

EUROPEAN DONOR SUPPORT TO SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING

WITH A SPOTLIGHT ON SRHR

**TRENDS ANALYSIS 2020-2021
JANUARY 2022**


Countdown 2030
EUROPE

Advance human rights
Invest in family planning

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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 2020-2021¹.

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

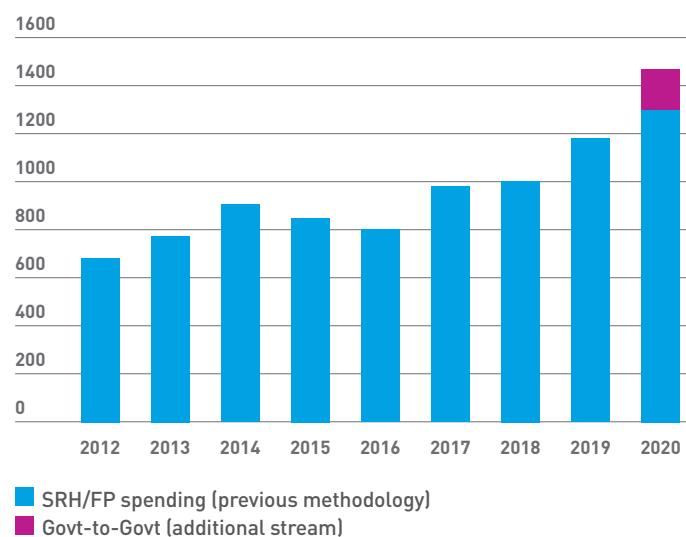
The period 2020-2021 was one of the most challenging in recent memory. COVID-19’s fierce sweep across the world has been demanding a bold response that simultaneously safeguards the health, social and economic gains achieved to date. The economic slowdown and financial strain created by this unprecedented global pandemic has stressed 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 the 25th anniversary of the ground-breaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+25).

Even before the pandemic, universal access to SRHR was far from being achieved: about 218 million women and girls in low-and-middle-income countries still had an unmet need for family planning (FP)². 2019 estimations also indicated that the annual FP funding gap had been growing, which is expected to reach 237 million Euros in 2025³. COVID-19 is likely to aggravate this funding gap and the unmet need for FP, be it due to strained health services or the lack of demand from end-users.

But there is some good news: recent data indicates that disruptions in FP services were less significant than initially foreseen. Even so, not even four months of disrupted services by the pandemic may have hampered access to FP of an estimated 12 million women in low- and middle-income countries, possibly leading to an estimated 1.4 million unintended pregnancies ([UNFPA, 2021](#)). And the effects of the pandemic are far from over, putting at continuous risk the disruption of access to life-saving health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the critical global challenges that cannot be tackled in silos by individual countries. Foreseeing the severe effects of the pandemic in developing contexts, movements have been calling for international solidarity and equality, including the centrality of SRHR therein. European governments have been responding to, joining and even leading these calls. This report shows that, instead of plunging contributions to SRH/FP in their international cooperation, European governments have in fact increased support in 2020: total disbursements to SRH/FP have increased over time, reaching a new maximum of 1.447 billion Euros in 2020 disbursed through all funding streams (core funding to multilaterals + project funding to multilaterals + funding to international organisations/initiatives/research + government-to-government cooperation).

FIGURE 1: VARIANCE OVER TIME OF OVERALL EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS' SUPPORT TO SRH/FP BETWEEN 2012-2020 (MILLION EUR)



1. Financial data presented in this report corresponds to 2020, while policy updates already reflect changes from 2021. The exceptions are the UK, whose reporting period refers to the financial year 2020-2021 (12 months). For more information, please see Annex 1.

2. Guttmacher Institute. *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019*. Available [here](#).

3. As per the 2019 Gap Analysis the annual FP funding gap will reach \$266m in 2025. Author: Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. Figures converted with exchange rate 1 EUR = 1,1234 USD. Available [here](#).

A GLIMPSE AT THE PREVIOUS C2030E METHODOLOGY

Figure 1 shows that European governments' support to SRH/FP increased over time also in line with the methodology applied in previous years, which excluded government-to-government cooperation (in pink): if only considering the other three funding streams, European support to SRH/FP reached 1.278 billion Euros in 2020 (identified in blue). This additional government-to-government funding stream is only accounted for starting in 2020. More details about the different methodologies can be found below.

2021 introduced another ground-breaking platform to reinstate support to the SRHR agenda: the Generation Equality Forum, which aimed to advance the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. European donors pledged new support to SRHR in that context, but it remains to be seen how central this agenda will remain in development budgets.

Even though official development assistance (ODA) has not fallen so far, it is important that European governments maintain and scale up their commitments. The first [public report from the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25 Follow-up](#) confirms that progress has been made, despite the fallout from the pandemic, but all in all the international community has fallen short of its ICPD+25 commitments.

This report analyses 2020 funding data and 2021 political stances adopted by twelve European governments and the EU institutions. As such, it assesses changes in SRH/FP funding pre- and post-pandemic for those specific donors and for the period at stake only - with other possible trends being observable only in the longer run. It also assesses, for the first time, European support to the broader SRHR agenda.

→ **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. Lastly,

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

THE NOVELTIES INTRODUCED BY THIS REPORT

What is measured: assessing also SRHR funding

For the first time, this report will assess European donors' funding going to SRHR, following a review of methodology. This new approach allows to measure other essential interventions in addition to SRH/FP, such as HIV investments – in line with the ICPD costed population package -, or initiatives that advance gender-responsiveness and bodily autonomy. Examples of these include broader responses to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) that go beyond SRH/FP, and other neglected areas of comprehensive SRHR, such as safe abortion or comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). To ensure focus, this new methodology excludes broader elements that can also support SRHR, such as large contributions to primary health care or nutrition. To be noted however that the methodology does not necessarily match donors' internal reporting, as some individual governments may detach investments on SRHR from those on HIV prevention and treatment or SGBV. Despite this new approach, European donors' support specifically to SRH/FP remains at the heart of this report, for comparability purposes with the methodology used in previous years. The measure related to SRHR funding is only available for 2020.

How it is measured: complementing the financial streams

For the first time, the report also considers what European donors contribute through government-to-government cooperation. This provides a more complete picture of European investments, and is now possible given increased transparency of governments' financial data. As this is a transition year, the report thus presents two sets of findings, to ensure comparability across time: those collected through the three assessed funding streams, as per the previous C2030E methodology (core multilateral funding + earmarked multilateral funding + international organisations / initiatives / research) and those that also include government-to-government support as a fourth stream. It must be noted that government-to-government funding data is only available for 2020.

Whose efforts are being measured: complementing the sample of European donors

Another novelty of this report is the inclusion of funding from EU institutions. This was previously subject to an independent publication, later in the calendar year, but timely access to EU financial data allows to include this donor in the collective analysis as of 2021. This was also done retroactively, so all general amounts indicated in this report since 2012 include contributions from the EU institutions.

