



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

**The Elsie
Initiative Fund**
for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations



Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations¹

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2020

Global Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)

Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number: EIF00

Programme Duration – 60 months

Start Date: 21 March 2019 (Memorandum of Understanding)

End Date: 31 March 2024

Contact person: Ms Deborah Warren-Smith

Manager, Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations

deborah.warren-smith@unwomen.org

Elsie Initiative Fund Secretariat

UN Women

220 East 42nd Street New York

NY 10017

¹ Elsie Initiative Fund Terms of Reference (TOR): <http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/21189>

CONTRIBUTORS



AUSTRALIA, Government of



CANADA, Government of



FINLAND, Government of



GERMANY, Government of



UNITED KINGDOM, Government of

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

A4P	Action for Peacekeeping
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCAF	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
DPO	Department of Peace Operations
EIF	Elsie Initiative Fund
EOSG	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
FPU	Formed Police Units
GSU	Gender Strong Unit
IPO	Individual Police Officer
LOI	Letter(s) of Interest
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MO	Military Observer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWIP	Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations
MPTF Office	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OMA	Office of Military Affairs
PCC	Police Contributing Country
PCRS	Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System
PD	Police Division
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organization
SAA	Standard Administrative Arrangement
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SO	Staff Officer (Military)
TC	Technical Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
TCC	Troop Contributing Country
T/PCC	Troop / Police Contributing Country
UGPS	United Nations Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
US\$	United States Dollar - all financial figures in this report are in US\$
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

DEFINITIONS

ALLOCATION

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

APPROVED PROJECT/PROGRAMME

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

CONTRIBUTOR COMMITMENT

Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

CONTRIBUTOR DEPOSIT

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

DELIVERY RATE

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'.

INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs.

NET FUNDED AMOUNT

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

PROJECT FINANCIAL CLOSURE

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

PROJECT OPERATIONAL CLOSURE

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

PROJECT START DATE

Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organization.

TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US DOLLAR AMOUNT

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

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Executive Summary

The Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations (EIF), a United Nations Trust Fund established with the support of Canada's Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations (Elsie Initiative)², was launched on 28 March 2019. The EIF is one component of Canada's broader Elsie Initiative and is specifically designed to provide financial contributions and help achieve the broader objectives of the Elsie Initiative, namely developing, applying and testing approaches to overcome barriers to increasing women's meaningful participation in United Nations peace operations.

The EIF was designed together with Member States, the United Nations system, and peacekeeping experts to support the increased deployment of uniformed women in military and police roles to United Nations peace operations and will operate for a limited period of five years - renewable. The EIF Secretariat is proudly hosted by UN Women, and continues to be an important step in encouraging and funding innovation to accelerate the pace of change in military and police institutions, to enable more uniformed women to deploy to and meaningfully participate in peace operations.



UN Photo

² https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/elsie_initiative-initiative_elsie.aspx?lang=eng

The EIF is able to provide financial support through two funding modalities: flexible project funding to undertake a range of projects including the conduct of a credible national barrier assessment such as the DCAF – the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance ‘Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations’ (MOWIP) Barrier Assessment methodology, or an equivalent methodology; and the Gender Strong Unit (GSU) premium³. Appendix 1 of the EIF Terms of Reference (TOR) details the criteria required for a credible Barrier Assessment.

The first programming round commenced on 28 June 2019 with a Call for Letters of Interest (LOI) due by 1 October 2019. The response was overwhelmingly positive with a total of 36 LOI received from 18 Troop and Police contributing countries (T/PCCs) and six LOI from four United Nations organizations. Six T/PCCs and one United Nations organization were invited to develop and submit a detailed project proposal for technical review by April 2020; the remaining T/PCCs were invited to submit an LOI to conduct a Barrier Assessment—a total commitment and allocation of between US \$8-12M from the EIF in the first programming round.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, T/PCC security organizations, alongside medical professionals and other first responders were mobilized to fulfill a broad range of domestic public safety and security requirements. Taking this into consideration, the original April 2020 deadline was extended.

Fundraising efforts in 2020 yielded positive results and included a total of \$5.8M in new contributions from three Member States—two existing donors, Canada and the UK—and one new donor, Australia. This brings the total amount of contributions, commitments and pledges raised to date to \$26.5M, just over half of the initial target of \$40 M set to operate the EIF.

