

A blue graphic element consisting of a stylized arrow pointing to the right, located on the left side of the page.

Press release

For immediate release: Wednesday, 08 July 2020

What did the UN spend on goods and services in 2019?


- UN organizations spent almost \$20bn on goods and services over the year 2019.
- Pharmaceuticals, contraceptives and vaccines constitute the largest procurement category, followed by transportation, storage and mail services.
- The UN spent \$741 million on medical equipment in 2019, almost a quarter more than in 2018.
- In 2019, UN procurement from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and least developed countries reached an all-time high, \$12.3 billion.

United Nations (UN) organizations spent \$19.9 billion on goods and services in 2019, according to a new report published by UNOPS on behalf of the UN system.

The 2019 Annual Statistical Report on UN Procurement analyzes the combined annual UN spending on goods and services. It shows that the UN's procurement increased by 5.9 per cent, or \$1.1 billion, compared to 2018.

Pharmaceuticals, contraceptives and vaccines constituted the largest procurement category for the 9th consecutive year, and continued to increase in 2019. The UN spent \$741 million on medical equipment in 2019, almost a quarter more than in 2018.

The report also sheds a light on continued efforts to integrate sustainability considerations into the UN's procurement processes. Over 97 per cent of organizations reported including

A blue graphic element consisting of a stylized arrow pointing to the right, located on the left margin of the page.

environmental sustainability as a main consideration in their procurement processes, while economic and social considerations also grew.

“The COVID-19 crisis has once again highlighted the utter importance of procurement in ensuring healthy, sustainable and resilient societies. As our world responds to and recovers from this crisis, effective and efficient procurement practices are key, as underlined by this report,” said Grete Faremo, Under-Secretary-General and UNOPS Executive Director.

Enhancing opportunities for developing and transitioning economies is key to delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2019, UN procurement from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and least developed countries reached an all-time high, \$12.3 billion, compared to \$11.7 billion in 2018. This represents more than 62 per cent of total UN procurement. It includes \$3.9 billion procured from least developed countries – a 11.4 percent increase compared to 2018.

The United States remained the largest supplier country in 2019, providing \$1.7 billion of goods and services to UN organizations. Four developing countries- India, Kenya, United Arab Emirates and Yemen- were among the top ten supplier countries in 2019, with a combined procurement value of \$3.4 billion. This represented 17.1 per cent of total UN procurement for 2019, up from 15.8 per cent last year.

ENDS

Notes to the editors:

- The 2019 Annual Statistical Report on United Nations Procurement is published on 9 July 2020.
- The full report will be available at: www.ungm.org/asr
- Detailed statistics from the report can be explored through interactive dashboards available at: www.ungm.org/asr
- For media inquiries please contact: communications@unops.org
- The report contains 2019 procurement data only. The 2020 report will reflect on procurement related to COVID-19.

About the Annual Statistical Report on United Nations Procurement (ASR)

The Annual Statistical Report on United Nations Procurement (ASR) provides an overview of the procurement of the United Nations (UN) system in support of its operations, projects and programmes. Introduced in 1984, it has been compiled and published by UNOPS since 2008 on behalf of the organizations of the UN system and in cooperation with the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM), where ASR data is published. ASR data is accessible in interactive dashboards on the UNGM website (www.ungm.org/asr).

About UNOPS

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more: www.unops.org