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# ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

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**UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.**

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



UN Women works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## UN WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Rights, results and resilience: Rapid implementation of the 2030 Agenda	2
Setting High Standards for Women and the World	4
<i>Key Results and Programmes</i>	
Leading the Way to Political Inclusion	8
Claiming Rightful Roles in the Economy	12
Ending Violence against Women	16
Striving for Peace and Justice	20
Bridging the Humanitarian-Development Divide	24
Planning and Budgeting for Empowerment and Equality	28
<i>Trust Funds</i>	
UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality	32
UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women	34
Marshalling Collective UN Action	36
Campaigning to Engage the Public	38
Partnering for a Sustainable Future	42
2016 Financial Statements	44
UN Women in the World	48



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# RIGHTS, RESULTS AND RESILIENCE: RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

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**THIS REPORT SHOWCASES** the many ways in which we support work at country and global level to turn the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into results for women and girls worldwide, working closely with Member States and a wide range of partners to realize rights and build resilience.

Around the world, empowered women are achieving visible progress. We know the power of positive role modelling; how vital it is for girls growing up to see the success of their contemporaries, and through education, experience and example, for it to come within their grasp. In 2016, the first year of implementing the



**PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA**  
*UN Women Executive Director  
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka  
speaks at the opening of the  
Commission on the Status  
of Women in 2017.*

Sustainable Development Goals, we supported women to claim their right to equal treatment under the law, to gain elected office, to draw on the power of innovation and technology, and to become leaders through sports, among many other initiatives. We also supported civil society and women's rights activists to inform and influence crucial policy discussions.

Individuals, like 28-year old city council member Abla Al Hajaia in Jordan whose election success was backed by UN Women leadership training, or Edna Valdez in the Philippines, who at 58 is the president of an organization supporting migrant women's rights along with UN Women partners in Mexico, Moldova and the Philippines, illustrate the dividends of building leadership. In total, we trained 4,000 aspiring and elected women leaders in 51 countries. Young and older; across the world, these women are demonstrating the essential role of their collective voice.

Freedom from violence is a vital corollary to these opportunities: girls and young women must have both. In the period under review in this report, 24 countries, with a combined female population of over 1.05 billion, strengthened legislation to address violence against women and girls, with 20 adopting the national plans or strategies that enable and sustain the essential follow through of the laws passed. In university campuses across the continents, students and faculty, men and women alike, are devising creative ways to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of violence.

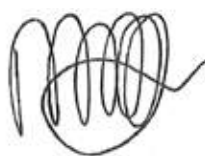
UN Women extended vital assistance to women survivors of Boko Haram's terror as well as those who suffered the devastation of natural disasters. The proportion of women military experts deployed to UN peacekeeping missions doubled. We built on strong research in the sphere of women, peace and security to back the integration of gender in counter-terrorism policy, and integrate women into early warning efforts. Similarly, through inclusion of women living with HIV, national planning exercises to begin implementing the Sustainable Development Goals have been strengthened. Civil servants of national AIDS coordinating bodies in 26 countries have now increased their capacities for gender mainstreaming.

A fundamental promise of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind. No one should suffer the confines of poverty or remain destitute in the wake of a crisis. Yet, women and girls are among those most vulnerable to being left behind and increasingly vocal in asserting their resilience, versatility and capabilities. In a year of visible solidarity, growing civic engagement, strong feminist activism and vital youth engagement, both women and men have rallied to protest issues affecting equality and rights, from femicide and gender-based violence to sexual and reproductive health.

UN Member States at the 2017 Commission on the Status of Women set strong deliverables on women's economic empowerment, knowing that, without swift and decisive action, the changes in the world of work risk leaving women even further behind. They pledged to implement equal pay policies, promote decent work for women, and empower migrant, indigenous and rural women, and women with disabilities. Civil society, a vibrant, vocal and essential partner in all our work, brought its multiple strengths to this forum, and to our shared aims throughout the year.

A High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, convened by the UN Secretary-General and back-stopped by UN Women, called in its final report for the transformation of economies to work for women and offered seven drivers to accelerate change. The private sector has joined UN Women to challenge gender discriminatory norms and stereotypes, support digital and financial inclusion, and exert its power to make direct change for its employees and value chains.

Together with our many partners in every part of the world, UN Women will continue to deliver for women and girls on both the premise and promise of the 2030 Agenda and its global goals, seeking equality for all.



**Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**  
*United Nations Under-Secretary-General  
and Executive Director*

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# SETTING HIGH STANDARDS FOR WOMEN AND THE WORLD

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International commitments, affirmed by UN Member States, set globally agreed benchmarks that guide actions and progress towards gender equality. Through evidence and advocacy, UN Women supports continued advancement of norms and standards, in line with women's human rights. We mobilize governments, civil society organizations and others to keep the bar high in forums dedicated to gender equality. In other deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda, we work to make sure the spotlight shines fully on gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals and a more inclusive world.



*Around the world, women work on unequal terms, a denial of their rights and an impediment to global goals. To overcome the barriers, the Commission on the Status of Women issued a global action plan to empower women at work and in the broader economy.*





**2,130 GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS AND NEARLY  
4,000 CIVIL SOCIETY  
REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
138 COUNTRIES  
GATHERED AT CSW61**

**800 YOUNG WOMEN  
AND YOUNG MEN FROM OVER  
45 COUNTRIES  
CAME TOGETHER FOR THE  
SECOND ANNUAL  
YOUTH FORUM**

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

As the largest annual UN gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, the Commission on the Status of Women in 2017 showcased growing global support for breaking the barriers to gender equality. It sent the world a powerful unified message on the theme of women in the workplace and the broader economy: the right to work and all rights at work must be upheld. Widely diverse participants came from 162 UN Member States, with 89 representatives at the ministerial level. Nearly 4,000 civil society representatives attended from 138 countries.

The Commission's Agreed Conclusions outline a global plan of action with a series of strategic enablers to tear down obstacles to women's economic empowerment, which will otherwise impede progress towards the global goals.

Member States pledged to implement equal pay policies and use measures such as collective bargaining and gender pay audits. With new employment options emerging through rapid technological change, they underscored the need to extend relevant education and training to women. Member States also emphasized the need for women's full access to economic and productive resources as measures to overcome occupational segregation. They called for both women and men to have access to paid parental leave, and for legal and policy frameworks to take a strong stand on ending workplace sexual harassment.

For the first time, the Commission held substantive discussions on the transition of informal and domestic workers into the formal economy, with agreement on promoting decent work and paid care, increasing social protection, providing wages that guarantee an

adequate standard of living, and ensuring safe working conditions. Stressing recognition of the rights and contributions of all women, the Commission emphasized policies to promote the empowerment of specific groups of women, such as migrant, indigenous and rural women, and women with disabilities.

## MEASURES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

For the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22), the preeminent intergovernmental forum on climate change, UN Women worked with States Parties as they adopted a decision that mandates the development of the first gender action plan for the UNFCCC. The gender action plan covers all areas of work, such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, capacity-building and technology development and transfer. The decision also mandates measures aimed at achieving gender balance in the UNFCCC process, including the continuation of training and awareness-raising for female and male delegates on issues related to gender-responsive climate policy and action.

## STEPS FOR POOR COUNTRIES, CITIES AND MIGRANTS

A review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 was a top priority in 2016, given that women and girls in these countries are furthest behind on nearly all elements of empowerment and human well-being. UN Women's advocacy throughout the process contributed to a Political Declaration containing stronger commitments to end gender inequalities linked to agriculture, climate change, education, public finance and poverty, among a number of key concerns.

In the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, UN Women joined women's activists and youth groups to press for transformation where it matters most for many people—within their community. As a result, the Agenda provides a strategic opportunity to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by improving human settlements in a gender-responsive way. It commits UN Member States to making cities safe and achieving inclusive urban economies, including through better recognition of the contributions of the working poor, particularly women. It pledges governments to achieving women's full and effective participation in all fields and in lead-

ership at all levels of decision-making, including in local governments.

An unprecedented Summit of the UN General Assembly in 2016 addressed the massive flows of refugees and migrants. The agreement that resulted reflected an approach highly responsive to human rights and gender equality, in part through the advocacy of UN Women. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is committed to the empowerment, participation and rehabilitation of women and girls, particularly through extending essential health and education services, support for livelihood opportunities and access to justice.

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2017 CHAMPIONS WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF WORK

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International Women's Day occurred on the eve of the Commission, championing the theme of women in the changing world of work. In 53 countries, UN Women helped put women and work at the centre of public debate through marches, panel discussions, cultural events and awards. In New York, Academy Award-winning actress Anne Hathaway debuted as UN Women's newest Goodwill Ambassador, with a call for affordable childcare and shared parental leave.

To mark the day in South Africa, UN Women and Facebook hosted a Boost Your Business training session on digital tools for small business owners. In India, a partnership with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation supported month-long messages on metro trains drawing attention to equal pay, sharing unpaid care work, and making workplaces free of violence. Uruguay's march for women's rights in downtown Montevideo, organized by

UN Women and civil society, drew 300,000 people.

Nearly 4,000 media stories ran in 90 countries on International Women's Day and the Commission on the Status of Women, from market leaders such as Reuters and CNN to local papers. Social media reached a potential 1.2 billion people.

*On International Women's Day in 2017, UN Women launched a one-month campaign on the Delhi Metro. Thousands of passengers saw messages on equal pay, shared care work and safe public spaces.*



## CASAR JACOBSON

“Technology sees skills before gender and disability.”



Casar Jacobson is a 31-year-old disability rights activist from Canada and a UN Women Youth Champion. She participated at the Youth CSW61 in March 2017, which UN Women convened for the second year to bring the voices of young women to the intergovernmental arena. To further its work with youth, UN Women in 2016 founded the Global Coalition of Young Women Entrepreneurs for Innovation and Skills Development. Our working group on youth and gender equality has grown to include over 1,000 members from organizations around the world.

Ms. Jacobson is currently working with partners on developing non-invasive technology to restore hearing. Her story is related to SDG 5, which calls for empowering all women and girls, and targets the use of enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women. Her role is also related to SDG 4 on inclusive and equitable education; SDG 8 on full and productive employment for all; and SDG 10 on social, economic and political inclusion.



“When you lose your hearing slowly, you don’t know how much you’re using it until one day you wake up without it. I didn’t realize that I was missing 70 per cent of what was being said. It affected my education, my career and my relationships.

I was born hard of hearing and lost hearing in my right ear over a decade ago. Around five years back, I became completely deaf. I tried hearing aids, but they didn’t work so well. I taught myself to lip-read, but it’s not fool-proof. I remember once I was at a networking event and thought someone had asked me if I wanted a cappuccino. They came back with what looked like coca cola. I was confused and asked, ‘no cappuccino?’ They said, ‘I asked you if you wanted a captain and coke.’ I’m not a drinker.

I have missed flights because I couldn’t hear the announcements at airports. It’s everyday things, big and

small. People often tell me, ‘you don’t look deaf’.

Today, I call myself a ‘super connector’. I find individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing and connect them to other networks and resources and help them start their own business. Being a Youth Champion has broadened my reach to connect with other women with disabilities and with entrepreneurs. I think technology can be part of the solution for women with disabilities. It can truly empower us, if we can access it. Technology sees skills before gender or disability. I am currently working with partners on non-invasive technology to restore hearing.

My biggest dream is that the world sees us as persons with a different form of communication, a different language, not a disability, so that someone who is deaf or hard-of-hearing can grow up to pursue whatever [career] they want to.”

# LEADING THE WAY TO POLITICAL INCLUSION



**72 LAWS**  
ADAPTED OR AMENDED  
TO STRENGTHEN  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN  
**61**  
COUNTRIES

**4,000**  
ASPIRING AND ELECTED  
WOMEN LEADERS  
TRAINED IN  
**51**  
COUNTRIES

*Data refer to results obtained in 2016  
in collaboration with partners.*

More women than ever are successfully running for office, climbing the corporate ladder and shattering the glass ceiling. But not yet in numbers equal to men. In the 2030 Agenda, the world agreed that progress must accelerate, and soon. The global goals depend on women's full participation and leadership in all arenas of life. UN Women advocates laws and policies that boost the number of women leaders. We help women acquire skills to compete at the top of their game. Our support contributes to a fairer, more inclusive world—the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

UN Women's work described below illustrates contributions especially to the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality, inclusion and accountable institutions.

