



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
31 July 2019

Original: English

---

## Seventy-fourth session

Item 136 of the provisional agenda\*

### Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

## United Nations Office for Partnerships

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, in which the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (most recently, [A/73/222](#)).

The Office serves as a global gateway for public-private partnerships to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It oversees the areas set out below.

The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. At the end of 2018, the cumulative allocations as approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects to be implemented by the United Nations system had reached approximately \$1.46 billion. Of this amount, it is estimated that \$0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds contributed by Ted Turner and \$1.01 billion (about 69 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. The total number of United Nations projects and programmes supported by the Foundation through UNFIP stood at 657, implemented by 48 United Nations entities in 128 countries.

The United Nations Democracy Fund was established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization around the world. It focuses on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office has channelled some \$170 million to nearly 800 projects in more than 130 countries, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and young people to media programmes that enable civil society to project its voice.

---

\* [A/74/150](#).



As described in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019 ([A/74/73-E/2019/4](#)), the Office serves as the global gateway for partnerships and provides a platform for effective partner engagement of public and private sector stakeholders with the United Nations development system.

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships . . . . .	4
A. Global health . . . . .	5
B. Women, girls and population . . . . .	7
C. Climate, energy and the environment . . . . .	8
D. Advocacy and communications . . . . .	9
E. Capacity development . . . . .	9
F. Fiduciary agreements . . . . .	10
G. Multi-stakeholder alliances . . . . .	10
II. United Nations Democracy Fund . . . . .	12
A. Twelfth round of funding . . . . .	12
B. Donor base . . . . .	13
C. Governance . . . . .	13
D. Thirteenth round of funding . . . . .	13
E. Democracy in action . . . . .	14
III. Partnership advisory and outreach services . . . . .	15
A. Sustainable Development Goal advocacy and outreach . . . . .	16
B. Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub . . . . .	16
C. Events . . . . .	16
IV. Conclusions . . . . .	17
<b>Annexes</b>	
I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects . . . . .	19
II. Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2018 . . . . .	21
III. Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 31 December 2018 . . . . .	22
IV. Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2018 . . . . .	24

## I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

1. The United Nations Office for Partnerships traces its origin to the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), which was established as an autonomous trust fund on 1 March 1998 by the Secretary-General pursuant to the agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation. The purpose of the Fund is to serve as the interface between the United Nations system and the United Nations Foundation, which was established on 2 February 1998 by Ted Turner as a public charity to channel \$1 billion to United Nations causes in support of high-impact projects implemented throughout the world by agencies of the United Nations system. Its work is overseen by the UNFIP Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.

2. As at 31 December 2018, the cumulative allocations approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects totalled approximately \$1.46 billion, of which \$0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds from Mr. Turner and \$1.01 billion (about 69 per cent) represents co-financing from other partners. Since the Foundation's inception, 657 projects have been implemented or are under implementation by 48 United Nations entities in 128 countries. In 2018, the Foundation disbursed funding for projects totalling \$7.9 million, the majority (\$5.2 million) focused on global health. Major projects and initiatives supported by the Foundation through UNFIP are highlighted in the present report. The Foundation also provides other forms of support, in particular in the areas of advocacy and communications, as described below.

3. The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, as established in 1998, has been renewed twice, most recently in 2014, when the partnership was renewed for an additional 10-year period under a revised and restated agreement (see [A/70/202](#)). The Joint Coordination Committee, established under the new Agreement, is the principal forum for ensuring strong and timely communication and coordination between the United Nations and the Foundation. The Committee meets twice a year.

### Support for innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives

4. The Foundation works in close collaboration with the United Nations to foster innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives that support United Nations priorities, strengthen United Nations capacities and, in particular, contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The work of the Foundation is overseen by its international Board of Directors.

5. The Foundation relies on the following range of tools to support the United Nations:

(a) **Convening.** The Foundation collaborates with various United Nations entities to bring stakeholders together and foster dialogue on a range of issues, including in the lead-up to important milestone events, such as Global Goals Week during the opening of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(b) **Championing.** The Foundation champions the work of the United Nations through advocacy initiatives, both globally and in the United States of America, that connect citizens to the United Nations, while also helping to foster a common understanding of the mission and values of the United Nations and ensure strong and sustained support by the Government of the United States for the United Nations;

(c) **Communicating.** The Foundation utilizes a diverse set of communication tools to build public support for the United Nations, give wider visibility to and improve the understanding of issues high on the Organization's agenda, reach new constituencies and galvanize action, including during key moments for the Organization; this work is carried out in close collaboration with the Department of Global Communications and other communications experts from the United Nations system;

(d) **Collaborating.** The Foundation is an institutional home for several multi-stakeholder initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Family Planning 2020, the Clean Cooking Alliance, Data2X and the Digital Impact Alliance;

(e) **Channelling.** The Foundation continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders to mobilize and channel financial resources to the United Nations system through UNFIP.

