



European
Commission



PROMISING PRACTICES

in Mainstreaming Gender into European External Action



From the **2018 Annual**
Implementation Report of the
EU Gender Action Plan II



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into European External
Action from the 2018
Annual Implementation
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Action Plan II**

Contents

Introduction		4
MAP OF THE THIRTY-TWO PROMISING PRACTICES in Mainstreaming Gender into EU External Action		7
COMMISSION SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice programme	  	8
GREECE Support for women and children refugees, anti-trafficking measures, and the national network to prevent and combat violence against women	 	14
ITALY GEMAISA 2: Enhancing gender mainstreaming for sustainable rural development and food security	 	18
LATVIA Implementation of Latvia's Development Cooperation Policy Guidelines 2016–2020		26
EU DELEGATION TO AZERBAIJAN Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection: Improving the sex ratio at birth in select countries in Asia and the Caucasus		29
EU DELEGATION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Respect Rural Women project		35
EU DELEGATION TO ECUADOR More Information, Less Violence: prevention and eradication of gender-based violence, especially femicide		39
EU DELEGATION TO SRI LANKA Inside Justice: Ensuring formal justice sector responsibility and accountability to redress sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls		43
BELGIUM Integrated WASH, food security, gender and protection response for conflict-affected communities in Tanganyika province, Democratic Republic of the Congo		47
FRANCE Muskoka Fund		51
GERMANY Combating violence against women and girls in Latin America (ComVoMujer I and II)		55
LUXEMBOURG Innovation in maternal health services in Mongolia: From pilot to institutionalisation, UNFPA Telemedicine Project exit phase (2017/2018)		58

SPAIN Support for the prevention and coordinated intervention of the police in the effective treatment of gender-based violence in Mauritania		61
EU DELEGATION TO ANGOLA DITERCU: Direito à Terra na província do Cunene (Right to land in Cunene province)		65
EU DELEGATION TO CAMEROON LandCam: Securing land and resource rights and improving governance in the forest areas of Cameroon		69
EU DELEGATION TO IRAQ European Union capacity building in primary and secondary education: Improve quality and equality in Iraq		74
EU DELEGATION TO LIBYA Towards resilience and the social inclusion of adolescents and young people in Libya		78
EU DELEGATION TO MONGOLIA Trade-Related Assistance for Mongolia (TRAM)		82
EU DELEGATION TO TANZANIA Implementation of the Tanzania Energy Efficiency Plan		86
CZECH REPUBLIC Strengthening the Resilience of Crisis-Affected Communities in Rakhine State, Myanmar		91
LITHUANIA Improve women's skills in autonomously running and managing businesses in Azerbaijan		95
POLAND Optimisation of conventional and unconventional irrigation for rural development, improved livelihoods, and activation of women and youth in Palestine		99
COMMISSION SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS Ms President, Kenya		102
EU DELEGATION TO BURKINA FASO Gender budget support		103
EU DELEGATION TO LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Strengthening civil society to protect and promote the social, economic and cultural rights of ethnic communities in Bokeo province		106
EU DELEGATION TO MOLDOVA Budget support for police reform		110
EU DELEGATION TO SYRIA Women's dialogue in al-Atareb		114

EU DELEGATION TO TIMOR-LESTE Partnership to improve service delivery through strengthened public finance management and oversight (PFMO)		118
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO A Sexual Culture of Justice: Strengthening LGBTIQ and GBV partnerships, capacity and efficacy to promote and protect rights		121
EU DELEGATION TO YEMEN Building peace and enhancing human rights in 16 Yemeni governorates		125
IRELAND She Leads: Community-based activism, response and empowerment to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Liberia		128
THE NETHERLANDS Leading from the South (LFS)		132
PORTUGAL Women's rights in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe		136
SPAIN Strengthening the processes of mainstreaming the principle of equality in the Salvadoran public administration		139
SWEDEN Men and Women for Gender Equality programme		144
UNITED KINGDOM Research on women's political participation in Pakistan conducted from the perspectives of women voters and women politicians and activists		149
ANNEXES		154
ANNEX 1 Template for good practice reports		155
ANNEX 2 Methodology and criteria for the selection of good practices		156
ANNEX 3 Priorities, objectives and indicators of the EU Gender Action Plan II (GAP II)		158
ANNEX 4 Sustainable Development Goals		163

Legend:



Institutional culture shift



Physical and psychological integrity



Economic, social and cultural rights



Political and civil rights

THIRTY-SIX PROMISING PRACTICES IN MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION

Introduction

The EU 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)¹, translates the European Union's policy and political commitments to gender equality into a set of concrete objectives. Achieving these objectives is crucial for attaining results for girls and women, including by promoting more efficient coordination, implementation and monitoring of EU activities. As such, the GAP II's implementation is mandatory for all EU Member States, EU Delegations and EU Commission Services. Each year, these key players provide information on their programmes, projects and actions that contribute to implementing the GAP II – inputs which are compiled into annual implementation reports to monitor progress achieved.

This compendium of 36 promising practices in mainstreaming gender highlights cases collected through the 2018 EU Gender Action Plan II's Annual Implementation Report and the 2018 External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR).

A promising practice for gender equality is an opportunity for the EU, partner governments and implementing partners to: (i) raise awareness about the state of play of gender equality; (ii) provide information on the causes that produce gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination; (iii) promote understanding of how gender inequality intersects with other inequalities on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic situation, sexual identities, etc.; and (iv) give greater visibility to good results for the attainment of gender equality in a given context/sector.

The template of the action database, part of the GAP II reporting exercise, included a space in which a reported action could be highlighted as a 'promising practice'. To assist respondents to decide whether or not an individual action was a promising practice, criteria were included in the template and could be easily consulted by clicking on a link.

Definition and criteria of a 'promising practice'

A promising practice for 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 rights holders. A promising practice to advance gender equality responds 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 rights holders). It should also be either:

- at minimum gender-sensitive, i.e. aiming to understand and address the social and cultural factors that produce gender-based discrimination and inequalities in the diversity of private and public life ;
- preferably gender-responsive, i.e. aiming to increase accountability and accelerate the implementation of commitments to gender equality with a rights-based approach at the international, national and community levels; or
- desirably and ideally gender-transformative, i.e. aiming to a shift or evoke a positive change in the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm(s) that produce gender-based discrimination and inequalities in a given context.

1 EU Gender Action Plan II Annual Implementation Report 2017: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/eu-gender-action-plan-ii-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-transforming-lives-girls-and-women-0_en

Lessons learned are an intrinsic part of such practices because they help to determine what works and what does not work in a specific context. This is particularly relevant either to the criteria of quality or sustainability.

A promising practice is such if it meets at least 10 of the following criteria:

- 1) It reflects at least one objective per each priority of the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020.
- 2) It is informed by a context-specific and sector-specific gender analysis.
- 3) It was designed in consultation with, or with the engagement of, a 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 of gender inequality and discrimination 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 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 techniques or methodology that led to a positive outcome.
- 10) It has an acceptable balance between efficiency (efforts) and effectiveness (results).
- 11) It is appropriately relevant to the context and is ethically sound.
- 12) It is well accepted, recognised and understood by rights holders who are keen to reproduce it.
- 13) It focuses on lessons learned to implement corrective actions and address systems.
- 14) It has good quality performance management standards.
- 15) It is a good candidate for additional study (specific research on impact, evaluation, etc.).

Methodology for selecting promising practices

Overall, respondents who reported on the GAP II's implementation indicated 1,817 actions as promising practices in 2018. Of these, approximately 50 were selected for follow-up through an interview, in order to determine their inclusion in the GAP II Annual Implementation Report. These include up to 30 practices reported by EU Delegations and EU Member States at the partner country level, and one for each EU Member State. For some Member States, which reported without following the agreed templates, examples from their submissions were included in the report. In these cases, the Member State's promising practice was selected by their representative, following an email request. The final number of promising practices included in the report was less than the 50 originally selected, as some representatives were not available for interviews during the drafting period.

The selection of promising practices was based on the criteria highlighted above, in addition to the following requirements, with the exception of practices by EU Member States which did not submit an action database. Moreover, the selection of promising practices by EU actors in partner countries for inclusion in the report paid close attention to regional distribution.

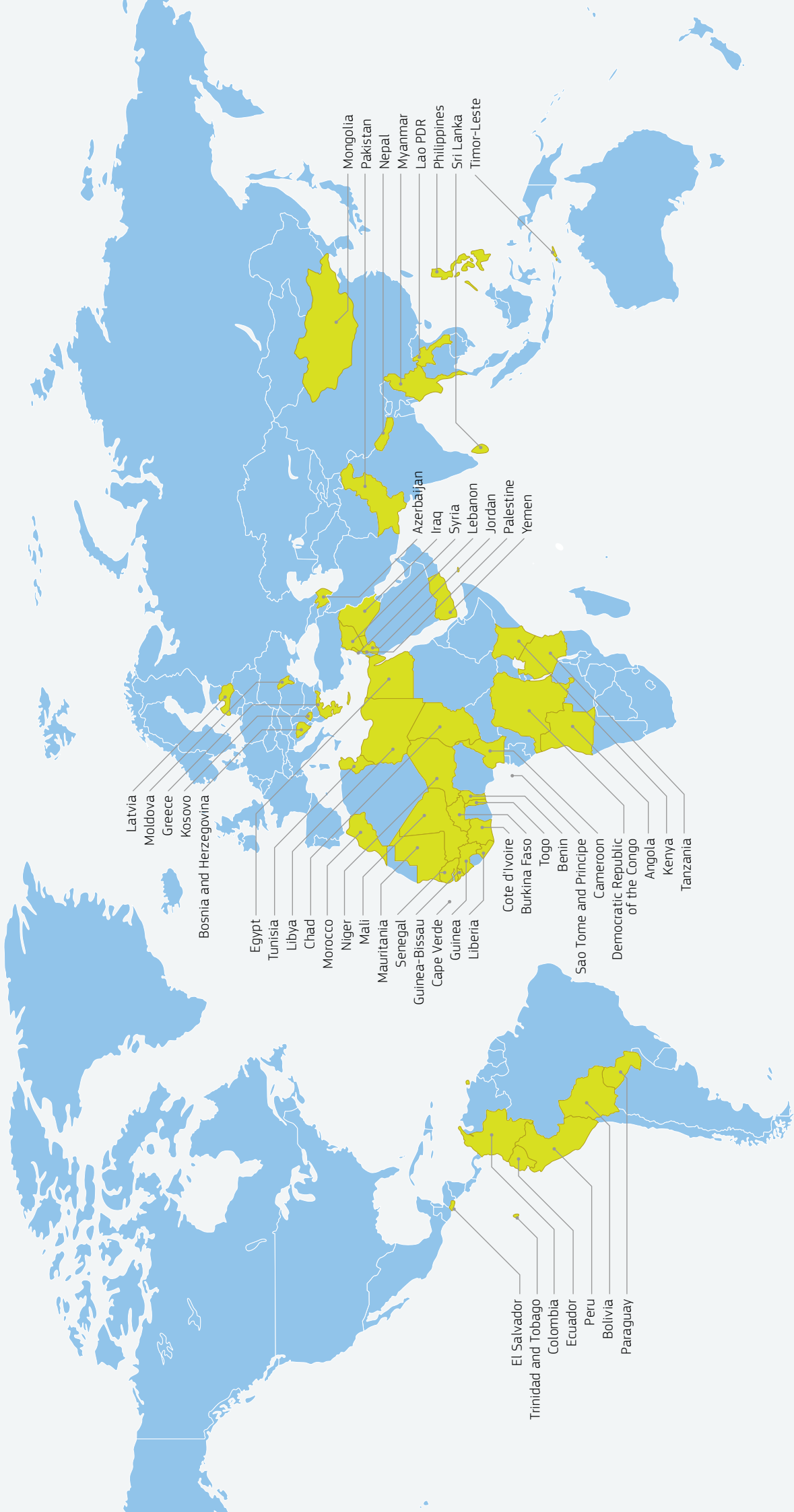
The criteria/requirements applied per region were:

- Starting date: 2016 onwards.
- GAP II thematic priorities: B, C, D.
- GAP II thematic objectives: 7-20. While the report aimed for a spread across objectives, 50 % of the selected practices reflected those objectives most selected by reported actions – objectives 7, 13, 15 and 17. Particular attention was paid to especially transformative GAP II objectives, namely objectives 8, 14, 18 and 19. Therefore, during the compilation of the annual report, it was decided that there should be at least one practice which contributed to objective 19.
- The other 50 % of promising practices should include: some joint programming, gender mainstreaming and budget support (see points 7, 8 and 10 in this list).

- Rating of actions:
 - gender-transformative and partially gender-transformative practices were rated 'high priority', with a score of 3;
 - gender-responsive and partially gender-responsive practices were rated 'medium priority', with a score of 2;
 - gender-sensitive practices were rated 'low priority', with a score of 1; and
 - actions marked 'partially gender-sensitive' were excluded.
- Range of sectors:
 - high priority was accorded to the sectors of infrastructure, transport, governance, public finance management, justice, energy, agriculture, and water and sanitation, with a score of 3; and lower priority was accorded to the sectors of health, education, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMSEs)/
 - financial inclusion, with a score of 2.
- Joint programming: To the extent that information was available, attention was paid to selecting examples which involved joint programming.
- Gender mainstreamed projects were rated 'high priority' (with a score of 3), while component-only projects were 'medium priority' (with a score of 2). However, these scores proved difficult to use and were not employed in all cases.
- Innovation proved difficult to apply, in terms of:
 - gender-specific 'highly innovative' practices in non-traditional sectors, or practices that addressed GAP II objectives 8, 14, 18 or 19, which were assigned a score of 3; and
 - gender-specific 'interesting, but mid-level innovative' practices, which were assigned a score of 2.
- Modality: In terms of cooperation/partnership grants, budget support and blended modalities, among others, priority was given to budget support projects.

MAP OF THE THIRTY-TWO PROMISING PRACTICES

in Mainstreaming Gender into EU External Action





COMMISSION SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Gender-Sensitive Transitional
Justice programme

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Global projects with a focus on Colombia, Kosovo*, Nepal and the Philippines

Region

Global

Key themes

Transitional justice

Budget

EUR 3,500,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

Service for Foreign Policy Instruments
FPI.2 | Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)

Start year

2015

Partners

UN Women, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, governments, development partners, European Commission HQ and EU Delegations in implementing countries

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7, 9, 15, 17, 18, 19

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II) is the EU's framework of action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

* This designation is without prejudice to the positions on the status of Kosovo and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Introduction

The overall goal of the 2015–2018 Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice programme was to increase the effectiveness of transitional justice processes, in order to contribute to a more just and stable society, by increasing the extent to which they prioritise victims and take into account the different needs of conflict-affected populations. For transitional justice processes to effectively contribute to social reconciliation efforts, they must confront and address gender inequality. Gender is one of the main determinants of access to power, agency and vulnerability, and thus a key factor in how people are affected by violent conflict and repressive regimes, as well as what their societal positions will be in the aftermath of conflicts. The programme contributed to significant changes in women's lives, seeking truth, reconciliation and justice for the crimes and trauma they endured.

In all of the target countries, the initiative's multiple activities led to concrete improvements in national policies, such as Nepal's new National Action Plan on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820, and legislation establishing the Colombian Truth Commission. Other advances include the implementation of a ground-breaking pilot programme on reparations and development in Kosovo, the production of state-of-the-art reports on gender-sensitive transitional justice in the target countries, and multiple capacity building activities with key state and non-state actors.

Significant efforts were made to organise large-scale consultations with conflict-affected women, either through women's and survivors' associations or, more directly, with groups of survivors. These consultations ensured that the survivors of conflicts had a say in the formulation of transitional justice policies. In Colombia, for instance, attention was paid to intersectional discrimination. As such, consultations involved open, pluralistic dialogue between 300 diverse women, including women of African descendant and indigenous women, alongside other survivors, rural women, young women, elderly women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, and women living with disabilities.

Implementation

The programme bridged gaps between frameworks and action in terms of addressing survivors' justice-related priorities and needs in post-conflict settings. It also worked to ensure that transitional justice mechanisms address the full range of women's human rights violations and consider the differentiated impact of rights violations on women and men. The programme's dual focus on the global and national level enabled efforts to strengthen global policy frameworks so as to respond to women's post-conflict justice needs, while supporting national actors to demand and deliver gender-transformative transitional justice. In all four target countries, the programme arranged large-scale consultations² with conflict-affected women and played an important role building the capacity of state and non-state actors to address gender-sensitive transitional justice through training, capacity building activities and mentoring sessions.³

2 In Colombia, consultations were organised in 2015 and 2017 with the Bojayá community and peasant women, in collaboration with the civil society organisation ASOMUPROCA, on priorities for a pilot project on reparations and development. In 2016, consultations were held with women's organisations in Colombia to discuss their concerns about the soon-to-be implemented Truth Commission. In Kosovo, a meeting was held with survivors in October 2015, a two-day workshop conducted in November 2015, and a Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission report presented in April 2016 to 72 survivors. In Nepal, four consultations were held in July 2017 with conflict-affected women on priorities for the country's second National Action Plan. In the Philippines, a consultation and workshop was held with 153 women leaders in July 2017.

3 In Colombia, over 60 women from local women's organisations received training in November and December 2017, delivered in collaboration with Colombia's Ministry of Justice. In Kosovo, civil society organisations were trained on the eve of the pilot project's implementation, and in 2016 a meeting was arranged between members of the Kosovar Inter-Ministerial Working Group and the head of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) in Tunisia, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In May and November 2017, two experts on sexual and gender-based violence were deployed to lead peer-to-peer, case-based mentoring sessions with the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK), the Kosovo Police War Crimes Investigation Unit (WCU), survivors' associations and representatives. In September 2017, Kosovar investigators visited the Hague for a study visit, and in November 2017, a three-day capacity building initiative was undertaken by Bosnian prosecutor Jasmin Mesic in Kosovo. In July 2017, Nepalese stakeholders undertook a study visit to Cambodia. In the Philippines, a workshop was held with 31 national agencies on the 'Transitional Justice and Dealing with the Past' framework in 2017, and an expert group meeting on violent extremism and gender-sensitive transitional justice was held in November 2017. Moreover, between February and April 2016, an expert on justice and sexual and gender-based violence was deployed to the Extraordinary African Chambers in Senegal for the trial of Hissène Habré.

As a result of the programme's activities, evaluators found that survivors are increasingly aware of human rights issues, and have begun to play more significant roles in the design, development and implementation of transitional justice policies. This is reflected in a number of milestones:

- Upon the recommendation of a programme consultants in the survivor-focused report, 'The Conflict Did Not Bring Us Flowers'⁴, the Government of Kosovo established a Verification Commission to identify and address the needs of women survivors.
- The Truth Commission, established by the Government of Colombia, incorporates recommendations of the survivor-focused report by programme's experts, 'Recommendations for the Incorporation of a Gender Perspective in the Future Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition'. This report contains insights from over 300 conflict-affected women.
- The Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission report, produced by the Government of the Philippines with the programme's technical assistance, pays special attention to survivors' role in the devising transitional policies. The implementation of the report's recommendation is expected to significantly improve the role that survivors play in such processes, in addition to enhancing their awareness of human rights.

Thus, as noted above, the programme's activities have led to concrete improvements in national policies, as well as gender-sensitive programmes, reports and capacity development.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

While the GAP II 2016-2020 was not yet in place when the programme began, its predecessor – the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2010-2015 – was relevant to the action's formulation.

The programme contributes to several GAP II objectives, such as those on violence against women and girls (objective 7), sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations (objective 9), access to financial services (objective 15), participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17), support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders (objective 18), and challenging discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes (objective 19).

The action explicitly called on EU Delegations in fragile, conflict, or post-conflict countries to develop strategies for putting into operation the 'Comprehensive Approach' to the EU's implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security.⁵

Key elements

The programme was based on an understanding of the rights violations women experience during and after crisis situations, and how these are influenced by pre-existing gender inequalities. While post-conflict contexts are often times of rising insecurity and violence against women, they also present unique opportunities for transformation – including addressing the injustices women face during war and transforming underlying inequalities and gender-based discrimination. In many societies, if a woman loses her husband, she may also lose her home, land, income, security and protection. Thus, post-conflict transition periods are vital for securing gains in terms of women's access to justice through legislative reforms and institutional rebuilding.

By supporting transitional justice, the programme has contributed to significant changes in women's lives. Seeking truth, reconciliation and justice for crimes against women has, in turn, evoked positive changes in the cultural, institutional and socio-economic paradigms that produce gender-based discrimination before, during and after conflicts. The programme's innovative approaches were tailored to each country context and survivors' needs. These included approaches to connect transitional justice to economic empowerment, using digital technology for truth-telling, employing intersectional approaches to gender and transitional justice, and employing a gender-transformative approach to the examination of transitional justice in the context of violent extremism.

4 For more information, see: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/8/the-conflict-did-not-bring-us-flowers>

5 For more information, see: <http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/features/features-working-women/working-with-women/docs/01-eu-comprehensive-approach-1325-en.pdf>

The programme enabled mutual learning and exchanges between global transitional justice experts and national practitioners, as well as between national actors from different contexts. Beyond bringing gender sensitivity into transitional justice processes, the programme also highlighted ways in which transitional justice processes can become avenues for promoting social transformation towards gender equality.

Championing and advocacy

As a survivor-centred approach in the design and implementation of transitional justice policies ensures that they are in tune with key stakeholders' needs, multiple meetings with survivors and local actors were held in all of the programme's target countries. This ensured survivors' participation in the design and implementation of vital initiatives related to sexual and gender-based violence.

In all four target countries, rights holders benefitted from the programme in multiple ways. Linking transitional justice with economic empowerment and micro-grants supported conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survivors to cement sustainable livelihoods. In Kosovo, nearly 200 survivors benefitted from grants. Economic empowerment schemes that complement reparations enabled survivors to provide for their families, while supporting the healing and reintegration process. In this manner, such schemes contributed to gender-transformative impacts for conflict-affected communities.

In Nepal, consultations with local conflict-affected women led to an analysis of women's priorities vis-à-vis transitional justice. As such, survivors' needs guided government officials in drafting the country's new National Action Plan on the topic. In the Philippines, a consultation and workshop were held with 153 women leaders, who were then trained to develop local level transitional justice interventions.

In addition to providing gender expertise in Colombia, Kosovo and the Philippines, the programme also made gender expertise available in other countries. For instance, two gender advisors were deployed to participate in Mali's Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

Sustainability and replicability

The programme's capacity development activities have the potential to evoke long-lasting effects and have a significant impact on the quality of transitional justice policies in all four target countries.

The sustainability of the programme's efforts is reflected in a number of key achievements:

- The deployment of an expert to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (OTP/ICC) enabled the training of one-fifth of its staff, alongside two research projects to increase the institution's efficacy and gender-sensitivity. This also influenced the Head of the Investigation Division's decision to train the rest of the institution's staff and the OTP's decision to hire its first full-time legal advisor on gender issues.
- Expert deployments to Kosovo have increased the Government's capacity to investigate and address sexual and gender-based violence, such as capacity building activities undertaken by a Bosnian prosecutor and a field visit to The Hague, which yielded a Memorandum of Understanding between the mechanism in Kosovo and other international mechanisms.
- In Kosovo, the programme's activities contributed to an Action Plan on Access to Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence and its technical assistance supported the Government's creation of a Commission for the Verification of the Status of Victims of Sexual Violence in order to provide reparations for survivors.
- Kosovar police investigators and prosecutors who benefitted from the programme's mentoring and training activities are currently working on 29 international criminal investigation cases related to sexual and gender-based violence. This feat is unprecedented in Kosovo, which has never yet successfully prosecuted any conflict-related SGBV case as an international crime.
- In the Philippines, a workshop with national agencies contributed to the dissemination of gender-equality-related recommendations by the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission, the inclusion of gender equality recommendations in the Gender and Development Plans of several national agencies and the sharing of know-how and experiences between a range of stakeholders.
- Consultations with conflict-affected women in Nepal enabled them to articulate their priorities so that these could be included in the country's next National Action Plan.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Several lessons have been learned through the programme's experiences:

- It is important to adopt a 'do no harm' and survivor-centred approach. For this reason, the programme developed innovative practices to safeguard survivors' safety and reduce stigma. To this end, it is also key to manage beneficiaries' expectations in terms of the types of reparations available and whether the evidence collected will be sufficient for a prosecution. Moreover, it is important for survivors to see concrete benefits of their participation.
- It is vital to consider intersectional factors alongside issues related to gender, including sexual orientation, age, ethnicity and religious affiliation, among others.
- Project outcomes should include increased awareness of local community leaders, judges and influencers, inclusive processes, and networking among and between different social groups. Communication strategies must speak to diverse groups of people.
- All truth-seeking efforts and transitional justice mechanisms must be nationally owned by actively involving civil society organisations and government departments. Consultations with a wide range of actors – including CSOs, youth representatives, the LGBTI community, indigenous people, minorities and public sector entities – should be held from the very beginning of an initiative, ideally even during planning phases before the implementation of activities begins.
- It is vital to engage civil society, bringing them to the table to reach agreements on gender-sensitive transitional justice. To this end, it is necessary to build relationships based on trust with civil society partners, as well as supporting CSOs them politically and financially, without burdensome reporting requirements.
- For the sake of sustainability, the private sector should be engaged as important partners and encouraged to address socio-economic issues through investments, the provision of economic opportunities and participation in social recovery.
- To support and strengthen national capacities, international experts should be invited to share their experience with national practitioners.
- It is crucial to prioritise all survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. This is especially prescient as transitional justice processes, alongside medical and psychological care tailored to the needs of male and non-gender binary survivors of sexual violence, is often totally lacking in post-conflict contexts. More efforts need to be made to ensure that all transitional justice actors, at all levels, are properly trained on how to work in a gender-sensitive manner with all SGBV survivors. Efforts are needed to reduce stigma and foster greater societal understanding of the plight of survivors of all genders.
- Children born of sexual violence during conflict are often neglected by their communities, facing trauma and stigma. Working with families, and involving community and religious leaders to support a culture of acceptance, can encourage greater inclusivity. Economic empowerment also plays role in recovery, yet it should be noted that economic support initiatives linked to transitional justice can have unintended consequences, such as the risk of a loss of anonymity for mothers and children. This must be factored into the design of interventions.
- To be effective, sustainable and transformative, transitional justice cannot exclusively focus on the prosecution of SGBV crimes. Instead, it must address the full range of harm, including violations of social, economic, civil and political rights. Comprehensive reparations, the identification of gender champions, increased awareness of human rights and possibility for meaningful participation in decision-making processes must be part of a comprehensive transitional justice approach to support gender equality.
- It is important to measure results and long-term approaches in short-term programming cycles. Transitional justice and social change in aid of gender equality are long-term processes; thus, they require measures whose results are not always immediately visible or quantifiable. A balance needs to be struck between the expectations and pressures of the funding system.
- Political will and changing political dynamics can make it impossible to continue to implement planned project activities. The programme faced numerous challenges due to shifts in national political contexts, such as the setbacks in Colombia after the initial peace agreement failed. When facing backlash, transitional justice programming should be flexible and engage in continuous dialogue with donors and implementing partners to reformulate and adapt activities. Ways to mitigate the negative effects of political dynamics include working with technical staff in state agencies, or working at the sub-national level – that is, in provinces, districts and municipalities.

Additional information

In Kosovo, significant efforts were made to devise a legal framework that provides comprehensive reparations to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and to implement comprehensive reparations programmes. These efforts have included male survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and children born of rape. As discussed above, the Government of Kosovo's Commission for the Verification of the Status of Victims of Sexual Violence, established with the programme's technical assistance, works to identify survivors and provide them with a monthly pension. All this is done without revealing identities, so as to ensure survivors' anonymity and protection. Many women have invested the financial support they received through micro-grants in cows and tools for milk production, bees and bee-keeping supplies, hens and poultry incubators, hairdressing businesses, greenhouses, handicrafts, flower cultivation, tailoring, and other activities. Over 177 survivors have benefitted from these grants, enabling them to provide their families and supporting the process of reintegration and healing from trauma. This, in turn, contributes to transformative impacts for conflict-affected communities.

“

“We have been like caged birds and around us, we had walls. But these grants have been a key for us, opening the doors and giving us wings to fly.”

– Survivor and recipient of the programme's micro-credit scheme in Kosovo





GREECE

Support for women and children refugees, anti-trafficking measures, and the national network to prevent and combat violence against women

Gender-sensitive and gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Greece

Region

European Union

Key themes

Support for women and children refugees, anti-trafficking measures, prevention of violence against women

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Greece

Start year

2015

Partners

General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE), National Network of Structures for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women, municipalities and the regional government, National Centre for Social Solidarity, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Migration, Research Centre of Gender Equality, civil society organisations

Beneficiaries

Women and children refugees

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7, 13

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The initiative aims to prevent and address the social exclusion and vulnerability of women and child refugees. As a result of the refugee crisis, a substantial part of Greece's bilateral aid has been channelled to national activities and initiatives in support of refugees, especially in the education and health sectors, with a view to lessening human suffering. As a result, in-donor refugee costs² constitute a large part of Greece's Official Development Assistance (ODA). The rules of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) allow ODA funds to be used over a 12 month period to support in-country refugees.

Positive results have been obtained through the implementation of a national strategy – involving coordinated actions by several government bodies at different levels, as well as by civil society organisations – and a multi-pronged approach.

Implementation

The action is implemented by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE) through the National Network of Structures for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women, working closely with municipalities, regional government structures, the National Centre for Social Solidarity, and the Ministries of Health and Migration. The Research Centre of Gender Equality and civil society organisations are also key stakeholders. The initiative's implementation has enhanced women refugees' human capital through the provision of health and education services. Important deliverables include (*inter alia*):

- Raising awareness to reduce 'demand' for services or products related to human trafficking. This involves human rights education in schools, partnerships with the private sector for slavery-free supply chains, zero tolerance consumer ethics, and synergies with the cultural sector;
- A significant number of shelters secured specifically for survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking; and
- Promoting strong transnational collaboration with other EU Member States and third countries.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative addresses GAP II objective 7, on combatting violence against women and girls, and objective 13 on equal access to quality education and training. It is in line with the EU Council Conclusions on the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (ST 13201/15), particularly thematic priority B on girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity, and priority C on promoting women's social and economic rights and empowerment. Overall, the initiative centred on assistance to women refugees – many of whom are actual or potential victims of violence – through the provision of shelter, food and counselling.

Key elements of the promising practice

Services for women and child refugees: GSGE provides services for refugee women and children through the National Network of Structures for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women. In cooperation with the partners listed above, GSGE ensures the transportation of refugee women and their children to counselling centres and shelters. In cooperation with the Research Centre of Gender Equality, GSGE also facilitates interpretation and cultural mediation in Athens and Thessaloniki. Services are provided free of charge, including:

- Safe accommodation in GSGE's 19 shelters, operating in almost all of Greece's regions;
- Counselling services for refugee women and children, including psychosocial support and, if needed, legal counseling regarding issues such as asylum procedures, relocation, etc.; and
- The registration and enrolment of children in primary education, with courses designed specifically for refugee children.

Combatting human trafficking: Alongside the GSGE, the Ministry for Migration collaborates systematically with all relevant ministries to combat human trafficking and ensure protection for survivors. It also implements awareness raising campaigns against trafficking.

² Greek 'in-donor refugee costs' refer exclusively to costs borne by the national budget.

Greece is a transit and destination country for human trafficking, a crime which often targets women and girls, diminishes human dignity, undermines human security and limits development prospects. As a leading entry points for refugee and migrant flows into Europe, Greece has stepped up efforts to address the nexus between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Greece's efforts in the fight against trafficking were recognised by OECD DAC in the context of the country's last DAC Peer Review (April-November 2018).³

Championing and advocacy

Greece has intensified efforts against human trafficking by introducing three pivotal legal instruments:

- 1) the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol, the 'Palermo Protocol' (2010);
- 2) the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2013); and
- 3) the transposition of the anti-trafficking EU Directive 2011/36/EC (2013) and the establishment of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013).

Greece's national policy covers all four pillars of the strategy to combat trafficking – from prevention to protection, prosecution, and partnerships with civil society and the private sector. Examples of key deliverables concerning the fight against human trafficking include, *inter alia*:

- the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), a formal national identification and referral system for inter-agency cooperation on issues of first level identification and support for survivors (and potential targets) of trafficking in Greece;
- fostering an income, survivor-centred identification regime that protects human rights and ensures the provision of comprehensive assistance for survivors (including new measures, such as the right to apply for compensation, witness protection, granting residence permit to survivors, and special provisions for the protection of unaccompanied minors) and
- relevant services provided by GSGE with EU co-funding.

Sustainability and replicability

First, in response to the dramatic influx of refugees, Greece introduced a new legal framework (Law 4332/2015 – Official Gazette 76A /9.7.2015) to modify provisions of the previous law (Law 4018/2011 – Official Gazette 215A /30.9.2011). The new framework seeks to meet the immediate reception needs of persons arriving in Greece, in terms of shelter, hospitality, subsistence, and medical care. etc. In addition, through a healthcare card issued by hospitals, refugees who require systematic medical care and live in the country are covered, regardless of their legal status. The Ministry of Health cooperates with other ministries and bodies for the protection of human rights, giving priority to protecting the health of refugees, migrants and the entire Greek population, by organising mass vaccinations – exceeding 30,000 – with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Union, and various NGOs, in line with the recommendations of the National Immunisation Committee.

Second, the priorities of the new National Action Plan (2018-2023) include joint actions with the Labour Inspectorate, judges, prosecutors and health professionals. These include specialised trainings promoting the systematic involvement of all of these sectors with the national referral mechanism. Synergies with the private sector is another major priority and aims to create slavery-free supply chains, ensure the integrity of employment, and enhance fair recruitment methods.

Third, the GSGE ensures the transportation of refugee women and their children to counselling centres and shelters, in cooperation with the aforementioned partners. Other key entities involved are government ministries (which cover in-donor refugee costs), the office of the competent rapporteur at the Greek MFA (concerning human trafficking) and the General Secretariat of Gender Equality at the Ministry of the Interior (with respect to the use of the National Network of Structures for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women).

The initiative faces considerable data challenges. Data has not been collected, available or disaggregated to distinguish between service users who are women refugees, and those who are Greek.

³ For more information, see Greece's memorandum in the context of the OECD DAC Peer Review in 2018: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/Greece-2018-Memorandum.pdf>

Conclusions and lessons learned

The following conclusions and lessons learned may be highlighted:

- 1) It is essential that in-donor refugee costs are borne by EU Member States to ensure equality in education and health care for women and child refugees.
- 2) Institutional and legislative measures are required to address human trafficking, recognising it as a crime that diminishes human dignity, undermines human security, and limits development.
- 3) A continued emphasis needs to be placed on combating violence against women, as well as protecting women and children, especially when they are in vulnerable situations – as in the case of women refugees.

Additional information

Support for women and child refugees, anti-trafficking measures, and a national network to prevent and combat violence against women all address a number of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets:

SDG target 1.4: “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.”

SDG target 4.1: “By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.”

SDG target 4.2: “By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.”

SDG target 4.5: “By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.”

SDG target 5.1: “End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.”

SDG target 5.2: “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.”





ITALY

GEMAISA 2: Enhancing gender mainstreaming for sustainable rural development and food security

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine*, Tunisia

Region

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Key themes

Decent work, rural women's rights, agricultural value chains

Budget

EUR 2,304,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Italy
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
Implementing agency: CIHEAM Bari

Start year

2017

Partners

Egypt: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation - Policy Coordination Unit for Women in Agriculture
Jordan: Ministry of Agriculture
Lebanon: Ministry of Agriculture,
Palestine*: Ministry of Agriculture
Morocco: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests
Tunisia: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources

Beneficiaries

Women in rural areas and the Gender Units/gender focal points of the Ministries of Agriculture in the six partner countries

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020²

Priorities:



Objective(s):

14, 17, 19

1 *This designation shall not be construed as a recognition of the State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual position of EU Member States on this issue.

2 *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II) is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority includes objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

GEMAISA 2 supports sustainable rural development and food security in the Mediterranean region through its multidimensional approach to women's empowerment. The initiative addresses gender inequalities in the agricultural sector with its gender-sensitive approach to agricultural value chains, and by focusing on rural women's rights through specific methodologies to strengthen women's voice and agency. Based on a previous pilot in Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia (GEMAISA 1), the initiative was expanded to run from 2017 to 2020 in Jordan, Morocco and Palestine (GEMAISA 2). Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), and implemented by CIHEAM Bari, the programme works with rural women and the Gender Units of Ministries of Agriculture in six partner countries. It also involves a range of other stakeholders, including Ministries of Social Affairs, gender equality mechanisms, civil society organisations including LeNove Association, women's cooperatives, informal women's groups, the private sector and UN agencies in partner countries, alongside regional actors such as the Union for the Mediterranean and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

GEMAISA 2's thorough gender-sensitive approach informed its gender-sensitive value chain analysis, the definition of its result framework (including indicators to investigate women's meaningful participation in value chains), a stakeholder analysis, and the development of specific tools and approaches.

Among the methodologies and tools adopted by GEMAISA 2, a participatory action research approach engages women rights holders and key stakeholders, enables the generation of collective knowledge, and contributes to building a common understanding of the entire value chain context to pinpoint collective solutions to identified challenges. It recognises how it is critical to identify inequalities and discuss how to ensure the accessibility of market-related benefits for poor rural women engaged in agricultural production and processing. Inequalities may be linked to several factors, both within the economic sphere (e.g. the ownership of resources) and beyond (e.g. freedom of movement, communities' cultural attitudes and gender-based violence). Based on its research, GEMAISA 2 focuses on women's productive activities, while considering household and community relations as fundamental for understanding, addressing and improving their role as economic actors. Key issues include differences in women's and men's time use, socio-economic dynamics, migration patterns, the effect of the economic crisis, access to and control over resources, information sharing, market settings, access to services and participation in decision-making at different levels – including within associations and formal/informal women's groups.

GEMAISA 2 responds to identified challenges by spearheading local initiatives to strengthen rural women's participation in decision-making within selected value chains, and to enable them to voice their needs and aspirations as economic actors.

The data collected, lessons learned and good practices recorded under GEMAISA 1 were fundamental to develop the initiative's specific approach, hand in hand with partner Ministries of Agriculture. It is based on the acknowledgement of the strong relationship between value chain efficiency and sustainability, on the one hand, and gender equity and equality, on the other.

Implementation

As GEMAISA 2's overarching objective is to strengthen women's role in targeted rural areas through local initiatives that are based on a multidimensional approach to empowerment, it employs a circular methodology. Therein, local initiatives to strengthen women's participation and voice within selected value chains are expected to contribute to improving women's lives, informing partner Ministries of Agriculture, and providing data, lessons learned and good practices. These local initiatives are implemented by Local Initiative Teams (LIT), created by GEMAISA 2 in each partner country. The teams – coordinated by Gender Units/Gender Focal Points within each national Ministry of Agriculture – involve the participation of key actors, whose mandates are in line with GEMAISA 2's objectives.

By according a leading role to the Gender Units of national Ministries of Agriculture, GEMAISA 2 increased their understanding of rural women's realities, while supporting their influence vis-à-vis the Ministries and other institutions to challenge the unjust, unequal conditions experienced by rural women. As the teams acquired greater gender expertise, they are able to foster an institutional environment conducive to gender-transformative agricultural value chains. The teams are also instrumental in creating new networks around issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment at the national level – for instance, with national gender equality mechanisms, women's cooperatives, universities and Gender Units located within other ministries, among others. Such strategic engagement is intended to encourage an institutional culture shift in aid of gender equality.

A comprehensive gender analysis, as noted above, was vital for supporting specific, concrete actions and shedding light on the processes that affect women's and men's lives in significantly different ways. Diagrams and visual representations of the gender analysis clearly demonstrate the need to provide special support for women in agricultural value chains, including by uncovering gender-based discrimination and stereotypes.

New innovative action learning methodologies for local government staff were developed, alongside specific tools. These include a tool for 'Action Training on Economic Activities, Markets and Value Chains', a tool for participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and a participatory action research approach. The GEMAISA 2 system also encompasses rapid needs assessments, the creation of venues for rural women to meet and organise themselves, and technical skills training to improve women's productive and processing capacities in selected agro-food value chains.