## WINNING MORE SEATS IN ELECTIONS

In her coastal fishing village in **Timor-Leste**, Barbara Garma Soares campaigned hard during the 2016 local elections. Going door to door, she tirelessly rallied her neighbours around a programme of working together to improve their community. When voters went to the polls, they readily elected Soares as their village chief, marking the first time ever that a woman could claim that position.

Soares made an effective case for her candidacy on the back of training provided by UN Women. She was one of 300 women who took part in sessions that prepared them to stand for the elections, one element of a concerted advocacy drive called *100% Hau Prontu* (100% I'm Ready). The campaign also successfully pushed for a reform of the national electoral law, so that each of 442 villages must now field at least one woman candidate for local polls.

Local village councils, which make decisions with far-reaching consequences in people's daily lives, have long been some of the most conservative political bodies in Timor-Leste. In 2016, women took only 21 seats as village chiefs—yet this was double the number in the 2009 election. Stories abound of villages where a single woman fearlessly competed against 10 men. With the electoral quota having cracked open the door, women have proved they have the strength and skills to push it wide open.

Until 2016, **Haiti** ranked on the list of countries without a single woman in the legislature. But when the polls closed at the end of the year, four women had broken the impasse and captured seats in both chambers of Parliament. UN Women supported their successful runs by informing women candidates of their legal rights, and training electoral authorities and political parties on the importance of respecting previously agreed gender quotas for candidates.



**BARBARA GARMA SOARES**

*Barbara Garma Soares and 20 other women broke longstanding discriminatory barriers to be elected as village chiefs in Timor-Leste. Their number, while small, is a record, achieved through specialized training and a new law requiring the fielding of women candidates in local polls.*

**LAWS OPEN SPACES FOR WOMEN**

**Moldova** took a huge jump towards greater equality in 2016 when Parliament passed Law No. 71, which established gender quotas for political party lists and cabinet nominees, introduced paid paternity leave, and banned

sexism in advertising and media, among other advances. The law has resulted in amendments scaling up gender equality provisions in 15 national laws and codes.

UN Women strongly advocated for the law and provided technical expertise to draft it in line with internationally agreed standards on

gender equality. We helped bring together parliamentarians, civil society groups and others to push for passage. This coalition is now an active force in implementing the new provisions, rallying around the reality that Moldova’s future development—and its hopes for attaining all 17 of the global goals—depends on achieving gender equality.





*The recent introduction of paid paternity leave in Moldova, one of a series of strengthened gender equality provisions in national laws and codes, is a step towards bringing men more fully into unpaid family care responsibilities.*

In **Tunisia**, parliamentarians voted “yes” to legally require political parties to have equal numbers of women and men on candidate lists for municipal elections, a first in the Arab world. Further, parties will be required to alternate male and female candidates on the lists, preventing the common practice of clustering men at the top in the most winnable seats. A coalition of 73 women parliamentarians from all political stripes backed passage of the quota through an amendment to the electoral law, galvanized by UN Women in partnership with civil society groups. Special dialogue

sessions helped parliamentarians exchange ideas and craft the most compelling arguments for adoption. The move comes at an important time. As Tunisia decentralizes its government and gives more power to local authorities, women must be at the forefront of leadership in their own communities.

### PARLIAMENTARIANS INSPIRE A REGION

They came from across the **Arab States**—women parliamentarians with a common passion to reach the goal of gender equality. At a

conference in **Morocco**, organized by the Arab Women Parliamentarians for Equality with UN Women’s support, legislators from 20 countries drew inspiration from shared experiences. They devised a common programme to expand opportunities for women to participate in shaping public policy. Their unified voice for change is reverberating across the region, sending the message that development, peace and democracy—all aims of the 2030 Agenda—cannot be achieved without equality.



## ABLA AL HAJAIA

“I made history by becoming the youngest City Council member.”

**Abla Al Hajaia, 28, from the town of Tafila, is the youngest City Council member in Jordan. At present, she is working to establish a national youth alliance in the country. She was among 104 women who received leadership trainings in 2016, as part of UN Women’s regional Spring Forward programme. In 2016, 20 female Members of Parliament were elected in Jordan—the highest number of female MPs in the history of Jordan—out of which, seven had participated in capacity building initiatives by UN Women and the Jordanian National Commission for Women.**

**Ms. Al Hajaia’s work exemplifies SDG 5 on gender equality and its target on ensuring women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making.**



“My sister, who’s a lawyer and a woman rights activist, encouraged me to run for local elections. I hesitated at first; even when women are selected, they are expected to be a mere accessory. But I had worked for many years as a volunteer and social worker. I had a grasp on the real issues that my community was facing.

In the beginning, none of the decision-makers involved in the election process liked the fact that a young woman was going to file as a candidate. They resisted me at every turn and said I couldn’t win because of my age and gender.

I campaigned door-to-door. I visited every home, introduced myself and explained why I would be a good candidate. Everyone was surprised

when the results came out—I received more votes compared to many male candidates!

I made history by becoming the youngest City Council member in Jordan.

There are Syrian refugees in my town. I am finding ways to involve them in local interactions, so that we build their engagement and foster community tolerance and acceptance.

For me, educating women on their basic legal rights is the need of the hour. Many have no information on how to protect themselves or exercise their rights. The entire future of a woman can change if that changes.”

# CLAIMING RIGHTFUL ROLES IN THE ECONOMY



**GENDER EQUALITY  
ADVOCATES  
INFLUENCED ECONOMIC  
POLICIES AND  
POVERTY  
REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN  
12 COUNTRIES**

**9 COUNTRIES  
ADOPTED POLICY  
FRAMEWORKS FOR WOMEN'S  
ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT**

*Data refer to results obtained in 2016  
in collaboration with partners.*

Women's economic contributions can unlock the promise of the global goals. When all women can obtain decent paid work or become entrepreneurs, they improve their own well-being. They also take the world closer to ending poverty and hunger, attaining sustainable economic growth, making the most of innovation and reducing inequalities. Women globally are still paid and employed at lower rates than men. They assume an unfair and unrecognized share of unpaid care work at home. UN Women helps empower women to break these discriminatory barriers, and claim their rightful and equal roles in an inclusive economy.

UN Women's work described below illustrates contributions especially to the Sustainable Development Goals on poverty, climate change, gender equality and decent work.

## EMPOWERMENT THROUGH INNOVATION

Amid fields of maize in rural **Rwanda**, women cluster in a circle checking their cell phones. At their fingertips lies information that will determine the success of their crops—and their livelihoods. They consider weather and market updates to make crucial decisions, like when to plant and how much fertilizer to use.

The women are tapping into a digital, mobile-enabled “Buy from Women” platform debuted with UN Women's support for two cooperatives of nearly 700 farmers. It is part of a global flagship programme on climate-resilient agriculture. By linking women to broader markets and improving the quality of production, use of the platform has led to large advance contracts for crops, including with reputable firms such as the Rwanda Grains and Cereals Corporation. Women farmers, who mostly never had access to opportunities like these before, are finding a sustainable exit from poverty.

The “Buy from Women” platform is one of a number of innovations UN Women launched to reach rural and other marginalized women in Africa. In **Nigeria's** crisis-torn northern region, a partnership with MasterCard aims to provide a half million women with ID cards that are equipped to make electronic payments. The cards allow women to use banking services and access credit, a financial lifeline in an area where conflict has steadily eroded the economy and resulted in rampant violations of women's rights.

Women from across **Eastern and Southern Africa** flock to Sharefairs hosted by UN Women in Nairobi. The events bring women business owners and innovators together to swap solutions that could be scaled up across different countries. After South African Tebogo Mashego, the founder of a metal fabricating company, attended the event in 2015, she introduced automation and new management practices to her business. In less than a year, she saw a 40 per-cent rise in production. A highlight of





the 2016 Sharefair was the Young Innovators in Agriculture Award. Among the winners were a social enterprise that transforms agricultural waste into soil conditioner to boost productivity and a mobile app that improves access to finance and markets for free-range chicken farmers.

### PROTECTIONS FOR MIGRANT WOMEN

In the **Mexican** state of Chiapas, poverty rates are high. People in the most dire straits include women who have migrated from other parts of Central America or other places within Mexico. Barely

*Modern technology makes traditional farming more productive—and lucrative—for women in Rwanda. Through their cell phones, they can now tap into a digital platform that links them to broader markets and that has led to large advance contracts for crops.*

## SEVEN DRIVERS TO TRANSFORM ECONOMIES

Taking up an issue at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, the High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, convened by the UN Secretary-General, in 2017 called for transforming economies to work for women.

In the report *Leave No One Behind*, the panel tackled systemic constraints leading to persistent gaps in women's economic opportunities. It mapped seven drivers to overcome these, along with recommendations for action. The drivers included tackling both the unequal share

of unpaid care work and adverse cultural norms; better access to and ownership of assets; reforming discriminatory laws; improving practices in public sector procurement and hiring, as well as a change in corporate culture; and a stronger collective voice.

UN Women participates in and supports the Panel, which is co-led by the President of Costa Rica and the CEO of IKEA Switzerland. Members include leading global experts on the economy and gender equality.

scraping by in occupations such as domestic labour, they are highly vulnerable to exploitation. Since knowledge of human rights can be one of the best shields against abuse, UN Women has worked with civil society organizations to hold dozens of training sessions for poor migrant women across Mexico. Women learn where they can find support and interact with local government officials to highlight the protective actions they need. The experience is empowering. Teófila Díaz Jiménez, who migrated to Cancún from San Cristóbal in Chiapas, is only 20, but the training gave her a newfound sense of confidence to organize other migrant women. They have become an active collective voice demanding better working conditions, education and healthcare, all issues at the core of the global goals.

For women who migrate out of Mexico, UN Women helped the Ministry of Foreign Affairs develop a first-of-its-kind consular protocol to address cases of gender-based violence. As result, all Mexico consulates now have a set of standards and tools to prevent and detect violence, and provide speedy interventions, such as through liaising with a range of local services for support, from shelter to visa-related issues.

### PROMOTING PROCUREMENT FROM WOMEN

After **Kenya** passed a law requiring 30 per cent of government procurement contracts go to businesses owned by women, youth and people with disabilities, UN Women led a push to connect women to a host of new opportunities. Public sector supply chains offer rich

potential for businesses that sell a wide array of goods—from furniture to computers to uniforms. Over 2,000 women entrepreneurs learned to better understand procurement requirements and submit bids positioned to win tenders. Training has informed 1,000 local and national procurement officials on complying with the law, part of a national commitment to inclusive economic growth in line with global goals.

Within the **UN system**, UN Women successfully advocated for a commitment from the Chief Executives Board, which covers 31 UN organizations, to prioritize the access of women-owned businesses to procurement flows of more than USD 17 billion annually.



## EDNA VALDEZ

“The main challenge for women migrant workers is that they don’t know what rights they have.”



Edna Valdez, 58, was elected President of Bannuar Ti La Union, an organization that works for migrant women’s rights in the La Union province of Philippines, in 2000. Bannuar works closely with UN Women’s partner, Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA), as part of a European Union-funded migration project active in the Philippines, Mexico and Moldova. Ms. Valdez works at the Bannuar office in San Fernando City, where she answers walk-in queries from migrant women and refers them to relevant government agencies for support and services. She also conducts trainings about migrant workers’ rights, risks of illegal recruitment and trafficking, and access to services.

Her work contributes towards SDG 8, which promotes productive employment and decent work for all, and its target on protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure environments for all workers, in particular women migrant workers.



“I went to Hong Kong as a domestic worker in 1996. I worked longer hours than my contract stipulated, I couldn’t take time off. When I complained, my employer said I could only get those benefits after two years. Into my third year of contract, when I could finally get benefits, they fired me because, they said, their child was becoming too close to me.

