

TRACKING WHAT COUNTS

A TRENDS ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN
DONOR SUPPORT TO SEXUAL
& REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS
& FAMILY PLANNING

2021-2022


Countdown 2030
EUROPE

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All data is also accessible through our online dashboard.

SETTING THE SCENE

Countdown 2030 Europe (hereafter “C2030E” or “the Consortium”) is a Consortium of European NGOs advocating to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and family planning (FP) in low- and middle-income countries through holding European governments to account on their international policy and financial commitments on SRHR. To support these advocacy and accountability efforts, partners track yearly policy and financial trends specifically for sexual and reproductive health and family planning (SRH/FP) in their respective countries. In 2021, the Consortium started assessing European donors’ support to the broader SRHR agenda, allowing to further align this exercise with donors’ vision. Please see Annex 1 for information on the methodology. This report presents the outcomes of the policy and financial tracking of both SRH/FP and SRHR for the year 2021-2022¹.

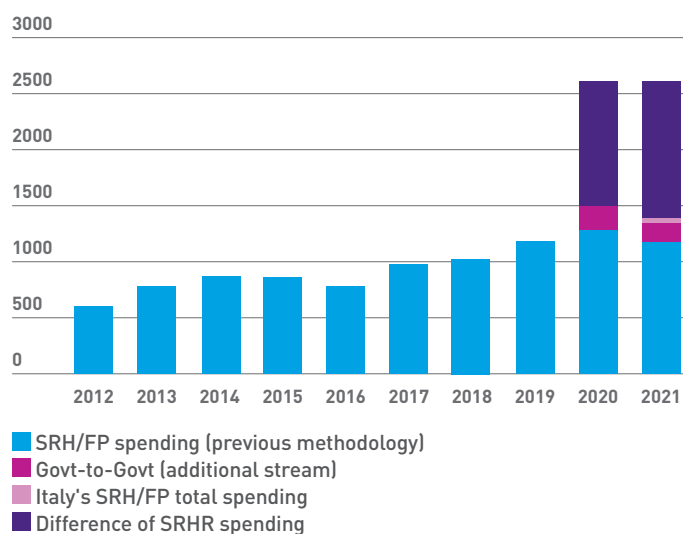
HIGHLIGHTS ON EUROPEAN DONORS’ MOST RECENT SRHR/FP FUNDING AND POLICY TRENDS

The period 2021-2022 dimmed prospects of a post-pandemic recovery. While COVID-19’s fierce sweep across the world demanded a bold response to build back better, the conflict in Ukraine dampened hopes of a fully-fledged recovery at the beginning of 2022. The escalation of this conflict led to the greatest displacement crisis Europe witnessed since World War II, depriving citizens from access to lifesaving health services and increasing their exposure to sexual violence, sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancies. The war in Ukraine also indirectly affects the world population, as it intensifies a global food and energy emergency, already pressured by climate change, and pushing up inflation to unseen levels in decades.

The aggregated effects of these multiple global crises ultimately drag the most vulnerable to new poverty levels, and stress even more the already scarce resources needed to match global commitments, such as those made in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or at the 25th anniversary of the ground-breaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+25). For instance, strained health services, lack of demand from people in need, be it due to lack of comprehensive sexuality education or economic constraints, and respective funding gaps caused by the current challenging times aggravated the unmet need for family planning (FP) in recent years. Today, about 257 million women and girls in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) still have an unmet need for family planning, against the 218 million in 2019². To safeguard universal access to safe and modern methods of contraception, UNFPA estimated that 65.1 billion Euros would be needed between 2020-2030; instead, donors have been providing only 8 billion Euros, which is just above one tenth of this amount³.

2022 also marked a new record of global population, now reaching 8 billion. According to UN data, the world is more demographically diverse than ever. While some of the existing trends may signal improvements in public health and increased life expectancy, they also call for further attention to be placed on the wellbeing and quality of life, given the growing inequality levels. Against this worrying global context, calls and efforts towards international solidarity, justice and equity, including the centrality of SRHR therein, are unprecedentedly crucial. European governments have been responding to, joining and even leading these initiatives. But, despite this continuous engagement, this report shows that in 2021 they gave in to the financial strains created by the aforementioned crises and decreased their overall funding: total contributions from fourteen European donors to SRH/FP reached almost 1.385 billion Euros in 2021 disbursed through all funding streams (core funding to multilaterals + project funding to multilaterals + funding to international organisations/initiatives/research + government-to-government cooperation)⁴.

FIGURE 1: VARIANCE OVER TIME OF OVERALL EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS’ SUPPORT TO SRH/FP AND SRHR BETWEEN 2012-2021 (MILLION EUR)



1. Financial data presented in this report corresponds to 2021, while policy updates already reflect changes from 2022. The exceptions are the UK, whose reporting period refers to the financial year 2021-2022 (12 months). For more information, please see Annex 1.

2. According to the State of World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen: The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy. Author: UNFPA. Available [here](#).

3. Figures converted with exchange rate 1 EUR = 1,1827 USD.

4. To be noted that this decrease would have been even bigger without adding Italy and considering only the thirteen European donors analysed in the 2020-2021 tracking report. Part of the decrease is due to an updated way of accounting for multilateral core funding and contributions to the Global Financing Facility, but the negative trend would have been kept following the same approach.

On the other hand, while SRH/FP funding decreased, European donors' funding to overall SRHR remained stable in 2021, amounting to 2.780 billion Euros, which suggests that European donors keep supporting the comprehensive SRHR agenda, but devoted less resources specifically to SRH/FP. However, the most recent report from the [High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25 Follow-up](#) reinstates that the international community is still far from its ICPD+25 commitments.

This report analyses 2021 funding data and 2022 political stances adopted by thirteen European governments and the EU institutions. As such, it assesses changes in SRH/FP and SRHR funding for those specific donors and for the period at stake only - with other possible trends being observable only in the longer run.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS YEAR'S REPORT

In 2020, the 'European Donor Support to Sexual & Reproductive Health & Family Planning Tracking Report' introduced four key novelties: 1) started measuring financial investments in SRHR, in addition to SRH/FP, 2) included government-to-government cooperation as a financial stream, 3) included funding from the EU institutions, 4) and included funding to SRH/FP and SRHR as a share of total ODA. Starting in 2020, the report includes country pages that provide background for each individual country and to better depict all these trends.

This year, the tracking report also includes three new elements:

Whose efforts are being measured:

Further complementing the sample of European donors

This report includes funding from Italy to both SRH/FP and SRHR. Data is however only available for 2021, so overall variations across years are provided both with and without the addition of Italy, to ensure comparability. The analysis of individual European donors' funding trends excludes Italy.

How it is measured:

Updating contributions from multilaterals and facilities to SRHR

Prior to this report, core multilateral funding contributing to SRH/FP and SRHR relied on the UNFPA-NIDI Resource Flows data. As this project came to an end, contributions from agencies are now calculated based on their own reporting. The same is applicable to the Global Financial Facility (reported under international organisations and initiatives).

A taste of what it concretely means:

Quantifying the impact of European donors' contributions

The current tracking report now includes impact numbers from European governments' investments on FP. Calculations are based on the Guttmacher's Family Planning Investment Impact Calculator, which is an interactive tool for estimating these impacts in LMICs. As it is not always possible to separate donors' investments on FP and SRH, only some of the FP programmes are selected for these calculations, to illustrate the minimum impact reached in 2021.

More information about all these changes can be found in the methodology annex.

→ **SECTION A** of this report introduces a qualitative perspective on the **policy trends**, drawing out key events and important dynamics influencing SRHR resource flows from European donors.

→ **SECTION B** looks at where European **funding** is going, in support to both SRH/FP and SRHR.

→ **SECTION C** links European donors' support to **SRHR** in relation to **other political priorities**.

→ **SECTION D** concludes by highlighting key issues to consider in the year ahead based on this trend analysis and the available **forecasts**.

POLICY TRENDS & HIGHLIGHTS

2021-22 SNAPSHOT



3 ELECTIONS



18 NEW POLICY DOCUMENTS

European donors continue to be vocal about the importance of SRHR for sustainable development. This is reflected, not only in the wide array of political and financial pledges made in the context of FP2030⁵, SheDecides, including SheDecides+5⁶, ICPD+25 and the Generation Equality Forum, but also of the different policy documents that help to advance these commitments

THIS WAS POSSIBLE EVEN IN A YEAR OF SOME POLITICAL CHANGE:

In 2022, Denmark, Italy and Sweden held general elections.

→ Following **Danish** general elections in November, the Social Democratic party agreed to form a coalition with the main opposition party, the Liberal Party, and the Moderates, a new party established in June by Lars Løkke Rasmussen, a former prime minister. It remains to be seen how this coalition will impact the country's support to SRHR/FP, and even though the new government's framework identifies rights and action plans for sex workers, violence against women and LGBTIQ+ as a national priority.

→ Following a general snap election in September, a new right-wing coalition government composed by Fratelli d'Italia, Lega and Forza Italia and headed by Giorgia Meloni took office in **Italy** in October 2022. Although Giorgia Meloni is the first woman in Italy to hold the position of Prime Minister, civil society has expressed concerns about the proximity of the current government coalition to anti-choice formations, European sovereigntist right-wingers, conservative movements and to opposition groups to gender and women's rights, particularly sexual and reproductive rights. It remains to be seen how this coalition will impact the country's support to SRHR/FP.

→ **Sweden** also had general elections in September 2022. This resulted in a minority government composed of the Moderate Party, the Christian Democrats and the Liberal Party, and with the unprecedented support of the far-right Sweden Democrats. Sweden's new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tobias Billström, announced that Sweden will no longer use the nomenclature 'feminist foreign policy' as his predecessor. In spite of this rocky start, the new government stated that it is committed to women's and girls' rights, including SRHR. Further, the budget bill 2023 states that Sweden will have a particular focus on the Gender Equality Cohort under the U.S. initiative "Summit for Democracy".

