



WORKING TOGETHER FOR GENDER EQUALITY

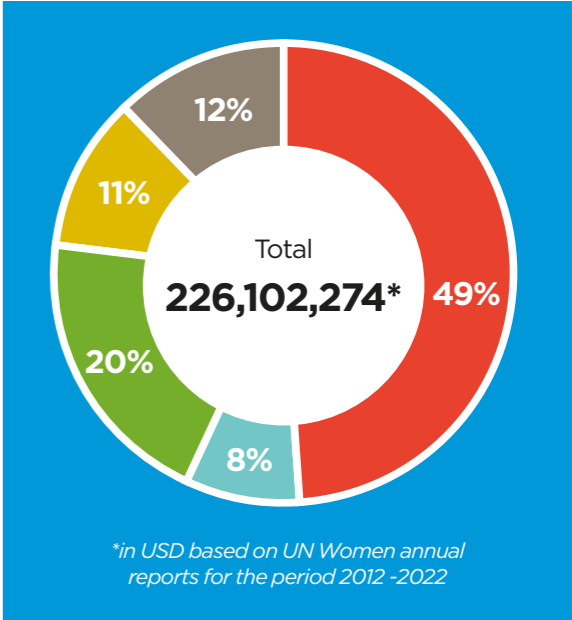
The EU – UN Women Partnership



JOINT EU-UN WOMEN PROGRAMMING AROUND THE WORLD¹



2012 – 2022 EU contributions to UN Women programmes per thematic priority area (estimates)



- Legend:**
- Engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes
 - Ending violence against women
 - Enhancing women's economic empowerment
 - Including gender considerations in global processes
 - Increasing women's leadership and participation
 - Making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting

1. Including programming taking place at the regional level.
 2. This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
 3. This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

SHARED PRIORITIES

Successful collaboration for women and girls around the world is a hallmark of the partnership between the European Union and UN Women. Since UN Women's establishment in 2010, we have developed a close partnership, signalled by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2012. In June 2016, the EU and UN Women reaffirmed their commitment to working in concert in order to continue to promote gender equality across the globe through shared policy dialogue, advocacy, and programming on the ground. Today and more than ever, cooperation is essential if we are to make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

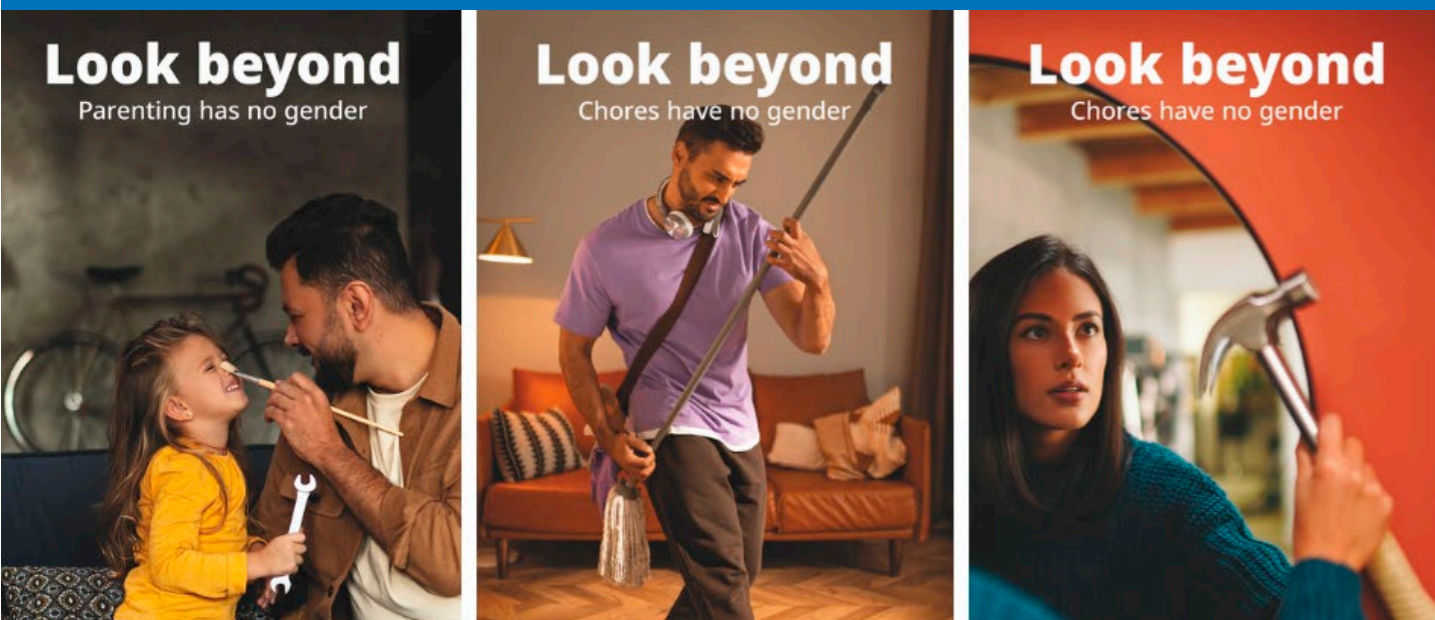
The EU-UN Women partnership focuses on the following priorities: **women's leadership, governance and participation in public life, women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, women, peace and security, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction, as well as addressing gender stereotypes and negative social norms, climate change and digitalization, innovation and technology.**