Shortly after I returned home to La Union province, I joined Bannuar Ti La Union (Heroes of La Union) and started working for migrant women’s rights.

The main challenge for women migrant workers is that they don’t know what rights they have. Even when there are laws and services in place, they don’t know how to claim their rights or access support. That’s why we continuously lobby the local government to set up Migrant Desks at municipal offices, in compliance

with the national law, where migrants and their families can access information and support.

As part of Bannuar, I helped a woman who was promised a job as a domestic worker in Hong Kong. When she reached Hong Kong, she was stripped of her clothes and put inside a cargo box—like a chicken in a box with air holes—and trafficked to Lebanon for sex. Somehow, she managed to escape and the Embassy facilitated her return. She received counseling and livelihood trainings from Bannuar and was able to rebuild her life.

Women need correct information about their rights and the risks, before they migrate. The returnees, especially those who have been abused, need re-integration support to pick up the pieces, not only economic opportunities.”



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# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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**24 COUNTRIES**  
STRENGTHENED LEGISLATION  
TO ADDRESS  
**VIOLENCE**  
AGAINST WOMEN  
AND GIRLS

**20 COUNTRIES**  
ADOPTED  
**NATIONAL PLANS**  
OR  
**STRATEGIES**  
IN THIS AREA

*Data refer to results obtained in 2016 in collaboration with partners.*

Realizing the 2030 Agenda ambitions of achieving peaceful societies and safe, sustainable cities as well as eradicating poverty depends on ending violence against women, the world's most pervasive human rights violation. In its worst forms, violence deprives women of their lives. It undercuts their ability to work, to gain an education, and to enjoy health and well-being, among other human rights. Ending violence requires laws and services geared towards protection and the provision of support to survivors. Prevention of violence by addressing its root causes is equally important. And people from all walks of life, men and women, must mobilize to say no to violence.

UN Women's work described below illustrates contributions especially to the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality, peaceful and inclusive societies, and safe cities.

## SUPPORTING RECOVERY THROUGH SERVICES

In **Fiji**, a national service delivery referral system for cases of gender-based violence had long been discussed, but it took the response to a natural disaster to push forward its development. Supported by UN Women, the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation developed the first fully fledged national protocol for responding to cases of gender-based violence. It outlines guiding principles, and describes the roles and responsibilities of health, social services, police, shelter and legal justice service providers. The protocol aligns with the global essential services package jointly developed by UN Women and four other UN entities.

The new approach arose from the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Winston, which left 40,000 people needing immediate assistance. Three weeks into the response to this emergency, a UN Women-sup-

ported national referral pathway was in place to ensure first responders and community members were aware of the range of services available to women and girls, and how to refer cases. UN Women led the distribution of information on life-saving care in cases of violence to 20,000 women and girls, and linked 13,000 who had experienced violence or were at risk of it to essential support services. The effort included special outreach to nearly 400 women with disabilities.

Around the world, gaps in protective services mean that women seeking refuge from violence may never find it. In the Oromia Region, **Ethiopia's** biggest state, UN Women has addressed a dire need and modeled a way forward by establishing a 50-bed shelter, now the largest in the country. Several hundred women and children have sought assistance from a full complement of housing, food, medical, legal, counselling and job training services.



*Scaled-up action to end violence against women in Fiji, including the first national protocol to respond to cases, has emerged from the response to a natural disaster. Women market vendors show their support by decorating their stalls in orange, symbolizing a brighter future without violence, and wearing the colour too.*

The shelter is one aspect of UN Women's efforts to help bring an end to gender-based violence in Ethiopia. In the Amhara region, training for over 300 religious leaders led them to work with their communities to prevent nearly 500 child marriages. A partnership with the Central Statistics Agency produced the first commitment to registering data on violence every five years, a contribution to better measurement called for in the global goals. This should provide much needed evidence to build more shelters and, as importantly, mobilize action to prevent violence altogether.

### **COMMITTING TO SAFER CAMPUSES**

With the world's largest ever generation of youth, universities can make a critical contribution to ending violence against women, now and for the future. In **Bangladesh**, UN Women worked with four universities to establish and expand on-campus mechanisms to prevent violence and support survivors, guided by a series of standard operating procedures. Sexual harassment prevention committees now manage dedicated telephone hotlines, among other forms of assistance, and have clearly defined

procedures for investigations, as well as referrals to university authorities and law enforcement. Students and faculty have joined forces behind on-campus campaigns to prevent harassment and other forms of violence, using theatre, music, arts and sports to inform and influence 20,000 people. Their efforts have shattered the silence on a topic that until now had rarely been acknowledged in Bangladesh.

Tackling violence on campus is also a top immediate priority among the transformative commitments made by 10 leading global universities in



eight countries that UN Women unveiled in the first-ever HeForShe IMPACT 10x10x10 University Parity Report. Oxford University will make sexual consent workshops a compulsory part of undergraduate orientation and challenge harassment in sports. The University of São Paulo will develop violence prevention programmes that students will be required to take from their first day on campus through graduation.

### CALCULATING THE COST OF RESPONSE

Responses to gender-based violence are often hindered because required services and costs are poorly understood. To fill information gaps in Asia, UN Women supported a series of landmark studies that calculated the cost of providing all essential services to

women experiencing violence, such as counselling, health care, police and judicial responses, shelter and emergency assistance.

Covering **Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Timor-Leste** and **Viet Nam**, the studies provided the first multi-country evidence of its kind in Asia. They found, for instance, that delivering comprehensive support services would cost only 0.25 per cent of gross domestic product in Lao People's Democratic Republic—a fraction of the costs imposed by gender-based violence. Study results have already backed a 100 per cent increase in the municipal budget for services in Jakarta. The funds will help close services gaps and improve quality and professionalism, including through the hiring of psychologists and lawyers, and the provision of individual and group therapy.

### ENSURING LEGAL PROTECTION

In every country, a fundamental step is to make gender-based violence illegal. In 2016, for the first time in its history, **Paraguay** adopted legislation offering comprehensive protections from all forms of violence against women. UN Women advocated the move and provided expertise to fully align the statute with international human rights norms. Civil society mobilization and information campaigns built a groundswell of public support that convinced legislators to finally vote “yes” on the historic bill.

*Students at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Bangladesh are part of a surge of young activists calling to free campuses from violence against women and girls.*







## ASSÉTOU TOURÉ

“We have a duty to act and to ensure that every girl is able to live a dignified and fulfilled life.”

**Assétou Touré is a 49-year-old woman from Mali and a survivor of Female Genital Mutilation. She has devoted her life to battling the harmful practice. Since 2011, UN Women has been aiding such efforts.**

**Touré’s work in Kita echoes the objective of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to achieve gender equality, and specifically one of the targets of SDG 5, to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.**



“I was six years old when I was cut. But for me, the most traumatic experience was seeing what my older sister went through. She wasn’t as lucky as me. She suffered terrible injuries and almost died. The scars will remain with us for life. Where we live, more than 80 per cent of girls go under the knife.

Some 20 years ago, I decided I wanted to become a leader and educator and devote my energy to combating gender-based violence. My first battle was to save my own girls. I have four daughters, aged between 19 and 27, and not one has been cut. It wasn’t easy for my husband, but he listened to my arguments. My first-hand experience and other testimonies convinced him.

We have a duty to act and to ensure that every girl is able to live a dignified and fulfilled life. I love my job. I have no shame or fear. My role is to save lives and to protect people’s dignity.

I’ve saved thousands of lives by asking women and men to sign agreements and to take formal oaths. In doing so, they agree not to engage in female genital mutilation (FGM) themselves, and not to stand back and allow it to happen to others. On average, I secure at least 100 new signatures each month.

I’ve also managed to persuade two leading cutters in Kita, which has one of the highest rates of FGM in Mali, to stop performing female genital mutilation.”

## STRIVING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



**70%**  
OF UNITED NATIONS-  
SUPPORTED  
**PEACE AGREEMENTS**  
INCLUDED PROVISIONS IMPROVING  
**SECURITY AND STATUS**  
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

**USD 14 MILLION**  
DIRECTLY BENEFITTED  
**WOMEN AND GIRLS**  
IN CONFLICT AND  
POST-CONFLICT  
COUNTRIES FROM THE  
**PEACEBUILDING FUND,**  
EXCEEDING ITS 15% TARGET  
BY 5%

*Data refer to results obtained in 2016  
in collaboration with partners.*

The 2030 Agenda aspires to peaceful, just, inclusive societies to underpin sustained development. Around the world, women lead movements for peace and heal divided communities. They prevent conflicts from erupting, a growing imperative in a world prone to violent extremism. They are also highly vulnerable to violations of their rights, such as through rape as a weapon of war.

UN Women's work described below illustrates contributions especially to the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality, peace and justice, and partnerships.

### PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO TERROR

Capture and repeated rape by Boko Haram terrorists left 17-year-old Zeingo (not her real name) pregnant with a child she never wanted to carry. She survived and fled her tormentors, but the trauma of the tortuous ordeal cuts deep. Until her mother brought her to a UN Women social cohesion centre in a camp for displaced people in the Diffa region of **Niger**, she could not eat or sleep, or interact with other people because of shame over her pregnancy. Through the centre's expert health care and psycho-social support, she is slowly beginning the long road to recovery. Zeingo's steps forward are small but important. Short conversations with other women at the centre. Enrolment in a skills development programme to keep a focus on the future. Horror is gradually ceding to hope.

The terror of the extremist Boko Haram sect began in Nigeria, but has spread across the Lake Chad Basin. The Diffa region of Niger now shelters more than 300,000 people driven from their homes by looting, massacres, abduction and rape. Social cohesion centres established by UN Women are a lifeline for

3,700 women and young people, like Zeingo, who need a broad set of services in the aftermath of their ordeal. Other assistance has helped improve health services and policing capacities across the region to meet the specific needs of survivors.

The arc of violent extremism is increasingly long, stretching from the Sahel region in Africa, through North Africa and the Arab States, and into some Asian countries. The programme in Niger is just one part of UN Women's expanding efforts to draw global attention to gender as an essential dimension of preventing and responding to extremist violence.

Building on over 15 years of experience in successfully leading the drive to put women at the centre of peace and security concerns, a global programme active in 27 countries is developing cutting-edge evidence defining the impacts of terrorism on women, which include a wide range of sexual and gender-based crimes, as well as less visible elements such as recruit-

*Violent extremism by Boko Haram has driven this woman and child into a refugee camp in Nigeria. Camp centres designed for women provide the specific services they need.*





ment strategies aimed at them. Other efforts promote the integration of gender in counter-terrorism policy and support women as leaders of prevention efforts, including through the identification of and response to early warning signs.

## EXTENDING JUSTICE TO SURVIVORS

Experts deployed by UN Women and the organization Justice Rapid Response stand at the ready when countries call for assistance with cases of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. A roster of 200 experts delivers a wealth of instant expertise on subjects, ranging from prosecution to psychosocial support to forensic sciences. In 2016, 19 experts supported investigations around the world, some of whom contributed to the development of ground-breaking legal precedents.

One expert worked with national prosecutors in **Guatemala** on the Sepur Zarco case. It sent two former military leaders to prison for a total of 360 years for crimes including rape and sexual slavery against women in the indigenous Q'eqchi' community. Sepur Zarco was the first conflict-related sexual violence case challenged under Guatemala's penal code, and the first time a national court anywhere in the world considered sexual slavery as defined under international law. Not only will each survivor receive monetary compensation, but the Government, in an effort to redress root causes of the human rights violations against the highly marginalized Q'eqchi' people, will be required to improve health and education services for women, girls

and the whole community, initiate local development projects and reopen a process of land restitution.

Another expert from the roster supported judges in a special court created by the African Union to try Chadian ex-dictator Hissène Habré. The court convicted Habré of sexual violence, including sexual slavery. The case marked the first use of universal jurisdiction in Africa, where states or international organizations can claim criminal jurisdiction, regardless of where a crime was committed or the nationality of the accused.