Country	Target areas	Target value chain(s)	Key stakeholders
Egypt	Fayoum and Sohag Governorates	Fayoum (dairy products) Sohag (handicraft sector, including tally, embroidery and textiles)	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Agricultural Research Centre, agricultural extension sector, Agriculture Directorate, animal production sector, El-Tarikk Association, small farmer's associations
Lebanon	Akkar (Andkit & Hikr el Daher villages) Baalback-Hermel	Akkar (dairy products) Baalback-Hermel (vegetables)	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Affairs' staff, gender focal points, municipalities in target areas, key stakeholders of the two value chains, women's cooperatives, National Commission for Lebanese Women, National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas
Jordan	Jordan Valley (El-Masharea and Deir Alla)	Deir Alla (medicinal and aromatic plants) El-Masharea (livestock and dairy products)	Ministry of Agriculture and its Gender Unit, women's associations, local community development associations and non-governmental organisations who work on agriculture and gender issues, Arab Women's Enterprise Fund
Morocco	Souss-Massa region	Honey Medicinal and aromatic plants	Ministry of Agriculture, Central Directorates, Gender Focal Point Unit, regional and local structures, Regional Chamber of Agriculture, Regional Office of Agricultural Advisory, women-only and mixed agricultural cooperatives, Women's Union of Cooperatives in Honey Production, Inzerki Association for Honey, National Park of Souss Massa, Regional Network for Social and Solidarity Economy
Palestine	Nassarayah (Jordan Valley) Beit Duku (near Jerusalem) Beit Ummar (south West Bank)	Nassarayah (medicinal and aromatic plants) Beit Duku (dairy products) Beit Ummar (grapes)	Ministry of Agriculture (Gender Unit, extension services), women's cooperatives, local NGOs
Tunisia	Medenine Governorate (south-eastern Tunisia, close to the border with Libya): Jdaria, Gribis, Khaoui, El Ghadir (Zarzis), Ajim (Djerba), Boughrara (South of Medenine); El Grine (Sidi Makhlouf)	Clam and fishery products	Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries, Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development, Bureau for Support to Rural Women, Interprofessional Grouping of Fishery Products, Agency of Ports and Fishing Installations, Agency of Agricultural Extension and Training, National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies, Ministry of Women, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Public Health, Group for the Development of Agriculture (Groupement de développement de l'agriculture et de la pêche), mutual societies of agriculture services, local NGOs, Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries, National Union of Tunisian Women (Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne)

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

GEMAISA 2 addresses three key GAP II thematic objectives – objective 14 on women’s access to decent work, objective 17 on participation in policy and governance processes, and objective 19 on discriminatory norms and stereotypes.

It addresses these objectives by adopting a technical approach, as per CIHEAM’s mission, that represents a useful entry point to ensure the commitment of Ministries of Agriculture to empowering women in agriculture and as value chain actors. Value chain efficiency and sustainability depend on the capacity to address gender inequalities that negatively affect women’s participation in value chains – a compelling recognition that is coherent with the mandates and strategies of the initiative’s partner Ministries of Agriculture.

In tandem, a gender-sensitive value chain analysis is fundamental because it makes production-related constraints that women face visible, and because it reveals how these constraints are affected by discriminatory social norms and gendered inequalities at different levels (households, communities, markets, and value chain-related institutions). Therefore, coordination and dialogue between Ministries of Agriculture and other institutional and civil society stakeholders (including gender equality mechanisms and Departments of Statistics for promoting sex-disaggregated data collection) is essential for ensuring gender-equitable outcomes in the multiple dimensions of rural women’s lives.

GEMAISA 2’s focus on discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes also encompasses data collection, support for women’s groups, associations and cooperatives, paired with action to inform and engage men, such as rural women’s husbands and other key actors in agricultural value chains.

Key elements of the promising practice

GEMAISA 2 addresses gender-based inequalities in rural areas and within agricultural institutions by promoting a gender-transformative approach to agricultural value chains. As noted above, rural women’s rights are addressed through a multidimensional approach that involves sustained dialogue between institutions, rights holders and key stakeholders in value chains. This approach is based on the recognition that discriminatory, gender-unequal value chains are less efficient and less sustainable.

Above all, the initiative takes into consideration the structural causes of discrimination against rural women in agriculture, including issues related to gender-based violence, unpaid care work, women’s limited freedom to make decisions about their bodies and sexuality, their limited control over goods and property, and their unequal participation in decision-making processes related to productive and entrepreneurial activities.

The initiative supports efforts to enhance women’s voice and protect women’s rights – both key parts of acknowledging women’s role in development, as well as changing social relationships to remove constraints to women’s participation in economic and productive processes. The gender mainstreaming efforts put in place by GEMAISA 2 involve: (i) development actors defining the criteria of women’s empowerment, (ii) cooperation partners negotiating a strategic pathway to achieve women’s empowerment, and (iii) training the staff of concerned institutions, civil society and private sector entities to collect gender-related data and monitor gender indicators.

Overall, GEMAISA 2 centres on three innovative elements:

- It provides a space that women can access and use to speak about themselves, mostly through groups training. This plays an important role in strengthening women’s self-awareness and the exchange of experiences. It also shifts their focus away from an expectation for material help (e.g. the receipt of ‘sheep’ or livestock), towards a focus on the intangible gains obtained through training (e.g. greater self-esteem, awareness of women’s rights, and tools to better manage relations within the household, among others).
- It involves participatory action research that focuses on the entire range of actors involved in agricultural value chains.
- It employs the gender-sensitive value chain approach, developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This proved vital for securing the interest of Ministries of Agriculture – particularly of key staff who had not previously adopted a gender-sensitive approach in their work – as it reveals the inefficiency of gender-blind, gender-neutral and gender-biased agri-food value chains.

Championing and advocacy

‘Putting those furthest behind first’ – a central aspiration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – is the core feature of GEMAISA 2. It delivered training that positively affected right holders’ self-esteem and awareness of their negotiation skills, thereby increasing their agency within value chains. The effects of this process are expected to be twofold. First, they contribute to fostering more equitable gender roles and relationships in the communities where women live. Second, it helps to combat gender stereotypes faced by rural women in the public sphere, as well as to address the limited gender perspective of agriculture institutions.

Rural women’s voices, life stories and experiences were placed centre stage in dialogues with all of the stakeholders involved in the initiative. They were listeners and learners during the focus groups and interviews carried out at the local level. This challenged and changed usual ways of working, which tend to view rural women as passive recipients of aid, or as mere respondents to data collectors who have the power to actively interpret data produced through women’s agency. Instead, GEMAISA 2’s approach recognises women rights holders as the producers of wealth, and the ‘reproducers’ of social bonds. As such, it places them at the centre of the initiative, rather than treating them as mere targets. This is expected to have a positive impact on national gender equality mechanisms in the six partner countries, which are now promoting GEMAISA 2’s approach as the basis for working with all agricultural stakeholders – be they investors, policy-makers or technical experts. Moreover, the information produced by local initiatives is expected to be used by partner ministries to develop gender strategies, policies and programmes. This is especially significant in contexts where there is a clear need to strengthen institutional commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment in agriculture.



Discussions with GEMAISA 2 participants



“I had studied these things, but I didn’t know how to apply them. When we speak about economic empowerment, it can be hard. Women are part of cooperatives that produce thyme, but what is interesting to me is that this cooperative gives [...us] the chance to keep seeing each other. Working without having the chance of building this relationship with other women, it doesn’t make sense. This is an essential part of the motivation that supports you in getting up in the morning at 4 a.m., doing household chores, going to work, etc. Having those two hours a day with other women makes the difference!”

– Iman
Beneficiary from Palestine

Sustainability and replicability

GEMAISA 2's focus on livelihood support for women advances gender equality and women's empowerment – the aim of SDG 5 ('Gender Equality') – by seeking to address the social, cultural, physical and economic barriers that women face, while creating space for women to exercise their rights. Cooperation with government stakeholders at the state and village levels – as well as with the private sector – boosts sustainability, local ownership and poverty reduction, in line with SDG 1 ('No Poverty'). GEMAISA 2's activities, alongside the results of the previous pilot programme (GEMAISA 1), reveal that a gender-sensitive value chain approach is an excellent entry point for 'technical' ministries, such as the Ministry of Agriculture. Such an approach can convince them not to underestimate the consequences of multi-dimensional gender inequalities in the agricultural sector.

The initiative's participatory action research process is especially significant as it enables women to understand the principle causes of the conditions they experience, most notably the distribution of roles and responsibilities within the household. It is also key to ensuring that women's voices are heard by other key actors in value chains, particularly those who participated in the participatory action research process itself. This methodology, welcomed at both the institutional and civil society levels, has proven a useful tool for analysing the ways in which gender inequality affects the performance of agricultural and agro-food value chains. It also highlights the opportunities that gender-sensitive value chains offer, coupled with the benefits of women's increased participation. Moreover, the approach significantly improved support for rural women engaged in agriculture to leverage their knowledge, skills and human capital throughout all phases of production, processing and commercialisation.

The implementation of GEMAISA 2's local initiatives is grounded on an in-depth understanding of how value chains work. In most cases, these are small-scale and informal. It is also based on an understanding of the major constraints that impact women's productive activities, and what opportunities exist to improve their role, voice and income within value chains. GEMAISA 2's success and sustainability rests, in large part, on improving the capacity of Ministries of Agriculture to mainstream gender in their policies and strategies, and to deliver more gender-equitable outcomes and services based on the experiences, voices, needs and aspiration of rural women.

Significantly, the initiative challenges the assumption that economic empowerment automatically impacts women's cultural and political position. Instead, it reveals that economic empowerment is a necessary, but insufficient, condition for socio-political empowerment. It particularly highlights that a double or triple burden must be avoided so that "earning more money [...does] not translate into working too much".



Discussions on the GEMAISA 2 initiative

GEMAISA 2's objectives and expected results stand to contribute to supportive policies and support for women's organisations in the Mediterranean region. Through CIHEAM Bari's consolidated partnership with each partner country's Ministry of Agriculture, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation could build on its long-lasting experience of promoting gender equality among traditionally targeted ministries – such as Ministries for Women's, Social and Local Affairs or Economic Development – and expand its strategic partnerships. In this way, it could better encourage agricultural and rural development strategies that incorporate gender-transformative practices.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Increasing women's participation and role in development cooperation programmes to improve food security is a pivotal objective of the 2030 Agenda. To achieve it, partner countries should collectively agree, at the national or regional levels, what women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming mean. In this way, gender mainstreaming can become a common objective shared by different actors. Furthermore, it is essential that gender mainstreaming is not exclusively considered a process related to the ability to 'measure resources' intended for women. Instead, it should be linked to empowerment efforts and experiences rooted in institutions and in 'social interchange'. This understanding would contribute to changing power relations between women and men, so as to enable women to make decisions and take control of their lives. Measuring the effectiveness of development actions must be part of a process of transformation that enhances both the quantity and quality of women's roles in society.

The experience of GEMAISA 2 highlights the importance of:

- promoting women's groups, even if these are informal;
- placing women beneficiaries' voices, experiences, knowledge and aspirations at the forefront of any initiative;
- developing a multi-dimensional system of institutional engagement through vertical and horizontal coordination; and
- supporting alliances between institutions, stakeholders and related development programmes.



GEMAISA 2 participants at work



GEMAISA 2 supports rural women's agricultural livelihoods

Additional information

GEMAISA 2's website will soon be launched as a "knowledge sharing and interaction point", including for monitoring the initiative's transformative approaches and processes. The website also aims to foster dynamism by acting as a 'visibility hub' and facilitating interaction between rural communities, institutional counterparts and civil society.

Main outcomes of GEMAISA 1:

In Egypt, GEMAISA 1's implementing partner, the Policy Coordination Unit for Women in Agriculture (PCUWA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR), experienced a major restructuring process in 2014–2015, when the Unit's Director retired, as did most of its members. With the exception of one team member, the entire GEMAISA 1 team was nominated before the initiative began. According to the team, GEMAISA 1's collaboration with several researchers and experts from different departments and centres increased the PCUWA's visibility and legitimacy. As a result, several colleagues asked to join the unit. While the unit tends to avoid discussions of the initiative's possible gender equality outcomes – in order to limit backlash or resistance from colleagues – it has been able to create a meaningful network and identify allies. Running the gamut from other colleagues to the extension workers' group, these allies could be critical for consolidating an enabling environment conducive to further discussion and action to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

GEMAISA 1's institutional implementing partners in Lebanon, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social Affairs, have very different backgrounds in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment. While the former is the most experienced government entity on gender issues, the latter lags behind. The Ministry of Agriculture has not developed a gender mainstreaming strategy, and gender equality and women's empowerment issues remain marginalised in its agricultural strategy. As such, GEMAISA 1 initiated two inter-related processes of change within the Ministry of Agriculture. First, a training cycle on gender equality and gender mainstreaming was launched, which triggered the interest of staff members. It also initiative identified three departments well-placed to adopt a gender-responsive approach – the Project Department, the Dairy Processing Department and the Vegetable Processing Department. Second, the GEMAISA 1 coordinator and gender focal person at the ministry proposed the establishment of a Women's Committee within the Ministry of Agriculture. This could help to build on the initiative's positive outcomes, while engaging ministerial decision-makers on gender equality and gender mainstreaming. While such a committee could not be formally included within the ministry's organogram without ministerial reform, it is considered a relevant first step to identify gaps, and political and strategic priorities, for promoting gender equality-related issues within the ministry.

In Tunisia, GEMAISA 1 particularly addressed the relationship between rural women and institutions. In institutional terms, a gender perspective has tended to be adopted only by initiatives that are sponsored by a single donor. However, several public sector actors began demanding the institutionalisation of such an approach. For instance, the Unit for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture maintains that a gender perspective is needed to institutionalise practices and achievements, while systematically training personnel. To this end, GEMAISA 1 supported the creation of network of local institutions in order to ensure that institutional concern for rural women is sustainably maintained over time. Institutional changes are afoot, due to both GEMAISA 1 and wider trends, with focus group participants suggesting a rising institutional interest in rural women.



Logo



Facebook page

[GEMAISA 2](#)



LATVIA

Implementation of Latvia's Development Cooperation Policy Guidelines 2016-2020

Gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Global

Region

Global

Key themes

Gender mainstreaming

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Latvia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

Start year

2016

Partners

N/A

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Latvia's Development Cooperation Policy Guidelines 2016–2020 provide the framework for its development cooperation initiatives in partner countries. The guidelines emphasise human rights and gender equality as the leading horizontal principle for planning and implementing Latvia's development cooperation policy, including by employing a human rights-based approach. As gender equality is a fundamental principle within the guidelines, it is understood that all programmes supported by Latvia must ensure the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Since 2016, gender equality has been mainstreamed throughout Latvian cooperation activities. Gender mainstreaming is not the only approach adopted; several specific programmes on gender equality are also implemented in Eastern Partnership countries and Central Asia. These include initiatives on local communities and women's rights, awareness raising in schools to reduce girls' dropout rates, promoting a secure environment and fighting against radicalisation by promoting women's and girls' involvement, and combating sexual exploitation.

Implementation

The guidelines have been implemented across Latvian development cooperation initiatives since their introduction in 2016. In 2018, the first evaluation of the guidelines revealed "significant progress" on the indicator regarding the percentage of bilateral ODA whose main objective is promoting gender equality "*% of the bilateral ODA managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the main objective of which is gender equality (Baseline: 0% 2015, target: 8% 2020)*". This rose from 6 % in 2016 from a baseline of 0 % the previous year, to 9 % in 2017, exceeding the indicator's target of 8 %. This reflects a trend of change in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

Relevant EU Council Conclusions on development cooperation informed the development of Latvia's guidelines. These include the EU Council Conclusion on Gender in Development (2015) and on the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016–2020, alongside other national, European and international policy frameworks related to gender equality, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Given the guidelines' focus on gender mainstreaming, they particularly contribute to the horizontal priority A of the GAP II, "Institutional Culture Shift".

Key elements

A key Latvian policy planning document, the Development Cooperation Policy Guidelines for 2016–2020 determine the objectives, results, priority sectors, fundamental principles and priority countries for Latvia's development cooperation policy. In line with these guidelines, development programmes are implemented by the country's public administration at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

The overarching objective of Latvia's development cooperation policy is to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries, particularly in priority partner countries. In line with the 2030 Agenda's focus on gender equality as a cross-cutting priority, the guidelines frame gender equality as a horizontal issue for all development cooperation activities. In drafting the guidelines, inclusive consultations were held with a broad range of stakeholders, including women's organisations, civil society organisations, line ministries, academia, and other entities which work on issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment. The relevant proposals put forth by these stakeholders were integrated into the guidelines.

The guidelines commit Latvia to increasing funding flows to countries and territories included on the Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) list of Official Development Assistance (ODA) recipients. To this end, ODA will gradually rise to 0.17 % of gross national income (GNI) between 2016 and 2020, and to an anticipated 0.33 % of GNI by 2030. Increasing financing for gender equality is also a target. As such, the guidelines strive to measure progress on a performance-based indicator related to gender equality, namely the "*% of bilateral ODA managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the main objective of which is gender equality (baseline: 0 % 2015, target: 8 % 2020)*".

Championing and advocacy

As gender mainstreaming is included as a requirement in the guidelines, development cooperation programmes and projects funded by Latvia must mainstream gender and include a strong focus on women's empowerment. As a result, they are in a position to benefit a greater number of rights holders. Since the guidelines refer to gender equality as a fundamental principle, actors who participate in calls for proposals must include a gender perspective in these proposals. The omission of gender mainstreaming hinders a proposal's chances of winning a call.

Sustainability and replicability

Latvia's guidelines represent a promising example of mainstreaming gender into policy planning documents which other countries, with less experience of gender mainstreaming, could replicate.

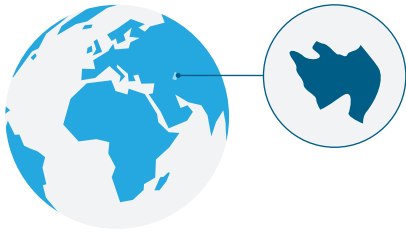
Conclusions and lessons learned

Including gender equality as a fundamental development cooperation principle is crucial for ensuring that gender-related issues are included in all development actions implemented in partner countries.

Additional information

Gender equality is also a fundamental principle of Latvia's humanitarian aid. Moreover, in 2018, Latvia joined the Global Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, launched by the United Kingdom and Sweden to combat gender-based violence in humanitarian crises. By joining the initiative, Latvia committed to informing and training all of its emergency humanitarian assistance personnel on preventing and addressing gender-based violence, as well as mainstreaming gender into training materials.





EU DELEGATION TO AZERBAIJAN

Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection: Improving the sex ratio at birth in select countries in Asia and the Caucasus

Partially gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Global programme¹

Region

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Key themes

Gender-biased pre-natal sex selection, sex-selected abortion, gendercide, gender-biased cultural and religious gender norms, attitudes and behaviours

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Azerbaijan

Start year

2016

Partners

United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA)

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020²

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Georgia, Nepal, Vietnam (this practice refers to the programme's implementation)

² *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The 'Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection: Improving the sex ratio at birth in select countries in Asia and the Caucasus' aims to build on and strengthen evidence-based national policies and programmes that address son preference, devalue girls, and perpetuate gender inequalities that result in gender-biased sex selection. The countries involved in the programme have been chosen because of increasing evidence of a high imbalance in the sex ratio at birth (SRB), as revealed by census and birth registration data. For instance, in Vietnam, the SRB rate stood at 113.8 male births per 100 female births in 2012. In Armenia, it stood at 114.8 between 2008-2012, while in Azerbaijan and Georgia, it stood at 117.6 and 111.8 in 2013 and 2012, respectively. Based on analysis by the programme's partners, these figures indicate the deliberate elimination of before or immediately after birth, signal the urgent need to address this issue on multiple fronts.

This practice particularly refers to the implementation of the programme in Azerbaijan, one of the top-three countries in terms of sex ratio imbalance. This is due to widespread instances of gender-biased pre-natal sex selection, which aims to ensure the birth of boys to meet traditional patriarchal expectations. The son preference problem is evident in the skewed number of births – until recently, 116 boys were born for every 100 girls in Azerbaijan. As of 2016 the country has recognised the harmful practice of pre-natal sex selection, which is now mentioned in a number of national strategic documents, such as the State Programme on Population Development and Demography 2018-2030, and the National Action Plan on Prevention and Responses to Gender-biased Pre-natal Sex Selection. Since the programme's implementation began, there has been a slow decline in Azerbaijan's sex ratio imbalance. The latest statistics show that there are 114 boys born for every 100 girls. The programme's goal is for Azerbaijan to reach at most 105-107 boys per 100 girls.

The programme is considered a promising gender-transformative practice because it has contributed to an institutional culture shift, as public authorities in partner countries increasingly recognise the existence of this harmful practice and commit to working on it strategically, rather than on an ad hoc basis. In Azerbaijan, this is reflected in the Government's willingness to adjust the national action plan to prevent and combat gender-biased pre-natal sex selection.

Implementation

The global programme addresses a range of harmful gender-biased practices in the target countries, including pre-natal sex selection, sex-selected abortion, gendercide, and gender-biased cultural and religious gender norms, attitudes and behaviours. The programme aims to achieve: (i) an expanded knowledge base on sex ratio imbalance through demographic, socio-cultural, operations and policy research at the national and regional levels; (ii) strengthened multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial national capacity for advocacy, the development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to address gender-biased sex selection; and (iii) an established inter-regional mechanism to monitor trends, exchange information and tools, and maintain dialogue among affected countries through south-south and triangular cooperation.

In Azerbaijan, the programme undertook a gender assessment of social policies and legislation, with a view to strengthening evidence-based national policies and programmes that address son preference and the gender inequalities that result in gender-biased sex selection. The assessment's specific objectives include: (i) reviewing existing legal framework to identify gender biases that foster son preference and limit gender equality efforts; and (ii) identifying policy priorities and providing policy recommendations on how to reduce gender biases and restore a balanced sex ratio. The assessment identifies three priority areas:

- 1) family systems, with a special focus on inheritance, divorce, property ownership, real estate, and family business succession;
- 2) employment, with a focus on labour and parental leave policies, participation in entrepreneurship, education and work; and
- 3) social protection schemes, with a focus on pensions, health insurance, unemployment allowance, and special privileges for senior citizens (free public transportation, free entrance to publically-owned museums and theatres, etc.).

Stakeholders involved in the programme, alongside the United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA) and the EU, include national governments, sub-national authorities, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, the media. Key state bodies involved in Azerbaijan include the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children affairs. Media involvement enables messages to be conveyed the public to raise awareness. In this regard, training sessions for journalists and the 'best-written article' contest were organised.

Within UNFPA, implementing entities involved include the Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch, the Technical Division (GHRCB/TD), UNFPA's Headquarters in New York, UNFPA's Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO), UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and UNFPA Country Offices (COs) in the target countries.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

As the programme began in 2016, it was designed before the GAP II's approval. However, the programme is consistently in line with GAP II objective 7, on ending violence against women and girls. Moreover, the programme supports national governments in partner country to meet their international commitments, including on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goal 5 ('Gender Equality'), and SDG targets 5.1 ('End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere') and 5.3 ('Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation').

The programme also supports the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action, adopted by 179 countries in 1994, particularly in terms of "[eliminating] all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which results in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and prenatal sex selection". Similarly, it supports the 1997 Oviedo Convention prohibiting sex selection, except for medical reasons, which was signed by several European countries.

The programme has been developed and implemented with the support of national and international gender experts. They contribute knowledge and skills, conduct capacity building and training, develop gender-sensitive handbooks – including a handbook for the media on how to present gender-sensitive articles – and organised awareness raising activities.

In Azerbaijan, the programme has contributed to an institutional shift by involving key ministries, including the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, prompting them to work on strategically to address gender-biased sex selection, including by incorporating the issue in strategic policy documents.



Participants at the Fathers and Daughters Festival in Ganja



“Today I came here to have fun and enjoy the time spent with my daughter. I believe that the father-daughter bond is unique and this event provides a good opportunity to demonstrate it yet another time. All contests aimed to reveal how well the fathers and their daughters know each other. The most enjoyable part of the event for me personally was ‘Get the news from a child’ game. I was glad to see the happiness and inspiration of my daughter and was proud of my daughter’s interesting answers.”

– Habibov Elgun,
participant in the Father
Daughter Festival in Ganja

Key elements of the promising practice

The programme is based on evidence collected by the implementing partner through substantial well-grounded research. Azerbaijan's recognition of the grave challenges posed by gender-biased sex selection are due in large part to the presentation and dissemination of this expert evidence.

Rights holders engaged in the programme are women whose experience of gender-based discrimination and stereotyping, including through the influence of men and family members, prevent them from making decisions about their own bodies. An innovative aspect of the programme is the engagement of men, which has proved effective and stimulating. Fathers and young men are involved as role models, including many famous Azerbaijani faces, such as sports champions. Theatre is also used as a way of raising awareness and influencing the eradication of harmful discriminatory gender norms.

The role and the involvement of civil society organisations, including community-based and faith-based organisations, is vital. The latter, including members of the clergy and religious scholars, are engaged to influence social and cultural norms, passing on messages against gender-biased sex selection through religious services. In some more religious areas, son preference is higher, and appears correlated with religiosity. Local organisations are key to conveying messages and reaching out to the grassroots level. Following the programme's engagement with the media, media representatives have begun to produce mass media materials to raise awareness of gender-biased sex selection.

The programme has attracted the attention of key institutions, encouraging them to take action. For example, when the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan updated its country gender analysis in 2017, it included a section on gender-biased sex selection.

The Government of Azerbaijan has taken up the issue at the highest level with the personal involvement of the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population. As noted above, the problem has been brought into key national strategic documents.

“

“It is extremely important to organise events like this around such important topics. In general, we all have to increase attention to our girl children, empower them and provide more opportunities. I believe that women's empowerment begins at home and fathers must set a healthy example through their personal actions and interactions.”

– Elchin Ibrahimov,
participant in the Father
Daughter Festival in Ganja



Participants at the Fathers and Daughters Festival in Ganja

Championing and advocacy

Initially, EU and UNFPA commitments played a vital role in the programme. Increasingly, however, Azerbaijan's national authorities have taken ownership of efforts to address gender-biased sex selection by integrating the issue as part of national gender equality commitments.

The programme may be considered a promising practice as it has contributed to an important breakthrough in terms of the recognition of gender-biased prenatal sex selection in Azerbaijan. Before its implementation, awareness was extremely low among the public and national authorities. Therefore, the programme's first step was to shed light on the problem. Data collected by programme experts laid bare the scale of the problem; following the presentation of this research, the problem is being taken seriously.

An Open Air Festival in Baku met with positive feedback from the media, government counterparts and the public. Following several requests from partners and rights holders, a Fathers and Daughters Festival was organised in Ganja on the 11th of March, 2018, in the wake of International Women's Day.

Large-scale advocacy efforts and policy dialogue prompted the incorporation of the standalone section on combatting sex selection in the draft State Programme on Population Development and Demography 2018-2030. As a follow up, the National Action Plan on Preventing and Addressing Gender-Biased Sex Selection was developed and officially launched. The document presents a comprehensive roadmap for effective interventions and strategies to reduce the harmful phenomenon in Azerbaijan.

Sustainability and replicability

A major contributor to the programme's sustainability is the steadfast support of the Government of Azerbaijan, which has committed to addressing the problem of gender-biased sex selection and son preference. A series of inter-related activities also underscore the programme's sustainability, including: (i) knowledge generation and the creation of an evidence-base to inform policy- and decision-making; (ii) advocacy and policy dialogue for the development or improvement of the policy and legal framework; and (iii) the promotion of gender-transformative approaches to advance gender equality through strengthened partnerships with civil society and religious organisations, as well as the active engagement of men and boys.

Initial resistance from faith-based organisations was overcome through dialogue and meetings. The programme hired religious experts who were able to address the issue from an 'insider perspective' and contributed considerably to change. Initial resistance from the authorities, caused by a lack of awareness of the problem, was overcome through advocacy using the partners' evidence-based research findings.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The programme has directly contributed to bringing the issue of gender-biased sex selection to the attention of Azerbaijan's national authorities and the public. The harmful practice is now declining; however, there remains a long way to go to reach satisfactory indicators.

The programme has also contributed to women's increased ability to make decisions, as well as raising women's and men's awareness of gender-biased sex selection and its serious, damaging consequences.



“When I told my daughter that there would be such an event, she was very happy. We are best friends with my daughter, no one can love her more than I do. We came together, participated in competitions and even won some gifts. It would be good to see this type of event in different regions/ cities of Azerbaijan as well. We, dads, are responsible for raising our girls to become smart, confident and self-sufficient women.”

– Vusal Mammadov,
participant in the Father
Daughter Festival in Ganja

Key lessons learned include:

- Gender-based stereotypes are spread due to patriarchal culture, coupled with a lack of information and awareness, resistance from authorities, and limited numbers of civil society actors working to counter gender-based discrimination.
- Education on sexual and reproductive health and rights should be included in curricula as either a mandatory or an elective module.

Further actions should be taken, such as:

- the implementation of, and accountability for, legal and policy reforms;
- expanding the existing knowledge base on gender-biased sex selection;
- establishing networks at the global, regional, and country level, including via south-south and triangular cooperation;
- strengthening national institutional capacities to address gender-biased sex selection;
- empowering girls, adolescents and women;
- improving multi-stakeholder advocacy, communications and outreach initiatives;
- boosting social action to end gender-biased sex selection; and
- further engaging men, boys and young people.

Additional information

The Fathers and Daughters Festival in Ganja took place in a central park on the 11th of March, 2018, in the context of celebrations of International Women's Day (8th March). In addition to a musical performance by a theatre studio connected to the Ganja State Puppet Theatre, the festival involved a 'Silent movie' game with eight father and daughter teams, and a 'Get the news from a child' game with nine teams, selected by clowns. The festival also featured shows and competitions, face art and caricature stands, hair braiding, a clown show, and performances by actors from the State Pantomime Theatre. Participants could take photos in front of a banner of the famous children's cartoon, Masha and the Bear. A dance competition between five father and daughter teams, and Məşədi İbad (Mashadi Ibad) and Çətin məsələ ('difficult issue') performances also took place. Fathers and daughters who participated in the contests and competitions received gifts from the organisers. Around 1,000 visitors festival attended the festival, as did officials from partner government institutions, including the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs.



Facebook page

[Fathers and Daughters Festival in Ganja](#)

[Flashmob](#)

[Girls' empowerment](#)

Facebook videos

[Fathers and Daughters Festival in Ganja](#)

Web page

[Fathers and Daughters Exhibition](#)

[Theatre play](#)

[Social experiment video](#)





EU DELEGATION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Respect Rural Women project

Gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Region

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Key themes

Gender-based violence, domestic violence, gender norms, gender stereotypes

Budget

EUR 330,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Start year

2017

Partners

Caritas of Banja Luka Diocese, in partnership with Caritas Austria

Beneficiaries

2,000 people from the five rural areas (sex-disaggregated data not available)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The three-year Respect Rural Women project contributes to the prevention of domestic violence against women in rural parts of the municipalities of Banja Luka, Glamoč, Prijedor, Prnjavor and Kotor Varoš in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project fosters rural women's self-esteem by encouraging their awareness of their value, qualities and the contributions they make to the community, economy and society. To this end, the initiative involves religious and community leaders from the Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic communities, as well as engaging rural men in advocacy initiatives on equality rights. Funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the initiative is implemented by Caritas of the Diocese of Banja Luka, in cooperation with Caritas Austria. The project may be considered a promising practice as it focuses on raising awareness of the urgent need to face the growing problem of gender-based violence and domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where 52.8 % of women experienced some form of violence in 2017. As a result of the partner organisations' tireless efforts, representatives of religious communities have become supportive. Given the highly religious local context, their involvement has positively influenced the behaviours of both women and men – a boon to combating gender-based violence.

Implementation

Respect Rural Women supports rural women's empowerment and capacity development, with the explicit aim of combatting violence against women, domestic violence and harmful conduct. To this end, the project has established a broad partnership to engage the community, especially men and boys, to change societal and individual attitudes. In this way, it aims to foster a culture that does not tolerate violence against women, and which stands up for women's rights. Engaging women in community activities is a key goal of the initiative, including through a series of specialised trainings. It advocates for rural women's participation in decision-making processes, as well as the development of local policies and strategies that support gender equality.

The project has set up two centres: the Centre for a Better Society Ljubija, and the Centre for a Better Society Glamoč. The initiative's initial implementation had to focus on building relationships of trust with rural women, who were sceptical due to the stigma associated with women who experienced violence. Supportive engagement by the partners' encouraged women to start visiting the centres and become engaged in the project's activities. They participated in developing workshop themes and collectively strengthening their own capacities, learning about gender equality, violence prevention and confidence building. The centres quickly became safe places for women to share their opinions and past experiences, as well as to support one another to navigate daily challenges. As women in rural areas have limited access to social, creative, sports and educational opportunities, these centres are a precious resource.

The project also works to accelerate gender equality mainstreaming in local policies, alongside the prevention of. It fosters multi-party agreements, drafts recommendations on rural women's participation, arranges regular dialogues between rural women and men, and spearheads joint activities to prevent and address domestic and gender-based violence in remote rural communities. An increasing number of men are joining the project's activities, marking a significant shift since the project began. Through concerted efforts, men are now involved in discussions and demonstrate greater understanding of gender equality and GBV.



Participants at the Fathers and Daughters Festival in Ganja

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

Respect Rural Women addresses GAP II objective 7 on violence against women and girls. Although a sectoral gender analysis was not undertaken prior to the project's design, the partners used gender expertise in the fields of gender-based violence, domestic violence, and child protection. Gender expertise has contributed to the transfer of knowledge between target groups and stakeholders. This knowledge has helped to make gender-based and domestic violence against rural women more visible, and has contributed to stakeholder engagement. As a result, a new NGO, the Temida Association of Women, was founded in Glamoč. Another women's association is being founded in Ljubija.

The project is also in line with Bosnia and Herzegovina's gender equality commitments, including to the Council of Europe's conclusions on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW), the national Gender Equality Law and Gender Action Plan.

As a result of the project, different policy dialogues have been initiated on gender equality and gender-based violence with a range of key players, including the Ministry of Refugees, the Ombudsman and civil society organisations. The Head of the EU Delegation supports these dialogue processes, which have also benefitted from the participation of the EU Human Rights Advisor, Legal Advisor and Gender Advisory Group.

Key elements of the promising practice

Respect Rural Women contributes to protecting women's rights while fighting discrimination, gender-based violence and marginalisation. It centres on enhancing support structures for women to provide them with a safe environment and needs-based, tailored capacity building support. In tandem, the project contributes to participatory representative democracy that pays particular attention to gender equality and rural women's participation. To this end, activities advance women's right to participate in economic and development processes, women's role in decision-making, while enabling social dialogue between rural women and men, religious leaders, community leaders, and representatives from relevant institutions. The action emphasises strengthening ownership by civil society actors by focusing on rural women as agents of change.

Especially innovative elements include new partnerships between the EU and the project's stakeholders, in addition to the involvement of religious communities to address gender-based violence. This is highly significant given their social standing and immense capacity to influence rural women and men.

Championing and advocacy

The project contributes to changing gender stereotypes and social norms related to gender equality, especially in rural areas. These include promoting the equitable sharing of reproductive responsibilities among women and men, alongside equal access to community work.

The action has not yet influenced positive changes in the legal system concerning gender equality and women's rights. There is a need to work with the police to analyse the procedures for reporting cases of gender-based violence, in order to pinpoint where improvements are required.

“

“The best thing that happened to Ljubija lately.”

– A rights-holder speaking about the centre

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“Women there feel bonded and do things together. Once, a woman came to the workshop unhappy, explaining that her daughter had problems with her eyesight, and that she was not able to pay for an examination with an ophthalmologist. Responding to the desperate story of her friend, one of the participants said: ‘When one of us has a problem, we all have one’, and started collecting funds for the examination. Although most women have very low or no income at all, with joint efforts they succeeded in collecting the necessary money”.

– Project manager

At the social level, the project has positively influenced religious leaders and men to become engaged in preventing and combatting gender-based violence. Both religious leaders and men are increasingly supportive, proactive and well-informed.

Sustainability and replicability

Respect Rural Women has achieved remarkable results. Rural women rights holders are increasingly empowered, have more self-esteem, and are more willing to assert themselves. One major aspect of the project's sustainability is the outreach and early response mechanism it has established in rural communities to prevent and respond to gender-based and domestic violence. Equally vital are advocacy activities that mobilise local religious and community leaders to eliminate discriminatory social attitudes that perpetuate gender inequality. Mechanisms for rural women's advocacy and participation at the local level, coupled with their inclusion in local decision-making process and development strategies, have also been created. The project represents an investment in prevention, response and the empowerment of rural women and girls. As it has produced a positive change in local attitudes and behaviours around gender-based violence and women's rights, the initiative is sustainable. It can be replicated in similar contexts, either in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or in other countries.

Conclusions and lessons learned

This project has contributed to a growing focus on the constructive role that religious communities can play in advancing gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Key lessons learned include:

- It is important to cooperate and work directly with rural women, including potential and actual survivors of violence. The project takes into consideration its rural setting, which requires carefully planned interventions to navigate the local context – characterised by close community ties, isolation, significant distance from support services, and low levels of awareness. Therefore, the project is presented in public as an 'affirmation of rural women'. This means that promotes rural women as equal participants in the economy and society, while focusing on mainstreaming gender equality. Issues of violence often should be not publicly announced due to the safety and privacy concerns of survivors, as well as to ensure that rural women and men actively participate in project activities.
- The local community and relevant stakeholders must be fully involved in project activities through community centres. Involving religious leaders and local influencers is crucial. Religious leaders enjoy great respect and authority in local communities, especially in rural areas, and they are all men, regardless of their faith – whether Catholic, Orthodox, or Muslim. This makes their contributions especially important. They can challenge traditional, patriarchal norms which tend to frame domestic violence as a socially acceptable – even justifiable – form of behaviour.
- It is vital to develop an effective methodology to build trust, in order to change the attitudes of rural women and men.
- Involving rural men and encouraging them to recognise women's contribution to society will prompt behavioural change. This is especially true when they start working with women on areas of common interest, such as community initiatives and events. It is essential to demonstrate that rural women contribute to the economy, and that they must be guaranteed human and democratic rights in all spheres of life. Supporting the full and equal participation of rural women at all levels is necessary for the creation of more representative institutions, improved governance, the promotion of women's voices, and the realisation of women's rights.
- In rural settings, close family ties can makes it difficult to accuse someone of violence and seek assistance. For this reason, Respect Rural Women focuses on creating a safe and supportive environment was created, so that rural women enjoy the security and protection they need to speak out, to reflect on their situations, and explore solutions. Therefore, visiting families directly and involving them in project activities is essential.

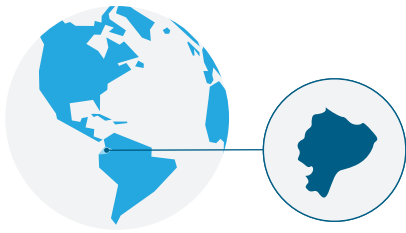
Additional information



Information and photos

[EU Delegation article 1](#), [EU Delegation article 2](#)





EU DELEGATION TO ECUADOR

More Information, Less Violence: prevention and eradication of gender-based violence, especially femicide

Gender-responsive/transformative practice

Country/countries

Ecuador

Region

Latin America

Key themes

Gender-based violence, femicide

Budget

EUR 334,298

(EC contribution: EUR 317,583)

Related SDGs



Target 5.2

EU entity

EU Delegation to Ecuador

Start year

2018

Partners

Promotion of Women Corporation (Corporación Promoción de la Mujer), Ecumenical Commission on Human Rights (Comisión Ecuménica de Derechos Humanos)

Other stakeholders: Secretary of Human Rights, Public Prosecutor's Office, National Council for Gender Equality, Judiciary Council, police, Ministry of Education and High Schools, Mothers' and Fathers' Association, Teachers' and Students' Association, local and national radio stations, civil society organisations

Beneficiaries

Direct: Family members of 555 women killed in cases of femicide

Indirect: The entire population of Ecuador, reached through the media

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

9

Indicator(s):

9.3.

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The initiative aims to contribute to the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence (GBV), particularly femicide, and to a change in the way in which cases of femicide are treated by Ecuador's judicial system. Thanks to the implementing organisations' technical expertise, the initiative monitors femicide and promotes the prevention of GBV through its focus on education and awareness, with a view to fostering cultural change. To this end, it raises awareness in high schools by engaging young people, teachers and parents. In tandem, the initiative's communications campaign, 'Más Información, Menos Violencia' (More Information, Less Violence), raises awareness across the country through radio broadcasts and social media engagement, highlighting taboos around GBV in order to challenge its silent acceptance.

