European Commission

Annual Implementation REPORT**2019**

EU Gender Action Plan II

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020

Joint staff working document

EU Gender Action Plan II

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Annual implementation report 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Union's annual report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan II, '*Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020*' (GAP II), is the fourth report of its kind. While focusing on progress in 2019, it also looks at the trends since 2016, when the GAP II entered into force.

This report is based on reports from 64 European Commission units, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and 23 EU Member States'[1] (EU MS), alongside 369 country-specific reports from EU Delegations and Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities[2] active in 122 partner countries. The report presents actions carried out by these EU actors in 2019 to advance gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at the local, country, multi-country, regional, and global levels.

Progress on the GAP II target of 85% G1 and G2 by 2020

Progress continued towards the GAP II's target of ensuring that, by 2020, 85% of new programmes promote gender equality as a significant or principal objective (marked respectively as 'G1' or 'G2')[3]. In 2019, 64.25% of the Commission's new programmes were marked 'G1' or 'G2.' **Although in 2019 there has been a further increase in the number of new actions that contribute to gender equality, significant efforts still need to be made to reach the target of 85%**[4].

It is estimated that a budget of EUR 8.7 billion worth of development funding supported gender equality and women's empowerment in 2019 (or 56.95% of total funding). Funding that specifically targets gender equality and women's empowerment (i.e. 'G2') amounted to EUR 643 million (4.21% of the total). **The amount of funds committed that specifically target gender equality has increased every year since 2016**, as has the proportion of these funds within overall development funding[5].

Notwithstanding progress, these figures show the need to renew efforts in the context of the new EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) and to reassess essential measures to reach the set objectives. Equally important is the need to match and sustain the EU's ambition and its championing of gender equality and women's empowerment with resources that mirror its political commitment. One example among many is the important EU investment for gender equality through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. In 2018, in the framework of the Spotlight Initiative, the EU committed EUR 50 million for Latin America and EUR 250 million for Africa. In 2019, the Spotlight Initiative committed EUR 100 million for Caribbean and the Pacific, alongside EUR 140 million for Asia to fund actions to prevent and combat violence against women and girls.

Against a severe global backlash against gender equality and women's rights, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated, the international community has a duty to preserve the full validity and force of the international

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1   Reports were received from Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Croatia, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

2   This definition includes EU Member States' embassies, cooperation authorities and development banks. When we refer to embassies, this also comprises development banks for some EU Member States.

3   Using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Gender Equality Policy Marker (known as the 'Gender Marker'), a qualitative statistical tool to record aid activities that target gender equality as a policy objective. It is based on a three-point scoring system: An intervention is marked 'G2' or '**principal**' if gender equality is its main objective. Interventions are marked 'G1' or '**significant**' when gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme. Finally, interventions are marked 'G0', or '**not targeted**', when they have been screened against the Gender Marker but are not found to target gender equality. For more information see: http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm

4   In 2019, 64.25% of all the Commission's new programmes were marked 'G1' or 'G2. In 2018, the overall figure was 60.87%, compared to 56.53% in 2017 and 58.10% in 2016.

5   During the 2016-2019 period, the Commission's gender-sensitive funding increased by 9.74% for the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, and by 1.56% for the Commission services responsible for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.

acquis on gender equality, the full enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls, and their empowerment. As in previous years, in 2019 the EU was a reliable, cooperative and principled global player, sharing responsibilities with all partners for a safer and more equal world. The EU's role was critical for reaching meaningful outcomes in the form of, *inter alia,* final conclusions and resolutions at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, in particular the June session, and the annual session of the UN General Assembly's (UNGA) Third Committee.

Moreover, 2019 marked the **25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD),** with a high-level conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The EU participated in this conference to mobilise the political will and financial commitments necessary to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action worldwide.

During the **French Presidency of the G7**, the group prioritised gender equality as a cross-cutting global cause and incorporated the 'rights of girls and women' as a fundamental objective in the **Biarritz G7 Leaders' Declaration[6]**.

In 2019, the Commission continued to support the prevention of, and response to, gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. It remained an active member of the global **Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies**. Furthermore, in May 2019, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management represented the EU at an **international conference on sexual and gender-based violence in Oslo, Norway,** reiterating the EU's commitment and showcasing EU actions in this field.

Two years after its launch, the aforementioned **EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls** spans the entire globe – thanks to the EU's and the UN's leadership, as well as the support of partner governments and civil society at all levels. To date, 12 countries have started implementing Spotlight programmes, and around 90% of the EU's initial funding of EUR 500 million has already been allocated. A high-level event took place on the margins of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2019, attended by EU, the UN and civil society leaders, to illustrate the initial results and the value of EU-UN partnerships.

Close to 3,500 dialogue events with partner countries were reported in 2019 on topics related to gender equality. Most of these were sectoral dialogues. Women's human rights and democracy, sexual and reproductive health and rights, decent work and employment, and education were the issues most frequently discussed during such sectoral dialogues. As in previous years, gender equality was raised less often in sectors such as transport, energy, public finance management, and trade. However, the reports indicate some evidence that the gender dimensions of transport, infrastructure and communications policies were raised more in 2019 than in 2018, for example, in West and Central Africa, Central Asia, and Central America. Environmental and climate change-related issues, and trade, were discussed more in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific than elsewhere. The Commission advanced its work on **gender and trade** through a range of actions and events which, *inter alia*, discussed gender provisions in trade agreements, and trade and gender in the World Trade Organization. All of the EU's negotiated trade agreements in 2019 contained commitments related to the implementation of fundamental International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions targeting equal remuneration (C100)[7] and non-discrimination in employment and occupation (C111) [8].

The GAP II contributed to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, progress towards the realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (SDG 5) contributes to the achievement of all SDGs. More specifically, such contributions can be linked more closely to some SDGs when cross-referenced with the objectives of the GAP II's thematic priorities (see full list on pg. 12 below), namely:

1,062 reported actions on thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', that contributed to advancing SDG 1 ('No Poverty'), SDG 2 ('Zero Hunger'), SDG 3 ('Good Health and Well-being'), SGD 5 ('Gender Equality'), SDG 6 ('Clean Water and Sanitation') and SDG 16 ('Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions');

1,853 reported actions focusing on thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', that contributed to advancing SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4 ('Quality Education'), SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7

6   The G7 Leaders' Declaration (2019) is available at; https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/08/26/g7-leaders-declaration-biarritz-26-august-2019/. Information and documents about the Summit are available at: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2019/08/24-26/

7   International Labour Organization (ILO), Equal Remuneration Convention, 29 June 1951, C100

8   International Labour Organization (ILO), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, C111, 25 June 1958

('Affordable and Clean Energy'), SDG 8 ('Decent Work and Economic Growth') and SDG 9 ('Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation'); and

1,039 reported actions on thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation', that contributed to advancing SGDs 5 and 16.

Figure 1: All EU actors and EU Member States – Number of actions reported by GAP II by thematic priority, 2019 vs 2017
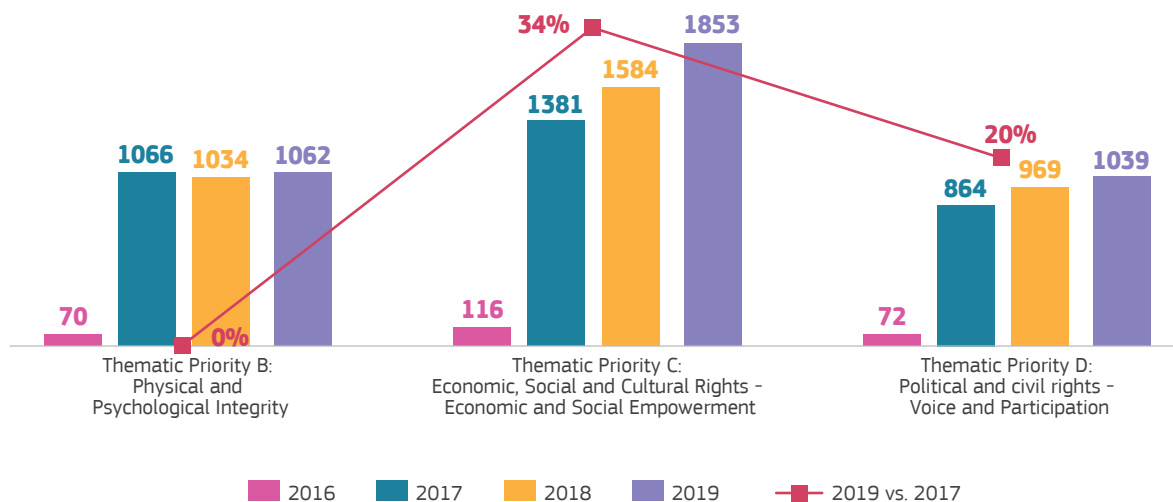
There was a **significant percentage increase in the number of actions addressing five GAP II objectives,** which are the objectives most supported by EU action in the period from 2016 to 2019:

- Actions on access to financial services (objective 15) increased by 345%.
- Actions concerning access to decent work (objective 14) rose by 291%.
- Actions on participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17) rose by 155%.
- Actions related to education and training (objective 13) increased by 113%.
- Initiatives on girls and women living free from violence (objective 7) rose by 41%.

Partnerships with civil society continued to grow in number during the GAP II's implementation period, including framework agreements with women's rights organisations and networks like the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN). **Civil society organisations working for gender equality and rights are increasingly involved in consultations** at the partner country and headquarter levels, where their expertise, advocacy and outreach skills are acknowledged and used. During 2019, civil society organisations were actively engaged in consultations on the development of the EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

In 2019, EU performance on the GAP II's horizontal priority A ('Institutional Culture Shift') continued to improve. EU Delegations and many EU Member States' authorities across geographical regions reported **improvements in reaching the five minimum standards** set by the GAP II for initiating this institutional culture shift. However, further improvements are still needed to fully mainstream gender in all priority sectors.

Overall, collaboration between EU institutions and Member States' authorities increased in 2019. New **donor coordination mechanisms** on gender equality issues were established, 58 of which are led by EU Delegations. They played a crucial role in this collaboration. EU actors also reported more **burden-sharing** arrangements and joint programmes that support the achievement of the GAP II's objectives.

Gender champions, many at the ambassadorial level, are present in most countries, although there were fewer champions reported than in 2018. Some EU Delegations reported the **creation of Quality Support Groups on**

gender equality and women's empowerment to review proposals comprehensively, while supporting gender mainstreaming.

Many more promising practices were reported in 2019 than in 2018, 35% of which were regarded as partially or fully gender transformative. The increased number points towards improved gender mainstreaming within EU interventions. Progress is also evident in EU actors' ability to identify **gender transformative practices**. This may be attributed to the reporting system that incorporated the collection of qualitative information to complement the quantitative reporting process.

Figure 2: Number of actions reported as promising practices, and gender transformative promising practices, 2019 vs 2018

Legend: ■ Promising practices   ■ Of which partially or totally gender transformative

- 2018: 652 / 1938
- 2019: 763 / 2209
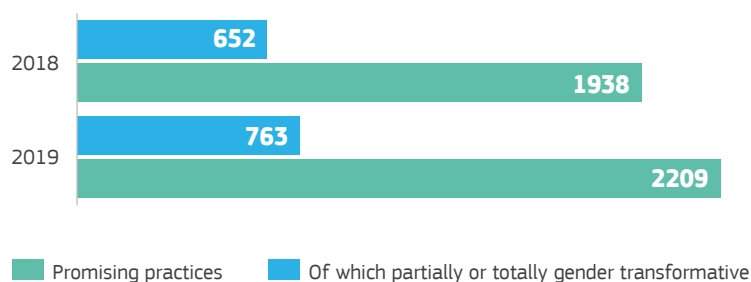
Training continued during 2019 with good results, using different formats and approaches. For instance, 14 EU Delegations and 400 staff members attended training on a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming, and webinars and regional trainings were held on preventing and countering violent extremism. The 2019 **Annual Meeting of Gender Focal Persons (GFPs),** attended by 100 GFPs and staff members, offered space for learning and peer support on a plethora of issues. These included, for example, gender and energy, and gender and civil society organisations, among others. Some Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) gender advisors participated and presented the EU's work on gender equality and women, peace and security within CSDP structures. The meeting was also devoted to discussing the forthcoming Gender Action Plan 2021-2025.

EU actors continue to **access gender expertise**, although **reportedly less in 2019 than in 2018.** They do so through donor coordination groups, from their headquarters, through *ad hoc* technical assistance, or via consultations with national gender equality offices and civil society.

Some 56% of EU Delegations **reported using gender analysis to inform the design or formulation of projects**. This marks **a steady increase since 2016**. EU actors in some countries conducted gender analyses in a variety of sectors. Nevertheless, the practice of using gender analysis is not yet routine. In a small number of countries, **gender-budgeting** was introduced in the context of sectoral dialogues. As of 2019, 71% of reported actions use sex-disaggregated data. However, only 43% of these actions led to the improved **quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data** through, for example, dedicated support to national institutes of statistics and research. This report's findings affirm that strengthening the capacity to collect and use gender data at all stages of the programming cycle requires comprehensive efforts.

Box 1: EU evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment

In 2019, the EU undertook an **evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment** (GEWE) for the years 2010-2018. This reveals that **GAP II has been a useful tool** for implementing the EU's GEWE commitments, and that there has been **good communication** within EU services and among EU actors.

At the institutional level, there was some **increased attention** to GEWE. However, despite continued efforts, **expertise has remained insufficient** to ensure the effective implementation of the EU's policy commitments and gender responsive leadership must be boosted.

At the programming and project level, EU actors engaged in **policy dialogue in partner countries,**

albeit often without a clear strategic vision or a sound analysis, which weakened gender mainstreaming processes. The EU has substantially strengthened its **partnerships with international organisations**. However, challenges remain at the country level, especially with regard to strengthening the role played by national gender equality offices in national policy processes. The EU's support for **civil society organisations** active in promoting GEWE generated many positive experiences, highlighting the need to develop a solid approach for partnership with these actors at the country level.

It will be essential to build upon the progress and lessons learned from the GAP II's implementation to fully achieve gender mainstreaming throughout all sectors. Continued efforts are equally necessary to reach the target of 85% of all new EU programmes focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment as a significant or principal objective, hand-in-hand with contributing to the attainment of relevant SDGs.

ACRONYMS

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
ANWIn	African Network for Women in Infrastructure
APRN	Asia Pacific Research Network
AUC	African Union Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BPHS	Basic package of health services
BWA	Baghdad Women Association
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
COARM	Working Party on Conventional Arms Export
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COPOLAD	Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies
CRS	Creditor reporting system of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSO-LA	Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Thematic Programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) 2014-2020
EAMR	External Assistance Management Report
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EEAS	European External Action Service
EFI	Euromed Feminist Initiative
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EOM	Electoral Observation Missions
EPLO	European Peace Building Liaison Office
ERMES	European Resources for Mediation Support
ESDC	European Security and Defence College's
EU	European Union
EU MS	European Union Member States
EU RF	European Union Results Framework
EUPOL COPPS	EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support
EUSR	European Union Special Representative
EUTF	EU Trust Fund
EUTM CAR	EU Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic

FEMNET	African Women's Development and Communication Network
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FP	Family planning
GAP	EU Gender Action Plan 2010-2015
GAP II	Second Gender Action Plan for EU External Relations 2016-2020
GBV	Gender-based violence
GAP III	Third Gender Action Plan for EU External Relations 2021-2025
GEWE	Gender equality and women's empowerment
GFP	Gender focal person
G-marker	Gender equality policy marker of the OECD DAC
GRB	Gender-responsive budgeting
GSP	Generalized Scheme of Preferences
HoC	Head of EU Delegation cooperation section
HoD	Head of EU Delegation
HoM	Head of Mission (EU Member States' embassies and EU Ambassadors in partner countries)
HRD	Human Rights' Defender
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICRS	International Committee of the Red Cross
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
IDPs	Internally displaced people
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IT	Information Technology
LGBTI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual and intersex people
MAG	Mines advisory group
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MINUSMA	UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MISP	Minimum initial service package
MNCH	Maternal, newborn and child health
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGEM	National gender equality mechanism
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PAWO	Pan-African Women's Organisation
PCM	Project Cycle Management
P/CVE	Preventing and countering violent extremism
PI	Partnership Instrument
PFM	Public finance management
PRIME	Platform for Remittances, Investments and Migrants' Entrepreneurship in Africa (PRIME)
QSG	Quality Support Group
RAR 1325	Regional Acceleration of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

RECs	Regional Economic Communities
ROM	Results-oriented monitoring
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SMS	Short Message Service
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism
STI	Science, technology and innovation
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Developmen
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP CADRI	UNDP-Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
UNFPA	United National Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affair
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
VET	Vocational education and training
WASH	Water, Sanitation and hygiene
WIEGO	Women in informal employment: Globalizing and Organizing
WO	Women's organisation
WPS	Women, peace and security

1. INTRODUCTION

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a core value of the European Union. It is a fundamental right enshrined in its Treaties, and an aim reaffirmed in the New European Consensus on Development 2017, the EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security 2018, and the European Union Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

The EU is committed to supporting:

- the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol on women's rights;

- the Beijing Platform for Action, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the outcomes of their review conferences; and

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and its follow-up resolutions.

The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II) 2016-2020[9] is the framework for supporting gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external relations. It provides the EU and its Member States with a common ground to substantiate their joint commitment to gender equality and the rights of women and girls worldwide. The implementation of the GAP II also contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, delivering on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 ('Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'), as well as most other goals through its objectives and 40 of its indicators aligned with the SDGs.

This fourth GAP II Annual Implementation Report 2019 offers an overview of the progress made by the Commission services, the EEAS and EU Member States in meeting the GAP II's objectives, at both the country and headquarters levels.

The report is based on individual reports from the Commission services and the EEAS (64 individual units reported at the headquarters level), reports from 23 Member States[10], alongside 369[11] country reports submitted by EU Delegations and Member States' embassies and cooperation agencies active in 122 partner countries. All of these reports include quantitative and qualitative information on activities and actions that contributed to the GAP II's objectives and indicators in 2019. This report is not a comprehensive analysis of all the actions carried out by EU actors. Rather, it presents those that are considered most meaningful for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment through the GAP II at the country, multi-country and global levels.

The report is structured in **three parts**. Each is introduced with a presentation of key issues, followed by an analysis of progress made in 2019, highlighting trends wherever possible.

The **first part (Chapter 2)** synthesises achievements under the GAP II's cross-cutting, horizontal '**Institutional Culture Shift'** priority. Section 2.1 examines the EU's work in partner countries, combining inputs from reports submitted by EU Delegations and EU Member States' authorities and embassies. Section 2.2 reflects on work by the European External Action Service. Section 2.3 focuses on contributions by Commission services in charge of external relations at the headquarters level. Section 2.4 presents actions reported by EU Member States.

The **second part of the report (Chapter 3)** analyses the progress made in 2019 on the GAP II's **three thematic priorities:**

- thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', encompassing six objectives and 23 indicators;

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9   13201/15 Council Conclusions on the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (26 October 2015).

10   Reports were received from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

11   There were 246 reports received from embassies across countries. The EU Member States that reported were: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. In Cambodia, the following actors reported jointly: Belgium, the Czech Republic, the EU Delegation, France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Overall, 122 EU Delegations reported globally.

- thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', including four objectives and 45 indicators; and

- thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation', comprising four objectives and 15 indicators.

Some selected examples of actions that EU actors carried out during 2019 are provided in each relevant section. At the end of each paragraph on thematic priorities, further **qualitative information** is provided through examples of actions at the regional level.

The concluding **third part of the report (Chapter 4)** highlights key strategies, lesson learned and promising practices on which future support should be based.

Three annexes complete the report. Annex 1 describes the reporting methodology. Annex 2 presents data on the EU's official development assistance. Annex 3 presents a review of the EU's support for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Box 2: Full list of GAP II objectives

Horizontal priority and objectives

A. Institutional Culture Shift in European Union External Relations
1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States.
2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States.
3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments.
4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policymaking.
5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to track progress systematically.
6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality.

Thematic priorities and objectives

B. Thematic priority: Physical and Psychological Integrity

7. Girls and women free from all forms of violence against them (VAWG) both in the public and private sphere.
8. Trafficking of girls and women for all forms of exploitation eliminated.
9. Protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations through EU supported operations.
10. Equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women.
11. Promoted, protected and fulfilled right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.
12. Healthy nutrition levels for girls and women and throughout their life cycle.

C. Thematic priority: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment

13. Equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination.
14. Access to decent work for women of all ages.
15. Equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship.
16. Equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable engagement in their management, enjoyed by girls and women.

D. Thematic priority: Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation

17. Equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels.
18. Women's organisations and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights freely able to work and protected by law.
19. Challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.
20. Equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues.

2. PROGRESS ON INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE SHIFT

The GAP II introduced the Institutional Culture Shift as a horizontal priority for Commission services, the EEAS and EU Member States, as a pre-condition to deliver more effectively on EU commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. During 2016-2019, the implementation of this priority strengthened the capacity and leadership needed to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed at all levels in policies and practices in the EU's relations with developing countries.

In 2019, reports on progress on Institutional Culture Shift were received from 64 individual units who reported at the headquarters level, as well as from 23 Member States'[12], alongside 369 country reports submitted by EU Delegations and Member States' embassies and cooperation agencies active in 122 partner countries, compared to 129 in 2018.

Between 2016 and 2019, there is evidence that the implementation of the GAP II resulted in **increased coordination** between EU institutions and with EU Member States' authorities. Gender donor coordination mechanisms exist in almost all reporting countries, and the participation of EU actors in these mechanisms has increased.

The number of gender champions[13], which doubled between 2017 and 2018, decreased in 2019, especially among EU Member States. Among Commission services, the number of gender champions increased. Overall, the number of staff members acting as **gender focal persons[14] increased** across EU institutions and within Member States' authorities. Such measures, combined with political commitment and resources, are a positive indication of efforts to strengthen gender mainstreaming.

During 2019, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development **(DG DEVCO) held 14 training sessions** for several EU Delegations on the rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming, reaching over 400 staff members in total. In addition, a number of webinars were held, as were regional trainings on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). The 2019 **Annual Meeting of Gender Focal Persons,** attended by 100 GFPs, provided excellent opportunities for learning on a number of topics, for example, on gender and energy, and on gender and civil society organisations.

EU actors continued to **access gender expertise** through donor coordination, from headquarters, through *ad hoc* technical assistance, or via consultations with national gender equality offices and civil society. Access to gender expertise appeared less pronounced in 2019 than in 2018, as some EU Delegations were unable to report due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there was **little evidence of a consistent strategic approach to training and capacity building** within EU delegations and Member States' embassies. Many gender equality training and capacity-building activities were supported within programmes and projects implemented by various partners and stakeholders. However, this experience did not result in institutional learning and capacity-building.

Some **56% of EU actions reported by the respondents to the survey made use of gender analysis in programme/project planning and design in 2019**. While the use of gender analysis has increased since 2016 (up from 43% in 2017), the practice still needs to be institutionalised. Few specific sector gender analyses were carried out in 2019.

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12   Reports were received by Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Croatia, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands.

13   A senior gender champion is a senior official from the Commission services or the EU Member States authorities who takes responsibility to communicate the EU's commitment, and global obligation (including on SDG 5), to gender equality and women's rights. At the country level, the role of a senior gender champion is to make regular statements on EU's commitments and obligations and to take a progressive stance on any current issues that have an impact on GEWE, in line with GAP II.

14   A gender focal person (GFP) is appointed among the operational staff in Commission services and EU Member States, at both the headquarters and field levels, to operationalise GEWE strategies. The GFP's role is to facilitate the institutional culture shift, the implementation of the GAP II and other strategies on GEWE, advise colleagues and the support hierarchy on policy dialogue, programming and gender issues with the partner governments, and update and disseminate information on key developments on GEWE at the EU, international, regional, national and local levels.

