Financing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Results

Executive Board Informal Briefing
Structured Dialogue on Financing
New York, 25 August 2020
COVID-19 is a public health and economic crisis that has changed the development financing landscape, but investment in gender equality is essential to support effective recovery.

Impressive growth in other resource revenue in 2019 is unlikely to be matched in 2020 and declining regular resource revenue is widening the core/non-core imbalance, which affects our ability to deliver our specific mandate. In this context, UN Women is taking steps to be fit-for-purpose in 2020 and beyond.

Next to regular resource revenue, other resources that are flexible and predictable offer funding partners, the UN development system and partner countries the best value for money and return on investment.
Presentation Outline

1. Global financing environment
2. Investment in results
3. Financing picture 2019
4. Expenditures 2019
5. Implications of funding gaps
6. UN Women’s response
7. Meeting 2020 challenges and beyond
The COVID-19 pandemic is a major setback for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Shrinking global GDP is reducing available ODA and the financial outlook in developing economies is being further affected by reduced inflows of external private finance. In the context of a global economic recession, financing for gender equality is crucial because:

• Even before the pandemic, gender equality progress was uneven. Rollbacks for women and girls will increase existing inequalities and vulnerabilities and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women will further feminize poverty.

• Gender inequality is economically costly. A gender-regressive scenario of inaction could cost global GDP growth $1 trillion, while gender-responsive action could add $13 trillion to global GDP in 2030.

• UN Women is acting to be fit-for-purpose in a post-COVID world, including through corporate-decision making and programme portfolio reviews, and MTR-driven strategic re-prioritization.

“This is the time to step up, not step back…”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women
Investment Results
Investments lead to country-level results in 2019-2020

**Leadership & Governance**

- **OVER 158 THOUSAND** women and girls received legal aid support
- **OVER 16 THOUSAND** women from diverse backgrounds received training and gained leadership skills

**Economic Empowerment**

- **OVER 3400** companies have signed up to the Women’s Empowerment Principles globally
- **OVER 82** laws and polices were adopted in **40 countries** to empower women in the economy

**Ending Violence against Women**

- **OVER 49 COUNTRIES** scaled up support for women and girl survivors of violence

**Peace & Security**

- **OVER 181 MILLION** people in **40 countries** benefit from gender-responsive disaster risk reduction strategies and policies
- **OVER 500 THOUSAND** women and girls received humanitarian assistance and benefitted from disaster risk reduction and resilience work in **48 countries**

**Developed or improved guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures for quality services for women and girl survivors of violence**
Regular resources enable COVID-19 responses in 2020

**NORMATIVE**

Where we are
From 2018-2019, UN Women supported 118 countries to conduct the 25-year reviews and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

**RESULT HIGHLIGHT**

BPfA +25 reviews led to a global synthesis report and a strong political declaration supported by UN-Women and a multi-stakeholder hearing, led by the President of the General Assembly, that highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls

**COORDINATION**

Where we are
UN Women coordinated 19 UN entities on GEWE COVID-19 guidance in UN frameworks and is participating in COVID-19 system-wide Cluster Coordination in over 18 countries

**RESULT HIGHLIGHT**

UN Women’s proposal to integrate the Gender Equality Marker in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund was unanimously accepted and UN Women launched the UNCT Gender Equality Marker helpdesk

**OPERATIONAL**

Where we are
UN Women is supporting rapid-action COVID-19 response and recovery actions in over 75 countries.

**RESULT HIGHLIGHT**

Rapid, agile, direct COVID-19 response, such as provision of personal protective equipment to over 66,900 women’s organizations and frontline violence against women service providers in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
Financing Picture
• Revenue from all sources reached an all-time high in 2019 of $527.4 M

• Other resources grew by 52% but growth is unlikely to be sustained. Regular resources decreased by 4%

• Improved predictability of resources: in 2019 54% of RR and 68% of OR agreements were multi-year compared to 21% and 65% in 2016

• Average agreement value increased: 6% of OR contributions >$5 M in 2019 compared to 2% in 2016 and between 2016-2019 23% fewer <$150 K contributions
• Total programme expenditure reached a record high in 2019 of **$326 M**, a 14% increase from 2018.

• At the regional level, programme expenditure reached **$246 M**, representing 75% of overall programme expenditure.