The initiative has had a significant impact on government institutions, evoking positive changes in the ways in which data on GBV and femicide are collected and analysed. Despite challenges, the five Ecuadorian institutions responsible for data collection are becoming more aware of the need for quality data. Further changes include growing acknowledgment of the need for specialisation on GBV, alongside the recognition of implementing organisations as national reference points for the collection and dissemination of high-quality data on femicide, due in large part to their sustained advocacy and regular statistical reports.

Moreover, the initiative has been instrumental in prompting positive changes in the legal treatment of GBV and femicide cases. For instance, it recommended that judges specialised in handling femicide cases should preside over these cases, so as to reduce impunity, ensure fairer trials and enable just verdicts. As a result of the initiative, GBV survivors and relatives of femicide victims have greater confidence in reporting cases to the police and courts.

Implementation

To enhance understandings of GBV and femicide at the governmental and societal levels, the initiative has developed new prevention tools, while promoting new ways in which the judiciary can approach cases and GBV survivors can access justice.

In 2018, one of the initiative's partner organisations, the Corporación Promoción de la Mujer, presented its latest report on femicide in Ecuador at the 170th session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.² This led to a meeting between the Judiciary Council Director (JCD) and the EU Delegation, wherein the former proposed introducing a special judicial reform to ensure that a certain number of dedicated specialised judges are in place to ensure fair trials and adequate punishments for femicide. The proposal a technical assistance to the Judiciary Council supported by the EU delegation.

Youth's attitudes to GBV are changing as the initiative spearheads inter-school competitions, social media discussions and events that challenge gender stereotypes and harmful behaviours, particularly by boys towards girls and male teachers towards female students. As a result, the numbers of social media followers of GBV-related profiles and hashtags have surged, a bi-monthly bulletin on GBV has been launched and is even used by PhD students. The initiative is receiving a rising number of requests from radio stations to share messages on GBV, from high schools to replicate GBV workshops, and from the Ministry of Education to collaboratively develop a standard module for replication in other provinces.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative addresses GAP II objective 9 on violence prevention in crisis situations, and particularly indicator 9.3 on numbers of violent deaths. It was the fruit of decades of work by Ecuadorian women's rights organisations to eradicate GBV and challenge the gender-based stereotypes that enable its perpetuation. To evoke positive changes in institutional attitudes towards GBV, the initiative cultivated wide-ranging partnerships with national and local institutions, the national mechanism for gender equality, the police, the judiciary, the public prosecutor, civil society and the media. Especially notable elements include ground-breaking gains in research and coordination around GBV. Working with the media, especially radio stations and social media platform – most notably Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – is bolstering awareness and evoking a much-needed cultural shift, particularly among youths.

² Held in Washington D.C. from the 1st to the 7th of December, 2018.

Key elements

The experience and expertise of women's rights organisations in Ecuador has been key to the gender-responsive and gender-transformative design of the initiative. Gender analysis is the basis for its development of activities and its result-oriented monitoring mission. The analysis also informs the evaluation of the initiative's strong partnerships – with institutions, civil society and other stakeholders to prevent GBV, provide redress to the families of victims of femicide, and protect survivors. Throughout, these partnerships have been driven forward by women's organisations, particularly to enhance data collection on GBV and femicide. Such research has been further informed by advocacy and awareness raising efforts, including the "dialogue approach" used by civil society to raise awareness among government representatives and other stakeholders. The use of social media and an emphasis on simple, clear language in communications has helped sensitise scores of young women and men, who are now actively involved in events to promote and safeguard women's rights.

Championing and advocacy

Among the determining factors of the initiative's success are women's organisations' efforts to lobby the Government on the implementation of the new Comprehensive Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women (2018).

Advocacy was also vital in prompting the introduction of specialised judges, while the wide-ranging partnerships on which the initiative is grounded are producing a positive institutional culture shift – vital for preventing GBV and femicide, including by prosecuting and punishing perpetrators. For instance, awareness raising has contributed to advocacy for education to improve understandings of GBV, in order to prevent and combat the phenomenon. These efforts have involved the steadfast collaboration of the Ministry of Education and High Schools, Mothers' and Fathers' Associations, Teachers' and Students' Associations and civil society organisations, among others.

The initiative also contributed to raising awareness among EU Ambassadors and international organisations. The EU Delegation's gender focal person organised a presentation of the initiative's results during a meeting of the Heads of Cooperation of EU Member States, at which leading organisations and the Human Rights Secretary presented the initiative's work, challenges and outcomes. This was also an opportunity to explore possibilities for collaboration with Member States.

Sustainability and replicability

As noted above, the initiative focuses on combatting the culture or structures that underlie GBV – the aim of SDG target 5.2, "Eliminate all forms of violence against women" – by raising awareness among institutions, youths and the media, all with a view to undoing the negative behaviours that contribute to violence.

The initiative's sustainability is based on its strong, wide-ranging partnerships, predicated on the successful pattern of work established during the first year of its implementation – that is, researching and reporting on GBV, raising awareness, facilitating access to a fairer justice system, and enabling the families of femicide victims to seek redress.

Actions appear to be easily and independently replicable, as ever more schools request workshops and radio stations wish to replicate messages on GBV. The initiative considers that educational workshops in schools have a high potential for ensuring sustainability since they promote women's rights and human rights in a smart, cost-efficient manner. Awareness raising through the radio is also proving effective and could be extended within indigenous communities and those of African descent, where the incidence of GBV is especially high.

Empowering local organisations, particularly by strengthening the quality and availability of local expertise, is crucial for ensuring the sustainability and replicability of such initiatives. Equally important is the involvement of national gender equality mechanisms, the judiciary, police and education system to stimulate a cultural shift towards a society that rejects violence against women. Communications, the promotion of women's rights and education are excellent pathways to evoke such change.

Conclusions and lessons learned

By empowering both little-known and prominent national gender experts and women's organisations, the initiative contributes to real change in the fight against gender-based stereotypes and the patriarchal mentality that nourishes them. Changes in evidence-based research, data collection and analysis, and public sector attitudes towards GBV and civil society are afoot as the initiative draws together government stakeholders, civil society, educators and the judicial system as partners. These shifts in mentalities are vital for the effective implementation of Ecuador's Comprehensive Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women. The fact that the Sub-Secretary for the Prevention of GBV has drawn together such a range of implementing partners is likely to result in tangible law enforcement measures. Furthermore, the initiative's social media impact highlights how effectively young people can be engaged on GBV - and spread the word - through such platforms, using simple language, and creative or art events.

Additional information



Project logo



Website

[Más Información Menos Violencia](#)

Facebook page

[Más Información Menos Violencia](#)

Twitter [#MásInformaciónMenosViolencia](#)

Email address

[Más Información Menos Violencia](#)

Competition website

[IV inter-school artistic competition to combat violence against women](#)

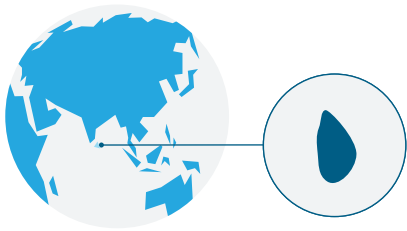
Facebook videos [Video 1](#), [Video 2](#)



Stirring the change in a very 'macho' society is long and painful. Nevertheless, we are witnessing the first change in the composition of government members, in official speeches, in the way important persons, community leaders and student representatives communicate on GBV. We have to create more consciousness on GBV and femicide and try to [impress] in peoples' minds that violence is not an acceptable practice.

– Partner organisation member





EU DELEGATION TO SRI LANKA

Inside Justice: Ensuring formal justice sector responsibility and accountability to redress sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls

Gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Sri Lanka

Region

Asia and Pacific

Key themes

Combating sexual and gender-based violence, girls' and women's access to justice

Budget

EUR 500,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives

Start year

2017

Partners

Asia Foundation, Women in Need (WIN)

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a major human rights concern in Sri Lanka. While there is evidence that SGBV is becoming more prevalent, justice for survivors is limited by a range of barriers, including the lack of gender-sensitivity in the justice system, little sensitivity among law enforcement and justice sector personnel, impunity for perpetrators, and long delays. To address these challenges, the 'Inside Justice' initiative aims to change the attitudes of formal justice sector actors towards SGBV. Financed by the European Union and implemented by the Asia Foundation, the initiative supports civil society's advocacy activities to increase the accountability of the justice sector, with a view to promoting gender-responsive responses to SGBV.

The Asia Foundation has a close partnership with Women in Need (WIN), a Sri Lankan non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to addressing issues of gender-based violence. An innovative strategy used in the Inside Justice initiative is 'court observation research', which was piloted in a previous Asia Foundation project. Within the study, WIN lawyers observe court processes to document and understand the level of gender sensitivity among the formal justice sector – including the judiciary, prosecutors, lawyers and court staff. A court observation study was carried out in the initiative's five target locations, with 50 court cases tracked for a period of six months.

Implementation

Initiated in October 2017 and running through to April 2020, the 'Inside Justice' initiative is implemented in five locations: Matara, Galle, Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Colombo. The initiative supports awareness raising within Sri Lanka's formal justice sector by specifically targeting judges, lawyers, prosecutors, court staff, the police and law students. The initiative also supports civil society advocacy initiatives for increasing the accountability of the justice sector vis-à-vis gender-sensitive responses to SGBV. Furthermore, the initiative undertakes actions to improve access to justice for women who have experienced SGBV.

The overarching goal of 'Inside Justice' is to address SGBV in Sri Lanka by ensuring that women and girls have access to just, fair and gender-sensitive judicial processes. Its objectives are to:

- ensure accountability from above – so that the formal justice system is held responsible and accountable for trials, due process, and gender-sensitive and equitable access to justice; and
- ensure accountability from below – so that civil society is responsible for demanding and advocating for justice for survivors.

The initiative's three expected outcomes are:

- improved, gender-sensitive justice sector responses to SGBV for women and girls;
- improved civil society action and advocacy on justice sector accountability to advance gender-sensitive responses to SGBV; and
- enhanced access to justice for survivors of SGBV.

'Inside Justice' tackles four key issues that underpin a lack of access to formal justice by SGBV survivors in Sri Lanka. These include (i) mistrust of the judicial system by SGBV survivors and civil society, due to its track record and its tendency to place the burden of proof on survivors, and a (ii) lack of sensitisation, training and accountability of the judicial system. Other issues include (iii) discriminatory attitudes that limit SGBV survivors' access to justice, and (iv) a lack of capacity building to support civil society organisations' interventions and engagement to systematically influence the judicial system and hold it to account.

Change in Sri Lanka's justice sector is slow. However, in the wake of the initiative, some positive changes have been identified, albeit at the individual rather than the institutional level. Notable changes include a shift in the attitudes of some prosecutors and lawyers towards SGBV.

For SGBV survivors, progress has been made in three areas:

- the initiative's support for women's access to justice, especially in terms of representation and counselling;
- the initiative's social media engagement, whose preliminary results reveal a remarkable level of engagement by people online; and

- increasing awareness at the community level, following the use of innovative methods by WIN, such as street theatre. Such performances engaged approximately 350 women, 300 men and 60 children. In addition, 1,165 women and 67 men were reached through community awareness raising programmes and information flyers.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The objectives of the 'Inside Justice' initiative match GAP II objective 7 on addressing violence against women and girls. Within the Asia Foundation, the initiative falls under the remit of the Gender and Justice team. Members of the team have technical expertise in working on gender equality at the policy, legal, academia, government and civil society levels. They are also a part of the women's movement in Sri Lanka. WIN staff members also have extensive gender expertise in relation to the local context and specific SGBV issues.

The 'Inside Justice' initiative was formulated based on the partners' past work, experiences of similar projects on access to justice, and the long history of the Asia Foundation's engagement with Sri Lanka's formal justice sector.

The results of the initiative, including the evidence gathered, have informed policy dialogue. In this regard, WIN participates in the National Committee of Women, as well as national and subnational fora that promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

Key elements of the promising practice

'Inside Justice' is highly relevant as it aims to change the attitudes of formal justice sector actors towards the widespread phenomenon of SGBV, while supporting civil society advocacy to increase the justice sector's accountability and gender-sensitive responses to SGBV.

The initiative's 'court observation research' is an innovative tool in Sri Lanka, involving the in-depth observations by WIN lawyers of judicial processes. This has shed new light on the level of gender-sensitivity that currently exists among the judiciary, prosecutors and lawyers in selected courts of law.

It is also important to highlight that the initiative is based on a continuous learning process, which allows actions to be tailored according to real needs and progress achieved. Moreover, awareness raising activities that engage men at the community level have been especially important, with lecture-based sessions, street theatre, and a focus on services and broader SGBV-related issues.

Championing and advocacy

The initiative's implementing partners each have over 30 years of experience that informs the initiative – from the Asia Foundation's experience of Sri Lanka's justice sector, to WIN's tireless work on SGBV. Their partnership, and collaboration with local civil society and human rights organisations, enables the initiative to benefit from their strengths, expertise and knowledge of local contexts.

While international organisations have a lot to learn from local providers of SGBV services, local organisations can use the resources of international partners to advocate at the national level.² As such, the partners discuss the initiative's strategies and outcomes in all possible human rights and gender equality fora. As a result of their continued presence in these fora, they have been able to build alliances with justice sector experts, so as to amplify their championing and advocacy efforts.

2 For more information, see: <https://asiafoundation.org/2018/06/06/seven-questions-to-consider-when-promoting-gender-justice-in-sri-lanka>

Sustainability and replicability

The initiative's court observation research is an innovative element which could be adapted to other contexts and sectors – such as the health sector and law enforcement. The benefits of this approach are two-fold. First, it allows organisations to collect useful data and information on how gender-based violence is treated in the Sri Lankan justice sector. Second, it makes the Sri Lankan justice actors more accountable to civil society and SGBV survivors. It is an approach whose ultimate goal is to build a supportive environment to end SGBV and ensure survivors' access to justice.

At the community level, a great deal has been done to increase knowledge of SGBV as a crime that should be punished. Although gender stereotypes remain deep-rooted, the initiative's sensitisation and communications activities ensure its sustainability.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Sri Lanka has several policy documents that address the disadvantages and discrimination faced by women in the formal justice system. As such, the partner organisations have been able to build on linkages with local policies. Their long experience of the formal justice sector and SGBV, coupled with their partnerships with other experienced local organisations, have contributed to making 'Inside Justice' a gender-responsive promising practice. As a result of sustained community engagement, continuous learning is ensured.

The initiative demonstrates that Sri Lanka's formal justice system is dominated by men. While some local authorities questioned the initiative's activities, most accepted the need for awareness raising. In the communities, men were receptive – listening and participating in activities.

There is a strong need to continue to focus on SGBV in Sri Lanka, both due to the country's violent past and due to deep-rooted patriarchal culture. In addition, flexibility in funding is important, as this allows SGBV initiatives to adapt to changing conditions.

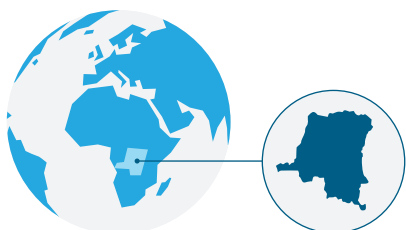
Additional information



Website

[Seven Questions to Consider When Promoting Gender Justice in Sri Lanka](#)





BELGIUM

Integrated WASH, food security, gender and protection response for conflict-affected communities in Tanganyika province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Gender-sensitive practice

Country/countries

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanganyika province, Kabalo territory

Region

Africa

Key themes

Humanitarian aid, emergency response, relief coordination, protection and support services

Budget

EUR 1,597,582

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Belgium

Start year

2018 (12 month duration)

Partners

Oxfam, public enterprises and local authorities in charge of the water system

Beneficiaries

Reduction in morbidity and mortality among at least 35,000 internally displaced persons and returnees (around 5,833 households) in the territory of Kabalo

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7

Indicator(s):

Number of individuals directly benefiting from justice, rule of law and security sector reform programmes funded by EU (EU RF)

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Funded by Belgium's Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) and implemented by Oxfam, the initiative sought to improve living conditions and resilience of the conflict-affected population in the province of Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Starting in October 2018, the 12-month initiative facilitated safe and equal access to food security, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), supported the creation of a protective environment, and strengthened the capacity of local humanitarian leadership.

The initiative targeted internally displaced persons and returnees whose situation has deteriorated since the outbreak of inter-ethnic conflict between the Bantu and the Twa ethnic groups in August 2016. This was triggered by renewed violence, intercommunity and political tensions, weak basic services, and a lack of infrastructures and markets. The local population has suffered disastrous consequences: between July 2016 and March 2017, the conflict destroyed over 400 villages, prompting hundreds of murders and injuries. Sexual violence has been particularly widespread; more than 200 women have been raped.² The conflict provoked mass displacement and wrought heavy damage on the WASH, food security, and protection sectors.

Implementation

The initiative was implemented in Kabalo territory, one of the six territories of the province of Tanganyika, and one of the three most affected by ongoing interethnic conflict. It was informed by data gathered through consultations and key informant interviews on the ground, including with health authorities. In 2017, a multidisciplinary team conducted an in-depth multisectoral needs assessment covering nine villages. It involved:

- interviews with local authorities, community leaders, and representatives of internally displaced people, including women, from both tribes;
- focus group discussions with internally displaced persons in villages most affected by the population influx;
- household surveys;
- individual questionnaires completed by 359 community members, at least 50% of whom are women;
- field visits, including of existing water supply points and sanitation structures; and
- a review of available documentation and literature.

The needs assessment's key findings included:

- 1) In terms of WASH, the assessment found that the health system is unable to respond to the population's basic health needs. Waterborne infectious diseases and cholera are pervasive. Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, especially for pregnant women and children under the age of five. Available water sources are overstretched.
- 2) Food security has deteriorated in all territories in Tanganyika as the conflict worsened. Severe malnutrition has skyrocketed as people are unable to access vegetables or animal proteins, combined with poor access to WASH services and an increase in waterborne diseases.
- 3) In terms of protection concerns, the ongoing crisis has left almost half of Tanganyika's population in need of humanitarian support. Not only has mass displacement exacerbated protection risks, but existing community protection mechanisms have been disrupted. Key risks and protection issues identified by the needs assessment include domestic violence, murder, torture, and sexual violence. Women, girls, and other at-risk groups face an increasing risk of sexual assault and violence en route to water points and sanitation facilities located far from their homes, or in isolated locations. The assessment found that there were no actors managing gender-based services, no psychological or psychosocial support services and no justice mechanisms in place.

Based on the needs assessment, the initiative focused on the most pressing humanitarian needs in Kabalo. For instance, among other actions, the initiative, built boreholes and water supply systems, and rehabilitated water points and latrines for displaced people.

2 See: International Rescue Committee (2017) *A silent crisis in Congo: The Bantu and the Twa in Tanganyika*, p. 2.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The project contributes to the GAP II's objectives on addressing violence against women and girls (objective 7) and ensuring protection for all women and men, of all ages, from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations (objective 9).

Key elements of the promising practice

Violence against women is prevalent and perpetrated by both sides in the conflict in the province of Tanganyika. Women are marginalised in both the Twa and Bantu communities. In response, the initiative ensured women's participation throughout the project cycle, guaranteeing that both men and women were included in decision-making processes, and that both benefitted from interventions. The initiative spearheaded women's and girls' empowerment and leadership in terms of project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and learning. It adopted a transparent implementation strategy to serve both sides, and to play a role in conflict resolution among the warring communities by promoting dialogue and peaceful coexistence. Across the board, the initiative sought to address the specific needs and safety requirements of women and girls.

Championing and advocacy

The protection component of the initiative reduced barriers to women's participation by creating a Women's Forum as a counterpart to the Central Protection Committee. Issues identified by the Women's Forum were systematically included in community action planning. Gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation was prioritised to measure the impact of interventions.

To ensure inclusiveness and duly consider the challenges faced by women, Oxfam undertook a 'rapid care and gender analysis' to better understand gender roles and responsibilities, as well as women's and men's capacities and vulnerabilities. This informed programming, such as water, sanitation and hygiene activities specifically geared towards reducing women's vulnerability.

Sustainability and replicability

The methodology involved setting up Community Committees for each village to serve as village level water structure committees, with representatives from both the Twa and the Luba communities. It also set up Internally Displaced Person Committees, wherein women accounted for 50% of committee members. These committees played a key role in identifying beneficiaries by validating the selection of the most vulnerable. The key community structures of Protection Committees and Community WASH Committees are elected bodies that received training on their protection-related roles and responsibilities. Awareness raising activities were organised for both host communities and internally displaced persons.

Oxfam planned committee activities and meetings around women's schedules, so as to avoid clashing with their daily activities. Training leaders on gender equality, women's rights, protection, and community participation facilitated men's and women's equal representation on water management committees.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The initiative's methodology was based on the strong involvement and ownership of the community. Various approaches were used to guarantee beneficiaries' involvement, including:

- participatory monitoring tools to ensure that beneficiaries are informed of project progress;
- a formal system of feedback and complaint management with the community to capture their concerns and clarify communication problems;
- systematic consultations with committees;
- a comprehensive risk analysis to ensure the observance of the 'do no harm' principle;
- collaborative meetings organised between committee members, local authorities, and service providers to reinforce the protection-related responsibilities of local leadership; and

- review meeting with the wider community in the last three months of the initiative to showcase successes, evaluate progress, and address issues that arise during implementation.

Additional information

The Facebook page of Oxfam in the Democratic Republic of the Congo includes testimonies from community members who took part in the initiative. Two examples are provided here.

« Je réponds au nom de Chantal, je viens de Manhwa où j'ai fui la guerre. Dans mon village d'origine, je n'avais pas de souci, mon mari était pêcheur et moi, je cultivais mes champs. À notre arrivée dans ce village d'accueil, pour manger, je devrais cultiver des champs ne m'appartenant pas. Quelques temps après, Oxfam est venu nous soulager en nous distribuant une aide financière. Avec cet argent, j'ai investi dans ce petit commerce. »

Mon plus grand souhait, c'est d'avoir un plus grand appui financier, car avec de l'argent, mes enfants peuvent renouer avec le chemin de l'école. J'ai mis au monde beaucoup d'enfants, et actuellement, ils souffrent. Mon commerce ne répond pas suffisamment à leur besoin, manger, c'est toujours un sérieux problème. »

Translation: *"I answer to the name of Chantal. I am from Manhwa, where I fled the war. In my home village, I had no worries; my husband was a fisherman and I cultivated my fields. When we arrived in this host village, to eat, I had to cultivate fields that do not belong to me. Some time later, Oxfam came to relieve us by distributing financial aid. With this money, I invested in this small business."*

My greatest wish is to have more financial support, because with [more] money my children can get back to school. I have given birth to many children, and now they are in pain. My business does not meet their needs enough, eating is still a serious problem. "

« Je réponds au nom de Sophie, j'ai 42 ans et j'habite à Kabalo. Je suis dans ce quartier depuis 7 ans. Depuis que j'habite ici, nous allions puiser de l'eau à Kagwitu, à plus de 4 km d'ici. Avant l'intervention d'Oxfam, cette eau était sale et non traitée. Aujourd'hui, l'eau est gratuite et propre. Nous sommes plus à l'abri des problèmes de santé. Tout est bien réglementé ; nous avons accès à cette fontaine pendant six heures par jour. »

Translation: *"I answer to the name of Sophie. I am 42 years old and I live in Kabalo. I have been in this neighbourhood for seven years. Since I moved here, we used to go to fetch water from Kagwitu, more than 4 km away. Before Oxfam's intervention, the water was dirty and untreated. Today, the water is free and clean. We are more immune to health problems. Everything is well-regulated; we have access to this fountain for six hours each day."*



Photograph © Oxfam





Gender-sensitive practice

Country/countries

Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Togo and Senegal

Region

Africa

Key themes

Women's, children's and adolescent health

Budget

EUR 130 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: France

Start year

2011 (end date: 2019)

Partners

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

10, 11, 12

¹ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II) is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The French Muskoka Fund was created in June 2010 following the G8 summit in Muskoka, Canada. It aims to reduce maternal, newborn, infant and child mortality in West and Central Africa by strengthening national health systems in Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Togo and Senegal. Between 2011 and 2019, the Muskoka Fund was implemented as a joint programme by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and UN Women.

Implementation

The Muskoka Fund implemented high-impact, cross-sector interventions to:

- reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality and morbidity by ensuring that women, newborns, children and adolescents have equal access to high-quality health care;
- ensure that adolescents, particularly girls, can access their rights and the sexual and reproductive health services they need;
- improve nutrition and promote the empowerment of women;
- boost early childhood development; and
- improve the quality and ensure the continuity of care.

The French Muskoka Fund took action on the political and planning front, supporting partner countries' national health policies by:

- producing objective evidence informed by analysing and tracking facts;
- taking part in operational research with national decision-makers through the provision of information and evidence; and
- identifying and documenting best practices.

The interventions supported by the Muskoka Fund focused on several areas: awareness raising, community engagement, access to health services, nutrition, and family planning. In terms of awareness raising, a pan-African television show entitled *C'est la vie!* was produced to improve understandings of sexual and reproductive health (SRH), maternal and child health, adolescent health, and gender-based violence. By using entertainment and the mass media to share health information, the show reached a wide-ranging public audience in a bid to foment positive attitudes and behaviours.

To foster community engagement, interventions analysed family attitudes and practices with a view to identifying the underlying causes of behaviours that are not conducive to good maternal, newborn and child health. In response, interventions promoted family practices essential for children's survival and development. Both preventive and curative health care services and supplies – including contraceptives and micronutrient powders – were delivered on the ground by community health workers who strove to reach remote populations. Curative health care services at the community level focused on combatting infant mortality by targeting the three leading causes of death among children under the age of five: pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea. Studies and analysis monitored the progress of community-based interventions. Overall, community engagement led to:

- the involvement of religious leaders in promoting maternal and child health in Guinea and their mobilisation to prevent child marriage in Chad;
- the empowerment of adolescents and youth by promoting essential family practices in Mali;
- the introduction of community self-diagnosis in Niger; and
- a community-produced health promotion video in Togo.

The Muskoka Fund's interventions also sought to increase the availability of affordable, high-quality drugs, essential health products and health technologies for maternal, newborn and child health. Medical products were procured and delivered to health facilities in compliance with the WHO's model list. Interventions sought to strengthen partner countries' pharmaceutical systems and control of drug pricing. Staff training tools were reviewed and treatment protocols were evaluated to improve the quality of treatment for mothers and children. These initiatives led to:

- The revision of regulations for setting the price of drugs in the public sector in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.
- The revision of the Mother & Child Health Treatment Guide in Niger, and training for health professionals on managing essential drugs for maternal and child health.
- Support for national drug quality control laboratories to prepare for WHO Prequalification in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

The Muskoka Fund fostered synergies between nutrition and maternal, newborn and child health. It advanced a minimum package of nutrition-specific interventions in health facilities and communities, while devising ways to detect malnutrition.

For instance, in health facilities supported by the fund, breastfeeding was promoted among pregnant women, as well were optimal feeding practices for infants and young children. Community health workers were trained to improve households' access to information and advice on feeding infants, particularly in rural areas where high levels of child mortality are particularly prevalent. Media partnerships were fostered to reach people in urban and semi-urban environments.

In tandem, the Muskoka Fund prioritised improved access to skilled obstetric staff. To this end, support and training were provided to 30,000 health care professionals, including doctors, nurses, midwives and community health workers. Policies and plans on health workers were disseminated to simplify the recruitment, training, deployment and efforts to retain maternal and child health workers. Governments' midwifery and nursing policies and practices were developed and reviewed. Initiatives worked to harmonise the approach to the training of midwives, paired with support for developing national action plans to improve the quality of training in midwifery schools. A community-based best practice approach was devised for health care providers. These initiatives led to:

- an analysis of the health care labour market in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo and Chad sought to help countries make effective, economically viable decisions to ensure that sufficient maternal, newborn and child health care professionals are available. The study supported partner countries to revise their health sector budgets with a view to prioritising human resources. For instance, Togo agreed to a recruitment plan for maternal, newborn and child health care staff which prioritises rural areas. The partner countries were also involved in the preparation of a seminal report, 'Working for health and growth: Investing in the health workforce', which turned into a five-year action plan to advance progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result of these interventions: Côte d'Ivoire agreed to create 21,753 additional health jobs by 2022, particularly to meet the needs of mothers, children and adolescents;
- actions in Senegal aimed to increase and train health care staff;
- a strategy was rolled out in Mali to provide maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health care training to young people and women, while recruiting health workers in rural areas.

As an estimated 30 % of maternal deaths could be avoided through the use of family planning services, the Muskoka Fund supported family planning in health facilities and communities. Family planning products were distributed to communities, including remote households. Interventions improved the range of family planning products on offer, while strengthening communication plans and partnerships with the media, community leaders and local organisations. As a result, the community-based distribution of family planning products was introduced in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Togo and Chad, allowing community health workers to deliver family planning services to households located far from health facilities.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The French Muskoka Fund was already in place when the EU Gender Action Plan II was rolled out. Nevertheless, it is aligned to GAP II thematic priority B, particularly objective 10 on equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women. It also advances GAP II objective 11 on 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, as well as objective 12 on healthy nutrition.

Moreover, all of the activities developed as part of the Muskoka Fund are in line with partner countries' national health development plans and form part of the Global Strategy on Women's, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (2016–2030)². Its activities are aligned with the African Union Commission Agenda 2063, 'The Africa We Want'³, the African Health Strategy 2016–2030⁴ and the Maputo Plan of Action 2016–2030.⁵ They also fall within the scope of the New Aid Environment of the Paris Declaration.

Key elements of the promising practice

The French Muskoka Fund contributes to the health, nutrition and well-being of mothers, newborns, children and adolescents by implementing cost-effective, high-impact, cross-sectoral interventions. Alongside a focus on strengthening partnerships, its cross-sectoral interventions are implemented as part of a continuity of care approach.

2 For more information, see: <https://www.everywomaneverychild.org/global-strategy/>

3 For more information, see: https://au.int/Agenda2063/popular_version

4 For more information, see: <https://au.int/en/documents/30357/africa-health-strategy-2016-2030>

5 For more information, see: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/24099-poa_5-revised_clean.pdf

Championing and advocacy

The Muskoka Fund is driven by a commitment to advocate for stronger political engagement and to support countries to allocate 15 % of their national budgets to health expenditure. It also focuses on setting up accountability mechanisms and tools at the regional level to monitor government commitments to sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, while measuring progress. Strategically, the fund enables the coordination and harmonisation of strategies and technical support to accelerate progress.

The Muskoka Fund participated in the Every Newborn Action Plan and Guide, developed as part of the global strategy for women's and children's health. In 2016, the fund mobilised 123 participants from 17 West and Central African countries at an inter-agency regional forum. They included representatives of national health departments, United Nations agencies, the West African Health Organization, international sponsors, professional bodies, international NGOs and scientists specialising in different disciplines. At the end of the forum, each partner country developed an action plan setting out next steps. At another regional workshop in 2016, the fund disseminated WHO guidelines on administering prenatal care and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI), engaging 93 participants from 20 countries, eight of which are Muskoka countries. In 2017, the fund promoted a conference on the institutionalisation of community health systems, alongside WHO standards for maternal and newborn health and the quality of care evaluation and improvement tool. This too culminated in the development of action plans.

Furthermore, close collaboration was established with the African Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians to disseminate new recommendations on contraception, maternal death surveillance and response, and the quality of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services. The society's biennial conference briefed 1,500 health professionals on these issues.

Sustainability and replicability

The Muskoka Fund improved aid effectiveness by avoiding the duplication of aid. Based on lessons learned, a regional coordination mechanism (task force) was introduced to evaluate newborn and maternal health, bringing together representatives from regional agencies and professional bodies.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Among the results achieved, the French Muskoka Fund helped to reduce the mortality rate of children under the age of five in Niger and Senegal between 2010 and 2015. Between 2010 and 2017, all Muskoka countries saw a significant reduction in their maternal mortality rates, with a substantial decrease in Guinea (44 %), Senegal (43 %) and Burkina Faso (38 %). By 2019, all eight initial partner countries experienced a reduction in maternal mortality, newborn mortality and child mortality. The WHO estimates that the Muskoka Fund contributed to a 30 % reduction in the maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) between 2000 and 2017 in partner countries, alongside a 43 % decrease in newborn mortality (per 1,000 live births) and a 57 % decrease in child mortality (per 1,000 live births) between 1990 and 2018. It also contributed to an 11 % increase in the rate of births attended by qualified staff between 2010 and 2016 in partner countries.

Additional information

To reach young and adolescents, the French Muskoka Fund promoted innovative tools, such as the pan-African television show, *C'est-la-Vie* ("That's life!"), broadcast by 44 national television channels. It also rolled out the green line, *Guindima* ("Enlighten me") that informs young people about menstrual hygiene, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, anatomy, puberty, female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence.



Video

[Promo reel, C'est la vie!](#)



GERMANY

Combating violence against women and girls in Latin America (ComVoMujer I and II)

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Multi-country (Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Paraguay)

Region

Latin America

Key themes

Gender based violence, violence against women and girls

Budget

EUR 12 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Germany

Start year

2010–2018

Partners

Governments and ministries, civil society organisations, private sector

Beneficiaries

Women and girls

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Implementation

Throughout its implementation, the ComVoMujer programme pioneered positive changes. Most notably, it enhanced engagement with partner countries' state entities, civil society organisations and the private sector. When the programme began, the private sector was not involved as private enterprises did not consider VAWG an issue relevant to them. To get the private sector on board, the German development agency (GIZ) partnered with the University of San Martín de Porres of Peru to collect scientific evidence on the consequences of intimate violence for private enterprises, surveying both men and women employees. In 2012, the results of interviews with 111 enterprises demonstrated that 3.7% of GDP and 70 million days of work per year were lost due to violence. The survey also revealed the extent to which violence impacts on both women and men. Women who experience mental or physical violence are prone to a significant drop in performance, and aggression worsens performance overall. This proved a 'door opener' for working with private companies.

By the eighth year of the programme's implementation in 2018, 100 enterprises were directly involved in its implementation, while 400 were indirectly engaged. As they committed to preventing violence against women, enterprises organised awareness raising activities, trained their staff, created structures to identify and prevent violence against women, and took a high-profile public stance by printing anti-violence slogans on their customer bills. This was done by water supply companies in the four partner countries, reaching 16.5 million households. This process supported engagement between state and the private sector, a major feat as these actors had not been engaged in collaboration on VAWG in the past.

The following key results of the programme are important to highlight:

- Engagement increased with the private sector, prompting awareness raising and training within companies to combat violence against women. In Peru and Paraguay, a quality state accreditation scheme was issued by the state was introduced for enterprises, known as 'Safe company: Free from violence and discrimination against women' with which businesses can be certified as safe and free from violence and discrimination against women. More than 8,000 people have acquired certification across over 37 companies and organisations, including GIZ in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.
- A mobile application was launched to prevent violence against women.
- The regional campaign, 'Women's Letters', was rolled out to address gender-based violence. Women, men, girls and boys expressed their pain in more than 44,000 letters, which were collected to raise awareness among the public and political leaders.
- The participatory pathway 'De salto en salto a la violencia ponemos alto!' ('Leap by leap, we will stop violence!') was launched to engage 10-year-old boys and girls, with a view to tackling deeply rooted social norms and violence. Merging child rights and women's rights, this cost-effective pathway is now a globally used practice. Children move between five 'stations' where they discuss gender equality, gender roles and, finally, VAWG. At the third station, they complete a self-evaluation, before moving onto a fourth station where they participate in puppet theatre. The fifth station involves children delivering a demonstration at their school.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The GAP II was not yet in place when the ComVoMujer programme began. However, the programme contributes to GAP II thematic priority B, particularly objective 7 on violence against women and girls.

Key elements of the promising practice

The ComVoMujer programme developed a clear conceptual framework:

- The programme understood that unequal power relationships between men and women are the root cause of violence against women and girls.
- It affirmed that partnerships and collaboration between state entities, civil society and the private sector is a necessary element to foster gender equality and fight VAWG.

- It found that research supported by data on the severity of violence, and its human and economic costs, and are an eye opener and ‘door opener’ for engagement. The programme’s studies proved important knowledge brokers for influencing policy-making. For instance, its costing studies helped the Government of Peru to launch a new gender policy. In Ecuador, the programme’s project manager was invited to deliver a presentation on the costs of VAWG at the national parliament, in order to support discussions on a new comprehensive law against VAWG. In Bolivia and Paraguay, the studies supported discussions on normative frameworks in place to tackle gender-based violence.
- The programme highlighted that information exchange between partner countries is fundamental. When the first specialised national survey on VAWG in Bolivia was conducted, GIZ brought in the Statistical Institute of Ecuador which undertook a survey in 2011, while drawing on the experience of similar surveys in Mexico and Uruguay.

Championing and advocacy

The programme advocated for collaboration between governments, civil society and the private sector. As discussed above, GIZ advocated for a partnership that led to the creation of a national accreditation scheme in 2012, awarded by states to local enterprises if certified as being safe and free from violence and discrimination against women.

Sustainability and replicability

Engaging the private sector and the ‘Safe Company’ seal have proven sustainable, continuing without GIZ’s financial support. In Ecuador, for instance, a five-star hotel is working on preventing VAWG without GIZ’s help, as is a pharmaceutical enterprise in Peru. Companies can still receive technical support from GIZ, but financially they continue working with their own funds.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Key lessons learned and replicable actions include:

- Research and studies on the costs of gender-based violence for companies have generated publicity and had a considerable impact.
- Working with the private sector has been important to raise awareness on gender equality, as has the development of an application to prevent Violence against women.
- The online ‘Safe company’ certification helped to raise awareness among private sector staff on gender equality and gender-based violence.
- Participatory pathways are useful means of analysing social norms and gender stereotypes with girls and boys.

Additional information

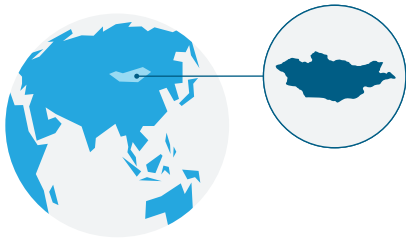


- **E-Catalogue:** This catalogue provides materials on how to prevent and combat violence against women, including studies, academic works, training materials, campaigns and other products developed in several South American countries, and beyond.

- **Equality seal Paraguay**

- **Equality seal Peru**

- **App Junt@s** (video): This smartphone application (whose name translates as ‘together’ in English) was developed by Ecuador’s national telecoms provider, CNT, and GIZ, to assist women in emergency situations. The application can be used to send a coded ‘cry for help’ to friends or family members, as well as to reach the emergency services. It comes pre-installed on any smartphone supplied under a CNT contract, so that no woman is required to explain why she has the application installed on her phone.



LUXEMBOURG

Innovation in maternal health services in Mongolia:
From pilot to institutionalisation, UNFPA Telemedicine
Project exit phase (2017/2018)

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Mongolia

Region

Asia and the Pacific

Key themes

Health, maternal and child health

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Luxembourg

Start year

2007 (Phase 1), 2017 (existing phase)

Partners

UNFPA, Government of Mongolia, Government of Luxembourg

Beneficiaries

Women and children

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

10

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The Telemedicine Project in Mongolia works to improve equitable access to quality maternal and newborn health care, as part of the Government's overall aim of improving public health. By enhancing women's access to health systems, it supports Mongolia to reduce maternal and child mortality and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 3 and 5. Funded by the Government of Luxembourg and UNFPA, the project has been implemented by these partners and the Government of Mongolia since its first phase in 2007. Its 'exit phase' began in 2016 to institutionalise the elements put in place over the past decade.

Mongolia's population faces difficulties in accessing health care due to the large distances between hospitals and communities, as well as a traditionally nomadic way of life. Pregnant women often travel to Mongolia's capital city, Ulaanbaatar, two weeks before giving birth, just to find a place to stay. Telemedicine enables people to communicate with the doctor closest to them, with images helping doctors to identify ailments and providing medical practitioners with updated education and support that improves the quality of health services.

Implementation

Luxembourg began implementing the Telemedicine Project in partnership with key Mongolian counterparts, including the Ministries of Health and Finance, alongside one hospital in the national capital, and smaller hospitals and health centres elsewhere in the country. The project reflects the fact that the Embassy of Luxembourg's development cooperation strategies are in line with Mongolia's policies and UNFPA's strategies.