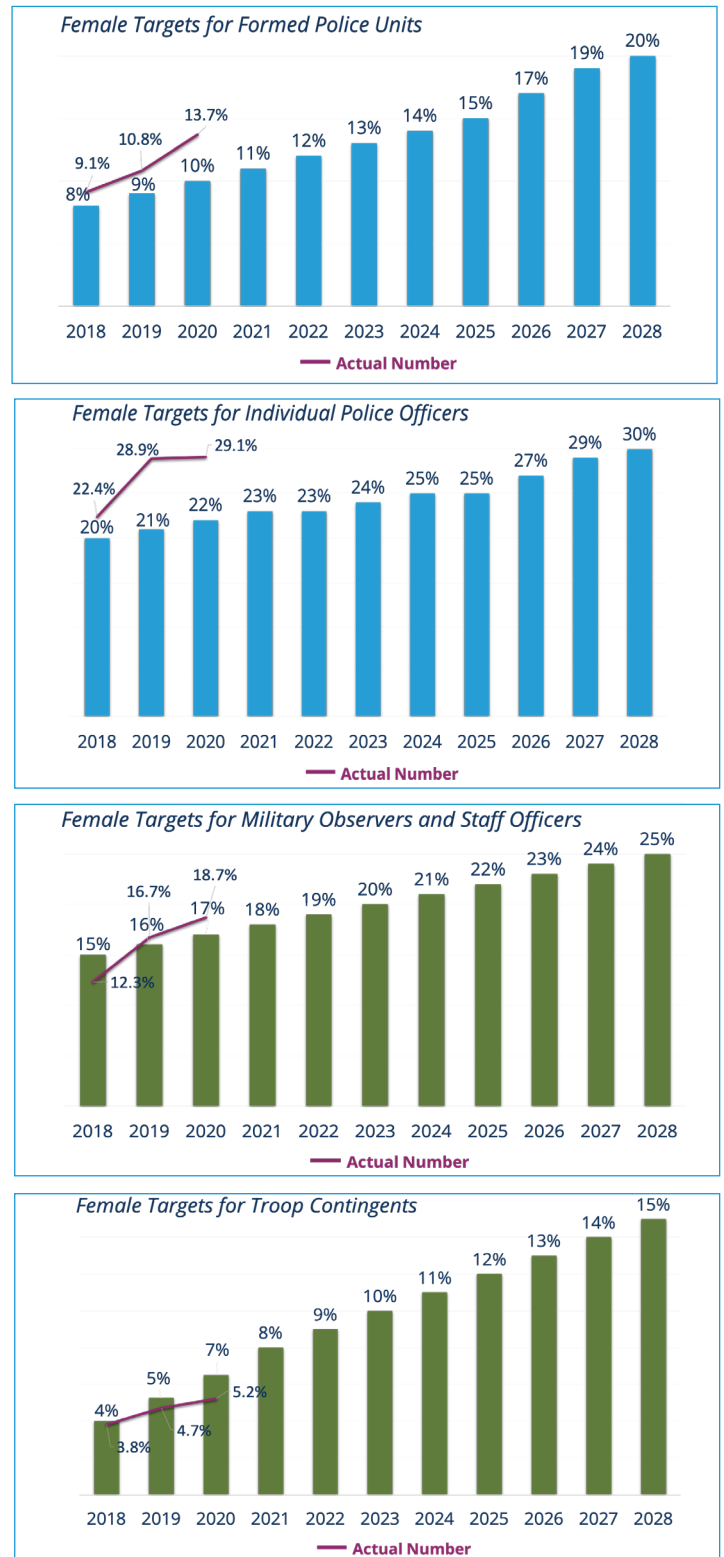
³ A gender-strong unit is defined in the EIF TOR as a unit that includes substantial representation of women overall and in positions of authority, has provided gender-equity training to all unit members, and has adequate materiel to ensure parity of deployment conditions for women and men peacekeepers. At a minimum, the percentages of women must exceed the targets set out in the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028 (UGPS) by 5 percentage points.

I. Purpose

The EIF seeks to “accelerate the pace of change towards the increased meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations peace operations,” though this cannot be achieved by the EIF alone.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment are integral to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, despite (i) acknowledgement of the importance of women’s full participation in peace and security in the ten United Nations Security Council resolutions (SCR) on women, peace and security (WPS) – the WPS agenda, (ii) the importance of the full, equal and meaningful role that uniformed women play in peace operations highlighted in SCRs 1325 (2000), 2242 (2015), 2436 (2018), (iii) the recent peacekeeping thematic resolution 2538 (2020) that encourages Member States to develop strategies and measures to increase the deployment of uniformed women to peacekeeping operations, (iv) the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO) Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028⁴ (UGPS), and (v) the 2019 United Nations Action for Peacekeeping⁵ (A4P), global progress to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peacekeeping has been too slow, with limited exceptions largely concentrated among police deployments – see figure 1.

Figure 1: UGPS targets 2018-2028; actuals 2018-2020



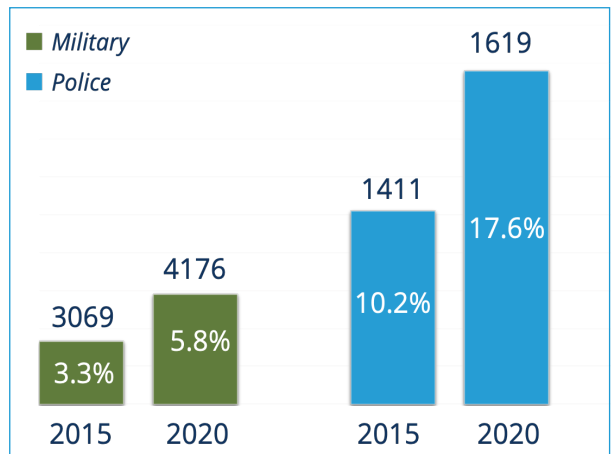
4 <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/uniformed-gender-parity-2018-2028.pdf>
 5 <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/action-for-peacekeeping-a4p>

The EIF aims to support and incentivize United Nations and Member States' efforts to increase the meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations peace operations. The EIF primarily offers assistance and incentives for T/PCCs to identify and overcome barriers to the deployment of trained and qualified uniformed women peacekeepers—who deploy as members of military contingents, military observers (MO) and staff officers (SO), formed police units (FPUs) and individual police officers (IPOs).

