



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE



UN WOMEN AND SWITZERLAND

Photo: UN Women Moldova/ Eduard Bizgu

Partners for progress

Switzerland's political support for the creation of UN Women in 2010 was fundamental and its financial contributions have been vital. Switzerland prioritizes regular resources to UN Women. These resources have been invaluable to enabling the entity to rapidly pivot and respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, when a voice for gender equality and women's empowerment were needed more than ever.

Sharing common goals

Switzerland and UN Women share a fundamental commitment to gender equality. Women's economic and political empowerment, prevention of violence against women and girls, and gender equality in governance, national planning and budgeting are common goals.

Swiss Government Funding to UN Women

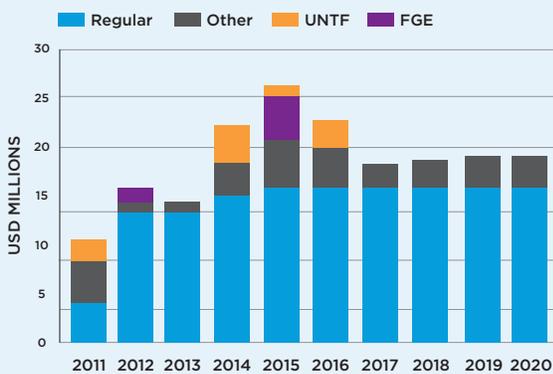


Photo: @SwissMFA

State Secretary Livia Leu presenting Switzerland's commitments to the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Paris, July 2021.

During the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) in Paris, Switzerland joined the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights and committed towards working to ensure gender equality.

Switzerland is a member of the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) and is committed to reducing and eliminating the gender pay gap.

Regular resources to UN Women in 2020: USD 16.5 million
Total resources to UN Women in 2020: USD 20.6 million

Banner photo: Social workers from Moldova are receiving the protection equipment offered by UN Women Moldova and Sweden. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Resident Coordinators among other partners supported the rapid gender assessment in several countries/territories across the region. Data collection at the country/territory level was also made possible through the generous support of the Governments of Canada, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the European Union.

Together we achieved:

Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus

UN Women, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, is working in partnership with regional and national governments, private sector agencies, civil society actors and other UN agencies to achieve three outcomes:- women have access to economic opportunities and relevant information to support their self employment and/or entry into the formal labour sector; government legislation and policy frameworks support women's economic empowerment; and gender-responsive programmes, public services, strategies and plans are developed and delivered.

The programme aims to ensure that in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia women are economically empowered and equally able to participate in relevant decision-making.

Women's Leadership & Political Participation

Photo: University of Dar es Salaam



A participant during discussions in one of the Transformational Leadership workshops for aspirants held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. July 2020.

In Tanzania, Switzerland is supporting UN Women's work to foster women's leadership and political participation at all levels, including young women and women with disabilities.

The work has already resulted in the drafting of a National Gender Policy which aims to ensure that all government policies and programmes have long-term goals to eliminate gender inequalities; Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines for the Public Service which support the identification and address gender issues in public service management programmes and institutions; and has led to the inclusion of four women to the Zanzibar Election Ethical Committee for the first time. The committee formulates election regulations and monitors the fairness of the elections.

Women as change agents for peace and security in Lebanon

With Switzerland's support UN Women is working with women's rights activists to achieve women's equal leadership and political participation. Lebanon's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (NAP 1325) holds as key pillars women's engagement in conflict prevention and mediation, women's leadership and legal reform.



Photo: UN Women/Emad Kairim

Two women's networks from Tyre and Abbassiyeh (Lebanon) gathered for a joint workshop to showcase their newly acquired mediation skills.

UN Women is working across divides, helping to develop short-term policy options for addressing the current crises and discussing substantive elements of a future vision for the country.

Ensuring a gender-responsive and inclusive economic recovery from COVID-19

Switzerland is providing USD 2 million to the joint programme the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UN Women implemented in April 2020. The programme supports national governments to address and plan for outcomes that would mitigate the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and enable an economic recovery that is gender-responsive and inclusive.

In the first year, the programme has developed three policy tools, each associated with an outcome of the programme, which support global and national initiatives aimed at promoting a gender-responsive and inclusive economic recovery. The policy tools focus on 1) how to access fiscal stimulus packages from a gender equality perspective; 2) assessing the gendered employment impacts of COVID-19 and supporting a gender-responsive recovery; and 3) a guide to public investments in the care economy.

These policy tools have been translated into French and Spanish, and widely disseminated through ILO's dedicated programme webpage, UN Women's communication platforms, a global network of feminist economists, and in countries implementing the programme. During the inception phase of the programme, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco and Nepal were identified for programme implementation in 2021 and 2022.



Leading the Way to Political Inclusion

Through their contribution to regular resources, Switzerland has helped UN Women work towards their goal of women's full participation and leadership in all areas of life. In 2020,

UN Women contributed to the adoption of eight legal frameworks promoting gender balance in elections and decision-making bodies, and 15 gender-responsive national development strategies.