The project included a component on education, involving the revision of midwifery curricula to align it to international standards, as well as e-learning for doctors and patients. A learning platform/application enables doctors and patients to access the specific information they need. In parallel, an EU initiative in Mongolia to improve internet connectivity and mobile networks ensured that the hospitals involved in the Telemedicine Project have an internet connection.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The Telemedicine Project was already in place when the EU Gender Action Plan II was rolled out. Nevertheless, it is aligned to GAP II thematic priority B, particularly objective 10 on equal access to quality health services. Given its focus on maternal and child health, the project also contributes to advancing SDG target 3.1, which aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, and SDG target 3.2, which seeks to end the preventable deaths of newborns and children under the age of five.

Key elements of the promising practice

The Telemedicine project has been a highly innovative undertaking that established a network of medical professionals and maternity hospitals across Mongolia, and connected them to the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. As a result, pregnant women in even the most remote areas of Mongolia are able to receive expert consultations and life-saving health care without having to exhaust their resources to travel to Ulaanbaatar.

The project improved the early detection and timely management of pregnancy-related complications, facilitated regular consultations among hospitals on maternal and neonatal cases, and eased access to training for health professionals through the telemedicine consultation network. According to UNFPA, the project contributed to a 75 % reduction in maternal mortality overall in Mongolia between 2000 and 2015.²

Championing and advocacy

The project involved annual policy dialogue with government counterparts, including Mongolia's Ministries of Finance and of Foreign Affairs.

2 For more information, see: <https://mongolia.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-launches-exit-phase-telemedicine-project-maternal-and-newborn-health>

Sustainability and replicability

Work is being done to ensure that Mongolia's national budget earmarks funds for maintenance and machines in hospitals. The exit phase of the Telemedicine Project aimed to ensure the sustainability of interventions which will be continued by national counterparts. Specifically, it aimed to:

- consolidate the obstetrics e-Health platform into national e-health systems;
- institutionalise tele-consultation and eLearning platforms;
- strengthen the human resource capacity for maternal and child health care, as well as for sexual and reproductive health;
- institutionalise training processes; and
- strengthen the policy and financial environment for sexual and reproductive health care.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The Telemedicine Project contributed to improving women's lives in Mongolia by enhancing access to health services during pregnancy. This has expanded women's ability to take early action in cases of pregnancy-related difficulties.

Other lessons learned include a greater understanding of the importance of disaggregated data. The project could have focused more on the use and collection of data, disaggregated at least by age and sex, as well as the inclusion of indicators aligned with EU commitments, especially the Gender Action Plan II.

Additional information

Staff involved in the project were largely UNFPA staff members and Mongolian counterparts, such as doctors, to ensure the requisite institutional capacity for meeting the project's objective. Gender expertise was not lacking during the project's implementation. The project manager was a gender expert and UNFPA has significant gender expertise. A gender analysis was carried out during the design of phase one of the project.



SPAIN

Support for the prevention and coordinated intervention of the police in the effective treatment of gender-based violence in Mauritania

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Mauritania

Region

West and Central Africa

Key themes

Gender-based violence, women's access to justice

Budget

EUR 95,044

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Spain

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation)

Start year

2017

Partners

Mauritanian police, Nouakchott and Nouadhibou hospitals, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family, Association Mauritanienne pour la Santé de la Mère (AMSME) (Mauritanian Association for Maternal Health), Association des Femmes Cheffes de Famille (AFCF) (Association of Women Heads of Household)

Beneficiaries

2,000 survivors of gender-based violence and their families

100 professionals from all levels of the judicial police force

120 staff members of the juvenile brigades of the three *Wilayas*¹ of Nouakchott and the Wilaya of Nouadhibou

Personnel of two civil society organisations who provide technical assistance to juvenile brigades

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020²

Priorities:



Objective(s):

7

Indicator(s):

7.3

¹ A *Wilaya* is an administrative division corresponding to a governorate.

² *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Mauritania has ratified international human rights conventions, and developed several national plans and strategies to address gender-based violence (GBV). Nevertheless, the country lacks a comprehensive law defining and criminalising different forms of gender-based violence. Although a comprehensive bill to combat violence was approved by the senate in 2016, it was rejected by parliament both in 2017 and 2018. Gender-based violence and inequalities persist among and within different ethnic groups, as do harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation (FGM), early and forced marriage, and forced ‘fattening’. Many of these practices are justified by cultural norms linked to ‘honour’ and, as a result, they are often rendered invisible. There is a lack of official national data on GBV, incidents are not often reported due to cultural constraints and stigma, and remote areas lack GBV services. Civil society and international agencies estimate that, every day, three women experience gender-based violence in the capital, Nouakchott, with an estimated 1,200 cases in 2017-2018.

In response, AECID, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, is supporting Mauritania’s police force to establish a national protocol and procedures on GBV. Supported by the Spanish police, the initiative involves exchange visits between the two countries – with Mauritanian police officers visiting Spain, and Spanish police officers visiting Mauritania. The initiative has resulted in the development of the Mauritanian Police Manual of Procedures on GBV, and the training of 100 police officers on how to address GBV cases. The initiative may be considered a gender-transformative practice as it has prompted change in the attitudes and practices of law enforcement personnel towards GBV.

Implementation

In the framework of the cooperation agreement between Spain and Mauritania, the initiative addresses the invisibility and scale of GBV in Mauritania, as well as the difficulties survivors face in accessing care and justice services.

The initiative involves interaction between a range of stakeholders to ensure integrated support for GBV survivors. Stakeholders include the judiciary police through the juvenile brigades and organisations that facilitate the referral of survivors – including the Association Mauritanienne pour la Santé de la Mère (AMSME) and the Association des Femmes Cheffes de Famille (AFCF). Other key stakeholders include local authorities, communities and religious leaders – who participate in defining a GBV prevention plan and engage in communication channels – and a Committee for the monitoring and evaluation of the initiative. Thus far, the project has contributed to all of its expected results:

- i)* A manual of procedures for the treatment of GBV cases (management, referral and production of official data) has been developed, in accordance with international and national standards. Following exchanges with Spanish police officers specialised in addressing GBV, Mauritanian police are applying the manual in the three *Wilayas* (administrative divisions) of Nouakchott and the *Wilaya* of Nouadhibou.
- ii)* GBV cases are processed according to standard procedures by the police, and are systematised and centralised in an official database.
- iii)* Residents in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou are increasingly aware of GBV and the importance of prevention, in the wake of coordination between the police, civil society and local authorities.

The initiative has also taken steps to improve survivors’ access to basic social and medical care services. The urgent need for health services for GBV survivors was a major motivating factor for AECID undertaking the initiative. Access to services has been facilitated by the introduction of the manual of procedures, which entrusts police with the duty of ensuring survivors’ access to medical care. In this way, survivors are protected from stigma and the risk of being deprived of care services. Once survivors access services, the partner civil society organisation takes over and follows their cases.

The initiative has also involved community and religious leaders in the development of a GBV prevention plan. By strongly condemning violence, this plan brings GBV out of the realm of ‘taboos’, thereby tackling issues of social stigma. Moreover, the initiative has put in place a wide-ranging coordination mechanism, including a GBV working group. As a result, harmful practices such as ‘forced feeding’ are now discussed within the nutrition sector working group.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

Spain has been extremely active in promoting the implementation of the GAP II in Mauritania. This initiative explicitly addresses GAP II objective 7 on ending gender-based violence. It also builds productive coordination mechanisms to counter GBV through the GBV working group. The group brings together specialised civil society organisations, United Nations and donor agencies which address GBV from various angles – ranging from prevention to protection, legal frameworks, and different sectors, such as health, governance, and justice. Furthermore, the initiative supports Mauritania’s national gender equality mechanism as it is in line with the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence and the National Strategy for the Institutionalisation of Gender Mainstreaming.

Gender expertise from Spanish and Mauritanian specialists informed the initiative’s formulation and implementation. However, further gender expertise should have been made available to ensure continuous technical assistance for the Mauritanian police.

Key elements of the promising practice

A central element of the initiative is its focus on women’s rights, which are placed at the heart of the initiative’s discourse on GBV prevention, protection and response. Cooperation between the Mauritanian and the Spanish police forces was crucial for the initiative’s success. Law enforcement officers were trained on how to respond to GBV cases, as well as to understand GBV as a specific crime punishable by law. Moreover, the initiative has evoked a strong impact in terms of women’s access to justice and tackling the stigma experienced by GBV survivors. As a result of the dialogue stimulated by the initiative at the community and national levels, GBV – and especially sexual violence – is more visible and discussed in Mauritania.

Championing and advocacy

Alignment: The initiative is fully in line with Mauritania’s international commitments, including its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It is also in line with regional instruments that Mauritania has adopted, stemming from the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, as well as national instruments. These include the National Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity 2016-2030 (SCAPP), which considers gender equality at both the sectoral and cross-cutting levels, and the National Strategy for the Institutionalisation of Gender 2015. In particular, the initiative addresses the National Gender Strategy’s points 4.1 (“promotion of women’s civil rights and their empowerment”) and 4.3 (“fighting gender-based violence”).



Signing of the agreement between AECID and Mauritania’s police force



Exchange visits between Spanish and Mauritanian police

Activities by the initiative that are related to point 4.1 include: (i) strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations that work on GBV, and (ii) coordinating the actions of various actors (justice, police, health, gendarmerie, etc.) to enable disadvantaged women's access to justice. Activities concerning point 4.3 involve : (i) enhancing and disseminating knowledge on GBV, (ii) facilitating women's access to GBV services, (iii) providing institutional, political and technical support to actors, including civil society, and (iv) raising awareness of GBV among key stakeholders (administrative staff and professionals of the judiciary, gendarmerie, police and health services) and the public.

Ownership: GBV was identified as a key issue to tackle by Spanish partners and Mauritania's Director-General of the Directorate General of National Security (DGSN), of the Ministry of the Interior. The Director-General appointed the Director of the Judiciary Police and the Director of Training as national focal points to lead the initiative's formulation with AECID. The commissioners responsible for minors' and women's brigades in Nouakchott's three *Wilayas* were also involved.

Sustainability and replicability

The initiative is part of the AECID's regional programme on good governance, 'Mazar', which addresses gender through advocacy. In the wake of the initiative's successes, its approach and activities can be replicated across Mauritania as a whole. The adoption of GBV procedures is a major marker of sustainability, particularly as these procedures are owned by Mauritania's police force. The initiative is also in a strong position to influence the judiciary's management of GBV cases because it prompted a request from Mauritania's national authorities to start judicial procedures. Therefore, the initiative's future activities should be complemented by training for judges on the legal framework related to GBV at both the national and international levels.



AECID's support for Mauritania's police force



Discussions between Spanish and Mauritanian representatives

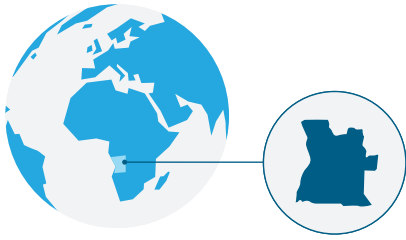
Conclusions and lessons learned

This initiative has contributed to advancing gender equality in Mauritania. Women survivors of GBV have greater access to justice and are less exposed to 'double victimisation' – that is, first by being subjected to violence and then being exposed to social stigma. To take forward the initiative's important outcomes, it should be scaled up through expanded training and the involvement of more police officers and judges.

Key lessons learned include:

- GBV in Mauritania should be tackled at different levels through complementary and intersectoral actions.
- More needs to be done to connect commissariats at the country level.
- The initiative's component of engaging with the judiciary, by training and raising the awareness of judges, should be included in every intervention of this kind.





EU DELEGATION TO ANGOLA

DITERCU: Direito à Terra na província do Cunene (Right to land in Cunene province)

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Angola

Region

West and Central Africa

Key themes

Women's access to land, gender and land, women's economic empowerment.

Budget

EUR 270,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Angola

Start year

2017

Partners

Foundation CODESPA, Development Aid People-to-People (ADPP – Ayuda de Desenvolvimento do Povo para o Povo)

Beneficiaries

1,418 farmers (800 women and 618 men)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

15

Indicator(s):

15.1, 15.2, 15.6, 15.7

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The DITERCU initiative seeks to build enabling conditions for women to safely access land, manage natural resources, make free decisions concerning customs and heritage, and be aware of their reproductive and productive roles. Undertaken in the complex geographical context of Cunene province, in southern Angola – a vast, remote area severely affected by climate change and poverty – the initiative addresses gender-discriminatory traditions that hinder women's access to land and control over natural resources. Due to deep-rooted customs, men are traditionally regarded as land owners, while women are seen solely as rural workers. Moreover, their rights as workers are not always safeguarded. Both of these trends have profound implications for women's economic and social rights.

DIRECTU adopts a dual-track approach to gender equality, which is treated both as a cross-cutting issue as well as a specific objective. The initiative's activities are designed to empower both rural communities to claim their right to land, and public institutions to respond to communities' needs. The initiative is considered a promising gender-transformative practice because it has prompted dialogue with local community leaders (known as "*sobas*") to contribute to redressing negative gender norms and customs that are harmful to gender equality.

Implementation

In order to achieve its goal of safeguarding the land rights of the most vulnerable rural populations in Cunene province – with a focus on women, the area's most economically marginalised group with limited rights to access or inherit land – DITERCU raises rural communities' awareness of the need to legally guarantee women's land rights, independently from their husbands or male relatives. This involves building the community's and traditional authorities' acceptance of women's autonomy. To this end, the initiative works to improve understandings of legal frameworks concerning land rights, as well as the enforcement of these frameworks. In tandem, the initiative promotes sustainable economic, environmental and social development in local communities.

Among DIRECTU's most important features are its contributions to upgrading conflict prevention and conflict resolution systems related to land ownership. This is enabling local authorities to start legal proceedings to protect communities' land rights. By creating mixed working groups of women and men, the initiative is successfully raising community awareness on women's rights to access and manage land – a major outcomes in terms of advancing gender equality. Overall, DIRECTU's initial results reveal that Cunene province's institutional system of land recognition, delimitation, cadastre, titration, registration and transfer has substantially improved.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

DITERCU addresses GAP II objective 15, on women's equal access to productive resources, with a specific focus on four of the objective's eight indicators. A gender analysis was used to design the initiative, and the regular collection of gender-disaggregated data informs its implementation. Cunene province's state gender equality mechanism, the Provincial Directorate for the Family and Women's Promotion, was involved in the initiative's design, which was also informed by consultations with several key stakeholders. These included rural communities, the Provincial Government of Cunene, the Provincial Council of Agriculture and Urban Development, the Fund for Social Support (FAS), the Institute of Agriculture Development (IDA), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The initiative also involves traditional leaders as key partners in policy dialogue on women's rights, in order to transform attitudes and practices that are not conducive to gender equality.

Key elements of the promising practice

DITERCU's comprehensive approach to ensuring safe access to land is especially notable. As discussed, this encompasses raising community awareness, developing local authorities' and public institutions' capacities, and creating an enabling environment to protect rural women's land rights. Policy dialogue with the *sobas* is an especially innovative element in Angola and is prompting a range of gender-transformative outcomes.

Championing and advocacy

DIRECTU addresses both duty bearers and rights holders in combating harmful gender norms and stereotypes. The initiative's conceptual framework is grounded on human rights treaties ratified by Angola², which affirm its commitment to women's rights to equal participation in political and public life. Specifically, the initiative's actions are relevant to article 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and articles 2, 14.2, 15.2 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW).

Sustainability and replicability

Tackling discriminatory gender norms is a catalyst for development in impoverished areas where poverty prevents the full realisation of human rights. When communities are aware of women's rights, effective mechanisms can be established to ensure that women's land rights are respected, and that disputes over land rights are settled in a fair, equitable manner.

The most significant change evoked by the initiative is at the individual level. Women farmers are becoming more independent as they have their own income and can make their own decisions, thus taking more control over their own lives. In turn, this reduces their vulnerability and the risk of their foregoing their rights to their territory. The initiative is also producing important results at the institutional level, although these are largely linked to individual behaviours and engagement, rather than broader institutional change. Officials at the Ministry of Justice are more aware and more willing to engage in policy dialogue with community leaders. Within communities, moreover, there is growing commitment and openness to receiving support for advancing gender equality.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The eradication of hunger and poverty, economic and social development, and the sustainable use of natural resources depend to a great extent on land rights and the ways in which women and men, communities and other stakeholders access land. In Angola, rural women carry out approximately 50 % of the work in rural areas, yet they possess only 5 % of the land. Cultural norms and traditions perpetuate male inheritance of family land; with no gender-sensitive review of family law or drafting of new gender-sensitive laws on the horizon, this is unlikely to change. Thus, while women in Cunene province are the main users of land for agricultural purposes and to support their families, but their rights to autonomously manage land is generally denied.

The DIRECTU initiative demonstrates the urgent need to ensure gender equality and equity in land rights. While it is important to value local customs – including as a source of law for the social systems of rural communities – the initiative highlights that these customs must not conflict with constitutional provisions or infringe human dignity. Respect for customs and the need to preserve the cultural legacy of Cunene's rural communities is essential, but at the same time, equal rights and opportunities for men and women must be guaranteed – ultimately, both are essential for fostering household and community development. In line with these findings, DITERCU focuses on minimising the negative effects of attitudes, practices and behaviours that do not uphold women's equal rights to land and the management of resources in Cunene province, particularly by addressing family and inheritance structures that disadvantage women in favour of their male family members.

² Angola has ratified the following human rights treaties: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Additional information

Angola became a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2019. During the latest Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle in 2014, the Government of Angola implemented a number of recommendations relevant to the DITERCU initiative, such as:

- Amend the Freedom of Information Act so that it complies with regional and international standards.
- Involve Angolan civil society organisations, notably those working in the field of human rights, in the implementation of the Government's human rights policy.
- Address persistent discriminatory practices that hinder the equal participation of women in the economic, social, political, and cultural spheres by encouraging education institutions and media practitioners to portray women as capable leaders and significant contributors to the growth and development of society.
- Increase women's access to employment, public life, education, housing and health through their full participation in political, economic, social and cultural life.
- Respect freedom of expression, opinion, association and peaceful assembly in accordance with Angola's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Improve the space for the free operation of independent media, including state media, reinforce monitoring and the sanctioning of abuses of media legislation, and create an enabling working environment for journalists.
- Establish transparent, non-discriminatory and expeditious procedures for the registration of civil society organisations.
- Promote and protect the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.
- Intensify endeavours to combat poverty at the local level and integrate vulnerable populations into the economy.
- Continue the development of programmes that aim to incorporate the participation and contribution of persons with disabilities in society.



Web pages

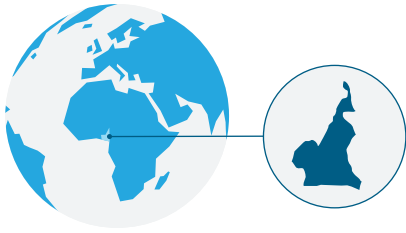
[ADPP Angola](#)

[CODESPA Angola](#)

Facebook page

[CODESPA Angola](#)





EU DELEGATION TO CAMEROON

LandCam: Securing land and resource rights and improving governance in the forest areas of Cameroon

Partially gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Cameroon

Region

West and Central Africa

Key themes

Women's access to land, gender and land, land reform, indigenous people

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Cameroon

Start year

2017

Partners

Centre for Environment and Development (CED), Network to fight hunger (Réseau de lutte contre la faim) (RELUFA), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Land Coalition (ILC), Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT), National Engagement Strategy (NES), Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPAR), Network of Traditional Leaders for the Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Central Africa (RECTRAD)

Beneficiaries

Traditional authorities/community leaders, Government of Cameroon, civil society platforms, local governments and the private sector

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

15

Indicator(s):

15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Cameroon's rich environmental diversity is under threat from climate change – particularly prolonged drought – aggravated by human activities, including mining, agribusiness, logging concessions and building large-scale infrastructure. This environmental crisis is prompting a surge in migration and internal displacement. As people must travel farther and farther afield in search of available land, conflicts between and among communities are growing. The situation is compounded by terrorist attacks by Boko Haram, exacerbating the tide of displacement from neighbouring countries, with over 87,000 refugees and 340,000 internally displaced people in the region. While food aid is the main response to this humanitarian crisis, underlying challenges such as access to land are not sufficiently addressed. Land in Cameroon, as in other parts of the world, is at the heart of ethnic and social conflicts between different groups – Bantu people vs indigenous people, herders vs farmers, elites vs communities, loggers and miners vs locals, etc. Inequalities are often exacerbated by private companies that, often with state support, monopolise large rural areas, leaving little room for indigenous people and local residents. Moreover, socio-cultural norms that perpetuate discrimination against women hamper women's right to own or access land and natural resources.

To strengthen Cameroon's ongoing land reform process, the LandCam initiative aims to improve governance in terms of land and forest management. As such, it supports dialogue between communities, the private sector, local governments and other stakeholders working on the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity – all with a view to improving land governance.

LandCam is informed by a comprehensive gender analysis, which shed light on the forms of discrimination that prevent women in Cameroon from accessing land and resources. These include customary norms that oblige women to leave their own communities when they marry, thereby foregoing the possibility of inheriting their families' land. To challenge harmful norms, the initiative facilitates dialogue between women and community leaders. The initiative's collaborative approach – involving working with the Government, private sector, civil society and communities – is proving highly successful and playing a role in informing the country's land reform process.

Implementation

LandCam supports Cameroon's reform of land and natural resource legislation by piloting approaches on the ground and helping citizens to participate in the reform process. It aims to: (i) strengthen capacity and pilot approaches in selected areas that enable stakeholders' voices to be heard and their rights to be secured; (ii) create spaces for more informed, effective and inclusive dialogue on designing and implementing reforms; and (iii) track land and natural resource governance, including legal reforms, and share lessons learned.

LandCam works with key actors to negotiate land and resource-related rights by fostering tangible good governance and the implementation of realistic legislative reforms. To this end, the initiative supports new spaces for dialogue and reflection that are better informed, more effective and more inclusive as they draw together the general public, the media and civil society alongside community leaders and officials.

In the initiative's three target districts, rural land is primarily governed by diverse customs and people often lack legal recognition or protection of their land rights. In the context of growing pressure on land – driven by a range of factors, from population growth to migration, large-scale infrastructure development and the expansion of agro-industrial plantations – promoting local-level dialogue and dispute resolution for conflicting land claims is more urgently needed than ever before. Thus, the initiative launched a Small Grants Programme to support innovative civil society approaches to land management – a scheme that will run throughout the LandCam's five-year implementation period (February 2017–December 2021). Through its first open, competitive call for proposals in 2018-2019, six civil society organisations were selected to receive the first round of grants. A total of EUR 100,000 was allocated to their projects, each of which will last for a maximum of one year and involve actions to secure land rights and facilitate women's and minorities' access to land. These organisations were selected in pilot and non-pilot areas, particularly in the regions of Adamaoua, the North, the Far North and the East.

To promote the participation of vulnerable social groups – including women, indigenous people and youth – in community land management, LandCam identifies gender-sensitive good practices in existing laws. To this end, a multi-stakeholder workshop on gender mainstreaming in forestry and land laws was held in Kribi in November 2018. More than 40 participants contributed to discussions and group work, including representatives of public administrations, civil society, community leaders, traditional chiefs, the media and decentralised territorial communities. The workshop presented the results of expert research and aimed to lay the foundation for a multi-stakeholder platform. Moreover, a detailed assessment of local gender issues was undertaken and good practices on gender mainstreaming in land and forest governance identified. Participants offered proposals for ongoing legislative reforms, such as the inclusion of gender quotas in all forest management entities and land advisory commissions, and the protection of girls' and widows' land rights in revised laws.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

LandCam addresses GAP II objective 15 on women's access to financial services and productive resources, as well as all related indicators. It contributes to the advancement of the GAP II as it is grounded on a thorough sectoral gender analysis, and actively involves gender experts, women's rights organisations and civil society. Moreover, the initiative enables policy dialogue with community leaders as a means of influencing change in aid of gender equality in terms of access to land and resources. To this end, LandCam also engages public sector stakeholders, the media and civil society in inclusive dialogue processes to track legal reforms and share lessons learned, both nationally and internationally.

The LandCam programme is considered partially gender-responsive as it responds to women's specific land-related needs, as identified in the gender analysis. Moreover, its results have the potential to become gender-transformative since its efforts to change traditional leaders' attitudes may lead to a cultural shift towards more equitable gender norms.

Key elements

LandCam entailed the first analysis of gendered access to land in Cameroon. A consortium of organisations working on land issues, environmental resources and women's rights provided inputs during the initiative's preparation. The Institute of Development Cooperation, which co-funds LandCam, provided gender experts who specialise in land issues.

The initiative developed a specific tool to assess and evaluate progress on gender equality in access to land in Cameroon. This tool is in line with international commitments to gender equality in land access. The results obtained through its use are poised to influence similar projects and other donors' initiatives. Moreover, as land security for women is a key issue for the GAP II, LandCam's focus is consistent with EU policies and strategies, as well as with policies in Cameroon. A high degree of national ownership of the initiative exists given the involvement of Cameroon's Ministry of Land.

By enabling productive dialogue between women and traditional leaders, as well as by working directly with local civil society organisations and community groups, LandCam is launching a small grants scheme and a series of bottom-up interventions to clarify legitimate land tenure rights in three districts. In all three areas, LandCam will collect land use data in a participatory manner, which will directly feed into social dialogue processes so that local stakeholders can make informed decisions about land use governance and planning.

Championing and advocacy

The gender analysis which enabled the initiative to better understand the root causes of discrimination against women in land access integrated an environmental assessment that examined patterns of access to land and land use in the different communities targeted by the initiative. This pinpointed specific elements to inform advocacy and policy dialogue, both with community leaders and government officials so as to improve women's land rights. Dialogue with community leaders is an especially innovative measure in Cameroon, yielding vital knowledge to inform the process of reforming land-related legislation. This reform process represents a major opportunity to strengthen land rights for local communities and marginalised groups, including women.

Sustainability and replicability

Through LandCam, the EU supports the Land Policy Initiative (LPI)² and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to implement the “Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)” and the “Framework and Guidelines on Land Policies in Africa (F&G)”, adopted by the African Union. In this framework, fifteen projects are being implemented in Africa – in Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland and Uganda.

LandCam’s 2018-2019 call for proposals for its small grants scheme was an important move to increase stakeholder commitment to improving land governance in Cameroon. The scheme is especially significant as it aims to deepen understandings of land and natural resource governance issues, possible solutions and the involvement of social actors, with a focus on gender equality issues. It also involves testing the design, scalability and replicability of an analysis or action tool, hand in hand with promoting dialogue between local stakeholders – running the gamut from community authorities to community members and businesses.

Conclusions and lessons learned

LandCam tackles the root causes of growing pressure on land by championing better land governance through a fair land reform process. The initiative’s inclusive approach marked by the participation of a wide range of stakeholders – spanning local and national authorities, civil society, indigenous communities, the private sector and the media – has successfully informed the land reform process, based on communities’ and other stakeholders’ needs and capabilities. LandCam’s facilitation of dialogue between women and traditional chiefs is a crucial driver of its success.



Discussions during the LandCam initiative

“

“A few years ago, the issue of land right was raised during a meeting with circa thirty traditional community chiefs. The project coordinator asked how women’s rights to access to land would be recognised. Two-thirds of them started laughing. He asked why they were laughing. One of them answered: ‘property on property’. Today this chief is one of the gender champions. The project bought-in many chiefs who see now women’s access to land as the best way forward.”

– Samuel Nguiffo,
Project Coordinator

² The Land Policy Initiative is a joint programme by a tripartite consortium, comprising the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). For more information, see: <https://landportal.org/organization/land-policy-initiative>

The following lessons learned are especially prescient:

- To achieve sustainable food security for all, it is important to prioritise the devolution of power to local authorities, while ensuring secure land tenure for displaced people and host communities.
- When land is scarce – such as near large towns characterised by major land-based investments – marginalised people, especially women, are at risk. When a city grows and investments come in, specific attention must be paid to women’s land rights.
- It is essential that environmental assessments take into account the differences between different actors in communities.

Additional information

Land Tenure Week in Yaoundé (21-25 January 2019) highlighted the need for capacity building on communications for advocacy purposes in order to improve gender relations in terms of land governance. The workshop specifically aimed to identify obstacles to collaborative communication, to provide tools whose use can increase women’s chances of being heard, and to train participants to be attentive, speak calmly and transform disagreements into opportunities for dialogue.

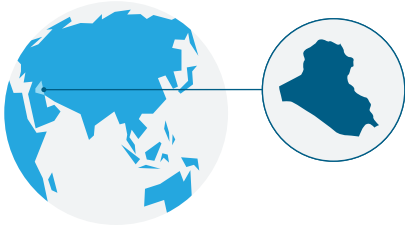
Through role-playing and exercises inspired by the daily challenges women face to accessing land and resources, participants put themselves in the shoes of different local land management stakeholders – including traditional leaders, administrative authorities, opinion leaders, and marginalised rural women, among others. This practical, participatory form of training enabled women to master communication techniques, to distinguish between negative and positive communication, to express their needs through advocacy, to express requests in positive ways and to identify potential allies for advocacy. In this way, it equipped women with tools to support them in claiming their rights to access land and resources, in line with one of LandCam’s central aims – to contribute to inclusive land management.



Website

[LandCam](#)





EU DELEGATION TO IRAQ

European Union capacity building in primary and secondary education: Improve quality and equality in Iraq

Gender-sensitive practice

Country/countries

Iraq

Region

Gulf States

Key themes

Equal access to education

Budget

EUR 14.7 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Iraq

Start year

2017

Partners

The British Council
Ministries of Education, Local and Social Affairs, and Planning of Iraq

Beneficiaries

50,000 students (components 1, 2, 3), 7,000 supervisors, 26,000 head teachers

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

13

Indicator(s):

13.1, 13.2, 15.8

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The initiative 'Capacity building in primary and secondary education: Improve quality and equality for Iraq' is part of the European Union's support to improve the quality and equality of the Iraqi education system. Support centres on strengthening institutional capacities in the education administration at the central and local levels, while promoting the decentralisation of education management. The EU has commissioned the services of the British Council to deliver 'quality and equality' education programmes through the EU Schools Programme in Iraq. The initiative's objectives are achieved through capacity building at the ministerial level for government counterpart, as well as at the local school level for teachers, counsellors, head teachers and supervisors, supported by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community organisations.

A thorough analysis of the local context was undertaken to inform the design of specific education programmes, encompassing case studies, surveys and focus group discussions. The analysis' findings shed light on gender-based discrimination as a major factor underlying high dropout rates among girls after Grade 5. Key issues include the distances girls must travel to attend school, a lack of sanitation facilities for girls, child marriage, early pregnancies, and the critical social and economic conditions of Iraqi families.

By developing a human science curriculum, paired with a school counselling system, inclusive education activities, and awareness raising campaigns, the project is increasing enrolment rates and reducing dropout rates in 1,000 Iraqi schools.

Implementation

The project has four components: (i) increasing enrolment rates and reducing dropouts through an analysis of the causes of dropouts, coupled with the development of strategies to address them; (ii) improving the quality of primary and secondary education by building capacities to enhance the curriculum, particularly in the area of human science and peace education, in addition to supporting children with special needs, including children with disabilities; (iii) increasing access to education for children with disabilities through the collection of baseline data, by updating legislation and the curriculum, and by providing capacity building and awareness raising; and (iv) raising the quality of education through enhanced quality assurance of schools against set standards.

Based on the finding of the initiative's research, it has delivered a national campaign entitled #am-not-leaving-school, trained 750 volunteer Active Citizens, and delivered more than 38 social action projects and activities in schools and communities concerning enrolment, retention and dropouts. In addition, the initiative project has established the 'Education Network' – a network of 35 local community-based organisations across Iraq that work to improve the school environment, strengthen links between schools and surrounding communities, activate parent-teacher associations, and improve physical access to schools for children with disabilities. To date, 21,205 parents and 40,721 children from 289 schools have benefited from these activities. Another direct impact is that over 1,500 children have been prevented from the risk of dropping out, and have been brought back to school.

The initiative has contributed to raising the quality of education by training 167 supervisors and counsellors as trainers equipped with basic counselling methodologies. Training has since cascaded, with the trained supervisors and counsellors in turn training another 2,294 counsellors in Baghdad, Anbar, Salah Adin, Basra and Ninawa.

A major achievement is the development and launch of the ten-year National Framework for Inclusive Education. In this context, 350 teachers from 15 institutes of the Ministry of Local and Social Affairs (MoLSA) for students who are deaf or have visual impairment were directly trained on modern teaching pedagogies. Moreover, 160 master trainers were trained inclusive education, who in turn trained more than 3,500 teachers and head teachers across Iraq.

In tandem, 7,058 supervisors (all supervisors in CSI and KRI) were trained on the external evaluation of schools. Data gathered thus far from the external evaluation of schools will provide insight into the state of education in Iraq. Results of the data analysis are being used to inform government policy on education.

All of these actions are increasing enrolment and reducing dropout rates in the 1,000 schools targeted by the initiative.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative was designed before the GAP II's approval. However, it is in line with GAP II objective 13 as it mainstreams gender in the promotion and delivery of quality, inclusive education.

Gender expertise is used to assess the initiative's phases and components. A gender focal person is cooperating to build a network of gender focal persons operating in Iraq's education sector.

Although the project does not work directly with the national gender equality mechanism, it undertakes policy dialogue on gender issues with partner institutions, such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Local and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Planning.

Other elements that are aligned with the GAP II are the initiative's support for research, including the collection of sex-disaggregated data, and its work with the media to promote gender equality in education.

Key elements of the promising practice

The initiative's activities were designed based upon the findings of field research that capture the views of vulnerable girls and boys – including children with disabilities – who are enrolled in school, and those who are currently out of school. The assessment of gender-based discrimination has informed actions to prevent girls' from dropping out. These include raising the awareness of parents and communities, equipping schools with sanitation facilities for girls, working at the school level to improve aspects that enhance girls' learning experience, and activating parent-teacher associations.

In the context of the initiative's communications and visibility framework, an enrolment campaign has been launched and a range of social media groups formed. Within these WhatsApp and Facebook groups, over 70 per cent of Iraqi supervisors are involved in the 'Supervisors for tomorrow' group. The initiative's Facebook page, launched in July 2018, has over 29,000 followers, a monthly reach of over 800,000 and over one million views. The video and campaign song reached 20,000 people within a day of their launch.

Championing and advocacy

The #am-not-leaving-school campaign has been rolled out in the original project districts thanks to the initiative's close collaboration with local NGOs and the media. Its impact has been pronounced, inspiring other educators and communities to take it forward. The Directorate General of Education has led a similar campaign, with similar campaigns launched in the provinces of Karbala and Diwaniya. Many local NGOs have expressed an interest in working voluntarily and joining the #am-not-leaving-school campaign. As a result, many NGOs have joined the established network of local NGOs, the Education Network, to maximise the initiative's impact.

Initial impacts of the #am-not-leaving-school campaign and its social model include:

- 400 children were offered the chance to come back to school in the Radwaniya district of Baghdad. Most are internally displaced children, or children from low income backgrounds in a village without a primary school. Car accidents were a daily occurrence as children crossed the highway to get to school. Access challenges are a leading cause of girls' high dropout rates.
- Awareness raising efforts engaged parents to prevent early marriage of parents. Ten girls who married at an early age, and then divorced, were brought back to school, most notably in southern Iraq.
- Community members launched donation campaigns to purchase wheelchairs and walking sticks for children with disabilities, in order to support them to go to school.
- 1,000 students from 2 schools were saved from the risk of dropping out.
- Five Reading Clubs have been established. These use modern technology and modern pedagogy to encourage students' learning progress. The next step will be to move these clubs into schools.
- Seven Resource Rooms have been established in schools to enforce inclusive education for children with disabilities in mainstream schools.
- Four Rehabilitation Centres have been set up in Baghdad to provide services for out-of-school children, including enhancing their skills to prepare them to re-enter the formal education system. These centres place a particular focus on children with learning difficulties, and those who have suffered trauma.

Sustainability and replicability

Awareness raising activities, at both the household and community levels, are producing positive change in aid of equal access to education for all children affected by the conflict. These can be replicated in other parts of the country.

The direct training of 234 school counsellors from the post-conflict areas of Ninawa, Anbar and Salah Adin, coupled with follow up, has contributed to a substantial change in the approach and techniques used by counsellors working with students affected by conflict. The initiative has also prompted changes as a result of its focus on increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Education to increase the enrolment rate. This contributes to the sustainability of the initiative's results, as does policy dialogue and collaboration with other line ministries, such as the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Planning.

The use of social media platforms to communicate the initiative's objectives and messages to a wide audience has been essential, both for disseminating information and for raising community awareness. The development of professional networks linked to each of the initiative's components has been equally important.



“Education should be like rain; it falls on everyone without discrimination.”

– 10-year-old Iraqi child

Conclusions and lessons learned

The initiative is implemented amid severe security challenges and uncertainty, coupled with significant organisational complexity. Project delivery occurs in socially and politically volatile circumstances, with logistical and communications difficulties.

People in the target areas of Iraq's Kurdistan region, and central and southern Iraq, are not against education for girls. However, circumstances prevent families from sending girls to school, such as poverty. More focused actions should be put in place to promote education for girls at all levels.

Additional information



Puppet performances in rural schools on the outskirts of Baghdad



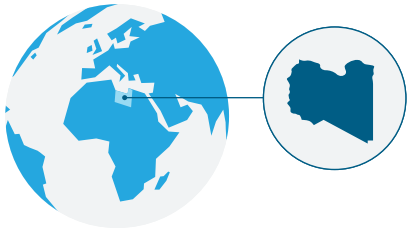
Project logo



The #am-not-leaving-school [campaign logo](#) was designed by a young volunteer from Mosul who dropped out of school and had to leave Iraq because of the war. He returned and became involved in one of the project's training workshops on school enrolment.

Facebook page

[Capacity Building in Primary and Secondary Education](#)



EU DELEGATION TO LIBYA

Towards resilience and the social inclusion of
adolescents and young people in Libya

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Libya

Region

EU Neighbourhood Policy and
Enlargement Negotiations, and
Russia

Key themes

Youth, social inclusion

Budget

EUR 3.6 million (total EU
contribution: EUR 3 million)

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Libya (temporarily relocated to Tunis, Tunisia)

Start year

2016

Partners

UNICEF

Beneficiaries

Technical training: 1,400 youths (700 girls and 700 boys)
Psychosocial support: 1,277 youths (533 girls and 744 boys)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

13

Indicator(s):

13.10

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Since the revolution in 2011, Libya has experienced two civil wars that have seriously fragmented the country and put its population under extreme strain. The high unemployment rate, disruption of public services, social insecurity and a lack of safety are among the consequences of war. Humanitarian aid struggles to reach those in need as conflicts continue between opposing factions and armed militias. Human right violations are a daily occurrence; their consequences will affect generations to come.

The three-year initiative, 'Towards resilience and the social inclusion of adolescents and young people in Libya', promotes young people's cultural and social rights, and supports their psychosocial well-being. Implemented by UNICEF, the initiative's aims are two-fold: to empower youth through awareness raising and life skills training, and developing a youth and gender policy through good practices.

To achieve these aims, the initiative provides psychosocial support, offers vocational education and training, spearheads peace-building initiatives, and enables reintegration activities. In the framework of psychosocial support, a special service is included to support children who have suffered sexual abuse.

Due to the extremely insecure conditions in Libya, women's mobility is heavily restricted. As such, in order to ensure that 50 % of participants are girls, some activities have taken place in other countries.

Implementation

The initiative focuses on young people because they represent the majority of Libya's population and are particularly threatened by human rights violations. Boys are especially at risk of being forcibly recruited by armed groups, while girls are increasingly exposed to gender-based violence.

Implemented in four municipalities – Al-Bayda, Sebha, Zintan and Zuwara – the initiative equally targets adolescent girls and boys. Its specific objective is to increase youth's access to, and participation in, non-formal education, livelihood activities, social protection mechanisms, and recreational and cultural programmes. It also strives to increase young women's and men's positive engagement in peace-building initiatives across the country.

Another aspect of the initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of local and national authorities for the development of gender mainstreaming policies, based on good practices. Gender equality issues are specifically targeted through awareness raising campaigns on harmful practices and negative coping strategies. These are rife in some communities, ranging from child military recruitment, to child and forced marriage.