Figure 3: All EU actors and EU Member States' authorities, number of reported actions that used a gender analysis, 2017-2019
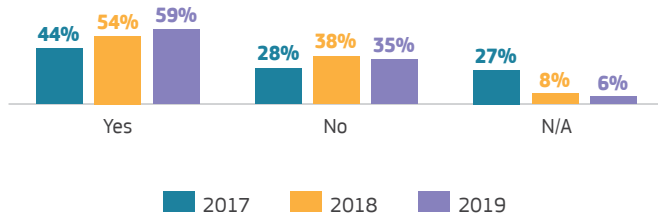
Although it has improved over the years, the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data still constitutes a challenge. The lack thereof continues to be a factor that prevents the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2019, 43% of reported actions improved the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data, marking an increase since 2018. One positive trend is that EU actors **enhanced monitoring processes**. When reporting on programme results, sex-disaggregated data were used in monitoring (to varying degrees) by 65% of all reported actions, compared to 62.5% in 2018. The under-use of sex-disaggregated data is usually attributed to a lack of data availability at the country level. EU actors engaged with an increasing number of **civil society organisations** in policy dialogue and consultations for programmes design. Compared to previous years, more actions supported **National Gender Equality Mechanisms** and involved working with them.

Figure 4: All EU actors, number of EU reported actions that involve working with National Gender Equality Mechanisms, 2017-2019
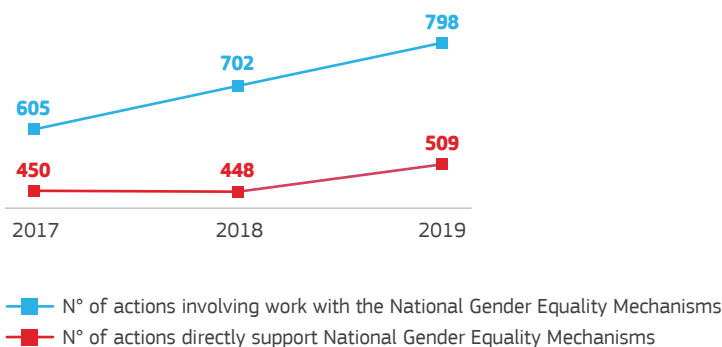
2.1. EU Delegations and EU Member States' authorities in the partner countries

Reports on the GAP II's implementation were submitted by 122 EU Delegations and 23 Member States in 2019[15]. While more Member States reported than in 2018 (20 in 2018), fewer EU Delegations contributed (129 in 2018) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, collaboration among EU institutions and with Member States' authorities on gender equality and women's empowerment continued to improve, and formal mechanisms of engagement among EU actors were more frequently reported. Between 2017 and 2019, EU Delegations across all regions reported **some improvement in reaching the GAP II's five minimum standards**. However, more can still be done in terms of preparing and using gender analysis, collecting and using sex-disaggregated data, and providing justifications for actions marked as 'G0'. In terms of the first performance standard, it should be noted that no action was marked 'G0' in some instances. In these cases, no justification was required.

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15   The embassies or bilateral agencies of the following EU Member States present in partner countries submitted reports: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

Figure 5: EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's five minimum standards of performance, 2017–2019. The figures are based on information derived from External Action Management Reports

Compared to 2018, the availability of **gender analysis** in priority sectors increased in Asia and the Pacific, including Central Asia, as well as in East and Southern Africa, Central America, and the countries in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region.

Overall, the use of **sex-disaggregated data throughout the project and programme cycle improved**, especially in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Gulf States, and the countries covered by Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. Most EU Delegations selected **GAP II objectives** to report on. While there was improvement in this regard, the overall level remains low. This highlights the need for further progress.

Political and policy dialogues on gender equality were held in most countries, particularly focusing on human rights and democracy. Gender-related matters tend to be least discussed in relation to policies on transport, public finance management and energy. Yet, in some regions, as West and Central Africa, Central Asia and Central America, dialogues addressed gender equality in the transport, infrastructure and communications sectors more often in 2019 than in 2018. This shows that efforts are being made to mainstream gender across all sectors.

In Asia and the Pacific, EU actors reported a sharp increase in attention towards discussing gender during dialogues on **trade**. Human rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, were the topics most discussed by EU actors in the Americas during sectoral dialogues. In Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries, the most commonly discussed topic was gender in the framework of human rights and democracy.

Box 3: Policy dialogues

Within sectoral dialogues at the partner country level, EU actors discussed **violence against women and girls** in 49% of reported dialogues, followed by **women, peace and security** in 31% of these dialogues, and **gender budgeting** in another 20%. This trend has remained constant over the years. EU Delegations raised the issue of gender budgeting slightly more often than EU Member States' authorities within sectoral dialogues. For instance, the EU Delegation to Cameroon ensured that the new sector budget support policy dialogue for 2021 included targets to address gender bias. Furthermore, dialogues on gender budgeting were linked to the eligibility criteria on budgetary transparency.

In the **Central African Republic**, the High Representative/Vice President met a group of women leaders and reiterated their essential role in **peace, reconciliation and recovery** processes. In the same week, the EU Delegation met 25 women leaders from the hinterland, who shared testimonies of discrimination, violation and project challenges. The EU Ambassador encouraged their representation on the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Advisory Committee.

Public events and campaigns offered great opportunities for political and policy dialogue. As in previous years, International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence provided multiple opportunities for dialogue with partner governments and public activities on VAWG, including among EU CSDP missions and operations. In Africa, **the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +), commemorated in Nairobi in November 2019**, was an important high-level occasion where women's rights were reasserted, and CSOs' work recognised. The **Spotlight Initiative** and the implementation of regional programmes offered the opportunity to increase dialogue and collaboration on gender equality, in aid of transformative change.

Box 4: High-level policy dialogue on gender and the Rise and Shine Campaign on Gender in Mauritius

The 2nd high-level policy dialogue on gender with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare took place in May 2019, kick-starting 'Europe Week' activities. The policy dialogue was an opportunity to discuss achievements on a number of key performance indicators related to the promotion of gender equality, in line with the Joint Monitoring Framework signed between the EU Delegation and the Government of Mauritius. Launched on 7 March 2019, the campaign took a strong stand against all forms of VAWG. A silent march on 23 November, entitled 'Stop Violence against Women and Girls', highlighted shared values and commitment to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. Two days later, stakeholders gathered for an open forum debate on gender-based violence and femicide. As a way forward, the EU Delegation will ensure that the reflections raised are submitted to the High-Powered Committee on

Gender-Based Violence set up by the Prime Minister.

Box 5: Win-Win – Gender equality means good business

The EU, UN Women and the ILO implemented this programme in six countries in the Americas. It engaged companies, women's business networks and women entrepreneurs with a view to fostering women's economic empowerment, exchanging good practices and promoting organisational change. The initiative's overall aim is to advance equality, innovation and partnerships between women in Europe and the Americas.

Formal and informal dialogues enabled EU actors to report some key country-level milestones. For example, in **South Sudan**, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict, supported by the EU, commits the parties to ensuring women's representation of at least 35%. In Sudan, the EU engaged in continuous dialogue with civil society on gender equality and women's rights for the establishment of a gender sensitive transitional government.

Box 6: Peace Process Support and Good Governance Project

As part of this German project, a women's conference with over 300 participants was organised in Hadramaut, Yemen, to discuss women's political and socio-economic participation. While the Yemeni peace process struggled to take off in 2019, the EU was actively involved in preparatory work with the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen via the Chr. Michelsen Institute, as well as the women's advocacy group created in this framework. Through initiatives with UN Special Envoy, UN Women and the women's organisation Tawafuq, the EU Delegation strongly supported Yemeni women's involvement in peace talks.

EU actors continued to engage prominently in fighting discrimination against certain groups. For instance, in the Americas, the EU strongly supported lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual and intersex (LGBTI+) people, as well as indigenous women and groups.

Measures for formal and informal **burden-sharing** with regard to the GAP II were reported in a number of countries. While fewer burden-sharing arrangements were reported in 2019 compared to the previous year, formal agreements increased as a form of joint programming in all regions. This represents a notable achievement which triggered country-level processes and EU actors' engagement therein, which the Commission continues to promote.

Figure 6: Gender coordination groups led by EU at country level, 2016-2019

Year	Value
2016	35
2017	36
2018	69
2019	58
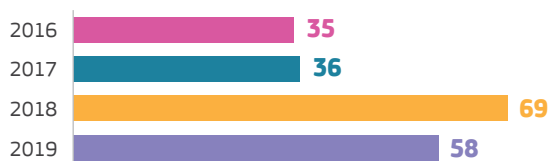
For example, gender equality featured as a cross-cutting priority and specific area in **joint programming** in Egypt, Georgia, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. A number of broad **donor coordination mechanisms** on gender equality were in place in 2019, 58 of which were led by the EU. Donor coordination mechanisms played a crucial role in coordination, collaboration, advocacy, learning, and access to knowledge and expertise.

Box 7: Cooperating Partners Group on Gender in Zambia

The Cooperating Partners Group on Gender – including EU Delegations, Member States, other donors and UN agencies – provided a platform for information sharing on best practices and joint advocacy. A matrix was developed to map which gender-related issues the partners support, the volume of funds, funding periods and locations. This will avoid duplication and help leverage resources to achieve optimal results.

Figure 7: N# of senior gender champions, EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries, 2016-2019

2016	**21**
2017	**112**
2018	**226**
2019	**216**
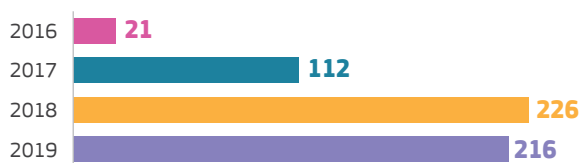
In 2019, **gender champions** were present in most countries, albeit slightly fewer than in 2018. There were considerable regional variations. More champions were reported in Asia, the Americas and the Gulf States than in other regions.

Box 8: Gender champions

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the Head of the EU Delegation advocated for gender equality at official occasions and informal gatherings, such as meetings with students, young women's organisations and women youth leaders. In the **Gambia**, the EU Ambassador committed to the Panel Parity Pledge to ensure gender balance on panels. In many instances, EU Ambassadors spoke up for gender equality.

In 2019, EU actors' access to **gender expertise** was less pronounced than 2018. As noted above, gender expertise was accessed through donor coordination, from headquarters, via *ad hoc* technical assistance or consultations with **national gender equality mechanisms** and civil society. The exceptions were the Gulf States and Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries, where all reporting EU actors consulted senior external expertise on strategic and specific gender equality issues. Overall, external experts were employed to implement gender analyses and conduct evaluations.

Figure 8: EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries, Mechanisms to access senior gender expertise 2019 vs 2017

2017	**56**
2018	**162**
2019	**143**
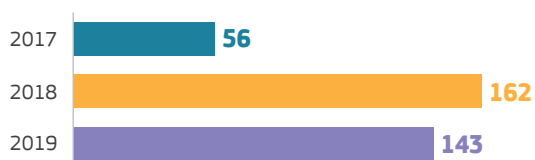
Gender focal persons were in place in almost all reporting EU Delegations, playing a key role in gender mainstreaming. The Delegations also regularly consulted external gender expertise.

Good practices and corrective actions to improve transparency and accountability, and to ensure the delivery of results on gender equality were reported in many countries. However, there was a sharp decrease in reports of these practices compared to 2018 in all regions, with the exception of Africa.

Figure 9: EU Delegations and EU Member States' embassies in partner countries – % of actions formulated using gender analysis, 2017 vs 2019
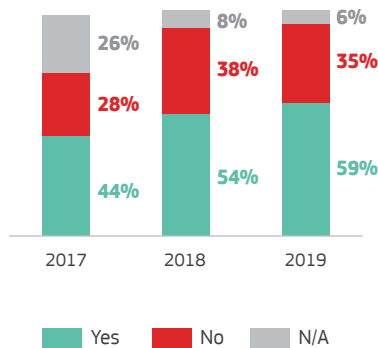
Many EU actors ensured adherence to the GAP II's minimum standards of performance and access to sector-specific **gender analysis**. They also organised awareness raising and discussions within EU Delegations, as well as sometimes with CSOs and implementing partners. Some EU Delegations set up Quality Support Groups on gender equality and women's empowerment that proved valuable as they comprehensively reviewed proposals.

Box 9: Gender mainstreaming in climate change and blended projects

The German Embassy's technical support for **Vietnam's** Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment helped to mainstream gender into the country's Nationally Determined Contribution on Climate Change. The EU Delegation to **China** sought ways to include specific gender guidelines for the development of blended projects, including in sectors such as energy, climate change and infrastructure.

All regions witnessed a steady increase in EU actions whose design was informed by gender analysis, marking the continuation of a positive trend established since 2017. Though the practice is not yet routine, EU Delegations and EU Member States' embassies in partner countries clearly increased their efforts to ensure that programmes and projects are informed by gender analysis.

Box 10: Examples of gender analyses

The EU Delegation to **Syria** carried out a gender analysis and gender audit, while the Embassy of **Spain** in **Panama** used a gender analysis to inform its School for Women Leaders project. The project provides data on women's representation on Community Water Boards and analyses power relations in public spaces. Gender analysis was also reported in some non-traditional sectors, such as trade in **Mexico**, the media, and access to information technologies and digitalisation in **Malaysia**. In **Bolivia**, the EU analysed the degree to which gender is integrated in national strategies on illicit drugs and productive diversification. Its report, shared with state partners, fed into a new sectoral budget support programme on drug trafficking. There was a stable increase in actions formulated using the findings of consultations with partner governments and CSOs.

EU Delegation and EU Member States in partner countries worked to improve the **availability of gender data and statistics** in 2019. More actions reported in 2019 supported the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics than in the previous year – 1,500 in 2019, compared to 1,317 in 2018.

Box 11: Gender statistics

In the Enlargement region, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is involved in strengthening the capacity of the **Western Balkans** and **Turkey** to develop gender equality policies aligned with EU priorities, as well as the collection of data relevant for EIGE's Gender Equality Index and Gender Statistics Database. This

support was extended to **Serbia, Montenegro, Albania** and **North Macedonia**.

Overall, the capacity to collect and use gender data at all stages of the programming cycle still needs to be strengthened, as does disaggregation by age, disability, sexuality, rural/urban location and migration status. Some research projects on gender equality were reported, as was support for national statistical authorities and data-gathering institutions.

Monitoring missions involving a gender component took place in various countries and regions, although their number decreased compared to 2018. Recommendations generally referred to a lack of gender mainstreaming, disaggregated data and contextual gender analysis.

Box 12: Good practices on monitoring missions follow up measures

In **Nepal**, a mission recommended that the Embassy of Finland strengthen understandings of transformational social norms and intersectionality, in order to forge new approaches to measure transformative change in terms of social norms, intersectionality and harmful practices.

The EU Delegation to **Papua New Guinea** acted on a recommendation to boost women's participation in the village court system by planning to support efforts to increase the number of women magistrates.

In February 2019, several monitoring missions took place in Sana'a, Yemen, highlighting the need for women's participation in national recovery. To follow up on its recommendations, the project proposal included more details on women's involvement, sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific indicators. A targeted action is planned on women's empowerment.

In **Afghanistan**, where civil society organisations are not allowed to participate in Joint Committee Working Groups, the EU conducted consultative meetings with CSOs to ensure an inclusive process that reflects their concerns and suggestions.

In **Nicaragua**, despite a difficult socio-political situation, EU actors engaged in inclusive participatory consultations with civil society. The EU also took effective, rapid action to mitigate the effects of the crisis in the country on women's livelihoods by financing civil society projects.

EU actors continued to support **national gender equality mechanisms** in partner countries**.** Direct support increased in the **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries** and in the **Americas**.

Support for **civil society organisations** remained strong, enhancing inclusiveness and an enabling environment for stronger, more acknowledged action.

2.2. European External Action Service

In 2019, the EEAS continued to contribute to the EU's leading role in global action on gender equality and women's empowerment, demonstrated through political commitments, diplomacy, engagement, joint initiatives, and by promoting gender mainstreaming as the key strategy for achieving gender equality.

Political and policy dialogues with bilateral and regional partners championed gender equality – including the women, peace and security agenda – in international decision-making fora, despite growing opposition to women's rights worldwide. The EU safeguarded global commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in these fora, including the **63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women**, the **UN Human Rights Council** – particularly its session in June 2019 – and the annual session of the **UN General Assembly's Third Committee**. The EU's role as a reliable, cooperative and principled global player on gender equality proved critically important to achieving these sessions' satisfactory results. Throughout, the EEAS acted as a strong promoter, a driving and balanced force among powers, while defending internationally-recognised gender equality principles and standards.

The EEAS continued to ensure EU policies' internal and external coherence on priorities related to gender equality,

women's empowerment and WPS. The endorsement of the **EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2024)[16]** was a key achievement in 2019. It was developed in close cooperation with Member States, civil society and partner organisations. In 2019, all **human rights dialogues and sub-committees** with partner countries included *ad hoc* sessions on gender equality, women's empowerment and WPS. Moreover, a High-Level Academic Roundtable on WPS was held in June.

The EEAS – including **Common Security and Defence Policy** missions and operations – reported **115 EU political and policy positions** at international events that integrated a focus on gender equality. These included EU statements at the UN Security Council's 'Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict', as well as several Arria formula meetings [17]. In 2019, **women headed two out of 10 civilian CSDP Missions**, and **two of the eight EU Special Representatives** were women. Women's participation in CSDP missions and operations has grown over the years, albeit slowly. The percentage of **international women staff in civilian missions was around 24%** in August 2019**.** Women accounted for 29% of all international and local staff, up from 25.5% in 2006. The percentage of **women in CSDP military operations and missions** was approximately **7%** in September 2019.

In 2019, the EEAS further strengthened dialogues and partnership **with the UN, the African Union (AU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE**).Partnerships and cooperation with these entities contributed to accelerating progress on gender equality, as did partnerships with regional organisations such as the Council of Europe, the Organisation of American States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the G7 and the G20.

Box 13: UN-EU partnership on crisis management and UN-EU Workshop on Women in Peace Operations and Processes

> In 2019, the **UN-EU partnership on crisis management** concluded a joint mapping exercise on WPS-related cooperation.
>
> In November, the **UN-EU Workshop on Women in Peace Operations and Processes** was held in Brussels.

The EEAS worked closely with the **Working Party on Conventional Arms Export (COARM)**. In this context, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs began implementing Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011 in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the WPS agenda. The action's overall objective is to contribute to international peace, security, gender equality and sustainable development by enhancing the effectiveness of small arms control.

At the June session of the Human Rights Council, the African Union and the EU jointly organised a side event on **'Women's empowerment and the implementation of the SDGs'**. Under the new **Pan-African Programme 2018-2020** – a financial instrument for the Africa-EU Partnership – the EU sought to promote gender equality by supporting the work of various African governance institutions.

Political messages by the **EU Special Representative for the Sahel** promoted women's inclusion through high-level bilateral meetings, regional summits and conferences in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin. These continued to push for women's participation at the negotiation table of the **Monitoring Committee of the 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.**

Box 14: Women, Peace and Security in Mali

> The **EU Special Representative for the Sahel** helped to establish a working group with the international

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16   EU Action Plan (2019-2024) to implement the EU Strategic Approach to WPS, available at: https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11031-2019-INIT/en/pdf

17   The practice of the Arria-formula meetings was initiated in March 1992 by the then-President of the Security Council, Ambassador Diego Arria of Venezuela. According to the 1993-1995 Supplement of the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council *"Arria-formula meetings are not formal meetings of the Security Council. They are convened at the initiative of a member or members of the Security Council in order to hear the views of individuals, organisations or institutions on matters within the competence of the Security Council."*

mediation group in Bamako to reflect on how to implement UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325[18]and include women in the delegations that participate in negotiations. The Special Representative worked with the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Malian Ministry for Children and Women, and local civil society organisations on the establishment of a **Women Observatory in Mali**, which includes all women's organisations in the country.

EU-NATO cooperation featured regular dialogues on WPS, with a focus on sharing best practices and lessons learned. Early warning indicators and conflict analysis that integrated a gender perspective began to be developed in November 2019. In October, NATO and the EU Military Leadership discussed gender in military operations at a Senior Leader Seminar. In March, a **joint EU-NATO high-level conference on WPS with a focus on the Western Balkans was held in Sarajevo**.

Cooperation also continued with the formal launch of the 'Regional Acceleration of UN Security Council Resolution 1325' (RAR 1325) initiative in October, and the agreement on its terms of reference among the participating organisations notably the UN, EU, AU and NATO.

Box 15: EU-Central Asia Forum

In July, the **EU Special Representative for Central Asia** – in close cooperation with Commission services responsible for external action and for international cooperation and development – organised the **EU-Central Asia Forum in Bishkek**, back-to-back with the EU-Central Asia ministerial meeting. The event brought together some 200 participants from both regions, representing civil society, researchers, the media, and governments. It placed great emphasis on women's and youth's involvement. Several side-events took place during the forum, including a roundtable on gender equality organised with UN Women.

All civilian CSDP missions put in place a gender focal point network to enable systematic gender mainstreaming in internal and external activities. In 2019, **75 gender focal points were appointed in these missions**. Fifty received training, paired with support from gender advisors on integrating a gender perspective in their units and participating in the network. Although terms of reference exist for all gender focal persons, their role is not usually reflected in job descriptions. The Civilian Operations Commander Operational Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming provided a guiding framework, prompting most missions to devise internal annual gender action plans. These provide a structure for internal and external gender mainstreaming actions, gender-specific efforts, and projects related to mandate implementation. The guidelines also serve as a reporting and monitoring tool for Heads of Mission and the Commission services responsible for Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability to assess gender mainstreaming.

While actions were taken to improve the ratio of women appointed as Heads of Delegation, only 37 women (27.41%) held these positions in 2019. Nevertheless, this marks a positive trend compared to 2018 (25.19%). The trend was negative for Heads of CSDP civilian and military missions. None of the 16 CSDP missions (10 civilian and 6 military) was headed by a woman in 2019, compared to five of 10 civilian missions headed by women in 2016. To date, men have led all six military missions.

Most CSDP missions regularly participated in campaigns and action days that promoted gender equality, WPS and women's empowerment. In January, the EU Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM CAR) appointed a full-time gender advisor to enable gender training for national security forces. The EU Military Training Mission in Mali developed a training curriculum on international humanitarian law and gender, which is considered a good practice.

Gender and human rights were integral parts of the European Security and Defence College's (ESDC) training programme, including the CSDP orientation course and high-level course, as well as courses on conflict prevention,

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18   The UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping., humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and gull involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Full text is available at https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/

peace-building, an integrated approach, and security sector reform. Of 63 general trainings, 55 (68%) had gender sessions or gender-related e-learning. Specialised courses on integrating a gender perspective in missions were offered four times in 2019.

2.3. European Commission

2.3.1 Foreign policy instruments

Gender mainstreaming is increasingly embedded in the working methods of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments across all of the interventions reported by all five Regional Teams, located in Bangkok, Beirut, Brasilia, Dakar and Nairobi.[19] Gender equality is also structurally integrated into the Service's Management Plan, with clear targets and references to the GAP II.

In 2019, **gender equality was addressed through targeted actions and as a cross-cutting issue for interventions** implemented under the **Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)** and the **Partnership Instrument (PI)**. For both instruments, a **Gender, Age and Diversity Facility** was contracted. Providing external technical services, it made the Service's actions and operations more effective, while enhancing staff capacities to apply a gender, age and diversity perspective in their day-to-day work. Using the guidance note on 'Evaluations with gender as a cross-cutting dimension', evaluations under both instruments adopted a gender-sensitive approach that highlighted successes and shortcomings. This learning process will help project managers to improve gender mainstreaming. In May, the IcSP-funded 'Survey on Violence against Women, Well-being and Safety of Women' paved the way for targeted country-level initiatives.

As a complex phenomenon, fighting trafficking in human beings continued to be systematically addressed, including with a view to the gender dimension of the crime and the particular vulnerability of women and girls. The Commission carried out extensive work in EU internal and external policies in close cooperation with the EEAS to ensure a gender-specific approach across all actions. In the framework of the 2017 Communication[20] on reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy for the eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions, the Commission is preparing a third report on progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Gender continued to be an integral part of EU election observation missions' (EOM) planning and implementation. The Service's Annual Activity Report 2019[21] and Programme Statements for the draft budget 2021 reported on G-marker scores, while highlighting gender-targeted actions and gender mainstreaming efforts.

In terms of staff allocations, four Gender Focal Persons at the headquarters level, and five in the Regional Teams, ensured delivery on EU gender policy commitments.