The EIF can also support projects submitted by United Nations organizations which are designed to implement and test innovations aimed at enhancing the meaningful participation of uniformed women deployed in United Nations peace operations. The allocation of funds to United Nations organizations would not normally exceed 20 per cent of the total funds available.

The EIF also seeks to accelerate progress towards achieving the United Nations Security Council's declared target of doubling the rate of women's participation within police and military contingents by 2020 compared to 2015, in accordance with SCR 2242 (2015)⁶ - figure 2, as well as supporting targets to increase the proportion of women serving as MOs, SOs and IPOs. In addition, the EIF supports the objectives of the UGPS in regard to uniformed women in military and police components.

Figure 2: % increase of women military and police 2015 and 2020



The EIF has multiple links to the SDGs, adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015. In seeking to help eliminate barriers preventing women from meaningful participation as uniformed peacekeepers in United Nations peace operations, the EIF directly supports SDG 5 on Gender Equality. SDG 5 is also supported to the extent that the increased meaningful participation by women peacekeepers can empower women in host countries. The empowerment of local women, in turn, has positive implications for peace, justice and strong institutions - SDG 16, and reducing inequalities - SDG 10.

Additionally, increased meaningful participation of uniformed women peacekeepers may enhance United Nations peace operations in ways not directly related to gender, such as expanding the pool of trained and qualified peacekeepers and increasing the range of skills available within a United Nations peace operation. Consequently, there are potential positive impacts for all the SDGs that United Nations peace operations themselves may contribute to, including decreasing poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2), by enhancing security and helping to support peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

6 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2242>, paragraph 8

II. Results

Programme Impacts In the first programming round, six T/PCC were invited to develop their submissions (eight proposals in total) and submit them to the EIF Secretariat for technical review in early April 2020. Thirteen T/PCCs were also invited to submit an LOI to the EIF Secretariat to conduct a Barrier Assessment.

In December 2020, the EIF Secretariat progressed the first two detailed submissions from the Senegal Gendarmerie and Senegal Police through the EIF TC and Secretariat review, to the SC for approval. Both submissions included a commitment to deploy three GSUs for a three-year period commencing in 2021, with GSUs required to meet the GSU requirements detailed in the EIF TOR. Fund dispersal is anticipated in March 2021, contingent on the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the national recipient government and the MPTF Office. Of note, Senegal's commitment to deploy up to six GSUs per year commencing 2021 is expected to lead to an increase of women's participation nationally within the Gendarmerie and Police, and could potentially, increase global Formed Police Unit (FPU) percentages.



UN Photo

Impact of COVID-19 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been significant, including the mobilization of security forces to support, and in some cases enforce lockdowns. T/PCCs as well as countries hosting peacekeeping missions have been affected in different ways and to differing degrees.

The EIF Secretariat actively sought regular updates from T/PCCs invited to submit a detailed proposal or undertake a Barrier Assessment in the first programming round, and where involved, the respective United Nations Development Program (UNDP) or UN Women Regional or Country Office, to ascertain T/PCC's ability

to continue with their project proposal submission, and to agree extended timeframes. Understandably, there was a requirement to renegotiate timeframes for the majority of T/PCCs, due to a range of circumstances, including COVID-related delays and the EIF Secretariat's requirement to sequence due diligence requirements and technical reviews.

Of the six T/PCCs invited to submit a detailed project proposal (two T/PCCs submitted two separate proposals each), one T/PCC, Nepal, decided not to proceed in the first programming round. Timelines for submission were extended for the remaining five T/PCCs, and those T/PCCs seeking to undertake a Barrier Assessment. In keeping with the EIF SC's guidance to conclude the first programming round by March 2021, T/PCCs whose submission cannot substantively progress through the two-month approval process by that date will be invited to submit a new LOI in the second programming round.

A further four detailed submissions and three Barrier Assessment proposals were being processed as of 31 December 2020, with SC approval anticipated in the first quarter of 2021.

Pending project implementation, information and results on the strategic changes that the EIF seeks to contribute, including data on planned outcomes and outputs, remains to be produced.

IMPACT

The EIF is innovative. It has been designed to provide T/PCCs with opportunities to assess the main barriers present in their particular national context, to propose innovative solutions and, therefore, have ownership over projects specific to their circumstances, with the primary impact being to accelerate the pace of change towards increased meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations peace operations. The secondary impact of the EIF is that the knowledge gained from these activities will contribute to the global evidence-base on how to increase uniformed women's representation in United Nations peace operations and be translated into policies and action.

EIF Website and Social Media Presence

To enable the EIF to meet its objectives, including the collection of policy-relevant knowledge about increasing meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations peace operations, it was important for the



EIF to establish a foundational online presence and brand. The EIF website: <https://elsiefund.org/> along with the EIF twitter account: <https://twitter.com/ElsieFund> were launched in March 2020. Establishing this presence enables the EIF to share and disseminate knowledge about the EIF, including programming rounds, best practices observed from EIF funded projects, to communicate and collaborate with the growing EIF community of practice.

