



PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

UN WOMEN AND ICELAND



Partners for progress

Iceland is a pioneer and a leader in implementing gender equality. For almost a decade, Iceland has ranked first on the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Index. In 2018, Iceland became the first country to develop and institute legislation mandating that public and private companies obtain equal pay certification or face daily fines. This enforces Iceland’s 1961 Equal Pay Act that women and men must be paid equally for similar work.

Iceland was one of the key Member States to advocate for the establishment of UN Women and continues to be a key partner.

In 2017, Iceland was among the top 20 contributors to UN Women’s total resources with USD 2.2 million.

Sharing common goals

Promoting gender equality is a priority in Icelandic development cooperation and a specific objective of the Parliamentary resolution on the Strategy for Iceland’s International Development Co-operation 2013-2016. This strategy features gender equality as a cross-cutting theme and prioritizes UN Women as one of the four agencies which the Government of Iceland supports.

Iceland’s cooperation with UN Women has grown increasingly stronger as these partners collaborate on equal pay, women, peace and security, women’s political participation, economic empowerment, environmental concerns and ending violence against women. Iceland’s commitment to UN Women and their shared goals in support of achieving gender equality has been reinforced by the financial multi-year Framework Agreement entered into in February 2018.

Iceland's Government funding to UN Women

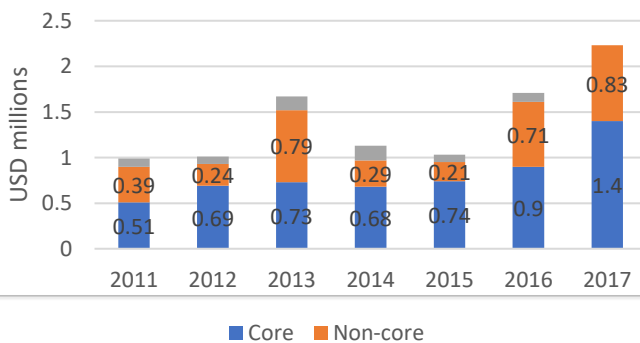


PHOTO COVER: Women Syrian women attend a handicraft workshop in Jordan’s largest refugee camp, Za’atari. Operational since 2012, UN Women runs three ‘Oases’ safe spaces for women and girls at Za’atari, which offer economic opportunities, protection referral services, day care services – to allow parents to work, and life skills such as Arabic and English literacy and computer classes. Iceland is among the countries funding this initiative. Photo credits: UN Women/Christopher Herwig.

Photo: UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka with Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland on 5 February 2018 at UN Women Headquarters. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Together we achieved:

Women, Peace and Security

Through Iceland's support UN Women has worked with government institutions, civil society, and academia in **Afghanistan** to increase and strengthen capacities on gender equality. This included working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to provide technical support for a status report on the implementation of the National Action Plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325.

UN Women has supported the MoFA to coordinate the 30 responsible ministries and autonomous institutions to prepare the CEDAW Periodic report.

In addition, UN Women supported MoFA through the organization of 20 information sessions on the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and UN SCR 1325 in 28 provinces workshops. These sessions reached approximately 4,000 male and female government officials, university students and community members. Further, UN Women facilitated a three-day workshop which focused on the complementarity of CEDAW, UN SCR 1325 and the CEDAW shadow reporting process.

The Icelandic National Committee for UN Women



Photo caption: Some of the members of the Board of Directors of the Icelandic National Committee for UN Women in April 2018. Photo credits: Icelandic National Committee for UN Women.

The National Committee for UN Women in Iceland is the first national committee established to support the organization's work and one of the most active. The national committee is a strong voice on advocating for gender equality and a dynamic fundraiser leading in national committee financial contributions to UN Women.

Ending violence against women

Iceland has been a steadfast supporter of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF EAW) which is managed by UN Women. Between 2011 and 2017, the Government and people of Iceland have contributed USD 679, 243 to the UNTF EAW, working to change lives and save lives.

In **Mozambique**, with Iceland's support, and as part of the programme "Promoting Women and Girl's Effective Participation in Peace, Security and Recovery in Mozambique", UN Women is working with national and local governments to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. One of the critical outputs of the programme is that women and girls affected by violence have better and increased access to comprehensive redress services such as appropriate protection, health and psychosocial as well as legal services. This programme continues through December 2020 and focuses on women and girls in affected areas in four districts.



A member of a civil society organization speaks at an event in Mozambique. Photo: UN Women/Lesira Gerdes.

Gender mainstreaming

UN Women supported the Government of the **State of Palestine** and civil society partners to finalize the first report to the CEDAW Committee in 2017. UN Women played a key role in convening the consultative process leading to the adoption of the final submitted report.

Ending Violence Against Women

Through their contribution to core resources, Iceland has aided UN Women in efforts to end violence against women. In 2016-2017, 24 countries strengthened legislation addressing violence against women and girls.