To better depict all these trends, please check out the country profiles on our [website](#) that provide background for each country and the European Union.

POLICY TRENDS & HIGHLIGHTS

2020-21 SNAPSHOT



3 ELECTIONS



16 NEW POLICY DOCUMENTS

European donors continue to be vocal about the importance of SRHR in international development. Further to FP2020⁴, SheDecides⁵ and ICPD+25 pledges, all European donors made policy, and in some cases financial, commitments to SRHR in the context of the Generation Equality Forum.

THIS WAS POSSIBLE EVEN IN A YEAR OF POLITICAL CHANGE:

In 2021, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway held elections.

→ German federal elections in 2021 brought an end to the 16 year leadership of Angela Merkel on behalf of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Led by Social Democrat Olaf Scholz, the new government came into office in December and is composed of seven ministers from the Social Democrats (SPD), five Greens and four Free Democrats (FDP). The three-party coalition treaty confirms for the first time support to SRHR of women and girls in development cooperation.

→ The new Norwegian government elected identified women's bodily autonomy as one of six priority areas for Norwegian ODA in the upcoming period. In line with the new government's political platform Hurdalsplattformen, the country aims to strengthen Norwegian efforts, establish new alliances and increase support for family planning, contraception and safe abortions.

→ With elections scheduled for March, the Netherlands had an outgoing government most of 2021, since the incumbent administration resigned prematurely in January. In December 2021, a new four-party coalition was finally agreed under the continuous leadership of Mark Rutte. The new government has announced an increase of the country's ODA, but it is yet to be seen how this will impact investments on SRHR.

EUROPEAN VOICES FOR SRH/FP WITHIN THE BROADER DEVELOPMENT AREA

European countries and institutions remain vocal about prioritising SRH/FP and SRHR within the SDGs⁶. In 2021, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Spain carried out their Voluntary National

Reviews (VNRs), a regular follow-up of progress. All these countries' reports featured efforts in defending and promoting SRHR in development policy and in relation to human rights, healthcare and gender equality.

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). After years of difficult negotiations without outcome documents, the fifty-fourth session of CPD led to a consensus agreement that reaffirms the crucial importance of the Commission as the only UN intergovernmental body entrusted with the implementation and follow-up of the ICPD Programme of Action. Moreover, the sixty-fifth session of the CSW concluded with reaffirmed commitment to universal access to SRHR in line with the Programme of Action of ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

2021 marked the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25). After being postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19, the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) took place in 2021 with France as a co-host. This marked the country's political stance towards a feminist foreign policy. Together with Denmark, France co-led the action coalition on SRHR and Bodily Autonomy - one out of six multi-stakeholders coalitions for the GEF. It resulted in a bold outcome plan for progress based on four actionable axes: i) expand CSE; ii) increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of essential comprehensive contraception and abortion services; iii) increase SRHR decision-making & bodily autonomy; and iv) strengthen girls, women's and feminist organizations and networks to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR⁷.

Some other European donors have put themselves forward to lead on other action coalitions, in which SRHR was further leveraged, such as Technology and Innovation, Gender Based Violence and Economic Justice and Rights. The mainstreaming of SRHR as a key issue in the different coalitions, not just in terms of good practices but also commitments, was supported through civil society representatives, including the Countdown 2030 Europe Consortium.

4. FP2020 is an outcome of the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning where more than 60 governments made commitments to address the policy, financing, delivery and socio-cultural barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies. Another Landmark Family Planning Summit took place in 2017 and reinforced these commitments at the global level.

5. 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.

6. 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](#).

7. For more information about the GEF Global Acceleration Plan, please consult [here](#).

EUROPEAN SRH/FP POLICIES

16 NEW EUROPEAN POLICY DOCUMENTS THAT INCLUDE COMMITMENTS TO SRH/FP WERE ENDORSED DURING THE ANALYSED PERIOD.

BELGIUM NOTE ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Adopted still in 2020, and to complement the specific COVID-19 response on integrated health care, this note included a dedicated section on SRHR promotion and protection.

FRANCE NEW NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW

The French new National Development Law adopted in August 2021, committed to a feminist diplomacy and to advance gender equality. It also includes free and equal access to SRH/FP as one of the priorities for French development policies, with a specific indicator on modern contraception.

SWITZERLAND GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK (2021-2024)

SRH/FP are included as contributors to several outcomes of this new programme framework.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND TEAM EUROPE

EU Member States adopted Council Conclusions on strengthening Team Europe's commitment to Human Development, a first position of the kind, and on Team Europe, both of which reiterate the importance of SRHR to achieve gender equality and human development.

DENMARK NEW STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Women and girls' rights, including SRH/FP, are mainstreamed across actions in Denmark's new Strategy for Development Cooperation "The World We Share".

NORWAY PARTNER COUNTRY STRATEGIES

The Norwegian government adopted 16 Partner Country strategies for bilateral development cooperation for 2021-2023. SRHR is highlighted/prioritized in several of the strategies.

UK GIRLS' EDUCATION ACTION PLAN (2021-2026)

This new plan adopted in 2021 includes a policy commitment to FP2030.

ENDING PREVENTABLE DEATHS OF MOTHERS, BABIES AND CHILDREN BY 2030

This new approach paper, launched in December 2021, includes a pillar on 'Human rights, gender and equality' which places an emphasis on accelerating progress on SRHR as central to ending the preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children.

OTHER RELEVANT LANDMARKS, MORE FOCUSED ON PROGRAMMING, INCLUDE:

THE NETHERLANDS

SRHR have been further included in the 2019 Subsidy Framework for 2020-2025, through an SRHR Partnership fund for a total of 315 million Euros

EU INSTITUTIONS

A specific Team Europe Initiative on SRHR in Sub-Saharan Africa was developed in 2021, with the support of the EU, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

FINLAND AFRICA STRATEGY

SRHR are one of the key thematic areas of the newly adopted Finnish Africa strategy (2021), which frames cooperation with African countries, the African Union and regional organisations.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY ACROSS PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

The new Report adopted in 2021 states that one of the main goals of Finland's development cooperation is promoting the rights of women and girls, including SRH/FP.

SPAIN FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

The new Spanish Feminist Foreign Policy explicitly commits to incorporate gender equality as a distinctive element of its foreign policy and includes a focus on promoting SRHR, including in humanitarian contexts.

EU INSTITUTIONS, NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT (INDICI) - GLOBAL EUROPE

Approved in 2021, the regulation for the new EU multiannual funding instrument (2021-2027) includes commitment to SRHR.

SWEDEN GEOGRAPHIC STRATEGIES

The Swedish government adopted seven geographic strategies with a specific focus on SRHR: for Latin America, Asia and Oceania, Afghanistan, Bolivia and Liberia (2021); and Kenya and Tanzania (late 2020).

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

For the first time, it includes strong language in support of SRHR.

POLITICAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EU AND THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

As a successor of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, this new legal basis includes the promotion of SRHR in its foundation, as well as in regional protocols signed with each specific region.