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA EU4GENDEREQUALITY

The campaign 'Look Beyond' advocates for an equal share of unpaid care work between men and women, looking beyond traditional masculine and feminine roles to a world where household chores and childcare have no gender.

Implemented jointly by UN Women and UNFPA in the Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union-funded regional programme was designed to address unbalanced power dynamics and stereotypes in households which were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.



RENEWED PARTNERSHIP

In April 2022, we marked the tenth anniversary of the EU-UN Women strategic partnership, placing gender equality first and at the core of sustainable development and peace. With women's rights and gender equality under increased attack, this EU and UN Women partnership is more important than ever.

Together, UN Women and the EU continuously strived to push further gender equality and women's empowerment in key international processes such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UN Security Council agenda on Women, Peace and Security, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Global Compact on Migration and the World Humanitarian Summit.

In 2021, our collaboration was also vibrant in the context of the ground-breaking multistakeholder Generation Equality Forum, organized by UN Women and co-hosted by France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society and youth. In addition to its invaluable support throughout the process, the European Commission also became a co-leader of the Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence.

Furthermore, the *EU Gender Action Plan III - An Ambitious Agenda For Gender Equality And Women's Empowerment in EU External Action 2021-2025* was endorsed by EU Member States in 2021, as well as the *EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025*, both of which place the empowerment of women at the core of EU action and are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In these past ten years, there has been much progress, but at the same time, rarely in the world's recent history have women's and girls' rights been challenged as they have been in recent times.

Today, a more gender-equal world is being obstructed by multiple, interlocking and compounding crises. Whatever the crisis, from conflict to climate, women and girls are affected first and worst.

Without gender equality today, a sustainable future and an equal future remain beyond our reach. Our partnership underlines that gender equality is a core part of peace, security, economic prosperity and sustainable development. **Our priorities will be to continue to promote a transformative and intersectional approach and to work together to mainstream gender equality in all policies and actions and attain the Sustainable Development Goals.**



LIBERIA SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

In Liberia and Nigeria, traditional leaders are the key to shifting social norms and driving the critical change needed to end violence against women and girls.

Yatta Fahnbulleh was the owner of one of the largest bush schools in Tienii in north-western Liberia, where she initiated girls into adulthood through a series of rituals, including FGM. She has since closed the bush school, and a new vocational and heritage centre that is part of the livelihood programme has been built on the same land.



POLICY DIALOGUE

Over the years, the EU and UN Women have developed a dynamic dialogue on international, regional and national gender equality policies. Highlights of our exchanges include joint policy dialogue around the 20th and 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Generation Equality Forum, as well as around the *EU Gender Equality Strategy*, the *EU Gender Action Plans for gender equality and women's empowerment in external action* and the *EU Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security*.

