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**EU Gender Action Plan II**

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



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**EU Gender Action Plan II**

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

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report monitors progress achieved in the implementation of the European Union's 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) during 2018, the third year of its implementation.

It presents progress achieved to date, by means of a comprehensive set of actions taken by the European Commission, the European External Action Services (EEAS), EU Delegations and EU Member States, while underlining the remaining challenges still to be addressed to meet the GAP II's objectives. The implementation of the GAP II contributes to the implementation of the EU policy framework on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment. It also contributes to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In numerical terms, 2018 was another year of constant progression towards the GAP II's target of ensuring that **85 % of all new programmes will be marked 'G1' or 'G2'** by 2020, using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gender equality policy marker.<sup>1</sup> In terms of the **neighbourhood and enlargement** area, as well as **international cooperation and development, greater progress was observed** in 2018 compared to the previous year.<sup>2</sup> The data on the same target for the **EU Member States** remained static.<sup>3</sup>

The **pace of progression, however, has been slower**. For instance, the increase in percentage terms towards the 85 % target for international cooperation and development was roughly 10 % between 2015 and 2016, 7 % between 2016 and 2017, and 3 % between 2017 and 2018. This suggests that the full potential of gender mainstreaming needs to be exploited throughout the EU external action programmes.

**Despite the progress observed, at the current pace, the 85 % target will be difficult to achieve by 2020.** More focused and impactful efforts are needed by all implementing actors over the remaining two years of the GAP II.

In terms of the budget for new initiatives that include a gender perspective, the European Commission committed **EUR 15 billion** worth of development funding in a **gender-sensitive manner** in 2018. **Of this, funding targeted specifically to** gender equality and women's empowerment amounted to **EUR 600 million**.

Overall in 2018, the **EU integrated a gender dimension in all its policies and actions**, including in **political and policy dialogues and in international fora**.

During the course of the year, the EU continued to include sessions dedicated to boosting gender equality and empowering girls and women in all **human rights dialogues**. The implications of issues such as good governance and justice, decent work, trafficking and social protection for gender equality were also regularly addressed. Moreover, the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda featured as a standing item of the multilateral agenda, as well as political and/or human rights dialogues and sub-committees with partner countries.

The EU was increasingly active in **multilateral fora** in 2018. The annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, quarterly sessions of United Nations Human Rights Council and the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee were among the key policy-making UN fora where the EU's policy commitments to gender equality were delivered on. There was evidence of greater visibility accorded to gender

1 The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) gender equality policy marker (known as the 'Gender marker') is a qualitative statistical tool to record aid activities that target gender equality as a policy objective. It is based on a three-point scoring system: An intervention is marked 'G2' or '**principal**' if gender equality is the main objective of the project/programme. Interventions are marked 'G1' or '**significant**' when gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme; Interventions are marked 'G0' or '**not targeted**' when the project/programme has been screened against the gender marker but has not been found to target gender equality. For more information see: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

2 In terms of neighbourhood and enlargement negotiations policy, 55.05 % of new actions in 2018 were marked 'G1' or 'G2' compared to 43.13 % in 2017 and 46.01 % in 2016. The figures for international cooperation and development were 68.35 % in 2018, compared to 65.9 % in 2017, 58.8 % in 2016 and 51.6 % in 2015.

3 The proportion of new programmes by EU Member States which were marked 'G1' or 'G2' totalled 50.51 % in 2018, compared to 50.1 % in 2017 and 43.75 % in 2016.

equality issues by EU actors<sup>4</sup> during **regional and international instances** such as the UN, NATO and the G7 Summit, as well as national events, such as those linked to International Women's Day.

A notable achievement was the **Council's adoption of conclusions on women, peace and security (WPS)** in December 2018. The conclusions welcomed the EU's strategic approach to women, peace and security<sup>5</sup>, emphasised the WPS agenda's complementarities and synergies with the GAP II, and established gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to peace and security.

Progress has continued on the implementation of the **EU-UN Spotlight Initiative** to eliminate violence against women and girls. As part of this EUR 500 million partnership, EUR 270 million was committed for programmes in Africa and Latin America in 2018. The planning of activities also advanced well.

As part of its broader efforts to end gender-based violence, the European Commission also supported the work of the two 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege.

Another way in which the EU supported efforts to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence was by leading the global initiative **Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies** from June 2017 until December 2018. During its leadership, the EU welcomed 18 new partners, piloted the initiative in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and contributed to the implementation of the Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020, among other initiatives. During 2017-2018, the EU allocated approximately **EUR 62 million** to prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence from its humanitarian budget.

With regard to women's access to finance, specific attention was accorded to the **NASIRA Guarantee**. In addition to creating and supporting up to 800,000 jobs, NASIRA will benefit small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with a focus on internally displaced persons, refugees, women returnees and young people. In Arabic, 'nasira' is the feminine form of 'the helper' – reflecting the initiative's intention to serve as a bridge between commercial investors, development finance institutions, private financial intermediaries and perceived high-risk end borrowers.

Globally, the data collected reveals an **increase in the number of external relations programmes** related to all of the GAP II's thematic priorities and objectives in 2018 compared to 2017.

There is a strong **correlation between actions implemented on the GAP II's thematic priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals**. For example:

- 1,017 reported actions on thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', contributed to advancing SDG 1 ('No Poverty'), SDG 2 ('Zero Hunger'), SDG 3 ('Good Health and Well-being'), SDG 5 ('Gender Equality'), SDG 6 ('Clean Water and Sanitation') and SDG 16 ('Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions');
- 1,580 reported actions focusing on thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', contributed to advancing , SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4 ('Quality Education'), SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7 ('Affordable and Clean Energy'), SDG 8 ('Decent Work and Economic Growth') and SDG 9 ('Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation'); and
- 964 reported actions on thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation', contributed to advancing SDGs 5 and SDG 16.

In 2018, the greatest proportion of funding was allocated for actions under thematic priority C, '**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**'. This reflects a continuation of trends observed in previous years, with a 14 % increase in funding for this priority compared to 2017.

In absolute terms, the **greatest number of reported actions** concerned the following GAP II objectives:

- making **financial services** more accessible to women (objective 15);
- encouraging and consolidating the **participation of women in policy and governance** processes at all levels (objective 17); and
- combatting **violence against women and girls** (objective 7).

4 EU actors include EU institutions at the headquarters level and in partner countries. Unless they are mentioned separately, the term 'EU actors' may also be used to refer to both EU institutions and EU Member States.

5 For more information, see: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/37412/st15086-en18.pdf>

Overall, the **smallest number of reported actions** were related to **protection in crisis** situations (objective 9) and **combatting the trafficking of women and girls** for all forms of exploitation (objective 8). A slight shift of reported actions to larger global and regional programmes in the domain of trafficking was observed.

Compared to 2017, the greatest relative increase in reported actions (+ 60 %) concerned gender-sensitive **decision-making on climate-related and environmental** issues (objective 20). The largest relative decrease (-29 %) concerned reported actions related to healthy nutrition levels (objective 12).

Finally, following a steep increase in funding during the previous reporting period on challenging **discriminatory social norms and stereotypes** (objective 19), **18 % fewer actions** were reported in 2018 on such vital efforts that contribute to transforming societies and curbing discrimination against women and girls.

The number of reported actions in **support of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** (objective 8) decreased in 2018 compared to the previous year. This may be due to the fact that a large number of actions addressing SRHR were initiated in 2017. However, levels of funding were sustained in 2018 through several streams, including Commission services and EU Member States. Initiatives such as 'SheDecides' continued to grow throughout the year, receiving increasing support from EU Member States.

The elimination of violence against women and girls was a key priority **for the European Commission services**, corresponding to the highest number of reported actions.

**EU funding continued to reach women and girls around the world in 2018**, including in humanitarian crisis situations, affording much needed services for survivors of violence. In tandem, funding was used to strengthen knowledge and capacities, alongside institutional and legal frameworks for sustainable solutions and the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

During 2018, there was a clear focus on actions seeking to tackle issues related to **migration**, including, for example, the rights of migrant workers and support for economic opportunities in partner countries. In addition, **environment and sustainable energy** initiatives featured prominently, as did actions seeking to foster intercultural dialogue. The EU's contributions to large-scale global programmes represented a significant component of international cooperation and development support.

Disaggregating data at the regional level, as well as by actor, reveals more details and variations in terms of which objective and thematic priorities were the focus of actions in 2018. This information is set out in the body of this report.

In terms of actions by **EU Member States**, by far the greatest number of reported actions concerned thematic priority C on 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights', followed by priorities B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity, and D, 'Political and Civil Rights'. However, many reported actions covered more than one priority and several objectives of the GAP II.

**EU Member States** reported that their **centrally-managed reported actions** most frequently addressed:

- ensuring access to decent work for women of all ages (objective 14);
- combatting violence against women and girls (objective 7); and
- making financial services more accessible to women (objective 15).

The smallest number of reported actions by EU Member States concerned **combating trafficking for exploitation** (objective 8). This was also the only objective on which the number of reported actions decreased compared to 2017 (44 % fewer reported actions).

Compared to 2017, the sharpest relative **increase** in EU Member States' support centred on championing women's equal rights to participate in and influence **decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues** (objective 20), ensuring **access to and control over clean water** (objective 16) and promoting **healthy nutrition levels** (objective 12).

In 2018, the **EU institutional culture shift gradually continued to improve**. EU Delegations and many EU Member States **across geographical regions** reported improvements in reaching the minimum standards set by the GAP II for initiating the institutional culture shift needed to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment in their daily work. However, **some challenges remain in particularly difficult areas for gender mainstreaming**, such as trade, infrastructure-related investments, private sector investments, security-related initiatives and climate change-related actions.

While formal EU **burden-sharing** arrangements on the GAP II were available in a number of countries, with EU Delegations and EU Member States leading on their priority sectors, informal arrangements were in place in most countries. Overall, **donor coordination was productive**. Burden-sharing agreements covered the GAP II's implementation, as well as underscoring progress on **joint initiatives, joint programming** and project development. Sharing information, analysis and **good practice examples** were emphasised, alongside eliminating duplication, optimising resources and coordinating joint policy positions.

**Senior gender champions** were present in most countries, often at the Ambassadorial level and usually rotating between EU Member States' and EU Delegations' Heads of Mission.

In conclusion, evidence in 2018 affirms that the implementation of the **GAP II is playing a key role in streamlining and leveraging resources, as well as strengthening the voice of the EU** in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. While much has been achieved thus far, much still remains to be done.

In the next year, it will be vital to step up progress to achieve the target of ensuring that 85 % of all new programmes focus on gender equality and women's empowerment as a significant or principal objective, hand in hand with contributing to the attainment of relevant SDGs.

Work should focus on continued efforts to:

- reach the GAP II's 85 % target;
- improve the quality of gender mainstreaming;
- develop capabilities and capacities, while advancing the use of gender mainstreamed procedures through learning and training;
- improve the availability of data, results and indicators; and
- improve collaborative work with civil society and other key partners.

## ACRONYMS

CRS	Creditor reporting system of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSO-LA	Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Thematic Programme (CSO-LA) of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) 2014-2020
EAMR	External Assistance Management Report
EDF	European Development Fund
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights
EOM	Electoral Observation Missions
EU	European Union
EU Member States	European Union Member States
EU RF	European Union Results Framework
EUPOL COPPS	EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support
EUSR	European Union Special Representative
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FP	Family planning
GAP	EU Gender Action Plan 2010-2015
GAP II	Second Gender Action Plan for EU External Relations 2016-2020
GBV	Gender-based violence
GEWE	Gender equality and women's empowerment
GFP	Gender focal person
GRB	Gender-responsive budgeting
G-marker	Gender equality policy marker of the OECD DAC
HoC	Head of EU Delegation cooperation section
HoD	Head of EU Delegation
HoM	Head of Mission (EU Member States' and EU Ambassadors in partner countries)
HRD	Human Rights' Defender
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MNCH	Maternal, newborn and child health
NGEM	National gender equality mechanism
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
ODA	Official development assistance
PFM	Public finance management
ROM	Results-oriented monitoring
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SRHR/FP	Sexual and reproductive health and rights/Family planning
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WO	Women's organisation
WPS	Women, peace and security

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The **European Union Strategic Engagement on Gender Equality** (2015-2019) and the **EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy** (2016) reaffirm the central importance which the EU attaches to gender equality, as a fundamental value enshrined in the EU treaties, a key political objective, and a recognised driver of sustainable development and economic growth.

The EU remains strongly committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights. This includes the full and effective implementation of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and CEDAW's Optional Protocol on women's rights; the **Beijing Platform for Action**, the **International Conference on Population and Development** and the outcomes of their review conferences; as well as United Nations Security Council (UNSC) **Resolution 1325** on women, peace and security (WPS) and its follow-up resolutions.

The **New European Consensus on Development**, agreed in May 2017, provides a renewed common approach to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment throughout EU development policy. Its commitments apply to the work of EU institutions and EU Member States alike. Anchored to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, the consensus reaffirms gender equality and women's empowerment as vital for achieving sustainable development, cutting across the entire 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while underlining the need to mainstream gender perspectives in all actions.

The European Union 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**) translates the EU's policy and political commitments to gender equality<sup>6</sup> into a set of concrete objectives. Advancing these objectives is necessary for achieving results for girls and women. The GAP II also promotes more efficient coordination, implementation and monitoring of EU activities in this area. The GAP II's implementation is mandatory for all EU institutions and EU Member States, and contributes to the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.<sup>7</sup>

The GAP II also contributes to the achievement of all **17 SDGs**, specifically delivering on SDG 5 ('Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls') and SDG 16 ('Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'), as well as several others. More broadly, an end to poverty (SDG 1) can only be achieved if inequalities, in all their different forms, are ended. Across the world, sex- and gender-based inequalities make and keep women poor, depriving them of the full enjoyment of their human rights and curtailing their full potential in both the public and private spheres.

This report monitors progress on the implementation of the GAP II in 2018, the third year of its implementation. It examines actions taken by EU Delegations, the European Commission, the External Action Service (EEAS) and EU Member States. **The analysis is based on actions reported by these EU actors. These represent a selection of actions, rather than a comprehensive account of all of the actions carried out by all EU actors in 2018. The selected and reported actions are those which are considered representative of EU actors' work in implementing the GAP II.** While highlighting progress, the report also underlines what remains to be done to achieve the GAP II's objectives and, consequently, contribute to the SDGs.

The report is structured in **four parts**. This **first** introductory section situates the report in the broader context of the GAP II and the EU's commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. **Part 2** analyses the progress made in 2018 on the GAP II's cross-cutting, horizontal '**Institutional Culture Shift**' priority, which comprises seven objectives and 47 indicators. It begins with a global introduction of key issues, followed by a section-by-section analysis of the progress achieved by different EU actors. Section 2.1 looks at the EU's work in partner countries,

6 These include the Council conclusions on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Cooperation', doc. 9561/07, 15 May 2007, the 'EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development 2010-2015' (SWD, SEC(2010) 265 final), the Council conclusions on the 'Millennium Development Goals for the United Nations High Level Plenary Meeting in New York and Beyond', 14 June 2010, the Council conclusions on the '2013 Report on the Implementation of the EU GAP', doc. 9360/14, 19 May 2014, and the Council conclusions on 'Gender in Development', doc. 9241/15, 26 May 2015.

7 Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council, Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019), "Keeping human rights at the heart of the EU agenda" (JOIN(2015) 16 final), 28 April 2015.

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combining inputs from reports submitted by EU Delegations and EU Member States' agencies or embassies. Section 2.2 reflects on the work done by the European External Action Service. Section 2.3 section focuses on efforts by Commission services in charge of external relations at the headquarters level, divided into sub-sections for each policy area and the services responsible for them. Section 2.4 examines actions reported by EU Member States.

**Part 3** analyses the progress made in 2018 on the GAP II's three **thematic priorities**:

- thematic Priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', encompassing four objectives and 23 indicators;
- thematic Priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', including six objectives and 45 indicators; and
- thematic Priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation', comprising four objectives and 15 indicators.

Following a global introduction of key issues, Part 3's sections focus on each thematic priority in turn, each divided by EU actors: Commission services, EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries, and EU Member States.

**Part 4** presents **conclusions and** proposes **ways forward**, as suggested by the analysis of how to consolidate and further the progress recorded in 2018, two years away from the end of the GAP II's implementation period.

Finally, six **annexes** outline the methodology used, and provide details to support the information presented in Parts 2 and 3 of the report. The annexes also present figures on the EU's official development assistance, a review of the EU support for the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and a summary table of promising examples of the GAP II's implementation during 2018.



*Box 1: Full list of GAP II objectives***Horizontal priority and objectives****A. Institutional Culture Shift in European Union External Relations**

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

**Thematic priorities and objectives****B. Thematic priority: Physical and Psychological Integrity**

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

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

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

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

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



## 2. PROGRESS ON THE GAP II'S INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE SHIFT PRIORITY

The GAP II introduced the **cross-cutting priority** of evoking **an institutional culture shift among EU institutions and EU Member States** in terms of addressing gender equality. Progress on this priority is measured against five **minimum standards of performance**.<sup>8</sup>

In 2018, EU Delegations and many EU Member States across all geographical regions reported **some improvement in reaching the GAP II's five minimum standards** for initiating the institutional cultural shift needed to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment in their daily work. While significant progress has been made, **far more progress is still needed** to implement the EU's gender equality policy in external relations and attain these five minimum performance standards.

The **standard complied with least often** is the need for a justification when an action scores 'GO' using the gender equality marker of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Only some EU Delegations applied this standard correctly across all new actions, according a score of 'GO' only to those actions which were assessed as 'not relevant' for advancing gender equality.

Although regional variations exist, the overall **use of gender analysis** to inform project design and formulation has increased year-on-year since 2016. Many EU Delegations in 2018 reported the value of the mandatory GAP II gender analysis, alongside sector-specific analysis. The 2017-2018 reports indicate an **average increase of 25 %** in the use of gender analysis to inform new initiatives, except in the Asia and the Pacific region, where the ratio decreased by an average of 15 % in 2018 compared to 2017. For **EU Member States**, sector- or country-based gender analysis was part of the initial context analysis that must inform the design of any new development programme.

Overall, the use of **sex-disaggregated data** improved. However, it remained unchanged in the Caribbean and decreased among EU Delegations to the Gulf States, those in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement region, and those in East and Southern Africa.

Moreover, a decline in compliance with the standard of **selecting and reporting on GAP II objectives** was apparent in Central America, West and Central Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. This may be due to a lack of communication between gender focal persons and the staff members responsible for compiling External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR), which were used to collect data for this annual report. As a result, this may have led to the underreporting of actions that meet the GAP II's objectives.

The availability of **gender expertise improved** in 2018, or remained at the same level as in 2017, in all regions with the exception of the Gulf States, where it decreased considerably. **The increased use of gender expertise** strengthened EU actions and ensured more comprehensive contributions to the GAP II's objectives. The **network of gender focal persons** grew in 2018. Engagement also increased with **national gender equality mechanisms, women's civil society organisations** and academic institutions, informing policy, political dialogue and action formulation in many instances.

**EU Member States' contribution to the GAP II** is evident through the **consistent implementation** of the EU's gender equality policy across their international relations and cooperation activities. At the partner country level, EU Member States' progress was reported together with that of EU Delegations. EU Member States also reported a wide range of centrally-managed good practices and measures that aim to correct weaknesses in the GAP II's implementation. For example, external gender expertise was contracted for strategic and ad hoc issues, and specialised task forces and working groups were created on gender equality and women's empowerment. Other examples include the application of the OECD DAC gender marker at the budgetary approval stage, the **use of gender-sensitive corporate results frameworks** and the increased collection of **sex-disaggregated data**.

<sup>8</sup> The five minimum standards are: a justification whenever an action scores 'GO' using the OECD DAC gender equality marker, thereby indicating that an action has no discernible gender dimension; a gender analysis is done for all priority sectors; sex-disaggregated data is used throughout the project and programme cycle and programming; gender expertise is available and used in a timely manner in the programme cycle and programming; and GAP II objectives are selected to be reported on.

For EU Member States in partner countries, the performance standards **met least frequently**, on average, were undertaking **a gender analysis for priority sectors** (37 % of those who submitted a report confirmed that such analyses were undertaken) **and the selection of GAP II objectives** (44 % of those who submitted a report affirmed that they had selected relevant objectives). Member States met the other three performance standards, on average, in 50 % of cases.

A detailed discussion of the work undertaken by EU actors in terms of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority in 2018 is included in Annex 2.

## 2.1 EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries

For this reporting exercise, reports were submitted by 133 EU Delegations and by 20 EU Member States<sup>9</sup> present across 106 countries.

The table below summarises the **EU Delegations compliance** with the GAP II's five minimum performance standards across all regions, indicating the variations revealed by the analysis of data from 2017 and 2018. The data used for this assessment was derived from the External Action Management Reports mentioned above. Specifically, the table refers to the number of EU Delegations which complied with the minimum performance standards, out of the total number of EU Delegations in each respective region.

In terms of results for the first performance standard, on justifications for 'GO' scores for actions using the gender equality marker, it should be noted that there were instances in which no action was marked 'GO' and, therefore, no justification was required.

*Table 1: EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's five minimum performance standards across regions, Institutional Culture Shift, 2018*

2018	East and Southern Africa	West and Central Africa	Latin America	Central America	Caribbean	Asia and the Pacific	Central Asia	Gulf States	Southern Neighbourhood	Eastern Neighbourhood	Enlargement Negotiations
Gender marker 0 ('GO') is always justified	0 %	30 %	57 %	40 %	50 %	6 %	0 %	100 %	50 %	16 %	42 %
A gender analysis is done for all priority sectors	86 %	91 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	94 %	75 %	100 %	90 %	100 %	71 %
Sex-disaggregated data used throughout the project and programme cycle	55 %	83 %	86 %	80 %	83 %	65 %	100 %	100 %	70 %	67 %	71 %
Gender expertise is available and used in a timely manner in the programme cycle	82 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	80 %	100 %	85 %
GAP II (SWD) objectives are selected and reported on	86 %	78 %	86 %	60 %	67 %	88 %	100 %	100 %	90 %	83 %	71 %

<sup>9</sup> The embassies or bilateral agencies of the following EU Member States present in partner countries submitted reports: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The availability of gender analysis in priority sectors improved in 2018, although it experienced a slight decrease in Asia and the Pacific, and a greater decrease in Central Asia, compared to the assessment in 2017. The decrease in Asia and the Pacific is due to one EU Delegation not providing clear indications of the existence of gender analysis for priority sectors or of a gender action plan. In 2017, information on an upcoming gender analysis as well as the use of existing information from reliable sources was provided as a justification for gender analysis. The decrease in Central Asia (-25 %) is because one of the four EU Delegations in the sub-region did not provide clear indications of the existence of gender analysis. However, a regional analysis was undertaken, providing an overall assessment for the sub-region.

While this trend appears surprising, it is possible that the national selection of objectives was reviewed or modified in 2018, or that information on gender equality was not reported in the External Assistance Management Reports used to collect data for this annual report.

In terms of the objectives of the GAP II's cross-cutting 'Institutional Culture Shift' horizontal priority, there was clear evidence of enhanced coherence and coordination among EU institutions, as well as with EU Member States in 2018. Political and policy dialogues that considered gender equality and human rights were held in most countries, particularly focusing on violence against women and girls. Furthermore, dialogues also addressed the gender dimensions of other issues, such as governance and justice, decent work, trafficking and social protection. Sexual and reproductive health and rights was the topic most discussed by EU Member States in the Americas. In Asia and the Pacific, EU actors addressed gender equality in the transportation, infrastructure and communications sectors more often in 2018 than in 2017. In the Southern Neighbourhood and Eastern Neighbourhood sub-regions, the most commonly discussed topic was gender in the framework of human rights. In Enlargement Negotiation countries, violence against women and girls was most often discussed. Overall in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region and in Russia, there was an increase in dialogue on gender-responsive budgeting, as well as on women, peace and security, the environment, climate change, resilience and disaster risk reduction.

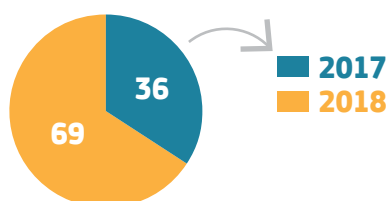
Both formal and informal dialogues enabled EU actors to raise issues which are particularly sensitive in certain countries, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and teenage pregnancy. Pregnant schoolgirls' right to attend school was raised by the EU Delegation and EU Member States in Mozambique. They successfully pleaded for the repeal of decree 39/2003, which states that pregnant girls should be transferred to evening courses to avoid setting a 'bad example'. In December 2018, the Government of Mozambique publicly announced the repeal of the decree. In Tunisia, political dialogue resulted in a new action to support gender mainstreaming in the context of budget management reform.

EU Delegations and EU Member States' embassies also reported several informal and formal public and political events, such as launch events for programmes or campaigns, at which EU Ambassadors spoke and gender equality issues featured exclusively or prominently. High-profile occasions marked by EU actors' active engagement included International Women's Day, the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, the 16 Days of Activism on Gender-based Violence, and International Human Rights Day.

While formal **burden-sharing** on the GAP II was agreed in a number of countries, with EU Delegation and EU Member States leading on their priority sectors, informal arrangements exist in most countries. Overall in 2018, donor coordination proved productive. Burden-sharing agreements covered the GAP II's implementation, joint initiatives, joint programming and project development. An emphasis was placed on sharing information, analysis and good practice examples, alongside minimising duplication, optimising resource and coordinating joint policy positions. Donor coordination mechanisms were in place in most partner countries, many of which were led by EU actors.

Figure 1:

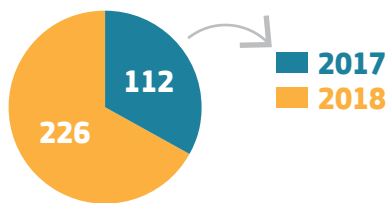
EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries – Donor coordination led by the EU, 2017 vs 2018



**Senior gender champions** were present in most countries in 2018, often at the Ambassadorial level and usually agreed and rotating between EU Member States' and EU Delegation's Heads of Mission. For instance, in Thailand, one gender champion was selected to improve the EU's ability to speak with one voice and uphold a common position on gender equality issues. In many instances where formal gender champions were not appointed, reports highlight that Member States' Ambassadors displayed an interest in speaking out on gender equality.

Figure 2:

EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries – Senior gender champions, 2018

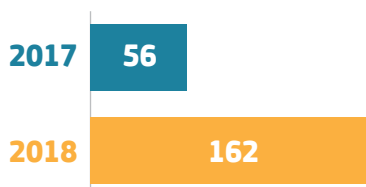


Despite regional variations, the overall **use of gender analysis** to inform project design and formulation has increased year-on-year since 2016. Many EU Delegations reported the value of the mandatory GAP II gender analysis in country studies, alongside sector-specific analysis. Gender analysis informed the design and formulation of actions in some cases, most often by EU Member States, but was often also used to shape logical frameworks and guide the selection of indicators. Comparative data reveals that the use of gender analysis to inform new initiatives increased by 25 % overall in 2018 compared to 2017. However, it decreased by 15 % in Asia and the Pacific.

There was also an increase in EU Delegations' and EU Member States' **access to gender expertise**, provided in the context of donor coordination, from headquarters, through ad hoc technical assistance and, perhaps most importantly, through consultations with partner countries' gender equality mechanisms and civil society organisations. Gender equality issues were regularly discussed by donor coordination mechanisms and with civil society. In Peru, for example, the gender coordination mechanism invited gender senior specialists to its sessions on a regular basis. Some EU Delegations used technical assistance facilities to acquire ad hoc inputs, while others earmarked funds for ad hoc advisory support.

Figure 3:

EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries – Senior gender champions, 2018



In 2018, EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries described several **good practices to improve transparency and accountability**, as well as to ensure the delivery of results on gender equality. These most frequently involved the appointment of one or more gender focal persons. For example, the EU Delegation to Afghanistan appointed a gender focal person in each of its sections. However, good practices also included mainstreaming the GAP II into the Joint European Strategy in order to monitor its implementation, as in Cambodia.

In Africa, corrective actions included relying on the gender focal person for quality control, such as the quality control of new action documents, providing guidance to result-oriented monitoring missions to draw out gender-related issues systematically, and the inclusion of gender expertise in evaluation teams. Actions also involved making gender expertise available as needed through the preparation of dedicated contracts, the collection of results from the annual reports of different actions and channelling them internally to gender focal persons, and relying on technical support from headquarters for quality control and training as needed. Some actions undertaken

within specific projects sought to increase, for example, the number of women participants in EU-funded actions. Another form of corrective actions reported dealt with promoting gender equality within staff members, supporting the career advancement of women and measures for improving the balance between professional and personal life.

In Asia and the Pacific, gender equality was also included as a priority in the guidelines for applicants of the Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Thematic Programme (CSO-LA) and the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR). In tandem, EU actors in the region prioritised engaging in closer work and consultations with civil society organisations.

Good practices were similarly apparent in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region. For instance, the EU Delegation to Armenia made electoral funding conditional on an increased gender quota.

In the Americas, there was an emphasis on providing guidance to civil society organisations and project partners in terms of incorporating gender issues in the actions which they implement. Growing commitment to the systematic use of gender analysis and the use of disaggregated data was also reported.

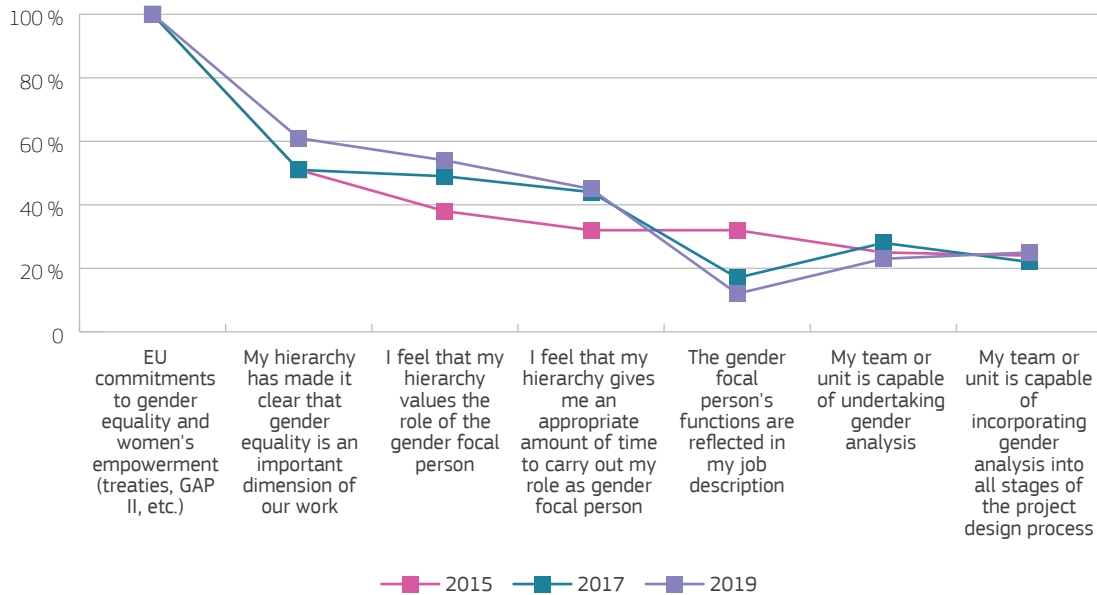
Progress on the use of sex-disaggregated data remained steady in 2018. The importance of such data was firmly on the agenda in a number of regions. In East and Southern Africa, nearly two-thirds of reported actions contributed to improving data quality and availability. Similarly, almost 40 % of EU Delegation-supported actions in Colombia contained a focus on improving the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data. In Palestine<sup>\*10</sup>, the new 'Gender Country Profile' contained recommendations on the use of the GAP II's objectives and informed the EU's joint programming results-oriented framework for 2017-2020, which was extensively sex-disaggregated.

While direct support for national gender equality mechanisms (NGEMs) continued to be a small part of the overall EU portfolio, there is clear evidence that EU engagement with such mechanisms and civil society organisations working on gender equality and women's rights increased in 2018. Support for research actions remained low. However, a growing number of reported actions contained a research component.

According to the **Gender Focal Persons (GFP) Network**, which includes EU staff working at headquarters and in partner countries, progress in 2018 continued trends identified since 2015, before the GAP II's implementation began. Annual surveys are circulated to EU gender focal persons to obtain a full picture of their experiences and needs, exploring their views on their own – and on their institutions' – contributions to gender equality. The latest survey was circulated in May 2019, while this report was being drafted. It revealed that gender focal persons perceive greater levels of clarity within management messages on the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment for external relations. This is in line with the data on political and policy dialogues. Respondents also considered that appreciation of the role of gender focal persons has increased. However, in both cases, these perceptions were not globally shared among the network. As such, further work remains to be done to equip management with much-needed guidance. The operational capacity for generating and using gender analysis meaningfully has changed very little. This affirms the need to maintain support through clear procedures, guidance on ways to approach gender mainstreaming, revised and improved templates, and the dedication of resources (both financial and in terms of expertise). Moreover, there is a need for continuous training to build internal institutional capacity to use, if not to generate, gender analysis as a qualitative aspect of the planning process.

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

Figure 4:  
EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries –  
Comparison of all available gender focal person surveys, 2015-2019



## 2.2 European External Action Service

In 2018, the EU continued to demonstrate its commitment and leadership to advance gender equality, the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls and their empowerment in all areas of its external action, in stable, conflict and post-conflict situations.

The EU's role was key to protecting and safeguarding internationally agreed commitments on gender equality at a critical time characterised by a backlash against the human rights of women and girls. The EU strategically used all the tools at its disposal at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to make a difference in the daily lives of girls and women worldwide.

In terms of bilateral progress, all **human rights dialogues** during 2018 included ad hoc sessions dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment on the agenda. This proved a stepping stone towards confidence-building over time, while multiplying the possibilities for cooperation and joint actions.

The European External Action Service was also increasingly active and constructive in **multilateral fora** in 2018. Key policy-making UN fora where the EU's policy commitments were delivered on included the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the annual discussion on women's human rights and ad hoc discussions during the sessions of the Human Rights Council, and the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee. Furthermore, 'women, peace and security' was chosen as the first priority in the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on crisis management for the 2019-2021 period.

In the context of the **G7 Summit**, the EU and Canada co-chaired the first-ever meeting of women foreign ministers in September 2018. This gathering, convened at the very highest level, aimed to identify innovative ways of jointly addressing crucial foreign policy challenges. Participants pledged to build a network of governments and civil society organisations to advance gender equality and girls' and women's rights. At the ministerial meeting, the G7 launched the 'WPS Initiative', wherein members identified specific partner countries for enhanced implementation. The EU selected Bosnia and Herzegovina. In August 2018, the initiative's efforts led to the establishment of a roadmap for its implementation.

The new **EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security (WPS)** emphasised a commitment to systematically mainstream a gender perspective into all EU policies as a key strategy. It also entailed commitments



to gender balance and specific actions to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. These commitments will be pursued across all relevant policy frameworks, including in the areas of foreign and security policy, development, trade, finance, humanitarian aid, migration, justice, and education, as well as preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism.

An especially notable achievement in 2018 was the inclusive process pursued to prepare and draft the EU Strategic Approach on WPS. The process involved dialogue and participation between Commission services, EU Member States, gender advisors from the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, civil society partners, representatives of academia and other multilateral and regional partners within the Informal Taskforce on WPS. The Council underlined that such an inclusive approach should be the standard working practice for future drafting processes.

The European External Action Service's support for Yemeni and Syrian women as actors of peace was one of many concrete examples of how the EU supported **women's leadership on the ground** in 2018. The initiative was funded by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and included a high-level dialogue between women from Yemen and Syria, with the participation of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HRVP).

In 2018, the Gaziantep Women Platform was launched, bringing together women representatives of the political opposition in Syria, alongside civil society representatives, members of the UN Women Advisory Board and the opposition negotiating team. The initiative aims to foster dialogue and build consensus around a common agenda for the political process in Syria.

The implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, as well as gender equality and women's empowerment more broadly, continued to be standing items of political and/or human rights dialogues and sub-committees with partner countries. The inclusion of these issues in such dialogues has become standard practice.

The EU also continued to support the women, peace and security agenda of the **African Union (AU)**, particularly in terms of women's role in countering violent extremism. An AU-EU Memorandum of Understanding on Peace, Security and Governance was signed in May 2018. Its key priorities for implementation include fostering gender equality and strengthening women's role in peace and security from early warning to mediation, resolution and peace-building.

During 2018, the EU continued to play a lead role in gender equality issues at high-level international events, particularly the issues of women's human rights. For example, EU representatives took part in the UN Security Council's open debates on sexual violence in conflict, as well as debates on the political and economic empowerment of women.

Internally, the European External Action Service worked to implement a roadmap on gender and equal opportunities, based on its **strategy for 2018-2023**. Its overall aim is to achieve sustainable gender balance at all levels, in all functions and across all jobs categories, both at headquarters and in EU Delegations. Trends in 2018 were positive. As of December, 25.19 % of Heads of Delegations were women, compared with 20.3 % in 2016. In 2018, three out of 10 civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Missions were headed by a woman. These were the EU capacity building mission (EUCAP) in Somalia, the EU rule of law mission (EULEX) in Kosovo\*\*<sup>11</sup>, and EUCAP Sahel Niger, up to March 2018. Two of the eight EU Special Representatives are women, namely the Special Representatives for Kosovo and for the Middle East Peace Process.

Some of the many actions to improve performance on gender equality in 2018 included a leadership development programme for women managers, a mentoring programme for women in pre-management positions, and efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in EU Delegation seminars. An EEAS anti-harassment awareness campaign was also launched in 2018 in all headquarter services, EU Delegations, and civil and military missions.

In addition to the adoption of the upgraded '**Generic Standards of Behaviour for Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Missions and Operations**' in 2018, the Civilian Operations Commander issued operational guidelines for staff and mission management on gender mainstreaming. A full-time in-house advisor was appointed on gender and women, peace and security for civilian CSDP missions, a position that reports directly to the Commander.

11 \*\* 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.

## 2.3 European Commission services

### 2.3.1 Foreign policy instruments

All headquarters-based units of the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments submitted reports on the GAP II's implementation in 2018. Contributions were also received from all five of the service's regional teams, located in Bangkok, Thailand; Beirut, Lebanon; Brasilia, Brazil; Dakar, Senegal; and Nairobi, Kenya.<sup>12</sup>

**Gender mainstreaming was increasingly a strong feature and mind-set within the working methods of the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments in 2018**, across all of its interventions. Gender equality is integrated structurally into the service's management plan, with clear targets and references to the GAP II. In July 2018, the service updated its **results framework and manual**. The former incorporated a clear gender perspective on sections covering project management methodology, while gender-sensitive criteria were incorporated into the results framework, both of which apply across the service.<sup>13</sup> The revisions were informed by the GAP II's commitments and inspired by SDG 5's pledge to 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. This provided a clear basis for the assessment of the service's performance in terms of implementing the GAP II's objectives.

In 2018, gender equality was included both as an action-specific and cross-cutting issue under interventions of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and the Partnership Instrument (PI). For both instruments, a **Gender Facility (offering external technical services)** was created to advance work on gender mainstreaming as part of programming and action design in EU Delegations, regional teams and at headquarters. Gender also featured as an important consideration in the of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) operations and continued to be an **integral part of the planning and implementation of EU election observation missions (EOM)**.

Three **good practices** in 2018 were highlighted within the framework of the service's Annual Activity Report 2018 and Programme Statements for Draft Budget 2020<sup>14</sup>, including the Gender Facilities discussed above. The second good practice involves the service's reporting on the gender equality marker<sup>15</sup>, and the third its active use of 'Guidance on the evaluation of gender as a cross-cutting dimension'.

In addition, work on gender equality formed part of the core responsibilities of the service's operational project managers. In terms of quality, a gender-sensitive approach to **evaluations** was applied fully as of 2018. This was facilitated by the aforementioned guidance note, drafted in cooperation with other Commission services in 2017.

In terms of staff allocation, five **gender focal persons** at headquarters, and five in the service's regional teams ensured delivery on the EU's gender policy commitments at the technical level.

The service's **management** was also actively involved in promoting the gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. Regular statements by the **Director/Head of Service** explicitly referenced these issues – particularly women's participation in mediation, peace negotiations and dialogue processes – in addition to giving speeches with a prominent women, peace and security thread. For example, in the framework of the 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' ceremony organised by UN Women and Nasdaq on 7 March 2018, ahead of International Women's Day, the Director/Head of Service participated in a dedicated panel discussion. This emphasised the EU's work for women's economic empowerment, and illustrated how the EU values private sector engagement in Partnership Instrument actions to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. Moreover, the Director/Head of Service was recognised as a **senior gender champion**.

12 These regional teams cover Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, the Americas, West Africa and Lake Chad, and Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, respectively.

13 For CFSP operations, the results framework is under construction.

14 See 'Programme Statements for Chapter 19 – Foreign Policy Instruments'.

15 The service's management plan for 2018 undertook to apply the gender equality marker to all of the service's operations as the indicator for measuring the GAP II's implementation. CFSP operations were the only exception, as these are not registered in CRIS and consequently not marked against the gender marker. This situation is due to change in 2019, when the use of the future platform for project management (OPSYS) becomes obligatory. Reporting on the use of gender expertise and gender analysis as an integral and systematic part of project design will also be introduced. Furthermore, work will commence on capturing sex-disaggregated project results data to comply with GAP II indicator 5.1.2 on using OPSYS data as the source of verification.



## 2.3.2 International cooperation and development

**High-level international events** in 2018 provided excellent opportunities to showcase the EU's position on gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment in its international cooperation and development policy.

The EU participated in **several G7 meetings** and took part in prominent discussions in the framework of the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Significantly, gender issues were raised in the Council conclusions on water diplomacy, as well as the preparation of EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation.

The **2018 European Development Days** were entirely dedicated to gender equality in different spheres of life. Several plenary sessions were held with high-level participants, while other presentations and lab sessions were organised around a range of related topics. For the first time, the events included a debate on gender and religion as instruments for development, as discussed in the box below.

Senior management's commitment to the **Spotlight Initiative** and its side event 'Leaving no one behind' in March 2018, held under the auspices of 62<sup>th</sup> Commission of Status of Women (CSW 62), accorded significant visibility to the initiative and the EU's work to prevent sexual and gender-based violence across all regions.

To promote change, **new partnerships** for gender equality were explored. These included, for instance, partnerships with the private sector, private foundations and the banking system, in addition to partners with whom collaboration has been less usual to date, such as **faith-based and belief-based organisations** (FBOs).

### Box 2: Gender and religion at the 2018 European Development Days

Religion matters to most people in the world, influencing how gender roles and relations are understood and practiced. In 2018, an event was organised during the European Development Days, structured as a debate between two teams. One explored the positive role of religion in promoting gender equality, the other highlighted the challenges it poses. Participants noted that cooperation with religious leaders, organisations and communities can encourage gender-sensitive interpretations of religious scripture and empower marginalised voices. Others pointed to the danger of legitimising patriarchal structures and practices through enhanced cooperation with religious actors. Religious language is powerful and religious leadership is often male-dominated. Even where the inclusion of women's voices is pronounced, there is no guarantee against patriarchal interpretations.

The debate affirmed that there is no easy answer to the question 'is religion good or bad for gender equality?' Religion can be both a force for good and for ill, and there are both potential benefits and risks involved in cooperating with religious actors. There can be little doubt that religion must be taken into consideration in development agencies' efforts to promote gender equality. As the chair of the debate, Dr Azza Karam of the UN Interagency Taskforce on Religion and Development, put it, *"To try to speak to people in a language that does not take religion into account is to not speak to them at all."*

As Dr Karam noted, for international organisations such as the EU, engagement with religious actors is no longer an option when working towards gender equality: *"Those of us responsible for making policies on and around this last bastion of patriarchy have an obligation to engage."* Development agencies and policy-makers need greater 'faith literacy' in order to navigate this complex field, to be able to engage with religious actors, and to ensure religious diversity in cooperation. Such literacy would give them a better understanding of how, when and why religion matters to people's lives, while facilitating meaningful cooperation with religious actors.

At the same time, religious actors require greater literacy in terms of their knowledge of human rights, alongside a willingness by development agencies to uphold these principles when challenged by patriarchal discourses. Cooperation with religious actors cannot be narrowed down to merely working with conventional religious leaders. As important as they may be, they are not the only – or even most legitimate or representative – spokespersons for religious individuals, communities, traditions and values. Taking into account issues of power and access, development agencies must seek to bring diverse voices to the table, including – but not limited to – faith-based organisations, women theologians and representatives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community.

Work on the Commission proposal for the **Regulation establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) 2021-2027**<sup>16</sup> involved significant efforts to incorporate gender equality and women's empowerment among the regulation's principles, mainstreaming priorities and areas of cooperation that contribute to human development.

To enhance mainstreaming, one notable development in 2018 was the revision of the **Quality Review Group's (QRG) methodology for international cooperation and development initiatives**, the design of new templates for action documents, and a new instruction note. The review process and templates are now much stronger. Over time, these should significantly improve efforts to mainstream gender equality and a rights-based approach (RBA) in new external actions. The new methodology will also enhance the correct use of the OECD gender marker.

Inputs and contributions were made to improve the future information technology (IT) platform for project management (OPSYS). This ongoing work aims to facilitate gender equality and RBA mainstreaming, as well as to ensure that these remain compulsory. Several webinars and other **training and awareness raising** activities were also organised for gender focal persons and project managers.

Other important changes included the establishment of a new technical assistance desk on the 'gender-responsive, rights-based approach' (GR-RBA). The desk provided quality support for action design, technical support and related services, as well as delivering 10 GR-RBA trainings – eight of which were delivered for EU Delegations in 2018. Moreover, four units have mid- to long-term **gender advisory services** in place, while others have the funds to acquire gender expertise as needed.

To further strengthen **capacities for gender mainstreaming**, roughly one-third of staff members of the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development participated in some form of gender equality training. Both men and women participated in equal numbers in these trainings, which addressed issues such as budgetary support, agriculture and rural development, energy, conflict sensitivity and analysis, gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), and religion.

In terms of staff allocation, 25 gender focal persons at headquarters were vital to ensuring the delivery of the EU's gender policy commitments at the technical level within the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development.

At the headquarters level, **gender analysis** informed the design of 63 % of all actions managed by the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development – a trend which was reported as contributing to the GAP II's implementation. **Sex-disaggregated data** was used, either fully or partially, in three-quarters of actions monitored in 2018.

The contribution of **trust funds and blended finance** actions to advancing gender equality were the focus of several discussions with EU Member States and the European Investment Bank. GAP II and RBA requirements were presented at a coordination meeting of the European Platform for Blending in External Cooperation (EUBEC). Moreover, a session was held with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), with a particular focus on the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia.

### 2.3.3 Neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations

Analysis of the GAP II reporting process reveals a positive upward trend in terms of several indicators in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiation region. All 24 EU Delegations and 16 EU Member States which submitted reports considerably increased their commitments, particularly regarding the GAP II's horizontal 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority. For example, there was greater **cooperation and dialogue** between EU actors and various stakeholders in partner countries – both essential elements of the GAP II's implementation. In 2018, gender equality was raised in 535 dialogues, compared to 459 dialogues in 2017. The most common overarching themes of these dialogues were human rights and democracy, followed by education, governance, the rule of law and decent work.

At the management level, a strong commitment to promoting gender equality was also apparent. EU Delegations and EU Member States increased the number of voluntary **gender champions** at the senior management level. In 2018, there were 60 senior gender champions in the region. Several countries nominated gender champions at the level of Ambassadors, Heads of Delegation or Heads of Cooperation. Most gender champions have not been formally appointed, but are considered champions in light of their active role in promoting gender equality. In Algeria, the Ambassador of Sweden volunteered to be a gender champion on behalf of the EU. In Armenia, the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom, France and Germany are gender champions. They regularly raise issues of gender equality and women's rights at public events, meetings and on social media. This reflects the steps EU actors are taking to fulfil commitments to the GAP II's objectives and other regional-specific policy documents related to gender equality, such as the 20 deliverables for 2020 for the Eastern Partnership region.

Achieving lasting, targeted results on gender equality and women's empowerment requires joint and coordinated efforts among donors and partners. The reporting process in 2018 demonstrated that EU Delegations and EU Member States are increasingly coordinating efforts among themselves, as well as with international donors and often with ministries and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). **Donor coordination mechanisms** on gender equality have been established in 19 partner countries. In 2018, these coordination mechanisms proved useful for gathering advice for policy and political dialogues with partner countries on wide range of topics related to gender equality. For instance, in Moldova a functional coordination platform was in place to counter trafficking and promote gender equality. EU Delegations chaired gender coordination mechanisms in seven countries, as did EU Member States in four countries. In almost all cases, either the EU Delegation or an EU Member State acted as co-chairs.

EU Delegations and EU Member States also took more active steps towards burden-sharing through **joint programming** on a range of gender equality issues. This was the case in several partner countries, such as Albania, Egypt, Moldova, Tunisia and Ukraine. Issues addressed ran the gamut from women's and youth empowerment to violence against women and girls, property rights, gender-responsive budgeting and the women, peace and security agenda.

**Gender mainstreaming** in programming has the potential to improve the quality of life of all community members and decrease gender inequalities under certain conditions. As such, it is a key component of the GAP II's implementation. Access to a gender equality brief throughout the project cycle is a necessary foundation for gender mainstreaming. Since 2015, all EU Delegations in the region have completed a **gender country analysis**, except the Delegations to Jordan and Ukraine, whose analyses will be ready in 2019. These analyses proved useful for informing programming. As such, some EU Delegations are considering expanding their analysis to include a wider set of sectors, such as transport, water and waste management, energy and tourism.

EU actors also implemented several **corrective actions** to strengthen gender mainstreaming, coupled with standalone actions on gender equality. In 2018, 51 corrective actions were reported, compared to 33 in 2017. Actions included trainings, expert support, and the use of gender analysis in programme formulation. **Reported good practices** also increased to 110 in 2018, up from 59 in 2017. For instance, the EU Delegation to Belarus committed to enhancing the number of women participants in EU conferences, as well as including gender equality as a key theme in the embassy's communication plan.

### *Box 3: Corrective actions and good practices in Armenia and Kosovo*

Corrective actions by the EU Delegation to Armenia included making electoral funding conditional on an increased gender quota. The Delegation also decided to examine EU support for gender equality in terms of the planned country evaluation. The Delegation further stressed that women's rights organisations should be included in the evaluation committees for the selection of financial support to third parties (sub-granting).

In Kosovo, a dedicated gender advisor was engaged to advise the EU Special Representative, while a gender focal person was appointed in the EU office. A joint action group on gender mainstreaming was established to improve gender mainstreaming in terms of programming and the implementation of EU financial assistance. This group will also guide and advise on specific matters related to the GAP II, in addition to strengthening the gender analysis used for all priority sectors.

As lessons learned from **programme evaluations** are indispensable for achieving gender equality results, EU Delegations undertook 198 monitoring missions in the region in 2018, compared to 166 in 2017. Recommendations from the missions included the need to increase gender mainstreaming in terms of the actions under review, the need to access and use sex-disaggregated data, and the importance of including an intersectional perspective. Reports indicate that these recommendations were well-received.

To ensure the effective implementation of gender equality policies in programming, in-house staff or ad hoc experts must be available with comprehensive knowledge on gender equality and gender mainstreaming. In 2018, EU Member States used a combination of different forms of gender expertise. In-house gender expertise was available for all EU Delegations, as well as in the embassies of several EU Member States. Among the measures in place to mobilise high quality **gender expertise**, the most frequently cited was engaging an ad hoc gender expert or advisor (23 % of EU Delegations) and reserving funds to mobilise gender expertise when needed (19 %).

The reporting process also shed light on remaining challenges. For instance, there is still a need to increase the number of staff who work on gender equality full-time, bearing in mind the large number of countries and programmes covered by the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations. Action is also needed to ensure that the job description of gender focal persons and key management staff members includes gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equality among their tasks.

### 2.3.4 European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations

The EU is fully committed to implementing the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority in all external relations, including humanitarian actions. For instance, the implementation of the 2013 policy, 'Gender in Humanitarian Assistance: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance', has continuously made reference to gender equality.

In the framework of the EU's leadership of the '**Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies**' between June 2017 and December 2018, the EU's first priority was to raise awareness of gender-based violence in emergencies. As such, the EU organised a series of high-level raising awareness events on gender-based violence in emergencies and the Call to Action in Brussels, Geneva and New York. Key events included a high-level meeting during the European Development Days in June 2018, the EU-organised Call to Action annual partners meeting in June, an EU-UNICEF side event during the United Nations General Assembly in September, and a closing event to the handover of the Call to Action's leadership from the EU to Canada in December. Under the EU's leadership, 18 new partners were welcomed to the Call to Action, including five EU Member States. In addition, the EU organised a series of field workshops to raise awareness of the Call to Action and discuss context-specific challenges. Workshops in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Senegal, Sudan, Thailand, and Turkey engaged over 500 participants overall. Details on all priorities are available in the **EU booklet on its leadership of the Call to Action**.<sup>17</sup>

During the year, the EU continued to use the **humanitarian gender-age marker** to track the integration of gender and age in EU-funded humanitarian relief operations. A first assessment report on its use was published in October 2018, covering the 2014-2015 period.<sup>18</sup> The assessment highlighted the marker's utility and called upon partners to continue investing in capacity building on integrating gender and age in their operations. Preliminary data for 2017 suggests that 89.1 % of projects integrated gender and age to a certain extent. Data is not yet available for 2018 as sufficient final reports for the year's projects have yet to be published.

Information on the EU's support for preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies – including support for the pilot of the Call to Action Road Map in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – is included in section 3.1.1, below.

17 For more information, see: [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet\\_eu\\_leadership\\_c2a.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet_eu_leadership_c2a.pdf)

18 For more information, see: [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet\\_eu\\_leadership\\_c2a.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet_eu_leadership_c2a.pdf)

## 2.4 EU Member States

For the 2018 reporting exercise, inputs were received from 26 EU Member States. While 23 Member States provided information using the agreed templates, three provided brief inputs (Romania, the Czech Republic and Greece). Bulgaria and Cyprus did not submit reports.

Several EU Member States' **positions on key international agendas** included a focus on gender equality and the rights of women and girls. Gender equality remained a policy priority for many Member States. As such, gender equality issues were consistently raised on all occasions. International gatherings provided key spaces for raising gender equality and rights issues, such as the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, the UN General Assembly, European Development Days, the Davos World Economic Forum, the Human Rights Council, and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 2018. Austria's presidency of the EU Council generated many high-profile occasions, such as the conference, 'Defending Women – Defending Rights Women Human Rights Defenders' Perspectives and Challenges', organised by Amnesty International back-to-back with the informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Vienna in August. Another key occasion was the launch event of the OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) for 2019, which took place in December 2018.

Many EU Member States contributed to debates and negotiations during the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. This proved a key occasion to emphasise the importance of a holistic, coordinated and transformative approach to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in rural areas. The women, peace and security agenda was a constant theme for several Member States, alongside the full range of issues related to violence against women and girls, sexual and reproductive health and rights, trafficking, safeguarding, economic and political empowerment, gender and trade, and the gender pay gap. A joint resolution was sponsored at the UN General Assembly on sexual harassment to elicit greater recognition of such harassment as a form of violence.

**Senior gender champions** were reported by almost half of the EU Member States which submitted reports in 2018, many officially appointed at the senior government level. This reflects a modest increase compared to 2017. Some gender champions occupied an inter-ministerial role to strengthen coherence on gender equality across ministries with an external mandate. A few EU Member States reported that gender equality was a responsibility of several top management officials, while some others indicated that one or two senior officials are explicitly responsible for gender equality.

In 2018, most EU Member States had an established **mechanism in place to consult external senior expertise** on strategic and ad hoc issues related to gender equality, ranging from government commissions to formal expert advisory structures and help desks. Furthermore, consultations with civil society organisations and academia were normal practice for most EU Member States.

The **quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data** in reporting continued to be a challenge. However, several projects were reported as having contributed to improvements in disaggregated data and the collection of gender-specific statistics. One in ten actions reported involved working with national gender equality machineries in partner countries, while almost one in five actions sought to build awareness of gender equality in local and national media.

A number of examples of **corrective actions** were also reported. Some related to monitoring the use of the OECD gender marker, while others concerned updating guidelines for gender mainstreaming and arranging training sessions, including on women, peace and security. Overall, over 5,000 staff members of EU Member States were trained in 2018, as were a large number of gender focal persons, many of whom had over three years' of experience. Moreover, Member States reported that two-thirds of actions listed as contributing to the GAP II were formulated using **gender analysis**.

### 3. PROGRESS ON THE GAP II'S THEMATIC PRIORITIES

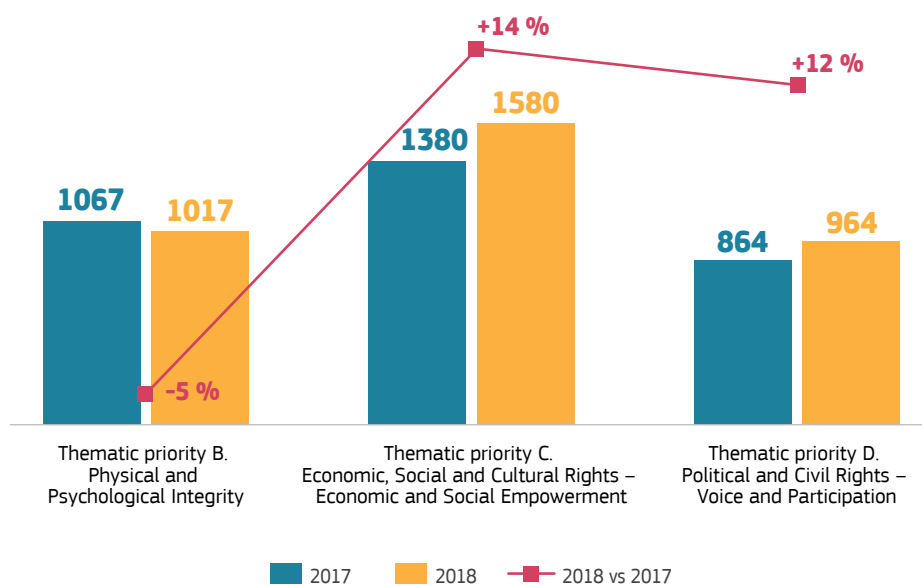
The analysis of progress on the GAP II's thematic priorities in 2018 is based on a selection of reports from the overall portfolio of reports received (see Annex 1 on methodology for details). While the numbers of actions listed in the following sections are representative of trends in decision-making and funding, they are not comprehensive. Actions are counted without referring to the amount of funds allocated to them. Moreover, numbers often differ between the graphs or figures below, and the total number of actions mentioned in the narrative text. The graphs represent the number of actions that correspond to a given GAP II priority or objective. However, in certain instances, one action corresponds to more than one objective.

Financial data derive from Commission services' institutional sources, or from the OECD for EU Member States (where applicable), in terms of overall official development assistance.

Further details and examples of the implementation of the GAP II's thematic priorities across world regions are included in Annex 3.

Figure 5:

All EU actors and EU Member States – Number of actions reported by GAP II by thematic priority, 2018 vs 2017



In 2018, both Commission services and EU Member States continued to support gender equality and women's empowerment around the globe. Analysis of preliminary data<sup>19</sup> for 2018 indicates that **76 % of total EU official development assistance (ODA) contributed to actions marked 'G1' and 'G2' using the OECD gender marker**, up from 71 % in 2017. In the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, 58 % of total ODA contributed to 'G1' and 'G2' actions, compared to 52 % in 2017. Financial data on contributions by EU Member States<sup>20</sup> in 2018 is not yet available. Between 2015 and 2017, Member States' average contribution to 'G1' and 'G2' actions experienced a slight increase, rising from 41 % to 43 %. These trends reflect continued support, in line

19 Data for the OECD creditor reporting system for 2018 will be validated in 2019, after the drafting of this report. Figures on ODA specifically geared towards gender equality for 2018 – which are more detailed than the overall ODA figures – will only be available by December 2019/January 2020. Therefore, this report uses figures for 2017, available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/Aid-to-gender-equality-donor-charts-2019.pdf>. ODA data in this report only concerns ODA managed by Commission services. Data on actions under the mandate of the European Investment Bank are not included.

20 Data used in this report is only available for EU Member States that report to the OECD.

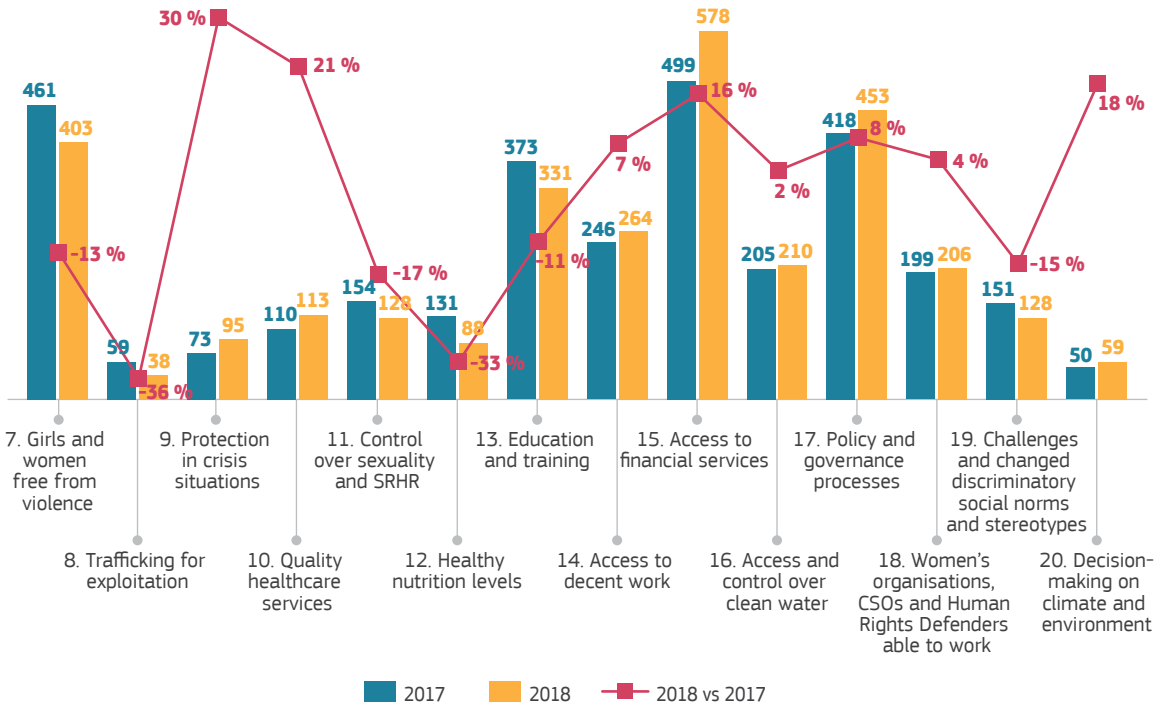


with EU policy commitments, to the advancement of women’s rights and gender equality objectives worldwide.

In 2018, the **largest number of actions reported by all EU actors combined** – both EU Member States and Commission services at headquarters and in partner countries – contributed to the objectives of thematic priority C, ‘Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment’. This follows trends observed in previous years, with an overall increase of 14 % in reported actions compared to 2017. Overall, 2018 witnessed a 12 % increase in reported actions contributing to the objectives of thematic priority D, ‘Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation’, and a decrease of 5 % in actions contributing to the objectives of thematic priority B, ‘Physical and Psychological Integrity’. Variations in the numbers of reported actions between 2018 and 2017 is not of significant importance, given the different pace at which some programmes close and other new actions begin to be implemented. Financial commitments are often made depending on multiannual programming plans. Moreover, as noted above, the percentage change in the number of actions does not reflect the financial size of the reported actions.

By combining data on the number of reported actions with the available financial data overall, it is clear that **commitments to the GAP II’s gender equality and women’s empowerment objectives is being sustained and gradually increasing**. The analysis in the following sections highlights thematic objectives that may require greater attention and additional resources. Gender mainstreaming efforts are yielding results across the GAP II’s thematic priorities. Nevertheless, as the analysis in Part 2 affirms, the quality of gender mainstreaming must be carefully monitored and continually strengthened. The often limited use of gender analysis for action design, and of sex-disaggregated data for action monitoring and evaluation, have been constant features of the analysis for the past three years of the GAP II’s implementation.

Figure 6: EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries – Number of actions by GAP II thematic objectives, 2018 vs 2017



Globally, no GAP II objective was left unaddressed by EU actions in 2018. Even when EU actors are considered separately – Commission services at headquarters, EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries, and EU Member States – it is clear that, on average, each group provided support for each GAP II objective.

In terms of the number of reported actions by **EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries in 2018**, the greatest support was provided for making financial services more accessible to women (objective 15), followed by encouraging and consolidating women’s participation of women in policy and governance processes at

all levels (objective 17), and combatting violence against women and girls (objective 7). The smallest number of reported actions contributed to combatting trafficking for all forms of exploitation (objective 8). This objective also experienced a decrease in the number of reported actions, with 36 % fewer actions in 2018 compared to 2017. The number of reported actions related to healthy nutrition levels (objective 12) and SRHR (objective 11) also decreased.

The objectives which experienced the **greatest increase in support** by EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries in 2018 were equal access to quality healthcare services (objective 10), support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders (objective 18), and promoting women's participation in decision-making on climate and environmental issues (objective 20).

At the **headquarters level, the greatest number of global actions by Commission services** supported efforts to encourage and consolidate women's participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17), followed by ensuring access to decent work for women of all ages (objective 14) and combatting violence against women and girls (objective 7). The lowest number of reported actions concerned support for promoting, protecting and fulfilling sexual and reproductive health and rights (objective 11). However, there was a 67 % increase in the number of reported actions on SRHR in 2018, compared to 2017. These included contributions to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Supplies programme, support for refugees and host communities in the Middle East, the Spotlight Initiative, the European Development Fund (EDF) for providing development aid to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, the EU/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, and the Regional Roma Survey.

#### Box 4: EU-UN Spotlight Initiative

Through the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, the EU has provided unprecedented support to this vital political priority. Jointly launched by the EU and UN in September 2017, the initiative aims to mobilise the commitment of political leaders and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 ('Gender Equality') and SDG 16 on inclusive and peaceful societies. It pursues these aims by building new multi-stakeholder partnerships and providing large-scale, targeted support, backed by an initial dedicated EU financial commitment of EUR 500 million. The initiative includes actions to address the trafficking of women and girls, in line with SDG targets 5.2 and 16.2. In 2018 alone, the EU committed EUR 270 million to the initiative.

At the global level, the EU's **Development Cooperation Instrument** (DCI) continued to contribute significantly to the GAP II's implementation, reflected in an increased number of reported actions in 2018. Half of these reported actions addressed thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights'. The remaining 29 % concerned priority B's focus on physical and psychological, while 23 % addressed priority D by targeting political and civil rights. Slightly under half of these actions were multi-country initiatives. Comparisons with reports for 2017 indicate a significant increase in actions targeting thematic priority C, alongside a decrease in reported actions under priorities D and B.

Overall, **EU Member States' centrally-managed actions** most often concerned combatting violence against women and girls (objective 7), followed by women's access to decent work (objective 14) and making financial services more accessible to women (objective 15). The lowest number of reported actions addressed trafficking for exploitation (objective 8). This was also the only objective for which the number of centrally-managed actions decreased compared to 2017, with 44 % fewer actions in 2018. Moreover, very few GAP II indicators were selected by Member States.

The sharpest **increase in EU Member States' support** focused on contributing to women's equal rights to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues (objective 20), followed by ensuring access to and control over clean water (objective 16), and enabling healthy nutrition levels (objective 12).