The overview of these new policies reflects European donors' continuous focus on the inclusion of SRHR in their development plans, including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in humanitarian settings and fragile states. This latter aspect is well reflected in funding trends, as shown in the following section.

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 (ADAPTED): 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, this report will also include this fourth stream in its findings, presenting both datasets for comparability purposes across time.

2. DONORS' SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF ODA (NEW): The new methodology will also include as an indicator the percentage of donors' spending on SRH/FP and SRHR as part of its annual ODA. This will allow for a more enriched depiction of cross-country and cross-years comparison of the political weight attributed to the SRHR agenda.

3. MULTILATERAL FUNDING (SAME): This indicator presents core funding going towards SRH/FP (% of FP and RH funding for specific multilaterals provided by NIDI) and SRHR (complemented by other multilaterals that go beyond SRH/FP), plus all earmarked multilateral funding.

4. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFPA (SAME): 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 Programme/Partnership. This measure of funding to UNFPA is seen as a robust proxy measure for tracking funding to SRH/FP and SRHR.

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

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS' SUPPORT IN 2020		
OVERALL FUNDING TO SRH/FP	Including government-to-government in 2020	11 countries reporting an increase
	1 447 039 773 Euros	1 country with funding sustained
		1 country reporting a decrease
	Excluding government-to-government	8 countries reporting an increase
	1 278 428 559 Euros	2 countries with funding sustained
		3 countries reporting a decrease
OVERALL FUNDING TO SRHR	2 614 235 750 Euros	No comparability
FUNDING TO UNFPA SUPPORTING SRH/FP	582 390 631 Euros	4 countries reporting an increase
		3 countries with funding sustained
		6 countries reporting a decrease
FUNDING TO UNFPA SUPPORTING SRHR	617 458 055 Euros	No comparability

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

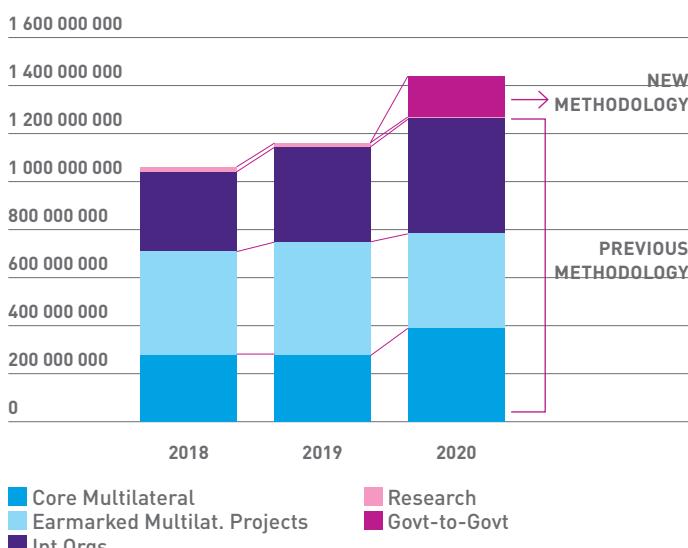
EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING THROUGH ALL STREAMS

FUNDING FOR SRH/FP



In 2020, European donors contributed a total of **1.447 billion Euros** to SRH/FP. Such substantial increase partially derives from the new C2030E methodology, which adds government-to-government support to the three funding streams previously accounted for.

FIGURE 2 EUROPEAN DONORS' SUPPORT TO SRH/FP



As showed 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 0.5% of total European funding of SRH/FP.

Starting this year, the government-to-government cooperation has been included in the new methodology to ensure a closer depiction of reality, since some donors prioritise this stream, deemed more appropriate to address SRH/FP through health systems strengthening or to increase the involvement of partner countries in reinforcing positive gender norms⁹. Examples of European countries that substantially rely on this channel to invest on SRH/FP are Belgium and France¹⁰.

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

INCREASED LEVELS: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, EU institutions increased their funding. The biggest nominal increase came from the Netherlands, by over 106 million Euros, followed by the EU institutions, with more than 53 million Euros. In both cases, this increased amount was also due to both an expanded list of international organisations and initiatives and government-to-government co-operation of the new methodology.

MAINTAINED LEVELS¹¹: Norway sustained the 2019 level of funding. The drop in support to the multilateral system (core and earmarked) was compensated by larger contributions to international organisations and initiatives, including the Global Financial Facility.

DECREASED LEVELS: The UK curtailed funding levels for SRH/FP by 348 million Euros.

A GLIMPSE AT THE PREVIOUS C2030E METHODOLOGY

If government-to-government cooperation is excluded from this analysis, and only the three main funding streams are considered, in line with the previous C2030E methodology, European funding to SRH/FP has increased by 10% or 110.5 million Euros compared to the previous year (see Figure 2), amounting to 1.278 billion Euros in 2020. In this case, findings at the individual country level have also slightly differed: increasing trends have changed for France, who have instead sustained the funding level, and for Belgium and Denmark, who have decreased their SRH/FP contributions. Moreover, while keeping the same trends, the EU institutions, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Ireland have increased their funding with a different ratio, while the UK has decreased support with a higher percentage. Finally, findings around Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden were not affected by the change of methodology, since these donors either do not traditionally channel SRH/FP funding through government-to-government support or don't make respective data accessible (Germany as a case in point).

9. More information about this position is available in C2030E consultation 'Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Beyond 2020: a European Vision' available [here](#).

10. Germany's commitment to allocate 100 million Euros annually for the BMZ Initiative on Rights-based Family Planning and Maternal Health until 2023 should also be registered under this channel; however, there is no available information about these disbursements at the time of writing. For more detailed information, please refer to [the country pages](#).

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

Figure 3 here bellow, illustrates how European donors supported SRH/FP in 2020, considering all funding streams (core funding + earmarked multilateral programmes + international organisations and initiatives and research + government-to-government support).

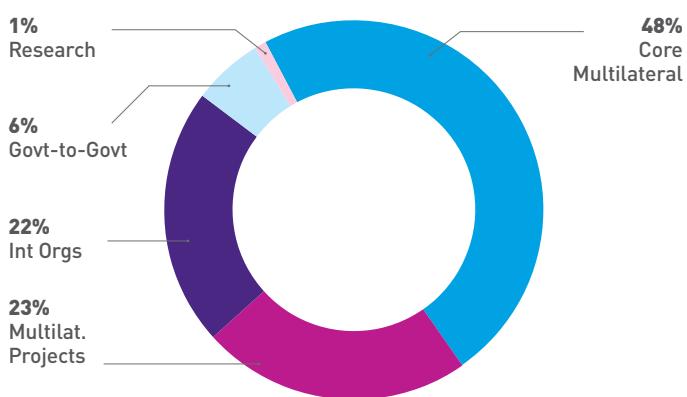
Further details regarding countries' individual trends over time can be found in the respective country pages which can be found [here](#).

FUNDING FOR SRHR

As 2021 is the first year of data collection for European funding benefitting SRHR¹², it is not possible to establish a comparison between periods.

