and water and sanitation, are among the steepest obstacles to ending discrimination.

The resulting Agreed Conclusions adopted by Member States provide a road map of measures for countries

to close the gaps, end discrimination and address the needs of different groups of women and girls. The measures encompass increased investments in social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, coupled with assurances that spending will be protected from budget cuts that could undermine progress over time. Member States stressed the imperative of recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work, and scaling up quality, affordable public care services, as well as mobilizing resources, strengthening women's participation and improving the evidence base. Other measures aim to guarantee safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, end violence against women and girls, and ensure that transport planning accounts for the different needs of women and men, along with persons with disabilities and older people.

Photo: As members of the next generation, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides came to the Commission to share their views on stepped-up actions to achieve gender equality.

Investments that deliver

BUILDING THE CASE FOR THE “CARE ECONOMY”



Who helps UN Women build the case for the care economy?

Funding partners include the Governments of Finland and the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Photo: Doroti Pachkova is the President of “One Can”, a group dedicated to single mothers in the Republic of North Macedonia. She advocates to reduce stigma against single mothers as well as unfair burdens of care.

EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WOMEN SHOULDER A DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK, WITH LITTLE RECOGNITION OR COMPENSATION. This renders many less likely to work for income, escape poverty, accumulate savings, get an education, participate in politics, or have time for rest and self-care. Under these conditions, gender equality will not be achieved. UN Women has been at the forefront of a global call to start measuring and valuing what women do.

For most countries, a major barrier to action, besides the assumption that women should be the default providers of unpaid care, has been a perception of high cost. Extending services to provide more childcare or time-saving access to water or electricity seems like another pressure on often scarce resources. Through UN Women’s work, however, there is an emerging body of compelling evidence showing that these investments, while substantial, also bring significant returns.

A growing number of countries are turning to UN Women to perform a cost-benefit analysis of unpaid care as part of making choices about public services and economic policies. In the **REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**, the Government is committed to planning future investments in early childhood education and care services, recognizing that for years these have been inadequate and, in rural areas, unavailable. The issue had become a burning concern, taken up by gender advocates, civil society groups and academia.

A team of experts from UN Women began to crunch the numbers on the costs of expanding these services and the potential economic impacts. The study found that while there would be a large upfront investment of around 3.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually, new jobs would be created. This would boost overall employment by 4 per cent and women’s employment by 6.2 per cent. Increased tax revenue and social security contributions would deliver a 5.8 per cent rise in GDP. The bottom line: public investment in free universal childcare would be self-funding and not require a tax hike. A typical mother of two benefiting from 11 years of free childcare would ‘repay’ the original investment after 7 and 14 years of full-time employment on average earnings.

A similar initiative in **KYRGYZSTAN** recently provided the country’s first evidence for scaling up government investment in early childhood education and care. It has helped policymakers understand public spending on social care infrastructure as a strategic and smart use of resources that will fuel a stronger economy and the achievement of multiple SDGs.

LIVING FREE FROM VIOLENCE



A group of young women graffiti artists painted orange murals in Guatemala City to support UN Women and the UNITE to End Violence against Women Campaign.

**EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL HAS THE RIGHT TO A LIFE FREE FROM VIOLENCE,
YET ALL OVER THE WORLD, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
REMAINS THE MOST COMMON VIOLATION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS.**

UN Women has long realized the power of urging all sections of society to stand up and say “no more” – to harassment, domestic battery, sexual violence or any other form of abuse. Our programmes and advocacy involve women’s organizations, the private sector, schools, media, and groups of youth and men. Together, we are establishing comprehensive essential services, and robust legal protections and practices grounded in nationally and internationally agreed standards. Outreach campaigns unite an ever-growing number of people to speak out for a violence-free world.

PROVIDING BETTER SERVICES

In the conflict-affected northern region of **MYANMAR**, along the border with China, the trafficking of women is a rampant problem. Many end up married to men in China or are forced to bear children as surrogate mothers. Instability in the region combines with deep-seated poverty to leave many women highly vulnerable to the risk of trafficking.

In Kachin State, UN Women has collaborated with the state government, the police and local civil society organizations to develop a novel system of community mobilizers. They make women and communities aware of the risks of trafficking, and have links to the police, guaranteeing an immediate response if a case occurs. In 2018, over 2,500 people

in border communities gained essential information about prevention as well as safe migration. New services to develop livelihood skills mean women can mitigate some of the risks of poverty by improving their incomes, such as through rearing pigs and fish. Legal aid and psychosocial support aid trafficking survivors in recovering and taking their cases to court, resulting in five perpetrators being sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment in 2018. Similar initiatives to tackle trafficking were carried out in **CAMBODIA** and **THAILAND**.

Under a European Union-funded regional programme on ending violence against women in the **WESTERN BALKANS** and **TURKEY**, more than 1,500 service providers have boosted their knowledge of case management, data collection, reporting, and referral and response mechanisms. The programme also connects over 60 civil society organizations, including those representing women facing multiple forms of marginalization. It supported the creation of the first platform of civil society organizations dedicated to ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the region.

IN MYANMAR, OVER 2,500 PEOPLE IN BORDER COMMUNITIES GAINED ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT PREVENTION AS WELL AS SAFE MIGRATION.

OFFERING BETTER PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW

In **KOSOVO**,¹ UN Women coordinated women's groups and other partners in preparing detailed recommendations for amending the Criminal Code in line with international norms, including the Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women, known as the Istanbul Convention. Subsequent revision of the Code means that it now, for the first time, considers domestic violence as a separate criminal offense, accurately defines all acts of domestic violence, and stipulates

prison sentences without allowing a past practice of perpetrators simply paying fines. To jumpstart implementation of the new law, UN Women helped introduce a training course for police that has already been rolled out in seven major municipalities.

UN Women partnered with the Organization of American States and its Committee of Experts of the Convention of Belem Do Pará to devise a new model law on femicide for the countries of **LATIN AMERICA**. It powers up advocacy

for nations to pass legislation on femicide where they still lack it, and to close existing gaps in laws in 18 countries. In **HONDURAS**, UN Women coordinated efforts by women's organizations in conjunction with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to successfully push for criminalizing femicide in the revised Penal Code adopted in 2018. A newly created government-civil society Femicide and Women's Violent Death Commission will track implementation.

TACKLING AN OLD PROBLEM IN NEW WAYS

UN Women has partnered with Unilever in **INDIA** to create safer, more empowering workplaces for rural women workers. The company knows this is critical to any business' ability to prosper. Starting in tea gardens high in the mountains of the state of Assam, women workers, company managers and non-governmental organizations have come together to define and address safety concerns. New measures have included women-only buses for safe passage to work and confidential reporting channels for cases of violence or harassment.

Based on these experiences, in 2018, UN Women and Unilever launched the Global Women's Safety Framework. It highlights what works to prevent violence and harassment against women, particularly those working in agriculture. In **KENYA**, life skills training based on the framework has already reached nearly 4,500 students from 10 schools, including on tea estates. They have gained new awareness of how to recognize, prevent and report sexual harassment.

In **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**, UN Women encouraged high-school students to generate new ideas to stop gender-based violence. After a marathon 48-hour hackathon, two winning innovations emerged. One involves a bracelet that sends an SMS alert if a risk of violence arises. Working with UN Women and Networks, a business start-up accelerator, the team that created it has fine-tuned an initial prototype, connected with other startups, and is now launching a company to start production. Another student innovation has been the first online platform providing peer support and information on gender-based violence specifically for young girls. The site features quizzes, news and blogs, and is being promoted on television as well as through visits to high schools.

