



FACTSHEET

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

UN Women is the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Created as part of the UN reform process in 2010, it was established to accelerate the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the attainment of equality between women and men. As gains in gender equality and women’s rights face mounting challenges worldwide, UN Women’s role in fighting discrimination and closing gender gaps remains critically important.

UN Women has a triple mandate, comprising normative, coordination and operational work. This allows it to achieve results through multi-faceted approaches. From global spaces to the grass roots level, UN Women leverages its thought leadership, specialised expertise, advocacy and convening power to influence others on gender equality and women’s empowerment to achieve results.

Strategic Objectives

Founded on the vision of equality enshrined in the UN Charter, UN Women works across four thematic impact areas under the Strategic Plan 2026-2029:

- 1. Women’s leadership and decision making
- 2. Women’s economic empowerment in resilient economies
- 3. Women and girls free from violence
- 4. Women, peace and security, and humanitarian action

Key Results and Challenges

UN Women achieved the following key results under the past strategic plan (2022-2025):

- In 110 countries, home to 3.1 billion women and girls, UN women successfully worked with national partners to strengthen the legal and policy environment protecting their rights.
- 394 laws adopted, amended or repealed to advance and protect the rights of women and girls.
- Over 18,300 partner organisations in 100 countries are better equipped to provide services for women.
- More than USD 285.2 million provided in direct funding to civil society and local women-led organisations.

The global context remains complex and politicised. Women and girls remain disproportionately affected by crises. In 2024, more than 676 million lived in conflict settings – the highest number since the 1990s. Most Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) gender targets are far off-track and only 3% of SDG expenses are linked to Goal 5 (Gender Equality). Systematic pushback against gender equality at the global and local level restrict UN Women’s operating space.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation

UN organisation with normative, operational and coordination functions

Head of organisation

Sima Sami Bahous (Jordan)

Headquarters

New York (USA)

Offices

3 global, 6 regional, 7 liaison (including Geneva) and country-level presence in 115 countries

Total Personnel

approx. 3,700

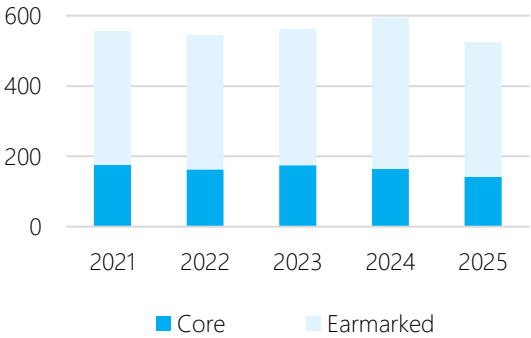
Established in

2010

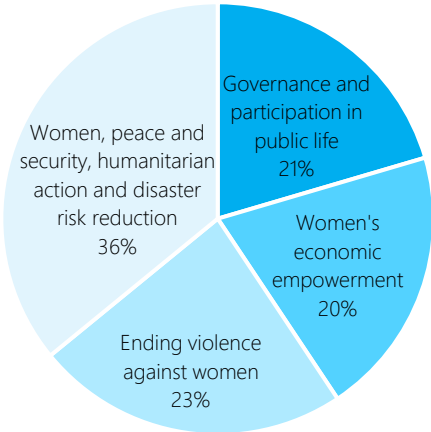
Steering

Executive board with rotating membership

UN Women Revenues 2021-2025, in million USD



UN Women Expenditures 2025, per thematic area (%), Total: USD 401 million





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Switzerland and UN Women

Switzerland's strategic priorities

UN Women's priorities and activities correspond to the Swiss strategic priorities as outlined in the Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy 2024-2027 and in the Swiss Strategy for International Cooperation 2025-2028. The partnership with UN Women is part of Switzerland's systemic engagement with the United Nations Development System to promote system-wide coherence. For the period 2026-2029, Switzerland is pursuing the following goals:

- Strengthening the capacities and increasing the impact of UN Women's programming in the areas of women's political participation, economic empowerment as well as ending violence against women;
- Improving organisational effectiveness and efficiency, including sustainable financing;
- Encouraging even more system-wide coherence and strategic partnerships to promote gender equality.

Cooperation at global and country level

Since the establishment of UN Women, Switzerland has prioritised Regular Resources (core funding) which account for approximately 70% of its total contributions. In addition, Switzerland has supported UN Women's institutional strengthening, including its evaluation function and Results Management System.

Switzerland provided thematic funding for UN Women's work on Migration, Political and Economic Empowerment and Governance, Ending Violence Against Women, Humanitarian Action, and Women, Peace and Security.

Through a long-term partnership agreement, Switzerland further contributes critical expertise by seconding personnel in the area of Women, Peace and Security and UN Women's Military Advisory Services.

Contact:

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SWITZERLAND and UN Women

Contributions (2025)

Total: USD 19.5 million (9th largest gov. donor, 3.6% of total budget)

Core: USD 13.5 million (3rd largest gov. donor)

Earmarked: USD 6 million

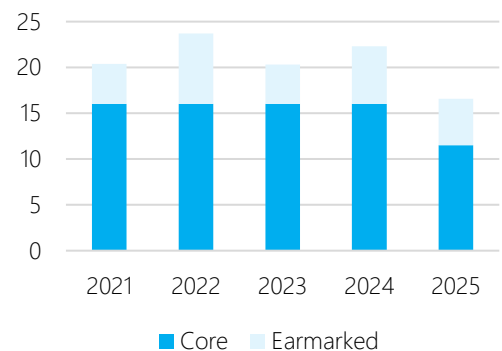
Number of Swiss staff

5 staff, 2 JPOs, 2 UNYVs, 4 consultants

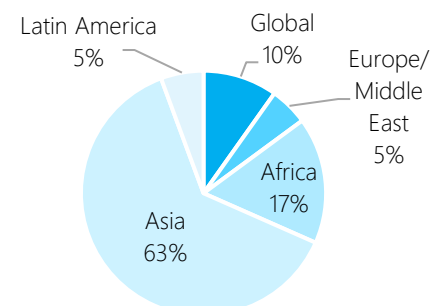
Involved Swiss government entities

SDC (UN&MDB, PGE), HRPD, FDI (FOGE)

Swiss Contributions 2021-2025, in CHF million



Earmarked Swiss Contributions 2025 per region (%) Total: CHF 5.1 million



Advancing women's leadership and social cohesion in Cox's Bazar

Amid the protracted Rohingya crisis, Switzerland supports UN Women's efforts to advance women's leadership, gender-responsive protection and social cohesion. In 2025, women peacebuilders facilitated 134 community mediations, while 21 women-led organisations and networks strengthened their capacities to deliver and monitor services for women. Six Rohingya women-led networks, comprising 120 members, enhanced their organisational and planning capacities. Through outreach activities implemented with local partners, 18,382 community members were engaged on gender-based violence prevention, response and referral pathways.