The Service's management remained actively involved in promoting **gender equality, girls' and women's empowerment**, and the **women, peace and security** agenda.

Box 16: WeEmpower Asia Programme

The Director-Head of Service, as **Senior Gender Champion,** made regular statements on gender issues in various contexts. On the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March), the joint EU-UN Women three-year *WeEmpower Asia Programme* was launched. Funded under the PI, the programme encourages the private sector to expand women's economic participation and business opportunities in seven countries: China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

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19   Covering Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, the Americas, West Africa and Lake Chad, and Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, respectively. Colleagues in Vienna, Austria, and Kiev, Ukraine, who covered projects in Europe and Central Asia, also contributed to the report.

20   COM(2017) 728.

21   Service for Foreign Policy Instruments Annual Activity Report 2019. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/annual-activity-report-2019-service-foreign-policy-instruments_en

Gender equality was also centre stage at a policy meeting on **EU support for women mediators** – organised with the Civil Society Dialogue Network in Brussels on 1 April 2019 – and a meeting with a group of women mediators at the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) in May 2019.

2.3.2 International cooperation and development

In 2019, there was **significant progress** on the GAP II's horizontal priority, the 'Institutional Culture Shift'. **Senior gender champions** provided strategic leadership, priority was given to training sessions on a rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming, and the availability of gender expertise increased, as did the integration of gender equality in evaluations. Significant progress was made in addressing gender equality in evaluations, as all 94 project evaluations launched in 2019 included provisions for a gender assessment as a cross-cutting dimension.

Over one hundred staff from all regions and the headquarters level attended the 2019 Annual Meeting of Gender Focal Persons.

Box 17: The annual Gender Focal Person's meeting

The **2019 Gender Focal Persons Annual Meeting** was held in Brussels in October. More than 100 staff members participated: 60 GFPs attended from EU Delegations worldwide, including 7 GFPs and gender advisors from CSDP missions and operations. In addition, 40 staff from headquarters attended. The meeting focused attention on building GFPs' capacity to fulfil their roles, while sharing experiences and approaches, and strengthening coordination and networking. Highlights included an open participatory session on priorities for the GAP III. This emphasised that gender mainstreaming is a transformative process that requires the systematic integration of gender analysis in all sectors and across all modalities, alongside the involvement and support of senior management, and close collaboration with feminist, gender equality and labour organisations. Training sessions covered a range of issues, including gender and energy, women's economic empowerment, gender and guarantees, and relations with CSOs.

High-level international events in 2019 showcased the centrality of gender equality in the EU's international cooperation and development policy. Chief among these was the **French Presidency of the G7**, which prioritised gender equality as a cross-cutting global cause within the theme of 'Fighting Inequalities'. G7 members incorporated the 'rights of girls and women' as a fundamental objective. The G7 highlighted education's key role, as did the **Finnish Presidency of the EU** with a high-level event co-organised with the European Commission on 'Stepping up efforts to resolve the global learning crisis: the role of the EU and its Member States'. European Commission representatives took part in the high-level conference in Nairobi, Kenya, to commemorate the **25th anniversary of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).** The event mobilised the political will, and reaffirmed the financial commitments, needed to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action.

EU investments were highlighted by the **Spotlight Initiative**, the **Women's Financial Inclusion Facility** and guarantees programmes like **Nasira**[22]. The G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development also focused on women's and girls' education.

Women's economic empowerment was another key theme of G7 and G20 events, as was women in infrastructure, marked by the launch of the **African Network for Women in Infrastructure** (ANWIn). The EU actively supported the adoption of an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) instrument on preventing and managing sexual exploitation in development cooperation, and adopted the **DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance**[23].

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22   NASIRA is an innovative financial programme by the FMO International Entrepreneurial Bank. It uses guarantees to allow local banks to lend to young, women, and migrant entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa and countries neighbouring Europe.

23   See: http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-recommendation-on-ending-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment.htm

Progress was made on the systematic inclusion of **sector-specific analysis** in all action documents, as well as the use of **disaggregated indicators** and **gender markers**. Gender analysis, prepared by other agencies such as UNESCO, was used systematically in the design of major education interventions. Around one-quarter of actions were formulated based on **consultations' findings**. These were largely actions by partner civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations. Overall, however, not all global actions used gender analysis, such as those on the environment or value chains. Only 19% of actions disaggregated results by sex, while 26% did so partially. Some 35% of actions worked with national or local media partners to raise awareness of gender equality.

Several **training** sessions were held, such as training on a rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming. A regional training on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) featured a session on gender for EU Delegation staff worldwide. To address staff turnover, more attention must be paid to targeted gender training, especially sector-specific training, in 2020 and beyond. Analysis by the concerned unit reveals room for improvement in addressing such dimensions.

Units set up an informal internal **network of gender focal persons** – bridging thematic and geographic units focused on Sub-Saharan Africa – to review policy documents and share information and good practices. Eleven units had a gender focal person, and gender equality was an explicit responsibility in the job descriptions of 27% of women staff and 21% of men. **Gender expertise** was present across units[24].

The revision of the Project Cycle Management (PCM) Guidance paid specific attention to gender. Gender was fully integrated in basic PCM training (the PCM and Logical Framework Approach), and the GAP II's minimum standards of performance were included in the project and programme evaluation TOR model. Steps were taken to strengthen the gender-responsive approach of Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) reviews, and work began on the revision of all Sector Indicator Guidance, including the integration of a gender dimension in all result chains and indicators when revising Sector Indicator Guidance. The EU Results Framework's (EURF) indicator 3.2 on human development was revised to include gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender was systematically included in the terms of reference and contracts for learning activities and assignments of the Methodological Knowledge Sharing programme.

Box 18: Good practices from International cooperation and development

UN Joint Fund for 2030 Agenda: The EU contributed to this pooled fund that helps countries accelerate progress on the SDGs. The fund mainstreams gender, gender equality is among its main objectives, and this is reflected in its operational performance indicators. It operates through a series of calls for the UN system, leading to joint programmes. The first two calls used the resource book for Mainstreaming Gender in UN Common Programming and Gender Marker 2.

Supporting the Economic Empowerment of Afghan Women through Education and Training in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan: An event on this programme was organised by the EU in Brussels. It featured remarks by partner governments, a presentation by implementing partner United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and a video screening. It was preceded by an event at Almaty Management University, with members of the Afghan women's delegation and the university's student union.

Women and Drug Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) is carrying out a study on this subject, exploring the gaps and inequalities women face *vis-à-vis* drugs, with a focus on countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The study outlines the international legal framework as a reference point for designing public policies on drugs, while taking into account human rights and gender equality. It also explores progress on mainstreaming gender in drug policies.

Thematic support for digital initiatives: The **Digital4Women** study will explore how mainstreaming

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24   Some examples include: internal gender expertise in the unit covering migration and trafficking; mid- to long-term mechanism in place to consult external senior expertise such as the gender support service to the GAP II, a joint programming support contract that includes consultants with gender expertise, and a SIEA contract for energy and gender expertise to support monitoring by the Women and Sustainable Energy initiative. The Trade and Private Sector Development Facility included an expert on women's economic empowerment to mainstream gender in all support actions. Other units drew on ad hoc technical expertise, for example, on gender and the environment.

digital technologies and services in EU development programmes can enable women's empowerment in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will collect information, good practices and 14 country case studies on the use of digital technologies and solutions for women's empowerment, with a view to informing tailored recommendations.

InCA Learning Programme: Synergies with this programme's intercultural and gender-responsive, rights-based approaches offered a conducive framework for exchange on gender issues – both internally and with external stakeholders. In 2019, a reflection workshop was held on the cultural dimensions of gender issues, while methodological resources and activities were developed, including on intercultural gender terminology in EU Delegations.

Trust Fund for Emergency in Africa: Under the Sahel and Lake Chad Window, programme managers and implementing partners strove to collect sex-disaggregated data, set logical framework targets on women beneficiaries, and include the gender focal person in meetings.

2.3.3 Neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations

Engagement on women's and girls' rights markedly increased since 2017. In 2019, 156 **EU positions on key international agendas** included a focus on gender equality and women's rights, up from 152 in 2018 and 74 in 2017.

Box 19: Key international agendas and meetings

Meeting with Syrian women active in civil society: A meeting hosted by the High Representative and the UN Special Envoy for Syria took place in the context of the Brussels III Conference, 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region'.

5th EU-Ukraine Association Committee: Its conclusions recommended ratifying the Istanbul Convention, implementing the domestic violence law and the State Social Programme for Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, and amending the Criminal Code to strengthen liability for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Roma Inclusion Award for Western Balkans and Turkey: In 2019, the award focused on 'Unknown heroes – women grassroots activists'. The Advisor on the Coordination of Roma Inclusion Policies and the Equality Coordinator highlighted gender equality and the need to combat multiple forms of discrimination against Roma women in the enlargement region.

The practice of selecting **gender champions** has not yet become customary. However, some Heads of Units and the Director-General advocated for gender equality in policy dialogues, international fora, and at public and internal events. They supported gender mainstreaming in new actions and financial commitments, alongside compliance with the GAP II's minimum standards of performance.

Gender mainstreaming mechanisms improved in 2019. For example, headquarters-based units reported 44 additional **good practices** in this year, considerably more than the 26 good practices reported in 2018, but less than the 59 reported in 2017. Moreover, 25 **corrective actions** were implemented to improve performance on gender equality[25].

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25 For example, in North Macedonia and Kosovo, gender mainstreaming in annual programmes is screened by country coordinators. Gender equality has been mainstreamed in the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) programming and in the Western Balkans and Turkey through the Quality Review exercises. In the Western Balkans, the transmission of sex-disaggregated data from ongoing private sector programmes was requested to track their impact on beneficiaries. Corrective actions were also taken by a number of ongoing programmes, i.e. regular reporting under EU4Youth to ensure 50% participation by women and girls; gender mainstreaming training in a civil society support monitoring project, and a request to some projects to track and report on gender-specific data.

Box 20: Good practices from Neighborhood policy and enlargement negotiations

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey: Both strengthened their gender perspective, including through actions like 'Refugees-responsive Labour Demand'. This creates a social enterprise model targeting Syrian women refugees and Turkish host communities. 'SIHHAT II' foresees the transition of sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and health care services for refugees to the Ministry of Health. Sex-disaggregated data are used by the Facility across all actions, and all monitoring data under the Facility for Refugees were disaggregated by sex, nationality, disability and age, as far as possible. In 2019, sexual and reproductive rights were introduced in the enlargement package.

TAIEX events: Nine events were organised on gender equality, up from just two in 2018. These included events on gender mainstreaming, gender-based violence, prostitution and women's entrepreneurship. A workshop on 'EU Policies and Practices to Increase Women's Entrepreneurship in Rural Areas' engaged officials from Turkey's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

EU4Gender Equality – Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence: This programme was designed to strengthen equal rights and opportunities for women and men by shifting social perceptions, challenging gender stereotypes and championing men's participation in care work.

EU4Climate: The programme supported Eastern Neighbourhood countries' commitments to the 2015 Paris Agreement through low carbon emissions and climate-resilient development policies. To this end, it will develop a gender action plan.

IPA and EaP Civil Society Facility 2019-2020: Gender equality and women's empowerment remained significant objectives. Programme actions will support GAP II commitments.

EU4Youth: The programme used sex-disaggregated data and set a target of ensuring that 50% of participants are women and girls.

Multi-Annual Action Programme 2019-2020 for Azerbaijan: The programme mainstreamed gender equality in all sectoral interventions on capacity development and institutional building.

Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region: Implemented by women's rights organisations, this regional programme set up a Regional Observatory to monitor compliance with women's human rights commitments in the region, as well as the development of gender responsive policies and legislation.

EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the 'Madad Fund': The fund introduced gender-disaggregation criteria for all indicators used to report progress on beneficiaries and results-based quarterly information.

Training on a gender-responsive rights-based approach was organised in Unit A1 for Strategy, Policy and European Economic Area/European Free Trade Association, as was gender mainstreaming training in Unit C2 for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership, under a civil society support programme.

In 2019, 18 **gender focal persons** were in place, one per unit, in the Commission service's 22 units. More work is needed to ensure gender mainstreaming at all levels. Only 4% of women staff and 1% of men were trained on gender equality. All trainees are permanent officials, and eight are gender focal persons. Some units mobilised gender expertise to meet programming, planning and implementation needs.

2.3.4 European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations

To evoke the desired **Institutional Culture Shift** in EU external relations, the Commission service responsible for **European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations (DG ECHO) made sustained efforts to implement the GAP II** in humanitarian actions. For instance, by continuing to implement the 2013 policy 'Gender in Humanitarian Assistance: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance', the EU highlighted gender equality on multiple occasions.

In May 2019, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management represented the EU at an **international conference on sexual and gender-based violence in Oslo, Norway,** reiterating the EU's commitment and showcasing EU actions in this field.

The EU continued to be an active member of the **Global Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies**, having previously led the initiative between June 2017 and December 2018. In 2019, an Enhanced Response Capacity project with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), initiated during the EU's leadership of the Call to Action, culminated in the development of inter-agency standards on gender-based violence in emergencies and guidance on developing context-specific Call to Action Road Maps. These were based on pilots in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In 2018 and 2019, approximately **EUR 62 million were allocated from the EU's humanitarian budget to measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence**. In 2019, the implementation and dissemination of the EU's Humanitarian Protection Guidelines continued. The humanitarian Gender-Age Marker continued to be applied in order to measure the extent to which gender considerations are integrated in EU-funded projects. In December, the Commission launched its first-ever e-learning course on the Gender-Age Marker. Moreover, it worked on a second assessment report on the Gender-Age Marker, which was published in 2020. This report demonstrates that, for projects starting in 2016 and 2017, 89% of all EU humanitarian aid integrated gender and age considerations 'strongly' or 'to a certain extent'[26].

In addition, the EU's Humanitarian Health Guidelines (2014), which include principles and references on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health in emergencies, were actively applied across all actions promoted by DG ECHO. During 2018 and 2019, approximately **EUR 47 million were allocated to reproductive health** from the EU's humanitarian aid budget**.**

A Staff Working Document on Education in Emergencies was released in 2019. It promotes a gender-sensitive approach and safe and accessible education opportunities for all vulnerable children. Overall, 55% of Education in Emergencies projects supported by the EU implement gender-based interventions.

2.3.5 Trade

The Commission expanded its work on gender and trade with a range of actions, including two conferences hosted by the EU Commissioner for Trade in 2017 and 2019. These covered data and analysis, gender provisions in trade agreements, and trade and gender in the World Trade Organization.

All EU negotiated trade agreements in 2019 contained commitments to implementing fundamental ILO Conventions on equal remuneration (C100) and non-discrimination in employment and labour (C111) in a dedicated chapter on 'Trade and Sustainable Development'. The EU also used unilateral instruments – such as the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) – to promote gender equality. The ratification and implementation of CEDAW and the ILO's fundamental Conventions are requirements for beneficiaries of the EU's 'GSP+' arrangement. Beneficiaries of standard GSP and the European Banking Authority must also respect the principles enshrined in these international instruments.

Box 21: Studies on women and trade

'From Europe to the World: Understanding Challenges for European Businesswomen' – a study[27] by the Commission service responsible for trade and the International Trade Centre – contributed to data availability on women's participation in trade. It highlights challenges that women exporters and importers face in agriculture and manufacturing in 12 Member States. The service's 'Female Participation in EU Exporting Activities: Jobs and Wages'[28] study revealed that the EU's global exports support 36 million jobs in the

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26   See: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid_en
27   See: http://www.intracen.org/publication/Europe-to-world/
28   See: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/september/tradoc_158372.pdf

European Union, 13.5 million of which are held by women, up from 10 million in 2008. Gender impact analysis sections, based on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Gender Toolbox, were included in the Sustainability Impact Assessments[29] of the modernised EU-Chile Association Agreement and those related to agreements negotiated with Australia and New Zealand. The EU, Trinidad and Tobago and Senegal hosted a 'Women and Digital Trade'[30] workshop in July, exploring the opportunities that digital trade offers for women and for reducing gender bias.

2.3.6 Employment, social affairs and inclusion

The Commission worked on gender equality in employment, social affairs and inclusion in different international fora. Within the G7 and G20, women's empowerment, labour market participation and opportunities remained a central topic. Gender equality was a cross-cutting priority across working groups for many recent Council Presidencies.

Box 22: Brisbane target, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the ILO Convention 190

Brisbane target: The EU and other G20 members actively worked towards this target adopted by the G20 in 2014 to reduce the gender gap in labour force participation by 25% by 2025. Building on past commitments, gender equality was a principal priority of the French Presidency of the G7 in 2019, resulting in the adoption of a catalogue of commitments within the Social Communiqué on gender equality in the world of work, as well as in the Biarritz Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM): The Commission service responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion was active in regional fora, such as the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour in April in Cascais, Portugal. It addressed pressing labour market needs in the Euro-Mediterranean region, particularly the persistent inequality in access to jobs for women and young people. In the Ministerial Declaration of 3 April 2019, UfM Ministers reiterated their commitment to creating the conditions needed to mainstream gender in employment and labour policies.

ILO Convention: In June 2019, the Commission advocated for the adoption of ILO Convention 190 (2019)

2.4. Research and innovation

Gender equality in research and innovation is being increasingly included in agendas of Joint Science and Technology Steering Committees with Third Countries. In 2019, DG Research and innovation (RTD) provided input for discussions on **women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology** that took place at the **G7** and **G20** levels.

The **Horizon 2020** funding programme is the core instrument at the EU level to support and leverage research and innovation cooperation with partner countries. A specific **call topic on 'the gender perspective of science, technology and innovation (STI) in dialogue with third countries' was launched in 2019. A** 'Science with and for Society' (SwafS) work programme will be launched in 2020.

Several research topics in other Horizon 2020 work programmes also consider both the gender dimension and international cooperation aspects. For instance, this is true for a programme on 'Food Systems in Africa', under Societal Challenge 2 (Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bio-economy), as well as another programme on EU-India water cooperation, under Societal Challenge 5 (Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials).

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29   See: https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/policy-making/analysis/policy-evaluation/sustainability-impact-assessments/index_en.htm

30   https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/womenindigitaltrade1719_e.htm

2.5. EU Member States

EU Member States championed gender equality in international fora, including the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Council of Europe, among others. A range of issues were raised, such as sexual and reproductive health, sexual and gender-based violence, early and forced child marriage, and education. The OECD DAC was a key forum, witnessing the adoption of the DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance[31]. A ministerial conference in Warsaw centred on women's political participation and leadership, exploring the experiences of Poland, Finland, and others. A working group of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries developed a plan to fight sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)and femicide. Member States launched various campaigns, including a campaign to promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Gender equality was a priority for several Member States. Sixteen of the respondents who   reported on the GAP II had one or more **senior gender champion** in place. Their roles include coordinating gender equality work, identifying synergies across units, and forging linkages with government entities and external stakeholders, such as CSOs. Moreover, 20 Member States have established mechanisms to access gender expertise, including thematic working groups, advisory bodies, regular consultations with academics and CSOs, or *ad hoc* contracts.

Many **good practices** were reported. For example, more staff and gender focal persons were appointed to work on gender equality in Member States' ministries. Technical funds for gender mainstreaming in programmes increased. **Training sessions** were held for new staff members on gender equality, the OECD Gender Marker, using gender analysis, equal opportunities, work-life balance, inclusive language, and non-discrimination. New working aids and digital tools were developed. Specific initiatives were also reported, such as prioritising gender equality in employment investment and special loan programmes for women entrepreneurs.

Overall, 331 actions supported by EU Member States, out of a total of 553 actions, were formulated using **gender analysis**, and 129 were informed by the **findings of consultations**. While 38 actions supported **National Gender Equality Mechanisms**, 51 involved working with these mechanisms. Moreover, 140 actions contributed to improving the quality and availability of **disaggregated data**, and the results of 104 actions were disaggregated by sex. Eleven EU Member States indicated that their corporate results frameworks include gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data.

Of the actions reported, 106 involved collaboration with **local and/or national media** on building awareness of gender equality. Very few actions (24) supported **research**, but slightly more (25) included a research component.

EU Member States have made progress on meeting the GAP II's minimum standards in recent years, although much remains to be done. As the figure below illustrates, some countries have systematically justified the **use of Gender Marker 0** since 2017, while others have made improvements in this regard. In 2016-2019, 13 of 28[32] **Member States reported that they used gender analysis for all priority sectors, and 14 reported the use of sex-disaggregated data throughout the programme and project cycle**. **Data availability remains a persistent challenge**, although a growing number of Member States reported actions that contribute to the quality and availability of disaggregated data. The **availability and timely use of gender expertise consistently scored highest** – 22 EU Member States met this standard in the 2017-2019 period. The selection and reporting on the GAP II's objectives remained stable; this standard was met by 11 countries during the entire GAP II reporting period.

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31   https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-5020

32   UK reported on GAP II progress in the years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Figure 10: EU Member States compliance with the GAP II's five minimum performance standards, 2016-2019

	Gender Marker 0 is always justified			There is a gender analysis done for all priority sectors			Sex-disaggregated data are used throughout the project and programme cycle and programming			Gender expertise is available and used timely in the programme cycle and programming			GAP II (SWD) Objectives are selected and reported on		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Austria	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Belgium	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A
Czech Republic	✓	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	✗	✓	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✗	N/A	✗
Denmark	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Estonia	✗	✗	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✗	✗	N/A
Finland	N/A	✗	✓	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✗	✗
France	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Greece	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✗
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Hungary	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ireland	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Italy	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Latvia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lithuania	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Luxembourg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malta	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Poland	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Portugal	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Republic of Croatia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Romania	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✗	N/A	N/A	✗
Slovak Republic	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Slovenia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Spain	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Sweden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
The Netherlands	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
United Kingdom	✗	✗	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✗	N/A

Box 23: EU Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (2019-2020)

In 2019, the EU undertook an '**Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (2019-2020)'**[33]. The **purpose** of this evaluation is to provide an independent assessment and evidence of the contribution made by EU external action to gender equality and women's empowerment. The **temporal scope** of this evaluation is 2010-2018, and its preliminary findings are as follows:

Institutional level

- There has been **increased attention** to GEWE in most dimensions of EU external action, but no quantum leap has been observed during the period under review.

- The **GAP II provides an overarching strategic direction** for implementing the EU's GEWE commitments by translating these into a coherent framework at the country level. However, its implementation has been challenging, including using the GAP II as a strategic tool for gender mainstreaming.

- Despite unambiguous political messages at the highest level, the EU GEWE agenda has been pushed more by **committed staff** at the lower levels than by senior management.

- Overall, **expertise has remained too limited** to ensure the effective implementation of the EU's policy commitments on gender equality, despite genuine efforts observed in various parts of EU institutions.

- There has been **good communication** within EU services and among European actors, despite certain challenges. Overall, there has been strong EU added value in EU external action in the area of GEWE.

Programming/project level

- At the country level, EU external action, including EU engagement in **policy dialogue**, often does not reflect a clear strategic vision and a sound analysis of, for instance, pressing needs, the most effective entry points, or the most appropriate sequencing.

- **Gender-targeted funding** in bilateral cooperation has had positive effects on gender mainstreaming. Nevertheless, gender mainstreaming has remained weak overall. Three general aspects largely explain limited improvement in this regard: i) a lack of EU strategic vision at the country level; ii) a lack of understanding of the concept of 'gender mainstreaming'; and iii) the mismatch between the EU policy ambitions on GEWE and the resources allocated to achieve them.

- The EU has substantially strengthened its **partnerships** with international organisations (especially UN agencies and the Council of Europe) during the period under review. This has enhanced EU external action in the area of GEWE at many levels. However, coordination with these organisations at the country level, especially to strengthen the role played by national gender equality machineries in national policy processes, remains insufficient.

- While the EU's substantial support for **civil society organisations** active in advancing GEWE has led to many positive experiences, the EU has yet to find an approach to ensure more strategic, comprehensive partnerships on GEWE with these actors at the country level, including the stronger involvement of grassroots organisations in EU external action.

- Despite the broad relevance of EU external action in the area of GEWE and many positive experiences at the grassroots and normative levels, visible results at the macro-level have so far been limited. Efforts to scale up successful experiences to achieve transformative change have been hampered by the lack of a clear and coherent vision of what to do, and how, to advance GEWE at the country level.