A range of actors are involved in the initiative's activities, parents, families, teachers, youth organisations, civil society organisations, the private sector, local government bodies and community leaders.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative is considered gender-transformative because it tackles harmful practices that threaten the security and human rights of young people in Libya. The initiative also specifically addresses GAP II objective 13, on women's and girls' equal access to quality education and training.

Thanks to the initiative, dialogue on harmful practices has been initiated with communities and local authorities in all four municipalities. This dialogue is contributing to raising awareness of gender equality and the gender-related dimensions of harmful practices.

The initiative is also relevant to the advancement of the GAP II because it collects sex-disaggregated data and applies a 50 % gender quota in all activities. The initiative takes gender mainstreaming in education and child protection into account. Furthermore, societal barriers to gender equality are targeted in the framework of a cooperation agreement on education between UNICEF and Libya's central authorities.

Key elements of the promising practice

Since its conception, the initiative has centred on rights holders. A consultative workshop was organised in Tunis with young people and civil society organisations to discuss the initiative's themes and define interventions. The participants' feedback and ideas have informed the initiative's design.

The initiative's impacts have included increased psychosocial well-being among young people, well-established recreational activities, and successful vocational training, particularly in the municipality of Zintan. Here, some 1,300 children and adolescents were involved. The involvement of local authorities and community stakeholders is ensuring high levels of acceptance and mitigating resistances around young people's social and cultural rights.

Championing and advocacy

While local authorities and communities in the target municipalities are in favour of youth empowerment, resistances abound to tackling gender-based violence. This issue needs to be addressed indirectly. However, the initiative has found ways to address broader women's empowerment issues in awareness raising and training activities.

Knowledge products and information materials are produced in the framework of the initiative's awareness raising actions. These incorporate gender equality messages, including on gender-based human rights violations.

The development of a youth policy with a gender perspective, based on good practices, will offer a chance for broader advocacy on gender equality, including for combatting gender-based violence.

Sustainability and replicability

All of the initiative's activities are sustainable as they contribute to producing a culture of peace, rights and justice.

Local authorities, particularly in the municipality of Zintan, have provided useful feedback on the approach used by UNICEF to provide psychosocial support. This has proved extremely helpful for traumatised youth and adolescents coping with the consequences of conflict.

Other activities – such as the establishment of a child-friendly award, and vocational education and training – have significant potentials for replication and sustainability.

Discussions with the private sector and non-state actors are on-going to expand youth's access to services and employment opportunities. This represents another way of strengthening the initiative's long-term sustainability. In this context, a focus on Libyan women's empowerment is coming to the fore. Specific advocacy, including political statements, are being delineated.



The EU and UNICEF support youth social inclusion in Libya

Conclusions and lessons learned

This initiative has highlighted the urgent importance of addressing gender equality and women's empowerment in Libya.

Lessons learned from the initiative include:

- It is important to find ways of addressing gender-based violence that do not offend the sensibilities of local populations, which might aggravate resistances at the local level.
- Women's empowerment and access to services must be addressed, both in terms of service delivery as well as awareness raising activities.
- Social norms that underlie gender-based discrimination must be challenged.
- It is useful to organise training activities in less theoretical and more practical ways.
- Women's political participation in Libya should be discussed and fostered more.
- There is a need to strengthen coordination between EU Member States to advance gender equality in partner countries.

Additional information



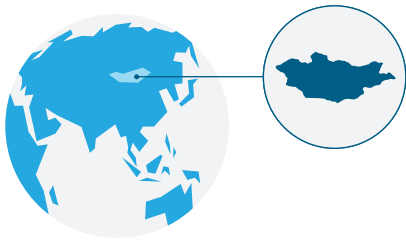
Website

[European Neighbourhood Policy And Enlargement Negotiations focus Libya](#)

News item

[EU and UNICEF support youth social inclusion in Libya](#)





EU DELEGATION TO MONGOLIA

Trade-Related Assistance for
Mongolia (TRAM)

Gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Mongolia

Region

Asia and the Pacific

Key themes

Gender and trade, women's economic and social rights, the empowerment of women and girls

Budget

EUR 4.5 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Mongolia

Start year

2017

Partners

GOPA consultant

Beneficiaries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Food Safety and Agriculture, Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mongolian Employer's Association, Mongolian Exporters' Association, Association of Women Entrepreneurs (in the Chamber of Commerce), Chamber of Commerce

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

15

Indicator(s):

15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

While Mongolia has a critical mass of well-educated women, access to leadership for women is still an issue. Particularly in male-dominated sectors, such as trade, women's representation remains at the lowest levels of the management chain – for instance, 90 % of private companies are headed by men. One of the most critical issues is the lack of awareness about the root causes of discrimination against women in business leadership and top management positions. Misconceptions about women's labour needs and interests are common, leading to gender-based discrimination and inequalities in the labour market.

Initiated in March 2017, the Trade-Related Assistance for Mongolia (TRAM) programme aims to enhance Mongolia's international trade and economic diversification, in order to contribute to sustainable economic growth and development, while reducing poverty and external vulnerabilities. The project has three components: trade policy and regulation, trade facilitation by providing secretariat support, and export development. Four sectors have been identified to increase exports to the European Union and clusters have been established. The programme has stipulated that at least 40 % of participants in capacity building activities must be women; in 2018, 60 % of the participants were women. Within the programme, a successful strategic partnership exists with the Association of Women Entrepreneurs within the Chamber of Commerce.

The programme is gender-responsive because it strongly supports women's participation in capacity building, advocates for women's increasing presence in the government (as ministers and vice-ministers), and contributes to the overall goal of addressing gender-based discrimination as a central part of fomenting sustainable development.

Implementation

The TRAM programme contributes to the strategic goals of Mongolia's Action Plan 2016-2020, such as the diversification of the structure of the economy, reducing vulnerability from commodity price fluctuations, and easing pressures related to the balance of payments. Its purpose is to strengthen capacities and support Mongolia's public institutions and private sector to develop and deliver effective trade policy initiatives, with a special focus on specific products/sectors with high export potential.

The envisaged results are to enhance policy dialogue, government capacity, and processes for trade policy formulation and negotiation; to effectively implement measures to reduce trade costs, including the mainstreaming of trade policy in the policies of other sectors; and to strengthen the institutional capacity of the private sector, intermediary organisations and other trade-related non-state actors, with a view to more effectively supporting private enterprises and engaging effectively with state institutions.

During the programme's inception period, interviews were held with all stakeholders to identify themes, objectives, and involve relevant partners. The Chamber of Commerce recommended including the Association of Women Entrepreneurs, a leading organisation comprising 80 companies headed by women.

In 2018, the association facilitated the creation of new start-ups managed by women. The programme aims to award the most successful women's enterprises every two years. Women are also well-represented in the capacity building activities (as noted above, they represented 60 % of participants in 2018). Capacity building involves training on export development, international requirements, nation branding, standards, rules of origin, and certifications schemes to promote trade. It also involves support for business organisations to prepare for Mongolian enterprises' participation in international trade fairs, business-to-business meetings, and business matchmaking.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The TRAM programme is aligned with GAP II objective 15, on women's access to financial services, and all related indicators. While no gender expertise or gender analysis was used in the formulation of the programme, gender was taken into account as a principal cross-cutting issue for all programmes financed by the EU in Mongolia.

As the programme monitors the number of women in leadership positions in Mongolia, it contributes to the availability of gender-related data that the GAP II identifies as an important issue. In line with GAP II requirements and EU policies, the EU Delegation to Mongolia commissioned a country gender profile in July 2018.

The programme also contributes to policy dialogue on gender equality with Mongolian counterparts. This is mainly carried out by showcasing positive examples of women-headed enterprises.

Key elements of the promising practice

The TRAM programme is relevant as it sets a gender quota for capacity building (i.e. at least 40 % of participants should be women). This quota was so successfully implemented that 60% of the participants in training sessions were women. Their participation gave more women the opportunity to refine their business skills and pursue leadership positions. Women are especially active in some of the clusters created by the programme. The use of clusters may be considered innovative as it enables specialisation, interaction and collaboration between partners from different institutions. In some clusters, only women are active. Another notable element of the programme is its use of acting performances to raise awareness, particularly as part of life skills training activities for students enrolled in vocational education and training schools.

Championing and advocacy

Mongolia has adopted all international agreements on gender equality, which is also a pre-condition for collaboration with the European Union. The partnership between Mongolia and the EU may be considered a determining factor in the success of the TRAM programme.

Other important factors include the active role of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs, which infuses the programme with in-depth knowledge of Mongolian women's strategic interests, practical needs, and know-how on overcoming obstacles.

The active role of Mongolia's Chamber of Commerce is also worth highlighting. In 2018, in the framework of the programme, the Chamber of Commerce organised an exchange of experiences between Mongolian entrepreneurs and 30 rural women entrepreneurs from India.



First steering committee meeting, 1 December 2017

Sustainability and replicability

In addition to capacity building, which contributes immensely to sustainability, the programme focuses on awareness raising on gender equality. Gender-based discrimination and inequalities in the world of work are still common in Mongolia, such as with respect to maternity leave and application processes which ask young women whether they plan to form a family.

An innovative action within the Mongolian context has been the use of an acting performance at vocational and training schools to raise awareness on these issues, while advocating for gender justice and equality. Rising awareness of gender-based discrimination will make the TRAM programme increasingly sustainable.



Training session, 6 November 2017

Conclusions and lessons learned

The TRAM programme successfully mainstreamed gender in large part due to the GAP II and EU policy guidelines. A lack of gender expertise has been identified as an issue to be immediately addressed. Both at the EU Delegation level, and within partner organisations, there is a need to improve the quantity and quality of gender expertise. While the programme's design would have benefited from gender analysis, the new country gender profile will be used during implementation phase to evaluate on-going activities. The involvement of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs in the programme, moreover, is allowing the programme to integrate a greater focus on gender equality and to adopt a gender perspective.

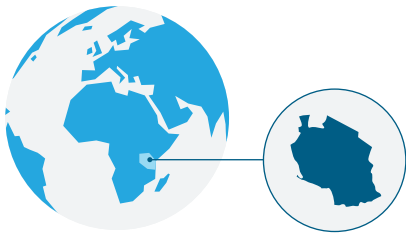
Additional information



Facebook page

[TRAM Project](#)





EU DELEGATION TO TANZANIA

Implementation of the Tanzania
Energy Efficiency Plan

Partially gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Tanzania

Region

East and Central Africa

Key themes

Gender-responsive energy, women's access to energy resources, gender equality in vocational education and training

Budget

EUR 8 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Tanzania

Start year

2018

Partners

Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Science and Technology, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Programme Secretariat and Gender Desk, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), Rural Energy Agency (REA), Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) (German Agency for International Cooperation)

Beneficiaries

300 women and 300 men by 2020 (vocational education and training)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

16

Indicator(s):

16.6, 13.10

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The 'Implementation of the Tanzania Energy Efficiency Plan' initiative supports national efforts to implement the Government of Tanzania's Sustainable Energy for All Gender Action Plan (SEforALL GAP), adopted in December 2018. This document represents a strategic tool for the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative in Tanzania, and promotes gender equality and women's empowerment. It should be noted that a national Gender Policy is currently under review.

The initiative contributes to increased accountability and implementation of gender equality commitments. It focuses on: (i) the preparation of a gender-responsive programme for career development in the energy sector – for energy auditors, experts and entrepreneurs, and (ii) awareness raising in technical institutions, higher learning institutions and implementing entities within SE4ALL (TANESCO, REA and EWURA)² through the Ministry of Science and Technology, in collaboration with SE4ALL secretariat and Gender Desk. The related actions consist of sensitising women students or staff to venture into science/engineering subjects and enable them to pursue renewable energy and energy efficiency courses. The initiative also involves (iii) internships for women students to work in different areas of specialisation in the energy sector, with a view to obtaining first-hand experience.

The initiative contributes to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals – particularly SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, and SDG 5 on gender equality – and the global SEforALL programme.

Implementation

This initiative aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in Tanzania by improving the efficiency of energy supplies and consumption. Streamlined energy efficiency actions seek to make Tanzania's energy more sustainable, gender-inclusive and climate smart. This will result in quantifiable energy savings, while promoting gender-inclusive skills development, job creation, investment in energy efficient infrastructure, and clean energy technologies.

The initiative involves a range of actions:

- (i) strengthening the legal, regulatory and institutional set up (including administrative actions) to support the implementation and introduction of energy efficiency (Result 1);
- (ii) identifying and implementing quantifiable investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures by designated consumers (Result 2);
- (iii) developing capacity and skills, and supporting new jobs and employability, particularly for women and youth, in the energy efficiency and renewable energy and technology sector (Result 3); and
- (iv) increasing public awareness, access to information, stakeholder dialogue and the visibility of the financial, economic and societal benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy (Result 4).

These objectives and results were defined to contribute to the Government's efforts to implement its Energy Efficiency Action Plan. To this end, actions will also focus on the development of a legal, regulatory and institutional framework to create a platform for the implementation of energy efficiency. This will include a number of regions engaged in spearheading energy efficiency actions, and a number of designated consumers adopting energy efficiency measures, thereby leading to savings.

The initiative is a promising practice because it supports women's access to, and representation, in the energy sector, which is generally male-dominated. Moreover, the initiative engages in a close partnership and policy dialogue with the Ministry of Energy to promote women's voices and interests. As an outcome of this dialogue, the ministry appointed a Gender Focal Person and developed a Gender Action Plan for the energy sector.

The initiative has also established strong cooperation with the Tanzania Gender Sustainable Energy Network (TANGSEN), which plays a crucial role in promoting women's representation in the energy sector. A specific training session was organised with TANGSEN on gender mainstreaming in the energy sector, in which both government and development partners participated.

² The Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) was launched by the UN-Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon in 2011. The government of Tanzania fully embraces the SE4ALL objective to which it contributes through its energy management agencies: TANESCO, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited; REA, Rural Energy Agency; and EWURA, Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority.

In terms of impacts, the initiative aims to contribute to: (i) changing women's attitudes and behaviour towards entering studies and taking on jobs in the energy sector, and (ii) an institutional shift in universities and training institutes by developing gender-responsive course curricula, undertaking activities that will attract more women students, and promoting internships for women in public institutions.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

While the initiative was formulated before the GAP II was approved, it addresses one of the GAP II's objectives – namely objective 16, which concerns women's equal access and control over energy. In addition, the existence of the GAP II makes the initiative's partners and the EU Delegation more aware of the need to promote women's voice and participation in the energy sector, particularly in dialogues with the Government and other stakeholders.

In the framework of the initiative, the EU Delegation has organised a number of consultation meetings to ensure the involvement of a range of stakeholders – including the Government, TANGSEN and other development cooperation partners, such as Sweden and Germany, among others. The training delivered by TANGSEN on gender mainstreaming in the energy sector contributed to increasing government representatives' knowledge of how to mainstream gender, contributing to a gender-sensitive action due to be implemented. The added value of TANGSEN's involvement as a partner in the initiative is immense, given their knowledge, expertise and commitment.

Cooperation with GIZ was initially considered, with GIZ contributing financially to the initiative. GIZ provided gender experts who conducted a gender analysis, which offered strong insights into gender gaps in Tanzania's energy sector. The analysis was undertaken prior to the initiative's design and its recommendations were used to inform the initiative. Valuable information on gender gaps and patterns was also gained through the use of gender expertise to develop the *Gender Profile: Energy* within the Governance Helpdesk Tanzania. This shed light on various issues addressed by the initiative, such as women's economic empowerment; income generation and opportunities for women, men and youth; families' well-being, health and education; the different consumer patterns of women and men; and access to sex-disaggregated data. This information is used during the initiative's implementation.

Policy dialogue is another important aspect of the initiative, including on gender equality issues. During the design process, intensive policy dialogue was conducted with the Government. Policy dialogue contributed to the development of a 20-year Energy Efficiency Strategy, and will support the Government to implement the Sustainable Energy for All Gender Action Plan.

Key elements of the promising practice

Tanzania's national commitments and supportive EU policies have been determining factors for the successful design of the initiative. Inputs from TANGSEN regarding gender mainstreaming in the energy sector have been especially valuable. It is also significant that EU policies and strategies define both gender equality and energy efficiency as priority issues. The Council Conclusions on Energy and Development of November 2016 stress the need for a strategic EU approach to cooperation and development in energy, in order to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.

The expected benefits of the initiative are institutional, financial, economic and societal, including:

- effective enforcement, compliance and monitoring through a legal, regulatory and institutional set up;
- energy savings as a result of reduced energy costs, ensured through the use of the most cost-effective mix of energy-saving measures;
- the increased capacity of energy efficiency specialists and auditors, particularly women and youth;
- the development of a gender-responsive course syllabus, focusing on energy efficiency and sustainable energy solutions;
- an increased number of women choosing to study science and engineering, as well as to work in the energy sector; and
- greater public gender-sensitivity and awareness of progress made for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan.

Expected changes in the institutional culture include:

- changes in the syllabus and the activities of course providers (including at universities) to promote women to work as engineers and energy auditors, particularly with more women at the management level; and
- greater awareness of gender equality issues in the energy sector among EU Delegation staff, and more knowledge of how to promote women and gender equality in the context of the productive use of energy.

Championing and advocacy

The initiative has contributed to championing energy efficiency, and some activities have been integrated in Tanzania's Gender Action Plan for the energy sector.

The initiative also addresses traditional gender norms and roles that limit women's opportunities to enter the energy labour market. To this end, it advocates for an increased number of women studying science and engineering, both of which are male-dominated sectors.

As gender-biased indoor pollution especially affects women and children, these issues are tackled through a new complementary programme on clean cooking, which is in the pipeline.

The initiative did not experience direct resistance from communities or the Government. However, some gender-related challenges are expected at the family and individual level, as women are not expected to choose to enter male-dominated studies or labour market sectors. Thus, the initiative's planned public relations actions will include gender-sensitive awareness campaigns and high-profile public events to address these challenges.

Sustainability and replicability

The appointment of Gender Focal Persons in the Ministry of Energy, following the policy dialogues held during the initiative's design phase with the Government and development partners, is an important contribution towards sustainability. Other key contributions to sustainability are made by the initiative's gender-sensitive awareness raising campaign and high-profile public events, which contribute to addressing the gender stereotypes that prevent women from entering science and engineering.

The initiative also focuses on close collaboration with course providers to facilitate the development of a gender-sensitive syllabus and activities that will attract women to pursue careers in the energy sector.

Another innovative element of the initiative is the active involvement and knowledge of TANGSEN, which is particularly significant for engaging with government and development partners. The unique network acted as an 'eye-opener' for the EU Delegation, identifying which gender-related issues to address and how to mainstream gender in the energy sector. The establishment of such networks should be encouraged, which could be included as part of Gender Action Plans for the energy sector. However, it is important to remember that such networks should be locally driven, and that initial funding may be required.

A number of aspects of the initiative could be replicated, such as:

- providing gender-sensitive training that increase awareness, knowledge and skills;
- creating new job opportunities for women in the energy sector by, for instance, attracting women to enrol in science and engineering courses, promoting women to management positions, and offering internship opportunities for young women students and graduates; and
- undertaking gender audits of energy supply companies to identify and understand gender gaps, and to be able to address them.

Conclusions and lessons learned

This initiative will contribute to new career paths for women in the energy sector. It will also provide tailor-made trainings for women engineers, energy auditors and managers.

As a development partner active in the energy sector, the EU Delegation has developed a gender equality change statement for the energy sector:

“The full and equal participation of women and men is indispensable to foster sustainable development. Energy is a key enabler for development, but prevailing power structures and attitudes widely hinder women from thriving as energy users, service providers, entrepreneurs and change agents. Energy-related interventions must, therefore, include the social, economic and professional empowerment of women.”

The change statement will be complemented by concrete action.

Resistance at the household level may prevent women from pursuing careers in Tanzania’s male-dominated energy sector. Facilitating access for women to enter the energy labour market is a new area that will require long-term support and awareness raising efforts.

Additional information



Website

[Sustainable Energy for All Gender Action Plan 2018](#)





CZECH REPUBLIC

Strengthening the Resilience of Crisis-Affected Communities in Rakhine State, Myanmar

Gender-sensitive, partly gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Myanmar

Region

Asia and the Pacific

Key themes

Vocational education and training; employment; resilience of forcibly displaced.

Budget

CZK 5 million (EUR 195,552¹)
EUR 170,772 (to the Lutheran World Federation in 2018)

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Czech Republic

Start year

2018

Partners

Czech Republic development cooperation, Lutheran World Federation, Czech Evangelical Diaconia, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Myanmar State Department of Social Welfare, Township Agriculture/Livestock/Fishery Offices, Camp Management Committees, School Management Committees, women's groups

Beneficiaries

250 right-holders per year
1,450 school children (45% girls) (2018)
39 teachers (49% women) (2018)
367 households (43% women-headed households) (2018)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020²

Priorities:



Objective(s):

14

- 1 Estimates calculated as per the exchange rate at the start of the programme based on the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates. For more information, see: <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>
- 2 *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

In 2018, the Czech Republic supported the project, 'Strengthening the Resilience of Crisis Affected Communities in Rakhine State', in line with Czech humanitarian assistance and cooperation strategies. The initiative is part of the Lutheran World Federation's and Czech Evangelical Diaconia's assistance for displaced communities who are discriminated against due to their ethnic origin and religious affiliation, particularly with the upsurge in fighting between the Arakan Army Forces and Myanmar's military.

A thorough gender analysis enabled the project to understand the delicate local context, identify gaps and areas of intervention, and devise ways of responding to the situation on the ground. Informed by this analysis, the project specifically addresses gender-based discrimination by sensitising families and communities, while targeting women heads of households and girls between the ages of 15 and 18. The approach combines basic services – such as shelter, clean water, sanitation, food, and disaster risk reduction activities – with a focus on supporting women's access to vocational education and training, literacy courses, marketing opportunities and support for startups (including grants and equipment). As such, women and girls can improve their technical skills and engage in entrepreneurship. The project's support enables an average of 250 rights holders per year to meet their needs and those of their families through income generation and the creation of micro-businesses.

Supporting women's livelihoods has evoked substantial changes in their lives. A focus on gender equality and women's economic empowerment contributed to improving women's positions and power relations in both the private and public spheres among Rohingya Muslim and ethnic Rakhine communities. Beneficiary women have become more independent, and their human rights increasingly acknowledged by men in their families and communities. Women's participation in decision-making processes has also improved. Livelihood interventions have also had a positive effect on social cohesion by enabling interaction between communities. Moreover, the action supplied the international community with evidence of gender-based discrimination and violence, including at the UN Human Rights Council through the Universal Periodic Review.

Implementation

As of the end of 2018, beneficiaries included 1,450 school age children (45% of whom are girls), 39 teachers (49% of whom are women) and 367 households (43% of which are women-headed households). The project's support enables an average of 250 rights holders per year to meet their needs and those of their families via income generation and micro-business creation.

The project's implementing partners – the Lutheran World Federation and the Czech Evangelical Diaconia – successfully applied a gender-responsive approach with the support of a human rights expert, aided by training on gender-responsive programming for key staff. As discussed, the gender analysis conducted during the project design stage was crucial for understanding specific social, cultural and economic barriers to gender equality. In response to its findings, the project designed interventions to engage women in training and economic opportunities, as well as the sensitisation of families and the community on women's rights. It provided beneficiaries with combined assistance vis-à-vis education, livelihoods, human rights, and women's and girls' voice and participation. These efforts contributed to changing women's positions and power relations at the family and community levels. Furthermore, the project supported partners' long-term programmes to reduce poverty and end ethnically-motivated discrimination.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The project addresses GAP II thematic objective 14 ("access to decent work").³ Key staff received training on gender-responsive programming, which enabled them to carry out an effective gender analysis to inform the project. This gender analysis was crucial for understanding social, cultural and economic barriers to gender equality, such as the impact which displacement and restrictive gender norms have on women's economic independence. Internally displaced persons, Rohingya Muslim and ethnic Rakhine communities in Myanmar face unique challenges in the wake of recent violence. When they are internally displaced, women and girls are particularly exposed to different forms of vulnerability, such as child marriage, gender-based violence, bias in education, gender segregation and exclusion from household and community level leadership and decision-making. The trauma of displacement has compounded socio-cultural norms that limit gender equality by restricting women to domestic care work, ignoring their potential, capacities and rights, and excluding them from public participation, decision-making, benefit-sharing and economic independence.

³ Objective 14: "Access to decent work for women of all ages".

Key elements of the promising practice

The project seeks to address specific challenges in the context of Rakhine state, where humanitarian and development agencies are stymied by a lack of access to areas beset by crisis, and women often bear the brunt of restrictive gender norms – compounded by displacement – that limit their rights, well-being and economic opportunities. The atrocities suffered by the Rohingya community have produced a high degree of fear, anxiety and psycho-social disorders. Challenges are especially pronounced for displaced women and girls, who are exposed to high levels of gender-based violence, child or early marriage, education bias, and exclusion from leadership and decision-making. In line with humanitarian response in Myanmar, particularly the Czech Republic Humanitarian Assistance and Cooperation Strategies, the partners' rights-based and humanitarian-development-peace approach support women and girls to build their confidence and self-esteem, while voicing their needs and aspirations. Following the initial provision of shelter, access to clean water and food, the project offers beneficiaries education, vocational training, business start-up support and marketing opportunities. As discussed, livelihood support enables tangible changes in women's lives, helping them become economically independent and able to make decisions at the family and community levels. In tandem, men and boys – who are considered “natural leaders” of families and communities in Rakhine state – have begun to recognise the rights of women and girls.

Championing and advocacy

Throughout the project, the Lutheran World Federation worked closely with the State Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and township-level Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Offices which provide technical skills training related to sewing, vegetable growing, livestock rearing and fish farming. Community-based institutions – including Camp Management Committees, School Management Committees and women's groups – are also involved as direct implementers, working with right-holders. Among their efforts, partners engage in local level discussions and dialogues on women's rights and livelihood opportunities. The project provided evidence of gender-based discrimination and violence, collected by the partners, to international fora, such as the UN Human Rights Council through the Universal Periodic Review.

Sustainability and replicability

The project's focus on livelihood support for women strengthens gender equality and women's empowerment – the aim of SDG 5 (“Gender Equality”) – by seeking to dismantle the social, cultural, physical and economic barriers that women face, while creating space for women to exercise their rights. Cooperation with government stakeholders at the state, township and village levels, as well as with the private sector, boosts sustainability, ownership and poverty reduction, in line with SDG 1 (“No Poverty”).

Conclusions and lessons learned

Women's economic empowerment is strategic to dismantle social, cultural, physical and economic barriers to women, and to create space for them to claim and enjoy their rights and entitlements.

The project describes its approach as gender-responsive, rights-based and focused on ‘do no harm’ – blending humanitarian, development and peace-building approaches. This approach has helped to build women and girls' confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to voice their needs and aspirations. The project is underscored by a strong policy foundation, most notably the Czech Annual Humanitarian Assistance Strategy and the Czech Republic's Cooperation Strategy. Both strategies underline the nexus between humanitarian and development actions, enabling flexible funding and interventions that pair immediate relief with long-term development support.

Gender analysis conducted at the project design stage was vital for understanding the delicate local context, identifying gaps and selecting areas of intervention. Gender-responsive programming training for key staff members enabled them to carry out this analysis, thereby giving the project a thorough understanding of social, cultural and economic barriers to gender equality which hamper women's socio-economic independence. Based on the gender analysis, the initiative was able to effectively provide women and girls with opportunities to learn, hone their skills and access avenues for income generation. The analysis also informed the project's design of rights-based empowerment initiatives which supported women and girls to exercise their rights and engage in the community.

Partnerships with government stakeholders at the national and local levels, alongside community outreach and private sector involvement, were at the heart of the project's sustainability. Close collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and Township Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Offices enabled the project to provide training on a range of skills – from sewing to vegetable cultivation, livestock rearing and fish farming. Partnerships with community-based organisations – such as women's groups, as well as Camp and School Management Committees – were the linchpin of dialogue on women's rights, community sensitisation, and engagement with beneficiaries.

Additional information

Naing Naing's story: A turning point towards independence

22-year-old Naing Naing's life has transformed since she participated in a 3-month training course on tailoring as part of the Czech Republic-supported project, 'Strengthening the Resilience of Crisis Affected Communities in Rakhine State'. Before the course, poverty prevented her from pursuing her dream of becoming a tailor, obliging her to dedicate her time to household chores. When she saw the Raw Ma Ni Village Administrator's Office announcement of a basic tailoring training course, she was one of the 20 candidates who applied for six available places.

Within three months, she went from a novice unable to operate a sewing machine to an adept tailor, trained in 20 different designs for women, men and children. Qualified, supportive trainers strengthened trainees' skills and confidence. Following the course, she and her fellow trainees attended a 3-day entrepreneurship training on starting small businesses in Raw Mrauk U township.

Now, she is a confident entrepreneur with her own small tailoring shop, earning an income of MMK 5,000-7,000 per day (between EUR 2,85 and EUR 3,99). She plans to expand her business and increase her client base, offering a discount fee to attract more customers. She points to the training course as a turning point in her life, supporting her to live her life with dignity as an independent, self-employed entrepreneur.

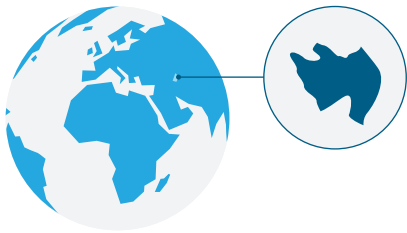


Naing Naing pursues her dream of becoming a tailor



Tailored garments by Naing Naing





LITHUANIA

Improve women’s skills in autonomously running and managing businesses in Azerbaijan

Gender-sensitive practice

Country/countries

Azerbaijan

Region

European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Key themes

Women’s empowerment

Budget

EUR 5,000 from the European Union (equivalent to AZN 9,650) and an additional EUR 5,000 EUR from USAID

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Lithuania
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Azerbaijan

Start year

2018

Partners

Counterpart International, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Beneficiaries

23 young women

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

14

¹ *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU’s framework for action to promote gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The 'Improve women's skills in autonomously running and managing businesses' project supported young women to develop their managerial and leadership skills, addressed discrimination in access to financial assets and services, and sought to influence local traditions in aid of greater gender equality. A joint initiative by the Embassy of Lithuania in Azerbaijan and the US State Department's Emerging Donor Challenge Program (EDCP), the project was implemented by Counterpart International. This international non-profit organisation focuses on supporting the development of emerging leaders from traditionally marginalised communities, especially women. Collaboration between the partners enabled the project to expand its scope, increase its target audience, and secure more sustainable results. Relevant institutions, including the Presidential Administration and Executive Power of Ganja City, were informed of the project's activities through official letters and media announcements. The municipality provided the premises for three full day training sessions for 23 young women on communications, leadership skills and business plan development.

By the end of the training, five participants developed personal development plans, three formulated business plans and one participant launched her own business on delivering vocational training and language courses. Despite its small scale, the initiative was considered a major success.

Implementation

The project's specific objectives were to:

- 1) ensure the selection of highly motivated women to participate in business and leadership trainings;
- 2) build the capacities of at least 23 young women through three full day training courses; and
- 3) enable at least five participants to write personal development plans or business plans.

As the project's sponsor, the Embassy of Lithuania announced the training initiative on business and leadership skills for women in the Ganja-Qazakh region. Several applications were received, some from other parts of Azerbaijan, and twenty-five participants were selected on the basis of their education, profession, interests and age.

Two experienced trainers delivered the training courses, covering topics in line with the project's aims and objectives. These included communications – encompassing communications theory, social media as a component of communication, communications strategies and establishing public communications – and leadership skills – including types and styles of leadership, feminine and masculine leadership styles, effective time management and team work. Business plan development was another key topic, spanning marketing strategies, SWOT analyses (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), pricing, cash flow management, depreciation, value cost, turnover capital and forms of legal businesses. At the end of the training, five participants were able to formulate their personal development plan and one participant launched her business. A woman branch manager from Azerbaijan's largest bank was invited to share her experiences with the participants, acting as a role model for them.



Training session on business management skills

The training was characterised by a participatory approach that blended lectures with real, practical case studies, presentations, discussions, self-evaluation and group work. These methods proved highly effective, allowing participants to delve deeply into each topic and enabling participants to discuss critical issues with the trainers. As a result, most participants were able to brainstorm business ideas.

The project was documented through videos of the training sessions and photos. On the last day of each training session, a local television channel, Kapaz ARB TV, was invited to record a news item.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The project contributed to GAP II objective 14 on access to decent work as it involved training for women on managerial and leadership skills. By building participants' capacities around business planning, development and marketing, the initiative supported their chances of economic empowerment, independence, leadership and self-development.

Key elements

The project's greatest achievement was its contribution to challenging gender stereotypes in a region where women's economic and social empowerment is limited and discriminatory practices prevail. It boosted engagement with women's empowerment programmes and consolidated a plan to do more in the coming years; to which end, a programme is being prepared. The initiative is also notable for giving young women the opportunity to strengthen their capacities and knowledge – assets which stand to contribute to their economic and social empowerment. As a result of the project, participants became increasingly motivated, active and able to address resistances from those around them who disapprove of women entering the fields of business or communications.

Championing and advocacy

Collaboration between donors and implementers enabled the initiative to achieve more results with fewer resources, thereby enhancing sustainability. The project's successful implementation was also grounded on the provision of finances for the implementation of participants' business plans, and an in-depth knowledge of the context. Understanding the challenges faced by women in the region of Ganja – where advances on women's economic empowerment are few and far between, and young women have limited access to economic and entrepreneurship opportunities – enabled the project to adapt its objectives and activities in order to respond to local conditions.

Boosting participants' motivation was at the heart of the project's response to resistances exhibited by the participants' relatives, which were particularly evident with respect to creating a Facebook account for the project and promoting entrepreneurship. It became clear that following up and engaging with participants helped to sustain their motivation and secure positive results. Moreover, the advice of women role models, who took part in training sessions as lecturers, was especially welcomed by the trainees.

Sustainability and replicability

To contribute to the sustainability of their business plans, training participants were advised on how to apply for USAID's call for proposals for individual development programmes – wherein they would be able to apply the knowledge they gained during the project. Thus far, five participants have applied. As participants were registered in the Ganja Regional Women Centre's database, they will be continually informed of upcoming initiatives, trainings, programmes and opportunities for future collaboration.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The project demonstrates that providing women with practical knowledge and skills contributes to real change and improvements in their daily lives. It highlights the importance of understanding rights holders' needs, local contexts and cultural differences. Other key lessons learned are also worth noting:

- Women lecturers or facilitators are especially welcome in training settings in Azerbaijan, given the complexities of communication between women and men in this country context.
- It is important to spend sufficient time on the selection of candidates for training, as the project's experience revealed – given the widespread interest in the project, several applications were received, requiring significant effort to ensure the best possible selection of participants.
- In exceptional cases, selection criteria should be as flexible as possible, such as when applicants exhibit exceptional motivation or interest despite exceeding the age limit for participants.
- In forthcoming projects, it will be important to consider travel and accommodation costs for participants from other regions.

Finally, the project also points to the importance of evoking changes in a country's overall environment to advance gender equality, including by introducing new approaches in the educational system, local government institutions and business associations to challenge and dismantle discriminatory structural social norms.

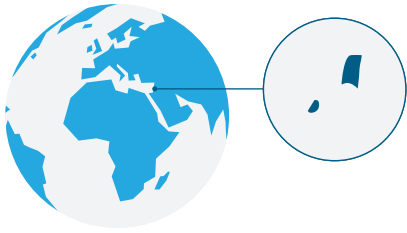
Additional information

Gender equality and women's empowerment is a core priority for Lithuanian development cooperation, enshrined both in its Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and the Inter-institutional Action Plan on Development Cooperation 2019-2021. For instance, the latter highlights Sustainable Development Goal 5 ('Gender Equality') as a priority thematic area for Lithuania's development initiatives. Furthermore, as the Government of Azerbaijan is committed to women's economic empowerment, the Embassy of Lithuania in Azerbaijan frequently addresses gender equality and women's empowerment issues with the partner country.

The initiative's key results included:

- 1) the effective management of the application process;
- 2) the selection of the 25 best candidates for the training;
- 3) the delivery of three full day training courses;
- 4) the formulation of personal development plans by five participants;
- 5) the development of business plans by three participants; and
- 6) one participant's immediate launch of her own business.





POLAND

Optimisation of conventional and unconventional irrigation for rural development, improved livelihoods, and activation of women and youth in Palestine*³⁴

Gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Palestine*

Region

Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Key themes

Irrigation for rural development, improved livelihoods, strengthened women's organisations

Budget

USD 320,000 (EUR 268,141²) (budget for home gardens and community markets; the budget for nonconventional irrigation is not available)EUR 5,000 EUR from USAID

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Poland

Start year

2018 (two-year project)

Partners

Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej (PCPM) (Polish Centre for International Aid) (NGO), Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem (ARIJ) (Palestinian institute)

Beneficiaries

14 farmers (11 men, 3 women)
40 women with home gardens
500 Beit Ula Women's Club members
Other community members

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020³

Priorities:



Objective(s):

14

- *This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.
- Estimates calculated as per the exchange rate at the start of the programme, based on the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates. For more information, see: <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Against the backdrop of rapid climate change and increasing political and geographical fragmentation in Palestine, water shortages are becoming chronic. A lack of water is both a humanitarian and a health concern, as well as a major economic constraint. In addition, the agriculture sector is severely affected by land occupation policies and gender bias. In line with the Palestinian Authority's strategies on water and environmental issues, water is regarded as an integrated service and women's role in water management is increasingly recognised.

In keeping with this recognition, the two-year Polish initiative, 'Optimisation of conventional and unconventional irrigation for rural development, improved livelihoods, and activation of women and youth in Palestine', was initiated in 2018. It consists of three components: non-conventional irrigation using waste water from a sewage treatment plant; conventional irrigation installed in the home gardens of some 40 women in Beit Ula village; and a community market.

Implementation

The action was implemented by the NGO, Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej (PCPM) – i.e. the Polish Center for International Aid – in cooperation with the Palestinian Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem (ARIJ), hand in hand with farmers, women home gardeners and the Beit Ula Women's Club.

In an area where women's employment opportunities are severely limited due to social restrictions, and an overall shortage of jobs, the Beit Ula Women's Club enables women to earn an income, feed their families, gain new skills and self-esteem, and participate in building a strong organisation and community. Farming and selling vegetables is the only income-generating opportunity for many women in the area, as well as the only avenue for women socialising and becoming empowered.

Women's engagement, in the club and market is significant. Nevertheless, there is a need for women producers to implement better growing practices, as well as to change their attitudes to processing, marketing and selling the products, and overall management. For example, there is a need for women to consider what proportion of their produce to keep for home consumption and what proportion to sell. These are the issues that the action targets.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative addresses GAP II objective 14 on women's access to decent work. However, the GAP II itself had no direct influence on the design of the action or its objectives.

As the initiative began in 2018, concrete results in terms of social change cannot yet be observed. Despite this, it is clear that women's situation is changing, step by step. This has been observed during project monitoring visits to the homes of women beneficiaries. There is little opposition to women's social and economic activities, and women are increasingly being appreciated for adding to their families' income. The project is not considered to have created obstacles to men's power within the household, which may be due to the fact that the Beit Ula Women's Club has been active for years and has gained social acceptance. In only one instance, a young woman graduate's family discouraged her from taking part in applications for mini-grants to develop her own business.

Key elements of the promising practice

Several aspects of the action's three key components are worth highlighting. The non-conventional irrigation component uses waste water from a sewage treatment plant to irrigate farms in the area. Previously, waste water from the nearby refugee camp used to flood the valley and made farming impossible. With this new take on irrigation, 14 farmers are reaping the benefits, including three women farmers. Regulations dictate that treated waste water can only be used for certain crops, such as olive trees, herbs and forage crops, including alfalfa. The pilot project had to persuade farmers that it is appropriate to use treated waste water, in order to change their attitudes. Research shows that their yields are twice as much as yields obtained by using rain or ground water. It is likely that the pilot project will continue and benefit more farmers.

The action's conventional irrigation component involves installing water tanks in the home gardens of around 40 women in Beit Ula village. These women grow tomatoes, aubergines, cucumbers, other vegetables and fruit for family consumption, for processing, and/or for sale at the local market. Home gardens were selected on the basis of established criteria, including the feasibility of installing irrigation infrastructure, households headed by a woman, and large households with more than nine members.

