

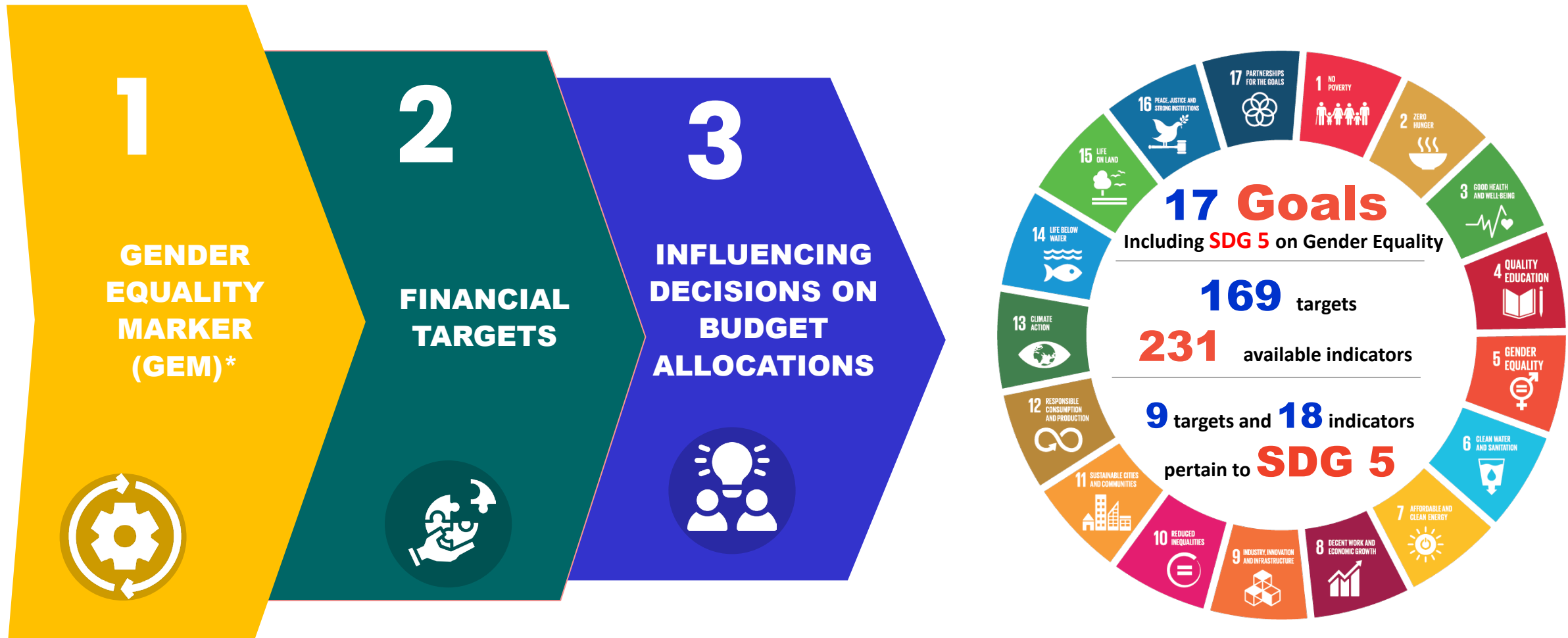
# **TOOLS FOR GRB IN THE UN SYSTEM**

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**6 December 2022**

**ITC-ILO Course “Gender Responsive  
Budgeting within Organizations”**

# UNITED NATIONS TOOLS FOR ENSURING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AT ENTITY AND COUNTRY TEAM LEVELS AND POOLED FUNDS



\* **Gender equality marker (GEM):** 4-point scale financial tracking tool: principal objective, targeted, partial, no contribution

# OBJECTIVES



## PROMOTE COHERENCE

within the UN system and in alignment with other organizations in support of the implementation of the Beijing PoA and SDG commitments on GEWE



## PROMOTE DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION

between all functions in an entity or country team



## FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

complementing existing accountability frameworks making results public and reporting to governing bodies and donors