EUROPEAN VOICES FOR SRHR WITHIN THE BROADER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ARENA

European countries and institutions remain vocal about prioritising SRHR within the SDGs⁷. In 2022, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland carried out their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), a regular follow-up of progress. While the Netherlands listed specific SRHR programmes, Switzerland highlighted more efforts against sexual violence and discrimination.

European donors also continue to champion SRHR in the UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). During the fifty-fifth session of CPD, all European governments endorsed a Likeminded Member States' Joint Statement which confirmed that 'Sustained and inclusive economic growth can only be achieved when societies respect, protect and fulfill all women and girls' rights, particularly their sexual and reproductive health and rights'. European governments also enlisted another 58 countries in a cross-regional joint statement at the UN Third Committee, co-led by the UK, and which claims that 'We must respect the bodily autonomy of women and girls throughout their lives'.

During its G7 presidency in 2022, Germany together with its G7 partners reaffirmed commitment to achieve comprehensive SRHR for all and recognized the essential and transformative role of SRHR in gender equality. At the Transforming Education Summit (TES), Sweden underscored the need to promote comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in international cooperation, as this is 'an indispensable tool for promoting tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships'. In May 2022, Belgium hosted the She Decides +5 conference in Brussels, which brought together SRHR activists from all over the world to discuss challenges and opportunities in the international promotion of SRHR. This milestone served as a relaunch of the partnership and movement, adapted to the current political landscape.

Moreover, the UK hosted the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict conference in November 2022 with 54 governments and UN agencies endorsing the political declaration which included commitment to "promote and defend comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. This was signed by most of the European governments.

5. FP2030 is the successor to FP2020, a global initiative created at the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning and under which more than 60 governments made commitments to address the barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies. Since its creation in 2021, FP2030 received more than 100 new commitments, reinstating the importance of FP around the globe.

6. SheDecides is a global movement that aims at supporting the right of every girl and woman to decide what to do with her body, life and future. It was created in 2017 as a response to the reinstatement of the 'Mexico City Policy' by the U.S. government.

7. Within the SDGs, SRH/FP is explicitly mentioned in Target 3.7 within the Health Goal, and Target 5.6 within the Gender Equality Goal. In addition, progress in SRH/FP indirectly contributes to the achievement of many other goals. Further correlations between these can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

EUROPEAN POLICIES ON SRHR

18 NEW EUROPEAN POLICY DOCUMENTS THAT INCLUDE COMMITMENTS TO SRHR WERE ENDORSED DURING THE ANALYSED PERIOD:

DENMARK FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY STRATEGY

In its 2022 Foreign and Security Policy Strategy, Denmark explicitly states that it wants to take up leadership in the fight for women's and girls' SRHR.

STRATEGY FOR DENMARK'S ENGAGEMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) 2022-2025

The new strategy includes four priority areas, namely for the 1) rights of every woman, adolescent and youth, 2) RH commodities, 3) SGBV and harmful practices, and 4) organisational effectiveness.

FINLAND REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

The government Report on Human Rights Policy prioritizes and maximizes international support to SRHR as a mean to promote gender equality.

AGENDA 2030 ROADMAP

The Agenda 2030 roadmap includes SRHR as a pillar to promote wellbeing, health and social inclusion.

THE NETHERLANDS POLICY DOCUMENT FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: DO WHAT WE DO BEST

In June 2022, the new Minister for International Trade and Development Cooperation launched a new policy document entitled 'Do what we do best', wherein SRHR as well as gender equality are mentioned as priority themes.

DUTCH GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2023-2030: WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH WORLDWIDE

The new Global Health Strategy states improved access to primary healthcare and SRHR as a focus area.

NORWAY WHITE PAPER: EQUALITY FOR ALL: STRENGTHENED EFFORTS FOR THE INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY (2022-2025)

This new paper states as an objective the promotion of access to SRH services for persons with disabilities.

SPAIN "GUIDELINES FOR A FEMINIST INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION". REPORT OF THE GENDER WORKING GROUP OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION COUNCIL

This guiding document recognises the need to safeguard access to SRHR as a priority principle.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE MEMBER LAW

A new parliamentary private member law was adopted on "promoting sexual and reproductive rights in the context of Spanish Development Cooperation".

SWEDEN STRATEGY FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) IN AFRICA 2022-2026

The new strategy includes progressive statements related to SRHR, including changing social norms and accountability goals. It was approved with a total budget of 3.5 billion SEK (about €345 million).

SWITZERLAND SDC HEALTH GUIDANCE 2022-24

This guide aims to reinforce coherence and complementarity between health programmes supported by the SDC, and includes commitments for SRHR.

THE UK THE UK GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The new ten-year strategy for international cooperation prioritises 'women and girls with the freedom they need to succeed, unlocking their future potential, educating girls, supporting their empowerment and protecting them against violence'. This includes the intention to restore vital funding for this work and commits the UK to drive progress on universal, comprehensive SRHR.

'ENDING PREVENTABLE DEATHS' APPROACH PAPER

The FCDO 'Ending Preventable Deaths' Approach Paper highlights the importance to "progress and defend comprehensive SRHR".

'HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE' POSITION PAPER

The FCDO 'Health systems strengthening for global health security and universal health coverage' position paper includes SRHR as an important area in strong health systems.

EU INSTITUTIONS EU YOUTH ACTION PLAN

This new Action Plan (YAP) recognises SRHR as one of the key priority areas for youth to be able to claim their rights.

EU GLOBAL GATEWAY

SRHR has been included in the new EU Global Gateway through the Team Europe Initiative on SRHR in Sub Saharan Africa.

OTHER RELEVANT LANDMARKS, MORE FOCUSED ON PROGRAMMING, INCLUDE:

DENMARK

SRHR feature substantially in 'The Government's Priorities for Danish Development Cooperation 2022'

FINLAND

In 2022, the country set SRHR as one of the priorities for funding of international organisations and initiatives.

The overview of these new policies reflects European donors' continuous focus on the inclusion of SRHR in their international cooperation plans.

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?

The C2030E methodology used in the last years to track European donor funding for SRH/FP is centred on the use of a core set of indicators⁸. To track trends in financing over time, the Consortium analyses throughout the years variations on these indicators, slightly adapted in this report, and all of which measure investments in both SRH/FP and SRHR:

1. SRH/FP OR SRHR FUNDING THROUGH ALL STREAMS: In the past, this comprehensive picture of funding included three streams: core funding to multilaterals + project funding to multilaterals + funding to international organisations/initiatives/research. This hence excluded government-to-government cooperation, a channel that has become increasingly prioritised by some European donors. Given the overall increased transparency to access this financial data, since 2021 this report also includes this fourth stream in its findings, presenting both datasets for comparability purposes across time.

2. MULTILATERAL FUNDING: This indicator presents core funding going towards SRH/FP based on own reporting systems) and SRHR (complemented by other multilaterals that go beyond SRH/FP), plus all earmarked multilateral funding.

3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFPA: Analysis of this indicator includes core funding to UNFPA, funding to earmarked UNFPA projects on SRH/FP and SRHR and funding going towards the UNFPA Supplies Partnership. This measure of funding to UNFPA is seen as a robust proxy measure for tracking funding to SRH/FP and SRHR.

4. DONORS' SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF ODA: Since 2021, the new methodology includes as an indicator the percentage of donors' spending on SRH/FP and SRHR as part of its annual ODA. This allows for a more enriched depiction of cross-country and cross-years comparison of the political weight attributed to the SRHR agenda.

The following section details findings for the different indicators, which are at the basis of the following snapshot:

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS' SUPPORT IN 2021		
OVERALL FUNDING TO SRH/FP	1 384 526 671 Euros	4 countries reporting an increase
	(Without Italy: 1 365 513 234 Euros)	6 countries with funding sustained
		3 countries reporting a decrease
OVERALL FUNDING TO SRHR	2 779 902 351 Euros	8 countries reporting an increase
	(Without Italy: 2 729 321 152 Euros)	4 countries with funding sustained
		1 country reporting a decrease
FUNDING TO UNFPA SUPPORTING SRH/FP	613 933 310 Euros	5 countries reporting an increase
	(Without Italy: 606 185 000 Euros)	4 countries with funding sustained
		4 countries reporting a decrease
FUNDING TO UNFPA SUPPORTING SRHR	643 151 170 Euros	6 countries reporting an increase
	(Without Italy: 633 129 551 Euros)	4 countries with funding sustained
		3 countries reporting a decrease

⁸. Please see Annex 1 for an overview of the C2030E financial tracking methodology. Please note that this methodology has been updated in 2021, following a revision in 2017.

EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING THROUGH ALL STREAMS

EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING FOR SRH/FP THROUGH ALL STREAMS



4 DONORS REPORTING AN INCREASE



6 DONORS REPORTING STABLE FUNDING

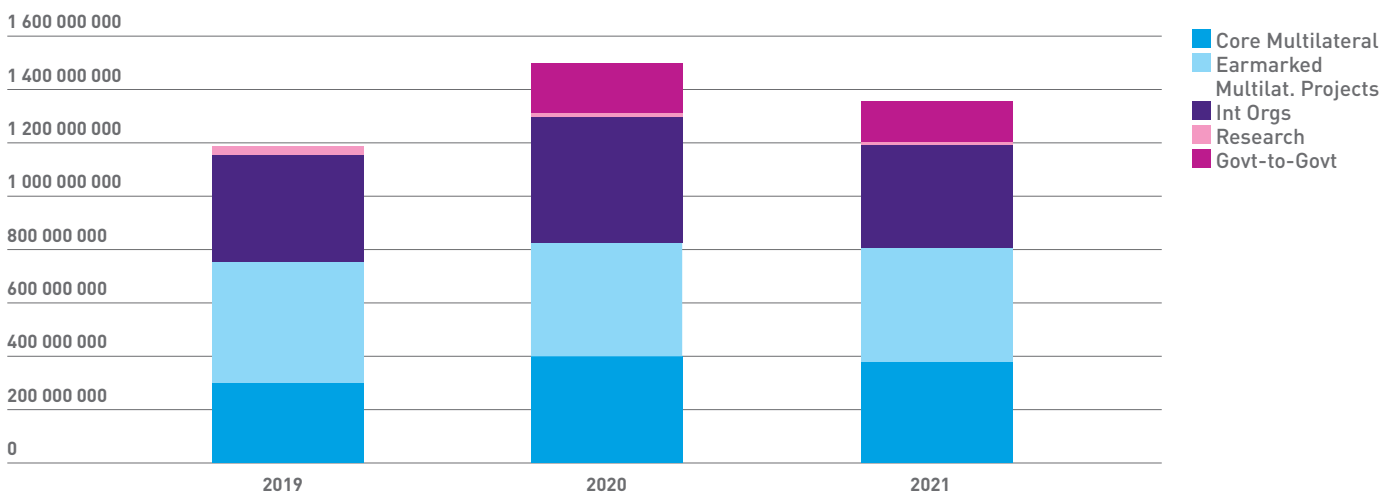


3 DONORS REPORTING A DECREASE

In 2021, **European donors decreased their contribution to SRH/FP** compared to 2020⁹, providing a total of **1.385 billion Euros** (103 million Euros less than in 2020)¹⁰.

As shown in Figure 2, the multilateral system remains the most used stream for European donors' support to SRH/FP, followed by international organisations and initiatives and government-to-government cooperation. Research remains the least common channel of investment, representing only 0.4% of total European funding of SRH/FP.

FIGURE 2 EUROPEAN DONORS' SUPPORT TO SRH/FP



⁹ If Italy was excluded, total funding allocated to SRH/FP in 2021 would amount to 1.366 billion Euros, which would mean a decrease of 8%. If the country would be added in 2021 only, the percentage of decrease would have been 7% instead.

¹⁰ Part of this decline is justified by the new way of accounting for core multilateral funding benefitting SRH/FP and SRHR (more details in the methodology); but even if the same percentages prior to 2021 data were considered for multilateral organisations, it would still be possible to observe a negative trend between 2020-2021.

¹¹ Based on the Guttmacher's Family Planning Investment Impact Calculator. This includes only some projects support by European donors and reported as FP, so the numbers would significantly increase if the broader SRHR agenda is also included.

¹² For the purposes of this analysis, sustained funding is considered to cover the range -5% to +5% variance from the previous year.

European donors' contributions to SRH/FP in 2021 avoided at least 4 million unintended pregnancies and ensured access to modern contraceptive care for 10.5 million women and couples, at a minimum¹¹.

Further disaggregating SRH/FP data provides additional context to some of the notable variances:



INCREASED LEVELS: Belgium, France, Ireland and Spain increased their funding. In absolute terms, the largest surge in funding came from France (additional 29 million Euros). Ireland's increase is mostly due to more comprehensive reporting methods from Irish Aid, in addition to new funding of a joint programme from UNICEF-UNFPA.



MAINTAINED LEVELS¹²: Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland sustained the 2020 level of funding.



DECREASED LEVELS: Germany, the UK and the EU institutions decreased their funding compared to 2020. The largest decrease came from the UK, with a drop of about 35% of SRH/FP funding, followed by the EU, which shrank by around 23%. While the former had already announced this decrease, the latter marked the end of its financial cycle, possibly justifying the end of several programmes.

Figure 3 here below illustrates how European donors supported SRH/FP in 2021, considering all funding streams (core funding + earmarked multilateral programmes + international organisations and initiatives and research + government-to-government support). The top three overall contributors to SRH/FP funding in absolute terms were the Netherlands, followed by the UK and Sweden.

Further details regarding countries' individual trends over time can be found in the respective [country pages](#).

EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING FOR SRHR THROUGH ALL STREAMS



8 DONORS REPORTING AN INCREASE



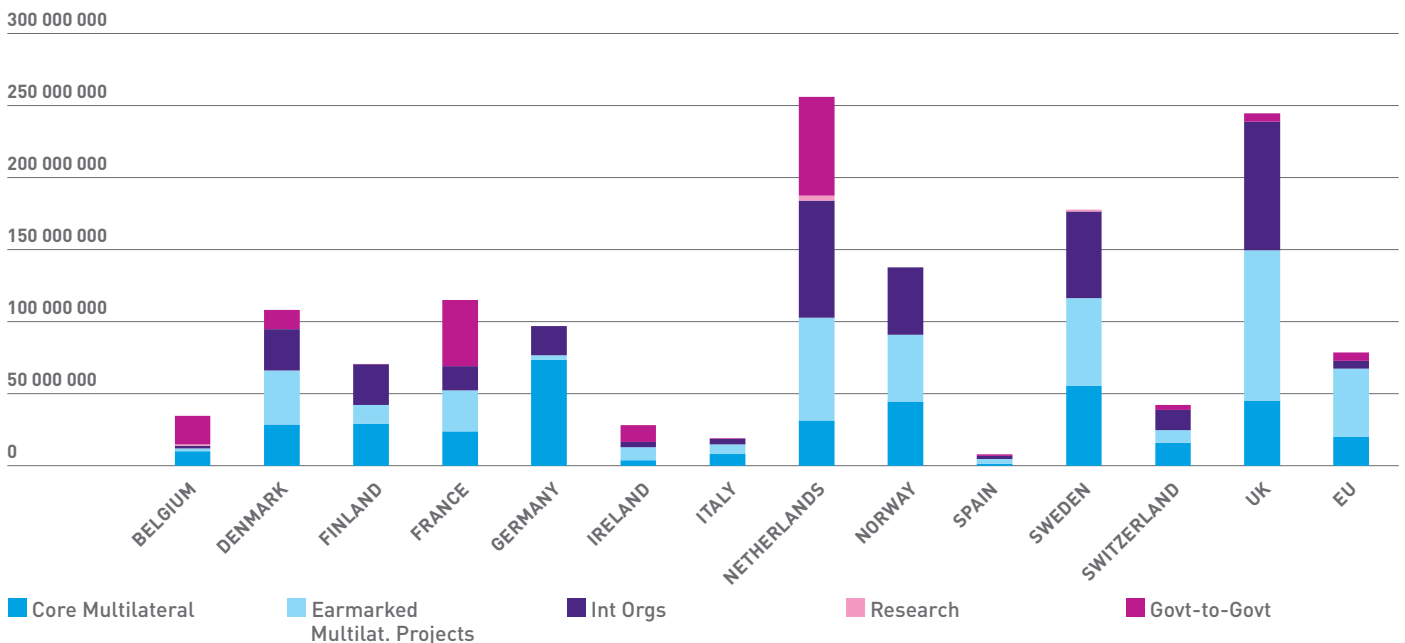
4 DONORS REPORTING STABLE FUNDING



1 DONOR REPORTING A DECREASE

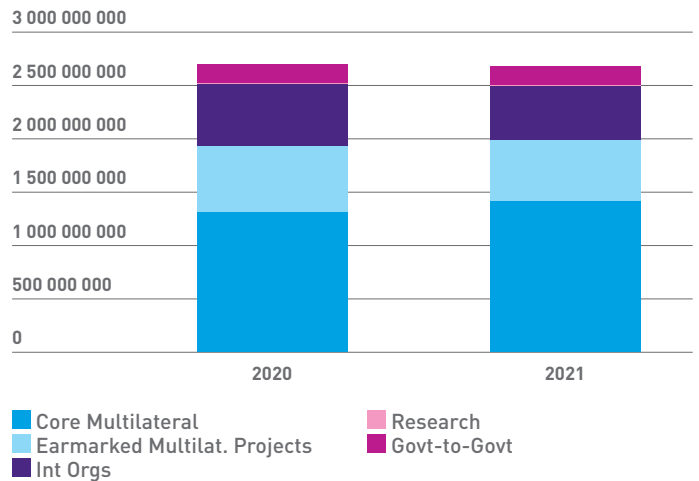
The 8% decrease in SRH/FP funding did not translate into less available overall SRHR funding, but rather a smaller focus on these components in 2021 alongside more emphasis on sexual and reproductive rights: **European donors maintained the levels of investment on SRHR** in 2021 compared to the previous year¹³. Data collected by the C2030E Consortium indicates that European donors contributed **2.780 billion Euros** to SRHR in 2021. This includes the 1.385 billion Euros allocated to SRH/FP, in addition to other core SRHR elements, such as HIV/AIDS, prevention and integrated responses to SGBV, CSE, safe abortion, work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer (LGBTIQ+) people or broader human rights-based, gender-responsive and intersectional approaches. Overall SRHR expenditure represents 3% of total ODA disbursed by European donors in 2021.

FIGURE 3 INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN DONOR SUPPORT TO SRH/FP IN 2021



Once more, multilateral funding is the biggest channel for this type of investments, given the broader scope of UN agencies. Core contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and its focus on HIV play a big role in this overall disbursement. Conversely, research is the least used stream by European governments, amounting to 0.4% of total SRHR funding only.

FIGURE 4 EUROPEAN DONORS SUPPORT TO SRHR



13. If Italy was excluded, total funding allocated to SRHR in 2021 would amount to 2.729 billion Euros, which means a slight difference of funding amounting to +3%. If the country would be added in 2021 only, the percentage would have been +4% instead.

