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ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8030 final of 11.11.2022 on the financing of the individual measures in favour of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for 2022 (part 2)

Action Document for Promoting inclusive and gender sensitive reconciliation and peace building in Ethiopia- Rider no.2

ANNUAL MEASURE
This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Promoting inclusive and gender senstitive reconciliation and peace building in Ethiopia. OPSYS number: ACT-60889 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Ethiopia.
4. Programming document	Not applicable. Individual Measures outside the scope of programming documents (NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, Article 23.3)
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Not applicable. Individual Measures outside the scope of programming documents (NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, Article 23.3)
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Not applicable. Individual Measures outside the scope of programming documents (NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, Article 23.3)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions Target 16.2 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

	Other significant SDGs: 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
	Target 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
8 a) DAC code(s)	152 Conflict, Peace & Security – 70%
	72011 Basic Health Care Services in Emergencies – 5%
	73010 Immediate post-emergency reconstruction and rehabilitation – 10%
	15180 Ending violence against women and girls -10%
	15170 Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions -5%
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	NGOs and civil society – 20000
	International NGOs – 21000
	Private sector - 60000
9. Targets	☐ Migration ☐ Climate ☒ Social inclusion and Human Development ☒ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☒ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance

10. Markers **(from DAC form)**	**General policy objective**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☐	☒
	Aid to environment	☒	☐	☐
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
	Trade development	☒	☐	☐
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☐	☒	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction	☒	☐	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	☐	☒	☐
	Nutrition	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change adaptation	☒	☐	☐
11. Internal markers and Tags:	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation	☒	☐	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	☐	☒	

		YES	NO	
	digital governance	☐	☒	╱
	digital entrepreneurship	☐	☒	
	digital skills/literacy	☐	☒	
	digital services	☐	☒	
	Connectivity	☒	☐	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	☐	☒	╱
	energy	☐	☒	
	transport	☐	☒	
	health	☐	☒	
	education and research	☐	☒	
	Migration	☒	☐	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities	☐	☒	☐
	Covid-19	☒	☐	☐

BUDGET INFORMATION	
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 01 21 Total estimated cost: EUR 20 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 20 000 000

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	**Direct Management** through: -Grants -Procurement

1.2 Summary of the Action

In the past years, there has been an emergence of conflicts and tensions in Ethiopia, simultaneously occurring in different areas and regions. However, the one between the federal government and the Tigray Defence Forces (TDF)/Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) and their respective allied forces in the north, has led the country to a national crisis and a dire humanitarian situation.

This Action will contribute to promoting sustainable peace and social cohesion in Ethiopia by strengthening inclusive and gender sensitive dialogue and social fabric at different levels. Facilitating recovery, inclusion, reintegration and resilience building of conflict survivors, particularly women and girls, and **former combatants** will be a main component of the Action. It will take a two-pronged approach with, on the one hand, support in addressing local tensions and building social cohesion and, on the other, in boosting conflict affected population's efforst in recovering and rebuilding their lives.

The main beneficiaries of this Action will be particularly those that have been affected by previous and current conflicts. In line with the the Gender Action Plan III[1], the focus will be on women and girls living in the targeted areas, with a special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, including female headed households, Internally Displaced People (IDPs), **former combatants**, minority groups and People with Disabilities (PwD).

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[1] The Gender Action Plan III (GAP) 2020-2025 : https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

This action will contribute to efforts on peace negotiations, national dialogue**, and demobilisation, and social and economic reintegration of former combatants as part of the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) process** initiated by the government of Ethiopia. In addition, it will complement and look for synergies with other Individual Measures and programmes implemented by the EU in Ethiopia as well as by EU MS, ensuring that humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach is fully taken into account.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Ethiopia has long been considered as a politically and economically stable country, an anchor of stability in the Horn of Africa. In the past years, however, conflicts have simultaneously occurred in different regions of the country. The conflict in the northern part of the country has resulted in the highest levels of political violence in Ethiopia since the end of the Ethiopian-Eritrean War in June 2000. Power struggles, and disputes over elections and political reform are among several factors that led to a crisis, which has caused a dire humanitarian situation, and a strong polarisation and fragmentation of the Ethiopian society.

The National Dialogue launched in February 2022 and the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) signed in November 2022 are expected to bring new opportunities for peace and reconciliation. The government has created the National Dialogue Commission with the mandate of oversee "broad based inclusive public dialogue that engenders national consensus[2]". The Ministry of Peace, created under proclamation No 1097/2018, promotes "peace, democracy and development" and "focus on maintaining law and order, and create political unity among [the peoples] of the nation". However, there is no coherent policy on peace building and conflict prevention, and therefore their implementation relies heavily on the formal legal, reinforcement and judicial systems, despite the fact that the majority of communal conflicts are settled through traditional mechanisms.

