



Photo: UN Women/Louie Pacardo

# Regular Resources enable a flexible and fast response to the COVID-19 pandemic

## Regular resources are invaluable in a crisis

UN Women works within the UN System to influence and implement targeted and system-wide responses so that they work better for gender equality, both in terms of response and recovery efforts.

Regular Resources (RR) allow the flexibility to allocate funds when and where they are most needed. As the COVID-19 crisis emerged, UN Women in the field and HQ pivoted to focus on its contribution to the response, including through policy engagement, programmatic action, coordination, development of tools and guidance and advocacy. While reprogramming of other resources is dependent on agreements with specific donors and governed by those agreements, RR could quickly be redeployed to respond to the effects of COVID-19. In practice, this often meant that staff whose salaries were paid from RR could immediately be given new COVID-19 focused responsibilities.

UN Women's response was further facilitated by a number of partners making early payment of their RR contributions.

RR enabled a swift response, and facilitated effective engagement with, and support to, governments, civil society and the private sector. UN Women has been a leader in driving gender mainstreaming into COVID-19 response and recovery from our work to promote protection from COVID-19 impacts for Rohingya women and girls, to engaging OECD members on building gender considerations into stimulus packages.

REGULAR RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2020  
(IN MILLION US\$)

YTD April



CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AS OF 10 MAY REPRESENT **48%** OF EXECUTIVE BOARD ENDORSED BUDGET OF **\$200 MILLION** FOR REGULAR RESOURCES IN 2020.

# RR have made possible UN Women's contribution for high impact results

## We have driven a global discussion

- UN Women has developed a [response framework](#) with five priorities covering: gender-based violence (GBV); social protection and economic stimulus packages; equal sharing of the burden of care; leadership and participation in COVID-19 response planning and decision-making; data and coordination mechanisms to include gender perspectives.
- We issued a [Call to Action](#) to governments and other stakeholders on the need for response to the COVID-19 pandemic that takes gender perspectives into account.
- We issued a [Ten-point checklist](#) for governments to guide a gender-sensitive response.
- UN Women led the development of the [UN Policy Brief: The impact of COVID-19 on Women](#), launched by the UN Secretary-General.
- UN Women is addressing social norms that support unequal distribution of care responsibilities and challenging stereotypes. The [#HeForSheAtHome](#) campaign seeks to inspire men and boys to help balance the burden in their households.
- UN Women has developed policy guidance on violence against women [COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#).
- UN Women is making gender data widely available through a dedicated COVID-19 section in the [Women Count Data Hub](#) and presenting sex and age disaggregated data updated bi-weekly, by WHO.

## And effectively mainstreamed gender into the UN system's response

- UN Women has been the leading voice for gender equality in the Executives Committee/Deputies Committee, Senior Management Group, and the UN Sustainable Development Group, UN Crisis Management Team (CMT) UN SDG ASG Task Force for UNDS response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.
- UN Women participates through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Advisory Board for UN Development System (UNDS) response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.
- UN Women is a member of the WHO-led COVID-19 Task Team and contributes to the engendering of WHO strategic preparedness and response plans.
- UN Women is not part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and was not part of the humanitarian appeal that was launched. However, through the IASC Reference Group for Gender in UN Women led development of the Humanitarian Action Interim Guidance: Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak.
- We are using our existing health partnerships such as the H6 Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being and UNAIDS to position gender in the health response.
- UN Women is actively engaged in regional response coordinating mechanisms. For example, in West and Central Africa our Regional Office produced an advocacy brief on emergency social protection mechanisms for women in the informal economy which was disseminated to RC Offices throughout the region.
- UN Women is co-leading the Asia-Pacific Issue-Based Coalition on Human Rights and Gender Equality with UNFPA and OHCHR, focusing on COVID-19 response and recovery. We are also leveraging the regional Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, co-chaired with CARE and OCHA, to advocate for accountability to women and girls throughout all actions taken in the context of COVID-19 and any further emergencies that emerge.
- In the Arab States Region we are establishing linkages and actively participating in UN humanitarian structures and engaging UN agencies' COVID-19 preparedness and response plans to ensure that gender is integrated within their programming.