Analysis of 2020 and 2021 individual contributions confirms that European donors tend to invest on integrated approaches to SRHR, as per the Gutmacher-Lancet definition and as advocated by the Consortium. Much of European supported interventions aim to safeguard and advance access to SRH/FP, and at the same time promote a positive environment to sexuality and reproduction that is conducive to overall well-being. Moreover, the inclusion of HIV programmes and broader SGBV responses as part of SRHR efforts provides a diversified and comprehensive picture of investments.

Further disaggregating SRHR data provides additional context to some of the notable variances:



INCREASED LEVELS: Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the EU increased their funding. In absolute terms, the largest surge in funding came from the EU institutions (additional 112 million Euros), which was mainly due to core funding to the GFATM.



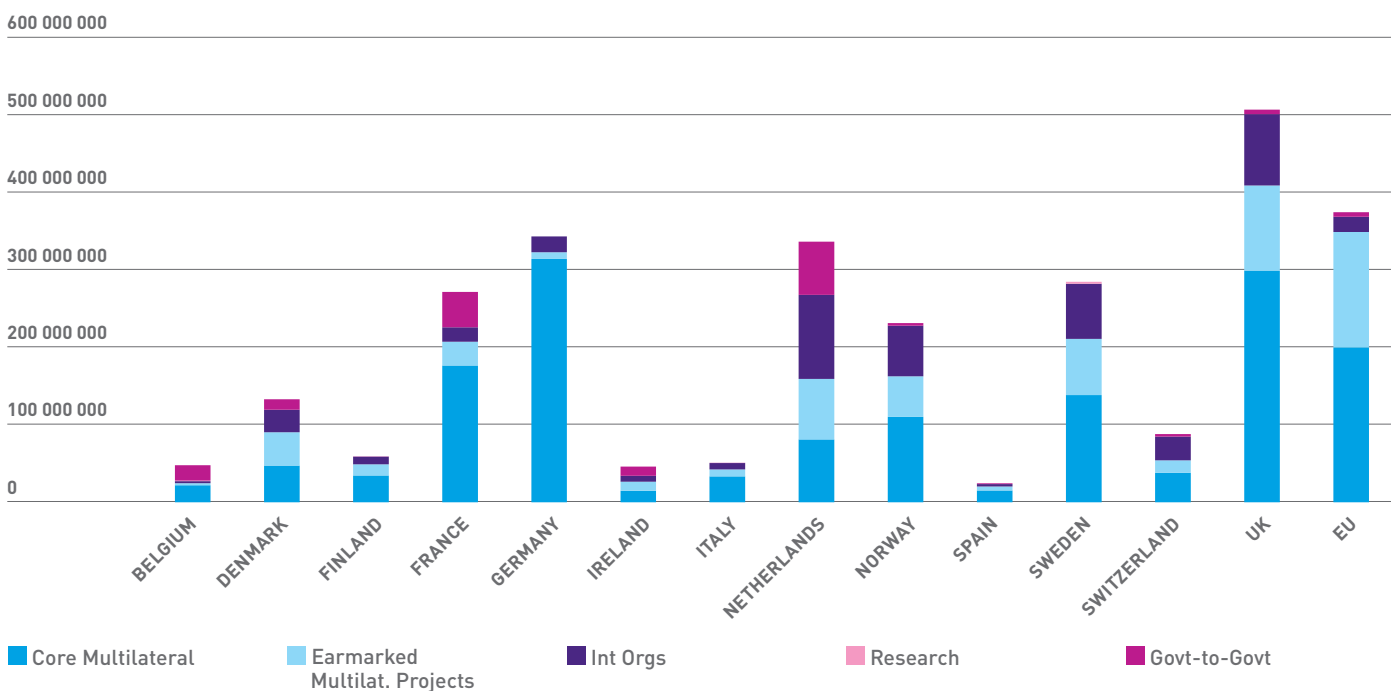
MAINTAINED LEVELS¹⁴: Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden sustained the 2020 level of funding.



DECREASED LEVELS: the UK was the only country that decreased levels of funding compared to 2020. This was a drop of about 23%, or 149 million Euros. This decrease follows FCDO's announcement to reduce overall ODA from 0.7% GNI to 0.5%.

As Figure 5 shows, in 2021, the UK remains the largest contributor in absolute terms to SRHR – and despite the curtailed support compared to 2020 and 2019 –, followed by the EU institutions and Germany.

FIGURE 5 INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN DONOR SUPPORT TO SRHR IN 2021



14. For the purposes of this analysis, sustained funding is considered to cover the range -5% to +5% variance from the previous year

EUROPEAN DONORS' SRH/FP AND SRHR SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF ODA

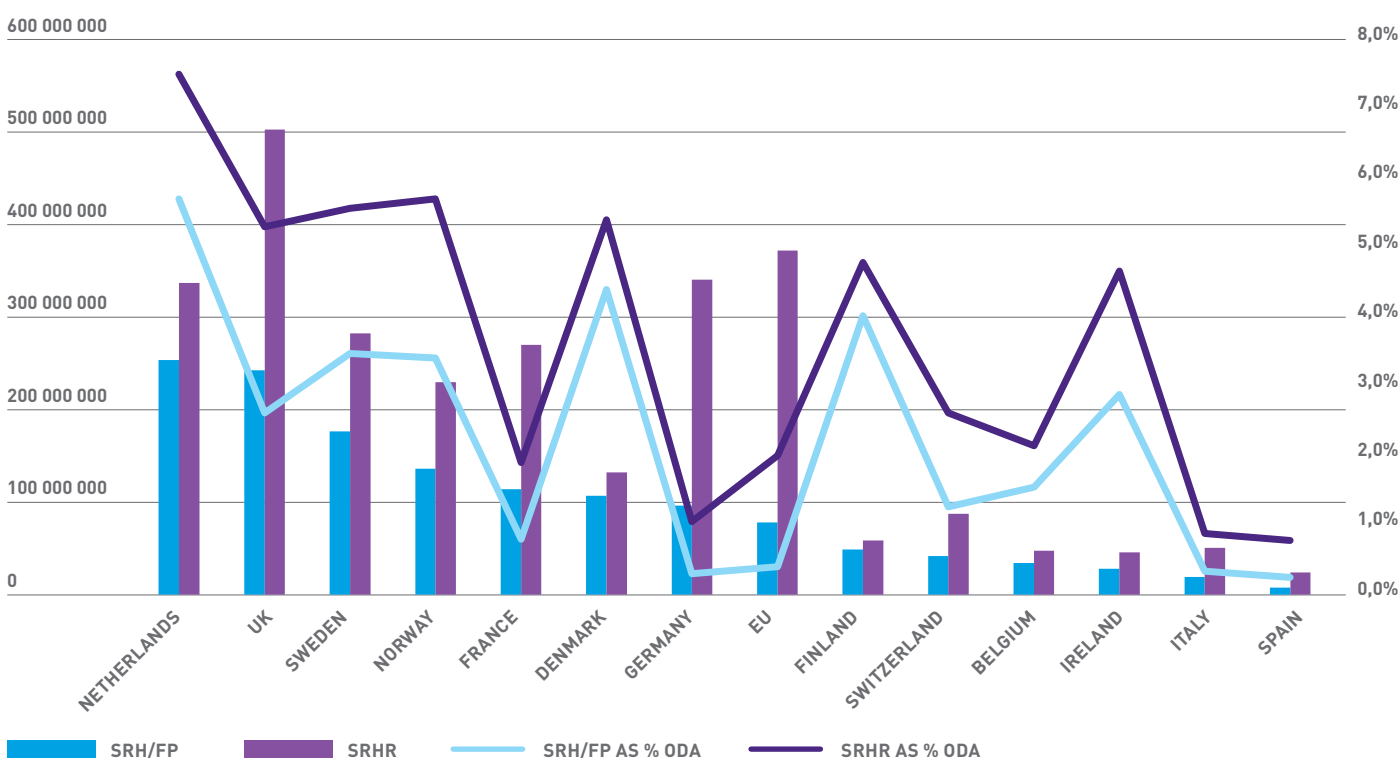
There is room to scale up the weight of both SRH/FP and SRHR as a share of ODA. This is relevant when considering donors' increased efforts to promote more integrated approaches in their international cooperation, and thus being able to increase support to this agenda through different ODA sectors: as recognised on numerous occasions, this last decade to deliver the SDGs requires working across sectors to reach interdependent achievements on international cooperation and SRHR.

Despite the decreases observed in funding in nominal value in 2021, some European donors were still able to increase how much these amounts represent as a share of countries' annual ODA. In 2021, **individual European donors allocated between 0.3 - 5.7% of their ODA to SRH/FP and between 0.8 - 7.5% to SRHR**. As in 2020, also in 2021 the Netherlands emerges as the donor that allocates the biggest share of its ODA to both areas.

COUNTRY	SRH/FP AS % ODA	SRHR AS % ODA	LEVEL OF TRANSPARENCY
NETHERLANDS	5,7%	7,5%	Good
DENMARK	4,4%	5,4%	Fair
FINLAND	4,0%	4,8%	Fair
SWEDEN	3,5%	5,6%	Very good
NORWAY	3,4%	5,7%	Good
IRELAND	2,9%	4,7%	Fair
UK	2,6%	5,3%	Very good
BELGIUM	1,6%	2,1%	Good
SWITZERLAND	1,3%	2,6%	Good
FRANCE	0,8%	1,9%	Good
EU	0,4%	2%	Good
GERMANY	0,3%	1,1%	Fair
ITALY	0,3%	0,9%	Fair
SPAIN	0,3%	0,8%	Fair

The table also provides an overview of transparency of overall ODA per country, as this indicates how easy it can be to access financial information in the different contexts. While only two European governments are considered to have very good levels of transparency, there are still six considered to have a 'fair' standard. It is paramount that European governments improve respective level of transparency as an important principle of the international cooperation effectiveness agenda. In line with the pledge made at the ICPD+25 Nairobi Summit, the C2030E Consortium will continue to demand transparency from European governments and hold them accountable for the promises made at national, regional and global levels.

