



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE



UN WOMEN AND AUSTRALIA

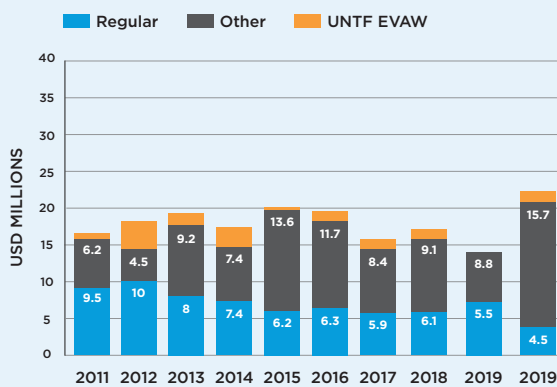
Partners for progress

Australia is a longstanding advocate for gender equality and women’s empowerment on both a domestic and an international scale. Australia has been a key partner, politically and financially, since UN Women’s establishment. The Government of Australia is also a strong supporter of the Australian National Committee for UN Women.

Sharing common goals

UN Women and Australia share a fundamental commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment. UN Women’s mandate and current priorities complement Australia’s Foreign Aid Policy in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in the areas of women’s economic empowerment, ending violence against women, leadership and participation, and peace and security.

Australia’s Government Funding to UN Women



In 2016, Australia and UN Women finalized the new Partnership Framework agreement 2016-2020, which outlines shared objectives in the Indo-Pacific region and globally, as well as Australia’s multi-year commitment to regular resources.

A new SPF agreement from 2022 to 2025 will include new partnership objectives linked to the use and impact of regular resources, recognition and visibility of contributions, consistent and coordinated institutional address of issues relating to sexual harassment and exploitation, and a better definition of UN Women’s role in the area of humanitarian action.

Australia’s May 2021 women’s budget outlined new spending to improve women’s safety, economic security, health and well-being. This forms the basis of Australia’s commitments to the Generation Equality Forum presented in Paris on 2 July 2021. The Government of Australia also took the opportunity to join the Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence.

In 2020, Australia contributed a total of USD 23.1 million to UN Women and was the fifth largest government contributor. Australia was the tenth largest government contributor to regular resources and the fourth largest government contributor to other resources.

Banner photo: Market vendors at the formal ceremony marking the start of infrastructural upgrade of the Luganville Market in Santo (Vanuatu) to ensure a safer and resilient marketplace. UN Women/Trish Toangwera

Together we achieved:

Women's Economic Empowerment and Safe Cities in the Pacific

Australia is UN Women's largest contributor in the Pacific region, and since 2014 has supported the Markets for Change programme which ensures that marketplaces in rural and urban areas of Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are safe, inclusive, and promote women's participation in decision-making and leadership.

To date, over 10,000 market vendors, 75 to 90 per cent of whom are women, are now represented through Market Vendors Association (MVAs) Executive Committees, advocating for their interests with market management and local authorities. The majority of MVAs have 50 per cent women in leadership positions.



A market vendor in Fiji shows her support for ending violence against women and girls by wearing orange at an event organized by the Markets for Change project, supported by Australia.

Launched in 2011, the Port Moresby Safe City Programme in Papua New Guinea is making three of the city's markets safe for users, especially women and girls, and empowering women economically. In 2015, the programme expanded to support the provision of safe, reliable and affordable public transport to enable women, youth and children to move freely and safely. This public transport has provided safe transport to over 100,000 women in 2018 alone.

Since the beginning of the programme, it has helped establish 19 vendor associations with a membership of over 4,000 women. The national government has taken on the vendor association model to engage with the informal sector across the country. This model has now been institutionalised within a new National informal sector policy.

Working with government, civil society, the private sector, and men and boys, the programme has contributed to the inclusion of women's safety inputs in market by-laws, a significant reduction in violence against women, and the establishment of a mobile phone bank account and bill paying system for vendors, among other things.

Australia National Committee for UN Women

Established in 1990, the Australian National Committee supports UN Women through a range of fundraising and advocacy campaigns. A dynamic and active organization, the Australian branch was the third largest National Committee fundraiser for UN Women in 2020, contributing a total of USD 526,895.

Ending Violence Against Women



Through their contribution to regular resources, Australia has aided UN Women in efforts to end violence against women across the world. In 2020, a total of 98,688 women and girls used specialist support services such as trauma counselling, legal aid and safe accommodation provided by UN Trust Fund grantees and implementing partners.

Ending Violence Against Women

The Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), and increase access to quality response services for survivors.

The Pacific region has some of the highest rates of violence against women recorded in the world – twice the global average with up to two in every three Pacific women impacted by gender-based violence. With support from Australia, UN Women is working to promote gender equitable social norms at individual and community levels to prevent violence against women and girls, and to ensure survivors have access to quality response services.

The first year of the Pacific Partnership saw extensive community mobilization focused on social norm and behaviour change to prevent VAWG in Fiji and Kiribati; the adoption of Standard Operating Procedures for responding to VAWG in Fiji, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands; the opening of a crisis centre for survivors of violence in Kiribati; and the training of counsellors to provide support to VAWG survivors in line with global standards in 11 Pacific island nations.

Gender Data and Statistics

A longstanding advocate on the importance of gender statistics, Australia was a key contributor to the multi-year Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative which was implemented by UN Women and the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with other partners. The initiative focused on efforts to respond to the lack of gender-related statistics by supporting capacity-building and strengthening of national systems on data collection in critical areas. The initiative was piloted in 10 countries between 2012 and 2015, focusing on data about women's education, employment and entrepreneurship.

Australia also supports the Making every woman and girl count: Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics global programme. Part of UN Women's Gender Statistics flagship initiative, the programme will ensure gender statistics are available, accessible, analyzed and used to inform policymaking, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women's empowerment.