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3. PROGRESS ON THEMATIC PRIORITIES OF GAP II

In 2019, 3,954 reported actions were aligned to the GAP II's three thematic priorities. During the past three years, the European Commission and EU Member States increased their focus on economic, social and cultural rights (thematic priority C) and maintained a steady commitment to physical and psychological integrity (thematic priority B). EU actors also reported more actions that address political and civil rights (thematic priority D).

Figure 11: All EU actors, Number of reported actions addressing GAP II's thematic priorities, increase %, 2016-2019
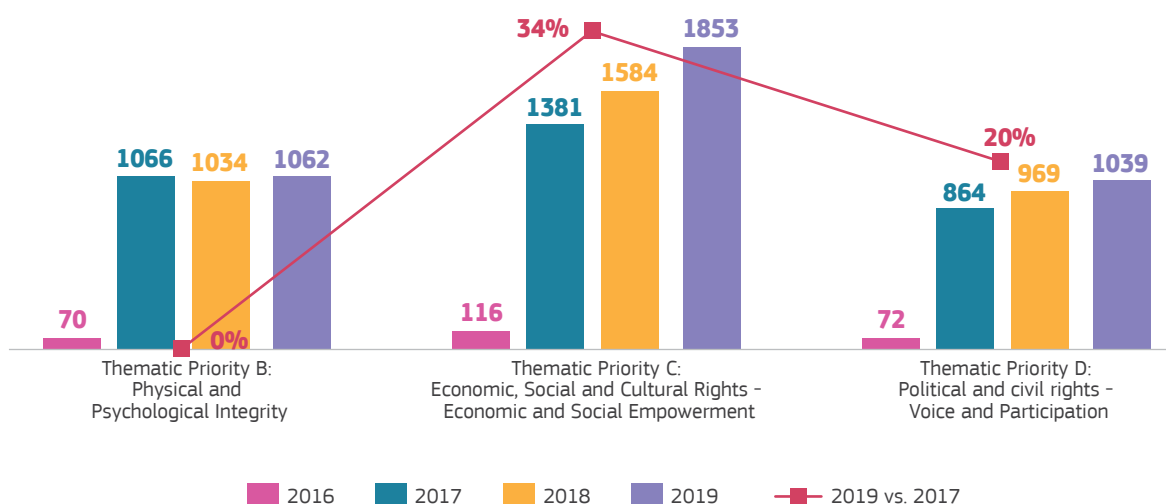
Figure 12: GAP II top five most selected objectives, n# of reported actions and % increase (all EU actors), 2016-2019
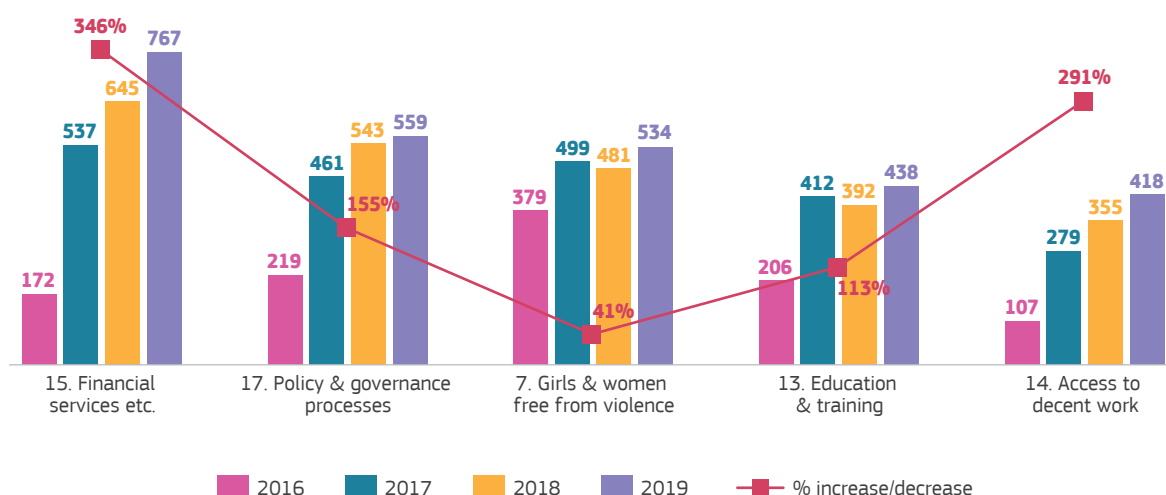
The **Commission, both at headquarters level and through EU Delegations** in partner countries, increased its commitment to ending discrimination against women and girls (SDG 5.1). New actions focused on access to justice (+21%), promoting the rule of law, and justice and security system reform (+ 43%). Actions to prevent and respond to violence against, and the exploitation of, women and girls (SDG 5.2) also increased, prioritising the empowerment of survivors of gender-based violence (+25%) and the prevention of child and forced marriage, and

female genital mutilation. Support for ending gender-based violence in humanitarian aid also increased (+20%). The EU remained at the forefront of promoting universal access to reproductive rights and health (SDG 5.6). In 2019, new programmes that focused on providing young people with comprehensive sexuality education (+25%) and family planning also increased.

The EU built key alliances to strengthen equal rights to economic resources (SDG 5A), and increased its commitment to supporting women's access to financial services (+13%), including land rights (+4%). Decent work continued to be targeted, including through programmes that aim to reduce the gender gap in wages (SDG 5.1). The EU remained strongly committed to ensuring women's full participation in leadership and decision-making (SDG 5.5). New commitments in 2019 (+18%) aimed to increase the proportion of seats held by women and minorities in national parliaments and local governments (SDG 5.5.1).

Figure 13: GAP II least selected objectives, n# of reported actions and % increase (all EU actors), 2016-2019
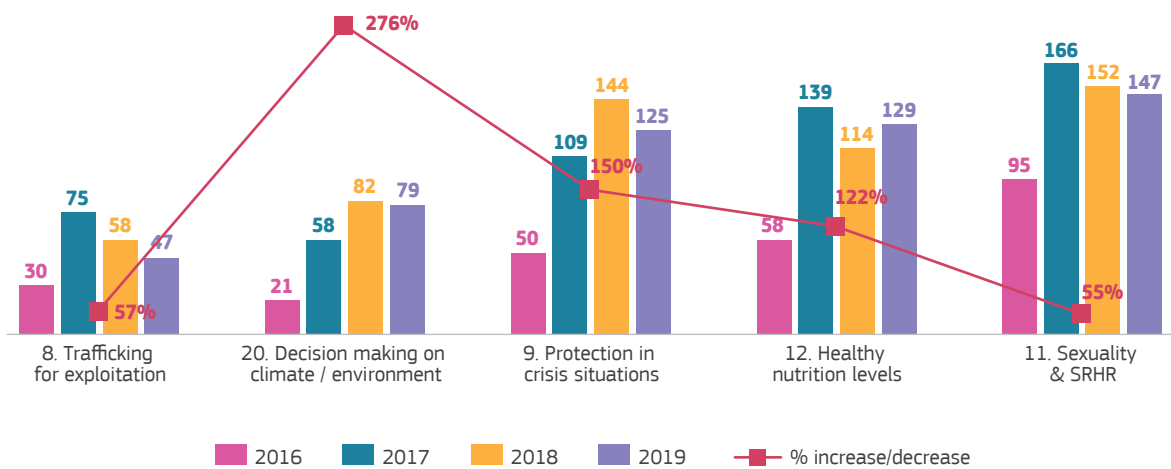
Beyond global trends, regional differences are also relevant to highlight as they reflect local priorities. In **Africa**, economic and social empowerment (thematic priority C) remains the most frequently addressed priority, followed by physical and psychological integrity (thematic priority B) and, lastly political and civil rights (thematic priority D).

In the **Americas**, attention to political and civil rights increased compared to the previous year. Economic, social and cultural empowerment remained the most addressed thematic priority in the region. The GAP II objective that received most attention in the Americas is access to financial services and productive resources, followed by ensuring freedom from all forms of violence against women and girls.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the focus remained on economic and social empowerment, especially through access to financial services. This was followed by actions on advancing political and civil rights, which paid particular attention to women's participation in governance processes. Physical and psychological integrity received the least attention in the region.

In Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries, economic and social empowerment also remained the most frequently addressed thematic priority, carrying on the trend observed in previous years. In 2019, there was a stronger focus on women's access to decent work. Compared to 2018, there was also increased attention to equal rights, and women's participation in policy and governance processes.

In the Gulf States, the most commonly addressed objectives were equal rights and women's participation in policy and governance processes, followed by support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. Physical and psychological integrity also received attention, through actions against gender-based violence and initiatives to expand healthy nutrition levels, and access to quality health services.

EU actors reported more **promising practices** in 2019 in all regions except Asia. Most of these promising practices were reported in Africa (43%), followed by Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries (22%), Asia (15%), the Americas (11%), and the Gulf States (3%). Moreover, 4% of actions considered to be promising practices were global actions.

Box 24: GAP II reporting guidance: definition of a promising practice

According to the GAP II's reporting guidance: "*A **promising practice** to advance gender equality and transforming the lives of women and girls is an action, a part of an action, or an activity in the framework of an action, that produced suitable results and had a positive impact for the rights holders. A promising action to advance gender equality should respond to the criteria of quality (i.e. efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, and ethical soundness) and sustainability (i.e. it should be replicable, able to be standardised, and owned by the rights holders) and should be at least gender sensitive, better if gender responsive, and at best if gender transformative. A **gender transformative action** aims to a shift or a positive change of the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm(s) that produce gender-based discriminations and inequalities in a given context.*"

Figure 14: Gender transformative promising practices, regional perspective (all EU actors), % increase, 2018-2019
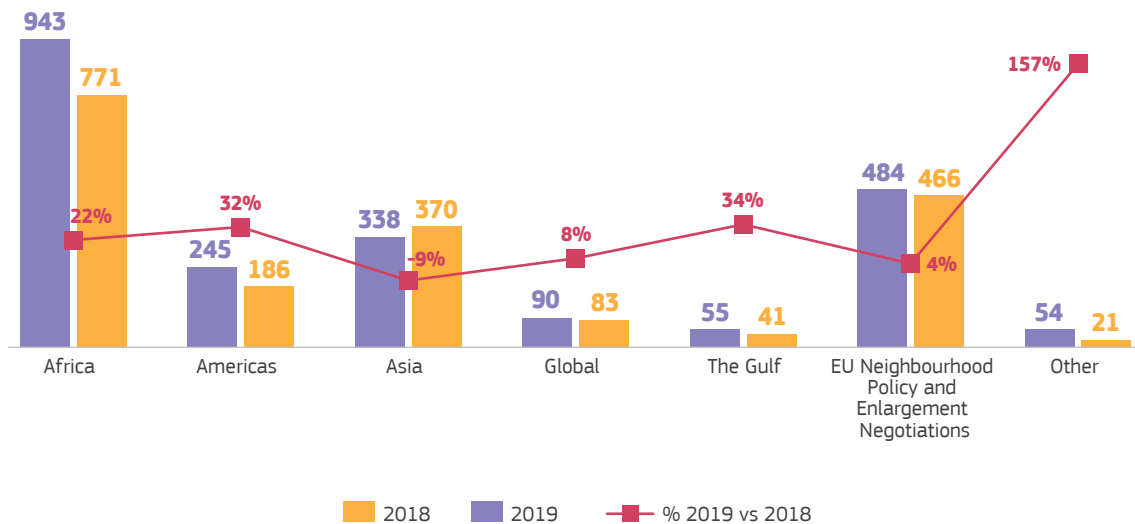
Figure 15: Gender transformative promising practices reported in 2019, by region
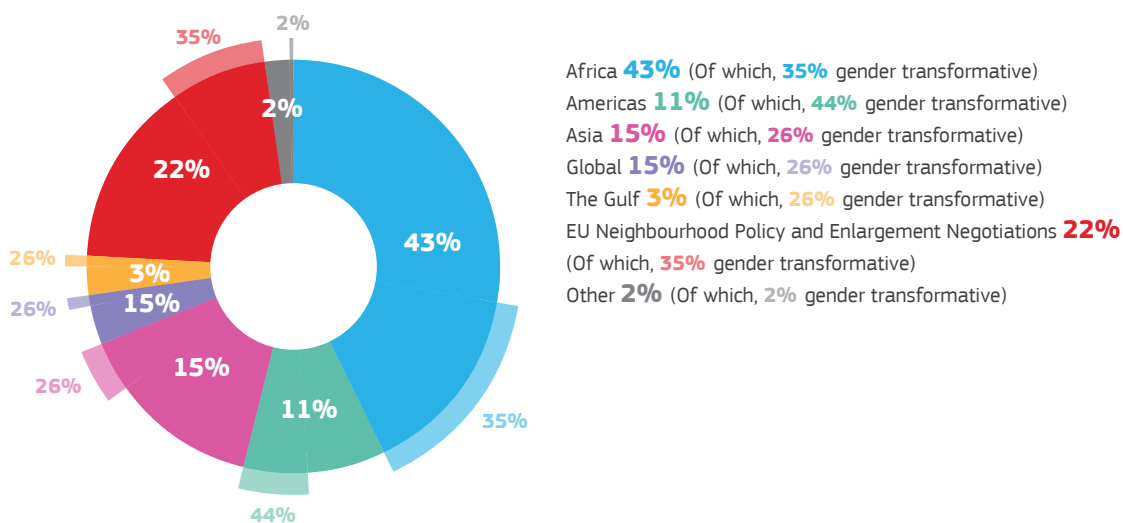
Africa **43%** (Of which, **35%** gender transformative)
Americas **11%** (Of which, **44%** gender transformative)
Asia **15%** (Of which, **26%** gender transformative)
Global **15%** (Of which, **26%** gender transformative)
The Gulf **3%** (Of which, **26%** gender transformative)
EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations **22%**
(Of which, **35%** gender transformative)
Other **2%** (Of which, **2%** gender transformative)

Approximately 35% of the promising practices reported in 2019 were regarded to be partially or entirely gender transformative.

Of these, 44% were reported in the Americas, 35% in Africa and 35% among EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries.

In 2019, the **Service for Foreign Policy Instruments** contributed to the GAP II's thematic priorities through the **Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the Partnership Instrument**and the **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)**. The **IcSP Thematic Strategy Paper 2014-2020** also identifies gender mainstreaming and women's participation in peace processes as relevant themes for effective conflict prevention and crisis response. Gender remained an important consideration in CFSP and an integral part of planning and implementing **EU Election Observation Missions**.

The Commission also consistently ensured gender balance in the selection of core team experts, observers and training participants. In 2019, **54% of core team members** were women, up from 49% in 2018. In addition, women accounted for **49% of all observers** – down slightly from 50% in 2018 – and **60% of trainees** from 28 EU Member States.

As noted above, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations allocated EUR 26 million in humanitarian aid to help fight sexual and gender-based violence through its protection and health programming.

3.1. Physical and Psychological Integrity

In 2019, thematic priority B continued to receive considerable attention, representing the second most-addressed priority by EU entities and Member States at the headquarters level and in partner countries. Overall, 1,062 reported actions contributed to physical and psychological integrity.

The **EU** worked closely with women's civil society organisations through advocacy and programming ('Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Neighbourhood 2019-2021') to ensure the UNSCR 1325 resolution's monitoring and implementation. The EU played a key role in promoting a ministerial statement on WPS, adopted at the ASEAN Regional Forum in August. Collaboration with the League of Arab States (**El-Hiwar Programme**) and the Union for the Mediterranean targeted the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Southern Neighbourhood, alongside the potential development of a regional WPS action plan.

In 2019, a joint EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Roadmap (2019-2022) was approved, following the decision adopted by G7 Foreign Ministers in 2018 on the **WPS Partnerships Initiative**, which identified the country as a partner for implementing UNSCR 1325. A progress report on the G7 WPS initiative was presented at the G7 Summit in Biarritz in August.

Box 25: Preventing Violent Extremism – Integrating a Gender Perspective

This action reached full speed in 2019 to prevent violent extremism in Jordan, Pakistan and globally. Implemented in partnership with UN Women, it could lead to similar initiatives in other geographical areas, combining the EU's lead role in promoting the women, peace and security agenda while responding to the mounting threat of terrorism and radicalisation.

To accelerate progress on thematic priority B, the **Partnership Instrument** continued support for key efforts, such as the implementation of the **Russian Federation's National Action Strategy for Women (2017-2022)**.

Box 26: 'Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds'

Under the auspices of the EU-funded **'Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds'** programme, the **EU Special Representative for Kosovo** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice, the Kosovo Police, the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Social Welfare, and the National Coordinator for Domestic Violence. Its objective is to create a unified database of cases to help prevent, combat and report on domestic violence. The Special Representative is monitoring its implementation and coordinating with EU Member States' embassies, as well as with national and international partners.

Among the objectives of thematic objectives B, **objective 7 ('Girls and women free from all forms of violence against them both in the public and private sphere'**) was most frequently addressed by EU actors in 2019, reflecting a steady yearly increase.

Box 27: 'Progress under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative

In 2019, the initiative to combat and prevent violence against women and girls. Its focus in Africa was on sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices, while in Latin America it focused on combatting femicide. By the end of 2019, the Spotlight Initiative was up and running in eight African countries, four Latin American countries, and across regions (ASEAN and Latin America).

The results of activities undertaken under Spotlight's six outcome areas include:

Outcome 1: Policy and legislation

In 11 partner countries, 41 laws have been developed and strengthened on topics related to eliminating violence against women and girls. The initiative also supported governments to establish mechanisms to implement these laws and policies. Outreach engaged more than 500 parliamentarians on drafting and reviewing legislation on ending VAWG.

Outcome 2: Institutional strengthening

One-third of the partner countries integrated violence against women and girls and harmful practices (VAWG/HP) in sectoral plans on health, education, justice, security, social affairs, and culture. A number of capacity building initiatives were undertaken for duty bearers at the national and local levels, such as actors in the justice system, the security sector, the police, parliamentarians, ministries of finance, and other decision-makers. Nine countries worked on gender-responsive budgeting.

Outcome 3: Prevention

Advocacy platforms were set up by 437 communities, and over 500,000 women, girls, men and boys attended community programmes on the prevention of violence and changing social attitudes. Moreover, 350,000 girls and boys attended school programmes, while 20 social campaigns reached over 40 million people. The initiative also worked with media outlets and trained journalists.

Outcome 4: Support services

In the wake of the Spotlight Initiative, the number of survivors of violence who sought help from support services increased by 15%. There was also a 10% increase in cases reported to the police. Comprehensive services were delivered through one-stop centres and mobile courts, while legal aid services were provided and hotlines and shelters supported.

Outcome 5: Data collection

Approximately 86% of targeted countries now have systems in place to collect administrative data on VAWG/HP, including information management systems, digital platforms, mobile phones, and U-reports.

Outcome 6: Support for women's organisations

Through the initiative, 105 women's rights groups benefited from capacity strengthening, 148 organisations were supported to work on their own programmes to combat VAWG. Moreover, in 75% of the targeted countries, coordination efforts increased. In nine countries, 59 dialogues with CSOs were held.

Programmes that focus on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls continued to be a priority of **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**. This was especially visible in the Southern Neighbourhood where EU actors reported more actions in 2019 than in 2018 (+ 69%). Actions contributed to establishing comprehensive services to support gender-based violence survivors, discussing traditional taboos, gender-discriminatory norms and stereotypes, and promoting positive masculinities.

In the **Gulf States**, the EU Delegation to Yemen and Iraq continued to engage in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls through four new actions. These aimed to expand access to justice, including in the framework of the juvenile justice reform in Iraq.

Among actions within priority B, over 30% of actions reported by **EU Member States** addressed objective 7. For example, an initiative to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in Southern Africa took a multi-stakeholder approach to tackle gender stereotypes and discrimination. Member States supported an intervention by the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) to improve the quality and effective management of SGBV prevention and intervention services for Yazidi women in Iraq. In Palestine, they assisted an action to provide psychosocial support for 600 children and 300 mothers in the Jenin refugee camp.

The EU supported the '**Girls Not Brides' global partnership of 1,000+ CSOs** committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. EU actors also contributed to the UN Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, and the Humanitarian Fund in Jordan and in Lebanon.

The EU Gender Equality strategy highlights that the concerns of women and girls affected by trafficking need to be at the centre of policy development.

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Despite its importance, **objective 8** on **ending trafficking of girls and women** was the least prioritised topic within thematic priority B, although prominently featuring in EU's **international cooperation and development** portfolio; particularly trafficking in the context of migration.

Box 28: 'Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities

In the framework of the Spotlight Initiative, the programme '**Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region**' is global, multi-year initiative implemented through a partnership between ILO and UN Women. With the overarching objective of ensuring that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region[34], the programme is making labour migration governance more responsive to the needs of women and is reducing the risks of violence and trafficking of women migrant workers through improved access to information and well-coordinated gender-responsive services. The programme challenges pervasive stereotypes and victim blaming related to violence against women migrant workers through public campaigns and capacity-building activities targeting a range of duty bearers.

In **Africa**, a multi-country action in place to build regional and national migration statistics capacity among African Union Member States. In the countries covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations,** actions to combat trafficking was reduced by 50% in 2019, except for in the Enlargement Negotiations sub-region.

Box 29: Moving Forward: Promoting Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings in Kosovo

The EU-funded project **Moving Forward: Promoting Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings in Kosovo,** under the IPA II Programme, aims to advance the overall coordination of anti-trafficking efforts in Kosovo, as well as the way trafficking crimes are investigated and prosecuted. Victims and witnesses are protected and service delivery is planned, managed and implemented in cooperation with the civil society sector.

To meet objective 9, **the EU allocated approximately EUR 26 million in humanitarian aid to fight sexual and gender-based violence**, including supporting a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach such as medical care, psychosocial support, legal support and, where applicable, livelihood support or socio-economic assistance.

Objective 9 on **protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations** was addressed

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34   Country part of the ASEAN region are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

more frequently in some regions than in others. With some exceptions, it did not receive a great deal of attention in **Africa**. Exceptions included a multi-country intervention to mitigate the effects of drought in Southern Africa; actions in Kenya and Uganda aimed to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a particular focus on women with disabilities. It was prioritised in countries covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** in 2019 more than the previous year.

Actions on **Objective 10 on access to physical and mental health care** received more attention globally. In **Africa**, the EU supported actions to prevent vesical-vaginal fistula in Sudan and promoted economic empowerment of survivors, as well as an integrated holistic support programme for survivors of SGBV and women with gynaecological pathologies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the **Gulf**, dedicated actions promoted women health professionals as role models, and worked to engaged women and girls in decision-making in the health sector. EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities supported UNAIDS' initiative assisting civil society efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS and parent-to-child transmission. The EU's contribution to the 2019 programme budget of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) facilitated access to health and mental health services in refugee camps and areas where Palestinian refugees live in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Objective 11 on **sexuality and sexual and reproductive health** decreased compared to the previous year, but produced increased results in relation to the first year of GAP II implementation. The topic was addressed by several actions in many **African** countries. The EU supported UNFPA's 'She Decides' initiative and French Muskoka activities in several countries. Efforts with UNFPA in the Democratic Republic of the Congo worked to enhance young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Several actions by EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities supported feminist groups in Africa working on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Actions on SRHR by EU actors in countries covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** decreased in 2019 compared to 2018, while in the **Gulf States**, far more attention was paid to SRHR in 2019 than in the previous year. Sweden supported the UNFPA country programme in Iraq, while Germany's assisted the Yamaan Foundation's programme for safe reproductive and postnatal health in Yemen.

On **objective 12**, the EU funds both nutrition-specific, Severe Acute Malnutrition treatment projects and nutrition-sensitive prevention projects in the humanitarian sectors of health, food assistance and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In 2019, EUR 140 million were allocated to nutrition projects from the EU's humanitarian aid budget.

Box 30: Promising practices on Physical and Psychological Integrity

Africa

Reproductive health and rights in Cameroon: The German Embassy in Cameroon implemented a project on sexual and reproductive health and rights, due to end in 2020. Lessons learned include the importance of adopting a gender quota and criteria for the selection of community representatives; adapting approaches to the local context; integrating gender in all training manuals for health district chiefs, service providers and pharmacy clerks; and motivating men to take responsibility for family planning. They were dubbed 'champions of family planning' or 'male family planning leaders' to give them visibility, recognise their value, and convince them to engage other men.