Data collected by the C2030E Consortium indicates that in 2020 European donors contributed **2.614 billion Euros** to SRHR. This includes the 1.447 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 2020. Once more, multilateral funding is the biggest share of this type of investments, given the broader scope of UN agencies, but also the contributions to the GFATM and its focus on HIV, which play a big role in this overall disbursement. Conversely, research is the least used stream by European governments, amounting to 1% of total SRHR funding only.

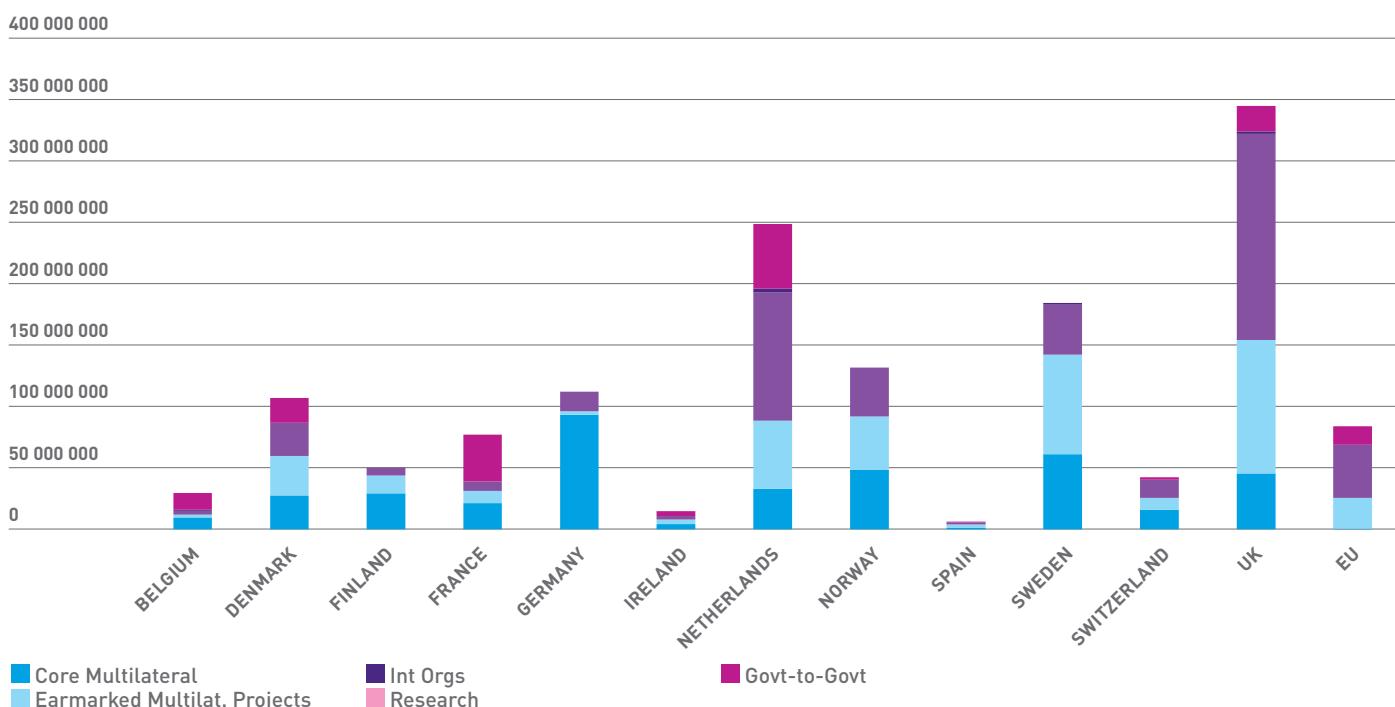
FIGURE 4 DISTRIBUTION OF EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING TO SRHR PER STREAM IN 2020



Analysis of individual contributions confirm European donors tend to invest on integrated approaches to SRHR, as per the **Guttmacher-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 picture of investments.

In 2020, the UK remained the largest contributor in absolute terms to both SRH/FP and SRHR –despite the curtailed support compared to 2019 –; the Netherlands is the second leading contributor to SRH/FP, while Germany is the second contributor to SRHR.

FIGURE 3 INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN DONOR SUPPORT TO SRH/FP IN 2020



12. In line with the new C2030E methodology, the report considers the following essential interventions as part of SRHR, in addition to SRH/FP: HIV/AIDS and other STIs, in line with ICPD costed package; prevention and integrated responses to SGBV; CSE; initiatives specifically targeting LGBTIQ+ people; safe abortion; other initiatives to foster human rights-based, gender-responsiveness, intersectionality and change of social norms in relation to SRH/FP. To be noted however that the methodology does not necessarily match donors' internal reporting. More information can be found in the methodology annex.

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

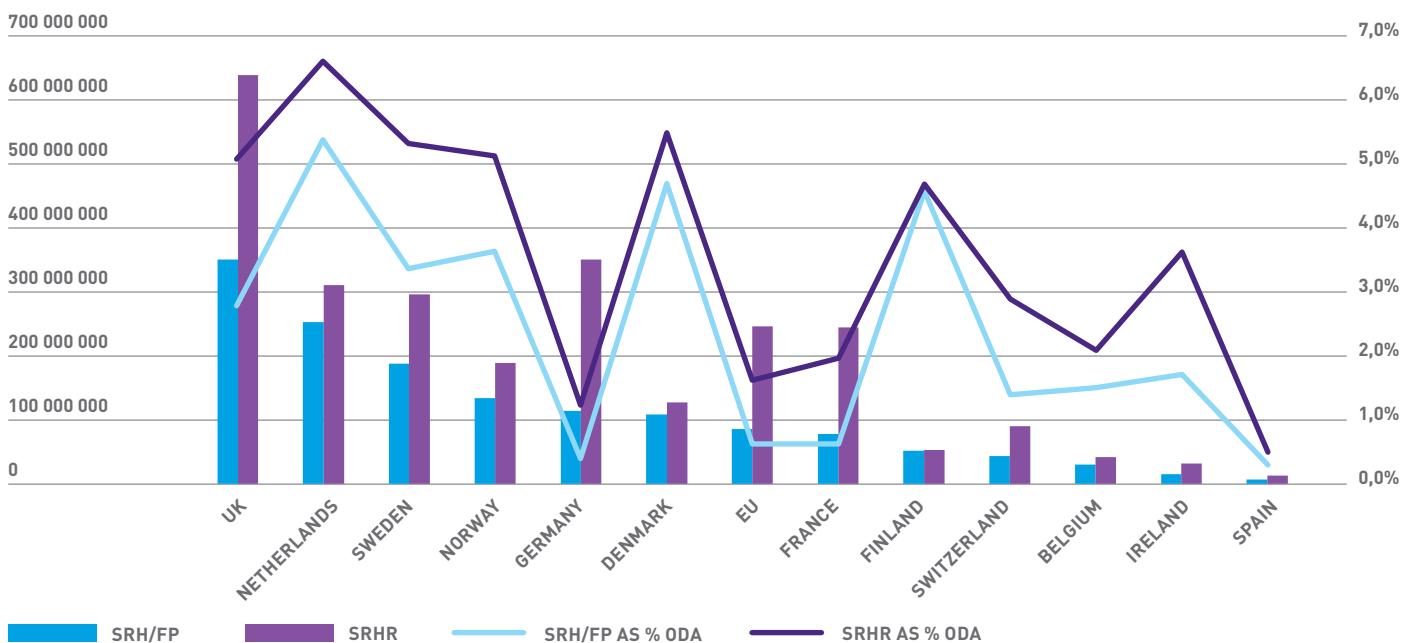
While the analysis of European funding in nominal value is always revealing, it is also useful to understand how much these amounts represent as a share of countries' annual ODA. Individual European donors allocate between 0.3 - 5.3% of their ODA to SRH/FP and between 0.5 – 6.6% to SRHR. In both cases, the Netherlands emerges as the donor that allocates the biggest share of its ODA to both areas, followed by Denmark. It is possible to conclude that there is room to scale up the weight of both SRH/FP and SRHR as a share of ODA. This is particularly relevant when considering donors' increased efforts to promote more integrated approaches in their development cooperation: as recognised on numerous occasions, this last decade to deliver the SDGs requires working across sectors to reach interdependent achievements on development and SRHR¹³.

