

CORE RESOURCES REPORT 2017

A REPORT ON REGULAR RESOURCES

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE WOMAN AND GIRL AT A TIME

CORE RESOURCES REPORT 2017



GLOSSARY

Assessed contributions

Contributions allocated to UN Women through the United Nations programme budget, prepared by the Secretary-General and approved by the United Nations General Assembly. These resources provide UN Women with funding to service normative intergovernmental processes as well as policy and programme activities.

Core (regular) resources

Core resources, also known as regular resources, are unearmarked funds that are foundational to delivering results across UN Women's Strategic Plan. They mainly include revenue from the voluntary annual contributions of Governments and member Organizations, as well as unearmarked funds contributed by UN Women's National Committees or from private sector sources, including foundations, corporations and individuals.

Integrated budget

Appropriations for activities of UN Women related to programmes, development effectiveness, United Nations development coordination, management and special purposes.

Other resources

Other resources, also known as earmarked or non-core resources are "soft" or "hard" earmarked contributions made to UN Women to be used within a specific partner-designated programme, provided this is consistent with UN Women's regulations, policies and strategic plans.

Voluntary contributions

Non-assessed contributions, provided voluntarily by governments, interorganizational arrangements and private sector partners including corporations, foundations and individuals. These funds include core and earmarked resources.

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FOREWORD

Achieving gender equality requires a strong global institution like UN Women, and there can be no strong UN Women without core resources. Core resources are the backbone of UN Women. They allow us to connect our programmes and expand our reach, so that we can focus on impacting women's and girls' lives. They help to finance emerging or underfunded priorities and build a foundation for non-core funded activities, and they provide flexibility so that UN Women can work on critical areas like prevention of violence.

This report is the first to look more closely at how UN Women receives and allocates core resources and demonstrates how those resources drive results. It is also an important opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of our partners that contribute these resources.

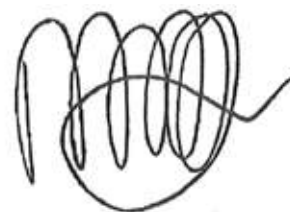
The report shows how the allocation of core resources has enabled us to deliver wide-ranging results for our key priority areas – most notably delivering programmes for women and girls and supporting UN Women's structure, including the hiring of technical experts. In this regard, examples include the staff of UN Women's Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response Office (HACRO) and the UN Women Malawi staff who supported the constitutional reform process that in 2017 helped to ban child marriage in the country. Core resources also funded the planning and design of programmes such as our Flagship Programme on data and the development of a strategy to bridge the gender gap in innovation and technology.

Last year, in 2017, we achieved our highest revenue since inception – USD 369 million – with USD 146.4 million in core resources from 119 partners, including 107 Member States. We recognize this generosity and take our responsibility for good stewardship seriously. We have built a strong foundation for transparency, accountability and judicious management of resources, with an unbroken record of clean audits for seven years running.

But despite progress, we can and must do more. Revenue remains far below our biannual integrated budget projections and core resources have not kept pace with the particularly strong growth in earmarked funding. Core resources are the best expression of multilateralism, allowing us to channel funding to projects that leverage the strengths of a range of partners. We are focused on continuing to grow and diversify these collaborations, including through steadily increasing contributions from emerging partners.

These investments in gender equality, at this moment in history, are essential to tackle the critical barriers that continue to challenge progress in all countries. Discriminatory laws, unequal pay, unpaid care work and the over representation of women in the informal economy contribute to a disproportionate poverty for women. Not a single country in the world has women significantly – and irreversibly – represented in decision-making roles at the highest levels. The exploitation of women and girls through gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, remains pervasive around the world. And stereotypes and regressive gender norms continue to shape attitudes and behaviours that impact women, girls, men and boys alike.

We are committed to ensuring a balanced approach of our normative, coordination and operational mandate as we work with partners within and outside of the UN system. A strong partnership with Member States and all other partners is essential, and I thank you for your confidence in us as we shape the road ahead for a world where every woman and girl enjoys a productive and dignified life.



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and
Executive Director of UN Women

Opposite: UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka meets with women at a UN Women-ActionAid supported Women Friendly Space in the Balukhali Rohingya Refugee camp in Bangladesh. Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce

UN WOMEN AND CORE SUPPORT: AN OVERVIEW

Core funding is the lifeblood of UN Women, the vital fuel of progress and hope for millions of women and girls. It is the symbol of the commitment, embraced by Member States, to end gender inequality in our lifetime.

UN Women is the only UN agency solely dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Its triple mandate is unique in the international system, calling on it to support the establishment of international norms, implement programmes on the ground, and coordinate actions to achieve gender equality across the United Nations.

It is a big task. UN Women depends on core funds to systematically integrate and achieve all parts of its triple mandate. Core funds enable UN Women to adapt quickly and effectively to emerging needs. They are a catalyst in raising additional investments in strategies proven to accelerate change.

In 2017, UN Women completed its 2014-2017 Strategic Plan with a record of transformative results. Two billion women and girls now live in countries with better policies for women's economic empowerment, for example. Stronger legal frameworks better protect 1.5 billion women and girls from gender-based violence.¹

¹ [UNW/2018/2 - Annual Report of the Under Secretary-General/Executive Director on the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017](#)

Yet much more needs to be done. The global groundswell of activism on ending violence against women, to cite just one issue, shows that demand for change is at an all-time high. UN Women has never been more essential. Success requires a sustained, diversified portfolio of resources, including core.

UN Women calls on its partners to be part of this success through investments in core resources. UN Member States, other UN entities, international financial institutions, foundations, businesses, philanthropies, civil society organizations and individuals can do their part.

A contribution to core resources is a contribution to our common aspiration. We all want a better world, one of equality and empowerment for every woman and girl.

Kemberly Gonzalez, a part of the local promoter team for UN Women arrives in Puente Viejo, in Guatemala's Polochic valley. A joint UN programme (FAO/IFAD/WFP/UNWOMEN) is helping more than 1,600 indigenous rural women become economically self-reliant by diversify their incomes. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



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