IN HONDURAS, UN WOMEN COORDINATED EFFORTS TO SUCCESSFULLY PUSH FOR CRIMINALIZING FEMICIDE IN THE REVISED PENAL CODE.

¹ Under UN Security Council resolution 1244.

Photo: Women tea plantation workers in India act collectively to call for change in their workplace. "We are one. Raise your voice," they chant in unison.



MOBILIZING TO END VIOLENCE ONCE AND FOR ALL

During the annual 16 Days of Activism in 2018, the UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign galvanized global actions by governments, police, youth, civil society, journalists, artists and many others. Under the campaign's trademark "Orange the World", a #HearMeToo theme amplified the voices of survivors with over 500 activities in 80 countries.

ECUADOR's Judiciary Council, for example, agreed to begin regular exchanges with civil society and women's groups on stopping violence. A debate on child marriage between civil society and the Government in **MOZAMBIQUE** resulted in the National Assembly committing to approve a new law to prevent the practice.

As a public display of national commitment, 54 iconic landmarks around the world were illuminated in orange, including the Great Pyramids of Giza, the Angel of Independence in Mexico City, the Kigali Convention Centre

in Rwanda and the European Parliament building in Brussels. Seventy countries reported stories about the campaign with nearly 4,500 news reports; #OrangeTheWorld and #HearMeToo hashtags reached over a billion accounts on Instagram and Twitter.

In the **PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE** and **THAILAND**, UN Women joined celebrity Cindy Sirinya Bishop, creator of the #DontTellMeHowToDress campaign, to launch exhibitions showcasing the diverse clothing worn by women when they were assaulted. Widely covered in regional and national media, the exhibits contested the notion that women's appearance and behaviour are to blame. They called attention to how misconceptions about sexual violence stop survivors from seeking justice.

Under the Spotlight Initiative, a global collaboration between the

European Union and the United Nations, the #HerStoryOurStory campaign kicked off a web-based video game that challenges players to consider how they would react when faced with violence. It drives home the point that everyone can take action.

Throughout 2018, the #MeToo, #TimesUp, #Niunamenos, #NotOneMore, #BalanceTonPorc and #TotalShutDown movements continued to reverberate around the world, including at **UGANDA's** Makerere University. Scholars and students joined UN Women to expose the high levels of impunity for sexual harassment, drawing scrutiny by the Minister of Education, the media, women's rights organizations, Parliament and top university officials. All lecturers reportedly committing sexual harassment have been suspended pending investigation, and starting in 2019, all students were required to take a pre-entry course on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women supports civil society organizations to prevent violence, improve access to services for survivors, and implement laws and policies to prevent and end violence against women and girls.



IN 2018, THE FUND MANAGED 125 PROJECTS IN 70 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH A VALUE OF USD 46 MILLION, REACHING NEARLY 7.9 MILLION PEOPLE.

Sylvester Mesa and Emily Kiragu use an app designed by Physicians for Human Rights to document evidence of sexual violence and ensure survivors access justice.

In 2018, the Fund managed 125 projects in 70 countries and territories with a value of USD 46 million. In addition, it awarded USD 11.1 million to 31 organizations, including nine grants aiming to reach 100,000 women and girls living with disabilities, and five grants with a special focus on meeting the needs of forcibly displaced women and girls in the context of humanitarian crises.

In the **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO** and **KENYA**, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) is implementing the second generation of a UN Trust Fund-funded project to address gaps in medical and legal processes for survivors of sexual violence. PHR's Programme on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones brings together the police, the health sector, law enforcement, the judicial system and other stakeholders to document and preserve forensic evidence of sexual violence for effective prosecution of perpetrators. Innovations include the creation of an electronic system called MediCapt to document evidence of sexual violence. The project has reached an estimated 83,107 women

and girl survivors of violence through the work of 2,206 professionals trained by PHR.

In 2018, Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York joined the UN Trust Fund in visits to projects in **SERBIA** supporting survivors of trafficking in human beings. One project, ATINA, works to prevent the trafficking of women and girl refugees and helps survivors reintegrate into society, including through training and opportunities to develop business skills at a local bagel shop.

As part of the UN Trust Fund's annual fundraising luncheon, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman donated USD 500,000 to the Fund.

In 2018, grantees reached nearly 7.9 million people, including around 385,000 women and girls, and almost 30,000 survivors of gender-based violence. Projects supported over 7,700 refugee and internally displaced women and girls.

Investments that deliver

EXTENDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR SAFETY, HEALING AND JUSTICE



Who helps UN Women extend the reach of essential services?

Funding partners include the Governments of Australia and Spain.

Photo: Major Abla Fazaa heads a One Stop Centre in the State of Palestine that provides the full complement of services for survivors of violence – medical, legal aid, temporary shelter and police protection.

WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE FREE FROM VIOLENCE. But until that right is universally realized, a comprehensive package of essential services must be available to support those affected by violence, wherever it occurs. Towards that end, UN Women partners with four other UN entities – the World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA, UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – on a global joint programme that helps countries extend the reach and quality of essential services.

The challenges are considerable. Laws lag behind commitments to women's rights. There are shortages of funds. Still today, many women and girls facing violence will never find even the most basic services for safety, protection and recovery, such as timely healthcare, a police response, legal aid, safe accommodation and shelter, and psychosocial counselling. Fear and lack of knowledge limit the willingness to use services. Poor coordination across providers can fail to link survivors to all services required to recover and seek justice.

In 48 countries around the world, governments, civil society and the UN system now turn to a policy framework and set of quality standards developed by the joint programme on essential services. These help ensure that all women and girls receive the same quality of services, and that services are grounded in common understanding of the context of violence, the management of risk, and measures for ongoing safety and protection. Further, service providers should work together to minimize burdens on women and girls during reporting, response and recovery.

A number of countries are taking new measures in line with these standards. Standard operating protocols and a specialized case management unit in the **SOLOMON ISLANDS** have significantly improved service quality. In **GUATEMALA**, the national police have deployed a new protocol for the criminal investigation of cases of violence. **TUNISIA** has schooled 450 health-care workers on identifying and responding to violence, and incorporated training modules on investigating cases in the national police academy curriculum.

The essential services programme has generated significant national investment in adopting internationally-known 'best practice' strategies, such as specialized units in criminal justice systems and social services. In **VIET NAM**, the Domestic Violence Rapid Response Team provides comprehensive health, social, justice and security services to nearly 2 million people in Ben Tre province.

RESPONDING TO CRISIS BUILDING PEACE AND RESILIENCE



Madina Moussa lost everything fleeing conflict in Syria. But she has found new purpose as a protection specialist who assists and empowers other women and girls in refugee camps in Iraq.

THROUGH A SERIES OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NOW HAS A WELL-DEFINED GLOBAL AGENDA FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY. Towards deepening its

implementation, UN Women opens doors for women to participate in peace processes, define peace on their terms and claim justice, including for sexual violence during war. Where crisis strikes, whether sparked by conflict or natural disasters, UN Women is transforming the United Nations humanitarian system so that response and recovery efforts move from being gender-blind to gender-focused. New services act on women's distinct needs, such as for health care and skills training. Partnerships with women's organizations and national authorities also factor gender perspectives into plans to anticipate and manage disaster risks and recovery.