FIGURE 6 EUROPEAN DONORS FUNDING TO SRH/FP AND SRHR - ABSOLUTE FIGURES AND % OF ODA (RANKED BY SRH/FP VOLUME)

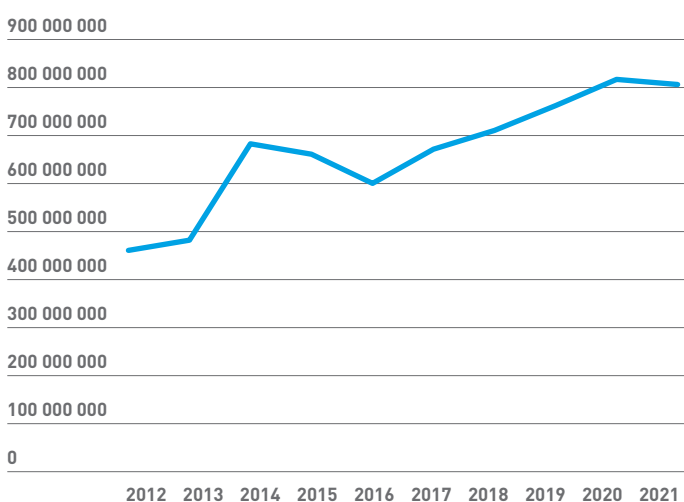


EUROPEAN DONORS' MULTILATERAL FUNDING

EUROPEAN DONORS' MULTILATERAL FUNDING FOR SRH/FP

As seen above, the multilateral system continues to be a significant stream for European donors' support to SRH/FP, consisting both of core funding and earmarked programmes. 2021 brought in a slight reduction of the continuous investment through countries' use of the multilateral system to advance access to SRH/FP since 2012, a contribution which only plunged in 2015 and 2016 before: in 2021, **European donors sustained the same level of funding** of the previous year, disbursing almost **826 million Euros** through multilateral funding [-1%]¹⁵.

FIGURE 7 EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING OF SRH/FP THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM



Several European countries kept their contributions to the multilateral system in 2021 still as part of their response to COVID-19, due to the important role it played in a context of countries' unequal capacities to respond to the fallout from the pandemic¹⁶. But, in line with the curtailed SRH/FP funding observed in 2021, there were several countries that decreased multilateral support, namely Germany (-22%), who decreased levels of core funding, followed by the UK and Sweden (both -13%). These reductions were nonetheless almost offset by an increase of multilateral funding coming from France (64%), Ireland (55%), and the EU institutions (25%), given the focus of the latter on the GFATM.

European countries' use of the multilateral system varies significantly among countries. The UK is the country that mostly contributed to SRH/FP through the multilateral system in 2021 (148 million Euros), but the EU institutions were the European donor that mostly relied on it, with 86% of their total contribution to SRH/FP being channelled through this system, namely for the GFATM and UNFPA's work on humanitarian assistance. In 2021, Belgium was the country that resorted the least to this stream to support SRH/FP in relative terms, and following the country's decision to implement SheDecides initiatives mainly through government-to-government cooperation.

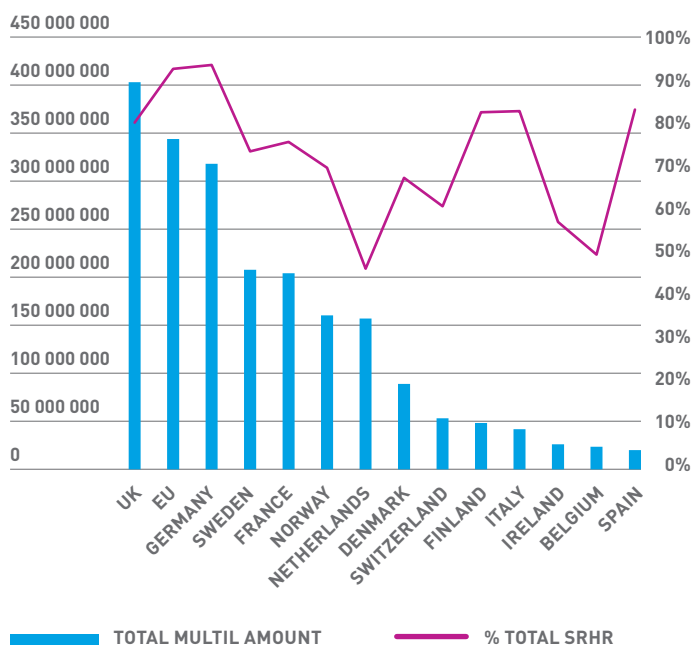
FIGURE 8 EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL DONOR SPENDING ON SRH/FP THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM IN 2021



EUROPEAN DONORS' MULTILATERAL FUNDING FOR SRHR

A similar picture is observed in European donors' contributions to SRHR through the multilateral system, although with some variances. In total, European governments disbursed 2.112 billion Euros in 2021 through this stream, equivalent of 76% of their total spending on SRHR.

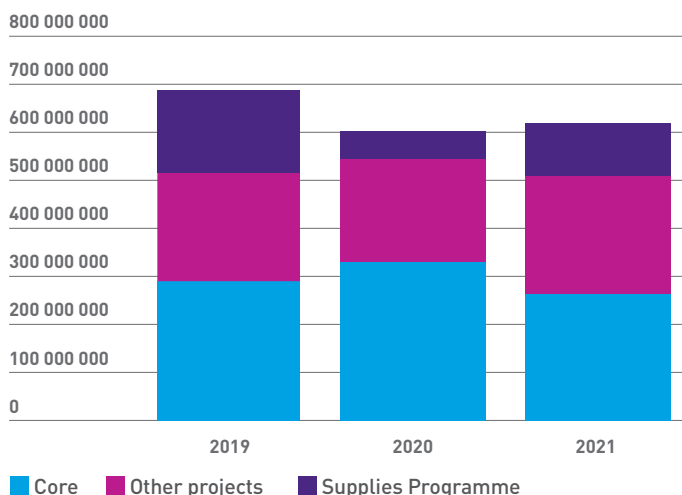
FIGURE 9 EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL DONOR SPENDING ON SRHR THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM IN 2021



¹⁵. The percentage is the same with and without Italy's contributions in 2021.
¹⁶. 2020 data on global ODA allocated to individual projects in 2020 confirms this trend – and despite the US temporary retreat of support to organisations such as WHO.

In absolute terms, the UK remains the country with the largest contributions. Other donors also rank relatively high in their expenditure towards SRHR within the multilateral system, compared to their level of contributions to SRH/FP. Such difference is due to multilateral initiatives that promote, protect and invest in key comprehensive SRHR interventions that go beyond SRH/FP¹⁷. This is the specific case of the GFATM, given the Fund's focus on the HIV component – a key category of the ICPD costed population package. Examples of key contributors to the GFATM include the EU, France and Germany. Spain joined this group in 2021, as 99% of its core funding was channelled through this Fund. The same can be said about the EU-UN Spotlight initiative, funded by the EU institutions, which aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; since it is focused on the broader response to SGBV, it is expected that only a smaller share of these funds will benefit SRH/FP. For all these reasons, Germany was the donor that mostly relied on the multilateral system to advance SRHR (94%), followed by the EU institutions (93%), while the Netherlands were the country that least used it (47%).

FIGURE 10 EUROPEAN DONORS SUPPORT TO UNFPA - SRH/FP



EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING TO UNFPA

EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING TO UNFPA SUPPORTING SRH/FP



5 DONORS REPORTING AN INCREASE



4 DONORS REPORTING STABLE FUNDING



4 DONORS REPORTING A DECREASE

This indicator combines European donors' contributions as core funding to UNFPA, UNFPA project funding and contributions to the Supplies Partnership. The significant increase of contributions to the Supplies Partnership observed in 2021 was enough to offset the decrease in core funding in the same period. European donors provided almost **614 million Euros** to UNFPA in support of SRH/FP that year. If Italy is excluded, this is still 2.5 million Euros more or **the same level** as in the previous year and equivalent to 1% of European ODA going to this UN agency. Despite a decrease in core funding compared to 2020 (-17%), this remained the largest type of contribution to the agency from European donors.

The boost of support to the Supplies Partnership indicates that European governments supported access of at least an additional 5.9 million of women and couples to modern contraceptive care and helped averting over 2 million unintended pregnancies. European funding for UNFPA Supplies Partnership in 2021 amounted to 105 million Euros, which represented an increase of 142% compared to 2020. This is namely due to increased support from the Netherlands and France; the former almost tripled its funding, while the latter provided new contributions amounting to 18 million Euros this year.

When analysing individual contributions to all three UNFPA elements, a mix picture is in place:



INCREASED LEVELS: France (434%), the Netherlands (28%), Spain (21%), Norway (9%), and Denmark (7%). The most notable increases in monetary terms came from France, amounting to over 18 million Euros, mainly disbursed to the Supplies Partnership. The Netherlands was the donor that mostly contributed to the Partnership, with a total of 33.3 million Euros. Spain also increased overall funding, even though this was the first time that the country did not provide core funding to UNFPA since 2016.



MAINTAINED LEVELS¹⁸: Belgium, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland maintained 2020 levels of funding.



DECREASED LEVELS: Germany (-41%), the UK (-15%), Ireland (-12%), and the EU institutions (-11%) decreased their funding to UNFPA. Cuts from these countries represented 47 million Euros less than what was funded in 2020. Decreases from Germany, and the UK were observed mainly in core funding.

¹⁷. As already mentioned, in line with the new C2030E methodology to assess SRHR funding, the report considers also funding beyond SRH/FP towards other essential interventions around HIV/AIDS and other STIs or prevention and integrated responses to SGBV, among others, as part of the broader SRHR package. To be noted however that the methodology does not necessarily match donors' internal reporting on SRHR expenditure.