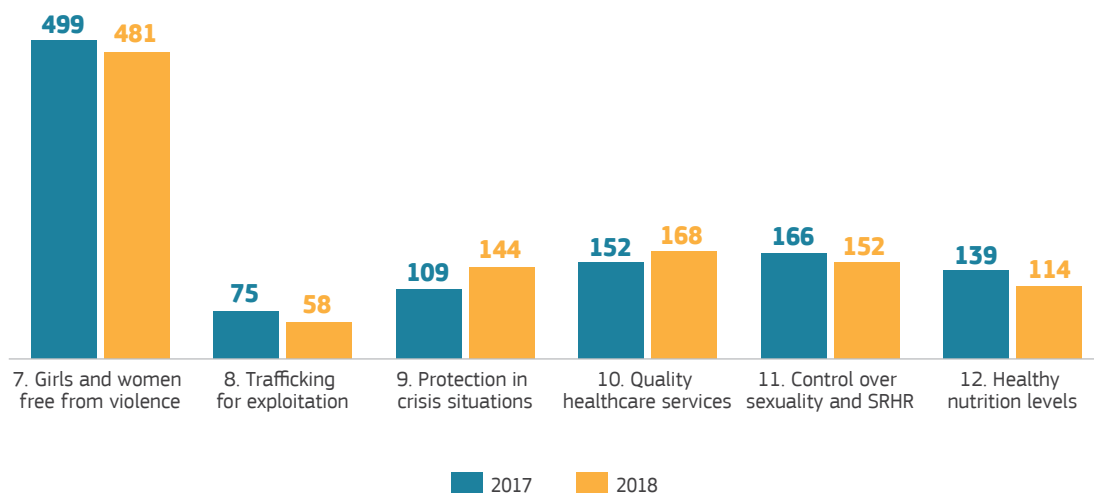
Following a steep increase in financing during the previous period for challenging discriminatory social norms and stereotypes (objective 19), 18 % fewer actions were reported in 2018 on such vital efforts that contribute to transforming societies and curbing discrimination against women and girls.



## 3.1 Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

In 2018, 1,017 reported actions on thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', contributed to advancing SDG 1 ('No Poverty'), SDG 2 ('Zero Hunger'), SDG 3 ('Good Health and Well-being'), SDG 5 ('Gender Equality'), SDG 6 ('Clean Water and Sanitation') and SDG 16 ('Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions').

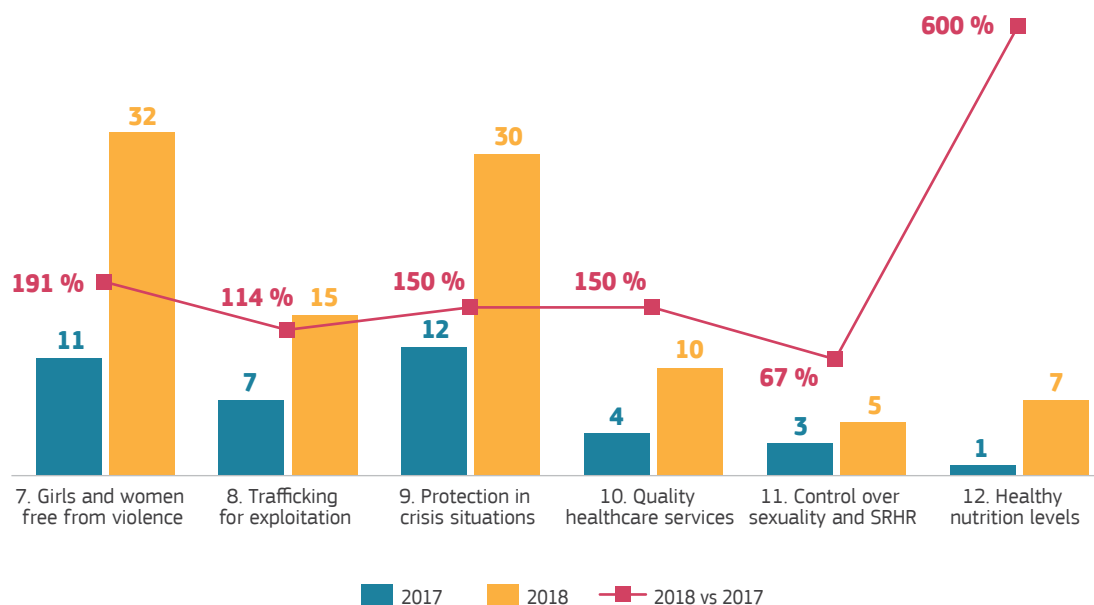
Figure 7:  
All EU actors combined – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority B, Physical and Psychological Integrity, 2018 vs 2017



### 3.1.1 Commission services

In 2018, the greatest proportion of actions reported by Commission services addressed **violence against women and girls** (objective 7).

Figure 8:  
Commission services – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority B, Physical and Psychological Integrity, 2018 vs 2017



EU funding reached out to women and girls around the world, including in humanitarian crises, affording much-needed services for survivors of violence. In tandem, EU support was key for strengthening knowledge, as well as institutional and legal frameworks for sustainable solutions to curbing such violence and ensuring basic health rights. The second largest proportion of EU funding in 2018 was dedicated to protecting women and men, of all ages, from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations through EU-supported operations (objective 9).

One notable example of EU funding in 2018 involved **EUR 5 million** to support projects by two **Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege**.<sup>21</sup> As Commissioner Neven Mimica explained:

*"Violence against women and girls is one of the most horrendous crimes, one of the greatest injustices of our time, and an obstacle to the development of any society. I am very pleased to be able to strengthen our support for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates. This is how the European Union can help put an end to sexual violence, once and for all, everywhere in the world."*

In November 2018, both Nobel laureates were invited to discuss the eradication of violence against women and its impact on development, alongside EU development ministers at the EU Foreign Affairs Council. On this occasion, High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini noted:

*"As the European Union, we admire the immense courage and tireless work of Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege, who often put their own lives at risk. We have a duty to support their work and all the people they represent, as we are doing, and this is also the best way to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women."*

#### Box 5: Sinjar Action Fund in Iraq and Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In 2018, the EU supported the Sinjar Action Fund Initiative in Iraq, which aims to create infrastructure, schools and hospitals, while encouraging the return of displaced populations.

Additional funding in 2018 was provided to the Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo, bringing the total amount of development cooperation and humanitarian aid for Dr Mukwege's Panzi Foundation to EUR 19 million. Such support has been a boon to Dr Mukwege's efforts, including a socio-economic reintegration programme for children and women who were used as sex slaves in the mining areas of the South Kivu province. These programmes achieved extremely important results in terms of providing 50,000 women with medical treatment for gynaecological conditions caused by sexual violence, providing another 500 women with socio-economic integration support and legal assistance, and enabling access to education for girl victims of sexual abuse and forced labour.

In 2018, the EU allocated approximately **EUR 30 million in humanitarian aid** to fight sexual and gender-based violence through its protection and health programming, supporting projects all over the world.<sup>22</sup> As discussed in section 2.3.4 above, the EU led the global 'Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies' initiative between June 2017 and December 2018.<sup>23</sup>

Another way in which the EU supported the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence was by funding **knowledge generation and capacity building**. At the end of 2017, the EU allocated EUR 975,000 to UNFPA, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) and the Women's Refugee Commission, under the EU's 'Enhanced Response Capacity' to support the implementation of the **Call to Action** in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as to develop global minimum standards on gender-based violence – a major deliverable of the Call to Action Road Map. The Northeast Nigeria Road Map was launched in July 2018, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo Road Map in March 2019. In addition, at the end of 2018, the EU awarded nearly EUR 445,000 to the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands and Save the Children Netherlands to study access

21 In 2018, Nadia Murad Basee Taha and Dr Denis Mukwege were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end violence against women as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

22 Examples of projects are included in Chapter 2 of the Call to Action booklet: [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet\\_eu\\_leadership\\_c2a.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet_eu_leadership_c2a.pdf)

23 For a comprehensive overview of all activities undertaken during the EU's leadership of the Call to Action, see: [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet\\_eu\\_leadership\\_c2a.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/booklet_eu_leadership_c2a.pdf)

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and barriers to medical and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual violence, including case studies in Nigeria, Yemen and Haiti. Two further capacity building projects concluded in 2018, financed by the 2016 budget. These involved the provision of EUR 600,000 to UN Women and Oxfam for the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) **Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action**, which was released in April 2018. It also entailed EUR 1.2 million for the International Rescue Committee to finance the **development of tools and approaches** to conduct gender-based violence case management in hard-to-reach areas, with guidance released in August 2018.

In December 2017, the communication on 'Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions' was adopted, reflecting the EU's recognition of the trafficking of women and girls as a form of structural violence against them. Several key actions included in the communication are gender-specific and include an explicit commitment to undertaking an approach based on the **gender dimension of trafficking in human beings**, in line with the requirements for gender-specific actions of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive.

The **Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator** continued to work closely with the European External Action Service and EU Delegations to provide strategic overall orientation and support, particularly to ensuring a gender-specific approach to all actions. The gender dimension of trafficking was also included in several political dialogues with non-EU partners, as well as in the context of multilateral diplomacy. Moreover, the European Institute for Gender Equality, in cooperation with the European Commission, adopted practical guidance for EU Member States<sup>24</sup> and practitioners on gender-specific measures in anti-trafficking actions.

The EU also supported efforts by authorities in the Russian Federation to implement the National Action Strategy for Women in Moscow and select regions of the country. Support was channelled through the action '**Co-operation on the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women (2017–2022)**', signed at the end of 2018. Implemented by the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the action will provide technical support to strengthen knowledge and expertise in local legislative, judicial and administrative structures in Russia, while raising awareness and enabling the exchange of best practices.

Funding for **nutrition-specific actions to treat severe acute malnutrition** and nutrition-sensitive prevention actions (objective 12) in the sectors of health, food assistance and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) totalled EUR 128 million. These reached more than 14 million beneficiaries, most of whom are children under the age of five and women of reproductive age.

Another example of the EU's work to combat violence against women and girls in 2018 involved support for the process of reviewing and amending the Kosovo criminal code and Criminal procedural code. This support – provided through the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo and the EU Special Representative in Kosovo – contributed to strengthening the legal framework for the prosecution of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and crimes of sexual violence.

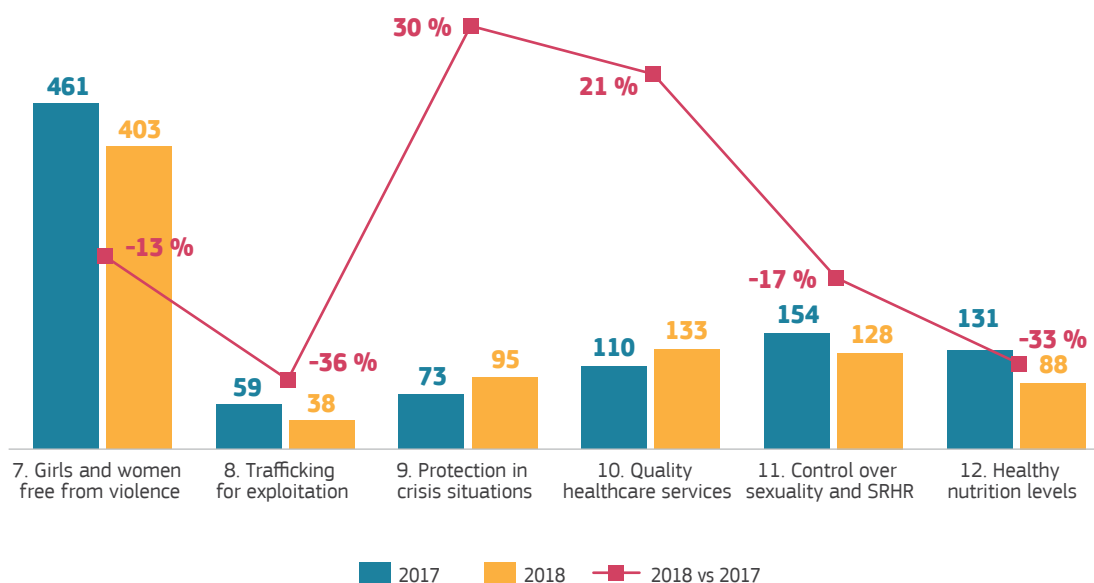
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24 [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/publications/trafficking-for-sexual-exploitation-a-gendered-crime\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/publications/trafficking-for-sexual-exploitation-a-gendered-crime_en)

### 3.1.2 EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries

Figure 9:

EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority B, Physical and Psychological Integrity, 2018 vs 2017



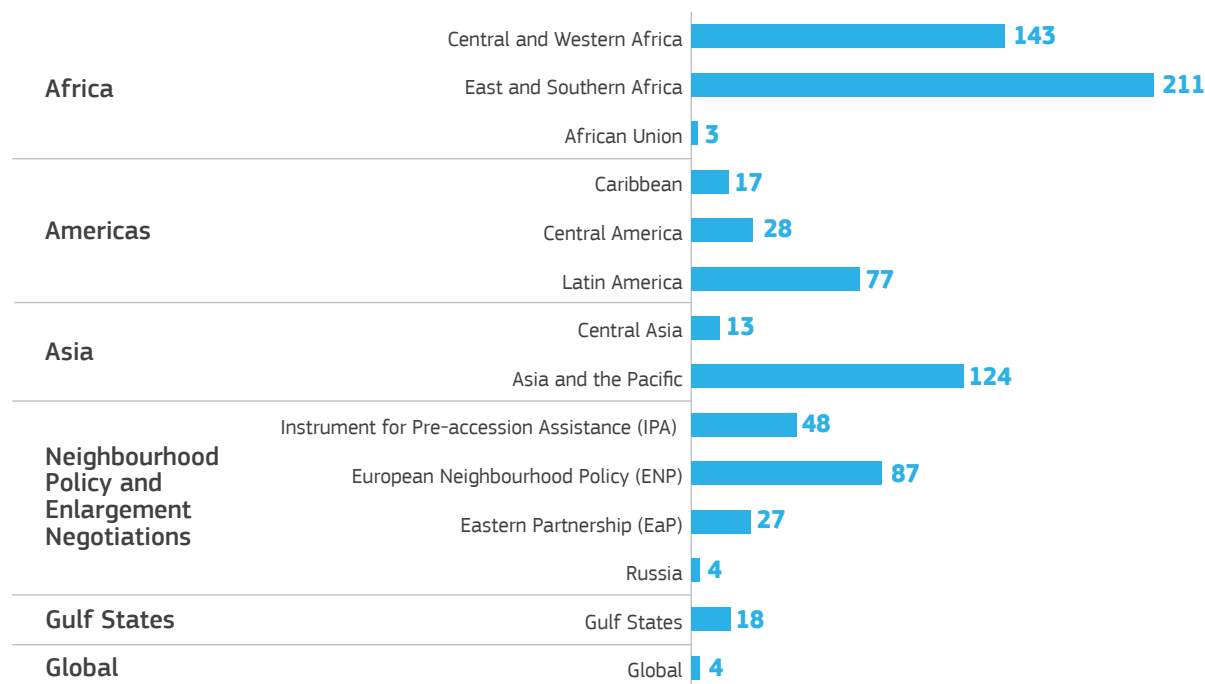
For EU Delegations and EU Member States active in partner countries, addressing violence against women and girls was of particularly high priority. This was reflected by the large number of actions reported on addressing GAP II objective 7 in 2018, although fewer actions were reported than in 2017. Mirroring trends in global actions, actions at the country level across regions also focused on protecting women and men of all ages from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations (objective 9), in addition to affording equal access to women and girls to quality healthcare (objective 10).

Overall, there the number of reported actions that addressed issues of SRHR decreased in 2018 compared to 2017. Nevertheless, EU funding helped to ensure that 3,096,000 births were attended by skilled health personnel, thereby **reducing the maternal mortality** (objective 11). Furthermore, 1,492,000 women of reproductive age and children under five-years-old benefited from **nutrition-related programmes** (objective 12).

The number of reported actions contributing to the **elimination of trafficking** of girls and women (objective 8) decreased by over one-third (-37 %) in Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, as well as in Latin America. Moreover, five times fewer actions were reported in Asia and the Pacific in 2018 compared to 2017. Africa was the only region where the number of reported actions on trafficking increased, albeit only by 1 %.

Figure 10:

EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries – Number of actions reported, thematic priority B, Physical and Psychological Integrity, 2018



## Africa

Among the EU's initiatives in Africa, in Liberia, Ireland supported 'She Leads: community-based activism, response and empowerment to prevent and respond to **gender-based violence**. Other actions that contributed to objective 7 spanned a range of initiatives to prevent and ensure protection from violence against women and children in Burundi, Liberia and Mauritania. Further initiatives included media campaigns, research and knowledge generation on female genital mutilation in Burkina Faso and the Gambia, an initiative to combat child marriage in Cameroon and Mali, and police interventions to tackle violence in Mauritania. Efforts in Mali supported civil society efforts to address impunity, alongside support for justice and ensuring that survivors have a voice in Chad and Côte d'Ivoire. Actions further supported national strategies for women's empowerment in Senegal, championed legal aid for women – including survivors of violence – in Côte d'Ivoire, and supported the Media Women's Association in Tanzania. Overall, there was a clear focus on rights in many actions, alongside support for local civil society and non-governmental organisations.

A consultancy service in Mauritius supported by the EU Delegation contributed to objectives 7, 8, 11, 14 and 15 by assisted in the elaboration of the country's Gender Equality Bill, Children's Bill and Adoption Bill, while delivering capacity building for the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. Objective 9, on tackling **gender-based violence in conflict situations**, was addressed by actions in a number of countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Uganda. Entry points varied, ranging from awareness raising to promoting peace, security and justice, supporting livelihoods, and access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. In Sudan, France supported an inclusive approach – from education to the labour market – to break down **gender stereotypes** and improve economic opportunities.

In 2018, the number of reported actions contributing to **sexual and productive health and rights** (objective 11) declined by one-third. The Spotlight Initiative involved EUR 250 million in funding for actions to combat sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, including support for SRHR, in the region. The design and finalisation of these actions was underway during the course of the year, which may be the reason for the decline in reported actions. The fact that several projects were completed in 2017 and many others will be launched in 2019 could also be an explanation.

EU funds exceeded the 20 % target<sup>25</sup> for EU aid spending on social inclusion and human development. Alongside support by several EU Member States, this bridged the decrease in funding internationally in support to the SRHR. An increase in the number of reported actions and the amount of funding for SRHR is expected in the future, coupled with continuing EU support for new initiatives. For instance, in May, the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission launched a report that re-conceptualises SRHR<sup>26</sup> and a new iteration of the Muskoka methodology (Muskoka 2) was came to the fore.<sup>27</sup> These issues are discussed in greater detail in Annex 5.

During 2018, fewer actions were reported in Africa to curb **trafficking** (objective 8), in addition to the aforementioned decrease in actions on sexual and reproductive health (objective 11). In addition to the reasons suggested above, this may be related to the high number of new actions that were initiated in 2017. It should be noted that a decrease in actions over a two-year period does not necessarily signify a decline in attention to related issues. Careful consideration of the trend at the sub-regional level is required to understand how the EU can further support trafficking and SRHR – spheres in which where the rights of women and girls are at high risk. Sustaining funding and policy dialogue to tackle possible challenges remains extremely important.

## Americas

While EU actors in **Latin America and the Caribbean** remain concerned about women and girls' physical and psychological integrity, the number of actions on thematic priority B were overtaken by actions on the GAP II's other priorities in 2018. Given Latin America's high rates of gender-based violence, objective 7 was by far the most frequently selected in the sub-region. Thus, under thematic priority B, 63 % of the reported actions addressed violence against women and girls. EU funding contributed to several regional programmes on this issue, including an action implemented by UN Women on 'Safe City and Safe Public Spaces'. Through a 'Triangular Project', practices from Peru and Spain were shared to improve El Salvador's information systems and analysis of femicide. Moreover, Germany implemented a specific regional programme to eliminate violence against women.

Crisis and social conflicts are frequent in the sub-region, characterised as it is by social inequalities and unrest. Therefore, 15 actions addressed the protection of women and men ages from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations (objective 9) in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, and Uruguay. These ran the gamut from an action to tackle **femicide** in Ecuador, to promoting **democracy in Uruguay**, and strengthening security and peace in Colombia by re-integrating and protecting boys and girls at high risk of recruitment, while spreading a culture of peace, legality and human rights in post-conflict municipalities. Moreover, Brazil's first human rights training organised by the Military Police of the Defence Forces included a session on women's rights.

In the Caribbean initiatives advancing objective 7, 'girls and women free from all forms of violence against them both in the public and in the private sphere' covered issues such as justice (Jamaica), sexual reproductive health and rights and women's rights (the Dominican Republic), and asset recovery and cybercrime (multi-country). In Jamaica, actions were funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. In Trinidad and Tobago, actions centred on addressing gender stereotypes through the 'Building Better Men' programme, and an initiative on diversity management in schools.

### Box 6: EU Delegation to Ecuador, 'More information, less violence'

In Ecuador, the EU Delegation supported the '*Más información, menos violencia: prevención y erradicación de violencia de género, en especial femicidio*' initiative to counter gender-based violence, particularly femicide. This involved a dual focus on changing in the way femicide cases are judicially treated, while preventing the violence

25 In 2011, the Commission committed to spending at least 20 % of EU aid on social inclusion and human development through allocations to basic social services, with a focus on health, education and social protection. For more information, see the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, "Increasing the impact of the EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change", COM(2011)637 final, Brussels, 13/10/2011. This commitment was re-emphasised in the New European Consensus on Development in 2017.

26 Guttmacher-Lancet Commission (2018) *Accelerate progress – sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission*. Available: <https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights>

27 In June 2018, a technical working group was established with the support of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to review the Muskoka methodology and propose changes to address identified shortcomings, in addition to more comprehensively tracking donors' funding and disbursements.

that contributes to femicide in high schools and through social media. The action was informed by gender analysis and results-oriented monitoring mission, and underscored by a focus on real collaboration with national institutions and NGOs.

The initiative has had an impact on government institutions and the way in which statistics on femicide are collected and analysed at the global level. While data collection challenges remain, greater awareness is evident among the five official institutions in charge gathering data on femicide cases. The NGO implementing partner is the only organisation in the country following cases of femicide, following 550 such cases in 2018. Their efforts have made the initiative a reference point for information on femicide cases at the national level.

This NGO presented their latest report at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In response to this report, a meeting was held between the EU Delegation and the Judiciary Council Director (JCD), at which the latter proposed judicial reforms, such as the introduction of a dedicated number of judges specialised in femicide to guard against impunity and deliver fair trials and verdicts. To this end, the Delegation requested Eurosocial's technical assistance for the Judiciary Council – support which is currently ongoing. The action has also evoked greater confidence in the justice system among survivors of violence and the relatives of femicide victims, who are increasingly willing to pursue judicial means of redress.

## Asia and the Pacific

The greatest proportion of actions under this thematic priority addressed objective 7 on combatting all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), covering a variety of related issues. These included gender mainstreaming, supporting civil society, promoting human rights and women's empowerment, food security, access to justice and education. The EU Delegation to the Pacific reported on the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls, and increase access to quality response services for survivors.

Objective 11, on sexual reproductive health and rights, was the second most selected objective in Asia and the Pacific. A focus on sexual reproductive health and rights was apparent in Afghanistan (family planning and reproductive health), India, Nepal and the Philippines (reproductive services). In Taiwan, one action focused on LGBTI rights.

Other frequently selected objectives included objective 12 on healthy nutrition levels for girls and women, objective 10 on equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services, and objective 9 on gender-based violence in crisis situations. Actions to foster security and peace while reducing conflict were implemented in Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Myanmar, three EU Member States – Finland, Italy and Sweden – funded a programme on SRHR and combatting gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas.

### *Box 7: EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, 'Inside Justice'*

In 2018, the EU Delegation financed the initiative 'Inside Justice: Ensuring Formal Justice Sector Responsibility and Accountability to Redress Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) against Women and Girls in Sri Lanka'. Implemented by the Asia Foundation, the initiative seeks to address the barriers experienced by survivors of violence, including impunity for perpetrators, long delays and a lack of gender-sensitivity among law enforcement and the justice system. To this end, Inside Justice aims to change the attitudes of actors in the formal justice sector towards sexual and gender-based violence, while supporting civil society advocacy to enhance the justice sector's accountability and response.

The Asia Foundation works in partnership with and through local civil society and human rights organisations, building on their strengths, expertise and knowledge of local contexts. Partners include Women in Need (WIN), a Sri Lankan non-profit NGO with over 30 years of experience in addressing gender-based violence. Therefore, Inside Justice's strategies are based on engagement with civil society and the justice sector, while drawing on the expertise of the foundation's Gender and Justice Team. One innovative strategy used by the initiative was 'Court Observation Research', wherein Women in Need's lawyers observed, documented and improved understandings of gender sensitivity among the judiciary, prosecutors, lawyers and court staff. The study was carried out in five locations, tracking 50 court cases over a period of six months. The initiative's advocacy component will be rolled out in the future, informed by such in-depth research.



## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Russia

Substantial progress was apparent in terms of advancing the GAP II's thematic priorities in the **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Russia**. In the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, 40 % of actions on thematic priority B addressed violence against women and girls (objective 7). Although this was the most frequently selected objective in the sub-region, it was targeted by roughly half as many actions in 2018 as it was in 2017. Similarly, in the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, objective 7 remained the focus of EU actions, although the number of actions that addressed violence against women fell by one-third compared to 2017. While some countries introduced ambitious legislation to combat gender-based violence and discrimination, many obstacles remain, not least as gender inequalities are embedded in discriminatory cultural norms and traditions. In the Enlargement Negotiations sub-region, objective 7 was the focus of 29 actions in five countries, and was therefore addressed by 56 % of actions reported under thematic priority B.

In 2018, EU actors in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region and Russia considered 64 % of their reported actions to be promising practices. Of these, 7 % of actions were regarded as partially gender-transformative and 14 % as gender-transformative. As explained above, this means that they aimed to evoke a shift or a positive change in the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigms that produce gender-based discriminations and inequalities in a given context.

Compared with 2017, there was an overall decrease in the number of reported actions in the region to tackle violence against women and girls (objective 7), enable women's participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17) and expand their access to decent work (objective 14). In 2018, EU actors focused far more on women's equal access to financial services and productive resources (objective 15), which was addressed by 18 % of reported actions. Another 14 % of actions concerned objective 17, while 13 % tackled objective 14. Undeniable progress was made to address violence against women and girls, for instance, the adoption of new legislation in many countries in the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region. Nevertheless, much remains to be done, especially among the Southern Neighbourhood countries, of whom only Tunisia has passed an organic law on violence against women, including domestic violence.

Continuing a stable trend since 2016, EU actors affirmed their commitment to sexuality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (objective 11). This was reflected in 12 % more actions addressing this objective in 2018 than in the previous year. However, actions to combat trafficking (objective 8) and to ensure protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations (objective 9) decreased significantly in 2018, by 37 % and 28 %, respectively. To pinpoint the reasons for this decrease, further sub-regional analysis is required. One positive trend in 2018 concerned actions on qualitative preventive, curative and rehabilitative health and mental health services (objective 10), which increased by 56 %. This is tied to new interventions to address Syrian refugees' healthcare needs, which began in Turkey under the Facility for Refugees.

The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad' Fund, proved particularly important in 2018. The fund supported actions to address GBV and VAWG among Syrian women refugees. These included a plethora of interventions, from information campaigns and awareness sessions, to specialised treatment in terms of mental health and psychosocial support, and risk education sessions on mine contamination threats. These actions reached out to vulnerable people in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the Western Balkans.

### *Box 8: EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, 'Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection'*

The 'Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection' in Asia and the Caucasus aims to build on, and strengthen, evidence-based national policies and programmes to address son preference, the low value ascribed to girls, and the gender inequalities that underlie gender-biased sex selection. Azerbaijan is among the three countries in the world with the most severe sex-ratio imbalance. This is grounded in widespread cases of gender-biased prenatal sex selection, geared towards ensuring the birth of sons to meet traditional patriarchal expectations. When the programme began, 116 boys were born for every 100 girls in the country.

Since its commencement, the programme has contributed to a breakthrough in the recognition of the problem of gender-biased prenatal sex selection – a challenge which had previously been overlooked by the public and authorities. As a first step, the programme sought to shed light on the issue by collecting sex-disaggregated data and carrying out substantial research. This was paired with gender-transformative advocacy activities which highlighted the effectiveness of engaging men, including a fathers and daughters festival, a theatre play



and media articles. The programme’s evidence-based approach successfully raised awareness among relevant authorities and the public at large.

As recognition increased, efforts to address the gender-biased sex selection gained pace. For instance, advocacy efforts and policy dialogue resulted in the incorporation of a standalone section on combatting sex selection in Azerbaijan’s draft ‘State Programme on Population Development and Demography’ (2018-2030). Thereafter, a National Action Plan on Preventing and Addressing Gender-biased Sex Selection was launched. Son preference is slowly declining, with current statistics suggesting that 114 boys are born for every 100 girls. The goal is to reach 105-107 male births for every 100 girls.

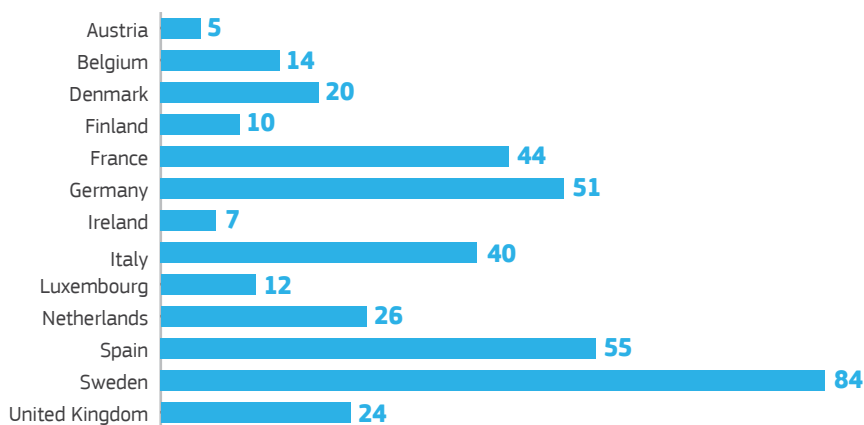
**Box 9: EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, ‘Respect Rural Women’ initiative**

The Respect Rural Women initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to contribute to the prevention of domestic violence and the empowerment of rural women in the municipalities of Banja Luka, Glamoč, Kotor Varoš, Prijedor and Prnjavor. Supported by the EU Delegation, the action centres on raising awareness of gender-based and domestic violence – estimated to affect 52.8 % of women – while engaging communities and religious leaders from the Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic communities, and advocating for equal rights and results.

New partnerships between the EU, faith-based organisations and religious communities were an important innovative element of the initiative – given their strong capacity to influence norms – alongside the involvement of community leaders and rural women, men, girls and boys. Other key stakeholders included local authorities, public institutions, farmers’ associations, civil society and the media. The initiative was preceded by an intensive consultation process with target groups and beneficiaries, particularly women and girls in rural areas through the Caritas Family Centre, as well as experts in the field of domestic violence, institutions and civil society organisations. The participatory approach to bring together stakeholders to discuss GBV was new experience for most participants.

### 3.1.3 EU Member States

Figure 11:  
EU Member States – Number of actions reported, thematic priority B, Physical and Psychological Integrity, 2018



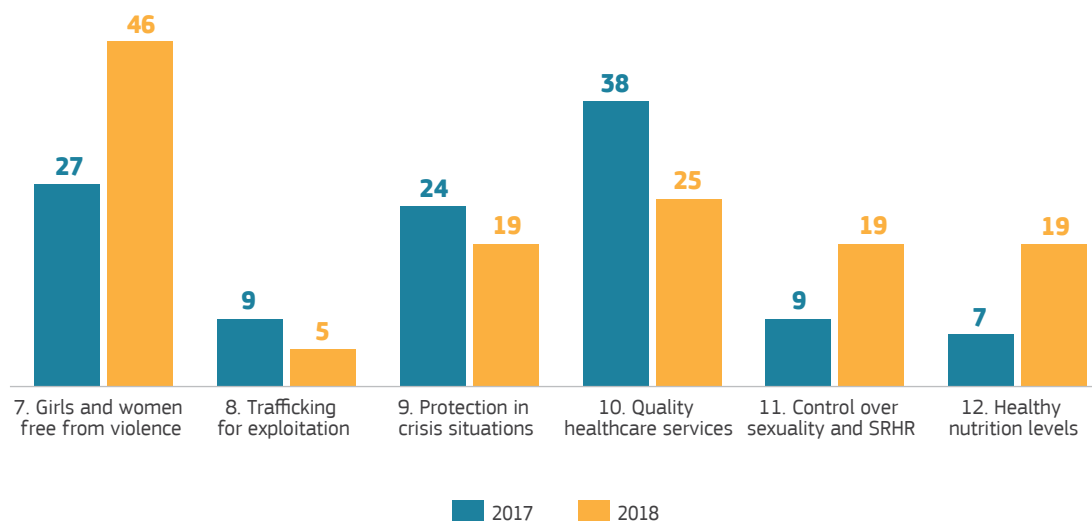
EU Member States reported 149 centrally-managed actions in 2018 that addressed thematic priority B. The most frequently addressed objectives concerned violence against women and girls (objective 7) and healthy nutrition levels (objective 12). Most reported actions were global or multi-country in scope. This marks an increase from 115 reported actions in 2017, when access to healthcare services (objective 10) was the most frequently addressed GAP II objective.

Throughout 2018, EU Member States continued to support global initiatives that promoted SRHR for millions of people. The 'SheDecides'<sup>28</sup> initiative – jointly launched in March 2017 by the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden – continued to gain traction in 2018, prompting greater attention to SRHR alongside a growing range of policy and financial commitments. EU Member States that financially supported 'SheDecides' included Belgium, Denmark, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden.

In addition, the International Conference on Family Planning in November 2018 reaffirmed partners' commitments to ensuring that every woman and girl has access to high-quality, affordable family planning information and services. The United Kingdom was among the major donors in the wake of the conference, announcing an additional EUR 222 million in funding.<sup>29</sup> In tandem, Denmark is set to double its overall funding for sexual and reproductive health and family planning in 2019. The United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Sweden – in addition to Norway – remained the largest donors for SRHR initiatives. Germany's long-term financial commitments are also important to highlight, as the country committed to spending 25 % of its bilateral aid budget on SRHR and family planning.

Figure 12:

EU Member States' capitals – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority B, Physical and Psychological Integrity, 2018 vs 2017



Thematic priority B was the second most frequently addressed priority by EU Member States' actions. However, many actions covered more than one priority and several objectives of the GAP II. Women's access to decent work (objective 14) was most frequently addressed. The second most commonly addressed objectives, in equal measure, were women's access to financial services and productive resources (objective 15) and enabling women and girls to live free from all forms of violence (objective 7). Very few GAP II indicators were selected.

Initiatives that tackled harmful practices featured prominently among EU Member States' actions in 2018. These included community-based interventions to combat female genital mutilation and improve SRHR in **Burkina Faso**, hand in hand with challenging discriminatory social norms. Measures in the **Horn of Africa** and **Iraq** sought to enhance gender equality within the women, peace and security agenda, while promoting conflict prevention and stability. Actions to support women's rights and health, including maternal health, psychosocial assistance for refugees, and initiatives to counter trafficking were also reported. Protecting women and men from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations was the aim of several actions, as was building the resilience of households and communities in earthquake-affected areas in **Nepal**. Social inclusion also received attention,

28 For more information, see: <https://www.shedecides.com>

29 European donor support to sexual and reproductive health and family planning. Trends analysis 2017-2018. Countdown2030Europe, January 2019 <http://www.countdown2030europe.org/storage/app/media/uploaded-files/Annual%20Tracking%20Report%20-%20web.pdf>

for example, in terms of Roma children and children with disabilities, alongside establishing dementia-inclusive structures in two model regions in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

As a result of the recent refugee crisis in Greece's immediate neighbourhood and the arrival of large numbers of displaced persons, a substantial part of **Greece's** bilateral aid was channelled to national activities and initiatives to **support refugees**, with a view to lessening human suffering. A national strategy coordinated actions by several government bodies at different levels, as well as civil society organisations. A multi-faceted approach yielded positive results, as described in the box below.

*Box 10: General Secretariat for Gender Equality, Greece*

The General Secretariat for Gender Equality of Greece provided services to refugee women and children through the National Network of Structures for the Prevention and Combatting of Violence against Women, in cooperation with municipalities, regional government bodies, government ministries and civil society organisations. Refugee women and children were provided with transport to safe shelters and counselling centres, where they received psychosocial support and, if needed, legal advice regarding asylum and relocation. Access to interpretation and cultural mediation was also available, as was access to education, training and healthcare. All services were provided free of charge. Priority was given to fostering a survivor-centred, inclusive identification regime that protects human rights and ensures the provision of comprehensive assistance.

Furthermore, the Government stepped up efforts to address challenges and opportunities related to the nexus between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. It adopted new legal measures, carried out human rights education in schools and ran awareness raising campaigns to combat trafficking.

*Box 11: Belgium's 'Integrated WASH, food security and gender and protection response' in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Since mid-2018, Belgium has supported the 'Integrated WASH, food security, gender and protection response' initiative for conflict-affected communities in the Tanganyika province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The initiative's pre-technical assessment involved mapping water points and sources to be developed or rehabilitated. Plans are afoot for Oxfam to identify and select beneficiary villages based on needs identified in consultation with beneficiary community members. This will form part of a multi-sectoral assessment that takes a range of dimensions into consideration, such as emergency food security and vulnerable livelihoods (EFSVL), protection, gender and advocacy.

Thus far, the initiative has identified widespread violence and rising ethnic tensions in the wake of an influx of internally displaced persons. The Twa ethnic group feel discriminated against by the Luba and Bantu populations. The Twa also report a lack of awareness in terms of how to access justice, and experience restricted mobility due to the presence of armed actors. Women and girls face particularly high risks of sexual assault and violence en route to distant water sources, alongside challenges such as forced and early marriages.

To ensure inclusiveness and duly consider the challenges faced by women, Oxfam will undertake a 'rapid care and gender analysis' to better understand gender roles and responsibilities, as well as capacities and vulnerabilities in terms of proposed programming. Such an analysis will inform water, sanitation and hygiene activities that reduce women's vulnerability and time burden. Measures by past projects may be replicated, such as installing water points closer to, or within, villages; diversifying water sources to reduce the amount of time spent collecting water; providing better household water storage options and water collection containers to reduce the frequency with which women travel to collect water; and hygiene promotion activities on WASH-related illnesses that oblige women to spend significant time caring for sick family members. Oxfam will plan committee activities and meetings around women's schedules, so as to avoid clashing with their daily activities. Training leaders on gender equality and women's rights, protection and community participation is planned to facilitate men's and women's equal representation on water management committees.

**Box 12: France's Muskoka Fund**

Since 2011, France has supported gender equality and the health of women, children and adolescents in Africa through the Muskoka Fund.<sup>30</sup> Between 2011 and 2019, EUR 130 million in support was provided to Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. The fund has financed high-impact interventions implemented by four UN agencies – the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA, UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) – using a collaborative, holistic approach.

To target hard-to-reach populations, such as young people and adolescents, the French Muskoka Fund promoted innovative outreach tools in 2018. These include the pan-African television show 'That's life!' (*C'est-la-Vie*), broadcast by 44 national channels. Similarly, the green line 'Enlighten me' (*Guindima*) initiative was used to inform youth about menstrual hygiene, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, anatomy, puberty, female genital mutilation and gender-based violence.

**Box 13: Luxembourg, 'Innovation in maternal health services in Mongolia'**

Luxembourg supported the telemedicine project exit phase of the initiative 'Innovation in maternal health services in Mongolia: From pilot to institutionalisation' in 2017/2018. Implemented by UNFPA and the Ministry of Health – with the full buy-in of Mongolia's authorities – the project aims to assist Mongolia to achieve the SDGs by halving maternal mortality ratio. The second phase of the initiative involved institutionalising the results of the first phase, and assisting the provision of adequate maternal antenatal, childbirth and post-natal healthcare. To address the challenges faced by obstetric and gynaecological healthcare in such a sparsely populated country, the initiative drew on lessons learned from a previous project on cardiovascular medical care.

The fully decentralised initiative involved the active participation of local health centres and hospitals. It centred on building in-country capacities to respond to the needs of women by providing maternal healthcare of the highest standard at all levels – whether in remote health centres or in the nation's capital. Gender equality was taken into account across all operations, including communications. Thus, the project worked to establish and reinforce technical capacity for real-time communication and consultation with health professionals – most of whom are women – in different locations, while enhancing their qualifications and learning opportunities. In addition, the curriculum for midwives is being brought up to international standards, in terms of theoretical and practical learning.

In line with the wishes of the Government of Mongolia, the initiative works with the national policy and plan on child healthcare and maternal and reproductive health. Issues of reproductive and sexual health are considered, including services for adolescent reproductive health and family planning, with a view to making the most of existing structures. An application will be developed to allow the public to access health information as needed, including on sexual and reproductive health, pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Efforts to disseminate such information and applications will capitalise on another complementarily EU initiative to improve Mongolia's mobile and internet networks. Moreover, while the project existed before the formulation of the GAP II, it has been aligned with the SDGs since its inception. Closer alignment with the GAP II's objectives may become possible during subsequent phases of the project.

**Box 14: Malta's Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers**

In 2018, Malta's Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) initiated a project on 'Psychosocial Intervention Services for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Asylum Seekers'. Due to run until 2022, the project will provide psychosocial support services to address the long-lasting effects of traumas endured in the context of migration, including depression, anxiety and gender-based violence. The latter is a particularly pressing issue for migrant women and girls. The initiative is grounded on the GAP II's priorities, as well as the conviction to put women at the centre of decision-making processes.

The non-governmental organisation, Migrant Women Association Malta (MWAM), collaborated on the project's

30 For more information, see: <https://ffmuskoka.org/en/home-2>

implementation to ensure a solid gender-based approach, drawing on their extensive gender expertise and experience of working with migrant women and girls. This expertise has been indispensable for working with beneficiaries.

*Box 15: Spain's support for addressing gender-based violence in Mauritania*

In December 2017, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) launched a project entitled 'Support for the prevention of, and coordinated intervention of the police in the effective treatment of, gender violence in Mauritania'. It aims to address Mauritania's high rates of gender-based violence – for instance, 1,200 cases were estimated in Nouakchott alone during 2017–2018 – and the cultural norms that prevent women from reporting GBV cases. Due to run until November 2019, the initiative relies on training to change the attitudes of law enforcement to issues of gender-based violence. The project is being implemented with the support of the Spanish police, drawing on the experience of the Spanish National Plan against Gender-based Violence.

Among the initiative's first results was the preparation of a manual of procedures to be used by the Mauritanian police for processing GBV cases. Practical training was also delivered, guided by the example of the police force in Spain. The initiative opened up space for dialogue on the double burden experienced by women, caused by the combination of direct violence and the socio-cultural aftermath of experiencing violence. The importance of putting women's rights first has become clear to all of the stakeholders involved in the project.

*Box 16: Germany's initiatives to combat violence against women in Latin America*

Throughout 2018, Germany supported the 'ComVoMujer – Combatting violence against women in Latin America' initiative. Launched in 2009, 'ComVoMujer' was prompted by the decision of the Commissioner of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to include the private sector in activities, so as to create broad ownership and encourage cooperation with governmental and non-governmental actors. ComVoMujer addressed challenges by understanding the nature of the private sector and using its logic to develop innovative actions. Clearly structured internal-steering processes and permanent supervision were also vital, as were knowledgeable, multidisciplinary staff with experience in the field and valuable contacts with relevant external partners.

One of the initiative's most important counterparts was the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru (MIMP1). Convinced of the benefits of a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, the ministry signed an agreement whereby it formally committed to including the private sector in its efforts. In order to win over the private sector, and better connect all the sectors involved, the initiative elaborated a conceptual framework and indicators for safe businesses. Research studies were also conducted on the economic consequences of violence against women for companies, undertaken with the University of San Martín de Porres (USMP). Empirical evidence of the financial impacts of violence against women proved extremely useful for securing the private sector's buy-in, thereby increasing their ownership. This prompted companies to conduct campaigns, carry out further studies, train their employees – both through workshops and online certification – and implement special management models to prevent violence against women.

Key lessons learned included the importance of engaging the high-level managers of potential private sector partners to ensure sustainable partnerships. Alliances were especially helpful as door-openers. Exchanging best practices and mutual learning proved both an asset and an effective scaling-up strategy. It was also vital to involve the media to disseminate information and generate further interest. Overall, the strategies applied by ComVoMujer were extremely successful. Having started with no enterprises among its partners, the initiative now works intensively with 100 companies and four business associations, in addition to collaborating with a further 400 enterprises.

State institutions increasingly recognise the private sector's role in curbing gender-based violence. For example, the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations launched the certification, 'Safe enterprises without violence and discrimination against women', in order to encourage more businesses to implement preventive measures. The University of San Martín de Porres and academic stakeholders have conducted – and will continue to carry out – additional research on the effects of violence against women, for instance, by analysing its impacts on students' productivity.

#### Box 17: Spain's support for the 'WE DECIDE' programme

Throughout 2018, Spain supported the global 'WE DECIDE' programme, implemented by UNFPA (*'Programa de fortalecimiento de políticas de inclusión social, género y prevención de la violencia sexual para poblaciones en situación de vulnerabilidad, con énfasis en el ámbito de la discapacidad'*). The programme addresses the protection of women and young people with disabilities from gender-based violence, as well as issues related to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. It works with civil society organisations representing women with disabilities on international quality standards grounded on gender expertise, gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data. Overall, the programme focuses on four areas. First, a global assessment of legal gaps, existing practices, standard operational procedures and services to combat violence against women and girls with disabilities. Second, support for networks of women and young people with disabilities to improve their political participation and create opportunities for political dialogue with institutions. Third, the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the formulation of specific indicators. Fourth, dedicated advocacy actions, including initiatives within the UN system and in international fora.

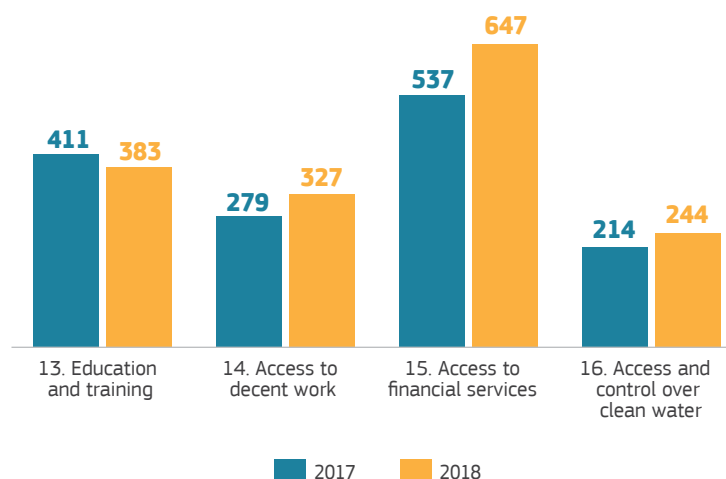
In 2018, the programme's activities included articulating the needs of women and girls with disabilities, supporting the amendment of discriminatory laws, and combatting gender- and disability-based stereotypes. The initiative also engaged in advocacy to shed light on gender-based violence against persons with disabilities, and to unlock women's and girls' potential to claim their right to live free from all forms of violence. Dialogues were arranged between the Government of Spain, programme stakeholders and beneficiaries through implementing partners so to increase beneficiaries' self-esteem and political participation.

Given the invisibility of women and girls with disabilities who experience gender-based violence, political commitment to specific public policies and services is needed. In this regard, one of WE DECIDE's major achievements was the development of 'Women and youth with disabilities: Guidelines for providing rights-based and gender-sensitive services to address gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights'. Based on these guidelines, UNFPA is developing operational tools to support the organisations involved in the programme. These tools will enable them to expand access to prevention, protection and assistance services to combat gender based-violence, as well as to provide access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls with disabilities.

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

In 2018, 1,580 reported actions focusing on GAP II thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', contributed to advancing progress on SDG 1 ('No Poverty'), SDG 3 ('Good Health and Well-being'), SDG 4 ('Quality Education'), SDG 5 ('Gender Equality'), SDG 6 ('Clean Water and Sanitation'), SDG 7 ('Affordable and Clean Energy'), SDG 8 ('Decent Work and Economic Growth') and SDG 9 ('Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation').

Figure 13:  
All EU actors combined – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority C,  
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2018 vs 2017



In 2018, thematic priority C was the most well-funded and supported of the GAP II's thematic priorities. This was the case across Commission services, EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries, and EU Member States.

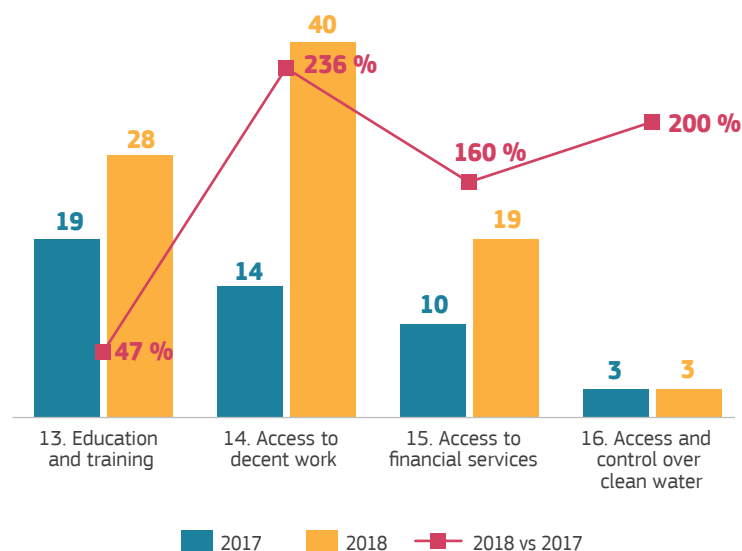
Promoting women's economic empowerment remained embedded in the Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs. For example, through the EU's External Investment Plan (EIP) for Sub-Saharan Africa, the European Commission and the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) signed an agreement to establish the **NASIRA Risk-Sharing Facility**. The facility aims to improve access to investment loans for entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on people who have been forced to flee to other parts of their countries (internally displaced people), those who have had to leave their countries altogether (asylum seekers or refugees), those who fled but have recently returned (returnees), and women and young people. Under this initiative, EUR 75 million from the External Investment Plan's Guarantee is expected to generate up to EUR 750 million in investments, and some 800,000 jobs in Africa. On the ground, NASIRA will boost financing for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises – one of the EIP's five priority areas – by addressing the high risks involved in lending to underserved entrepreneurs in partner countries. It will give them access to investment loans by offering local financial institutions, such as banks and microfinance institutions, portfolio guarantees containing loans to entrepreneurs.



### 3.2.1 Commission services

Figure 14:

Commission services – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority C, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2018



In 2018, Commission services reported 131 centrally-managed actions under thematic priority C. The largest number of reported actions addressed access to decent work (objective 14).

**Global programmes** spanned a range of sectors, such as culture, labour migration, land degradation, the environment and sustainable energy. In addition, education featured prominently in joint work with UNICEF, UNESCO and the Digital2Equal Initiative. Capacity building was another clear focus. Two examples in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries included support for strengthening research and innovation capacity, as well as capacity building for mineral institutions and small-scale private sector entities operating in low-value minerals, linked to objective 14. Two further programmes focused on aspects of migration, namely a global action to improve the **recruitment framework of labour migration**, and support for assessing the economic contribution of labour migration in developing countries as destination countries. Support for intercultural dialogue, and investment in culture and creativity, were the focus of two multi-country actions, broadly addressing objectives 13 and 14.

Examples of actions undertaken to support livelihoods and improve skills in **West and Central Africa** included ten actions to increase employment opportunities and foster inclusive development. These targeted youth and **women in artisan fishing, while protecting natural resources** in Mauritania. A multi-country action sought to improve the durability of **micro-enterprises**.

In **East and Southern Africa**, actions addressed the need for quality and protective alternative education, including for displaced children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia and Tanzania (objectives 13 and 15). The Platform for Remittances, Investments and Migrants' Entrepreneurship in Africa, 'PRIME Africa', encouraged migrant entrepreneurship. The European Union Capacity Building Mission (**EUCAP Somalia**), **in coordination with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)** supported the Somali Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development Mogadishu (MoWHRD) to **promote women's role in the maritime sector**. Within the framework of this collaboration, EUCAP Somalia and UNSOM committed to supporting the Ministry to organise a consultative conference on the subject.

Support for equal access to **finances services and productive resources** (objective 16) included an EU contribution to the Regional Housing Programme; investment climate reviews and action plans by the EU and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); and measures to strengthen fiscal governance in **Eastern Partnership** countries. A climate and energy initiative to support cities and municipalities was initiated with the Eastern Partnership Covenant of Mayors East.

Supported by the third phase of the **European Resources for Mediation Support** (ERMES), funded by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, 30 prominent women representatives of the political opposition, alongside representatives of local councils and civil society outside and within Syria, elaborated a list of recommendations on empowering Syrian women in the political, economic and social spheres.

Gender equality and women's economic empowerment featured prominently on the **trade policy agenda** during 2018. A study on 'Women in trade: collecting data on women's involvement in extra-EU trade in selected EU Member States' was conducted by the International Trade Centre (ITC). It will be presented at the 'Trade for Her' conference, hosted by the European Commission on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2019, in Brussels. More broadly, the conference will discuss barriers to trade faced by women and how these can be effectively addressed. Moreover, the Directorate-General for Trade and the Joint Research Centre published a report on '**EU Exports to the World: Effects on Employment**'<sup>31</sup> in November 2018. Replete with sex-disaggregated data, the report affirms that the EU's global exports are more important than ever, supporting 36 million jobs in the EU – including 13.7 million women workers. As of mid-2019, the report was being updated.

The '**Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) for the modernisation of the EU-Chile Association Agreement**' tested an ex-ante analysis of trade's impact on women's status by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – the first such test in the EU context.<sup>32</sup> The EU also proposed provisions on trade and gender equality in the context of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, which were presented to Chile and published in June 2018.<sup>33</sup> The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Joint Committee adopted a recommendation on trade and gender in September 2018.<sup>34</sup> This seeks to increase women's access to, and the benefits they derive from, the opportunities created by CETA.

The EU-funded programme on women's economic empowerment, **WE EMPOWER**, was another notable initiative in 2018. It enabled the EU to strengthen key partnerships with like-minded countries, while influencing agenda-setting in multilateral fora, in order to ensure that gender equality remains a priority global issue. WE EMPOWER targets women-led enterprises and networks, multinational companies, employer's organisations and relevant stakeholders in Europe and beyond – including countries that are part of the G7, as well as states in Latin American, the Caribbean and Asia.<sup>35</sup> It draws these stakeholders together to promote business links, joint ventures and innovation between women from across regions, while supporting the exchange of good practices to increase the private sector's capacity to implement 'gender equal business'. In 2018, the programme strengthened women entrepreneurs' networks in the EU and Latin America. Analytical work was also conducted on the potential for advancing gender equality through the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. WE EMPOWER successfully influenced the outcomes of the Canadian Gender Equality Advisory Council, the Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique and the W20 agenda and Communique. It is also supporting G7 work in France.

The EU's Common Agriculture Policy contributed to the advancement of a range of SDGs, including SDG 5 on gender equality. The recommendations of the **Task Force Rural Africa (TFRA)** noted that women's empowerment can be part of the solution to address poverty, poor skills development and inequality. The Task Force, comprising a group of African and European experts, was jointly established by the Commission services responsible for agriculture and for international cooperation and development in 2017. During 2018, the Task Force continued to advocate for strengthening the capacity of local people, notably women and youth. This included EU support for **gender-sensitive regional and local initiatives, as well as innovation hubs**.

The EU highlighted gender equality as an important area to address in a number of recent **multilateral fisheries declarations**, such as the 2017 Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration for the Mediterranean and the 2018 Sofia Declaration for the Black Sea. In September 2018, a high-level conference on the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries was organised in Malta by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), with the EU's support. The conference addressed ways to support the role of women in the fisheries sector. Moreover, the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) included actions to facilitate the access of **women's fish-**

31 For more information, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/trade-and-jobs/>

32 For more information, see: <http://trade-sia-chile.eu/en/>

33 For more information, see: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/june/tradoc\\_156962.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/june/tradoc_156962.pdf)

34 For more information, see: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/september/tradoc\\_157419.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/september/tradoc_157419.pdf)

35 Canada, Japan, the United States of America, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

**processing cooperatives** to EU vessel landing in Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar. The agreements also addressed the construction of dedicated artisanal fish-processing facilities for women's cooperatives in Guinea-Bissau. The EU is currently working with the Gambia to explore ways of supporting women oyster collector associations.

The Council conclusions of the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2015, on 'Advancing gender equality in the European Research Area (ERA)', invited the Commission and EU Member States to consider integrating a gender perspective in dialogues with partner countries in the sphere of science, technology and innovation. Following up on these conclusions, **gender equality in research and innovation was included in the agendas of Joint Science and Technology Steering Committees**, covering **Mexico** in 2018.

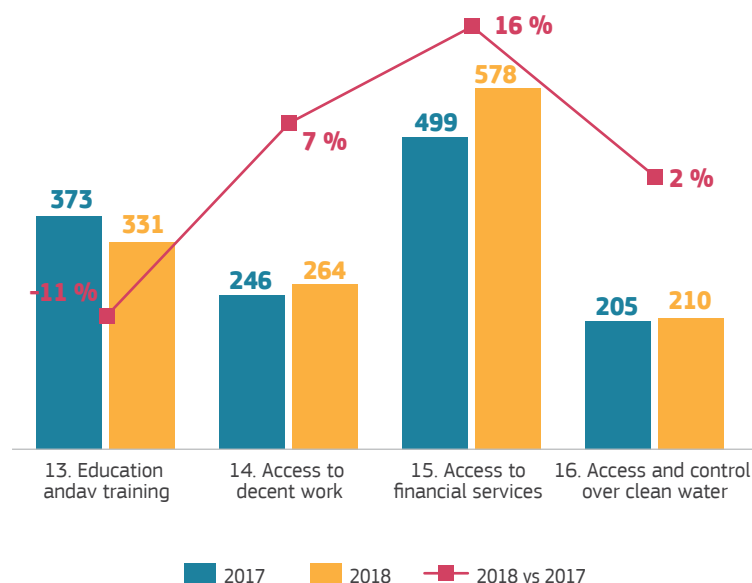
The **Horizon 2020** funding programme is the core instrument at the EU level to support and leverage research and innovation cooperation with partner countries. A specific **call on the 'gender perspective of science, technology and innovation in dialogue with third countries'** was opened in the 2018 'Science with and for Society' (SwafS) work programme. Moreover, the SwafS-funded project, 'GENDER ACTION', launched in 2017, included a specific objective on building new collaboration to advance gender equality in terms of international cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

In 2018, the EU dedicated over 8 % of its humanitarian aid budget to **Education in Emergencies (EiE)**, totalling EUR 91.5 million and reaching over 1 million children across the world. In May 2018, a Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises was adopted. The new policy framework will enable the EU to leverage its resources more predictably, flexibly and effectively, based on a holistic, coordinated humanitarian-development nexus approach and clear strategic priorities. EU Member States endorsed the policy framework in the Council Conclusions, adopted in November 2018. At the G7 Summit, the EU pledged to invest EUR 72 million over three years to promote equal access to quality education and learning opportunities in emergencies and protracted crises.

### 3.2.2 EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries

Figure 15:

Commission services – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority C, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2018



Marking a break with past trends, 2018 was the first year that thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights', received the most support of the GAP II's three priorities by EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries. Overall, support increased for decent work (objective 14), access to water (objective 16) and access to financial services (objective 15). However, it decreased globally for education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) (objective 13).

## Africa

Analysing the situation in different world regions reveals notable regional variations. For instance, in **West and Central Africa**, support for financial services (objective 15) nearly doubled and support for education and TVET (objective 13) rose by one-third. However, support for access to water and decent work (objectives 16 and 14) decreased slightly.

Support for education and vocational training (objective 13) featured prominently in **East and Southern Africa**, where it was the focus of over 60 actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States. Initiatives linked to objective 13 were generally, but not exclusively, implemented in Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia. Support for education was also notable in Angola, where it simultaneously aimed to increase access to decent work (objective 14), as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Eswatini and Uganda. Macro-level actions included education sector reform in Namibia, an education sector support programme in Mozambique, and support for higher-level education in Somalia. As in the case of other objectives, support for **TVET was often coupled with actions linked to other issues**. For instance, in Somalia, these included improving the situation of refugees and displaced communities, promoting renewable energy skills and bolstering women's economic empowerment. Links were also apparent with the inclusion of children with disabilities in Zambia, the revitalisation of indigenous languages in Namibia, cross-border collaboration between Ethiopia and Sudan, strengthening civil society in South Sudan, and fostering resilience in many other countries.

Examples of a growing focus on **access to decent work** (objective 14) included support for a network of cooperatives and job opportunities for women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and support for SMEs and a budget support contract, 'Employment for Employability', in South Africa. Advancing the rights of workers with **disabilities** was the crux of a multi-country action. Actions related to **sustainability** featured strongly, for example, support for sustainable agriculture in Tanzania, waste reduction and recycling in Eswatini, waste management in Comoros, urban mobility in Kenya, and access to energy in Mozambique. Other actions sought to improve the professionalism of journalists and media professionals in Somalia, to promote employment in Mozambique's cultural sector, and a mentorship programme for young women in Sudan.

In many African countries, EU Delegations and EU Member States worked to bolster **civil society capacity to engage in social and economic development**, as well as to strengthen democratic processes. 'Speak up Zambia!' was one such initiative to empower citizens to know, claim and secure their rights through access to justice, while enabling the media to exercise its role as a 'watchdog' for society. This initiative also targeted objectives 15, 17 and 18.

Further reported actions on thematic priority C in **West and Central Africa** ranged from support to cooperatives in Burundi, to community resilience in Benin, Burundi and Cameroon. Youth economic empowerment for peace and social cohesion was the focus of actions in Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone, while institutional capacity building for rural development and infrastructure was a major feature in Burundi, Ghana and Guinea. Actions in Benin and Guinea addressed urbanisation and support for adaptation to climate change. Other actions centred on tourism and cultural heritage in Benin, the modernisation of technical and vocational training in Togo, and securing land and resource rights in Cameroon. In Chad and Mauritania, support was provided for women's empowerment in the social economy, a leadership programme was implemented for women in Ghana, employment support was provided in Guinea, and women's education was advanced in Niger and Senegal. These are only a small sample of the very wide array of actions that contributed to furthering gender equality and women's economic, social and cultural rights in the region with EU support.

Some notable lessons learned during the year included lessons from the EU Delegation's programme 'Support to improve the resilience capacities of the populations most affected by the effects of the 2015 multifactor crisis in Burundi'. This demonstrated that women's empowerment and agency can enable transformative change in crisis contexts. In such situations, women increase their own and their communities' resilience through participation in resilience funds – such as savings and credit groups. An action by Spain, 'Promoting the empowerment of women in the social economy in Mauritania through their socio-economic strengthening', revealed that robust analysis is the key to strengthening the technical, organisational and advocacy capacities of existing structures to respond to women's needs. In the context of this action, pilot initiatives were supported to bolster women's structures in target areas.

**Box 18: EU Delegation to Angola, 'Right to Land in Cunene Province'**

The EU Delegation to Angola supported the 'Right to Land in the Cunene Province' (DITERCU) initiative to address gender-based discrimination in access to land. In this way, it contributed to upholding the human rights of vulnerable rural populations in southern Angola, who are severely affected by climate change. Women are often unable to exercise their right to land, as traditional gender norms ascribe ownership of family land solely to men. While rural women carry out 50 % of farming tasks, they only own 5 % of property.

The action focused on improving institutional capacity in the system responsible for the recognition, delimitation, cadastre, titration, registration and transfer of land. It also aims to create and strengthen systems for the prevention and resolution of land conflicts. Moreover, the initiative will create working groups of women and men to improve awareness of gender equality in access to, and the management of, land. Men's involvement and engagement is an integral part of the project in terms of raising awareness of, and creating support for, changes in norms around gender equality and women's right to land.

During the project identification phase in 2017, a gender analysis was undertaken and used to inform the development of a gender-responsive results framework. Gender analysis also enabled differentiated strategies for addressing gender inequality vis-à-vis land rights. During the implementation phase, a more detailed gender analysis is planned to pinpoint women's specific needs, expectations and interests, as well as their visibility, inclusion and the promotion of equal opportunities. While gender expertise in the province of Cunene is relatively limited, the Provincial Directorate for the Family and Women's Promotion was consulted to enhance national ownership.

**Box 19: EU Delegation to Cameroon, 'LandCam'**

The 'LandCam programme' aims to support the efforts of the Government of Cameroon to improve the management of land and natural resources by promoting more effective land governance in the context of a broad national land reform process. Where communities have a say in land-related processes, traditionally only men are consulted. To address this, LandCam organised consultations with women. As precise challenges to women's land rights were not clarified during these consultations, a gender analysis was undertaken. This revealed that challenges on the ground are nuanced – while women can own and sell land, this is only possible if the land is registered. Moreover, gender discrimination exists in cases of land scarcity and due to customary laws.

Equipped with a stronger understanding of challenges on the ground, LandCam facilitated a dialogue between traditional leaders and women. This innovative approach nearly was unprecedented in Central Africa. Preliminary results have been positive. For instance, one traditional chief who had been sceptical of women's rights became one of the programme's gender champions. While it is still too early to gauge impacts, the LandCam programme appears to have a positive influence on Cameroon's land reform process.

**Box 20: EU Delegation support for the implementation of the Tanzania Energy Efficiency Action Plan**

The EU Delegation supported the implementation of the Tanzania Energy Efficiency Action Plan, which aims to expand access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by improving the efficiency of energy supply and consumption. Streamlined energy efficiency is set to make Tanzania's energy sector more sustainable, gender-inclusive and climate-smart. As a result, quantifiable energy savings are expected, as are gender-inclusive skills development opportunities, job creation, and investments in energy efficient infrastructure and clean energy technology.

Gender experts from the German development agency (GIZ) conducted a comprehensive gender analysis with a focus on the field of energy. This proved extremely valuable for the design of the action, yielding vital insights on gender patterns and gender gaps in the sector. Recommendations from the gender analysis informed programme design. Gender expertise was also used to develop the 'Gender Profile: Energy' document by the Governance Helpdesk Tanzania. This identified important data which can be used during the initiative's implementation, concerning women's economic empowerment; income generation opportunities for women, men and youth; families' wellbeing, including health and education; the different consumer patterns of women and men; and

access to sex-disaggregated data.

Proactive policy dialogue with the Ministry of Energy was a promising hallmark of the initiative, seeking to promote women's voice and their interests. Cooperation with the Tanzania Gender Sustainable Energy Network (TANGSEN) was another notable feature, as this entity promotes women's interests in the energy sector. A specific training was organised with TANGSEN on gender mainstreaming in the energy sector, in which both government and development partners participated. The EU Delegation also organised a number of consultations to ensure the involvement of key stakeholders, including the Government, TANGSEN and other development cooperation partners, such as Sweden and Germany. The added value of stakeholders' involvement was their knowledge, expertise and commitment. As a result, government representatives became more aware of the importance of gender equality and strengthened their knowledge on mainstreaming gender in the energy sector. Overall, the initiative contributed to championing energy efficiency and gender equality, with certain activities integrated into Tanzania's Gender Action Plan for the energy sector.

## Americas

Many countries in **Latin America** experienced an economic slowdown in 2018, with particularly dire implications for women. As such, EU actors in the region sought to support women's economic empowerment by implementing the bulk of their actions in the region under thematic priority C. A particular focus was placed on women's equal access to financial services and productive resources, including land, trade and entrepreneurship (objective 15), which was considered a key strategy for women's socio-economic empowerment in the Americas.

While **Latin America** – like all world regions – faces environmental challenges that affect women and girls, there is limited evidence that these issues are being addressed from a gender perspective. In 2018, very few actions addressed **water, sanitation and the environment**. Those which did were predominantly undertaken in Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The Suriname Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) is also worth highlighting. In the **Caribbean**, several actions addressed access to and control over clean water (objective 16) in the context of reconstruction after Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Other key actions included an energy sector budgetary support initiative in Barbados, as well as a bi-national programme in Haiti and the Dominican Republic on political dialogue regarding civil society, the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Overall, promoting women's economic, social and cultural rights was the focus of the largest proportion of EU actions in the **Caribbean** in 2018, reflecting an increase in attention to thematic priority C compared to 2017. Particular emphasis was placed on improving access to financial services and productive resources, microcredit and financial inclusion (objective 15) support their economic growth and rural development, as well as access to decent work (objective 14). Compared to 2017, **access to decent work received more attention** in 2018 than equitable access to and management of water, energy and infrastructure (objective 16). However, few actions addressed enhanced access to primary education (objective 13).

