## **BELGIUM**



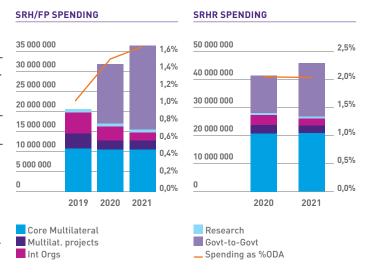
elgium actively promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including access to family planning (FP). This has been reflected in the country's federal law on international cooperation (2013) and in several operational federal policy documents on health and on gender in international cooperation. This commitment to SRHR has been further confirmed by the 'Response Strategy' and 'Economic Support and Recovery' notes of the Belgian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a frontrunner for SheDecides, Belgium hosted the She Decides +5 conference in 2022, which brought together SRHR activists from all over the world to discuss challenges and opportunities to promote SRHR globally.

LEVEL OF ODA TRANSPARENCY

**%0DA SRH/FP IN 2021** 

1.6%

## BELGIUM'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SRH/FP AND SRHR



## MATCHING POLICIES TO FINANCING TRENDS

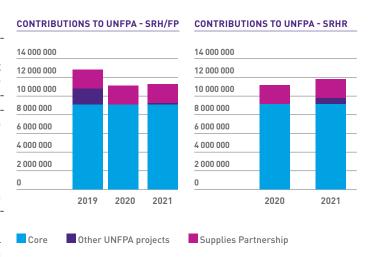
In 2021, Belgian contributions to SRH/FP amounted to an unprecedented 34 million Euros, equivalent to 1,6% of total ODA. This is the third consecutive year that the country increases investments in SRH/FP, this time by 16%. To operationalise its SheDecides commitments, Belgium has been prioritising government-to-government cooperation since 2019: in 2021, this stream represented 57% of overall contributions to advance access to SRH/FP. In addition to these direct expenditures, more than half of Belgium's total expenses for health contributes to reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health (RMNCH).

In 2021, Belgium spent 47 million Euros on SRHR - including those 34 million Euros specifically allocated to SRH/FP -, which is equivalent to 2,1% of its ODA. Belgian support to the broader SRHR agenda is mainly reflected in core funding, including to the GFATM and UNAIDS, followed by government-to-government cooperation, in line with SRH/FP financial trends.

Even though Belgium has been prioritising government-to-government cooperation, overall support to UNFPA has remained steady, except for earmarked programmes. The country has kept core support to UNFPA at a high level of 9 million Euros since 2017, in addition to 2 million Euros in contributions to the Supplies Partnership. As with other bodies, Belgium prefers providing core funding over earmarked funding, in order to respect the agencies' decision-making.

## **FORECAST**

Belgium is expected to keep increasing its support to SRH/FP in 2023, as this is the last year of the multi-annual bilateral cooperation programmes with Burkina Faso, Benin, Senegal, Rwanda and Guinea Republic. It remains however unclear if SRH/FP will be equally highlighted in the new cooperation agreements with those partner countries after 2023.







This country sheet was produced within the framework of Countdown 2030 Europe, as part of the Tracking What Counts 2021 -2022 trends analysis of the European Donor Support to Sexual & Reproductive Health & Family Planning. Please read the full report here.