¹⁸. For the purposes of this analysis, sustained funding is considered to cover the range -5% to +5% variance from the previous year.

EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING TO UNFPA SUPPORTING SRHR

In 2021, European governments spent **643 million Euros** on SRHR channelled through UNFPA, which represents **the same level** of funding as in 2020. As with SRH/FP, most European funding to the agency benefitting SRHR was channelled as core funding, despite the decrease of this amount, followed by earmarked programmes. In this latter category, several programmes focused on preventing and responding to SGBV (beyond SRH/FP) or on changing social norms and removing gender stereotypes. If Italy was excluded, total funding in 2021 would amount to 633 million Euros, which is also a sustained level of financing compared to 2020.

Analysis of individual contributions confirm that the vast majority of European support to UNFPA is centered on SRH/FP, with nuances observed in some countries, such as Norway, Denmark and Switzerland.

FIGURE 11 EUROPEAN DONORS SUPPORT TO UNFPA - SRHR

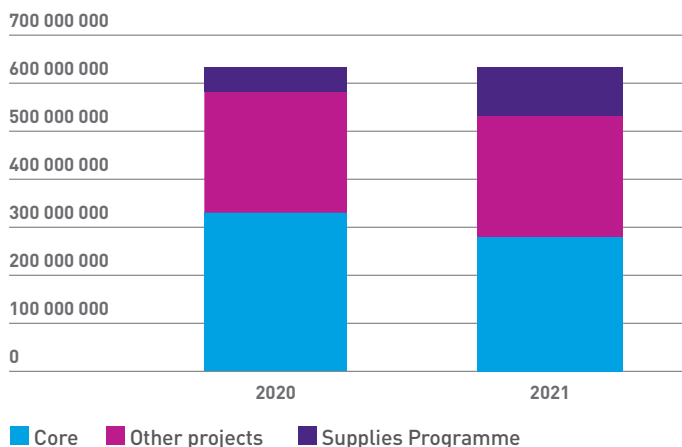
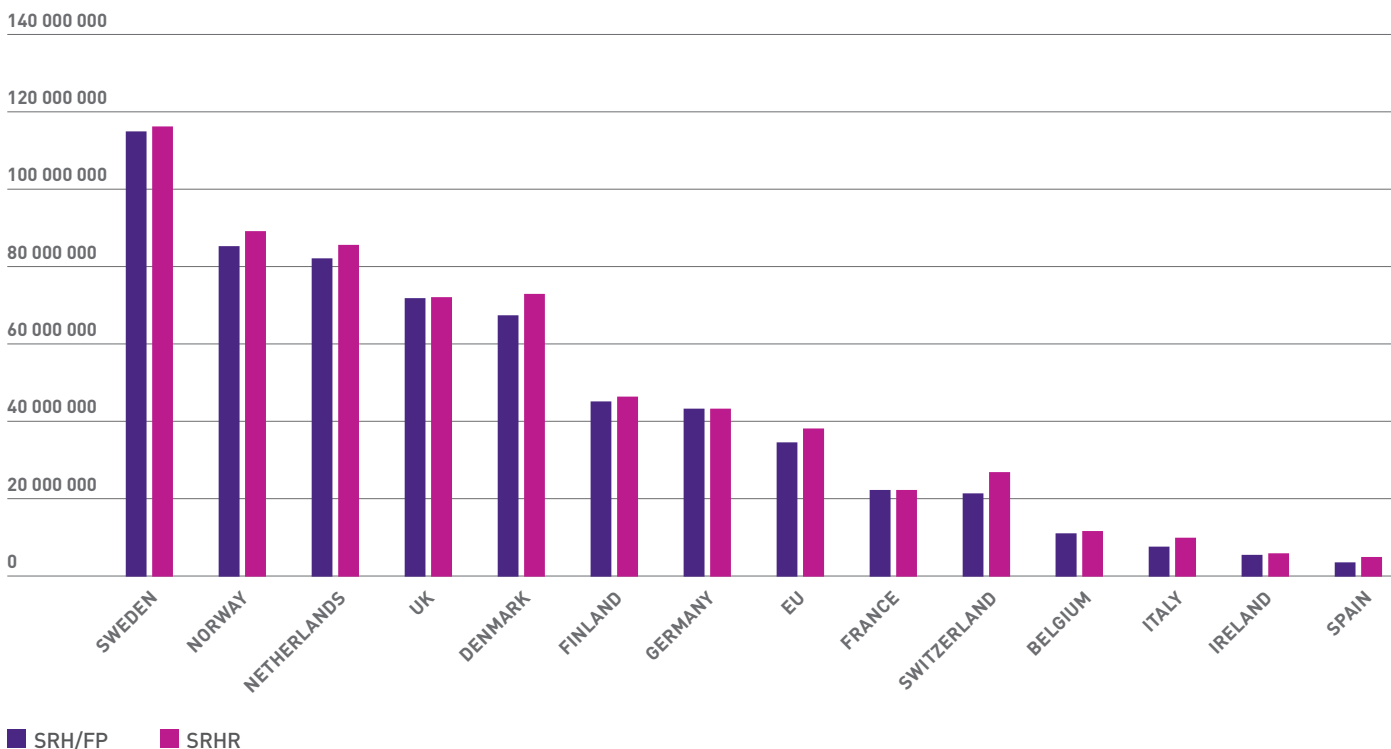


FIGURE 12 INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN DONORS TO UNFPA IN 2021 (RANKED BY SRH/FP VOLUME)



HOW SRHR IS EMBEDDED IN OTHER EUROPEAN DONORS' PRIORITIES

FEATURED FOCUS: ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Adolescence represents a critical crossroad in the path of people's empowerment and personal development. The start of adolescence brings body changes and emotional vulnerabilities that young people must cope with in the transition from childhood to adulthood. Moreover, adolescent girls are confronted with specific issues and have special needs that should be addressed in tailored interventions. They can be exposed to environments conducive to harmful traditional practices, such as child and early forced marriage or female genital mutilation, and other forms of violence, which endanger adolescent girls' rights. Finally, according to WHO, pregnancy and childbirth complications persist as a leading cause of death globally for girls aged 15–19 years. About 50% of the yearly 21 million teenage pregnancies in LMICs are unintended, and around 55% of these end up in abortions, often unsafe.

Against this background, this year, the C2030E report wants to shed a light on the contribution that European donors make to investments which are specifically earmarked for adolescents' SRHR (ASRHR). The analysis shows that in 2021 **all European governments tailored some funding specifically to ASRHR**, and, although individual donors may favour their own specific approach, overall European support has been threefold, mainly focused on:

- **INCREASING ACCESS TO YOUTH FRIENDLY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES (YFHSS)**, mainly as a way to prevent unintended teenage pregnancy;
- **INCREASING ACCESS TO SEXUAL EDUCATION**, including through CSE;
- **PROMOTING STRUCTURAL AND EFFECTIVE CHANGES** in social and gender norms that increase young people's active agency as decision makers, and consequently impact their right to reproduction, sexuality and safety from violence and discrimination, among others.

The latter component is one of the most promoted, as reflected in the key findings of this report: these show that governments continue to prioritise the overall promotion of sexual and reproductive rights, within the steady level of investment on the broader SRHR agenda across years.

In terms of geographical distribution of ASRHR funding, it is not surprising that the vast majority of ASRHR projects funded by European governments are in the **Sub-Saharan region**, given that Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest proportion of the adolescent cohort in the world.

Concerning the volume of funding invested in this area, **only about 3%** of the projects analysed for this tracking report specifically target ASRHR. It is however important to note that donors do not report their ODA projects against population groups, but rather sectorial codes, as per the OECD DAC system, making it difficult to assess the real level of financial investments going into this topic. Therefore, it goes without saying that donors may contribute much more than this indicative percentage to ASRHR, but it is currently not possible to unveil an accurate picture due to the lack of available information. Tracking funding levels for adolescent health remains largely unaddressed and, for that reason, Countdown 2030 Europe partners will continue to call upon their governments to increase transparency in investments in ASRHR, including through updating reporting standards.

Looking ahead, there are two moments in 2023 that offer opportunities to reconfirm political and possibly even financial support to ASRHR: the **Global Forum for Adolescents** led by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) in October 2023, which will include specific attention on SRH/FP, and the **Lancet Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People** in December 2023, which will include evidence-based recommendations. These milestones are particularly relevant considering the importance of investing in ASRHR and ensuring all donors include this focus in their own programming.

GOING HAND IN HAND WITH UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

Investing in robust health systems, which are a pre-requisite to progress towards universal health coverage (UHC), is key for SRHR as much as investing in SRHR is key for sustainable health systems. SRHR is relevant, directly or indirectly, to all four categories used by WHO to monitor progress of UHC¹⁹. For that reason, European donors recognize how these areas are intertwined and directly support health systems strengthening (HSS) to advance SRHR/FP and vice-versa. European donors thus continued to invest in SRHR in 2021 in direct relation to the six building blocks of HSS:



HEALTH WORKFORCE

Sweden and the UK continued supporting UNFPA's programmes to strengthen midwifery, while Germany supported the training of midwives through UNFPA's Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund.



HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

France has been supporting UNFPA's efforts in developing better tools to prevent and treat postpartum haemorrhage. Through NGO support, Italy promotes the prevention, screening, analysis and care of STDs.



ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the UK supported the UNFPA Supplies Partnership. Sweden funded social marketing of reproductive health supplies in sub-Saharan Africa.



HEALTH INFORMATION

Sweden supported UNFPA's Country Program Documents in Mali, Sudan, Ethiopia, Iraq and DRC, which include, among others, capacity-building of national statistical systems to monitor the demographic dividend.



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Denmark supports Amplify Change and its subgranting work for advocacy efforts towards better governance of SRHR and health systems.