CUTTING THE ROOTS OF CONFLICT

Working closely with other UN organizations engaged in the peace process in **SOUTH SUDAN**, UN Women convened women from across the country to prepare for a national dialogue to strengthen post-conflict reconstruction. The process spotlighted women's concerns about insecurity and economic hardship, and developed their capacities as advocates. Other support helped women engage in mediation and provide gender analysis to peace talks. One significant result was an agreement to raise the quota for women in political leadership and public sector decision-making positions from 25 per cent to 35 per cent. In neighbouring **SUDAN**, UN Women equipped 3,000 women in five states of Darfur with the additional skills they needed to

participate effectively as leaders and peacemakers in regional peace negotiations. Outreach to widely respected women religious figures has influenced communities to accept women's new roles in local and state administrations. UN Women and UNDP have collaborated in bringing more women into reconciliation and justice commissions; by 2018, their share of seats had risen from near zero to a third.

Across **ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**, UN Women has advocated for

empowering women to prevent violent extremism as a regional priority. Programmes in a number of countries have provided evidence for how effective women can be in pushing back against radicalism and leading the call for more peaceful societies. In 2018, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations adopted its first Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, with a call for empowering women as leaders in urging moderation and tolerance.

IN FIVE STATES OF DARFUR, UN WOMEN EQUIPPED 3,000 WOMEN WITH THE SKILLS THEY NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY AS LEADERS AND PEACEMAKERS IN REGIONAL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.



Better protection for Rohingya women refugees in Bangladesh has come through training more than 100 police on reporting cases of gender-based violence and establishing a separate Women and Children's Desk.

UPHOLDING RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

UN Women has deployed experts on investigating sexual and gender-based violence to the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on **SYRIA**, which operates under the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In 2018, the commission issued its first report documenting

widespread rape, forced marriages, sexual slavery and beatings for violating religious law, including cases that qualify as international crimes. The findings lay the foundation for prosecuting perpetrators and providing justice to survivors.

Working with national authorities, women's organizations and OHCHR in **COLOMBIA**, UN Women helped pioneer new protections for women leaders and human rights defenders, including tighter security protocols, that are part of upholding Colombia's Peace Agreement.

EMBEDDING GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Rohingya women fleeing insecurity in Myanmar have sought safety in refugee camps in **BANGLADESH**. Towards ensuring that they are fully protected there, UN Women has trained more than 100 police on reporting cases of gender-based violence, collecting forensic evidence, and applying interview techniques that respect the rights and dignity of survivors. In one camp, a Women and Children's

Desk in the police station provides a separate place for women to securely report violations. New space for women police officers allows them to stay overnight to provide 24-hour services. Women's centres, set up by UN Women, provide essential services as well as training on life and vocational skills and community leadership.

In responding to the crisis in **SYRIA**, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for 2019-2020 brings together humanitarian and development actions for Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. It addresses immediate vulnerabilities as well as the longer-term resilience of both refugee and host communities. UN Women has led efforts to incorporate women's rights and needs in all elements



In Colombia, a mobile registration unit for migrant women from Venezuela provides assistance related to health and housing, and screens for potential cases of gender-based violence.

of developing and implementing the plan, including through a strong emphasis on essential services, protection mechanisms and economic empowerment. The process has drawn heavily on assessments of the status of Syrian women and girls across the region. Through interviews with nearly 1,300 Syrian women in seven cities, an assessment in **TURKEY**, for example, revealed often dire struggles to secure housing, overcome language barriers and find employment.

In **JORDAN, IRAQ** and **TURKEY**, an ongoing partnership with the European Union has emphasized building women's resilience through addressing both violence and economic vulnerability. Since its start in February 2018, the programme has reached over 16,000 Syrian refugees and host community nationals, mostly women, through a range of services including cash-for-work programmes, job and livelihood training, protection referrals, psychosocial counselling, legal aid and social cohesion activities.

As migrant and refugee women and girls have flowed over the

borders of **VENEZUELA**, UN Women has helped destination countries respond to their needs. In **BRAZIL**, with UNFPA and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Women convened a team providing life-saving psychosocial support, legal advice and paralegal services to migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. With the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR, UN Women set up a cash transfer system that mitigates desperate coping strategies that could expose women to sexual exploitation and trafficking. Five UN organizations have jointly created women's empowerment hubs where women can learn about their rights safely, join safety networks, and define ways to prevent and act on risks that they face. In **ECUADOR**, where migrants are concentrated on the northern border, gender-disaggregated data are being developed to better capture risks of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, safe houses operate for survivors of gender-based violence, and police and military personnel have been trained on gender-based violence, human rights and sexual exploitation.

Several Pacific Island States suffered devastating natural disasters in 2018. The tropical cyclone that struck **TONGA** affected 75 per cent of the population. In **VANUATU**, high-risk volcanic activity prompted evacuation of the entire population of Ambae island. In both cases, UN Women mobilized experts on gender to deliver health packs and dignity kits meeting women's needs, along with assistance for survivors of gender-based violence. In the highlands of **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**, about 1,000 women in communities affected by an earthquake accessed essential support services through community centres run by UN Women. SMS blasts reached 58,000 individuals with messages related to protection from gender-based violence.

UN Women issued the updated *Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action* in 2018. Training based on the handbook has reached frontline humanitarian practitioners in over 40 different agencies in 43 countries.



BUILDING RESILIENCE, REDUCING RISKS

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS IS MOBILIZING WOMEN TO PREPARE FOR DISASTER RISKS LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

In **UKRAINE**, conflict has caused social support services in many areas to collapse, leaving women to care for the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable family members. This limits employment opportunities and involvement in community affairs, and erodes women's resilience to the crisis. Through UN Women, women in 20 communities have learned skills to advocate with local authorities for services that respond to women's needs. The process brings together women displaced by turmoil with those in host communities, helping to forge relationships and overcome

discrimination in access to local decision-making and support.

At the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, Asian governments committed to giving women leading roles in reducing natural disaster risks. Successful advocacy by UN Women, civil society groups and other United Nations organizations also advanced agreement on improved collection of data broken down by sex, age and disability; steps to stem gender-based violence during crises; and measures to ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services.

Conference outcomes will help the region implement the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a major global agreement stipulating targets and priorities to prevent new, and reduce existing, disaster risks. Joint action by UN Women, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the **SOLOMON ISLANDS** is already tackling gender inequalities in climate risks through supporting new measures in disaster-related plans and budgets, and mobilizing women in communities around disaster preparedness.

Photo: Women in Ukraine are lobbying for restoring social services undercut by conflict. Gaps have especially affected people with disabilities, such as through the lack of buses accessible to wheelchair users.

Investments that deliver

MAKING THE LEAP IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Who helps UN Women save lives and build resilience through LEAP?

Funding partners include the European Union, Norway, Sweden and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund.

Photo: Women refugees in settlements in Uganda have gained confidence and skills in calling for actions meeting their priority needs.



UGANDA TODAY HOSTS OVER A MILLION REFUGEES, including more than 800,000 who have fled over the border with South Sudan. In the Bidibidi refugee settlement in northwestern Uganda, 87 per cent of the residents are women and children. The trauma of what they have experienced is always present in their minds.

Many women don't know if they can ever return home. And even as they have left conflict behind, they continue to face violations such as forced marriages and rape. Vulnerability is exacerbated by the fact that women have little say in decisions about the settlement, since men dominate 90 per cent of leadership positions.

The situation could be one of perpetual crisis, where well-being steadily declines, rights are eroded and recovery remains impossible. But that's where UN Women's flagship Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) programme steps in. It couples immediate life-saving responses with measures to build self-reliance and resilience so that women can improve their prospects now and into the future.

In 2018, through LEAP, UN Women assisted nearly 29,000 South Sudanese refugees as well as the members of communities that host them. Worldwide, LEAP operated in 33 countries reaching 235,000 women and girls.