## Asia and the Pacific

EU Delegations and EU Member States active in **Asia and the Pacific** continued to centre their support on equal access to financial services and productive resources (objective 15), alongside education (objective 13). This reflects a continuation of trends identified in 2016 and 2017. Focal areas under thematic priority C included women's financial inclusion; access to education, TVET and the labour market; and socio-economic, environmental and nutritional development. Greater attention was paid to access to decent work (objective 14) in 2018. For instance, a gender-sensitive and rights-based approach to economic development was introduced through programmes to tackle informal employment in Afghanistan and unpaid labour in China, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. EU actors integrated GAP II priorities into their support for economic development in partner countries across a broad range of sectoral initiatives and policies. These included fisheries management and a range of non-traditional sectors, such as waste management, infrastructure, industrial management and the environment

### Box 21: OIKKO Women's Economic Empowerment Project in Bangladesh

The EU joined forces with civil society organisations in Bangladesh for the OIKKO Women's Economic Empowerment Project to enhance decent work in the country. Funded by the EU and Austria, the project was implemented between 2015 and 2018. While it directly addressed SDGs 5 ('Gender Equality') and 1 ('No Poverty'), it was also



closely linked to SDGs 2 ('Zero Hunger'), 3 ('Good Health and Well-being'), 4 ('Quality Education') and 8 ('Decent Work and Economic Growth').

OIKKO was designed to explore how to support pathways for women workers to become politically empowered and voice their demands. In Bangladesh, most women workers have low skills levels and limited employment options. Perhaps most significantly, they have been socialised to accept little control over their professional and personal choices, as social norms place pressure on women to avoid being assertive. Recognising these constraints, the project facilitated a process called 'Empowerment Knowledge and Transformative Action' with solidarity groups of 20-25 women workers. The process helped them acquire knowledge on workers' rights, alongside knowledge vital for improving their personal lives. These micro-groups were merged to form community workers associations (CWAs), which created a space for women workers to apply their leadership skills, attain first-hand experience of leading organisations, and develop relationships with their constituencies. The project also linked these organisations with trade unions and federations. Following the project's support, women leaders successfully supported their members and co-workers to resolve issues in the community and the workplace.

#### Box 22: Trade Related Assistance for Mongolia

EU support for the Trade Related Assistance for Mongolia (TRAM) programme, initiated in March 2017, aimed to enhance Mongolia's international trade and economic diversification. The project's three components include trade policy and regulation, trade facilitation by providing secretarial support, and export development.

Four sectors were identified for increasing Mongolian exports to the EU and clusters were accordingly established. While Mongolia has a critical mass of well-educated women, women's access to leadership remains a challenge. For instance, 90 % of private companies are headed by men. Challenges include a lack of awareness, coupled with the prevalence of discrimination against women workers concerning maternity leave and job application processes. As such, the programme focused on awareness raising, including through the innovative use of theatre performances. Such performances were part of life skills training activities delivered for the students of vocational education and training schools. To promote women's engagement, the programme stipulated that at least 40 % of participants in capacity building activities must be women. In 2018, this target was surpassed – 60 % of participants were women.

The programme involved a successful strategic partnership with the Association of Women Entrepreneurs, an active association within the Chamber of Commerce which includes 80 companies managed by women. While the EU Delegation's guidance facilitated gender mainstreaming in the programme, the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce was responsible for suggesting engagement with the Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

## Gulf States

In the **Gulf States**, more initiatives in Yemen (12 actions) addressed thematic priority C than in Iraq (11 actions). Ensuring access to inclusive education (objective 13) was a primary concern in the region in 2018. The EU Delegation to Iraq promoted quality primary and secondary education for internally displaced persons and refugees in crisis-affected areas. It also encouraged cultural heritage education for social cohesion, coupled with a programme to strengthen the visibility of women and girls in education, with a view to fostering gender equality.

#### Box 23: EU Delegation to Iraq, 'Capacity Building in Primary and Secondary Education'

Since 2017, the EU Delegation to Iraq has supported the 'Capacity Building in Primary and Secondary Education: Improve quality and equality programme', also known as the 'Iraq Schools Programme', to increase enrolment and reduce dropout rates. Implemented by the British Council, the gender-sensitive initiative targets both boys and girls, taking into account that girls are more likely to drop out of school in the country.

The first of the initiative's four components involved a research study, 'An Exploration into the Experience of Children in Education including those with Disabilities: Understanding Causes and Potential Strategies for Reducing School Dropout in Iraq'. Its findings informed the action's recommendations to the Government, reflecting the initiative's efforts at the policy level. This component also encompassed social level efforts in 10 of Iraq's 18 governorates. A model of active citizenship was implemented with community leaders and



other active community members, such as NGOs, religious leaders, teachers and health personnel. Measures centred on campaigns on the importance of education that particularly targeted gender equality issues. Through the project's second component, a peace-sensitive human science curriculum was developed, as was a school counselling system. The third component focused on education for children with severe disabilities, while the fourth concerned internal and external evaluations in all Iraqi schools.

An innovative strategy used by the programme was promoting the role of educational supervisors as 'critical friends' for schools. Piloted in Al-Sadaka elementary school in Al-Sadr City – an area well-known as deeply religious and tribal – the strategy enabled supervisors and staff to work together productively to outline the school's vision. This built trust, sparked dialogue and encouraged staff's self-evaluation. In collaboration with the local community, the school management team worked to improve facilities. In a short space of time, the behaviours of educators and pupils, as well as relations with the community, changed significantly. As the school's head teacher explained, *"our relation with the local community and parents has really improved. Supporting children and working closely with their families is now imbedded in the school ethos."* Above all, the programme put children at the heart of teaching and learning process, especially girls. Particular attention was paid to children with disabilities. Regular visits were arranged to the homes of pupils with disabilities to encourage parents to continue sending them to school, while working to change children's perceptions and encouraging them to support their classmates with disabilities both in and outside of school.

In Erbil, the programme introduced new standards, self-evaluation and a new system of external evaluation. Such thorough, objective assessments will enable management to produce more effective development plans. The Head teacher of Koya High school for Girls, for instance, explained that the programme has *"had a significant impact on the school's development. It enabled us to develop a clear vision for its trajectory and a better understanding of what the issues were and where improvements were needed."* The school credited much of its successful, high-level performance to the programme's support.

## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Russia

In the **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Russia**, women's access to finance, resources, trade and entrepreneurship (objective 15) was the focus of the highest proportion of EU commitments. Over 21 % of actions reported in 2018 focused on objective 15, reflecting the continuation of trends identified in 2017. Women's access to decent work (objective 14) was the second most frequently addressed objective in the region.

In the **Eastern Neighbourhood** sub-region, 35 actions (51 %) under thematic priority C addressed objective 15, marking a steady increase compared to 2017. Actions were implemented across five partner countries. EU Member States addressed gender gaps in wages (indicator 15.3) through start-up projects for women in Azerbaijan, supported by France, as well as Sweden's investment climate advisory service projects in Belarus. In Georgia, Austria supported the implementation of agricultural and rural development strategies, sustainable mountain tourism and farming initiatives. The EU Delegations to Azerbaijan and Belarus actively supported rural advisory services for women (indicator 15.6), including by enhancing participatory decision-making processes and local socio-economic development. The EU Delegations to Azerbaijan and Georgia engaged in initiatives to eliminate the gender gap (indicator 15.3), particularly by supporting civil society. Moreover, the EU Delegations to Belarus and Georgia promoted women's access to financial services (indicator 15.8), most notably through vocational training and the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

In the **Southern Neighbourhood** sub-region, objective 15 was addressed by 47 actions (36 %) under thematic priority C. This reflects an increase in actions on women's access to financial services, productive resources, trade and entrepreneurship compared to 2017. Actions focused on improving women's access to financial services in the framework of inclusive economic growth, as reported by the EU Delegations to Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia, as well as by Italy in Palestine. In Egypt, the EU Delegation supported women who are former prisoners and suffer marginalisation upon their release. Significant attention was paid to improving food security and recovering agriculture value chains, most notably by the EU Delegation to Syria, as well as by Italy in Palestine. Both Spain and Italy addressed the gender gap in wages and different sectors of the economy (indicator 15.3) through economic development initiatives in Palestine and Tunisia.

Among countries in the **Enlargement Negotiations** sub-region, 40 actions (37 %) under thematic priority C addressed women's access to financial services and productive resources, marking a notable increase in support for objective 15. Actions were implemented in six countries, including five regional actions implemented by the EU Office in Kosovo and the EU Delegations to North Macedonia and to Turkey. Initiatives centred on vocational training, such as those by Germany in Albania, as well as Luxembourg and the EU Office in Kosovo. The EU Delegation to Albania and the EU Office in Kosovo also addressed women's participation in agriculture, rural development and sustainable tourism in Albania. The EU Delegation to Turkey focused on responding to refugees' labour demands. In Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden made particular efforts to champion gender mainstreaming in relation to the environment, including as an opportunity for women's employment.

Four regional programmes led by the EU Delegation to Turkey focused on access to decent work (objective 14) and education (objective 13) for Syrian refugees and host communities. Moreover, five multi-country programmes promoted women's entrepreneurship in industrial development, sustainable rural development and food security. In the **Eastern Neighbourhood** sub-region, these programmes were implemented by the EU Delegations to Jordan, as well as by Sweden. In the **Enlargement Negotiations** sub-region they were undertaken by the EU Office in Kosovo. In the **Southern Neighbourhood** sub-region, they were implemented by the EU Delegation to Jordan, as well as by Italy in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon and Palestine.

Equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure (objective 16) was tackled by 30 reported actions across the region as a whole. Initiatives spanned support for the establishment of drinking water facilities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestine and Ukraine, as well as solid waste management in Jordan and Lebanon. They also involved the use of gender analysis in the water sector, coupled with efforts to enhance environmental businesses in Palestine. Through the programme, 'Effective awareness and advocacy on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE)' in Jordan, research was conducted on biogas energy as an important new resource, and a harbinger of innovative business opportunities for women and men.

*Box 24: EU Delegation to Libya, 'Towards Resilience and Social Inclusion of Adolescents and Young People'*

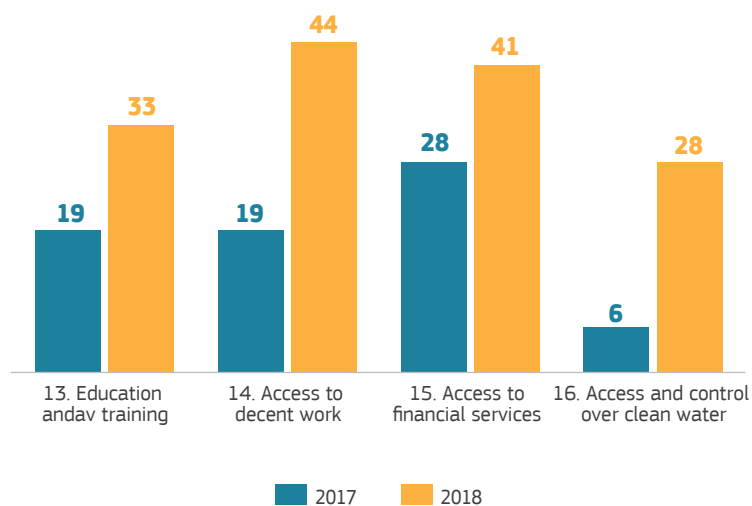
With the support of the EU Delegation, UNICEF implemented a pilot project, 'Towards Resilience and Social Inclusion of Adolescents and Young People in Libya' in four municipalities. The 3-year project pursues its overarching aim of youth empowerment through awareness raising, life skills and vocational education and training, promoting cultural and social rights, and providing psychosocial support.

Since 2016, the project has provided psychosocial support to 533 girls and 744 boys, including through reintegration activities, awareness campaigns and peace-building awareness trainings. Gender equality is at the heart of its awareness campaigns, which focus on ending harmful practices in communities and curbing negative coping strategies, such as child recruitment. Through its campaigns and by using youth skills training as an entry point, the project has become a vehicle to tackle difficult issues in support of advancing gender equality.

Dialogue on harmful practices that affect girls proved an important starting point. The initiative drew on the experience of work on gender-based violence in Libya, which is also addressed through another EU-funded project. Given the stigma surrounding GBV, related issues cannot be addressed directly. Thus, the project's activities were framed in the context of women empowerment's and health services. The initiative also drew on the fact that the Libyan authorities are in favour of youth empowerment, and the understanding that youth issues are not laden with the same kind of stigma as GBV. Thus, the project spearheaded general dialogue with young people which integrated GBV-related issues indirectly, thereby curbing potential resistances.

### 3.2.3 EU Member States

Figure 16:  
EU Member States' capitals – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority C,  
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2018 vs 2017



In 2018, 180 centrally-managed actions by EU Member States (42 % of the total actions reported) addressed thematic priority C. This marks a significant increase from 86 actions on economic, social and cultural rights in 2017. However, many of these actions covered more than one GAP II priority and several objectives. The most frequently addressed objective concerned women's access to decent work (objective 14). The second most addressed objective was increasing women's access to financial services and productive resources (objective 15). Very few GAP II indicators were selected.

Improving access to quality education and TVET, decent work, financial services and productive resources, and clean water and energy were all prominent concerns. Moreover, training proved a key entry point. Examples included training to bolster women's skills in business management in **Azerbaijan**, as well as training for a new generation of women leaders in **Mozambique**. Fostering resilient and sustainable livelihoods was the aim of many actions, including initiatives that supported the sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems in **East and Southern Africa**. Other key actions included the optimisation of conventional and non-conventional irrigation systems in **Palestine**, and clean cooking and electricity for households in **Uganda**. Access to land was addressed in **Guatemala** by strengthening civil society organisations' capacities to claim indigenous land rights.

#### Box 25: Czech Republic, 'Strengthening Resilience of Crisis-Affected Communities in Rakhine State, Myanmar'

The Czech Republic supported the project, 'Strengthening Resilience of Crisis Affected Communities in Rakhine State', in line with Czech humanitarian assistance and cooperation strategies. The initiative was part of the Lutheran World Federation's and Czech Evangelical Diaconia's assistance for displaced communities who are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnic origin and religious affiliation, particularly with the upsurge in fighting between the Arakan Army Forces and Myanmar's military forces. The project specifically addressed gender-based discrimination by targeting women heads of households and girls between the ages of 15 and 18. Especially when they are internally displaced, these women and girls are 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 gender analysis conducted at the project design stage was vital for understanding the delicate local context, identifying gaps and selecting areas of intervention. Based on this analysis, the project provided women and girls with education, vocational training, and marketing opportunities. It also focused on providing opportunities for women and girls to improve their technical skills and engage in entrepreneurship. Its support enabled 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 became more independent, while their human rights were increasingly acknowledged by men in their families and the community. Women's participation in decision-making processes also improved. Moreover, the action disseminated evidence on gender-based discrimination and violence at the international level, specifically at the UN Human Rights Council through the Universal Periodic Review.

**Box 26: Poland, 'Optimisation of conventional and unconventional irrigation for rural development' in Palestine**

In Palestine, Poland supported the initiative, 'Optimisation of conventional and unconventional irrigation for rural development, improved livelihoods and the activation of women and youth'. Centring on Beit Ula village, the initiative provided organisational support to the Beit Ula Women's Club, irrigation for women's home gardens, market renovation and club-building. The two-year project, initiated in 2018, is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and implemented by the Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM).

Working with and strengthening an existing women's group proved vital for the action's achievements. The 20-year-old Beit Ula Women's Club has grown to encompass 500 women members, acting as a hub to bring women together to run a weekly community market, and to take part in training courses on irrigated garden cultivation, vegetable growing, processing and marketing. The club also organised sports sessions and workshops, in addition to creating a reserve fund for small loans. In an area where women's employment opportunities are severely limited due to social restrictions and the overall shortage of jobs, the club enabled women to earn an income, feed their families, gain new skills and self-esteem, and participate in building a strong organisation and community. The club has the support of the local municipality and was commended by the Minister of Agriculture. Membership fees, rental fees for market stalls, and hiring out conference rooms provide the club with a source of income. This, coupled with its strong organisational foundation and capacity building, will ensure the entity's future sustainability.

**Box 27: Lithuania in Azerbaijan, 'Improve women's skills in autonomously running and managing businesses'**

'Improve women's skills in autonomously running and managing businesses' was a joint project by the Embassy of Lithuania in Azerbaijan and the US State Department's Emerging Donor Challenge Program (EDCP). The initiative addressed discrimination in access to economic and financial assets and services, while seeking to influence traditional customs that limit women's access to economic and entrepreneurial opportunities in the Ganja region.

While the project was small in scope, its impact was significant. It supported 23 young women to develop their managerial, business and leadership skills by building their capacities on a range of issues. These women participated in three full-day trainings on topics such as communications – including social media, communication strategies and public communications – and leadership skills – including types and styles of leadership, time management and team work. Training also focused on business plan development, marketing strategies, pricing, cash flow management, depreciation, value cost, turnover capital and legal issues in businesses. A woman branch manager of Azerbaijan's largest bank was invited to share her experiences. Acting as a role model for participants, she incentivised them to remain committed to contributing to community development. By the end of the training sessions, five participants wrote personal development plans, while another three elaborated business plans. One participant launched her own business to deliver vocational training and language courses.

The project gave young women the opportunity to acquire capacities and knowledge that stand to empower them economically and socially, contributing to real changes in their everyday lives. Participants were motivated to pursue entrepreneurship and navigate social resistances that deem it 'inappropriate' for women to take

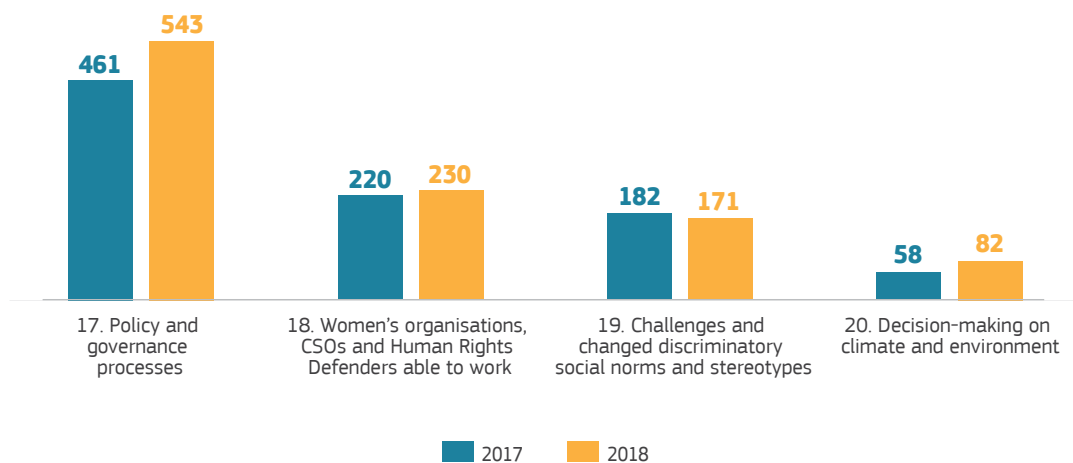
an active role in business. The initiative also underscored the importance of changing the entire environment surrounding women's economic empowerment by introducing new approaches in the education system, local government institutions and business associations.

### 3.3 Thematic priority D: Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation

Overall, 964 actions were reported by EU actors on thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'. These initiatives contributed to advancing SGD 5 ('Gender Equality') and SDG 16 ('Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions').

Figure 17:

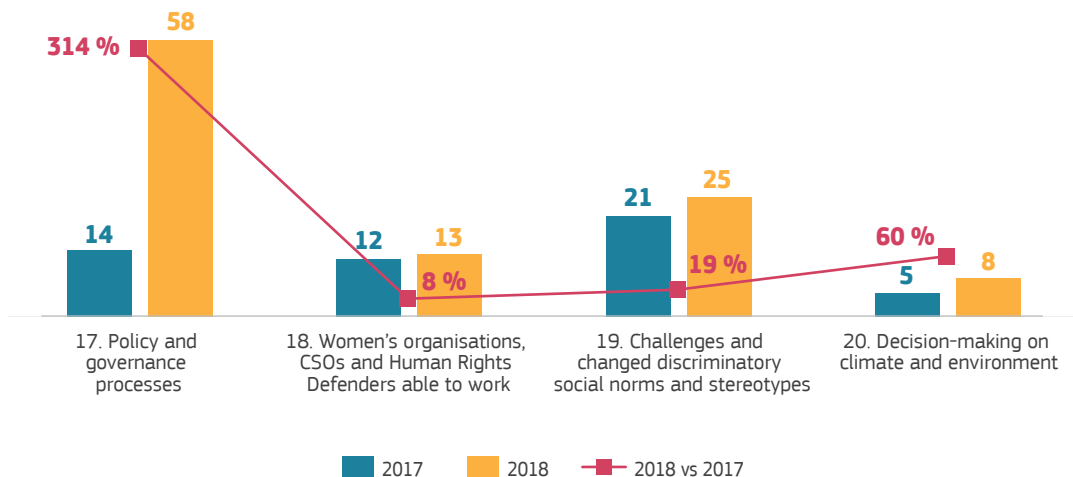
All EU actors combined – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority D, Political and Civil Rights, 2017 vs 2018



#### 3.3.1 Commission services

Figure 18:

Commission services – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority D, Political and Civil Rights, 2018 vs 2017



*Box 28: EU 'INTER PARES – Parliaments in Partnership'*

Launched in 2018, the 'INTER PARES Parliaments Programme' is an initiative to strengthen representative, inclusive democracy. It does so by supporting the effective functioning of parliaments in partner countries through a peer-to-peer approach involving exchanges with EU Member States' parliaments. Financed by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), with funding worth EUR 5 million, the programme focuses on six thematic areas. These are gender equality and women's empowerment; human rights; citizens' engagement and civil society; youth; climate change; and digital technologies. Across all of its activities, the initiative seeks to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment, while leveraging its influence on the institutionalisation of gender equality commitments.

Among its focus areas, the programme plans to strengthen the role of women members of parliament (MPs), assist the establishment or strengthening of committees on gender equality and/or women's parliamentary caucuses, and support the introduction of gender-sensitive legislation and budgeting. The programme will also support the iKNOW Politics platform<sup>36</sup>, a joint initiative with International IDEA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). With users from over 190 countries, the platform leverages the use of information and communications technology for women of all ages, enabling them to share experiences, resources and empowerment strategies for women's political participation and representation.

Support will be provided to update the publication, 'Women in Parliaments: Beyond Numbers', so as to highlight successful strategies by which women can overcome the political, social, economic, ideological and psychological obstacles to participating in parliamentary elections. The programme will also maintain a 'World's Parliaments Gender Impact Database', thereby developing a system to monitor key quantitative and qualitative impact indicators on women parliamentarians and women staff in parliamentary secretariats.

Among the actions undertaken to advance **civil society's defence of human rights** (objective 18) in 2018, an EU project supported women journalists and Human Rights Defenders in Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Gender equality was a focus of an action to support '**CSOs as actors of governance and development**' and reinforce women's role as agents for change. This initiative promoted women's participation in decision-making, while strengthening women's civil society organisations' capacities, and their engagement and participation in decision-making. Other examples of working with civil society included collaboration in the framework partnership agreements, such as with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Women Engaged for a Common Future (WECF) and Cooperation Internationale pour le Developpement et la Solidarite (CIDSE).

Efforts to challenge and **change discriminatory social norms** (objective 19) were addressed by initiatives to foster cultural and religious pluralism, most notably in Niger and Nigeria, as well as to promote cross-border cultural connections for peace, social inclusion and development in Niger and Burkina Faso. Other programmes that contributed to objective 19 included, for example, supporting the monitoring and effective implementation of core international conventions in countries engaged in the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+), as well as Kyrgyzstan. Women's participation in **environmental and climate-related decision-making** (objective 20) was targeted by a special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.<sup>37</sup>

Overall in **Africa**, relatively few actions reported by Commission services at the headquarters level contributed to thematic priority D. Three multi-country actions addressed women's empowerment in Morocco and Benin, as well as women's and girls' voice and participation, and support for institutional and community resilience.

In the **Americas**, four reported actions contributed to thematic priority D. Three of these also contributed to priorities B and C, as outlined above. The fourth, comprising a Framework Partnership Agreement and grant

<sup>36</sup> For more information, see: [www.iknowpolitics.org](http://www.iknowpolitics.org)

<sup>37</sup> The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 22 March 1989; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International, 10 September 1998; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 22 May 2004; and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, 10 October 2013.



between the European Commission and Articulación Feminista MARCOSUR (AFM) addressed women's participation in governance processes (objective 17).

One action under thematic priority D was reported in **Asia and the Pacific**, namely 'Safe and Fair: Realising women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region'. This initiative also addressed priorities B and C within member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In the **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region**, a regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East – most notably in Lebanon and Jordan – supported civil society (objective 18) and sought to change harmful norms (objective 19). It simultaneously addressed women's physical and psychological integrity (thematic priority B). This was one of many centrally-managed actions in the region that covered more than one of the GAP II's thematic priorities and addressed several objectives.

In the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, as in 2017, several ongoing actions related to film and media work. For instance, EU support sought to enhance the gender-responsive film sectors in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. This initiative also tackled the underrepresentation of women in the audio-visual sector, while challenging gender stereotypes (objective 19).

A regional CSO network for women's rights and gender equality was supported under the framework of an EU regional programme, 'Ending violence against women in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey'. In the Enlargement Negotiations region, actions to promote Roma integration and empowerment at the local level in the Western Balkans and Turkey addressed equal involvement in policy and governance processes (objective 17). The action also worked to uphold political and civil rights, change discriminatory social norms (objective 19) and support civil society (objective 18).

#### *Box 29: Kenya's 'Ms President' television series*

In 2018, the EU began funding the two-year 'Ms President' initiative in Kenya through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, with additional support from the High Commission of Canada. 'Ms President' is a 26-episode, reality television series on the prime-time Kenya Television Network, produced by Media Focus on Africa.<sup>38</sup> Its overall objective is to build sustainable capacity for peace-building, conflict management and crisis preparedness in Kenya, while specifically enabling women and girls to become empowered as key players in preventing the spread of violent extremism and radicalisation. It also aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors and media practitioners to prevent violence against women and protect human rights, while bolstering dialogue between these actors and government officials, as well as local and national conflict resolution and peace-building groups.

The initiative involved an extensive consultation and outreach campaign organised by Media Focus with women's CSOs, including a Muslim women's rights organisation, alongside other NGOs, networks, radio and social media platforms. Over 1,000 women of all ages and ethnic, social, economic, religious, political and geographical backgrounds applied to take part in the series. Of these applicants, 25 participants were selected. They received training on a range of topics, such as the marginalisation of persons with limited economic prospects, issues related to ethnicity, peace-building, the divisive narratives used by extremist groups, reconciliation, social cohesion, violence, human rights, women's participation, breakdowns in community and citizen-state relationships, and the women, peace and security agenda. They also benefitted from training on communication skills. Training sessions were filmed, with the footage used in the opening episodes of the series. Each episode focused on a selected topic, on which candidates engaged in challenges and tasks, first in groups, and later individually.

One of the initiative's key components was targeted outreach and community mobilisation in three violence-prone coastal counties. Women representatives of local organisations were trained to facilitate dialogue. In tandem, local screenings of the television programme were organised, followed by dialogue sessions on the issues raised. 'Ms President' proved a new, refreshing series in the Kenyan television landscape, where the diversity of women is not often showcased. As the programme was educational and thought-provoking, it helped to build recognition – among women, men, girls and boys – that women and girls can play key leadership roles in politics and peace-building.

38 For more information, see: <https://mfa.ocular.co.ke/ms-president/>

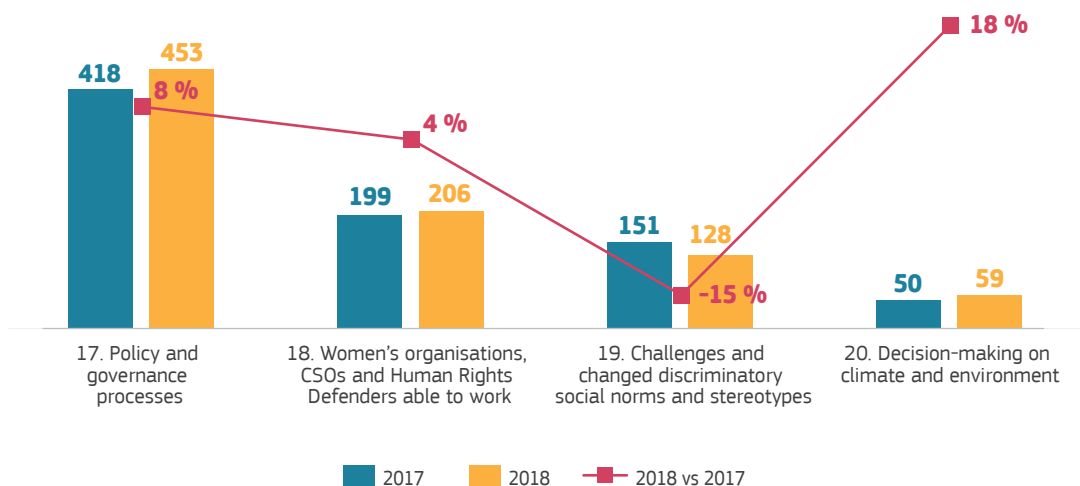


In 2018, the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development secured the services of the **technical assistance facility, 'Media4Democracy'**, to support EU Delegations in implementing the EU **Guidelines on Freedom of Expression** in their diverse contexts. This technical facility included a gender perspective in their trainings and ad hoc support. It also worked to prepare a handbook on the actions that EU Delegations can carry out to protect freedom of expression and, more specifically, to protect journalists in emergency situations. Women journalists are particularly prone to threats, violence, abuse and sexual assault in conflict zones or areas with fragile security contexts. They also face discrimination at work, as editors tend to avoid assigning them to cover sensitive topics or contexts – often because they fear that ensuring women journalists' safety will be complicated and expensive. Women freelancers are especially vulnerable as they lack institutional support or resources to ensure their safety. In 2017, UNESCO recorded the highest number of women journalists killed since 2006. The proportion of women media professionals killed worldwide rose from 4 % in 2012 to 14 % in 2017. Moreover, in 2017, four out of the seven journalists killed in Europe were women.<sup>39</sup> As a result, the handbook will pay special attention to women journalists, exploring ways to support and protect them.

In 2018, the EU-funded action, '**Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice**' was implemented in several countries to increase the effectiveness of transitional justice processes by prioritising gender-based violence survivors and their needs. As a result of the initiative, survivors of sexual violence related to past armed conflict in **Nepal** published their stories on an online platform launched in 2018. This was a major milestone for women collectively breaking their silence, while creating an enabling environment for truth, justice, dignity and reparations. A Transitional Justice Resource Centre – the first of its kind in **Kosovo and the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region** – was established in 2018 at the University of Pristina. It provided students, who were born during or after the war, with a gender perspective on conflict and peace-building, including a specific focus on conflict-related sexual violence. The Centre will also offer education programmes, academic resources, scientific research and awareness raising activities on transitional justice.

Figure 19:

EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority D, Political and Civil Rights, 2018 vs 2017



### 3.3.2 EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries

In 2018, the greatest increase in the number of reported actions by EU Delegations under thematic priority D concerned support for women's participation in decision-making processes on environmental and climate-related issues (objective 20). Similar trends were apparent in actions reported by EU Member States in partner countries.

Actions geared towards enhancing the capacities of civil society and women's organisations (objective 18) also

39 For more information, see: [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/16173\\_en08.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/16173_en08.pdf) and <https://en.unesco.org/news/murder-tv-reporter-victoria-marinova-bulgaria-dg-voices-concern-over-rise-proportion-women>

increased. Support for **women Human Rights Defenders** was reported in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. Support for women's organisations featured in actions contributing to a range of objectives across the GAP II's thematic priorities, such as tackling violence against women and girls (objective 7).

Compared to 2017, there was a decline in the number of reported actions that contributed to **challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes** (objective 19) in 2018. However, this trend was counterbalanced by an increase in centrally-managed actions addressing this objective by EU Member States.

## Africa

In **Africa**, the number of actions that addressed thematic priority D increased in 2018 – rising by 77 % for objective 20, 53 % for objective 17, and 45 % for objective 18. Actions on challenging and changing discriminatory norms (objective 19) remained at the same level as in 2017. The most commonly addressed indicators under this thematic priority related to women's participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17). By contrast, no indicators related to women's participation in climate-related and environmental decision-making (objective 20) were selected.

Among the range of actions that contributed to objective 17 in **West and Central Africa** were measures to promote and protect human rights in Burundi, gender budget support in Burkina Faso, and institutional capacity building and strategies for gender equality in Cameroon, Liberia and Senegal. Actions also promoted women's participation in politics in Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Mali. Support was provided for the justice sector in Benin and Cameroon, as well as for the dissemination of information and the organisation of public dialogues on women's rights in Gabon, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Civil society organisations were supported to champion women's' rights in Benin, Chad and Mali. Actions in Cameroon and Liberia addressed public finance management, including support for multilateral organisations active in these countries.

Actions that contributed to objective 18 included efforts to strengthen CSOs in Benin, Burundi, Chad, Niger and Sierra Leone. Other actions spanned support for the rule of law in Mauritania, human rights defenders in Liberia, and improving Senegal's national monitoring and evaluation system and gender mainstreaming. Advocacy with the business sector was a focus in Ghana, as was support for the local development platform programme in Cape Verde. In Mali, significant support was provided for the Spotlight Initiative, alongside core funding for UN Women and the UN Trust Fund to advance peace and security.

Examples of EU actions in **East and Southern Africa** included cultural events, collaboration with women journalists, the promotion of youth employment and awareness raising on gender issues to change discriminatory norms. A multi-country action in Southern Africa, '**Untying the Gender Knot**', promoted gender equality in schools and communities to reduce HIV infections and teenage pregnancies. Moreover, youth-led radio initiatives in South Africa aimed to build safer communities through civic engagement and advocacy.

### Box 30: EU Delegation to Madagascar, 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building' initiative

In Madagascar, the EU supported a 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building' initiative implemented by the non-governmental organisations CARE and Handicap International. This worked to increase local communities' capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters – including the capacities of the private sector and decentralised coordination structures – via an inclusive approach and the use of new technologies. The programme responded to environmental hazards, such as cyclones and floods, to which 85 coastal 'Fokontany' (traditional villages) are especially vulnerable. The initiative is related to SDG 13 ('Climate Action'), as well as SDG 5 ('Gender Equality'), SDG 11 ('Sustainable Cities and Communities') and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Between June 2017 and January 2018, the initiative placed those most vulnerable at the centre of its efforts, reaching out to 135,456 people and supporting the development of 88 response plans. Moreover, 111 Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) groups were formed, with 2,572 members – 66 % of whom are women, and 3.27 % are people with disabilities. These groups proved a key resource for resilience during the cyclone season, providing members with a form of savings-led insurance to support them during disasters. One element of good practice is the initiative's built-in 'crisis modifier', which allows the organisation of multi-sectoral emergency response measures in other geographic regions in the event of a disaster.

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**Box 31: EU Delegation to Somalia, 'Somalia Social Contract'**

In 2018, the EU supported the initiative 'Somalia Social Contract: Contributing to state building and inclusive politics' to support the introduction of gender equality standards and women's human rights in Somalia's ongoing peace-building and state formation processes. It addressed gender-discriminatory laws, customs and traditions that prevent women and men from participating equally in these processes. In this context, the initiative sought to advance women's participation in upcoming elections. In tandem, it aimed to influence the development of gender-sensitive laws to embed and sustain free and fair elections for all in Somalia's political landscape, through a rule-based system. The initiative was significantly influenced by the Somalia National Development Plan (NDP), which recognises the role women have played and will continue to play in politics, community mobilisation, peace-building and society in Somalia.

Gender expertise was provided by key civil society partners, the IIDA Women's Development Organisation and the Somali Women's Association (SWA). For instance, gender analysis was undertaken by IIDA and its partners during past projects related to the security sector. These CSOs also added value by ensuring that citizens' voices and interests were represented in the initiative. Consultations at the grassroots level enhanced understanding of gender equality issues on the ground, enabling the identification of effective strategies and approaches to create a gender-sensitive agenda in which women's issues were well-articulated. Several meetings were held with civil society and government counterparts, such as the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, yielding consensus on the need for synergies between the public sector and civil society organisations to advance women's rights. This marks a significant step forward, as past reconciliation processes were government- and donor-driven. As a result of dialogue and consultative meetings, representatives of ministries, parliament and national institutions committed to achieving universal suffrage, human rights and gender equal standards. To ensure the sustainability of results, it will be necessary for the EU and its CSO partners to continue lobbying the Government of Somalia to ensure that new gender-sensitive laws and policies are enacted.

**Box 32: EU Delegation to Burkina Faso, 'Gender Budget Support' initiative**

The EU signed a financing agreement with Burkina Faso in December 2018 to provide gender budget support – aimed at assisting the Government to promote women's rights and gender equality. The initiative is a key part of broader budgetary support for good governance, and addresses the GAP II's objective of advancing women's participation in policy and governance processes at all levels (objective 17).

After Morocco, Burkina Faso is only the second country to receive gender budget support from the EU. The country's context is particularly favourable, given its active Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. The Ministry was intimately involved in the development of the initiative, as was the EU Delegation's gender focal person. Overall, the initiative focuses on four areas: gender-sensitive budgeting; a database on gender-based violence; the construction of well-equipped reception and care centres for survivors of gender-based violence; and the revision of the law on gender quotas. By including indicators in all four areas, the initiative has the potential to be truly transformative – as progress on these indicators will influence the disbursement of funds – both in terms of the use of gender-responsive budgeting and the revision of the gender quota law. The financing agreement encompassed extensive information on these indicators, including responsible services, the frequency of measurement, baseline results, data collection methods and guidance for data interpretation.

As a result of the gender budget support initiative, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's position has grown stronger. It is more valued and more dynamic in its coordinating role with the Ministry of Finance. One key lesson learned by the initiative was the importance of pairing budget support with institutional support, so that gender ministries have sufficient weight in their interactions with ministries of finance. Others useful lessons include the importance of using clearly-defined indicators, and sustaining lobbying to ensure the availability of funds for implementing gender-responsive budgeting in ministries.

**Box 33: EU Delegation to Liberia and Ireland, 'SHE Leads' project**

In Liberia, the 'SHE Leads' project focused on the prevention of gender-based violence through an 'Engaging Men in Accountable Practices' (EMAP) component and a women's 'Economic and Social Empowerment' (EASE) component. The project complemented an initiative of One-Stop Centres, where survivors of gender-based violence receive treatment and support. Both initiatives were supported by the EU, implemented by the

International Rescue Committee and financed by Irish Aid. Ownership at the government level has been strong, with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social providing an important platform for coordination.

The gender expertise of both Irish Aid and the International Rescue Committee informed the project's design, as did knowledge gained through previous projects, global learning, and data from national GBV clusters, groups and One-Stop Centres. Engagement with community stakeholders provided essential information which was fed back to steering committees, facilitating dialogue. Local NGOs and women's groups were closely involved in the project's formulation, providing feedback on its components. Project models were designed, tested and validated in consultation with these partners.

'SHE Leads' activities were implemented in five communities where the country's five One-Stop Centres are located. Its advocacy activities contributed to the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill, signed for a one-year period through an Executive Order issued by the former president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The project also advocated for, and conducted an iterative simplification of, the original Domestic Violence Bill, so that Liberian citizens with varying literacy skills and understanding of legal concepts can comprehend the law. Engaging men and boys in communities was a key focus of the initiative, given their important role as agents of change. To this end, the International Rescue Committee expanded the scope of EMAP to include boys' engagement as well as men's – a suggestion originally made by the women's groups consulted for the project. Awareness raising on free services and the importance of treating all forms of GBV contributed to an increase in the number of cases addressed across the One-Stop Centres.

To advance women's economic empowerment through the EASE component, 'SHE Leads' supported women to generate and save their incomes, while exercising financial decision-making within their households in a sustainable manner. Linkages were forged between Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), women's discussion groups and social enterprise groups. The associations' social funds were used on a needs-based basis to support the women in One-Stop Centre communities, such as support for emergency referrals to response services.

## Americas

In **Latin America**, all four of the objectives under thematic priority D were addressed in 2018. Ensuring women's equal rights and to participate in policy and governance processes was most frequently addressed (objective 17). Thereafter, actions most commonly addressed support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and **Human Rights Defenders** (objective 18), particularly in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Compared to 2017, greater support was given to objective 18, as well as to challenging discriminatory social norms and stereotypes (objective 19). Women's participation in decision-making on climate-related and environmental issues was rarely addressed (objective 20).

Many reported actions were workshops and initiatives, covering a variety of issues, from local development in Uruguay, to peace and gender-sensitive public policy in Colombia. Support was provided for civil society projects in Brazil, for women's political rights in Paraguay, and for gender-sensitive fiscal justice in Bolivia. In Colombia, a focus was placed on human rights and peace, with support provided for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In El Salvador, Spain supported an initiative on strengthening gender mainstreaming in public administration (*'Fortalecer los procesos de transversalidad del principio de igualdad en la administración pública Salvadoreña'*), as discussed in the box below.

In the **Caribbean**, priority D was the least frequently addressed of the GAP II's thematic priorities in 2018. Actions centred on women's participation in governance (objective 17), continuing trends observed in previous years. Efforts to address this objective have been on the rise since 2016, when it was addressed in four instances, rising to nine in 2017 and 10 in 2018. Actions specifically championing gender issues were implemented in the Dominican Republic through technical assistance for gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020. Other initiatives focused on women's empowerment to support democratic governance, while one action adopted a child rights approach to local administration, with a view to enhancing participatory municipal management.

### Box 34: Spain's support for mainstreaming in El Salvador

In 2018, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) supported an action to strengthen gender mainstreaming in El Salvador's public administration (*'Fortalecer los procesos de transversalidad del principio de igualdad en la administración pública Salvadoreña'*). The strategic scope of this action was the Institutional Strengthening Fund for Development (FFID), which aims to increase public administration capacities to overcome poverty, while promoting sustainable development and gender equality.

As part of the initiative, a gender analysis of budgets was undertaken, as was an analysis of the state of gender mainstreaming in public administration. This drew on the annual analysis of gender mainstreaming across institutions conducted by El Salvador's National Women's Institute, Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (ISDEMU), which highlighted best practices. Among the key components of the initiative was the creation of a system for planning public policies using a gender perspective. To this end, the 51 entities that comprise the National System of Substantive Equality (SNIS) were provided with tools and good practices to incorporate guidelines based on the 'Law on Equality, Equity and the Eradication of Discrimination against Women'. Another component involved making budgeting and public expenditure more gender-responsive by training civil servants. The initiative also encompassed a pilot project that encouraged all public institutions to adopt the 'gender equality seal' developed by UNDP. This pilot was implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Council of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (*Consejo Nacional de la Mediana et Pequeña Empresa*) and the Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with UNDP.

The action contributed to positive change as it identified investments in gender equality, and raised awareness of the fact that gender equality concerns issues beyond gender-based violence. It highlighted that subtle, complex forms of gender discrimination must also be tackled. Moreover, the innovative use of the 'gender equality seal' proved useful, targeting every aspect of institutions – from human resources to planning – through the use of gender equality indicators.

### Box 35: EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago, 'A Sexual Culture of Justice'

In 2018, the EU funded an activity-based, human rights programme in Trinidad and Tobago, entitled 'A Sexual Culture of Justice: Strengthening LGBTQI and GBV Partnerships, Capacity and Efficacy to Promote and Protect Rights'.<sup>40</sup> It is envisioned as an advocacy initiative for social change to transform gender norms and sexual rights, grounded in local analysis and action-based research. This community-university collaboration initiative supports both long-standing and emerging local efforts to transform approaches to intimate partner violence, homophobia, bullying and policing, while building partnerships and organisational capacity. Running from April 2017 through to March 2020, the initiative is implemented by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) of the University of the West Indies, in partnership with six leading LGBTI and feminist organisations in Trinidad and Tobago – CAISO, Friends for Life, I Am One, the Silver Lining Foundation, Womantra and the Women's Caucus.

The programme addresses several issues identified in the EU Delegation's strategy. These are highly relevant for the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR), particularly LGBTI rights and gender-based violence. The initiative is also grounded on the understanding that effectively addressing GBV and realising LGBTI rights in Trinidad and Tobago depends on building community and organisational capacity, strengthening strategic alliances and linking strategic information to tangible action.

As a gender-transformative initiative, the programme encompasses a number of related activities with diverse actors, focused on transforming attitudes and behaviours related to gender-based violence. These include gender-based violence trainings, training for teachers on 'safer schools', police training, media creation, the collection of life stories, and the 'Add All Three' campaign. In 2018, the programme elaborated knowledge products and toolkits, which were shared with partners and other affiliated organisations. Information gathered by the programme informed policy and political dialogue, including advocacy for the decriminalisation of homosexuality, the promotion of LGBTI issues, the approval of a gender policy, gender-responsive budgeting and comprehensive support to tackle gender-based violence.

40 For more information, see: <http://portal.caribbeansexualities.org>

## Asia and the Pacific

In **Asia**, thematic priority D was increasingly important for EU cooperation in 2018. Most reported actions under this priority addressed women's equal rights and ability to participate in policy and governance processes (objective 17). Actions included support for public finance management reforms in Indonesia, Nepal and Timor Leste, as well as for democratic development, elections and electoral capacities in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Nepal. Good governance, local governance and peace-building were addressed in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, as well as Myanmar, while justice was a major focus in China and Vietnam. Afghanistan and Myanmar were the countries most involved in measuring women's representation in peace negotiations. Gender-responsive budgeting at the local and national level was undertaken predominantly in Myanmar, Nepal and the Philippines. Moreover, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Nepal were the principle countries wherein women's representation in parliaments was monitored. The second most frequently addressed objective in the region under priority D concerned support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders (objective 18), with most related actions implemented in India.

There was far less of a focus on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms (objective 19) and advancing women's participation in decision-making processes on climate-related and environmental issues (objective 20) in Asia and the Pacific.

### Box 36: EU Delegation to Lao People's Democratic Republic, 'Strengthening civil society'

In Lao People's Democratic Republic, the EU financed the initiative, 'Strengthening civil society to protect and promote social, economic and cultural rights of ethnic communities in Bokeo province'. Implemented by Plan International through its local partner, the Community Association For Mobilising Knowledge In Development (CAMKID), the initiative addressed challenges in the implementation of labour laws and decent working conditions at the community level. For instance, efforts were implemented in the context of the use of chemical products in banana plantations recently established by Chinese investors.

As the operating space for civil society is extremely restricted – with local associations only permitted to register with the authorities since 2009 – support for CAMKID was an innovative step in the country's context. The organisation was actively involved in the design of the initiative through a specific design workshop. The programme's implementation, moreover, accessed gender expertise from another small local NGO in Bokeo province. It supported CAMKID through a context-specific assessment of gender roles in local communities. Within the context of the labour laws, women's rights were discussed at the community level, including with reference to local laws which embody the country's international commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As CAMKID staff members speak different local languages, they made sure that information was accessible to the local population, especially women.

While the programme did not result in transformative changes in terms of women's rights, incremental steps were taken and small victories attained. For instance, in the wake of the initiative, women in targeted communities became more involved in decision-making, and women community leaders are more confident to speak up. As one such leader put it, *"Being a community leader is empowering because I can make decisions at local level or within my family. I am more confident to speak in front of people and always share my views in the village's meetings."* There is also some evidence of slowly changing gender roles, as some men in the villages began to help with domestic care work, such as looking after children or fetching water. Although the initiative was welcomed by the Government as a means of disseminating legal information and potentially strengthening the rule of law, it did not influence government policies or legal systems. Nonetheless, a research study by the initiative was discussed at the provincial level, entitled 'Labour Rights, Child Rights and Gender Justice for Lao Workers in Chinese Banana Plantations in Bokeo'.<sup>41</sup>

41 For more information, see: <https://plan-international.org/publications/rights-and-gender-justice-lao-workers-chinese-banana-plantations>



*Box 37: EU Delegation to Timor-Leste, 'Partnership to improve service delivery through strengthened Public Finance Management and Oversight'*

In Timor-Leste, the EU supported an initiative entitled 'Partnership to improve service delivery through strengthened Public Finance Management and Oversight'. Launched in 2015, it aims to advance sustainable development through the enhanced effectiveness, integrity, transparency, accountability and citizen-orientation of public service delivery. Its two components are direct budget support and capacity building, including a focus on addressing women's training needs. At least 50 % of participants in capacity building activities are women. Gender equality is among the initiative's main objectives, particularly in terms of strengthening women's capacities – including of women members of parliament – and gender budgeting.

The initiative is in line with the GAP II's priorities, although it was formulated before the GAP II was developed. Moreover, while no gender analysis or EU gender expertise preceded the initiative's formulation, UN Women contributed their expert knowledge of gender-responsive budgeting to the formulation process. In 2016, the EU Delegation undertook a gender analysis to develop the EU's Timor-Leste Gender Action Plan – itself replete with two public finance management-related indicators – which influenced the initiative's implementation and informed policy dialogue. The inclusion of gender indicators in the programme strengthened the monitoring of its performance on gender equality.

In terms of results, positive trends were visible in the wake of the initiative; yet, it remains to be seen whether sufficient ownership exists to sustain the programme's momentum. Overall, the initiative was highly relevant as its promotion of gender-sensitive budgeting has the potential to contribute to the implementation of Timor-Leste's gender-sensitive policies and laws.

In **Central Asia**, EU efforts promoted the political and civil rights of women and girls, particularly in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, by working to change discriminatory norms (objective 19) and supporting civil society (objective 18). In Kyrgyzstan, support was provided for state and civil society efforts to combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of treatment. Overall in Central Asia, women's participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17) was addressed in two instances, while participation in decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues (objective 20) was only selected once.

## Gulf States

*Box 38: EU Delegation to Yemen, 'Building Peace and Enhancing Human Rights'*

The EU Delegation to Yemen supported an initiative on 'Building Peace and Enhancing Human Rights in 16 Yemeni Governorates', implemented by a local NGO, the Mwatana Organization for Human Rights. This partner was able to operate independently in different areas despite Yemen's extremely difficult security situation. The project focused on monitoring and documenting human rights violations in 16 governorates, in addition to providing legal support for survivors, especially extrajudicial detainees, in six governorates. It also centred on raising awareness of human rights and the rule of law in six governorates, particularly among police officers, prosecutors, judges, the Ministry of the Interior, and seizure and detention officers. In seven governorates, the initiative initiated community dialogue on the importance of human rights protection and the rule of law. Moreover, across all areas, the initiative worked to support civil society, women's organisations and Human Rights Defenders. Between 2018 and 2019, Mwatana provided legal support to 43 victims of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in the governorates of Aden, Alhudida, Hadramout, Marib, Sana'a and Taiz.

While designing the project, gender issues were taken into account. These included the importance of giving priority to women in the recruitment of the project team, especially in the field, as well as prioritising women survivors, providing them with legal support and documenting cases. As five of its seven field lawyers are women, Mwatana was keen to give them opportunities in the field. Their efforts proved exemplary. For instance, Thuraya, Mwatana's Field Legal Support Assistant at Hodidah, continued to work in the governorates even when the conflict escalated to such an extent that she was forced to flee her home.



## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Despite continued attention to political and civil rights in the **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** region, the proportion of reported actions under this priority in 2018 (26 %) was lower than in the previous year (32 %). Advancing women's participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17) was the third most frequently selected objective in the region. Notable initiatives supported gender budgeting in Ukraine, the rule of law in Palestine, and women's participation as electoral candidates in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in Tunisia. Other actions advanced the women, peace and security agenda in Albania, Ukraine and Tunisia, and promoted women's role in local governance in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Reported actions also encouraged the use of affirmative action to ensure that more women are hired in the civil service in Kosovo, in line with the law on gender equality.

### *Box 39: EU Delegation to Moldova, 'Budget Support to Police Reform'*

The EU Delegation to Moldova supported an the 'Budget Support to Police Reform' initiative as part of the broader EU 'Support to Police Reform Programme' which aims to refashion the police force as service-oriented and citizen-focused. The initiative applied a gender mainstreaming approach, while focusing on strengthening the position of women within the police force. Its objective is to ensure that 20 % of police positions are held by women by 2020, with a minimum of 15 % at the officer rank and in management positions. When the project began, only 14 % of police officers were women and none were in positions of authority.

One direct result of the initiative was the formation of the Police Women Association (PWA), formally registered as an interest group with the Ministry of Justice in 2017. Its main purpose is to attract young women to careers at the sub-officer or officer levels in the police force (external role), as well as furthering the professional interests of women within the police services (internal role). Association members serve as role models, inspiring other women to join law enforcement services. The Association also organises regular free workshops for women and men police officers on gender equality, in addition to lobbying for women's interests by organising educational events on work-related issues, such as how to balance private and professional life. Overall, the initiative may be regarded as a promising practice as it encourages women to join law enforcement and aspire towards management positions – a major step forward in Moldova. In the wake of the initiative, the police's male-dominated management is more eager to promote women and to make their interests, needs and expectations visible.

### *Box 40: EU Delegation to Syria, 'Women's Dialogue in Atareb'*

In 2018, the EU Delegation to Syria supported the 'Women's Dialogue in Atareb', a component of the 'Support to Stabilisation and Transition in Syria II' (USTS) programme, co-funded by the EU and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. In the context of this broader multisectoral stabilisation programme, women's social participation is supported through gender mainstreaming approaches, as well as targeted activities for women. Gender-sensitive measures that explicitly considered women's specific needs included activities to improve street lighting and waste management, as well as to provide psychosocial support and education – such as the creation of a women's and youth centre in northern Hama. While these benefit the entire population, they have particularly improved women's lives.

The local women's dialogue component was piloted in the framework of broad local dialogue processes in Atareb, Aleppo. A gender analysis was carried out during the preparation phase, and a gender focal person was appointed for the stabilisation programme. The dialogues involved the exclusive participation of local women's initiatives and associations, and specifically sought to expand women's role in civil society organisations and local self-government structures.

Overall, the dialogue component served as a useful avenue for promoting a culture of gender-sensitivity in communities, while affording donors a better understanding of local actors. Positive change was evoked at the community level. Women have taken on more responsibilities, and key local stakeholders have greater awareness of the benefits of women's representation. The initiative also facilitated horizontal networking between actors, including between women. Following consultations with core group of women, concrete guidance criteria were formulated to increase women's representation within civilian institutions. Moreover, in line with recommendations by EU partners, the initiative's implementing partners strived to engage and hire more women. Key lessons

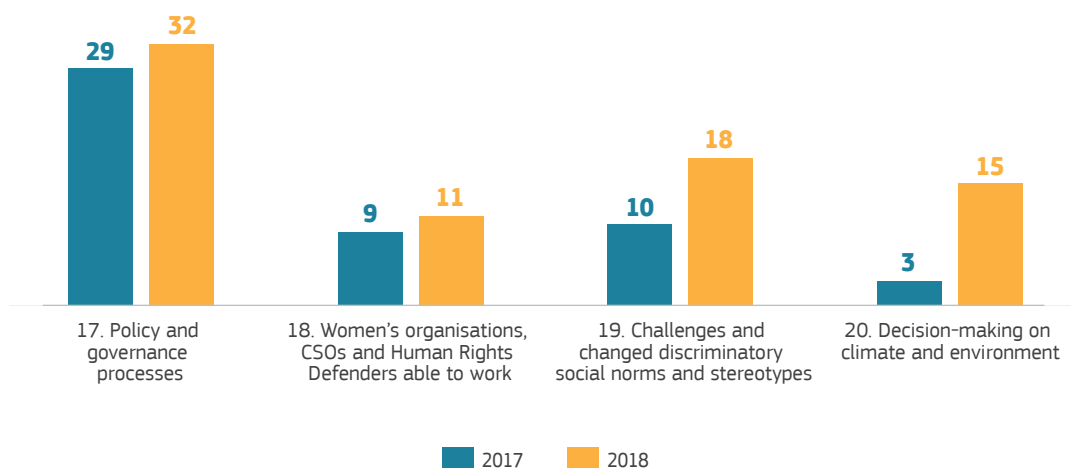
learned from the initiative's implementation included the need for long-term commitments to sustain change, such as continuing activities for women, fostering further community engagement and championing horizontal networking for activists.

### 3.3.3 EU Member States

EU Member States reported a total of 89 centrally-managed actions that addressed thematic priority D in 2018. Most reported actions related to political and civil rights were global or multi-country in scope. Overall, thematic priority D was the least frequently addressed of the GAP II's thematic priorities by Member States.

Figure 20:

EU Member States' capitals – Number of actions reported by objective, thematic priority D, Political and Civil Rights, 2018 vs 2017



Support for women's participation in governance processes (objective 17) dominated actions funded by EU Member States in 2018. Compared with 2017, more actions were reported in this regard. However, few actions selected corresponding GAP II indicators.

In 2018, the greatest increase in reported actions by EU Member States concerned women's participation in decision-making on climate change and environmental protection (objective 20). To date, this objective has been addressed by far fewer actions than other objectives. The second most significant increase in reported actions in 2018 concerned challenging discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes (objective 19).

Many reported actions contributed to objectives under both thematic priorities C and D. Women's political empowerment was the focus of a **literature review of research on the digital harassment** of women, as well as the effectiveness of aid interventions to support women's leadership. Another **action-research oriented project, 'Empowerment and Accountability'**, funded studies on the importance of women's organisations and women's political agency in fragile and conflict-affected settings. **Fostering ethical media** and creating opportunities for overcoming gender stereotypes was a focus in **Belarus**.

#### Box 41: Italy's support for sustainable rural development, 'Ge.Mai.Sa 2'

Italy's 'Ge.Mai.Sa 2' initiative supported sustainable rural development and food security through a multi-dimensional approach to women's empowerment. Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and implemented by CIHEAM Bari, the initiative worked with rural women and the Gender Units of agriculture ministries in six partner countries. Based on a previous pilot project in Egypt, Lebanon, and Tunisia, the action was expanded to Jordan, Morocco and Palestine for 2018-2020. The initiative may be considered a promising transformative practice as it supported a process of change in societal gender relations. It contributed to

ensuring that rural women have more of a voice in rural areas, encouraging them to appreciate their own value and become involved in decision-making processes within their households, communities and socio-political contexts.

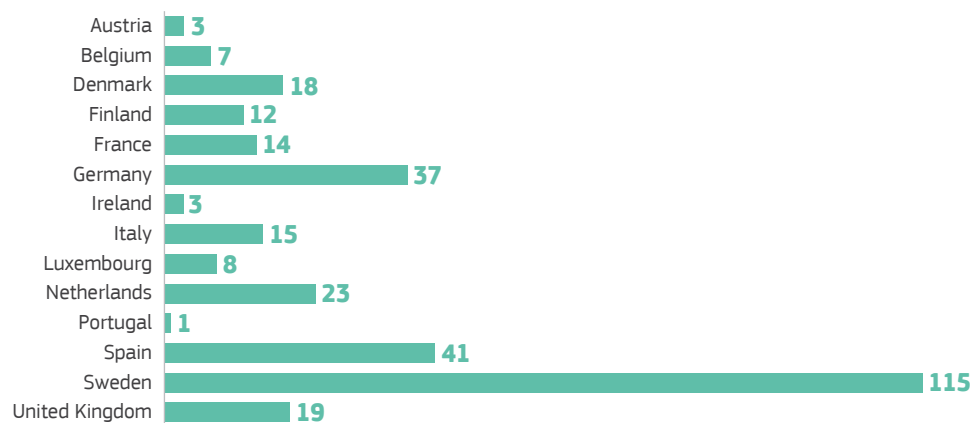
Guided by a technical-scientific committee – comprising local and international gender experts – the initiative developed its methodological approach to women’s empowerment, alongside tools to concretely improve rural women’s economic opportunities and living conditions. The initiative’s multi-dimensional approach to empowerment merged awareness raising on women’s rights and political empowerment with economic empowerment, the acquisition of skills and tools, and the reinforcement and exchange of women’s knowledge around food production and food security. It also promoted links between the public and private spheres, thereby affecting households’ division of labour and gender roles. By using a systemic approach to mapping and selecting existing human and organisational resources, the programme built strong partnerships that spanned three levels of governance – from the micro or local level, to the intermediate level of government institutions, and the macro level of institutions and ministries. The action also mobilised a range of stakeholders by promoting new initiatives and synergies, as well as by networking with civil society.

Promoting communication flows between these actors – who were continually engaged in monitoring the impact of new practices – enabled the evaluation and validation of the initiative’s innovative training tools. These included ‘value chain knowledge’, which was enhanced through vocational training, delivering ad hoc equipment, promoting women’s rights, expanding access to information on available local resources, creating local networks and implementing economic activities via a value chain approach.

EU Member States’ support for women’s organisations and civil society organisations (objective 18) represented the smallest proportion of reported actions in 2018. Nevertheless, actions addressing this objective increased by 20 % compared to 2017. Examples of such activities are provided in the boxes below.

Figure 21:

EU Member States – Number of actions reported in partner countries, thematic priority D, Political and Civil Rights, 2018



**Box 42: United Kingdom’s ‘Empowerment and Accountability research’**

The United Kingdom’s programme, ‘Empowerment and Accountability Research’ on women’s collective action demonstrated the value of collaboration between activist groups and women’s caucuses to advance positive legislative outcomes for women. These findings helped to legitimise the work of women activists and their NGOs at a time when civic spaces are under close scrutiny and shrinking worldwide. A separate paper by the programme highlighted the types of sexual harassment faced by women in politics. Through such research, the programme hopes to draw attention to the need for protection from harassment for all women in assemblies, as well as in the media.

#### Box 43: Latvia's implementation of the Development Cooperation Guidelines 2016-2020

Throughout 2018, Latvia implemented its Development Cooperation Guidelines 2016-2020, which provide the framework for Latvian development cooperation in partner countries. As a policy-planning document, the guidelines determine the objectives, results and priority sectors of Latvia's bilateral and multilateral development cooperation policy – the overall aim of which is to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in developing states. The guidelines establish gender equality and human rights as overall horizontal priorities to be mainstreamed in all development cooperation activities, using a human rights-based approach.

The process of drafting the guidelines was informed by inclusive consultations held with a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society organisations, line ministries, academia and organisations working in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment. Relevant EU policy frameworks also informed the guidelines, such as the Council Conclusion on Gender in Development (2015), the European Consensus on Development (2006) and the Council Conclusions on the Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020. National commitments to gender equality provided the overall framework for the guidelines, as did the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

As gender equality is a fundamental principle for the guidelines, actors participating in calls for proposals must include a gender perspective in their applications. Omitting gender mainstreaming hinders the possibility of winning a call. Thus far, however, this has not occurred, as implementing partners have been extremely interested in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

One of the guidelines' key elements is a commitment to increase official development assistance for gender equality – from 0.17 % of gross national income (GNI) in 2016-2020, to 0.33 % by 2030. The guidelines' priority of good governance, inclusive economic growth and security includes a performance-based indicator on gender equality, specifically stating that *"by 2020, 8 % of the bilateral ODA managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the main objective of which [...] will be] gender equality"*, against a baseline of 0 % in 2015.

The first evaluation of the guidelines in 2018 found that ODA managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for actions with gender equality as their main objective was 6 % in 2016 and 9 % in 2017. The evaluation considered this a marker of 'significant progress', indicating a pace of change fully in line with the SDGs. Data for 2018 will become available after current projects and programmes' final reports have been received and verified.

#### Box 44: Netherlands, 'Leading from the South' (LFS) programme

Running from 2017 to 2020, the 'Leading from the South' (LFS) programme is a key policy instrument of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to advance women's rights and gender equality. Through grant making, capacity building and resourcing, the programme supports women's rights organisations, movements and networks in strengthening their lobbying and advocacy capacities, via four women's funds in the Global South. These are the South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF) in Asia, the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) in Africa and the Middle East, the 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.

In 2018, the programme supported 122 women's rights organisations in 67 countries. Through the programme, women's organisations in developing countries accessed unique networks that enabled them to make an essential contribution to the struggle for equal rights for women. In addition to financing, the programme provided a linking and learning component which contributed to its sustainability. The initiative is in line with SDG 5, supporting the targets of the global goal on gender equality. While the GAP II did not influence the initiative's formulation, the programme is aligned to the GAP II's thematic priority D on voice and participation.

The initiative proved especially promising as it is led by feminist women's organisations committed to championing women's rights. It may be considered transformative as it contributed to a shift towards more direct financing for women's organisations in lower- and middle-income countries. As four regional women's funds act as intermediate financiers, the knowledge and capabilities of these feminist organisations are recognised. It is also transformative as the four funds finance local women's rights organisations who address local gender-based discrimination and inequalities, involving continual dialogue, discussion and enriching learning from diverse points of view.

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*Box 45: Portugal's promotion of women's rights in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe*

In 2018, Portugal supported a women's rights project designed by women's groups and civil society organisations to promote a more equitable political, economic, and social environment for women in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe. In 2018, the project promoted research studies on gender equality and women's participation. This evidence will be used for policy and political dialogue with policy-makers on improving legal frameworks, as well as implementing laws and policies to protect women's rights. The initiative was informed by an in-depth gender analysis on barriers and gender stereotypes that hinder women's participation at all levels of private and public life. This analysis was conducted by the initiative's partners – Minjderis di Guiné No Lanta (MIGUILAN) in Guinea-Bissau, the Organisation of Women of Cape Verde (OMCV) and the Platform for Human Rights and Gender Equity (PDHEG) in São Tomé and Príncipe.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND WAYS FORWARD

### 4.1 Conclusions

The report shows evidence of a significant increase in engagement with the GAP II during 2018, including greater **management ownership**. The implementation of the **transformative agenda** (Council Conclusions 2014) is **steady**, although the pace of implementation can be further accelerated.

The year was marked by **increased coherence and coordination** among EU institutions, as well as between these institutions and EU Member States. **Political and policy dialogues** took place in most countries, with gender equality and human rights on the agenda. Violence against women and girls was the topic most often discussed, followed by the gender dimensions of other issues, such as governance and justice, decent work, trafficking and social protection. These formal and informal dialogues enabled **EU actors to raise issues which are particularly sensitive in certain countries**, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation and teenage pregnancy. The development of the **Spotlight Initiative on gender-based violence** also provided key opportunities for high-level dialogue. There is evidence of **higher visibility accorded by EU actors to gender equality** issues during high-level international events, such as the G7 Summit, as well as in national events, such as those linked to International Women's Day, among others.

Gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the implementation of the **women, peace and security** agenda, continued to be standing items of political and/or human rights dialogues and sub-committees with partner countries.

A notable achievement this year was the Council's adoption of the **Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security** in December 2018. The conclusions welcomed the EU's strategic approach to women, peace and security<sup>42</sup>, while highlighting complementarities and synergies with the GAP II.

**Commitment to gender mainstreaming** continued to gain traction, including through the use of **gender analysis** in the formulation of many more actions in 2018 than in previous years. All **EU services made greater use of gender expertise** to strengthen their actions and to contribute more comprehensively to the GAP II's objectives, as well as gender equality outcomes more broadly. These efforts included a **growing network of gender focal persons**, bolstered by management support and access to training. Increased **engagement with national gender equality mechanisms, women's civil society organisations** and academic institutions also informed the formulation of actions in many instances, alongside policy and political dialogues.

Progress was made on the GAP II's target to ensure that, by 2020, **85 % of new programmes will be marked 'G1' or 'G2'** using the OECD's gender equality policy marker – an instrument for measuring progress on EU actors' financing for gender equality as a political priority. In 2018, the number of new actions marked 'G1' or 'G2' increased in the **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations** region, reaching 55.05 % in 2018, compared to 43.13 % in 2017. This was also true for 68 % of new international cooperation and development initiatives – compared to 65.9 % in 2017, 58.8 % in 2016 and 51.6 % in 2015.