With UN Women having a normative and coordination mandate in the UN system and the EU being an invaluable supporter and partner in driving the agenda forward, it is not only natural but essential for the EU and UN Women to come together to promote gender equality.

Strong political engagement is illustrated by regular EU and UN Women senior management policy exchanges on women's rights issues including on humanitarian affairs, feminist foreign policy, climate crises, and peace and security issues.



WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In the north-eastern Tuzla canton of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the first time in history, a campaign has brought together 1600 police officers to advocate for ending violence against women and challenge the harmful norms that contribute to gender-based violence. The campaign, entitled "You hear, you see, you know – REACT," was organized by the Association Vive žene within the UN Women Regional Programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," funded by the European Union.



Collective preparations for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and engagement with civil society organizations became a valued yearly initiative. UN Women is also a member of the

EU's Informal Task Force on UNSCR 1325 and shares its expertise as needed. The organization also sits as an observer to the EU Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

Through joint activities, we will continue this vital and productive policy dialogue as we exchange expertise for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the EU Gender Action Plan and the promotion of gender equality at high-level summits.



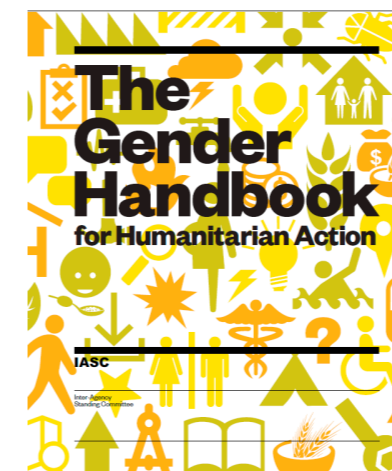
LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA WEPs IN G7

Over the course of the WeEmpower programmes between 2018 and 2021, UN Women has collected case studies of emerging practice in the private sector, and of effective policymaking in the public sector, to promote gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community.

From March to May 2020, WeEmpowerAsia gathered perspectives on how the pandemic has affected businesses and women through 65 semi-structured interviews with private sector CEOs and leaders in the Asia-Pacific and in Europe. This report summarizes key findings and recommendations on how organizations steered their responses, safeguarded women employees and maintained business continuity.



GENDER HANDBOOK



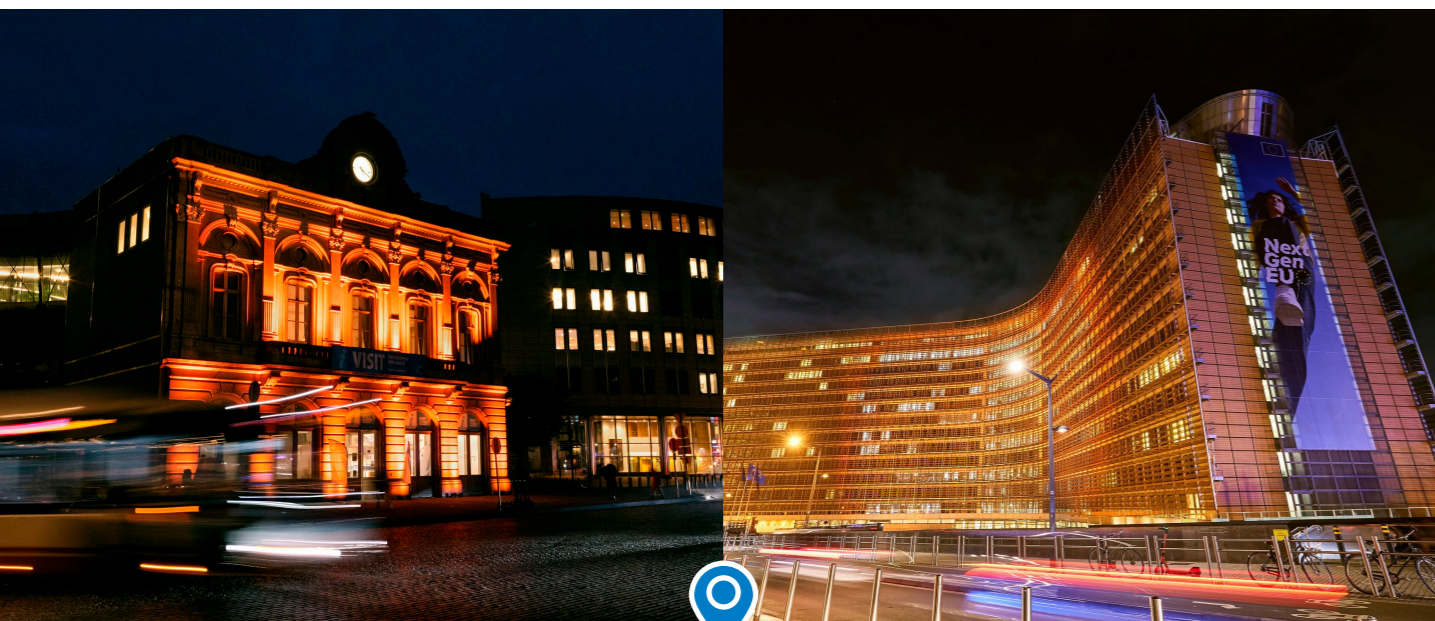
Adapting to the shifting landscape of humanitarian work, UN Women and its partners are committed to putting gender equality at the core of humanitarian response. The Gender Handbook is the culmination of three years of collaborative and consultative work and was launched jointly by the InterAgency Standing Committee (IASC), the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and UN Women.