No one will ever know how many people were sexually violated in the late 1990s, during the conflict in **Kosovo** (under UN SCr 1244).

But after a decade of advocacy, a new law allows survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to register as civilian victims of war, and claim their rights and reparations in the form of a monthly pension.

UN Women supported a process that brought civil society and high-level political figures together to develop the law. It puts Kosovo on a short list of places providing

reparations, despite the ubiquity of conflict-related sexual violence in armed conflicts around the world.

## FINANCE FOR WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES

Solving complex peace and security challenges and achieving sustainable peace requires considerable investment, including sufficient resources for women and gender equality. Launched in 2016, the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action has mobilized USD 6.7 million. UN Women serves as the secretariat for the fund, which pools resources from multiple donors. A significant share fuels the vital, but under-recognized, work of women's civil society organizations on the frontlines of conflict prevention, resolution and recovery.

*Women call for justice in the Sepur Zarco case. The first of its type in Guatemala, it sent two former military leaders to jail for rape and sexual slavery, and stipulated monetary compensation for survivors as well as improved public services for their marginalized indigenous communities.*





## DEBORA BARROS FINCE

“Women must have a voice and a vote in the peace process and in our homes.”

**Debora Barros Fince is an Wayúu indigenous activist, human rights defender and lawyer from the community of Bahía Portete, La Guajira, Colombia. She travelled to Havana, Cuba, as part of the “victims delegation” to share her perspective during the peace process in December, 2015. The delegation, comprised of survivors from different regions, ethnicities and genders, was unequivocal in its call for peace and reconciliation.**

**Her story links to SDG 16, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.**



“I was a person with many dreams. I graduated from law school in 2003 and wanted to help my parents, my brothers and my community. In 2004, the paramilitary came and massacred our community in Villa Portete. We didn’t even know what ‘paramilitary’ meant. We didn’t know why our families were being exterminated. I survived the massacre and became the spokesperson for the community.

Throughout the course of the Colombian conflict, women have been the worst affected, but our struggle and resistance were not recognized. We have been violated sexually, killed, exploited for our labour and denied equal opportunities.

The women of Colombia are also protagonists for peace. We are conciliatory by nature; we seek for ways to

engage and find a solution. When I travelled to Havana to give testimony, it was a very important moment, not only for me, but for the entire community. We share the same pain, as victims [of the conflict], regardless of who our aggressor was.

We worked together as a group. We didn’t make decisions alone. If we could not agree on something, we would talk and resolve the issue. We wanted a peace process that put the victims at the centre.

For sustainable peace, there has to be investments in social development—in education, health, adequate housing and water. And, women must get the role that they deserve. There must be recognition of our struggle and our sacrifices, and true participation. Women must have a voice and a vote in the peace process and in our homes.”

# BRIDGING THE HUMANITARIAN- DEVELOPMENT DIVIDE



MORE THAN  
**125,000 WOMEN**  
AND GIRLS ASSISTED WITH  
**HUMANITARIAN**  
**ACTIVITIES**

**66 SAFE SPACES**  
AND  
**38 MULTI-PURPOSE**  
**CENTRES**  
MANAGED

**263 WOMEN'S**  
**ORGANIZATIONS**  
SUPPORTED IN  
**HUMANITARIAN**  
**RESPONSE AND**  
**RESILIENCE-BUILDING**

*Data refer to results obtained in 2016  
in collaboration with partners.*

A storm, an earthquake, a conflict—crises disrupt lives and derail development, stalling progress on the global goals. Without a humanitarian lifeline, people may be pushed deeper into poverty and ill health, losing homes and means vital to livelihoods. Risks for women may be even more acute. They typically have fewer resources to survive and rebuild, and face increased threats of sexual violence. Yet when empowered, women are leaders on the road to recovery. UN Women heads a global drive to put women and gender equality at the centre of humanitarian action, including by implementing programmes that in 2016 served 120,000 women.

UN Women's work described below illustrates contributions especially to the Sustainable Development Goals on poverty, gender equality and inclusion.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CONFLICT

Zainab remembers arriving in **Lebanon** and feeling like a beggar as she struggled to make ends meet. Her days were haunted by longing for her home in Syria. But her life there was destroyed by conflict and the heartbreaking loss of one of her four sons, gunned down by a sniper.

Advised by a neighbour, Zainab found a UN Women-supported centre in Beirut's Tarik El Jdideh area. Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese women are welcomed there. One of five across Lebanon, the centre provides skills training to help women establish livelihoods. Zainab opted to learn hair styling and make-up. Today, she greets clients at home and in a part-time position at a local salon. "My morale has improved," she says. "You don't forget the sorrow you feel, but you try to lighten its effects. Life is still in front of us."

In the last five years, Lebanon has absorbed 1.5 million people fleeing from the Syrian crisis. The impact has been devastating for refugees, but it has also put pressure on host communities in Lebanon, some of which struggle with dire poverty. The community centres offer relief—a place for refugees and host community women to gather and get to know each other, building trust and understanding.

Over 2,000 women have used opportunities for skills training, which emphasizes marketable vocations and opportunities in small agro-businesses. Partnerships with private firms have enabled hundreds of women to find jobs, while others have pursued small enterprises. The centres also teach women about their rights and how to protect themselves from gender-based violence. For the Syrian women, home is still far away, and the longing never completely goes away. But with support and new skills, they are becoming more resilient to the shocks they have endured.





UN Women undertakes similar work in **Cameroon**, which shelters people fleeing conflict in the Central African Republic as well as the terror of Boko Haram in neighbouring Nigeria and Cameroon itself. Through special centres for refugee and internally displaced women, UN Women has provided 1,000 women with psychosocial support and protection from gender-based violence.

Business training and small grants spurred a flurry of food-processing, soap-making, sewing and other businesses, including among poor women in host communities surrounding refugee camps. Community outreach measures have sensitized more than 47,000 people about the risks of gender-based violence and how to respond when it occurs, resulting in a decline in early marriages.

**ZAYNAB LAQQAT**

*Zainab (at right) fled with her family from Syria to Beirut. Initially in desperate straits, she found a way forward through a UN Women-assisted training programme that equipped her with skills to work in a beauty salon.*

In **Iraq's** brutal conflict in Mosul, UN Women distributed necessity kits for nearly 27,000 individuals, primarily displaced women. A Listening Centre offers space for women, to communicate their needs, while also providing legal aid and protection services to women survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In areas of Iraq retaken from ISIL, with UN Women's assistance, 1,300 women have embarked on the road to recovery

*In Cameroon, centres for women fleeing conflicts provide psychosocial assistance and protection from gender-based violence. Business training helps restore livelihoods, while adult education, including French classes for women speaking a variety of languages, aids social integration.*

through cash-for-work and emergency employment initiatives, skills training and start-up grants for small businesses.

### HASTENING RECOVERY FROM DISASTER

Disasters can open space to challenge traditional gender norms. Women often emerge as community leaders, rallying their neighbours. They may take on traditionally male roles to clear debris or rebuild, as was the case after the powerful earthquake that shattered homes and buildings in **Ecuador** in 2016. Through a cash-for-work programme, UN Women trained women in masonry and construction work; soon they were

rebuilding a social rehabilitation facility and a series of community centres. Thirty-five-year old Lucas Melo, for example, has grown comfortable in her hard hat and boots. She had never worked outside her home before the crisis. Today, her family depends on her income.

A cash-for-work programme in **Haiti**, in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, engaged nearly 1,700 women in restoring infrastructure and clearing debris. Two Women's Spaces served 15,000 women and girls affected by the crisis by offering targeted services, including access to life-saving information on gender-based violence and referral services, and job-skills training.







## LENCHE ZDRAVKIN

“I have seen what it means for people to have nothing.”

Lenche Zdravkin is a legend in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for her work with the refugees. Her home in Veles is located just across the railway track, which thousands of refugees traversed at the beginning of the crisis, trying to reach a safe haven in Europe. Ms. Zdravkin helps refugees and migrants when they stop at her house by the railroad, providing food, water, clothes and other necessities. She also visits refugees in the transit centres of Tabanovce and Vinograd, where UN Women offers support to women and girls through its local partners. She collects and offers donations to support the refugees.

Her work is directly linked to SDG 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. It also contributes to the target on facilitating safe migration of people under SDG 10.



“It took me only two days to realize who

they were and why they were passing by my house by the railway track. I started making tea, boiling eggs and buying fruits to give them. But more refugees started coming—some days I would welcome 300 to 400 of them—so I started making bread. It was physically hard, until my husband bought me a dough mixer.

I used to sit in my garden waiting for them. Sometimes I would go to bed at 9 p.m., sleep until midnight and then sit outside waiting again.

Ferdi from Syria passed through last year. He was over 6 feet tall. When I saw him on the tracks, he was wearing plastic slippers of size seven, much smaller than his feet. I dressed his wounds and made him coffee.

Ferdi had left his wife and two children in Turkey, hoping to reach Holland and then bring them over. When he reached Holland, we stayed in touch. If he didn't hear from us for a few days, he would get depressed.

In April, we paid for the tickets for his wife and children to join him in Holland. When we told him, he couldn't believe it. He said, 'If she comes, I will marry her a second time and you will be my godmother.'

My life has become simpler since the crisis. I don't worry about the little things I used to...like, what detergent to buy ...I have seen what it means for people to have nothing. I have seen children walking on stones, hungry. The entire perspective shifts.”



# PLANNING AND BUDGETING FOR EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY



**28 COUNTRIES**  
INCREASED  
BUDGET ALLOCATIONS  
FOR  
**GENDER  
EQUALITY**

CIVIL SERVANTS OF NATIONAL  
**AIDS**  
COORDINATING BODIES IN  
**26 COUNTRIES**  
INCREASED THEIR CAPACITY FOR  
**GENDER  
MAINSTREAMING**

*Data refer to results obtained in 2016 in collaboration with partners.*

Public plans and budgets are an expression of national priorities. When they take gender into account, they can be designed to end discrimination. Budgets and plans that equally respond to the needs of both women and men can contribute to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals, supporting realization of the promise of leaving no one behind. They can, for instance, target resources to deliver high-quality health services to all women, or invest in infrastructure for women in slums to escape poverty—among many other issues.

UN Women, having pioneered gender-responsive planning and budgeting around the world, champions the integration of gender equality into national plans to achieve the global goals. The work below illustrates just a few of UN Women’s many contributions.

## AN EARLY START ON THE GLOBAL GOALS

Within the first year of the 2030 Agenda, UN Women had already supported more than 80 governments in making gender equality a central focus of plans and budgets aimed at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In **Kosovo** (under UN SCr 1244), we backed the alignment of the National Development Strategy 2016-2021 with gender equality targets and indicators under the goals, covering issues such as land reform and the extension of health services to women in informal jobs. A major national dialogue brought leaders together from the government, business, academia, civil society and international organizations to map top priorities, with three agreed—gender equality, as well as care for the environment and youth employment. To connect the policy process to public awareness, UN Women then coordinated 45 events that reached 20,000 people with messages around the global goals.

## ENGAGING WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

In 10 countries, UN Women collaborated with the International Community of Women Living with HIV to offer a series of workshops that train women on how to advocate the inclusion of their perspectives in policy-making to localize the 2030 Agenda. In Ukraine, this process led a national network of women living with HIV to spearhead the country’s first-ever forum on Gender Equality and HIV/AIDS. Supported by UN Women, the forum drew women from across Ukraine as well as other countries in Europe and Central Asia, resulting in agreement on a common advocacy strategy for continued engagement in implementing the global goals.

Today, the network in Ukraine routinely advocates for national and local strategies to guarantee women’s participation in local AIDS councils, bolster prevention measures among women and girls, and provide HIV counselling and testing as an integral part of responses to gender-based violence.



Olena Stryzhak, who heads the Ukrainian non-governmental organization Positive Women, says that when women living with HIV assume new roles as agents of change, “It significantly contributes to the principle of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind.”