Data on **EU Member States' performance on the same target is encouraging**. However, nuance is lost when Member States' averages are focused on. Overall, 50.51 % of new programmes by EU Member States, for which data is available, were marked 'G1' and 'G2' in 2018 – up from 50.1 % in 2017 and 43.75 % in 2016. The same was true for 51.8 % of new programmes by all Commission services in 2018, compared to 54.6 % in 2017 and 49.6 % in 2016.

As noted throughout this report, the number of new actions that were marked as contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment is not indicative of the amount of funds invested in these actions.

It is clear that **reaching the target of 85 % will require more focused efforts**. In addition, greater direct attention to gender mainstreaming will be vital, for instance by using modalities such as blending. Those sectors whose potential to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment remains underexplored must be the focus for the remainder of the GAP II's implementation period.

42 For more information, see: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/37412/st15086-en18.pdf>

Throughout 2018, **EU Member States' contribution** to the GAP II's implementation was evidenced by their consistent implementation of the EU's gender equality policy across international relations and cooperation activities. At the partner country level, EU Member States' progress was reported together with that of EU Delegations. EU Member States reported a **wide range of centrally-managed good practices and measures to correct weaknesses in the GAP II's implementation**. These included, for example, contracting external gender expertise for strategic and ad hoc issues, as well as creating specialised task forces and working groups on gender equality and women's empowerment. The application of the OECD gender marker was confirmed at the budgetary approval stage in many cases, while the use of gender-sensitive corporate results' frameworks and the collection of sex-disaggregated data increased.

As discussed in this report, **five minimum performance standards** are indicated in the GAP II as prerequisites for the implementation of the EU's gender equality priorities. Of these, the least frequently addressed standards by EU Delegations in 2018 were the need to provide a justification when a programme was marked 'GO' using the OECD gender marker, and the use of sex-disaggregated data throughout the programme and project cycle. However, **more EU Delegations showed evidence of compliance** with the performance standards in 2018 than in 2017. Sex-disaggregated data was used systematically by 25 % more EU Delegations around the world, while 19 % more EU Delegations made timely use of gender expertise for planning purposes.

Among EU **Member States in partner countries**, the standards that were least frequently met included carrying out a gender analysis for priority sectors (cited by 37 % of Member States which submitted reports) and the selection of GAP II objectives (44 %). On average, in 47 % of reported cases, the 'GO' marking was justified, 49 % used sex-disaggregated data throughout the programme and project cycle, and 50 % used gender expertise in a timely manner for planning and programming.

In 2018, the greatest proportion of reported actions by Commission services and EU Member States centred on **advancing objectives related to economic, social and cultural rights**, the focus of the GAP II's thematic priority C. The other GAP II thematic priorities were also frequently addressed. Overall, combatting violence against women and girls (objective 7) was the focus of the greatest portion of actions spearheaded by Commission services during the year.

## 4.2 Ways forward

The success of the GAP II's implementation requires, first and foremost: (i) gender-responsive leadership at all EU levels, from political to managerial, (ii) sufficient in-house capacity and capability to systemically integrate a gender perspective and conduct gender analyses, and (iii) close dialogue and cooperation with EU Member States, coupled with engagement with civil society and other partners, such as multilateral and regional organisations, academia and the private sector.

To achieve the GAP II's objectives and relevant SDGs, greater efforts are needed by all EU stakeholders in the following spheres:

### Reaching the target

- Substantially improve gender mainstreaming in the most challenging areas – such as in trade, infrastructure-related investments, private sector investments and blending, security-related initiatives and climate change actions – as a condition for reaching the target of 85 % of new programmes being marked 'G1' or 'G2' by 2020.
- Pay particular attention to thematic areas which are transformational for gender equality, or which received less attention in 2018, such as, for instance, addressing discriminatory social norms and stereotypes, women's protection in crisis situations and combatting the trafficking of women.

### Quality of gender mainstreaming

- Include gender analysis systematically as a core part of context analysis for the identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring of all actions, in all sectors, at headquarters, in EU Delegations and within Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations.
- Increase EU in-house capacity to mainstream a gender perspective in policy development and use gender analysis for designing and implementing initiatives, activities, programmes and projects.



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- Ensure that expert capacity and capability are available and accessible in EU institutions and EU Member States, both to conduct gender analysis and to support the systematic integration of a gender perspective.

## Training and learning

- Deliver targeted training, especially for EU Delegations which do not fulfil the GAP II's minimum performance standards.
- Mainstream gender equality in EU training at all levels and in all sectors, with a focus on core training – such as training on procedures, programme and project management – in addition to integrating gender in pre-deployment and pre-posting training, and providing refresher courses for middle and senior management.
- Share good practice experiences and research findings more widely among Commission services, EU Member States and with other actors, in order to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of all actions, including political and policy dialogue.

## Data, results and indicators

- Provide clear guidance and support for the correct use of the OECD gender marker as a means of improving the quality of actions.
- Accord greater priority to the integration of sex-disaggregated data through its prompt and thorough collection, storage, analysis and use in all EU actions, and the full and deliberate integration of such data into core procedures, such as monitoring templates and work plans.
- Support partner governments' national statistical offices to improve data collection, including in the context of SDG monitoring.
- Move progressively from measuring the numerical increase of women in processes and programmes – using sex-disaggregated indicators – to designing and monitoring more transformative initiatives that aim to promote changes in social norms, with a view to advancing gender equality, fulfilling the rights, and meeting the needs and interests of all members of affected communities, while leaving no one behind.
- Align core institutional guidance with the GAP II to ensure that sectoral indicators are gender-sensitive and that they are included, as appropriate, in results monitoring frameworks.

## Working with civil society and other key partners

- Involve and closely consult civil society organisations, especially women's organisations, at the country and regional levels in terms of context and problem analyses, including for the evaluation of programmes and policies, in order to enhance the effectiveness of EU actions.
- Increase cooperation with civil society organisations – including those that work to involve men and boys in promoting gender equality, and religious organisations, among others – which play key roles in promoting and supporting gender equality, as well as women's and girls' rights and empowerment.

# ANNEXES



## Annex 1. Methodology and templates used for the GAP II Implementation Report 2018

The templates used for the GAP II reporting exercise in 2018 contained two parts, aligned with the GAP II's priorities. A questionnaire focused on priority A, 'Institutional Culture Shift', while an action database collected detailed information on progress towards the objectives of thematic priorities B, C and D. Based on the experience of the previous reporting exercise, the templates were discussed and revised through a process of consultation, involving EU Member States and Commission services. An online consultation was organised for this purpose, including Member States' and European Commission staff based at headquarters and in partner countries. As a result, clarifications were included in the templates regarding the definitions of an action, a policy or political dialogue, and a gender champion.

In 2018, EU Member States at the partner country level compiled their contributions directly. As such, several reports were received for each partner country in which the EU has a presence. By contrast, reporting in 2017 was facilitated by EU Delegations, which submitted a single report for each partner country. In cases where no EU Delegation was present, EU Member States sent their information to the EU Delegation responsible for their (sub) region.

The complexities which emerged during the data collection phase in 2018 were duly registered and will be addressed to simplify the reporting process for the coming year

### Data sources and collection tools

Data and information used for the 2018 GAP II report were provided by:

1. EU Delegations, wherein data collection was facilitated by the delegation's gender focal person;
2. EU Member States with a presence in partner countries, whose data collection was facilitated by their gender focal person/assigned staff member (templates were disseminated through the EU Delegation);
3. EU Member States, for whom data on centrally-managed actions was collated by the ministry or agency selected for this purpose by each Member State; and
4. Commission services, for actions managed at the headquarters levels, with information provided by relevant units.
5. The information which these actors provided was supplemented and cross-tabulated with extracts from databases, as well as information management and reporting systems, which are officially in use by the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development, as described below.

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

1. An EU Survey-supported **questionnaire** was created to collect information and measure progress on priority A, 'Institutional Culture Shift in European Union External Relations'. The questionnaire asked respondents to provide information on how their delegation, mission or service contributed to meeting the objectives of GAP II priority A. Replies were compiled and analysed in an Excel-based database.  
Using the 'EU Survey' online platform, the questionnaire was disseminated to EU Delegations, EU Member States with a presence in partner countries, EU Member States, and Commission services at headquarters level. The questionnaire was adapted to informants' profiles. Thus, some questions relevant for headquarters were removed from the questionnaire for informants at the country level.
2. An Excel-supported **action database** was used to collect information to measure progress on the thematic priorities B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', and D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'. As in the case of the questionnaire discussed above, the Excel template was disseminated using the 'EU Survey' online platform to EU Delegations, EU Member States present in partner countries, EU Member States for data on centrally-managed actions, and Commission services for data on actions managed by headquarters. Unlike the aforementioned questionnaire, however, the database was the same for all informants.  
The action database asked respondents to record lists of EU donor financing decisions in different modalities, to indicate how these are aligned to GAP II indicators and to describe – in a quantitative and verifiable manner – how these advanced the GAP II's priorities. Examples of promising practices were identified through the database, in line with the Council Conclusions 14027/18 of 26 November 2018. The conclusions state: "*Keeping*

*in mind the GAP II report's objective to monitor the implementation of the Gender Action Plan by all EU actors on a yearly basis, the Council welcomes the (inclusion of) qualitative data in the next reporting phase.”*

3. An **online gender focal person (GFP) survey** was disseminated via SurveyMonkey.com. This questionnaire recorded the individual perceptions of gender focal persons across Commission services and EU Delegations.
4. **Inputs from other Commission services** were collected without a specific template. These included the Commission services responsible for trade, research and innovation, maritime affairs and fisheries, migration and home affairs, and agriculture and rural development. These services deal with EU policies and also have activities connected to external relations. The Council commended the inclusion of Commission services' contributions in the 2017 GAP II Annual Implementation Report. As such, the same practice was followed for 2018. These requests were channelled through the Institutional Coordinating Group on Gender, as well as via email.
5. **Interviews** were conducted with representatives of EU Member States and EU Delegations regarding the promising practices selected for inclusion in the annual report (see below).

The following existing information systems in use by the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development were also employed:

1. the **External Assistance Management Report (EAMR)**, which included specific questions related to the GAP II's implementation assessment criteria (namely the minimum standards specified in the GAP II itself);
2. the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (**OECD**) **creditor reporting system (CRS)**; and
3. **Commission services' annual reports**, as relevant.

Moreover, financial information on official development assistance (ODA) for those EU Member States which are also members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development was directly obtained from the OECD Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) published databases.

EU Delegations accredited to international organisations – such as the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the OECD – were not invited to report, as their corresponding units at the headquarters level reported on their activities.

#### *Annex 1 Box 1: Reporting on women, peace and security*

The GAP II reporting templates included specific questions regarding the 'Revised indicators for the comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security'. The purpose of their inclusion was to streamline reporting requests to EU Delegations. Data processing for this specific issue is undertaken by the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development facilitated the overall GAP II reporting process, which was closely coordinated and jointly led in collaboration with other Commission services and the European External Action Service. The methodology used was prepared by a GAP II reporting reference group of staff members from the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development, the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations, the European External Action Service, the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments, and the Commission service for European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations. This coordination was deliberately established to foster greater ownership of the GAP II's implementation report – in terms of both the process and output – as well as to increase its quality. Constituted in October 2018, the GAP II reporting reference group met regularly, typically on a weekly basis, to monitor and agree on reporting templates, the collection of information and its analysis. Decisions recorded in the minutes of its meetings guided the development of the report's methodological approach, the dissemination of reporting templates, and the global annual report's preparation. Moreover, each Commission service managed its own internal communications and drafted the portion of the report relevant to its activities.

Two EU Member States' gender expert meetings – in October 2018 and January 2019 – discussed the report's methodology, templates and their dissemination, as well as expectations for the global report.

The reporting templates were circulated in January 2019. In this month, the call for submissions was officially launched through a letter addressed to all Heads of EU Delegations, co-signed by the Commission services responsible for international development and cooperation, the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood

policy and enlargement negotiations, and the European External Action Service. The Member States' Gender Expert Network was requested to report in January 2019 via email, as well as through the Council's Working Party on Development Cooperation. The original deadline was set for the end of March 2019 for Commission services at headquarters level, and the end of April 2019 for EU Member States and EU Delegations.

Although this annex describes the report's methodology, it also includes key observations that will be useful for refining the templates for the next reporting exercise.

## Challenges

### Technical challenges

The use of EU Survey made it difficult to manage the multiple layers of replies required by some of the questions. Issues that emerged included users' familiarity with the platform and certain limitations regarding the collaborative completion of the survey. These limitations included, for example, the possibility of multiple users from the same 'team' or 'country' completing information in the same questionnaire, as well as the ability to print a draft version of the questionnaire. However, it is worth noting that the platform enabled all submissions to be clearly recorded. Several respondents expressed confusion regarding the amount of information they were required to provide and the level of detail needed.

The online **Institutional Culture Shift questionnaire** included a combination of progress and results indicators, the majority of which were quantitative indicators. The four versions of the questionnaire – for EU Delegations, for Commission services (by service), for the European External Action Service, and for EU Member States – only included the questions necessary to assess the indicators which every EU actor was requested to report on. In addition, a question was included to request information on the use of the OECD gender marker.

The **action database** comprised two sheets. The first was used to collect demographic information for each individual action contributing to the GAP II, including how it may contribute to some objectives of priority A, 'Institutional Culture Shift', as well as progress compared to submissions in 2016. The second sheet presented the list of actions entered by users in the first sheet. It asked respondents to match each action with relevant GAP II priorities, objectives and indicators. A modification was made to ensure that the respondents could easily complete congruent information, such as the title of the actions reported, across both sheets. However, some respondents used old formats from the previous reporting exercise. As such, they provided incomplete information.

The use of the online survey was mandatory and represented the primary means of submitting each respondent's report. Due to a technical issue that has yet to be resolved, a number of action databases – originally attached to the submissions of EU actors in partner countries – were not registered. These had to be obtained via email, through one-on-one communication.

Intensive work was undertaken to clarify the methodology and provide technical support once the reporting process began. The process was extremely labour intensive, involving discussions and a methodology review during the annual GFP meeting, briefing sessions for headquarters' units/sectors, email exchanges, phone calls and webinars to explain the methodology and reporting templates. These webinars were held in three languages (English, French and Spanish) at diverse times to facilitate the participation of staff working in different time zones. An inventory of questions and answers on reporting was also shared with the GFP Network and published on the [capacity4dev.eu](http://capacity4dev.eu) private GFP group. These options were also made available and accessible to EU Member States.

### Information synthesis challenges

The reporting templates facilitated the synthesis of information, permitting clearer connections to be drawn in terms of how actions contributed to the GAP II's priorities, objectives and indicators.

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

Numbers often differ between the graphs/figures included in the annual report, and the total number of actions in the body of the text itself. The graphs/figures represent the number of actions that correspond to any given GAP II priority or objective. There are instances in which one action corresponds to more than one objective.

Certain issues will need to be clarified in the next round of reporting, such as:

- In some cases, reporting instructions were not fully complied with. Therefore, some reports included a disproportionately large number of projects compared with other reports. In certain instances, the start date of the actions selected was not respected, which affected the calculation of the number of actions that began in 2017.
- As noted above, the GAP II annual report provides information on a selection of actions that are considered to contribute to the achievement of the GAP II, rather than the full portfolio of the reporting entities.
- Striking a balance between quantitative and qualitative information remains a challenge. The 2018 annual report draws heavily on quantitative data, but seeks to complement this with promising examples of good practice.

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

The template of the action database included a space whereby 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. These 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 would also be either:

- gender-sensitive, i.e. it aims to understand and address the social and cultural factors that produce gender-based discriminations and inequalities in the diversity of private and public life;
- gender-responsive, i.e. it aims 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
- gender-transformative, i.e. it aims to evoke a shift or a positive change in terms of the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm(s) that produce(s) gender-based discriminations and inequalities in a given context.

A promising practice for gender equality is an opportunity to raise awareness, provide information about the state of play of gender equality, and promote greater understanding of the causes that produce gender inequalities and discrimination. Equally, it is an opportunity to increase the visibility of good results for the attainment of gender equality in a given context or sector.

A promising practice should not be understood as a 'perfect' practice, since there are important changes that occur as part of broad initiatives whose activities may not all attain the same level of success. Lessons learned are an intrinsic part of such practices as they help to determine what works and what does not work in a specific context. This is particularly relevant to the aforementioned quality and/or sustainability criteria.

A practice may be considered promising if it meets at least 10 of the following criteria:

1. it reflects at least one objective per each GAP II priority;
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, girls, men and boys who are expected to participate and benefit from the action;
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 inequalities and discriminations in a given context/sector and produced positive changes in the socio-economic, cultural, institutional and/or political paradigm(s);
7. it addressed 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 technique or methodology that led to a positive outcome;
10. it has an acceptable efficiency (effort)/effectiveness (result) balance;
11. it is appropriately relevant to the context and ethically sound;
12. it is well-accepted, recognised and understood by rights holders who are keen to reproduce it;
13. it focused on lessons learned to implement corrective actions and systems of redress;
14. it had good quality performance management standards; and
15. it is a good candidate for additional study in terms of specific research on impacts and evaluation.

Overall, the respondents 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 report. These included 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 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 following criteria, 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 applied per region were:

1. **Starting date:** 2016 onwards.
2. **GAP II thematic priorities:** B, C, D.
3. **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.
4. 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).
5. **Rating of actions:**
  - a. gender-transformative and partially gender-transformative practices were rated 'high priority', with a score of 3;
  - b. gender-responsive and partially gender-responsive practices were rated 'medium priority', with a score of 2;
  - c. gender-sensitive practices were rated 'low priority', with a score of 1; and
  - d. actions marked 'partially gender-sensitive' were excluded.
6. **Range of sectors:**
  - a. 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
  - b. lower priority was accorded to the sectors of health, education, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMSEs)/ financial inclusion, with a score of 2.
7. **Joint programming:** To the extent that information was available, attention was paid to selecting examples which involved joint programming.
8. **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.
9. **Innovation** proved difficult to apply, in terms of:
  - a. **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
  - b. **Gender specific 'interesting, but mid-level innovative'** practices, which were assigned a score of 2.
10. **Modality:** In terms of cooperation/partnership grants, budget support and blended modalities, among others, priority was given to budget support projects.



## Annex 2. Progress on the GAP II's institutional culture shift priority

### East and Southern Africa

#### Overview of progress in 2018

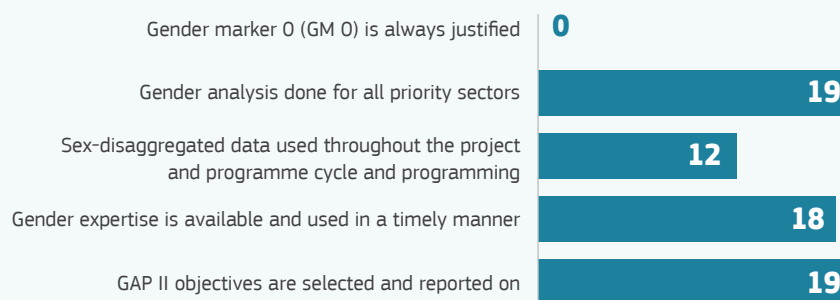
In 2018, reports on progress made on the Gender Action Plan II's horizontal 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority were received from EU Delegations to all countries in East and Southern Africa, as well as a number of EU Member States in the region. This indicates significant advances compared to previous years. While the number of EU Member States who reported varied across East and Southern African countries, overall reports were received from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Member States do not have a presence in some countries in the region, such as Lesotho and Eswatini, and some Member State Embassies cover more than one country.

The figure below indicates the overall performance of EU Delegations and EU Members States in partner countries in East and Southern Africa, in terms of the GAP II's five minimum performance standards. The data is derived from the 2018 External Assistance Management Report (EAMR) for the EU Delegations and from the self-assessment provided with the GAP II questionnaire for EU Member States. Overall, performance was strong in 2018. However, as in previous years, the collection, analysis, storage and dissemination of quality sex-disaggregated data continued to be a challenge.

Annex 2 Figure 1:

### East and Southern Africa

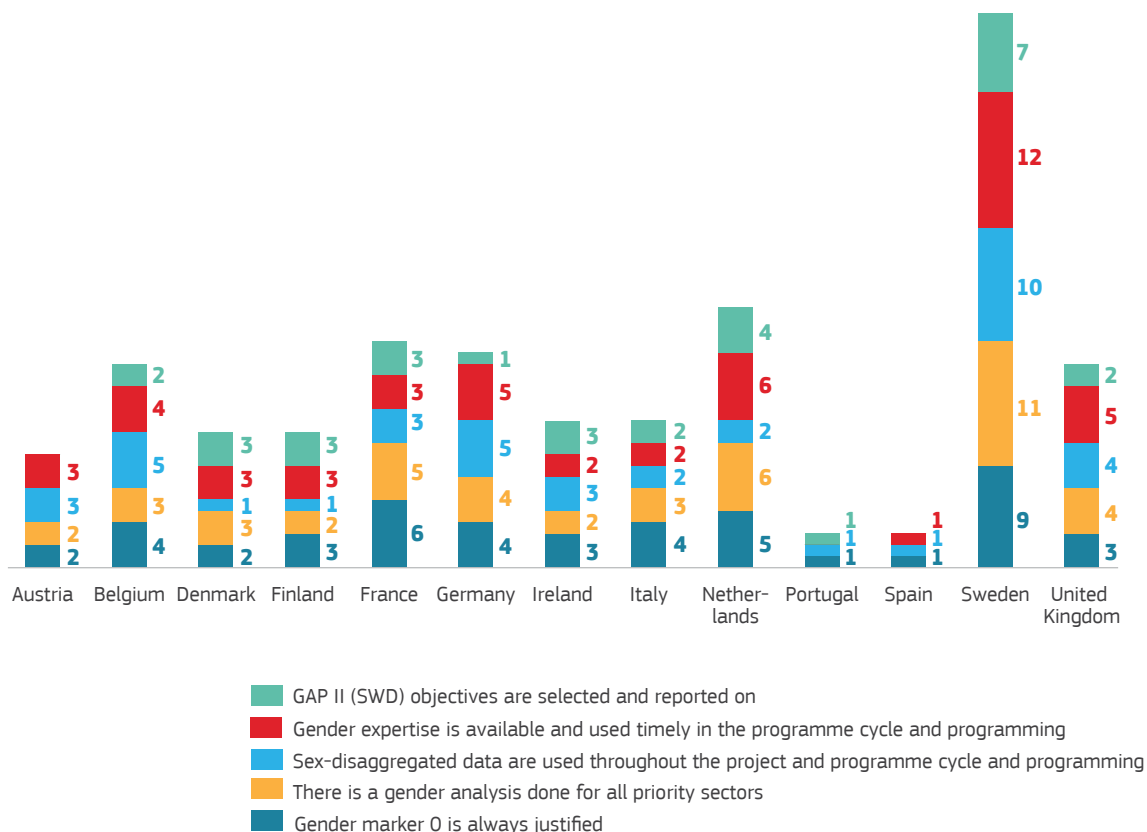
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)



Annex 2 Figure 2:

## East and Southern Africa

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

In 2018, 388 political and policy dialogues were reported across almost all countries in East and Southern Africa. Some EU Member States estimated the number of dialogues, whereas others indicated that, in line with their policy commitments, gender issues were raised consistently at every opportunity. Human rights was the topic covered most often (73 dialogues), followed by sexual and reproductive health and rights (65), democracy (60), governance, accountability and transparency (57), education (56), health (55), poverty (51), agriculture, fisheries and food (52), the rule of law (45) and decent work (45). Issues rarely discussed included trafficking, transport, infrastructure, communications and migration. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence (GBV) were raised in 50 % of discussions, the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda in 27 %, and gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) in 23 %.

Many formal dialogues took place within the ambit of Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. In some countries, no formal Article 8 dialogue took place due to the political or conflict situations, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or presidential elections, as in Madagascar. Nonetheless, dialogues took place at the ministerial or other levels. The following paragraphs outline examples of formal dialogues, high-level policy discussions and events, many of which yielded positive outcomes. These formal and informal dialogues enabled EU actors to raise issues which are particularly sensitive in certain countries, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), abortion and schoolgirl pregnancy.

A political dialogue meeting with the Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Angola emphasised the importance of 'The registration of birth', project developed with EU funding to enable newborns to be registered through maternity units, and young girls to register and attend school. Through official meetings with line ministers in Djibouti, the EU Delegation informed government thinking on gender equality in political representation. This encouraged the Government of Djibouti to issue a law in January 2018 stipulating that 25 % of parliamentary and senior

government positions must be held by women. Women's representation in the country's parliament doubled, from 8 to 16 of its 65 seats. The development of the Spotlight Initiative provided an opportunity for dialogue with the Government of Malawi on the status of women and girls, particularly related to sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices. This led to the design and approval of a corresponding country programme, with technical leadership from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare.

Pregnant schoolgirls' right to attend school was raised by the EU Delegation and EU Member States in Mozambique. They pleaded for the repeal of Decree 39/2003, which states that pregnant girls should be transferred to evening courses to avoid setting a 'bad example'. In December 2018, the Government publically announced the repeal of the decree. In South Africa, EU financial assistance through budgetary support, enabled the country's first presidential summit on gender-based violence and femicide. With more than 1,200 women participants, the event's key recommendations were adopted by the Government – including the establishment of a National Council on Gender-Based Violence. In Tanzania, a three-day national dialogue on female genital mutilate, child marriage and teenage pregnancy was organised by the Government, EU and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Attended by civil society organisations, the media and the general public, the dialogue resulted in action plans for the country's most affected areas.

The EU and other like-minded donors speaking with one voice proved especially important for raising concerns on gender equality and the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda in all high-level dialogues. This was stressed by Sweden with regard to Somalia. More focus is needed on accountability and follow-up on the Government's implementation of laws, regulations and policies related to human rights and gender equality. Further support is also needed to enable women's organisations to act as watch dogs and lobbyists. Sweden's support for the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus facilitated a high-level dialogue meeting with the country's President. The meeting was a first step towards ensuring that women's participation in political processes is high on the agenda. As a result, although women's participation remains low, women are ministers in the key spheres of defence, labour and social welfare, and information.

Submitted reports contained a wealth of information on informal and formal occasions, alongside public and political events, in which EU Ambassadors participated and gender equality issues featured exclusively or prominently. High-profile occasions included International Women's Day, the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT), the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, and International Human Rights Day. For example, International Women's Day 2018 in Zambia was marked by a joint event, co-hosted by several EU Member States and the UN. This provided a platform to communicate a strong joint message on gender equality. In Ethiopia, a visibility campaign to showcase women's contributions encompassed a workshop, photo competition, exhibition and award ceremony on 8 March 2018. Marked by strong media involvement, the events included a speech by the Head of the EU Delegation. In South Africa, the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia was commemorated by a dialogue to promote solidarity with sexual and gender minority communities. The dialogue was co-hosted by the Embassies of Ireland and France, the High Commission of Australia, and the Universities of Witwatersrand and Pretoria.

In South Sudan, the Embassy of Denmark and partners celebrated several key events, especially the release of children and adolescents from militias and armed groups. Celebrations of Climate Diplomatic Week in Madagascar were jointly organised by the EU Delegation and Germany. A number of projects highlighted at the events drew attention to the links between climate change and gender equality. Workshops and training sessions organised by the EU Delegation to Tanzania, the Ministry of Energy, development partners and TANGSEN, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) of women engineers, resulted in a gender action plan for the energy sector. The political section of the EU Delegation to Angola financed the visit of an Angolan-Dutch feminist scholar and activist, Lucia Kula, to participate in a conference organised by the Delegation and the Ondjango Feminista. Lucia Kula also visited local NGOs and activists, as well as taking part in media interviews. In Comoros, where women's representation in public life is very low, France financed the publication of a book with portraits of 12 pioneering Comorian women politicians. The book was promoted at the national level, in the press and among decision-makers and school children at various events, especially Europe Day 2018.

The Embassy of Sweden in Zambia, in collaboration with the Zambian National Museum of Women's History, hosted a 'Wikipedia Edit-a-thon' in Lusaka. This workshop invited the public to learn how to edit Wikipedia, while celebrating notable women in Zambia. It raised awareness of how few women contribute to online platforms and gender bias on the internet. Only 9 % of Wikipedia's content is contributed by women, compared to 90 % by men. The event sought to begin to close this gender gap.

There were mixed, but encouraging, developments on burden sharing measures by EU Delegations and EU Member States regarding the GAP II. The formal division of labour regarding GAP II priority areas and objectives has been agreed in some countries. Elsewhere, informal arrangements are in place. For example, in Ethiopia, no systematic burden sharing arrangement exists but ad hoc discussions take place within the EU and EU Member States' Gender Taskforce. The case of Kenya is similar, where the EU Delegation co-chairs a gender working group and has initiated a 'Whole of Society' dialogue, in which gender is one topic. Although there is no division of tasks in Somalia, the EU Delegation has involved some active EU Member States in identifying priorities. No measures were taken in Angola or Eritrea in 2018.

In Mozambique, the EU Delegation and EU Member States agreed to the division of tasks according to their programmes and expertise. This ensured that eight GAP II objectives were covered in the country (objectives 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18). In addition, Sweden and the Netherlands remained the EU 'reference actors' among Member States on issues related to women's and girls' physical and psychological integrity. The Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD) took an important role as a co-chair of the Government of Mozambique's official Gender Coordination Group. Its members include government representatives, UN agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector and development partners. A 'natural' division exists in Sudan based on the EU Delegation's and EU Member States' gender equality priorities. For example, the Netherlands leads on migration, sports, private sector development and female genital mutilation (FGM), while Italy acts as convenor of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. Strong coordination on gender programming in Malawi is largely due to the Gender and Human Rights Donor Group. The EU Delegation and Member States work together and share burdens where interventions are similar. For example, two large violence against women (VAWG) programmes, including the Spotlight Initiative, implemented in different districts to ensure a wider national reach.

A system of leads on different issues existed in Botswana, with the United Kingdom leading on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) issues and France on International Women's Day. A similar arrangement exists in Madagascar, where France led on democratic governance, the German development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), on decentralisation and the environment, and the EU Delegation on rural development, public finance, energy and infrastructure. The EU Delegation also manages joint programming process, with spaces for technical planning coordination on projects where gender is considered a cross-cutting issue.

The donor coordination mechanism is led by the EU Delegation, or by an EU Member State, in 17 countries in the region. As in the case of burden sharing, formal or informal donor coordination is the norm in most partner countries. The emphasis is on sharing information, knowledge, analysis and good practice examples. To minimise duplication and optimise resources, there is also a focus on coordination for joint events, interface with governments, and joint programmes and activities.

Even where there no specific gender group exists, sub-clusters related to gender are active. For instance, in South Sudan, a sub-cluster on gender-based violence exists within the protection cluster, jointly led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Norwegian Refugee Council, which spearheads quarterly meetings on women, peace and security.

In addition to coordination and sharing, reports in 2018 highlighted several examples of valuable joint initiatives, only a few of which can be mentioned here. In Zambia, the Gender Cooperating Partners Group – comprising the EU Delegation, EU Member States and UN agencies – developed a matrix indicating which aspects of gender equality are supported by different partners, the volume of funds, the funding period and geographical location. The aim of this exercise was to avoid duplication and leverage more resources.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the EU Delegation took over the rotating presidency of the bi-monthly One to One Coordination Group of gender donors. In this capacity, it encouraged burden sharing by helping to identify lead donors who then engaged with different parts of the Ministry of Gender. The EU Delegation also took the initiative to launch discussions on a new gender strategy in the country. It also performed key functions to ensure that resource mobilisation and project support was evenly distributed, shared monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools, and mobilised groups to inform all active partners of calls for proposals or evaluations. The Gender Development Partners Group in Uganda, coordinated by UN Women and chaired by Sweden in 2018, developed a comprehensive work plan for the group, including lead agencies on specific topics.

Reports reveal a considerable amount of joint work on GAP II objectives and related projects in 2018. In Mauritius and the Seychelles, for instance, France and the United Kingdom participated in technical and high-level policy dialogues on gender, including discussion of objectives and indicators for the EU-Mauritius GAP II Joint Monitoring Framework. The EU Delegation in Zambia organised the annual EU Delegation and EU Member States' joint

programming event, in which gender was one component. Joint programmes cover legal employment and justice with Germany, and women's leadership and inclusion in elections with Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The Gender Coordination Group in Tanzania, chaired by Ireland in 2018, monitored the implementation of the five selected GAP II objectives. It held joint capacity building sessions on gender and the financial sector, as well as on the women's movement. The group developed a concept note on how to engage collectively with civil society organisations, and organised several sessions with civil society, including, for example, on analysis of the national budget and its disbursements. The mapping of projects which contribute to the GAP II was undertaken to facilitate monitoring. Most joint programmes concern women's economic empowerment, encompassing agriculture, land tenure, the financial sector and social protection. Partners recognised the potential to undertake more joint programmes. The potential for more future joint programming was also acknowledged by EU actors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Several multi-donor trust funds were co-funded by two or more EU Member States in Zimbabwe, including health, child protection, education and resilience funds.

The Donor Group on Gender Equality (DGGE) in Ethiopia was instrumental in providing technical support to the Government, particularly for strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. The donor group also supported networking and coordination among women's machineries across sectors and regional bureaux. Support was also provided to sectoral ministries on gender mainstreaming. Likewise, in Kenya, the State Department of Gender was supported to strengthen capacity, bridge resource gaps, coordinate effectively, and mainstream gender across different levels of government and civil society.

## **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

Almost three-quarters of countries in the region have at least one senior gender champion. Many countries, and some EU Member States, have several champions, many of whom are Ambassadors or Heads of Mission. In Botswana, the EU Delegation had two champions in 2018, who co-chaired the Gender Dialogue Forum, encouraged colleagues to integrate gender analysis into action documents, and monitored progress. The Embassy of Sweden in Botswana also had two champions, the Ambassador and the Head of Cooperation. The Head of the EU Delegation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo maintained dialogue with the Government, ensured that gender equality issues remained highly visible, coordinated EU Delegation and Member States' policy positions, and drove the institutional culture shift within the EU Delegation. The Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kenya, a senior gender champion, pledged not to speak on any panels unless women are represented. In Namibia, Heads of Mission took on the role of gender champions when working on GAP II. In 2018, the Head of the EU Delegation acted as a gender champion in Zambia, as did active EU Member States' Heads of Mission. In Tanzania, the Head of the EU Delegation was the senior gender champion within the Heads of Cooperation group, while the Ambassador of Ireland was the champion in Heads of Mission group.

### *Annex 2 Box 1: Joint high-level advocacy in Mozambique*

In Mozambique, an initiative to increase advocacy on ending child marriage was jointly started by the Ambassadors of Sweden and the Netherlands, and later joined by the Ambassador of Canada. They used their positions to make the most of high-level opportunities to influence dialogue on, and policies against, child marriage. In 2018, they organised meetings with Mozambique's ministers for health, education, gender, justice, youth and sports to discuss decree 39, which obliges pregnant girls to be transferred to night lessons, as well as family law and the law to prevent child marriage.

Some EU Member States' policy commitments expect Heads of Mission and Heads of Cooperation to be gender champions, raising gender issues in meetings, attending important events, making speeches and leading gender advocacy efforts. These include Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The Head of the EU Delegation to Zambia is a senior gender champion, as is the Head of the EU Delegation to Zimbabwe, both the EU Head of Delegation and the Head of Cooperation in Eswatini, and the Swedish Ambassador and all embassy staff in Uganda.

### Annex 2 Box 2: Senior gender champion in Somalia

In Somalia, the EU Head of Cooperation, nominated in 2018 as the EU Delegation's gender champion, was at the forefront of raising gender issues during EU development counsellors' meetings. She and several EU Member States' Ambassadors served as the interlocutors, engaging with government stakeholders. In tandem, project managers and gender focal persons continued to advocate for narrowing the gender gap through meetings with implementing partners, civil society and the private sector.

### Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments

In 2018, 70 % of EU actors in East and Southern Africa had some sort of mechanism in place to access senior gender expertise on strategic and ad hoc issues. In many countries, the donor coordination group and/or the partner government's gender mechanism or ministry acted as sources of expertise. Donor coordination groups cited instances of inviting academics or other experts to advise them on key topics. Several EU Delegations and EU Member States relied on expertise from headquarters, while others used technical assistance facilities to acquire ad hoc inputs.

Consultations with academics and civil society organisations, particularly gender equality and women's rights organisations, proved another valuable source of expertise. Systematic engagement with civil society organisations was mentioned explicitly in reports from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Eswatini and South Africa. The EU Delegation to Eritrea relied on gender expertise from the UN, key NGOs and the National Union of Eritrean Women. In Sudan, an informal group of EU Member State representatives, human rights activists, lawyers and journalists arranged meetings to discuss gender issues. Some EU Member States had one or more gender experts in their office, including Austria in Uganda, Sweden in Somalia, and the Netherlands in Mozambique. Others employed or contracted sectoral specialists, such as Finland's long-term gender equality and social inclusion expert on the land administration programme in Ethiopia who provides advisory services, and Ireland's gender and governance specialist in Tanzania.

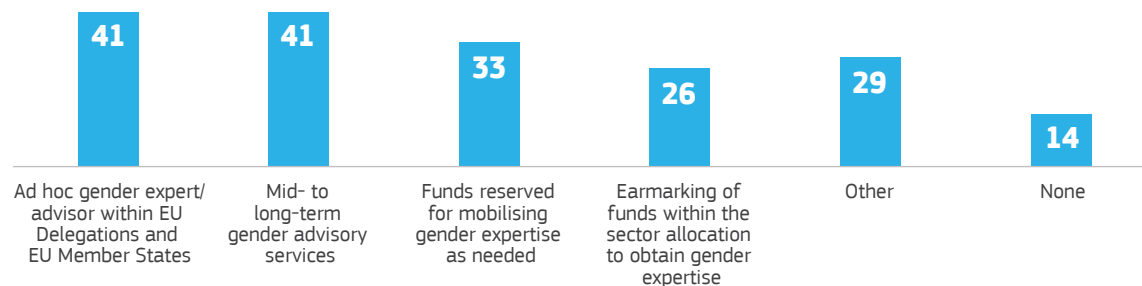
### Annex 2 Box 3: Gender Sector Working Group in Malawi

In line with the sector wide approach (SWAp), a Gender Sector Working Group was created in Malawi. Chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, this technical structure coordinates all initiatives in the gender sector. It also acts as reference group on policy and strategic matters. For the Spotlight Initiative, a civil society reference group was set up to provide strategic guidance on the initiative's implementation, as well as all issues related to sexual and gender-based violence.

Annex 2 Figure 3:

## East and Southern Africa

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



### Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making

In 2018, 65 % of reported actions in East and Southern Africa were informed by gender analysis (421 of 650 actions). This marks a significant increase from 49 % (376 of 764 actions) in 2017. The use of gender analysis to



inform actions varied, from informing most or all actions in some countries to far fewer in others.

According to several reports, the gender analysis study of each country required by the GAP II was highly useful for identifying which priority areas and target groups require support. These analyses also informed the design of projects and the development of indicators. For example, in Mauritius the gender analysis study pinpointed areas for awareness raising campaigns on gender-based violence. It also recommended a gender-balanced approach to encourage girls to study in polytechnics. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sweden's revision of the International Security and Stabilisation Support Strategy was based on gender analysis, and all conflict analyses now are gender-sensitive. In Mozambique, sector-specific gender analyses informed the strategic and operational planning of a financial governance programme funded by Germany. In South Africa, a French project to support NGOs, the Valued Citizens Initiative, required the recipients of funds to produce a clear gender analysis of the situation on the ground before implementing their projects.

In general, gender analysis informed the formulation of actions or projects, identifying target groups, influencing the elaboration of indicators and, in some cases, affecting the guidelines of calls for proposals.

#### *Annex 2 Box 4: Technical assistance in Mauritius*

The EU Delegation to Mauritius supported consultancy services for the elaboration of the country's gender equality bill, children's bill and adoption bill, as well as capacity building for the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. Such technical assistance was provided to the Government to consolidate and strengthen on-going efforts on gender equality, child protection and care, in line with the recommendations of the GAP II's gender analysis.

#### *Annex 2 Box 5: Bridging the Gap II – inclusive policies and services for the equal rights of persons with disabilities*

A multi-country initiative funded by the EU and Italy was developed following a gender analysis, conducted with the gender focal person of the Sudan National Council for Persons with Disabilities. To address inequalities, a gender perspective was embedded in each component of the initiative – from gender-sensitive sector policy development and implementation, to stakeholder participation, data disaggregation and capacity building for organisations of persons with disabilities (OPD). Consultations identified priorities for institutions and women's associations, including promoting access to work in agriculture for women with disabilities. Therefore, a workshop and training sessions were planned for women with disabilities on crop production, processing and marketing in Gedaref state, Sudan.

Overall, 63 % of actions supported by EU actors were formulated using the findings of consultations – ranging from 74 % for EU Delegations and 50 % for EU Member States. Reports suggest that consultations helped to shape project design, activities, indicators, stakeholders, targets and approaches.

In some instances, the findings of consultations served as the background and justification for the EU Delegation action, Empowering Women, Ending Gender Violence. In Namibia, the design phase of the Enhancing Participatory Democracy project was informed by consultations with line ministries, civil society organisations and development partners, including UN agencies, working on gender equality and women's rights. Research by the Swedish Life and Peace Institute on transforming conflict in south-central Somalia was instrumental for policy engagement and programming practice, strongly indicating that women's inclusion in peace processes is essential for reducing conflict.

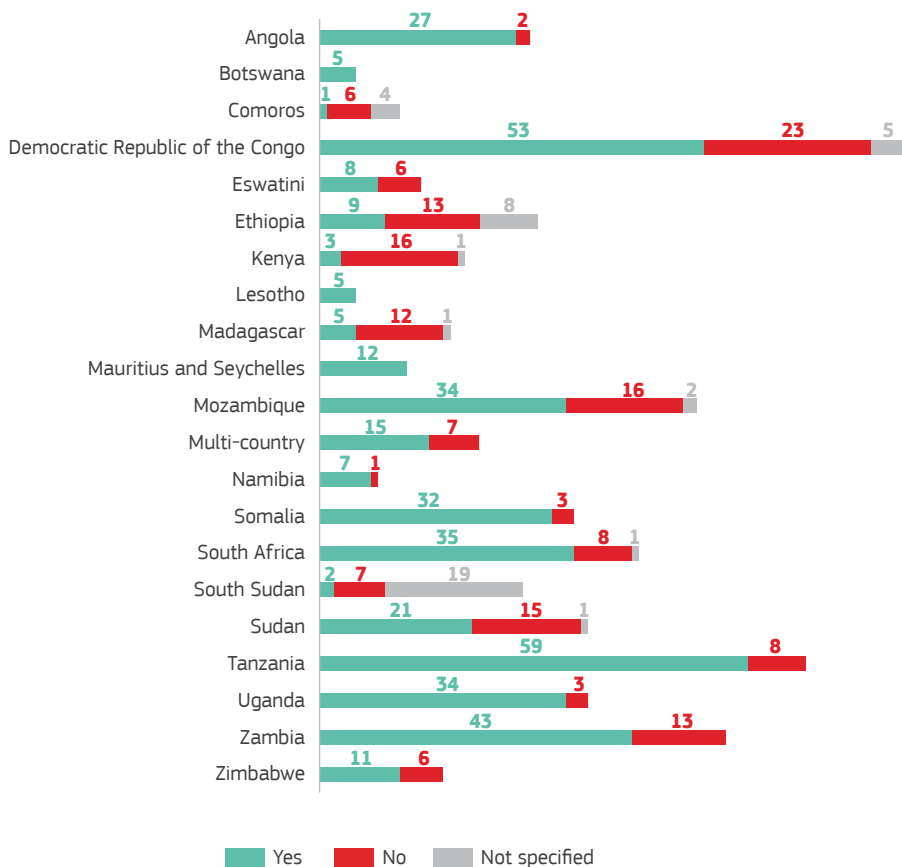
In Sudan, an action on strengthening the resilience of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, funded by the EU Delegation and Italy, was oriented to target women as priority beneficiaries following consultations with local counterparts. Consultations specifically engaged local NGOs active in promoting women's health, as well as the reproductive health departments of state ministries of health. In Lesotho, the Participatory Initiative for Social Accountability, supported by the EU Delegation and Germany, was formulated based on consultations. These were held with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), local civil society organisations and members of parliament who had participated in civic education programmes supported by the IEC. The initiative's Logframe includes gender equality indicators derived from these consultations.



Annex 2 Figure 4:

## East and Southern Africa

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

In 2018, 81 monitoring missions were reported, combining those monitoring EU Delegation-supported and EU Member State-supported actions. There were numerous missions in most countries, across range of actions, including the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR).

The inclusion of sex-disaggregated data was an important recommendation in many cases. As a result, action documents were modified to incorporate a revised Logframe and indicators. The need to strengthen gender analysis was also raised in some instances. For example, the EU Delegation in Kenya acted on the recommendation that project managers should monitor gender equality issues, even if these were not included at the on-set of the project. In Mozambique's education sector, a joint monitoring mission by Finland and Italy led to recommendations and immediate action on gender-based violence. Thus, cases of sexual assault by teachers on schoolgirls were identified and investigated, prompting recommendations of serious disciplinary processes and sanctions. Monitoring missions concerning two child rights projects in Tanzania, supported by the EU Delegation, pinpointed the need to involve men and boys, support women's economic empowerment, and adopt a long-term perspective since actions involve changing social norms.

#### Annex 2 Box 6: Baseline study on gender-based violence in training institutions in Uganda

In Uganda, Belgium supported a baseline study on gender-based violence in National Teacher Colleges (NTC) and business, technical, vocational education and training (BTJET) institutions. This filled data gaps on the prevalence of gender-based violence in post-secondary learning institutions. Research by the Ministry of Education and

Sports, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and other partners, revealed that children are exposed to different forms of violence and may learn new forms of violence in schools. Some 77.7 % were subjected to sexual abuse, of whom 5.9 % suffered defilement. However, only 39.8 % of these cases were reported. The study aimed to generate baseline data to inform evidence-based policies, guidelines and tools aligned with Uganda's national policy and action plan on gender-based violence. The broader objective was to contribute to violence prevention and gender-responsive learning environments, especially in NTCs and BTNET institutions.

#### *Annex 2 Box 7: Addressing gender equality issues in Ethiopia*

Technical support from the European Commission's headquarters to the Resilience Building and Creation of Economic Opportunities (RESET II) initiative in Ethiopia led to changes that ensured gender equality issues were addressed more strongly. All RESET partners agreed to develop cluster or project-level gender and social inclusion strategies. They also agreed to develop the capacity of staff and partners to identify and address inequalities in the initiative's key areas by using specific indicators. These areas include basic health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, on-farm and off-farm livelihood development, disaster risk reduction and natural resource management. The partners agreed to deploy gender specialists or assign focal persons, as well as to introduce mechanisms for structured monitoring and regular reporting from a gender perspective.

#### *Annex 2 Box 8: Gender-sensitive indicators and disaggregated data in Madagascar*

The EU Delegation to Madagascar began work on developing gender-sensitive indicators and using sex-disaggregated data in 2018. This involved training for staff, alongside technical assistance for project beneficiaries, national partners and EU Member States. For on-going projects, indicators are being revised, especially in less gender-sensitive sectors, such as public finance, the private sector and infrastructure. The new guide for the preparation of state budget programming, developed as part of a project financed by the European Development Fund (EDF), includes a specific annex on formulating gender indicators. The annex also discusses the impact of budgetary choices on gender inequalities.

#### *Annex 2 Box 9: Mission-led regional meeting in Southern Africa*

A regional meeting on gender equality in 2018 drew together stakeholders from Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The gathering prompted significant changes. First, reporting templates now include different options under the category of gender – male/female/LGBTI. Grantee partners are also being asked to detail the number of disability rights organisations and people with disabilities that they target or reach. Therefore, reports now provide more age, disability and sex-disaggregated information.

Second, the policy review process – encompassing proposal appraisals and organisational assessments prior to sub-granting – now includes an analysis of whether organisations have sexual harassment and child protection policies in place. It also looks at whether grievance mechanisms or mechanisms for complainants exist. Third, recommendations by the Africa Director at headquarters encouraged more local partners in Zimbabwe to engage more women in leadership, participation and political representation initiatives. As a result, more women are actively participating in politics in the country.

Overall in the region, 42 % of EU actors reported that project results included sex-disaggregated data, and 34 % reported that results were partially sex-disaggregated. A tiny percentage said it was too soon to say for projects begun in 2018. There was little difference between delegations and member states – 44 % of EU Delegations and 43 % of EU Member States reported sex-disaggregated results, while 44 % and 23 %, respectively reported partially disaggregated results.

## Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality

Research actions on gender-related issues accounted for 5 % of all actions reported in East and Southern Africa. Another 11 % included a research component. As in the case of sex-disaggregated data, there was little difference between EU actors' responses. While EU Delegations reported that 5 % of actions were research actions, and 10 % contained a research component, EU Member States reported 4 % and 12 %, respectively.

For all EU actors in the region, 56 % of actions contributed to improved quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data or gender-specific statistics, 30 % did not, and no information was available on others. While 64 % of EU Delegation-supported actions contributed to more and better quality data and statistics, this was true for 47 % of EU Member State-supported actions.

In 21 countries in the region (91 %), gender coordination mechanisms included (international) actors working locally, an increase from 17 % in 2017. International actors include UN agencies, such as UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Canada, and international non-governmental organisations in some countries, such as Kenya, Eswatini and South Africa.

Of all EU-supported actions in the region in 2018, 19 % directly supported national gender equality machineries (NGEM), an increase from 15 % in 2017. The proportion of EU Member States' actions was slightly higher (22 %) than EU Delegations' actions (17 %).

Overall, 30 % of actions involved work with national gender equality machineries, ranging from 33 % of EU Delegations' actions and 26 % of EU Member States' actions. In 2017, the overall figure was 21 %. Countries where EU Delegations worked with national gender equality machineries included Angola, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and, to a lesser extent, Somalia. Among EU Member States, three countries stand out – Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden,

Slightly under half (44 %) of all actions raised awareness on gender issues among local and national media stakeholders in partner countries, compared to 32 % in 2017. Awareness raising dimensions were included in 54 % of actions by EU Delegations and 32 % of those by EU Member States.

## West and Central Africa

### Overview of progress in 2018

In 2018, reports on progress made on the GAP II's horizontal 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority were received from 22 EU Delegations<sup>43</sup> to all of the countries in West and Central Africa. However, no submission received from the EU Delegation to the Central African Republic. 53 submissions were received from EU Member States across 19 countries in the region. Some Member States reported for more than one country, and the number of Member States that reported varied across countries in the region. EU Member States based in Mali submitted the highest number of reports, followed by those based in Burkina Faso. Overall, reports were received from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.<sup>44</sup>

The figure below indicates the overall performance of EU Delegations in partner countries in West and Central Africa, in terms of the GAP II's minimum standards of performance. This data is derived from the 2018 External Assistance Management Report (EAMR). Overall, performance as measured by the GAP II's minimum standards of performance was strong in 2018. The selection of GAP II objectives to be prioritised at the country level has yet to be undertaken in Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal. The collection and use of quality sex-disaggregated data has yet to be achieved in the Republic of the Congo. Compared with 2017, information from Ghana, Benin and

43 The countries covered by the reports of the EU Delegations in the region were: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, ECCAS, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Togo.

44 The countries covered by the reports of EU Member States in the region were: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

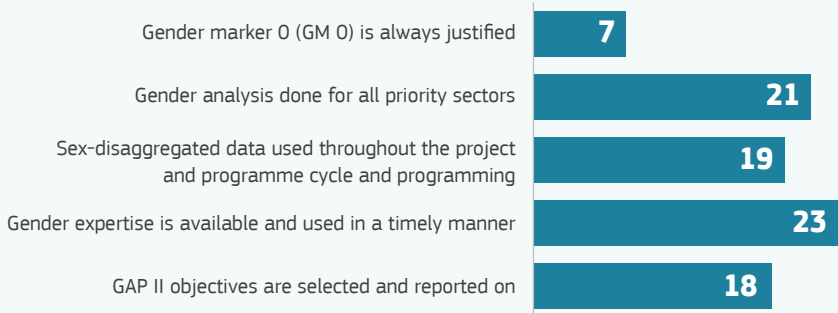
Cape Verde for 2018 reveals that these EU Delegations continue to face challenges in terms of complying with the performance standard on the use of quality sex-disaggregated data.

Overall, few justifications were provided when actions scored 'GO' using the OECD gender marker. In some cases, this standard could not be adhered to since no new actions scored 'GO' and, therefore, no justification was needed. This was the case for nine EU Delegations in 2018. Reports by the remaining EU Delegations indicate that many do not clearly understand what a justification for actions marked 'GO' means. Further efforts are required to clarify the meaning of this performance standard across EU Delegations in the region, and to bolster understandings of how applying OECD gender marker criteria can improve the quality of EU actions.

Annex 2 Figure 5:

### West and Central Africa

EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)

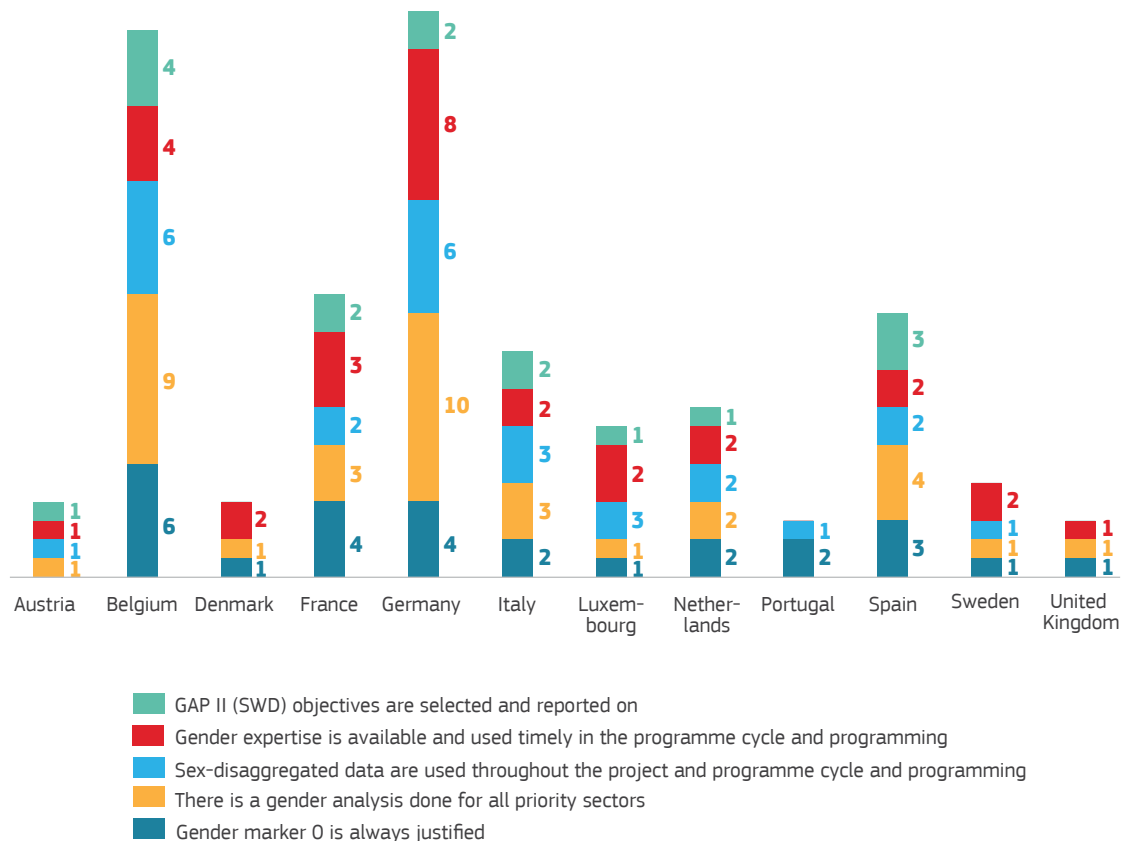


The following figure is based on the self-assessment by each EU Member State's embassy or bilateral cooperation agency based in West and Central Africa, which submitted a report for 2018. It reveals how many of the reporting entities confirmed that they fulfilled the GAP II's minimum performance standards.

Annex 2 Figure 6:

## West and Central Africa

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

In 2018, at least 334 political and policy dialogues were reported across almost all countries in West and Central Africa. Of these, 154 were reported by EU Delegations and 189 by EU Member States. The actual number of dialogues was higher, as some reports mentioned dialogues without specifying the events during which they were held. The greatest number of dialogues in the region were held by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Senegal (50 dialogues), the Embassy of France in Niger (50), the Embassy of Sweden in Nigeria (20) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development in Mali (12). EU Delegations which reported the greatest number of dialogues were the Delegations to Niger (45), Mali (24), Guinea (15), Senegal (15), and Cape Verde (14).

Very few EU Delegations in the region did not engage in political dialogue due to country-specific conditions, such as Rwanda's chairing the African Union in 2018. Some EU Member States estimated the number of dialogues which they engaged in. Others indicated that, in line with their policy commitments, gender issues were raised consistently at every opportunity. It is important to note that, not all dialogues are systematically recorded or counted, which makes it difficult to reporting on their total number. Even in the case of Burundi, where dialogues were not possible due to the current state of EU-Burundi relations (pursuant to article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement), two conferences on gender issues were held on specific occasions. Moreover, a theatre group was engaged to perform in different parts of the country on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

No political dialogues were held in 2018 in Côte d'Ivoire, pursuant to article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. Nevertheless, sectoral dialogues were often led by the EU Delegation's Head of Cooperation or Team Leader, in the presence of programme officers. Partner countries were often represented by Ministers, Cabinet Directors or Central Directors. During the lunch to celebrate International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at the EU Residence,

the Head of the Political Section spoke of the urgent need to combat gender-based violence with the Minister for Women, the Minister Counsellor of the President of the Republic on gender, as well as other cultural actors, civil society and private sector representatives.

During the policy and political dialogues reported in the region, the gender dimensions of a range of issues were discussed. These included human rights (55 dialogues), sexual and reproductive health and rights (51), poverty and health (40), education (39), decent work (38), democracy (37), governance (36), agriculture, fisheries and food (34), the rule of law, the environment, climate change, resilience and disaster risk reduction (33), security, conflict prevention, and migration (30), social protection (27), energy and water, sanitation and hygiene (23), trafficking (22) and public administration reform (20). Sectors with respect to which gender dimensions were less frequently discussed included transport, infrastructure and communications, trade and public finance management.

All 22 reporting EU Delegations included violence against women and girls and gender-based violence in their dialogues. Moreover, 12 addressed gender-responsive budgeting, while 11 discussed the women, peace and security agenda. Of the 53 EU Member State embassies and agencies that reported, 43 addressed VAWG and GBV in their dialogues with partner countries. Moreover, 14 discussed gender-responsive budgeting, and 26 addressed the women, peace and security agenda.

The EU Delegation to Cape Verde established gender equality and women's empowerment issues as one of three indicators in the budget support dialogue with the Government. This was made possible by the Mid-Term Review (2017), which provided additional funding of EUR 10 million. Through this instrument, the EU was able to carry out interventions across all three of the GAP II's thematic priorities. The aforementioned gender indicator includes the implementation of the country's law against gender-based violence, the implementation of the National Care Plan, and the submission of the law on parity to Parliament. This involved high level engagement at the ambassadorial and ministerial level, as well as engagement at the technical level. In line with GAP II objective 17 on women's participation in political processes and governance, the EU Delegation supported gender-responsive budgeting between 2015 and 2017. One notable development in the country was the fact that its 2018 state budget law included a chapter on gender-responsive budgeting, with projects already marked with a specific gender marker. The EU Delegation also engaged in a national dialogue on the labour rights of domestic workers. The high-level mission to Praia in February, led by the former Prime Minister of Spain, Rodríguez Zapatero, and members of the Club de Madrid, raised the rights of domestic workers with Cape Verde's President, Ministers and members of parliament. A campaign and multi-actor action plan were developed for public institutions responsible for social security, labour administration, labour inspection and civil society. These focused on formalising and regulating domestic work. The EU's actions in the country also directly supported the creation of Cape Verde's first Domestic Workers Association.

EU Delegation to Cameroon reported a number of dialogues at different levels, including a statement by the Head of Delegation at the signing ceremony for eight new contracts. Other notable occasions were a presentation during a meeting of the inter-ministerial committee on nutrition, and the steering committee of a migration project. A letter was also sent to the Ministry of Finance to encourage the inclusion of gender equality issues in Cameroon's national strategy for the rural sector, linked to EU budget support for rural development.

In Guinea, two flagship events were held in 2018. One commemorated International Women's Day with the theme, 'The time has come: rural and urban activists are transforming women's lives'. The second marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These activities were co-organised with EU Member States to maximise their impact in terms of visibility and communication.

The EU Delegation to Mauritania engaged in dialogues across a range of sectors, including the health sector, within the framework of the steering committee of the National Health Development Programme and the health sector group. Dialogues with the Government supported the inclusion of gender equality issues in the Ministry of Health's budget at the central and decentralised levels. The EU Delegation played a leading role in facilitating such dialogue. The health programme of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund – which aims to make a strong contribution to maternal and child health – was the initiative that most markedly integrated gender issues. A programme to care for women survivors of sexual violence, funded by the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights, was part of this dynamic.

Dialogue involving gender coordination groups was organised with other non-European cooperation partners. For example, Spain reported that the gender thematic group for all technical and financial partners in Senegal – led by Canada and UN Women – met with the Ministry of Women, Family and Gender to discuss priorities for political and policy dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment. Four areas of advocacy for political dialogue were presented, namely strengthening the statistical system, especially with regard to gender-based violence; the

institutionalisation of gender mainstreaming; supporting sexual and reproductive health; and the harmonisation and application of non-discriminatory norms. The Minister added women's economic empowerment to this proposed list.

In Senegal, Italy also reported a number of important results following policy and political dialogues. These included the elaboration of a gender budgeting strategy for ministerial programmes, as well as efforts to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation processes of the statistical national system for gender data. Moreover, gender indicators were included in the 'Plan for an Emerging Senegal', and gender was included as a cross-cutting issue in all policy reforms.

The EU Delegation to Sierra Leone integrated selected GAP II objectives into the agenda of political dialogues with President Maada Bio in October 2018, as well as the President's visit to Brussels in November 2018. This resulted in a number of important commitments concerning the implementation of the 'National Teenage Pregnancy and Child Marriage Reduction Strategy'. They also involve commitments to implementing the Election Observation Mission's recommendations, which specifically call for action to ensure women's equal participation in politics and elections. The EU also requested a revision of the ban on pregnant girls' school attendance, and encouraged further positive steps to reduce female genital mutilation. The EU stood ready to work with the Government to ensure an end to FGM in Sierra Leone. For the first time, the Government was open to discussing this issue, and FGM was mentioned in the draft National Development Plan.

## **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

In 2018, senior gender champions were reported in nine countries in the region – Burkina Faso, Ghana, Cape Verde, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. This is a significant increase from four champions in 2017. Reports for 2018 reflect improved understandings of the role that senior gender champions can play in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in partner countries.

In Liberia, the Ambassador of Sweden informally served as a senior gender champion, although no formal nomination took place. In this capacity, the Ambassador engaged in general and specific political dialogues related to gender, hosted specific events concerning gender equality issues, and represented Sweden's feminist foreign policy alongside the EU agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment. Similarly, in Niger, several EU Ambassadors were informal champions. In Burkina Faso, the gender coordination group nominated the Head of Cooperation of Austria as a gender champion. In Senegal, the process of formally nominating a champion is due to be initiated.

In Nigeria, a senior gender champion was selected at a meeting of Heads of Missions. The champion was instrumental in raising awareness of the EU's work on gender equality, both directly and in cooperation with international organisations and local NGOs. The champion also facilitated collaboration with UN agencies, participated as a speaker at a number of events, and undertook advocacy on legal reform. Speaking engagements had particularly positive effects in terms of enhancing the visibility of the EU's work, while facilitating networking with individual activists, opinion-shapers, and civil society representatives that specialise in gender equality.

In 2018, mechanisms to consult external senior expertise on strategic and ad hoc gender issues were reported in 10 countries in West and Central Africa. These were Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. In some instances, mechanisms corresponded with gender coordination groups, which were part of technical and financial partners groups. In Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Senegal and Ghana the existing platforms of technical and financial partners were used, many of which include non-EU actors.

In Rwanda, for instance, the National Gender Coordination mechanism was the largest forum that draws together stakeholders to discuss gender issues. In this context, senior expertise was usually provided by the Gender Monitoring Office. However, for strategic documents such as sector gender profiles, consultants with gender and sector-specific expertise were recruited. The EU Delegation to Senegal used the Technical Cooperation Facility to engage gender expertise. This was done alongside other highly engaged technical and financial partners, such as Italy – the head of the G15 and of the European thematic group – and Canada, the leader of the thematic gender group. Moreover, a community of practice (CoP) on gender-based violence in Sierra Leone met every month. While the CoP's members are largely civil society organisations, the community also includes international non-governmental organisations, international donors and UN agencies. These members have established links with a range of national commissions with mandates related to gender equality. Throughout 2018, the CoP was also an important forum for the exchange of information, and the sharing and discussion of academic reports.



In Côte d'Ivoire, the technical and financial partners' gender group invited international NGOs and local civil society to participate as required. This contributed to strengthening coordination between the partners, while gathering data on the situation on the ground. In Togo, the ProCEMA project informally acted as a gender coordination group since January 2018, involving the participation of representatives of each EU Member State or their cooperation agencies. A range of issues were regularly discussed with the Ministry of Social Action, Women and Literacy (*Ministère de l'Action Sociale de la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Alphabétisation*) (MASPFA), the largest national network for the promotion of women, as well as members of the University of Lomé. Key issues discussed included the national policy on gender equality and equity, the promotion of the gender law and a specific law on gender-based violence, and women's participation in local governance. The partners also addressed ways of promoting women candidates in the forthcoming elections and sensitising opinion leaders on gender equality, including with regard to harmful traditional practices. In Burkina Faso, Germany engaged in an existing platform moderated by the Secrétaire Permanente du Conseil National pour la Promotion du Genre (SP CONAP). There are plans to launch the platform online in the near future, although in 2018, members met informally on a regular basis. In Ghana, the Netherlands obtained gender expertise through the gender sector working group.

In 2018, 16 EU Delegations reported taking corrective actions, specifically the EU Delegations to Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal. Corrective actions were also taken by EU Member States, (reported in 15 separate instances) Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Corrective actions reported in 2018 included relying on gender focal persons for quality control, the quality control of new action documents and providing guidance to results-oriented monitoring missions to systematically draw out gender-related issues. Other corrective measures encompassed the inclusion of gender expertise in evaluation teams, making gender expertise available as needed through the preparation of dedicated contracts, and the collection of results from the annual reports of different actions which were channelled internally to gender focal persons. Reports also indicated that technical support was sought from headquarters in terms of quality control and training, as needed. Some corrective steps were taken within specific projects, for example to increase the number of women participants in EU-funded actions. Corrective actions also concerned measures to promote gender equality among staff, supporting women's career advancement and efforts to improve the balance of professional and personal life.

In Guinea, for instance, the EU Delegation urged consultants who conducted results-oriented monitoring missions to focus on gender issues, emphasised the need to consider gender dimensions in scheduled evaluations and systematically carried out quality control for gender in the design of action documents. In order to increase the availability of sex-disaggregated data, the delegation focused on raising awareness among operational and project units regarding the importance of a gender perspective. This was regularly raised during meetings, as well as in the transmission of notes and letters to the national authorising office at the Ministry of Finance and project units. Regular monitoring of gender issues was also conducted by managers and the gender focal person.

The EU Delegation to Mali prepared a framework evaluation contract which integrated gender expertise for all projects, with a focus on those in hard-to-reach areas. In Chad, the EU Delegation ensured that a gender expert was available to review the logical frameworks of ongoing European Development Fund initiatives. This followed by recommended changes to documents. Moreover, a local consultant was identified, whom the EU Delegation can mobilise on short notice, as needed.

In Liberia, the EU Delegation made specific outreach efforts to encourage more women applicants to apply for scholarship programmes, while putting measures in place to prevent sexual harassment.