6. The present report is organized by programmatic area, with all activities designed to contribute in different ways to supporting United Nations leadership, accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action and building new and diverse constituencies to support the Organization's work, both globally and in the United States.

## A. Global health

7. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked in close collaboration with UNFIP, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other United Nations entities to address key global health priorities, with a particular historical emphasis on the elimination of preventable diseases that affect children. More recently, the Foundation has supported efforts by United Nations partners on systemic and integrated issues for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including universal health coverage and antimicrobial resistance. While the following sections are focused on the Foundation's global health grant-making through UNFIP in 2018, the Foundation also works with WHO and other United Nations partners on wider advocacy and partner mobilization for global health priorities.

### Measles and rubella

8. Established in 2001, the Measles and Rubella Initiative is a global partnership to reduce measles deaths and the number of children born with congenital rubella syndrome. It was one of the earliest joint funds created to increase efficiency and coherence around a critical shared priority and is jointly led by WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Foundation. The Initiative also works closely with the Gavi Alliance. The aim of the initiative is to advance the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012–2020 by helping countries to increase vaccination coverage for measles, rubella and other preventable diseases; fund, plan, implement and monitor high-quality supplementary campaigns; strengthen routine immunization efforts; investigate outbreaks; and provide technical and financial support for effective disease surveillance and outbreak response.

9. The role of the Foundation in connection with the Measles and Rubella Initiative is to carry out advocacy, mobilize resources and provide fiduciary services. Through its Shot@Life campaign, for example, the Foundation engages with civil society, policymakers and partners to reduce vaccine-preventable childhood deaths in support

of the efforts of UNICEF and WHO. The campaign is also intended to educate, connect with and empower the public in the United States to champion vaccines and advocate government funding for measles and rubella initiatives. In 2018, in support of UNICEF, the Foundation continued its multi-year partnership through Shot@Life with Walgreens, a leading pharmacy chain in the United States, to raise awareness and help to provide vaccines for children in developing countries through the “Get a shot. Give a shot” campaign. For every vaccine administered in the United States at Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacies, an amount equivalent to the price of one vaccine was donated to the Shot@Life campaign, helping to provide more than 37 million life-saving polio and measles vaccines since the campaign’s inception in 2013.

10. Since 2000, the Measles and Rubella Initiative has helped to save 21.1 million lives and reduced the estimated annual number of measles deaths worldwide by 80 per cent. Efforts to support routine vaccination and supplemental immunization under the Initiative have resulted in the vaccination of 2.9 billion children in 88 countries and helped to raise measles vaccination coverage to 85 per cent globally. However, the recent backsliding on measles progress demonstrated by increased outbreaks in 2018 reaffirms the need to increase efforts to leave no one behind.

11. In 2018, the Foundation provided a grant of \$3,542,429 to WHO and UNICEF through UNFIP in support of the latest phase of the Initiative to implement the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012–2020. The grant was aimed at allowing the six WHO regions to undertake high-quality supplementary measles immunization activities, strengthen immunization systems and implement measles case-based surveillance systems.

### **Poliomyelitis**

12. The Foundation has been a long-standing supporter of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a public-private partnership led by five core partners: WHO, UNICEF, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. At the time of the Initiative’s inception in 1988, polio was endemic in more than 125 countries and paralysed 350,000 children every year. Since then, the Initiative has overseen a 99 per cent reduction in annual cases of wild poliovirus. Today, wild poliovirus transmission remains endemic in only three countries. The Foundation supports the Initiative through global and United States-focused advocacy, communications and public outreach and the provision of grants to United Nations partners.

13. The work of the Foundation on polio is guided by the annual strategy and workplan of the Initiative’s Polio Advocacy and Communication Team. In addition to providing funding, the Foundation offers targeted support to advance elements of the Initiative’s high-level advocacy goals, and resource mobilization and communications strategies to ensure that the Initiative’s partners have the tools needed to interrupt wild poliovirus transmission.

14. As with the Measles and Rubella Initiative, the Foundation leverages its Shot@Life campaign to educate and empower grass-roots advocates in the United States to champion vaccines and government funding for polio eradication initiatives. In 2018, the Foundation provided a grant of \$105,533 to UNICEF through UNFIP to support polio eradication initiatives in Papua New Guinea, including the purchase of more than 700,000 doses of oral polio vaccine. Although major progress against polio has been made, the population experienced a further polio outbreak in 2018. Surveillance and immunization activities continue to be strengthened in Papua New Guinea and neighbouring countries. Polio outbreak response teams are collaborating

closely with the broader humanitarian emergency network to ensure that polio outbreaks are addressed in a coordinated manner.

15. In addition, the Foundation provided a grant of \$1,455,316 to UNICEF through UNFIP to support polio eradication initiatives in Pakistan. The funds covered the procurement and delivery of approximately 9 million doses of oral polio vaccine for the supplementary immunization campaign.