Importantly, it also establishes a presence for future advocacy for increasing the meaningful participation of uniformed women in United Nations peace operations including in leadership positions.



OUTCOMES

The EIF has four key outcomes detailed in the TOR. Successful project proposals must contribute to at least one of the Fund's four outcomes. The first is the provision of an 'expanded and collective body of country-specific knowledge of barriers to the meaningful deployment of uniformed women peacekeepers United Nations missions.' The remaining three key outcomes of the EIF that individual projects are expected to target are as follows:

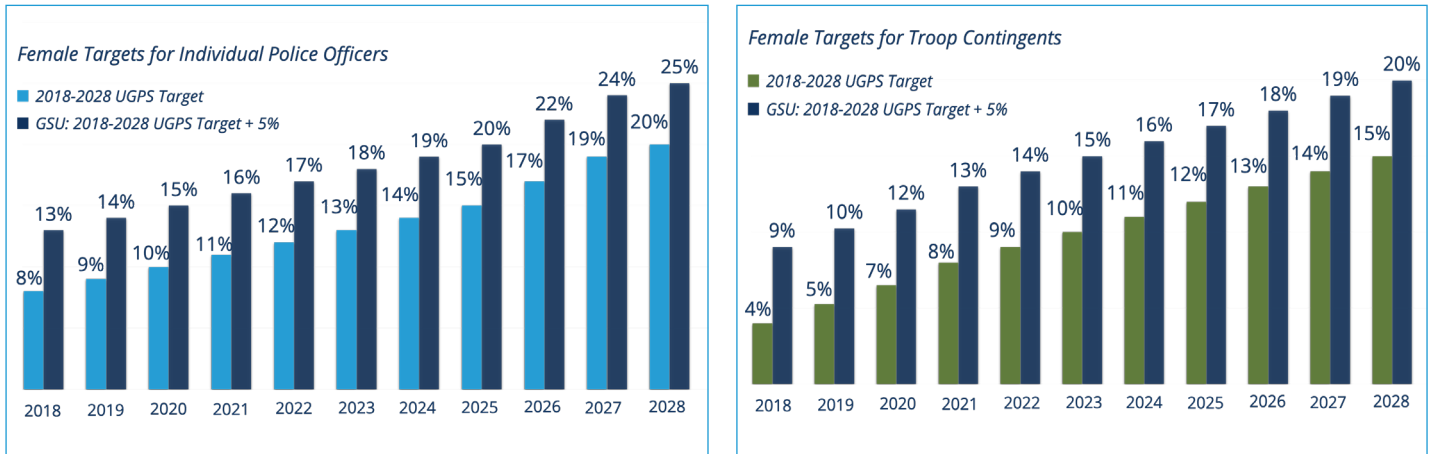
- increased meaningful deployment of uniformed women peacekeepers to United Nations missions;
- increased pool of uniformed women eligible to deploy as United Nations peacekeepers; and
- improved working conditions for uniformed women peacekeepers in United Nations missions.

Funding Modalities To achieve these outcomes, the EIF has been designed to provide financial support through two different funding modalities. Firstly, T/PCCs and other Participating United Nations Organization (PUNOs) can apply for project funding to undertake a range of projects including, in the case of T/PCCs, the conduct of the DCAF MOWIP Barrier Assessment methodology, or an equivalent credible methodology.

Secondly, T/PCCs can apply for the Gender Strong Unit (GSU) premium, designed to incentivize T/PCCs to deploy and integrate increased numbers of women into formed units, across all roles and ranks. This funding modality sees T/PCCs paid an incentive at the end of a deployment, where a unit has: deployed with

a percentage of women that exceeds the UGPS target by five percent for that year; and the unit includes substantial representation of women overall and in positions of authority; has provided gender-equity training to all unit members; has adequate materiel to ensure parity of deployment conditions for women and men peacekeepers; and has been independently measured and verified.

Figure 3: GSU % 2021-2028 (UGPS target + 5%)



GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS & KEY PARTNERSHIPS

The EIF is one of the components of the Canadian Elsie Initiative, and was designed together with Member States, the United Nations system and peacekeeping experts.

This design comprises the EIF’s governance arrangements – a framework which includes:

- **a seven-member SC**, which provides strategic guidance to the EIF Secretariat. The SC is co-chaired by UN Women and Canada; other members include the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG), DPO, and three Member States: an EIF contributor – the Netherlands, a T/PCC member who is Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible – Bangladesh, and a member of the Elsie Initiative Contact Group – Ghana⁷. The three Member States rotate every two years in a staggered manner, with the first rotation being the EIF contributor in April 2021.

During 2020, the SC met twice. A virtual SC meeting was held on the 24 July 2020 and in December 2020 the SC met via email to approve the Senegal Gendarmerie and Police submissions. The EIF Secretariat also provided email updates to the SC in August and October 2020.

- **a seven- 10-member Technical Committee (TC)**, recommended by the SC, who collectively present a broad cross-section of academic, gender, cultural, field mission, and military and police operational experience from a range of

⁷ https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/elsie_initiative-initiative_elsie.aspx?lang=eng

organizations across the globe including DPO military and police gender focal points. The TC provides technical guidance on LOI and detailed submissions to the EIF Secretariat. After consideration of this technical guidance, the EIF Secretariat submits their final evaluation and specific recommendations to the Steering Committee.