The community market component centres on Beit Ula village and consists of organisational support for the Beit Ula Women's Club, as well as the renovation of the village market and club building. In 2018, the club ran a competition to select designs for the renovated market building. The winning design, submitted by a young woman, led to the creation of a large shop on the ground floor, a market area, a training or conference space, a kitchen for training purposes, and an office on the second floor. As a result, the club building and market space act as a hub, bringing women together to take part in training courses on irrigated garden cultivation, vegetable growing and processing, the use of fertilisers and pesticides, and business development and marketing. The women run a weekly community market where they sell fruit, vegetables, processed foods and craft goods. Leisure activities are also organised, such as sport sessions and skills workshops. A reserve fund for small loans has been established. As such, club members can apply for loans to improve their businesses or meet family needs. The club is responsible for all of these activities. The project also includes a small component which focuses on working with young women and men in the village. Some young graduates received small grants to develop a business, for example, to set up a printing shop, to rent office space, or to open a tailoring business. This component aims to encourage youths to be more involved in village life.

Championing and advocacy

The Beit Ula Women's Club has the support of the local municipality and has been recognised by the Minister of Agriculture of Hebron Union. The dynamic woman leader who started the club years ago is now an elected member of the local municipal council and is able to engage and influence thinking and decision-making at the local level.

Sustainability and replicability

Annual club membership fees, and payments by non-members and organisations to rent market stalls or hire conference rooms, provide a source of income. This income and sustained capacity building are key to future sustainability. The Beit Ula Women's Club, founded 20 years ago with a few members, now has 500 active, committed women members. During the second year of the initiative, the club established clear responsibilities for administration, finance, social media (Facebook) communications and home gardens. Throughout, support is provided by the PCPM. The club receives regular visits from cooperatives and other groups, keen to see how it is organised and managed, in order to learn from its experience.

Conclusion and lessons learned

PCPM's approach of working in partnership with, and strengthening, an existing women's group is a critical aspect of the initiative's success. With such support, the Beit Ula Women's Club has expanded its capacities and activities, thereby ensuring its central role in the community in the longer-term. Working with the club has also been vital for responding to local women's needs and interests, with a view to enhancing income-generating opportunities and increasing their contributions to family well-being. This, in turn, has improved women's self-esteem and their standing within the community.

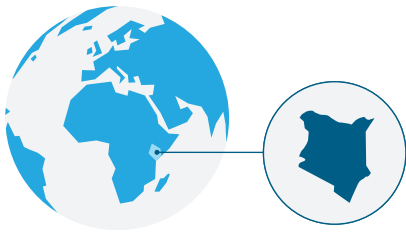
Additional information



Project website

PCPM The website provides additional information of PCPM's support for the development of agricultural cooperatives in Palestine*, co-financed by the development cooperation programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.





COMMISSION SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Ms President, Kenya

Ms President - A 26-episode, reality television series on prime-time Kenyan Television Network - Produced by Media Focus on Africa

The two-year action started in 2018, is EU-funded through the IcSP, with additional support from Canadian High Commission. The opportunity to participate and be elected as *Ms President* through SMS voting in a Reality TV series encouraged over 1,000 women of all ages, ethnic, social, economic, religious, political and geographical backgrounds to apply to take part. They heard about the programme through a massive consultation and outreach campaign organised by Media Focus with women's CSOs, including a Muslim women's rights organisation, and NGOs, networks, radio, and social media.

The overall objective is to build sustainable capacity in Kenya for effective peace-building, conflict management and crisis preparedness, and more specifically to enable women and girls to become empowered as key players in preventing the spread of violent extremism and radicalisation. The action also sought to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors and media practitioners to prevent VAWG and protect human rights, and establish and increase dialogue between these actors and local and national conflict resolution and peace-building groups and government officials.

Twenty-five women were selected to take part. They participated in training sessions covering a wide range of topics, such as marginalisation of those with limited economic prospects, ethnicity, peace-building, the divisive narrative used by extremist groups, reconciliation, social cohesion, violence, human rights, women's participation, breakdowns in community and citizen-state relationships, and the WPS agenda. Candidates were also given communication skills training. The training was filmed and the footage used in the opening episodes. One topic was chosen as the focus of each episode, with candidates set challenges and tasks in groups and later as individuals. A key component of the programme is targeted outreach and community mobilising in three violence-prone coastal counties. Women representing local organisations were trained in facilitating dialogue, and local screenings of the TV programme were organised followed by dialogue on the issues raised.

Ms President is very new, different and refreshing in the Kenya TV landscape, where the diversity of women is not usually shown on TV. It is educational and thought-provoking. The intention is that women and girls especially, and men and boys also, will recognise that women and girls can play key leadership roles in politics and peace-building.

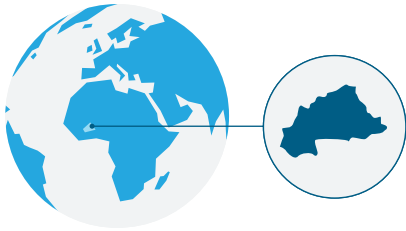
Additional information



Website

[Ms President](#)





EU DELEGATION TO BURKINA FASO

Gender budget support

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Burkina Faso

Region

West and Central Africa

Key themes

Gender budget support, women's participation in policy-making and governance, leadership, gender-based violence

Budget

EUR 5 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Burkina Faso

Start year

2018

Partners

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and Ministry of Finance of Burkina Faso

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

17

Indicator(s):

17.7

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

As part of the budget support for good governance, the gender budget support for Burkina Faso aims to support the government in the promotion of women's rights and gender equality. After Morocco, Burkina Faso is the second country to receive gender budget support. The financing agreement was only signed in December 2018 and it intends to set the basis to improve gender equality in the country through improving gender-based violence service delivery, data production and accountability, women's political participation. The inclusion of specific gender indicators will support the measurement of the changes that the proposed measures will produce. In fact, the revised gender quota law could influence the Presidential elections in 2020. A result already evident is the strongest role that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection gained thanks to the management of the gender budget support.

Implementation

The European Union's gender budget support initiative in Burkina Faso focuses on four areas: gender-sensitive budgeting (EUR 1 million), (ii) the development of a database on gender-based violence (EUR 1 million), (iii) the construction and provision of equipment for reception and care centres for survivors of gender-based violence (EUR 2 million EUR), and (iv) the revision of the country's gender quota law (EUR 1 million). The financing agreement for this support, signed in December 2018, contains extensive information on all four indicators, as well as on responsible services, the frequency of measurement, recent results, data collection methods and means of interpretation. Due to the presence of these indicators in the financing agreement², the gender budget support initiative has the potential to be truly gender-transformative. Progress on the indicators is discussed during policy dialogue with the two partner ministries, as well as with the Government of Burkina Faso overall, and will influence the disbursement of funds earmarked for the initiative.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The gender budget support initiative in Burkina Faso contributes to GAP II priority D, as it focuses on strengthening women's and girls' voice and participation. It specifically targets objective 17 on women's equal rights and participation in policy and governance processes at all levels. The EU Delegation's gender focal person in Burkina Faso was involved in the elaboration of the proposal and will be responsible for reporting on the four indicators. While no specific gender analysis was formulated for the initiative, existing gender analyses were used to inform the situation analysis. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection was involved in setting up the initiative. As a result of the initiative's support, the ministry's position has been strengthened, and its approach more dynamic, in terms of coordinating with the Ministry of Finance.

Key elements of the promising practice

Although the impetus for action on gender-responsive budgeting came from the European Union, Burkina Faso's context was largely favourable to its implementation, given the country's active Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. As Burkina Faso is only the second country to receive gender budget support from the EU, this initiative may be regarded as innovative. The initiative may also be considered gender-transformative because gender budget support stands to be a catalyst for the implementation of gender mainstreaming across all of the country's ministries. One particularly innovative element of the initiative involves the revision of Burkina Faso's gender quota law, which may be applied to the presidential elections in 2020.

² The indicators are: (i) at least 15 ministries apply gender-sensitive budgeting by 2020 (in 2019, a pilot was set up in 6 ministries), (ii) a database on the situation of gender-based violence is available and functional at the national level, (iii) reception and care centres for survivors of gender-based violence are constructed and operational, and (iv) the law on the gender quota in the legislative and municipal elections has been revised.

Championing and advocacy

By strengthening the role of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the initiative contributed to enhancing one of Burkina Faso's most pivotal institutional mechanisms dedicated to advancing gender equality and women's rights. The initiative also stimulated political dialogue on gender quotas in Burkina Faso, adding to extensive discussions on the revision of the gender quota law in parliament and among civil society during the previous year.

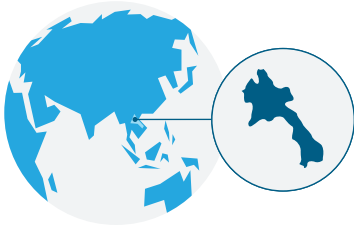
Sustainability and replicability

The gender budget support initiative stands to contribute to accelerating progress on SDG 5 in Burkina Faso, 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. If progress is observed in terms of the initiative's four indicators, especially the impact of gender-responsive budgeting and the revision of the gender quota law, the initiative has the potential to substantially influence the advancement of women's rights and gender equality in the country.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Budget support should always be paired with institutional support. As a result of such two-pronged support, the initiative's partner institution – the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection – saw its role strengthened, both as an institution in its own right, as well as vis-à-vis the Ministry of Finance. Lessons learned and elements that can be replicated in other contexts include the importance of using indicators, and the importance of training local counterparts on the management of funds.





EU DELEGATION TO LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Strengthening civil society to protect and promote
the social, economic and cultural rights of ethnic
communities in Bokeo province

Gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Lao PDR

Region

Asia and the Pacific

Key themes

Women's rights, gender equality
and social inclusion, labour rights,
gender justice, occupational
health and safety

Budget

EUR 400,000 EUR
EU contracted amount:
EUR 380,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Lao PDR

Start year

2016

Partners

Plan International
Community Association for Mobilizing Knowledge in Development (CAMKID)

Beneficiaries

Women, men, girls and boys living and working in three banana plantations
and 22 surrounding communities in Bokeo province

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

19

Indicator(s):

19.1, 19.4

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Bokeo province in the Northern District of Lao PDR – a remote, mountainous region with a high diversity of ethnic groups – has experienced major social and environmental changes, as Chinese investors purchase vast tracts of land for banana plantations. CAMKID, a local civil society organisation which promotes participatory knowledge for rural development, recently assessed working conditions and environmental safety in such plantations. Their findings reveal trends harmful to workers' health, including high levels of pollution and the use of unsafe agrochemical products. Through evidence-based research, the organisation proved the existence of violations of workers' labour rights and the presence of gender-based discrimination in surrounding communities.

To address this situation, the 2016-2018 initiative built the capacities of local civil society organisations to empower vulnerable households and communities of diverse ethnicities to secure gender justice, labour and cultural rights. The initiative's implementing partners, CAMKID and Plan International, supported the implementation of labour law, focusing on improvements in working conditions in banana plantations. Women workers' rights and gender equality were discussed at the community level, with reference to national laws as well as in the framework of Lao PDR's international commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The initiative achieved important changes in aid of women's empowerment and women's rights. For example, women are increasingly included in decision-making at the community level and women community leaders are more confident to speak in public and share their views in village meetings. Moreover, some men in the target villages have begun helping with domestic chores and care work traditionally considered the sole responsibility of women, such as caring for children or fetching water.



The CAMKID and EU-supported initiative in Bokeo province

“

“I believe that men can support all [the] work of women, not only earning money to support their families. Today, what I can do for my wife is fetching water. It looks [like] light work, but it is important to relieve some of her domestic chores.”

– Project beneficiary

“

“Women have rights to make decisions nowadays. In the past decisions were only made by men. Right now, I am happy that my family and community have changed and there is more gender equality.”

– Project beneficiary

Implementation

The initiative stems from the results of an earlier action funded by the European Union and implemented by Plan International in Bokeo province. This previous action developed successful approaches to facilitate awareness raising and behaviour change around women's and children's rights. Building on these successes, the 2016-2018 initiative addressed the specific vulnerabilities of women, men, girls and boys living and working in three banana plantations and 22 surrounding communities of diverse ethnicities. To this end, it tackled emerging labour and workers' rights issues, particularly concerning the use of unsafe pesticides and working conditions. Activities focused on promoting the knowledge and skills of plantation workers and farmers concerning land use, labour rights, occupational health and safety, gender equality, risks linked to migration, negotiation, and protecting oneself from labour-related abuses and exploitation. As CAMKID staff members speak different local languages, information was made accessible to local populations, especially women, most of whom do not speak Lao.

At its close in 2018, the initiative had achieved with the following results: (i) rights holders' had become knowledgeable about key laws related to employment in commercial plantations and labour migration laws; (ii) plantation workers and members of 22 target communities were trained on the safe use of agrochemicals; (iii) communities acquired negotiation strategies to protect the rights of workers in banana plantations; (iv) research on labour rights and occupational health in banana plantations provided evidence-based information to unpack how families and communities make choices about their future, and what values guide such choices.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative addressed GAP II objective 19 and two related indicators. During the formulation phase, the partner organisations used in-house gender expertise and existing gender analyses that assessed gender equality issues in the area. A network of local associations, led by CAMKID, provided additional gender expertise for an assessment of gender roles in the targeted communities. The initiative supported the evidence-based research report, "*Labour Rights, Child Rights, and Gender Justice for Lao Workers in Chinese Banana Plantation in Bokeo*"², an in-depth examination of the current situation which helped to validate the feasibility of proposed actions. This evidence contributed to the partners' development and adaption of strategies and approaches.

Key elements of the promising practice

The initiative facilitated the implementation of Lao PDR's laws on gender equality, social inclusion and labour rights in remote parts of Bokeo province. As a result of sustained awareness raising and training, rights holders became more cognisant of gender equality, labour rights, children's rights, gender justice, and occupational health and safety. Although the initiative was undertaken in the context of national and international frameworks on labour and human rights, it focused on the community level. As such, it put individuals in target communities at the centre of negotiations with the Government and the private sector about land rights and occupational health and safety.

Championing and advocacy

The operating space for civil society in Lao PDR is fairly limited. Local associations have only been able to become registered since 2009. By supporting CAMKID and several small partner associations in an often overlooked part of the country, the initiative contributed to reinforcing their skills and voice, both at the national and local levels. Bolstered by such support, CAMKID has successfully built communities' confidence by ensuring community leaders' direct involvement in community development for over a decade. Thanks to the initiative's support, the network of local associations is in a stronger position to report on abuses of workers' rights and to advocate for gender equality and labour rights.

² Plan International, CAMKID (2016) *Labour Experiences, Child Rights and Gender Justice for Workers on Banana Plantations in Bokeo Province*.

Sustainability and replicability

The Government of Lao PDR welcomed the initiative as it enabled local governments and other stakeholders to disseminate information on the national labour law – with a positive effect on rule of law in the country. As a result of effective information sharing and awareness raising activities, incremental steps to advance women’s empowerment and safeguard women’s rights are being taken. Increased awareness of harmful practices in banana plantations, coupled with improved knowledge of workers’ rights and occupational health and safety standards, has enhanced communities’ negotiating skills and powers. The strategy of using local languages for disseminating information was an important aspect of the initiative’s sustainability, as it built community trust and ensured that rights holders fully understood the initiative’s objectives and activities.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Although the initiative only targeted gender equality as a cross-cutting issue, it proved crucial to support organisations whose principal aim is to advance gender equality. Involving gender experts with in-depth knowledge of the local context was the key to initiating important processes to advance gender equality. However, these processes take time to produce change. More time should be allocated to this kind of initiative, or other initiatives should be undertaken, to consolidate the changes achieved in Bokeo province. Collaboration between the EU, Plan International and CAMKID to support the Government of Lao PDR’s commitment to secure the rule of law proved decisive for the initiative’s success. This was especially significant as the implementation of the country’s strong legal framework for gender equality and social inclusion has been difficult in remote areas. Both Plan International and the EU established a strong partnership with local civil society organisations, creating a unique operating context.

Another important lesson is the need to recruit more women community workers to assist activities. Moreover, using the radio as a channel for awareness raising proved ineffective since social media emerged as the most widely-used communications tools during the initiative’s three-year timeframe. As research undertaken during the initiative reveals, knowledge of laws, labour rights and occupational health and safety do not necessarily influence farmers’ agribusiness choices. It is critical to support farmers’ understanding of risks, costs, benefits and working conditions to prevent harmful practices that violate the rights of workers and communities. As the evaluation of the programme demonstrates, improved gender relations are easier to achieve in smaller villages, including those in which a single ethnic group resides, due to especially high levels of community cohesion.

Additional information



Website

[Plan International](#)

Report: Labour Rights, Child Rights and Gender Justice for Lao Workers in Chinese Banana Plantations in Bokeo, 2016.



“I like to look after my baby while my wife is away or is doing household chores. I could say that helping my family with all work is my priority, due to men and women having the same rights and responsibilities.”

– Project beneficiary



“Being a community leader is empowering because I can make decisions at a local level or within my family. I am more confident to speak in front of people and always share my views in the village meetings.”

– Project beneficiary





EU DELEGATION TO MOLDOVA

Budget support for police reform

Gender-responsive, gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

EU Delegation to Moldova

Region

Moldova

Key themes

Women working in top
management position

Budget

EUR 57 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Start year

2016

Partners

Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of the Republic of Moldova, the Police and its special and decentralised units: the General Police Inspectorate (GPI), National Patrolling Inspectorate (NPI), National Investigations Inspectorate (NII), Forensics and Judicial Expertise Centre (FJEC), Judicial Police (JP), Centre for International Police Cooperation (CIPC), Rapid Reaction Brigade 'Fulger', and 42 territorial units of Police Inspectorates.

Beneficiaries

1,368 women (17.6 %) and 6,378 men (82.3%)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

17

Indicator(s):

17.5

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The EU supports the Republic of Moldova's Sector Reform Contract (SRC), 'Support for Police Reform'. The objective of the initiative is to assist the Government to ensure the rule of law, enhance public order and security, combat organised crime, and protect human rights through the development of an accessible, accountable, efficient, transparent and professional police force. In this framework, a Police Women's Association (PWA) was formally established in June 2017. Its purpose is twofold: to attract young women to careers at the police sub-officer or officer level, and to further the professional interests of women within the police service.

At the external level, the PWA organises activities to reach out to young women in local communities, schools and villages across the Republic of Moldova. Internally, the organisation advises the General Police Inspectorate's management, and issues opinions and recommendations. In cooperation with civil society organisations, the PWA also organises workshops with police staff from all ranks, and from across the country, to raise awareness on gender mainstreaming.

Implementation

The EU Support for Police Reform Programme (2016-2020) focuses on: (i) strengthening the accountability, efficiency, transparency and professionalism of the Republic of Moldova's police force; (ii) ensuring the fair, efficient and effective enforcement of the law through the application of a rights-based approach to policing; (iii) strengthening the capacities of the police to participate in the fight against organised crime; (iv) developing and implementing the concept of community policing, in line with the best EU and international standards and practices; and (v) promoting and implementing the principle of zero tolerance to corruption, discrimination and ill-treatment in the police force.

The programme mainstreams gender in its nine components. It programme has established a 20 % quota for women in the police force by 2020, with a minimum of 15 % in officer ranks and management positions. The programme also includes gender-specific actions, such as the creation of the Police Women's Association to address problems encountered by women police officers, to support them to advance in their careers, and to raise awareness about equal opportunities among their colleagues.

The initiative is gender-responsive and transformative because it addresses women's specific and strategic needs and interests. By encouraging women to join the police force, the programme contributes to breaking gender norms that hinder women's participation in male-dominated sectors. In tandem, the programme motivates women to apply for and take on management positions in law enforcement, with a view to expanding their participation in leadership and decision-making.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

Although no specific gender analysis was carried out, the programme uses the analysis of the Republic of Moldova Strategy 2017-2021, to which it contributes. It also places a specific focus on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) that Moldova signed in 2018.

Prior to the programme's design, consultations were held with the national gender equality mechanisms, the Government Commission for Equality between Women and Men and the Ministry of Social Protection, Family, and Child, alongside women's rights and civil society organisations working on gender equality. Only limited consultations could be held with rights holders and community leaders on human trafficking, due to the sensitivity of the issue.



Police Women's Association of the Republic of Moldova

Key elements of the promising practice

The programme's action document was drafted in close cooperation with stakeholders to ensure their full ownership. Reflecting the situation on the ground, the programme addresses the low presence of women in the police force, especially in management positions. Its activities openly tackle gender cultural norms that underlie labour division and segregation based on gender.

The initiative further aims to raise the level of professionalism of the police in terms of upholding human rights and gender equality, and awareness of human rights violations.

The establishment of the Police Women's Association, and its involvement in the initiative's implementation, is an innovative element. Since its creation in 2017, over 150 members have joined the association. The PWA challenges gender stereotypes that prevent women from pursuing careers in the police, while contributing to promoting women role models among Moldova's youth.

Championing and advocacy

When the initiative began in 2017, 14 % of police officers were women and none were of officer rank or in management positions. As the initiative has progressed, there are 4 % more women in the police forces, including in management positions.

The initiative advocates for gender equality both quantitatively, as well as in qualitative terms by addressing other gender inequalities and disparities that persist in many police departments.

As a result of the initiative's awareness raising activities, the police force has begun to organise actions to support and promote gender equality within its ranks.

The initiative has not influenced or proposed the adoption of policies or changes in the national legal system related to gender equality. However, it encourages the Government to take gender equality more seriously. Moreover, the programme has foreseen the development of an Action Plan focusing on increasing women's participation in the police force.

Women police officers involved in the initiative are championing gender equality within and outside their institutions. They inspire other women to join the police force and serve as role models. For example, they organise workshops for women and men police officers on gender equality, and lobby for women's interests by organising educational events on professional issues and work-life balance.



Police woman in the Republic of Moldova

Sustainability and replicability

Thanks to the initiative, the police force's male-dominated management is keen to promote women's participation, as well as making their interests, needs and expectations more visible. The initiative has contributed to significant change, most notably the growing recognition that women make as good as police officers and managers as men.

The formal creation of the Police Women's Association has proved a valuable vehicle to drive dialogue on gender equality, which can be replicated both in the framework of the initiative or in similar contexts. For example, the empowerment of professional interest groups can be pursued by referring to the example of this initiative. Similar associations could be established in other contexts, as they dramatically boost gender mainstreaming in the police by identifying and addressing women's practical needs and interests. For the Police Women's Association to become more sustainable, it should receive specific funding, and its members should be allowed to use some of their working hours to advocate for gender equality. There should be a steady evolution of the association's professionalisation.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The Republic of Moldova recognises that its police service must reflect the society it serves – women's participation is indispensable to this end. Supporting and promoting women's participation in law enforcement institutions brings added value to the quality of their work; it also creates positive role models for society, and it improves the environment at work.

Halfway through the initiative's implementation, its successes are manifold. Women are increasingly accepted in the police force. They are invited to participate in meetings and initiatives, where they provide recommendations. Their views are recognised and valued. The initiative aims to promote an ambitious percentage of women working in management positions in the police. For this to happen by 2020, intensive policy dialogue is needed. One lesson learned in this regard is that gender equality actions must include policy dialogue as part of their activities.



Cristina Schimbov, Deputy Head of the Police Trafficking in Human Beings Unit and President of the Police Women's Association (right), Alexandru Pinzari, head of the General Police Inspectorate (centre)

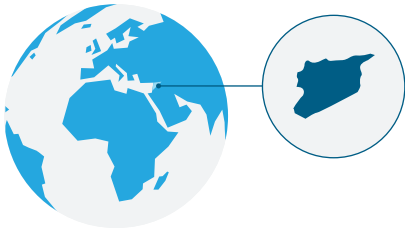
Additional information



Facebook page

[Women Police Association](#)





EU DELEGATION TO SYRIA

Women's dialogue in al-Atareb

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Syria

Region

EU Neighbourhood Policy and
Enlargement Negotiations, and
Russia

Key themes

Women's participation in
decision-making, women's
political representation

Budget

EUR 4.5 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Syria

Start year

2018

Partners

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Mouwatana for Civil Action

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries: 25 women, including active employed women (in
the local council, civil society organisations and other institutes), women
representatives of internally displaced women, and educated unemployed
women

Other beneficiaries: Local council members, notables, free police, civil
defence

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

19

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Amidst one of the largest and most violent humanitarian crises in the world, women in al-Atareb – in the province of Aleppo, Syria – are beset by violence, deprivation and poverty, while being largely excluded from decision-making positions. Women have established important mechanisms of self-help and community work in the city, yet their leadership and negotiation skills remain unrecognised in a male-dominated society.

The ‘Women’s dialogue in al-Atareb’ initiative is part of ‘Supporting Inclusive Consultation Processes among Local Actors in Syria (LCP)’, a component of the ‘Support for Stabilisation and Transition in Syria II’ (USTS) programme, funded by Germany’s Federal Foreign Office and the European Union. Within the framework of the USTS multi-sectoral stabilisation programme, women’s social participation is promoted through a dual-track approach – encompassing gender mainstreaming and targeted activities for women. Examples of gender-sensitive projects include street-lightening and waste management. In addition, women and girls receive targeted psychosocial and education support.

‘Women’s dialogue in al-Atareb’ is a pilot action that focuses on strengthening local women’s initiatives and associations in the framework of local dialogue processes in al-Atareb. Its ultimate goal is to enhance women’s participation in local self-government by facilitating dialogue between women leaders. The project involves women employees in the local council and civil society organisations, unemployed women, and women representatives of the internally displaced community. Together, they are contributing to the development of a position paper which suggests mechanisms and ways to empower women and increase their representation at the local level.

Implementation

The initiative’s objective is twofold: (i) to enable women in al-Atareb to access and take on more responsibilities in civil society organisations and local self-administration structures, and (ii) to increase awareness of key local stakeholders about the benefits of women’s representation in local government.

The initiative’s partner organisation, Mouwatana for Civil Action, carefully selected a core group of 25 women with the will and skills to engage in representation and decision-making. These women represent most of the women’s groups in al-Atareb, in addition to individual women and representatives of internally displaced persons.

The initiative has delivered specific training courses on how to set goals for advocacy campaigns, as well as conditions, methods and strategies for implementing these campaigns in Syria’s complex context. In tandem, women are involved in dialogues on women’s role and the role of civil society in the face of conflict, as well as the importance of women’s participation in the public movement to achieve peace. The training also includes sessions on self-protection during armed attacks. Following a six-month period of targeted capacity-building and dialogue, between June and November 2018, the platform has developed a position paper. The paper expresses women’s attitudes and aspirations in terms of increasing women’s role in the city, based on the equal treatment of all women in the community. To this end, the position paper addresses core challenges, offers specific recommendations, and highlights concrete implementation mechanisms to follow up on previous Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) between the parties to increase women’s role in al-Atareb’s local administration. The position paper includes the following recommendations:

- 1) To increase women’s representation in the local judiciary system, women should be appointed as lawyers or consultants. Qualified women lawyers within the Women’s Committee, Advisory Committee or independent women in the city can be recommended.
- 2) A quota should be introduced in public directorates in Al-Atareb, requiring at least 15 % to 30 % women’s representation, according to each directorate’s need. This will enhance service delivery, especially for women.
- 3) Women’s access to decision-making positions at the local level, by participating in the Local Council, should be established according to statement No. 3, issued by the Interim Government on the 24th of May, 2018. The statement calls for promoting the participation of women in local councils and their executive offices.
- 4) Women should be hired by the Local Council based on their experience and qualifications. Women staff in the Local Council should not be limited to the Women’s Office.
- 5) Coordination between women’s groups, including the Women’s Committee and the Women’s Office in the Local Council, should be increased to deliver suggestions and recommendations to the General Revolutionary Committee.
- 6) Women’s representation in political opposition bodies at the national level should be increased, based on the participation of women from different communities, including Al-Atareb.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative is in line with GAP II objective 19, as it involves challenging gender norms and stereotypes which prevent women from taking on decision-making and political representation roles.

The initiative is part of the larger UWST programme, for which a gender analysis was undertaken in 2016. This gender analysis was commissioned by GIZ and concluded that gender mainstreaming in the programme should focus on three different aspects. These are: (i) the equal participation of women and men in the planning and implementation of concrete activities, in order to make sure that the needs of both genders are addressed; (ii) equal benefits for women and men from the different activities implemented by the programme; and (iii) sensitisation, awareness raising and gender competence of partner organisations.

The initiative is also relevant for the advancement of the GAP II given its focus on dialogue on gender equality in decision-making and political representation. Although this is mainly conducted among women leaders, dialogue extends to the entire community.

Key elements of the promising practice

The initiative contributes to changing perceptions to advance gender equality in al-Atareb. Local stakeholders understand that it is necessary to systematise a 'gender-transformative' approach in the action, despite all of the difficulties posed by the conflict. The project has also had a beneficial impact on attitudes towards gender equality among the implementing partners' local staff, who are well-placed to work with women's organisations, and have come to appreciate their needs and objectives.

Local stakeholders play a major role in the initiative, particularly by supporting the 25 women community leaders who make up the core group. This has contributed to building women's confidence and self-esteem. Moreover, the women's dialogue component is a notable part of the initiative, which has served as a useful tool for promoting gender equality at the community level.

Championing and advocacy

The initiative has contributed to making local stakeholders (including the local council, free police, civil defence, and grassroots associations) more gender-sensitive. These actors now appear more convinced of the benefits of having women on board in political and community activities.

By entrusting the core group of women leaders with the development of the position paper, the initiative enhanced the accountability of local stakeholders with regard to gender equality in decision-making and women's political representation at the local level.

As a result of the initiative, beneficiary women leaders have developed their decision-making capacities and negotiations skills, making them better equipped to advocate for gender equality, justice and peace.

Sustainability and replicability

When Islamists took power in the region in January 2019, the initiative was temporarily suspended. Partners are assessing whether it is safe to resume activities that directly support women's rights organisations, as youth and women's centres have been the target of bombings and other attacks.

Despite the initiative's temporary suspension, it has produced long-lasting results. For example, the 2017 MoU between different stakeholders has inspired positive change in aid of gender equality.

Based on this positive pilot experience, the initiative could be replicated in other locations – both in Syria and beyond, such as in other countries with large numbers of Syrian refugees. As a result of networking among civil society organisations which work with refugees and internally displaced women, the initiative’s experiences and insights would be useful for similar projects. For example, the GIZ partner, Centre for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD), has a broad network of local activists in Syria involved in the initiative’s activities. Moreover, regular exchanges occur between the initiative’s partners, other women’s rights organisations, and Syrian activists in Turkey.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The suspension of the project has had a direct and indirect impact on the situation of women on the ground. One direct effect is that the temporary cessation of activities for women – including the closing of women’s centres and no avenues for following up on the women’s dialogue – has led to a further shortage of activities accessible to women and girls. Especially since Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)² has taken control of parts of north-west Syria, it can be assumed that women’s social participation will rapidly deteriorate. The temporary suspension of stabilisation measures that benefit the entire local population – such as medical and education supplies, and waste management, etc. – is poised to provoke a particular deterioration of women’s living conditions.

Lessons learned from the initiative include:

- Specific activities for women, coupled with the horizontal networking of activists at the local level, should be intensified in the future.
- A one-year implementation period is a too short a time period for transformation.
- It is necessary to promote more gender-specific actions.
- Most women in Syria need continuous support and motivation to be able to demand their rights. Although many are educated and qualified, customs and male-dominance at the community level discourages many women from seeking to improve their situation.
- The presence of a platform that connects women in communities puts pressure on stakeholders, encouraging them to become more accountable for gender equality in leadership and decision-making.
- Adolescents should not be left out of political, democratic and civic awareness raising programmes.
- The development of women’s capacities to write a position paper of their own increased their self-esteem and motivation.

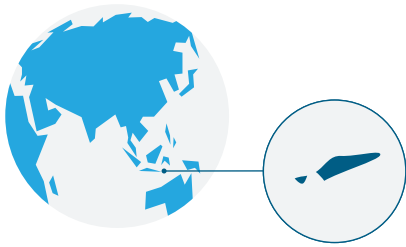


“The presence of radical forces controlling the city, and the suspension of the Women’s Office in the Local Council will not make us give up, and we will continue our struggle. Donors should not stop providing support to the women and civil groups in al-Atareb because it is the only way to change this new reality. The evidence for this statement is that the Syrian regime’s control of the city was more aggressive than the actual HTS’s control, but the civil activists were able to change that reality. We will continue to work and to seek all possible opportunities.”

– Woman beneficiary

² Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (the Organisation for the Liberation of the Levant, or the Levant Liberation Committee) is an anti-Assad jihadist militant group involved in the Syrian civil war.





EU DELEGATION TO TIMOR-LESTE

Partnership to improve service delivery
through strengthened public finance
management and oversight (PFMO)

Gender-responsive practice

Country/countries

Timor-Leste

Region

Asia and the Pacific

Key themes

Gender-responsive budgeting,
women's political participation

Budget

EUR 30 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Timor-Leste

Start year

2017

Partners

Secretariat of State for the Support of Socio-economic Promotion of Women,
Timor-Leste Women Parliamentarians Group, UN Women

Beneficiaries

Total number not yet available
36 journalists (24 of whom are women)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

17

Indicator(s):

17.1, 17.7

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Timor-Leste has strong policies and laws on gender equality and women's empowerment. However, their implementation remains a challenge due to a lack of resources – both financial and human. The 'Partnership to improve service delivery through strengthened public finance management and oversight (PFMO)' initiative responds to these needs by focusing on gender-responsive budgeting and capacity building for women.

The agreement for the PFMO programme was signed in 2015, with the overall objective of advancing sustainable development in Timor-Leste through enhanced effectiveness, integrity, transparency, accountability and the citizen-orientation of public service delivery. The programme has two components: direct budget support and capacity building. At least 50 % of participants in capacity building activities should be women. In addition, the programme aims to strengthen the capacity of the Group of Women Parliamentarians. Moreover, one of the PFMO programme's major outputs involves improved gender-responsive budgeting.

Although gender is a cross-cutting theme in the programme, the development of a Gender Action Plan for Timor-Leste by the EU Delegation has led to a greater emphasis placed on gender issues. The Gender Action Plan was developed in line with the sectoral work of the EU Delegation, and includes a framework of GAP II indicators. Two of these indicators are related to the PFMO programme: the percentage of seats held by women in the national parliament and/or sub-national elected offices (GAP II indicator 17.3) and the number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at the local and national level with EU support (GAP II indicator 17.7).

Implementation

The PFMO programme provides training on planning, management, auditing, monitoring, accountability and oversight of the use of public finances to improve the delivery of public services. Crucially, the programme addresses women's training needs. As noted above, at least 50 % of capacity building participants are women. The Timor-Leste Gender Action Plan, based on the 2016 Timor-Leste Gender Analysis, influences the implementation of the PFMO programme and informs policy dialogue. The inclusion of gender indicators in the PFMO programme and the Timor-Leste Gender Action Plan strengthen the monitoring of performance on gender equality issues.

However, as the Timor-Leste Gender Action Plan does not influence the content of the PFMO programme, relevant information – such as the results of training women journalists – does not reach the programme, as there are already many indicators to monitor. The next edition of the PFMO programme will include stronger gender indicators.



36 journalists from Timor-Leste, 24 of whom are women, attend a training course on data journalism as part of the PFMO programme

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

Although the PFMO programme was formulated before the GAP II was launched, the programme is in line with GAP II objective 17, on women's equal rights and ability to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels.

No gender analysis or EU gender expertise was used in the formulation of the PFMO programme. However, UN Women was involved in its formulation and contributed to defining the programme component on gender-responsive budgeting. Moreover, following the approval of the GAP II in 2016, the EU Delegation formulated a gender analysis. On the basis of this analysis, the EU Gender Action Plan for Timor-Leste was developed. The action plan, with two indicators related to public finance management, informs the implementation of the PFMO programme. Timor-Leste's national gender equality machinery was consulted through the Secretariat of State for the Support of Socio-economic Promotion of Women, as well as the Timor-Leste Women Parliamentarians Group.

Key elements of the promising practice

The PFMO programme is relevant as it includes gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), which stands to contribute to the implementation of Timor-Leste's policies and laws on gender equality. While the programme is not entirely innovative – as public finance management programmes which include GRB have been implemented in other contexts in the country – it can contribute to the consolidation of results. It is also important to note that the PFMO programme is responsive to women's strategic and practical needs as it provides capacity development for women and men on public finance issues and political participation.

Championing and advocacy

Through the PFMO programme, the EU Delegation to Timor-Leste joined a partnership on gender-responsive budgeting. The participants trained, both women and men, will be well-placed to advocate for the implementation of gender-responsive budget within their institutions.

The PFMO programme also produced a 'Gender-Responsive Budgeting Policy Note: Mainstreaming Gender into the Public Financial Management Reform (2017-2021)'. This informative document can be used to strengthen advocacy activities.

Sustainability and replicability

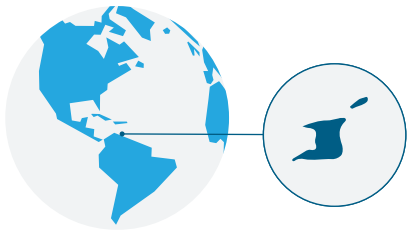
While positive trends are visible, it remains to be seen whether local ownership is sufficient and the changes made by the programme will be sustainable.

Society in Timor-Leste remains patriarchal, especially in remote regions, and traditional customs often have greater weight than national laws. Even with the successful implementation of the gender equality components of the PFMO programme, the sustainability of the changes evoked and their impact on gender equality and women's empowerment should be evaluated, especially in remote areas.

Conclusions and lessons learned

A major lesson learned from the PFMO programme is that more gender-focused resources should be made available. This lesson is also applicable to other situations and contexts.

Timor-Leste's gender-sensitive policies and laws, and the EU's policies and frameworks on gender equality – including the recent Timor-Leste Gender Action Plan – have been key to the success of the PFMO programme. Given the situation in Timor-Leste, the EU Delegation hopes to receive a specific budget for gender equality. More resources are needed to address specific issues, such as high levels of gender-based violence, in the context of the gender-responsive budgeting component of the PFMO programme.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

A Sexual Culture of Justice: Strengthening LGBTIQ and GBV partnerships, capacity and efficacy to promote and protect rights

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Trinidad and Tobago

Region

Americas

Key themes

Advocacy for social change, including of gender norms and sexual rights, LGBTI rights, fighting gender-based violence and gender bias

Budget

EUR 187,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago

Start year

2017

Partners

CAISO, Friends for Life, I Am One, the Silver Lining Foundation, Womantra, Women's Caucus

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

18

Indicator(s):

18.1, 18.2, 18.3

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

'A Sexual Culture of Justice: Strengthening LGBTIQI and GBV partnerships, capacity and efficacy to promote and protect rights in Trinidad and Tobago' is an activity-based, human rights programme that provides support to some of the longest-standing and emerging local efforts to transform approaches to partner violence, homophobia, bullying and policing that discriminates against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community, while building partnerships and organisational capacity. Initiated in April 2017 and running through to March 2020, the programme includes a set of linked activities with different kinds of actors, aimed at influencing a 'sexual culture of justice' in Trinidad and Tobago through a change in societal thinking. The initiative is a community-university collaboration, funded by the European Union, and implemented by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) of the University of the West Indies and six of the leading LGBTI and feminist organisations in Trinidad and Tobago.

A Sexual Culture of Justice is considered a promising practice as it seeks to deal with a number of issues highlighted by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), as identified in the EU Delegation's strategy – including LGBTI rights and gender-based violence (GBV). The initiative is a form of advocacy for social change – particularly in terms of changing gender norms and promoting sexual rights – which is grounded in local analysis and action-based research. The programme is considered gender-transformative as it focuses on social change around harmful gender and sexual norms.

Implementation

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), the programme's coordinator, has a long history of working with civil society groups to end GBV and advance LGBTI rights in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as across the region.

The programme includes direct action to transform attitudes and behaviours related to GBV. Activities encompass GBV training, media creation, the 'Safer Schools' teacher training materials, police training, the collection of life stories, the development of a policy agenda, and the 'Add All Three' campaign.