EFFECTIVE JOINT ADVOCACY

As global champions for gender equality, our collaboration has resulted in significant initiatives and achievements.

For instance, following the call of the UNiTE campaign and of UN Women to “Orange the World” on the International Day to End Violence against Women on 25 November, the European Commission, the European Council, the External Action Service and the European Parliament

buildings were lit in orange. Each year, on 25 November, EU Delegations engage in activities using the colour orange as a unifying symbol while sharing the campaign further via social media. In addition, the EU websites regularly include UN Women stories to feature for International Women’s Day or for the 25 November.



ORANGE THE WORLD

On the International Day to End Violence against Women, the EU institutions in Brussels are lit up in orange to symbolize the EU’s support to the #OrangetheWorld campaign.

In 2018, the European Development Days theme focused on “Women and Girls at the Forefront of Sustainable Development: protect, empower, invest”. UN Women was represented at highest level to ensure productive advocacy throughout high-level panels and meetings.

Moreover, our partnership also helped bring youth from around the world into efforts to promote gender equality.

Through the “Generation Equality: Picture It!” competition, young artists aged 18 to 28 were invited to submit cartoons and comics celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020. The winning submissions have since been exhibited widely, including in the City of Brussels.



FIJI

A new sport programme in Fiji is breaking gender stereotypes among students and coaches alike, as both male and female school teachers get trained as coaches. The programme, supported by the European Union and the Australian Government, was developed for the Pacific region by UN Women in partnership with Oceania Rugby to promote gender equality and to prevent violence against women and girls.



PROGRAMMING FOR CHANGE

We worked in more than 90 countries worldwide to push for transformative impact at scale, to achieve stronger global norms and standards on gender equality, gender-responsive laws, policies and institutions, production and use of gender statistics sex-disaggregated data, women's voice, leadership and agency, women's equitable access to services, good and resources, positive social norms including by engaging men & boys, financing for gender equality, to provide life-saving services for women survivors of violence, and to work with communities and leaders to break stereotypes.

Together, we have pushed for gender-sensitive legislation and budgeting, provided life-saving services for women survivors of violence, and worked with communities to

break down gender stereotypes. **Moreover, joint EU–UN Women programmes have led to measurable results across a variety of other important concerns.**

Just to name a few examples, the European Union together with the United Nations launched in 2017 the **Spotlight Initiative**, a global, multi-year partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The initiative, launched with a funding commitment of EUR 500 million from the European Union, represents an unprecedented global effort to invest in gender equality and women's empowerment as a precondition and driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative, to which UN Women is an active partner, has already supported the preparation and endorsement of 84 laws and policies to end GBV, and helped 650,000 women and girls prevent or address violence against them, and educated 880,000 men and boys on positive masculinity, non-violent conflict resolution and parenting.