## INCREASE TRANSPARENCY

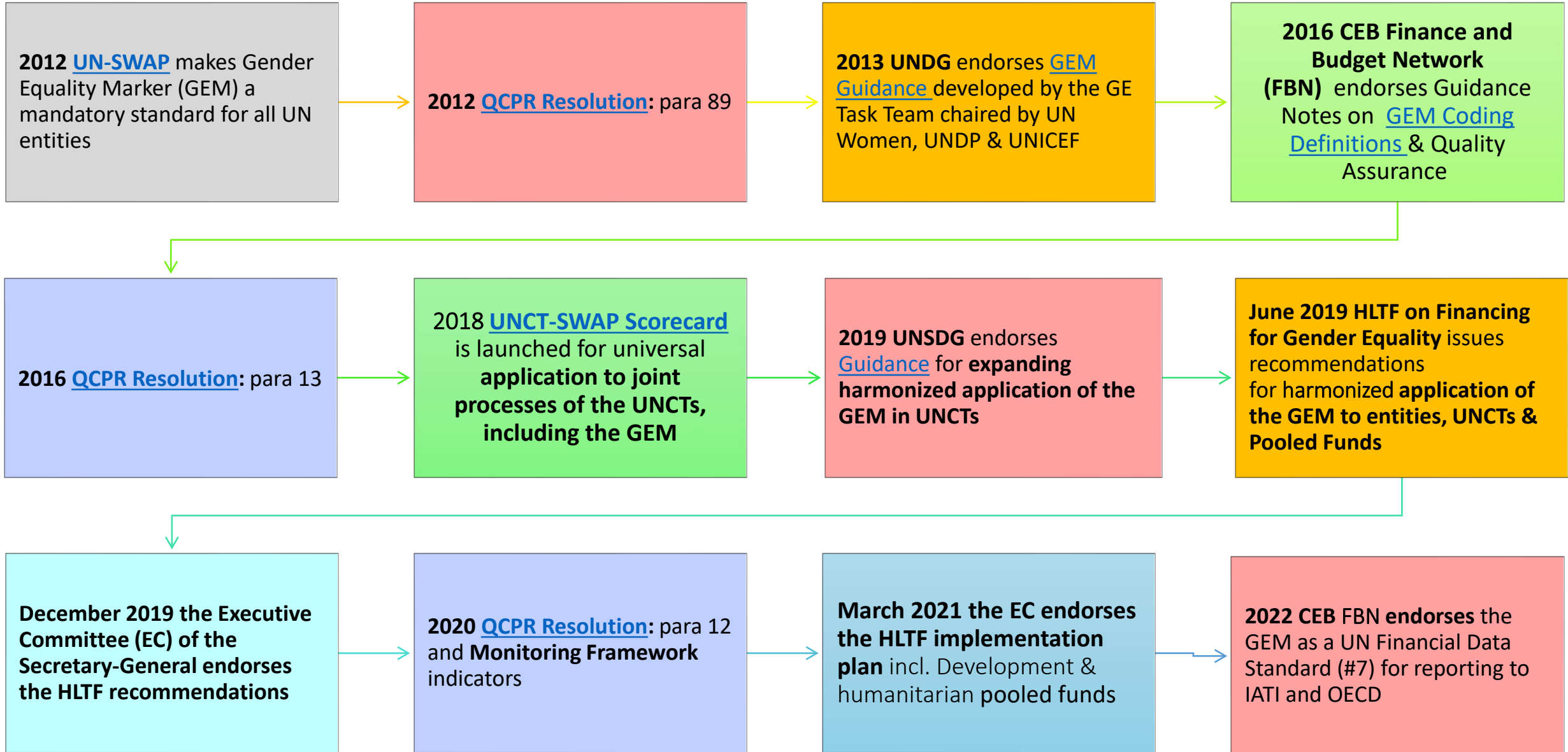
and transform the UN into a data-driven organization, with data used to “make better decisions and deliver stronger support to those we serve”



## INCREASE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

by informing financial decisions on resource allocation for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the UN system