The table on the right provides also 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, only Germany is considered to have a 'poor' standard. It is paramount that European governments improve respective level of transparency as an important principle of the development 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.

	SRH/FP as % ODA	SRHR as % ODA
Country - Ranked by SRH/FP as % ODA		
NETHERLANDS	5,3%	6,6%
DENMARK	4,7%	5,4%
FINLAND	4,5%	4,7%
NORWAY	3,6%	5,1%
SWEDEN	3,3%	5,3%
UK	2,8%	5,0%
IRELAND	1,7%	3,6%
BELGIUM	1,5%	2,1%
SWITZERLAND	1,4%	2,9%
FRANCE	0,6%	2,0%
EU	0,6%	1,6%
GERMANY	0,4%	1,2%
SPAIN	0,3%	0,5%

LEVEL OF ODA TRANSPARENCY			
VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Sweden	Belgium	Denmark	Germany
UK	France	Finland	
	Netherlands	Ireland	
		Switzerland	
		Norway	
	EU	Spain	

FIGURE 5 EUROPEAN DONORS FUNDING TO SRH/ AND SRHR - ABSOLUTE FIGURES AND % OF ODA



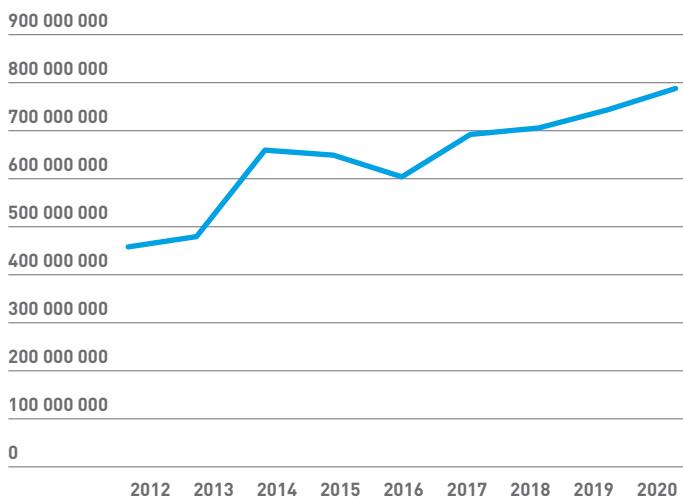
13. Vide footnote 9, on C2030E consultation on a European Vision for SRHR Beyond 2020.

EUROPEAN DONORS' MULTILATERAL FUNDING

FUNDING FOR SRH/FP

As seen above, the multilateral system continued to be a significant stream for European donors' support to SRH/FP, consisting both of core funding and earmarked programmes. 2020 is no exception to 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: in 2020, European donors disbursed almost 791 million Euros through multilateral funding, which is almost sustaining the same levels as in the previous year¹⁴.

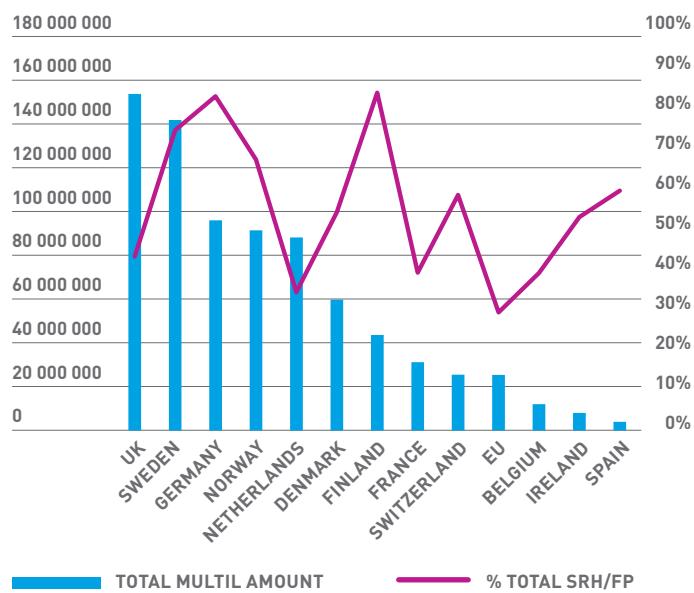
FIGURE 6 EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING OF SRH/FP THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM



Throughout 2020, several European countries increased their contributions to the multilateral system as part of their response to COVID-19. Given countries' unequal capacities to respond to the fallout from the pandemic, the multilateral system became an important actor to respond to the crisis¹⁵. There were nonetheless some countries that decreased multilateral support, namely the UK (-61%), due to a change of UNFPA support, as above mentioned, followed by Belgium (-14%), following the country's decision to implement SheDecides initiatives mainly through government-to-government cooperation. This trend of decreased multilateral support was also followed by Norway (-8%) and the Netherlands (-7%).

European countries' use of the multilateral system varies significantly among countries. The UK is the country that in absolute terms mostly contributed to SRH/FP through the multilateral system in 2020 (156 million Euros). In relative terms, Finland was the one that mostly relied on it, with 87% of its total contribution to SRH/FP being channelled through the multilateral system. Finland is followed by Germany (86%¹⁶) and Sweden (77%), while the EU institutions (30%) and the Netherlands (36%) resorted the least to this stream to support SRH/FP in relative terms – and even though the latter remained one of the top five donors to the multilateral system in 2020.