GBV training and media creation activities support and train a diverse group of men to champion a new culture of gender equality and non-violence in their different communities. This involves five-day workshops completed between October and December 2017, and the creation of scripted messages for the media, challenging sexism and GBV through public service announcements. These videos – five live-action and one animated video – as part of the 'Men Speak Up! Champions Against GBV' and 'Pull Up Yuh Bredren' campaign were launched in November 2018 on social media. They feature messages about consent and engaging men to speak out against street harassment, 'slut-shaming', and other forms of GBV. These videos are culturally sensitive and appropriate for the local and regional context, yet they also speak to a global audience, as GBV and street harassment are global issues. The campaign videos have been circulated widely on social media (via platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter), and have attracted positive responses. The videos were also aired on local television stations and used for peer-to-peer community actions led by men trained by the programme.

The 'Safer Schools' teacher training toolkit and facilitator's guide created by the programme focus on preventing a culture of bullying related to sex and gender. This builds upon the Silver Lining Foundation's school survey, released in November 2017, and involved the training of 46 teachers and guidance counsellors through two cycles of teacher training workshops, in September 2018 and January 2019.

The 18 life-stories of working-class LGBTI people collected by the programme offer reflections on their experiences of families, support systems and violence, as well as an assessment of needs, and ideas for social change and transformation. These stories were featured on the programme's online knowledge portal and guided the policy agenda launched during the election season.

A police training toolkit and training workshops are being developed, focusing on GBV, LGBTI bias, and law enforcement's obligation to ensure justice for all.

The programme's completed and on-going activities have been highly successful. Its knowledge products, toolkits, training, workshops and campaigns have been shared widely by all partner and affiliated organisations. Rights-holders and guarantors are at the heart of these activities.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

A 'Sexual Culture of Justice' addresses GAP II thematic priority D, on strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation. GAP II objective 18, on civil society's work to champion gender equality, influenced the programme's design and implementation.

While no specific gender analysis was used in the formulation of the programme, the results of a 2015 survey on women aged 18-49 were used to inform how gender stereotypes and norms simultaneously drive GBV and attitudes towards LGBTI persons. All programme activities are led by civil society, women's rights and LGBTI organisations, who have been involved since the initiative's conceptual phase.

The programme uses research and the media to communicate ideas around social change in aid of LGBTI rights and combatting GBV. Thus, advocating for the rights of people with different sexual identities and GBV survivors is a cornerstone of the initiative.

Key elements of the promising practice

The programme is highly relevant as LGBTI issues are very controversial in Trinidad and Tobago, and GBV is prevalent. In order to gain overall acceptance within communities, GBV training and media creation activities centre on supporting and training a diverse group of men to champion a new culture of gender equality and non-violence in different communities, while disseminating messages that challenge sexism and GBV via the media.

At the government level, one activity focuses on policy change through the 'Add All Three' campaign. This advocates for legal protection for LGBTIQ persons, calling for them to be included in the Equal Opportunity Act, as well as age and health conditions.

At the social level, the entire programme focuses on societal change to transform harmful gender and sexual norms that reinforce stereotypes and discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation.

Championing and advocacy

The programme partners, been involved since the conceptual stage, lead the initiative's activities. The programme's research and results are used to inform policy dialogue and promote change. Dialogue can contribute to advocating for the decriminalisation of LGBTI issues, the approval of the country's gender policy, and more comprehensive support to prevent and address GBV.

Backlash from anti-gay and religious groups has come to the fore following a recent court ruling on the decriminalisation of homosexual sex. This precipitated a spike in discrimination, which the programme's partners addressed, in part, by scaling up advocacy.

Sustainability and replicability

As noted above, the findings and actions of the programme are utilised to inform regular policy and political dialogue on gender equality issues. This includes policy dialogue among stakeholders at the policy level – regarding data collection on GBV, the approval of the National Gender Policy, and gender-responsive budgeting – as well as the political level. Actions implemented the programme's partners to transform attitudes and behaviours related to GBV can be replicated and sustained.

Conclusions and lessons learned

A 'Sexual Culture of Justice' emerged as a result of civil society commitment, EU policy and the call for supportive policies at the national level in Trinidad and Tobago. As the programme is still being implemented, it is too soon to fully articulate lessons learned. However, it appears that using targeted approaches which engage change-makers and human rights' guarantors – within systems, workplaces and families – will lead to structural change.

In addition, building community and organisational capacity, strengthening strategic alliances, and linking strategic information to action are key to creating an enabling environment to address GBV and safeguard LGBTIQ rights in Trinidad and Tobago.

Additional information

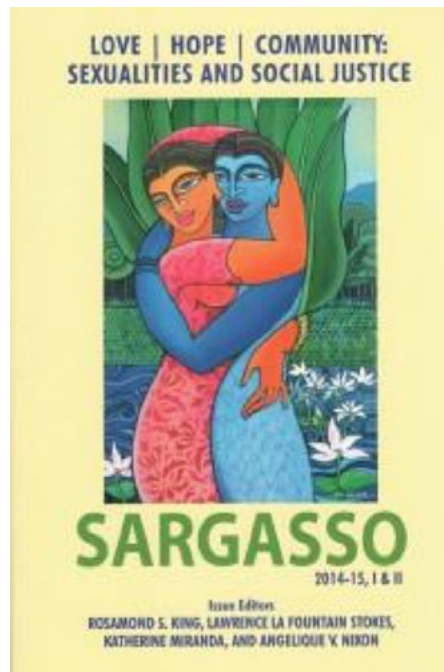


Website

[A Sexual Culture of Justice](#)



Issues Guyana publication

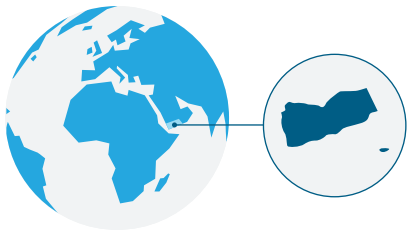


Sargasso publication



International Resource Network's Digital Library of the Caribbean





EU DELEGATION TO YEMEN

Building peace and enhancing human rights in 16 Yemeni governorates

Gender-sensitive practice

Country/countries

Yemen

Region

Gulf States

Key themes

Human rights, peace-building, engaging women and girls in decision-making

Budget

EUR 900,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Delegation to Yemen

Start year

2017

Partners

Mwatana (Yemeni human rights organisation)

Beneficiaries

43 victims of arbitrary detention (during 2018-2019)
Local communities in seven governorates

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

18

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Since the outbreak of war in Yemen in 2015, the country has experienced a humanitarian catastrophe. Despite the Stockholm Agreement of December 2018, implementation remains challenging. The rights and security of Yemen's population are jeopardised by political fragmentation, weak governance, and fragile rule of law – all of which also exacerbate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), gender-based discrimination and gender inequality, which were already widespread before the war began. While men and boys comprise most of the direct victims of armed conflict, forced recruitment by armed groups, and arbitrary detention, women and girls are increasingly exposed to gender-based violence, harmful practices, such as child marriage, and the consequences of poverty.

In the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the 'building peace and enhancing human rights' initiative monitors and documents human rights violations in 16 Yemeni governorates. Actions include the provision of legal aid to survivors, especially extrajudicial detainees, awareness raising on human rights and the rule of law among law enforcement and judicial officials, and community dialogue on human rights and protection issues.

The initiative is considered gender-sensitive as it tackles violations of women's human rights through the provision of ad hoc legal support, as well as by involving women field lawyers in the targeted governorates.

Implementation

The initiative's implementing partner, Mwatana, has drawn attention to a lack of knowledge of basic human rights and legal frameworks governing detention among Yemen's police, judges and detention officers, as well as among detainees. The organisation has uncovered numerous irregularities in detention sites, including procedures for the arrest and treatment of prisoners. An analysis by the organisation shed light on misconceptions of what is legal, and what is not, as a result of the deterioration of governance and the rule of law during the war in Yemen.

Responding to these findings, the initiative's specific objectives are to: (i) monitor and document human rights violations in 16 governorates; (ii) provide legal support to survivors of human rights violations (especially extrajudicial detainees) in six governorates; (iii) raise awareness of how to protect human rights and promote the rule of law among police officers, prosecutors, judges in the police stations and the Ministry of Interior, detention officers of de facto authorities; and (iv) initiate community dialogue on the importance of protecting human rights and upholding the rule of law in seven governorates.

Awareness raising activities target both actors in the law enforcement and justice system, as well as working directly with detainees to increase knowledge of their rights and provide legal aid.

In 2018 and 2019, Mwatana provided legal support to 43 individuals subjected to arbitrary detention and forced disappearance. The initiative also engaged communities in the governorates of Taiz, Al Hudida, Aden, Hadramout, Marib and Sana'a in a dialogue with local authorities on human rights, gender equality and protection issues.

During the monitoring activities, Mwatana uncovered many cases of SGBV. However, it was difficult for the organisation to document these cases, due to limited staff skills and the risk that staff would be exposed to direct and indirect threats if they followed SGBV cases. In response, Mwatana began specific training for field staff and lawyers to prevent the risk of being targeted or threatened when on duty.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The project addresses GAP II objective 18 as it supports women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' rights – particularly by fostering an enabling environment in which they can operate safely.

A participatory context analysis was undertaken, engaging women and girls in the definition of the initiative's actions.

The initiative's focus on including women lawyers among field staff, and on prioritising women detainees' access to justice, makes it particularly relevant to the advancement of the GAP II. The initiative is also relevant due to its role in prompting community dialogue on human rights, gender equality, and the rule of law.

Key elements of the promising practice

The initiative's efforts to monitor and document detention conditions provides evidence of human rights violations, a lack of knowledge and the limited implementation of Yemen's legal framework governing detention. This information has been used by Mwatana to raise awareness among officials. As a result, some officials' understandings and attitudes towards detainees have changed, as has their implementation of legal provisions and willingness to cooperate. In turn, this has encouraged Mwatana to plan to scale up the initiative in other governorates.

Championing and advocacy

As the situation in Yemen is complicated and unstable, it proved difficult to approach Yemeni authorities regarding the core issues addressed by the initiative. However, the evidence collected can be used by donors and supporters to advocate for the human rights of detainees – both women and men – as well as the implementation of Yemen's laws on detention.

As a result of the initiative, Mwatana's staff are increasingly aware of the current state of detainees' human rights, affording them vital knowledge that can be used to inform advocacy initiatives.

Sustainability and replicability

The action is innovative in Yemen as it promotes the recruitment of women lawyers in field teams, and prioritises legal support for women detainees. A key aspect that contributes to the initiative's sustainability is its success in increasing awareness of human rights and the rule of law among officers at detention centres. By laying this solid foundation, the initiative can be replicated in other governorates.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Mwatana's field experience highlights how difficult it can be for civil society to address misconceptions around human rights, gender equality and the rule of law – particularly among dominant political groups in a conflict situation. Key lessons learned include:

- It is necessary that staff working in a complex context is well trained on communications and negotiation with official and de facto authorities.
- Staff need specific support and training on how to address SGBV cases, as well as how to protect themselves from becoming the targets of threats or violence.
- Dedicated efforts by local staff, particularly women lawyers, enabled the initiative to develop an effective methodology for addressing misconceptions on human rights, the rule of law, and harmful practices in detention centres. This knowledge should be more valued and systematised so that it can be used in other activities.
- Raising communities' awareness of mismanagement in detention centres and human rights violations highlighted the responsibilities of Yemen's official and de facto authorities. This awareness should be used to increase authorities' accountability towards the population and detainees.
- Women and girls should be further engaged in decision-making processes, including after this specific initiative ends.
- Recruiting women in the project team, and engaging women and girls in decision-making, should be promoted in future donor initiatives in Yemen, as far as possible, considering the difficult country context.





IRELAND

She Leads: Community-based activism, response and empowerment to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Liberia

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Liberia

Region

West and Central Africa

Key themes

Women's political participation, women's leadership, transformation of negative gender norms

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Ireland (Irish Aid)

Start year

2018

Partners

International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

19

Indicator(s):

19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Liberian women and girls experienced appalling violence during the country's 14-year civil war. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains widespread, as does impunity for such crimes. Rape continues to be the most frequently reported crime in Liberia. On May 2017, the House of Representatives passed the "Domestic Violence Bill"² amid protests by women's and human rights organisations against the removal of female genital mutilation (FGM) from this piece of legislation. As GBV is considered a leading obstacle to sustainable development, ending GBV is a key element of Ireland's development assistance strategy in Liberia.

The She Leads initiative complements the project to establish one-stop centres across Liberia, also funded by Irish Aid and implemented by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Activities include providing medical, psychological and legal support to women survivors of GBV, while supporting their reintegration into society. This entails complementary initiatives that engage men and boys in preventing and combatting GBV, in addition to supporting women's socio-economic empowerment. She Leads is considered a promising gender-transformative practice as it strives to leave no one behind by equally including women, girls, men and boys.

Implementation

She Leads supports the design and testing of ad hoc models for the operationalisation and management of one-stop centres to address GBV, as well as to collect and manage information about GBV survivors. Data and information are regularly shared with national GBV platforms and clusters active in the country. The one-stop centres provide comprehensive medical and psychosocial support, paired with access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence.

She Leads' activities are implemented in four communities where five one-stop centres are located.³ Actions focus on preventing GBV through the 'Engaging Men in Accountable Practices' (EMAP) component, that addresses intimate partner violence by enabling men and boys to reflect on their own gender biases, understand violent and controlling behaviour, and hold themselves and each other accountable for behaving violently. At the community level, stakeholders with experience of domestic violence are also engaged. Information is fed back to steering committees, leading to policy dialogue with other stakeholders, the Government and communities. The initiative also supports women's economic empowerment through the Economic and Social Empowerment (EASE) component. This promotes the participation of women's groups in Village Savings and Loans Associations, business skills training and discussion groups to support women to gain economic self-sufficiency and reduce their vulnerability.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative is in line with GAP II objective 19 on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes. Although no specific gender analysis was undertaken for the She Leads initiative, existing analyses from previous work on gender equality are used to inform activities. Global learning and expertise from the home office have been especially important. Both Irish Aid's and the IRC's gender expertise proved critical for the identification and design of the initiative, in close consultation with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, local civil society organisations, women's groups, community groups and GBV clusters. By collecting data and information on domestic violence at the community level, She Leads enables policy dialogue with a range of stakeholders, including the Government.



The She Leads initiative in Liberia

² This bill is entitled "An Act to Amend Title 26, Chapter 16 of the Penal Law. LCLR Offences against the Family to Add Subchapter A. Domestic Violence".

³ The five one-stop centres are located at Star of the Sea (West Point), Duport Road (Paynesville), Redemption Hospital (New Kru Town), James N. David Junior Hospital (Paynesville) and Hope for Women Hospital (Paynesville) in Montserrado County.

Key elements of the promising practice

She Leads adopts an integrated approach to advance the empowerment – social, cultural and economic – of GBV survivors and their communities, in order to address the root causes of GBV. The development of standard operating procedures for the one-stop centres is an especially notable part of the She Leads initiative. These have been successfully designed and tested by partner organisations in a participatory manner. Another notable element is the initiative's focus on engaging men and boys to transform negative interpretations of masculinity that underpin GBV. As a result of the involvement of women's organisations, the initiative elected to expand its focus on boys, who were not included in the initial design phase.

Championing and advocacy

Following awareness raising on the free services provided by one-stop centres, GBV reporting is on the rise, including the reporting of crimes other than rape. Women increasingly recognise that they do not have to wait for a rape to occur in order to report instances of GBV. The experiences and outcomes of the She Leads initiative informed advocacy with the Government. Such advocacy contributed to the passage of the 'Domestic Violence Bill', which had been signed by the former President the previous year. The initiative also advocated for simplifying the language used in the bill, so that it can be easily understood by men and women at the community level.

Sustainability and replicability

The data gathered by one-stop centres enables stakeholders to measure the magnitude of, and response to, GBV in Liberia. In the wake of the initiative's advocacy activities, the Liberian Government has agreed to an unprecedented level of collaboration and displays a growing interest in data collection and analysis related to GBV. The initiative also strengthened the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's ability to provide a key platform for the management of GBV cases. The involvement of men and boys in addressing GBV is an innovative approach in the country. Male ownership of initiatives to prevent and combat GBV are vital for their sustainability. Such ownership is grounded upon engaging men and boys to transform negative interpretations of masculinity, particularly beliefs and behaviours that are conducive to violence.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The Embassy of Ireland in Liberia strongly advocated for the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill by the Liberian House of Representatives. However, further advocacy is required to ensure that female genital mutilation is addressed. This should be paired with awareness raising at the community and political levels to ensure that FGM is recognised as a crime that must be condemned, punished and prevented.

The resistances faced by the She Leads initiative are worth noting. For example, it proved challenging to get men on board and initially, they demanded payment for attending meetings. However, within a few weeks, they began to show an interest in the discussions and attending on their own initiative.



The She Leads initiative in Liberia

Key lessons learned from the She Leads experience include:

- 1) The inclusion of men and boys in gender equality actions is a promising practice that can and should be replicated.
- 2) Local leadership support ensures community participation. This is true around the globe.
- 3) The transformation of social norms takes time and cultural awareness is extremely important, especially with respect to highly sensitive topics such as FGM.
- 4) Women's economic empowerment is key. When women control their own resources, equity and equality thrive within households and women are more well-placed to take part in decision-making.
- 5) It is crucial to support women in decision-making and leadership roles. To this end, it is vital to involve men and boys, alongside women and girls.

Additional information



The She Leads initiative in Liberia



Web pages

[IRC GBV Learning Conference April 2019](#)

[16 Days of Activism and IRC Advocacy for DV Legislation](#)





THE NETHERLANDS

Leading from the South (LFS)

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Multi-country

Region

Asia and the Pacific, Africa,
Americas

Key themes

Women's political and civil rights,
women's rights organisations

Budget

EUR 42 million

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: The Netherlands

Start year

2017

Partners

South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF), African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Fondo Mujeres del Sur (FMS) (Fund of Women from the South), International Indigenous Women's Fund Ayni (FIMI)

Beneficiaries

122 women's organisations in 67 countries (2018 data)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

N/A

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

One of the policy instruments of the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support women's rights and gender equality is the 'Leading from the South' (LFS) programme, which runs from 2017 to 2020. This programme is aimed at strengthening women's rights organisations, movements and networks at the regional, national and grassroots levels, through women's funds in the Global South. Four women's funds manage the LFS programme: the South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF) in Asia, the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) in Africa and the Middle East, Fondo Mujeres del Sur (FMS) in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the International Indigenous Women's Fund Ayni (FIMI) on a global level for indigenous women.

The Netherlands estimates that, thanks to the LFS fund, women's organisations in developing countries now have unique networks that enable them to make an essential contribution to the struggle for equal rights for women. Through innovative and flexible grants, paired with capacity building, LFS strengthens women's organisations, movements and networks in terms of their lobbying and advocacy capacity. In addition to financing, the programme provides a linking and learning component, based on South-South partnership, which contributes to the sustainability of the actions. In 2018, the programme supported 122 women's rights organisations in 67 countries. The programme is a promising and unique practice because it is led by feminist women's organisations, who are clearly rooted in the women's rights movement.

Implementation

'Leading from the South' is part of the broader Dutch policy framework, 'Dialogue and Dissent', for partnerships with civil society organisations. One of the assumptions behind this broader policy framework is the understanding that different opinions are needed to enable transformative processes.

The goal of the programme is to provide resources and support to organisations, groups and movements working on women and girls' rights, in order to lead change and transform societies towards the full achievement of human rights in the Global South. The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs elaborated the framework with the following objectives:

- to strengthen southern feminist women's organisations, movements and networks, enabling them to influence policy at the local, national, regional and international levels;
- to set in motion an empowerment process to improve women's social, political and economic participation, in order to influence governments so that barriers to women's participation are removed; and
- to provide women's organisations, movements and networks with the tools they need to reduce exclusion, discrimination, violence and unequal treatment.

Each of the four southern women's funds financed through the LFS programme – the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (FMS), the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) / Ayni Fund (AYNI), and the South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF) – selects organisations to finance within its region. They do so on the condition that financing fits the programme's policy framework and its way of working. These conditions were agreed upon at the beginning of the programme. In addition to financing, the programme provides capacity development for women's organisations, links them with other experiences, and enables learning from examples. The four funds are involved in the women's rights movement and have a comprehensive understanding of the contexts in which they operate. Therefore, they are able to select truly feminist and women's rights organisations that are led by women. As the LFS programme's themes are broad, the four women's funds are able to finance organisations which address diverse topics.

The LFS programme is gender-transformative in two ways. First, it contributes to a shift in more direct financing towards women's (rights) organisations in lower, lower-middle and middle income countries. By ensuring that four regional women's funds act as intermediate financers, the knowledge and capabilities of these feminist organisations are recognised. Second, the four funds finance local women's rights organisations who address local gender-based discrimination and inequalities. In order to do this, both dialogue and dissent are needed. In many cases, different views and opinions influence policy and enable the lobbying of authorities.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

Although the GAP II did not directly influence the formulation of the LFS programme, it is in line with GAP II thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights', which focuses on strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation.

Colleagues from Mama Cash and Prospera have provided gender expertise for the conceptualisation of the LFS programme. Moreover, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs has in-house gender experts who are highly experienced in working with women's rights organisations.

Moreover, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands is a gender champion, supporting gender analyses as they are crucial for the ministry's work. A gender analysis was conducted by the four women's funds to design their proposal in the framework of the LFS programme. Each fund formulated a theory of change and undertook a gender analysis to determine their priorities.

Key elements of the promising practice

LFS is led and owned by the four regional women's funds. It has been important to acknowledge their ownership by not presenting the programme as a Dutch fund.

Moreover, LFS is relevant and justified, as the women's funds and their grantees deal with (often strongly) shrinking space for civil society, which affects their freedom and safety.

Another critical factor in the success of the LFS programme is the involvement of gender experts from the partner organisations from the very beginning, which ensured ownership of the action.

In addition, flexibility in financing, monitoring and reporting can be considered another key element. The Netherlands chose to directly finance lower, lower-middle and middle income countries, and to particularly strengthen organisations that are rooted in the feminist movement in the regions where it operates.

Championing and advocacy

The strength of collaboration for inclusive democracy lies in diversity. As a political choice, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to support feminist organisations that question inequality and unequal power relations. In a context in which the political space for civil society organisations and movements is shrinking, this kind of support is absolutely necessary.

The success of the LFS programme is made increasingly visible as more women are able to claim their rights. This has elicited the interest of donors in financing women's rights organisations and funds in the Global South. Examples of successful financed activities include major campaigns for legislation on safe abortion in Argentina; the organisation of the first gay pride and efforts to strengthen the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community in French Guyana; and the development of courts that address sexual abuse in South Africa, in order to hold the Government accountable for developing systems that assist survivors of sexual violence.

Sustainability and replicability

The LFS programme brings grantees together, through linking and learning meetings, while simultaneously linking the local, national and international levels to contribute to the achievement of SDG 5. Capacity development for organisations in the Global South, as well as moves to strengthen the broader feminist movement by bringing actors together and increasing solidarity, contributes to the sustainability of the programme.

The LFS programme's three core themes are in line with other women's rights and gender equality programmes promoted by the Netherlands' Minister of Foreign Affairs. These include the FLOW programme which works to advance women's economic empowerment, to counter violence against women and girls, and to enhance women's political participation and leadership.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Within the 'Dialogue and Dissent' policy framework, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to work in partnership with civil society, going beyond a mere subsidy relationship. Organisations and the ministry work together to achieve jointly defined strategic goals. Every actor in the partnership has its own networks, experiences, qualities and instruments – and, therefore, its own responsibility, identity and autonomy.

The LFS programme, especially with regard to the strength and capabilities of the women's funds involved, has inspired other colleagues within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other donors to promote the leadership of organisations in the Global South, and to support them directly. Many organisations in lower, lower-middle and middle income countries are strong enough to play a leading role in change in their own societies.

The four women's funds financed by the LFS programme participated in the annual Linking and Learning Conference of the 'Dialogue and Dissent' programme. This enabled participants to share their learning and fostered solidarity between civil society organisations worldwide.

A number of lessons learned can be highlighted from the LFS programme's experience:

- There is a strong need to ensure the autonomy of civil society organisations. The autonomy of social organisations and movements is a crucial pre-condition for opening up civic spaces. Donors should play a key role in building an enabling environment for civil society to work autonomously.
- Supporting women's rights organisations does not replace gender mainstreaming. It is important for donors to realise that they are not the ones who create the change, but they can facilitate the processes that enable change – towards greater gender equality – by supporting women's rights organisations.
- In addition to dialogue, dissent is inherent to working on lobbying and advocacy capacities. However, this is sometimes difficult for donors to accept.
- Civil society's ownership of change processes should be recognised by donors who fund their programmes. For this reason, 'Leading from the South' is not presented as a Dutch fund, but rather as a programme led by women's organisations from the Global South.
- In the framework of multi-country programmes, context-specific strategies are needed to enable consistent, effective operations.

Additional information



Website (managed by the four women's funds)

[Leading from the South](#)

Video

[Short film on the Leading from the South programme](#)





PORTUGAL

Women's rights in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe

Region

West and Central Africa

Key themes

Women's political, social and economic participation, women's participation in decision-making, gender and the media, women's access to justice

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Portugal

Start year

2018

Partners

Portugal: Association for Cooperation Between Peoples (Associação para a Cooperação Entre os Povos) (ACEP)
Cape Verde: Women's Organisation of Cape Verde (Organização das Mulheres de Cabo Verde) (OMCV)
Guinea-Bissau: Arise Women of Guinea (Minjderis di Guiné No Lanta) (MIGUILAN)
São Tomé and Príncipe: Platform for Human Rights and Gender Equality (Plataforma para os Direitos Humanos e Equidade de Género) (PDHEG)

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

17

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

Designed by women's groups and civil society organisations, the project promotes a more conducive political, economic, and social environment for women's rights in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe. The initiative is grounded on a thorough gender analysis by the project partners, which highlights how discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes act as barriers to women's participation and decision-making at all levels of private and public life. The initiative is considered gender-transformative as its design is informed by comprehensive research on women's participation in the political, economic, and social spheres in all three target countries. Research findings, moreover, inform policy and political dialogue with policy-makers, with a view to promoting gender-transformative environments. To this end, the project partners have forged strategic partnerships with national parliaments, central administrations and non-state actors to advocate for and support women's access to justice, while advocating for the eradication of gender stereotypes through the media. Cross-country experiences on women's participation in political, social and economic life are used for information sharing, as well as to create networks within partner countries and at the regional level.

Implementation

The project's partner organisations drew on their extensive experience of promoting women's rights and engaging in community-based movements – around human rights, peace, stability and poverty eradication – to identify women's practical and strategic needs. The partners agreed that meeting these needs will create a more favourable environment for the realisation of women's rights and gender equality. To this end, the partners aim to raise awareness, sensitise and encourage the co-responsibility of non-state actors and national authorities.

To inform the project, research was developed on topics related to women's rights, including women's representation in political, economic and social contexts, the representation of women in the media, and women's decision-making and negotiation power in the public and private spheres. This research was used to support national media entities to develop information and communications programmes – including on cross-country experiences – to stimulate public debate on women's status and conditions in all three countries. At the same time, the project engages in dialogue with members of parliament and local authorities. In this way, it cultivates conditions conducive to improved legal frameworks for protecting women's rights and implementing existing laws. The initiative is further reinforced by broad-based dialogue with a range of state and non-state actors, as well as by civil society activities to exchange knowledge in four West African Portuguese-speaking countries, including Angola.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The project addresses GAP II objective 17 on women's participation in policy and governance processes, in line with Portugal's Cooperation Strategy for Gender Equality² – particularly Axis 2 (Governance) and Axis 3 (Economy, Productivity and Employment) – in addition to the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries' (CPLP) Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2017-2020³, particularly Axis 16 (Political Participation and Decision-making). The initiative is similarly in line with the partner countries' gender equality frameworks, such as Cape Verde's Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (PEDS), the Terra Ranka development programme in Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe's National Strategy for Gender Equality (ENIEG). More broadly, the project is relevant to other core issues highlighted by the GAP II, such as priority A, 'Institutional Culture Shift', which it addresses by partnering with governments and decision-makers at the national and community levels. It also deals with challenging gender-biased norms and stereotypes (objective 19) through the media, and the protection of women's rights by improving access to justice (related to objective 17). The initiative is also relevant to the GAP II as it is designed by women's organisations, grounded upon gender analysis and envisions evidence-based actions, including policy and political dialogue, as outcomes of research on gender equality and women's participation with regard to the media and decision-makers.

2 Cooperação Portuguesa – IPAD Instituto Português de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento, *Estratégia da Cooperação Portuguesa para a Igualdade de Género* (Portuguese Cooperation – IPAD Portuguese Institute for Development Support, Gender Equality Strategy) https://www.instituto-camoes.pt/images/cooperacao/estrategia_cp_igualdade_genero.pdf

3 CPLP Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa, *Plano de Ação para a Igualdade de Género e Empoderamento das Mulheres 2017-2020* (CPLP Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Action Plan 2017-2020*) https://www.cig.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/PLANO-DE-AÇÃO_2017-2020.pdf

Key elements

The project's ultimate goal is to evoke cultural change towards greater gender equality in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe – encompassing a shift in mentalities and practices to challenge the gender norms and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination and prevent women from fully enjoying their human rights. Guided by evidence-based research – that pinpoints the root causes of gender-based discrimination and women's marginalisation in social, political, and economic life – the initiative engages in dialogue with governments and decision-makers, strives to improve legal frameworks for women's rights and raises media awareness. Wide-ranging partnership with civil society and government actors, coupled with the initiative's regional character, facilitates communication and experience sharing.

Championing and advocacy

The project includes two activities centring on policy dialogue, which aim to strengthen legal frameworks and foster the implementation of laws and policies to protect women's rights. Dialogue is conducted with policy-makers in parliaments and within central administration, as well as with other state and non-state actors, through ad hoc meetings and networking in the three partner countries. The project simultaneously engages with the media in public debates on gender equality and women's rights, in order to raise awareness of the state of women's security, safety, economic status and social conditions. These debates also explore solutions to addressing women's poverty and lack of security.

Sustainability and replicability

Efforts to change harmful practices that limit gender equality and human rights are, in themselves, ways of ensuring sustainability. Thus, the initiative may be considered sustainable given its focus – in line with the GAP II and EU gender equality policies – on changing the ways in which women are treated in the workplace, public life and at home, enhancing their mobility, ensuring freedom from violence, and securing the space for women to voice their needs and opinions.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The first year of the project's implementation has made it clear that interventions require consistent policies and actions to change mind-sets and transform gender norms. Involving experienced women's organisations is vital for producing high-quality research and analysis that effectively identifies women's needs and the barriers they face, while devising actions to overcome these challenges and advance gender equality. Thus, for example, the project focuses on raising the media's awareness given their role in producing and reproducing gender-biased stereotypes that underlie gender inequality. Moreover, the project reveals how useful it is to engage with decision-makers, at all levels, through policy dialogue so as to convince them to take responsibility for cultivating more gender-transformative environments in their countries.

Additional information



Website

[Associação para a Cooperação Entre os Povos](#)

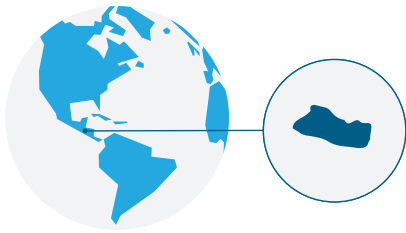
Further resources

Camões, I.P., Programa Estratégico de Cooperação – Portugal – Guiné-Bissau (2014-2020), Lisbon 2014.

Camões, I.P., Programa Estratégico de Cooperação – Portugal – São Tomé e Príncipe (2015-2020), Lisbon, 2015.

Camões, I.P., Memorando de Entendimento Portugal - Cabo Verde PEC 2016-2020, Lisbon 2016.





SPAIN

Strengthening the processes of mainstreaming the principle of equality in the Salvadoran public administration

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

El Salvador

Region

Americas

Key themes

Institutional strengthening for gender mainstreaming, gender equality public policies, institutional culture shift

Budget

EUR 150,000

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Spain

Start year

2018

Partners

UNDP, UN Women, Salvadoran Institute for Women's Development (SIWD), Technical Secretariat of Planning of the Presidency (TSP), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR), National School of Public Education (NSPE), Training School for Substantive Equality (TSSE), Technical Unit of the Justice Sector (TUJS), Court of Auditors of the Republic (CAR), National Council for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (NCSME)

Beneficiaries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Technical Secretariat of External Financing

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

19

¹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

In line with El Salvador's National Equality Plan 2016–2020 and the Institutional Strategic Plan of the Salvadoran Institute for Women's Development's (SIWD), the initiative intends to establish gender mainstreaming mechanisms within Salvadoran institutions. The initiative falls under the El Salvador–Spain Development Partnership 2015–2019, results area 8, 'Public administrations improve their planning and management capacity'. The action is also aligned with the Spanish Institutional Strengthening Fund for Development (FFID), which includes support to SIWD to 'Increase public administrations' capacity for greater effectiveness and efficiency in the fight against poverty and gender equity in sustainable development'.

As the lead institution for public policy on gender equality in El Salvador, SIWD leads the National System for Substantive Equality (SNIS), which includes 50 executive, legislative and judicial institutions, alongside other state institutions. The initiative supports Gender Units and other units in El Salvador's public administration – such as Human Resource Units, Planning Units, and Budgeting Units – by equipping them with the tools to ensure planning and budgeting that integrates a gender perspective.

With the initiative's support, SIWD has signed agreements with institutions that are part of the SNIS to improve institutional culture, prepare gender-responsive budgets and promote good practices for gender equality. Following this engagement, the initiative has supported the training of public officials on gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting, as well as the definition of guidelines on gender mainstreaming.

As of March 2018, El Salvador's Ministry of External Relations, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the National Council for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (NCSME) joined the initiative. They have committed to applying the guidelines and using good practices to mainstream the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination across their institutions. UNDP has supported these commitments through the development of an institutional Gender Equality Seal.

Implementation

The initiative has three main components: (i) planning for gender equality, (ii) gender equality architecture and institutionalisation, and (iii) capacity building on gender equality.

In the framework of the first component, the initiative facilitates the inclusion of gender equality and non-discrimination principles in the organisational culture and institutional work of Salvadoran institutions. This is pursued through institutional exchanges, analyses and training public managers on gender equality. Training efforts are supported by Spanish institutions with expertise in gender mainstreaming, benefitting both the National School of Public Education (NSPE) and the SIWD Training School for Substantive Equality (TSSE). The exchanges also involve technical assistance from Spanish institutions in the field of institutional culture, as well as in the institutionalisation of budget reforms and planning systems which integrate a gender perspective.

In terms of the second component, the initiative supports El Salvador's national budgeting system to develop gender-sensitive budgets in the justice sector. Through joint work, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), UN Women, the Ministry of Finance and SIWD have developed guidelines. Public officials managing the national budgeting system will be trained on how to implement these guidelines. In parallel, training modules will be prepared and rolled-out by the TSSE and the NSPE for the benefit of other public institutions.

With regard to the third component, 50 institutions under the SNIS will be encouraged to apply guidelines and good practices for mainstreaming the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination. The SNIS has identified a number of good practices implemented by its members to facilitate the harmonisation of standards, planning systems, budgets and public expenditures, organisational culture, non-sexist language, and gender training processes. These practices will be systematised and disseminated, so that they can be adopted by other public institutions.

Moreover, a partnership has been established with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the development of a Gender Equality Seal, aimed at facilitating the institutionalisation of the gender mainstreaming process. In coordination with SIWD, a roadmap has been created for the pilot implementation of the Gender Equality Seal in El Salvador's public sector.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The initiative addresses GAP II objective 19 on challenging and changing discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes. A comprehensive analysis of gender mainstreaming in Salvadoran institutions was undertaken before the initiative was designed, with a particular focus on gender-responsive budgeting. The analysis also included the results of the annual SIWD gender mainstreaming analysis of Salvadoran institutions.

The initiative is supported by SIWD's provision of gender expertise. UNDP also contributed in-house gender expertise for the development and implementation of the Gender Equality Seal. In addition, the initiative seeks external gender expertise, when needed.

The initiative can be considered gender-transformative because it has improved understandings of gender mainstreaming, and supported its implementation, in El Salvador's public administration. This, in turn, is contributing to an institutional culture shift in aid of gender equality. Promoting gender mainstreaming incentivises institutions to adopt a win-win approach. This has strengthened internal capacities while facilitating the implementation of institutional guidelines for gender mainstreaming in planning and budgeting processes.

Key elements of the promising practice

The initiative is flexible in that it is applicable to different types of institutions. Its systemic approach to gender mainstreaming, based on evidence of institutional achievements, ensures institutional learning which contributes to more effective gender mainstreaming in public institutions.

The Gender Equality Seal is the most innovative aspect of the initiative as it promotes stronger accountability for gender equality at the institutional level. This has also contributed to improving the organisational environment, an aspect that had been previously neglected.

In addition, the initiative has promoted:

- measures for balancing work and family life, which have been incorporated in the Internal Regulations of the Technical Unit of the Justice Sector (TUJS);
- the approval of a protocol on violence and sexual harassment in the workplace, which will be implemented by public institutions' Gender Units, Legal Units, and Human Resource Management Units;
- the creation of a gender-responsive budget line, negotiated with the Ministry of Finance;
- a gender-sensitive communications strategy;
- institutional investments in gender equality; and
- a network of women entrepreneurs.



Signature of the project agreement, March 2018

Championing and advocacy

The initiative has contributed to positive change because gender equality is now clearly on El Salvador's public agenda. It has promoted a broader understanding of gender equality, beyond a focus solely on gender-based violence with which gender equality is often equated in El Salvador. The institutional culture shift towards improved gender mainstreaming in public institutions contributes to addressing other forms of gender-based discrimination, beyond GBV alone.

One of the initiative's key results is greater transparency and accountability for gender equality in terms of public finances, by making it clear how much is invested in gender quality. The Gender Equality Seal targets every aspect of gender mainstreaming in partner institutions, including human resources and the implementation of plans and projects, through the use of indicators and results-based management.

In the wake of the initiative, the Director of the National Council for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (NCSME) and the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) have emerged as gender champions. Both are strongly committed to gender equality, and use the information and outcomes of the initiative to advocate for gender equality with other public institutions.

Sustainability and replicability

The initiative has contributed to improving El Salvador's institutional response to gender equality. Good institutional practices on gender mainstreaming have highlighted the existence of mechanisms and tools that are already in place, and can be replicated in other institutions. The initiative has also fostered sustainability by providing high-level capacity building on gender mainstreaming at the institutional level. Similarly, it has enabled coordination between public institutions, thereby contributing to the creation of viable mechanisms for institutional co-responsibility.

Support from El Salvador's highest-level authorities and top management in public institutions guarantees the initiative's ownership and sustainability. Overall, these actions contribute to improving women's rights and gender equality in the country, which further ensures long-term sustainability.

Conclusions and lessons learned

AECID's strategic support for the initiative has been a boon to SIWD's efforts to strengthen gender mainstreaming and to secure significant support for actions, including measures to improve technical capacities. The possibility of establishing technical assistance partnerships with SIWD and UNDP improves the level of response at the senior management level.



Meetings with partner institutions, experts from the UNDP Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Director of SIWD, May 2018

The initiative has significant potential to increase other institutions' commitment to gender mainstreaming, due to the technical assistance it provides. Institutional self-analysis facilitates the definition and prioritisation of activities based on evidence.

Some lessons learned can be highlighted to improve the implementation and sustainability of the initiative:

- The initiative promotes tools that are flexible and easy to understand. However, the application of these tools involves different institutional areas/units. It is important to ensure that commitment is maintained and communication between different institutions is clear and regular.
- The initiative put in place an ambitious process that is often slowed by bureaucratic processes within institutional contexts.
- Establishing institutional committees is a key first step for applying the dimensions and tools related to the Gender Equality Seal. However, institutional committees require efficient planning to maintain their commitment.
- The technical support provided by SWID, AECID and UNDP, as well as the exchange of experiences and bilateral follow up, were key factors for maintaining motivation and following up on implementation. The initiative's tools and roadmap are vital elements to incorporate within institutional guidelines for gender equality, in order to standardise progress.