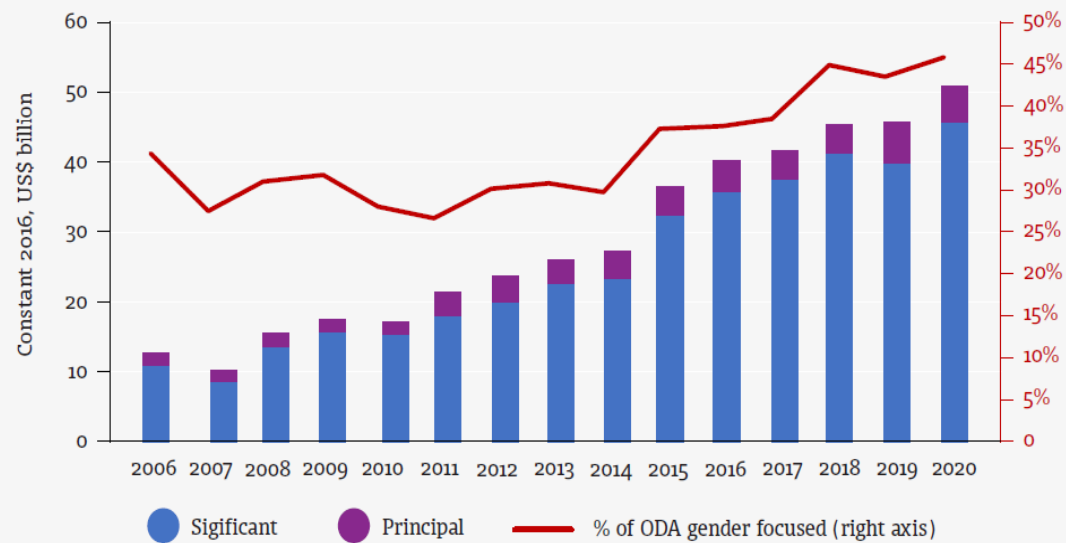
# GEM JOURNEY (2012-2022)



# FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

## GENDER-RELATED ODA

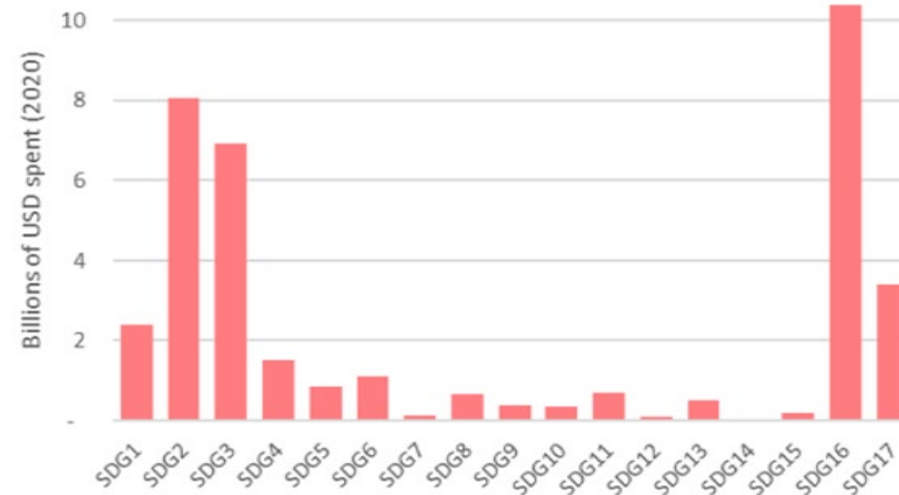
Figure 1: Gender-related aid by OECD-DAC



Source: OECD, 'Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment', [www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/development-finance-for-gender-equality-and-women-s-empowerment.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/development-finance-for-gender-equality-and-women-s-empowerment.htm)