The TC convened in July 2020 to review an early version of the EIF LOI template; and again, in November 2020 to provide guidance and feedback on the Senegal Gendarmerie and Police submissions.

Key partnerships include:

- **DCAF** – in partnership with Cornell University as part of the Elise Initiative, who after researching and compiling the [2018 DCAF Baseline Study](#)⁸ and conducting a pilot across a range of military and police institutions from different geographic, cultural and linguistic regions across the globe, published the [MOWIP Barrier Assessment](#)⁹ methodology on 1 October 2020, and established the DCAF Help Desk, the [MOWIP Toolbox](#)¹⁰ and Cornell Gender and Security Sector (GSS) Lab shortly thereafter. The MOWIP methodology, a publicly accessible and comprehensive Barrier Assessment methodology for military and police organizations worldwide, was developed with financial support from Canada and Norway.

Undertaking a credible Barrier Assessment, of which the MOWIP is an example, is one of the key projects that the EIF can support T/PCCs to undertake.

The EIF Secretariat has maintained close coordination with DCAF throughout 2020 to ensure alignment in procedures for T/PCCs to apply to the EIF to conduct a MOWIP, as well as through a series of DCAF webinars including lessons and good practices observed from the DCAF MOWIP pilot.



UN Photo

8 https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Elsie_GenderReport_2018_Final.pdf

9 <https://www.dcaf.ch/mowip-methodology>

10 <https://www.dcaf.ch/mowip>

- **Donors** – the EIF and the Secretariat firmly acknowledges that without the ongoing generous donor financial and other in-kind support, the EIF and its ambitious program could not exist. Contributions, commitments and pledges as of 31 December 2020 have been made by:

- 🇦🇺 AUSTRALIA; Government of
- 🇨🇦 CANADA ; Government of
- 🇩🇰 FINLAND; Government of
- 🇩🇪 GERMANY; Government of
- 🇳🇴 NORWAY; Government of
- 🇳🇱 NETHERLANDS; Government of
- 🇬🇧 UNITED KINGDOM; Government of

Current commitments and pledges are available on the MPTF Office's [EIF factsheet](#)¹¹.

- **Member States, direct recipients and implementing organizations.** The work of the EIF Secretariat is also informed and complemented by Member State's input, knowledge and experiences, including the knowledge and experience of women peacekeepers themselves. The EIF Secretariat also appreciates the quality, detail, and effort that has gone into developing T/PCC and PUNO submissions, by military and police organizations as well as support from UNDP and UN Women country and regional offices.
- **Stakeholders.** Other key EIF stakeholders include research institutions working to progress the WPS framework including women's leadership within the security sector, civil society organizations and women's global, regional and national Military and Police networks, and leadership from organizations such as the WPS Chief of Defence (CHoD) Network and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).



UN Photo

OUTPUTS

The EIF Terms of Reference (TOR) detail the eleven outputs the EIF aims to achieve over its five-year operating period.

Funding allocations agreed by the SC from the first programming round are now anticipated to be made in the first two quarters of 2021. And while basic data on the numbers and types of projects planned commenced will also be available at that time, tangible, measurable and evidence-based results mapped across outputs and indicators are not expected to be available until mid-2022 once project implementation has commenced along with the EIF's monitoring and evaluation framework.

To achieve these inputs and meet the significant demand expressed for the EIF, the EIF Secretariat increased its professional staffing capacity from one to two, with an additional full-time member commencing 1 July 2020. Additional expertise required in web-design, information technology, translation and due diligence requirements as anticipated in the EIF TOR were and continue to be commissioned.

III. First Programming Round

A total of 36 LOI received from 18 T/PCCs¹² (including from ten African T/PCCs, three Asian T/PCCs, four Latin American T/PCCs, and one Middle Eastern T/PCC) and four United Nations organizations including two missions were received in the First Programming Round. The SC agreed to invite the following six T/PCCs and one United Nations organization to develop a detailed submission (two T/PCCs submitted two proposals) for technical review by early April 2020:

- Bangladesh: Police and Armed Forces
- Jordan: Gendarmerie
- Nepal: Army
- Niger: Security and Defense Forces
- Senegal: Gendarmerie and Police
- Togo: Military
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The SC also endorsed a total allocation of up to \$8-12M for the first programming round, with \$4-6M for these nine LOI to be developed into detailed proposals, and a further \$4-6M for other T/PCC applicants to conduct a Barrier Assessment.

¹² Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Gambia, Ghana, Jordan, Liberia, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uruguay.

Nepal decided not to progress with their joint Nepal Army and UN Women submission in the first programming round. UNITAR's submission was also not progressed in the first programming round due in part to the EIF Secretariat's focus on T/PCC's submissions in this calendar year.

PROJECT PROPOSALS APPROVED IN 2020

On the 29th of December 2020, UN Women announced the first recipients of the EIF; Senegal Gendarmerie and Senegal Police.