Coordinated activities by UN and other humanitarian actors, and the engagement and empowerment of local women's groups allows the programme to operate on the multiple fronts required to assist women caught in complex, long-term crises. Women start on the road to recovery through psychosocial support. They learn skills to earn income, such as through vocational training, and access start-up funds to launch small businesses. In healing themselves and providing for their families, they gain confidence and hope, and start to play more visible public roles, including as leaders of their communities.

Important protections for women and girls come through community dialogues aimed at preventing domestic violence and child marriage. The programme also provides assistance to respond to gender-based violence, including through emergency legal assistance that acts as both a response and a deterrent. In Bidibidi and other refugee settlements, an increased presence of lawyers and paralegals is a constant reminder to potential perpetrators that there is no place to hide.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE



From the top, left to right: Indian Olympic boxer Mary Kom shared her journey in sports at the #WeSeeEqual Summit, co-hosted by P&G and UN Women in Mumbai. UN Secretary-General António Guterres met with UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador Anne Hathaway at the Commission on the Status of Women. Marchers carried a HeForShe sign during International Women's Day in Kyrgyzstan. Participants in the African Girls Can Code initiative showed off new skills at an African Union summit. The Equal Pay International Coalition Pledging Event mobilized funds to achieve equal pay for work of equal value. As part of the HerStory initiative, young volunteers gathered in Alexandria, Egypt to edit Arabic Wikipedia articles so they highlight women and their achievements.

ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND, DEPENDS ON COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT AND ACTION.

UN Women makes links with governments, businesses, civil society and other partners with the power to accelerate change and realize equality in our lifetime.

PARTNERING WITH UN MEMBER STATES

In the quest for gender equality and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Member States are foundational partners of UN Women.

From international forums to local development programmes, we engage with governments around shaping and upholding internationally agreed norms and standards, and aligning national and local development policies, plans and budgets accordingly. We build alliances around mutual development

priorities, including, critically, through the government provision of financial resources.

In 2018, UN Women's total revenues from government and other contributors surpassed USD 392 million, up 6 per cent from 2017. Government partners made significant contributions to earmarked and softly earmarked funding, such as pooled funding for flagship programming initiatives. Flexible unearmarked resources are a bedrock for

UN Women, improving efficiency and responsiveness. They power the entity's voice and reach as a leading champion of gender equality for all women and girls, particularly those who are most marginalized. In 2018, core resources rose by 2 per cent, as UN Women continued to diversify and broaden its funding base and engage with more partners than ever. In total, 198 funding partners included 104 UN Member States and Member Organizations.

MOBILIZING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Companies, foundations and individuals all work with UN Women to achieve a gender equal world.

They make social investments and philanthropic contributions, shift core business operations and value chains to empower women, and influence changes in attitudes and behaviours.

In **INDIA**, Procter & Gamble collaborated with UN Women to host the #WeSeeEqual Summit in 2018. Leaders from business and government shared insights around dispelling the myths that limit progress on gender equality. At the gathering, P&G announced it would spend USD 100 million to work

with women owned-businesses in India, Africa and the Arab States over the next three years, in addition to educating more than 23 million adolescents girls on puberty and hygiene. The company also partners with UN Women to bring more women entrepreneurs and small-scale suppliers into corporate value chains in **EGYPT, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN** and **SOUTH AFRICA**.

By early 2019, HeForShe, the global solidarity movement led by UN Women to advance gender equality, had a total of 1.7 million individual commitments. At PwC, where the CEO is a HeForShe champion, the share of women on the global leadership team shot up

from just 18 per cent to 47 per cent in just 15 months; documentation of their approach is now being shared with a variety of other businesses and media outlets.

In **MEXICO**, UN Women partners with Danone, the multinational food company, where the CEO is also a HeForShe champion. Danone now supports women's empowerment in local communities where it operates as well as within the company. Initial measures have included a new parental leave policy, a network of flexible work centres and shifts in senior management so that women occupy over a third of top positions. Four hundred staff

members act as gender equality champions who regularly speak to co-workers about combatting stereotypes. An annual five-kilometre race sponsored by the company rallied 70,000 participants around achieving a gender equal world.

With some of the world's largest companies, the **G7 COUNTRIES** have a fundamental role in moving a globalized economy towards more sustainable and equitable business practices. Towards that end, UN Women has teamed up with the European Union and the ILO on WE EMPOWER, an initiative to accelerate responsible business in these nations. Kicking off in 2018, WE EMPOWER is developing new evidence on what works to reorient businesses around achieving gender equality. The programme aims by 2020 to have 1,000 more companies sign on to the UN Global Compact's Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), which stipulate action on gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community.

UN Women saw an additional 385 companies signing the WEPs in 2018, bringing the total to 2,082 by the end of the year. In **KUWAIT**,

representatives of 10 leading private sector entities attended the country's first orientation session on applying the WEPs, which included initiating plans for implementation. In **TURKEY**, nearly 300 women managers of WEPs signatory Garanti Bank, the second largest private bank in the country, took part in women leadership training, while 14 companies improved working conditions for women and LGBTI, including through extending child-care services.

To celebrate International Women's Day in 2019 and as part of its signature "March On Pink" campaign, Elizabeth Arden launched its limited edition "Pink Punch" shade of lipstick with Storyteller-in-Chief actress Reese Witherspoon. Proceeds will help propel UN Women's global drive to improve the quality of data on core gender concerns. Foundation Chanel committed USD 3 million to back UN Women's programmes empowering poor women in **CHINA, NEPAL** and **VIET NAM**.

Everywhere in the world, innovation drives transformation, creating new businesses and solving social problems. But it does not always do enough for gender equality. Through the Global

Innovation Coalition for Change, UN Women links 22 partners from the worlds of business, academia and non-profit institutions who are fully committed to making innovation work harder for women. Together, they seek to shape innovations that meet women's needs and capitalize on their creativity, while tearing down barriers to women innovating on equal terms.

In 2018, the coalition launched the Gender Innovation Principles to set the first global standards for gender equality in innovation design, implementation, evaluation, scale and sustainability. Organizations that sign on agree to align innovation with gender equality, from developing new goods and services to pioneering new corporate practices. Collaboration between the coalition and MIT Solve, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's business incubator, kicked off the She Innovates Award, which in 2018 went to a women-led team with a new take on monitoring the vital signs of newborns. The award comes with global media exposure, speaking engagements at major global events, and connections to financial and other resources required to scale up.

TAPPING THE POWER OF MEDIA AND ADVERTISING

Media and advertising outlets can send messages on gender equality far and wide. Through the Unstereotype Alliance, UN Women connects with 29 influential partners in the world of advertising to end harmful stereotypes of women and men. A new Gender Gap Analysis Tool helps brands define stereotypes and catalyse uptake of unbiased portrayals.

On International Women's Day and during the 16 Days to End Violence against women in 2018, a longstanding partnership with WPP, a leading global advertising and public relations firm, secured pro bono advertising worth USD 3.5 million to amplify messages around gender equality. After the firm announced an expansion of the partnership to six markets

under the *Creativity for Equality* initiative, more than a dozen affiliated agencies in **INDIA, MEXICO, THAILAND, TURKEY**, the **UNITED STATES** and the **UNITED KINGDOM** offered UN Women pro bono strategic, creative and media support. Partnerships with media houses include the "Step It Up Media Compact", aimed at increasing high-quality coverage of

women's rights and gender equality and advancing gender-sensitive corporate practices such as parity in leadership roles. In 2018, 72 major media outlets, including Thomson Reuters, France 24, Refinery 29 and Deutsche Welle, boosted women's

representation in the newsroom and in news content across the world. Media mentions of UN Women rose by 41 per cent in 2018 over the previous year, with a total of 33,000 articles. Social media followers topped 8.2 million across 106 accounts in 17 languages.