A safe environment for women in Sudan: The EU promoted a safe environment for single mothers, pregnant women and women who give birth outside marriage and their children. This included the engagement of fathers and other male family members. The action involved mediation processes for fathers concerned about the social consequences of caring for their children, and working with the police to change their approach towards unmarried mothers, encouraging law enforcement to help women access services rather than punishing them.

Americas

In **Bolivia**, the EU funded action '**For effective law enforcement to protect women's right to a life free from violence**' supported women community promoters. These women, whose majority experienced violence, became change agents in their community to prevent and combat against all forms of violence against

women. As a result of the project, 14 municipalities adopted laws to strengthen access to and availability of prevention, attention and **protection** services for gender-based violence survivors.

In **Peru**, Spain supports the programme '**Restitution of the rights of adolescent girls and boys who experienced violence through promoting social cohesion in local protection systems for a life free from violence**'. The implementing partner work on preventing adolescent pregnancy through capacity building and community organisation, including targeting families and schools. The programme created the "Maloka" (a safe meeting space for young people traditionally located in a forest) as local youth and adolescent committees and promoted the adoption of a joint action protocol to address gender-based violence in rural and indigenous contexts.

Asia

Across Generation and Gender Borders – Communities Combating Gender-Based Violence in Kyrgyzstan: This transformative EU project tackled the root causes of violence against women and girls, including deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes, pervasive gender stereotypes, and harmful social norms. It aims to promote behaviour change across generations in pilot municipalities, mobilising residents to act together to eliminate non-consensual marriage practices and associated violence against women and girls of all ages. It used a 'Gender Action Learning System' methodology, which was adopted by other communities in the country. The project's results informed the new Spotlight Initiative for Kyrgyzstan.

Regions covered by *Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations*

Implementing social norms, changing minds: This EU-UN Women programme sought to end gender-based discrimination and violence in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) and Turkey. It engaged over 60 civil society and women's rights organisations to advocate for the effective implementation of normative frameworks; transform gender-discriminatory stereotypes, perceptions and beliefs; and empower women and girls who experience discrimination or violence to use available, accessible and quality services.

Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean: This European Commission/Council of Europe (EU-CoE) joint programme has been addressing gender-based violence as a human rights violation, and a serious obstacle to sustainable development, stability, peace and good governance. The programme has supported gender responsive capacity building of legal professionals, state bodies and civil society on the Istanbul Convention. Tunisia requested accession to the Istanbul Convention in November 2019.

Protection from crises: The EU supported a project on 'Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and women in the host communities', in the framework of the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund', and running until end of 2020. The Euromed Feminist Initiative (EFI), the project's lead implementing partner, organised with the Baghdad Women Association (BWA), training and raising awareness on UNSCR 1325, women leadership, peace building, and gender-based violence case management in Iraq. A Regional Conference followed on strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and women in host communities in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan: This project formed a partnership with the Azeri Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Organization for Migration to enhance national judicial capacity to prosecute traffickers and protect survivors. It also aimed to strengthen the national referral mechanism, alongside regional and international cooperation.

IRIS NETWORKing – CSOs: This regional initiative on protection-sensitive migration management systems aims to improve service delivery and policy frameworks on migration in the Western Balkans, including by integrating a gender perspective. The programme developed a scalable model for efficiently providing social services for migrants.

3.2. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment

This continues to be the area of primary focus of the EU, maintaining the trend observed since 2016. In 2019, 1,853 reported EU actions addressed GAP II thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment'.

The Partnership Instrument's financing of gender-targeted actions centred on economic and social empowerment. Some 42% of actions by headquarters working on Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations also focused on this priority – a dramatic increase (133 %) compared to 2018[35]. In Asia and the Pacific, actions targeting all of the priority's objectives increased in 2019.

Overall, EU actions continued to pay most attention to women's access to financial services and productive resources (**objective 15**). Analysing all objectives, regional differences are apparent, reflecting context-specific needs. In Africa and the Americas, EU actors concentrated almost 50% of their actions on objective 15, but the second most addressed area was decent work (objective 14) in Americas, access to education and training (objective 13) in Africa and Asia. These are established trends since 2018. The region covered by Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations focused on decent work – marking an increase of 52% compared to 2018 – followed by entrepreneurship and financial services. In 2018, priorities were the opposite, with more focus on financial services rather than decent work. Across all regions, issues of clean water, energy and transport infrastructure (objective 16) received the least attention in 2019, as in 2018.

Access to education and training (objective 13) was overall the second area of focus within thematic priority C, as in 2018.

In 2019, a 'Staff Working Document on Education in Emergencies in EU-Funded Humanitarian Aid Operations' was released[36]. It outlines the scope of actions under the policy framework set out in the 2018 Communication on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises. The EU invested EUR 165 million in activities to promote education in emergencies, setting an unprecedented target of 10% of the EU humanitarian aid budget dedicated to education.

The **EU** provided quality, protective alternative education to children affected by displacement in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. It supported a Francophone initiative for distance training for teachers, as well as Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, and returnees and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan. The EU Women & Sustainable Energy initiative addressed education, as did actions by EU Delegations and Member States in **Africa** on sectoral reform and service provision.

EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities supported protective, resilient education in North-East Nigeria, and the resilience of girls, boys and adolescents in the Congolese refugee camp in Burundi. A training centre for young women dropouts was built in Rwanda, as was a vocational training centre for street youth and drug addicts in Kenya.

Several actions focused on young women and men by enhancing employability through post-secondary education (**Mauritius, Niger)** and revitalising technical education and professional training, especially for women in renewable energy and road infrastructure (**Angola**). In **Mozambique** and **South Africa**, actions reached out to rural youths, women in marginalised communities and persons with disabilities. In **Mauritania** fisheries, construction and civil engineering initiatives practiced positive discrimination in recruitment. Gender transformative career guidance was delivered in **Liberian** high schools, while income-generating activities were financed for **Senegal**'s Association of Mothers of Students, gender modules revised and institutional coordination encouraged. Several actions championed culture, such as an action to forge links between cultural heritage and jobs for peace and cohesion in **Somaliland**. In **Pakistan,** the EU promoted women's participation in the 'urban cohesion hub' within the Afghan refugee context by providing child-friendly spaces where mothers can leave children while attending training. In **Paraguay**, the German Embassy promoted women role models and success stories of women working in technical

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35   46% of actions reported by EU Delegations and Member States based in the region – up from 25% last year and 28% in 2017.

36   Commission Staff Working Document 'Education in emergencies in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations', available at: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/190328%20SWD%20EiE%20in%20EU-funded%20Humanitarian%20Aid%20Operations%20SWD(2019)150%20final.pdf

fields, such as engineering and mechatronics.

In the **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** region, support to empowerment of Roma communities, including Roma women, and to returnees from EU Member States as result of the declaration of Western Balkans as secure countries of origin. The programme particularly focuses on education and employment. Investments in girls' and women's education rose by 20% in 2019 compared to the previous year, all over the Neighbourhood and Enlargement regions, notably in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood. For instance, regional programmes in the Southern Neighbourhood support the empowerment of young women and men by investing in inclusive education, gender sensitive vocational education and training (VET) programmes. A pilot project by the EU Delegation to **Libya** strengthened young women's and young men's resilience and social inclusion, and the EU keep supporting civil society efforts on Roma inclusion in education in **North Macedonia**. In **Moldova**, Austria supported the development vocational training and education that fostered life skills, healthy behaviours and job readiness. In the **Gulf States**, actions by EU actors included the Social Fund for Development Education, supported by Germany in **Yemen**, and the EU-supported Funding Facility for stabilisation in Iraq.

In this framework, through the EU Regional Trust Fund (EUTF) in response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU supports a female Yazidi demining team in Sinjar through the Mine Advisory Group (MAG) and the Iraqi Human Rights and Gender Strategy.

Access to decent work, objective 14, is a key component of women's economic empowerment and remains the third most addressed area within priority C.

Box 31: WeEmpower Programme

The PI's continued implementing the *WeEmpower Programme* with a budget of EUR 22.5 million. This spans three actions: 'We Empower G7', 'Win-Win – Gender Equality means Good Business' in Latin America, and 'We Empower Asia'. Through these actions, the EU assisted the implementation of commitments on women's economic empowerment and strengthened EU partnerships with like-minded countries in the G7, in **Latin America and the Caribbean**, and in **Asia**. It aimed to influence agenda setting in multilateral fora, so that gender equality remains a global priority.

Box 32: 'Better Work'

The EU supported partnerships on rights-based migration and mobility governance in, from and to **West Africa**. EU support for 'Better Work' – a partnership between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation – sought to improve working conditions in the garment industry, make the sector more competitive, and create lasting positive change in policies, attitudes and behaviours through assessments, training, advocacy and research. 'Better Work' engaged governments, global brands, factory owners, unions and workers in many countries, including **Indonesia**, **Jordan** and **Nicaragua**. **Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Culture+** aimed to boost the cultural and creative sector's contribution to ACP countries' social and economic development.

Capacity building and job creation for women and youth in the textile sector in migration-prone areas were the focus of a programme in **Ethiopia**, paired with technical assistance to upgrade the leather industry. Cultural tourism and sustainable heritage were in focus in **Benin**, where 'Tatas road' was created – a traditional habitat in the country's North-West – to empower local women through training and jobs. The first Domestic Workers Association was set up in **Cape Verde**, while EU support reached out to young girls working as domestic helpers in Mali. Initiatives encouraged resilient, inclusive and competitive agricultural value chain development in **Somalia**. In addition, actions promoted professionalism in journalism in Somalia and a safe environment for women journalists in **Sudan**. Digitalisation proved effective for empowering women, including access to digital finance and enhancing economic and climatic resilience. In **Somaliland and Puntland**, the EU's focus was on supporting women's business groups, gender-sensitive value chain analysis and technical training in artisanal fisheries and coastal management, while promoting women's participation to scaling up climate change management to strengthen urban livelihoods was centre stage in **Botswana**. An economic growth initiative in **Madagascar** combined income-generating

activities for women and youth with moves to protect their rights and facilitate access to basic social services. In **Mauritius and the Seychelles**, community empowerment was strengthened to advance women's resilience and socio-economic inclusion. In the **Gulf** region, actions expanded women's access to economic opportunities in **Iraq**, and strengthened **Iranian** civil society capacities to improve **Afghan** refugee women's livelihoods.

21 actions for the region covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** advanced decent work and young women's entrepreneurship. They fomented change in Mediterranean countries, **Armenia, Belarus** and **Ukraine**, in conflict-affected areas of **Georgia**, and among Roma communities in the **Western Balkans** and **Turkey**.

Actions by **EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities** included support for UN Women-ILO decent work initiatives in **Egypt, Jordan and Palestine**, with a focus on challenging gender roles and stereotypes – both at home and at work. Contributions aided an **African Union**'s project on women's economic empowerment and gender parity, alongside the implementation of a joint plan of action by the Africa Union Community (AUC) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on gender and regional integration. The Swedish Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (2015-2019) funded valuable research on cost-effective, evidence-based ways that governments and enterprises can provide care services to promote women's employment. Its research revealed the extent of non-compliance in **Cambodia** driven by gaps in regulatory frameworks. In response, Cambodia's Ministries of Labour and Vocational Training and Education, Youth and Sports drafted a sub-decree on requirements for quality childcare facilities. Other research examined the importance of banks collecting sex-disaggregated customer data to address women as a distinct market segment, and factors that influence parents' decision-making on child marriage in **Bangladesh**. The EU provided funds for Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) – the global network that aims to secure livelihoods for the working poor, especially women in the informal economy – including its initiative supporting women street vendors to challenge authorities' decisions on the relocation of trading sites.

Objective 15 on access to financial services and productive resources was the top addressed in all regions, but the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiation region and the Gulf states.

Under the **foreign policy instruments** the EU fostered an enabling environment in the public and private sectors to advance entrepreneurship and women's empowerment at work. It honed the capacities of companies and employers' organisations to implement the Women's Empowerment Principles, with a view to supporting networks of women entrepreneurs, women-owned business and associations.

The EU supported the Women's Financial Inclusion Facility, the Platform for Remittances, Investments and Migrants' Entrepreneurship in **Africa** (PRIME Africa), and an IFAD project to improve the management and use of remittances for African development.

In **Africa**, initiatives improved women's access to financial services in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia** and **Guinea**; built in trust in **Tanzania**'s financial sector by improving the business environment for women and conducting a value chain analysis; and generated decent jobs for women and youth in agricultural value chains in **Kenya** and **Guinea**. Land issues received attention, as in **Uganda** to improve women's land ownership under customary land tenure, and in **Cameroon**, with the creation of a working group on women and land tenure. In **Senegal**, leadership training helped women claim their rights to land allocations. In **Sudan**, addressing obstacles that women farmers face secured smallholders' access to markets in food insecure parts of Darfur, complemented by training on farming adaptation and working with farmers' associations on women's fair payment and equitable representation among managers. In **Madagascar**, through a 'Farmer Business School' approach professionalised producers, 49.5% women were supported in the coffee, peanut, honey and cashew value chains, while efforts in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** sought the economic empowerment of women cattle breeders and small-scale dairy workers. A project on rural development, democratic governance and women's socio-economic empowerment in **Senegal** built local partners' capacities on gender equality, created a framework for consultations between local authorities and communities on gender-sensitive participatory budgets, and engaged men and authorities. Several actions enhanced civil society engagement, including intergenerational dialogue sessions in **Somalia** to broaden communication on sensitive gender issues, cultural practices and reproductive health. In **Mauritania**, the technical, organisational and financial capacities of women's groups and cooperatives were strengthened and income-generating activities set up.

In the region covered by **Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations** actions took place to support women's access to financial services and productive resources, including a programme implemented by the European Bank

for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on country-specific investment in climate reviews and action plans in Eastern Neighbourhood countries. In **Armenia**, **Georgia**, **Moldova** and **Ukraine**, the EU4Youth programme promoted social entrepreneurship ecosystem development for green growth in marginalised communities with a gender equality perspective. Interventions ran the gamut from promoting youth's role in agri-business and eco-friendly food processing in **Kosovo**, to economically empowering women ex-prisoners and bolstering financial inclusion in **Egypt**, and coaching **Tunisian** women entrepreneurs to promote business leadership.

In the **Gulf States**, three new initiatives by the EU Delegation to **Yemen** and **Iraq** fostered resilient livelihoods and food security in Yemen focusing on capacity building to women in rural areas, and reintegration and recovery in Iraqi areas of return involving gender-targeted actions to improve women and girls access to community services.

EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities supported financial inclusion, including with the launch of an EBRD Women in Business Programme in the **Western Balkans**. Its long-term, post-training and post-advisory support, paired with mentoring by women business leaders, boosts women entrepreneurs' confidence and capacity to grow their businesses. The EU also supported an Economic Community of West African States – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (ECOWAS-COMESA) project on business incubators for women, initiatives on women's economic and political participation in **Palestine**, women's enterprise promotion in **Central America**, and a UN Women project in **Brazil** on migrant and refugee women's and girls' leadership, empowerment, access and protection.

GAP II **objective 16** on **equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure**, and equitable engagement in their management, was targeted by fewer, but significant, actions in 2019, compared to 2018.

A multi-country UNDP programme on sustainable natural resource management sought to bring poverty, the environment and climate objectives into the heart of national and sub-national plans, policies, budgets, and public and private finance. The programme supports a gender-responsive energy policy to assess gender gaps, identify actions to close them and promote women's engagement in the energy sector, including in decision-making processes.

In **Africa**, EU Delegations and Member States carried out a multi-country intervention to mitigate the effects of drought in **Southern Africa**, while strengthening resilience. Actions in many countries addressed energy – including bringing clean, affordable off-grid energy to communities in **Zambia**, aiding the implementation of **Tanzania**'s Energy Efficiency Action Plan and rural electrification, and supporting **Mali**'s Ministry of Energy and Water. Actions focused on women's role as energy producers and consumers in both rural and urban areas, as well as managers and potential agents of change in the promotion of clean and sustainable energy. In **Malawi**, the EU assisted efforts rural road improvements, bolstered by political will and growing gender awareness in the partner country's lead ministry. This enabled the mentoring of women engineering students and gender balance in the training of beneficiary staff. Actions with migrant and host communities improved energy access in **Ethiopia**, and water and sanitation services for women and girls in **Sudan** and **Guinea**.

In the regions covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** regional housing programme, climate change mitigation and green economies were reported in the Eastern Neighbourhood countries, and energy connectivity and housing in the **Western Balkans**.

Examples of actions by **EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities** included increasing Bolivian women's participation in decision-making on sanitation in remote, rural areas and train women in non-traditional occupations in water and sanitation. An action in **Bolivia** and **Nicaragua** aimed to transform gender roles by involving men in household care work, the cleaning and the maintenance of individual sanitation systems, and cleaning schools. In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, actions targeted the challenges women face in accessing renewable energy technologies and employment. A conference drew together researchers, policy-makers and the development community to discuss obstacles to gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and policies to remove constraints. Organised as part of the Forum for Research on Gender Economics, and coordinated by the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, the event centred on Eastern Europe and emerging economies.

Box 33: Promising practices on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Africa

Improving energy access for host communities and refugees in Ethiopia: Participatory assessments with women identified the need for street lighting in the Shire refugee camps, pinpointed how discrimination makes it difficult to create lasting change, and examined risks women and children face when they leave the camps to collect wood – including abduction, violence and sexual assault. A consultancy was funded to ensure that gender issues are included in all activities to compensate for partners' lack of gender mainstreaming expertise.

Support for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan in Tanzania: The action highlighted the importance of including gender-sensitive training in energy efficiency to increase women's long-term employability in the sector, and the potential of new job opportunities for women as energy efficiency specialists and energy auditors. A gender audit identified constraints and opportunities in the company and energy sector.

Americas

Multi-country programme Luxembourg in Central America: This promoted women's entrepreneurship, involved the private sector, and used e-commerce to develop a model for women entrepreneurs. Its effective approach will be replicated in other countries in the region.

Sweden's project on post-conflict rural development in Colombia: This highlighted the effectiveness of working jointly with men and women on socio-cultural change and women's inclusion in decision-making structures, such as peasant association boards. Including women in training on technical and productive activities advanced their economic empowerment.

Programme on women environmental defenders in Argentina: Supported by the EU Delegation, the programme aided grassroots women's groups fighting for socio-environmental justice with a gender perspective in defence of water, territories and rights. It devised different strategies for indigenous, peasant and urban women to address environmental violence. It provided financial, technical and political support, strengthened organisational and advocacy capacities, created space to form networks and alliances, and monitored and produced information on human rights violations from a socio-environmental gender perspective.

Asia

Green economic initiatives by women and youth in Indonesia's agriculture sector: The EU supported women's and youth farmer groups in Indonesia to develop a green economy and boost their role in sustainable agriculture. By equipping them with knowledge and skills on innovative, sustainable practices, the action aims to transform the sector, agricultural productivity, food security, decent work and inclusive growth in aid of SDGs 2, 5 and 8.

Rights-based approach to education in Nepal: The action targeted Dalit and marginalised adolescent girls, working with families to fight social taboos. It positioned education as a means of realising social transformation and curbing child marriage, violence and trafficking in human beings.

Support for urban cohesion hubs in Pakistan: EU support aims to help increase women's participation in these hubs, which provide skills training – including information technology (IT), literacy, and English courses, among others – for refugees and host communities. They also offer meeting spaces that enhance social cohesion, and provide child-friendly spaces where mothers can leave their children during training. Separate entrances and courses for women and men were developed to ensure that Afghan refugee women can access services in a deeply conservative context.

Regions covered by Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Women in Business Programme: The programme provides access for women-led small and medium-sized enterprises to finance through credit lines to local banks. The programme offers business advice, training, mentoring and support to enable women entrepreneurs to share experiences and learn from their peers. By

working with financial institutions, it ensures that financial products on offer meet the needs of women-led businesses. The programme is financed by the EU, the EBRD, Italy, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Sweden, and Turkey.

Programme for inclusive economic development in Moldova: 200 women entrepreneurs were trained to start new businesses in micro-regions. A Business Academy for Women also implemented actions to combat gender stereotypes and boost women's role in business.

Agri-business cooperatives in Palestine: With the support from Denmark, green jobs and sustainable income opportunities for women were promoted through cooperatives.

Participation of internally displaced and local populations in Georgia: With the support from Germany the gender-responsive economic and social participation of these groups were promoted.

European Regional Development and Protection Programme: This multi-donor initiative combines humanitarian and development funds to support **Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq** to plan and mitigate the impact of Syrian refugees' forced displacement on host communities. It begun in 2014, with a first phase of 45 strategic and innovative partnerships. The second phase is supported by the Czech Republic, Denmark, the EU, Ireland and Switzerland. The programme aims to promote refugees' and host populations' rights, safety, self-reliance, and refugees' ability to access sustainable solutions (voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or local integration).

3.3. Political and civil rights – Voice and Participation

EU actors reported 1,039 actions on thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation', in 2019. While this marks a rise from last year, it remains the GAP II thematic priority which has been addressed by the fewest actions, albeit by a small margin.

In some regions, women's political and civil rights remained low on the agenda, such as **Asia** and among actions by **EU Member States**. In others, such as in the countries covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**, headquarter-based units reported 42% of actions under this priority – a rise of 88% compared to the previous year – while actions by actors in the region itself (29% of reported actions) rose by 25%.

Reports indicated a strong attention to **equal participation in governance processes** (**objective 17**), followed by working with and protecting **civil society organisations and women's organisations and human rights defenders** (**objective 18**). Challenging discriminatory **social norms and stereotypes** (**objective 19**) received much more attention compared to previous years. Participation in decision making on **climate and environmental issues** (**objective 20**) remains as the area receiving the least attention also during the reporting years.

Some regional variations are to be reported, which vary according to regional priorities. In **Asia** and in countries covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**, all objectives under this priority received less attention compared to 2018, while in the **Americas** all received more focus with in 2019 with the exception of objective 20. In **Africa**, less actions were reported under this priority, except for objective 19 on addressing social norms and gender stereotypes.

Among thematic priority D's objectives, women's equal rights and participation in governance processes **(objective 17)** was most frequently addressed overall, including by international cooperation and development at the headquarters level, and EU actors in **Africa**, **Asia** and the countries covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.**

Under the **PI**, the programme '**Women as Actors in Peace Processes'** seeks to strengthen women's quality inclusion in peace and transition processes, at all levels. Due to begin in 2020 with a budget of EUR 3 million, the three-year action foresees mentorship for women leaders and mediators, networking, capacity building and the provision of resources to enable women's effective participation in peace processes. Its efforts will centre on the MENA region**,** where the Instrument can build on previous engagement, such as past dialogues on women's inclusion in the Syrian and Yemeni peace processes, supported through European Resources for Mediation Support (ERMES).

Reflections came to the fore on how to further support the implementation of **UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**, particularly through cooperation between civil society and military actors. The PI continued to support the implementation of the Russian Federation's National Action Strategy for Women (2017-2022). Through the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament component of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the High Representative entrusted the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) with the implementation of a three-year action beginning in 2019. The action aims to enhance the effectiveness of small arms control measures through gender analysis and the integration of a gender perspective. With an EU contribution of EUR 4.4 million, it will involve training national officials in 18 countries on gender mainstreaming and small arms control; promoting gender mainstreaming in regional initiatives; strengthening the small arms control component of the WPS framework and the framework itself; raising awareness; and forming partnerships.

A number of Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) programmes, funded through the IcSP, were reported upon under objectives 17 and 18 at the global level, as well as in **Asia, Central Asia, the Western Balkans, the South Caucasus, MENA and Turkey**. As part of the **European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights** (EIDHR), Election Observation Missions follow a gender-responsive, rights-based approach. In 2019, 100% of contracted actions by Election Observation Missions reported a G-Marker 1. Objective 17 was the target of a joint EU-UN partnership to support slum upgrading in ACP countries.

