



 UN
WOMEN 

REGULAR RESOURCES REPORT 2019

Forging Generation Equality now and in the future

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, with the primary purpose of accelerating progress toward meeting the needs of women and girls 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, prioritizing five strategic outcomes. Beginning with the foundational work of UN Women, to support the strengthening and implementation of a comprehensive and dynamic set of **global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women**; and by contributing to the interdependent and interconnected outcomes: **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; and 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 on advancing gender equality.

Cover: Cameroon - UN Women's Gender Road Project

Background: A 200-kilometre road (124 miles) project stretches between the townships of Batschenga, Ntui and Yoko, in central Cameroon. The road crosses farms, forests, water bodies and pastoral areas that sustain the mostly agrarian economy of nearly 40 villages and three towns.

The road, a basic infrastructure that many countries take for granted, literally shapes the lives and livelihood of the people living along it. It decides whether a small entrepreneur will get her products transported on time, and at what cost, and whether more people will come to a restaurant that another has invested in. It determines what markets a woman farmer can access and how often a working mother can visit her daughter who is studying in the city. The red dirt road, waiting for asphalt, will determine if food, income, job, healthcare, livelihood will come, when, and to whom.

UN Women's "Gender Road Project", funded by The Development Bank of Central African States and the Government of Cameroon, is aiming to reach at least 20,000 women by 2020, living in rural communities along this road, to prepare them for a better future and access to bigger markets once the road is built. The project teaches them financial and entrepreneurial skills, improved farming techniques and facilitates their access to public services and land rights.

Pictured: Cameroon. Nbdemke Elizabeth, 13, at left, Yeng Chimine, 12, at right, and Vivian, Chimine's mother, in orange. The families recently acquired birth certificates for the girls which open the door for the girls to attend school, sit for national exams and apply for national ID.

Read More: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/3/feature-story-cameroon-gender-road>

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

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FOREWORD

BY UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UN Women results in 2019 are a source of pride for us, our partners and our donors. They were possible thanks to the generosity of our partners who provide regular (core) resources. These highest-quality contributions are the lifeblood of UN Women's interventions. They make it possible to carry out our mandate as the global champion, convenor and catalyst for gender equality and women's empowerment. And now, in the era of COVID-19, our partners' engagement and support are more critical than ever before to building back better and achieving societies that are more inclusive and resilient for everyone. Our thanks to you all.

This report illustrates how regular resources led to substantial and tangible benefits for women and girls around the world in 2019. It also invites readers into the lives of the women and girls we work with, sharing their stories to show how they are successfully overcoming challenges.

Regular resources create value beyond funding programmes. They **provide the stability** required to plan and achieve our long-term objectives; they **offer flexibility** in responding to crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic with its severe impacts on women, girls and their communities; and they **ignite innovative programmes** that leverage other resources to scale-up, as has been the case with UN Women's growing contributions to coordinating the UN system and advancing gender-responsive humanitarian action.

As the COVID-19 pandemic escalated, regular resources gave UN Women the power to set global policy guidance and define priority measures to aid recovery efforts. Strengthening collaboration with international financial institutions to mainstream gender in response and recovery efforts remains a key priority moving forward.

UN Women received regular resources from 119 partners in 2019, including 106 United Nations Member States. As this report details, these funds allowed UN Women to support 102 countries to review progress on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action 25 years after it was adopted

as a set of landmark commitments on women's rights. Regular resources underpinned our restructured UN Women's country footprint, helping us to become more efficient and responsive to country demand and to scale up actions to end violence against women, drive climate-smart agriculture, increase economic opportunities and help women lead and build resilience in the face of crisis.

Given this, it is unfortunate that in recent years, regular resources have declined while other resources have increased. In 2019, for the first time since its establishment, UN Women achieved its target budget of USD 500 million. Of that amount, however, regular resources comprised USD 143 million, marking a 4 per cent decline from the previous year.

For UN Women, regular and other resources are complementary. Other resources capture the mutual interests and priorities of specific partners. Regular resources enable the collective interests of our Board and partners more generally. As such, they remain the bedrock of our work and reflect multilateral commitment to UN Women's vital roles in common global efforts to achieve gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We fully appreciate the enormous pressure being placed on resources in the current climate. Yet our mandate is as crucial now as it has ever been. Maintaining a healthy balance between regular and other resources is essential for UN Women to deliver on its mandate and ensure that our post-COVID-19 recovery does not simply rebuild the patriarchy. I call on all our partners to be bold, and to reflect on our shared commitment to gender equality as they consider their priorities. This is a time to step up, not step back. We look forward to continuing to deliver with your support.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women

102

COUNTRIES

supported to conduct a 25-year review and appraisal of implementation of the **BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

17

initiatives were developed to monitor **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS**

28

new and/or improved **GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES ON LAND RIGHTS** were developed and/or implemented

13 countries

conducted community activities on **GENDER EQUALITY AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS** and developed national curricula on gender and violence against women

548

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS and networks were supported to influence peace processes



Provided training to over 50,000 women in over 20 countries on agricultural productivity and climate adaptation measures.