Photo: World Bank/Henitsoa Rafalia

## UN Women is supporting better policy and guidance

- UN Women supported development of [COVID-19 and Human Rights: We are all in this together](#).
- UN Women and the OECD convened the [Women Leaders' Virtual Roundtable on COVID-19 and the Future](#) to discuss ways of leveraging women's leadership to identify and prioritize policy measures that facilitates a more gender-inclusive recovery path.
- With ILO and UNICEF, UN Women has issued guidance on [Family-friendly policies and other good workplace practices in the context of COVID-19: Key steps employers can take](#).
- UN Women and UNICEF have partnered to produce the brief: [Promoting Positive Gender Roles in Marketing and Advertising](#).
- UN Women-led inter-agency campaigns are celebrating the work of women on the frontlines of preparedness and response. For World Health Day on April 7th, UN Women, UNFPA, and WHO launched a social media campaign to advocate for nurses and midwives' access to critical supplies and to honor their work.

## UN Women is making a difference on the ground with Regular Resources

- Regional and country level responses are being led by UN Women Representatives who are funded through RR.
- All regions have developed policy briefs on the impact on gender equality of COVID-19 with a focus on prevention and access to essential services in health, justice and policing, social services, helplines and coordination of these services to mitigate risks of violence against women and girls, as well as to provide support services to those who have experienced and/or witnessed violence.
- UN Women is supporting partners to update referral pathways and service delivery protocols, including with police and justice institutions in Bolivia, Ecuador, South Africa, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vanuatu.
- UN Women is supporting online or phone-based service provision and counseling in Fiji, [Jordan](#), Lebanon, and Ukraine.
- In refugee camps in Jordan, counselling services for women GBV survivors are being provided by phone; UN Women is also providing essential sanitation supplies for clinics and shelters.
- UN Women is coordinating the gender response in the Humanitarian Response Plan to COVID-19 in Lebanon.
- In all regions, UN Women conducts social and economic assessments from a gender perspective to understand needs and tailor responses under the various areas of work.
- UN Women Representatives are convening leaders and decision-makers to advocate for the importance of women's leadership in the response; to help ensure that women's organizations and women are on the frontlines of the response and to argue for support for women's livelihoods.

*Before the lockdown went into effect, a UN Women beneficiary gets her iris scanned, allowing her to buy groceries at the Sameh Mall Supermarket in Azraq refugee camp, Jordan. Photo: UN Women/Lauren Rooney*





## Looking forward

The extraordinary value of RR is in facilitating UN Women's essential global role of ensuring that response and recovery efforts fully incorporate a gender dimension. UN Women appreciates ongoing, and if possible, additional RR contributions to ensure its continued ability to fulfil its mandate in addressing the disproportionate effects COVID-19 is having on women and girls globally.

UN Women's work is closely aligned with the UN report *Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19*, which UN Women helped author. Specifically, it provides the following foundation for UN Women's work and use of future RR:

- The socio-economic response framework provides an **integrated support package** offered by the United Nations Development System (UNDS) across five streams of work.
- The document clearly states **the need for a gender lens in designing socio-economic responses**, including women's roles as frontline workers, caregivers, community leaders and in the informal economy, as well as in **human rights and gender analysis to inform the design of policies** and ensure disaggregated data.
- The focus is on the **here and now at country level without losing sight of the promise of the 2030 Agenda**. Its timeframe is 12 to 18 months as an immediate development offer, to be implemented by UN Country Teams.
- Reference is made to ensure that there is no backsliding on limited gains made and **SDG 5** guiding the response as being crucial while recognizing that the crisis risks further exclusion and discrimination .

UN Women takes the opportunity to thank again its RR donors for making possible its work to urgently mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to make long-lasting changes that positively impact women and girls.