EU Delegations and Member States in **Africa** enhanced girls' and women's civil education and engagement in **Botswana** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, and enhancing democratisation through technical assistance for local governance in **Angola**. In **Madagascar**, actions aimed to involve women as change agents to prevent and manage conflicts and violence linked to elections, while in **Guinea** and **Cameroon** they sought to strengthen women's participation in electoral processes, as well as in governance processes in **Liberia** and local municipal governance in **Senegal**.

Box 34: Addressing several facets of governance

Some actions linked governance to specific sectors, such as citizens' participation in the right to health, especially SRHR (**Mozambique**) and participation to improve water sustainability (northern **Uganda**).

Actions used technology and social media to promote women's participation. For example, in **Mauritania**, the webpage 'Maurifemme' was updated with data on violence, harmful practices, women in politics, women's organisations and advocacy, coupled with information dissemination through social media and a radio programme.

Efforts aimed to empower civil society and women's rights organisations to increase women's political participation and gender-sensitive governance in **Kenya**, to help CSOs advance rural women's participation, rights and social inclusion. Actions also directly assisted women's organisations and movements, as in **Liberia** and **Tanzania**, including the Tanzania Gender Networking programme, the Women's Coalition of **Zimbabwe** and the **Zambian** Women's Movement. A multi-country action supported training on preventive diplomacy and conflict mediation to promote women's participation and address their specific needs in peace-making.

EU actors in **Afghanistan** mainstreamed gender in rule of law interventions, establishing a volunteer-based system of women as gender focal points – creating access points to justice for rural women and girls. The action engaged traditional and religious authorities as agents of change by organising training for madrassa (religious seminary) teachers, and prioritised awareness raising on social transformation with the use of theatres.

The EU supported the implementation of justice sector reforms, domestic accountability for war crimes, and civil society facilities across the region. Budget support aided police reform in **Moldova**, while in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** a programme began building the capacity of young Roma women and men to participate in social change processes, towards civil rights and inclusion in civil society development. In **Palestine**, Spain supported CEDAW reporting and implementation, while Finland trained 320 women in seven **Egyptian** governorates to participate in local elections via the 'Tadwein: The local councils are ours' project. In the **Gulf States**, EU programmes addressed peace, security and political transition.

Actions by **EU Member States'** promoted women's participation in democratic processes and public administration

in **Central Asia**, and funding the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue's 'Women at the Table' initiative.

Support for civil society, women's organisations and Human Rights Defenders, **objective 18**, grew steadily over the years. In the **Americas**, it became the third most selected GAP II thematic objective in the region, and the most frequently addressed under thematic priority D. This objective was also the second most commonly addressed in the countries covered by **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**, followed by objectives 19 (Challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes) and 20 (Equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues). Among Member States', very few actions directly addressed environment decision-making.

In **Africa**, fewer actions addressed this objective. Some examples encompass support for civil society in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo. The interventions focus on** meeting the security and protection needs of women Human Rights Defenders' as well as encouraging women to join rights movements. Actions also involve keeping abreast of early warning signs of sexual and gender-based violence. Member States assisted several **African Union** coordination and outreach projects, for example, the implementation of its commitments on gender equality, the transformation of Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO), and High-Level Advocacy for the ratification of Maputo Protocol in countries that have not ratified it already, and the implementation of the 'All for the Maputo Protocol Programme'.

In **Asia**, EU actors supported efforts to empower civil society organisation and local authorities, to decentralise national gender equality efforts to yield results, and to create gender resource centres to streamline data production on gender statistics and indicators.

The **EU** reported six actions promoting dialogue on rights and equality in the Southern Neighbourhood, including a regional policy dialogue on discriminatory legislation and Roma integration in the Western Balkan and Turkey. In the **Gulf States**, Germany supported the good governance cluster and peace process, while Sweden aided civil society in a shrinking space. The EU Delegation initiated a new programme on peace-building and human rights in 16 Yemeni Governorates, while two projects in Iraq aided youth participation in democratic governance, social cohesion, reconciliation and protecting Human Rights Defenders. **EU Member States'** encouraged peace-building and the protection of civilians in Mali. In Nicaragua, they focused on the security of frontline Human Rights Defenders at risk.

Objective 19 on social norms was addressed by EU actions in all regions except Asia.

EU actions in **Africa** included promoting youth's civic engagement and advocacy to build safer communities in **South Africa**, and enhancing women's organisations' capacity in **Angola**, especially groups representing young women. In **Sudan**, an action addressed human rights abuses, sexual and gender-based violence through advocacy and service provision – establishing survivor support groups, developing a referral network, training first respondents, launching a national advocacy campaign, and engaging in dialogues on gender and justice. In **Liberia**, efforts engaged men and boys as key actors for achieving gender equality, and boosted the transformation of social norms through cultural awareness. A campaign in **Togo** raised awareness of gender equality, violence against women, and empowering girls.

The **EU** supported **Digital4Wowen**, which promotes gender equality by mainstreaming digital technologies and services. Other actions supported interfaith and intercultural dialogue in Neighbourhood countries, and social cohesion in urban Africa.

In the regions covered by Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations the focus on this objective increased, with 17 actions seeking to change social norms and stereotypes. Examples include promoting gender-sensitive media and gender-responsive film sectors in **Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia**; a gender transformative social media campaign to engage both women and men in reflecting on the cycle of gender-based violence against women in the region, empowering Roma women in the **Western Balkan and Turkey**; furthering gender equality through the EU Accession Process and gender-sensitive media in the Mediterranean; and empowering the youth in the Middle East. In the **Gulf States**, Germany addressed norms by supporting the good governance cluster in Yemen.

While **objective 20** was not among the most commonly addressed of the GAP II, women's role in climate and environmental decision-making received some attention.

In **Africa**, EU actors supported a short message service (SMS) voice message awareness campaign on **Madagascar**'s bush fires reaching 20,000 people, moves to integrate gender into the National Adaptation Plan, and

the development of a 'Gender and Climate' training module for trainers, technicians from Regional Environmental Cells, communes and grassroots communities. Actions in **Angola** helped civil society engage with local authorities, paired with a natural resource management project. In Cameroon, a rural forest project developed a practical guide for gender-responsive radio content. A programme to combat climate change in **Togo**, part of the Global Alliance Against Climate Change, sensitised women members of the reforestation group on gender equality, and encouraged Land Management Group Committees' to alternate their president and vice-president to ensure gender equal representation. In **Asia**, the EU promoted women's role in governance for social change in the Philippines, especially to their contribution to climate resilience, decision-making and conservation.

The **EU** supported gender-sensitive multi-country actions, including on enhancing preparedness and response to disaster risks in the Pacific, and a poverty-environment action on the SDGs.

Seven actions by the Commission services for **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** addressed objective 20 in the framework of the 'Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2018-2019', such as the 'Civil Society Empowerment for a Reformed Public Administration Programme' in the Enlargement region, and specific actions to promote the energy transition in the Southern Neighbourhood, and water and environmental protection.

In **Tunisia**, Germany supported a programme promoting women's role in the energy sector, while Belgium supported elected women to advance women's engagement in environmental and climate change management. **EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities** supported the establishment of a sustainable fisheries management system in the Philippines and funded a joint UNDP-Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) project to deliver customised capacity development support on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness to high risk countries.

Box 35: Promising practices on Political and Civil Rights

Africa

Budget monitoring in South Africa: An EU-supported action helped community monitor levels of spending on basic services and tackle the inadequate use of resources by municipalities to build a rights-based approach to service delivery. The action included training and the development of a manual on community level gender-responsive budgeting. One unforeseen dimension was the importance of community ownership. A related action focused on community-driven budget reform in metropolitan municipalities.

Corrective actions on the inclusion of women's organisation in Togo: In the framework of the Consolidation Programme of the State and the Associative World, the EU Delegation took corrective actions to ensure that its call for proposals require women's organisations to be lead applicants. A definition of women's organisations was included, stipulating that most management positions must be held by women, and that their goal must be to strengthen women's rights, representation and participation in political, economic and social life.

Youth civic engagement and advocacy in South Africa for safer communities: The EU supported youth-led radio initiatives at community radio stations nationwide, highlighting the importance of involving young people to engage other youths in the fight against violence and gender-based violence.

Americas

Supporting women's organisations in Brazil: EU actions supported women's organisations on tackling inequalities and social exclusion in drought-ridden regions. They reached out to women with productive innovations, including technological tools for reusing water to enhance food production, subsistence and commercialisation. An action highlighted home-based agro-ecological garden production to increase recognition of women's contribution to family incomes, paired with social mobilisation and knowledge dissemination. EU actors also worked with community agents, mainly indigenous women, to oppose the closure of a school for indigenous children, to advance indigenous women's right to childcare facilities in universities, and to report domestic violence cases. Lessons learned included the need to engage with allies and partners, and to use local languages to ensure women's participation.

Regions covered by Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Clima East project package: This package assisted Eastern Neighbourhood countries and Russia on climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches. Its first component, implemented by UNDP, involved several pilot projects to support the development of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change. The second component sought to foster improved climate change policies, strategies and market mechanisms through regional cooperation and access to information on EU climate change policies, laws and expertise. A gender-sensitive approach was adopted in every country covered to assess women's role in climate change and energy consumption and management. Every finance pilot project relating to ecosystems-based approaches to climate change foresees women's participation at all levels as rights-holders and decision-makers.

Rainbow Project 2017-2020: Supported by Sweden in Turkey, the project addressed widespread discrimination against LGBTI people. It aims to change public perceptions through responsible mainstream media reporting and influence public and private sector practices *vis-à-vis* LGBTI employees. It strengthens the capacities of NGOs working for LGBTI rights, alongside professionals who provide services to LGBTI people (lawyers, social and mental health workers), while lobbying national and international decision-makers on LGBTI-sensitive legislation. The project also seeks to improve the monitoring of human rights violations against LGBTI people and providing consultancies for them.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the reports submitted by EU actors between 2016 and 2019 reveals positive change in terms of advancing gender equality and women's empowerment through EU external action.

Since 2016, progress is evident in terms of the **institutional cultural shift** in EU institutions, including greater leadership and management ownership of the implementation of the gender transformative agenda.

In partner countries there is increased coordination and coherence among EU institutions and with Member States' embassies. In 2019, **political and policy dialogues** had a greater focus on gender equality and human rights than in previous years.

Violence against women and girls was included in 49% of reported policy and political dialogues that took place in partner countries; the women peace and security agenda was included in 31% of them and gender budgeting was included in 20% of cases. Overall, gender equality issues have been most frequently raised in the policy and political dialogue pertaining to sectors such as: human rights, democracy, and decent work, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and less in sectors such as: transport, public finance management, energy, trade, and water management.

Formal and informal dialogues enabled **EU actors to raise issues which are particularly sensitive in certain countries**, such as harmful practices, peaceful processes and inclusive decision-making and political participation, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The **Spotlight Initiative** also provided key opportunities for high-level dialogue, as did regional programmes such as the **Win-Win programme and the Union for the Mediterranean programme**.

In 2019, the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda continued to be a standing item of political and human rights dialogues and sub-committees with partner countries. EU actors advocated for the inclusion of women in peace processes, negotiation, mediation and post-conflict reconstruction in several countries beset by conflict or experiencing transition.

Following GAP II reporting guidance on transformative practices for gender equality[37], **about 14% more promising practices were reported** in 2019 than in 2018, 35% of which were regarded as partially or fully gender transformative. Furthermore, EU actors reported **shifting from a gender-sensitive to a gender transformative approach in communications and visibility campaigns**.

Notwithstanding these positive achievements, this report – alongside the preliminary results of the ongoing external evaluation of the EU's support in the area of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment – demonstrates that the pace of progress needs to accelerate, and that challenges remain.

Gender analyses are underused. As of 2019, 75% of respondent EU delegations had completed a gender analysis at country level and fewer at sectoral level including in sectors such as energy, transport, infrastructure and finance. However, the findings of these analyses were only integrated in 56% of reported programmes and projects. Gender analyses often remain a 'standalone' exercise, rather than the foundation of a gender mainstreaming process.

More and better targeted gender mainstreaming training and capacity-building is still needed within EU institutions to step up the work that is being already done through face-to-face and virtual learning opportunities**.** Available online modules do not appear to be widely used.

The number of **gender focal persons has increased**. The role of many focal points has been enhanced by their participation in, or leadership of, coordination mechanisms set up in many countries, in addition to the establishment of Quality Support Groups (QSG) in EU Delegations. Nevertheless, gender focal persons need to be able to dedicate more time to GAP II implementation and to have that function clearly acknowledged in their Job Description. Strong support from senior gender champions who work at the political and policy level is essential. Many gender focal persons also require more support in terms of enhanced gender expertise – through appropriate training for themselves and their colleagues.

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37   GAP II reporting guidance defines a transformative practice as follows: "*A gender transformative action aims to a shift or a positive change of the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm(s) that produce gender-based discriminations and inequalities in a given context.*"

The EU supports a range of **civil society organisations** in most countries through, for example, the CSO-LA programme, and the EIDHR, and regularly consult with them either on individual actions or more widely on issues pertinent to gender equality and women's empowerment. Another source of gender equality expertise as well as partnership are public structures and governmental departments. However, interaction with national gender equality mechanisms (NGEM) in partner countries can be expanded, as well as the engagement with other public structures, although consultation with statistical institutes is improving.

The implementation of GAP II has bolstered coordination between EU Delegations, Member States and international organisations working on gender equality and women's empowerment. While there is an evident improvement in information sharing on gender equality among EU actors in the field level, there is not always a clear division of labour.

Progress was made on the GAP II's target of ensuring that **85% of all new EU programmes by 2020 are contributing to gender equality as a significant or principal objective (marked 'G1' or 'G2' respectively)**. In 2019, **64.25% of all new programmes** scored G1 or G2[38] and a budget of around EUR 8.7 billion worth of development funding was committed in a gender-sensitive manner (or 56.95% of the total).

Funding specifically targeting gender equality and women's empowerment (i.e. 'G2') amounted to EUR 643 million (or 4.21% of the total). The amount of funds committed to specifically targeting gender equality has increased every year since 2016, and so has the proportion of these funds as compared to overall development funding[39].

To speed up progress, **more focused efforts are needed to mainstream gender in sectors that typically neglect it, as well as by using new aid modalities, such as gender mainstreamed blended financing**.

For the second reporting year, ending trafficking of girls and women was the least targeted GAP II objective despite the EU's continuing efforts to combat this heinous phenomenon worldwide. There is a need to target new challenges connected to the changing and emerging patterns of trafficking in human beings, especially in the context of migration. Efforts need to continue to ensure that victims are properly identified, assisted and protected in ways that are appropriate to their gender, age, and form of exploitation.

Overall the availability of gender analysis across all priority sectors for all EU actors has remained at around 60% over the GAP II's implementation period, while the systematic use of sex-disaggregated data continues to need more attention. However, an increasing number of actions were reported that contribute to the quality and availability of disaggregated data (43%). Access to, and the timely use of, gender expertise was consistently the criterion most commonly upheld. By contrast, the selection and reporting on GAP II objectives remained at around 30%. The results of the work of **EU Member States' authorities**, signal progress on meeting the minimum standards of GAP II. Since 2017, some Member States have systematically justified why actions are marked 'G0' using the OECD Gender Marker.

Since the 2018 report on the GAP II's implementation[40] efforts have been made to collect more **qualitative information**. EU actors notably reported on relevant projects and programmes that they consider **promising practices**. In 2019, they provided valuable qualitative information on lessons learnt, good practices and open comments which shed light on their approaches to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Globally, **more promising practices were reported as being gender transformative**.

Guided by its experience and enriched by regular assessment of the successes and challenges, the EU can continue supporting the achievement of its policy objectives on gender equality and women's rights by:

• stepping up efforts to **ensure stronger leadership and accountability for gender equality**;

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38 60,87% in 2018; 56,53% in 2017; 58,10% in 2016.

39 During the period 2016-2019, the Commission's gender-sensitive funding increased by 9,74% for the Directorates-General for International Cooperation and Development and by 1,56% for the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations. The increase of gender-sensitive financial commitments for International Cooperation and Development was approximately 3% between 2016 and 2017, 4.5% between 2017 and 2018, and 1.7% between 2018 and 2019. For the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, the rate was of 8.5% decrease between 2016 and 2017, 2.4% increase between 2017 and 2018, and 7.6 increase between 2018 and 2019.

40 12113/19 Secretary-General of the European Commission, Joint Staff Working Document Annual Implementation Report 2018, EU Gender Action Plan II – Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12113-2019-ADD-4/en/pdf

- **improving accountability and transparency** to assure that set targets are reached;

- bolstering systems for **result-based management and knowledge sharing**;

- **improving gender mainstreaming overall**, based on gender analysis and strategic partnerships;

- **strengthening the gender expertise**, training and building capacity;

- furthering **context-based coordination** with and support for civil society organisations and national gender equality mechanisms;

- **strengthening the intersectional approach**.

The findings of this report contribute to and feed into the overall evaluation and preparatory work for the new EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025). Efforts that have brought about current progress will be renewed in its context.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Methodology

The templates used for the GAP II reporting exercise in 2019 contained two parts, aligned with the GAP II's priorities. A questionnaire focused on horizontal priority A, 'Institutional Culture Shift', while an action database collected detailed information on progress on the objectives of thematic priorities B, C and D. In 2019, EU Member States' embassies and EU Delegations at the partner country level decided whether to compile their contributions independently, or jointly in a single report.

Data sources and collection tools

Data and information used for the 2019 GAP II report were provided by EU Delegations – wherein data collection was facilitated by the Delegation's gender focal person – EU Member States' embassies with a presence in partner countries, EU Member States' authorities and Commission services, who reported on actions managed at the headquarters levels. EU Delegations disseminated to Member States' embassies in partner countries, while a relevant national ministry or agency collated information on centrally-managed state actions.

Information provided by EU actors was supplemented and cross-tabulated with extracts from databases, as well as information management and reporting systems officially used by the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development. These include: i) the **External Assistance Management Report** (EAMR), which features specific questions related to the GAP II's minimum standards of performance; ii) the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's **creditor reporting system (OECD CRS)**; and iii) **Commission services' annual reports**, as relevant.

Financial information on official development assistance (ODA) for those EU Member States which are members of the OECD was directly obtained from its DAC published databases.

The following tools were specifically developed for the GAP II reporting exercise:

1. An EU Survey-supported **questionnaire** to collect information and measure progress on horizontal priority. The questionnaire was disseminated through the EU Survey online platform to EU Delegations, EU Member States' embassies, EU Member States' authorities, and Commission services. The questionnaire was adapted to informants' profiles. Replies were compiled and analysed in an Excel database.

2. An Excel-supported **action database** was used to collect information to measure progress on thematic priorities B, C and D. The Excel template was available to download in the aforementioned EU Survey questionnaire. The action database was the same for all informants. It also asked them to record lists of EU donor financing decisions in different modalities, to indicate how these are aligned to GAP II indicators. They were asked to describe – in a quantitative and verifiable manner – how these advanced the GAP II's priorities. Examples of promising practices were identified, in line with the Council Conclusions 14027/18 of 26 November 2018. The conclusions state: "*Keeping in mind the GAP II report's objective to monitor the implementation of the Gender Action Plan by all EU actors on a yearly basis, the Council welcomes the (inclusion of) qualitative data in the next reporting phase.*"

3. **Inputs from other Commission services** were collected without a specific template. These included the Commission services responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion, and for trade. The Council commended the inclusion of Commission services' contributions in the 2017 GAP II Annual Implementation Report. As such, this practice was followed in 2018 and 2019.

EU Delegations accredited to international organisations were not invited to report, as their corresponding units at the headquarters level reported on their activities.

The Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development facilitated the overall GAP II reporting process, in close coordination with the GAP II Reporting Reference Group. The group comprises staff from the aforementioned Commission service, as well as services responsible for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, for Foreign Policy Instruments, for European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations, and the European External Action Service. This coordination was established in October 2018 to foster greater ownership of the implementation report.

EU Member States' gender experts meeting in January 2020 discussed the report's methodology, templates and their dissemination, as well as expectations for the global report.

The reporting templates were circulated in February 2020. In the same month, a letter addressed to all Heads of EU Delegations and Heads of Cooperation officially launched the call for submissions, co-signed by the Commission services responsible for international development and cooperation, for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, for Foreign Policy Instruments, and the European External Action Service.

The original deadline was set for the end of February 2020 for Commission services at the headquarters level, and the end of March 2020 for EU Member States' embassies and EU Delegations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the deadline for the latter actors was postponed.

The GAP II reporting templates included specific questions on 'revised indicators for the comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on **women, peace and security'**. The European External Action Service processed data on this specific issue.

Challenges

Technical challenges

Using EU Survey made it difficult to manage the multiple layers of replies required by some questions. Users' familiarity with the platform posed a challenge, as did certain limitations regarding the collaborative completion of the online Institutional Culture Shift **questionnaire** featuring a combination of progress and result indicators, most of which are quantitative indicators. In addition, a question was included on the use of the OECD Gender Marker.

The **action database** comprised two sheets. The first was used to collect demographic information for each individual action contributing to the GAP II, including how it contributed to some objectives of priority A. The second sheet presented the list of actions entered by users in the first sheet. It asked respondents to match each action with relevant GAP II priorities, objectives and indicators. The use of the online survey was mandatory and represented the primary means of submitting each report. Due to a technical issue, a number of action databases – originally attached to the submissions of EU actors in partner countries – were not registered and had to be obtained via email.

Intensive work was undertaken to clarify the methodology and provide technical support during the reporting process through email exchanges, phone calls and webinars in English, French and Spanish. An inventory of questions and answers on reporting was shared with the gender focal persons' network. This support was also made available to EU Member States' embassies and cooperation authorities.

Information synthesis challenges

The reporting templates facilitated the synthesis of information, permitting clearer connections to be drawn on how actions contributed to the GAP II's priorities, objectives and indicators. The analysis of progress on the GAP II's thematic priorities was based on a selection of EU actors' reports, chosen from the overall reporting portfolio. While estimates of the number of actions undertaken are representative of trends in decision-making and funding, they are not comprehensive. Actions are discussed without referring to the funds used for their implementation.

Numbers often differed between the graphs/figures included in the Annual Report, and the total number of actions in the body of the text. The figures represent the number of actions that correspond to any given GAP II priority or objective. There are instances in which one action corresponds to more than one objective. In some cases, reporting instructions were not fully complied with. Therefore, some reports included a disproportionately large number of projects compared to other reports. In certain cases, the start date of the actions selected was not followed, affecting the calculation of the number of actions that began in 2019.

Promising practices identified in the EU Delegations' and EU Member States' GAP II reports

Striking a balance between quantitative and qualitative information remained a challenge. Both the 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports mostly drew on quantitative data, but complement this with examples of promising practices that have been analysed and reported separately.

A definition and criteria to assist the respondents in the identification of promising practices were inserted in the action database.

Annex 1 Box 1: GAP II implementation reporting guidance note: definition and criteria of a "promising practice"

A promising practice to advancing gender equality and transforming the lives of women and girls is an action, a part of an action, or an activity in the framework of an action, that produced suitable results and had a positive impact for the rights holders.

A promising action to advance gender equality should respond to the criteria of quality (i.e. efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, and ethical soundness) and sustainability (i.e. it should be replicable, standardisable, and owned by the rights holders) and should be:

- Gender sensitive, i.e. aiming to understand and address the social and cultural factors that produce gender-based discriminations and inequalities in the diversity of private and public life.

- Gender responsive, i.e. aiming to increase accountability and accelerate implementation of commitments to gender equality with a rights-based approach at international, national and community level.

- Gender transformative, i.e. aiming to a shift or a positive change of the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm(s) that produce gender-based discriminations and inequalities in a given context.

A promising practice for gender equality is an opportunity to raise awareness, inform about the status of play of gender equality, promote the understanding of the causes that produce gender inequalities and discriminations, and give visibility to the good results for the attainment of gender equality in a given context/sector.

A promising practice should not be understood as the "perfect one" because there are important changes that happen as part of broad initiatives whose activities may not have all the same level of success. Lessons learnt are an intrinsic part of such practices because they help to determine what works and what does not work in a specific context and this is particularly relevant either to the quality or to the sustainability criteria.