## BUDGETS BOLSTER EMPOWERMENT

In **Asia and the Pacific**, UN Women brought together government

officials from 15 countries to learn about gender-responsive planning and budgeting. Sri Lanka’s Cabinet subsequently mandated that 11 national ministries—as well as all provincial councils, and district and divisional secretariats—allocate at least 25 per cent of investments in rural economic development to women. New funds will support gender equality in diverse areas, from technical education to fisheries to housing and construction. The Ministry of Finance backed

*Kosovo’s new National Development Strategy makes gender equality integral to a variety of goals, from land reform to health care. Women’s economic empowerment is critical to progress, helping women like these, who manage a small food processing business, get enterprises off the ground.*

implementation of the decision by instructing ministries to ensure that budgetary proposals for 2016-2017 include specific plans and funds for gender equality measures.



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# UN WOMEN'S FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY

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María del Carmen Cáceres calls herself “a woman in the process of reconstruction.” She is the Secretary-General of the Association of Women Builders in Bolivia and a survivor of domestic violence. Driven by the need to pay for her daughter’s medical expenses, she sacrificed her career as a nurse to enter the better-paid building industry. She has found hope and motivation in her new job, made possible through training offered by Red Hábitat, a grantee of UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality.



**MARÍA DEL CARMEN CÁCERES**  
*María del Carmen Cáceres, centre, is a construction worker who heads the Association of Women Builders in Bolivia. Through assistance from the Fund for Gender Equality, she has become a tireless advocate for women’s rights in the country’s second largest economic sector.*



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**35**  
ONGOING  
PROJECTS

USD 11.2 MILLION  
TOTAL VALUE OF ACTIVE  
**GRANTS**

**50,700**  
DIRECT  
BENEFICIARIES

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*Data refer to 2016.*

“In painting and construction, I have found a way to express what I repressed for many years. I identify with my profession because I believe the same way damaged ceramic can be repaired, people’s lives can be fixed too. Now I know I can do everything I want to,” she says.

Red Hábitat has pioneered an initiative in two of **Bolivia**’s largest cities — El Alto and La Paz — offering opportunities for women in the construction industry to find better working conditions and higher paying jobs. Part of the group’s strategy is to help women improve their skills and marketing, such as through analysis of market needs, training on high-demand technical skills and professional tools such as templates for job estimates. Another focus of this project is on developing the abilities of 30 women leaders like Maria del Carmen to skillfully lobby for policy reforms on issues from job safety to retirement rights. Their advocacy efforts have already persuaded the municipality of La Paz to offer local transport options that are safe for women and provide separate restrooms for men and women in construction sites and municipal facilities.

In 2016, the Fund for Gender Equality disbursed USD 4.4 million to 35 active projects, 25 of which are new grantees engaging in localizing 11 of the global goals, with a target of over half a million beneficiaries by 2019. Through grantees’ catalytic work, the Fund reaches the most marginalized women, such as those in rural areas and indigenous communities, women living with HIV/AIDS and/or disabilities and domestic workers. As a strategic UN Women contribution to the 2030 Agenda, the Fund’s seven-year experience confirms a number of effective strategies to realize the

global commitment to “leave no one behind.” Out of 121 projects since the Fund began in 2009, 97 per cent have targeted at least one of 18 categories of vulnerable groups; 70 per cent have reached two or more.

Other projects supported by the Fund in 2016 registered strong results. In **India**, almost 8,200 women no longer suffer the inhuman oppression of manual scavenging, which entails removing human excrement from rudimentary toilets. The Jan Sahas Social Development Society mobilized advocacy that led to 60 resolutions by local authorities to stop the practice, and ensure decent work, social protection and other entitlements for women and their families.

The Association for Women with Social Problems led a drive to hold the first national conference on women, peace and security in **Albania**, where government and civil society committed to developing the first national action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

In **Benin**, the National Association of Women Farmers helped 64 women farmers’ associations to improve the competitiveness of their agricultural production by using organic fertilizers, practicing crop rotation and water rationalizing techniques, and introducing vegetables that regenerate impoverished soils. Over 1,700 women have benefited from trainings, which were specifically designed to accommodate high rates of illiteracy. The effort enabled them to increase yields, improve food security, and better confront water scarcity and climate change.

The full list of 2016 Fund grantees is at: [www.unwomen.org/en/trust-funds/fund-for-gender-equality](http://www.unwomen.org/en/trust-funds/fund-for-gender-equality).

# UN WOMEN'S FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**In 2016, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) celebrated its 20th anniversary of grant-making for projects to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, which have reached every corner of the world. Many of these pioneering and imaginative initiatives have helped shape understanding of what works to end violence—and why.**

A high-profile fund-raising gala to mark the anniversary brought together 300 gender rights activists, UN officials and the private sector. Co-hosted by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Oscar-winning actress and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman, it featured moving stories of impact and change from beneficia-

ries of UN Trust Fund-supported projects. Managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, the UN Trust Fund works with non-governmental organizations and governments to improve access to services for responding to violence against women and girls, deepen the implementation of laws and policies grounded in women's rights, and back actions to prevent violence.

One UN Trust Fund-supported project provided the only available services for survivors of violence in a number of the refugee camps that dot the **Thailand-Myanmar** border. Implemented by the International Rescue Committee and the community-based Karenni National Women's Organization, the project helped women like Bu Meh (alias), a Karenni mother of five from Myanmar, find protection and resources to get back on their feet. "When my husband beat me, I came here," she says. "I feel safe. The staff always accompanied me and I received good service [for my] health, psychosocial support and other needs."

Other beneficiaries of UN Trust Fund support in 2016 included women and girls living along the North Atlantic Coast of **Nicaragua**. Rates of violence are high there, particularly for indigenous women marginalized by poverty and discrimination. A UN Trust Fund-supported project by the international women's rights organization MADRE, and its local partner Wangki Tangni, has established the first radio station focusing

#### NICOLE KIDMAN

*Oscar-winning actress and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman co-hosted a gala that celebrated the 20th anniversary of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the impact of its grantees' interventions globally.*



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USD 54 MILLION  
TOTAL VALUE OF ACTIVE  
GRANTS

106  
PROJECTS  
IN  
77 COUNTRIES

NEARLY  
250,000  
DIRECT  
BENEFICIARIES

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*Data refer to 2016.*

on women's rights in the region, targeting more than 63 communities in the local language. Broadcasts are complemented by "community listener groups" organized by *comunicadoras*—women's rights defenders. The groups provide information and a safe space for learning about rights as well as indigenous concepts of peaceful living. "Now we are talking daily about this issue," says Valerie Carero (alias), an avid listener of the broadcasts. "We believe that we are already seeing less violence in the home and within families."

In trying to scrape together a living by selling goods in the markets of Dar es Salaam in **Tanzania**, women have faced rampant violence and discrimination, including sexual harassment and verbal abuse. With UN Trust Fund support, the group Equality for Growth is implementing a project that has made six markets safer. Forty women vendors have been trained as community legal supporters who raise awareness and help women claim their rights. In 2016, the community legal supporters assisted over 450 women to report cases in the markets. All six markets have adopted guidelines to end violence against women, resulting in stiff fines for perpetrators. Nearly two in three women now know where to report violence, and four in five say that violence has decreased.

Over the past two decades, the UN Trust Fund has supported 462 organizations in 139 countries and territories with grants of over USD 129 million. These funds have made a positive difference in the lives of over 2 million women and girls.

In 2016, 36 organizations received a total of USD 13 million in funding, and the Fund had 106 ongoing projects in 77 countries and territories. Almost 250,000 women and girls benefitted directly from services for survivors,



**CHRISTINA SIMON**

*Christina Simon, a volunteer for the UNTF grantee Equality for Growth, is among hundreds of women traders in Dar Es Salaam markets who are working to improve public safety. Cases of violence have declined; business has improved.*

empowerment activities and protection from violence. They included at least 31,000 female migrant workers; 10,000 indigenous women; 3,400 lesbian, bisexual and transgender women; and 1,300 women and girls with disabilities. In total, UN Trust Fund projects reached over 6 million people in 2016, including men and boys, government officials and the general public.



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# MARSHALLING COLLECTIVE UN ACTION

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Across the diverse organizations of the UN system, UN Women leads a coordinated approach to gender equality. In programmes and operations, we emphasize the centrality of women's rights and empowerment for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and upholding international norms and standards.



*A young Palestinian policewoman raises public awareness on how police protect the safety and rights of women, part of a joint UN effort to ensure women access justice.*

## BROADENING IMPACT THROUGH JOINT PROGRAMMES

Through joint programmes, UN Women collaborates with other UN entities to integrate gender equality measures across a wide range of core development concerns. In the **State of Palestine**, UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) carried out a joint programme on strengthening the rule of law that builds on partnerships with 13 justice and security institutions, and more than 40 civil society organizations and universities. Within a broader state-building agenda, UN Women has taken a leadership role in integrating gender justice and demonstrating the fundamental importance of women's access to justice.

The programme has expanded access to legal representation and counselling for 53,000 Palestinians, more than half of whom are women. A specialized prosecution unit has been established with 26 public prosecutors trained on dealing with cases of sexual and gender-based violence, while nearly 400 lawyers have acquired new knowledge of women's human rights to improve their arguments in court. A draft domestic violence bill aligned with international standards is now under final review. It marks the first attempt to criminalize domestic violence in the State of Palestine and establish specific measures for the protection of survivors.

Together with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, UN Women has enhanced economic opportunities for 18,000 women in **Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda**. The joint programme helps to sustain their livelihoods and increase food security and nutrition, deploying strategies such as support for small businesses, the provision of high-quality seeds and agricultural extension services, the creation of agricultural cooperatives and the supply of fortified foods.

In **Egypt**, a joint programme with UNDP has supported the issuance of more than 300,000 national ID cards for women, opening the door for them to obtain a variety of essential public services and legal rights. Joint advocacy led to a breakthrough commitment by the President of Egypt to issue 5 million of the cards, cover-

ing all women who do not currently have them. To extend access on a large scale, UN Women assisted with a cooperation model where local NGOs partner with the National Council for Women to issue the cards.


## A SYSTEM-WIDE PLAN FOR ACTION ON EQUALITY

Through the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) developed by UN Women, UN entities establish gender equality strategies that move the organizational bar in all areas of operations. Over 90 percent of organizations now report on measures adopted under the UN-SWAP, and by 2016, 51 had gender policies and reflected gender in their strategic plans, up from 21 in 2012, when the UN-SWAP began. Gender policies and plans continue to be the most strategic drivers of change for gender equality within organizations; those with them markedly outperform those without.

The UN-SWAP has largely changed the way gender equality work is carried out within the UN system. While gender focal points used to be isolated within organizations, networks of people who support gender equality are now active in a variety of business areas, from finance to human resources to communications. Fourteen UN entities added mandatory gender training for all staff in 2016, and more than 18,000 UN staff completed the I Know Gender course.

At the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which has 10,000 staff members in more than 440 offices worldwide, a new gender equality policy emphasizes the accountability of staff at all levels. Each department has specific commitments for addressing gender issues and is accountable for delivering on them. Innovations include procedures to detect gender-related risks in standard audits in IOM field locations, such as to assess gender parity in staffing and the regularity of training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Budget units are implementing a gender marker to track the gender-responsiveness of projects. The Talent Management Unit has integrated gender-related key performance indicators in the appraisal system for staff, with a focus on managers.



A photograph showing Emma Watson in the center, wearing a white shirt and a dark skirt, smiling and waving. To her left is Inkosi Kachindamoto, wearing a white polo shirt and light-colored trousers, also smiling. They are surrounded by a large group of young girls in school uniforms (white shirts and dark skirts) who are clapping and smiling. The scene is outdoors under a large tree, with bright sunlight casting shadows on the ground.