Senegal, the highest Police Contributing Country (PCC) as of November 2020, deploys a total of 12% (1,071) police officers across all United Nations peace operations, with women accounting for approximately 7% of Senegal's FPU's, and 14% IPOs. Separate to the EIF project proposal, Senegal's Gendarmerie and Police participated jointly in the DCAF MOWIP Barrier Assessment pilot, as one of eight pilot countries, with the pilot funded by the Canadian Elsie Initiative. The long-term impact of both projects is expected to lead to a substantial increase of women's meaningful participation including at command and leadership level nationally and within United Nations peace operations.

Senegal Gendarmerie. The Senegal Gendarmerie proposal aims to address a range of structural barriers through the adoption of a gender policy and training on women's leadership. The proposal also aims to address a range of other barriers identified, including improving the understanding of gender equality within the Gendarmerie, addressing the difficulties that women face in reconciling family obligations with international deployments, and increasing the overall numbers of women gendarmes to participate in United Nations peace operations through a range of recruitment initiatives. The Gendarmerie proposal will support a range of training initiatives, including training on gender equality for all Gendarmes, as well as the construction of a daycare center.

The Senegal Gendarmerie proposal also included a commitment to deploy three GSUs for a three-year period commencing in 2021, and to reinvest the GSU premium into a range of activities. Reinvestment of the GSU premium could include supporting the conduct of United Nations certification courses jointly with the Senegal Police, and possibly at a regional level, as well as adapting their FPU equipment for women, ongoing recruiting initiatives, and implementing other recommendations from the upcoming DCAF MOWIP Barrier Assessment report.

Senegal Police. The Senegal Police proposal aims to address a range of structural barriers by adopting a gender policy, conducting dialogue with police leadership, including how to empower women police officers of all ranks, and a mass communications strategy. The proposal also aims to address a number of other

barriers identified, including improving the understanding of gender equality within the Police, the provision of additional information on deployment opportunities, a recruitment campaign to increase the overall numbers of women police, and a range of training activities to address the necessary skills requirements to pass internal and United Nations-led tests on minimum proficiency levels for deployment in an FPU and as an IPO.

The Senegal Police proposal also included a commitment to deploy three GSUs for a three-year period commencing in 2021, and to reinvest the GSU premium into a range of activities including: the conduct of United Nations certification courses jointly with the Senegal Gendarmerie, and possibly at a regional level, as well as adapting their FPU equipment for women, ongoing recruiting initiatives, and implementing recommendations from the upcoming DCAF MOWIP Barrier Assessment report.

FIRST PROGRAMMING ROUND - PROJECTS ANTICIPATED FOR APPROVAL EARLY 2021

Throughout 2020, the EIF Secretariat continued to engage with the other T/PCC penholders invited to submit a detailed proposal. Timeline extensions due to the impact of COVID were agreed, and the EIF Secretariat continued to provide detailed technical support and guidance to the project penholders. As of 31 December 2020, a further four projects are anticipated to be taken to the EIF SC for approval by 31 March 2021 or thereabouts.

FIRST PROGRAMMING ROUND - BARRIER ASSESSMENT PROPOSALS ANTICIPATED FOR APPROVAL EARLY 2021

Of the thirteen T/PCC's invited to submit an LOI to undergo a Barrier Assessment, seven T/PCCs advised their initial interest and were provided with a draft version of the DCAF MOWIP methodology. Following the 1 October 2020 publication of the DCAF MOWIP methodology and consultation with DCAF and Cornell University, four T/PCCs commenced preparation of their LOI to conduct a MOWIP assessment, to be funded through the EIF. (The SC approved the Liberian Armed Forces MOWIP submission in January 2021 and Mexico's Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA) - Army and Airforce; Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR); and Ministry of Public Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC) submissions in February 2021; with both proposals being managed through a partnership with the UN Women Country Office).

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES

LOI and Detailed Proposal Formats. As raised at the November 2019 SC meeting and identified in the 2019 EIF Annual Report, the requirement for a pre-formatted LOI template was identified to be used in future programming rounds. Lessons and observations from processing the detailed proposals in the first programming round have also highlighted the requirement to streamline the EIF’s detailed proposal template. Both the LOI and detailed proposal templates have been drafted; with a final review to be conducted by the TC prior to the launch of the second programming round in April 2021.



UN Photo

DPO - T/PCC - EIF Consultation. The EIF TOR encourages T/PCCs to consult with the DPO focal point for the concerned United Nations peacekeeping mission and the EIF Secretariat prior to submitting an LOI. Progressing a T/PCC’s detailed proposal through the EIF Secretariat’s technical review process—which includes guidance from DPO and the EIF TC—also highlighted the requirement for closer consultation between a T/PCC and DPO at the strategic and technical decision-making levels during the development of a detailed proposal.

The requirement for early consultation between the EIF Secretariat and DPO as part of the proposal review process was also highlighted, to ensure consideration of several DPO criteria including but not limited to, the availability of the requisite logistics, welfare and medical facilities for women in a UN field mission, DPO’s actual and future police and military personnel needs, the obligation to ensure geographical representation of T/PCCs in the military and police components of

UN field missions, DPO's obligation to respect T/PCC pledges in the United Nations Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS), and the availability of relevant DPO resources to provide training or other related assistance to TCCs and PCCs.