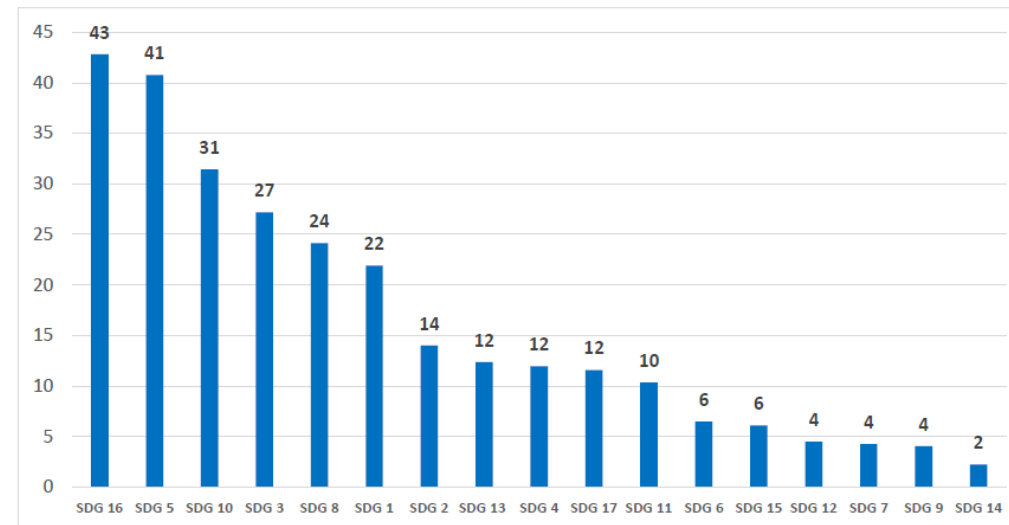
**Financial allocation to gender equality and the empowerment of women by OECD-DAC countries in the period 2006-2020 disaggregated by the OECD-DAC Gender Marker**

## EXPENDITURES BY SDG



**Expenditure in USD in 2020 (development & humanitarian expenditures only)**  
CEB Finance and Budget Network

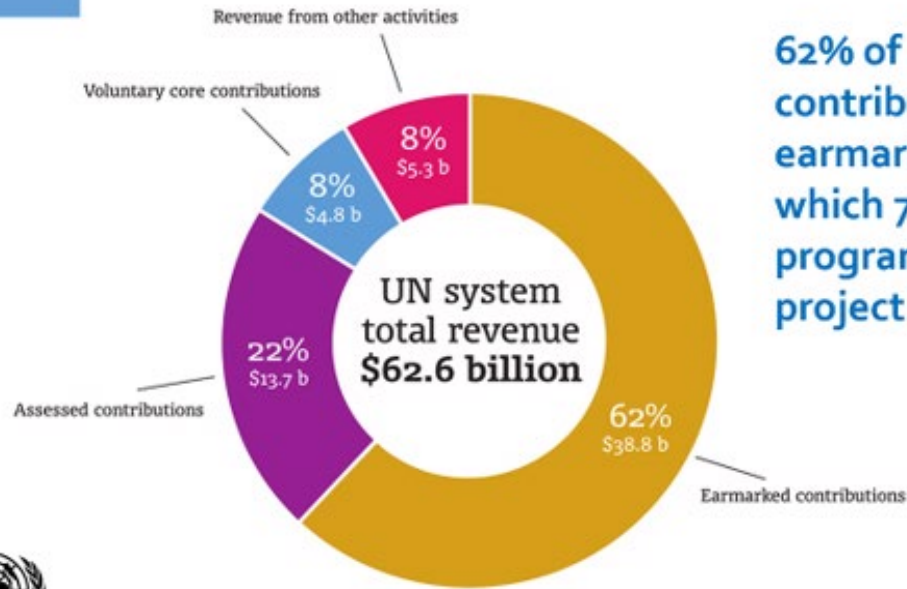
## JOINT PROGRAMMES BY SDG (%)



Source: Own elaboration based on Common Country Programming Profile Joint Programme 2019 (UNSDG IMS).