**EMMA WATSON AND INKOSI KACHINDAMOTO**  
*UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson (centre)  
and Senior Chief Inkosi Kachindamoto (left) are  
welcomed by pupils at the Mtakataka Secondary School,  
where girls have been able to return to their education after  
their child marriages were annulled.*



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# CAMPAIGNING TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC

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The 2030 Agenda is a universal plan for a shared future. Its success depends on the awareness and active engagement of people in every country. Through public advocacy, UN Women advances work on the ground. Our campaigns reach mass audiences to inspire action on the range of concerns vital to women and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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OVER  
**1 MILLION**  
**MEN AND BOYS**  
HAVE SIGNED UP TO  
**HEFORSHE**  
TO DATE

**UN WOMEN**  
WAS FEATURED IN  
**18,000**  
**MEDIA REPORTS**

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
FOLLOWERS HAVE  
INCREASED TO  
**5 MILLION**

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## **HEFORSHE IMPACT CHAMPIONS DRIVE TRANSFORMATION**

What happens when over 1.1 million men and boys stand together as HeForShe to create a gender equal world? When one of these men presides over a country, the results can include a landmark change to the Constitution. That was the case in **Malawi**, where President Arthur Peter Mutharika, an Impact Champion for UN Women's HeForShe campaign, has been a leading force in persuading people to agree, once and for all, to end child marriage.

In 2016, Parliament amended the Constitution to outlaw child marriage at the highest level of the legal system, protecting girls and boys under age 18 from a violation of their human rights. UN Women played a pivotal role during the constitutional review process, providing legal expertise and sponsoring key consultations to move forward a reform that protects girls' rights, health, education and overall life prospects.

Prior to the constitutional amendment, on the eve of the International Day of the Girl Child in 2016, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson championed the cause by visiting Malawi. She met with traditional chiefs who stop child marriages in their communities as well as girls who have returned to school after marriages are annulled.

Malawi's laudable move is just one of many around the world propelled by HeForShe champions. Under the HeForShe IMPACT 10x10x10 initiative, 10 global business leaders have committed to driving change within and outside their companies. In 2016, this led PwC to boost the share of women on its global leadership board from 18 per cent to 47 per cent. Tupperware Brands reached gender parity at board level; and Twitter implemented a 20-week gender-neutral parental leave policy.

## STEPPING IT UP FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

In 2015, at a historic gathering at the United Nations sponsored by UN Women, more than 70 world leaders committed to campaign for Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality! Agreeing that there will be no global goals achieved without gender equality, nearly 100 countries pledged specific moves to end discrimination and close gender gaps.

A year later, every region of the world marked progress on the commitments. **Argentina**, Burundi, **Denmark**, **Georgia** and **Latvia** were among the countries that had launched national plans and public awareness campaigns, and adopted legislation to end violence. **China**, **Estonia**, **Mexico**, **New Zealand** and the **United States** had taken measures related to expanding support to women's entrepreneurship, promoting maternity protection and paternity leave, and lessening the gender pay gap. **Costa Rica** and **Thailand** were strengthening mechanisms to gather gender data, while **Armenia**, **Jordan** and **Luxembourg** had taken initiatives to boost women's representation in elected bodies.

## PROMOTING EQUAL PAY

With women still earning on average 23 per cent less than men, the Equal Pay Platform of Champions is rallying a global call to close the gap. During the 2017 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Oscar Award-winning American actress Patricia Arquette and two-time Olympic gold medalist and soccer superstar Abby Wambach joined leaders from trade unions, civil society, government, the private sector, the film industry and gender equality advocates to launch the platform and kick-off a public awareness campaign. The Equal Pay Champions committed to advocating for the issue in their own capacity and will urge decision-makers to do their part for an issue fundamental to women's economic empowerment.

The Champions' call was amplified by UN Women's #StopTheRobbery campaign to mobilize people globally around income equality. In reference to the 23 per cent gender pay gap, the campaign cleverly blacks out 23 per cent of the characters in Twitter messages. In its first weeks, #StopTheRobbery reached more than 52 million Twitter users and raked up 500,000 video views.

## UNITING AGAINST VIOLENCE

Ending violence against women and girls has become an urgent global calling. In 2016, people in a record 105 countries came together under the umbrella of the UN Women-managed UNiTE campaign to commemorate the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Activities on the ground took up the campaign's motto to "Orange the World" for a brighter future without violence and ran the gamut, from orange marches and bike rides to the launch of the first UNiTE song contest. The lighting of symbolic buildings in orange, which has become a campaign trademark in recent years, included the Gateway of India; the African Renaissance Monument in Senegal; 17 municipalities in Italy; the Presidential Palaces of Ecuador, Chile, and Colombia; the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem; and many more. In Morocco, Parliament was lit in orange for the first time, and Maroc Telecom sent SMS violence prevention messages to mobile subscribers.

UN Women used multiple channels to marshal diverse audiences. Globally, more than 300 million people were reached with anti-violence messages on Twitter alone. In New York City, an animated anti-violence public service announcement was featured on screens in taxis and local cable networks, with 1.6 million additional online video views on UN Women platforms.

### FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

*A New York City landmark, the Flatiron Building lit up on International Women's Day 2016 to echo UN Women's call: Step It Up for Gender Equality!*

*Orange Day 2016: UN Women in Egypt joined the UNiTE campaign to End Violence against Women with a motorcycle ride showcasing the right to mobility and free movement.*

*Orange Day 2016: A civil society silent protest to end violence against women and girls in Jamaica marked the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women with special attention to those living with HIV.*

*UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and actress Patricia Arquette launch the #StopTheRobbery campaign, galvanizing awareness of the global gender pay gap of 23 per cent.*







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# PARTNERING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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**The success of the 2030 Agenda rests on a global partnership for sustainable development, firmly grounded in universal solidarity and the commitment of everyone with a stake in a better world. UN Women forges an array of partnerships—with public institutions, private businesses and civil society—that make progress towards gender equality reach further and move faster.**

## EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH SPORTS

The flame shot up bright against the blue sky of Rio de Janeiro, a perennial symbol of life and peace at the Olympic Games. In the hands of UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, it carried an extra message—of the empowerment of women and girls, and of a peace that includes living free from all forms of fear and discrimination. The event offered a moment to rejoice and reflect on the power of sports in galvanizing social change and gender equality.

Through a longstanding partnership between UN Women and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the 2016 Rio Games provided numerous opportunities to showcase this link. A chief example was the celebration of the “One Win Leads to Another” Olympic legacy programme. Developed jointly by UN Women, the IOC and Women Win, the programme is empowering 1,000 under-privileged girls in Rio de Janeiro, based on a model by Women Win covering 217,000 girls in 25 countries. During the Games, girls could go to 16 Olympic Villas to practise sport and attend workshops that imparted economic and leadership skills, conducted confidence-building exercises, and built awareness of health as well as steps to prevent and seek protection from violence.

Outside the Olympics, UN Women has harnessed the power of sports for women and girls through partnerships like the one with the Valencia Club de Fútbol. Collaboration on an innovative international workshop saw experienced gender advocates and skilled athletes working with sport associations to build a strong gender equality emphasis into football training programmes.

Participants learned techniques to prevent violence against women and girls, and develop self-esteem and leadership skills. They are applying new knowledge through projects aimed at reaching at least 30,000 girls and boys by the end of 2019.

## ALIGNING BUSINESS WITH THE GLOBAL GOALS

UN Women’s partnerships with the private sector help advance gender equality across all corporate operations, from value chains to workplace practices. Unilever, for example, has drawn on our assistance to develop the Global Framework on Women’s Safety, aimed at empowering 5 million women in the global supply chain linked to the corporation’s tea business. The framework involves measures to ensure women can work in safe, secure environments, and that they find equal opportunities to develop new skills and better livelihoods. A UN Women collaboration with Citi resulted in a training guide, already piloted in Brazil and India, aimed at encouraging companies to buy more from women-owned companies.

The Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) offer guidelines for companies to achieve gender equality; 1,445 companies have now signed on to these global commitments, developed by UN Women and the

*Girls on a basketball team in Mangueira, Brazil learn life skills to combat gender inequalities through “One Win Leads to Another,” an Olympic legacy programme developed as part of a UN Women partnership with the International Olympic Committee.*



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**400**  
**COMPANIES**  
ADOPTED THE  
**WOMEN'S**  
**EMPOWERMENT**  
**PRINCIPLES**

**40**  
**CIVIL SOCIETY**  
**GROUPS**  
OPERATE AT THE NATIONAL,  
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS,  
COVERING  
**60 COUNTRIES**

**15**  
**NATIONAL**  
**COMMITTEES**  
SUPPORT OUR WORK  
ACROSS  
**4 CONTINENTS**

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UN Global Compact. The new WEPs Gap Analysis Tool helps companies define where they are doing well for women and where they need to improve performance. A free and confidential online platform helps companies conduct the assessments, covering issues such as human resources, procurement and corporate sustainability. A simple ranking system summarizes their current standing—and allows tracking progress over time.

The UN Women Private Sector Leadership Advisory Council combines UN Women and private sector expertise to accelerate economic and social progress for women and girls worldwide. In 2017, the Council agreed to pursue a series of targeted collective initiatives to help deliver on the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. Among the priorities selected, work immediately started on increasing the quality and transparency of reporting on progress towards gender equality in the private sector, and considering ways to tackle unsupportive norms and stereotypes.

The Council members include: Dominic Barton, McKinsey & Company; Bob Collymore, Safaricom; Angelica Fuentes, Grupo Omnilife-Angelissima-Chivas; Rick Goings, Tupperware; Jayne Hrdlicka, Jetstar Group; Muhtar Kent, The Coca-Cola Company; Paul Polman, Unilever; and Stuart Smith, Ogilvy Public Relations.

## **PARTNERING ACROSS BORDERS**

UN Women strengthened its partnership with the European Union through a joint recommitment to a Memorandum of Understanding. This recommitment builds on the 2030 Agenda and the EU Gender Action Plan for External Action, while also recognizing need for joint

### **FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**

*In Turkey, more than 150 companies signed the Women's Empowerment Principles. Many of these companies' leaders gathered in Istanbul to launch the WEPs Implementation Guide. They sent a powerful message: "Equality Means Business!"*

*The European Union and UN Women affirmed their partnership with a joint statement signed by (from left) UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica.*

*An 11-hour-climb took Kanchhi Maya Tamang to the summit of Mt. Everest, with a gender equality message. UN Women's Civil Society Advisory Group in Nepal supported the mission.*

action on global challenges such as countering violent extremism, climate change and the gender dimension of refugee policies and action. Also, three opinions adopted by the European Commission's Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on work-life balance, women migrants and refugees, and ending female genital mutilation saw the contributions of UN Women. With UN Women's engagement, the communiqués of the Group of 7 and Group of 20 recognized the importance of prioritizing women's economic empowerment.

## **A BROADER REACH TO CIVIL SOCIETY**

UN Women continued to enhance the roster of its civil society advisory groups (CSAGs), with a global total of 40. New members include, among others, LGBTI and youth leaders, trade unions and disability rights groups. This greater diversity is also reflected in the composition of the new Executive Director's CSAG, which advises her strategically and substantively.





In line with the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind, UN Women supported the participation of women and girls from highly marginalized groups in major global conferences—including CIVICUS in Colombia, “Women Deliver” in Denmark, Habitat III in Ecuador and AWID in Brazil—where they could advocate their concerns to government representatives and other decision-makers.

To engage faith-based leaders, UN Women and partners launched the “Religion and Gender Equality Platform” to explore how to pursue implementation of the 2030 Agenda from a faith perspective that puts gender equality at its centre.

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE SUPPORT

In 15 countries, National Committees advocate for UN Women and build supportive partnerships for achieving gender equality and the global goals. The National Committee in Finland, for instance, raised funds in 2016 for UN Women’s core operating costs, for humanitarian action to respond to refugee women’s needs in the Balkans and for women’s entrepreneurship in India. UN Women’s newest National Committee was established in the Netherlands. Its committed members and supporters are raising funds and awareness about gender equality and women’s empowerment.



# PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

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## VOICES FROM OUR TOP GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTORS

### AUSTRALIA

“Australia values UN Women’s practical in-country programmes and its global advocacy role. It is vital that United Nations activities to promote gender equality are coordinated to achieve the best possible impact. UN Women plays a pivotal role across the UN system. This is particularly important in the Pacific, where resources are scarce and the challenges considerable.”