The German development agency (GIZ) provided women employees in Burkina Faso with specific coaching to facilitate their career progression. Both women and men staff members are allowed to travel for work with their child up to the age of 2 years old, with improved per diems (50 %). In Benin, GIZ conducted two advanced training courses in 2018 on gender-sensitive project management and gender-sensitive budgeting. As an internal control mechanism, GIZ's safeguards and gender management system was publicised and two new sectoral gender analyses were initiated. Each new project must undertake a gender analysis to ensure that gender issues are fully considered in programme planning and programme implementation. At least one programme indicator must be gender-relevant.

Sweden required that all project proposals under the Mali Climate Fund specified how they planned to work on gender integration, deal with existing cultural barriers, encourage women to get engaged, have a policy impact and ensure a sustainable, lasting impact by the end of the project. Gender integration received more weight than other factors in the project selection process, with 11 out of the 40 points assigned to general criteria given over to

gender integration. An examination of the proposals received revealed that the measures had the desired impact on ensuring strong gender integration. For the UN Trust Fund for Peace and Security in Mali, a baseline study was drafted, based on which a gender action plan will be developed. In Niger, as part of the Inner Delta Development Programme (PDD DIN II), Sweden revised the gender strategy of the first phase of the programme. Based on an analysis of how well the gender strategy was considered in the programme document for phase II, clear inputs were provided on how to strengthen gender mainstreaming and women's economic empowerment for this second phase of the programme. Inputs particularly concerned the results framework. In addition, the logical framework was reviewed and the programme team received training on gender mainstreaming, sex-disaggregated data collection and gender-specific indicators. In the context of the Decentralised Forests Management Programme (GEDEFOR), the steering committee recommended affirmative action to boost women's participation in training, involving letters of invitation to training courses. Within six months, women's representation increased from 14 % of trainees to 18 %.

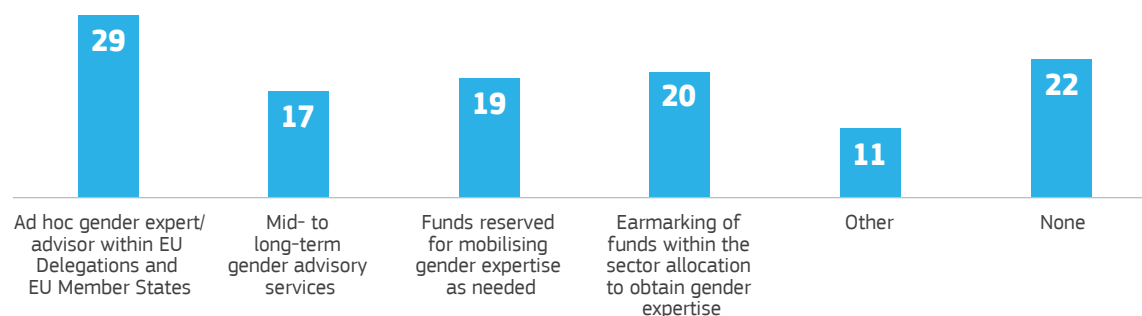
Following discussions between staff members and management, the EU Delegation to Nigeria created a 'parent room' to cater for nursing mothers and staff with young children. The parental policy was updated to include longer maternity and paternity leave, above the national standard. Furthermore, a workplace sexual harassment reporting system was implemented.

### Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments

Annex 2 Figure 7:

#### West and Central Africa

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



Several measures were reported in the region to ensure that resources were available to meet commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. A number of EU Delegations indicated that their gender focal persons played a key role in this regard. Reports also highlighted that training was provided for staff on operational issues, and awareness raising drives and campaigns were spearheaded.

In Rwanda, the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) signed a framework contract for gender expertise, ensuring that expertise will be available during the implementation of every programme and project. The contract met strategic needs related to policy issues, as well as operational needs by signing a contract with the Rwanda Accuracy Development Consult firm. Moreover, to facilitate capacity building, a framework contract was signed with the Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC).

In Mali, Denmark funded a gender expert seconded to UNPFA to work on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Sweden also reported putting mechanisms and structures in place across the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) – in Mali and across the region – to assist embassies in working on gender. In addition to assigning gender focal persons, a gender network was created, gender advisers were assigned within the department responsible for Africa, a gender helpdesk was established, and a framework agreement for gender equality was elaborated.

In Senegal and across the region, France reported that gender focal persons in embassies and the offices of the Agence française pour le développement (AFD) significantly contributed to championing gender equality. These gender focal persons worked to ensure that gender was part of their embassy's political agenda and work plan,

mobilised all embassy services to facilitate the institutionalisation of gender in projects, mobilised funding for gender-related projects and attended internal or external meetings concerning gender and the status of women. France's gender focal persons also benefitted from training provided by their respective ministries.

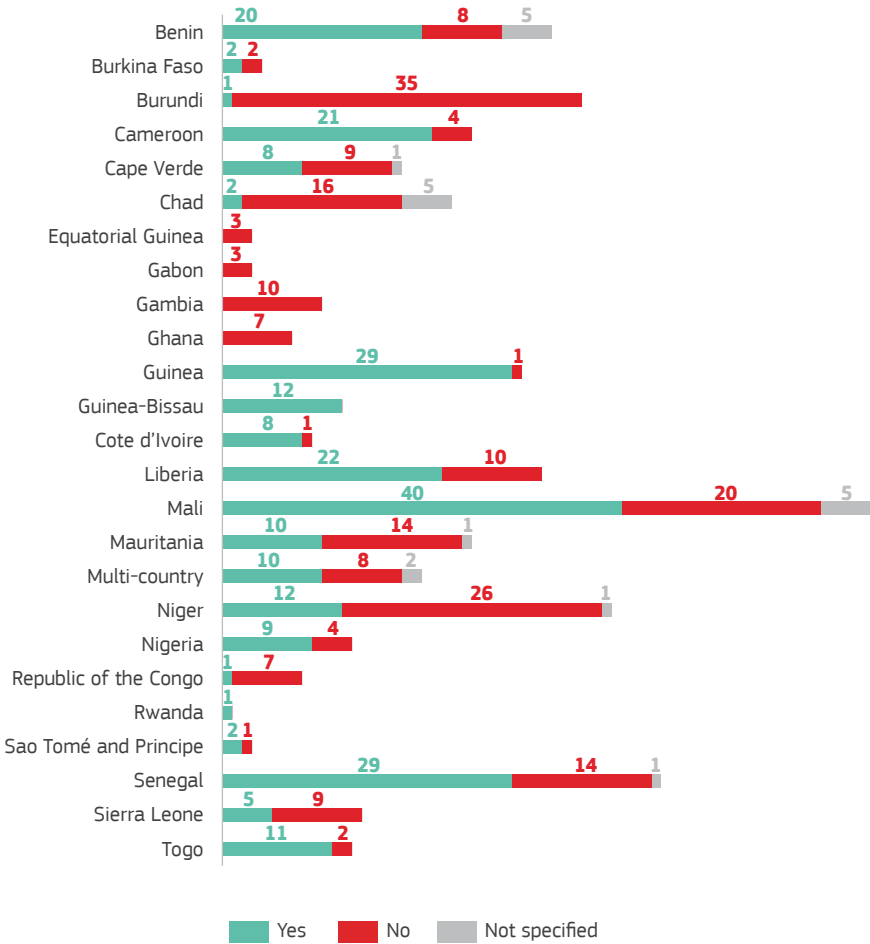
**Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making**

Overall in 2018, 52 % of reported actions in the region were informed by gender analysis – specifically, 256 of 490 actions. This reflects a significant increase from 42 % in 2017. Among EU Delegations, 38 % of actions were formulated using gender analysis, compared to 33 % in 2017. The figure for EU Member States was 72 % in 2018, up from 50 % in 2017.

The EU Delegation to Côte d'Ivoire reported on the added value of conducting a gender analysis and elaborating a call for proposals on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, as well as violence against women. These proved useful opportunities for dialogue with government departments, technical and financial partners, and civil society.

Annex 2 Figure 8:

**West and Central Africa**  
Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



EU Delegations indicated that a gender analysis was not always undertaken specifically for new actions. In some instances in Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mauritania, information was taken from existing country gender profiles. In Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, a gender impact study or situation analysis was conducted during the formulation of actions. Gender analysis was part of the formulation of actions, and of the situation analysis, in Cape Verde, Mali and Nigeria. While a needs analysis was conducted at

the level of each beneficiary group or organisation supported in Guinea, the gender-related results of an evaluation from a previous project phase was in Liberia. In certain cases, in Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria, gender analysis was carried out by implementing partners.

Country gender analyses in the region played a role in pushing for the inclusion of specific objectives and actions that responded to identified gender equality issues. Guidelines for calls for proposals were also informed by different sources of information that provided a gender-sensitive analysis of local contexts. In Benin, reports highlighted sectoral dialogue within existing programmes as a means of introducing an analytical approach to gender equality issues in specific sectors or areas.

EU Member States reported that gender analysis was used in multiple ways to inform the formulation of actions. In some instances, France and Spain engaged in general reflection on the ways in which all actions can reduce gender inequalities. France, Spain and Sweden reported tailor-made gender analysis undertaken for specific actions. Gender analysis was part of the situation analysis undertaken during the formulation of actions by Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden. France and Italy also reported using existing country gender profiles in certain cases, as well as engaging in an analysis of existing sector-specific data. Gender analysis was generated by implementing partners working with Spain and Sweden, while sector-specific or thematic analyses were reported by France and Spain. Both Italy and Sweden noted that analyses were undertaken of previous projects, or earlier phases of a project. Germany reported that gender experts were included in a formulation mission, while Denmark noted that gender analysis was included as part of overall country programming.

EU Member States' reports reveal that 94 actions integrated the results of consultations with national gender equality mechanisms and civil society organisations, as did 87 actions reported by EU Delegations. The results of consultations were drawn from the work undertaken for situation analyses, existing gender analyses – such as country gender profiles – and specifically organised events.

### **Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress**

In 2018, a total of 73 monitoring missions were reported in West and Central Africa. Of these, 43 monitoring missions were carried out by EU Delegations in 16 partner countries, and 30 missions were conducted by nine EU Member States in 11 partner countries.

The recommendations of these missions for EU Delegations included disaggregating data by sex in Guinea and Nigeria, including more women in the action in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Mali, and encouraging women's equal representation in decision-making in EU-supported actions in Guinea. In Chad, Mali and Nigeria, the missions recommended using gender analysis to fine tune activities. In Chad, the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned from actions was recommended. Recommendations also called for the inclusion of gender indicators in Guinea-Bissau and Rwanda, as well as developing a work plan for gender equality in Guinea-Bissau.

For EU Member States, monitoring missions recommended the preparation of a gender analysis and the inclusion of activities concerning gender-based violence, specifically for initiatives supported by Germany. For France, the use of GAP II indicators in projects was recommended, as was the disaggregation of data by sex for Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain. For Italy, the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned from actions was also recommended.

Monitoring missions in 2018 identified several positive examples of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. For example, the EU Delegation to Gabon reported strong results in terms of women's training in consultancy services and entrepreneurship through the regional Industrial Restructuring and Upgrading Programme for Central Africa (*Programme de Restructuration et de Mise à Niveau*) (PRMN).

The EU Delegation to Côte d'Ivoire systematically required that results-oriented monitoring mission experts pay particular attention to the way in which actions contributed to gender equality, providing specific guidance in this regard. The delegation sought to improve the quality of gender mainstreaming within new actions, specifying that these should include gender indicators as far as possible. In May 2018, the Head of Cooperation set up a small group responsible for ensuring that gender is adequately taken into account in the formulation of new actions. The EU Delegation's gender focal person was part of this group.

EU Delegation to Mali used recommendations to inform the 'Support peace agreements through economic regeneration and assistance for local authorities in Northern Mali' (RELAC II) project. Recommendations were integrated into the project's next phase, so as to take into account beneficiaries' contributions to project financing

and establishing strategies for linking project promoters with the private sector. The overall aim of these efforts was to create opportunities for women and young people, with a view to counteracting their exploitation by extremist groups or drug traffickers.

According to the EU Delegation to Nigeria, recommendations on the need to mainstream gender and disaggregate data by sex had a major impact in 2018. In line with these recommendations, projects were revised. As a result, a project on elections contributed to a key decision by the electoral management body to allow priority voting for pregnant women, nursing mothers and people living with disabilities.

EU Delegation to Senegal noted that frequent gender-related recommendations sensitised and encouraged project implementers and project managers within the delegation to pay concrete attention to gender issues. In southern Senegal, Italy reported a joint mission regarding gender and agricultural programmes. This mission included government representatives from the Ministry of Women, Family and Gender, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment, alongside Italian cooperation representatives, gender experts, the local project team, a journalist and a photographer. The mission focused on creating synergies between different agricultural programmes and the project to support Senegal's national strategy on gender equity and equality (*Projet d'Appui à la Stratégie Nationale pour l'Équité et l'Égalité de Genre*) (PASNEEG). In tandem, the mission centred on developing strategic coherence across interventions, sharing good practices on gender equality, and promoting Italian cooperation activities across regions, with a focus on gender-related activities. In addition, the mission sought to create synergies and facilitate networking between community actors, local gender committees and legal advice centres for women. Another focus was creating training and sensitisation activities for local gender committees on gender-based violence. The mission's four key recommendations were the need to promote greater coherence and cross-sectoral communication to, the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data across programmes, the exchange of good practices, and strengthening the collection and accessibility of gender-related data.

Overall in 2018, 322 actions in the region used sex-disaggregated data for reporting results, including 161 actions by EU Delegations and 161 by EU Member States. Of these actions, 183 partially used sex-disaggregated data. Closer inspection reveals that 63 % of EU Member States' actions reported results using sex-disaggregated data. The figure for EU Delegations was 50 %.

### **Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality**

In Chad and Niger, EU Delegations and EU Member States reported that gender coordination mechanisms were not yet in place in 2018. Nevertheless, in Niger gender equality was frequently included on the agenda of meetings in which EU Heads of Cooperation participated. In the context of specific projects, ad hoc collaboration was reported with specialised partners, such as UN Women, Oxfam and Femmes, Action et Développement (FAD). International actors working locally were not engaged in Gabon, the Gambia, Rwanda, Senegal and Sierra Leone. However, despite these exceptions, in all other countries in the region, coordination mechanisms were in place. Throughout 2018, these were used to supporting partner countries to achieve their gender equality and women's empowerment commitments.

Several examples of partnerships between EU actors and other stakeholders were reported in the region. The EU Delegation to Mauritania and France, Germany and Spain developed a national GAP II plan for the 2018-2020 period, based on a gender analysis. Validated with EU Member States in June 2018, the plan aims to ensure greater coherence and coordination between EU actors in aid of gender equality policy commitments.

In Benin, France established avenues for securing gender expertise from local civil society organisations, including the Association Femmes Avocates du Bénin (AFA) – which is associated with the Cotonou Bar Association – as well as the Network for the Integration of Women of Non-Governmental Organisations and African Associations (RIFONGA) and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF).

In Burkina Faso, Denmark engaged in a multi-stakeholder group under the aegis of the Government, which drew together technical and financial partners, national assembly representatives and civil society organisations. This group was specifically established to facilitate the process of revising the country's gender quota law. Several EU actors in the country engaged in discussions on gender-based violence, including the EU Delegation, Denmark, Switzerland and Sweden, alongside UN agencies, such as UNFPA and UNICEF. At the national level, the coalition of organisations against violence against women was especially active. Some EU Member States assisted the revision of the law on violence against women, and the gender quota law. The Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for the Promotion of Gender, which is attached to the Ministry of Women, led the revision process with the support of the Embassy of Denmark.

In Mauritania, Spain engaged in a working group on gender-based violence. Other participants include government officials from the ministries of health, justice, the interior and the family, alongside national and international NGOs, other EU Member States, the EU Delegation and UN agencies. Human rights groups in the country also drew together a range of partners to support civil society efforts to lobby for the promulgation of a law on gender-based violence, which has been rejected three times by the country's parliament.

Similarly, France in Mauritania reported that bringing together CSOs, the government and local authorities alongside the EU Delegation and EU Member States increased the impact of initiatives to promote gender equality. The EU Delegation's coordinating role enabled the presentation of a unified EU position in dialogues with local authorities and other technical and financial partners. Key examples of joint work included the official presentation of the GAP II during the '*Journée de l'Europe 2018*' to the Ministry of Social Affairs. Another example was the creation of a protocol to systemise medical procedures for treatment and care by the Ministry of Health, the result of a project to support survivors of sexual violence funded by the French cooperation and cultural action network (*Service de coopération et d'action culturelle*).

Overall in 2018, 20 % of reported actions in West and Central Africa directly supported national gender equality mechanisms. This marks a slight increase from 19 % in 2017. Countries in which EU Delegations directly supported these mechanisms were Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Senegal. Further support was provided to these mechanisms by several EU Member States, including Belgium in Mali, and France in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. Support was also provided by Germany in Liberia and Mauritania, by Ireland in Liberia, by Italy in Cameroon, Niger and Senegal, by Portugal in Cape Verde, and by Spain in Mauritania and Senegal.

Overall, 157 of the actions reported in 2018 contributed improving the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated and gender specific statistics. Of these, 65 actions were reported by EU Delegations and 92 by EU Member States.

Nearly 36 % of all actions reported in 2018 contributed to building awareness of gender equality-related issues among local and national media stakeholders.

## Asia and the Pacific

### Overview of progress in 2018

In 2018, 18 EU Delegations in the Asia and Pacific region reported on the on the implementation of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority. These were the EU Delegations to Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Fiji and the Pacific Islands<sup>45</sup>, India and Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. In addition, 13 EU Member States reported on their activities in the region – Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.<sup>46</sup>

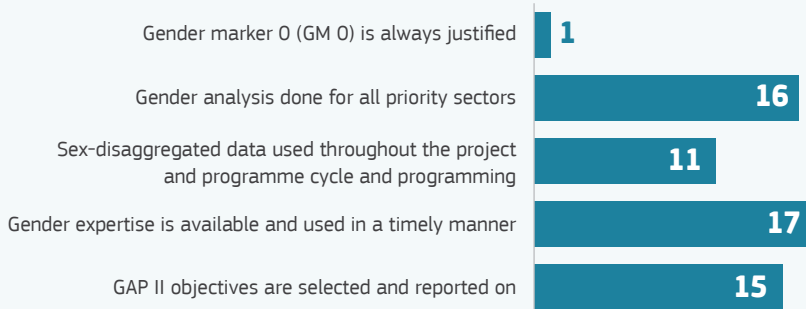
45 The Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and four territories.

46 These EU Member States cover Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Annex 2 Figure 9:

## Asia and the Pacific

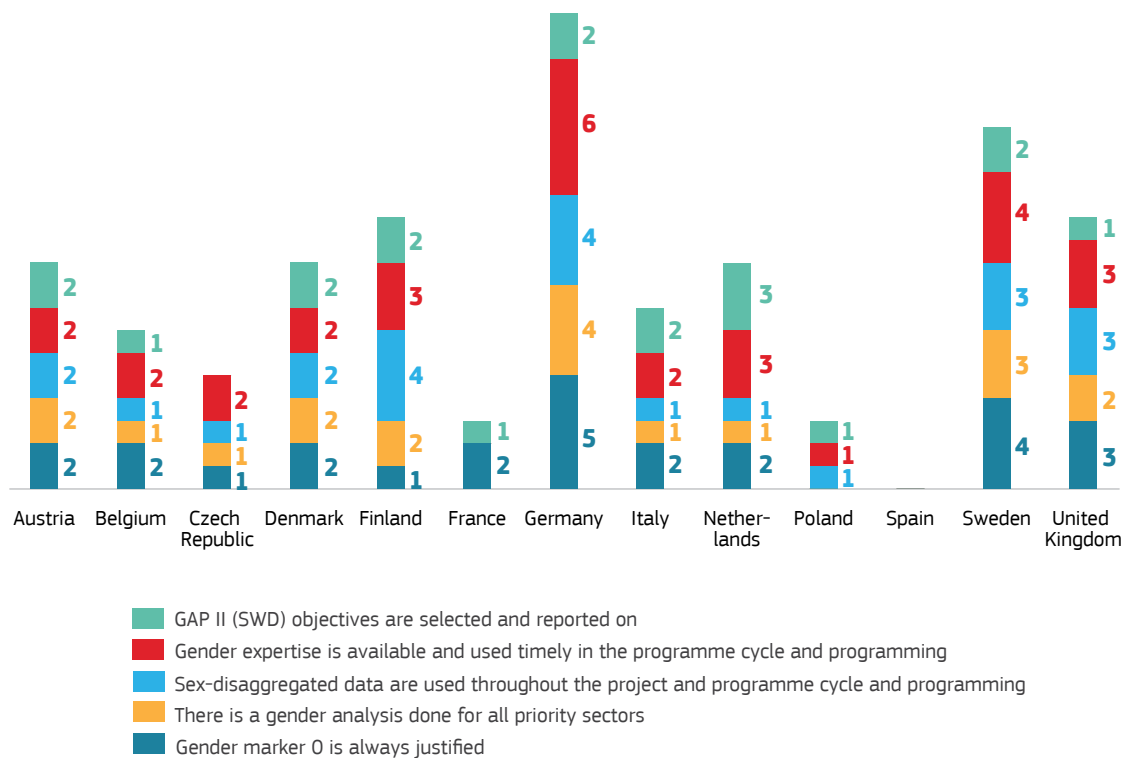
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)



Annex 2 Figure 10:

## Asia and the Pacific

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

EU Delegations and Member States reported discussing gender issues in over 400 political and policy dialogues or events with national authorities and representatives. In 2018, 16 EU Delegations engaged in about 50 % of these dialogues. The most active, accounting for 40 % of all dialogues reported by delegations, was the EU Delegation to Afghanistan (93 dialogues), followed by the EU Delegations to Nepal (35), Myanmar (21) and Cambodia (18). Among EU Member States, Sweden carried out most dialogues in the region, followed by the United Kingdom and Finland.



Many of EU actors reported a number of visibility events and conferences, such as the International Conference on Gender Equality, *'Mulher Forte Nação Forte'*, in Timor-Leste. Campaigns and initiatives were also reported, such as those linked to the International Human Rights Day and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The EU Delegation to Afghanistan was especially active in gender-sensitive policy and political dialogues. Gender equality and women's empowerment issues were on the agenda on several occasions, such as the first meeting of the Special Working Group on Human Rights, Good Governance and Migration; the Kabul Symposium on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, attended by high-level EU officials; and policy dialogues with civil society organisations and local authorities in the context of the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) and the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). Other occasions included bi-monthly meetings with the Displacement and Returnees Executive Committee, meetings with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP), and the agriculture sector working group meeting attended by the Minister of Agriculture.

Topics most frequently discussed by EU actors in the region included human rights, democracy, decent work and employment (over 40 dialogues). These were followed by poverty and national development planning, education, health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, governance, accountability and transparency, the rule of law, social protection and migration (over 30 dialogues). The sectors in which gender issues were not frequently discussed included energy efficiency and sustainable energy, water management and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), transport, infrastructure and communications.

Compared to 2017, there was an increase in the number of EU Member States and EU Delegations who addressed gender equality within sectors where it is least commonly raised in 2018, specifically transport, infrastructure and communications. The gender dimensions of the energy sector and public financial management (PFM) were also discussed more than they were last year.

Within sectoral dialogues, violence against women remained the topic most discussed by EU Delegations (18 Delegations), followed by gender-responsive budgeting (8) and women, peace and security (6). EU Member States also focused on violence and women, peace and security, although they addressed gender-responsive budgeting less frequently. The Embassy of Germany in China promoted discussions on gender equality, women's rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights.

#### *Annex 2 Box 10: High-level meeting in China*

A high-level roundtable dialogue was organised between the EU and China in 2018, on 'Partnerships to promote Gender Equality and Eliminate Violence against Women'. The Deputy Director of China's National Working Committee on Children and Women under State Council (NWCCW) represented the Government of, while European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, represented the EU. The meeting promoted gender equality and women's employment through policies, programmes and partnerships. It also introduced the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.

#### *Annex 2 Box 11: EU-ASEAN Dialogue*

In November 2018, a joint dialogue was held by the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 'Implementing SDG 5: Gender Equality at Work'. The dialogue brought together high-level ASEAN and EU officials to discuss challenges, good practices and evidence-based solutions for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5, particularly related to gender equality in the workplace.

EU Delegations reported several good practices and lesson learned through dialogues in 2018. The EU Delegation to Cambodia highlighted the implementation of the GAP II in the Joint European Second Monitoring Report. As a result, gender was discussed at meetings co-chaired or chaired by EU Ambassadors, with senior government officials, the private sector and civil society organisations. In Fiji, gender equality was included as a cross-cutting priority in the budgetary support programme, 'Support Sustainable Rural Livelihoods'. As gender is being integrated in the policies and strategies of the ministries involved in this programme, regular meetings were held between EU representatives and the ministries of the economy, agriculture and the sugar industry.

In Bhutan, the EU is implementing a budgetary support programme with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, which piloted gender-responsive planning and budgeting initiatives. Following discussions, a gender-sensitive

indicator will be identified for the 'Rural Development and Climate Change Response' budgetary support programme.

In Vietnam, gender equality was regularly raised by European Ambassadors, the Head of the EU Delegation, as well as the heads of the trade, cooperation and political sections, and the political and management team. Key dialogues included bilateral meetings with government officials, ministries and agencies, meetings with local authorities and technical working groups. Gender was a feature of the Joint European Dialogue with the Government and other development partners. It was similarly raised with the private sector and civil society organisations, including gender equality and women's organisations. Two Delegations reported the involvement of their gender focal person. In line with Sweden's 'feminist foreign policy', the Head of Mission and Embassy staff regularly raise gender issues with cooperation partners and stakeholders at all levels. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) organised an informal 'Ambassadors Group on Gender Equality' in Vietnam, which has devised a list of priority actions for advocacy and follow up. The EU Head of Delegation participates in the group, as do UN agencies and several EU Ambassadors, including the Ambassador of the Czech Republic.

In 10 countries in the region, EU Delegations and EU Member States adopted burden-sharing measures (GAP II activity 1.4). In China, this includes the division of labour on policy dialogues and joint programming based on a common country gender analysis. In Afghanistan, it entails a division of responsibilities in terms of engaging with civil society. In most countries, burden-sharing is coordinated by working groups and partners groups, as well as coordination meetings to exchange information and set priorities.

Good practices of burden-sharing related to the GAP II's implementation were reported. In Cambodia, a Joint Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 outlines the division of labour for its implementation. Responsibilities were also divided between EU Member States, with Sweden's Development Counsellor appointed 'lead European partner for gender equality' in development cooperation. A gender analysis of the country context in China supported the coordination of the Gender Equality Working Group's activities, chaired by the EU Delegation and including EU Member State representatives. The EU Delegation to Myanmar worked with Member States to map EU gender actions in the country, enabling the prioritisation of the GAP II's areas of intervention.

In 12 countries in the region, EU representatives led donors' gender coordination mechanisms. EU Delegations led these mechanisms in China, Mongolia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Palau, Thailand, and Vietnam. EU Member States led the mechanisms in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Nepal, and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

## **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

In 2018, 33 gender champions were reported within EU Delegations or EU Member States in Asia and the Pacific, 15 more than in 2017. However, there are far fewer formally appointed champions. They include three Heads of EU Delegations to Indonesia, Malaysia and Nepal. In Thailand, the EU Delegation and Member States jointly selected a gender champion, who was nominated by Heads of Mission. The champion's role is to regularly make statements and draw attention to EU commitments on women's rights, as well as the global obligations which partner countries and EU actors have on gender equality, particularly with respect to SDG 5. The purpose of this appointment is to ensure that the EU communicates a common position regarding gender equality, in line with the GAP II. In China, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom nominated the Consul General as a gender champion to lead bilateral discussions with the All-China Women's Federation, while coordinating the United Kingdom's gender strategy for the media and public events. The champion also worked closely with the Prosperity Minister Counsellor, who oversees Prosperity Programme Funds, and ensured that gender was mainstreamed across official development assistance (ODA) programme activities.

In 18 countries, mechanisms have been established to consult external senior expertise on strategic and ad hoc gender issues. In many instances, these mechanisms are coordination groups on gender – as in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal and the Philippines. These groups provide a space for sharing information and seeking advice. For example, in Vietnam the informal Ambassadors Group and International Development Partners Group on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion are open to academia and civil society. Other types of mechanisms include sharing good practices on gender equality and women's empowerment through exchanges with headquarters, lectures, workshops and talks. In Cambodia, for instance, workshops on gender mainstreaming were organised for programme officers, Heads of Mission and Development Counsellors. Another key mechanism involved hiring a gender expert to provide technical assistance to an Embassy or EU Delegation, as in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Good practices were reported on improving transparency, accountability and delivering results on gender equality. These most frequently involved the appointment of one or more gender focal persons. For example, the EU Delegation to Afghanistan appointed a gender focal person in each of its sections. They also involved the recruitment of gender advisers to mainstream the GAP II into joint European strategies, as in Cambodia. The systematic use of gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators was reported, including for budgetary support, as were firm commitments to meeting the GAP II's minimum requirements in programmes and projects, and the allocation of resources for gender. Other practices involved closely consulting civil society organisations working on gender and including gender as a priority in the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR), civil society organisation and local authorities (CSO-LA) guidelines for applicants. The Embassy of the United Kingdom in Afghanistan arranged regular and ad hoc events to keep abreast of developments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

*Annex 2 Box 12: Gender-sensitive guidelines for applicants in China*

In CSO-LA and EIDHR guidelines for applicants, the EU Delegation to China included the requirement for all proposals to mainstream gender equality. Minimum requirements include:

- the inclusion of a brief gender analysis to inform the action's objectives and selection of indicators;
- an explanation of how the project will address relevant gender equality issues and gaps, as well as how it will impact women and men, girls and boys; and
- ensuring that all project data sex-disaggregated, as far as possible.

Funded proposals must frame gender equality as either a principal or significant objective (OECD gender equality marker 'G1' or 'G2'). This approach is also planned for future blended projects.

*Annex 2 Box 13: Joint European Strategy in Cambodia*

EU actors in Cambodia mainstreamed the GAP II into the Joint European Strategy to systematically monitor its implementation. As such:

- indicators for monitoring the strategy must be sex-disaggregated;
- all new programmes must ensure, when possible, the use of sex-disaggregated data;
- joint policy briefs must include sectoral gender issues to ensure consistent messages between European partners and policy dialogue with the Government;
- the gender focal person should take part in reviewing all new programmes; and
- the evaluation of projects under the CSO-LA call for proposals must assess Logframes based on the use of sex-disaggregated data.

In 2018, 12 EU Delegations took corrective actions to improve performance on gender equality. Frequent actions included gender training and workshops for staff, particularly for gender focal persons, alongside inception trainings for new partners and greater attention to gender-sensitive project and programme monitoring. Other actions involved consulting gender focal persons during the programming phase to ensure gender mainstreaming in all new programmes, the use of gender analysis, and the inclusion of gender issues in the terms of reference for evaluation experts. Resources and staff allocations were made to support the GAP II's implementation, and project activities were revised. The EU Delegation to Myanmar, for example, checked all programmes against the OECD gender marker. Ad hoc, on-demand support on gender was made available to programme managers. Support was provided to mainstream gender in programmatic documents, GAP II objectives were selected as focus areas, and gender analyses were updated by sector.

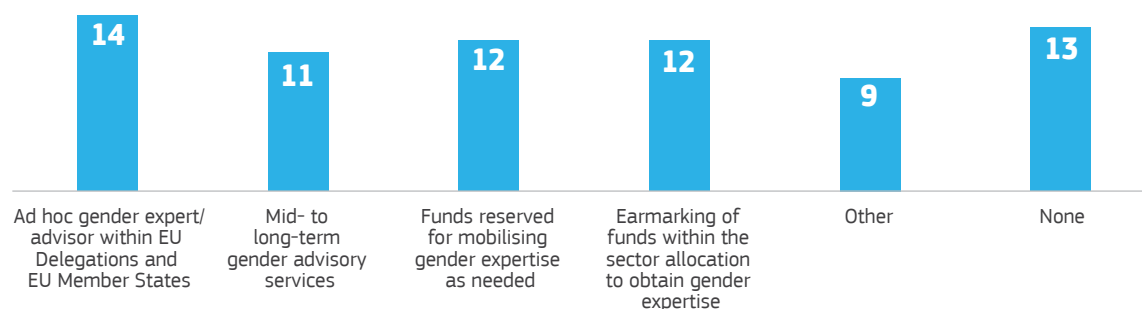
**Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments**

In Asia and the Pacific, 18 EU Delegations and 13 EU Member States put in place measures to ensure high quality gender expertise. Most frequently this involved recruiting ad hoc gender experts (7 EU Delegations), earmarking funds for mobilising gender expertise (7), reserving funds for mobilising gender expertise as needed (6), and mid-to long-term gender advisory services (5).

Annex 2 Figure 11:

## Asia and the Pacific

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



### Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making

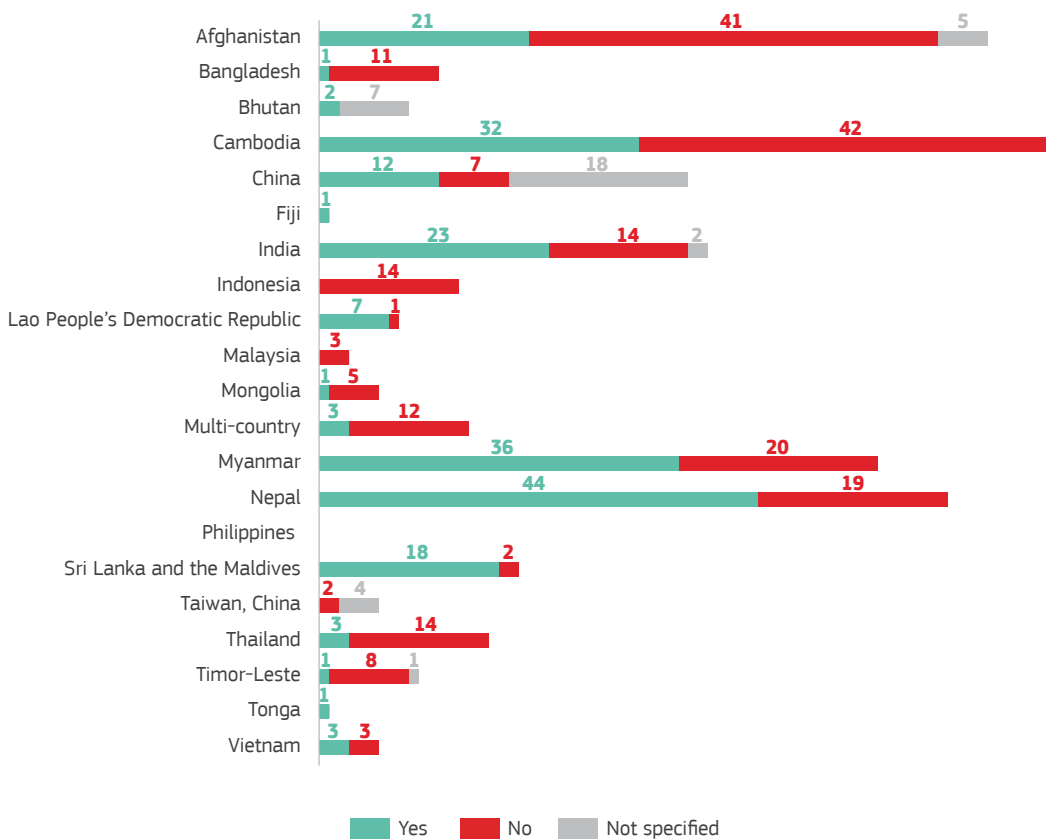
Of 489 actions reported by 17 EU Delegations and 10 EU Member States, 218 (45 %) were formulated using gender analysis – up from 38 % in 2017. Reports do not always specify how such analyses were used. In some instances, gender equality was a programme priority. In others, an action’s design was informed by qualitative and quantitative data, or by partners’ experience and knowledge of gender equality and women’s empowerment. In most cases, results of a gender analysis were integrated at the formulation stage, resulting in gender-sensitive logical frameworks.

Gender analysis was often used to inform programmes whose principal objective was achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment. However, EU actors also reported using gender analysis to mainstream gender in programmes with other main objectives. For instance, gender analysis was part of the formulation of the ‘Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) Support to Police Reform’. This programme planned pre-service and in-service training to create a professional, rights-based and gender-sensitive police service. Gender analysis was also integrated in the ‘Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme’ (PEUMP), as well as in a regional programme on ‘Social and Labour Standards in the Textile and Garment Sector’.

Annex 2 Figure 12:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



Overall, 218 actions (45 %) were informed by the findings of consultations. In some cases, consultations involved civil society organisations – including those working on gender issues – as well as national gender equality mechanisms, gender experts, women's organisation, rights holders and projects beneficiaries.

### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

In 2018, 273 monitoring missions included recommendations on gender mainstreaming in the region, compared to 217 in 2017. In Nepal alone, 58 monitoring missions took place, as did 40 in Thailand. Such missions often assessed actions' impacts on gender equality and women's empowerment, with recommendations on gender mainstreaming emphasised in their reports. Several results-oriented monitoring (ROM) missions called for more and better quality gender mainstreaming in programmes and projects, as well as the systematic use of gender analysis and its integration in actions at all stages. They also recommended the systematic use of gender indicators and sex-disaggregated data, coupled with consulting gender experts, capacity building and awareness raising for implementing partners lacks. Among all actions reported by EU Delegations and EU Member States, 187 used sex-disaggregated data when reporting on all results, while 167 did so 'partially'. Of all actions, 171 improved the quality and availability of sex disaggregated data, as well as gender-specific statistics.

EU Delegations and EU Member States took notable corrective actions. Senior management requested sector-specific gender analysis, measures were taken to ensure the quality control of action documents, and systematic reporting was promoted against the OECD Gender Marker. Similarly, sex-disaggregated data was systematically used and training on gender provided to civil society organisations and project partners. Gender-responsive budgeting was reported in Nepal as a corrective follow-up action. Similarly, the Embassy of Germany strengthened municipalities' institutional capacity for gender-responsive policy, the provision of services, planning and budgeting.

## Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality

EU actors in 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific had gender coordination mechanisms in place in 2018, compared to 14 in 2017. In some cases, these mechanisms engaged international actors working locally. National gender equality mechanisms were involved in 74 actions, particularly in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Moreover, 40 actions directly supported national gender equality mechanisms, principally in Afghanistan.

At least one activity to raise awareness of gender among local and national media stakeholders was undertaken in all countries in the region, with the exception of Japan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Singapore. An upward trend is evident, with 160 actions reported in 2018, compared to 110 in 2017 and 49 in 2016. A small proportion of actions (12) centred on research in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal and the Philippines. Nonetheless, 54 involved gender-related research aspects. This marks an increase from 2017, when 17 actions involved a research component.

## Central Asia

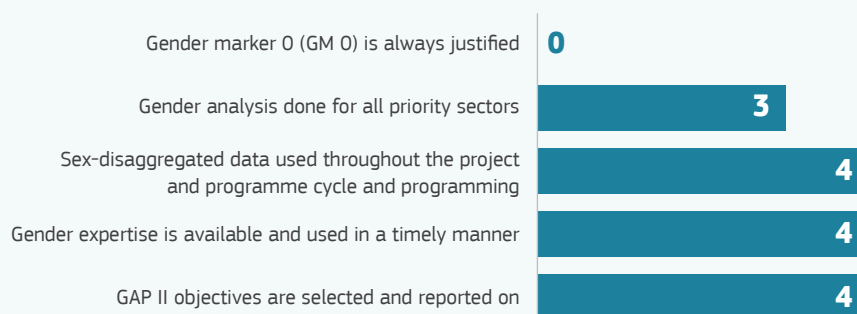
### Overview of progress in 2018

In Central Asia in 2018, four EU Delegations – to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – reported on the implementation of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority. So too did four EU Member States – Belgium, Germany, Latvia and the United Kingdom – active in four Central Asian countries.

Annex 2 Figure 13:

### Central Asia

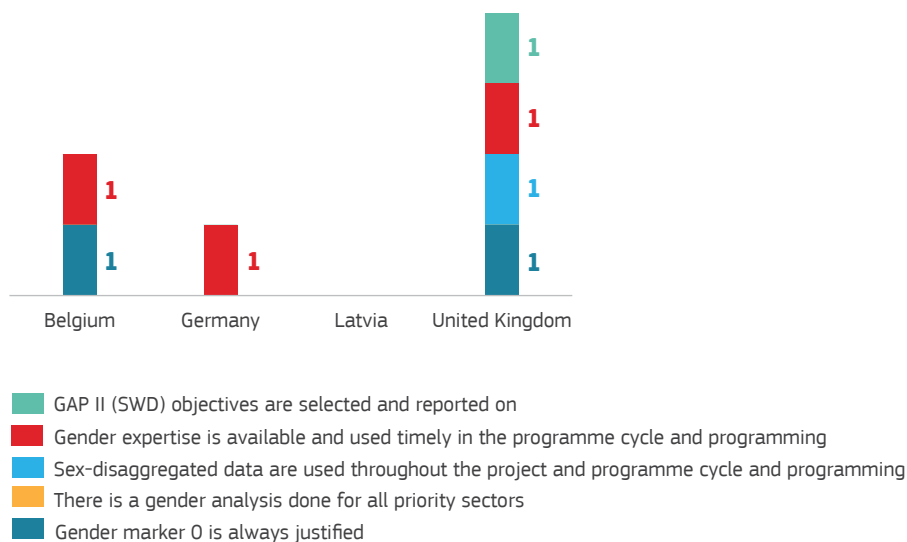
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)



Annex 2 Figure 14:

## Central Asia

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

EU Delegations and EU Member States discussed gender issues during 55 political and policy dialogues in Central Asia. Three EU Delegations – to Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan – carried out 42 of these dialogues. The United Kingdom (12 dialogues) and Germany (1) were the only Member States that discussed gender through dialogues. Most dialogues took place in the framework of on-going and new programmes, workshops, campaigns and conferences, rather than specific structured dialogues with institutions or national governments.

Gender issues were discussed during human rights dialogues in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Uzbekistan was an exception, where discussions on gender were confined to high-level meetings during the 2018 visit of Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission. In 2017, gender issues were discussed at a high-level meeting during the visit of Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

EU actors discussed gender issues related to a wider range of sectors than in 2017. All EU Delegations in the region discussed gender equality during dialogues on democracy, human rights, migration, the rule of law and education. In three dialogues each, gender issues were discussed in relation to poverty and national development planning, trade, decent work and the environment, trafficking, social protection, health, agriculture, and energy. Two dialogues each addressed the sectors of governance, sexual and reproductive health and rights, the environment and climate change. Sectors each discussed at a single dialogue included public administration reform, security and conflict prevention, and transport. Gender was not raised in the dialogues on public financial management, a decline compared to 2017, when it was raised during two such dialogues. However, gender was covered for the first time by in relation to transport, infrastructure and communications.

As with EU Delegations, all EU Member States integrated a gender perspective in dialogues on human rights, and in three out of four cases on the rule of law. Gender issues were not discussed with reference to public financial management, migration, trafficking, water management and water, sanitation and hygiene, agriculture, fisheries, food and nutrition, transport infrastructure and communications, energy efficiency and sustainable energy, the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Within these sectors, violence against women and girls and gender-based violence were the most frequently discussed issues, raised by four EU Delegations and one Member State. This was followed by gender-responsive budgeting, raised by the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, and women, peace and security, raised by one EU Member State in Kyrgyzstan.



In only one country, Tajikistan, the EU Delegation and Member States coordinated on GAP II reporting. No other burden-sharing measures were reported beyond the framework of overall donor coordination. In 2018, EU Delegations and Member States in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan actively participated in gender coordination groups, led by UN Women in both countries. The groups provided a platform for exchanging information, including on the GAP II in Kazakhstan, while supporting the development and approval of a national gender action plan in Kyrgyzstan.

### **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

While no gender champions were appointed in Central Asia in 2017, some progress was reported in 2018. In Kyrgyzstan, the United Kingdom appointed the Deputy Programme Portfolio Manager for Central Asia as a gender champion. In the EU Delegations to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, three staff members and one Ambassador took the lead in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Nonetheless, they were not officially nominated as 'champions'. Three EU Member State Ambassadors – of France, Germany and the United Kingdom – promoted gender equality through their networks.

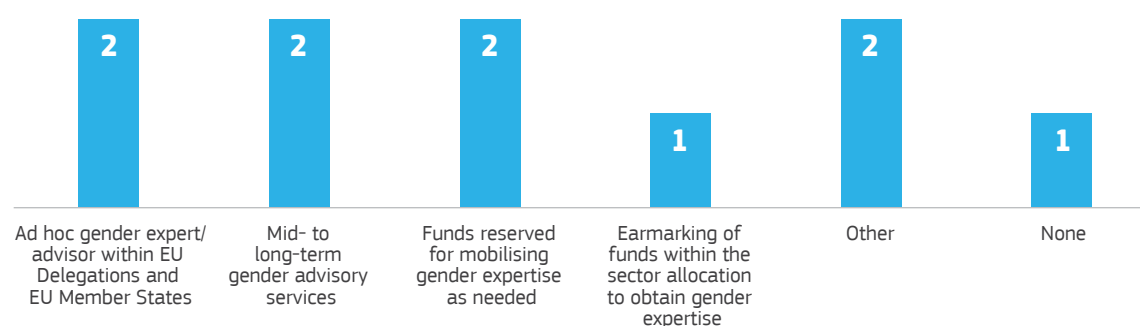
In three countries, an independent, informal group or forum was in place to discuss gender issues. Three EU Delegations in the region reported five good practices related to leadership on gender equality, far fewer than 17 in 2017. Most of these were reported in Kyrgyzstan (3 good practices). These involved aligning Logframes to the EU results framework and GAP II indicators by including gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data, as well as reporting on GAP II objectives based on gender analysis.

Only six corrective measures were reported in 2018, compared to 35 in 2017. These were taken in two countries to improve performance on gender equality. Good practices in terms of corrective measures included revising the Logframes of on-going projects and including GAP II objectives.

Annex 2 Figure 15:

## **Central Asia**

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



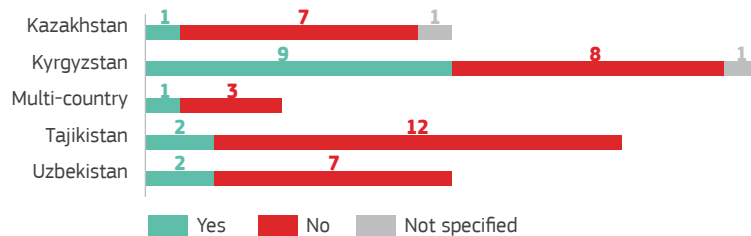
### **Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making**

Four EU Delegations – to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan – and two EU Member States reported that 15 of 54 actions were formulated using gender analysis, compared to 7 of 26 actions in 2017. Gender analysis was conducted for a programme on public health and drug policies in Central Asia, as well as for a rule of law programme in Kyrgyzstan. A regional gender study on Central Asia was also prepared.

Annex 2 Figure 16:

## Central Asia

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



Only eight actions were formulated based on the findings of consultations. These included programmes on ‘Increasing resilience to marginalisation among women and girls in Kyrgyzstan’ and ‘Advancing women’s rights through enhanced protection and self-employment’ in Uzbekistan. Such actions involved consultations with partners, gender experts, National Women’s Committees, women’s business associations and international organisations. The aforementioned gender study on Central Asia was drafted after consultations with UN women, civil society organisations and government institutions.

### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

EU delegations reported seven monitoring missions in four countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – in 2018, compared to 54 missions in 2017. One positive development was the provision of qualitative information on recommendations and follow-up related to gender, which were not provided in previous years. In all four cases, follow-up on monitoring and evaluation missions involved revising Logframes to include gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data. Other follow-up activities included editing the description of action documents to make these more gender-sensitive, coupled with greater cooperation with partners to help implement specific actions of the country’s gender action plan.

Overall, 12 actions reported on results using sex-disaggregated data. Moreover, 21 actions were considered to have improved the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific statistics.

### Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality

The four EU Delegations in Central Asia coordinated with international actors working locally to establish a gender coordination mechanism. One action by the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan involved research on gender-related issues, while another in Tajikistan had a research component. While seven actions directly supported national gender equality mechanisms, another seven involved working with these mechanisms. Of 26 actions which involved awareness raising activities on gender equality with media stakeholders, most were implemented in Kyrgyzstan.

## Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan

In 2018, EU Delegations to Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore, and three EU Member States – Belgium, Poland and Sweden – reported on the implementation of the GAP II’s ‘Institutional Culture Shift’ priority in these five countries.

### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

In 2018, between 10 and 20 policy and political dialogues included discussions of gender issues. The EU Delegation to Australia reported such discussions during the EU-Australia-New Zealand trilateral dialogue on Pacific development issues. In New Zealand, gender was raised during negotiations on the EU-New Zealand free trade agreement (FTA). At the World Assembly of Women (WAW!) W20 event in Japan, the EU Delegation conducted a special session on the use of a gender lens. The EU Delegation to Taiwan supported non-governmental organisations to promote

gender equality education. In Singapore, dialogues were held with local civil society organisations and the EU Delegation continued to provide financial support to local UN Women committee, as it has done since 2016.

While EU actors in Australia discussed gender with reference to human rights and social protection, discussions in New Zealand focused on trade. In Taiwan, Singapore and Japan, gender issues were most often discussed in relation to human rights, decent work and employment, and social protection. These were followed by education, migration, sexual and reproductive health and, security and conflict prevention, and the rule of law. Gender was far less prominent in dialogues on public financial management, trade, public administration reform, governance and democracy. In Taiwan, in addition to discussions of gender and human rights in policy and political dialogues, consultations and follow-up meetings were held, and workshops and seminars planned for 2019. Gender-responsive budgeting was not discussed during any policy and political dialogues by any EU actors in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore or Taiwan .

Officially, there are no EU gender champions in these five countries. Nevertheless, the Head of the Political Section of the EU Delegation to Singapore is a gender focal person.

## Latin America

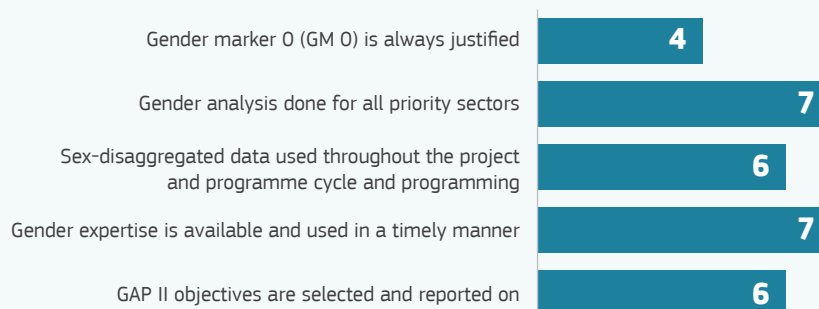
### Overview of progress in 2018

In Latin America, 11 EU Delegations reported on the implementation of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority in 2018 – to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Reports were also submitted by 12 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Check Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Three more EU Delegations reported than in 2017, namely the Delegations to Argentina, Chile, and Guyana and Suriname.

Annex 2 Figure 17:

### Latin America

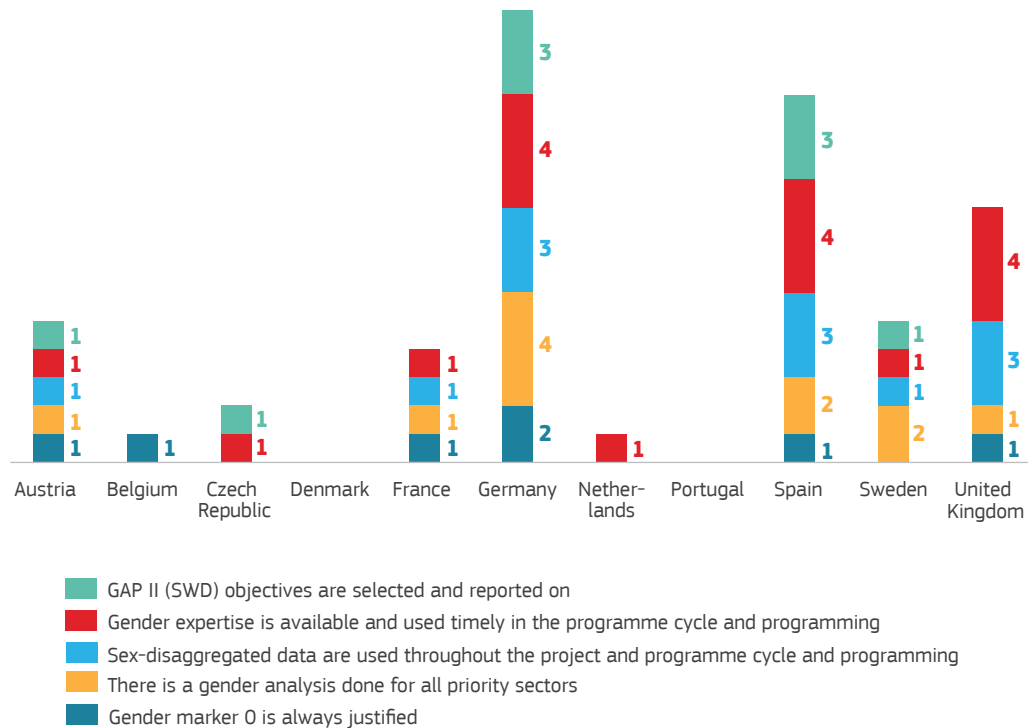
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)



Annex 2 Figure 18:

## Latin America

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

Nine EU Delegations and nine EU Member States introduced gender issues in policy and political dialogues with partner countries. Member States engaged in 102 such dialogues, while EU Delegations conducted more than 110. Only five EU Member States and two EU Delegations reported no gender-sensitive policy or political dialogues. Most dialogues were held by the EU Delegations to Colombia (30 dialogues), Chile and Ecuador. Reported dialogues generally took the form of meetings, speeches, campaign launch events, panel discussions and gatherings of donor coordination groups on gender. High-level dialogues and annual meetings on human rights were reported, as were dialogues with civil society organisations.

Gender issues were most frequently raised by EU Delegations during dialogues on human rights, democracy, While 10 EU Delegations covered gender issues in the sphere of human rights, eight did so with regard to democracy. Seven EU Delegations each discussed gender in relation to the rule of law, governance, accountability and transparency, decent work and employment, trafficking, and social protection. Six did in relation to poverty, national development planning and gender-responsive budgeting, as did five in the context of migration and education. Four EU Delegations raised gender in the sectors of public administration reform (PAR), security, agriculture, fisheries, food and nutrition. Three discussed gender vis-à-vis public finance management (PFM), trade, transport, health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the environment and climate change. Two EU Delegations raised gender issues with respect to the sectors of energy, water management and water, sanitation and hygiene.

The sectors in which EU Member States discussed gender included human rights, poverty and development planning, and education. These were followed by sexual reproductive health and rights, decent work and employment, democracy and social protection. As with EU Delegations, gender issues were less discussed in dialogues on transport and infrastructure, trade and energy efficiency. Within these sectors, EU Member States focused on issues of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence (GBV) far more frequently than EU Delegations. Women, peace and security issues and gender-responsive budgeting were less frequently addressed.

When specified, Policy and political dialogues by EU Delegations were carried out by the Heads of Delegations, Heads of Mission, the heads of the political, cooperation and trade sections, political officers and counsellors, cooperation advisors and programme officers. Only one EU Delegation reported the involvement of the gender focal person. For EU Member States, dialogues were conducted by Heads and Deputy Heads of Mission, the heads of political sections and cooperation coordinators.

In eight Latin American countries, EU Delegations and EU Member States adopted burden-sharing measures (GAP II activity 1.4). These arrangements covered the GAP II's implementation, joint initiatives, analysis and campaigns, information sharing, joint programming, project development and priorities. In Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Venezuela, EU Delegations regularly coordinated with Member States, adopting a fairly formal division of labour on gender issues. In Argentina, the EU Delegation and Member States developed an 'action plan to promote equality between women and men in Argentina'. In Bolivia, the European coordination group coordinated joint programming on gender in the framework of the European Joint Strategy 2017-2020. A bilateral programme on justice was also formulated to pilot joint programming. In Colombia, EU actors actively participated in the EU Gender Group, which enabled thematic coordination. EU actors also coordinated on meetings and dialogues with Colombia's Rural Women's Directorate. In Paraguay, the possibilities for a division of labour were analysed, while EU Member States and the EU Delegation worked on common guidelines on gender issues. In Venezuela, EU actors continued to coordinate on the GAP II's implementation.

In eight partner countries, a donor coordination mechanism was in place in 2018. In Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela, EU Delegations led donor coordination mechanisms. EU Member States led these mechanisms in Bolivia and Peru.

## **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

EU actors nominated nine gender champions in the region – in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Guyana and Suriname. Seven of these champions were nominated within EU Delegations, two each in Brazil, Chile, and Guyana and Suriname, and one in Colombia. Among EU Member States, the Embassy of Portugal in Chile designated two gender champions.

Some EU Delegations without an officially appointed gender champion demonstrated leadership on gender issues. For instance, the Head of the EU Delegation to Paraguay expressed his willingness to assume this role and participated in several events and activities related to gender. In Peru, the Head of EU Delegation and the Ambassadors of the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom actively took part in events on gender equality, although they were not formally appointed champions.

Mechanisms to consult external senior expertise were reported in seven countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. These were reported by four EU Delegations – to Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay – and 10 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Gender aspects were regularly discussed within donor coordination mechanisms and with civil society. In Bolivia, the international donor coordination group and the gender sub-group within the European Joint Strategy held regular meetings on critical gender issues in the country. Civil society organisations were regularly invited, as were women's representatives, academia and think tanks. Some meetings also involved the participation of government institutions and the national gender mechanism. Ecuador's gender roundtable (MEGECI) included representatives of the EU Delegation, EU Member States, the United Nations, government institutions and civil society. International experts were invited to brief the members on specific gender topics every two months. In Peru, the gender coordination mechanism (MESAGEN) invited senior gender experts to specific sessions on a regular basis, who delivered presentations on specific gender equality and women's empowerment issues, challenges and opportunities.

Overall, 45 good practices were reported in the region. In some cases EU actors provided guidance to civil society organisations and project partners on incorporating gender issues in programming; in other commitments to mainstreaming gender in the project cycle and programming were reported, as were efforts to evoke an institutional culture shift, in line with the GAP II. Other good practices included greater commitment to the systematic use of gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data, gender indicators and internal and external gender expertise. Positively, EU actors recognised the importance of the Quality Review Group's process and revisions from the gender team in HQ, the support of the annex on cross-cutting issues in developing an Action Document, as well as the need for gender-sensitivity in recruitment practices.

Six EU Delegations and four EU Member States took specific actions to improve performance on gender equality. Measures included training on gender for grant beneficiaries and engaging with civil society organisations – particularly those working on gender equality and women's rights – to enhance reporting and data collection. In addition to strengthening gender equality strategies, political commitment on gender was sustained. Efforts to mainstream gender in programmes were supported by internal awareness raising, while increasing gender focal persons' involvement in programme development.

*Annex 2 Box 14: Corrective actions to improve the delivery of gender equality results in Colombia*

In 2018, the EU Delegation to Colombia took corrective actions to strengthen the delivery of results on gender equality. First, opportunities were identified for increasing financing on gender, and institutionalising technical assistance to support gender-sensitive decision-making. The cooperation section explicitly integrated budget lines for gender or specific gender components in programming documents. This made the EU's gender agenda in the country more coherent. It also boosted the EU Delegation's capacity to articulate this agenda by using cooperation instruments.

Second, support for the gender focal person increased. Recognising the demands of delivering on gender commitments, measures were taken to redistribute tasks. Responsibility for gender was extended within the EU Delegation by adopting a co-responsibility approach.

Third, an individual format for reporting on the GAP II's implementation was developed at the project level. This overcame the complexity of past reporting procedures, offering a useful tool to gather specific information on the GAP II objectives selected in the country.

Finally, a gender communication and visibility strategy was designed to ensure that results are adequately communicated, opening up spaces for work on gender equality both internally and externally.

**Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments**

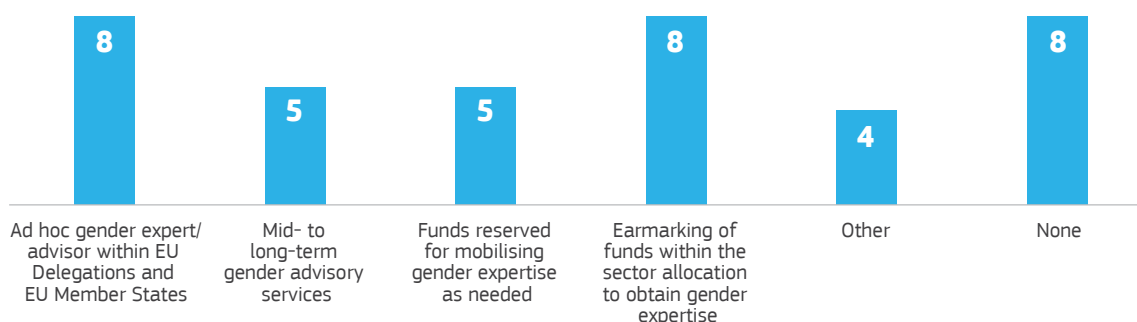
The availability of ad hoc gender expertise was reported by EU Delegations and EU Member States in Latin America, with funds often reserved to mobilise such expertise. Mid- to long-term advisory services were less frequently used. The availability of gender expertise varies from country to country. As in 2017, EU Member States relied more frequently on mid- to long-term gender experts, while EU Delegations tended to recruit experts on an ad hoc basis, as needed for specific programmes and sectoral strategies. For instance, the EU Delegation to Bolivia mobilised short-term support on gender for the formulation of the water and sanitation programme. Staff members were provided with medium-term technical assistance on gender to support strategic government needs, and to mainstream gender into national sectoral strategies for fighting illicit drugs and on product diversification. The EU Delegation to Chile engaged with a wide array of experts, earmarking funds to obtain gender expertise from civil society organisations, academia, the private sector and, through dialogue, from the Government. In Paraguay under the Multiannual Indicative Programme, funds were set aside in the Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2019 to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particular SDG 5 ('gender equality').

When long-term gender expertise was used, this made a difference in the overall quality of EU Delegations' portfolios. The EU Delegation to Colombia was an exception, engaging with gender experts in three ways. First, permanent technical assistance was provided by a gender expert hired in the context of support for the Multiannual Indicative Plan. Second, specific amounts were reserved for gender expertise within budget allocations, planned support measures and other sources of technical assistance. Third, funds were earmarked for gender expertise within sectoral budgets. As a result, gender-specific measures or indicators were included in the framework of the Colombia Trust Fund and the Multiannual Indicative Programme, facilitating the direct allocation of resources during its implementation.

Annex 2 Figure 19:

## Latin America

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



### Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making

In 2018, 138 actions (54 % of the total actions implemented in the region) in Latin America were formulated using a gender analysis – slightly less than 57 % in 2017. All reporting EU Delegations, with the exception of the EU Delegation to Uruguay, used gender analysis to formulate actions. EU Delegations to Colombia and Venezuela were especially notable while among EU Member States, gender analysis informed 30 actions formulated by the Embassy of Spain in Colombia.

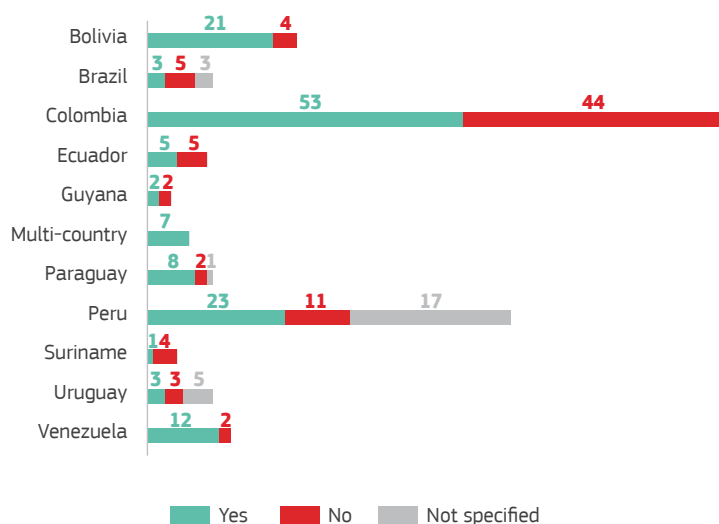
In most cases, EU actors integrated gender analysis in the formulation stage, using gender-sensitive indicators derived from such analysis in Logframes. In other cases, gender analysis was undertaken by an implementing partner or a civil society organisation which participated in an action's call for proposals.

Gender analysis was used to inform several actions on violence against women, women's empowerment, social protection for survivors of violence, sexual and reproductive health, sexual trafficking, femicide, civic participation and elections, and support for civil society organisations. Gender analysis was generally used in the region to design programmes with a strong focus on gender issues.

Annex 2 Figure 20:

## Latin America

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018





In 2018, 106 actions were formulated using the findings of consultations, especially in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. These findings were included in the final drafts of action documents and contributed to gender mainstreaming in project strategies, situation analyses, stakeholder selection, budgeting, identifying indicators, setting priorities and developing activities. Consultations with non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and women's organisations informed actions on key gender issues such as violence against women.

Evidence from Latin America suggests that, when the results of consultations with women's organisations are integrated in design, programmes are more likely to address gender issues. The EU Delegation to Bolivia consulted women's associations, women's representatives and state institutions to inform the design of a programme on strengthening networks to promote gender-sensitive fiscal justice (*'Promoción y fortalecimiento de la red de actores para la promoción de la justicia fiscal con enfoque de género'*). As a result of consultations, the programme included training on gender-sensitive budgeting, as well as training for women's associations on advocating with government institutions responsible for planning and budgeting. The initiative also involved an analysis of public investments for women, and spurred the creation of a 'fiscal justice observatory'.

### **Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress**

In 2018, 96 results-oriented monitoring (ROM) missions in Latin America addressed gender. Some found that gender issues were well-integrated in projects, such as the external evaluation of the Peru-Spain Country Partnership Framework. Others recommended improving the systematic use of sex-disaggregated data. Some highlighted gender as a necessary dimension that all monitoring missions and evaluations should address – as in the case of the Embassy of Germany in Peru – such as by using a checklist, as used by Spain in Colombia. Some EU actors undertook monitoring missions to prepare programmes, involving sector-specific gender analysis. The EU Delegation to Ecuador undertook a gender analysis to prepare for a ROM mission.

Follow-up measures taken to address identified challenges included workshops, reports and events, sector-specific analyses and increased funding. Other measures involved revising programmes' logical frameworks, introducing a gender checklist for development projects, and using sex-disaggregated data alongside gender-sensitive and GAP II indicators. Sex-disaggregated data was used to report on the results of 138 actions, more than half of which were carried out in Colombia.

### **Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality**

In Latin America, 112 actions were reported as having improved the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-statistics. Almost 40 % of these actions were implemented by the EU Delegation to Colombia.

Gender-related research was a part of 60 actions, 15 of which focused on gender-specific research, while 45 featured a research component on gender.

In 11 countries, EU Delegations and EU Member States were involved in a gender coordination mechanism that included international actors working locally. These countries were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela – five more than in 2017. Key partners included embassies, international organisations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, cooperation agencies and international non-governmental organisations.

Overall, 32 actions directly supported national gender equality mechanisms. The bulk of such actions were undertaken in Colombia, followed by Paraguay, Suriname, Uruguay, Bolivia and Peru. A larger number (54 actions) involved collaboration with national gender equality mechanisms.

Some 123 actions organised awareness raising activities to sensitise local media stakeholders on women's rights and gender equality. Most of these were undertaken by EU Member States and the EU Delegation in Colombia, followed by EU actors in Peru. Nine EU Delegations funded 43 actions to build media awareness.