A promising practice is such if at least 10 (ten) out of the following CRITERIA are met:

1. It reflects at least one objective per each priority of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020;

2. It is informed by a context-specific and sector-specific gender analysis;

3. It was designed in consultation with/with the engagement of the diversity of women and girls, and men and boys who are expected to participate and benefit from it;

4. It is evidence-based, i.e. it is substantiated by concrete measurable data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and socio-economic status resulting from a robust monitoring and impact evaluation;

5. It is responsive, i.e. it adequately addressed the situation and produced encouraging changes;

6. It is transformative, i.e. it addressed the root causes for gender inequalities and discriminations in a given context/sector and produced positive changes in the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and/or political paradigm(s);

7. It addresses gender inequality as a risk factor to the quality and sustainability of the development initiatives;

8. It produced good quality/desirable results for gender equality in comparison to other practices;

9. It can be replicated in similar situations or in order to achieve similar results by using the same technique

    or methodology that led to a positive outcome;

10. It has an acceptable efficiency (effort)/effectiveness (result) balance;

11. It is appropriately relevant to the context and ethically sound;

12. It is well accepted, recognised and understood by rights holders who are keen to reproduce it;

13. It focuses on lesson learnt to implement corrective actions, and redressing systems;

14. It has good quality performance management standards;

15. It is a good candidate for additional study (specific research on impact, evaluation, etc.).

Annex 2. European official development assistance for gender equality and women's empowerment in 2019 and progress on achieving the GAP II target

Contextualising the data to the requirements of the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016–2020

This Annex presents official development assistance data for the Commission services and for those EU Member States[41] that submit reports to the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development through the Creditor Reporting System. It highlights the proportion of ODA actions that contributed to gender equality and women's empowerment in 2019.

GAP II objective 5 requires that "Results for women and girls are measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress". GAP II activity 5.3 recommends to "Apply systematically the Gender Equality Policy Marker of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (G-marker) and justify G0 scores to management". Two indicators monitor progress on the achievement of the **85% of all new EU actions score G1 or G2 by 2020**: indicator 5.3.1. "N# of justifications for OECD Marker G0 scores (defined as: "no inherent potential to impact on gender equality")" and indicator 5.3.2. "% of new programmes that score G1 or G2 (Target: 85% of new programmes score G1 or G2 by 2020)"

This Annex reports on the progress made to achieve GAP II's target of ensuring that **85% of all new EU actions score G1 or G2 by 2020**. This target focuses on the number of actions that are marked G1 or G2, rather than the amount of funds committed. Thus, the focus is on monitoring the degree to which programming and planning processes are informed by, and include, gender equality objectives. In tandem, this target is meant to encourage concrete measures to ensure that the processes enable gender equality considerations to be part and parcel of decision-making processes.

Annex 2 Box 1: Gender equality policy marker

The OECD uses the CRS, which allows its members to **calculate the amounts of money within their ODA** that contribute to gender equality, **as well as the number of actions that are being funded by them** (among others).

The OECD tracks aid by its members in support of gender equality and women's rights using the Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) gender equality policy marker.[42] This qualitative statistical tool records aid activities that target gender equality as a policy objective. It is used by DAC members as part of annual reporting on their aid activities (and therefore the allocated funding) to the DAC, to indicate whether each aid activity targets gender equality as a policy objective. The gender equality policy marker is based on a three-point scoring system, with scores accorded on the basis of an assessment undertaken during the design phase:

- **Principal** (marked G2) means that gender equality is the main objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The initiative would not have been undertaken without this objective.

- **Significant** (marked G1) means that gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme.

- **Not targeted** (marked G0) means that the project/programme has been screened against the gender marker but has not been found to target gender equality.

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41   The following EU Member States are also members of the OECD: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

42   For more information, see: https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm

Thus, to determine the gender marker for an initiative, an assessment is undertaken based on determined criteria. For example,

(a) for marking a programme as 'G1' (to be met in full):

- A gender analysis of the project/programme has been conducted.

- Findings from this gender analysis have informed the design of the project/programme and the intervention adopts a 'do no harm' approach.

- Presence of at least one explicit gender equality objective supported by at least one gender-specific indicator (or a firm commitment to do this if the results framework has not been elaborated at the time of marking the project).

- Data and indicators are disaggregated by sex where applicable.

- Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results achieved by the project in the evaluation phase.

(b) for marking a programme as 'G2' (to be met in full):

- A gender analysis of the project/programme has been conducted.

- Findings from this gender analysis have informed the design of the project/programme, and it adopts a 'do no harm' approach.

- The top-level ambition of the project/programme is to advance gender equality and/or women's empowerment.

- The initiative includes at least one explicit gender equality objective, supported by at least one gender-specific indicator (or a firm commitment to include this if the results framework has not yet been elaborated when the initiative is marked).

- Data and indicators are disaggregated by sex where applicable.

- Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results that are achieved by the project in the evaluation phase.

The data for 2019 included in this Annex is preliminary. The final figures will become available after the publication of the present GAP II's Annual Implementation Report.

The information on comes from three sources:

- Information on the **number of actions marked G0, G1, or G2** is provided by **EU Members States** for 2019 (the present report) via the GAP II reporting template.

- Information on the **number of actions marked G0, G1, or G2 for the Commission** was provided by the internal CRS database. The same source provides also the preliminary figures for the European Commission.

- Information on the **amounts of ODA** for the EU Member States is retrieved by the OECD.[43]

In this annex two types of information are provided:

- **Amounts of ODA commitments** that are marked G0, G1, and G2

- **Number of new actions** marked G0, G1, and G2

The amount of funds marked G1 and G2 provide a view of the overall financial support available for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. The proportion of number of new actions marked with G1 and G2 provide also a view of the methodological effort made for gender mainstreaming.

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43   Due to the cycle of the validation of data, the latest available data by OECD refer to 2018. All information available here: https://stats. oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV_DCD_GENDER#

Analysis of the available data on amounts of ODA commitments that are marked with OECD gender marker 0, 1, and 2

Commission

In terms of initiatives that include a gender perspective, the European Commission committed EUR 8.7 billion (8.697.690.296,74) worth of development funding in a gender sensitive manner. Of this, funding targeted specifically to gender equality and women's empowerment amounted to EUR 642,6 million (642.607.321,54). (Data on actions under the mandate of the European Investment Bank are not included.) Otherwise expressed: 2019 56,95%; 2018 60,80%[44]; 2017 62,86%; 2016 57,09%. It is useful to recall that the target of "*85% of new programmes score G1 or G2 by 2020*" does not refer to funds.

The proportion of funding targeted specifically to gender equality and women's empowerment, albeit a smaller portion of the overall funding, has increased steadily over the past three years.

These data represent all instruments, e.g. such as DCI, IcSP, IPA2, European Development Fund (EDF), EIDHR, European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), PI, humanitarian assistance, etc.

Annex 2 Table 1: EC ODA commitments for actions marked G0, G1, or G2

EC	G0 EURO	G0 %	G1 EURO	G1 %	G2 EURO	G2 %	G1 + G2 EURO	G1+G2 %	Total Commitments EURO
2019	6.574.697.638	43,05	8.055.082.975	52,74	642.607.322	4,21	8.697.690.297	56,95	15.272.387.935
2018	5.878.815.952	39,20	8.519.756.335	56,81	597.747.404	3,99	9.117.503.739	60,80	14.996.319.691
2017	10.931.800.541	51,64	9.761.412.429	46,11	475.916.015	2,25	10.237.328.444	48,36	21.169.128.985
2016	7.307.927.764	42,91	9.304.887.496	54,63	419.125.120	2,46	9.724.012.616	57,09	17.031.940.380

International cooperation and development

ODA commitments for international cooperation and development actions which mainstream gender (those marked 'G1') increased in 2019 in the Americas and Oceania, but decreased in Africa, in Asia and in Europe.

Regional funds for Africa decreased by about 12% compared to 2018, reaching the lowest rate since 2015. The Americas experienced the greatest increase in funds for actions marked 'G1' – nearly 12% more than in 2018. Trends in the Americas over the past four years reveal a roughly even increase in funds marked 'G1', following an earlier decrease. Funds marked 'G0' show an inverse trend. In Asia, the increase in funds marked 'G1' corresponds inversely to the decrease in funds marked 'G0'. The difference between 2015 and 2019 is remarkable. Overall, therefore, Africa is further from the target than Asia. The only region that met the target for funds marked 'G1' in 2019 is Oceania.

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44   A correction is needed regarding the data in the GAP II implementation report 2018 Annex 4, pg. 249. The following phrase pertains to the work done by the Commission services in charge of international development only, but it is misquoted as pertaining to the Commission overall. "Analysis of preliminary data for 2018 indicates that 76 % of total EU official development assistance contributed to actions marked 'G1' and 'G2' using the OECD gender marker, up from 71 % in 2017. The pertinent data for all years are correctly stated in this report.

Annex 2 Table 2: International cooperation and development's percentage of ODA commitments for actions marked G0, G1, or G245

Commitments	OECD G0 % of total of funds per region					OECD G1 % of total of funds per region					OECD G2 % of total of funds per region				
International cooperation and development	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Africa	35.30	28.03	31.02	34.06	44.00	58.02	70.27	66.76	64.10	52.00	6,69	1.71	2.23	1.84	5.00
Americas	14.16	25.37	50.85	33.48	48.00	79.84	67.14	49.15	64.54	48.00	6,00	7.49	3.47	1.98	4.00
Asia	8.82	8.67	11.30	36.68	48.00	81.69	90.18	88.70	56.72	47.00	9,49	1.15	0.00	6.61	5.00
Europe	37.98	21.90	14.72	65.75	67.00	62.02	78.10	85.28	34.25	24.00	0,00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Oceania	0.00	34.14	2.11	22.51	43.00	100.0	65.86	84.37	74.72	43.00	0,00	0.00	13.52	2.76	14.00
Developing countries (unspecified)	19.26	26.76	31.02	46.09	82.00	76.97	51.53	57.17	43.85	17.00	3,78	21.71	11.82	10.06	1.00

There are **no clear trends for funds marked 'G2'**. In certain cases, variations from year to year are extremely pronounced. In part, these variations may be influenced by programming priorities and political contexts in a given region, which determine the allocation of funds to actions that support gender equality and women's empowerment. Also, it is important to consider that here are reviewed data on the *commitments*; these are made once at the beginning of a new action/ programme/ project, as compared to the disbursements which are made on an annual basis.

It is **important to ensure continuous support and some predictability, as far as possible, of funds dedicated to actions with gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective.**

The variation in the overall volume of ODA commitments to individual regions does not predict the share of funds for actions that support gender equality and women's empowerment (marked G1 and G2).

Annex 2 Table 3: Change in ODA commitments for international cooperation and development contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment (funds marked G1 and G2), 2019 vs. 2018

Funds committed for international cooperation and development per region	Share of commitments marked OECD G1 and G2 on overall ODA, 2019 vs. 2018			Difference in overall ODA commitments, 2019 vs. 2018 (EUR)
	2019	2018	2019 vs. 2018	
Africa	64,70%	71,97%	⬇ 7,27% –	Decreased by Euro 1.345.424.976 –
Americas	85,84%	74,63%	⬆ 11,21%	Decreased by Euro 173.636.681 –
Asia	91,18%	91,33%	⬇ 0,14% –	Increased by Euro 116.305.268
Europe	62,02 %	78,10%	⬇ 16,08% –	Increased by Euro 7.030.994
Oceania	100,0%	65,86%	⬆ 34,14 %	Decreased by Euro 63.200.00 –

45   These figures exclude administrative costs (categorised as the 'G01' type of aid) and include co-financing.

Developing countries (unspecified)	80,74%	73,24%	⬆ 7,50 %	Decreased by Euro 342.411.659 –
Total	**77,29%**	**75,52%**	⬆ **1,78%**	**Decreased by Euro 1.801.337.053 –**

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Annex 2 Table 4: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations' percentage of ODA commitments for actions marked G0, G1 or G246 2019 (provisional data)

Commitments 2018	OECD G0 % of total funds per region			OECD G1 % of total funds per region			OECD G2 % of total funds per region		
Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
Southern Neighbourhood	32,18%	42,9%	37,12%	42,35%	56,8%	58,80%	25,47%	0,3%	4,08%
Eastern Neighbourhood	28,81%	44,0%	52,23%	70,03%	53,4%	45,18%	1,17%	2,6%	2,59%
Enlargement negotiations	32,96%	26,6%	30,48%	66,06%	72,8%	65,60%	0,98%	0,6%	3,91%
Developing countries (unspecified)	67,44%	88,5%	93,47%	33,16%	11,5%	5,14%	0,0%	0,0%	1,40%

Data analysis show that the greatest commitment for 'G2' actions have been made for Africa. Except for Europe, commitments for gender mainstreaming ('G1') actions have decreased in all regions.

Annex 2 Table 5: Change in ODA commitments for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment (funds marked G1 and G2), 2019 vs. 2018

Funds committed for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Share of commitments marked OECD G1 and G2 on overall ODA, 2019 vs. 2018			Difference in overall ODA commitments, 2019 vs. 2018 (EUR)
	2019	2018	2019 vs. 2018	
Southern Neighbourhood	67,82%	56,28%	⬆	Decreased by Euro
Eastern Neighbourhood	71,19%	74,87%	⬇	Decreased by Euro
Enlargement negotiations	67,04%	65,00%	⬆	Increased by Euro
Developing countries (unspecified)	32,56%	11,63%	⬆	Increased by Euro
Total	**65,55%**	**57,89%**	⬆	**Decreased by Euro**

46   These figures exclude administrative costs (categorised as the 'G01' type of aid) and include co-financing.

Other Commission services

Annex 2 Table 6: Other Commission services' percentage of ODA commitments marked G0, G1, or G2[47]

Commit-ments	OECD G0 % of total regional funds for the corresponding region					OECD G1 % of total regional funds for the corresponding region					OECD G2 % of total regional funds for the corresponding region				
Other Director-ates-General	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Africa	93,89	82.58	43.55	93.05	80	6,11	17.42	56.45	6.95	19	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Americas	91,97	99.82	99.86	47.10	80	8,03	0.18	0.14	52.90	20	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asia	88,41	87.51	85.28	89.50	91	11,59	12.49	14.72	10.50	9	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Europe	87,38	42.45	7.67	81.57	78	10,47	53.02	92.33	18.43	20	2,15	4.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oceania	-	0.00	0.00	100	100	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Developing countries (unspecified)	84,79	80.28	86.57	89.90	96	15,05	19.72	13.10	10.10	3	0,16	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00

'Other' Commission services are services other than those specifically in charge of external relations. These 'other' services carry out international relations within their sectoral mandates. **In 2019, the 'G1' ODA commitment of other Commission services decreased further, halving compared to 2018.** It should also be noted that these commitments had already halved in 2018 compared to 2017. Funds for Africa and Europe marked 'G1' continued to drop, and a slighter decrease is also visible for Asia. With the exception of a 2.5% commitment for 'G2' actions in Europe, almost halved compared to 2018, none of the other regions received funds for actions that have gender equality and women's empowerment actions as a principal objective.

Annex 2 Table 7: Change in ODA commitments for external relations by other Commission services[48] contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment (funds marked G1 and G2), 2019 vs. 2018

Funds by other Commission services	Share of commitments marked OECD G1 and G2 on overall ODA, 2019 vs. 2018			Difference in overall ODA commitments, 2019 vs. 2018 (EUR)
	2019	2018	2019 vs. 2018	
Africa	6,11%	17,42%	▼ 11,31% -	Decreased by Euro 102.657.801
Americas	8,03%	0,18%	▲ 7,85%	Increased by Euro 42.462.459
Asia	11,59%	12,49%	▼ 0,90%-	Decreased by Euro 41.156.499
Europe	12,62%	57,55%	▼ 44,93% -	Increased by Euro 754.169.839
Oceania	0,00%	0,00%	0	0
Developing countries (unspecified)	15,21%	19,72%	▼ 4,51% -	Increased by Euro 205.088.706
Total	11,19%	23,79%	▼ 12,59% -	Increased by Euro 857.906.702

47   These figures exclude administrative costs (categorised as the 'G01' type of aid) and include co-financing.

48   *Refers to commission services other than those in charge of International Cooperation and Development and Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations*

EU Member States

Annex 2 Table 8: ODA Commitments GM 1+2 of OECD members/ EU member states as percentage of overall ODA – OECD data[49]

EU member states	% funds GM 1+2	% funds GM 1+2	% funds GM 1+2	% funds GM 1+2
Year	2018	2017	2016	2015
Austria	44,23	37	45	45
Bulgaria				
Belgium	55,77		51	64
Croatia				
Cyprus				
Czech Republic	20,98	50	18	16
Denmark	41,54	34	34	47
Estonia				
Finland	54,18	61	53	51
France	20,61	29	28	22
Germany	44,73	39	40	43
Greece	37,28	21	25	39
Hungary	2,55			
Ireland	77,73	83	84	81
Italy	42,51	44	38	35
Latvia				
Lithuania				
Luxembourg	31,28	28	33	33
Malta				
Netherlands	64,08	64	61	61
Poland	1,95	2	3	2
Portugal	29,09	31	26	23
Romania				
Slovakia	51,25	38	35	22
Slovenia	27,28	33	18	17
Spain	53,18	49	41	39
Sweden	83,38	87	88	88
United Kingdom		47	45	43
Average EUMS	**41,24**	**43**	**41**	**41**
(Average Commission services)	**60,80**	**48,36**	**57,09**	

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49   https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV_DCD_GENDER# Data extracted on 15 July 2020 from OECD.Stat.

The data above provides only a partial picture regarding the funds made available by the EU Member States, this is because not all of them report to the OECD. As a whole, the joint contribution of EU Member States' ODA for gender equality and women's empowerment between 2017 and 2018 decreased slightly, and represented 41,24 % of the overall ODA for the countries that reported.

Analysis of the available data on number of new activities marked with OECD gender marker 0, 1, and 2

When accounting for the number of actions – as required by the GAP II target – the budget of each individual action is not considered. The focus instead is on the quality of the processes that ensure gender mainstreaming into decision making.[50] Indeed, the quantity of funds that are made available to support gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) is highly relevant.

Commission services

A positive trend towards the target of 85% of new programmes score G1 or G2 by 2020 emerges, when considering all of the Commission actions relative to external relations across services and instruments: 64,25% of all new programmes scored G1 or G2 in 2019 (60,87% in 2018; 56,53% in 2017; 58,10% in 2016).

In the table below are shown the data regarding the GAP II target of some of the key services and instruments.

Annex 2 Table 9: Commission services – percentage of new ODA commitments actions marked GM 0, 1, or 2[51]

Instrument	% of G0 actions				% of G1 actions				% of G2 actions				% G1 + G2[52]
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019
International Cooperation and Development	32	32	34	41	61	65	61	54	8	4	5	4	68
European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENI)	55	44	51	43	41	54	46	53	5	2	3	4	46
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II	67	46	62	65	19	52	32	33	14	2	6	3	33
Partnership Instrument[53]	90	86	88	95	10	9	8	3	0	5	4	2	10

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50   For example, presence of robust gender analysis, timely-bound collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative gender-specific data, availability of gender expertise, and involvement of the gender equality mechanism, women's rights organisations and civil society working on gender equality in the process

51   The data show gender actions data based on EU Results Framework – Level 3, 2016-2019 (provisional figures as of March 2020). EIB actions and administrative costs (Administrative lines and "Type of Aid" G01) excluded.

52   The sum is rounded up to the nearest percent.

53   The calculation methodology for 2016-2018 was changed for the Partnership Instrument and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, as managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, in order to align it with the methodology used by other services. The figures are now based on the number of new operational actions contracted per year.

Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace[54]	30	41	25	23	70	52	71	73	0	7	3	5	70
European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights Election observation missions	0				74	100			26				100

In 2019, the number of new actions contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment increased compared to 2018 for almost all instruments. This demonstrates that the work undertaken to improve procedures and strengthen capacity – for instance, capacity for gender analysis – is yielding positive results. As for previous years, in 2019 consistent efforts were made through internal **quality assurance mechanisms** to monitor the quality of gender mainstreaming of EU actions. **Procedures and templates** used for the preparation of new international cooperation and development actions were **reviewed to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender-sensitive, rights-based approach,** as well as other key cross-cutting issues.

EU Member States

Annex 2 Table 10: EU Member States' percentage of new ODA actions marked GM 0, 1, or 2[55]

	% of GM 0 actions				% of GM 1 actions				% of GM 2 actions				% of GM 1 + 2
Member State	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019
Austria	21.17	20.47	27.72		48.43	71.67	65.46		30.4	7.86	6.82		78.83
Bulgaria													
Belgium		82.4	39.8	68.9		14.6	56.1	26.8		2.9	4.1	4.3	
Croatia													
Cyprus													
Czech Republic	85.45	74.02	40.22	85.31	10.91	22.05	53.21	10.41	3.64	3.93	6.57	4.29	14.55
Denmark									35				
Estonia		12				4				7			
Finland	63.2	51.1			31.7	38.1			5.1	10.8			36.8
France[56]						132	117			23	22		
Germany	40.92	42.39	39.65	44.05	57.94	56.79	59.36	54.38	1.64	0.82	0.98	1.57	59.58

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54   The figures presented for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace only reflect the G-marker for those actions managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, concretely those under Articles 3 and 4.

55   Data provided through the GAP II report templates submitted in 2019 and 2020. In some cases, the data submitted in 2020 corrected data submitted with the previous report. Where this is the case, the table reflects these corrections. Where data is not available, the table is left blank.

56   Submitted number of projects marked with GM1 and 2 for 2018 and 2017. No data yet available for 2019.

Member State	% of GM 0 actions				% of GM 1 actions				% of GM 2 actions				% of GM 1 + 2
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019	2018	2017	2016	2019
Greece													
Hungary													
Ireland		22.1	12.3	15.3		70.3	67.5	67.5		7.2	15.5	12.5	
Italy	38	44.90	38.96	50.87	55	8.42	6.71	5.22	7	46.68	54.33	43.91	62
Latvia			80			33	10			7	10	11	
Lithuania	45				29				13	12			42
Luxembourg	42	0	28	25	53	89	67	75	5	11	5	0	58
Malta													
Netherlands	52	55.35	38.98	50.16	32.7	25.59	42.98	26.83	15.2	19.06	18.09	23.01	47.9
Poland	91	95	93	89	6	3	3	7	3	2	4	4	8
Portugal													
Romania													
Slovakia		92.5	91	92		7.5	9	8					
Slovenia	67	67.52	70.49	88.00	28	23.08	20.49	6.00	5	9.40	9.02	6.00	33
Spain	(42)[57]	44	40.9	43.28		21	21.5	21.29	(58)[58]	35.66	37.6	35.43	
Sweden													

EU Member States which complied with the obligation to justify actions marked 'GM 0', as required by the GAP II, in 2019 included Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

With additional data, it would be possible to form a clearer picture of progress and strategies for strengthening support for the GAP II's objectives. Current data is useful for analysing both the overall efforts of Member States, and different approaches that contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment objectives. Using a joint target for 'GM 1' and 'GM 2' actions ('GM 1 + GM 2') is useful as it supports the three-pronged approach: gender mainstreaming, targeted actions with gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective, and political and policy dialogue to advance the promotion of gender equality and women's rights.

Available data indicates that it is possible for Member States' to fruitfully employ different approaches. This means that any Member State can choose between focusing more on 'G2' actions to boost results in terms of precisely supporting gender equality and women's empowerment or focusing more on improving the quality and quantity of actions in which gender is mainstreamed ('G1'). The continuous exchange of experiences, including through the use and analysis of this report, will be useful for maintaining and increasing results overall.

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57   The overall data for the Spanish Cooperation not yet available. CCAA La Rioja 42%

58   The overall data for the Spanish Cooperation not yet available. CCAA La Rioja 58%

Annex 3. Sexual and reproductive health and rights

This annex presents financial and operational updates to the GAP II Implementation Reports for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Information that is still relevant for the 2019 reporting year has not been updated.

