Partners for progress

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) has long been considered a stalwart supporter of gender equality, being one of the first countries to give women the vote 100 years ago. Since the establishment of UN Women, the UK has been a key financial and political partner, particularly with regards to the prioritization of regular resources.

Sharing common goals

The UK and UN Women share a fundamental commitment to gender equality. UN Women’s mandate and work corresponds closely with the UK’s development priorities, which hold the rights of women and girls to be central. Ending all forms of violence against women and girls, universal sexual and reproductive health and rights, girls’ education, women’s economic empowerment, and women’s political empowerment are specific goals we have in common.

In 2018 the UK was the second largest government contributor to UN Women with US $15.94 million in regular resources and US $28.37 million in total resources.

Banner photo: Kajiado Community members participating in an Anti-FGM and ending child marriage during the 16 days of activism in Kenya. The UK enables programmes ending violence against women through their regular resource contributions to UN Women.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May addresses the General Assembly in September 2017.
Together we achieved:

Safe Cities for Women and Girls

Backed by the UK, UN Women is working to develop, implement, and evaluate tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls through its Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Initiative. London, the capital of the UK, is a member of the Safe Cities programme. The UK is also supporting the implementation of the programme in Hawassa, Ethiopia.

Collecting Gender-Sensitive Data

In March 2018, the then International Development Secretary and current Minister for Women and Equalities Penny Mordaunt announced a contribution of up to £6 million over four years for the UN Women-led flagship programme for gender data. This programme, named ‘Making Every Woman and Girl Count,’ seeks to address the urgent need to increase the availability of accurate information on gender equality and women’s rights in order to inform policy and decision-making. The public-private initiative was established in 2016 and will continue over the course of five years.

Ending Violence Against Women

Through their contribution to regular resources, the UK has aided UN Women in efforts to end violence against women. In 2016-2017, 24 countries strengthened legislation addressing violence against women and girls.

Women, Peace and Security

Much of the UK’s contribution to UN Women has gone towards the Women, Peace and Security agenda, facilitating a number of projects and programmes including the following: Gender Equality, Masculinities and Violent Extremism in North Africa: A Research Agenda. In September 2017, the UK contributed GBP 1.5 million for this 18-month research programme, which seeks to examine the gendered dynamics of violent extremism in North Africa.

Women’s Political Participation within Yemen’s Peace Process and Transition. This GBP 0.8 million UK-funded programme runs from August 2016 to March 2018, and aims to engage Yemeni women leaders in the peace and reconciliation process in the country.

Engaging Women in Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism in Kenya, a project for which the UK contributed GBP 0.1 million, looks to address the root causes of violent extremism through the promotion and advancement of women’s active participation in efforts to prevent and respond to extremist violence.

Total contribution to UNTF: USD 23 million

Since 2014, the UK has been a key contributor to the UN’s Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF). In 2018, they were the single largest donor to the UNTF with a contribution of USD 6.37 million. In December 2017, the then UK International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced that up to GBP 12 million would be made available to the UNTF EVAW over a period of three years.