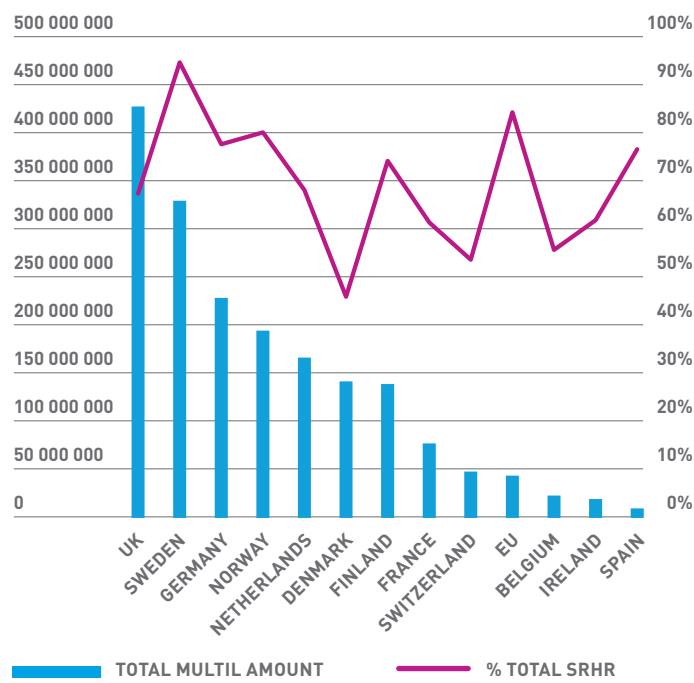
FIGURE 7 EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL DONOR SPENDING ON SRH/FP THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM IN 2020



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 1.865 billion Euros in 2020 through this stream, equivalent of 71% of their total spending on SRHR.

FIGURE 8 EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL DONOR SPENDING ON SRHR THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM IN 2020



14. To be noted that this sustained level is due to the re-inclusion of the GFATM in core multilateral funding in 2020, hence offsetting cuts to UNFPA.

15. Preliminary data on global ODA allocated to individual projects in 2020 seems to indicate this trend – and despite the US temporary retreat of support to organisations such as WHO.

16. The assessment of Germany's use of the multilateral system to support SRH/FP is based on available data for this report only; the inclusion of funding through government-to-government, inaccessible at the time of writing, could change this finding.

In absolute terms, the UK remains the country with the largest contributions. Other donors also rank relatively high in their expenditure towards SRHR, compared to their same level of contributions to SRH/FP within the multilateral system. Such difference is due to multilateral initiatives that promote, protect and invest in key SRHR interventions that go beyond SRH/FP¹⁷. This is the specific case of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (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 France and Germany. 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.

EUROPEAN DONORS' FUNDING TO UNFPA

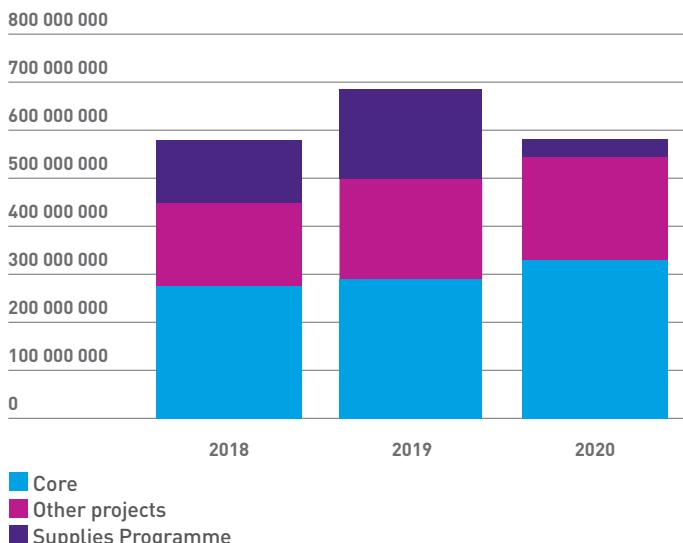
FUNDING TO SRH/FP



This indicator combines European donors' contributions as core funding to UNFPA, UNFPA project funding and contributions to the Supplies Programme - or Partnership, starting in 2021.

In 2020, European donors provided more than **582 million Euros** to UNFPA in support of SRH/FP, which is 98 million Euros or **14% less** than in the previous year and equivalent to 0.7% of European ODA going to this UN agency. Although core funding and support to earmarked programmes increased in this period, this boost was not enough to offset the decreased contributions to the Supplies Programme. A significant part of that increased number of programmes is a result of additional funds allocated to the COVID-19 response. Core funding remained nonetheless the largest contribution to the agency from European donors.

FIGURE 9 EUROPEAN DONORS SUPPORT TO UNFPA - SRH/FP



European funding for UNFPA Supplies in 2020 amounted to 43 million Euros, which represented a decrease of 75% compared to 2019. This is namely due to curtailed support from the UK: to be noted however that the UK had two grants running concurrently in 2019, to cover a new phase of the programme, leading to a peak of this country's contributions that year. This was also the first year that Germany contributed to the programme, while new contributions are expected in 2022, namely from France.

When analysing individual contributions to UNFPA (core funding + earmarked projects + Supplies programme), a mixed picture is in place:



INCREASED LEVELS: Germany (113%), Finland (72%), Sweden (12%) and Ireland (6%). The most notable increases in monetary terms came from Germany, amounting to almost 39 million Euros.



MAINTAINED LEVELS¹⁸: Spain, Switzerland and the EU maintained 2019 levels of funding. Although Spain doubled its contribution to the UNFPA Supplies Programme, this increase was not enough to observe change in nominal values. The same was observed with the EU institutions: the expansion of supported earmarked programmes was offset by the lack of disbursement to the Supplies Programme, as respective multiannual pledge came to an end in 2019.



DECREASED LEVELS: The UK (-63%), Norway (-23%), Belgium (-13%), the Netherlands (-10%), France (-8%) and Denmark (-7%) decreased their funding to UNFPA. This represents 98 million Euros less than what was funded in 2019. In 2020, the UK paid only 5.7 million Euros to the UNFPA Supplies Programme, which is the country's lowest contribution to the programme since at least 2012. Despite these overall decreases in 2020, Denmark was the largest European contributor to UNFPA Supplies, with 15 million Euros provided, followed by 12.5 million Euros from the Netherlands. To be noted that new multi-annual pledges were made by The Netherlands regarding contributions to UNFPA, while the country will disburse an additional amount to the Supplies Partnership early 2021, originally forecasted for 2020. Denmark's enhanced support to earmarked programmes was not enough to offset the reduction in core funding to the agency.

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.

FUNDING TO SRHR

As 2021 is the first year of data collection for European funding to UNFPA benefitting SRHR, it is not possible to establish a comparison between periods.

In 2020, European governments spent almost **617.5 million Euros** on SRHR channelled through UNFPA. As with SRH/FP, most European funding to the agency benefitting SRHR was channelled as core funding, followed by earmarked programmes. In this latter category, several new programmes focused on preventing and responding to SGBV (beyond SRH/FP) or on changing social norms and removing gender stereotypes.

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 the UK, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and Ireland.

