Switzerland was UN Women’s fifth largest contributor of total resources in 2018 and the second largest contributor of regular resources. Its political support for the creation of the entity in 2010 was fundamental and its financial contributions have been vital since. Switzerland is also the largest contributor to the UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality, a unique global mechanism dedicated exclusively to promote women’s economic and political empowerment.

Sharing common goals

Switzerland and UN Women share a fundamental commitment to gender equality. Women’s economic and political empowerment, prevention of violence against women and girls, and gender equality in governance, national planning and budgeting are common goals.

Switzerland is one of the governments at the forefront of reducing and eliminating the gender pay gap. Measures are in place in the Federal Constitution and Gender Equality Act to make the principle of equal pay for work of equal value for women and men a standard practice.

Switzerland has been a member of The Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) since its launch in September 2017.

Regular resources to UN Women in 2018: USD 16.18 million
Total resources to UN Women in 2018: USD 18.71 million

Banner photo: Through a grant from UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality, rural women in Tristao islands, Guinea, have formed cooperatives and have learned how to plant a vitamin-rich tree called Moringa and how to clean, dry and sell its leaves with the help of solar technology.

Meeting between the Swiss Federal Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Alain Berset and the UN Women Executive Director, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka during the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
Together we achieved:
Better Labour Conditions for Women Migrant Workers by Implementing Standards Terms of Employment

UN Women, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, is working in partnership with regional and national governments, private sector agencies, civil society actors and other UN agencies to promote and implement standard terms of employment in order to prevent the exploitation of women migrant workers (particularly domestic workers) and to safeguard their rights.

This programme aims to increase the number of national governments engaged in discussing standard terms of employment for women migrant domestic workers, increase governments’ awareness of policy frameworks on the role of recruitment/employment agencies to facilitate the implementation of standard terms of employment for women migrant domestic workers, and follow-up on global-level outcomes at the regional and national levels and ensure linkages at all levels.

Switzerland is the largest contributor to the UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality (FGE), with a total contribution of USD 6.2 million since 2012. The Fund is a multi-donor mechanism exclusively dedicated to gender equality and women’s economic and political empowerment. Since its creation in 2009, the Fund has awarded over USD 665 million in grants to 121 grantee programmes in 80 countries, reaching over 10 million direct beneficiaries.

Switzerland is the fourth highest all-time contributor of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF), managed by UN Women, with a total contribution of USD 11.4 million since 2009. The UN Trust Fund is a leading global grant-making mechanism that supports initiatives aimed at addressing, reducing and eliminating violence against women and girls. Since its creation, the UN Trust Fund has awarded USD 128 million to 462 initiatives in 139 countries and territories.

Improved Capacities, Better Results

Switzerland has contributed to the development of UN Women’s evaluation policy and to strengthening its effectiveness by financing the training of UN Women staff in the evaluation and monitoring of results.

Swiss funding made possible the implementation of the UN System Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP), a pioneering coordination, monitoring and accountability mechanism, to mainstream gender and accountability into the work of the UN System. The SWAP, led by UN Women, has harmonized, revitalized and systematized the work on gender mainstreaming, coalescing 62 UN entities around 15 commonly agreed Performance Indicators.

The UN Women cutting-edge Results Management System (RMS) was launched in 2015, with Swiss funding. UN Women is now equipped with a user-friendly tool for managing results in a more efficient way, from the planning stage to year-end reporting.

Leading the Way to Political Inclusion

Through their contribution to regular resources, Switzerland has helped UN Women work towards their goal of women’s full participation and leadership in all areas of life. In 2018, more than 50,000 women had increased access to, and control over, productive resources in 26 countries.