## Central America

### **Overview of progress in 2018**

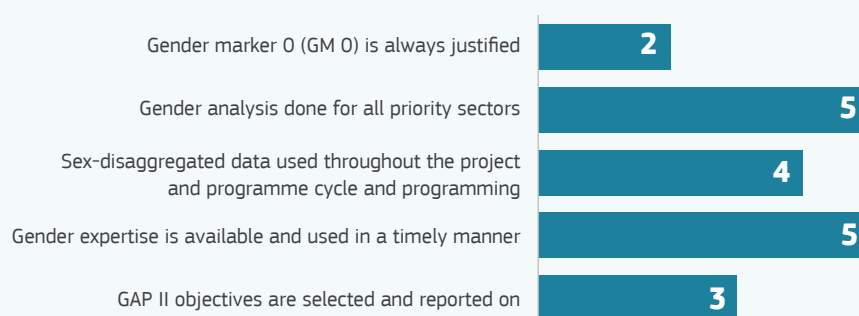
In 2018, five EU Delegations in Central America reported on the implementation of the Gender Action Plans II's

'Institutional Culture Shift' priority – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. So too did eight EU Member States – Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom – in six countries in the region, namely Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Annex 2 Figure 21:

## Central America

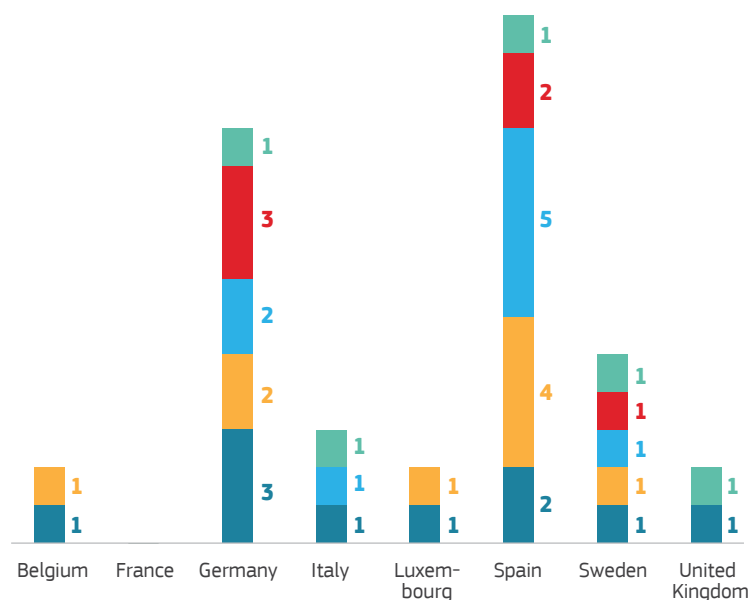
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)



Annex 2 Figure 22:

## Central America

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



- GAP II (SWD) objectives are selected and reported on
- Gender expertise is available and used timely in the programme cycle and programming
- Sex-disaggregated data are used throughout the project and programme cycle and programming
- There is a gender analysis done for all priority sectors
- Gender marker 0 is always justified

### **Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States**

EU Delegations and EU Member States discussed gender issues during 130 political and policy dialogues in Central America. Several of these dialogues were events held with national and international organisations, events to mark the launch or completion of projects, International Women's Day or donor group meeting – such as the meeting of donor countries for Guatemala (G13) and the G16 in Honduras.

The Head of Mission of the Embassy of Spain in Costa Rica met government counterparts and the Ombudswoman to discuss the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as a priority of Spanish foreign policy and bilateral relations with Costa Rica. In El Salvador, EU actors regularly raised women's rights and gender equality issues. The Embassy of Spain, for instance, used political dialogue to discuss the decriminalisation of abortion, the need to combat violence against women and reduce early pregnancies, the importance of enhancing gender mainstreaming in state organisations. Support was also provided for El Salvador's National Intersectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Pregnancies in Girls and Adolescents (*Estrategia nacional Intersectorial de Prevención de embarazos en niñas y adolescentes*). Through policy dialogue, the EU Delegation to El Salvador succeeded in including gender-sensitive indicators linked to disbursements under the budgetary support programme.

External factors prevented policy and political dialogues in Nicaragua. During the first quarter of 2018, meaningful agreements were reached on mainstreaming gender through sectoral dialogues. However, once a socio-political crisis erupted in April 2018, all dialogues were suspended.

The gender dimensions of 18 topics or fields were discussed by EU Delegations to Central America, most frequently human rights, security and conflict prevention, and sexual reproductive health and rights. Gender was also raised in discussions of decent work and employment, education, poverty and national development planning, the rule of law, migration, social protection and health. By contrast, gender issues related to energy efficiency and sustainable energy, transport, infrastructure and communication, and trade were only discussed in one or two instances. Compared to the previous year, there was a slight diversification in the number of sectors covered. While gender dimensions of public finance management were not discussed at all in 2017, these were addressed by two EU actors in 2018 – by Spain in Guatemala and the EU Delegation to Honduras.

As with EU Delegations, EU Member states generally raised gender issues in relation to the fields of human rights, education and security and conflict prevention. They also covered migration, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights – the latter a particular feature of dialogues in Guatemala and El Salvador. While EU Member States discussed gender during dialogues on all sectors, the sectors in which they rarely discussed gender issues were the same as those rarely broached by EU Delegations – public financial management, trade, transport, infrastructure and communications, and energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

Within these sectors, the issue most commonly raised in Central America was violence against women and girls and gender-based violence, followed by women, peace and security and, to a lesser extent, gender-responsive budgeting. EU Member States reported addressing women, peace and security more than EU Delegations – particularly France, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Most dialogues took place with government representatives. A large number of women's machineries were involved, such as national women's institutes, attorney generals on gender violence, councils of ministers on women, presidential secretariats for women, and other national mechanisms for women's advancement. Many dialogues also took place with civil society organisations. In Guatemala, for example, Sweden regularly held dialogues with the Presidential Secretariat for Women on gender-responsive budgeting as part of its support for the institution.

The EU Delegation to El Salvador reported that dialogues were usually held by political officers, the Head of the Delegation and the Head of Cooperation. EU Member States reported the involvement of Heads of Mission, Heads of Development Cooperation and their Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The involvement of gender focal persons was not reported by EU Delegations or EU Member States.

EU actors adopted burden-sharing measures (GAP activity 1.4) in five Central American countries – El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. These predominantly involved gender groups that promoted strong coordination. Others measures included joint programming, for instance in Honduras, joint programming featured a chapter on gender. Joint programming was a component of bilateral initiatives in which EU Member States and EU Delegations shared a common focus, as in El Salvador. In Nicaragua, coordination was a part of the GAP II's implementation of the GAP, alongside gender issues in general. These measures enhanced the exchange of information and knowledge, the sharing of good practices and the organisation of events on gender equality issues.

The EU Delegations to Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua led donor coordination mechanisms on gender. EU Member States led these mechanisms in Mexico and Honduras. In Guatemala, another donor coordination mechanism on gender, a sectoral sub-committee of the G13, was led by Canada and UN Women. The gender coordination mechanism in Honduras was rooted in the G16 donor forum with an annual rotating presidency. EU actors were not active members of this group in 2018.

### **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

In 2018, three gender champions were appointed in Central America, including two champions in the EU Delegation to Nicaragua. The Head of Cooperation was one such champion, who supported the implementation of all GAP II initiatives in institutional and sectoral areas, while leading efforts to promote gender equality in donor coordination. This marks significant progress compared to 2017, when no gender coordination mechanism was led by EU donors and no gender champions were appointed in the region.

Three EU Member States and two EU Delegations in two Central American countries – Guatemala and Honduras – adopted a mechanism to consult external senior expertise on strategic and ad hoc issues related to gender equality. This largely involved dialogue and gender working groups, supported by the participation of external experts.

Institutional annual reports highlighted 10 good practices. These range from meeting the GAP II's minimum standards of performance to undertaking a gender analysis, hiring gender experts, allocating resources, and improving gender-sensitive screening for programmes.

In 2018, seven corrective actions were taken. These included the appointment of gender focal persons, engaging gender expertise, increasing gender balanced representation at events, and allocating funds to gender priorities, such as gender-based violence in Guatemala. Challenges were recorded in Nicaragua, where the execution of accounts and gender-related results were weakened as a result of the crisis in the country, impacting the resources and personnel assigned to work on gender.

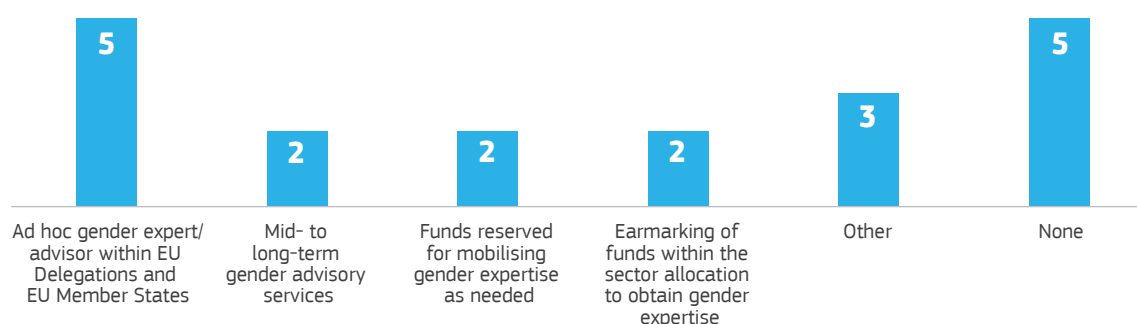
### **Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments**

Ad hoc gender expertise was available in four EU Delegations, although mid- to long-term gender advisory services and funds to mobilise gender expertise were less frequently available. By contrast, EU Member States made considerably more use of mid- to long-term gender advisory services. As in 2017, some EU Delegations took action to improve the availability of gender expertise in 2018. The EU Delegation to El Salvador offers a good practice example, regularly including a gender expert in technical assistance missions and contracting medium- or long-term technical assistance for budgetary support programmes on national policy sectors.

Annex 2 Figure 23:

## **Central America**

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



#### Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making

Overall, 58 of 92 actions (63 %) reported in 2018 were formulated using gender analysis – 30 actions by five EU Delegations and 28 actions by various EU Member States. This marks a significant increase from 35 % in 2017.

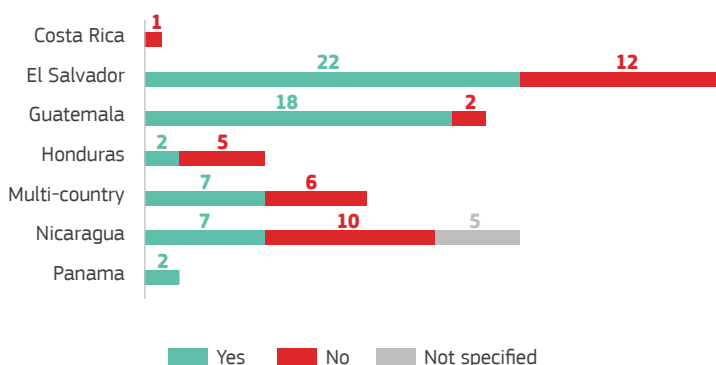
Details on how gender analysis was used and to what extent reveal that, for eight actions, a gender analysis was carried out by implementing partners. In these instances, EU actors assumed that the action's design was informed by the analysis. In two cases, reports indicate that 'gender analysis' per se was not undertaken, but that a gender lens was applied. In the remaining instances, gender analysis was carried out, especially during the formulation phase. Such analyses informed Logframes by prompting the inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators.

Gender analysis was often used to inform actions whose principal objective was gender equality and women's empowerment. For example, this was the case in El Salvador, where many programmes focused on violence against women, protecting survivors by the strengthening the justice system, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and early pregnancies. Nevertheless, gender analysis also informed actions whose principal objective was not gender equality. In Panama, for instance, Spain's collaboration with the Sub-Directorate of Water and Sanitation, part of the Ministry of Health, involved a gender analysis and the elaboration of a gender action plan.

Annex 2 Figure 24:

### Central America

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



In Central America, 50 actions were formulated using the findings of consultations. For 22 % of these, action design was informed by consultations with women's organisations. For 25 % of actions, consultations were held during the inception phase but no details were provided on the actors consulted. One action was based on the national gender policy, rather than on information from specific consultations. In three cases, consultations took place during events – such as during the 'every day for women's rights' campaign in Nicaragua.

#### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

In 2018, 24 monitoring missions were carried out in Central America, although not all of these included a gender dimension. EU Delegations and EU Member States reported addressing the missions' recommendations, leading to increased support for national gender policies, the collection of gender-sensitive statistics at all state levels, strategic planning and dialogue with partners, and gender mainstreaming in programme design. The EU Delegation to El Salvador reported that, between 2009 and 2018, the strategic evaluation of budgetary support programmes did not include a gender perspective. However, in 2018, the need to address gender systematically when designing budgetary support programmes was formally recognised and a change of approach initiated.

Reporting on results was sex-disaggregated for 35 actions, partially disaggregated for 28 and not disaggregated for 24. In all countries but Panama, EU actors reported that these 35 actions improved the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific statistics.

## Objective 6. Partnership fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality

In Honduras and El Salvador, research on gender was the focus of two actions, while seven actions included a research component.

In six Central American countries, 37 actions raised awareness of gender among local media stakeholders. EU Member States and EU Delegations were equally involved in these activities, 38 % of which were carried out in El Salvador.

Gender coordination mechanisms in six countries included international actors working locally, such as UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations and other actors engaged in development cooperation. EU Delegations and EU Member States directly supported national gender equality mechanisms through seven actions in four countries – El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama. Two of these were implemented by the EU Delegations to Guatemala and El Salvador. The other five were carried out by EU Member States in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama. Moreover, 10 further actions involved working with national gender equality mechanisms, without providing them with direct support.

## Caribbean

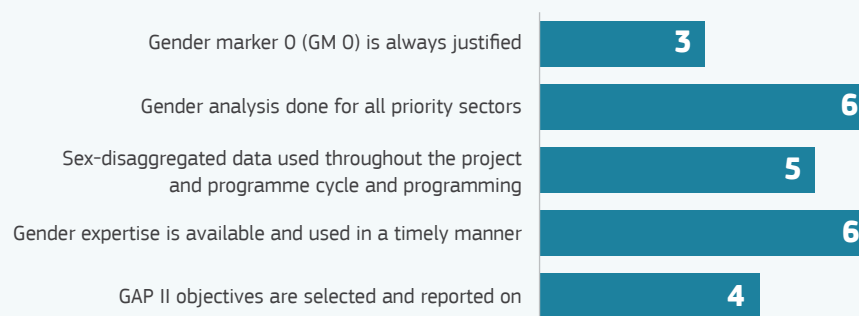
### Overview of progress in 2018

In the Caribbean, six EU Delegations reported on the implementation of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority – to Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Reports were also submitted by seven EU Member States – namely Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom – active in six Caribbean countries.

Annex 2 Figure 25:

## Caribbean

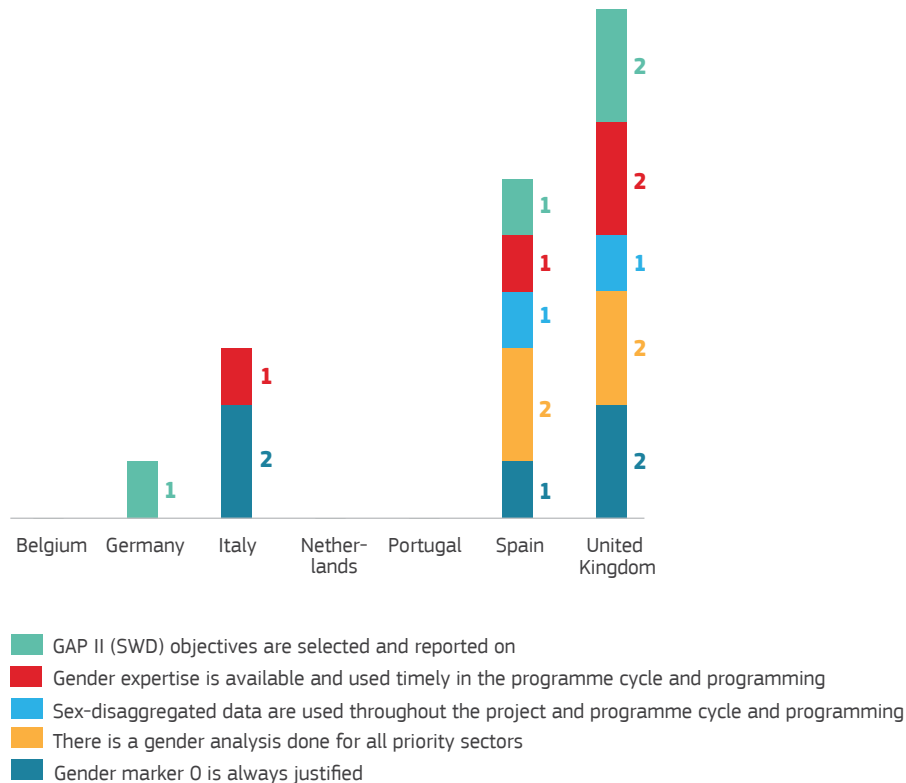
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)



Annex 2 Figure 26:

## Caribbean

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

In 2018, gender equality was discussed during 40 political and policy dialogues between EU actors and partner countries in the Caribbean. The EU Delegation to Jamaica, for instance, engaged in a dialogue in Belize at which issues of violence against women, gender-based violence and human trafficking were raised. Gender issues were also addressed in policy dialogues on the sectors of concentration of the delegation.

Two demarches by the EU Delegations to Barbados and to Cuba highlighted European priorities for the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held in New York in March. In the framework of the first formal EU-Cuba Dialogue on Human Rights, the EU Delegation to Cuba contributed to the first civil society seminar on gender, sexual health and reproductive rights.

The EU Delegation to the Dominican Republic held a policy dialogue with the Ministry of Finance on the new public finance management budget support programme. They discussed an indicator on the "percentage of women awarded with contracts on public procurement tendering", which was duly included in the programme.

#### Annex 2 Box 15: High-level dialogues on gender in the Caribbean

The Embassy of the Netherlands in Cuba regularly addressed gender issues during meetings with Cuban government officials. Two high-level dialogues were held between the Embassy of Italy and authorities in the Dominican Republic, reflecting gender equality's crucial importance for achieving the objectives of political strategies. These dialogues were:

- a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Women (Ministerio de la Mujer) on the role of women in the Dominican Republic and the legislative reforms needed to effectively achieve gender equality; and
- a high-level meeting between the Ambassador of Italy and the Vice President of the Dominican Republic on the Government's strategy to promote gender equality.



Dialogues that discussed gender covered a broad range of sectors or fields, particularly human rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. All EU Delegations raised gender in relation to human rights, followed by poverty and national development planning, and decent work and employment. These were addressed by four of the six EU Delegations in the Caribbean. Three EU Delegations also spoke of gender vis-à-vis public financial management, and agriculture, fisheries, food and nutrition. No dialogues specifically addressed gender in relation to water management, and water, sanitation and hygiene or transport, infrastructure and communications.

Similarly, EU Member States raised gender issues during dialogues on poverty and national planning, education, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Unlike EU Delegations, Member States did not conduct gender-specific dialogues related to public financial management, trade or migration.

In five countries, the most discussed issue within sectoral dialogues was violence against women and girls and gender-based violence. Women, peace and security issues were not raised by EU Delegations in any dialogue, although these issues were addressed by EU Member States in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Dominican Republic.

Though comprehensive details were not provided on the profile of the EU representative involved in the policy or political dialogue, senior management (Head of Delegation, Head of Political Section or the Head of Cooperation) was usually involved, and to a major extent the technical staff (EUD Programme managers, among which two GFPs) both engaged in advancing gender issues.

Representative of the partner countries are often the Prime Minister and Ministry of targeted sector, technical staff and advisers, civil society organisations.

EU Delegations did not report any burden-sharing measures in the Caribbean (GAP activity 1.4), although they noted certain joint initiatives. In Trinidad and Tobago, both the EU Delegation and the High Commission of the United Kingdom engaged in a public diplomacy campaign, '#LetsTalkTT'. The campaign addressed gender equality, gender-based violence and gender stereotypes in the country.

Among EU Member States, the Embassy of Belgium in Cuba reported plans to form and lead a group that will establish a gender action plan for Cuba. Overall, however, no burden-sharing measures were reported.

#### *Annex 2 Box 16: #LetsTalkTT in Trinidad and Tobago*

#LetsTalkTT is an on-going joint campaign by the EU Delegation and the High Commission of the United Kingdom in Trinidad and Tobago. It raises awareness of gender equality, providing a platform for discussion on gender-related issues, such as gender-based violence and women's rights.

In 2018, the initiative focused on tackling gender-based violence through men's perspectives and roles. It encouraged new audiences to become aware of the issues faced by women, alongside the gender-normative societal pressures on men. Outputs and outcomes of the initiative included:

- the collection of data on men's perspectives, as well as challenges and proposed solutions;
- reducing the taboo of men's involvement in discussions on gender; and
- maintaining and strengthening the EU's position as key actor on gender equality in the country.

Two donor coordination mechanisms in the Caribbean were EU-led in 2018 – in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. In terms of joint initiatives with other international stakeholders on women, peace and security, the Embassy of Italy in the Dominican Republic reported an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Start-up Working Group which addresses gender issues.

### **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

In 2018, the EU Delegation to Jamaica appointed the Head of the Delegation as a senior gender champion to lead policy dialogue on gender with senior government interlocutors. This reflects progress compared to 2017, when no gender champions were appointed in the Caribbean.

Three of the six EU Delegations in the Caribbean established some form of mechanism to consult gender expertise on strategic and ad hoc issues, with varying levels of formality. For example, under the Jamaica Justice Sector Reform Programme, the EU Delegation provided a grant to the University of the West Indies to implement activities that increase women's access to justice. With the support of an external consultant, the EU Delegation to Cuba

carried out a country gender analysis. A series of activities were organised with EU Member States, including the presentation of the gender analysis report and setting EU priorities in Cuba. The EU Delegation to Barbados consulted expertise through the regional gender donor coordination group, both on strategic and ad hoc issues. The group met each quarter to exchange best practices in development cooperation, as well as information on regional gender equality initiatives, strategies and events. They also discussed developments vis-à-vis international commitments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +25). The High Commission of the United Kingdom in Barbados also engaged with civil society organisations and academics on gender-related issues.

Four EU Delegations in the Caribbean reported good practices in 2018. The EU Delegations to Barbados, Haiti and Jamaica regularly upheld the GAP II's minimum performance standards. They provided justifications when actions were marked 'GO' according to the OECD Development Assistance Committee's gender marker, used sex-disaggregated data throughout the programme cycle, selected GAP II objectives and carried out of gender analyses for all priority sectors. Other good practices included regularly involving gender focal persons in the formulation of new programmes. Events were also organised to raise awareness on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, International Human Rights Day and the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. A good practice reported by the EU Delegation to Cuba was the creation of a working group to develop a country gender action plan.

Seven corrective actions were taken in 2018 by three EU delegations and one EU Member State. These involved supporting an institutional culture shift within delegations, appointing gender focal persons with expertise in specific areas, including GAP II indicators in cooperation agreements and raising the awareness of project and programme partners. The EU Delegation to Jamaica revised guidelines for grant applicants, including the requirement of collecting and using sex-disaggregated data throughout the grant process.

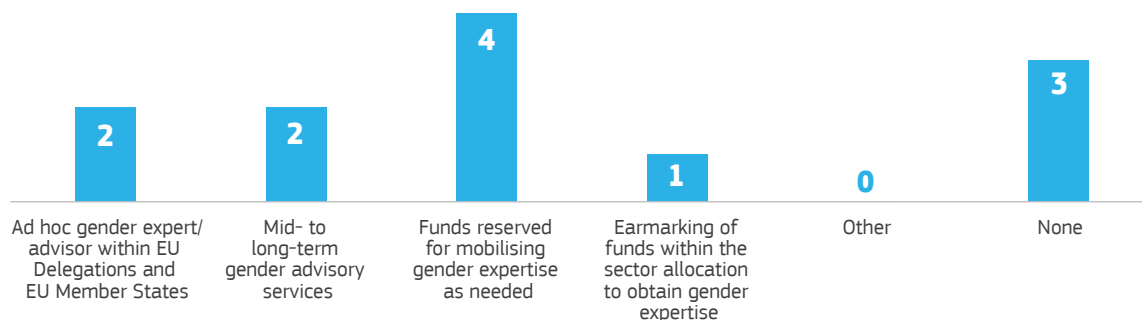
### Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments

The figure below highlights the ways in which EU Member States and EU Delegations mobilised resources in the Caribbean.

Annex 2 Figure 27:

## Caribbean

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



### Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making

In 2018, 92 actions were reported, down from 115 actions in 2017. Of these, 78 % were implemented by six EU Delegations – to Cuba, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. The rest were undertaken by five EU Member States – Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom – in Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Only 35 actions (38 %) were informed by a gender analysis during their formulation or design stage, a decline from 54 % in 2017. Positive efforts include the EU Delegation to Jamaica's decision to consult gender expertise in

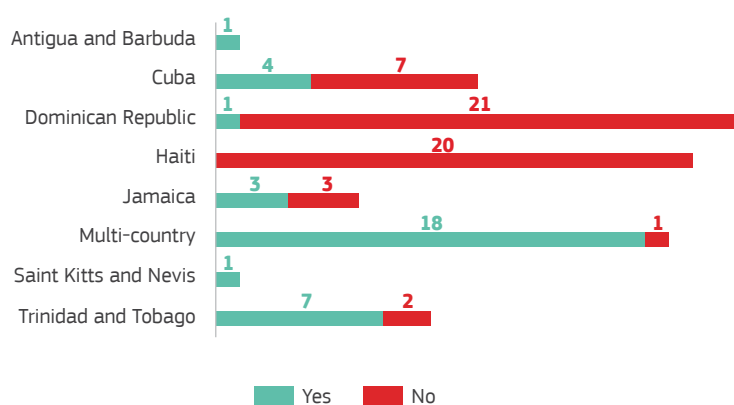
addition to using a gender analysis to inform their initiatives. It also measured gender indicators for disbursement tranches. The EU Delegation to Cuba included gender indicators in its Logframe, derived from gender analysis.

Gender analysis was also used to inform programmes in non-traditional sectors. For instance, Germany used a gender analysis at the formulation stage to inform a programme on reducing greenhouse gases caused by deforestation and land degradation, as well as to inform a programme on forest restoration. The EU Delegation to Barbados conducted a gender analysis on cybercrime and cyber-security, which will be integrated in the design of an initiative on financial compliance, asset recovery and combatting cybercrime. The delegation also used evidence on gender to inform recovery programmes in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Annex 2 Figure 28:

## Caribbean

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



Overall, 39 actions were formulated using findings from consultations, including multi-country programmes. Of these, 16 encompassed consultations with civil society organisations. Five actions consulted women living in targeted communities.

### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

Nine EU monitoring missions took place in the Caribbean, providing recommendations to strengthen gender mainstreaming. Mission reports highlighted the challenges of poor quality gender mainstreaming, the limited collection and use of sex-disaggregated data and of gender-sensitive indicators. In three cases, information was not provided on follow-up on monitoring recommendations. In a few instances, reports indicated that internal capacity was not available to implement recommendations offered by results-oriented monitoring experts.

The EU Delegation to Barbados reported a monitoring mission on the EU-Montserrat Budget Support Programme for multi-sectoral development. Its recommendations highlighted a lack of sex-disaggregated data. As a result, the regular collection and inclusion of such data became a pre-condition for granting future disbursements, and the programme now includes sex-disaggregated data.

In reporting on results, only 13 actions (14 %) in Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba and Jamaica used sex-disaggregated data, while 26 other actions (28 %) did so partially.

As in 2017, the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data remained a major challenge for EU Delegations and Member States. Nonetheless, 34 actions in 2018 focused on improving the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific statistics. The EU Delegation to Haiti implemented most of these actions, followed by delegations to Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Cuba, Barbados and the Dominican Republic.

### Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality

Three EU Delegations in the Caribbean – to Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago – reported collaborating

with international actors working locally. While gender coordination mechanisms were active in the region, they were not EU-led.

Six of actions directly supported the national gender equality mechanisms in Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, while another six worked with these mechanisms without directly supporting them.

In 2018, 20 % of actions raised awareness of gender equality issues among local and national media stakeholders across all countries in the region, down from 30 % in 2017. The United Kingdom in Trinidad and Tobago (6 actions), and the EU Delegation to Jamaica (4), were the most active in this regard. The EU Delegation to Cuba, Barbados and the Dominican Republic did not report such awareness raising actions.

Two research-oriented actions were reported by EU Member States – one by Spain in Trinidad and Tobago, and another by the United Kingdom in Cuba. Another 10 actions included gender-related research components.

## United States and Canada

### Overview of progress in 2018

The EU Delegations to Canada and to the United States of America reported on the implementation of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority, as did three EU Member States – Belgium in Canada, Sweden in the USA and Spain in both countries.

#### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

Eight policy dialogues were reported in the two North American countries in 2018. In the United States, both the EU Delegation and the Sweden engaged in policy and political dialogues which discussed gender issues. Sweden credited its feminist foreign policy with bringing gender equality to the fore as a key topic in several dialogues. In Canada both kinds of EU actors engaged in dialogues, including two high-level meetings. First, a high-level dialogue between the President of Spain and Canadian authorities addressed gender equality issues. Second, an outreach meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Chrystia Freeland, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, Federica Mogherini. This took place on the margins of the G7 foreign ministers meeting, which co-hosted the first women-only foreign ministers meeting.

The gender dimensions of several sectors were addressed during dialogues, most notably human rights, education, democracy, trade, security and conflict prevention, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. However, gender issues were not raised in relation to water management or water, sanitation and hygiene, agriculture, fisheries, food and nutrition, transport, infrastructure and communications, or energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

In collaboration with UN Women and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the EU and Canada promote responsible business conduct.

Within sectoral dialogues, the issues most often discussed were violence against women and girls and gender-based violence, followed by women, peace and security. Gender-responsive budgeting was discussed to a lesser extent.

No burden-sharing mechanisms were reported and no gender donor coordination mechanism was EU-led in Canada or the USA.

#### Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States

No gender champions were appointed by EU actors in North America. However, in both countries, there was an independent, informal group or forum for discussing gender equality and women's empowerment issues. In the USA, Spain reported an informal development cooperation group that discusses gender issues when relevant. The EU Delegation to Canada consulted civil society and non-governmental organisations on gender.

The institutional annual report of the Embassy of Spain in the USA may be highlighted as a good practice, as it included information on US gender policies. The Embassy also appointed a member of staff to cover women, peace and security issues.

### Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments

In 2018, two actions were taken to mobilise resources to deliver on gender equality and women's empowerment commitments in North America. In the USA, the EU Delegation and two EU Member States – Spain and Sweden – contracted ad hoc gender expert/ advisor within EUD/EUMS. Sweden also engaged mid- to long-term gender advisory services.

### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

Information was not provided on monitoring missions in North America in 2018. In the USA, Sweden reported that its budgets and general action plans include gender markers to support mainstreaming.

## Gulf States

### Overview of progress in 2018

In 2018, the EU Delegations to the United Arab Emirates and for Yemen and Iraq (based in Amman, Jordan, since September 2017) reported on the implementation of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' horizontal priority. Reports were also submitted by five EU Member States active in the Gulf States – Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Despite the region's complicated political and security situation, EU actors made consistent progress on horizontal priority A.

Annex 2 Figure 29:

### Gulf States

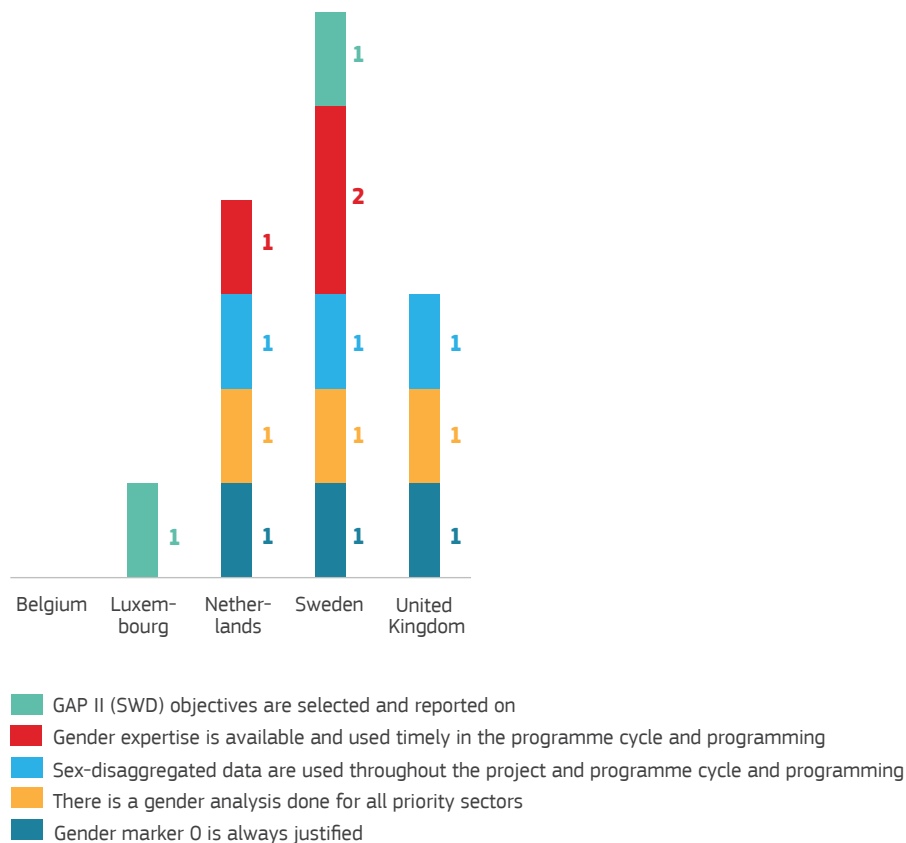
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)

Gender marker 0 (GM 0) is always justified	1
Gender analysis done for all priority sectors	1
Sex-disaggregated data used throughout the project and programme cycle and programming	1
Gender expertise is available and used in a timely manner	1
GAP II objectives are selected and reported on	1

Annex 2 Figure 30:

## Gulf States

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with the Member States

EU actors raised gender issues in 34 policy and political dialogues. EU Member States found it difficult to quantify the number of dialogues precisely, noting that gender was discussed on numerous occasions by their Ambassadors and other staff members. Due to instability and access constraints in Yemen, policy dialogue was centred on Sana'a, steering committee meetings in Amman, international fora and local level engagement with civil society organisations, women's rights organisations and the UN. Awareness raising activities in Brussels sought to make women's plight in conflict-ridden Yemen more visible. Most dialogues that addressed gender (20 dialogues) were reported by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Yemen.

Among thematic sectors, gender was most frequently discussed in relation to human rights, governance, and social protection (10 % of the dialogues each), followed by sexual and reproductive health and rights, security and prevention (9 %), decent work, health (7 %), democracy and migration (6 %). Gender issues in education and agriculture were less frequently raised (4 %), despite the fact that most on-going actions in the region address these issues. Similarly, the rule of law and trafficking were not regularly discussed (3 %), nor were gender-responsive budgeting, poverty and public finance management (1 %).

Specific issues raised in these thematic sectors were women, peace and security, and violence against women and girls. They were most notably during high-level gatherings, steering committees' meetings and in statements. For example, the EU Delegation issued two statements concerning gender – one condemning violence against women candidates ahead of parliamentary elections, and another condemning the murders of high-profile women and urging an investigation.

*Annex 2 Box 17: Swedish policy and political dialogues with Yemen*

In 2018, the Swedish Special Envoy for Yemen undertook several policy and political dialogues with high-level Yemeni officials, counterparts in neighbouring countries and other stakeholders. This resulted in the deliberations in Stockholm in December 2018. Meetings were also held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the UN Secretary-General and the UN Special Envoy for Yemen.

*Annex 2 Box 18: Demarche with the Government of the United Arab Emirates*

The EU Delegation and the Government of the United Arab Emirates carried out a demarche at the 62nd meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018. Women's empowerment was addressed during the programmatic participation negotiations for the Dubai Expo 2020. Gender-related issues were also raised during the 8th EU-UAE Informal Human Rights Working Group, as well as in the 2018 EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World, in the reports of Heads of Missions, and in all three of their meetings in 2018.

In 2018, the EU Delegation for Yemen and Iraq began to re-establish relations with EU Member States vis-à-vis these partner countries. Member State representatives were located in different locations, from their own capital cities to Amman, Jordan, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Cairo, Egypt. The first development and cooperation meeting that focused on gender was held in November 2018. It highlighted the need for burden-sharing measures to support gender equality, in line with a recent gender analysis.

Although no formal joint programming was possible due to the situation on the ground, the EU Delegation and EU Member States cooperated with one another, and with other international donors, to support to women, peace and security programmes in conflict and post-conflict contexts. Similarly, while there were no formal gender coordination mechanisms in any country in the region, principal donors met on several occasions to share information, for example, on Yemen and Iraq.

*Annex 2 Box 19: Supporting women's organisations in Yemen*

The Netherlands supported UN Women's efforts to strengthen the Yemeni organisation, Women's Pact, an initiative co-financed by the United Kingdom. Other activities, such as the Geneva Call by Switzerland, and the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) 'women's empowerment, and prevention & protection from GBV' initiative, were financed by Switzerland and Sweden, respectively.

**Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

The EU took the lead on promoting gender equality in high-level politics for both Iraq and Yemen. In 2018, the Head of the EU Delegation was acknowledged as a gender champion, actively contributing to raising awareness on gender issues, participating in high-level events and making several official statements.

**Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments**

Within the EU Delegation for Iraq and Yemen based in Amman, one gender focal person was appointed in 2018, and training on gender mainstreaming was delivered for all staff members. The United Kingdom funded the post of a Gender-based Violence Sub-cluster Coordinator, set up 'gender minimum standards' and supported a gender and disability audit for Yemen. The EU Delegation used senior external gender expertise to prepare a gender analysis on Iraq and Yemen, in order to guide political dialogue, cooperation strategies, gender mainstreaming and identify entry points for making a sustainable difference.

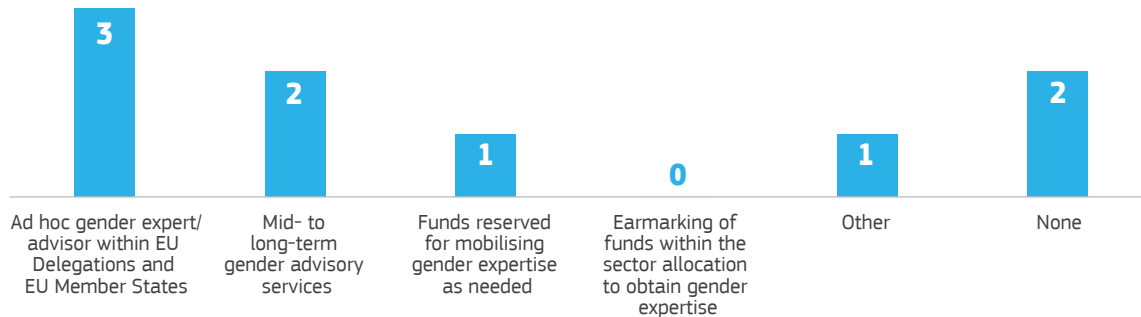
EU Member States reported accessing expertise from their headquarters, such as the gender task force department in the Netherlands, and gender coordinating umbrella platforms. These platforms included 'Women = Men' in the Netherlands and Tawafuq, the Yemeni women's platform supported by UN Women. The United Kingdom also reported regular conversations with all partners, encouraging them to strengthen their programmes' focus on gender equality, including through the collection of sex-disaggregated data and by addressing barriers to inclusion.



Annex 2 Figure 31:

## Gulf States

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



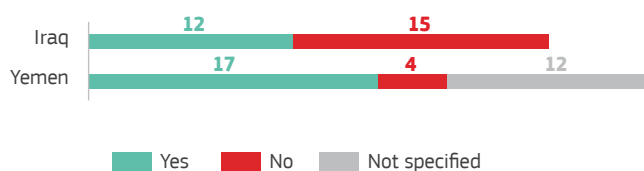
### Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making

The gender analysis mentioned above was used for the formulation of 29 actions. This ensured that the actions' situation analyses were gender-sensitive, and that gender indicators are included in logical frameworks. Consultations with stakeholders informed 37 actions, including with UN agencies, government ministries, civil society and other federal and regional counterparts.

Annex 2 Figure 32:

## Gulf States

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

The consistent use of sex-disaggregated data remained a challenge in 2018, not least because of the critical situations in Yemen and Iraq countries, and the scarcity of national gender statistics. Nonetheless, 38 % of reported actions include sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific indicators.

Nine monitoring missions were conducted in 2018. These consisted of programming visits from the European Commission and embassies' headquarters. They could not be conducted in the field due to the security situation. Instead, information was received from civil society and local stakeholders in the field. Some EU Member States also had specific and, in some cases, independent monitoring programmes – such as the United Kingdom's monitoring programme. Sweden reported two political missions on peace negotiations leading up to the Stockholm Agreement, as well as one humanitarian follow-up mission. Recommendations focused on the need to better mainstream gender in action documents, to improve quarterly reports, and to focus on women's participation in peace negotiations and in humanitarian response.

## Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality

In 2018, either the EU delegation for Yemen and Iraq, or EU Member States coordinated with UN agencies and local stakeholders on gender equality. Critical coordination took place on women, peace and security. However, there was no specific mechanism in place.

### Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

#### Overview of progress in 2018

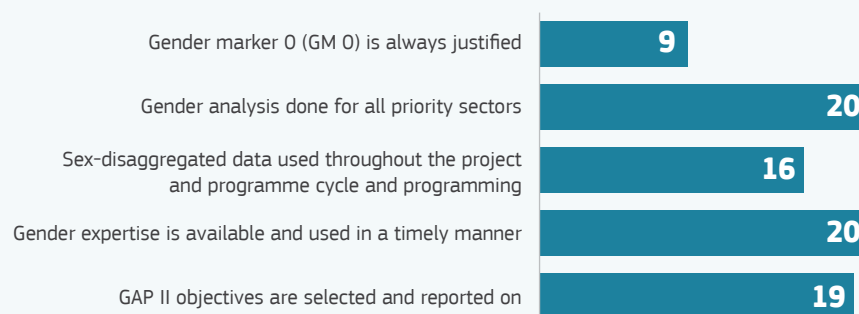
In 2018, all 24 EU Delegations under the mandate of the Commission services responsible for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region reported on their implementation of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority. However, not all of the questions in the reporting template were answered by all reporting entities, with some answers marked 'Not applicable'. This was largely due to different interpretation of key indicators and concepts.

EU Member States also reported on the implementation of the GAP II's horizontal priority in the region. Reports were received from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Annex 2 Figure 33:

### Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

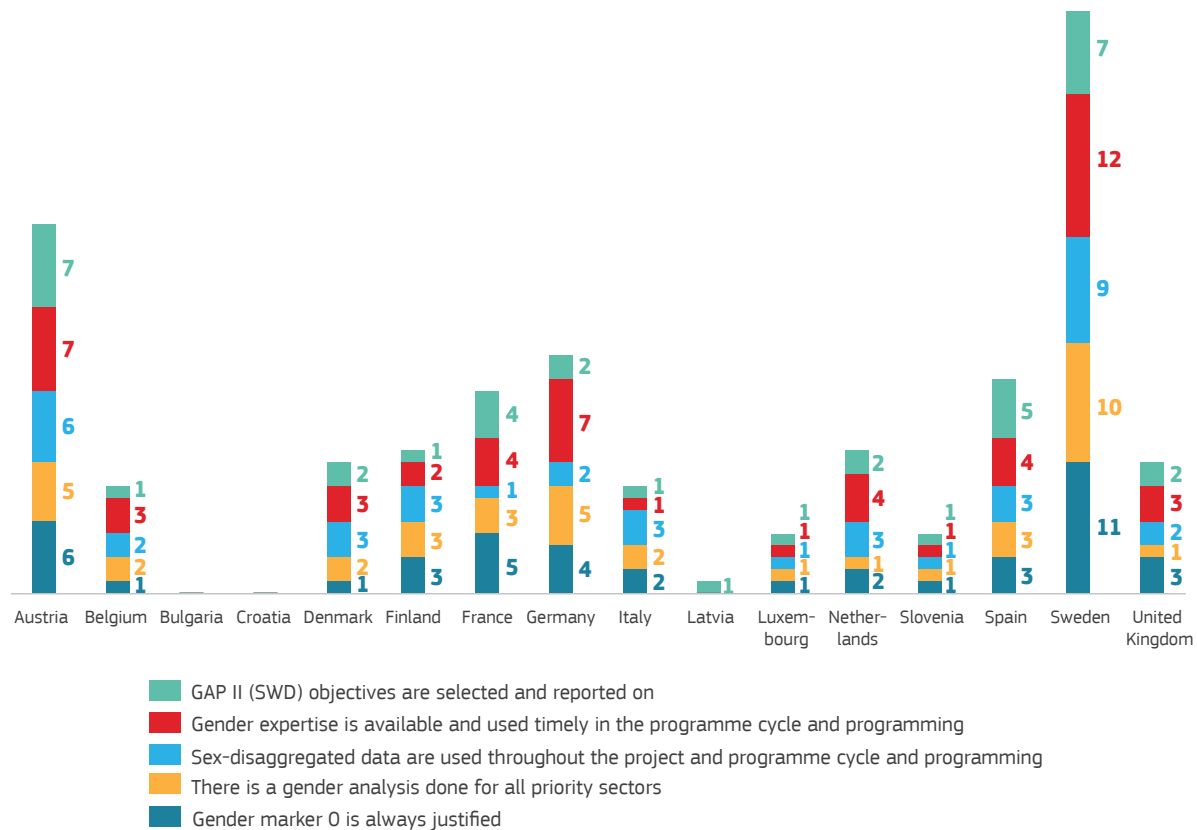
EU Delegations' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: EAMR)



Annex 2 Figure 34:

## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

EU Member States' compliance with the GAP II's minimum performance standards, 2018 (source: GAP II self-assessment survey)



Since 2015, the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations has completed a country gender analysis for each country under its mandate, with the exception of Jordan and Ukraine. Gender analyses for these countries will be finalised in 2019. Some EU Delegations are exploring the possibility of updating and expanding existing country gender analyses to include a wider range of sectors, such as transport, water and waste management, energy and tourism.

### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

Donor coordination mechanisms were established in 19 partner countries in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, enabling EU actors to share information, map interventions and avoid duplication. Gender coordination groups also proved useful for gathering advice for policy and political dialogues with partner countries. For instance, the gender technical working group in Palestine prepared joint key messages for the EU-Partnership Agreement sub-committee in 2018. In Moldova, a functional coordination platform on anti-trafficking and gender equality enabled donors and local civil society organisations to work effectively together, as well as with line ministries. This platform was chaired by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the National Council on Anti-Trafficking.

Overall, EU Delegations chaired gender coordination mechanisms in seven countries in the region, as did EU Member States in four countries. In almost all cases, either the EU Delegation or EU Member States were co-chairs of such mechanisms. To ensure synergies within existing programmes dedicated to gender mainstreaming, several coordination mechanisms were also led by state institutions, local partners and international partners.

In 2018, EU Delegations and EU Member States consolidated burden-sharing measures in the region. In Egypt, for instance, EU joint programming centred on the spheres of governance, stability and supporting a modern

democratic state. Joint support was geared towards the promotion and protection of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth. In Albania, through a mapping exercise conducted in 2017, burdens were shared among the EU Delegation and EU Member States in the areas of violence against women and girls, property rights, gender-responsive budgeting, women's participation in political life and decision-making, and the women, peace and security agenda.

In Moldova, gender equality was integrated into joint analysis and joint programming with EU Member States, and with Switzerland, for the 2018-2020 period. In Jordan, a platform was created to share information and collect evidence for monitoring and reporting on gender equality. In Palestine, for the third consecutive year, joint campaigns were rolled-out on the occasions of international days related to human rights, led by the EU Gender Technical Working Group, chaired by Italy. These campaigns involved 23 EU and UN actors, who spearheaded the implementation of 20 joint activities, reaching more than 2,000 people in Palestine and 510,000 people through social media. In Tunisia, the EU Delegation supported campaigns to promote women's participation in public affairs, particularly during municipal elections.

In terms of political and policy dialogues, EU Delegations in the region promoted a range of issues related to gender equality through 522 dialogues, as did EU Member States through 281 dialogues. These dialogues most often concerned human rights (99 dialogues), followed by democracy (83), education (74), governance, accountability and transparency (72), the rule of law (70), and decent work and employment (69). Several dialogues proved important occasions for improving knowledge and stimulating reflection on the changes that greater gender equality brings about in different contexts. Reports from EU actors were rich in detail regarding the achievements of policy and political dialogues throughout the year.

## **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

In 2018, there were 62 senior gender champions in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, compared to 31 champions in 2017. Reports from EU actors reflected improved understandings of the role of senior gender champions. However, interpretations regarding the mandate and responsibilities of such champions differed considerably between actors in different countries. In several countries, gender champions were nominated at the level of Ambassador, Heads of Delegation or Heads of Cooperation. Most gender champions were not officially appointed as such; instead, they were regarded as champions in light of their active role in promoting gender equality. In Algeria, the Ambassador of Sweden volunteered to be a gender champion for the EU. In Armenia, the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Denmark, France and Germany were gender champions, regularly raising issues of gender equality and women's rights at public events, meetings and on social media. In both Morocco and Palestine, Heads of Cooperation took up the mantle of gender champions.

EU actors also implemented several corrective actions to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the region. In 2018, 201 corrective actions were reported, a significant increase from 33 in 2017 and nine in 2016. Some corrective actions were trainings, the engagement of expert support, and the use of gender analysis in programme formulation. For example, in Palestine, the joint programming results-oriented framework for 2017-2020 was extensively sex-disaggregated. The EU Delegation in Belarus reported a corrective action that included commitments to enhancing the number of women in EU conferences and panel meetings. Gender equality was also selected as a theme for the embassy's communication plan.

Reports highlighted several instances of promising practice – totalling 112 such practices in 2018, compared to 59 in 2017. Some of the good practices mentioned cannot nevertheless be considered good practices since they are mandatory requirements of the GAP II. This are for instance the nomination of gender focal persons, the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data or the use of gender analysis.

### *Annex 2 Box 20: Examples of corrective actions and promising practices in Armenia and Kosovo*

The EU Delegation to Armenia undertook a number of corrective actions in 2018. These included making electoral funding conditional on an increased gender quota. The Delegation also decided to examine EU support for gender equality in the planned country evaluation of Armenia, and stressed that women's rights organisations should be included in the evaluation committees for the selection of financial support to third parties (sub-granting).

In Kosovo, a dedicated gender advisor was appointed for the EU Special Representative, as was a gender focal person at the EU Office. A joint action group on gender mainstreaming was established between both actors,

with a view to improving gender mainstreaming within programming and the implementation of EU financial assistance. This group will also provide guidance and advice on specific matters related to the GAP II, in addition to strengthening gender analysis in all priority sectors. Participation in this action group was formally recognised by the management of the two EU entities.

### Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments

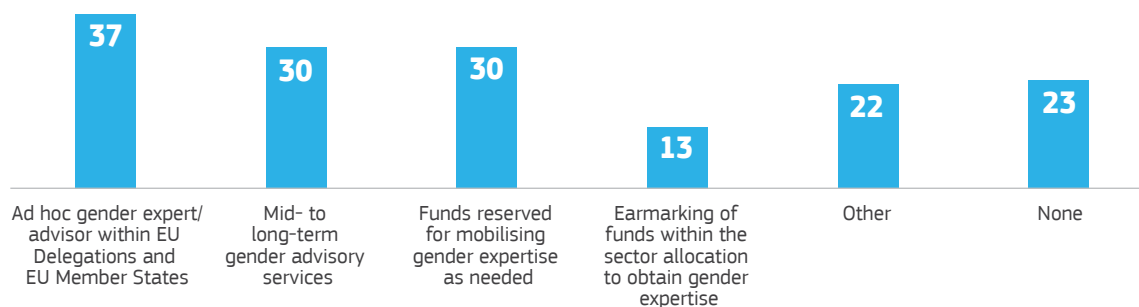
In 2018, in-house gender expertise remained available for all EU Delegations under the mandate of the Commission Services responsible for the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region. Among the measures in place to mobilise high quality gender expertise, the most frequently used was the engagement of an ad hoc gender expert or advisor (23 % of EU Delegations), reserving funds for mobilising gender expertise (19 %), mid- to long-term gender advisory services (19 %), and earmarking funds within sector allocations (8 %). For example, gender focal persons in several EU Delegations, found time to provide technical support to other staff members working on different sectors – despite the fact that these focal persons worked part-time on gender equality. In Palestine, a two-day seminar on gender equality was held for all of the EU Delegation's staff. A dedicated seminar on gender-responsive leadership for managers was also organised.

Throughout the year, EU Delegations and EU Member States used a combination of different forms of gender expertise in the region. Some EU Member States had dedicated gender experts in their embassies, or among cooperation offices in partner countries. This was true for Belgium and Germany in Lebanon, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands in Libya, Austria in Albania, and Sweden in Albania, Georgia and Moldova. Almost all EU Member States reported liaising with headquarters or local partners for specific gender expertise, when needed. Both EU Delegations and EU Member States occasionally engaged external gender expertise on an ad hoc basis.

Annex 2 Figure 35:

## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Measures by EU Delegations and Member States to ensure that gender expertise is available and used, 2018



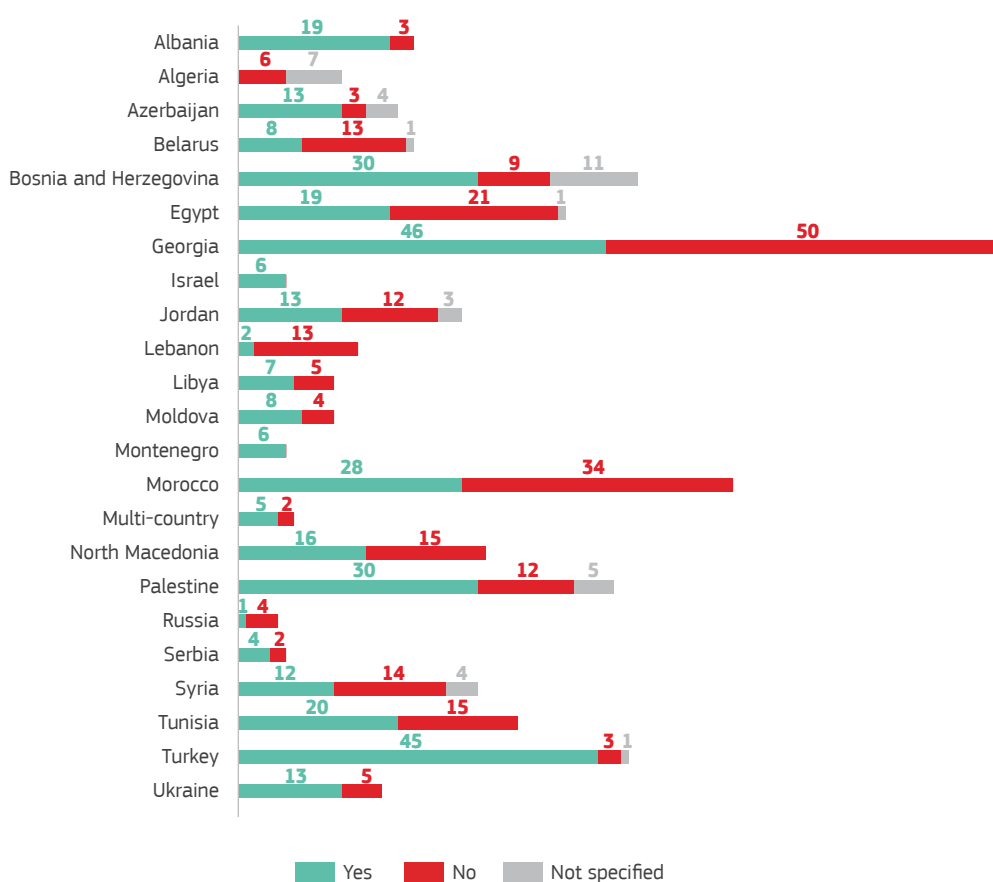
### Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making

In 2018, 57 % of reported actions in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Russia, were informed by gender analysis (393 of 691 actions).

Annex 2 Figure 36:

## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Number of actions formulated using a gender analysis, 2018



### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

In 2018, EU Delegations reported 198 monitoring missions in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, compared to 166 in 2017. The recommendations provided by these missions included mainstreaming gender within actions under review, as well as the need to access and use sex-disaggregated data. Other recommendations called for the inclusion of an the use of gender-sensitive indicators in interventions, and the need for training on gender mainstreaming. The missions consisted of spot-checks, visits by experts from headquarters, as well as mid-term and end-of-programme monitoring and evaluation. Reports indicate that recommendations were well-received, especially those related to the use of gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators.

#### Annex 2 Box 21: 'Green Economy' programme in Belarus

The EU-supported 'Green Economy' programme in Belarus championed economic growth in the country based on 'green' principles, alongside the development of local environmental initiatives. The programme's final evaluation identified several positive, gender-specific results, despite the major drawback of sex-disaggregated indicators not being used in the initiative. Nevertheless, positive results included greater gender balance in public sector agencies, capacity building activities, and a significant impact on gender-specific poverty reduction and women's participation in local development activities.

### *Annex 2 Box 22: Gender mainstreaming in third party monitoring (TPM) in Syria*

In Syria, gender mainstreaming was regularly applied in Third Party Monitoring (TPM) and on-the-spot verifications. Given the remote character of actions in Syria, coupled with a plethora of risks related to aid diversion, third party monitoring is essential for partners and locations – both ex-ante, during interventions and ex-post. The preliminary findings of the EU's gender audit found that research bodies are largely gender blind, prompting the EU Delegation to commit to following-up on this finding.

### *Annex 2 Box 23: Livelihood enhancement in Serbia*

In Serbia, a results-oriented monitoring mission identified the importance of ensuring Roma women's co-ownership of their homes as a prerequisite for reducing poverty and protecting women's rights. As a result of the mission, EU actors were able to act upon its recommendations.

## **Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality**

In 2018, 19 countries under the mandate of the Commission services responsible for the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region had a gender equality donor coordination mechanism in place that included international actors working locally. These actors ran the gamut from UN agencies to the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Save the Children. Other key actors included embassies and international cooperation agencies, such as the embassies of Canada, Switzerland, Norway and the United States of America, alongside the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

These mechanisms enhanced coordination and synergies, while avoid duplications in programming between the EU and other donors.

Moreover, 6 % of reported actions in the region were identified as specific research actions on issues related to gender equality. A further 13 % included a research component. Most specific research actions were implemented by EU Delegations in the region (32 of 39), as were most actions that contained a research component (53 of 93).

Overall, 36 % of actions implemented in the region contributed to improving quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data, of which 20 % were implemented by EU Delegations and 16 % by EU Member States. By contrast, 54 % were identified as 'not contributing' to enhancing such data.

In 17 countries in the region, EU actors supported national gender equality mechanisms. Such support was identified as part of 8 % of the actions reported by EU Delegations and 22 % of actions reported by EU Member States.

## **Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development**

### **Overview of progress in 2018**

Reports were submitted from across the range of units engaged in international cooperation and development, including those with thematic, geographic and coordination remits.

### **Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States**

EU positions on gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment were presented at a number of high-profile international events. The G7 meetings in Canada provided important opportunities to highlight gender equality issue. So too did the Spotlight Initiative and also 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), including a side-event with EU Member States on women's land tenure security.

High-level speeches were made on several key occasions. The European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, spoke at the launch of the Latin America component of EU-UN Spotlight Initiative during the 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly High-Level Week in September 2018. Other events included the UNDP High-Level Policy Dialogue in February, the Gender Summit in Kigali in March, and the High-Level Policy Forum on the



SDGs. The European Development Days and the Global Funds Replenishment Conference similarly boosted the visibility of gender equality issues. EU representatives participated in discussions on a gender action plan in the framework of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP13), as well a side event in the framework of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. This event centred on ‘A rights-based approach to menstrual hygiene management: Integrating water, sanitation, health, and gender equality to achieve the SDGs’. Important steps were jointly taken by the Commission services for international cooperation and development and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to highlight the gender dimensions of water and sanitation issues, including during the Council conclusions in November 2018 (see the box below) and the preparation of the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation.

*Annex 2 Box 24: Council conclusions on water diplomacy, November 2018*

“Women, girls and youth play a crucial role in achieving human development, inclusive and sustainable growth. Women are particularly affected by lack of access to water and sanitation, experiencing wide-ranging effects, including long and sometimes unsafe journeys to fetch water or use sanitation and hygiene facilities. The Council reaffirms the importance of integrating a gender perspective into water diplomacy.”

Other high-level interventions were made at the Policy Forum on Development and the Partnership Forum. Three events were organised to specifically target women’s economic empowerment. These included a working breakfast, ‘Powering Economies by Investing in Women’, in September 2018. Organised by Women World Banking, the event was attended by Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, Stefano Manservigi. Similarly, the official launch of the Digital 2 Equal initiative in San Francisco was attended by Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, Marjeta Jager, in November.

The EU’s commitment to mainstreaming of gender equality and women’s empowerment across all programmes was incorporated into the general principles of the proposal for the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument for negotiations on the forthcoming Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027.

Numerous briefings were prepared for senior leaders based on inputs from relevant units. These covered, *inter alia*, the Spotlight Initiative, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the women, peace and security agenda, land tenure security, women’s economic empowerment and enhanced coherence and coordination.

## **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls’ and women’s empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

Senior gender champions, present in six units, led on actions ranging from advocacy to leadership on gender equality, designing and implementing women’s economic empowerment actions, coordinating support and opportunities with other units, and stepping up engagement on gender-related issues. In addition, the entire Unit B1, ‘Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance’, are gender champions within the Commission services for international cooperation and development.

Among the range of good practices reported was the gender equality initiative of the ‘Latin American Regional Facility for Development in Transition’. This consists of four country reports on ‘non-remunerated work’, new trends on the labour market, and their impact on gender equality. The EU, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Steering Committee approved a common position paper on ‘Gender Equality under the perspective of Development in Transition’ in October. Following a rapid gender institutional assessment, EUROCLIMA+ reported on gender equality matters for the first time in 2018 and a gender focal person was appointed to support gender mainstreaming.

Several awareness raising and knowledge sharing events were held. These included a lunch-time conference on film-making as a tool to prevent violence against women and a special session on gender at a budget support seminar in the East and South-East Asia and the Pacific region. A newsletter on EU Delegations’ good practices in integrating gender equality in rural development, food security and nutrition actions was prepared to incentivise other EU Delegations to follow suit. The guide, ‘Because Women Matter’, was revised to assist staff to design interventions in food, nutrition and agriculture that enable women to change their lives. The guide highlights the GAP II’s minimum standards and explains how these can be achieved.

Pertinent issues in other regions were the focus of several other events. For instance, a screening of the documentary, ‘We The Women of Afghanistan – a Silent Revolution’, took place in Brussels in November, including a

key note speech by European External Action Service Secretary-General Helga Schmid. An event on 'Dignified Work in Bangladesh', organised jointly with Care International at the European Parliament, focused on gender equality in relation to labour rights and harassment in the garment sector.

Senior management affirmed their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment through a decision to set up the Spotlight Initiative with UN Women. This will increase significantly funding for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence across all regions. Managers also participated in the Spotlight steering committee and governing body.

Over 117 gender focal persons attended the annual gender focal persons' meeting in October, including those from Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions for the first time. This proved a valuable information sharing and learning forum. The EU resource pack (now available on the DEVCO Academy website) was revised. A newcomers' kit for gender focal persons, and a guide for senior gender champions, were prepared and disseminated. The appointment and continued support of gender focal persons continues to be a positive demonstration of institutional commitment to gender equality.

To enhance mainstreaming, one significant development in 2018 was the revision of the Quality Review Group's (QRG) methodology, the design of new templates for action documents, and a new instruction note. The templates are now much stronger and, over time, should improve efforts to mainstream gender and a rights-based approach (RBA) in new actions. The new methodology will also improve the correct use of the OECD gender marker in development cooperation, leading to higher quality data submitted to the OECD's Development Assistance Committee. Support for some 200 action documents was provided by internal staff of the Quality Review Group and technical assistance (TA) teams. In tandem, inputs were provided to ensure that gender equality and RBA mainstreaming are facilitated through the new IT platform for project management (OPSYS). This work is on-going.

Other important changes included the establishment of a new technical assistance desk on the rights-based approach. The desk will gradually provide most of the quality support for action design, alongside RBA training and support for EU Delegations. To date, it has supported the EU Delegations to Pakistan, Ethiopia and Myanmar.

A gender study on Central Asia was finalised, followed by country-specific studies the region. Conclusions were presented through country-level workshops. Steps were taken to improve performance on gender equality in education with the creation of a 'gender folder' on communications for development (C4D) for education focal persons. Sessions on sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) were organised to raise awareness among civil society organisations and foundation partners on these pivotal issues, which have often been overlooked.

Discussions and meetings were held on trust funds and blended finance actions with EU Member States and the European Investment Bank. The requirements of the GAP II and a rights-based approach were presented to a European Platform for Blending in External Cooperation (EUBEC) during a coordination meeting. A session was also organised with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to highlight the importance of gender mainstreaming in the blending modality<sup>47</sup>, with a particular focus on the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia. A briefing note on gender equality and blended finance was initiated. Sessions on gender equality were held during geographically-based events, for example, a session on gender budgeting during a budget support seminar.

### **Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments**

Approximately 30 % of women and 28 % of men staff members took part in some form of gender equality training. These addressed a range of issues, including budgetary support, agriculture and rural development, energy, conflict sensitivity and analysis, gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), and religion. Training on a rights-based approach was made available to EU Delegations and units at the Commission's headquarters. Overall, 10 RBA training sessions were arranged, including training days in eight countries. Several webinars were organised, particularly for gender focal persons and project managers. Specific sessions on sexual harassment and safeguarding issues were organised by one unit. Another unit prepared a 'gender folder' on communications for development (C4D) to boost awareness of gender equality issues.

Alongside formal training, many awareness raising activities were initiated in 2018. For example, the EU's Women

<sup>47</sup> Blending is the combination of EU grants with additional non-grant resources such as loans, equity and guarantees from development finance institutions, as well as commercial loans and investments.

and Sustainable Energy Initiative was publicised through various partners' newsletters and a dedicated flyer.<sup>48</sup> To prepare for a webinar on gender equality, the Central Asia Education Platform (CAEP II) carried out a study on gender equality in education. The study's preliminary findings were presented during the webinar.<sup>49</sup> A public photo contest was held online to raise awareness of women's active role in the sustainable energy sector. This attracted more than 200 participants from over 50 countries. Great swathes of the public were sensitised through this photo contest, exhibitions and a prize-giving ceremony during the 2018 European Development Days. The top 30 photographs were printed and exhibited around the globe – twice in Italy, as well as in South Africa; Brussels, Belgium; Geneva, Switzerland, at the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Conference on Air Pollution; and in New York, USA, at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF).<sup>50</sup>

Overall, gender equality is included as a specific responsibility in very few job descriptions. Nevertheless, many units regard gender equality as a priority and a cross-cutting issue, underscored by strong awareness. For example, in the unit responsible for the implementation of the Consensus and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, gender equality is a principle priority although it is not explicitly included in job descriptions. Gender is included in some way in the performance assessment systems of certain staff, most of whom are gender focal persons, in almost half of all units.

Many measures are in place to ensure access to technical gender expertise. For instance, three units provide ad hoc advisory support to other units. In certain instances, this encompasses the deployment of staff with gender expertise on conflict sensitivity, economic empowerment and the private sector. Four units have mid- to long-term gender advisory services in place, covering a range of areas, including capacity building and issue-specific support on the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda and value chains. Three units use funds, such as administrative credits or other support measures, to acquire gender expertise for evaluation and visibility initiatives. One unit has a budget available to mobilise gender expertise when required, while another has a study facility. Cross-unit coordination ensures strong positions on gender issues for discussions in the framework of international agreements or events. The facility on civil society is able to provide support on a range of areas, including gender equality, according to the priorities of EU Delegations.

As in previous years, the specialised Unit B1, 'Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance', responded to multiple queries in 2018. The GAP II's thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', was the focus of 20 % of enquiries. Thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights', was the subject of 15 % of enquiries, while another 15 % concerned thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights'. The remaining 50 % of enquiries concerned gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) more broadly. Between 95 and 100 general support enquiries were related to the GAP II's implementation, for example, on gender analysis and the preparation of terms of reference (TOR).