In 2018, UN Women won its second Webby – the Oscars of the internet world – for its *Justice Now* microsite plus an Honorable Mention for its timeline of major steps towards gender equality.

LINKING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society groups are at the heart of UN Women's mission to achieve gender equality.

They reach women and girls on the ground, including those who are most marginalized, and are tireless advocates for advancing equality. Steered by UN Women, Civil Society Advisory Groups closed gaps in human rights provisions in CEDAW shadow reports in **COLOMBIA, ETHIOPIA, KYRGYZSTAN** and **MEXICO** in 2018, and helped set a national policy for rural, indigenous and peasant women in **EL SALVADOR**. With UN Women supporting more women from civil society in conflict-affected countries to brief the Security Council, the number of decisions referring to women, peace and security issues increased.

At a time of deepening resistance to social movements, UN Women worked with civil society and other partners to develop a

strategy to protect women human rights defenders. Collaboration with Google produced a virtual reality film series, *Courage to Question*, that profiles women working to end child marriage, human trafficking and mass incarceration, and promote the rights of Dalit women in India. The series premiered on International Women's Day and has run in a number of major international gatherings, highlighting the bravery of these women. In **SOUTH AFRICA**, UN Women joined the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Amnesty to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights with a forum on civil society and social movements that urged governments to safeguard and expand democratic civic space.

The Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) continues to serve as a platform for knowledge

exchange and sharing of best practices among governments, civil society, trade unions, academia and the private sector. At the EPIC Pledging Event, held at the UN General Assembly, more than 40 leaders committed to actions to achieve equal pay for work of equal value. They included the President of Iceland, the Vice President of Panama, and the heads of the ILO, UN Women, OECD, and companies such as IKEA and Deloitte.

Partnerships with civil society activists in **CAMBODIA** resulted in the first mention of LGBTI issues in a national CEDAW report, and the launch of an online platform, LOVEISDIVERSITY, to bolster social acceptance. In **CAPE VERDE**, the UN Free and Equal campaign sparked public debate around the human rights violations frequently perpetrated against LGBTI people.

ENGAGING YOUTH

Engaging youth now can put the world on track for equality in the next generation.

To steer a new generation in a more digital direction in Africa, which has the world's widest gender

divide in Internet use, UN Women partners with the African Union Commission and the International Telecommunication Union on the African Girls Can Code initiative. It hosts coding camps where girls

have a supportive space to explore education and careers in ICT. The first camp took place in **ETHIOPIA** in 2018, drawing participants from 34 African countries who learned programming as well as personal

development skills. In small groups, they tried their hand at innovations such as designing a drone controlled by SMS messaging to dispense medicines in rural areas. UN Women, UNICEF, UNHCR and Unilever collaborated with the lamtheCode movement to celebrate the first International Day of the Girl in Kakuma Refugee Camp in **KENYA**. Under the theme “With Her: A Skilled GirlForce”, 150 girls gained skills in IT and coding. The celebration marked the beginning of a year-long initiative to mobilize investment in girls’ IT skills.

Through the youth-led HerStory movement in the Arab States, UN Women hosts “edit-a-thons” where young activists come together to expand coverage of women and their experiences in Wikipedia. Currently, articles about men outnumber those about women by 4 to 1. Around 1,000 trained volunteers in **EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, MOROCCO, TUNISIA** and the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** have an ambitious target of doubling the number of articles in Arabic by 2020, adding 3,000 articles during 2018 alone. In

Iraq, to mark World Humanitarian Day in 2018, volunteers edited more than 40 articles on Iraqi women at the forefront of peacebuilding and humanitarian action.

Youth activists from diverse backgrounds in **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** worked with UN Women to roll out a behaviour change campaign so women can safely move about and enjoy public spaces. The campaign reached over 100,000 people through electronic and print media.

BROADENING ENGAGEMENT THROUGH NATIONAL COMMITTEES

National committees in 13 countries support UN Women’s mission through broadening public awareness and mobilizing funds. In 2018, the UN Women National Committee in **ICELAND** won an award for the best charity advertisement of the year. In a moving video, *Gender based violence is closer than you think*, 12

men read the shocking stories of violence experienced by women from The Gambia, Iceland, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. The award was bestowed by ÍMARK, the Icelandic Marketing Association.

In **FRANCE**, the National Committee won a ROIS Night award for the originality of its

2018 Orange Day campaign. It engaged 15 major media houses in integrating their names and logos in headlines denouncing violence against women and girls, a personalized and powerful statement. VIUZ, a marketing association, grants the awards each year to recognize the best French digital campaigns.

REACHING OUT THROUGH GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

In 2018, three prominent personalities joined UN Women as Goodwill Ambassadors, bringing powerful, authentic voices to UN Women’s advocacy for change. High-profile Gambian activist and survivor **Jaha Dukureh** committed to focus her efforts for UN Women on ending female genital mutilation and child marriage in Africa. Later in the year, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her achievements.

During the Women’s World Cup in July, **Marta Vieira da Silva**, renowned

for her skills in the world of soccer, joined as Goodwill Ambassador for women and girls in sport. She aims to inspire them to challenge stereotypes and follow their dreams through her own life story of achievement and defeating prejudice.

At the giant Global Citizen Festival in December, award-winning playwright and actor **Danai Gurira**, who starred in several Marvel blockbuster films, announced her commitment to working with UN Women on women’s empowerment

and gender equality, especially by bringing attention to those living on the margins of society.

Existing Goodwill Ambassador **Anne Hathaway** intensified her advocacy efforts in 2019 towards the adoption of paid parental leave, meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres during the Commission on the Status of Women. In remarks to the International Civil Service Commission session in March, she urged the revision of UN maternity, paternity and adoption leave policies.

Investments that deliver

INNOVATING WITH BLOCKCHAIN GETS CASH TO WOMEN REFUGEES

Who helps UN Women explore the possibilities of blockchain?

Funding partners include the Governments of Denmark and France.



CONFLICT IS CHAOS. Blockchain technology, which seamlessly links records that are accessible anywhere, helps tame the confusion and connect people to resources to survive. Through its Innovation Facility, UN Women has been at the forefront of thinking through new ways to integrate gender into applying blockchain technology in humanitarian action.

For people who have fled crisis, carrying little with them, blockchain is well suited for creating and storing verifiable digital identities that can be pivotal in securing services and safe refuge. The technology makes cash transfers for vitals such as food trackable, secure and inexpensive. Developing more efficient, cost-effective solutions in humanitarian crises has never been more essential, since crises have grown increasingly protracted, and millions of people are on the move, including a significant share of women and girls.

The idea of tailoring blockchain for women refugees first arose from a 2017 hackathon sponsored by UN Women and Innovation Norway. UN Women subsequently tested a blockchain mobile wallet app in the Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya. It allowed women to make low-cost cash transfers. The experience yielded important insights about innovation enablers and challenges, such as the need to simplify the app and accompany it with economic empowerment giving women independent means to earn income and access technology.

In 2018, UN Women joined the World Food Programme for further testing through the “Building Blocks” project, which the latter has deployed to provide cash transfers to 106,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan. With UN Women’s involvement, the project now reaches the places where women congregate and can easily access it, such as Oases centres. Sponsored by UN Women in refugee settlements, the centres provide women with cash-for-work programmes, skills training and livelihood opportunities.