FIGURE 10 EUROPEAN DONORS' SUPPORT TO UNFPA - SRHR

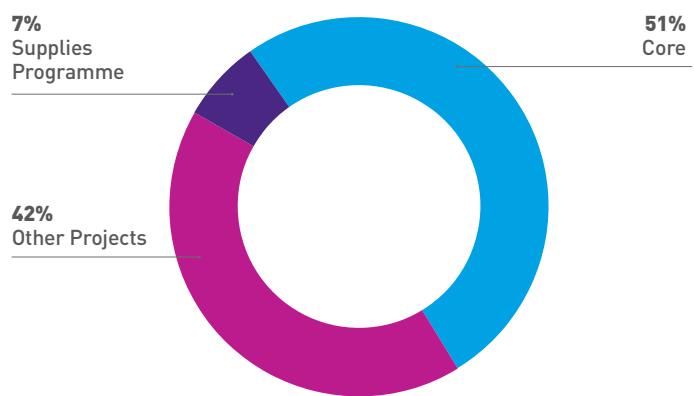
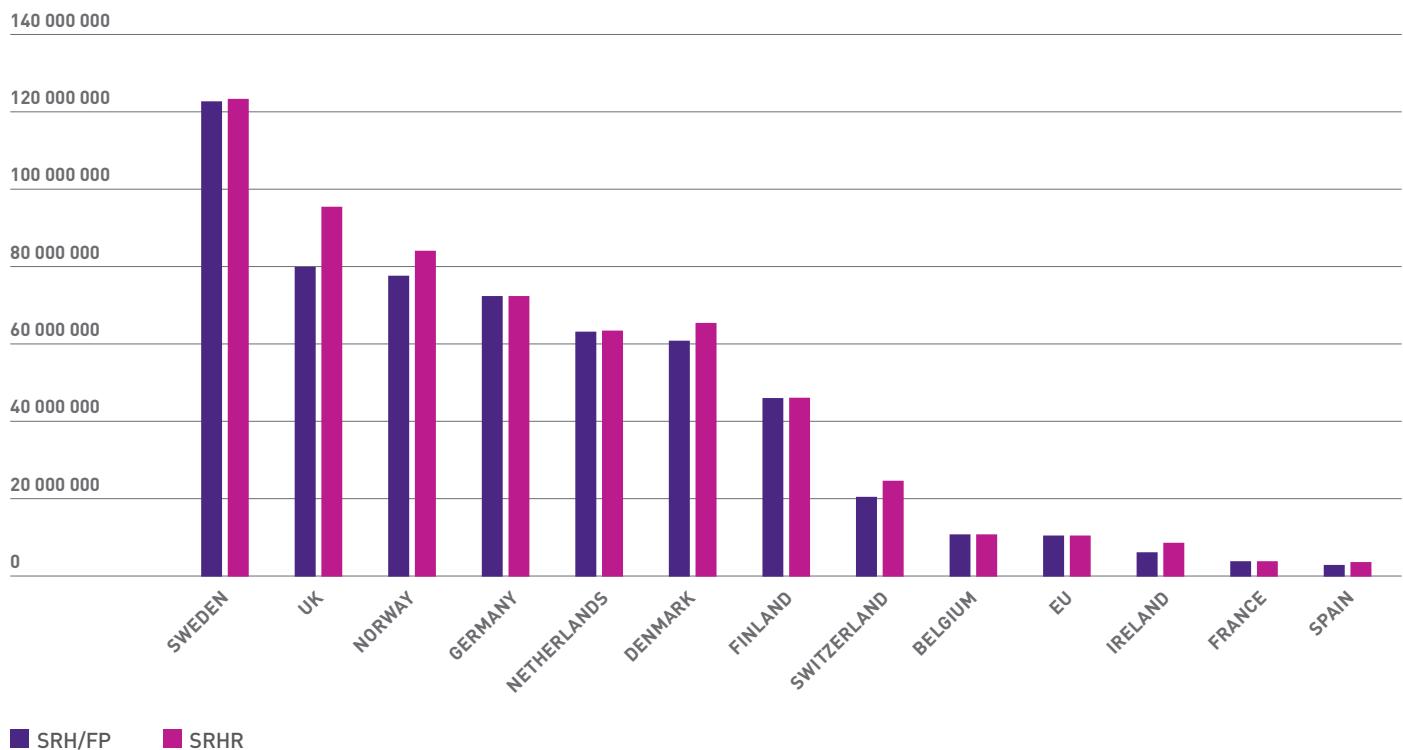


FIGURE 11 EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL DONOR SUPPORT TO UNFPA IN 2020



HOW SRHR IS EMBEDDED IN OTHER EUROPEAN DONORS' PRIORITIES

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

Investing in robust health systems, which are a pre-requisite for 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 to advance SRH/FP and vice-versa. Several European donors' investments in SRHR in 2020 are directly related to the six building blocks of health systems strengthening (HSS):



HEALTH WORKFORCE

Sweden and the UK contributed to UNFPA's midwifery programme in Bangladesh, while Germany supported the training of midwives through UNFPA's Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund.



HEALTH INFORMATION

Sweden supported statistics population in Liberia.



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK and the EU supported the Global Financing Facility, which contributes to partner countries' health leadership and governance.



HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

Ireland supported the UN Joint Programme on GBV, which includes the creation of one-stop centres for integrated responses to SGBV survivors.



HEALTH FINANCING

The EU financially supported the implementation of Egypt's National Population Strategy.



ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the UK supported the UNFPA Supplies Programme. France's support to UNITAID helped generating guidance for the use of medicines preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