### **Malaria**

16. Since 2004, the Foundation has worked with the United Nations and other partners to facilitate the distribution of bednets and combat the spread of malaria. For more than a decade, Nothing But Nets, a global grass-roots campaign run by the Foundation, has raised awareness and funding to combat malaria. The campaign enables individuals to join the fight against malaria by making a donation and engaging in advocacy with policymakers of increased United States investment in malaria interventions.

17. Nothing But Nets works primarily with UNICEF and UNHCR to purchase long-lasting insecticide-treated bednets and distribute them to affected countries in Africa. The resources raised also support a range of other malaria prevention and treatment solutions.

18. In 2018, the Foundation provided a grant of \$750,000 to UNHCR through UNFIP to support primary health care for malaria prevention and treatment among refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to support the UNHCR stockpile fund for long-lasting bednets. This project, which will conclude in 2020, helps to protect and reduce the incidence and impact of malaria on refugees through the distribution of 18,000 long-lasting bednets, 550,000 doses of preventative malaria prophylaxis for pregnant women, 550,000 rapid diagnostic tests and 400,000 treatments for complex malaria cases. Approximately 1,536,000 refugees in five UNHCR settlements in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will benefit from these commodities.

19. In 2018, the Foundation also provided a grant of \$30,679 to UNHCR through UNFIP to support UNHCR stockpiles in Cameroon and Kenya for the distribution of long-lasting bednets in several countries across sub-Saharan Africa. This grant was accompanied by an in-kind bednet donation to UNHCR worth an additional \$143,050.

## **B. Women, girls and population**

20. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked with various United Nations partners, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNICEF, UNHCR and other agencies to promote issues that are central to the 2030 Agenda, such as gender equality, maternal health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, the rights of adolescent girls and gender-based violence. The support provided by the Foundation has included grant-making, communications work, partnership-building and advocacy. The activities of the Foundation on grant-making through UNFIP in 2018 are summarized below. In addition, the Foundation works with United Nations partners on wider advocacy and partner mobilization for the equality and needs of girls and women.

### **Adolescent girls**

21. Since 2010, the Foundation, through its Girl Up initiative, has partnered with the United Nations to fund programmes that give adolescent girls an equal chance for

education, health, social and economic opportunities and a life free from violence. The initiative has had an impact on the lives of more than 48,000 girls worldwide through its leadership programmes. Its model for creating leaders is rooted in a transformative experience for girls that builds their confidence and is focused on action.

22. In 2018, through the fundraising efforts of Girl Up partners and girls, the Foundation provided several grants to United Nations agencies through UNFIP, including two grants totalling \$449,800 for continued support of the Action for Adolescent Girls initiative of UNFPA in India and Malawi. The initiative protects the rights of adolescent girls, through measures including delaying the age of marriage and childbearing in particular; promotes their education; and empowers the most marginalized girls in target communities.

23. The Foundation provided two grants totalling \$750,000 for the period 2017–2018 to support the UNHCR Educate a Child initiative, which aims to provide access to quality primary education for out-of-school refugee children in Ethiopia and Uganda.

24. The Foundation also provided a grant of \$150,037 to UNICEF through UNFIP to increase efforts to secure the future of adolescents in Liberia. The project was aimed at enhancing the decision-making skills of 700 adolescent girls and boys through peacebuilding, literacy and life-skill programmes.

#### **Family planning**

25. In 2018, in partnership with Merck for Mothers, the Foundation provided a grant of \$206,510 to UNFPA through UNFIP for the second phase of a project being implemented in the Philippines entitled “Business action for family planning access”, which is aimed at broadening private sector support for the promotion of women’s health and access to family planning services in the workplace. The objectives of the project include expanding actionable commitments from companies in the Philippines to support and promote women’s health, including access to family planning information and services; strengthening implementation through technical assistance; gathering evidence from the private sector on women’s health and family planning as a basis for strengthening new and existing investments; and communicating the evidence base from successful women’s health programmes in the workplace.

### **C. Climate, energy and the environment**

26. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked closely with the United Nations to advance progress towards a life-sustaining climate and healthy planet. The Foundation is currently focusing its efforts on accelerating progress towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement while continuing to support the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched by the Secretary-General in 2011 and now an international not-for-profit organization.

#### **Powering health care**

27. In 2013, at the request of the leadership of Sustainable Energy for All, the Foundation launched an initiative to promote clean energy solutions for health-care facilities in developing countries to improve the availability and quality of health-care services, especially for women and children. The Foundation, WHO and the Governments of Ghana and Uganda initiated a pilot project aimed at using innovative solar photovoltaic technology to bring power to 62 under-electrified primary health-care facilities in both countries. As a key partner of the project, WHO carried out an independent study to determine the impact of the improved access to power on the quality of health-care services. The Foundation, with the aid of the Department for

International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is providing a grant of \$500,000 to WHO through UNFIP covering the period 2016–2019 to support the study.