Increasing conflicts have raised the need for more effective and inclusive peace structures and processes, **including in relation to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants and people associated with the same**. There is an opportunity to ensure that gender responsive approaches are considered by the National Rehabilitation Commission of Ethiopia. Local peace structures have traditionally played a significant role in preventing, de-escalating, and resolving conflicts. They are also thought to be better placed to build and sustain peace through their knowledge of and proximity to the the local culture, community relations, and dynamics. However, challenges related to capacity building, infrastructure and integration into larger peace architectures undermine their potential to further contribute to conflict prevention and resolution. **There is a need to improve the effectivenessand inclusiveness of local peace structures and to ensure a gender responsive DDR where applicable**. While women and girls have been disproportionately affected by conflict, they are also disproportionately under-represented in customary and formal peace structures and processes. Giving a stronger voice to women and girls means recognising the added value of their inclusion and participation to peace processes, and ensuring capacity building and adequate space to enable them to lead reconstruction and dialogue processes at local, regional and national levels. Women's inclusion in peacebuilding processes is essential for the long-term success of any peace-building effort in Ethiopia.

Violent conflicts have led to mistrust between political and opinion leaders and segments of the society causing the destruction of the social fabric. If the population do not deal with their traumatic experiences, transform negative attitudes and perceptions, rebuild trust in each other, and learn new ways of non-conflict behaviour, conflicts may easily erupt again. Peace education and culture can be a powerful tool to deal with increasing conflicts and tensions in an ethnically and politically divided society. This is a necessity for the youth, as new generations will lead the development of the country.

The consequences of conflict include increasing number of deaths, destruction of infrastructures and services, acute food shortage, human rights violations and abuses, and massive population displacements, among others. In fact, as September 2021, 85% of forced displacement in Ethiopia (more than 3.5 million people) was due to conflict

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[2] Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission Establishment Proclamation No. 1265-2021, 13 January 2022 https://www.lawethiopia.com/images/federal_proclamation/proclamations_by_number/dialogue%20commission.pdf.

related causes[3]. Recent conflicts have seen an increase in violence against civilians and in particular women and girls who have been victims of rapes, sexual violence, acts of physical and psychological torture, looting of their households, and forced displacementThis was already a matter of great concern in the country context buthas significantly increased during the war in northern Ethiopia, adding to the already deep ,. gender inequality and unfavourable situation of women in the country and potential resultingin a substantial increase in female-headed households and female poverty.

In conflict affected areas of the country, there is also a need to address the short and long-term psychosocial impact of conflict over population, and particularly on new generations (children and youth). While mental health problems are one of the major direct consequences of the conflicts, treatment has been almost impossible due to the looting and damage of health centres and hospitals, and the forced departure of many professionals. In addition, the implementation of the National Mental Health (2012) is full of challenges. All this makes very difficult to provide effective psychosocial support to conflict affected population, leaving a society with little possibilities for rebuilding their lives and very vulnerable to a recurrence of violence.

Access to justice by conflict survivors cannot be a forgotten subject in any dialogue and reconciliation process, as it is established by the National Transitional Justice Policy and Accountability. It is critically necessary for bringing sustainable peace but also in the case of Ethiopia for tackling gender inequality, given the amount of women and girls who have suffered from sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) during conflict, and **ensure where applicable, that women, girls and children are targeted by the DDR processes and avail of related benefits and supports**. In addition to the limited capacities, resources and understandings of the judicial sector, conflict survivors face multiple and compound obstacles in accessing justice, which often include cost-related barriers, revictimization, stigma and discrimination, and legal illiteracy.

In addition, attention needs to be paid to the DDR process through which former members of armed forces and groups will be supported to lay down their weapons and transition to civilian life. This process, spearheaded by the National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC), is crucial to ensure stabilisation and sustainable peace in the country. The NRC has developed a National Demobilisation and Reintegration programme framework for the next 3 years that follows a community-based reintegration (CBR) approach.

In spite of the significant unmet peacebuilding needs in Ethiopia, there is a scarce number of actors with limited capacities working in peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the country. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have traditionally suffered from a restrictive working environment, particularly in critical sectors such as peace and gender equality. However, the new CSO law and political context offer new opportunities for them to play a key role in facilitating and participating in dialogue processes at different levels, promoting peace education and culture among the Ethiopian society, and providing comprehensive support to the population with a gender and conflict-sensitive approach.