• The **largest proportion** of resources contributed to SP **Outcome 5** on WPS, followed by SP **Outcome 4** on EVAW.

• SP Outcomes 2 and 5 expenditure are in line with the IRRF, while Outcome 1 reflects higher than anticipated demand and Outcomes 3 and 4 are falling behind as of the mid-point of the SP.
2019 RR funding gap widened in 2019 to $57 M from $50.9 M in 2018, while the 2019 OR funding gap closed

2020 projections indicate UN Women is in line to meet $285 M OR integrated budget estimate but anticipates a $51 M RR gap or 25.5% of the $200 M RR integrated budget estimate.

Despite foreign exchange losses in 2020, RR projections indicate the RR funding gap will narrow compared to 2019 given increased contributions/pledges from several partners.

The share of voluntary contributions received as RR is declining, from 44% in 2015 down to 28.5% in 2019, falling below the Funding Compact threshold of 30% for the first time. The projected share of RR in 2020 is 32%, primarily due to an anticipated reduction in OR.
Implications of Funding Gaps
Gender equality depends on regular resources

Unearmarked funds enable UN Women to carry out our full mandate as the global champion, convenor, and catalyst for gender equality and women’s empowerment. These funds provide stability to plan and achieve long-term strategic objectives, offer flexibility to respond quickly to crises, and ignite innovative and catalytic programming that leverages other resources.
Funding gaps impact response time and results

Limits coordination capacity and restricts capacity to engage in UNS processes

$1M over 2 years in additional regular resources would support the ongoing, dedicated coordination with International Financial Institutions on the integration of gender in COVID-19 related government stimulus packages.

$5M over 3 years would allow UN Women’s leadership and expertise to support 15 national governments to develop and implement gender-responsive governance and national planning.

$12M would have enabled UN Women to pivot programming in 20 countries to invest in women’s economic and social protection as a key evidence-based strategy to prevent violence in the context of COVID-19.

Limits ability to hire technical expertise to provide policy support to Member States at country level

— RR Funding Gaps Affect Normative and Coordination Mandate the Most —
UN Women’s Response in Partnership
Flexible funding: country programme Strategic Notes

Strategic Note funding trends, 2015-2019*

Growth Trend
2015-2019 increase in number of donors, number of country SNs funded and annual value of investment

2020 YTD indicates continued positive trend, with $19.8M mobilized from 13 donors for SNs in 17 countries, with almost $25 M mobilized for the period 2021-2024

2020 Donors
Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, UNOPS, United States, US National Committee, Zonta

Advantages
• aligns with QCPR recommendation to provide un-earmarked and multiyear funding.
• allows for more strategic allocation of resources to reach transformative results
• reduces transaction costs, such as streamlining of reporting

*extracted from DAMS, agreement value has been annualized
Leverage inter-agency pooled funding

- Funding Compact calls on Member States and UNDS to do more and better in interagency pooled funding.
- UN Women had an increase of over 40% in 2019 compared to 2018.

- UN Women participated in 305 joint programmes in 2019 (mainly in the Africa region and on WPS / HA).
- In 2019, UN Women participated in joint programmes in 70 of 101 UNCTs and in 74% of UNCT joint programmes targeting gender equality.
- 14% of total programme expenditure ($45.7M of $326M) was through joint programming, with a QCPR target to reach 25% by 2021.

UN Women partnership with the Peace Building Fund led to allocation of 40% of funding in 2018-2019 to projects integrating a gender perspective.

UN Women is active in newly developed pooled funds, such as the Joint SDG Fund, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and the Spotlight Initiative to End VAW.
Pilot investments in individual giving pay off

National Committees raised **$7.3M** in 2019, up 30%, with **$2.3M** in regular resources.

UN Women launched a new governance framework in 2019 and restructured National Committees.

National Committees currently have close to **15,000** monthly donors.

Monthly donors generated **$2.16M** in gross revenue.

We know there is RM potential in the individual giving sector **but we do not have** the funds required to invest in it in 2020.
Thematic funds **align** with Funding Compact and are used by the other New York-based UN Funds and Programmes.

Thematic funds offer **predictable support** over the entire SP funding period and enables partners to earmark funds to priority geographic locations or sectors, while allowing UN Women to direct resources where they are most needed.