## **D. Advocacy and communications**

28. In 2018, the Foundation continued to deploy, test and develop a range of innovative advocacy and communications tools to build diverse and robust constituencies for the Sustainable Development Goals, climate action and broader United Nations leadership, both globally and within the United States. In collaboration with the Department of Global Communications and other United Nations entities, the Foundation organized training courses and fellowships for over 200 global journalists with a view to improved reporting on the Goals, ran innovative digital media campaigns and supported several public events and initiatives to broaden the base of support for the work of the United Nations, including the ninth annual Social Good Summit and the Global Moms Challenge.

### **Ninth annual Social Good Summit**

29. The Social Good Summit is an annual convening of prominent thought leaders, media executives, technology experts, grass-roots activists and global citizens from around the world with the aim of examining how the intersection of technology and new media has redefined the understanding of human progress. The 2018 Summit, co-hosted by the Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mashable and 92Y, was attended by some 1,300 people, while the live stream received over 5,000 unique views representing 107 countries and seven languages. The Summit was broadcast in eight languages and hosted speakers from 23 countries addressing the breadth of the Goals. It also generated 1.3 billion social media impressions.

### **Global Moms Challenge**

30. The Global Moms Challenge is an advocacy initiative in support of the Every Woman, Every Child movement and the Sustainable Development Goals to advance the health and well-being of mothers and children. The Global Moms Challenge connects 250,000 mothers and supporters in the United States and globally to inform and mobilize partners to take action on increasing access to essential services, including through the Global Moms Relay, a digital media campaign to amplify the conversation about the challenges faced by mothers.

31. In 2018, with funds from the Global Moms Relay and support from Johnson & Johnson, the Foundation granted \$100,000 to UNICEF through UNFIP to strengthen newborn care in Pakistan and reduce the high maternal and neonatal mortality rates by means of training. Through the project, a course was launched to train community health workers and midwives in counselling mothers and providing them with instruction on the home-based care of newborns.

## **E. Capacity development**

32. In addition to providing financial support in the programmatic areas in which it has traditionally operated, the Foundation also seeks to provide catalytic support for United Nations leadership initiatives and priorities that can have a transformative impact. In 2018, the Foundation provided direct and indirect support to the United Nations system to address time-sensitive and high-impact initiatives, as detailed below.

### **High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation**

33. In 2018, the Foundation provided a grant of \$150,000 to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General through UNFIP to support the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, which was convened by the Secretary-General to advance proposals strengthening cooperation in the digital space among Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, academia, the technical community and other relevant stakeholders. The Foundation also provided advisory, communications and convening support to inform the work of the panel.

## **F. Fiduciary agreements**

34. Over the years, a number of United Nations entities have requested the assistance of the Foundation as a fiduciary or fiscal agent to receive and disburse contributions from corporations and private individuals in support of their specific campaigns and programmes. Many agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations lack a functioning United States-based charitable organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, thereby making it difficult for them to compete for tax-deductible contributions from United States companies with affiliates in that country, as well as from United States citizens. As a United States public charity and fiscal agent for receiving and disbursing such contributions through UNFIP, the Foundation is well suited to assist the United Nations in that regard.

35. In 2018, the Foundation, through UNFIP, provided a total of \$520,540 in funding to five United Nations entities through fiduciary channels. Specifically, \$33,670 was provided to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; \$41,524 was provided to the Central Emergency Response Fund of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; \$79,050 was provided to UNDP in support of advancing the legacy of the Olympic villages in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; \$105,886 was provided to UNDP in support of eliminating poverty in the world through communication, public outreach and fundraising; and \$260,410 was provided to the country-based pooled funds of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

## **G. Multi-stakeholder alliances**

36. The Foundation serves as an incubator and institutional host for a small number of multi-stakeholder initiatives that accelerate progress on the Goals. These include:

### **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data**

37. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is a global network of partners, including Governments, businesses, civil society, international organizations, academia, foundations and statistics agencies, that are committed to ensuring that the international community has the data needed to achieve the Goals. To do this, the Partnership advocates for the role of data in driving sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels; facilitates collaboration across all sectors to innovate, build capacity and share knowledge; improves data access and interoperability mechanisms and standards; and works with in-country partners to create and implement robust data ecosystems. Since November 2015, the Foundation has served as the institutional home of the secretariat of the Partnership. The Deputy Secretary-General is the honorary Chair of the Partnership's Board of Directors, and the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA serves

as a Board member. Several United Nations agencies and departments are members, including UNFPA, UNICEF, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP.

### **Data2X**

38. An initiative of the Foundation, Data2X is a collaborative technical and advocacy platform working through partnerships to improve the quality, availability and use of gender data with a view to making a practical difference in the lives of women and girls worldwide. It receives support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and works with United Nations agencies, Governments, civil society, academics and the private sector to close gender data gaps, promote expanded and unbiased gender data collection and use gender data to improve policies, strategies and decision-making.