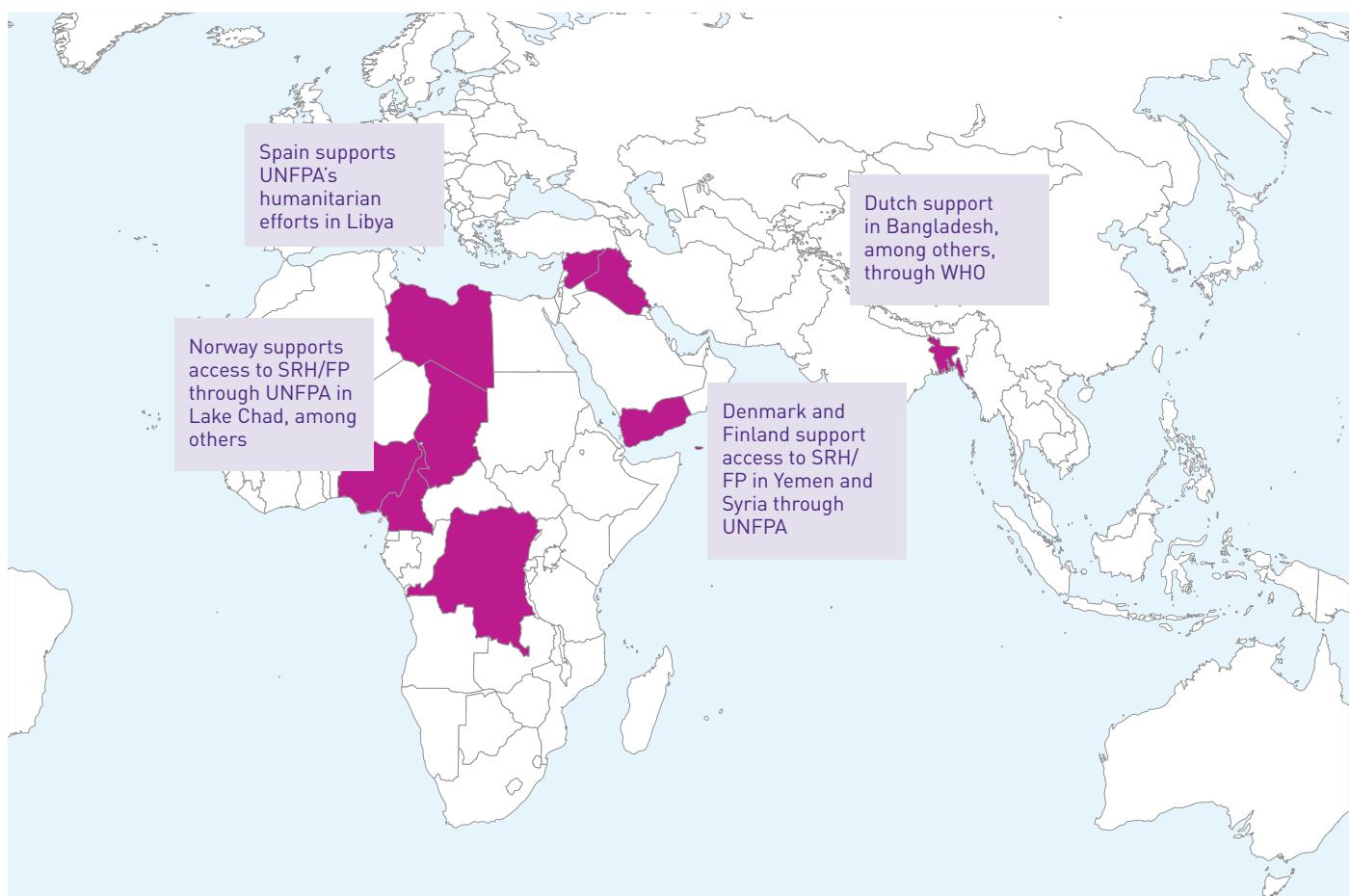
BROAD INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

Belgium supported HSS through PSI in Mozambique, while Switzerland did the same in Tanzania and the UK in Zimbabwe through UNFPA.

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

SRHR ACUTE NEEDS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Today, about 35 million women of reproductive age are estimated to need humanitarian assistance (UNFPA, 2020). As women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, countries recognised the importance of SRH services in humanitarian crises already in 1994 at ICPD. Given the current high levels of displaced people, European donors have hence invested in ensuring access to SRH/FP and preventing and responding to SGBV in humanitarian contexts²⁰. This support is mostly channelled through the multilateral system, for example through UNFPA and its Humanitarian Thematic Fund, supported by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Spain, or WHO's programme on Delivering SRHR, supported by the Netherlands.



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

LOOKING AHEAD

C2030E applauds the significant increase of European financial contributions to SRH/FP, as well as efforts to ensure that SRHR are integrated in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is however important to ensure that this increased attention to the SRHR agenda is not only time-bound, given the exceptional need for a robust response to the pandemic, but rather kept as the 'new normal'.

2021 brought in some good news: at the Generation Equality Forum, European governments reaffirmed their support to SRHR, with a collective financial pledge of 733 million Euros, in addition to 471 million Euros to the fight against GBV. Even though these pledges are commendable, it is critical to bear in mind that not all of this is additional funding, but rather extension of previous commitments. The Consortium will continue to monitor the volume of these funds and ensure governments are held accountable on their pledges, not just in the context of the GEF but also in relation to other vital commitments, such as those deriving from the Nairobi Summit, FP2020 and the SheDecides movement.

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

- **BELGIUM** SRHR ODA expected to increase
- **DENMARK** SRHR ODA expected to increase
- **FINLAND** SRHR ODA expected to be at least sustained until 2023, by when it should decrease
- **FRANCE** contributions to at least some of the channels for SRHR ODA will increase
- **GERMANY** SRHR ODA might go back to pre-COVID-19 levels
- **IRELAND** potential for SRHR ODA to increase in line with the overall increase in assistance in 2022
- **THE NETHERLANDS** SRHR ODA will be sustained
- **NORWAY** SRHR ODA expected to slightly rise to compensate for the delay in 2020
- **SPAIN** SRHR ODA might increase as the progressive government committed to a feminist foreign approach
- **SWEDEN** SRHR ODA expected to be at least sustained
- **SWITZERLAND** SRHR ODA expected to be at least sustained
- **UK** SRHR ODA expected to decrease
- **EU INSTITUTIONS** SRHR ODA expected to be at least sustained

2022 will also offer new opportunities to maintain or scale up European support to SRHR: FP2030, the successor of the FP2020 partnership, has been launched at the end of 2021 and will come into place, while the Netherlands and Switzerland will be going through the process of Voluntary National Review of progress related to the SDGs. Unsurprisingly, the theme of the 2022 High-Level Political Forum will once again be focused on *building back better* from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the SDGs, with a focus on SDG 4, Education, and SDG 5, Gender equality.

These are both great opportunities to take stock of how financing SRHR is life-saving, and even more so in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. If SRHR are not effectively integrated in donors' answers, acute needs that persisted in low-and-middle income countries even before the COVID-19 outbreak may significantly worsen in the future. 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 level.

European donors have a key role to play in promoting universal access to SRHR. Efforts of these supportive European governments have shown that it is possible to scale up support to SRHR in times of crisis; this level of investment should be at a minimum sustained and considered a 'new normal', rather than an exceptional response to a crisis.

Going forward, advocacy will be key in maintaining this momentum and ensuring a continued focus on the critical importance of SRHR. Given this scenario, the C2030E Consortium is committed to continue its role in encouraging multi-year pledges sustaining and/or increasing investments, whilst ensuring accountability by tracking expenditures of and policy commitments to SRHR.

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 NIDI UNFPA 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 SO FAR?

- 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, using the proportions that used to be updated annually or biannually from a NIDI questionnaire to multilateral organisations. The overall percentages presented by C2030E have 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. To be noted that the current report uses percentages collected in reference to 2019.
- **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 these types of aid.
- 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.

WHAT CHANGES WITH THIS REPORT AND 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 Guttmacher-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
- Initiatives specifically targeting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer (LGBTIQ+) persons
- Safe abortion
- Other initiatives to foster human rights-based, gender-responsiveness, 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 and UN Women. 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. 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 (with 300.000 Euros per project as an indicative threshold).

As these streams are an adaptation from previous versions, hence hampering comparability, the current report provides findings from both sets of data: with and without these changes.

→ 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 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.

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