

# Regular Resources Report — Data and case studies from 2018





**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 and 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.



Printed on 100 per cent PCW recycled paper.

Cover: **Guatemala - Rural Women Diversify Incomes and Build Resilience**

Indigenous women of Guatemala's Polochic valley are feeding their families, growing their businesses and saving more money than ever before, with the help of a joint UN programme that's empowering rural women.

Puente Viejo is a mostly agrarian indigenous community that relies on wooden canoes to transport their products or to access services. The women of the village are part of a joint programme by UN Women, World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which is empowering more than 1,600 rural women to become economically self-reliant across the department of Alta Varapaz and the municipalities of Tukurú, La Tinta and Panzos.

Pictured: Kemberly Gonzalez, a part of the local promoter team for UN Women arrives in Puente Viejo.

Read More: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/7/feature-guatemala-saving-for-a-rainy-day>

Photo: 2018, UN Women/Ryan Brown

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**Production team:** Nuria Felipe Soria, Leona Barusya, Megan Williams, Rhonda de Freitas, Madison Bailey, Peter Rizov, Sijia Cheng

**Overall coordination:** Fernando Gutierrez-Eddy

**Editor:** Gretchen Luchsinger

**Photo editor:** Stephanie Montoya, Ryan Brown

**Design:** Stephanie Montoya

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# CONTENTS

## **3 FOREWORD**

## **4 A VALUE PROPOSITION: INVEST IN GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

- 4 The SDGs depend on it
- 5 Regular Resources as the best investment

## **6 RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS**

## **8 COMMITTED TO THE CORE**

## **10 EXPENDITURE OF REGULAR RESOURCES, 2018**

## **12 RESULTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS: CASE STUDIES ALONG THE NORMATIVE, COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS MANDATE**

- 14 Global

### **REGIONS:**

- 16 Africa
- 23 Americas and the Caribbean
- 25 Arab States
- 28 Asia and the Pacific
- 31 Europe and Central Asia

## **18 ROADMAP TO BEIJING+25**

## **34 UN WOMEN REGULAR RESOURCE PARTNERS**

## **37 ABBREVIATIONS AND ENDNOTES**







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# FOREWORD

**Regular Resources are the lifeblood of UN Women.** These unrestricted, flexible funds allow us to play our central role as the only global institution fully dedicated to the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. Regular Resources are key to allowing us to respond to rapid changes in country priorities, invest in innovation and ensure efficiency and value for money. This second report on Regular Resources closely examines how UN Women has allocated these most critical resources in 2018, and to what effect those resources enabled results for women and girls.

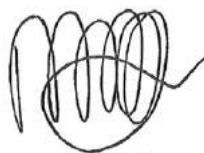
In 2018, UN Women grew its Regular Resources for the third year in a row, generating over USD 149 million in those contributions from 115 partners, including 102 Member States. As a result, more than 40 million women enjoy increased legal protections and the reversal of discriminatory laws in 25 countries; over 75 million people benefit from disaster risk reduction measures that address the specific needs of women and girls; and 28 UN entities now track and report on allocations and expenditures using gender markers.

This report shows the many faces that are behind these results; women and girls like Celine Moulare from Côte d'Ivoire who was trained on international organic certification by UN Women, allowing her small business to access international markets, or Ichrak Rhouma, whose training on women's rights and gender-responsive budgeting at the Women's Political Academy in Tunisia gave her vital skills for her elected position in the Sidi Hassine Council. Regular Resources, together with flexible and predictable Other Resources, enabled these results and made possible many other positive changes in the lives of women and girls.

The report recognizes the vital contributions of all our partners. I particularly acknowledge those partners providing predictable Regular Resources every year, partners increasing their contribution from previous years, and new and returning financing partners. Thank you!

Yet more progress can and must be made. In 2020 – the year of multiple anniversaries for gender equality, including the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 – the world will be looking to UN Women for strong leadership on advancing gender equality and women's rights through our multigenerational campaign, Generation Equality. Strong support for Regular Resources will ensure that UN Women can leverage the enormous potential of 2020 to bring irreversible progress for gender equality around the world and remain a stalwart advocate for women and girls in the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Every investment made in women and girls drives us towards a more sustainable and equal world. Now more than ever, we must build on the momentum that UN Women has built in collaboration with our partners. I invite you to invest in us, ensuring the adequate levels of flexible and predictable resources that will enable UN Women to continue scaling up our proven interventions and transforming the lives of women, girls and societies worldwide, especially for those most marginalized.