In this context, addressing the root causes of conflict, the consequences, and support inclusive and gender sensitive peacebuilding efforts is of crucial importance. Under these circumstances, it is vital that the EU ensures continued support to people in Ethiopia, in particular those most affected by the conflict. The current cooperation between the EU and the government of Ethiopia has been limited due to the ongoing conflict. Such a situation has also led to a delayed approval of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP).

The increasing needs of the communities living in the most vulnerable situations in Ethiopia, in particular girls and women, must be addressed promptly and translated into the need for Individual Measures. The use of these measures is appropriate as the EU is responding to unforeseen and increasing needs, and currently lacks the relevant programming document.

The Action is fully aligned with the current peace-building and dialogue initiatives launched by the government and other stakeholders, but also the 10-Year Development Perspective Plan (2020/21-2030/31). Moreover, it falls into the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs 10-year development plan, which includes strengthening the protection of women's and children's rights; ensuring women and youth participation and benefit in leadership and decision-making.

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3 IOM DTM, Ethiopia — National Displacement Report 10 (August - September 2021) at https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-national-displacement-report-10-august-september-2021?close=true

The present Action is also fully consistent and aligned with the European Commission policies, objectives and priorities. The action is aligned to the European Consensus for Development[4], the Gender Action Plan III[5] (especially its thematic area of engagement – integrating the women, peace and security agendas), the EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030, and the EU vision of the future Africa-EU partnership as per its Communication "Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa". Finally, it also contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[6] through the SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), which is also closely linked to SDG 5 (gender equality).

Following a EU shared vision of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, the Action will link up with the EU's past and ongoing interventions in Ethiopia, , through ensuring strong coordination and continuous exchange of information. In particular, there is a potential for complementarities with the new package of EU funded projects promoting reconciliation and peace-building in different areas of the country, as well as with different projects under the Civil Society Fund III, the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the programme "Support to Criminal Justice". Once implemented, we expect this Action to reduce the number of conflict induced forcibly displaced people in the country. Furthermore, this Action will also benefit from synergies with the Actions on education and health part of the first set of Individual Measures, as well as the Action on food security under this second set of Individual Measures.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Multiple conflicts across regions, but particularly the one in the northern part of the country, have caused, among many others, the following problems:

- **Fragmented and polarised society:** The conflict in the northern part of the country has aggravated previous tensions and conflicts among different groups as well as increased fragmentation and polarisation within the Ethiopian society. Hate speech, misinformation, disinformation and fake news have significantly contributed to spread negative attitudes, perceptions and behaviours, especially among young people making extensive use of social networks.
- **Weak traditional and formal peace-building institutions:** Ethiopia has a rich diversity of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms that have prevailed during time. Current conflicts have made more visible the need for further supports in effective and inclusive peace structures with adequate capacities to deal with conflict prevention and resolution.
- **Women and girls are under-represented in peace-building and conflict prevention processes and institutions:** Although the Prime Minister formed a cabinet that was half female and appointed a woman as Minister of Peace, the reality is that women and girls in Ethiopia lack representation in peace building and conflict prevention institutions at all levels. As an example, men dominate the recently created national dialogue commission, where only 3 out of the 11 commissioners are women. In addition, many stereotypes assume that women are automatically victims of conflict or peace-makers by default, reinforcing structural inequalities.
- **Increased number of SGBV cases in conflict affected areas:** Women and girls, as already mentioned, have been subject of various acts of SGBV on a massive scale and of psychical and psychological torture during conflicts. These human rights violations against women are clear indicators of the existing degree of gender inequality in the country. Domestic violence is commonly accepted and justified by women (84.5%) and men (75.6%) according to the Demographic and Health Survey (2019)[7]. In fact, Ethiopia has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.517, ranking it 125 out of 162 countries in the 2019 index[8].
- **Increased number of mental health disorders among populations affected by conflict:** In spite of the limited data on the mental health consequences of conflicts in Ethiopia, several institutions, including the World Health Organization (WHO), estimates a high burden of mental health problems in conflict settings of

Ethiopia. This includes depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, and overall, negatively impacting physical health and social cohesion. This also has a very serious negative impact on children and youth as they must be supported to avoid future trauma or mental health complications