The relationship between the EIF and DPO including the Office of Military Affairs (OMA), Police Division (PD) and the Office of the Director for Coordination and Shared Services has been strengthened to enable the necessary strategic insights and technical input into the review and assessment of project proposals.

Translation. Noting that many T/PCCs speak languages other than English, the requirement to translate key EIF documentation was identified early in the first programming round. The EIF Secretariat has also ensured that translations of its TOR and detailed project proposal templates are available in French and Spanish, and a French version of the EIF website will be available in early 2021. All future EIF templates and key documentation will be made available as a minimum, in French and Spanish. EIF webinars will also include simultaneous translation as a minimum in French and Spanish.

Impact of COVID 19 restrictions. As of 31 December 2020, there had been several considerable delays in receiving project proposals, due mainly to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Delays in processing projects through to Steering Committee approval also occurred, due in part to the longer than anticipated timeframes required to contract consultants to complete the United Nations system wide Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on Support for Non-United Nations Security Forces (HRDDP)¹³ and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT)¹⁴ due diligence requirements. Knowledge of these requirements will continue to be incorporated into the EIF Secretariat's processes and Operations Manual to inform future programming rounds.

HRDDP Risk Assessment. The HRDDP is a risk management mechanism aimed at ensuring that any support a United Nations entity is contemplating or involved in providing to non-UN security forces, is consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations. It includes an assessment of the risks involved in providing, or not providing such support, and in particular, the risk of the recipient entity committing grave violations of international humanitarian law, human rights law or refugee law.

The policy also identifies mitigation measures where, as a result of a risk assessment, it is concluded that there are substantial grounds that there is a real risk of the intended recipient committing grave violations of international humanitarian, human rights or refugee law. Consequently, for the majority of projects that the EIF plans to support, the conduct of an HRDDP risk assessment is obligatory, the

13 <https://undocs.org/en/A/67/775>

14 <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/HACT-2014-UNDG-Framework-EN.pdf>

one exception being where a PUNO is the implementing partner in the conduct of a Barrier Assessment, and, where funds will only be transferred to a research institution or partner and not the T/PCC.

The EIF Secretariat established the procedures necessary to ensure full compliance with the HRDDP including developing EIF-specific TORs to recruit suitably experienced human rights consultants, and development of the EIF HRDDP risk-assessment tool to guide human rights consultants on the EIF's HRDDP risk assessment requirements. The EIF HRDDP risk assessment tool focuses on the nature of the EIF's overall objectives as well as individual project activities. It focuses not only on grave violations conducted by security forces, but also on the perpetration of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, sexual and gender-based violence committed by members of uniformed components nationally, and sexual harassment within the T/PCC security institutions both nationally and while deployed in UN peace operations. Not only can these types of violations lead to grave violations, but just as importantly, they can impact directly on the safety, security and well-being of uniformed women and men in security forces.

HACT Micro-Assessment. The HACT micro-assessment provides an overall assessment of the implementing partner's financial and operations management policies, procedures, systems and internal controls, and can include recommendations related to deficiencies identified within internal controls. Where a T/PCC is to be a fund recipient, or where a PUNO will transfer funds to an implementing partner such as a CSO or research partner, the conduct of a financial risk assessment is obligatory.

The EIF Secretariat established the procedures necessary to ensure full compliance with the HACT policy including developing EIF-specific TORs to procure a third-party service provider to conduct a HACT micro-assessment where required and systematized these procedures in the EIF Operations Manual.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. In December 2020, the EIF Secretariat commenced the process to procure a consultancy to design the EIF monitoring and evaluation framework based on the Theory of Change and Results Framework described in the EIF TOR. Noting the initial anticipated completion date was 31 July 2020, the revised anticipated completion date will now be during the fourth quarter of 2021.

IV. Consolidated Financial Report

The following section contains the Consolidated Annual Financial Report, prepared by the UNDP MPTF Office in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the TOR, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to contributors.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the EIF. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/EIF00>).

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

2020 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This section presents financial data and analysis of the EIF using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2020. Financial information for the EIF is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/EIF00>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December **2020**, **five** contributors deposited US\$ **20,775,591** in contributions and US\$ **407,178** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **21,182,769** (see respectively, Tables 2 and 3).

Of this amount, US\$ **1,100,706** has been net funded to **zero** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **667,965** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **207,756**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **EIF** as of 31 December 2020.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2019	Annual 2020	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	14,704,714	6,070,878	20,775,591
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	218,190	188,988	407,178
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	-	-	-
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors	-	-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-
Total: Sources of Funds	14,922,904	6,259,866	21,182,769
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	-	-	-
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-	-	-
Net Funded Amount	-	-	-
Administrative Agent Fees	147,047	60,709	207,756
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)	250,309	850,397	1,100,706
Bank Charges	290	497	787
Other Expenditures	-	-	-
Total: Uses of Funds	397,646	911,603	1,309,248
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	14,525,258	5,348,263	19,873,521
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	-	14,525,258	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	14,525,258	19,873,521	19,873,521
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	250,309	850,397	1,100,706
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	123,249	544,716	667,965
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			432,741

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to the EIF as of 31 December **2020**.