EU policy framework

The European Union promotes universal and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) throughout the lifecycle as an intrinsic part of its efforts to achieve human rights, gender equality and sustainable development, in line with the global framework to address gender-based discrimination and inequalities.[59]

The EU has incorporated and expanded these international principles in key policy documents that lay the groundwork for EU support for comprehensive equitable, universal health systems, which include SRHR and family planning services.[60]

The GAP II proposes a multi-dimension approach to SRHR in EU external action, specifically within the scope of thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity'. This implies providing protection and support to eradicate violence against women and girls; increasing access to quality, timely. affordable and equitable SRHR services free from any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, including rehabilitative physical and mental healthcare services; promoting sexuality education; and improving women's and girls' healthy nutrition levels throughout their lifecycle. Nutrition interventions can be an entry point for the identification and referral of GBV survivors, as the deterioration of nutritional status may results from violence or ill health. Nutrition intervention can integrate some basic psychosocial support activities to cope with high level of distress.

The 'European Consensus on Development – Our world, our dignity, our future' recalls this framework, reiterating the EU's strong commitment to the GAP II's objective on SRHR. The Consensus reiterates the commitment to spend at least 20% of EU aid on social inclusion and human development.

The EU also undertakes key interventions to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that most concern SRHR. These include target 3.7 under SDG 3 ('Good Health and Well-Being') and target 5.6 under SDG 5 ('Gender Equality').

Challenges of addressing the SRHR agenda

The EU is committed to the *"promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence"*. The 'European Consensus on Development – Our world, our dignity, our future' stresses *"the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services."*[61]

Sexual and reproductive health and rights encompass the multiple physical, psychological, mental, and social aspects related to the spheres of sexuality and reproduction, including intersectional individual and socio-cultural

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59   The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) (1979), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (1994), the Beijing Platform of Action adopted at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), and the European Consensus on Development (2017).

60   These key policy documents are: the Council Conclusions on the EU Role in Global Health (2010), the Overarching Post 2015 Agenda Council Conclusions (2013), the Council Conclusions on a Transformative Post-2015 Agenda, and the European Commission's Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019.

61   Council of the European Union (2017) *Council Conclusions: European Consensus on Development*, doc. 9393/17 +COR 1, article 34, 19 May 2017.

factors. SRHR are a basic human right that should be treated with a holistic factual and financial response to ensure that no one is left behind.

In recent years, a growing backlash has undermined political and financial support for SRHR, putting the lives of millions of people at risk, especially women and girls in the world's poorest countries. In March 2019, the Global Gag Rule[62] reinstated in January 2017 by the United States' administration was expanded to prevent non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that receive US funding from supporting groups that provide or offer counselling on abortion. This decision not only affects SRHR, but it impacts all global health funding, including on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases. The restriction takes heavily its toll on women's health and opportunities, especially in emergency environments where more than 500 women and girls die every day during pregnancy and in childbirth due to a lack of skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric procedures and due to unsafe abortions.

The EU Member States joined efforts to contrast this backlash against women and girls' rights. The 'She Decides' initiative was launched in March 2017 by the Governments of the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and Sweden.[63] In 2018, the initiative gained traction, eliciting renewed attention, alongside policy and financial commitments on SRHR. In 2019, a 2019-2021 strategy was developed. EU Member States that continue to support financially She Decides include Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Sweden.

2019 marked the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICDP) in Cairo that declared a global commitment to SRHR. On 12-14 November 2019, the 'Summit on ICDP+25: Accelerating the promise' was held in Nairobi, Kenya, co-convened by the Governments of Kenya and Denmark, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). More than 170 countries took part in the Nairobi Summit, with the aim of completing the ICPD Programme of Action. The parties recommitted to achieving relevant SDGs by preventing all maternal deaths, meeting unmet family planning needs, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. USD 1 billion was committed in support by the European Commission and the Governments of countries including Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Annex 3 Box 1: Nairobi Summit on ICDP+25

At the summit in November 2019, EU Ambassadors***** to Kenya reflected on what the International Conference on Population and Development has achieved in the last 25 years, as well as the long road that lies ahead. They advocated for universal access to quality, affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in primary health care and education. Recalling the significant gains made in the implementation of the ICPD's Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action, they noted that gains are unequally distributed globally. In many countries, vulnerable groups are affected by natural or manmade disasters, bearing the brunt of their consequences. As a result, they are more likely to be out of school and face risks, such as early pregnancy, child labour, trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence. That is what makes sexual and reproductive health services so vital. In view of impending demographic shifts, policy responses are needed for the challenges of our times: fertility, ageing, urbanization, migration and displacement, as well as the need to ensure that labour, health, education and pension systems are optimally located and funded. The Ambassadors advocated for harmonised, collective action by all 179 signatories to fulfil the ICPD's promise, reiterating the EU's aim is to achieve the basic rights of women, girls and young people.

*Note: Ambassadors of the European Union, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom

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62   The Global Gag Rule (also known as Mexico City Policy) is a US government policy that denies US federal funding to organisations that provide abortion information, counseling or referrals. The policy was first enacted in 1984 and was rescinded by every democratic administration and reinstated by every republican administration.

63   For more information, see: https://www.shedecides.com

EU financial mechanisms for SRHR

Annex 3 Figure 1: EU financial mechanisms for SRHR
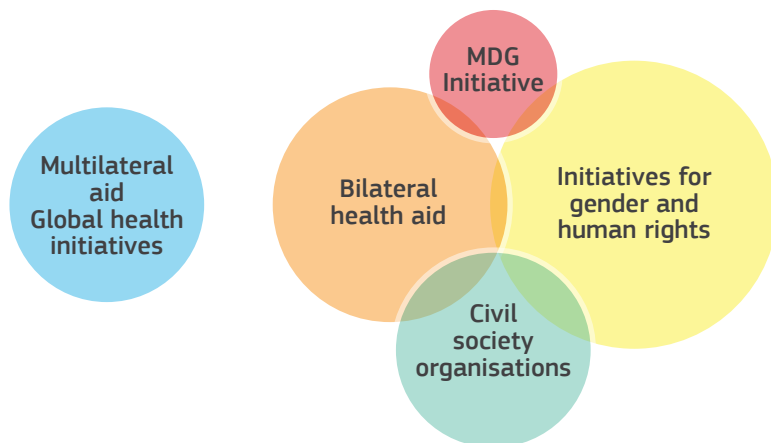
In 2011, the European Commission committed to spending at least 20% of EU aid on social inclusion and human development, as noted above. These funds are to be allocated to basic social services, with a focus on health, education and social protection.[64] This commitment was reiterated by the new European Consensus on Development in 2017. The EU's financial investment in SRHR and family planning takes place through different financial instruments and programmes. These include regional programmes on gender, health and population development, contributions to global initiatives and UN organisations, and grants to civil society organisations.

Annex 3 Box 2: Main EU external action programmes contributing to SRHR

In the context of the **11th EDF 2014-2020**, the EU-Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) strategy 2014-2020 highlights SRHR under its health objectives. The EU-ACP Multi-country Cooperation Strategy on Health includes the objective: "to strengthen the capacity of health systems in ACP countries to deliver basic universally available healthcare", and the target of: "improving access to prevention, treatment, and care for reproductive health, and universal access to affordable contraceptives and commodities". Similarly, the 11th Intra-ACP strategy 2014-2020 acknowledges SRHR as a priority, as reflected in the outcome document of the second meeting of ACP health ministers, held in 2015.

The **Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) 2014-2020** is another notable financing instrument, with its thematic programmes, Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA) and the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC), paying attention to SRHR. The human development component of the GPGC prioritises actions to improve access to essential health commodities and sexual and reproductive health services, while meeting unmet needs for family planning and reproductive health care in developing countries. This is in line with the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2020 and the DCI Regulation.

The **Humanitarian Aid Instrument (HAI)** and the **EIDHR** specifically address several SRHR-related issues. These include the rights of women and girls, persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and minorities, as set out in international and regional human rights instruments.

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64   European Commission (2011) *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, "Increasing the impact of the EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change".* COM(2011) 637 final. Brussels: European Commission.

During the 2016-2019 period, contributions to global initiatives through the EDF and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) ensured that the EU played a significant role in shaping the international SRHR policy agenda. Key global initiatives include the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the Global Alliance Vaccine Initiative (GAVI), the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, the World Health Organization's (WHO) Universal Health Coverage Partnership, and UNFPA's Supplies Programme.

EU financial investments in SRHR

Overall, the EU contribution to health programmes, global health initiatives and UN agencies amounts to EUR 2.6 billion for the 2014-2020 period, including EUR 572 million for interventions specific or related to SRHR.

The bulk of EU financing for SRHR takes the form of direct bilateral support to the health sector at the country level, encompassing EUR 1.5 billion for the 2014-2020 period through the EDF and DCI. In this way, the EU supports efforts to strengthen health systems and ensure universal access to an essential package of health services, including family planning, maternal health, and reproductive and sexual health services. Under the EDF, the EU contributed EUR 80 million to the GAVI Budget in 2019, and EUR 68 million to the GFTAM budget destined for ACP countries.

The GPGC programme also advances SRHR through its gender equality, human rights, and child well-being components. It focuses on combating harmful practices, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation and gender-based violence. In 2019, under these instruments, the EU granted EUR 25 million to the UNFPA Supplies Programme, adding to an earlier grant of EUR 20 million. These contributions helped to improve access to SRHR, including family planning, in 46 largely low-income countries. They did so by financing efforts to strengthen national capacities and systems, including in-country supply chains.

Between 2016 and 2019, the EU funded several SRHR initiatives implemented through UN agencies, such as the UNFPA-led global programme to address 'son preference' in selected countries[65] (EUR 4 million), the UNICEF-led programmes 'Towards universal birth registration' (EUR 4 million) and 'Improving health outcomes for the population of Zimbabwe II' (EUR 38 million), and the joint UNFPA-UNICEF programme to curb female genital mutilation (EUR 11 million) and end child marriage (EUR 5 million).

In 2018, the EU and the UN launched the Spotlight Initiative, a multi-year partnership with a global budget of EUR 500 million, of which EUR 100 million is specifically earmarked for SRHR. In addition, the EU supported the reduction of female genital mutilation and child marriage with an additional investment of EUR 21.1 million.

Annex 3 Box 3: The Africa Investment Programme

Africa Investment Programme of the Spotlight Initiative: The Africa investment is at the heart of Spotlight, with an overall allocation of EUR 250 million. Eight country programmes were approved and are being implemented in Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The African regional programme complements these country programmes with a substantive allocation of EUR 30 million. An allocation of 10% of the overall Africa investment budget has been put aside to support the women's movement (pillar 6) under existing UN Trust Funds. The regional programme centres on three pillars: legislation and policies, quality and reliable data, and strengthening the relations of women's movements with the African Union and other regional players. Two separate 'streams' of work cover: (i) the regional response to addressing sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and SRHR in Africa, and (ii) the regional response to female genital mutilation and child marriage.

In June 2019, the European Commission committed EUR 123.7 million to support the 2019-2022 phase of WHO's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Partnership Programme. This contributes to improving donor coordination and aid effectiveness, while strengthening health systems in 28 partner countries. It supports countries to reach their

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65   Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Georgia, Nepal, and Viet Nam

universal health coverage targets, including targets related to SRHR. The new phase will involve regional initiatives that support priority actions in over 100 countries in five regions, most notably in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

In 2019, the EU extended EUR 26.5 million to support the World Bank Global Financing Facility, which will contribute to innovative measures that bridge the financing gap and improve health outcomes for women, children and adolescents.

Each year, the European Commission provides an estimated EUR 200 million in support for humanitarian health programmes that include SRHR services, in line with the health policy of the Commission services responsible for civil protection and humanitarian aid operations. In 2019, the EU allocated more than an estimated 20 EUR million to reproductive health under its humanitarian aid health programming. This funding enabled the urgent provision of SRHR services for the most vulnerable groups affected by crises. A mental health and psychosocial support component is integrated as part of this response.

Due to the complex nature of SRHR and existing reporting systems, it is difficult to accurately quantify how much of the EU's funding specifically advances family planning or SRHR. International donors and networks working on SRHR are engaged in researching the best methodology to adopt to ensure consistent transparency and the tracking of funds at both the commitment and disbursements level, including for programmes targeting adolescents.

May 2018 witnessed the establishment of a Joint Countdown to 2030, and the Partnership for Maternal, New-born & Child Health Technical Working Group for the Tracking of Financing for Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH).

With inputs from an extensive stakeholder consultation process, including members of the DAC and non-DAC bilateral, multilateral and private donors, an updated version of the Muskoka methodology, the 'Muskoka 2', is being developed. The new methodology will draw on the strengths of the previous Countdown to 2015 and 'Muskoka 1' tracking approaches, which 'Muskoka 2' intends to supersede. The revised Muskoka methodology and the ongoing reorganisation of the EU's general financial tracking system are expected to create a more comprehensive methodology to gauge EU support for SHRH in the near future.

As in previous GAP II reports, the quantitative assessment of EU support for SRHR in 2019 was based on data from the OECD creditor reporting system disbursement for 2016-2019, using the Muskoka and FP2020 methods, as well as aggregated results from the EU RF. A qualitative analysis was undertaken by reviewing the EAMR.

In 2019, the Commission services for international cooperation and development committed EUR 1.27 billion to action contributing to human development, representing 20.5% of the total amount committed. This is also due to the refinement of the reporting methodology in 2017, following the introduction of the OECD-DAC CRS code on violence against women (15180). As a result, programmes on combating gender-based violence were reported under the human development sector, rather than the health sector.

Overall, the EU's financial disbursement for maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) in 2019 was EUR 417.62 million, calculated using the Muskoka methodology. This was considerably higher than EUR 350.76 in 2018, but still lower than EUR 469.4 million in 2017 and EUR 477 million in 2016. Disbursements in line with the Muskoka family planning subset methodology totalled EUR 29.63 million in 2019, a slight increase from EUR 29.6 million in 2018, but a considerable decline from EUR 58.9 million in 2017 and EUR 43.1 million in 2016. The figures below illustrate budgetary disbursements during the 2016-2019 period, according to the Muskoka methodology for MNCH and the family planning tracking methodology. The two methodologies should not be seen as identical, as the family planning disbursement is a subset of overall MNCH expenditure.

Annex 3 Figure 2: Disbursement for MNCH, and Family Planning 2016-2019 (EUR million)
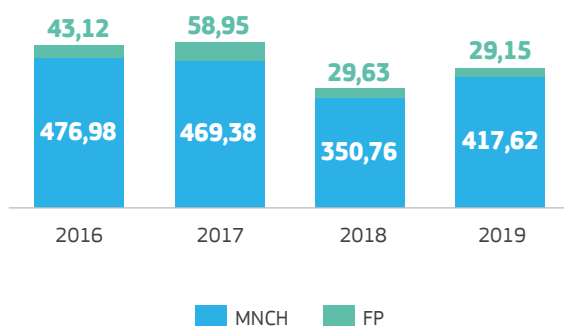
In 2019, in the framework of the EU CSO/LA programme, the European Commission funded seven new projects by civil society organisations, with a total budget of EUR 2.1 million. One of these projects supports access to health services in Guinea Bissau. Three projects focus on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and inclusive services in Sierra Leone. One project in Bolivia aims to foster youth participation for the development of SRHR public policies. In 2019, under the EIDHR 2014-2020, the EU committed EUR 164.17 million, including EUR 61.7 million to support to local civil society action through country-based support scheme.

Annex 3 Figure 3: Disbursement for MNCH, 2016-2019 (EUR million)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019
Health policy and administrative	32,7	58,6	36,8	55,0
Medical education/training	0,3	0,1	2,1	1,6
Medical services	6,1	5,2	6,7	5,5
Basic health care	97,1	85,1	62,0	61,5
Basic health infrastructure	4,2	16,9	3,2	4,5
Basic nutrition	102,5	91,9	78,6	95,3
Infectious disease control	12,7	7,9	9,3	5,3
Health education	0,8	0,6	0,7	0,4
Malaria control	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Tuberculosis control	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Health personnel development	0,7	0,2	0,0	3,9
Population policy and admin. manag.	25,0	40,8	4,1	2,7
Reproductive health care	33,0	10,4	5,0	7,7
Family planning	0,4	17,9	3,4	1,8
STD control including HIV/AIDS	1,8	0,3	0,2	0,1
Personnel develop. popul. & reprod. health	0,0	2,2	0,9	0,5
Basic drinking water supply & sanitation	21,6	13,8	15,1	9,6
Basic drinking water supply	2,7	3,1	3,2	1,8
Basic sanitation	2,4	0,7	1,8	2,4
General budget support	23,8	22,4	19,4	20,0
GFATM – AIDS, Tuberculosis,Malaria	108,9	91,3	74,9	56,9
GAVI – All. Vaccines & Immunization	0,0	0,0	25,0	81,0

Annex 3 Figure 4: Disbursement for family planning, 2016-2019 (EUR million)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019
Health policy and administrative	4,1	7,3	4,6	6,9
Medical education/training	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,2
Medical services	0,8	0,7	0,8	0,7
Basic health care	12,1	10,6	7,8	7,7
Basic health infrastructure	0,5	2,1	0,4	0,6
Basic nutrition	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Infectious disease control	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Health education	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Malaria control	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Tuberculosis control	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Health personnel development	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,5
Population policy and admin. manag.	3,1	5,1	0,5	0,3
Reproductive health care	6,6	2,1	1,0	1,5
Family planning	0,4	17,9	3,4	1,8
STD control including HIV/AIDS	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Personnel develop. popul. & reprod. health	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0
Basic drinking water supply & sanitation	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Basic drinking water supply	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Basic sanitation	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
General budget support	3,0	2,8	2,4	2,5
GFATM – AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria	12,1	10,1	8,3	6,3
GAVI – All. Vaccines & Immunization	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

Selected SRHR results and good practices

Annex 3 Box 3. European Commission's Health General Guidelines

The EC health general guidelines set out the parameters of the EU's humanitarian health assistance, particularly its view that sexual and reproductive health services should be integrated into primary health care, rather than being a standalone programme. Sexual and reproductive health is almost always included as a part of the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) – a package of interventions designed to meet the most important health needs of all people at the community, primary health care facility and, at times, hospital levels. The guidelines and their technical annexes also refer to the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) on reproductive health in crises – a series of crucial actions required to respond to reproductive health needs during the onset of humanitarian crises.

Annex 3 Box 4. Defending women's choice, rights and integrated sex education in El Salvador

Given the total ban on abortions in El Salvador, many women who have suffered miscarriages have been sentenced or prosecuted for suspected abortions. The EU Delegation and Heads of Missions of EU Member States' Embassies have attended public hearings, including alongside the Canadian Ambassador. EU actors have also participated in discussions with the Director-General for Prisons, members of the Supreme Court and of the Office of the Public Prosecutor. Their aim is to draw attention to these issues from a human rights and due process perspective. To change deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours, capacity building targets teachers, children and parents on 'integrated sex education' in schools, and incorporating a focus on preventing violence against women and girls within research in higher education institutions.

The Spotlight Initiative in El Salvador introduced several promising practices on using new technologies, as well as working with faith-based organisations and religious leaders. It developed a 'Chat bot' called 'Between us, it's worth asking' ('*Entre nosotros se vale preguntar*') – an interactive tool to help young men explore themes related to sexuality and masculinity, in aid of behaviour change. It also supported a diploma programme, 'Pastoral Action Against Violence Against Women and Pregnancies in Girls and Female Adolescents' for pastors from various churches in nationwide. Through the Spotlight Initiative and its partners, women in municipalities gained access to an Integrated Assistance Programme for women survivors of violence, consisting of high quality personalized assistance for women and girls. This includes: information and guidance, support during administrative and judicial proceedings, and training through the School of Human Rights. By facilitating system improvements, Spotlight increased capacities to provide appropriate, quality and integrated multisectoral services to survivors, alongside information and communication technologies (ICTs), alert systems and technical support. A public policy proposal for shelters is underway.

Annex 3 Box 5. Delivering as One in Malawi

The Government of Malawi actively contributed to the Spotlight Initiative's design at the national and local levels. A Spotlight Secretariat for Malawi was created to ensure coordination through the 'Delivering as One' approach, facilitate technical coherence, and foster inter-agency coordination and cohesion. By establishing clear lines of accountability based on recipient UN agencies' expertise, Spotlight's way of working effectively embodied UN reform principles. Upholding the 'leave no one behind' principle at the heart of the SDGs, over 150 women and girls with disabilities were trained on the links between gender-based violence and SRHR. Fifty women sex workers were oriented on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, alongside referral pathways. The initiative also enhanced the capacity of district councils to effectively implement programmes on curbing sexual and gender-based violence, as well as harmful practices. Strengthening partnerships with local authorities and engaging district councils in the co-design of programme strategies ensured relevance and local ownership. The Safe Schools model was scaled up in 2019, expanding multi-media campaign coverage geared towards transforming harmful behaviours, social norms and attitudes. This empowered 5,523 boys and girls to mitigate the risks of violence, and to demand and access referral and protection services. Through 446 newly-established structures, more than 42,000 children accessed child protection services and 2,694 service providers – police, health officers, gender officers, social welfare officers and magistrates – are able to provide quality essential SRHR services.

Annex 3 Box 6. Changing social norms in Mozambique

Four laws to protect women and girls were passed in late 2019, including the country's first law on child marriage, the 'Prevention of Premature Unions'. The Spotlight Initiative enhanced the knowledge and awareness of child marriage and SRHR of over 32,940 adolescent girls. It strengthened life skills and self-esteem by working with 1,000 mentors. Many activists, community leaders and community members reported emerging changes in social norms that the initiative is contributing to, including shifts in their own attitudes and behaviours, as well as those of their families and communities.

Annex 3 Box 7. Addressing the root causes of gender-based violence and harmful practices in Nigeria

High-level progress was made on Nigeria's legislative framework for eliminating VAWG through the implementation of three policy instruments on children's rights, disability rights and eliminating gender-based violence. In Sokoto State, a draft Child Rights Bill was developed, while the National End Female Genital Mutilation Policy and Plan of Action were developed and validated. In addition to new laws and legislation, the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria focused on prevention efforts that address the root causes of gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. Its comprehensive approach enhanced 142 religious and traditional leaders', and 60 school principals and teachers', understandings of the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls. The 'Religious and Traditional Leaders Mobilised to End Violence Against Women and Girls Initiative' in Sokoto strengthened traditional leaders' capacities to advocate for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours.

Annex 3 Box 8. Preventing gender-based violence in Uganda

Through data-informed analysis, technical support, coordinated advocacy and enhanced national visibility, the Spotlight Initiative contributed to mainstreaming violence against women and girls in the draft of Uganda's Third National Development Plan. In line with SDGs' commitment to leave no one behind, the initiative focused on communities at high risk of violence – including refugees, adolescents, sex workers, girls in school and out of school, women and girls with disabilities, and those living with HIV/AIDS. It conducted a review of the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, while supporting the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to conduct a Regulatory Impact Assessment for the draft Child Policy. Important policies on SRHR were developed and adopted, including the Adolescent Health Policy and the Adolescent Health Service Standards. At the district level, human rights compliant ordinances on alcohol abuse, preventing gender-based violence and promoting SRHR were formulated and enacted in three districts. To strengthen institutions, Spotlight promoted the inclusion of fully-qualified social workers to manage, full-time, cases of violence against women and girls.

Annex 3 Box 9. Stronger institutions and multisectoral institutional coordination in Zimbabwe

The Spotlight Initiative in Zimbabwe enabled government entities to develop better plans and strategies for eliminating VAWG, promoting SRHR, and monitoring compliance with international and regional gender equality and women's rights standards. Institutional coordination was supported through a Spotlight Inter-ministerial Coordination Mechanism, hosted by the Ministry for Women Affairs, Community and Small and Medium Enterprise Development. Familiarising adolescent girls and young women with their SRHR, and how to demand services, is a focus of the initiative. Five programmes were rolled out on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in selected tertiary or higher education institutions. Social and behaviour change initiatives began in 12 districts to address SRHR, and sexual and gender-based violence at the district and community levels.

Annex 3 Box 10. Argentina's Comprehensive Sexual Education Programme

The Spotlight Initiative worked to enhance Argentina's Comprehensive Sexual Education Programme. It trained 840 teachers and staff, while reaching out to 400 children and adolescents across all targeted provinces on how to prevent and eradicate violence. Materials considering indigenous communities were updated, as were materials on strengthening operational mechanisms. Partnering with UNICEF on the Social Norms Change Strategy enabled adolescents and young people to share their insights. These informed brainstorming campaigns on prevention strategies as part of the 'Let's Make it Clear' Programme ('*Pongamos en claro*').