Over 100 indigenous women candidates enhanced campaign skills in Guatemala.



More women come to peace tables and make a case for change.



UN Women supported 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region in conducting national Beijing+25 reviews.



A regional commitment moves towards a reality in women's lives.

MAXIMUM IMPACT: WHY GENDER EQUALITY DEPENDS ON REGULAR RESOURCES



FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL ACTION TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

UN Women celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2020. We are still a young organization, but can already claim a decade of extraordinary achievements touching the lives of women and girls around the world.

In that short time, we have become the world's global champion of gender equality. Our leadership sets agendas. Our advocacy, ideas and programmes bring people together behind a common cause.

Amid the unfolding shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, which trace the lines of sharp inequality in the world today, and are in many cases felt most profoundly in the lives of women and girls, UN Women's presence is more needed than ever before. We are one of the keys to a future that is more inclusive and just, and less vulnerable to the ravages of a virus.

When UN Women was founded, we were given a unique, carefully crafted global mandate by the UN General Assembly. It allows us a role in each of three arenas fundamental to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. First, we help set the continually evolving standards that uphold women's rights. Second, we bring together the combined forces of the vast system that is the United Nations so that every part adopts gender equality as a priority concern, and demonstrates measurable progress. Third,

we show what's possible through our programmes. These directly benefit women and girls, bringing change on the ground. They also inspire governments, businesses and other partners to take similar measures, amplifying the results on a wide scale.

In just a decade, UN Women has made notable strides within and across each of our roles, connecting them so that they reinforce each other and generate powerful momentum for change. Our funding partners have made enormous contributions to this success, including through generous infusions of regular resources, the foundation of our work. In 2019, our other resources reached new highs.

At the same time, much of our potential is still not fully tapped. The mix of these two types of resources still falls short of the commitment made at our founding, to have an organization with the reach to rectify the gender disparities still at play in every country of the world. For the first time in 2019, the share of regular resources in the total slipped below the UN-mandated minimum threshold of 30 per cent. This meant the bulk of our funding came in project by project, issue by issue, even though gender equality by its nature requires a broader lens, one equipped to see all of the pieces that

influence or hinder progress, and calibrate the right combinations of responses.

Regular resources maximize impact by providing the stability to plan and achieve long-term objectives, and the flexibility to realize short-term goals. In 2020, regular resources powered UN Women's immediate response to the COVID-19 crisis, and its ability to draw global, regional and national attention to the gender dimensions of the pandemic as soon as they emerged. Through regular resources, UN Women sustains work in over 100 countries, on the issues that matter most to women there, and in communities that are most vulnerable and hard to access. We pioneer new ideas and experimental programmes that later expand through other resources and partnerships.

Regular resources underpin the core multilateral values of the United Nations. They signify neutrality and independence, and they embody a promise that was made and must now be kept, not just to UN Women, but to women and girls. With COVID-19 threatening to undermine gains that have been made, it is time to empower the one organization that can do the most globally to prevent backtracking and propel progress.



Mobina Khatun, 45, is one of the 40 Rohingya Women Volunteers working with UN Women to mobilize their communities and raise awareness on COVID-19 within different camps in Ukhiya, Bangladesh. Photo: Pappu Mia/UN Women

OVERVIEW OF REVENUE, 2019



In the northern Bolivian Amazon, a sustainable venture is involving the local community in processing wild fruits from the Amazon jungle, and at the same time, protecting the forests against felling of trees and pollution. Photo: UN Women/Teófila Guarachi.

In 2019, UN Women total voluntary contributions stood at USD 500.4 million, exceeding the total estimated budget endorsed by the Executive Board (USD 440 million).

Regular resources comprised USD 143 million, marking a 4 per cent decline from the previous year. While regular resources have declined proportionally since 2013, as well as in amounts during 2015 and 2019, other resources have increased significantly, reaching an all-time high of USD 357.4 million in 2019. The share of regular resources in total voluntary contributions declined from 39 per cent in 2018 to 29 per cent. This marked the first time in the history of the entity that regular resources fell below the global Funding Compact threshold of 30 per cent.

FIG. 1 CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES, 2011-2019



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