# Financing instruments

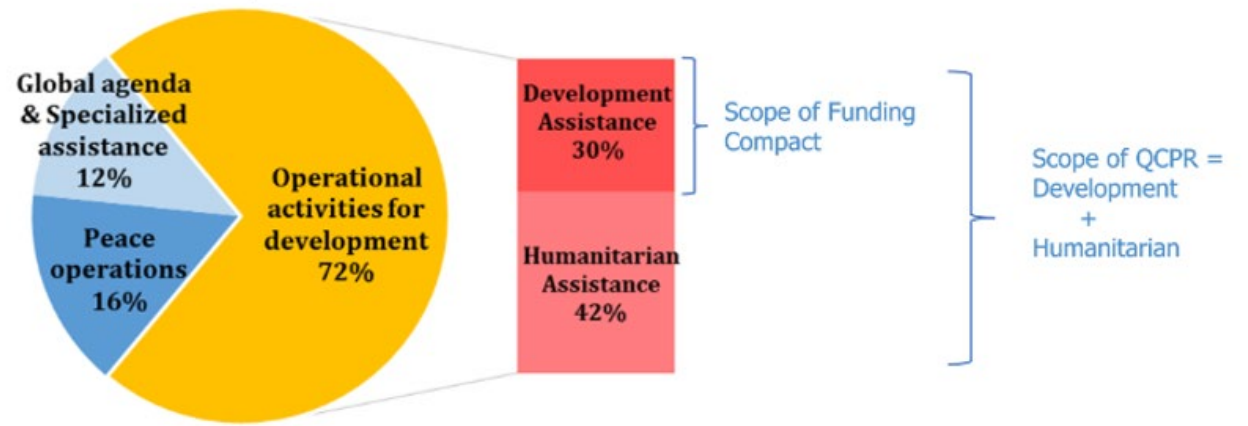
## Total UN revenue by financing instrument 2020