- **Absence or limited basic services for conflict survivors:** Although there is evidence of high number of mental health and SGBV cases, including sexual violence, there are limited services, including medical assistance, psychosocial support and safe spaces. In conflict areas, most hospitals, health centres or health posts have been destroyed or looted. In addition, most health services providers have not been properly trained on the identification and management of mental health and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). In fact, in spite of the high mental health needs (18% prevalence among adults)[9] and the government's efforts in collaboration with WHO to implement the Mental Health Strategy (2012), there is still a lack of mental health care services and professionals. Ethiopia has a low number of healthcare providers compared to other countries in the region.
- **Large caseload of former combatants: It is estimated around 370,000 former combatants, mainly from the Tigray region and including groups that require special attention such as women, children and people with disabilities, will be targeted by the DDR process as part of the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement. Ex-combatants from other conflict-affected regions will also be targeted.**
- **Limited capacities and coordination among peace building and conflict prevention stakeholders, particularly CSOs:** Few CSOs are working in the area of peace and most of them have limited capacities. This is because until February 2019 when the new CSO law was passed, they were not allowed to "operate in the areas of human rights protection, promotion of equality, conflict resolution and advancement of the efficiency of justice and law enforcement services". Although, currently, there is a more conducive legal framework and new opportunities have arisen for civil society to work in peace-building and conflict in Ethiopia, the reality is that there is a lack of active and well-established national and regional peacebuilding organisations, including women's organisations.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

The final beneficiaries are the Ethiopian population, and particularly those members of local communities, and particularly women and girls, affected by conflicts, **including former combatants**. This Action has identified primary target groups to leave no one behind: IDP, PwD and Female-headed households.

Other key stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of the action are:
- **National, regional and local Governments:** The Ministry of Peace is one of the main government stakeholders for this action. In addition, the National Dialogue Commission was recently created in January 2022 **and the National Rehabilitation Commission in December 2022**. Other key stakeholders include the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs. Coordination and close collaboration with them at national, regional and local levels by implementing partners will be ensured.
- **Religious groups:** In a religious society like the Ethiopian one, religious groups and leaders play an important role in peace building and social cohesion. They will actively participate in the dialogues and reconciliation efforts and peace education activities promoted by the Action. In addition, it is expected that interfaith collaboration among Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and other groups in the target areas can contribute to bring about much-needed national understanding, reconciliation and peace.
- **Civil Society Organisations:** CSO will be the main implementers of this Action. As mentioned, there is a need to strengthen capacities of CSOs working in conflict affected areas and in the sector of peace-building. In spite of that, they are the stakeholders in better position to properly respond to the urgent and long-term needs of local communities. The CSO sector is also expected to play a key role in the national dialogue process if there is enough conducive environment for that.
- **EU Member States:** Some EU MS (Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, and Germany) are actively engaged in the peace-building sector. The EUD is also part of the recently created Working Group on Conflict and Development Cooperation (WGCDC), a development partner group that undertakes (a) information- and

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[9] Mental health services in Ethiopia: emerging public health issue, Sathiyasusuman, A., *Public Health* 125 (2011), 714–716.

experience-sharing; (b) joint analysis and scenario development; (c) coordination of advocacy; and (d) selectively, joint planning on how to adjust development programming in Ethiopia in the face of instability and conflict.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to sustainable peace and social cohesion in Ethiopia.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are:
1. Strengthened inclusive and gender sensitive dialogue and rebuilt social fabric at different levels, and particularly in conflict affected areas **and in synergy with DDR** and Transitional Justice processes.
2. Facilitated recovery, inclusion, **reintegration** and resilience building of conflict affected population, particularly women and girls, **and former combatants**.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:
1.1.contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Conflict resolution and prevention institutions, mechanisms, and capacities are re-established and strengthened with a gender perspective.
1.2.contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Inclusive dialogue and people-to-people reconciliation with active participation of women and youth is promoted.
1.3.contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Peace awareness and education campaigns at national, regional and local levels are supported.

2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): **Provision of demobilisation and reintegration support to former combatants and local communities, through socio-economic opportunities**.
2.2 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Comprehensive services on MHPSS (Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support) including for victims of SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) as integral part of primary health care services are provided to target communities, **including former combatants.**

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1 may include, amongst others:
- Re-establishment and support to traditional and formal conflict resolution mechanisms and community peace structures, ensuring linkages with the respective decentralised government institutions working on peace building and conflict prevention;
- Training to relevant local community members and government representatives on gender, conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- Training and support to CSO and to women and youth on leadership skills for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

Activities relating to Output 1.2 may include, amongst others:
- Promote inclusive and gender sensitive community dialogue at local level, ensuring women and youth active participation;
- Support community –led solutions (peace projects) proposed and agreed in the community dialogues.

Activities relating to Output 1.3 may include, amongst others:
- Promoting peace education and culture among Ethiopian society through working with schools, universities, religious groups and media and by using culture, sports, community radio, etc.;
- Launching of a national peace campaign.