—Julie Bishop, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

### FINLAND

“Promoting gender equality has been a core value and a policy goal of Finland for over a century. UN Women’s activities are of relevance in all our development policy priority areas, and UN Women has a central role in advancing women’s rights worldwide. For these reasons, UN Women remains one of Finland’s main UN partners, as reflected in our funding: only a few multilateral organizations continue to receive this level of funding from Finland.”

—Kai Mykkänen, Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development

### JAPAN

“Under the “Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”, Japan has been steadily providing assistance to developing countries in priority areas such as promoting women and girls’ rights and advance women’s leadership in politics, economy and other public fields. In promoting these efforts, UN Women, a strong supporter of women’s empowerment in the world, is a reliable partner for Japan.”

—Fumio Kishida, Japan’s Minister for Foreign Affairs

### NORWAY

“Norway actively supported the establishment of UN Women and has been a strong supporter since. UN Women is uniquely positioned to promote gender equality across the entire UN system. It differs from some of the strongly branded UN development agencies in its normative approach. If we are serious about changing the game and the rules, we have to be willing to invest for the long term.”

—Børge Brende, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs

### SWEDEN

“Sweden recognises UN Women’s overall responsibility to strive to mainstream gender equality, women’s rights and empowerment, and to contribute to the implementation of SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda. Support to UN Women is multiplied through its mandate to lead, coordinate and promote accountability for the entire UN system’s gender equality work.”

—Isabella Lövin, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation

### SWITZERLAND

“UN Women works relentlessly to ensure that every girl and every woman can live a life in dignity and have access to opportunities, be they political or economic. To reduce poverty and inequality, few other ODA investments are more effective than making sure that over half the world’s population fully participates in the development of their societies.”

—Manuel Sager, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

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## BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS SUPPORTING UN WOMEN’S MISSION

### ALIBABA GROUP

“We know that women will lead us to a better and brighter future. We at Alibaba believe in the power of technology to enable women to thrive in today’s and tomorrow’s economy. With UN Women, we will continue to create economic opportunity for millions of female entrepreneurs around the world.”

—Jack Ma, Chairman of Alibaba Group

### UNILEVER

“Investing in women is vital for economic growth and sustainable development. By bringing together corporations, governments and civil society through partnerships, we can positively impact women, their families, their communities and create a brighter future for all. By leveraging its extensive expertise, UN Women is a driving force in enabling the empowerment of women around the world. We are proud to support UN Women’s important work and look forward to continuing our partnership.”

—Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever

### ZONTA

“UN Women is a powerful voice for women and girls at the global, regional and local levels. To achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, we must invest in programs that put women’s rights and interests at the forefront of every conversation.”

—Sonja Hönig Schough, President of Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation

# 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

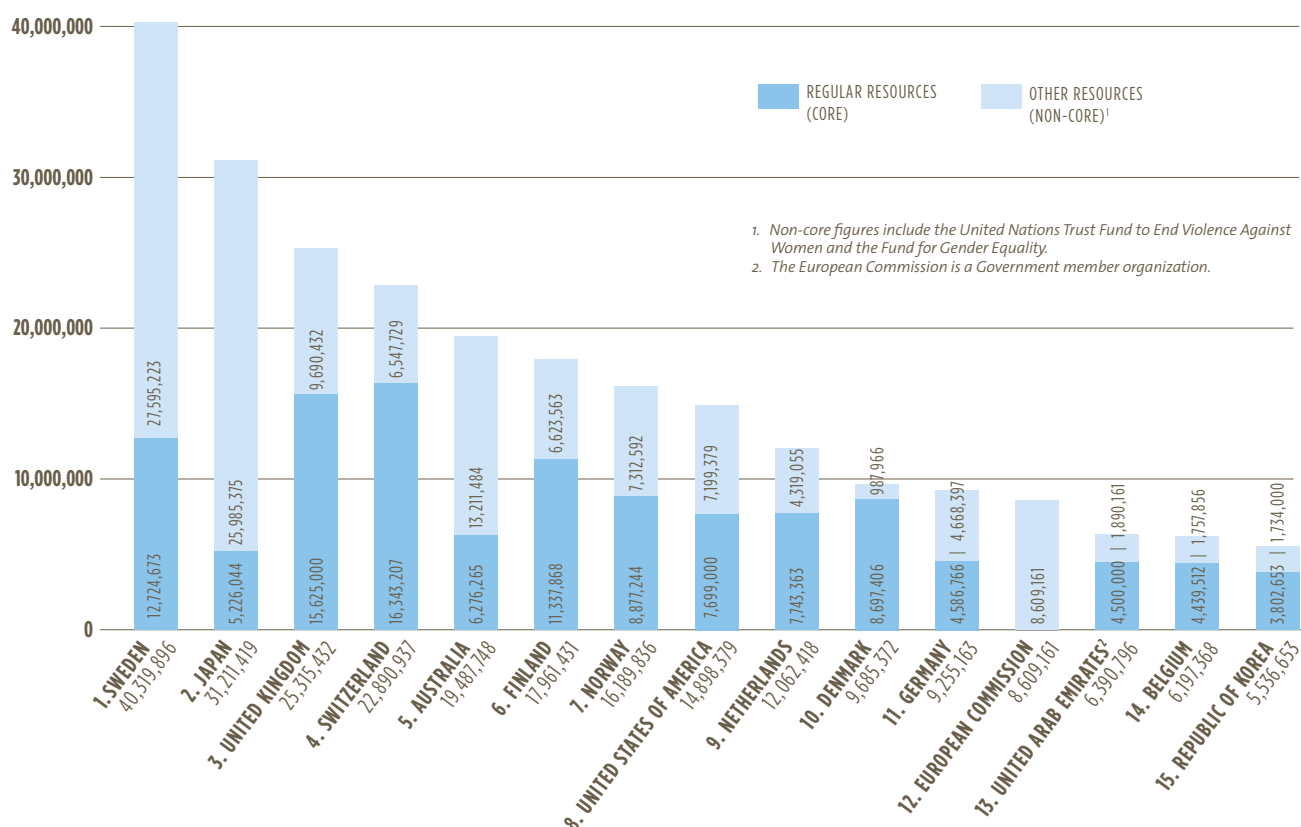
UN Women is incredibly grateful for its donor partners' commitment to making gender equality and women's empowerment a global priority and for supporting UN Women's life-changing programmes in 90 countries.

In 2016, UN Women received financial support from 108 Member States, forward-thinking business partners, generous philanthropists and individual donors who want to do their part to change the world. With your combined support, UN Women mobilized a total of USD 327,352,866.

While progress is being made, there continues to be chronic underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women appeals to all its stakeholders to step up their contributions and their commitment to creating brighter futures for women and girls everywhere.

## Top 15 Government Donors

For the year ended 31 December 2016, USD



## Statement of financial performance

Thousands of USD

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Contributions	
Regular resources	141,660
Other resources	178,078
Assessed resources	7,615
Investment income	3,432
Other revenue	3,636
Revenue: exchange transactions	148
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>334,569</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>340,041</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(5,472)</b>

### NOTES:

- These statements have been prepared on an accrual basis, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues and expenses are recognized in the financial statements in the period to which they relate.
- Assessed contributions are issued as an annual allotment from the United Nations regular budget, and are assessed and approved for a two year budget period. The amount of these contributions is then apportioned between the two years.
- The deficit for the current financial year is due to a timing difference between the receipt of earmarked donor funds recognized in 2015 and associated programme delivery expenditure incurred in 2016.



## Voluntary contributions to UN Women

From governments and other donors (expressed in USD)

CONTRIBUTORS	Regular resources (core)	Other resources (non-core)	TOTAL 2016
<b>Governments and member organizations</b>			
Algeria	10,000	-	10,000
Andorra	44,356	-	44,356
Antigua and Barbuda	500	-	500
Armenia	2,500	-	2,500
Australia	6,276,265	13,211,484	19,487,748
Austria	283,126	55,850	338,976
Bahamas (the)	5,000	-	5,000
Barbados	239,435	-	239,435
Belgium	4,439,512	1,757,856	6,197,368
Belize	1,000	-	1,000
Benin	500	-	500
Bhutan	500	-	500
Bolivia	6,000	-	6,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,000	-	2,000
Botswana	10,000	-	10,000
Cambodia	5,000	-	5,000
Cameroon	-	1,098,966	1,098,966
Canada	4,868,914	183,085	5,051,999
Central African Republic (the)	250	-	250
Chile	-	100,000	100,000
China	1,863,200	166,800	2,030,000
Congo (the)	10,606	-	10,606
Costa Rica	10,000	-	10,000
Côte d'Ivoire	6,040	-	6,040
Cyprus	1,000	-	1,000
Czech Republic	15,268	-	15,268
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the)	250	-	250
Denmark	8,697,406	987,966	9,685,372
Dominican Republic (the)	39,792	-	39,792
Estonia	84,656	-	84,656
European Commission <sup>1</sup>	-	8,609,161	8,609,161
Fiji	2,064	-	2,064
Finland	11,337,868	6,623,563	17,961,431
France	776,012	942,112	1,718,124
Gambia (the)	20,000	-	20,000
Georgia	10,000	-	10,000
Germany	4,586,766	4,668,397	9,255,163
Ghana	2,500	-	2,500
Honduras	150	-	150
Iceland	900,000	814,891	1,714,891
India	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2,000	-	2,000
Iraq	850	-	850
Ireland	1,664,817	1,408,644	3,073,460
Israel	250,000	30,000	280,000
Italy	1,905,830	828,032	2,733,862
Jamaica	4,603	-	4,603
Japan	5,226,044	25,985,375	31,211,419
Jordan	-	19,942	19,942
Kazakhstan	68,761	10,000	78,761
Kenya	25,000	-	25,000
Kuwait	50,000	-	50,000
Kyrgyzstan	100	-	100
Latvia	10,000	-	10,000
Lesotho	500	-	500
Liechtenstein	72,031	10,290	82,321
Lithuania	-	11,338	11,338
Luxembourg	1,220,866	1,442,795	2,663,660
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,000	-	1,000
Malawi	-	360,000	360,000
Malaysia	50,000	-	50,000
Mali	43,938	-	43,938
Malta	249	-	249
Mauritania	150	-	150
Mexico	30,097	40,459	70,556
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1,000	-	1,000
Moldova	8,000	-	8,000
Monaco	22,346	-	22,346
Montenegro	2,000	-	2,000
Morocco	20,000	447,317	467,317
Mozambique	9,563	-	9,563

CONTRIBUTORS	Regular resources (core)	Other resources (non-core)	TOTAL 2016
Myanmar	5,000	-	5,000
Namibia	5,000	-	5,000
Nepal	13,974	-	13,974
Netherlands (the)	7,743,363	4,319,055	12,062,418
New Zealand	1,672,700	-	1,672,700
Nicaragua	5,000	-	5,000
Nigeria	156,500	-	156,500
Norway	8,877,244	7,312,592	16,189,836
Pakistan	10,000	-	10,000
Palestine	500	-	500
Panama	15,000	-	15,000
Paraguay	450	-	450
Peru	1,539	-	1,539
Poland	12,588	12,588	25,176
Portugal	16,411	-	16,411
Republic of Korea	3,802,653	1,734,000	5,536,653
San Marino	1,015	-	1,015
Senegal	469,757	-	469,757
Serbia	12,000	-	12,000
Seychelles	1,000	-	1,000
Sierra Leone	12,500	-	12,500
Singapore	50,000	-	50,000
South Africa	42,553	-	42,553
Spain	752,892	1,916,744	2,669,636
Sweden	12,724,673	27,595,223	40,319,896
Switzerland	16,343,207	6,547,729	22,890,937
Thailand	20,000	-	20,000
Timor L'Este	60,000	-	60,000
Trinidad and Tobago	10,000	5,000	15,000
Turkey	1,192,572	-	1,192,572
United Arab Emirates (the)	4,500,000	1,890,796	6,390,796
United Kingdom	15,625,000	9,690,432	25,315,432
United States of America (the)	7,699,000	7,199,379	14,898,379
Uruguay	6,000	-	6,000
Uzbekistan	2,149	-	2,149
Vanuatu	200	-	200
Viet Nam	71,176	-	71,176
<b>Total Government contributions</b>	<b>138,181,797</b>	<b>138,037,859</b>	<b>276,219,656</b>

## United Nations System

MDTFO	-	14,930,107	14,930,107
UNOCHA	-	1,867,639	1,867,639
UNAIDS	-	1,910,000	1,910,000
UNDP	-	5,035,618	5,035,618
UNOPS	-	1,069,817	1,069,817
OCHA	-	1,083,191	1,083,191
Other UN Agencies <sup>2</sup>	-	2,567,814	2,567,814
<b>TOTAL UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,464,186</b>	<b>28,464,186</b>

## National Committees

Australia	3,052	486,754	489,806
Austria	-	21,231	21,231
Finland	131,519	134,613	266,132
France	277,388	-	277,388
Germany	579	31,847	32,427
Iceland	151,308	420,773	572,081
Japan	-	22,516	22,516
New Zealand	-	4,290	4,290
Singapore	23,526	153,127	176,654
Sweden	27,136	119,053	146,189
United States	2,379,794	187,205	2,566,999
<b>Total National Committee contributions</b>	<b>2,994,302</b>	<b>1,581,409</b>	<b>4,575,713</b>

### NOTES:

1. The European Commission is a Government member organization.
2. Other UN Agencies include: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, MINUSTAH, PAHO, UNECA, UNHCR, United Nations, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNFPA, WFP, WHO.