39. In 2018, through Data2X, the United Nations Foundation provided a grant of \$260,000 to the International Labour Organization through UNFIP to improve the collection of data on women's paid and unpaid work. The project, entitled "Statistics on women's work and employment and time use", is aimed at improving the accuracy of estimates of women's paid and unpaid work, particularly in developing countries.

40. In addition, the Foundation provided a grant of \$262,500 to the Economic Commission for Africa through UNFIP for the gender data focal point network, a project aimed at improving the production and use of gender data within national statistical systems in Africa through the creation of a strong network of gender statisticians.

### **Digital Impact Alliance**

41. Launched in 2016, the Digital Impact Alliance is a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Foundation, the aim of which is to overcome the barriers to using digital solutions in support of global development. The Alliance works closely with United Nations partners, Governments, industry and civil society to pursue three major areas of impact: expediting the deployment of digital technology; expanding the availability of digital distribution channels; and ensuring responsible and widespread access to and use of data for development.

### **Family Planning 2020**

42. Family Planning 2020 is a global community of partners working together with Governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, the private sector and the research and development community to advance rights-based family planning. The partnership was launched at the London Summit on Family Planning, in 2012, with the goal of enabling 120 million additional women and girls in the world's poorest countries to use voluntary modern forms of contraception by 2020. The partnership now has more than 125 commitment makers that work together to address policy, financing, delivery and sociocultural barriers with regard to women's access to contraceptive information, services and supplies, and in doing so, make progress on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights by 2030. The United Nations Foundation serves as the host of Family Planning 2020, which is stewarded by a secretariat and co-chaired by UNFPA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a reference group and four core partners, which are the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNFPA, the United States Agency for International Development and the Department for International Development of the

United Kingdom. The focal points in each country are key partners for driving forward progress on family planning goals.

43. Through the efforts of Family Planning 2020 and in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Nations Foundation provided a grant of \$100,000 to UNFPA through UNFIP to increase the awareness, availability, accessibility and utilization of family planning methods among Rohingya refugee women and their host communities.

### **Clean Cooking Alliance**

44. The Clean Cooking Alliance works with a global network of partners to build an inclusive industry aimed at making clean cooking accessible and available to the 3 billion people without access to clean cooking solutions. Launched in 2010, the Alliance works in close collaboration with WHO, UNDP, UNEP, UNHCR, UN-Women, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other United Nations entities to promote the universal adoption of clean cooking solutions, which improve health and livelihoods, empower women and protect the environment. The work of the Alliance is focused on driving consumer demand, building a pipeline of scalable clean cooking businesses and fostering an enabling environment in which the sector can thrive.

45. In 2018, through the Clean Cooking Alliance, the Foundation provided a grant of \$280,880 to WHO through UNFIP to identify, develop and pilot tools for increasing the dissemination and adoption of clean household energy solutions in Nepal.

## **II. United Nations Democracy Fund**

46. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established during the 2005 World Summit as a United Nations general trust fund and launched in April 2006. Since then, the grant-making body has become clearly defined as a fund for civil society organizations. The large majority of project funds go to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting the “demand” rather than the “supply” side of democratization, the Fund plays a distinct and unique role in complementing and enhancing the more traditional work of the United Nations – the work with Governments – to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

47. In the years since its creation, the Fund has experienced considerable growth in its portfolio, donor base, impact and visibility. The aim of its projects is to strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. In its first 12 rounds of funding, the Fund supported almost 800 projects in more than 130 countries, with a total disbursement of some \$170 million. The projects ranged from supporting civil society efforts for accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening good governance and the rule of law.

### **A. Twelfth round of funding**

48. The call for project proposals for the twelfth round of funding was open from 20 November to 20 December 2017. The Fund received 2,429 project proposals from civil society, which reflected the continued high demand for support from the Fund to finance projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The proposals originated from organizations in 139 countries, the vast majority of them local

non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

49. The response added to the considerable growth that the Fund has experienced since its creation in 2005, with initiatives that reflect a focus on strengthening the voice of civil society, thereby increasing concentration on the demand side of democracy, rather than on the supply side.

50. In the twelfth round, 48 projects were funded at a total cost of \$8,723,000. As defined by their key activities, the projects are disaggregated as follows:

- (a) Youth engagement (10 per cent);
- (b) Rule of law and human rights (23 per cent);
- (c) Community activism (6 per cent);
- (d) Strengthening civil society interaction with Governments (13 per cent);
- (e) Media and freedom of information (10 per cent);
- (f) Empowerment of women (17 per cent);
- (g) Electoral processes (21 per cent).