Thematic funds **lower cost** recovery so that more funding is directed to programmes, through reduced contribution management, M&E and reporting costs, and improves long term planning and programme sustainability.

Thematic funds encourage **joint partner collaboration**, visibility and dialogue around UN Women impact.
Challenges and Opportunities in 2020 and Beyond
Meeting the challenges of the next decade

UN reform demonstrates UN Women’s pivotal role as the only entity that can offer a holistic approach to promote gender equality, bringing programme expertise together with gender equality norm setting and system-wide coordination.

- UN Women is operationalizing UN reform for a more **effective and transparent** organization, able to support the achievement of the SDG by 2030, with the Funding Compact as a key partnership framework driving better results from a more secure financial footing.

- UN Women’s rapid and targeted response to COVID-19 demonstrated our capacity to extensively **convene and coordinate the UN system** for a GEWE crisis response, leveraging partnerships and supporting women’s leadership.

- UN Women is **promoting Financing for Development** (FFD) through a seat on the FFD Committee, participating in several workstreams to ensure gender equality in the Build Back Better agenda and collaborating with the MPTF.

- UN Women’s new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 design process will be guided by four key principles: relevant, evidence-based, highly consultative and coordinated with other sister agencies. The plan will clearly define **WHAT** changes in women’s lives UN Women can catalyze, and **WHY**, **WHERE** and **HOW** it will contribute to changes most effectively, with emphasis on partnerships and joint action.

- UN Women is at the **forefront of innovative financing**, partnering with Multilateral Development Banks and private financial institutions to catalyze FFD for governments’ own funding needs for SDG 5 and is collaborating with UNDP on embedding a gender lens into the SDG Bond Principles for Private Equity and Corporate SDG Bonds.
Addressing anticipated financial constraints

COVID-19 represents the largest economic shock the world has experienced in decades, with global GDP expected to contract by 5.2% in 2020, despite government efforts to counter the economic downturn.

UN Women is practicing cost containment in 2020 to ensure the organization is in the strongest possible financial position in 2021.

UN Women is demonstrating its added value in COVID-19 responses, including through extensive UNS coordination; leveraging public and private partnership; scaling up communications and advocacy; and adjusting policy, programme and RM.

UN Women is working with donors to better understand their financing situation in order to plan accordingly and inform decisions on how best to use resources based on alternative scenarios, including the possible scenario of a severely-reduced RR income in 2021.
Thank you to our committed partners

Top 15 Government Donors, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>Regular Resources (Core)</th>
<th>Other Resources (Non-Core)</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. European Commission</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84,427,239</td>
<td>84,427,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sweden</td>
<td>13,051,394</td>
<td>43,089,537</td>
<td>56,140,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Norway</td>
<td>11,700,012</td>
<td>19,550,780</td>
<td>31,250,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. United Kingdom</td>
<td>16,224,386</td>
<td>10,515,059</td>
<td>26,739,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Finland</td>
<td>11,123,471</td>
<td>8,952,907</td>
<td>20,076,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Switzerland</td>
<td>16,032,064</td>
<td>3,328,743</td>
<td>19,360,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Japan</td>
<td>3,926,139</td>
<td>13,724,712</td>
<td>17,650,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Denmark</td>
<td>8,999,704</td>
<td>6,462,470</td>
<td>15,462,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Canada</td>
<td>4,887,229</td>
<td>9,554,462</td>
<td>14,441,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Australia</td>
<td>5,539,455</td>
<td>8,845,771</td>
<td>14,385,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. United States of America</td>
<td>7,225,000</td>
<td>6,947,939</td>
<td>14,172,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Germany</td>
<td>8,905,800</td>
<td>5,262,022</td>
<td>14,167,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Netherlands (the)</td>
<td>4,444,444</td>
<td>5,357,021</td>
<td>9,801,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Italy</td>
<td>2,200,220</td>
<td>6,499,062</td>
<td>8,699,282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The European Commission is a Government member organization. This amount includes funding towards the Spotlight Initiative (USD 59.21 million).

Funding partners stepped it up for gender equality in 2020 by:

- Making regular resource payments earlier in the year, with 26% more RR received as of July 2020 compared to last year. Early RR payments were received from 19 countries, including: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

- Increasing regular resource payments in 2020, including from the governments of Finland, Germany, the United States, France, Denmark, Luxembourg, and Italy.
Thank You