HEALTH FINANCING

Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK supported the Global Financial Facility in 2021, which uses public grants to catalyse domestic resources for health, including SRHR. Sweden also funded the programme 'COVID-19 CHAI - Sustainable health financing - Towards UHC 2017-2022'.

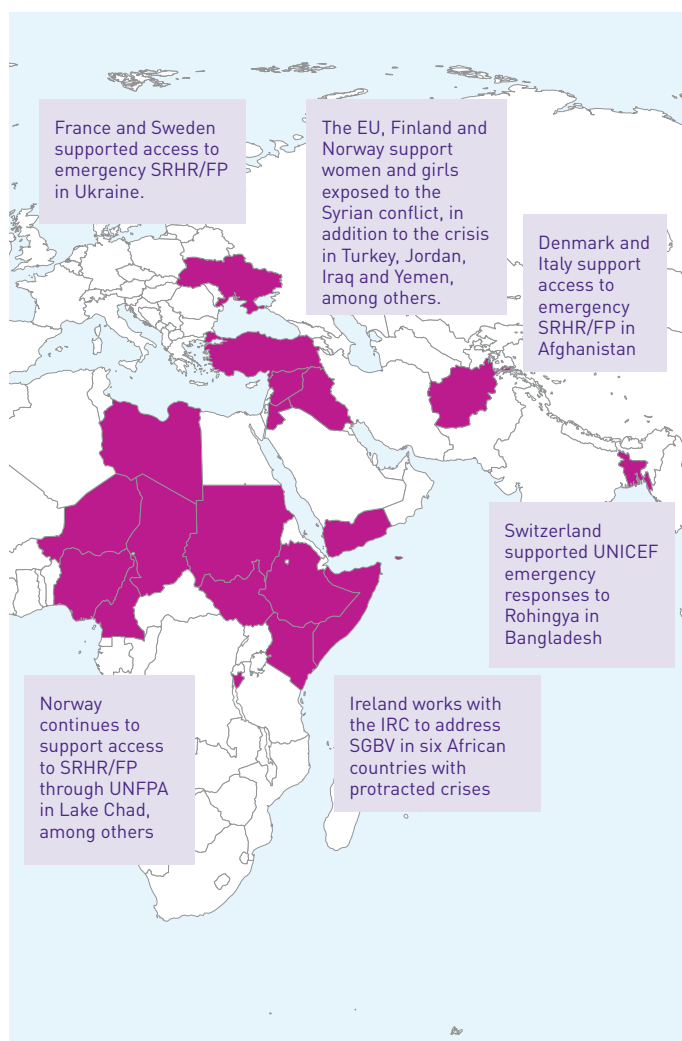
¹⁹. The four categories are 1) RMNCH; 2) infectious diseases such as HIV; 3) non-communicable diseases including cervical cancer screening and 4) service capacity and access, which encompasses medicines for RH and perinatal care as part of essential medicines.

²⁰. To learn more about C2030E's recommendations for key actions in emergency settings, please consult [here](#).

SRHR ACUTE NEEDS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Humanitarian emergencies are increasing, both in number and intensity. Globally, about **274 million people were impacted by humanitarian emergencies just in 2022**, an increase of 270% compared to 2000 (OCHA, 2022). This number is expected to rise to an expected record of 339 million people in need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2023. This means that one in 23 people will need help to survive. The displacement of people caused by global crises may lead to a relocation of where that support is targeted, as donor governments may divert ODA funds from international cooperation programmes in partner countries in favour of welcoming in-donor refugees.

It is widely recognised that women and girls are disproportionately affected by these crises, given their exposure and vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, which are added to the disruption of lifesaving services. Considering the exacerbated needs for SRHR and GBV services, UNFPA appealed for about 706 million Euros (or 835 million USD) to reach 54.5 million women, girls and young people in 61 countries affected by humanitarian crisis. European donors have recognised these needs for long and have thus invested in ensuring access to SRHR/FP and preventing and responding to SGBV in humanitarian contexts²⁰. This support has been mostly channelled through the multilateral system, namely through UNFPA and WHO. 2021 was no exception, with some examples to be highlighted:



LOOKING AHEAD

C2030E reproaches the decrease of European financial contributions to SRH/FP in 2021. The steady level of investment on SRHR is nonetheless a positive sign, but more must be done.

2 020 showed that it is possible to scale up the weight of these investments in nominal and relative terms, as a share of European ODA - and considering donors' increased efforts to work across sectors and to integrate SRHR in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, this financial downturn of SRH/FP funding may indicate that the increased attention to these lifesaving elements was mainly time-bound, rather than an established new level of support.

While it is not possible to forecast overall European expenditures to SRH/FP and SRHR in the years to come, there are some available elements that suggest a steady prognosis – based on individual contributions, to be found in the [country pages](#):

- **BELGIUM:** SRHR ODA expected to increase in 2023
- **DENMARK:** SRHR ODA expected to be at least kept at the same level
- **FINLAND:** SRHR ODA expected to be at least sustained until 2023, by when it could decrease
- **FRANCE:** SRHR ODA expected to increase in 2023
- **GERMANY:** SRHR ODA expected to be at least kept at the same level
- **IRELAND:** to be confirmed if SRHR ODA will also increase in line with the rise of overall assistance
- **ITALY:** overall ODA expected to decrease, and therefore also funds for SRHR/FP
- **THE NETHERLANDS:** SRHR ODA expected to increase in 2023
- **NORWAY:** SRHR ODA expected to at least be sustained, with contributions to UNFPA to rise
- **SPAIN:** SRHR ODA expected to be at least sustained
- **SWEDEN:** SRHR ODA expected to decrease
- **SWITZERLAND:** information unavailable
- **UK:** SRHR ODA expected to decrease while overall ODA remains reduced
- **EU INSTITUTIONS:** SRHR ODA expected to be at least kept at the same level

2023 will also offer new opportunities to scale up European support to SRH/FP and SRHR, namely in synergies with different stakeholders. In late 2022, UNFPA launched its 'Strategy for Family Planning, 2022-2030: Expanding Choices – Ensuring Rights in a Diverse and Changing World'. In this strategy, the agency emphasises the importance of accelerating the shift from funding to sustainable financing, and European governments will be crucial partners to guarantee this transition. The UN High Level Meeting on UHC in September 2023 will also be an opportunity to reinstate the importance of integrating SRHR in costed national plans for UHC; once more, as section 3 shows, European governments can support this combination through effective international cooperation in health with partner LMICs. Furthermore, the Team Europe Initiative on SRHR in Sub-Saharan Africa was officially launched in late 2022, and participant European governments are expected to make substantial new financial commitments.

As mentioned, two other moments will offer opportunities to re-confirm political and possibly even financial support to SRHR: the Global Forum for Adolescents led by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) in October 2023, which will include specific attention on SRHR, and the Lancet Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People in December 2023, which will include evidence-based recommendations. These milestones are particularly relevant considering the importance of investing in ASRHR and ensuring all donors include this focus in their own programming.

European donors have a key role to play in promoting universal access to SRHR. The current multiple global crises, from the pandemic to the war in Ukraine or the climate, energy and food emergencies, stress even more the already scarce resources needed to match global commitments for sustainable development. This is even more the case if European governments divert ODA funds from programmes in partner countries to welcome in-donor refugees – which is crucial in itself, but should not be done in detriment of international cooperation initiatives with LMICs where the needs arise. The current setting only justifies the need to further integrate SRHR in the responses to multiple crisis that the world will keep facing in 2023. This is particularly the case in low-income countries, where out-of-pocket expenditures are still high due to the limited integration of SRH services at the primary healthcare level²¹.

Going forward, advocacy will be key to safeguard focus on the critical importance of SRHR and, in that context, SRH/FP. The C2030E Consortium is thus committed to continue its role in calling for sustained and/or increased investments, whilst ensuring accountability by tracking expenditures of and policy commitments to the ICPD agenda.

²¹. For more information, please refer to: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/SRHR_an_essential_element_of_UHC_2020_online.pdf

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY AND ADDED VALUE OF COUNTDOWN 2030 EUROPE TRACKING

WHY WAS THE COUNTDOWN 2030 EUROPE TRACKING METHODOLOGY CREATED?

→ C2030E is a group of European NGO partners working in 12 European countries and with the EU institutions to advocate with their governments for support to SRH/FP and associated rights. The consortium is led by IPPF European Network.

→ C2030E needed a consistent way to collect national data for local advocates – the C2030E Partners – to track what their national governments were committing and expending on SRH/FP, using national expenditure reports, easily to refer to in national advocacy activities. This consistent approach would be useful to assess trends across years and donor countries, even though individual governments report internally in significantly different ways.

→ C2030E Partners looked at the SRH/FP financial data available but, despite their added value, some shortcomings made them unsuitable for local advocacy, namely:

- Data categorised under OECD DAC population assistance: Although systematised, official and in the public domain, the data was questioned by many national government counterparts. This is mostly because there is huge scope for different interpretation and classification of the codes, both among donors and within their own administrations, thus affecting the quality or comparability of data. Moreover, some individual donors report non-directly related SRH/FP expenses under CRS codes for population assistance – such as migration –, hence inflating key findings. The data was also not published quickly enough to be useful for national advocates to use for monitoring purposes.
- Former UNFPA-NIDI Resource Flows data: This relied partly on the OECD DAC data, and therefore faced the same challenges as above. In addition, data on population assistance were collected through questionnaires, directly sent to donors. The initial little detail on SRH and FP financial breakdowns was overcome on the initiative of C2030E, but the often-low response rate on these details kept the use of these data for monitoring purposes challenging.
- Euromapping, Donors Delivering for SRHR and other reports relying on the Muskoka methodologies: Many national advocates found that the presentation of these reports is excellent to depict cross-country comparisons in donor trends.