## **B. Donor base**

51. The cumulative total amount of contributions received from 2005 to 2018 exceeded \$195 million.

## **C. Governance**

52. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund, the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group, continued to play an active and guiding role during 2018. The Advisory Board provided policy guidance for the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines, considered proposals for funding and recommended funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General. The Board comprises those Member States that have made the seven largest cumulative financial contributions to the Fund over the previous three years; six Member States reflecting geographical diversity; two international civil society organizations; and three individuals serving in a personal capacity.

53. The Programme Consultative Group provided input and quality control in the project selection process and the implementation phase, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, UNODC and UN-Women. The Fund also benefits from the advice and support of resident coordinators in the field, who provide input into the project selection process and help with the monitoring of project implementation.

## **D. Thirteenth round of funding**

54. The Fund launched its thirteenth round of calls for project proposals in December 2018. When applications closed, on 15 January 2019, the Fund had received 2,307 proposals, the vast majority of applications from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the annual timetable adhered to by the Fund, the

applications had been assessed by March 2019 and the Advisory Board recommended a shortlist in May, after which the Fund advised the permanent missions of those Member States in which listed projects were to be implemented. The shortlist was then submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Shortlisted applicants were to be asked to submit draft project documents by the middle of 2019 to be negotiated with the Fund. The first tranches of project funding are to be disbursed as from September, once again in a timeline that compares favourably with international standards.

## **E. Democracy in action**

55. Examples of the Fund's projects are set out below.

### **Developing media to strengthen rural communities in Bhutan**

56. The project is aimed at increasing levels of media knowledge and social media awareness among the rural population and urban-centric news media and at remedying the lack of viable, private and free media coverage of rural issues. Through the training of journalists in reporting on local issues in both mainstream and social media, the project is intended to encourage local communities to engage in active reporting on rural issues. Small grants are awarded by a jury to recognize excellence in local journalism and encourage individual rural journalists to make further meaningful contributions to free media in Bhutan.

### **Building an informed society in Colombia**

57. The initiative seeks to restore local communication networks in regions silenced by the armed conflict, with an emphasis on strengthening an informed civil society. A mobile information school is used to deliver specialized training and boost the output of local information. Simultaneous advocacy work with local authorities is aimed at improving conditions for press freedom and stimulating the production of local information in 10 municipalities.

### **Supporting elections in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria**

58. The project is implemented in the run-up to elections in the Niger Delta State of Bayelsa with the goal of preventing dispute and helping to ensure that the elections are free, fair and credible. It serves to assist the Independent National Electoral Commission in training staff to oversee procedures and polling in at-risk areas, support the creation of a database for registering party political agents and educate voters through workshops and public campaigns on how to prevent the stealing and manipulation of votes.

### **Strengthening pro bono legal assistance in the Russian Federation**

59. The aim of the project is to increase access to free legal aid in the Russian Federation by strengthening the provision of pro bono assistance and public awareness of legal clinics. It is used to provide training and capacity-building services to volunteer lawyers working in the legal clinic system, basic legal education to consumers of pro bono legal assistance, and public awareness-raising on topics including access to assistance and the protection of one's rights in court in the absence of an advocate. The project is focused on about 20 regions, while the advocacy work is designed to have an impact at the national level.

### **Engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality in the State of Palestine**

60. The main objective of the initiative is to advance a positive transformation of gender roles and norms based on gender-equitable relationships between men and women in the Gaza Strip. Project elements include a baseline and end-line comparative study, the development of training tools, the establishment and training of a network of five youth action groups, awareness-raising workshops, media training, social media campaigns, government staff training and public hearings.

## **III. Partnership advisory and outreach services**

61. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its core are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals will require the active engagement of all stakeholders, with different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner by pooling financial resources, knowledge and expertise.

62. Partnerships for sustainable development are multi-stakeholder initiatives that are voluntarily undertaken by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders. Efforts under the initiatives contribute to the achievement of intergovernmentally agreed development goals and commitments included in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.

63. Goal 17, Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the Goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. Goal 17 further seeks to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on their experience and resourcing strategies.

64. Achieving the level and quality of partnerships needed to deliver the Goals requires a significant and targeted effort to create an enabling environment for the institutional capacities, the convening and supporting infrastructure and the policy environment that, together, can help to mainstream collaboration. Building on existing partnership efforts, the United Nations is uniquely placed to offer the platforms needed for all actors to come together, build relationships and mobilize their respective assets to achieve the Goals.

65. As described in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019 ([A/74/73-E/2019/4](#)), the United Nations Office for Partnerships serves as the global gateway for partnerships and provides a platform for effective partner engagement of public and private sector stakeholders with the United Nations development system.

66. In 2018, a number of companies, foundations and civil society organizations approached the Office to seek advice regarding partnership opportunities and paths of engagement with the United Nations. The enquiries related primarily to mapping specific collaborative opportunities and identifying relevant partners within the United Nations system with a view to advancing the Goals. To highlight the

outstanding work of non-State actors committed to achieving the Goals and to inspire new partnership initiatives, the Office, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, also organized several briefings and events.