As of 2019, women in cash-for-work programmes no longer needed to rely on getting to a bank to access earnings. Through blockchain, a simple scan of an eye allows a woman at a supermarket to pay for food or draw cash. The scan connects to her account on the blockchain and records funds dispensed. UN Women and WFP can readily validate each other’s transactions through a common blockchain network.

Making this kind of intervention fully alert to women’s needs includes addressing the extra constraints they may face to benefitting from it. They typically have lower digital and financial literacy than men, and lack access to technology and connectivity. So in rolling out the blockchain system, UN Women also provides women with digital training as well as information on expense-tracking and budgeting to bolster financial skills.

Photo: A mobile wallet app piloted in the Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya allowed women to make low-cost cash transfers. The experience informed the expanded use of blockchain technology for refugees from Syria.

Generous Support Reflects Expanding Commitment

She speaks to the heartfelt needs of voters and joins a triumphant wave of women gaining elected offices for the first time. She starts a small business that innovates and thrives, transforming the life of her family and community. She seeks shelter from violence, knowing that a national law guided by international standards will protect her, and a full array of essential services will help her recover and move on to a better life. She has fled conflict but learns new skills and finds solace at a centre in a refugee camp specially designed to meet her needs.

Each year, there are millions of stories of women and girls who have found meaningful opportunities for leadership, empowerment and protection through UN Women's programmes. When women claim their equal human rights, they move their societies – and the world – towards gender equality.

None of these advances are possible without the generous support of UN Women's many funding partners. They exemplify commitment to UN Women's purpose – to achieve gender equality in our lifetime – and in 2018 provided the highest-ever level of voluntary contributions, totaling USD 384.3 million. This represents 95 per cent of UN Women's total 2018 revenue, comprised also of assessed resources and other revenue.

While the generosity of funding partners is rooted foremost in their dedication to social change, it also reflects UN Women's increasing reach and impact. The latest findings of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) noted a strong focus on results. Continued enhancement of accountability and transparency mechanisms in 2018 led to UN Women's best ranking so far in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry.

Flexible and predictable funding through regular resources is particularly critical to UN Women's mission to deliver on investments and the full range of outcomes in its Strategic Plan. In 2018, UN Women received a total of USD 149 million in regular resources,

a 2 per cent increase compared to 2017. Of 102 UN Member States who contributed to regular resources, 36 had multi-year commitments and 49 boosted total contributions over 2017. The top 10 largest contributors to regular resource were, by rank: Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Finland, Norway, Denmark, the United States of America, Australia, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

Other resources complement regular resources, and should be predictable, timely and flexible. UN Women's flagship programme initiatives channel predictable and flexible, softly earmarked resources into some of the most important drivers of faster action on gender equality, such as the revolution in data and statistics. Strategic notes allow similar flexibility in funding UN Women's country programmes. In 2018, other resources reached an all-time high of USD 235 million. The top 10 largest contributors to other resources were, by rank: Sweden, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, Australia, UNDP, Canada, the United States of America and Germany.

Private sector partnerships involving contributions from businesses, foundations, and individuals have grown significantly from USD 6 million in 2014 to USD 23 million in 2018. This reflects UN Women's deepening engagement, including through its network of National Committees. Among the top private sector contributors in 2018 were the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Fondation Chanel, BNP Paribas and Unilever.

Contributions from United Nations interorganizational arrangements reached USD 50 million, a 21 per cent increase over 2017. The top three contributors in 2018 were the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UNDP and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

In 2020, the world will mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; and 10 years since the establishment of UN Women. UN Women is grateful to all funding partners who have made this journey possible, and will continue to do so until the quest for gender equality is finally and universally complete.

2018 Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Thousands of USD

For the year ended 31 December 2018

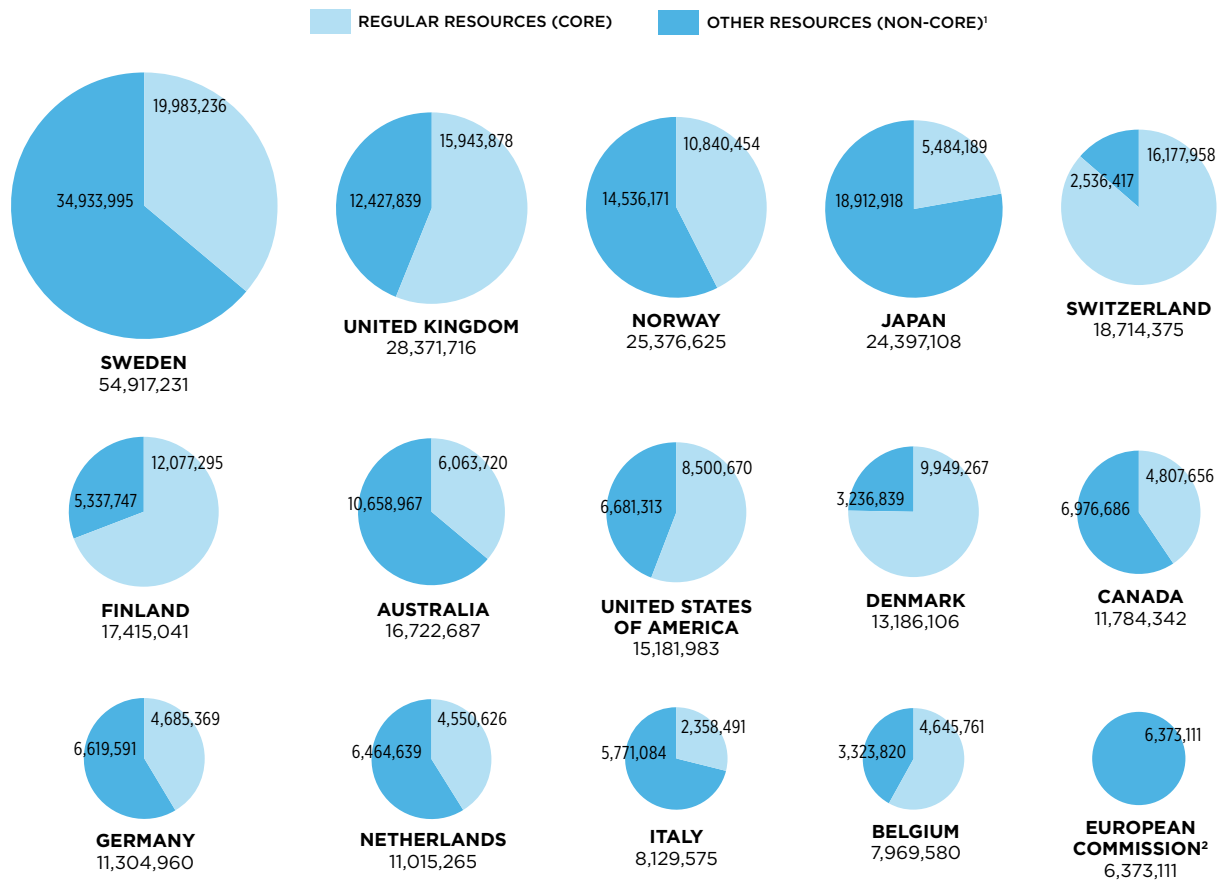
REVENUE	TOTAL
Contributions	
Regular resources	149,031
Other resources	235,264
Assessed resources	8,032
Investment income	9,624
Other revenue	2,160
Revenue: exchange transactions	607
TOTAL REVENUE	404,718
TOTAL EXPENSES	380,260
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	24,458

NOTES:

1. 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.
2. 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

For the year ended 31 December 2018 (expressed in USD)