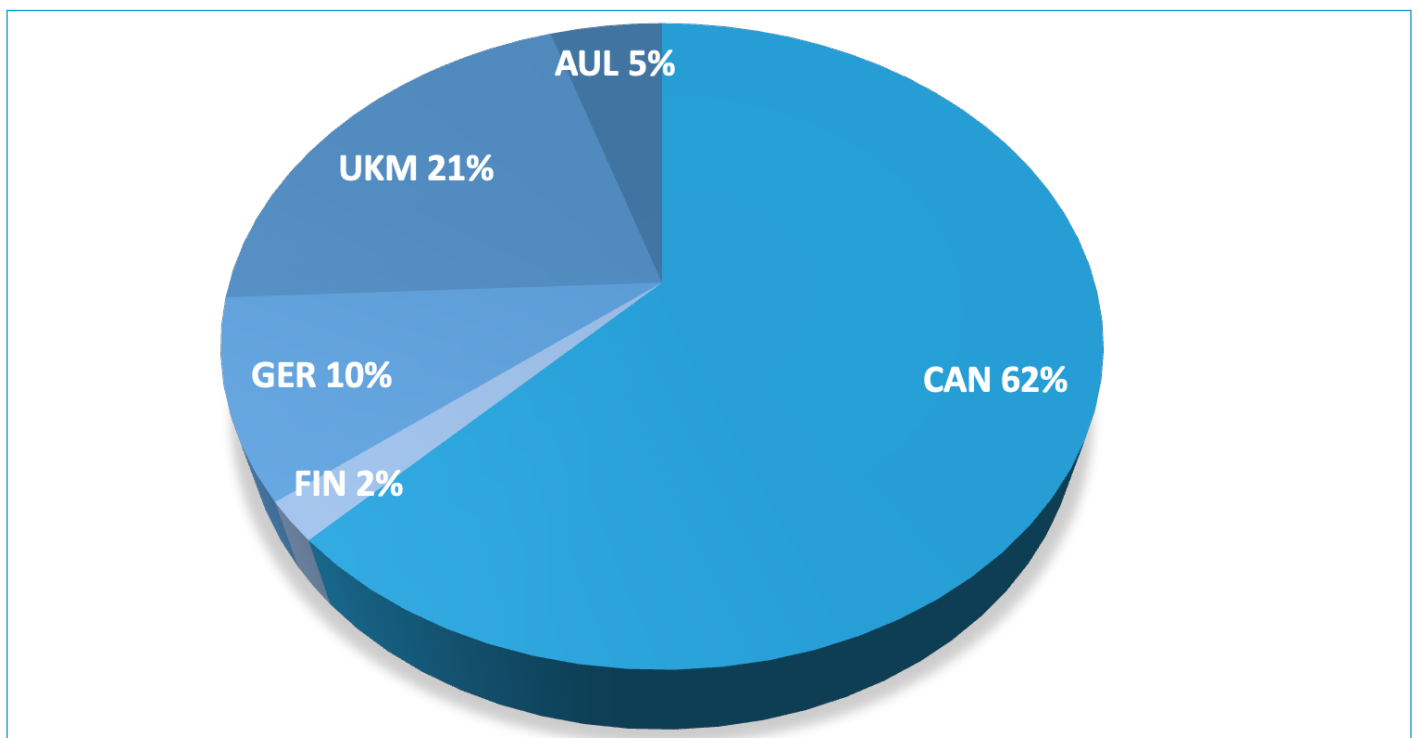
The **EIF** is currently being financed by **five** contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December **2020** through signed SAAs, and deposits made through **2020**. It does not include commitments that were made to the EIF beyond **2020**.

Table 2. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2019 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2020 Deposits	Total Deposits
AUSTRALIA, Government of	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
CANADA, Government of	13,018,331	11,252,813	1,765,518	13,018,331
FINLAND, Government of	439,301	222,759	216,542	439,301
GERMANY, Government of	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
UNITED KINGDOM, Government of	4,317,959	1,229,141	3,088,818	4,317,959
Grand Total	20,775,591	14,704,714	6,070,878	20,775,591

Figure 1: Deposits by contributor, cumulative as of 31 December 2020



3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: (i) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (EIF earned interest), and (ii) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December 2020, the EIF earned interest amounts to US\$ 407,178.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2019	Current Year Jan-Dec-2020	Total
Administrative Agent			
EIF Earned Interest and Investment Income	218,190	188,988	407,178
Total: EIF Earned Interest	218,190	188,988	407,178
Participating Organization			
Total: Agency earned interest			
Grand Total	218,190	188,988	407,178

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2020**, the AA had not transferred funds to Participating Organizations.

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2020 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2020 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/EIF00>.

In 2020, no funds were transferred to Participating Organizations, and no expenditure was reported.

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the EIF are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December **2020**, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the EIF. In the reporting period US\$ **60,709** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2020**, US\$ **207,756** has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period, no indirect costs were deducted by Participating Organisations.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

8. DIRECT COSTS

The EIF governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as Fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the EIF amounted to US\$ **850,397**. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2020**, US\$ **1,100,706** has been charged as Direct Costs.

Table 4. Direct Costs

Participating Organization	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
UNWOMEN	1,100,706	667,965	61%
Total	1,100,706	667,965	61%

Elsie Initiative Fund
2020
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