## **A. Sustainable Development Goal advocacy and outreach**

67. In 2018, the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates of the Secretary-General relocated from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to the United Nations Office for Partnerships. Enhanced internal collaboration in 2018 allowed them to leverage their individual and collective reach for engaging key stakeholders on the 2030 Agenda. The Advocates contributed to increased public visibility and understanding of the Goals while promoting specific policy imperatives in various forums and meetings. Highlights of engagement by Advocates in 2018 include: bilateral meetings and keynote speeches at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; a campaign to incorporate the Goals into the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games in the Republic of Korea; a two-week immersion programme on the Goals for local leaders in Colombia; and a Sustainable Development Goals Moment, to refocus attention on the Goals, prior to the opening of the general debate on 25 September. The Office provided communications support to the Advocates by drafting key messages, highlighting advocacy opportunities, amplifying activity on the website of the Advocates and hosting strategic planning meetings throughout the year. The Office also supported the engagement of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General with individual Advocates.

## **B. Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub**

68. In September 2018, the Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub relocated from the Department of Global Communications to the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Hub is intended to serve as a one-stop shop to proactively engage, connect, convene and leverage critical actors and existing platforms seeking to educate, empower and mobilize citizens, influencers and other stakeholders to support the Goals. Chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Hub is guided by a core member group comprising 10 United Nations organizations and 10 external partner organizations that convenes regular meetings to increase coordination and coherence on advocacy, communications and action regarding the Goals. The Hub is organized around priority action streams with focuses including: (a) public engagement; (b) climate; (c) gender; (d) leaving no one behind; (e) young people; (f) business; and (g) cities and Goal localization.

## **C. Events**

69. Selected key partnership events convened and supported by the United Nations Office for Partnerships in 2018 are listed below.

### **Investor Summit on Climate Risk**

70. On 31 January 2018, the United States-based not-for-profit organization Ceres, the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the Investor Summit on Climate Risk with the theme “Capturing the investment opportunities of the Paris Agreement”. The event drew more than 500 investors, businesses and capital market leaders, as well as representatives of the United Nations system. The Summit emphasized the role of global investors in

advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, with a special focus on climate action and the Paris Agreement.

#### **Women's Empowerment Principles Forum**

71. On 15 March 2018, UN-Women, the United Nations Global Compact and the Office jointly organized the annual Women's Empowerment Principles Forum. The event drew more than 400 cross-sector leaders and innovators, as well as representatives of the United Nations system, Member States and civil society. The Forum explored the role of the private sector in achieving the Goals, with a special focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

#### **Partnership forum**

72. Organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Global Compact and the Office, the partnership forum of the Economic and Social Council was held on 4 April 2018 at Headquarters under the theme "Partnering for resilient and inclusive societies: contributions of the private sector". The event drew over 350 multi-stakeholder representatives, including Governments, civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and local governments, with the aim of exploring innovative ways in which the private sector can contribute to more resilient and inclusive societies.

#### **Partnership Exchange**

73. On the occasion of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office and the Global Compact jointly convened the second annual Partnership Exchange event on 13 July 2018 at Headquarters. Under the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies", the two main objectives of the event were: (a) to showcase the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (b) to explore, and build momentum towards, the creation of a partnership-enabling environment. The event brought together almost 500 participants representing multi-stakeholder partnerships, Governments, the United Nations and other stakeholders.

## **IV. Conclusions**

**74. Mr. Turner's unprecedented philanthropic contribution through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has contributed significantly to an increased mobilization of resources and multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**75. The United Nations Democracy Fund is now 14 years old and has proved to be a highly innovative and effective initiative. It has successfully complemented the work of many United Nations agencies that concentrate on the "supply" side of democratic institutions by focusing on the "demand" side through grants to local civil society organizations.**

**76. In its role as the global gateway for partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Office for Partnerships engaged and brought together actors from the United Nations system, Member States, the private sector, civil society and philanthropic organizations to identify opportunities for partnerships in order to drive action towards the achievement of the Goals. Some of the opportunities identified were partnerships with the**