Activities relating to Output 2.1 may include, amongst others:
- **Support to demobilisation and reinsertion of former combatants in their host communities;**

- **Promoting socio-economic opportunities for former combatants' reintegration;**
- **Promoting socio-economic opportunities for conflict survivors and other community members;**

Activities relating to Output 2.2 may include, amongst others:
- Capacity building interventions for local health and social service providers through technical support and provision of basic equipment for re-establishment/strengthening local comprehensive primary health care systems.
- Support to victims and perpetuators of SGBV through counselling, protection and and referral pathway services;
- **Support to people affected by conflict through mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) as part of comprehensive PHC services including referrals for severe mental health cases;**
- **Raise community awareness about the prevention and management of mental health and psychosocial disorders focussing on community stigma reduction through using sports, culture, arts and/or media;**
- Legal aid support to survivors and training for justice sector representatives in conflict-affected areas. Mobile teams will allow to reach vulnerable women and girls living in remote areas.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)
The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening
The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening
The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is not at risk (climate risk will be addressed as part of an EIA).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. Despite women and girls being the most vulnerable group in the context of conflict, they are mainly underrepresented in the peacebuilding and conflict-resolution structures and initiatives in Ethiopia. This action will contribute to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security in Ethiopia and the GAP III[10] Thematic area of engagement – Integrating the women, peace and security agenda, by ensuring that a strong gender perspective in peace-building and social-cohesion is taken into account. With support from this Action, women and girls will not only participate, but also lead peace and post-conflict rehabilitation processes (including dialogue and reconciliation, accountability for sexual abuses, psycho-social support for victims of violence, restoration of health systems, **reintegration of former combatants**). The action will be backed by gender responsive indicators and disagreggated data by sex, age and location integrated in the monitoring and evaluation system A rapid gender assessment will be conducted at the inception phase of the Action.

Human Rights
The human rights approach stresses the importance of participation, accountability and justice. The Action will provide legal aid support, and build justice institutions' capacities to ensure that victims, mostly women and girls, but also IDPs and PwD, succeed in their seek for truth and justice. Given the limitations of the current intervention, synergies with up-coming EU programmes (Criminal Justice Reform Programme) and others will be prioritised to amplify the impacts of this Action.

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[10] EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III welcomed through Presidency Conclusions by 24 Member States on the 16th December 2020.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. There are about 15 million persons with disabilities in Ethiopia (17.6%), 95% of them living in poverty[11]. This number may have increased due to the increased number of conflicts in the past years. In fact, **it is estimated that around 20-30% of former combatants will be persons with disabilities**. People with disabilities, and particularly women and girls, will be priority beneficiaries of this Action. The Action will adequately address the needs and rights of PwD who are groups in vulnerable situation in a conflict and post-conflict situation and might be at risk of being left behind.The Action will ensure that they can properly participate in peace-building activities as well as have adequate access to rehabilitative or support services.

Democracy

Dialogue, reconciliation and justice are increasingly recognised as important issues in the transition to democracy and in obtaining positive peace.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The Action will minimise negative impacts on conflict by ensuring an excellent understanding of the context and how the intervention interacts with it. A conflict analysis will be undertaken by the implementing partners before the implementation of the Action. Key sensitive decisions such as selection of beneficiaries, locations, timing, relations with authorities, staffing profile, etc. will be carefully taken into consideration by the implementing partners. The triple nexus will be actively promoted by ensuring coordination with humanitarian, development and peace actors as well as complementarity with their actions in the targeted areas. Finally, a certain degree of flexibility will be needed to adjust activities and processes where they negatively impact on conflict or when they do not adequately respond to the changing context.

Disaster Risk Reduction

As part of the conflict prevention and mitigation efforts, the Action will ensure that conflict considerations are integrated into local DRR strategies and plans.

Other considerations if relevant
IDP

85% of forced displacement in Ethiopia (more than 3.5 million people) is due to conflict related causes. Since the Action will operate in conflict-affected areas with IDP presence, the Action will address their needs and rights by ensuring that they actively participate in dialogue and people-to-people actions as well as have adequate access to mental health and SGBV services.

Youth

Ethiopia has a young population with more than 70 percent of its inhabitants below the age of 35. Education, health, unemployment and political marginalization have continued to be a major challenge for young people, leading to discontent and violence. The National Youth Policy (2004) recognises the importance of youth, "to participate, in an organised manner, in the process of building a democratic system, good governance and development endeavours, and benefit fairly from the outcomes". The Action recognises the important role of new generations in breaking the circles of violence and build peace, and will therefore promote youth's participation and leadership.