But the data source is again OECD DAC, which is out of date for the purposes of national advocacy and timely monitoring of European donor funding. Plus, the attributed percentages applied to CRS codes – based on a global reporting sample – does not allow to accurately depict how the individual European donors contribute to SRH/FP.

→ There was no systemised forum for presenting policy trends in SRH/FP across European donors. C2030E partners had this first-hand knowledge of their local scenes, and wanted to place financial trends within this wider context, but they lacked a forum to do so; this made it difficult for them to ‘match’ political commitments from their governments with funding allocations, a key component of advocacy and accountability.

HOW HAS THE COUNTDOWN 2030 EUROPE TRACKING METHODOLOGY WORKED UNTIL 2021?

→ C2030E partners collect data on their country’s financial contributions in current prices and in reference to specific streams of support, namely:

- **Core support to multilateral organisations** providing funding to FP and RH specifically: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank. This is automatically categorised as being spent on the ICPD category of SRH/FP. Until 2021, the reference to collect the proportions of core funding benefitting SRH/FP was the NIDI questionnaire to multilateral organisations, that used to be updated annually or biannually and in the context of the UNFPA-NIDI Resource Flows. The overall percentages presented decreased significantly since 2017, as the report refers to the combined FP and RH percentages rather than the much broader ‘population assistance’ percentages, to ensure a clear focus on SRH/FP funding.
- **Project support to multilateral organisations** that are relevant to SRH/FP. Projects may be implemented by organisations beyond UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank. Earmarked funding for UNFPA projects on SRH/FP is also included in the ‘overall funding allocated to UNFPA’ indicator.

- **Funding to the main five organisations/initiatives** and three main **research initiatives** on SRH/FP. This stream can include entities of international, national or even local status.
- **Narrative trend analysis with snapshots on bilateral country to country funding trends.** This type of funding, or government-to-government cooperation, has been the most challenging data to identify. This is because this is the lengthiest data collection for donors themselves, as they must rely on their Embassies, and often partner countries do not track how much of the received bilateral funding goes to SRH/FP (especially through general or sectorial budget support). In several countries, this has led to increased demands from civil society for transparency and accountability for this type of international cooperation stream.
- From 2012 to 2017 the report used 2017 constant prices for comparability.
- Sources of data: C2030E partners obtain their data from national annual reports, direct government contacts and from online national databases – which later inform OECD DAC. This may be complemented by other bilateral contacts with SRH/FP government counterparts and/or parliamentary questions.

→ C2030E represents summary data on a dedicated web-based platform: <http://www.countdown2030europe.org/>. All data can be changed in 'real-time' – i.e. as it happens. So, when elections happen in country X that affect SRH/FP, or when financial commitments are made in country Y, the C2030E partner can alter their national profile.

→ Policy data, a key feature of the report, is public; financial data may be restricted, only accessible to C2030E partners given their strong relationship with their own governments. This is because some government counterparts do not always feel comfortable with sharing financial data that is not always an official record yet.

- Initiatives specifically targeting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer (LGBTIQ+) persons
- Safe abortion
- Other initiatives to foster human rights-based, gender-responsive, intersectionality and change of social norms in relation to SRH/FP

The report thus includes **two different sets of findings**: i) the first referring to **SRH/FP**, in line with what has been collected in previous years and ii) an extended set that considers the broader **SRHR** agenda – by default, the latter will always include the former.

It is however important to note that not all European governments use all these interventions to measure their investments on SRHR, with some completely detaching, for example, expenditures on HIV/AIDS and other STIs, SGBV or even harmful practices.

→ THE ANALYSED STREAMS

- **Core support to multilateral organisations:** European funding in support of SRHR now includes the same four multilateral bodies (UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank), in addition to UNAIDS. Moreover, as UNFPA-NIDI Resource Flows came to an end, since 2021 the report uses instead percentages provided directly by UNFPA, and calculates a five-year trend of OECD-DAC coefficients from the other multilateral organisations. Contributions to the GFATM also moved from international organisations & initiatives to this stream, in order to further align with OECD reporting.
- **Government-to-government cooperation:** given the importance of this stream to some European donors, the exclusion of this channel would underrate respective investments. Examples of European countries that substantially rely on this channel to invest on SRH/FP are Belgium, France and Ireland. As governments have been striving to improve transparency of their annual funding, this stream started being accounted for as of 2021, for 2020 data.
- **International organisations & initiatives and research:** as some European donors substantially rely on this channel to advance the SRHR agenda, the list of collected initiatives has been extended in order to better depict European investments through this channel. Furthermore, contributions from the GFF are since 2021 calculated based on the Facility's internal reporting of funding benefitting SRHR (while before these were accounted for following donors' own way of reporting).

WHAT CHANGED WITH THE 2021 REVIEWED METHODOLOGY?

→ A NEW MEASURE

Even though this report continues to measure European donors' support to SRH/FP, it also expands the scope of its assessment. European donors tend to increasingly embrace a more comprehensive definition of what is sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), going beyond the specific elements of FP and SRH. This expanded definition is aligned with the tendency to further integrate SRH into other services and sector-wide approaches, as both the ICPD Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals call for. This vision is also endorsed by C2030E and is aligned with the new SRHR definition from the Gutmacher-Lancet Report, which has been already embraced by some European donors. For that reason, the new tracking methodology introduced by the 2021 report includes other essential interventions that provide a more complete picture of European efforts to advance the SRHR agenda in low- and middle-income countries:

- HIV/AIDS and other STIs, in line with ICPD costed package
- Prevention and integrated responses to Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) that go beyond SRH/FP (so far only SRH/FP focused responses were included)
- Comprehensive sexuality education

→ THREE OTHER CHANGES ARE OBSERVED IN TERMS OF APPROACH:

- **SRH/FP and SRHR spending as a percentage of ODA:** For a more enriched depiction of cross-country comparison in funding trends, this report adds an indicator calculating the percentage of donors' spending on SRH/FP and SRHR as part of their annual ODA.
- **Transparency of ODA:** while before the report would assess transparency specifically related to bilateral cooperation, the current version focuses on the donors' overall transparency level of ODA. External sources are used as baselines, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) or Publish What You Fund (PWYF), that can be then adapted by partners.
- **EU institutions:** for the past years, updated financial data from EU institutions had not been available at the time of writing of this report. This has however changed with the publication of the EU Aid Explorer website, which registers real time responses. It is hence possible to collect EU data at the same time as other European donors and reorganise it accordingly.

WHAT ARE THE NOVELTIES INTRODUCED IN THIS REPORT?

This year, the tracking report also includes three new elements:

→ WHOSE EFFORTS ARE BEING MEASURED

Italy was included in the present tracking report to further complement the European donors sample. As this is the first year of analysis of the country's contributions to SRH/FP and SRHR, overall variations across years are provided both with and without the addition of Italy, to ensure comparability. The analysis of individual European donors' funding trends excludes Italy, being the data only available for 2021.

→ HOW CORE MULTILATERAL FUNDING IS MEASURED

Prior to the 2021 report, core multilateral funding contributing to SRH/FP and SRHR relied on the UNFPA-NIDI Resource Flows data. As this project came to an end, contributions from agencies are now calculated based on their own reporting. The same is applicable to the Global Financial Facility (reported under international organisations and initiatives).

→ QUANTIFYING THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN DONORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

The current tracking report includes impact numbers from European governments' investments on FP. Calculations are based on the [Guttmacher's Family Planning Investment Impact Calculator](#), which is an interactive tool for estimating these impacts in LMICs. As it is not always possible to separate donors' investments on FP and SRH, only some of the FP programmes are selected for these calculations, to illustrate the minimum impact reached in 2021.

WHAT ADDED VALUE DOES THE COUNTDOWN 2030 EUROPE TRACKING OFFER?

→ Obtaining data primarily from national annual sources allows for **reporting to be aligned to national reporting and coding systems**, rather than often less-detailed coding into OECD DAC categories. This is nationally-owned and up-to-date data that reflects the country's vision.

→ The **process** of collecting data helps to **build the relationship of trust and communication** between the advocacy partner and the government SRHR focal point person, while it broadens networks for advocacy with government departments beyond the traditional SRH/FP ones. This level of proximity also allows for **interpretation and discussion around how data** is categorised, unlike OECD DAC data.

→ Gathering the same data, in the same formats, within a network allows advocacy partners to compare their data availability and trends over time; this gives them the information to approach their national counterparts with requests for **more transparency**.

→ Tracking both policy and financial data together allows for **analysis of trends within wider realistic contexts** (i.e. numbers, and increases/decreases in values over time, are not presented in isolation but instead understood within a wider context of what is going on in the country).

→ Data collected by C2030E partners is the **most recent financial data available** in the country and **policy data is real-time**.

→ C2030E is unique in actively and routinely using the data it collects for increasing donors' accountability and transparency. C2030E thus **bridges research and advocacy**. Several case studies have highlighted how this **has improved donor accountability and data transparency** over time.

DATA UPDATES AND COMPARABILITY WITH PRIOR REPORTS

While Countdown's methodology has remained consistent over time, the yearly updates of financial data may lead to retroactive adjustments. For example, in 2020, full dataset since 2012 was revised to further streamline the methodology across partners, namely in terms of i) what is reported as SRH/FP and ii) how, or which streams are used to report funding. Percentages provided by NIDI for core funding were also updated since 2015 and 2020 data referred to percentages from the previous year, given the absence of updated figures. Finally, in 2021, the accounting method for EU funding of earmarked multilateral programmes has been reorganised in line with other European donors. As such, findings from the different yearly reports should not be used as a time series.



All data is also accessible through our online dashboard.



See our country profiles and summary factsheet.

Design: Jean-Luc Gehres
www.welcomedesign.fr

Analysis undertaken by:
Andreia Oliveira,
International development consultant



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