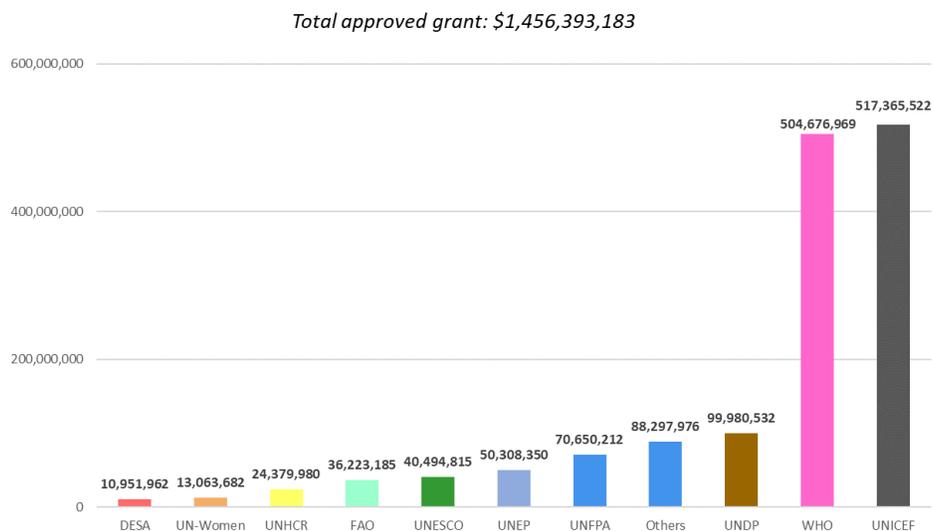
**Organization; for others, the Office connected non-United Nations system actors with Member States or other external partners working to advance the 2030 Agenda. In order to facilitate the communication and engagement of the United Nations system with organizations considering collaboration across a broad range of Goals, the Office also served as a focal entry point for potential partners. Looking ahead to the next decade, when accelerated delivery and partnerships will be ever more critical, the Office will stimulate broader and more dynamic partnerships across the range of stakeholders in scaling up actions to implement the 2030 Agenda.**

## Annex I

## United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects

### A. Cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998–2018, distributed by implementing partners

(United States dollars)

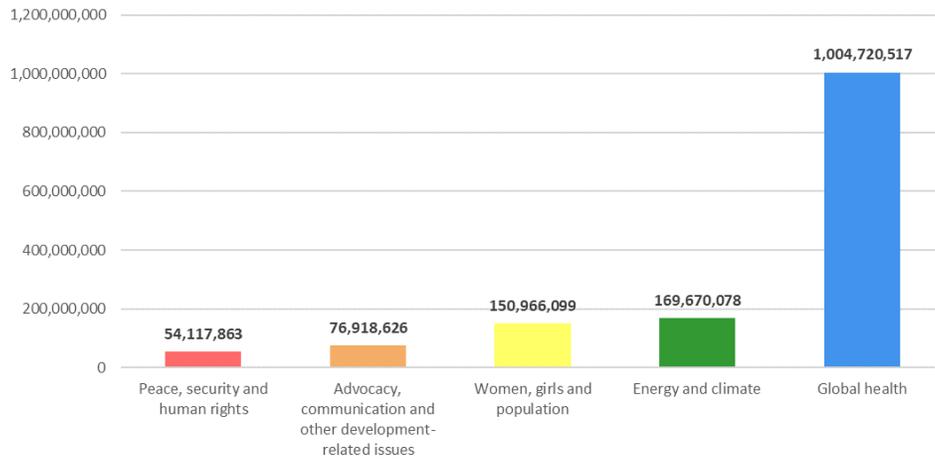


*Abbreviations:* DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children’s Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

## B. Thematic distribution of projects approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998–2018

(United States dollars)

*Total approved grant: \$1,456,393,183  
As at 31 December 2018: 659 total projects, 128 countries,  
48 United Nations organizations*



---

**Annex II****Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2018**

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General (Chair)

Marie Chatardová, President of the Economic and Social Council (until 25 July 2018)

Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council (since 26 July 2018)

Sven Jürgenson, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (until 17 September 2018)

Jorge Skinner-Klée, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (since 18 September 2018)

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Jan Beagle, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Luis A. Ubiñas, President of the Board of Trustees, Pan American Development Foundation

Bruce Usher, Faculty Director, Social Enterprise Program, Columbia Business School

Robert Skinner (ex officio), Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships

## Annex III

### Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 31 December 2018

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Cumulative contribution received</i>
Algeria	100 000
Argentina	30 000
Australia	9 212 424
Bulgaria	10 000
Canada	746 380
Chile	390 000
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czechia	227 953
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	23848 660
Hungary	75 000
India	32 012 543
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	658 724
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 180 000
Latvia	15 000
Libya	15 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Malta	11 347
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	5 000
Panama	41 580
Peru	94 024
Poland	993 304
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 200 000
Romania	472 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovakia	92 147

---

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Cumulative contribution received</i>
Slovenia	127 924
Spain	5 043 311
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	24 109 634
Turkey	290 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	683 653
United States of America	66 076 000
Other	127 230
<b>Total</b>	<b>195 394 402</b>

---

## **Annex IV**

### **Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2018**

#### **Member States**

Dominican Republic  
France  
Ecuador  
Mongolia  
Tunisia  
Botswana  
Republic of Korea  
Algeria  
India  
Poland  
Canada  
Germany  
Sweden  
United States of America

#### **Non-governmental organizations**

CIVICUS  
International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

#### **Individuals**

Aracelly Santana  
Patrizio Civili  
Wairimu Njoya

---