HIV/AIDS

Ethiopia is one of the Sub-Saharan African countries most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Rape and sexual violence have sparked HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy crisis has raised. According to UNFPA, in Tigray, among the women and girls who got tested for HIV/AIDS, 3 percent of them were HIV positive[12].

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[11] Disability rights in Ethiopia, SIDA, 2014.
[12] Ethiopia Response to the Northern Ethiopia crisis - Situation report (1 to 30 January 2022), UNFPA.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	**Political instability:** instability could lead to further tensions and conflicts at local, regional and national levels, which would translate into restrictive access to project areas and limitations and delays in project implementation	M	H	Project activities such as community dialogue will act as important mitigating measures for this risk. Close follow-up with regional and local authorities, in depth continuous context analysis, and the mainstreaming of a conflict sensitivity approach will contribute to a balanced selection of locations and beneficiary groups.
	Economic instability: internal (conflict and climate-related shocks) and external factors could lead to economic instability. This, compounded by trade disruptions due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, is increasing inflationary pressure, which would translate in higher costs for the project.	M	M	Project activities are expected to contribute to the economic reintegration of conflict-affected population. In addition, the project includes a small component of socio-economic opportunities for SGBV survivors.
	Weak institutional capacity: a complex, fragmented and competing institutional environment may cause delays in the implementation of projects, which would then put at risk their timely completion.	H	H	Institutional capacity will be developed and technical assistance will be provided through the project at all levels, based on capacity needs assessment, and building on existing services and institutions, avoiding parallel systems. In addition, the implementing partner(s) will fully engage with local and regional governmental entities.
	Vulnerability to shocks and crises: Ethiopia, and particularly areas affected by conflict, remains vulnerable to further shocks, natural and man-made, affecting the target population. The impact of climate change, new conflicts and tensions, and COVID-19 risks exacerbating these vulnerabilities, which could have detrimental effects in the implementation of projects.	M	M	Conflict sensitivity approach mainstreamed in the action to ensure flexibility in terms of implementation (choice, sequencing and modalities of activities, etc.) will be built into the programme in order to adjust to the evolution of the situation in a conflict-sensitive manner.

Planning, processes and systems	**Coordination issues:** a lack of appropriate coordination with other development partners could lead to duplication of activities, which would render this Action not relevant.	**M**	**M**	Ensure proper coordination with other donors implementing similar projects in conflict-affected areas, including EU interventions. This will be done through the envisioned governance structures.

Lessons Learnt:

This action will greatly benefit from the different lessons learned of previous and on-going peace-building and conflict prevention projects in Ethiopia, **as well as previous DDR experiences**. Experiences showed the importance of applying a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach and ensuring strong coordination and exchange among the different EU institutions. Another important lesson learned is the need to better understand and address the causes of conflict and ensure inclusive participation of all groups and parties. In particular, women and girls should not been seen only as victims but also as leaders of peace-building and conflict prevention actions at all levels. Furthermore, lessons and good practices documented from previous and on-going EU interventions (EUTF Cross Border Programme, Civil Society Fund III, etc.) show the need to build capacities and support local CSO so they can better respond to the current challenges.

The action will take advantage of the role and experience of the CSOs, including local and international NGOs, private sector, universities, religious institutions and women and youth organisations, in the effort to build peace and reconciliation at national and local levels.

3.5   The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that if local communities have sustainable, gender-sensitive, inclusive and locally-rooted processes, capacities and institutions to resolve local conflicts, and people affected by conflict are able to recover, rebuild their lives and be more resilient, then reconciliation and sustainable peace will be promoted, and the risk of violence reduced.

