

# SPOTLIGHT ON EUROPE - TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS FROM SELECT EUROPEAN DONORS

Countdown 2030  
EUROPE

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European donors have continuously demonstrated commitment towards promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health and family planning (SRH/FP). This agenda is advanced through introducing or reinforcing policy and funding commitments, following pledges as part of FP2020 and other initiatives, such as SheDecides. This is also the case for some non-pledging European donor countries, who continue to support SRH/FP through political and funding commitments as part of their official development assistance (ODA).

This Spotlight identifies overall trends and developments in SRH/FP funding from Countdown 2030 European countries in 2018, including both FP2020 commitment makers and non-pledging nations.



## POLICY CONTEXT FOR EUROPEAN FP2020 COMMITMENT MAKERS

**BELGIUM:** Belgium became an FP2020 commitment maker in 2017, pledging €36 million as UNFPA core funding over the following four years. Belgium hosted the SheDecides conference in 2017 and pledged €10 million to SRH/FP as part of that initiative. The country is on track with these commitments, having disbursed €9 million core funding for UNFPA in both 2017 and 2018 and a total of €25 million for the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in that same period. Belgium is collaborating bilaterally with Benin and Senegal in a project that aims at providing better availability of contraceptives and easier access to FP information, by using big data and satellite imagery. Since 2017, Belgium has committed to include attention for SRH/FP in every new multiannual bilateral agreement with its partner countries.

**DENMARK:** Denmark continues to be a strong supporter of SRH/FP, having allocated DKK 400 million (€53.5 million) to SRH/FP in the 2018 state budget. This has been channelled to INGOs (IPPF and Amplify Change), UNFPA Supplies Programme as well as the UNFPA Uganda and Niger Country Programmes, and the Global Financing Facility.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION:** In 2018, the European Parliament committed to SRH/FP in several resolutions regarding EU development policy, including its position on the 2021-2027 Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This commitment to SRH/FP is also reinforced in the EU's position on its bilateral relations with the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, and more broadly across Africa. Furthermore, cooperation between the EU and the UN on the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls was reaffirmed in 2018, with Commissioner Mimica reaffirming EU's focus on gender, health, population and SRH/FP. The European Commission also continues to support UNFPA Supplies, having disbursed €20.46 million in 2018.

**FINLAND:** Finland is a long-standing, strong supporter of SRH/FP, and became a FP2020 commitment-maker in 2017. The rights of women and girls are a priority in Finnish development policy and SRH/FP is seen as a central means to achieving them. Finland's original pledge to SheDecides was €20 million but in March 2018 the country pledged another €21.3 million for SRH/FP, which includes multilateral, bilateral and INGO support.

**FRANCE:** France continues to support the Muskoka Fund for reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health, having allocated €10 million in 2018. The country also focused on strengthening existing partnerships between the French Development Agency (AFD) and other donors in West and Central Africa, whilst continuing to foster donor coordination through the Ouagadougou Partnership. Alongside these SRH/FP-focused commitments, France has also made related commitments on broader issues, in the context of the new 'feminist diplomacy' that the government intends to promote. France pledged during the G7 to allocate €6 million euros to Nadia Murad's and Denis Mukwege's fund that is dedicated to victims of sexual violence.

**GERMANY:** In 2016, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) announced a new FP2020 commitment of €514 million until 2019 for rights-based SRH/FP and 25% of its bilateral funding is likely to be dedicated to SRH/FP. Germany is on track to fulfil this commitment



which is being implemented mainly through the bilateral Initiative on Voluntary Family Planning and Maternal Health.

**NETHERLANDS:** In 2017, the Netherlands pledged €29 million for SheDecides. Of this amount €11.4 million was spent in 2017 and €17.6 million in 2018. These funds have been allocated to UNFPA supplies, UNFPA country programmes and national and international NGOs. Moreover, €5 million were allocated to the World Health Organisation for SRH/FP in humanitarian settings and €11.5 million to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) with a focus on women and girls. Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation elected in 2017, launched the policy “Investing in Global Prospects” in which sexual and reproductive health and rights continue to be a priority. UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, focusing on gender equality, is considered as a cross-cutting goal.