1. Non-core figures include the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and the Fund for Gender Equality.
 2. The European Commission is a Government member organization.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN WOMEN 2018

From governments and other donors (expressed in USD)

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL 2018
GOVERNMENTS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS			
Albania	500	-	500
Andorra	47,294	-	47,294
Argentina	30,000	125,000	155,000
Armenia	2,500	-	2,500
Australia	6,063,720	10,658,967	16,722,687
Austria	306,748	1,465,653	1,772,401
Bangladesh	28,200	-	28,200
Barbados	217,113	-	217,113
Belgium	4,645,761	3,323,820	7,969,580
Bhutan	500	-	500
Botswana	12,588	-	12,588
Burundi	1,000	-	1,000
Cambodia	5,000	-	5,000
Canada	4,807,656	6,976,686	11,784,342
Central African Republic (the)	250	-	250
Chile	100,000	5,000	105,000
China	2,000,000	52,518	2,052,518
Colombia	1,500	-	1,500
Congo (Republic of the)	10,481	-	10,481
Costa Rica	10,000	-	10,000
Côte d'Ivoire	26,348	-	26,348
Cuba	1,000	-	1,000
Cyprus	11,400	-	11,400
Czech Republic	13,095	-	13,095
Denmark	9,949,267	3,236,839	13,186,106
Dominican Republic (the)	72,270	-	72,270
Estonia	94,787	-	94,787
Ethiopia	5,000	-	5,000
European Commission ¹	-	6,373,111	6,373,111
Fiji	23,578	-	23,578
Finland	12,077,295	5,337,747	17,415,041
France	736,196	1,321,552	2,057,748
Gambia (the)	10,000	-	10,000
Georgia	10,000	-	10,000
Germany	4,685,369	6,619,591	11,304,960
Grenada	1,000	-	1,000
Guyana	4,850	-	4,850
Hungary	-	20,000	20,000
Iceland	1,228,153	1,385,241	2,613,394
Indonesia	294,000	-	294,000
Iraq	1,000	-	1,000
Ireland	1,736,111	1,250,906	2,987,017
Israel	30,000	45,000	75,000
Italy	2,358,491	5,771,084	8,129,575
Jamaica	2,990	-	2,990
Japan	5,484,189	18,912,918	24,397,108
Jordan	19,942	-	19,942
Kazakhstan	28,327	373,000	401,327
Kuwait	50,000	-	50,000
Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)	1,000	-	1,000
Latvia	22,727	-	22,727
Liechtenstein	70,550	10,079	80,628
Luxembourg	1,504,630	981,595	2,486,225
Malaysia	50,000	-	50,000
Malta	227	-	227
Mauritius	1,250	-	1,250
Mexico	80,300	140,419	220,719
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1,000	-	1,000
Monaco	46,620	-	46,620
Mongolia	7,000	-	7,000
Montenegro	5,735	-	5,735
Morocco	19,950	138,331	158,282
Mozambique	5,000	-	5,000
Nauru	100	-	100
Nepal	4,000	-	4,000
Netherlands (the)	4,550,626	6,464,639	11,015,265
New Zealand	1,828,750	-	1,828,750
Nicaragua	5,000	-	5,000
Niger (the)	150	-	150
Nigeria	28,791	-	28,791

Notes:

1. The European Commission is a Government member organization.
2. Other UN Donors include: UNFPA, UNOPS, UNESCO, UNICEF, OCHA, UNCDF, FAO, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, MNUSTAH, UNMIK, WFP, UNODC, UNODA, UNDP.

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL 2018
Norway	10,840,454	14,536,171	25,376,625
Palestine	200	-	200
Panama	15,050	-	15,050
Paraguay	500	-	500
Poland	40,365	-	40,365
Republic of Korea (the)	3,751,508	1,650,081	5,401,589
Republic of Moldova (the)	6,307	-	6,307
Rwanda	10,000	-	10,000
Samoa	6,740	-	6,740
Senegal	587,655	-	587,655
Serbia	24,000	-	24,000
Seychelles	1,000	-	1,000
Sierra Leone	12,500	-	12,500
Singapore	50,000	-	50,000
Slovakia	117,925	-	117,925
Solomon Islands	1,000	-	1,000
South Africa	57,268	-	57,268
Spain	568,828	2,320,975	2,889,803
Sweden	19,983,236	34,933,995	54,917,231
Switzerland	16,177,958	2,536,417	18,714,375
Thailand	20,000	-	20,000
Timor-Leste	72,000	-	72,000
Tonga	5,001	-	5,001
Trinidad and Tobago	5,000	5,000	10,000
Tunisia	6,222	-	6,222
Turkey	154,400	200,000	354,400
United Arab Emirates (the)	5,000,000	-	5,000,000
United Kingdom	15,943,878	12,427,839	28,371,716
United Republic of Tanzania (the)	10,000	-	10,000
United States of America (the)	8,500,670	6,681,313	15,181,983
Uruguay	6,000	17,000	23,000
Vanuatu	200	-	200
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	3,000	-	3,000
Viet Nam	56,907	-	56,907
TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	147,514,648	156,298,486	303,813,134

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO)		23,289,709	23,289,709
Peacebuilding Fund		6,500,456	6,500,456
UNAIDS		2,901,300	2,901,300
UNDP		7,223,332	7,223,332
UNOCHA		2,538,940	2,538,940
Other UN Agencies ²		4,109,320	4,109,320
UN Women-administered Joint Programmes		3,871,214	3,871,214
TOTAL UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS	-	50,434,271	50,434,271

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Australia	96,172	399,676	495,848
Austria		28,571	28,571
Finland	492,432	-	492,432
France	45,662	27,112	72,774
Germany	43,231	9,101	52,333
Iceland	538,182	449,913	988,095
Japan	9,095	26,105	35,200
Netherlands (the)	3,502	-	3,502
Singapore	3,804	101,011	104,815
Sweden	8,309	25,259	33,568
United Kingdom	33,795	940,578	974,373
United States of America (the)	170,000	2,207,273	2,377,273
TOTAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS	1,444,185	4,214,600	5,658,785

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL 2018
FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS & OTHERS¹			
Agencia Vasca de Cooperación para el Desarrollo, Spain		105,680	105,680
Alcance Servicio de Compañía		10,800	10,800
Alwaleed Philanthropies	1,050,000		1,050,000
Asian Development Bank	4,000		4,000
Atento Brasil S.A.	9,210		9,210
Ayuntamiento de Madrid, Spain	57,078		57,078
Ayuntamiento Distrito Nacional, Dominican Republic	60,699		60,699
Banco Bradesco S.A.		8,982	8,982
BHP Billiton Foundation	5,394,600		5,394,600
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	4,000,728		4,000,728
BNP Paribas	1,000,000		1,000,000
Bonafont S.A. (Danone)	100,000		100,000
Cannes Lions	5,794	-	5,794
Caribbean Court of Justice		10,640	10,640
Caribbean Development Bank		30,000	30,000
China Women's Development Foundation		75,352	75,352
Corporación Andina de Fomento		22,737	22,737
Diageo ²		30,000	30,000
Eletrobras Furnas		92,995	92,995
Facebook Inc. ²		30,000	30,000
Fondation Chanel	1,246,914		1,246,914
Ford Foundation	425,000		425,000
French Institute of Latin America		11,364	11,364
GlaxoSmithKline Plc. ²		30,000	30,000
Gobernación de Nariño, Colombia		140,171	140,171
Gobierno de la Ciudad de México, Mexico		150,000	150,000
Instituto Avon		12,088	12,088
Instituto C&A		21,711	21,711
Instituto Lojas Renner		39,968	39,968
Intendencia de Montevideo, Uruguay		157,811	157,811
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance		16,757	16,757
International Olympic Committee	1,747,278		1,747,278
Itaipu Binacional	214,534		214,534
Johnson & Johnson ²	30,000		30,000
Justice Rapid Response	73,121		73,121
Mars, Incorporated	-		-
Microsoft Corporation ²	30,000		30,000
NAMA Women Advancement Establishment	3,900,000		3,900,000
NetEase Media Technology (Beijing) Co. Ltd.		95,109	95,109
Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy		5,000	5,000
Oath Inc. ²	30,000		30,000
Outright Action International	50,000		50,000
Peace Support Fund	77,391		77,391
Procter & Gamble	46,312		46,312
Publicis Groupe ²	60,000		60,000
Revlon (Elizabeth Arden)	375,000		375,000
SAP China	141,745		141,745
Scottish Government	145,211		145,211
Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)		19,810	19,810
Shiseido	274,650		274,650
Silatech	120,773		120,773
Teck Resources Ltd.	1,000,000		1,000,000
Thailand Institute of Justice	60,680		60,680
Turkish Petroleum Refineries Co.	250,000		250,000
Twitter Inc. ²	30,000		30,000