This Action will contribute to promoting sustainable peace and social cohesion in Ethiopia by strengthening inclusive and gender sensitive dialogue and social fabric at different levels, and by facilitating recovery, inclusion, reintegration and resilience building of conflict affected people, particularly women and girls. It will take a two-pronged approach with on the one hand, supports in addressing local conflicts and building social cohesion and, on the other, in improving health and social services, livelihoods, and psychosocial wellbeing of those affected by the conflict, what will allow conflict affected people to rebuild their lives.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.
- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators:	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Sustainable peace and social cohesion in Ethiopia.	1 Reduction of violence. 2 Changed perceptions on women roles in peace. 3 Increased positive perceptions about diversity/respect/tolerance among the Ethiopian society.	1 TBD 2 TBD 3 TBD	1 TBD 2 TBD 3 TBD	1 Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) 2-3 Programme reports	*Not applicable*
Outcome 1	1. Strengthened inclusive and gender sensitive dialogue and rebuilt social fabric at different levels, and particularly in conflict affected areas.	1.1 % of disputes resolved or successfully mediated. 1.2 Number of women holding responsibility positions in peace structures. 1.3 % of population that report having received civic and peace education disaggregated by sex, age and region.	1.1 TBD 1.2 TBD 1.3 TBD	1.1 TBD 1.2 TBD 1.3 TBD	1.1-3 Programme reports	Peace and stability in the target geographical areas Close collaboration and cooperation by the government institutions
Outcome 2	2. Facilitated recovery, inclusion, reintegration and resilience building of conflict affected population, particularly	2.1 Number of conflict survivorsthat report having rebuilt their lives, disaggregated by sex, age and location. 2.2 Number of **former combatants that report having reintegrated in their communitites, disaggregated by sex, age and location.**	2.1 TBD 2.2 TBD 2.3TBD	2.1 TBD 2.2 TBD 2.3 TBD	2.1 Programme reports, final evaluation 2.2 Health sector reports, programme	

	women and girls, **and former combatants**.	2.2 Coverage of services for severe mental health disorders – Psychosis and Depression 2.3 Percentage of SGBV cases that are reported, investigated, and sentenced.			reports, final evaluation 2.3 Justice sector reports, programme reports, final evaluation	
Output 1 **relating to Outcome 1**	1.1 Conflict resolution and prevention institutions, mechanisms, and capacities are re-established and strengthened with a gender perspective.	1.1.1 Number of fully operational peace structures supported by the action. 1.1.2 Number of community members, CSOs and local institutions trained disaggregated by sex, age and location. 1.1.3 % reporting increased knowledge on gender equality and approaches to conflict resolution.	1.1.1 TBD 1.1.2 TBD 1.1.3 TBD	1.1.1 TBD 1.1.2 TBD 1.1.3 TBD	1.1.1 Programme reports 1.1.2-3 Training reports, programme reports	Women and youth's availability to participate in supported actions. Government institutions fully engage in these actions. Other relevant stakeholders such as religious groups, elites, etc. provide support to peace education campaigns.=
Output 2 **relating to Outcome 1**	1.2 Inclusive dialogue and people-to-people reconciliation with active participation of women and youth is promoted.	1.2.1 Number of community dialogues and people-to-people reconciliation events taking place. 1.2.2 Number of people participating/leading community dialogues and reconciliation activities, disaggregated by gender, age and region.	1.2.1 TBD 1.2.2 TBD	1.2.1 TBD 1.2.2 TBD	1.2.1-2 Programme reports	
Output 3 **relating to Outcome 1**	1.3. Peace awareness and education campaigns at national, regional and local levels are supported.	1.3.1 Number of peace education and culture actions implemented. 1.3.2 Number of people benefiting / participating in peace awareness and education campaign, disaggregated by gender, age and regions.	1.3.1 TBD 1.3.2 TBD	1.3.1 TBD 1.3.2 TBD	1.3.1-2 Programme reports	
Output 1 **relating to Outcome 2**	2.1 **Provision of reintegration support to former combatants** and local communities, through socio-economic opportunities.	2.1.1 **Number of former combatants** and community members engaged in profitable livelihoods activities at the end of the project disaggregated by gender, age and location.	2.1.1 TBD 2.1.2 TBD 2.1.3 TBD	2.1.1 TBD 2.1.2 TBD 2.1.3 TBD	2.1.1 Programme reports 2.1.2 Programme reports	Synergies with other interventions are in place. Public and private service providers are capable and willing to closely work with implementing partners
Output 2 **relating to Outcome 2**	2.2 Comprehensive and quality services on MPHS and SGBV are provided to target communities, **including former combatants as part of**	2.2.1 Number of conflict survivors **and former combatants** disaggregated who receive psychological support by gender, age and location 2.2.2 Number of conflict survivors **and former combatants** who receive comprehensive GBV	2.2.1 TBD 2.2.2 TBD	2.2.1 TBD 2.2.2 TBD	2.2.1 Regional Bureaus / Ministry of Health statistics	

	comprehensive PHC services.	services, disaggregated by gender, age and location.			2.2.2 Programme reports
		2.2.3 Degree of satisfaction of service customers, disaggregated by gender, age and location.	2.2.3 TBD	2.2.3 TBD	2.2.3 Programme reports
		2.2.4 Number of health professonals trained on comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support as part of comprehensive PHC including referral pathways for specialist services	2.2.4 TBD	2.2.4 TBD	2.2.4 Justice sector reports
		2.2.4 Number of conflict survivors who have received legal aid and support to access to justice, disaggregated by gender, age and location.			