#### **Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making**

Of all actions reported to have contributed to the GAP II in 2018, 63 % (78 actions) were formulated using gender analysis, 32 % (39) were not, and 5 % (6) did not specify whether or not gender analysis was used. Notable examples include the use of gender analysis by the project, 'Improving the monitoring and effective implementation of core international conventions in GSP+ countries and Kyrgyzstan', to monitor on-going policy commitments covering issues such as the gender pay gap, gender-based violence and gender discrimination. Gender-sensitive value chain analysis was used for an EU-supported Iranian civil society organisation's project on women's economic empowerment with Afghan refugees. The use of gender analysis was reported in identification missions, in on-going trade diagnostic studies, and the programming of actions under the Trust Fund for Africa. In some cases where gender analysis was not used by EU stakeholders, grant recipients used gender analysis to inform the formulation of their projects. Others used UN data, for example on child marriage and on girls' education, or designed actions

48 For more information, see: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/facsheet-women-sustainable-energy-no-cropmarks\\_03152018\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/facsheet-women-sustainable-energy-no-cropmarks_03152018_en.pdf)

49 For more information and access to the webinar's presentations, see: <https://www.caep-project.org/caep-organises-webinar-on-gender-equality-in-education/>

50 For more information, see: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-commission-launches-photo-contest-empowering-women-sustainable-energy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-commission-launches-photo-contest-empowering-women-sustainable-energy_en) (Pictures illustrating women's empowerment are available upon request from DEVCO C6, as certain authors requested restricted use).

in consultation with civil society organisations.

One evaluation in the Horn of Africa region in Eastern Africa included an assessment of the action's impact on women and girls. Approximately 25 % of reporting units have internal processes in place for methodological reviews. The revision of the Quality Review Group's methodology, discussed above, was an important development related to the use of robust gender evidence in 2018. Around 20 % of reported actions used the findings of consultations to inform design, while 55 % did not and 24 % did not specify. Extensive consultations with government entities, civil society organisations, and EU and UN partners are routine for some units.

### **Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress**

In 2018, there was some progress on the use of sex-disaggregated data in results monitoring. While 23 % reported using sex-disaggregated data, 53 % reported using it 'partially'.

### **Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality**

Of all reported actions that contributed to the GAP II in 2018, 38 % supported improvements in the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data. However, 47 % did not and 15 % did not provide any information on the use of such data. Direct support for national gender equality mechanisms was a feature of 8 % of actions, while 15 % reported working with these national mechanisms.

#### *Annex 2 Box 25: Consulting women and youth in Central African Republic*

In November 2018, the Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, accompanied by the Head of Unit responsible for Central Africa, visited Bangui, Central African Republic. The visit included a civil society session with women and young people to jointly reflect together on their role in peace-building and what EU cooperation can offer their efforts.

While 2 % of reported actions encompassed research on gender-related issues, 20 % included a research component. Raising awareness of gender among local and national media stakeholders was an objective of 30 % of actions. Of all actions, 14 % were the subject of a results-oriented monitoring (ROM) mission.

## Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations

### **Overview of progress in 2018**

In 2018, reports were submitted by 23 units and entities, of a total of 28, of the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations. This reflects an increase in the number of reports submitted compared to previous years, as 20 units and entities reported in 2017, as did 17 units and entities in 2016.

In 2018, there were positive results on several objectives and indicators under the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' horizontal priority. These included an increase in the number of EU positions and policy dialogues which featured references to gender equality. Several more corrective actions were taken in 2018 to improve performance on gender equality compared to previous years. Several units reported a greater number of good practices compared to 2017. Nevertheless, further efforts are required to ensure that each unit at the headquarters level has a gender focal person with specific responsibilities regarding gender equality work. In addition, fewer staff members took part in trainings on gender equality in 2018 than in 2017.

### **Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States**

At headquarters, 152 EU positions for key international agendas included a reference to gender equality and the rights of girls and women in 2018. This is a marked increase from 59 in 2017 and only two in 2016. Such positions included briefings and speeches by senior management officials at high-level meetings, such as Stabilisation and Association Committees and Sub-Committees.

The Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations raised gender equality issues on a number of occasions, including during the celebrations of the Strategic Dialogue with the European Parliament. The Commissioner met with the Executive Director of UN Women to exchange views on the global state of gender equality, while exploring possibilities for joint collaboration on related issues in countries under the mandate of the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations. The Director-General similarly stressed the importance of gender equality during several public interventions, including the high-level panel on 'Empowering Women in Sustainable Investment and Business through the European Investment Plan' – a key part of the 2018 European Development Days.

The Support Group for Ukraine (NEAR-SGUA) continued to emphasise gender equality at events on Ukraine. Other units also included gender equality more systematically in their policy dialogues, reflecting an increasing number of EU positions that addressed gender equality and women's rights in 2018.

### **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

At headquarters, the practice of selecting gender champions has not become customary. In 2018, no gender champions were assigned. However, some Heads of Units and the Director-General advocated for gender equality in policy dialogues during public and internal events, without being formally nominated as gender champions. No awards were presented to managers or programme staff for delivering results on gender equality.

### **Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments**

Gender equality was mainstreamed in seminars on good governance, the rule of law and gender-sensitive budgeting. It was also mainstreamed in the work of the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations' networks on public administration reform (PAR-net), fundamental rights (FRI-net), and evaluation and monitoring. Specific training on gender mainstreaming was delivered in Serbia for gender focal persons from the EU Delegation to the Western Balkans and Turkey.

In 2018, eight staff members at headquarters took part in trainings on gender equality, of whom six were gender focal persons. This marked a considerable decrease compared to 2017, when 35 staff members received training, and a small decline from nine staff members in 2016. Trainings in 2018 covered a wide range of issues, from gender mainstreaming to a female talent development programme.

Seven staff members reported that their job descriptions included gender equality as an area of responsibility. However, only two of these staff members worked full time on gender equality in 2018. While one is a seconded national gender expert for Eastern Partnership countries, the other is a contracted gender expert for the Western Balkans and Turkey and a Gender Coordinator at headquarters. Moving the Gender Coordinator to the A1 Strategy and Policy Unit facilitated coordination tasks and gender mainstreaming, since the unit is responsible for overall policy coordination within the Commission Services for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations, as well as across the European Commission. Of the remaining five respondents, four are permanent officials, one is a temporary agent, and another is the gender focal person for the Southern Neighbourhood region with other programming responsibilities.

There is a need to institutionalise the role of gender focal persons nominated in each unit. They should have specific tasks assigned to them in their job descriptions, and gender equality should be considered in the assessment of their performance. For coordination purposes, gender focal persons automatically become members of the gender working group within the Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations. In 2018, most units reported taking measures to mobilise high-quality gender expertise in order to meet programming, planning and implementation needs.

### **Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making**

At headquarters in 2018, two main internal methodological review processes continued to be carried out to mainstream gender equality. The first process was participation in quality review meetings concerning programme design, so as to support gender mainstreaming and pay specific attention to the gender analysis that will inform programming.



In this context, several units highlighted increased awareness of the importance of gender mainstreaming in programming. They also reported incorporating more comprehensive and results-oriented gender equality language in key documents, following suggestions by gender advisors. These included action documents related to the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), as well as other documents, such as the review of the indicative strategy papers for Turkey and Kosovo. For example, during the formulation phase of the project on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, greater emphasis was placed on enhancing national authorities' investigation and prosecution capacities to consider and address conflict-related sexual violence. The desk review of Serbia's draft law on gender equality was another strong example, enabling authorities to address shortcomings through a revised draft of the law.

The second process involved the revision of action document templates, instruments and updates of checklists, so that adequate tools exist to facilitate gender mainstreaming. Most EU Delegations conducted country-level gender analysis, with the EU Delegations to Turkey and Kosovo finalising their gender analyses in 2018. A gender analysis is used to inform programming and policy-making. It includes information on women, men, girls and boys in terms of the division of labour, roles and responsibilities, access to, and control over, resources, and their relative condition and position in society. Some survey respondents pointed out that the absence of sex-disaggregated data in some countries remained a recurrent challenge. Moreover, when data is available, sex-disaggregated data is not always systematically collected as part of programming.

In 2018, two evaluations managed by the Monitoring and Evaluation Team included recommendations on gender equality. The evaluation of 'EU support to social protection in external action 2007-2013' called for improved gender mainstreaming and the application of European gender expertise throughout the EU's social protection programmes. The second evaluation of 'EU Support for Security Sector Reform in Enlargement and Neighbourhood Countries (2010-2016)' recommended introducing a gender lens into sectoral programming to move beyond a simple focus on increasing the number of women in justice and security sector institutions.

Overall, 20 recommendations in 17 results-oriented monitoring reports addressed gender equality – of a total of 478 reports drafted in 2018. Six recommendations indicated that the gender dimension should be enhanced in strategies or in the implementation of actions. The remaining 14 recommendations highlighted the need to include sex-disaggregated data and specific gender indicators.

*Annex 2 Box 26: Good practice on integrating gender equality in public administrations – TAIEX supports a study visit for Tunisian officials*

Three representatives of the Government of Tunisia participated in a study visit on the 'integration of gender mainstreaming in public administration and public policies', supported by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX). The visit to Bilbao, San Sebastian and Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, was organised with the assistance of Emakunde, the Basque Institute for Women. In 2005, the Institute's activities were recognised as a 'best practice' by the Council of Europe in a report on gender budgeting. The study visit showcased examples of successful tools and policies implemented in the Basque Country with civil society's support to close the gender gap in public policies. In addition to highlighting gender budgeting, the visit highlighted best practices on implementing gender equality in politics, training programmes for civil servants, and municipal dialogue and networks. Both Tunisian and Spanish representatives appreciated the opportunity to exchange expertise and best practices on gender mainstreaming.

## Conclusions

In 2018, survey results revealed a positive upward trend on a number of indicators under the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority. As noted above, gender equality was raised in more policy dialogues, and more EU positions for key international agendas included a focus on gender equality. These developments indicate that the EU is taking steps to fulfil its commitments to the GAP II and other policy documents related to gender equality. EU Delegations and EU Member States are also working on gender equality issues in a more coordinated manner in most countries under the framework of the GAP II.

Nevertheless, challenges remain. For instance, human resources dedicated to gender equality could be enhanced within the Commission Services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations. Current challenges in this regard may be linked to the number of countries and programmes covered by the services.

There remains a need to ensure that specific tasks related to gender equality are included in the job descriptions of gender focal persons in each unit and EU Delegation. In many instances, there is also a need for training to ensure that gender focal persons can develop the skills required to fulfil their assigned tasks. A high level of management commitment is also essential. For instance, there is a need to appoint gender champions at headquarters level in line with the GAP II.

*Annex 2 Table 1: Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations – Institutional Culture Shift summary, 2016-2018*

Reference	Indicator	2016	2017	2018
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	2	59	152
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	5	400	383
2.1.1	Number of senior gender champions appointed at HQ and country level	2	31	60
2.3.1	Number of good practices highlighted in Institutional Annual Reports	2	59	26
2.3.2	Number of corrective actions taken per year to improve performance on gender equality	9	33	51
3.2.1	Number of staff, disaggregated by level, trained on gender equality per year, and reporting changes in the way they work	9	35	8
3.2.2	Number of gender focal persons (or equivalent) trained per year	5	8	6
3.2.3	Gender mainstreamed into all trainings provided	0	2	6
3.3.2	Number of job descriptions that contain gender equality as an area of responsibility, by seniority	N/A	6	5
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	8

## Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments

### Overview of progress in 2018

Gender mainstreaming was increasingly a strong feature and mind-set within the working methods of the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments across all of its interventions in 2018. Gender is structurally integrated into the service's management plan, with clear targets and references to the GAP II. Moreover, gender issues have been addressed within the context of individual actions and operations since 2014, particularly under the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace and the Partnership Instrument. The results framework and manual of the service, adopted in September 2017 and updated in July 2018, incorporates a clear gender perspective, informed by GAP II commitments and inspired by SDG 5's pledge to 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. It provides a clear basis for an assessment of the service's performance on implementing the GAP II's objectives.

### Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with the Member States

In terms of concrete steps towards advancing an institutional culture shift in EU external relations, efforts to mainstream gender in the management of crisis and post-crisis situations – as well as in building partnerships – began to bear fruit. In 2018, gender featured strongly as both an action-specific and cross-cutting issue within interventions under the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace and the Partnership Instrument. For both instruments, a Gender Facility (external technical services) accelerated work in 2018 on gender mainstreaming as part of programming and action design among EU Delegations, the Foreign Policy Instruments' regional teams and headquarters. Gender also featured as an important consideration in Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) operations and continued to be an integral part of the planning and implementation of EU election observation



missions (EOM) under the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights. All of the service's instruments and operations – including the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the Partnership Instrument, the EU election observation missions and Common Foreign and Security Policy operations – contributed, to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in line with SDG 5.

### **Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

Three items of good practice may be highlighted in 2018. First, the Gender Facilities of the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace and the Partnership Instrument, as discussed above. Second, the active use of the guidance note 'Evaluation with gender as a cross-cutting dimension' in evaluations contracted by the service. Third, the service's reporting on the gender marker. These were highlighted within the framework of the annual activity report 2018, as well as programme statements for the draft 2020 budget. In addition to reporting on the gender marker, reporting on the use of gender expertise and gender analysis as an integral or systematic part of action design was introduced in 2018. The year also witnessed the first steps taken towards capturing sex-disaggregated action results to comply with GAP indicator 5.1.2, on using OPSYS data as the source of verification. Capturing such data and reporting on it annually will create momentum within the service. Over time, this is projected to lead to more efficient and effective action design, predicated upon matching available funds with empirical gender-based needs.

In addition, work on gender formed part of the core responsibilities of operational project managers of the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments, underpinned by the aforementioned Gender Facilities. These facilities provided operational managers with direct access to external senior expertise on strategic and ad hoc issues related to gender equality. This contributed to ongoing improvements in action design, as well as in all subsequent phases of the project cycle. In terms of quality, a gender-sensitive approach to evaluations was applied fully as of 2018. This was facilitated by the guidance note mentioned above, 'Evaluation with gender as a cross-cutting dimension', drafted in 2017 in cooperation with the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development, and for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations. The guidance note was widely distributed among staff members of the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments, particularly staff involved in evaluations and in external evaluators contracted by the service. Overall, the guidance note was used to inform all evaluation activities in 2018.

The service's senior management was also actively involved in promoting gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment. In the framework of the 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' ceremony organised by UN Women and Nasdaq on 7 March 2018, ahead of the International Women's Day celebration, the Director/Head of Service, participated in a panel discussion to emphasise the EU's work on women's economic empowerment. The discussion also illustrated how much the EU values the private sector's engagement in Partnership Instrument actions to progress towards empowering women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

During the Artisanal Diamond Mining Forum in Zambia, it was noted that *"Artisanal mining, when conducted in an informed and responsible manner, has the potential to lift men and women, families and communities, out of poverty."* A statement by the service's senior management on this occasion included an explicit reference to gender equality and women's empowerment.

### **Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU Institutions and Member States to deliver on gender equality commitments**

Gender focal persons were designated in the regional teams for the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace and the Partnership Instrument, respectively. Each gender focal person had at least three years of gender expertise and more than five years' of experience in the field of peace-building, including on women, peace and security. The service continued to consider gender in the context of the women, peace and security agenda (WPS), ensuring that WPS is never dissociated from the broader issues of gender and obligations under SDG 5. Gender focal persons for the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace and the Partnership Instrument continued to play an active role in ensuring delivery on gender equality commitments. In addition, gender focal persons were designated for common foreign and security policy operations and for election observation missions at the end of 2018. In terms of general coordination and service-level reporting, the evaluation officer covered gender issues, supported by the Deputy Head of Unit. The service is also committed to implementing a human resource policy based on the diversity and inclusion charter, which is part of the diversity and inclusion strategy adopted in 2016.

In terms of direct resource allocations, two service contracts – namely, the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace's Gender Facility and the Partnership Instrument's Gender Facility – entered into full implementation cycle in 2018, as discussed above. Details on the services provided by the facilities are provided below (see objective 4).

**Gender is a key cross-cutting issue for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and is integrated into all its actions.** These include non-programmable crisis response actions under Article 3, as well as programmable actions on conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness under Article 4. Throughout 2018, due attention was paid to relevant legal provisions, particularly those related to combatting gender-based violence and promoting women's participation in peace-building. The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace's thematic strategy paper 2014-2020 also identifies gender mainstreaming and women's participation in peace processes as relevant themes for capacity building, so as to ensure effective conflict prevention and crisis response. In this regard, key priority is given to ensuring that all actions contribute to delivering on EU commitments on women, peace and security, based on the Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security (2018).

Staff at headquarters and in the regional teams mainstreamed specific gender elements on a more systematic basis when designing Article 3 and Article 4-related actions, with particular attention to WPS issues. A new action, 'Preventing violent extremism: a gender sensitive approach', was included in the annual action programme 2017. It sought to prevent the rise of violent extremism by strengthening the capacities of local actors to address gender dynamics. The action in Jordan and Pakistan was contracted in 2018. A service contract for a Gender Facility was concluded in 2017 to ensure and take due account of the implementation of GAP II commitments. The Gender Facility was fully capitalised on in 2018, providing expertise to integrate gender across the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace's areas of intervention throughout all the phases of project cycle management, including project design.

Under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace's multi-country flagship action – adopted in 2017 under the annual action programme on conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness (Article 4) – the instrument continued to support a survey on the well-being and security of women in South-East Europe, Eastern Europe, Turkey and the South Caucasus. The survey covered violence against women and gender-based violence in 10 countries that are part of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Gender was also an important consideration in **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) operations**, and continued to be an integral part of the planning and implementation of **EU election observation missions (EOM)**.

In 2018, three out of ten **civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions** were headed by a woman. These were the EU capacity building mission in (EUCAP) in Somalia, the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo and EUCAP Sahel Niger, up to March 2018. Two out of eight **EU Special Representatives** are women, including the EU Special Representative for Kosovo, and for the Middle East Peace Process. The mandates and operational plans of CSDP missions covered activities to mainstream gender in daily work, both internally within the mission and in the context of activities conducted with external and national counterparts.

#### **Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making**

The manual of the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments was updated in July 2018. It includes clear information on gender under its sections on project management methodology. Clear gender criteria were also incorporated into the service's results framework. Both the manual and the results framework apply across the service.

Gender was covered as one of the key cross-cutting issues for the evaluations of actions under the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace and the Partnership Instrument. Clear criteria for mainstreaming gender equality and gender-sensitivity in action design and implementation, relevant to all of the service's interventions, were identified as part of the guidance note discussed above, 'Evaluation with gender as a cross-cutting dimension'. Throughout 2018, the guidance note was actively used by the service.

The second phase of the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace's Gender Facility was operational from October 2017 to November 2018, to ensure and take due account of the implementation of GAP II commitments and the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security. Services provided by this facility included the provision of expertise to integrate gender across the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace's areas of intervention throughout all the phases of the project cycle, including action design. Specifically, the four services offered by the facility consisted of ad hoc

support and coaching sessions on gender mainstreaming, training for staff at headquarters and in four regional teams on gender-sensitivity and mainstreaming, as well as drafting gender-sensitive thematic guidance notes. In 2018, the facility's technical expertise was used 11 times to inform actions and programmes, and three times to support staff through coaching sessions. It also provided five trainings on gender-sensitivity mainstreaming and developed nine thematic guidance notes to enhance the mainstreaming of gender-sensitivity into the projects of the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace. These thematic guidance notes included: (i) 'Gender aspects of Dialogue, Mediation and Reconciliation'; (ii) 'Gender Aspects of Police Reform'; (iii) 'Gender mainstreaming and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda'; (iv) 'Gender and Access to Justice in Conflict/Post-Conflict Settings'; (v) 'Gender Aspects of Assistance to Migrants (Refugees, Returnees, IDPs) and Host Populations'; (vi) 'Gender Aspects of Preventing Radicalisation Violent Extremism'; (vii) 'Gender and Housing, Land and Property Rights in (Post-) Conflict'; (viii) 'Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Conflict Settings'; and (ix) 'Preventing Conflict-related Sexual and Gender-based Violence'.

The technical expertise of the Partnership Instrument's Gender Facility was deployed and used 16 times in 2018. It was used to train a total of 46 staff members in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Russia. It also supported ongoing actions under the instrument, ranging from gender in free trade agreements and the field of energy, to women's economic empowerment. It further supported the formulation of a new action on the implementation of Russia's national action strategy for women. The facility's expertise was also used to integrate gender considerations into 11 new Partnership Instrument actions during the programming phase of the instrument's annual action programme for 2019, as well as to provide three specific coaching sessions. Moreover, the facility developed gender-sensitive thematic guidance notes on six of the Partnership Instrument's priority themes – economic diplomacy, the environment, climate change, energy, international digital cooperation and the circular economy.

In terms of reporting, all headquarters units contributed to the service's report on the GAP II's implementation in 2018, submitted via EU Survey. Contributions were also provided by all five regional teams, located in Bangkok, Thailand; Beirut, Lebanon; Brasilia, Brazil; Dakar, Senegal; and Nairobi, Kenya.

Overall in 2018, 2.98 % of newly contracted actions under the Partnership Instrument were marked 'G2' and 14.71 % were marked 'G1' using the OECD gender marker, indicating that gender equality was a principal or significant objective for these actions. This represents a considerable increase compared to 2017, when 5.8 % of newly contracted actions were marked 'G1'. Those Partnership Instrument actions marked 'G0' related to global challenges, Europe 2020, trade and market access, and public diplomacy. The Partnership Instrument Regulation does not specifically refer to gender equality and women's empowerment, or to democracy and human rights, as cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed. As such, there is no strict requirement in the instrument's legal basis for these issues to be integrated in the design and implementation of actions funded by the Partnership Instrument. Nonetheless, gender considerations were acted upon in 11 Partnership Instrument actions in 2018, to be funded under the instrument's annual action programme 2019. It is expected that this will further increase the percentage of contracted actions marked 'G1' during the next reporting exercise.

Several factors led to an increase in Partnership Instrument actions marked 'G1' in 2018. These included:

- i. The overall political framework, as the EU and its Member States are at the forefront of championing the protection, fulfilment and enjoyment of human rights by women and girls. Throughout 2018, these issues were strongly promoted in all external relations, beyond development cooperation. There are also growing requirements for all EU external action instruments to effectively take action and report on gender, notably guided by the EU Global Strategy and the GAP II.
- ii. The findings of the external evaluation of the Partnership Instrument highlighted the limited structural regard for gender mainstreaming within funded actions and the absence of a reference to democracy and human rights in action design or delivery. This encouraged corrective action.
- iii. The active engagement of a gender focal person and the implementation of the Partnership Instrument Gender Facility increased awareness of the importance of gender issues and dimensions for enhancing actions' effectiveness, sustainability and impacts. This was the case across various thematic areas covered by the instrument, such as energy security, climate change, environmental protection and migration, as well as specific aspects of the EU's economic diplomacy.
- iv. As greater attention is paid to women's economic empowerment, responsible business conduct and decent work, the demand has increased for targeted interventions on these issues. As such, there is scope for more

actions in this regard in the framework of sustainable, inclusive growth and the EU's values. For instance, one of the Partnership Instrument's objectives is the implementation of the international dimension of Europe 2020 and the promotion of the EU's internal policies.

**The European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR) implementation, including Election Observation Missions**, follows a gender-responsive right-based approach. In 2018, 100 % of contracted EOM actions reported a G-Marker 1. The European Commission also consistently ensures a gender balance in the selection of 1) core team experts, 2) observers and 3) participants in training. In 2018, 49 % of core team member were women (42.9 % in 2017); 50 % of all observers were women (48.8 % in 2017); and of the total number of 55 trainees from 28 Member States, 64 % were women (54 % in 2017 and 52.7 % in 2016).

## Commission services responsible for humanitarian aid and civil protection

Several of the GAP II's objectives have implications for humanitarian action, including objectives under its horizontal 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority, as well as its three thematic priorities. Objective 9, on protection from gender-based violence in emergencies, is especially relevant. Other key objectives in this regard are objective 12, on healthy nutrition levels for girls and women throughout their life cycle, and objective 13, on equal access to education. As not all indicators fit within the humanitarian mandate, reporting only takes place on a selected number of indicators.

*Annex 2 Table 2: Commission services responsible for foreign policy instruments – GAP II objectives and indicators, 2018*

GAP II objective	GAP II indicator(s)
9. Protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender based violence in crisis situations through EU supported operations	9.7. Number of EU funded humanitarian targeted actions that respond to GBV 9.9. Number of EU-funded humanitarian programmes marked 2 by the Commission Services for European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection gender/age marker and/or Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) marker 9.10. Number of EU Member States and partner countries signed up to the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies
12. Healthy nutrition levels for girls and women and throughout their life cycle	12.5. Number of women of all ages, but especially at reproductive age, and children under 5 benefiting from nutritional related programme with EU support
13. Equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination	<i>Not GAP II indicators</i> Number of boys and girls that access safe, quality learning opportunities Number of teachers and other education personnel trained to create a supportive learning environment and to promote learners' psychosocial well-being

In terms of evoking an institutional cultural shift in EU external relations, the EU remained fully committed to implementing the GAP II across all external relations, including humanitarian actions. For instance, through the implementation of the 2013 policy 'Gender in Humanitarian Assistance: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance', the EU has already made reference to gender equality on several occasions.

In 2018, the EU continued implementing the '**Staff Working Document on Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance**' (July 2013), for instance by mainstreaming gender and age in its humanitarian operations. In 2018, it is estimated that the EU allocated nearly EUR 30 million in humanitarian aid to help fight sexual and gender-based violence under its protection and health programming.

To support policy implementation and coherence, the EU introduced a 'gender-age marker', which has applied to all EU-funded humanitarian projects since January 2014. The gender-age marker is an accountability tool that uses four quality criteria to measure how strongly all EU-funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age at their proposal, monitoring and final report stages. A first assessment report on the gender-age marker was published in October 2018, covering the 2014-2015 period. It highlighted the usefulness of the marker, calling upon partners to continue to invest in capacity building on gender and age. For 2017, preliminary data suggests that 89.1 % of projects integrated gender and age to a certain extent. Data is not yet available for 2018, as sufficient final reports of 2018 projects were not yet published at the time of the GAP II implementation report's drafting.

From June 2017 to December 2018, the EU led the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. This global initiative brings together 82 partners – including governments, donors, international organisations and NGOs – to drive change and foster accountability in the humanitarian system to address GBV.

The Call to Action Road Map 2016–2020 sets out an operational framework with common objectives for the humanitarian community. The EU has been an active member of the Call to Action since its creation in 2013. It has made a number of individual pledges under the Call to Action Road Map, focusing on policy implementation and dissemination, including in terms of the GAP II, while ensuring that available funding supports the implementation process.

The EU's leadership of the Call to Action was guided by four main priorities:

- i. To increase advocacy on the prevention of, and response to, GBV in emergencies. As the lead of the Call to Action, the EU organised a number of global awareness-raising events in Brussels, Geneva and New York. Continuous outreach was undertaken to engage existing and potential new partners to strengthen the Call to Action partnership. For instance, a high-level panel debate on preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV in humanitarian crises was held during the 2018 European Development Days. In June 2018, a public event held on the margins of the annual Call to Action Partners Meeting discussed challenges to and opportunities for responding to GBV in emergencies. The event also raised awareness of the efforts deployed by the Call to Action partnership to address GBV in different settings. In September 2018, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, and the Executive Director of UNICEF, Henrietta Fore, co-hosted an event entitled, 'Children and women under attack: ending gender-based violence in emergencies'. The event was held under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Moreover, throughout its leadership of the Call to Action, the EU advocated tirelessly for collective action as a vital means of preventing and responding to GBV in emergencies. From June 2017 to December 2018, the EU welcomed 18 new partners to the Call to Action, including five EU Member States – Bulgaria, Latvia, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.
- ii. To increase the focus on the prevention of GBV in emergencies. The EU's advocacy sought to ensure that GBV prevention becomes a reflex for all humanitarian actors. Examples included EU support for the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Handbook, as discussed above – a practical tool that provides guidance to frontline humanitarian workers on how to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian aid. In October 2018, the EU published a report on its gender-age marker, which includes a criterion on risk mitigation. Many of the events that hosted by the EU discussed issues relevant to prevention, risk mitigation and the collective responsibility of humanitarian actors to address GBV in emergencies.
- iii. To raise awareness of the Call to Action at the field level – the level with the lowest levels of awareness of the call, and the greatest potential impacts. As discussed above, the EU supported UNFPA to develop inter-agency global minimum standards on GBV in emergencies, in addition to providing UNFPA and the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility with EUR 975,000 for the operationalisation of the Call to Action at the field level in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Throughout 2018, the EU organised a series of field workshops to raise awareness on the Call to Action and discuss context-specific challenges. These welcomed a total of over 500 participants in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Senegal, Sudan, Thailand and Turkey.
- iv. To lead the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map 2016–2020. The EU facilitated the finalisation of the monitoring and evaluation framework for improved reporting of the impact and overall progress of the Call to Action, as well as facilitating the drafting of the 2017 Call to Action progress report. Moreover, a new standardised reporting tool was piloted and the Call to Action website was set up. This a joint platform, owned by the partnership, is managed by the initiative's rotating leadership.

## EU Member States

### Overview of progress in 2018

In 2018, 23 EU Member States submitted reports on progress towards the objectives of the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority, at the headquarters level. Some Member States, although unable to submit a full report, conveyed short updates by email.



### **Objective 1. Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States**

Almost 400 EU Member States' positions on key international agendas included a focus on gender equality and the rights of women and girls. As gender equality is a policy priority for many states – such as Belgium, Germany and Sweden – gender equality issues are raised consistently on all occasions. Other Member States reported that their engagement covered such a wide range of issues that it was not possible to quantify specific instances when gender equality issues were raised, stressing that any estimate would result in under-reporting.

International gatherings proved key spaces for raising gender equality and rights issues, such as meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the United Nations General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the World Bank, European Development Days, the World Economic Forum in Davos and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 2018.

Austria's presidency of the EU Council offered several high-profile opportunities to highlight gender equality and women's rights issues. For example, the Austrian Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs underlined commitments to gender equality in her opening remarks during the conference on "Defending Women – Defending the Rights of Women Human Rights Defenders: Perspectives and Challenges". The conference was organised by Amnesty International back-to-back with the informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Vienna in August 2018. In December, gender equality was highlighted at the launch event of the 2019 edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Centre. Gender-sensitive aid in Ethiopia was a specific agenda item at the informal meeting of the Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) in September 2018. This highlighted the challenges and opportunities of gender-sensitive humanitarian work.

As part of France's preparations to assume the 2019 presidency of the G7, the country launched a campaign to promote the Istanbul Convention. In 2018, the campaign drew attention to the inequalities experienced by women when they are targets of violence. France and the Netherlands sponsored a joint resolution on sexual harassment at the UN General Assembly in 2018, in order to ensure that harassment is recognised as a form of violence.

Many EU Member States contributed to debates and negotiations during the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Belgium, for example, emphasised the importance of a holistic, coordinated and transformative approach to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in rural areas. High-profile events were also organised in partner countries. A seminar in Mexico was organised by the Embassy of Finland, enabling members of Congress to discuss gender equality in relation to legislation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A series of ministerial-level discussions on gender equality were also organised by the Embassy of Finland in China.

#### *Annex 2 Box 27: 'It's About Time! 100 Reasons to Act!' in Lithuania*

In June 2018, the Women Political Leaders Summit in Lithuania enabled the exchange of global best practices on leadership, legislation and political agenda-setting to create positive results for women. The summit was an initiative of the President of the Republic of Lithuania and the Chairperson of the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL), in cooperation with the Women Political Leaders Global Forum, the Lithuanian Parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

The summit declaration proclaimed: "We, women political leaders, proclaim that we cannot allow another 100 years to pass waiting for changes towards equality and 'it's about time' to achieve global parity between women and men, creating inclusive and participatory societies for all."

Addressing the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda was a constant theme for many EU Member States, alongside a range of issues related to violence against women and girls (VAWG), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHRs), trafficking, safeguarding, economic and political empowerment, and gender and trade. Economic empowerment, the gender pay gap and work-life balance were also key topics for many Member States, such as Slovakia. France hosted an event at the United Nations Security Council on women's meaningful participation in peace processes in the Sahel. Baltic countries issued a joint statement at the United Nations General Assembly's debate on women, peace and security. The WPS agenda was also a particular focus of Poland's engagement in UN meetings.

*Annex 2 Box 28: National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in Poland*

Poland's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2018-2021 defines areas and specific actions for the implementation of the WPS agenda, while striving to increase coordination between the Polish institutions most intimately involved in its implementation. The action plan was jointly drawn up by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Defence, the Interior and Administration, and the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment. It was also submitted for public consultations, engaging non-governmental organisations who work to promote women's role and rights in the security sector.

**Objective 2. Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**

Over 200 senior gender champions have been appointed across 12 EU Member States, with many states reporting high numbers. A small increase in the number of gender champions is evident compared to 2017. Many champions are at the ministerial or senior government level, and have been appointed officially. Some have an external inter-ministerial mandate to strengthen coherence on gender equality across ministries. A few Member States reported that gender equality is an area of responsibility for several top management officials, while others reported that one or two senior officials are explicitly responsible for gender issues.

In Belgium, for example, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation was nominated as the 'She Decides' champion, overseeing the full integration of gender equality in development cooperation. In Finland, an Ambassador for Gender Equality is responsible for leading and coordinating gender equality work, as well as identifying synergies between different departments of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, other ministries and external stakeholders, including civil society organisations. To this end, she created a Gender Task Force within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The United Kingdom's Special Envoy for Gender Equality leads efforts to deliver the Foreign Secretary's vision of foreign policy that consciously and consistently delivers for women and girls. In Italy, the Head of the Department for Equal Opportunities was appointed as the country's first gender champion. This official is responsible for coordinating government actions to support women's human rights and personal rights, prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination, and combat violence against women and the exploitation and trafficking of human beings.

Several EU Member States, including Ireland and Luxembourg, reported that senior gender champions are specifically responsible for women, peace and security. Others reported that their permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York and Geneva are gender champions. While France reported that it did not have a formal network of gender champions, each ministry, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, appoints a senior civil servant to be responsible for the implementation of the national strategy for gender equality.

Most EU Member States (18) have an established mechanism for consulting external senior expertise on strategic and ad hoc issues related to gender equality. These mechanisms range from government commissions to formal expert advisory structures and help desks. Germany has two consultation mechanisms. First, at the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the sectoral programme "Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights" supports the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs to formulate and implement national and international gender equality commitments. Second, the Thematic Gender Group (*Gender Themen Team*) brings together senior experts from the Ministry, civil society, GIZ and the KfW Development Bank (German financial cooperation) twice a year.

Some EU Member States have on-going contractual arrangements in place for engaging external gender expertise. For example, Austria's contract with a human rights institution includes gender expertise. Others have ad hoc arrangements through which thematic experts are consulted as required. This is the case in Italy, which also has an informal parliamentary group on femicide, composed of experts and members of parliament. Similarly, Luxembourg recruits short-term gender experts as needed.

*Annex 2 Box 29: Portugal's inter-ministerial section and Technical and Scientific Advisory Group*

In Portugal, an inter-ministerial section brings together representatives of each line ministry and services. They work as gender focal persons in their respective areas, in order to mainstream gender equality into all policies and all sectors of the country's central public administration. Portugal's Technical and Scientific Advisory Group, chaired by the government representative in charge of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (Comissão para a Cidadania e a Igualdade de Género) (CIG) includes experts on women's rights and gender equality.



In Spain, the Gender Group of the Development Cooperation Council, provides recommendations on integrating a gender perspective in Spanish development cooperation policy documents. The group's members are drawn from universities, civil society organisations, businesses and several ministries. In 2018, the group met three times and its contributions proved fundamental to integrating Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) as a priority for Spanish international cooperation between 2018 and 2021. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands funded a Gender Resource Facility which provides high-quality gender expertise to meet the needs of programming, planning and implementation. The implementing agencies of multi-annual programmes also have finances needed to secure additional gender expertise to enhance programme implementation. Sweden has a specific help desk linked with academia. In Latvia, a dedicated gender expert works in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Cooperation Policy Division, who works on policy development in collaboration with the gender expert at the Ministry's Human Rights Division.

*Annex 2 Box 30: Gender expertise in the United Kingdom*

The United Kingdom organises external expert roundtables on gender equality with Ministers, as required. Policy teams also engage regularly with civil society, researchers, bilateral development agencies and UN experts on gender equality. Many programmes have external expertise on steering committees and advisory groups. Three dedicated helpdesks respond to gender-related queries and enable staff to rapidly access external expertise. These include the 'Violence against Women and Girls' helpdesk, the 'Women Opportunities and Work' helpdesk and the 'Knowledge for Development (K4D)' helpdesk.

Consultation with civil society and academia on gender is standard practice in most EU Member States. France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs support a platform that meets regularly to provide guidance and expertise on gender and development. It includes representatives of civil society organisations, local governments, the private sector and public institutions. In Latvia, civil society organisations and gender experts are primarily consulted through the Consultative Council on Development Cooperation, an expanded body of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mechanisms that exist in some EU Member States focus largely on equal opportunities, gender equality and women's rights within the state. For example, Hungary's Thematic Working Group responsible for women's rights monitors the enforcement of women's human rights in the country, particularly in the fields of employment, education, healthcare and partnership. Countries like Lithuania and Malta have commissions on equal opportunities. The Gender Equality Ombudsman in Croatia combats discrimination and promotes gender equality, while Slovenia's Expert Council for Gender Equality is a consultative expert body of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Many examples of corrective actions were reported in 2018. Some related to monitoring the use of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Gender Equality Policy Marker. Others involved updating guidelines for gender mainstreaming or arranging training sessions, including on women, peace and security.

*Annex 2 Box 31: Corrective actions by Germany*

In 2018, German technical cooperation guidelines on gender-responsive project management were updated. Standards and Terms of Reference for gender analysis were adapted, in order to meet the requirements of the new Safeguards + Gender Management System. These efforts also responded to recent international developments and challenges in the sphere of gender equality and women's rights.

GIZ's management board endorsed the new GIZ gender strategy on 18 December 2018 and established the new position of a GIZ Gender Ambassador. The gender strategy sets goals for the agency, while the GIZ internal operational guidelines provide clear orientation for all organisational units, employees and staff. All units will have to report on implementation annually.

In January and February 2018, the KfW Development Bank – the principal arm of Germany's financial cooperation – conducted a large-scale cross-sectional analysis on the integration of gender in financial cooperation projects.

Only one EU Member State (Germany) reported that rewards, or equivalent incentives, were presented to managers or programme staff as per agreed criteria. In nine Member States, the reporting systems of institutional bodies – either ministries or agencies – included a clear assessment of performance on the GAP II's objectives as a requirement.

Two EU Member States reported independent evaluations on EU leadership. An independent evaluation of the Austrian Development Agency's (ADA) Environment and Social Impact Manual (ESIM) began in 2018. The manual includes gender as a key impact area, and requires that all projects and programmes undergo an internal risk and quality appraisal. Spain carried out 44 specific evaluations of gender or women's rights in 2018. While one centred on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Spanish Fund, the other 43 were performed in different countries by different actors. Eight Member States reported carrying out 250 spot checks to evaluate performance on gender equality in 2018. Belgium alone reported 200, while seven other states reported 50 spot checks between them.

### **Objective 3. Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments**

Gender equality featured as an explicit responsibility in the job descriptions of 35 top management positions in 13 EU Member States, 36 middle management positions in 14 countries, and 103 technical staff positions across 16 countries. Most of these top management job descriptions were in three Member States – Germany, Ireland and Spain. In 10 Member States, a gender focal person was included in performance assessment systems for relevant staff, including senior management, heads of department, gender focal persons or equivalent positions. Across 17 Member States, there are 290 gender focal persons, each with more than three years' of experience.

Over 5,000 Member State staff members were trained in 2018, with an especially high proportion in France. Over 800 gender focal persons were trained, with high numbers in some states and none in others. Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RoAid and the Diplomatic Institute organised a training programme for young foreign diplomats, 'ForeignDiplo2018@IDR'. Over half of the participants were women. In Croatia, 10 workshops at the School for Public Administration trained public servants responsible for managing European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) on anti-discrimination, gender equality and the rights of people with disabilities.

Across 12 Member States, 2,133 officials were trained on women, peace and security, once more with especially high numbers in certain countries. For example, all the members of the Slovenian Armed Forces were trained before deployment. In Finland, specialists received training on gender, as did all staff deployed for crisis management operations. In Portugal, police and military personnel were trained on human rights, trafficking and women, peace and security.

Data on the ratio of women to men in the police and military forces, disaggregated by seniority, was not readily available in many countries. However, some EU Member States reported actions to encourage more women to join security and law enforcement organisations. In Denmark, for example, the armed forces held an annual National Inspiration Day to motivate more young women to join, an initiative deemed highly successful. Efforts were taken to improve conditions for women in the Danish army, including a network of young women leaders and a reward system for women role models.

Denmark also reported new collaborative efforts with NGOs to respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. Estonia's Ministry of Social Affairs trained 12 chancellors to familiarise them with the current state of gender balance at the management level. These trainings explained why low levels of women's participation in decision-making are an obstacle for development and outlined solutions to improve their representation. The Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre (ENUT) also provided gender equality training for the staff of their development cooperation projects as needed. As a result, staff members are better able to report on gender equality activities.

Overall, 10 EU Member States reported on the number of training sessions which mainstreamed gender in 2018. Some noted that gender is mainstreamed in all thematic sessions, such as Austria and Germany. Others, such as Ireland, reported that training sessions included a gender component. Of the 13 Member States who did not report on gender mainstreaming in training, some indicated that such data was not collected. The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs invested in enhancing the capacity of all staff through an introductory course, "Gender... (of)course", and two advanced modules. The next step is to integrate this course into all other training courses.

### **Objective 4. Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making**

Two-thirds of actions reported by EU Member States as contributing to the GAP II were formulated using gender analysis. Breaking down this figure by region reveals that 100 % of reported actions in Central Asia were informed by gender analysis, as were 77 % of global actions, over 70 % in the Americas, 60 % to 70 % in West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, and European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations' countries,

and slightly over 40 % in Asia and the Pacific. In these cases, actions' situation analysis, Logframe and indicators were reported to be informed by gender analysis. Overall, 29 % of reported actions were informed by the findings of consultations. The Americas was an exception to this trend, as consultations fed into the formulation of very few reported actions.

### Objective 5. Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress

Gender-sensitive indicators were included in the corporate results frameworks of 10 EU Member States. The number of indicators ranged from 40 in Luxembourg, 34 in Germany and 10 in Austria, to only one or two indicators in other countries. Of these ten, seven Member States reported that their indicators were aligned with the SDGs. Four noted that all the results in their corporate results frameworks were sex-disaggregated. While 11 Member States reported on the number of their new actions marked 'GO' using the OECD gender marker, only five acknowledged the obligation to justify or explain why actions screened against the gender marker were not found to target gender equality.

### Objective 6. Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality

Few centrally managed actions by EU Member States directly supported the National Gender Equality Mechanisms in partner countries in 2018. Nonetheless, one in ten worked with these mechanisms. Overall, 18 % of actions raised awareness among local and national media stakeholders of gender equality issues. Research was the primary focus of 4 % of actions, although 6 % of actions included a research component. The quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data continued to be a challenge. However, 13 % of actions were reported as having contributed to improvements in the collection of disaggregated data and gender-specific statistics.

The figure below, based on EU Member States' self-assessment, illustrates their performance on the GAP II's five minimum criteria. Significantly, the availability and use of gender expertise was reported by 65 % of Member States, while 59 % reported that gender analysis was undertaken for all priority sectors.

Annex 2 Table 3: EU Member States – GAP II's five minimum performance standards, Institutional Culture Shift, 2018

	Gender marker 0 (GO) always justified	Gender analysis done for all priority sectors	Sex-disaggregated data used throughout the project and programming cycle, and programming	Gender expertise available and used in a timely manner	GAP II objectives selected and reported upon
Austria	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Croatia	No	No	No	No	No
Denmark	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Estonia	No	No	No	Yes	No
Finland	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
France	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Germany	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hungary	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Ireland	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Italy	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Latvia	No	No	No	No	No
Lithuania	No	No	No	No	Yes
Luxembourg	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Malta	No	No	No	Yes	No

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The Netherlands	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Poland	No	No	No	No	No
Portugal	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Slovakia	No	No	No	No	No
Slovenia	No	No	No	No	Yes
Spain	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Sweden	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
United Kingdom	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Total 'yes'	7	12	9	15	8
% 'yes'	30 %	59 %	39 %	65 %	35 %

## Annex 3. Progress on the GAP II's thematic priorities by region: EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries Africa

### Overview of progress in 2018

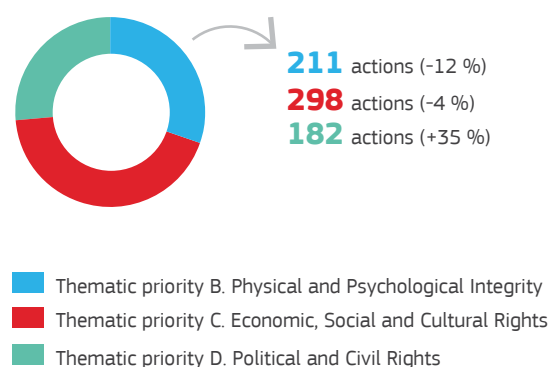
#### East and Southern Africa

In 2018, 650 actions contributing to the GAP II's implementation were reported in East and Southern Africa – up from 611 actions in 2017. These initiatives, implemented by EU actors in 20 countries, represent 23 % of all actions globally. Thematic reports were not received from Djibouti, Eritrea and Malawi. The greatest proportion of reported actions were implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (81 actions), followed by Tanzania (67), Zambia (56), Mozambique (52), South Africa (43), Uganda and Sudan (37 each), and Somalia (35). Moreover, 22 multi-country actions were undertaken. Sweden reported an additional 23 actions, encompassing Swedish support for World Bank and UN interventions. Many reported actions address more than one of the GAP II's objectives, and more than one of its thematic priorities.

Annex 3 Figure 1:

#### East and Southern Africa

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

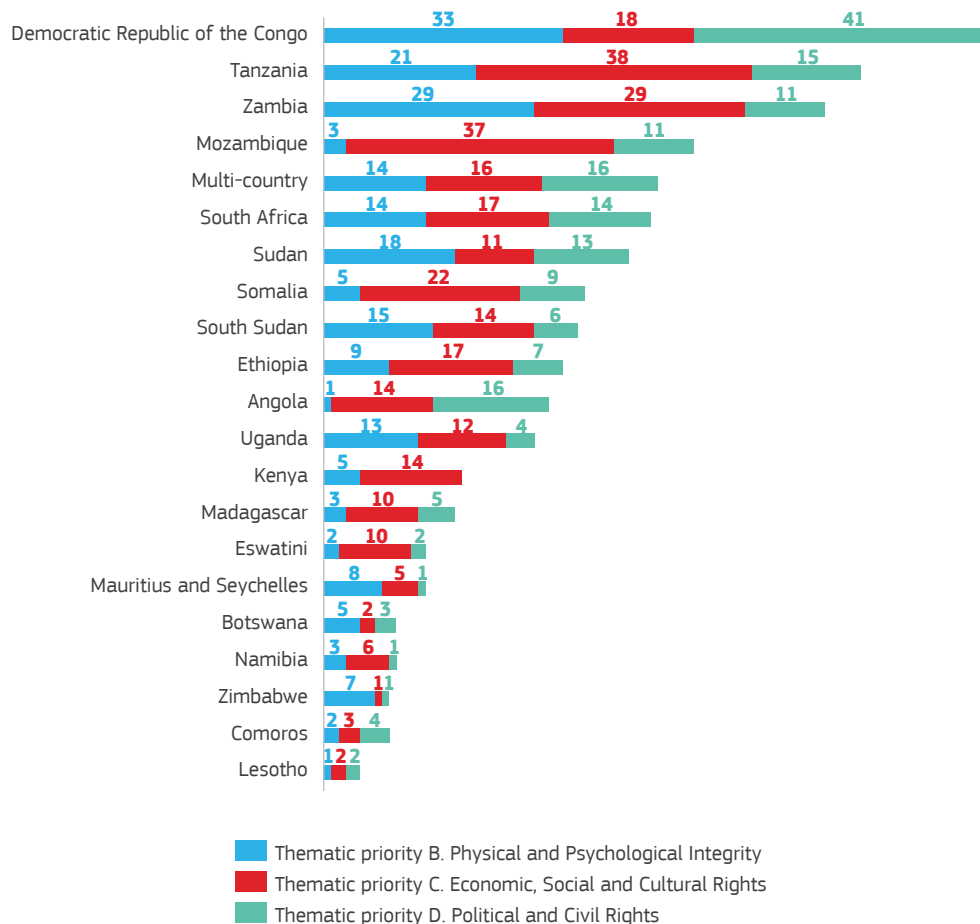


Overall, the majority of actions (298 actions) contributed to thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', down slightly from 310 actions in 2017. This was followed by 211 actions under thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', down from 240 actions in 2017, and 182 actions on thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation', up from 134 actions in 2017. This reflects a continuation of trends identified in 2017, when thematic priority C was the most frequently addressed GAP II priority, in contrast to 2016, when priority B was the most frequently selected. Trends in 2018 also reveal a significant increase in actions under priority D. It should be noted that many reported actions addressed more than one priority, and more than one corresponding objective.

Annex 3 Figure 2:

## East and Southern Africa

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018

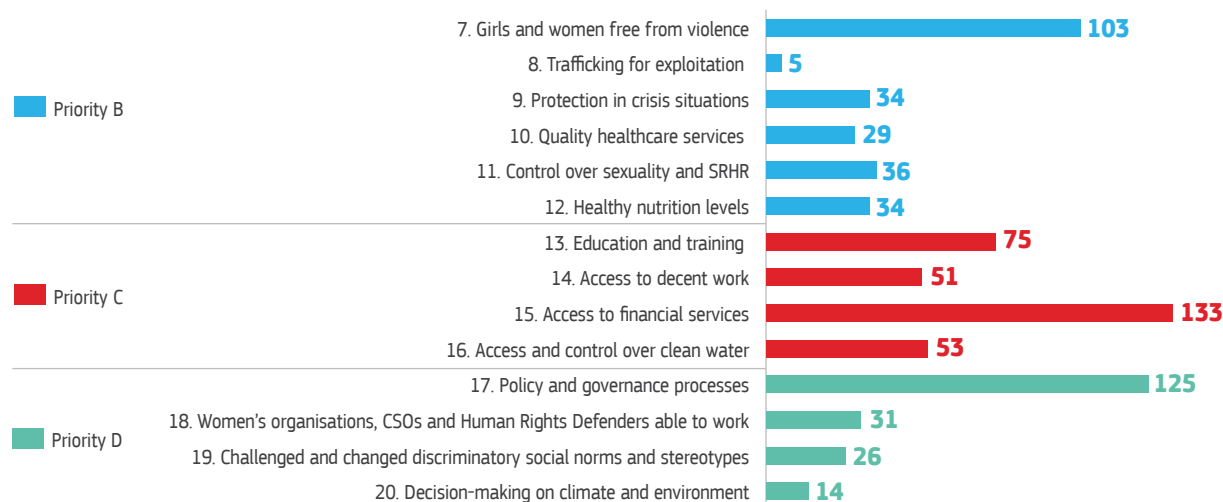


Objective 15 was most commonly selected of the GAP II's objectives in East and Southern Africa in 2018, indicating a concern with expanding 'access to financial services and productive resources'. This was followed by objective 17 on participation in policy and governance processes, objective 7 on freedom from violence, and objective 13 on access to education and vocational education and training. Objective 14 on access to decent work, and objective 16 on access and control over clean water and energy, were each addressed by 7 % of actions. Objectives 10, 18 and 19 were each addressed by 4 % of actions, while objective 20 was targeted by 2 % of actions and objective 8 by 1 %. The women, peace and security (WPS) agenda was the focus of 203 actions in the sub-region, most notably in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (55 actions), Mozambique (26), Uganda (24), Somalia (23) and Angola (20).

Annex 3 Figure 3:

## East and Southern Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



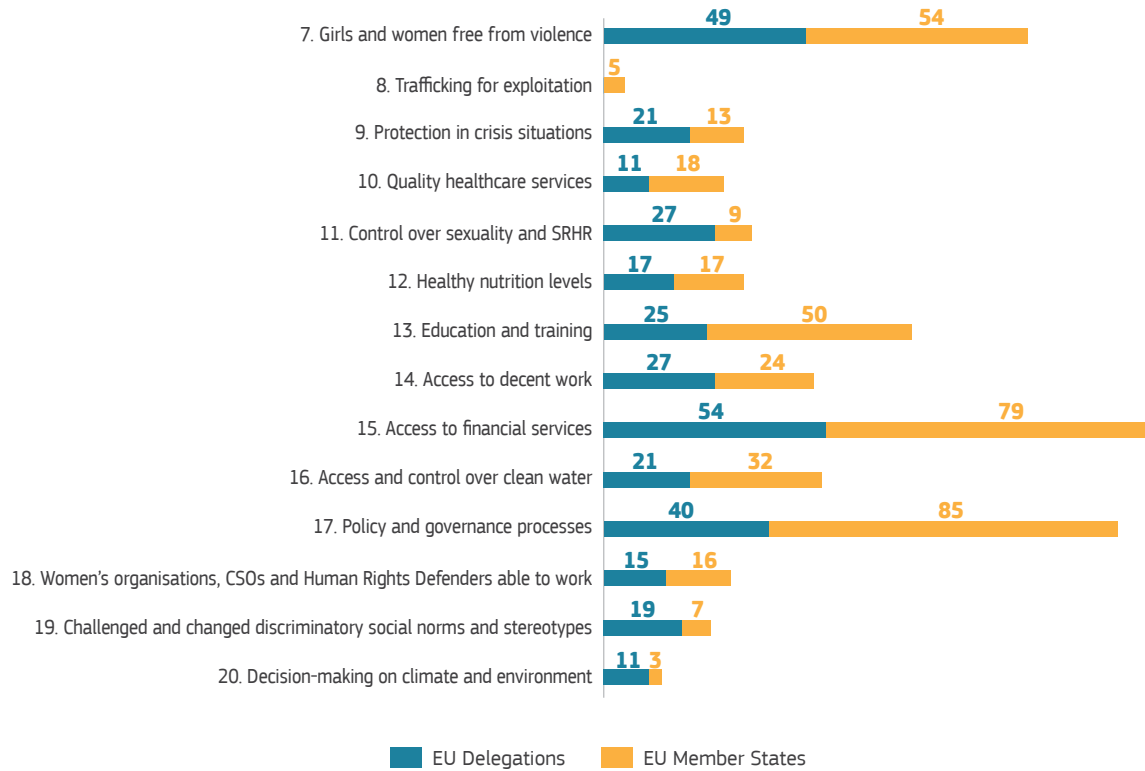
There are some notable differences between the selection of objectives by EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries in East and Southern Africa. For example, the top three selected objectives by both sets of actors were the same in 2018, but were chosen in a different order. While EU Delegations prioritised objectives 17, 15 and 7, EU Member States gave priority to objectives 15 and 7, followed by objective 17. Member States placed a significantly greater focus on 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', and on objective 19, on initiatives that challenged and changed discriminatory social norms. By contrast, EU Delegations focused far more on objective 13 on education and vocation training. Both EU Delegations and Member States implemented very few actions on objective 20 in the sub-region, on women's equal participation in decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues.



Annex 3 Figure 4:

## East and Southern Africa

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



Aligning actions with GAP II indicators continued to prove challenging in 2018. As in previous years, the indicators selected were generally those which are also SDG and/or EU RF indicators. This is assumed to be due to the availability of data on these issues. Alignment was most pronounced in terms of indicators linked to objective 15, which were chosen most often in the sub-region. Nevertheless, there was also significant alignment with indicators related to objectives 7 and 17, as discussed in detail below.

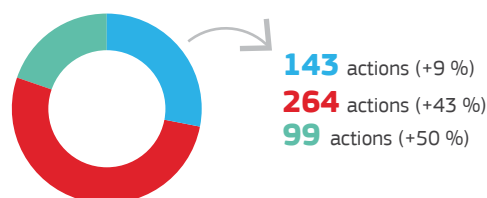
### West and Central Africa

In 2018, 490 actions contributing to the GAP II's implementation were reported in West and Central Africa – up from 450 actions in 2017. The greatest number of reported actions were implemented in Mali (70 actions), Senegal (43), Burundi (42), Niger (41), Benin (33), Liberia (29) and Mauritania (28). Moreover, 19 multi-country actions were undertaken.

Annex 3 Figure 5:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017



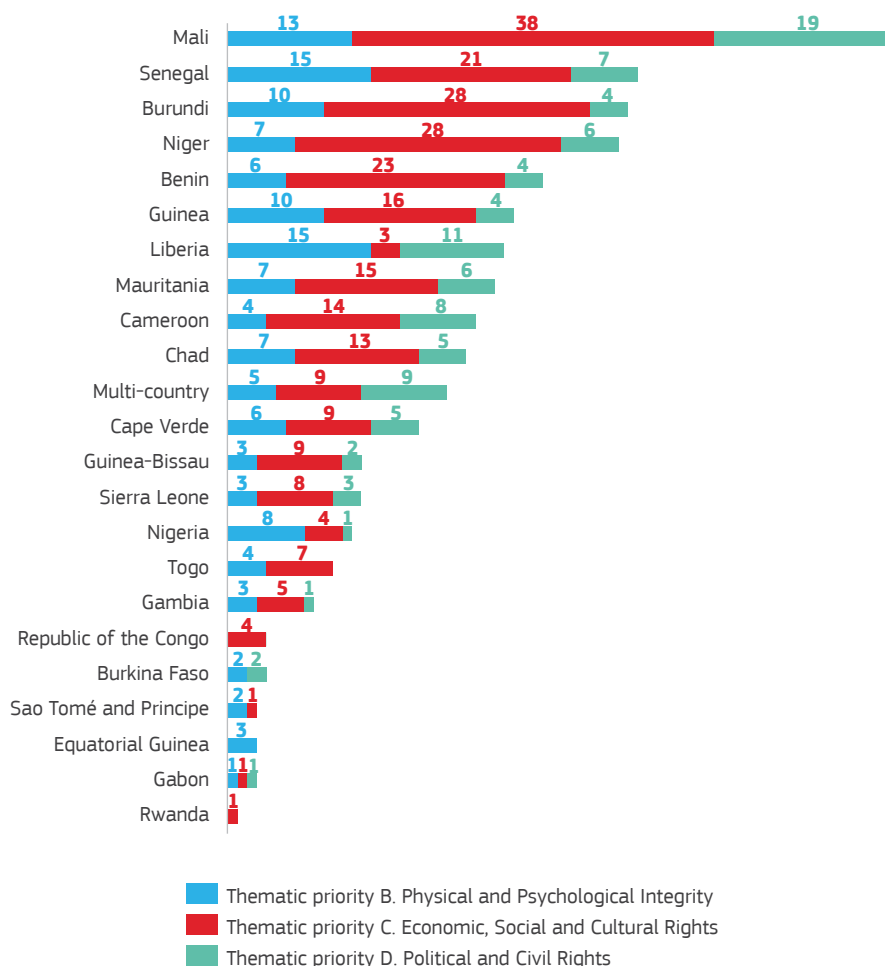
- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Overall, the majority of actions (264 actions) in West and Central Africa contributed to thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment'. This was followed by 143 actions addressing thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', and 99 actions on thematic priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'. Similarly in 2017, the largest number of actions targeted thematic priority C, followed by priorities B and D. However, compared to 2017, there was an overall increase in the number of reported actions for all three priorities in 2018. The greatest increase was apparent in actions contributing to priority D.

Annex 3 Figure 6:

## West and Central Africa

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018



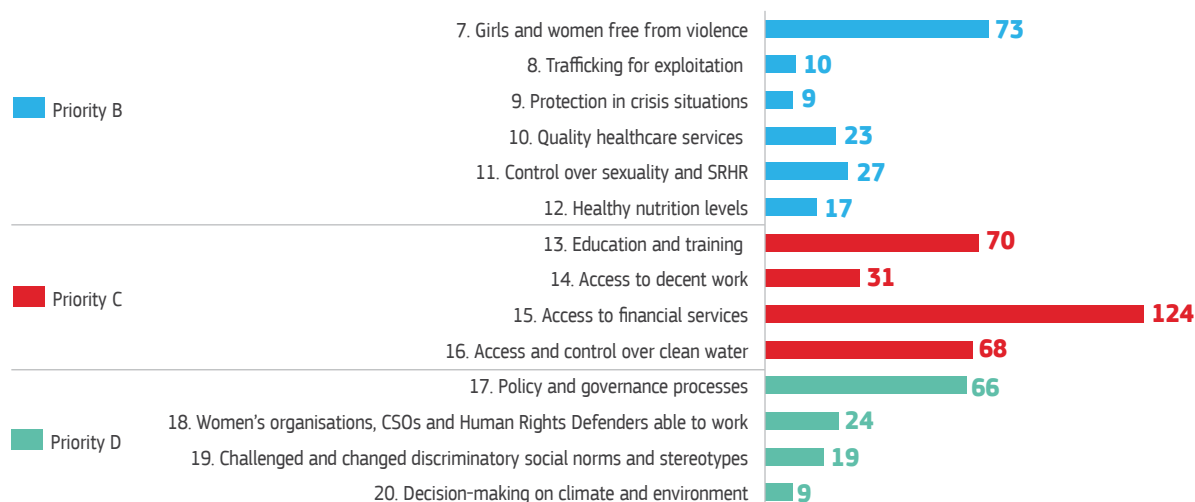
Objective 15 was the most frequently addressed GAP II objective in the region, with 124 actions geared towards expanding access to financial services and productive resources in West and Central Africa in 2018. This was followed by nearly half as many reported actions on other objectives, such as objective 7 on freedom from violence (73 actions), objective 13 on access to education and TVET (70), objective 16 on access and control over clean water and energy (68) and objective 17 on participation in policy and governance processes (66). The lowest number of reported actions concerned objective 20 on women's equal participation in decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues (9 actions), objective 9 on gender-based violence in conflict situations (9) and objective 8 on the trafficking of girls and women for all forms of exploitation (10).

Although the number of reported activities was low for these three objectives, compared to 2017, objectives 8 and 20 were addressed by far more actions in 2018. There was a decrease in the number of reported activities in 2018 compared to the previous year for objective 11 on SRHR (-25 %) and objective 12 on healthy nutrition (-41 %).

Annex 3 Figure 7:

## West and Central Africa

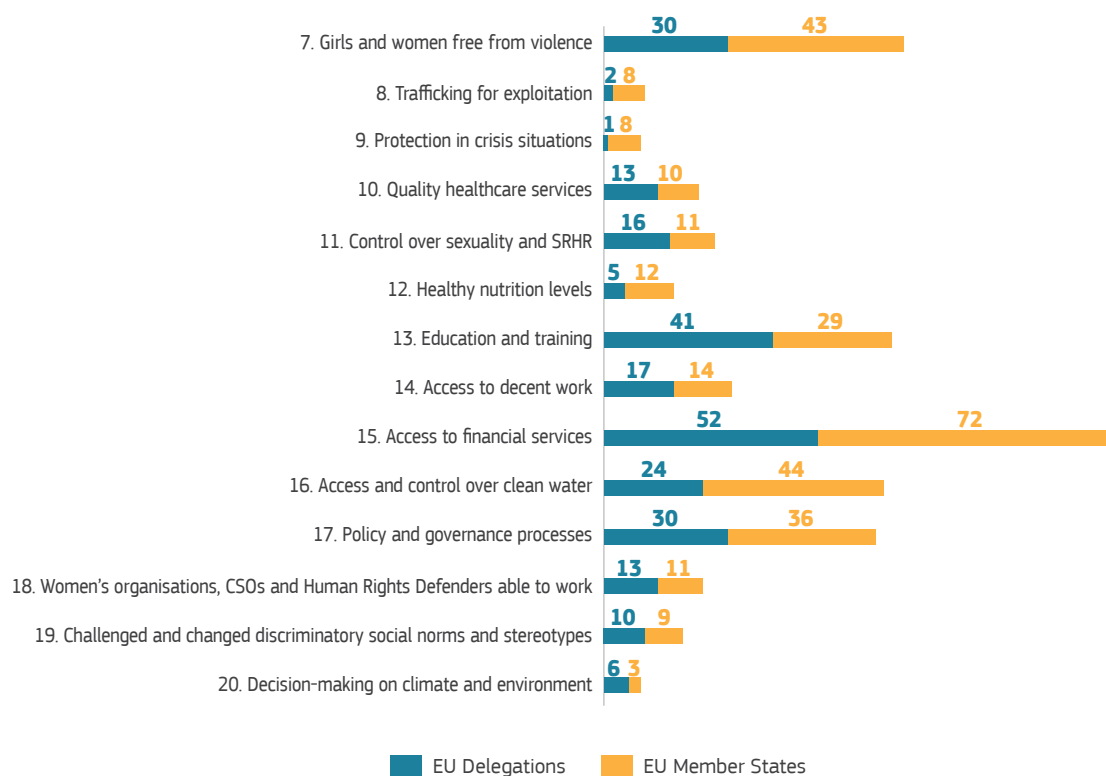
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 8:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



The most frequently addressed objective for both EU Delegations and EU Member States in West and Central Africa was objective 15, on access to financial services and productive resources. Thereafter, EU Delegations reported more actions addressing objective 7 on gender-based violence, and objective 16, on access and control over clean water. The next most frequently addressed objectives for EU Member States were objective 13 on education and training, objective 7 and objective 17 on women's participation in policy and governance processes. The objectives least frequently addressed by EU Delegations were objective 8 on trafficking, objective 20 on decision-making on environmental and climate-related issues, and objective 9 on protection in crisis situations. For EU Member States, objectives 9 and 8 were least commonly addressed, followed by objective 12 on healthy nutrition.

## Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

### East and Southern Africa

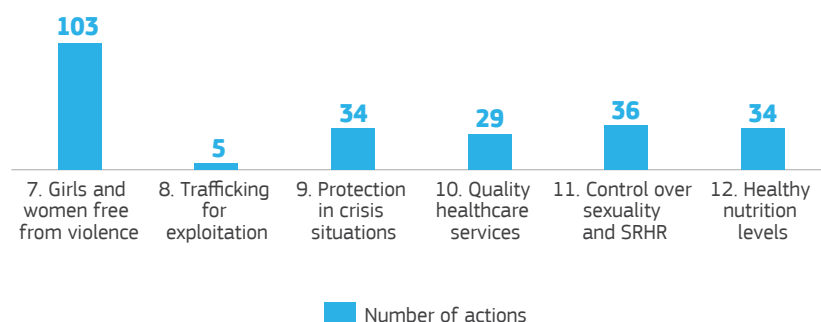
In 2018, 241 EU-supported actions contributed to thematic priority B in East and Southern Africa, making this the second most selected priority in the sub-region. Overall, the greatest focus was placed on objective 7, 'women and girls free from all forms of violence'. Objective 11 was the second most selected, concerning individuals' control over sexuality, sexual and reproductive health. While 36 actions addressed objective 11, this marked a considerable decline from 67 actions in 2017. Objectives 9, on the protection of women and men from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, and 12 on healthy nutrition levels, were addressed by 34 actions each. This represents a considerable increase for objective 9, which was targeted by 20 actions in 2017, and a slight decrease in actions contributing to objective 12, which was tackled by 36 actions in 2017. A more marked decrease was apparent for objective 10, on access to quality health care services, which was addressed by 29 actions in 2018 compared to 37 in 2017. As in previous years, the least frequently chosen objective was objective 8, on the 'trafficking of girls and women for all forms of exploitation'. Only five actions addressed trafficking in the sub-region in 2018, a slight increase from four in 2017.

While both EU Delegations and EU Member States contributed to objective 7, Member States accorded greater priority than delegations to objectives 11 and 9. Some actions under thematic priority B also addressed objective 17.