In addition, UN Women supported by the EU also worked towards the implementation of the **Women's Empowerment Principles** (WEPs) project in G7 countries, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in Asia. The WEPs are a set of Principles offering guidance to business on how to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community. Established by UN Global Compact and UN Women, the WEPs are informed by international labour and human rights standards and grounded in the recognition that businesses have a stake in, and a responsibility for, gender equality and women's empowerment.

To respond to the Syria crisis, UN Women, under the **EU Madad Trust Fund**, worked to strengthen the resilience of Syrian women and girls and host communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. This multi-dimensional strategy enabled women's resilience and empowerment through addressing issues of economic vulnerability and violence. This was done by pairing increased access to recovery and livelihood opportunities, with comprehensive protection

services and support to national justice structures to promote accountability for violence against women.

Furthermore, UN Women, jointly with UNFPA, is implementing the three-year programme "EU 4 Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence" which seeks to strengthen equal rights and opportunities for women and men by shifting social perceptions around gender roles, tackling gender stereotypes and increasing men's participation in childcare and other domestic responsibilities. The programme is in six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) and provides a unique opportunity to change the social discourse, perceptions and harmful practices on gender equality in the region, and to empower women and girls to fully access their rights and develop their potential.

As the examples suggest, the common interests and efforts of the EU and UN Women have led to tangible results for women and girls across the globe. **In addition to our ongoing partnership, we aim to broaden our collaboration thematically and geographically in the framework of the EU Gender Action Plan III and to undertake concrete steps to achieve gender equality by 2030.**

Building on a decade of robust history of successful cooperation, the EU and UN Women will continue to complement each other's strengths and work towards their common vision of a world that is equal for all.



SYRIA

EU TRUST FUND

Madina Mousa is a Syrian refugee who fled the war in Syria with her family and now lives in Kawergosk Refugee Camp in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq since 2013. She started her career as a volunteer to help other refugees and is now a Protection Supervisor at the Women's Empowerment Organization (WEO), working in partnership with UN Women on the Regional Programme "Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey", funded by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis.



SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE, ASIA

SAFE AND FAIR

Nan Zar Ni Myint works to raise awareness of the rights of migrant domestic workers in Thailand. Myint and her network are often the first point of contact for migrant domestic workers experiencing violence. They provide critical services, such as peer-support counselling, referral to services and economic support, as well as language interpretation.

Myint, her network and HomeNet are supported by the Safe and Fair Programme, jointly implemented by UN Women and ILO, in collaboration with UNODC, as part of the multi-year EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls.



UGANDA

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

Christine Awori is CEO and Head of Legal Aid and Pro-bono Services for the Uganda Law Society, which established a satellite clinic in Amudat District in northeastern Uganda, with support from UN Women under the EU-UN Spotlight initiative. Going forward, the organization plans to continue its awareness raising, legal and referral services, and also secure partnerships with local radio stations for media campaigns to fight violence against women.





*First Prize winner of the comic and cartoon competition,
“Generation Equality: Picture It!” Brice Tadé Tangou, Cameroon.*

*UN Women— together with the European Commission, Belgium, France, Mexico,
as well as in partnership with Cartooning for Peace—organized a global comic and cartoon
competition to mark the 25th anniversary of the groundbreaking Beijing Declaration and
Platform for Action. More than 1200 young artists between 18 and 28 years old, from more
than 120 countries, participated in the contest and submitted their cartoons to share their
vision of #GenerationEquality.*

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Cover Photo: In Chiapas, Mexico, migrant workers from Central America benefit from the EU-UN Women global programme on promoting and protecting women migrant workers’ human rights. The project is also implemented in Moldova and the Philippines.
Photo credit: UN Women/Paco Lemus.

Photo credits:

p4: UN Women/UNFPA; p5: UN Women; p6: Association “Vive zene” Tuzla; p8: (left) EU/Alexis Haulot, (right) EU/Claudio Centonze;
p9: Oceania Rugby; p10: UN Women/ Said Elmobasher; p11: (top) UN Women/Kith&Kin, (bottom) UN Women/Martin Ninsiima



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