



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE



UN WOMEN AND FINLAND

Partners for progress

Finland is a pioneer in gender equality, and in 1906 became the first country in the world to give women both the right to vote and stand for election. As a longstanding champion of gender equality, Finland was a key advocate, among Member States, for the establishment of UN Women and remains a key partner financially and politically.

The Government of Finland and UN Women engage in annual consultations to review the progress of their partnership and ensure it is evolving to provide the value each partner expects.

Sharing common goals

As one of the three UN agencies which the Government of Finland prioritizes, UN Women strongly exemplifies Finland’s commitment to gender equality. Finland’s cooperation with UN Women has grown increasingly stronger and UN Women’s mandate and work correspond closely with the priorities of the Finnish Development Policy which includes particular emphasis on the rights of women and girls. This partnership has resulted in Finland supporting a stronger focus on women’s leadership, political participation and economic empowerment.

Finland is a co-lead of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and has committed to also support the work of other action coalitions that promote sexual and reproductive health and eradicate online violence. Finland has pledged EUR 150 million to achieving these goals.

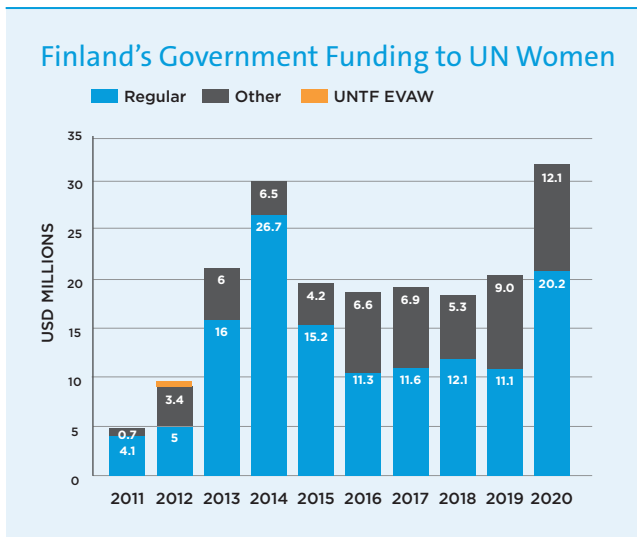


Photo: Nikolai Jakobsen

Prime Minister Sanna Marin announced Finland’s global gender equality measures in Paris on 30 June 2021.

In 2020, Finland provided the largest regular resources contribution of USD 20.2 million and the third largest government contribution to total resources of USD 32.3 million to UN Women.

Banner photo: Pushpa Sunar (in blue) and her team distribute food from the community kitchen organized by UN Women partner Maiti Nepal. Photo courtesy of Maiti Nepal

Together we achieved:

Women's leadership in peace and security

Finland's thematic priorities in peacebuilding and state building focus on women's participation. In 2018 and 2019, support was provided for Syrian women's engagement and leadership in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts. Some of the results achieved included advocacy by Member States for women's participation and securing a 28 per cent women's inclusion rate in the Constitutional Committee (CC); and increased technical capacity of the Women's Advisory Board (WAB) to engage in the political process, through targeted roundtable discussions on themes relevant to the political process. In 2020, the Government of Finland provided EUR 990,100 for a second phase of the programme to build on the results of the first phase.

Finland has committed EUR 4.7 million to women, peace and security in the Arab States over the three-year period 2019 to 2021. The programme aims to translate policy into practice and results. Some of the results achieved include mobilizing key stakeholders in Jordan, Tunisia, and Lebanon to increase ownership for the implementation of their respective national action plans (NAPs) on women, peace and security; and providing more than 14,000 women and girls, survivors of violence, increased access to services including prevention and response hotline and online services, psychosocial assistance, legal advice and shelter provided across Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia, and Lebanon.

Finland has been a leader on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, as well as advancing the use of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution.

Finland has supported UN Women's work to build Accountability for National and Regional Implementation of Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security through the Peace and Security Global Facility. This has included the establishment of the Women, Peace and Security Financing Discussion Group, the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women in Humanitarian Action, Peace and Security and the launch of several reports and support to the monitoring of the implementation of the national action plan (NAP), for example in Kosovo.

Finland National Committee for UN Women

The National Committee for UN Women in Finland was the first in the world, founded in 1981 at the initiative of Ms. Helvi Sipilä, who was the first woman to hold the post of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Today the National Committee is a dynamic organization that works on advocacy and fundraising, with 18 local chapters.

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Finland National Committee for UN Women giving out roses in Helsinki in support of the HeForShe campaign.

Political Participation

Finland has supported UN Women's work in Kenya for years to enhance the capacity of gender machineries and advocates to develop legal frameworks and policies that promote women's leadership and participation. In 2020, a review of two key pieces of electoral legislation supported women's participation in the electoral processes. Additionally, over 8 million individuals were reached through different advocacy initiatives to increase citizen understanding on women's leadership and participation, especially in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Tanzania, Finland is supporting UN Women's work to increase the leadership and political participation of women, youth and persons living with disabilities. Following the success of the first phase of the 'Women's Leadership and Political Participation Project, (WLPP) Wanawake Wanaweza' programme the Government of Finland has mobilised USD 3.9 million for phase II, taking place during the 2017-2022 period. Some of the results achieved include the development of gender mainstreaming guidelines in Tanzania for the public service. The positive results of the guidelines in Tanzania is driving a similar process in Zanzibar. Through the programme, UN Women has also supported the development of the 2020 National Gender Policy.

Bridging the Humanitarian Divide



Over the last 10 years, Finland's regular resources have aided UN Women in efforts to reduce poverty and inequalities of women and girls facing humanitarian crises. In 2020, UN Women partnered with 40 United Nations entities across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to support women and girls to contribute to, and equally benefit from, measures building peace and resilience, and respond to humanitarian crises and disasters.

Humanitarian Action

In Jordan, Finland supports UN Women's efforts to address the urgent needs of refugees and the needs of those living in Jordan's hosting communities. In the Za'atari refugee camp UN Women operates safe spaces for women and girls – and in cooperation with the WFP - offers a range of essential services including cash for work – to further nutritional diversity among female headed households, protection referral services and life skills.

Results have included leveraging the use of innovation and technology for cash for work opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic; enhanced protection services with gender-based violence counselling, awareness raising, protection and prevention services; and supporting the Government of Jordan in the development and roll-out of the 2020- 2025 National Strategy for Women and its subsequent COVID-19 addendum.