CONTRIBUTORS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	OTHER RESOURCES (NON-CORE)	TOTAL 2018
Unilever		955,176	955,176
United Nations Women for Peace Association		100,000	100,000
University of Central America		172,425	172,425
Zonta International		584,000	584,000
HeforShe (Donate Button)		42,389	42,389
Miscellaneous Donors	66,725	59,858	126,583
TOTAL FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS & OTHERS CONTRIBUTIONS	72,519	25,035,745	25,108,264
less adjustments against prior year contributions		(719,316)	(719,316)
TOTAL 2018 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS	149,031,352	235,263,786	384,295,138

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2018

From governments and other donors (expressed in USD)

CONTRIBUTORS	UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY
GOVERNMENTS		
Australia	1,570,185	
Austria	57,870	
Germany		874,126
Hungary	20,000	
Ireland	284,414	
Israel	15,000	30,000
Kazakhstan	20,000	
Liechtenstein	10,079	
Netherlands (the)	4,545,455	
Norway	1,112,282	
Trinidad and Tobago	5,000	
United Kingdom	6,370,950	
United States of America (the)	1,001,000	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	15,012,235	904,126

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Germany	2,275	
Iceland	331,564	
Sweden	4,784	
United Kingdom	25,756	
United States of America	20,474	667
TOTAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS	384,853	667

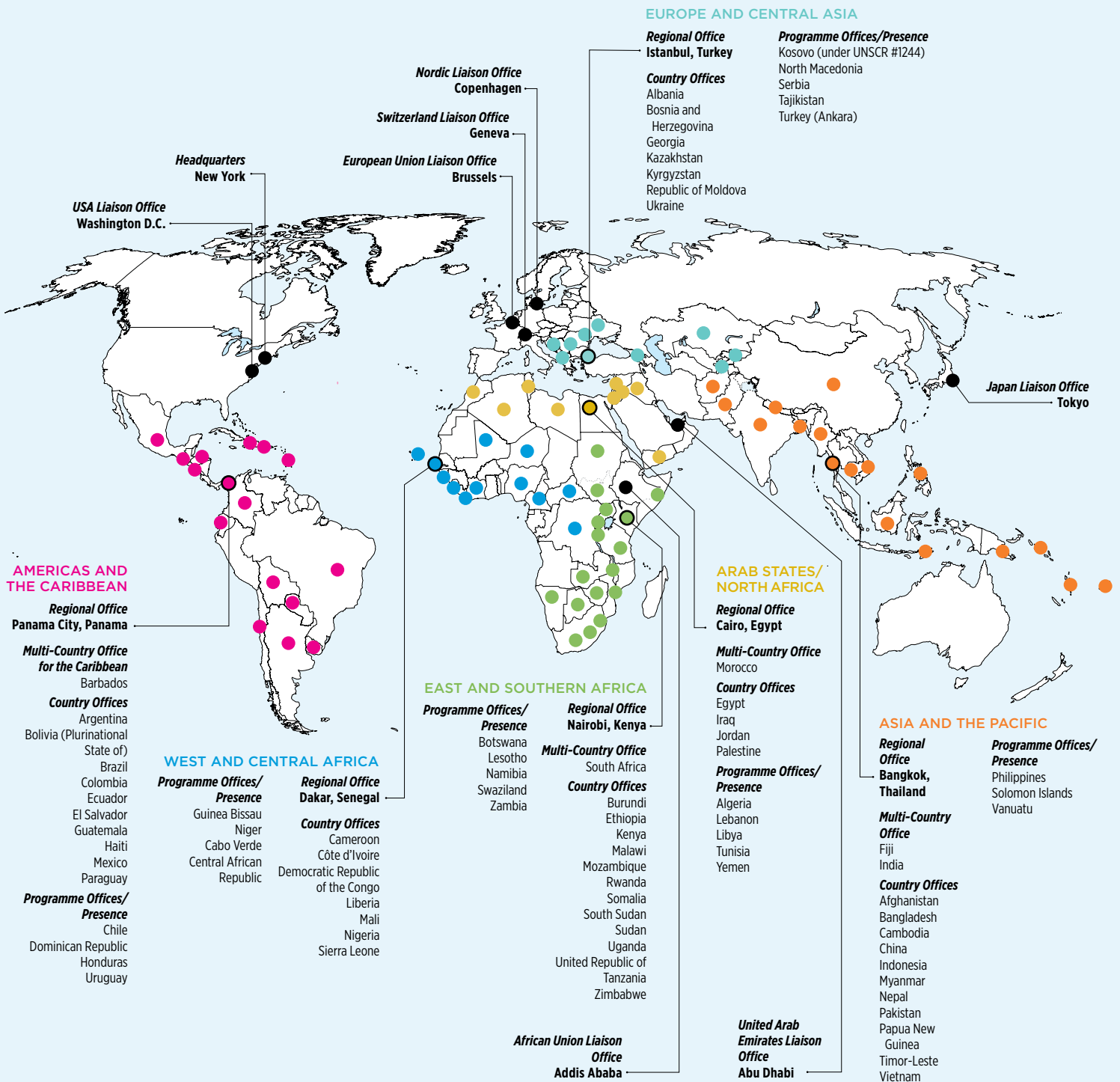
FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS & OTHERS

Fondation Chanel		246,914
Miscellaneous Donors	22,826	
United Nations Women for Peace Association	100,000	
TOTAL FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS & OTHERS CONTRIBUTIONS	122,826	246,914
TOTAL 2018 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUNDS	15,519,914	1,151,706

Notes:

1. In-kind services provided to UN Women in 2018 amounted to USD 7.2 million. Amongst the top contributors were WPP and GNT Globo TV, Brazil.
2. Private sector contributors to the Unstereotype Alliance.

UN Women in the World



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

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NATIONAL COMMITTEES

[unwomen.org/en/partnerships/
national-committees](http://unwomen.org/en/partnerships/national-committees)

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View the Report online at:
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*P. 34: From the top, left to right: UN Women/
Sarabjeet Dhillon; UN Women/Ryan Brown; UN
Women Kyrgyzstan/Meriza Emilbekova;*

*UN Women/Kennedy Okoth; UN Women/Ryan
Brown; UN Women/Emad Karim*

P. 39: UN Women/James Ochweri

**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.



Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality

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