**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**

*UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women*

LEFT: A joint UN-African Union (AU) delegation travels to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in July 2017 to urge action to strengthen meaningful participation of women in peace and security and elections. UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, visits an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in the North Kivu province, one of the regions affected by several years of civil war. The conflict dramatically affected the population there, especially women and girls, who faced the brunt of sexual exploitation and forced displacement. Photo: UN Women

# A VALUE PROPOSITION



## Invest in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

### The SDGs depend on it

From poverty reduction to climate resilience to peaceful societies to the realization of human rights, gender equality is the most fundamental driver of change in our world.<sup>1</sup> Investing in gender equality is essential to the fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which is dedicated to that end. It will also accelerate progress across all 17 SDGs and uphold the main promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to leave no one behind.

Gender equality benefits women and girls, and everyone else, across every issue.

Yet despite all the evidence of the value of investing in gender equality, and many firm commitments to do so, global and national efforts are chronically underfunded, particularly compared to other priorities of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2016-2017, less than 4 per cent of financing from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) designated



LEFT: In commemoration of International Women's Day 2018, UN Women, with the support of the Embassy of Australia to Viet Nam and the Embassy of Canada to Viet Nam organized "A photo contest on Rural Women & Sustainable Development" with the aim to recognize rural women's contribution to growth and prosperity in Viet Nam.  
Photo: UN Women Viet Nam/Nguyen Van Xuan

gender equality and women's empowerment as a main goal.<sup>2</sup> Within the UN development system, just 2 per cent of expenditure goes explicitly to gender equality and women's empowerment.<sup>3</sup> Among countries, only a meagre 19 per cent carry out gender-responsive budgeting.<sup>4</sup> Of countries with national policies and programmes to address gender gaps, only 43 per cent provide enough resources to implement them.<sup>5</sup>

Achieving sustainable development depends on women and girls everywhere having equal rights, equal opportunities, equal

resources and equal responsibility. They must live free of violence and discrimination, and be heard within households, and in public and private decision-making.

Increasing investments in gender equality would go a long way in closing gender gaps and accelerating progress across the SDGs. This investment must come from all levels and sources: public and private, domestic and international, including official development assistance, foreign direct investment, innovative sources of financing, trade and domestic public resources.

## Regular Resources as the best investment

UN Women is the only United Nations entity fully dedicated to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. It must be adequately resourced to be fit for this purpose. The 2020-2021 budget estimated voluntary contributions of USD 970 million, including Regular (unearmarked) Resources of USD 200 million per year. The budget was endorsed by UN Women's Executive Board as the minimum for achieving the entity's Strategic Plan, which is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

Among all categories of investment, Regular Resources go furthest in making UN Women a strong global champion of gender equality. Because they are flexible and reliable, Regular Resources mean that UN Women can continuously advocate for gender equality standards, pursue innovations in improving the lives of women and girls, and keep the UN system on track in meeting commitments to gender equality.

Since Regular Resources underpin the management and leadership of the organization as a whole, they make all of UN Women's results possible, including those funded by earmarked Other Resources.

In 2018, Regular Resources backed substantive support to 29 intergovernmental processes, including advances in linking gender equality to actions on climate change. The Gender Innovation Principles debuted as the first global standards for gender equality in innovation design, implementation, evaluation, scale and sustainability. UN Women continued its unique global leadership in closing major gaps in sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics as imperative to tracking progress on the SDGs.

At the country level, in Cabo Verde, UN Women drew on Regular Resources to help the Association of Domestic Employees develop standards for work hours, salaries and vacation time, improving working conditions in jobs largely done by women. In Liberia, collaboration with other UN agencies led to landmark

legislation criminalizing female genital mutilation. Globally, UN Women's constant push to integrate gender in country-level UN development assistance frameworks resulted in 70 per cent featuring a gender-specific objective.

With Regular Resources, UN Women can sustain its worldwide reach and work in over 100 countries. High-quality programmes can build on new knowledge developed through cutting-edge research. New opportunities can be explored, including to respond to underfunded and emergency needs, and to reach women and girls left furthest behind. With Regular Resources as a foundation, UN Women can act quickly on changing priorities while maintaining a strategic, long-term perspective. It can leverage other investments, multiplying their impact many times over.

Regular Resources ensure UN Women's neutrality and independence in supporting UN Member States to set and uphold global standards on gender equality. They give UN Women the clout to call on other often much larger UN entities to make gender equality central to the way they work, which scales up results and maximizes limited funds.