**NORWAY:** Norway is historically a strong supporter of SRH/FP. To safeguard UNFPA’s global normative function and operations, Norway has increased its yearly core contribution to UNFPA by 25%, up to NOK 500 million (approx. €53 million). From 2018 onwards, Norway has also committed NOK 50 million (approximately €5 million) to directly fund UNFPA Supplies over the coming years. As part of its pledge to SheDecides, Norway will fund SRH/FP civil society organisations for a total of NOK 409 million (over €43.4 million) up to 2020, having allocated over a third of this amount in 2018. Finally, Norway remains a key supporter of the Global Financing Facility, having hosted a replenishment conference in November 2018.

**SWEDEN:** In 2018, the Government of Sweden increased its global SRH/FP support by SEK 380 million (€37 million). The increase includes an additional SEK 164 million (€16 million) in annual core contribution to UNFPA, amounting to a total core support of 739 million SEK (€72 million) in 2018. This makes Sweden the largest donor of core support to UNFPA and the second largest donor overall. 2018 also saw the expansion of Swedish support for UNESCO’s comprehensive sexuality education programme to include a further five countries. Around 58% of Sweden’s International Development Cooperation Agency’s development budget for health is estimated to be spent on SRH/FP.

**UK:** The UK continues to place a high priority on SRH/FP, enabling 14 million women and girls to use modern methods of FP between April 2018 and March 2019. In 2018, the government announced further funding to SRH/FP. This includes bilateral support to the Kenyan and Malawi governments, amounting to £86.1 (€92.3 million), in addition to a £200 million (around €223.6 million) flagship programme ‘WISH’, aiming at increasing access to FP in some of the world’s poorest countries. The UK’s Department for International Development has also announced an uplift to their programme with the Guttmacher Institute, bringing its current support to £13.6 million (€15.2 million).



## UPDATES ON POLICY CONTEXT FOR OTHER EUROPEAN DONORS

Other European donors, non FP2020 commitment makers, are promoting to a supportive SHR/FP policy environment:

**IRELAND:** The political and policy environment concerning SRH/FP continues to be positive in the country. In February 2019, the government launched ‘A Better World’, Ireland’s new policy for International Development, which strengthens the importance of gender equality and SRH/FP. Reflecting the 2018 constitutional change, the policy strongly signals that Ireland will take a proactive, rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health and work towards the fulfilment of sexual and reproductive rights. The policy includes a commitment to develop a new initiative on SRH/FP, although the details of this initiative have not yet been announced. The need to focus on SRH/FP in emergencies is also highlighted. There is no specific commitment to additional funding for SRH/FP, but the overall policy is to increase ODA to 0.7% of Gross National Income.

**SPAIN:** While Spain did not specifically pledge for FP2020, it continues to champion SRH/FP. In 2018, UNFPA core funding was reconfirmed and slightly increased, after restarting in 2017. Spain supported humanitarian programmes in Iraq, Palestine and Syria, which include SRH/FP, in addition to new funding to multilateral projects, including UNFPA Supplies, ‘We Decide’ and essential services on gender-based violence programmes.

**SWITZERLAND:** SRH/FP is a strategic goal of Switzerland’s Strategy on Gender Equality and Women’s Rights and a focus in the health area of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Switzerland financially translates this commitment by supporting international institutions and organisations. Despite some budget cuts, SRH/FP expenditures were protected in 2018.

C2030E [data dashboard](#) tracks European donor countries’ commitments for global development on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Countdown 2030 Europe is a group of 15 leading European NGOs working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). We advocate for increased European donor support and hold donors to account for their policy and funding commitments to achieve universal access to reproductive health and address the unmet need for family planning (FP).  
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