62% of contributions are earmarked, of which 70% programme/project specific



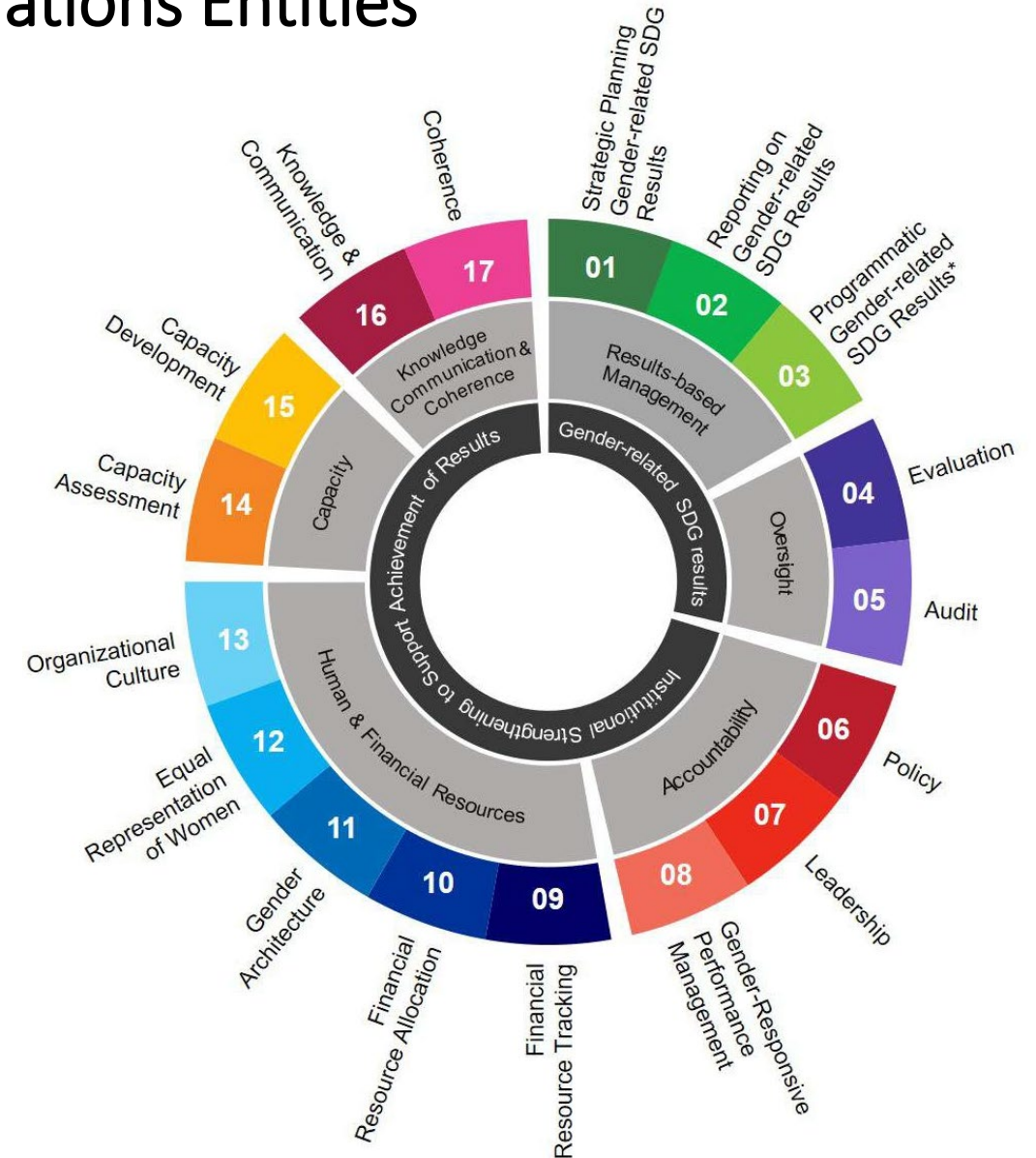
## Total expenditures: \$56.2 billion



Source: Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. Financing the UN Development System Joint Responsibilities in a World of Disarray (September 2022)

# UN-SWAP Accountability Framework for mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in United Nations Entities

- In 2012: first UN-SWAP (2012-2017), 55 reporting entities.
- Agreed standards and coordinated approaches for the UN system to reach its goals and measure progress systematically.
- In 2018: UN-SWAP 2.0 was launched, aligned with the 2030 Agenda. consists of 17 Performance Indicators organized in 6 performance areas.
- The rating system allows UN entities to self-assess and report on their standing with respect to each indicator, and to move progressively towards excellent performance.
- In 2021: 71 reporting entities.



# UN-SWAP Accountability Framework for mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in United Nations Entities

## 09. Performance Indicator: Financial Resource Tracking

Approaches requirements	Meets requirements	Exceeds requirements
9a. Working towards a financial resource tracking mechanism to quantify disbursement of funds that promote gender equality and women's empowerment	9b. Financial resource tracking mechanism in use to quantify disbursement of funds that promote gender equality and women's empowerment	9ci. Financial resource tracking mechanism in use to quantify disbursement of funds that promote gender equality and women's empowerment  and 9cii. Results of financial resource tracking influences central strategic planning concerning budget allocation

## 10. Performance Indicator: Financial Resource Allocation

Approaches requirements	Meets requirements	Exceeds requirements
10a. Financial benchmark is set for implementation of the gender equality and women's empowerment mandate	10b. Financial benchmark for resource allocation for gender equality and women's empowerment mandate is met	10c. Financial benchmark for resource allocation for gender equality and women's empowerment mandate is exceeded

## 11. Performance Indicator: Gender Architecture

Approaches requirements	Meets requirements	Exceeds requirements
11. Gender focal points or equivalent at HQ, regional and country levels are: a. appointed from staff level P4 and above b. have written terms of reference c. at least 20 per cent of their time is allocated to gender focal point functions	11bi. Gender focal points or equivalent at HQ, regional and country levels are: a. appointed from staff level P4 and above for both mainstreaming and representation of women b. have written terms of reference c. at least 20 per cent of their time is allocated to gender focal point functions  and 11bii. Gender department/unit is fully resourced according to the entity mandate	11ci. Gender focal points or equivalent at HQ, regional and country levels are: a. appointed from staff level P5 and above for both mainstreaming and representation of women b. have written terms of reference c. at least 20 per cent of their time is allocated to gender focal point functions d. specific funds are allocated to support gender focal point networking  and 11cii. Gender department/unit is fully resourced according to the entity mandate

### What do these indicators have in common?

- Focus on financial commitments
- Need for team approach
- Technical knowledge and advocacy skills are key



# UN-SWAP PI 9: Financial Resource Tracking

## Functions:

- Planning
- Estimate financial allocations
- Financial tracking of budgets
- Capacity building
- Mobilize resources for gender equality

**4-point scale:** 0=none; 1=some,; 2/2a=significant, 3/2b=principal/gender transformative

**What is being coded?** Activity (preferred), Sub-output, Output, Project

A **focus on 2/2a and 3/2b** can provide a basis for thinking about indicator 10 (financial target). STEPS:

- Introduce financial tracking mechanism (GEM)
- Estimate gender commitment based on data
- Set first target based on data provided by the GEM
- Advocate to increase the base line target over time

# UN-SWAP PI 10: Financial Resource Allocation

At the UN level, a 15 per cent target on peacebuilding projects (Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace – A/72/707 – S2018/43)

15 % target has been replicated by several entities and funds (PBF)

The UN-SWAP framework:

- Does not define a minimum financial target for reporting entities.
- Establishes that entities need to set a target that will be met or exceeded to the extent possible.