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures[13].

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)
Outputs 1.1 "Conflict resolution and prevention institutions, mechanisms, and capacities are re-established and strengthened with a gender perspective" and 1.2 "Inclusive dialogue and people-to-people reconciliation with active participation of women and youth is promoted" will be implemented in Direct Management through a grant.

(b) Type of applicants targeted
Potential applicants for funding will be: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) or consortium of CSOs.

4.4.2 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)
Outputs 2.1. and 2.2. contributing to Objetive 2 of the Action will be implemented in Direct Management through a grant.

(b) Type of applicants targeted
Potential applicants for funding will be: CSOs or consortium of CSOs.

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[13] www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.4.3 Direct Management (Procurement)

> This implementation modality will be used for implementing activities related to Output 1.3 "Peace awareness and education campaigns at national, regional and local levels are supported" of the action.

4.4.4 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances

> **In case the preferred implementation modality under 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, this part of the action related to outputs 1.1 "Conflict resolution and prevention institutions, mechanisms, and capacities are re-established and strengthened with a gender perspective"; 1.2 "Inclusive dialogue and people-to-people reconciliation with active participation of women and youth is promoted" will be implemented in Direct Management through a grant; 2.1 "Provision of demobilisation and reintegration support to former combatants and local communities, through socio-economic opportunities and 2.2. "Comprehensive services on MHPSS (Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support) including for victims and perpetuators of SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) as integral part of primary health care services are provided to target communities, including former combatants" will be implemented via indirect management with a pillar-assessed entity as described below:**
>
> **A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: relevant experience in peace-building, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, conflict prevention and social cohesion in Ethiopia and/or in the region Horn of Africa.**
>
> **The implementation by this entity entails outputs 1.1 "Conflict resolution and prevention institutions, mechanisms, and capacities are re-established and strengthened with a gender perspective"; 1.2 "Inclusive dialogue and people-to-people reconciliation with active participation of women and youth is promoted" will be implemented in Direct Management through a grant; 2.1 "Provision of demobilisation and reintegration support to former combatants and local communities, through socio-economic opportunities and 2.2. "Comprehensive services on MHPSS (Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support) including for victims and perpetuators of SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) as integral part of primary health care services are provided to target communities, including former combatants".**

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

> The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.
>
> The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4	

Objective 1 composed of	**4 000 000**
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	3 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	1 000 000
Objective 2 composed of	**16 000 000**
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	16 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 **Audit** – cf. section 5.3	Will be covered by another decision
Totals	20 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A steering committee composed of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia (co-chair), representatives from the Ministry of Peace, Regional Governments, local authorities, CSO, local communities and implementing partners will ensure the joint oversight of the programme and provide strategic coordination and guidance of the different components. Additional stakeholders' committee may be established to ensure: a) coordination and synergies with other stakeholders' interventions working in the same geographical area; and b) active and meaningful participation of beneficiaries including women, youth, IDPs and PwD, among others. Annual reports produced by the implementing partners on the implementation of the Action will be presented and discussed in the Steering Committee and the different stakeholders' committees.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

4.8 Pre-conditions

The main pre-condition that needs to occur to allow the full implementation of the action is the existence of peace and stability and therefore, access, to the geographical areas targeted by the intervention.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partner must establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and prepare regular progress reports and final reports. Monitoring system and tools should promote and ensure local beneficiaries and stakeholders' quantity and quality participation. The project will use: a) existing accountability mechanisms to obtain feedback that feeds into a constant revision and adaptability of actions and, b) new accountability mechanisms such as stakeholders' committees. As part of the

accountability mechanisms, a complaint response mechanism, accessible by vulnerable groups such as women, IDPs and PwD, will be put into place.

In the initial phase, the indicative logical framework agreed in contract and / or the agreement signed with the implementing partner must be complemented with baselines, milestones and targets for each indicator. In addition, a gender analysis and an conflict assessment will be conducted at the beginning of the intervention.

Progress reports provided by the implementing partner should contain the most recent version of the logical framework agreed by the parties and showing the current values for each indicator. The final report should complete the logical framework with initial and final values for each indicator.

The final report, financial and descriptive, will cover the entire period of the implementation of the action.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.2   Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and nature of the action, a mid-term and a final evaluation will be carried out for this action via independent consultants contracted by the implementing partner.

An internal mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes,in particular with respect to the effectiveness and complementarity of the action with other initiatives; while the final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that progress on issues tackled under these action are part of a process.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is considering the human rights-based approach as well how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3   Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6   STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead–be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents,

allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Action level		
☒	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action