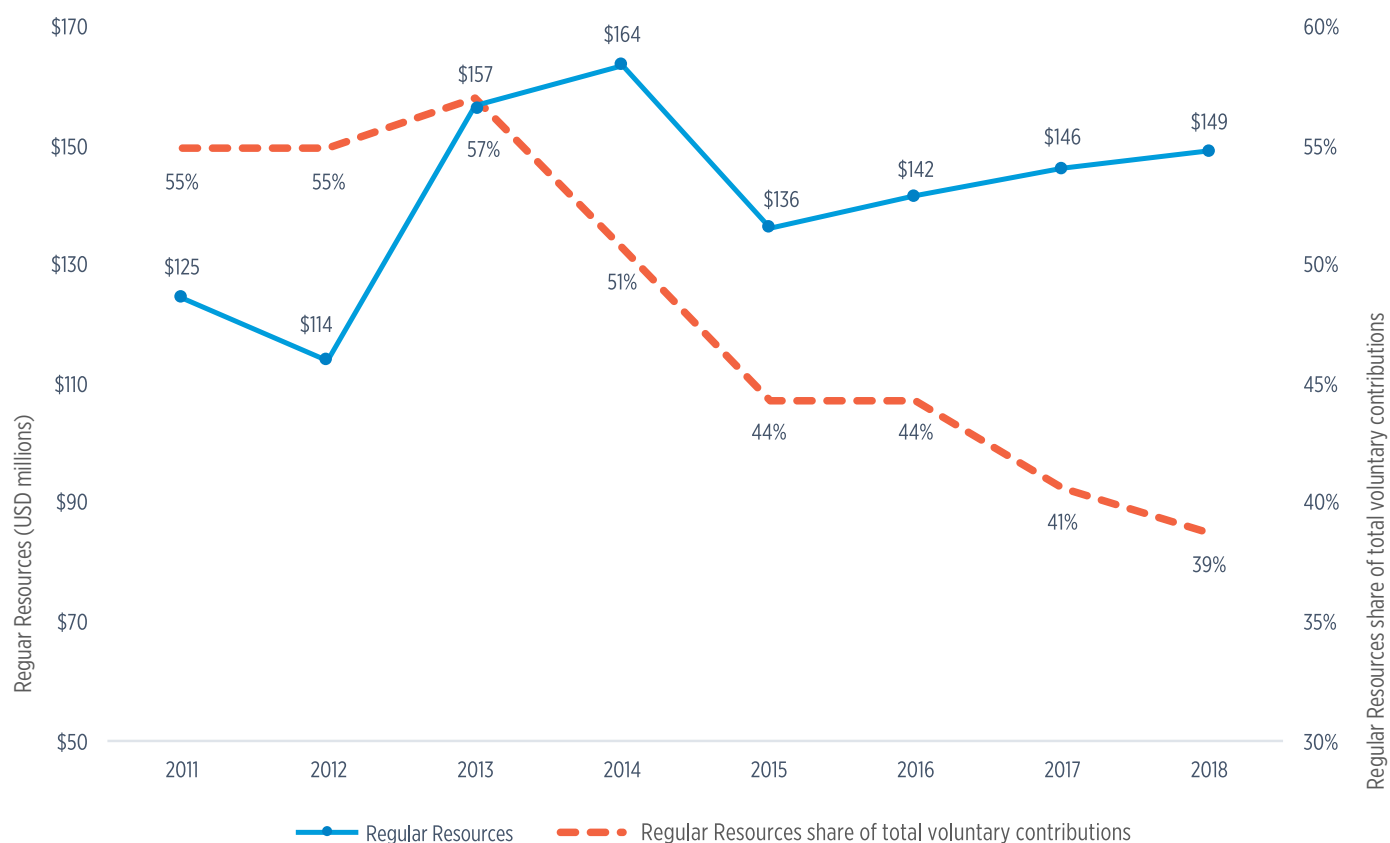
When resources are fragmented, unpredictable and conditional, development effectiveness immediately suffers. Regular Resources overcome these constraints, strengthening oversight, accountability and transparency, and enabling continuous improvement of results-based management. Particularly when provided as multi-year funding, they lower costs through long-term planning, strategic procurement and streamlined resource management.

As the best investment in UN Women, Regular Resources are a benchmark of commitment – to gender equality and the empowerment of women, to the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and to a future where development is inclusive and sustainable.

# RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS

Regular Resources increased in 2018, for the third consecutive year, reaching USD 149 million. Although these resources have been growing steadily, their share of total voluntary contributions has been declining. In 2018, Regular Resources represented 39 per cent of voluntary contributions to UN Women, compared with 51 per cent five years earlier, in 2014.

FIG. 1 CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES, 2011-2018



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