Different methods to calculate the financial target: programmatic budget, Gender Unit cost + programmes + administrative cost, only GEM 3, apportioning of GEM 2 + GEM 3.

# Good practices of financial targets

## UNICEF

- Financial benchmark: 15 per cent of programme expenditure on GEWE.
- Applied to programme expenditure, supported by both regular resources and other resources, in development and humanitarian programmes.
- Gender-transformative expenditure is calculated by weighting the gender-tagged activities that fall under outputs where gender equality is the principal (GEM 3) or significant objective (GEM 2).

## The MPTF COVID-19 Fund

- The Second Call introduced a gender equality marker and a 30% financial target for programmes that identified gender equality/women's empowerment as the principal objective (GEM 3) to ensure that funded initiatives addressed the gender implications of COVID-19.
- The Fund exceeded this financial target in the second Call for Proposals, reaching a 65% of the funds assigned to proposals qualified as GEM 3.
- The Fund did not approve proposals with a GEM code of 0, and it discouraged interventions with a GEM code of 1.

## The Peacebuilding Fund

- Commitment to reach at least the 15 per cent target.
- How to incentivize and increase the share of projects with gender equality as principal objective (GEM code 3)? In 2011 the PBF launched the Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) annual call for proposals.
- In 2015 the PBSO met this commitment for the first time.
- Target raised to 30 per cent it is business plan for the period 2017-2019.
- In 2021: reached 40%.
- Quality assurance: proposal submissions, including the gender marker score, pass through many layers of review before being approved.

# Benefits of establishing financial targets on GEWE

- Help guarantee funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Incentivise and raise awareness within the organization by setting the stage for constructive discussions across teams.
- To some extent help ensure long-term policy steering, despite shifting political priorities.
- Allow for honest discussions with management and lead to definition of more realistic targets, including adjusting targets by sector/department.
- Some UN entities have reported that the financial benchmark indicator has been very helpful for internal advocacy and gender mainstreaming across all mandates.

# Challenges of establishing financial targets on GEWE

- The risk of “gender-washing”, for example organisations may simulate working on gender equality in order to ensure funding from the DAC member.
- Targets for gender equality may also be perceived as setting up competition with other cross-cutting issues and sectors.
- It may also be difficult to identify the “right” financial targets in each sector, and targets may risk becoming a “ceiling” rather than an incentive.
- Financial targets need accompanying measures, including leadership commitment, human resources and expertise, as well as a clear understanding of the GEM.

## **Challenges and proposals reported by UN entities:**

- How to calculate the financial target (the percentage).
- Entities with a limited mandate and non-core budget sources find it difficult to estimate budget for the upcoming years.
- Sometimes the need to meet the financial target does not encourage an appropriate use of funds, more focused on reaching the target than on spending the funds in a relevant and meaningful way.
- Some entities have spending levels that change considerably from year to year, making it harder to reach the target every year.
- Explore the possibility of establishing different percentages per entity types / per GEM code (different targets depending on GEM scores)

# UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard

Structure:  
7 Dimensions  
15 Indicators



# Relevant Resources

## Gender Markers at the UN entity level

- [UNCT Gender Equality Marker Guidance Note](#)
- [COVID-19 MPTF GEM Guidance Note](#)

## Gender Markers at the UNCT level

- [UNCT Gender Equality Marker Guidance Note](#)
- [COVID-19 MPTF GEM Guidance Note](#)

## Good practices of implementing GEM:

- UNICEF - <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/gender-marker-implementation-unicef>
- DPPA: <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/gender-marker-implementation-dppa>
- UNFPA: <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/gender-marker-implementation-unfpa>
- UNIDO: <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/gender-marker-implementation-unido>

## Gender marker page:

- <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/building-block/gender-equality-marker>

## HTLF on Financing for Gender Equality page:

- <https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/building-block/high-level-task-force-financing-gender-equality>



**Thank You**