



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE



UN WOMEN AND SWEDEN

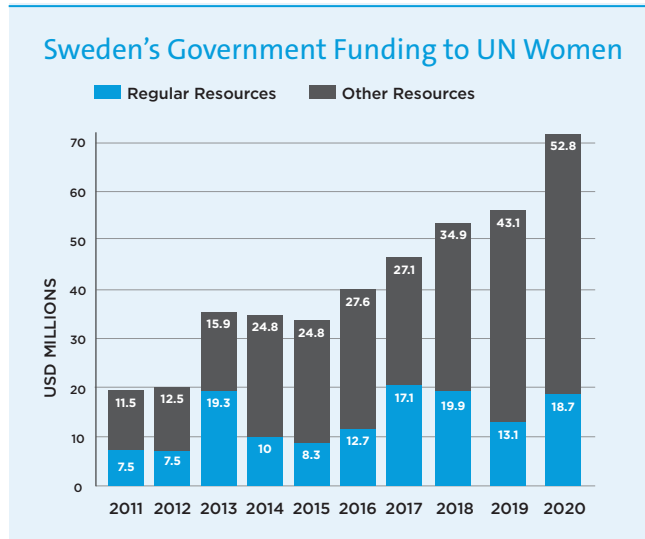
Partners for progress

Sweden is a supporter of gender equality nationally, in its development cooperation and in the UN and is the first country to adopt a feminist foreign policy. This policy ensures that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in to policymaking, both nationally and internationally. Since the establishment of UN Women, Sweden has been a key financial and political partner and has consistently been among UN Women's top three donors. In 2018, the two partners signed a new agreement where Sweden commits to multi-year regular resource funding for 2018-2021.

Sharing common goals

The collaboration between Sweden and UN Women is supported by their shared fundamental commitment to gender equality. Sweden's development cooperation holds the rights of women and girls to be central and prioritizes strengthening the rights of refugees as well as women's economic power, combating violence against women, promoting women's role in peace processes as well as their leadership and political participation, and fighting for sexual and reproductive rights. These are specific goals in common with UN Women and why Sweden strongly supports the mandate and work of the entity.

Sweden co-leads the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights and has been instrumental in the development of the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS-HA Compact).



Economic Empowerment

Through Sweden's contribution to UN Women's regular resources over the last 10 years, more than 125,000 rural women and nearly 400,000 families have benefitted from greater access to sustainable livelihoods and climate-resilient technologies and productive resources.

In 2020, Sweden was UN Women's second largest contributor to regular resources and other resources with USD 18.7 and USD 52.8 million respectively. Sweden provided the second largest in total contributions with USD 71.6 million.

Banner photo: The Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women by FAO, WFP, IFAD and UN Women is working to advance advance gender equality and economic empowerment of women. In Guatemala, the programme started in 2015, with funding from Norway and Sweden, supporting rural women to develop a range of skills, from sustainable agricultural practices to marketing organic shampoo and learning solar engineering. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Together we achieved: Women's Economic Engagement

Sweden has contributed to strategic notes for more than 15 UN Women offices including South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Liberia, Moldova, Mali, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Georgia, providing flexible, predictable other resource funding. This is in addition to broader normative programmes at the country level. An example of this is Sweden's SEK 86,450,000 contribution to the Uganda Strategic Note 2016-2020: Harnessing Gains of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Uganda, which address women's economic vulnerability and employment opportunities in the agricultural sector, among other issues. The programme already notes significant results with the equipping of almost 2,000 women with entrepreneurial and life skills to establish, operate and expand their businesses and support for the adoption of gender-responsive budgeting as a core principle for national development planning. Through the programme government ministries and civil society organizations such as the Council for Economic Empowerment for Women – Uganda and the Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative are building their capacities to support women's economic security and rights. In 2020, Sweden provided new funding of SEK 60 million to Uganda's Strategic Note 2019-2022.

Women's Leadership and Political Participation



Sweden is a long-time partner in Turkey, being a strong ally for UN Women's work in the advancement of women's participation in decision-making processes in the country. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) mobilized resources for the "Gender Equality in Political Leadership and Political Participation in Turkey" programme, implemented from 2014 to 2020.

The programme contributed to support women in Turkey to lead and participate in decision-making at all levels by enhancing parliamentary capacity to promote gender equality; strengthening the capacities of elected women; and

Sweden's National Committee for UN Women

Sweden hosts an active National Committee for UN Women, which contributes to the Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. In 2020, the national committee contributed a total of USD 60,476 to UN Women.

supporting dialogue mechanisms to enhance the policy space for gender equality advocates and civil society. Some of the results achieved include, sustainable institutional internal capacity on gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting in the National Assembly and municipal offices, and women candidates running for elections at all levels.

SIDA has generously contributed SEK 25 million to a new programme, "Advancing gender equality and women's leadership in political and business life in Turkey" (2021 to 2024). This new programme will build on the gains of the previous programme and continue to foster women's leadership.

Combating Violence Against Women

In 2019 Sweden signed an agreement which provides SEK 33.5 million for UN Women's work in Peace and Security in South Sudan from 2019-2021. This agreement supports UN Women's action at a normative and operational level. UN Women relies on its strong partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare along with CSOs and women's organizations to support capacity-building, gender disaggregated data, and technical expertise, to systematically assess progress. Flexible funding to the Strategic Note for South Sudan allows the implementation of a range of issues, which firmly place women at the epicentre of the peacebuilding processes. It also fosters critical partnerships supporting the review of masculinities and encouraging alliances with men and boys as active partners in the promotion and protection of women's rights.

Results to date, even with the COVID-19 pandemic engendered shut downs and slowing of work, indicate that some progress has been made on the implementation of the South Sudan National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. For example, the establishment of Special Protection Units at police stations and one-stop-centres at hospitals to provide prevention, protection and psycho-social services for survivors, as well as to support survivors' access to legal support. Other results include the establishment of a National SDG Monitoring Taskforce to monitor, track and report on SDGs; and an increase in the number of politically active women, including those women in government. Work to ensure that a minimum quota of 35 per cent for women's representation and participation in all leadership and governance positions is ongoing.

Strategic Partnership Framework

In 2017, the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) entered a new Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2017–2020 with UN Women. This framework is the mechanism by which Sweden supports the implementation of UN Women's Strategic Plan and related international commitments e.g. the 2030 Agenda, CEDAW & Beijing Platform for Action. The design of SPF phase three from 2021 is ongoing.