CONTRIBUTORS	Regular resources (core)	Other resources (non-core)	TOTAL 2016
<b>Foundations, Private Sector and Other Donors</b>			
2 Life AB	-	100,000	100,000
African Development Bank	-	45,000	45,000
Beijing Liujui	-	200,000	200,000
Benetton Group S.A.	-	400,000	400,000
Boy Story LLC	-	30,000	30,000
Braskem S.A.	-	31,500	31,500
Calvin Klein	-	250,000	250,000
Central Elections Commission - Palestine	-	235,693	235,693
Citigroup National Committee	-	200,000	200,000
Corporacion Andina de Fomento	-	45,000	45,000
Fondation Chanel	-	222,965	222,965
Fondation L'Occitane	-	111,732	111,732
Ford Foundation	-	620,000	620,000
Garanti Bankasi A.S.	-	100,000	100,000
Gobierno de Coahuila, Mexico	-	273,212	273,212
Gobierno de Puebla, Mexico	-	160,244	160,244
Green Climate Fund	-	41,362	41,362
Groupe Kledu	-	199,816	199,816
Grupo Boticario (Calamo)	-	15,599	15,599
INEE, Mexico	-	47,960	47,960
INEGI, Mexico	-	48,403	48,403
Instituto Lojas Renner	-	118,490	118,490
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	-	77,217	77,217
International Olympic Committee	-	189,668	189,668
Inter-Parliamentary Union	-	80,000	80,000
Itaipu Binacional	-	194,534	194,534
Justice Rapid Response	-	202,641	202,641
Korean Women's Development Institute	-	60,000	60,000
Mamoun Beheiry Center	-	151,027	151,027
Maria Holder Memorial Trust	-	9,055	9,055
MetLife Insurance	27,233	-	27,233
Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy	-	21,000	21,000
Peacebuilding Fund	-	1,224,013	1,224,013
Price Waterhouse Coopers	9,580	-	9,580
Proctor & Gamble	-	150,000	150,000
Proya Cosmetics Co. Ltd	-	54,000	54,000
Relaciones Exteriores, Mexico	-	37,096	37,096
Rockefeller Foundation	-	350,000	350,000
SAER Emploi - Mali	-	199,818	199,818
Secretaria de Desarrollo Social, Mexico	-	53,966	53,966
Swedish Postcode Lottery	-	344,901	344,901
Teck Resources Ltd	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
The Asia Foundation	-	90,000	90,000
Tupperware Brands Corporation	-	255,000	255,000
Twitter Inc.	-	10,000	10,000
Unilever	-	1,125,888	1,125,888
United Nations Women for Peace Association	-	250,000	250,000
Valencia Football Club	300,000	-	300,000
Vodafone Albania Foundation	-	53,079	53,079
VSA New Zealand	-	19,808	19,808
Yong Yao (Shanghai) Real Estate	-	30,763	30,763
Zonta International	-	250,000	250,000
Miscellaneous Donors	92,841	13,369	106,211
HeforShe (donate button)	54,737	-	54,737
<b>TOTAL FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>484,392</b>	<b>9,993,821</b>	<b>10,478,211</b>
<b>TOTAL 2016 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>141,660,491</b>	<b>178,077,275</b>	<b>319,737,766</b>

## Voluntary Contributions to the Fund for Gender Equality and UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

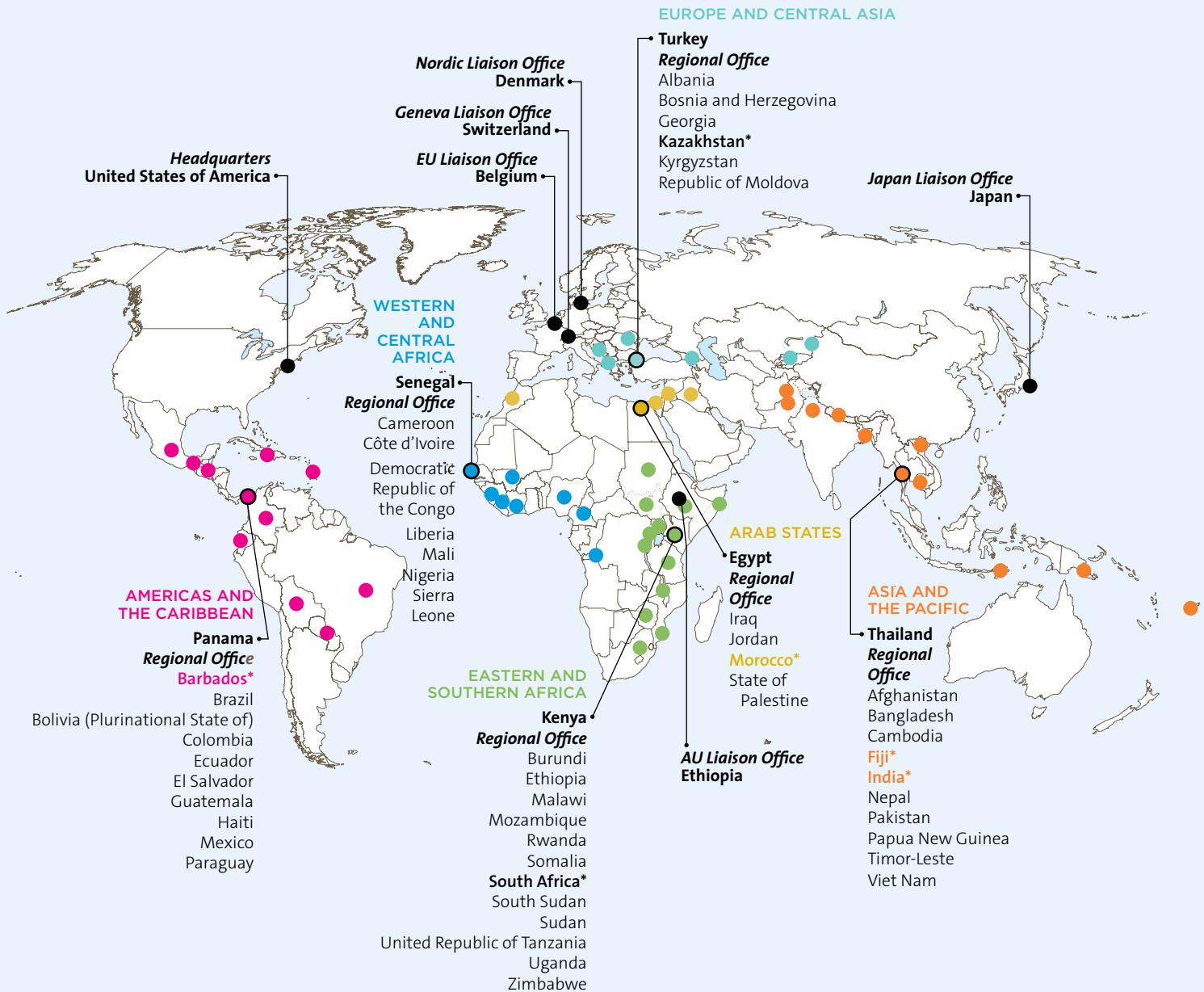
From governments and other donors (expressed in USD)

CONTRIBUTORS	UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women	Fund for Gender Equality
<b>Governments and Member Organizations</b>		
Australia	1,530,785	-
Austria	55,850	-
France	52,910	-
Germany	217,391	-
Iceland	100,000	-
Ireland	276,008	-
Israel	15,000	15,000
Japan	-	130,200
Kazakhstan	10,000	-
Liechtenstein	10,290	-
Netherlands (the)	2,173,913	-
Switzerland	2,866,869	-
Trinidad and Tobago	5,000	-
United Kingdom	4,734,848	-
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>12,048,866</b>	<b>145,200</b>
<b>National Committees</b>		
Australia	-	42,387
Finland	40,586	-
Germany	-	10,616
Iceland	144,407	-
Japan	9,002	-
Singapore	1,654	14,625
Sweden	117,238	-
United States	141,533	45,672
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>454,420</b>	<b>113,300</b>
<b>Foundations, Private Sector and Other Donors</b>		
Fondation Chanel	-	222,965
Fondation L'Occitane	-	111,732
Tupperware Brands Corporation	-	255,000
United Nations Women for Peace Association	250,000	-
Miscellaneous Donors	10,712	60
<b>TOTAL FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHERS CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>260,712</b>	<b>589,757</b>
<b>TOTAL 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND UNTF TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN</b>	<b>12,763,998</b>	<b>848,257</b>

# UN WOMEN IN THE WORLD

## Headquarters, Regional, Multi-Country, Country and Liaison Offices

\*Multi-Country Office



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.



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## Around the World

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## National Committees

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PHOTO: *UN Women/Joe Saade*

PHOTOS: P. 2 UN Women/Ryan Brown; P. 4: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran; CIAT/Georgina Smith; UN Women/Joe Saade; P. 6 UN Women/Yashas Chandra; P. 7 UN Women/Ryan Brown; P. 9 UN Women/Corinne Roberts; P. 10 UN Women/Rena Effendi; P. 11 UN Women/Christopher Herwig; P. 13 Alison Wright; P. 15 UN Women/Norman Gorecho; P. 17 UN Women/Ellie van Baaren; P. 18 UN Women/Mahtabul Hakim; P. 19 UN Women/Coumba Bah; P. 21 AP Photo/Sunday Alamba; P. 22 AFP/Getty Images/Johan Ordonez; P. 23 UN Women/Nathan Beriro; P. 25 UN Women/Nathan Beriro; P. 26 UN Women/Ryan Brown; P. 27 UN Women/Mirjana Nedeva; P. 29 UN Women/Rena Effendi; P. 30 Red Habitat/Sofia Bensadon; P. 32 UN Women/Ryan Brown; P. 33 UN Trust Fund/Gemma Wood; P. 34 UN Women/Cindy Thai Thien Nghia; P. 36 UN Women/Karin Schermbrucker; P.39 (clockwise from top): UN Women/Ryan Brown, UN Women/Muhammed Ghouneim, UN Women/Khristina Godfrey, UN Women/Ryan Brown; P. 40 UN Women/Gustavo Stephan; P. 43 (clockwise from top): Global Compact Turkey/Tolga Sezgin, European Union, Courtesy of Kanchhi Maya Tamang.



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Planet 50-50 by 2030  
Step It Up for Gender Equality

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