Additional information

SELLOS DE IGUALDAD DE GÉNERO

Principales avances que han aportado a la implementación de los Sellos de Igualdad en el sector público:

- Lanzamiento de la Política Institucional de Igualdad y no Discriminación.
- Diagnóstico del manejo de la comunicación institucional con el apoyo de ISDEMU a partir de proceso de formación con la Unidad de Comunicaciones.
- Actualización de lineamientos de planificación con enfoque de género, para sede y servicio exterior.
- Iniciativa de murales para la prevención de la violencia contra las mujeres, que contó con el apoyo de la titularidad y amplia participación de las unidades organizativas.
- Taller de formación con la Colectiva de Mujeres para el desarrollo local, denominado "Estereotipos de género en el ámbito laboral".
- Aplicación del enfoque de género a proceso de evaluación del servicio consular en representaciones en Estados Unidos.
- Elaboración de Protocolo de prevención, atención y protección para casos de acoso laboral, acoso sexual y discriminación contra las mujeres en el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores.

OFICINA DE ASUNTOS DE GÉNERO
MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

Gender equality advancements in the public sector

Cooperación Española

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

ISDEMU

Política Institucional de Igualdad y no Discriminación

Plan de Acción

MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES (MARN)

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR 3 DE ENERO 2019

Plan of Action on the Institutional Policy for Equality and Non-Discrimination





SWEDEN

Men and Women for Gender Equality programme

Gender-transformative practice

Country/countries

Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine*¹ and Morocco

Region

EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Key themes

Violence against women, equal share of household work, care agenda, women's economic empowerment, child marriage, unequal inheritance

Budget

USD 10,000,000
(EUR 9,067,005.17²)

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: Sweden
Swedish International Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Start year

2016

Partners

Multi-country: UN Women, Promundo, Musawah
Egypt: El-Zanaty and Associates, Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo (AUC)
Lebanon: Connecting Research to Development (CRD), ABAAD-Resource Centre for Gender Equality
Morocco: Association Migration Internationale (AMI) (International Association for Migrations), Centre des Etudes et Recherches Féminines en Islam (CERFI) (Centre for Women's Studies and Research in Islam)
Palestine: Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020³

Priorities:



Objective(s):

19

- ¹ *This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.
- ² Estimates calculated as per the exchange rate at the start of the programme, based on the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates. For more information, see: <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>
- ³ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The 'Men and Women for Gender Equality' programme is funded by the Swedish International Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and implemented by UN Women, in partnership with civil society and research organisations in four participating countries – Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine*.

The first initiative of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the programme is considered gender-transformative as it addresses the root causes of gender inequality by engaging men and boys in innovative, community-led solutions. The programme uses bottom-up approaches and evidence-based advocacy, with a focus on the sustainability of new and emerging movements, particularly those that are youth-led. The programme has two main components: evidence-based advocacy, and capacity development, community engagement and youth networks.

In the framework of the evidence-based advocacy component, the 'International Men and Gender Equality Survey' (IMAGES MENA) was undertaken in the target countries by Promundo – an international NGO founded in Brazil, with expertise in promoting healthy masculinities and gender equality – in partnership with specialised organisations and research institutions in each of the participating countries. Based on the outcomes of the study, advocacy and knowledge products were developed. These included a regional outreach campaign, guidance notes, an advocacy toolkit, and the 'Business Case for Gender Equality in the Workplace'.

In the framework of the capacity development, community engagement and youth networks component, the programme has enhanced the capacity of community-based organisations to promote gender equality in the family context, by using feminist interpretations of Islam. Good practices are disseminated through exchanges with other countries.

Implementation

The Men and Women for Gender Equality programme intends to contribute to: (i) better understandings of the root causes of gender inequality, and the use of an evidence-based approach to advocate for policy change; (ii) strengthening the capacities and networks of civil society organisations working on gender equality and women's empowerment, with a focus on the sustainability of new and emerging movements, including those that are youth-led; and (iii) supporting the development of innovative, community-led solutions to advance gender equality.

The programme devises actions based on evidence from research and studies on the root causes of gender inequalities and discrimination in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine. When the programme began in 2016, it supported the regional International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES MENA) as part of a comprehensive multi-country study funded by SIDA, with additional support from other donors.⁴

IMAGES MENA⁵ involved quantitative and qualitative research with men and women between the ages of 18 and 59 in the four participating countries. The majority of men surveyed in all four countries subscribe to a wide array of inequitable, traditional attitudes. Nevertheless, a sizeable minority – one-quarter or more of the men in every country – display support for at least some dimensions of women's equality and empowerment. The research also offers evidence of individual men and women whose life experiences demonstrate that achieving gender equality is possible. An important finding in nearly every other country where an IMAGES survey has been carried out is that younger men consistently display more equitable attitudes and practices than their older counterparts; in Morocco, Palestine and Egypt, this was not the case.

Grounded on the findings of IMAGES MENA, the programme focuses on four main areas: (i) gender-based violence; (ii) gender socialisation – i.e. addressing the violence that men who became perpetrators of violence have experienced themselves, often within their families; (iii) young men – i.e. addressing the socio-cultural aspects that make young men in Morocco, Palestine, and Egypt more likely to hold gender inequitable views than elsewhere; and (iv) fatherhood.

The programme has successfully implemented advocacy and capacity building activities. For example:

- i) in 2017, the regional outreach campaign [#Because I'm a Man](#) was launched;
- ii) a variety of knowledge products have been developed to challenge gender stereotypes and raise awareness of positive masculinities;

4 The multi-country International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) is funded by the Swedish Agency for International Development with additional support from the Arcus Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (via Prevention+), the United States Institute of Peace, the United States Department of State in partnership with Vital Voices, and the Oak Foundation.

5 The study is available at: <https://imagesmena.org/en/>

- iii) four Guidance Notes have been elaborated on fatherhood and care-giving, gender socialisation, engaging youth, with a focus on young men, and ending violence against women;
- iv) the 'Business Case for Gender Equality in the Workplace' has been developed ;
- v) a youth and gender advocacy toolkit has been created to support young people to advocate for gender equality; and
- vi) research and knowledge products on women's rights in Muslim family contexts, male guardianship (in Morocco), and tools for promoting alternative interpretations of religious texts have been produced.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The programme is in line with the GAP II and contributes to its advancement. It is particularly linked to GAP II objectives 18, on civil society and women's organisations working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, and 19 on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.

The partner organisations – UN Women, Promundo, and Musawah – used in-house gender expertise, including their expertise on gender-related research, to design the initiative. In addition, all of the partners in the participating countries have highly qualified in-house gender experts who contributed either to the research, or to the programme's advocacy activities.

The evidence-based information produced in the framework of the programme have informed policy dialogue carried out by all partners with governments in the four countries, on all possible occasions. Policy briefs and learning materials have been disseminated widely, including through social media, national television and the press.

Key elements of the promising practice

The programme has undoubtedly produced changes, although more at the individual than the institutional level. It has proposed new, achievable models of masculinity that are increasingly drawing the attention of rights holders, especially youths. While institutional change among government institutions is less evident, there are clear signs of change among many partner civil society or community-based organisations. For instance, some of these organisations have institutionalised paternity leave.

The programme has bolstered positive ways of engaging men by capitalising on men's willingness to get involved. The initiative uses strategic entry points to trigger men's interest, such as (i) a fatherhood programme that involves young fathers in refugee camps in Lebanon, (ii) reaching youth using sports, and (iii) promoting positive male role models through plays, cinema, cartoons, etc.

Furthermore, the programme openly tackles gender-based discrimination and violence, addressing a range of issues – from women's economic participation to violence against women, women's reproductive health and rights, child marriage, unequal inheritance, non-responsive fatherhood, harmful gender norms and stereotypes, and interpretations of Islamic messages to promote gender equality.



Photo credit: UN Women/Emad Karim

The promotion of women's rights in Islam is another crucial element of the programme. On the one hand, the programme involved Muslim professors and academics to research and produce learning materials on gender equality in the Quran. On the other hand, it organised empowering information dissemination sessions and training courses for both women and men.

Championing and advocacy

At first, the programme faced some resistance from participating organisations who feared that engaging men and boys would mean marginalising women's rights. The implementing partners worked extremely closely with all partners involved in the four countries to jointly define activities and dispel doubts.

The programme champions gender equality by advocating for change in terms of harmful patterns of masculinities, based on evidence of existing gender-discriminatory norms, beliefs and attitudes in the participating countries.

The programme's wide-ranging campaigns and extensive dissemination of knowledge products has spread messages of positive masculinities in the countries – messages that benefit both women and men. Although the level of change achieved has not yet been measured, changes are visible at the family level (e.g. child care, household care) and at the level of civil society (e.g. the introduction of gender quotas for boards, parental leave, more programming for engaging men and boys).

Sustainability and replicability

The programme's research and evidence-based approach is replicable in other contexts. So too is its use of key entry points to address gender equality issues. Some of the entry points proposed by the programme have also been used by governments. For example, the National Commission of Women in Egypt considered men's engagement when developing the National Strategy for the Empowerment of the Egyptian Women 2030.

Moreover, the programme's partners have scaled up internal gender equality measures. For instance, UN Women has increased programming for men's and boy's engagement, while some civil society organisation have expressed the intention of establishing a 50 % gender quota for their boards.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The Men and Women for Gender Equality programme has strengthened the capacity of civil society organisations in the four participating countries to undertake activities that promote gender equality. A regional network of gender trainers has been established in the region, with technical support from the ABAAD Resource Centre for Gender Equality in Lebanon. Thanks to the IMAGES MENA findings, community-based and national level organisations in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine are more empowered to take action to promote positive masculinities.

Some key lessons learned from the programme include:

- Initiatives that intend to produce societal and individual change should always be preceded and informed by comprehensive studies.
- A strong feminist perspective is required in initiatives that seek to engage men and boys in change for gender equality. For instance, it is vital to interrogate the power relationships between men and women.
- While extensive awareness raising, information and communications activities have contributed to challenging values, attitudes and practices that limit gender equality, it is necessary to scale up interventions to reach governments and more of the general public.

Additional information



Web pages

[About the programme](#)

[Study International Men and Gender Equality Survey – MENA region \(IMAGES MENA\)](#)

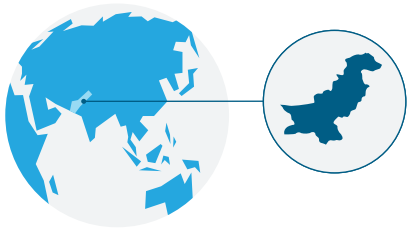
[International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\)](#)

Videos

[Video of the campaign #Because I'm a man](#)

[Knowledge products of the 'Men and Women for Gender Equality' programme](#)





UNITED KINGDOM

Research on women’s political participation in Pakistan conducted from the perspectives of women voters and women politicians and activists

Gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and gender-transformative aspects

Country/countries

Pakistan

Region

Asia and the Pacific

Key themes

Women’s political participation

Budget

N/A

Related SDGs



EU entity

EU Member State: United Kingdom

Start year

2016

Partners

Collective for Social Science Research (CSSR), Institute for Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women of Pakistan, Aurat Foundation (CSO), South Asia Partnership Pakistan (CSO), politicians

Beneficiaries

N/A

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020¹

Priorities:



Objective(s):

17, 18

¹ *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)* is the EU’s framework for action to promote gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Introduction

The action encompassed a research study on women's collective action in Pakistan to increase their political voice, and an exploration of the gender voting gap: examining why the gap exists, how to address it, and how best to increase women's political participation. The World Values Survey 2010-14 showed that Pakistan has one of the highest gender gaps in voter turnout in the world, including in metropolitan areas which do not have the same community-based restraints on women's participation associated with tribal and communal customs as rural areas. Women's entry into the political arena is still subject to religious and ideological debate in Pakistan, despite constitutional protections, such as the Election Law 2017, which mandated political parties to allocate 5 % of their tickets for general seats to women. Even when women are elected, they are exposed to attacks on their personal credibility and physical safety, including silencing and verbal harassment.²

The research in Pakistan is part of an international research programme, 'Action for Empowerment and Accountability' (A4EA),³ which explores how social and political action can contribute to empowerment and accountability in fragile, conflict-affected and violent settings, with a particular focus on Egypt, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria and Pakistan. The programme is led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and is being implemented by a consortium which also includes the Accountability Research Center (USA), the Collective for Social Science Research (Pakistan), the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (Pakistan), Itad (UK), Oxfam (GB and Myanmar), and the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (Kenya). It is funded by the Government of the United Kingdom through UK Aid.

Implementation

Conducted by the Collective for Social Science Research (CSSR) and the Institute for Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), the research involved these partners' close collaboration with other stakeholders to examine the gender gap in voting in Pakistan. These key stakeholders included the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Pakistan's National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women, two civil society organisations – the Aurat Foundation and South Asia Partnership Pakistan – international non-governmental organisations, academics, and elected women officials in Pakistan's national assembly, senate and provincial assemblies.

As part of the research, CSSR conducted the first ever online Women Parliamentarian Survey with 200 legislators from the national assembly, senate and provincial assemblies. This explored their experiences and sought to understand what measures would increase their political empowerment. The survey examined to whom women politicians feel they are accountable, as well as looking at ways in which the courts could be used to expand women's space in politics.

A survey organised by IDEAS found that 61 % of women in the sample thought it was appropriate for women to stand as candidates in elections, compared to 34.5 % of the men in the sample. This suggests that greater gender equality in electoral participation may translate into a larger political constituency in support of gender equality among parliamentary representatives. IDEAS' research specifically examines why there is such a large gender gap in voter turnout in metropolitan areas. This takes into account the Elections Act 2017, which enables the Election Commission of Pakistan to order re-polling in constituencies if it finds evidence of 'an agreement restraining women from casting their votes'. While such measures have been effective in rural communities, the gender gap in voter turnout persists in Pakistan's cities. The research identifies a combination of factors which explain this phenomenon: men's views about women's political engagement and when it is appropriate for them to vote, as well as women's own knowledge of politics, elections and the voting process.

A household survey of 2,500 randomly selected households was undertaken in the city of Lahore, the second largest city in Pakistan. Within each household, one man and one woman were randomly selected for interviews. Focus group discussions were held with a smaller number of respondents.

Based on the findings of this phase of the research, researchers from IDEAS worked with two CSOs – the Aurat Foundation and South Asia Partnership Pakistan – to conduct a specifically-designed multi-dimensional mobilisation campaign with the 2,500 households (excluding a small control group), as part of an experiment to increase women's turnout. The campaign included an original video on accountability relations between voters and their representatives, alongside a voter education campaign designed to educate women voters and motivate them to vote. It also targeted men to act as enablers for women's voting.

² For more information, see: <https://www.ids.ac.uk/publications/empowering-women-politicians-in-pakistan-views-from-within>

³ For more information, see: <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/12859>

The experiment, which included a randomised, controlled trial targeted at both women and men in a random sample, found that focusing on households (rather than communities), and mobilising both women and men, led to an increase of 8 % in women's turnout on election day in July 2018 in the communities where both women and men were mobilised. Given that the overall gender gap in this election was about 13 % in Lahore, this is a major positive result.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

The research addresses GAP II objectives 17 and 18 on women's access to governance and decision-making processes, and the ability of women's organisations and other CSOs and Human Rights Defenders to work freely for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, protected by the law.

In Pakistan's political history, women have been marginalised and denied their right to equal participation in politics. By researching the impediments that women face in carving out a space for themselves in the political landscape and having their voices heard, the action targets sexism within Pakistani politics. As social and cultural norms dissuade women from participating in politics by casting political participation as somehow disreputable, the research explored ways in which NGOs and donors are working towards re-defining notions of respectability. It also examined how stakeholders are educating people on the importance of women's involvement in the political process, with a view to countering the social and cultural norms which limit women's political participation.

The research interrogates the constraints women face in being able to use democratic spaces and deciding whether they will turn out to vote. It goes beyond standard explanation of Pakistan's large gender gap, which focus on the overt restrictions imposed on women voters by men in their families and communities. Instead, the research investigates more subtle processes that socialise women into non-political roles, and result in a 'gendered psyche' that makes women feel invisible and irrelevant to the electoral process.⁴

Key elements of the promising practice

The research carried out by the Collective for Social Science Research studies women's collective action to increase their political voice. It examines the experiences of women in politics, activists' campaigns to restore a quota for women's seats in elected bodies, and women's groups advocating for women's voices to be heard in post-conflict areas of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Specifically, the research seeks to better understand and bridge gaps in the political process, focusing on three key questions:

- How did the women's movement lead to the decision to restore and increase the quota for women in elected bodies?
- How have women used their elected positions, and worked in caucuses, to promote their interests? What other measures will further strengthen women's political voice?
- What insights can be gained into pro-women policy-making by looking at women's activism, political voice, and other factors within a broader contextual framework to identify patterns that may predict further progress?⁵

Championing and advocacy

Taking Pakistan's commitments to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and post-Beijing policies as a starting point, the action suggests measures to promote gender equality in political participation. By sharing research findings in various fora with the Election Commission of Pakistan and the National Commission on the Status of Women, CSSR and IDEAS helped to develop a policy agency for greater women's political empowerment in Pakistan's forthcoming elections.

The research offers three main policy recommendations:

- 1) Voter education campaigns targeted at both men and women should be used to help increase women's turnout in metropolitan contexts.

4 For more information, see: <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/14352>

5 For more information, see: <https://www.ids.ac.uk/publications/women-in-politics-gaining-ground-for-progressive-outcomes-in-pakistan>

- 2) Political parties need to engage with women directly to help reduce their perception of being ‘politically invisible’. This requires increasing the number of women party workers to reach women in their households, as well as ensuring more representation of women in the pool of candidates nominated to contest general seats.
- 3) Help reduce women’s political invisibility by institutionalising women’s citizens’ collectives that give them a voice as citizen auditors of public service delivery and budgeting.

During the research process, CSSR met with various activists from the women’s movement. An activist agenda for targeting equality in political participation was crafted in these meetings.

By working with the Election Commission of Pakistan and the National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women on the experiences of women in politics, the research led to dialogue which introduced new elements to these debates, such as the harassment in politics and sexism within political parties in order to advance gender equality in politics. The project and its team are now working with the Election Commission and the National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women to explore ways of implementing these findings.

Stakeholders also helped CSSR to map out the history of campaigns for the restoration of reserved seats that began in the 1990s. Moreover, they contributed to formulating strategies to increase women’s turnout in elections, and measures to enable women to navigate the political sphere. Members of women’s rights and gender equality organisations were consulted through three study circles and two large-scale consultations, to develop a coherent, forward-looking strategy. This included proposals on how political parties could be restructured to include more women at decision-making levels with the party hierarchies. Other proposals centred on the gender sensitisation of the media to ensure more appropriate media coverage of women legislators and reduce the harassment they experience.

The push towards increasing the quota for women in politics is an on-going process. Equipped with its research and newly formed networks, CSSR is working closely with key stakeholders in the electoral process, including the Election Commission of Pakistan and National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women.

Sustainability and replicability

The commitment and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders was key to the success of the action and its longer-term impact and sustainability. During the action, strategies were formulated, for example, on how to increase the turnout of women voters in elections, as well as proposal on how political parties could be re-organised to better attract women candidates and engage with women voters.

CSSR and IDEAS presented the research to the Electoral Commission in December 2018 and again in April 2019. These meetings were attended by the ECP Secretary and the Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), as well as members of provincial commissions, CSOs and academia. The ECP and NCSW indicated that the findings would be integrated into the ECP’s Strategic Planning Document, which is being developed.

The components of the research – ranging from an online survey with women parliamentarians, a household survey, focus groups, a multi-dimensional mobilisation campaign, and the active engagement of key stakeholders, such as the Election Commission – demonstrate that it is possible to make progress on increasing women’s political participation, even in complex contexts.

Conclusions and lessons learned

All contexts are different, and those affected by crises face very particular challenges. The research conducted in Pakistan provides a valuable example from which others could learn, especially in terms of its findings about the different ways in which women and men manoeuvre the political realm.

The voter education campaign led by the Aurat Foundation and South Asia Partnership Pakistan showed that campaigns targeted at both women and men – rather than either/or – can increase women voters’ turnout.

In addition, the research demonstrates that political parties need to engage with women directly and counter women’s own perceptions of political invisibility. Hence, political parties will need to take steps to recruit more women party workers to reach women in the households, since working at the community level leads to selection biases in favour of women who are already more mobile and more engaged.

Increasing women's turnout for elections not only promotes gender equality in political participation but also can also impact which issues are addressed in the political sphere. IDEAS' survey shows that 18.3 % of women surveyed viewed the provision of clean drinking water as the most important public policy issue in the run up to the 2018 election, compared with 9.2 % of men. This suggests that gender equality in electoral participation could change the issues that are addressed politically.

Throughout the research, CSSR identified obstacles women politicians face to their substantive representation. In a fragile, crisis-affected country, women in politics face a broad range of obstacles. Despite this, women legislators have shown great resilience and passed landmark laws to protect women's rights over the past decade.

CSSR further argues that the role of activists in civil society and donor support for their organisations have been vital to building momentum for gender equality in political participation. This must be sustained going forward.

Additional information



Articles

Cheema, A.; Khan, S.; Liaqat, A.; Khan Mohmand, S. and Kuraishi, A. (2019) '[Women's Political Participation in Pakistan's Big Cities: Evidence for Reform](#)', IDS Policy Briefing 166, Brighton: IDS.

Cheema, A.; Khan, S.; Khan Mohmand, S. and Liaqat, A. (2019) '[Invisible Citizens: Why More Women in Pakistan Do Not Vote](#)', IDS Working Paper 524, Brighton: IDS.

Khan, A. and Naqvi, S. (2018) '[Women in Politics: Gaining Ground for Progressive Outcomes in Pakistan](#)', IDS Working Paper 519, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies.

Khan A. and Naqvi, S. (2019) '[Empowering Women Politicians in Pakistan: Views from Within](#)', IDS Policy Brief.

Additional links: [Institute of Development Studies \(IDS\)](#), [Accountability Research Center \(USA\)](#), [Collective for Social Science Research](#) (Pakistan), [Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives](#) (Pakistan), [Itad](#) (UK), Oxfam ([GB](#) and [Myanmar](#)), [Partnership for African Social and Governance Research](#) (Kenya).



ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Template for good practice reports

Title

Gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and gender-transformative aspects

Country/countries

EU entity

Region

Start year

Key themes

Partners

Budget

Beneficiaries

Related SDGs

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan II

Introduction

Introductory information presenting the context and crux of the promising practice.

Implementation

Information on the implementation of the promising practice.

Relevance to the advancement of the EU Gender Action Plan II

Information on the practice's relevance to the GAP II's aims, objectives and priority issues.

Key elements of the promising practice

Information on particularly remarkable aspects of the promising practice.

Championing and advocacy

Information on how the practice engaged in championing and advocacy for gender equality.

Sustainability and replicability

Information on how the practice is sustainable and replicable.

Conclusions and lessons learned

Summary of lessons learned and conclusions drawn from the promising practice.

Additional information

Additional information, including links to websites and other resources, on the promising practice.

ANNEX 2

Methodology and criteria for the selection of good practices

A promising practice for gender equality is an opportunity for the EU, partner governments and implementing partners to: (i) raise awareness about the state of play of gender equality; (ii) provide information on the causes that produce gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination; (iii) promote understanding of how gender inequality intersects with other inequalities on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic situation, sexual identities, etc.; and (iv) give greater visibility to good results for the attainment of gender equality in a given context/sector.

The practices were collected through the 2018 Gender Action Plan reporting exercises. EU actors comply to the requirements of the GAP II reporting by sharing information with HQ via two templates, from which information is then collected and analyzed. The first template is a survey questionnaire filled by all EU actors; the second is a database (called Action Database) where EU actors report on actions which were implemented in 2018, that are focused on gender equality or where gender is mainstreamed through the action. The template of the action database includes a space in which a reported action could be highlighted as a 'promising practice'. To assist respondents to decide whether or not an individual action was a promising practice, criteria were included in the template and could be easily consulted by clicking on a link.

Definition and criteria of a 'promising practice'

A promising practice for 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 rights holders. A promising practice to advance gender equality responds 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 rights holders). It should also be either:

- at minimum *gender-sensitive*, i.e. aiming to understand and address the social and cultural factors that produce gender-based discrimination and inequalities in the diversity of private and public life ;
- preferably *gender-responsive*, i.e. aiming to increase accountability and accelerate the implementation of commitments to gender equality with a rights-based approach at the international, national and community levels; or
- desirably and ideally *gender-transformative*, i.e. aiming to a shift or evoke a positive change in the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm(s) that produce gender-based discrimination and inequalities in a given context.

Lessons learned are an intrinsic part of such practices because they help to determine what works and what does not work in a specific context. This is particularly relevant either to the criteria of quality or sustainability.

A promising practice is such if it meets at least 10 of the following criteria:

- 1) It reflects at least one objective per each priority of the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020.
- 2) It is informed by a context-specific and sector-specific gender analysis.
- 3) It was designed in consultation with, or with the engagement of, a 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 of gender inequality and discrimination 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 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 techniques or methodology that led to a positive outcome.
- 10) It has an acceptable balance between efficiency (efforts) and effectiveness (results).
- 11) It is appropriately relevant to the context and is ethically sound.
- 12) It is well accepted, recognised and understood by rights holders who are keen to reproduce it.

- 13) It focuses on lessons learned to implement corrective actions and address systems.
- 14) It has good quality performance management standards.
- 15) It is a good candidate for additional study (specific research on impact, evaluation, etc.).

Methodology for selecting promising practices

Overall, respondents who reported on the GAP II's implementation indicated 1,817 actions as promising practices in 2018. Of these, approximately 50 were selected for follow-up through an interview, in order to determine their inclusion in the GAP II Annual Implementation Report. These include up to 30 practices reported by EU Delegations and EU Member States at the partner country level, and one for each EU Member State. For some Member States, which reported without following the agreed templates, examples from their submissions were included in the report. In these cases, the Member State's promising practice was selected by their representative, following an email request. The final number of promising practices included in the report was less than the 50 originally selected, as some representatives were not available for interviews during the drafting period.

The selection of promising practices was based on the criteria highlighted above, in addition to the following requirements, with the exception of practices by EU Member States which did not submit an action database. Moreover, the selection of promising practices by EU actors in partner countries for inclusion in the report paid close attention to regional distribution.

The criteria/requirements applied per region were:

- Starting date: 2016 onwards.
- GAP II thematic priorities: B, C, D.
- GAP II thematic objectives: 7-20. While the report aimed for a spread across objectives, 50 % of the selected practices reflected those objectives most selected by reported actions – objectives 7, 13, 15 and 17. Particular attention was paid to especially transformative GAP II objectives, namely objectives 8, 14, 18 and 19. Therefore, during the compilation of the annual report, it was decided that there should be at least one practice which contributed to objective 19.
- The other 50 % of promising practices should include: some joint programming, gender mainstreaming and budget support (see points 7, 8 and 10 in this list).
- Rating of actions:
 - gender-transformative and partially gender-transformative practices were rated 'high priority', with a score of 3;
 - gender-responsive and partially gender-responsive practices were rated 'medium priority', with a score of 2;
 - gender-sensitive practices were rated 'low priority', with a score of 1; and
 - actions marked 'partially gender-sensitive' were excluded.
- Range of sectors:
 - high priority was accorded to the sectors of infrastructure, transport, governance, public finance management, justice, energy, agriculture, and water and sanitation, with a score of 3; and lower priority was accorded to the sectors of health, education, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMSEs)/
 - financial inclusion, with a score of 2.
- Joint programming: To the extent that information was available, attention was paid to selecting examples which involved joint programming.
- Gender mainstreamed projects were rated 'high priority' (with a score of 3), while component-only projects were 'medium priority' (with a score of 2). However, these scores proved difficult to use and were not employed in all cases.
- Innovation proved difficult to apply, in terms of:
 - gender-specific 'highly innovative' practices in non-traditional sectors, or practices that addressed GAP II objectives 8, 14, 18 or 19, which were assigned a score of 3; and
 - gender-specific 'interesting, but mid-level innovative' practices, which were assigned a score of 2.
- Modality: In terms of cooperation/partnership grants, budget support and blended modalities, among others, priority was given to budget support projects.

ANNEX 3

Priorities, objectives and indicators of the EU Gender Action Plan II (GAP II)

GAP II – Horizontal priority

- A. Institutional Culture Shift in the European Union's external relations
1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States.
 - 1.1.1. Annually, number of EU positions for key international agendas that included a focus on gender equality, and the rights of girls and women
 - 1.1.2. Number of political/policy dialogues between EU actors and partners in the country that raise gender equality issues per year and at country level
 - 1.2.1. Status of the European Strategy for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men 2010 - 2015 (Milestone 1 Strategy adopted; Milestone 2 Strategy implemented)
 - 1.3.1. Number of Member States programmes that support the achievement of the priorities identified in the SWD
 - 1.4.1. Number of partner countries where EUDs and MS have agreed on context specific measures from the SWD
 - 1.4.2. Number of partner countries with gender donor coordination mechanisms led by the EU on donor side
 - 1.4.3. Number of Human Rights country strategies that include gender equality as an objective
 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States.
 - 2.1.1. Number of senior gender champions appointed at HQ and country level
 - 2.1.2. Whether a mechanism is established to consult external senior expertise on strategic and ad-hoc issues in relation to gender equality (e.g. advisory board)
 - 2.2.1. Ratio of women as EU Heads of Missions (Baseline 2014: 24 %)
 - 2.3.1. Number of good practices highlighted in Institutional Annual Reports.
 - 2.3.2. Number of corrective actions taken per year to improve performance on gender equality
 - 2.3.3. Perception by EU staff of management performance on gender (Source: annual survey)
 - 2.3.4. Number of rewards or equivalents handed out to management/programme staff as per agreed criteria
 - 2.3.5. Findings of final independent evaluation of EU leadership on gender equality
 - 2.4.1. Whether corporate reporting systems include a clear assessment of performance on the SWD objectives as a requirement
 - 2.4.2. Number of spot checks evaluating performance on gender equality per year
 - 2.4.3. Findings of independent evaluation of quality and reach of EU results for women and girls
 - 2.4.4. Number of SWD objectives EUDs and MSs select to report against at country level
 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments.
 - 3.1.1. Change (increase or decrease) in dedicated funding to improving results for girls and women after reviews and 2017 MTR (or equivalent)
 - 3.2.1. Number of staff, disaggregated by level, trained on gender equality per year, and reporting changes in the way that they work.
 - 3.2.2. Number of gender focal persons (or equivalent) trained per year.
 - 3.2.3. Gender mainstreamed into all training provided
 - 3.3.1. Number of Gender Focal Persons (or equivalent) who have 3 years of gender expertise and/or more than 5 years of technical experience in a related field
 - 3.3.2. Number of job descriptions that contain gender equality as an area of responsibility, by seniority
 - 3.3.3. Gender point included in performance assessment systems for relevant staff (Management, Heads of Mission, Gender Focal Persons, etc.)
 - 3.4.1. EU gender resource package (i.e. research, capacity development and knowledge building material) online (by April 2016)
 - 3.4.2. Capacity4dev.eu user statistics on use of gender resources
 - 3.5.1. Number of queries responded to, disaggregated by thematic area

4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making.
 - 4.1.1. Number of thematic, bilateral and regional programmes per year using gender analysis to inform design.
 - 4.1.2. Number of programme evaluations per year that include an assessment of impact on women and girls.
 - 4.2.1. Whether internal processes of methodological review are carried out to mainstream gender in quality assurance mechanisms (e.g. for the EC: Quality Support Group, etc.).
 - 4.2.2. Number of new Action Documents (or equivalent) commented and subsequently revised including for poor gender consideration.
 - 4.3.1. Percentage of programmes using findings of consultations with National Gender Equality Mechanisms, CSOs, women's organisations, to inform action design.
5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress.
 - 5.1.1. Status of results monitoring on gender sensitive indicators (Milestone 1: by end 2016, if needed, corporate results frameworks are revised to include gender sensitive indicators and indication of sex disaggregation that is aligned with SDGs indicators. Milestone 2: By end-2016 all results gathered in addition to those included in corporate results frameworks are sex-disaggregated where relevant)
 - 5.1.2. Percentage of results disaggregated where relevant by sex in Results Framework(s)
 - 5.1.3. Status of SWD indicators as compared to the SDGs (target – by end 2016, if needed, the SWD is reviewed taking the finalised SDG indicators into consideration)
 - 5.3.1. Number of justifications for OECD Marker G0 scores (defined as: “no inherent potential to impact on gender equality”)
 - 5.3.2. Percentage of new programmes that score G1 or G2 (Target: 85% of new programmes score G1 or G2 by 2020)
6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality.
 - 6.1.1. Number of research projects co-financed by EU (EUD/MS) on gender related issues
 - 6.1.2. Number of programmes reporting improvement in quality and availability of sex-disaggregated/gender specific statistics through EU support
 - 6.2.1. Number of partner countries with gender coordination mechanisms that include (international) actors working locally
 - 6.3.1. Number of programmes for NGEM supported by EU
 - 6.3.2. Number of sector programmes working with the NGEM
 - 6.4.1. Number of projects building awareness of local and national media on gender issues in partner countries and supported by EU

GAP II – 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 in the private sphere.
 - 7.1. Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union by age 15 (SDG 5.40)¹⁰³
 - 7.2. Prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence (by an intimate partner) in the last 12 months (SDG 5.38)
 - 7.3. Percentage of referred cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced (SDG 5.39)
 - 7.4. Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (SDG 5.41)
 - 7.5. Number of individuals directly benefiting from Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes funded by EU (EU RF)
 - 7.6. Measure of sex ratios and comparison of child mortality according to the gender
8. Trafficking of girls and women for all forms of exploitation eliminated.
 - 8.1. Number countries that comply with recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN Treaties (ref. CEDAW, CRC, UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol) (adaptation of SDG 16.2)
 - 8.2. Number of individuals directly benefiting from trafficking programmes funded by EU

9. Protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender based violence in crisis situations through EU supported operations.
 - 9.1. Number of EU Partner countries reporting a decrease in the incidence of sexual violence as a weapon of war
 - 9.2. Number countries that comply with recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN Treaties (SDG 16.2)
 - 9.3. Number of violent deaths per 100,000 disaggregated by sex (EU RF Level 1)
 - 9.4. N# of refugees (SDG 16.89)
 - 9.5. Losses from natural disasters by climate and non-climate related events (in US\$ and lives lost) (SDG 11.6 cross reference)
 - 9.6. N# of individuals directly benefiting from EU supported programmes that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict peace building and/ or conflict prevention (EU RF)
 - 9.7. Number of EU funded humanitarian targeted actions that respond to GBV.
 - 9.8. Percentage of peace keeping and peace building missions with specific provisions to improve the security and status of girls and women of all ages
 - 9.9. Number of EU funded humanitarian programs marked 2 by the ECHO gender/age marker and/or Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) marker
 - 9.10. Number of EU MS and partner country sign up to the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies
10. Equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women.
 - 10.1. Percentage of people in malaria-endemic areas sleeping under insecticide-treated ben nets (SDG 3.11)
 - 10.2. Proportion of persons with a severe mental disorder (psychosis, bipolar affective disorder, or moderate –severe depression) who are using services (SDG 3.28)
 - 10.3. Percentage of beneficiaries using hospitals, health centres, and clinics providing basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene (SDG 6.5)
 - 10.4. Number of people with advance HIV infection receiving antiretroviral drugs with EU support (EU RF)
 - 10.5. Number of 1-year olds immunised with EU support (EU RF)
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.
 - 11.1. Maternal mortality ratio
 - 11.2. Antenatal care services coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) (SDG 3.2)
 - 11.3. Percentage of women with cervical cancer screening (SDG 3.17)
 - 11.4. Met demand for family planning (SDG 5.44)
 - 11.5. Percentage of young people receiving comprehensive sexuality education (SDG 5.5)
 - 11.6. Number of births attended by skilled personnel with EU support (EU RF)
 - 11.7. Number of women using any method of contraception with EU support (EU RF)
12. Healthy nutrition levels for girls and women and throughout their life cycle.
 - 12.1. Percentage of children born with low birth weight (SDG 2.3)
 - 12.2. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (SDG 2.8)
 - 12.3. Percentage of women of reproductive age with anaemia (SDG 2.9)
 - 12.4. Percentage of eligible population covered by national social protection programmes (SDG 1.4)
 - 12.5. Number of women of all ages, but especially at reproductive age, and children under 5 benefiting from nutrition related programmes with EU support (EU RF)
 - 12.6. Number of food insecure people receiving assistance through social transfers supported by the EU (EU RF)
- 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.
 - 13.1. Primary completion rate for girls and boys (SDG 4.33)
 - 13.2. Secondary completion rate for girls and boys (SDG 4.35)
 - 13.3. Tertiary enrolment rates for women and men (SDG 4.37)
 - 13.4. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men (SDG 4.5)

- 13.5. Percentage of pupils enrolled in primary and secondary schools providing drinking water, adequate sanitation, and adequate hygiene services (SDG 6.4)
 - 13.6. Personnel in Research and Development (per million inhabitants) (SDG 9.63)
 - 13.7. Number of children enrolled in primary education with EU support (EU RF)
 - 13.8. Number of children enrolled in secondary education with EU support (EU RF)
 - 13.9. Number of teachers trained with EU support (EU RF)
 - 13.1. Ratio of female to male who have benefitted from Vocational Education and Training/skills development and other active labour market programmes with EU support (EU RF)
14. Access to decent work for women of all ages.
- 14.1. In EU partner countries, income share held by women in the lowest 40 % of income distribution (EU RF Level 1)
 - 14.2. Average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid work combined (total work burden) by sex (SDG 5.42)
 - 14.3. Share of women among the working poor: employed people living below \$1.25 (PPP) per day (EU RF Level 1)
 - 14.4. Employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15–64) (SDG 8.5)
 - 14.5. Number of countries that have ratified and implemented fundamental ILO labour standards and complied in law and practice (SDG 8.57)
 - 14.6. Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex (ECOSOC Minimum set of gender indicators, by domain I.9; measured by ILO)
15. Equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship.
- 15.1. Percentage women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities with documented or recognised evidence of tenure (SDG 1.5)
 - 15.2. Percentage women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities who perceive the rights recognised and protected (SDG 1.5)
 - 15.3. Gender gap in wages, by sector in economic activity (SDG 5.1)
 - 15.4. GNI per capita (PPP, current US\$ Atlas method) (SDG 8.54)
 - 15.5. Mobile broadband subscription per 100 inhabitants, by urban/rural (SDG 9.59)
 - 15.6. Number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support (EU RF)
 - 15.7. Number of women and men who have secure tenure of land with EU support (EU RF)
 - 15.8. Number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services (EU RF)
16. Equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable engagement in their management, enjoyed by girls and women.
- 16.1. Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source (EU RF Level 1)
 - 16.2. Road traffic deaths per 100,000 population (SDG 3.25)
 - 16.3. Percentage of population using safely managed water services, by urban/ rural (SDG 6.45)
 - 16.4. Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services, by urban/ rural (SDG 6.46)
 - 16.5. Share of population using modern cooking solutions by urban/ rural (SDG 7.50)
 - 16.6. Share of population using reliable electricity by urban/ rural (SDG 7.51)
 - 16.7. Number of people with access to all season roads with EU support (EU RF)
 - 16.8. Number of women of all ages provided with access to sustainable energy services with EU support (EU RF)
- 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.
- 17.1. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (EU RF Level 1) in EU partner countries
 - 17.2. Share of women on corporate boards of national/ multi-national corporations (SDG 5.2)
 - 17.3. Percentage of seats held by women and minorities in national parliament and or sub-national elected office according to their respective share of the population (SDG 5.43)
 - 17.4. Representation of women among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations (SGD 16.8)
 - 17.5. Number of women benefiting from legal aid programmes supported by the EU (EU RF)
 - 17.6. Percentage of women candidates in national elections with EU support
 - 17.7. Number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level with EU support
18. Women's organisations and other 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.

- 18.1. Number of women Human Rights Defenders who have received EU Support (EU RF)
- 18.2. Number of partner countries that guarantees the CSOs right to associate, secure funding, freedom of expression, access to information and participation in public life
- 18.3. Number of Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies that include gender equality objectives
- 19. Challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.
 - 19.1. Number of countries that have a positive change in the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) rating
 - 19.2. Percentage of women aged 15-49 years who intend to cut their daughters (UNICEF data collection)
 - 19.3. Number of EU partner countries introducing quota systems to address discriminatory practices and improve women's representation in government institutions and decision making positions
 - 19.4. In EU partner countries, number of communities that formally declare abandoning a practice that discriminates or harms girls and women of all ages
- 20. Equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues.
 - 20.1. Number of deaths per 100,000 from climate-related and natural disasters – average over last ten years (disaggregated by sex) (EU RF Level 1)

ANNEX 4

Sustainable Development Goals



GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

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