Annex 3 Figure 9:

### East and Southern Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018

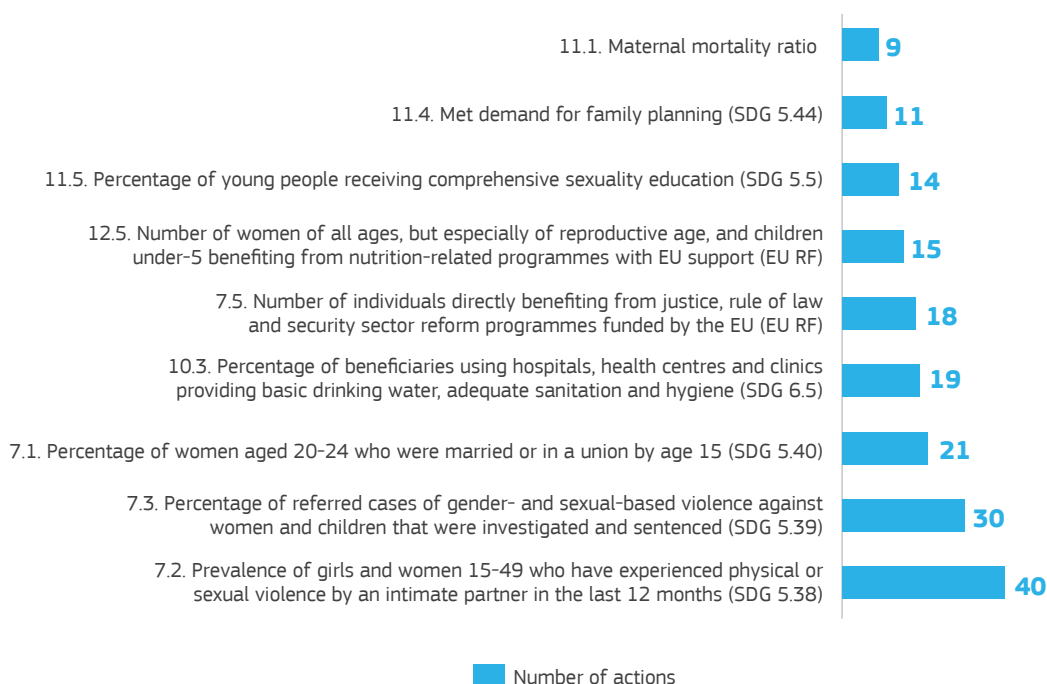


The most frequently selected indicator under thematic priority B was indicator 7.2 (40 actions), on the 'prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence (by an intimate partner) in the last 12 months'. Its scope is akin to SDG indicator 5.38. In fact, this was the indicator most commonly addressed overall in East and Southern Africa across all three thematic priorities. Indicator 7.3 was the second most frequently targeted, on the 'percentage of referred cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced'. This indicator, akin to SDG indicator 5.39, was addressed by 30 actions.

Annex 3 Figure 10:

## East and Southern Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



Actions that contributed to objective 7 spanned a range of issues, from women's and girls' empowerment, to service provision, access to justice and legal services. Such actions were implemented in almost all countries in the sub-region. Target groups varied widely, including women and girl refugees, displaced persons and returnees in Somalia, men and boys in Botswana, and traditional leaders and civil society organisations in Madagascar. Several actions sought to enable women and girls to speak out, raise their voices against violence against women, and engage in advocacy. Harmful practices received attention, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), as did awareness raising through the media. For example, initiatives involved support for the Tanzania Media Women's Association. There was a clear focus on rights in many actions, alongside support for local civil society and non-governmental organisations. A number of actions also contributed to objective 11, reflecting an acknowledgement of the cross-over between violence against women and girls, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

A consultancy service in Mauritius supported by the EU Delegation contributed to objectives 7, 8, 11, 14 and 15 by assisted in the elaboration of the country's Gender Equality Bill, Children's Bill and Adoption Bill, while delivering capacity building for the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. Objective 9, on tackling gender-based violence in conflict situations, was addressed by actions in a number of countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Uganda. Entry points varied, ranging from awareness raising to promoting peace, security and justice, supporting livelihoods, and access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

Objective 10, 'attention to preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for women and girls', was the target of actions in a number of countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Zambia. An emphasis on community participation in public health care at district level was reported in the Democratic of the Congo and Comoros, while support for survivors of violence was the focus in Sudan. Actions in Zambia centred on human rights, access to justice and social and economic inclusion. HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis were the focus of a health project in Eswatini.

Over 30 actions in the sub-region contributed to objective 11, promoting control and decision-making on matters related to sexuality and SRHR. Many of these initiatives also targeted objective 7. Here too, there was a focus on rights alongside awareness raising and service provision. Notable initiatives included an action for 'serving the

under-served' in Uganda, and an action to ensure skilled birth attendance in Zambia. Many SRHR-related actions involved a simultaneous focus on participatory democracy, youth employment, and social and economic inclusion. An international NGO initiative in Zambia, for example, worked with young boys to raise their awareness and involvement in SRHR issues, since men and boys play an integral role in increasing access to contraceptives for women and girls.

Objective 12 on nutrition featured strongly in EU-supported actions in Zambia and South Sudan. An initiative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo linked food security with information, nutrition and the environment, while another in Mozambique sought to modernise the civil registry and statistics systems. In Kenya, priority was accorded to enhancing civil society organisations' contribution to governance and development processes in order to improve well-being.

### West and Central Africa

Objective 7 on combatting violence against women and girls was the most frequently addressed objective under thematic priority B in the region. Compared to 2017, the number of actions addressing this objective increased by 75 % in 2018. Another significant increase was evident in terms of the number of actions on quality healthcare services (objective 10), which rose by 52 %. There was no change in the number of actions on trafficking for exploitation (objective 8). However, there was a decrease in the numbers of actions addressing objective 12 on healthy nutrition (-40 %) and objective 11 on SRHR (-52 %).

Annex 3 Figure 11:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Indicator 7.3 was the most frequently selected under thematic priority B in the region, with 26 actions addressing the percentage of reported cases of violence against women and girls. The indicators least frequently selected were indicator 11.2 on antenatal care services, and indicator 8.2 on the number of individuals benefitting from trafficking programmes funded by the EU.

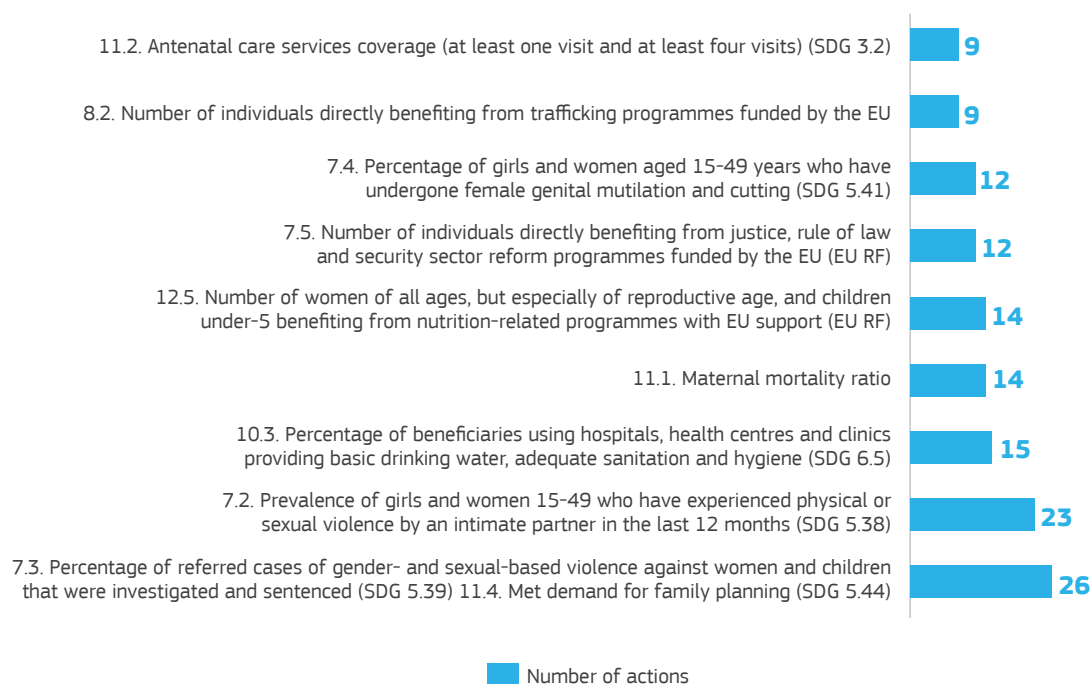
It is difficult to identify patterns in terms of the selection of GAP II objectives, and the selection of corresponding indicators. However, the data affirms that reported actions selected indicators related to the objectives on violence against women, as well as indicators related to those objectives that experienced an increase in reported actions between 2017 and 2018. This may indicate the deliberate use of the GAP II framework for the formulation of new actions, or at least the use of GAP II objectives as a reference for the selection of different actions' objectives.



Annex 3 Figure 12:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



Actions that contributed to objective 7 addressed a range of issues, including the prevention of, and protection from, violence against women and children in Burundi, Liberia and Mauritania. Actions also included media campaigns, research and knowledge generation to combat female genital mutilation in Burkina Faso and the Gambia, as well as an initiative to address child marriage in Cameroon and Mali. Other issues addressed included police interventions against violence in Mauritania, support for the civil society's efforts to tackle impunity in Mali, and support for justice and survivors' voices in Chad and Côte d'Ivoire. Other actions encompassed support for national strategies for women's empowerment in Senegal, support for the provision of legal aid for women, including survivors of violence in Côte d'Ivoire, and many more.

Reported actions afford important information that can guide future planning, as well as efforts to document successes and identify remaining challenges. The EU Delegation to Benin's project, 'Partnership Against Trafficking, Exploitation of Children and Violence against Girls and Women (PACTE)', demonstrated that encouraging the celebration of Muslim marriages by imams in mosques makes it easier to control the age at which young women marry. The project also affirmed that the economic reintegration of women and girls who are survivors of violence requires significant time and resources. Lessons learned from the project highlight the fact that these investments must not be underestimated.

In Sierra Leone, Germany supported the project 'HIV/AIDS prevention and strengthening women's rights (FGM) III + IV'. This initiative shed light on the importance of cooperating with local NGOs to facilitate dialogue on gender-related issues within communities. The project's experiences indicated that gender issues can easily be discussed in the framework of a broader community dialogues. The project also revealed traditional and religious authorities' readiness to participate in open, inclusive dialogues in a constructive manner.

In Mali, Sweden supported the UN Women Country Programme. This experience demonstrated that working simultaneously with a range of actors at different levels can create the conditions for transformative change. Such change requires a holistic, long-term approach which engages men in all issues relevant for promoting gender equality.

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

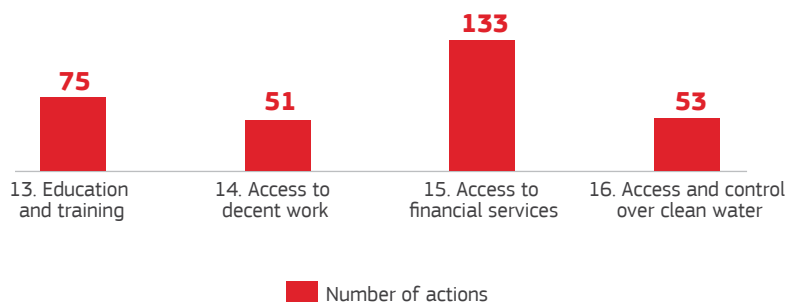
### East and Southern Africa

EU actors supported 312 actions that contributed to thematic priority C in 2018, the most frequently addressed of all the GAP II's priorities in East and Southern Africa. All four corresponding objectives were the focus of EU support. As in previous years, objective 15 received the most attention, with 133 actions geared towards increasing access to financial services and productive resources. This was followed by objective 13 (75 actions) on access to education and vocational education and training, objective 16 (53) on access to and control over clean water and energy, and objective 14 (51) on access to decent work. While actions targeting objective 14 increased in 2018, (51 in 2018, compared to 33 in 2017), the number of actions decreased for objective 15 (133 actions in 2018, down from 158 in 2017), objective 13 (75 actions in 2018, compared to 159 in 2017); and objective 16 (53 in 2018, down from 58 in 2017).

Annex 3 Figure 13:

### East and Southern Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



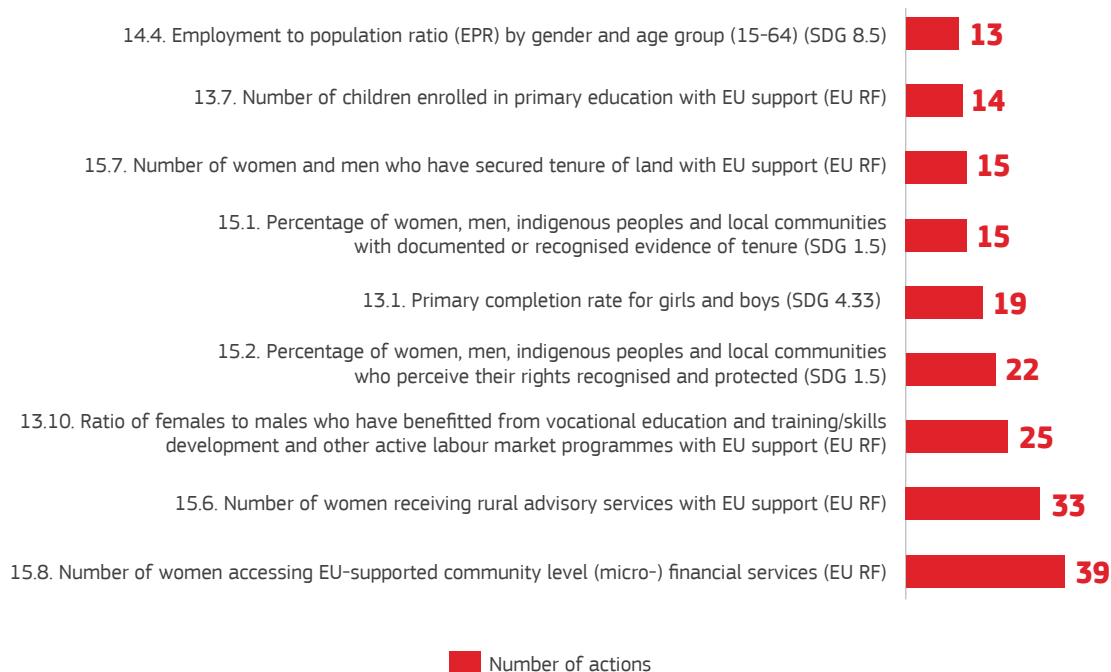
Both EU Delegations and EU Member States focused on objective 15; however, more actions by EU Delegations were reported on objective 13. Some actions under thematic priority C also addressed objectives under priority B, such as promoting healthy nutrition (objective 12), and under priority D, such as fostering participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17) and challenging and changing social norms (objective 19).

Under thematic priority C, indicator 15.8 was the most frequently selected, with 39 actions addressing the 'number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services' (EU RF). This was followed by indicator 15.6, with 33 reported actions related to the 'number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support'. As with indicators under priority B, those priority C indicators linked to SDG and EU RF indicators were selected most often.

Annex 3 Figure 14:

## East and Southern Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



Many of the 133 actions targeting objective 15, on 'equal access by women to financial services and productive resources, including land, trade and entrepreneurship', were implemented in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Some were also undertaken in Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini. Common themes included building resilience, managing drought and other climate-related risks in Comoros, Kenya, Namibia, Somalia and South Sudan. Initiatives included support for farmers' clubs to pioneer climate-smart agriculture in Namibia, green enterprises in Zimbabwe, and green horticulture and drought management in Kenya. The protection of refugees, displaced persons and host communities was a focal issue in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, with related actions encompassing efforts to promote women's employment.

Land access and tenure issues were addressed in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania within a number of actions to enhance livelihoods by supporting forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, legal services, expanding the financial sector and building an enabling business environment. In Angola, the 'Documents for All' initiative, sought to enable women and men to obtain land rights. Building civil society capacity to engage in socio-economic development and strengthen democratic processes was pronounced in many countries. The 'Speak up Zambia!' initiative empowered citizens to know, claim, and secure their rights through access to justice, while supporting the media to exercise their role as society's watchdog. This action also targeted objectives 17 and 18.

Initiatives linked to objective 13, on education and vocational training, featured prominently in the sub-region. These 75 actions by EU Delegations and Member States were generally, but not exclusively, implemented in Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia. Support for education was also notable in Angola, where it also aimed to increase access to decent work (objective 14), as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Eswatini and Uganda. Macro-level actions included education sector reform in Namibia, an education sector support programme in Mozambique, and support for higher education in Somalia. As with other objectives, support for technical and vocational education and training was often coupled with actions on other issues. In Somalia, these included efforts to improve the situation of refugees and displaced communities, and to promote renewable energy skills and women's economic empowerment. They also encompassed the inclusion of children with disabilities in Zambia, the revitalisation of indigenous languages in Namibia, cross-border collaboration between Ethiopia and Sudan, strengthening civil society in South Sudan, and efforts to foster resilience in a range of countries.

The 51 actions that addressed objective 14 on decent work included support for a network of cooperatives and job opportunities for women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and assistance for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and a budget support contract on 'Employment for Employability' in South Africa. A multi-country action focused on the rights of workers with disabilities. Actions related to sustainability featured fairly prominently, for example, support for sustainable agriculture in Tanzania, waste minimisation and recycling in Eswatini, waste management in Comoros, urban mobility in Kenya, and access to energy in Mozambique. Other actions sought to improve the professionalism of journalists in Somalia's media, promoted employment in Mozambique's cultural sector, and offered a mentorship programme for young women in Sudan.

Of the 40 actions that focused on objective 16, 'access to and control over clean water, energy, transport, infrastructure', a large proportion were water, sanitation and hygiene projects. These were implemented in Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Sudan and Eswatini, and included support for water harvesting and small- or medium-sized earth dams. Tanzania's WASH project was accompanied by energy efficiency initiatives and rural electrification. Budget support in Uganda budget targeted both the water and environmental sectors. In Lesotho, a focus was placed on child-friendly, gender-sensitive ecological and sustainable school sanitation systems in urban and peri-urban areas, while upgrading informal settlements received attention in South Africa.

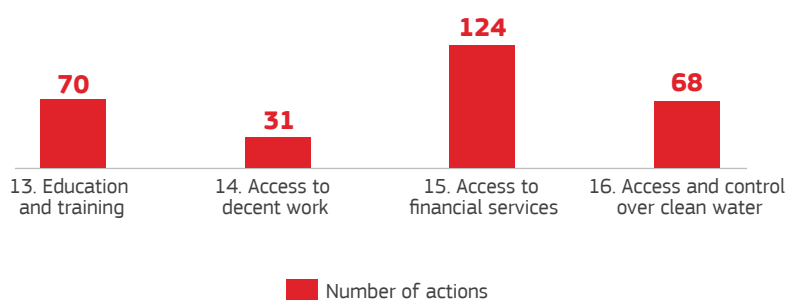
### West and Central Africa

EU actors supported 293 actions that contributed to thematic priority C in 2018, the most frequently addressed of all the GAP II's priorities in West and Central Africa. As in previous years, objective 15 received the most attention, with 124 actions geared towards increasing access to financial services and productive resources. This was followed by objective 13 (70 actions) on access to education and vocational education and training, objective 16 (68) on access to and control over clean water and energy, and objective 14 (31) on access to decent work. Actions targeting objective 14 decreased in 2018, as 39 actions were reported in 2017. However, the number of actions that addressed objective 15 increased by 165 %, as did those on objective 13, which rose by 122 %. The number of actions that targeted objective 16 remained virtually unchanged – 68 actions in 2018, compared to 70 in 2017.

Annex 3 Figure 15:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018

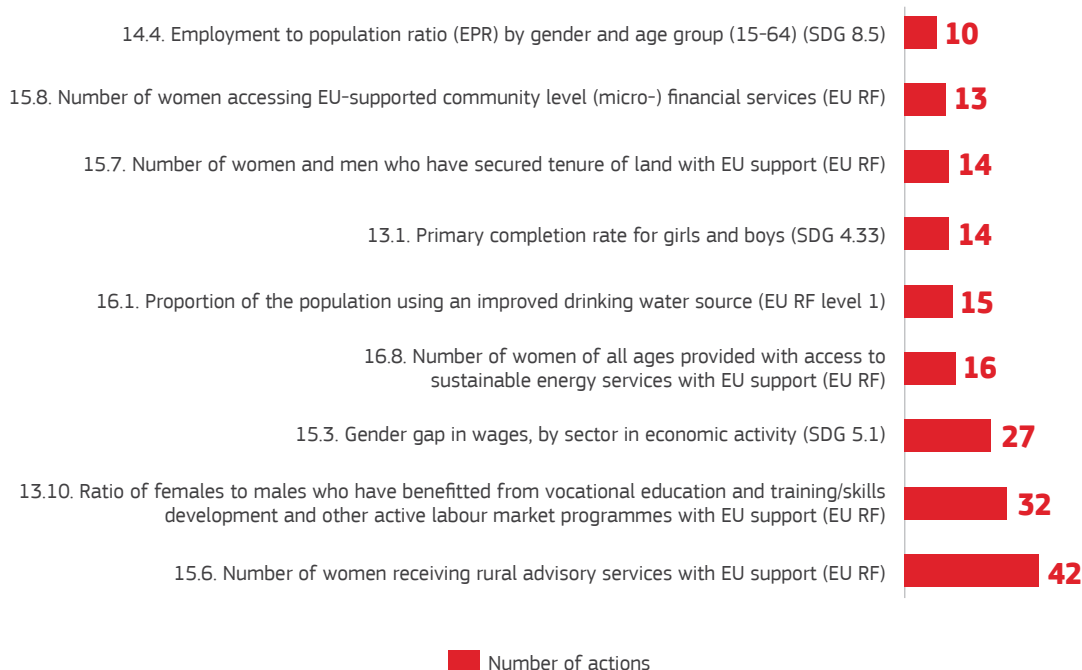


The most frequently selected indicators generally corresponded to the indicators of objective 15. For instance, 42 actions selected indicator 15.6 on women receiving rural advisory services with EU support. The second most selected was indicator 13.10 on the ratio of women and men benefitting from vocation education and training activities.

Annex 3 Figure 16:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



Actions which addressed thematic priority C in West and Central Africa ran the gamut from support for cooperatives in Burundi, to support for community resilience in Benin, Burundi and Cameroon, and the promotion of youth economic empowerment for peace and social cohesion in Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone. Other actions addressed institutional capacity building for rural development and infrastructure in Burundi, Ghana and Guinea, as well as urbanisation and support for climate change adaptation in Benin and Guinea. In Benin, actions also addressed tourism and cultural heritage, while in Togo, the modernisation of technical and vocational training was a notable focus area. Land and resource rights were addressed in Cameroon, as was women's empowerment in the social economy in Chad and Mauritania, leadership programmes for women in Ghana, women's employment in Guinea, and support for girls' and women's education in Niger and Senegal. These are only a small sample of the wide array of actions that contributed to furthering women's social and economic empowerment in the region with EU support.

Several lessons learned may be highlighted from the actions reported in 2018. The EU Delegation programme, 'Support to improve the resilience capacities of the populations most affected by the effects of the 2015 multifactor crisis in Burundi', affirmed that transformative change in crisis contexts can be encouraged by empowering women and ensuring their agency. In crisis situations, women can increase their own and their communities' resilience by participating in resilience funds, such as savings and credit groups.

In 2018, Spain supported the project 'Promoting the empowerment of women in the social economy in Mauritania through their socio-economic strengthening'. The project's experiences affirmed that robust analysis is key for strengthening the technical, organisational and advocacy capacities of existing structures to respond to women's needs. Based on this learning, pilot initiatives were supported for women's structures in the project's target areas.

In Senegal, Italy supported the project, 'PAEF PLUS - Supporting project for girls' education and women's empowerment for inclusive local development'. The initiative revealed significant potential for evoking transformative change in light of its three-pronged approach. First, it supported women's socio-economic empowerment by financing income-generating activities for the Association of Mothers of Students. Second, it promoted institutional national coordination on education activities, as well as on the revision or preparation of gender modules. Third, the project prepared and disseminated a gender guide, in addition to creating gender cells in targeted schools.

In Rwanda, Belgium supported partners to take corrective actions to improve performance on gender equality. For example, a conference was organised for all of the women staff members of the Rwanda Energy Group. This determined a needs' baseline to inform the development of a gender equality workplace policy. A related video was produced, and a proposal prepared to create a gender unit within the Rwanda Energy Group. This unit would coordinate the efforts of gender focal persons and facilitate the implementation of the 2018-2020 action plan. The Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) also financed a study commissioned through the Gender Monitoring Office to create a gender profile of Rwanda's energy sector.

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

### East and Southern Africa

All of the objectives under thematic priority D were addressed by EU Delegations and EU Member States in 2018. However, by far the greatest number of actions centred on objective 17, on improving women's engagement in policy and governance processes.

Annex 3 Figure 17:

### East and Southern Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018

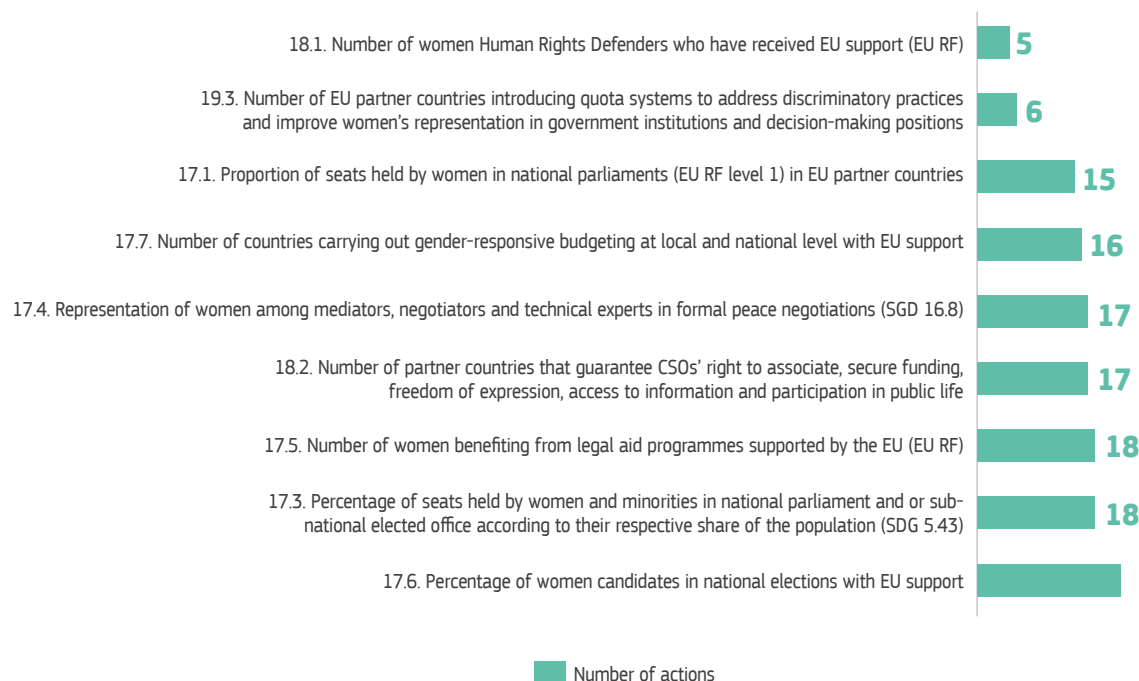


As with other priorities, the indicators under thematic priority D that match SDG or EU RF indicators were most frequently selected. Indicator 17.6 was the most selected, with 22 actions addressing the 'percentage of women candidates in national elections with EU support'. This was followed by indicator 17.3, as 18 actions addressed the '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'. As noted above, this mirrors SDG indicator 5.4.3.

Annex 3 Figure 18:

## East and Southern Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



Actions to enhance women's equal access to participation in policy and governance processes (objective 17) involved several approaches. Empowering women to participate, claim their rights and voice their views was the focus in Botswana, Eswatini, Tanzania and Zambia, among others. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, participation in elections was promoted, while in Madagascar an initiative sought to prevent and manage potential conflicts and violence linked to elections. Strengthening parliamentary oversight proved a key focus in Mozambique and South Africa, as was participatory peace-building in Somalia, and strengthening women's leadership in Tanzania and Sudan. Actions in Angola sought to extending civil society's consultation and participation in budget processes.

The 20 actions related to objective 18, on supporting women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, were implemented in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Many of these were also reported under other objectives, including objective 7, on freedom from all forms of violence, and objective 17.

Direct work with Human Rights Defenders was reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whereas broader support featured in other countries, including Uganda and Sudan. Broad support for civil society was evident in Angola, South Sudan and Tanzania. For example, an action in Angola, entitled 'Let's go together!' bolstered the participation and inclusion of civil society organisations and rights holders in policies to promote and protect children. In Tanzania, grantees of the Foundation for Civil Society were aided to re-consider their approach to gender. This involved a local analysis of the gender dimensions of conflict and how conflict affects gender relations. The aim was for learning from this process to be reflected in project adaptations, which also targeted objective 19.

Objective 20 was addressed by 20 actions that aimed to challenge and change discriminatory social norms. These ranged from cultural events to working with the media, ensuring a safe environment for women journalists, youth employment and gender training. A multi-country action in Zimbabwe and the Southern Africa region, 'Untying the Gender Knot', sought to promote gender equality within schools and communities in order to reduce HIV infections and teenage pregnancies. Across South Africa, youth-led radio initiatives at community radio stations promoted young people's civil engagement and advocacy to build safer communities. In Sudan, a proven comprehensive, inclusive approach to changing mindsets, 'From Education to the Labour Market', scaled-up an earlier pilot to break gender stereotypes and improve economic opportunities. On-going work with Sudan's Bureau of Statistics collected disaggregated, gender-sensitive data in view of the 2020 population census.



Among the six actions that contributed to objective 20, 'equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues', were two multi-country actions, and an action each in Angola, Ethiopia, Eswatini and Tanzania. One multi-country action strengthened the resilience of communities who are vulnerable to climate change in Southern Africa. The other supported a Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's 'Political Feminism Workline' which explored how a feminist outlook on political action can redirect reactive policy-making towards structural change.

In Tanzania, a focus was placed on enhancing youth leadership in the environmental sector through capacity building. An action in Angola worked to strengthen Civil Engagement Councils (CACS) and foster development for all by promoting active participation and inter-institutional dialogue. In Ethiopia, a gender equality and women's rights project addressed objectives 7, 14 and 20. Moreover, a community scorecard action in Eswatini aimed to empower citizens to track and demand improved services.

### West and Central Africa

In West and Central Africa, objective 17 was the most frequently addressed under thematic priority D. Overall, 66 actions targeted this objective on women's participation in policy and governance processes, an increase of 134 % compared to 2017. The number of actions that addressed objective 18 also experienced a major increase, with 24 actions involving support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders in 2018, compared to 10 actions in 2017. Objective 20 was similarly supported by more actions than in previous years – nine actions in 2018, up from just three in 2017. The number of actions concerning objective 19 on discriminatory norms and stereotypes remained the same in 2018 as in the previous year.

Annex 3 Figure 19:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



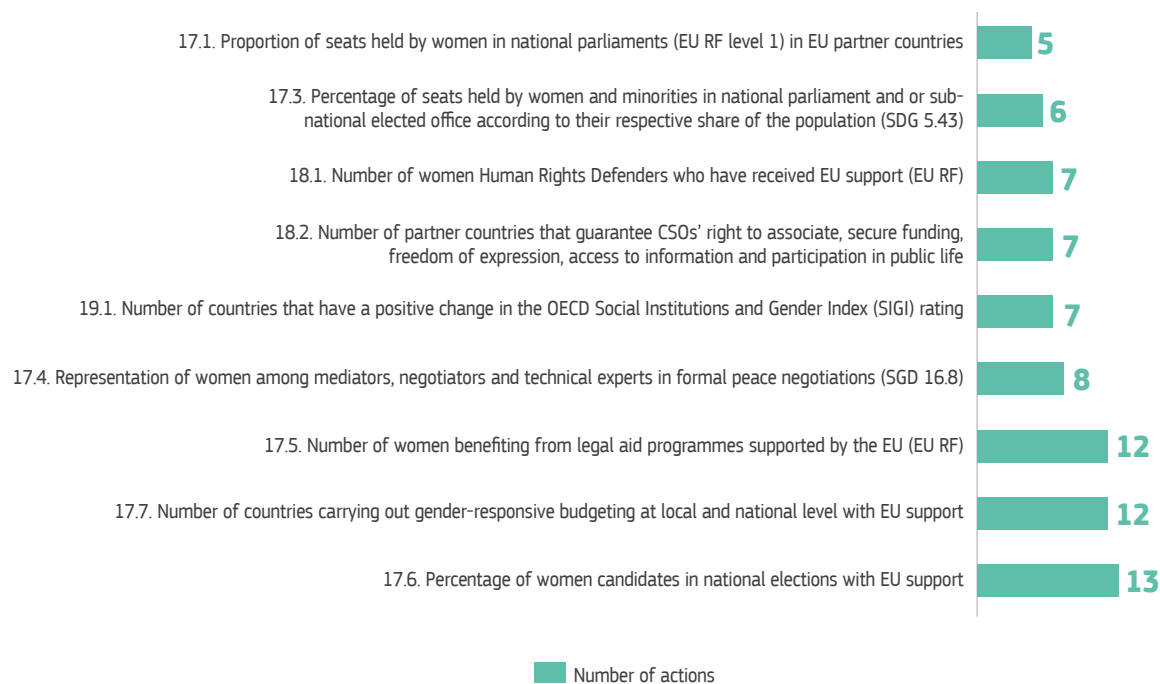
The most frequently selected indicator under thematic priority D in the region was indicator 17.6, as 13 actions addressed the number of women candidates in national elections. This was closely followed by three other indicators corresponding to objective 17. With the exception of indicator 17.2, on the share of women on corporate boards of national or multi-national corporations, all of the other indicators under objective 17 were addressed by reported actions. This reflects a highly encouraging trend in West and Central Africa.

As noted above, patterns in terms of the selection of indicators in the region – across all thematic priorities – are only somewhat aligned with trends in the objectives that correspond to reported actions.

Annex 3 Figure 20:

## West and Central Africa

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



Actions that contributed to objective 17 addressed a range of issues connected to the promotion and protection of human rights in Burundi, budget support for gender in Burkina Faso, and institutional capacity building and strategies for gender equality in Cameroon, Senegal and Liberia. Actions also promoted more women in politics in Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Mali, alongside support for the justice sector in Benin and Cameroon. In Gabon, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, actions facilitated the dissemination of information and public dialogue on women's rights. Actions also supported civil society efforts to promote women's rights in Benin, Chad and Mali, as well as public finance management in Cameroon and Liberia, including support for multilateral organisations working in these countries.

The experience of the EU Delegation to Gambia, which supported the 'State and Resilience Building Contract (SRBC II)', demonstrated that a budget support indicator measuring the status of women's rights can be a strong incentive for promoting national engagement in gender equality and women's empowerment.

Activities that contributed to objective 18 ranged from strengthening civil society organisations in Benin, Burundi, Chad, Niger and Sierra Leone, to support for the rule of law in Mauritania. Among the many other actions reported were support for improving gender mainstreaming and the national monitoring and evaluation system in Senegal, support for Human Rights Defenders in Liberia, and encouraging advocacy with the business sector in Ghana. A local development platform programme was supported in Cape Verde. Moreover, in Mali, the Spotlight Initiative was spearheaded, and core funding was provided for UN Women and the UN Trust Fund in support of peace and security.

Important lessons were learned from actions in 2018, which can be inform future planning, for documenting successes and for identifying remaining challenges. Luxembourg supported the 'Platform Programme for Local Development and Target 20/30 in Cape Verde'. This included the facilitation of dialogue through workshops with all relevant local actors on gender issues and mainstreaming. Projects funded through the programme included gender equality results. was given Exchanging experiences between territories was prioritised, with a view to shared learning enabling the inclusion of a specific gender pillar in the local planning strategy.

## Americas

### Overview of progress in 2018

#### Caribbean

In the Caribbean, 92 actions contributing to the GAP II's implementation were reported in 2018. Of these, 65 % were implemented by EU Delegations, particularly in the Dominican Republic (24 actions), Haiti (19) and Barbados (17). Other delegations in the sub-region – in Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago – reported significantly fewer actions. Initiatives were also reported by EU Member States – specifically Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Spain – in Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

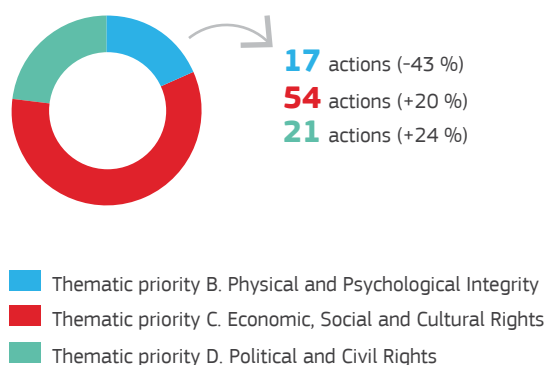
Women's socio-economic empowerment was the overriding concern for 59 % of actions, revealing an increased focus on thematic priority C compared to 2017. EU Delegations to the Dominican Republic, Barbados and Haiti implemented over 60 % of their initiatives under this priority. These largely involved measuring the number of women who accessed EU-supported, community-level, (micro-) financial services (indicator 15.8) and the number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support (indicator 15.6). While 23 % of all reported initiatives contributed to thematic priority D, political and civil rights were the focus of 70 % of actions by EU Delegations to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Most actions under this priority tracked the number of countries that carried out gender-responsive budgeting (indicator 17.7). Thematic priority B was the least frequently selected, with only 18 % of initiatives focused on physical and psychological integrity. The focus of this priority remains firmly on violence and women and girls (indicators 7.2 and 7.3).

Overall, there has been a decrease in actions addressing thematic priority B, and an increase of actions targeting priorities C and D.

Annex 3 Figure 21:

### Caribbean

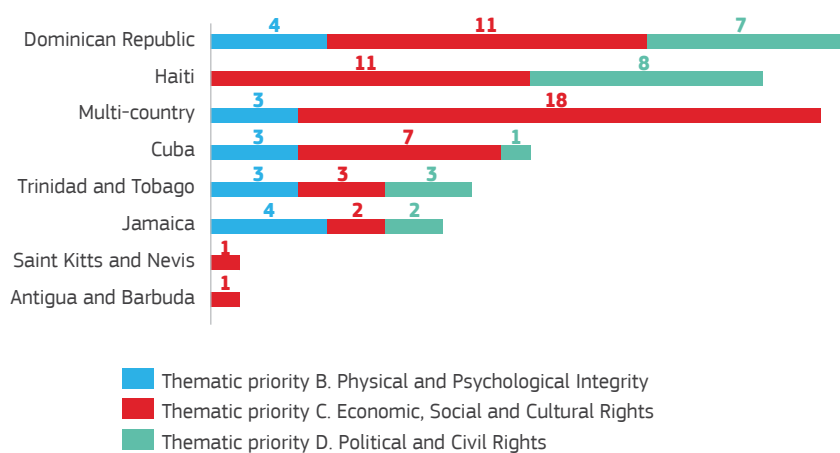
Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017



Annex 3 Figure 22:

## Caribbean

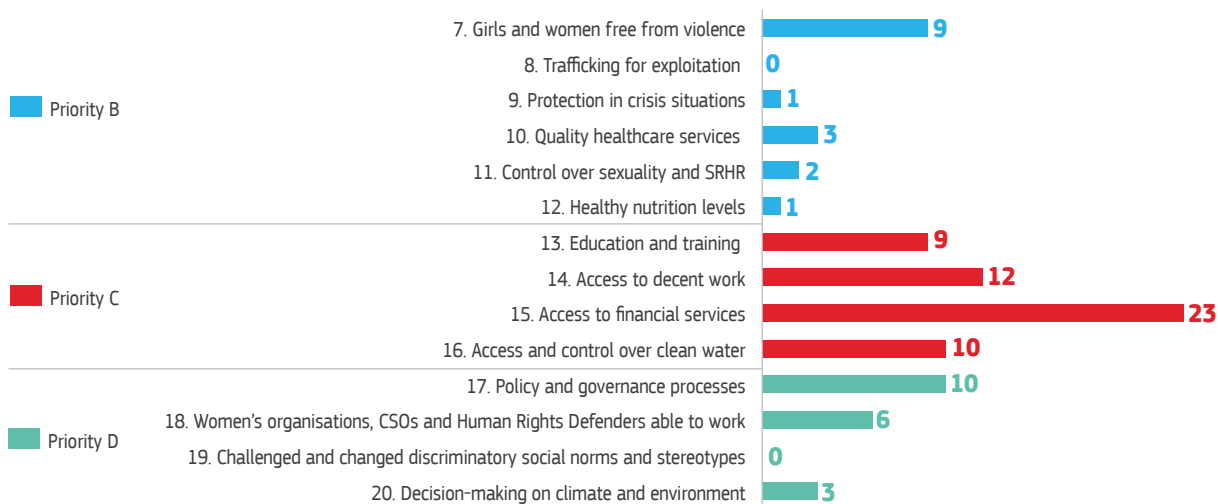
Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 23:

## Caribbean

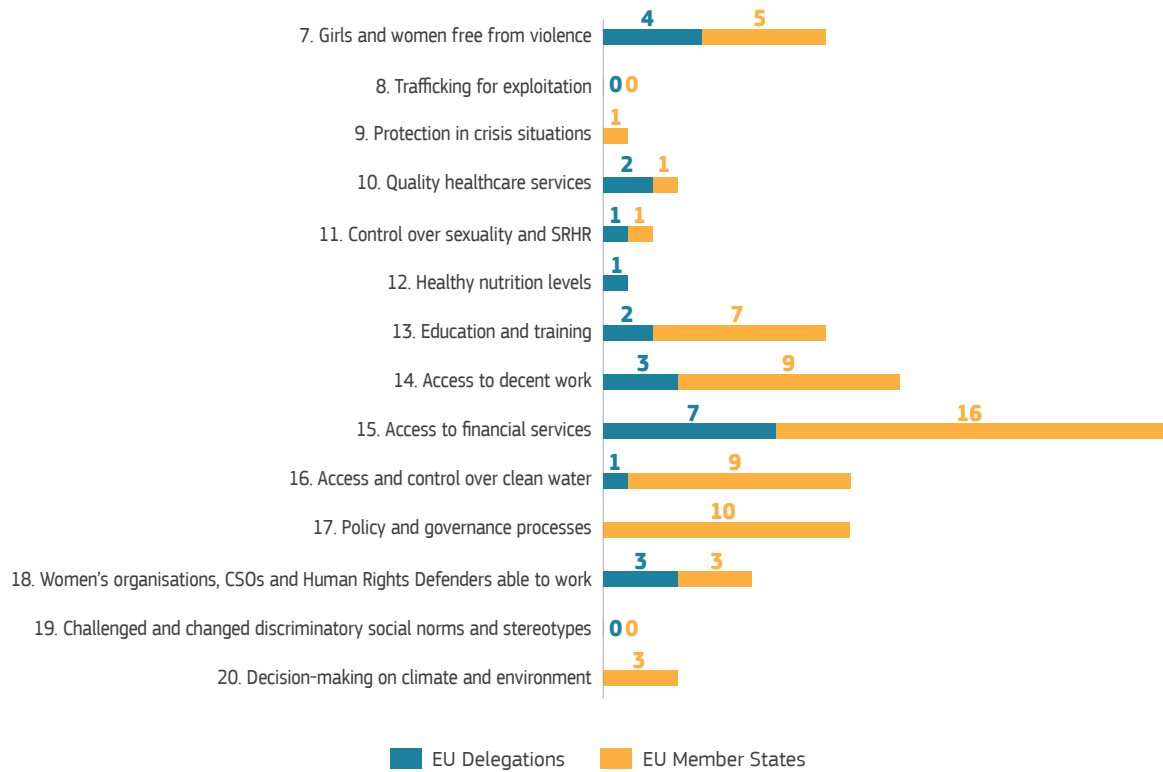
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 24:

## Caribbean

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



## Central America

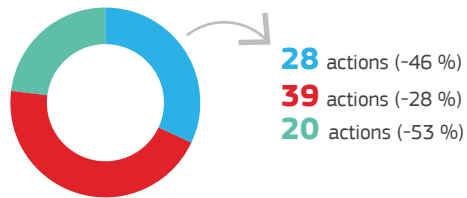
In Central America, approximately 90 actions were reported on the GAP II's implementation in 2018. These were implemented by five EU Delegations, based in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras, and four EU Member States – Germany, Luxembourg, Spain and the United Kingdom. With over 40 fewer actions reported in 2018 than in 2017, there has been a significant decrease in initiatives. El Salvador accounted for the greatest proportion of EU actions in Central America.

In terms of thematic priorities, trends in 2018 followed those identified during the previous year. Thematic priority C was the most selected, with 46 % of all actions focused on socio-economic empowerment, most of which were implemented in El Salvador and Nicaragua. This was followed by thematic priority B (34 %). Most actions on physical and psychological integrity took place in El Salvador, implemented by EU Member States, followed by Nicaragua, Guatemala and, to a lesser extent, Honduras. Thematic priority D was the least selected area (20 %). As in 2017, most initiatives on political and civil rights were implemented by EU Delegations (12 actions) – over half of which were by the EU Delegation to Guatemala (7) – followed by EU Member States in El Salvador (2), Nicaragua (2) and Honduras (1).

Annex 3 Figure 25:

## Central America

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

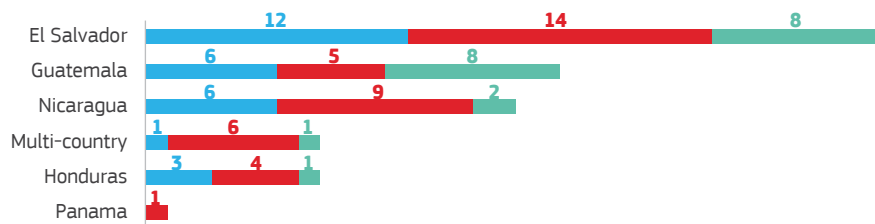


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 26:

## Central America

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018

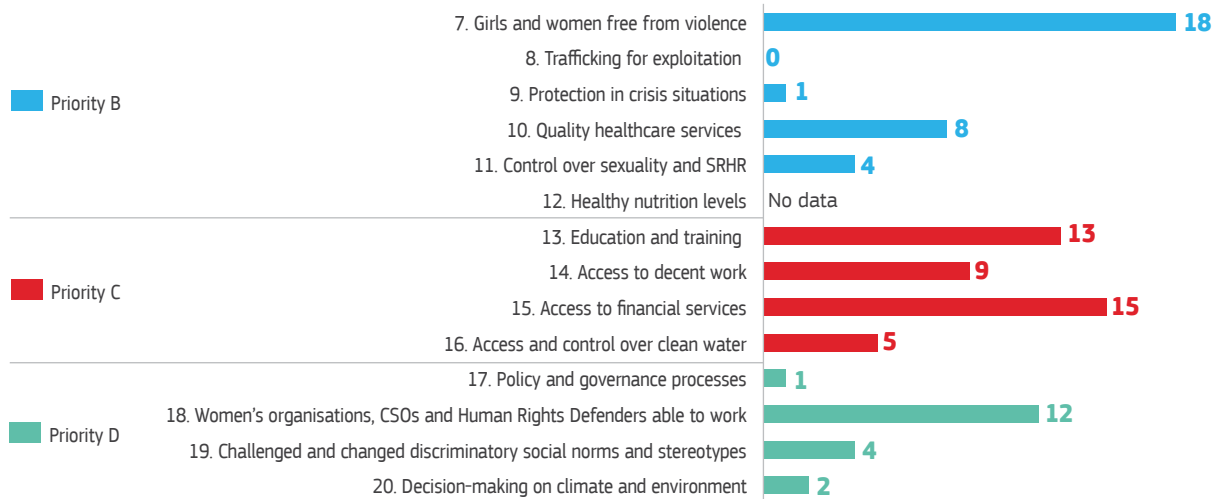


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 27:

## Central America

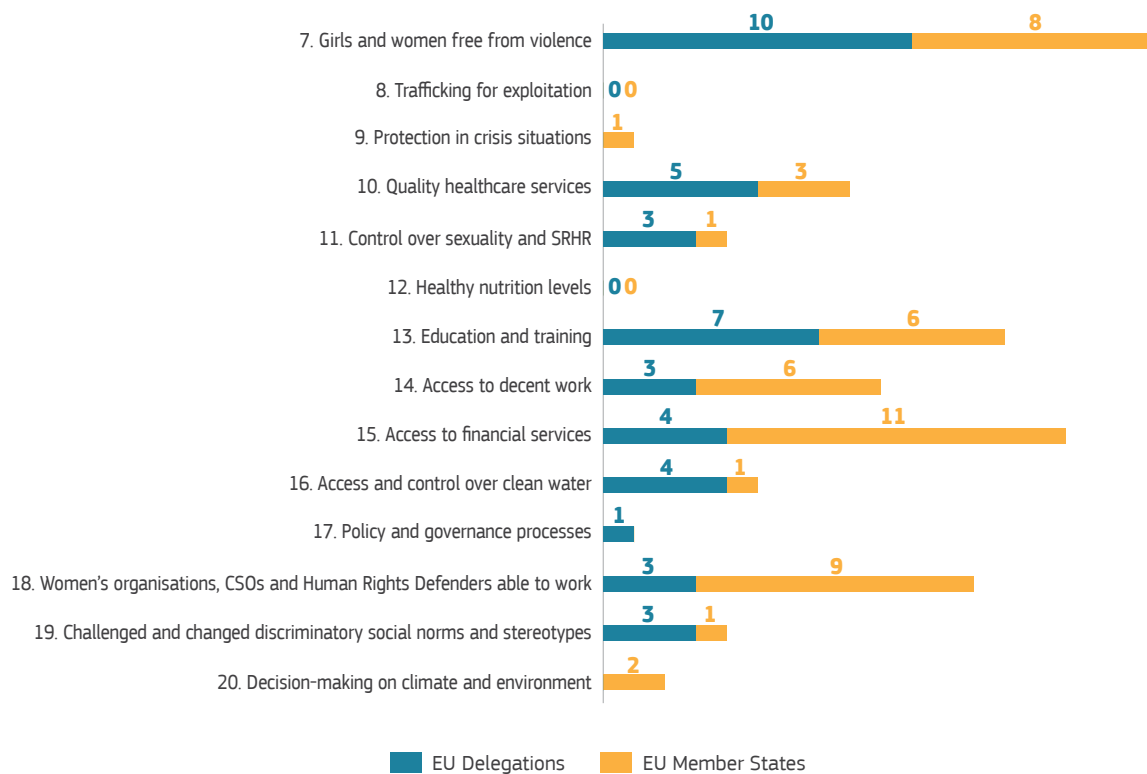
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 28:

## Central America

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



## Latin America



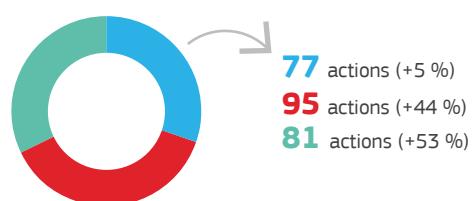
In Latin America, 253 actions contributing to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan II were reported in 2018 by nine EU Delegations and seven EU Member States – Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (UK). These actions took place in ten Latin American countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Compared to 2017, four more Member States and two more EU Delegations reported on the GAP II's implementation, reflecting a significant increase in reported actions. While the number of actions reported by both stakeholders increased, this rise was more marked for Member States, which reported over 100 new actions (137 in 2018, compared to 23 in 2017). Colombia was the country with the highest concentration of actions implemented by EU actors. Of the 119 initiatives reported by EU Delegations, 50 were carried out in Colombia. Similarly, of the 137 actions by EU Member States, 47 were implemented by Spain in Colombia.

EU actions in Latin America largely focused on women's socio-economic empowerment. While 38 % of initiatives contributed to thematic priority C on economic, social and cultural rights, 32 % contributed to priority D on political and civil rights, and 30 % to priority B on physical and psychological integrity. This suggests a shift in priorities in the region. In 2017, thematic priority B was the most selected area for interventions, while in 2018 it was the least frequently selected.

Annex 3 Figure 29:

## Latin America

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

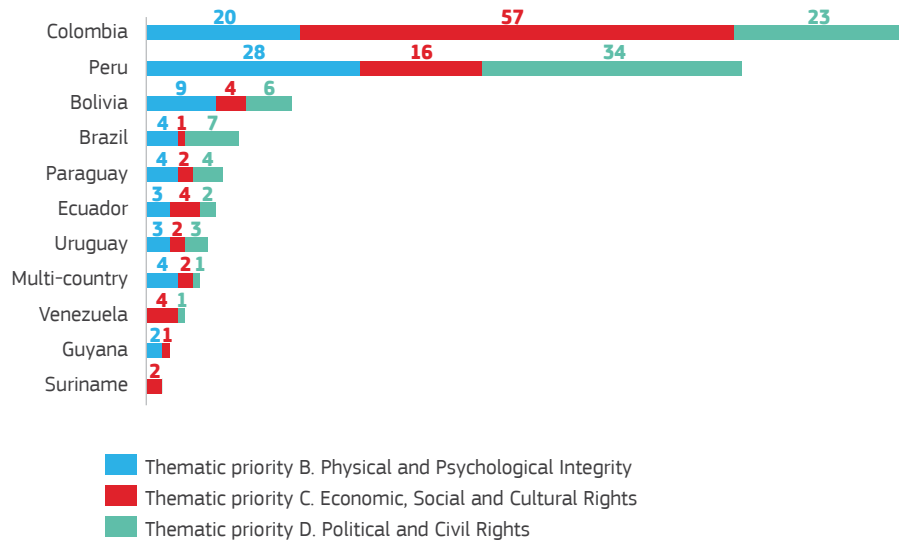


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 30:

## Latin America

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 31:

## Latin America

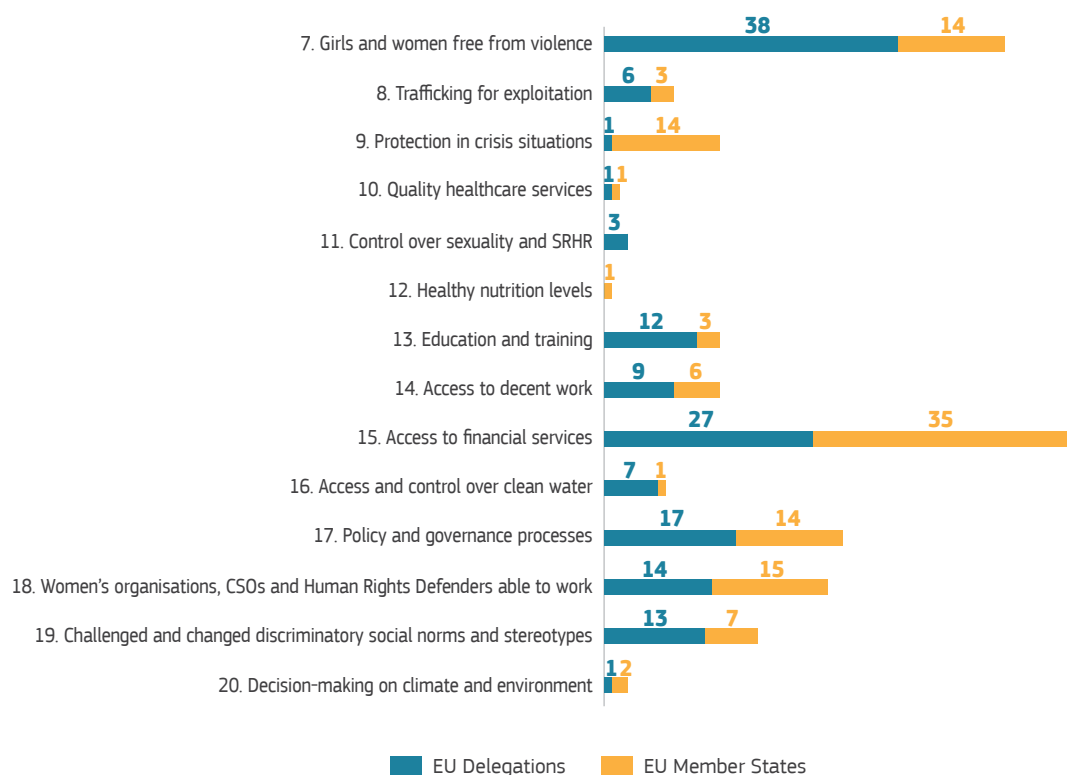
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 32:

## Latin America

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

#### Caribbean

In the Caribbean in 2018, thematic priority B was the least frequently addressed of the GAP II's three priorities. Overall, 16 actions addressed five objectives (7, 9, 10, 11 and 12) on violence against women and girls, sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, access to health care services, sexual reproductive health and rights, and nutrition.

More than 50 % of these actions advanced objective 7, 'girls and women free from all forms of violence against them both in the public and in the private sphere'. Initiatives covered issues such as justice (Jamaica), sexual reproductive health and rights and women's rights (the Dominican Republic), and asset recovery and cybercrime (multi-country). In Jamaica, actions were funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. In Trinidad and Tobago, actions centred on addressing gender stereotypes through the 'Building Better Men' programme, and an initiative on diversity management in schools. Indicator 7.3 was by far the most commonly selected, on 'cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced'. This was followed by indicator 7.2 on physical or sexual violence; however, this was only selected in a few cases. No other indicators were selected under objective 7.

Three actions in Barbados, Cuba, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic tackled objective 10, 'equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women', with a focus on sexual violence, security, justice, and the right to health without discrimination. Only in Cuba and Jamaica was a focus placed on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health (objective 11). Related actions in Jamaica simultaneously addressed child mortality. Nutrition (objective 12) was addressed in Cuba, while and protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations (objective 9) was addressed in the Dominican Republic through a programme on combatting forced (child) marriage.

No actions in the Caribbean addressed objective 8 on the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation.

Annex 3 Figure 33:

## Caribbean

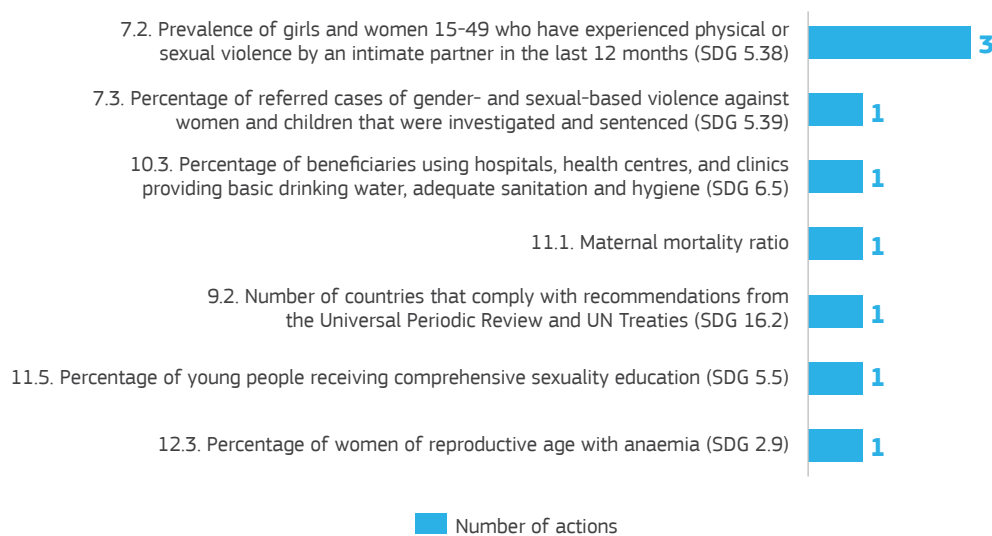
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 34:

## Caribbean

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



## Central America

Most actions under thematic priority B in Central America were implemented in El Salvador, followed by Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras. Almost half of these initiatives focused on combatting violence against women and girls (objective 7). This is hugely significant in a region where women and girls are heavily threatened by violence – including gang violence and domestic violence – and where barriers continue to impede women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The most frequently selected indicators were indicator 7.2, on the intimate partner sexual violence experienced by girls and women, and indicator 7.3, on 'referred cases of gender- and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced'. In El Salvador, indicator 7.5, on the 'number of individuals directly benefiting from justice, rule of law and security sector reform programmes', was selected for an initiative to support justice and security sector institutions in designing policies and programmes using a gender-sensitive approach. Germany implemented a multi-country programme to prevent youth violence in Central America. Initiatives in

El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua centred on combatting VAWG, with a focus on rural women in Honduras, and on early pregnancies and sexual health in El Salvador. The implementation of the landmark UN-EU Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls was reported on by the EU Delegation to El Salvador.

Objective 10 was the second most frequently cited objective in 2018, a marked change from limited attention in 2017 to 'equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services'. Seven actions worked towards this objective through programmes on health in El Salvador and Nicaragua, and in a programme in El Salvador to improve housing infrastructure for persons with disabilities, while supporting nursing and sexual reproductive health and rights. In this context, indicator 10.3 was most frequently reported on, concerning 'beneficiaries using hospitals, health centres and clinics providing basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene'. Only one initiative selected indicator 10.2, on the 'proportion of persons with a severe mental disorder (psychosis, bipolar affective disorder, or moderate-severe depression) who are using services'. This was 'Apoyo al Plan El Salvador Seguro', a sector reform contract geared towards preventing violence in El Salvador.

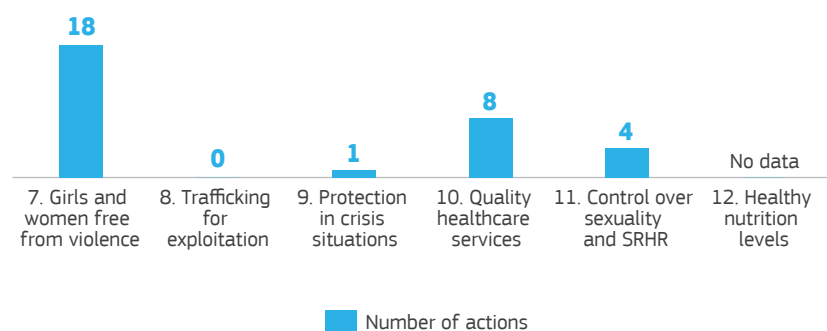
Objective 11, on 'sexual and reproductive health and sexual education', was addressed by four initiatives. All four were implemented in El Salvador by Spain and the EU Delegation, three of which concentrated on preventing early pregnancies. Only one initiative addressed objective 9, 'protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender based violence in crisis situations', namely a sector reform contract in El Salvador on violence prevention.

Objective 8, on trafficking and sexual exploitation, and objective 12, on nutrition, were not addressed by any actions in Central America.

Annex 3 Figure 35:

## Central America

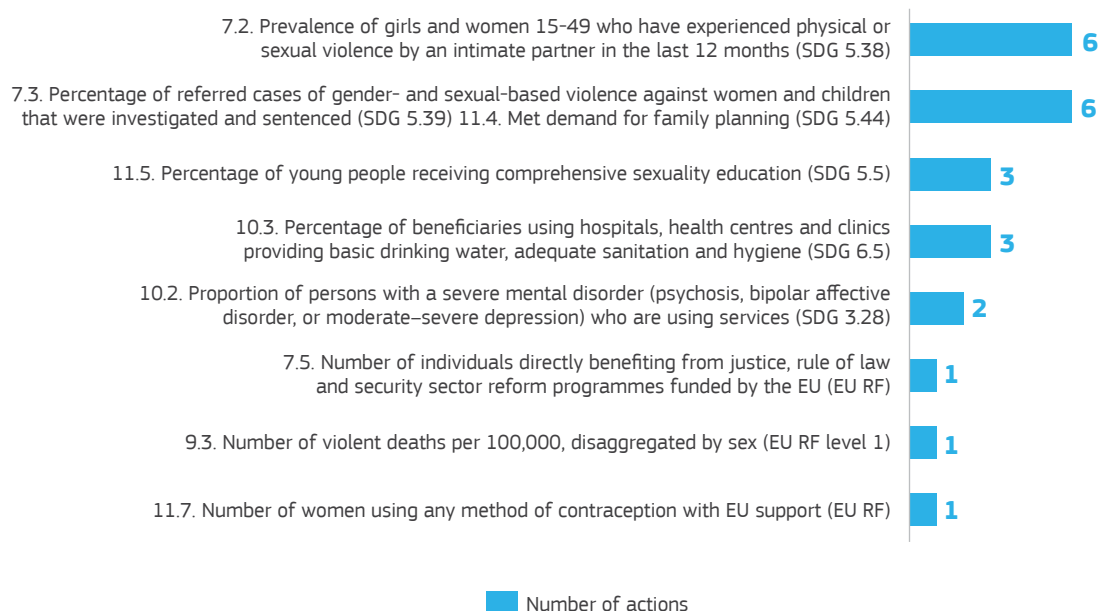
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 36:

## Central America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



## Latin America

Concern about women's and girls' physical and psychological integrity remains significant in Latin America, although this is being overtaken by a focus on the GAP II's other thematic priorities. Alongside Central America, Latin America is among the world regions with the highest rates of gender-based and sexual violence against women.

For this reason, by far the most frequently selected objective under thematic priority B was objective 7, 'girls and women free from all forms of violence against them (VAWG) both in the public and in the private sphere'. This was the focus of 63 % of actions (52) under this priority. Member States predominantly addressed this objective, rather than EU Delegations. Most actions to combat VAWG were carried out in Peru. Indicators selected under this objective included indicator 7.2 on the prevalence of girls and women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner (31 % of actions), indicator 7.3 on the 'percentage of referred cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced' (17 %), and indicator 7.5 on the 'number of individuals directly benefiting from justice, rule of law and security sector reform programmes funded by the EU' (8 %).

Several regional programmes to combat violence against women and girls are being funded. These include UN Women's flagship initiative on Safe Cities and Public Spaces, and a 'Triangular Project' to share practices from Peru and Spain to improve the El Salvadorian information systems and analysis of femicide. Germany is also implementing a regional programme to fight violence against women in Latin America.

Crisis and social conflicts are frequent in the sub-region, characterised as it is by social inequalities and unrest. Therefore, objective 9 was a frequently addressed in 2018, geared towards the 'protection of all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations'. This was addressed by 15 actions in Uruguay, Ecuador, Guyana, Brazil and Colombia, with 11 of these initiatives implemented by EU Delegations. Actions focused on violence and femicide (Ecuador), democracy (Uruguay), and strengthening security by spreading a culture of peace, legality and human rights in post-conflict municipalities, supporting their economic stabilisation, and reintegrating and protecting boys and girls at high risk of recruitment (Colombia). It is worth noting that the first human rights training organised by the military police of Brazil's defence forces included a session on women's rights.

Human trafficking is prevalent Latin America, and women and girls represent the vast majority of those trafficked. This is the crux of objective 8, which was addressed by nine actions on sexual exploitation and trafficking in

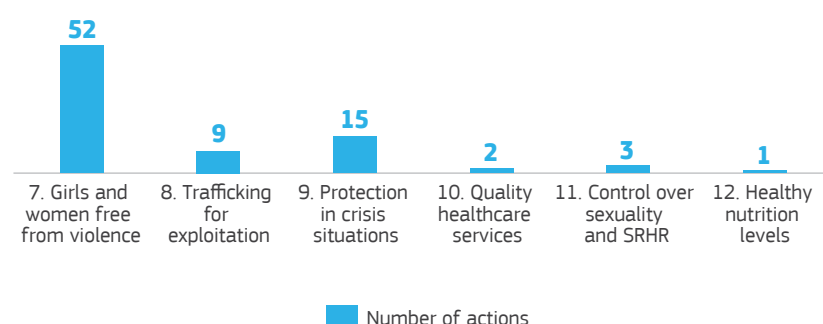
Paraguay, Peru and Bolivia. These focused on prevention and protection, in addition to support for public and government institutions in Peru and Paraguay. Objective 11, on sexual and reproductive health, was addressed by three programmes implemented by Spain in Peru to support violence against women (VAW) survivors and to determine the percentage of young people receiving comprehensive sexuality education (indicator 11.5).

Only two actions – in Peru and Guyana – targeted objective 10 on equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women. Objective 12, on women's and girl's healthy nutrition levels, was addressed by the EU Delegation to Peru through budgetary support for social inclusion and the National Development Strategy.

Annex 3 Figure 37:

## Latin America

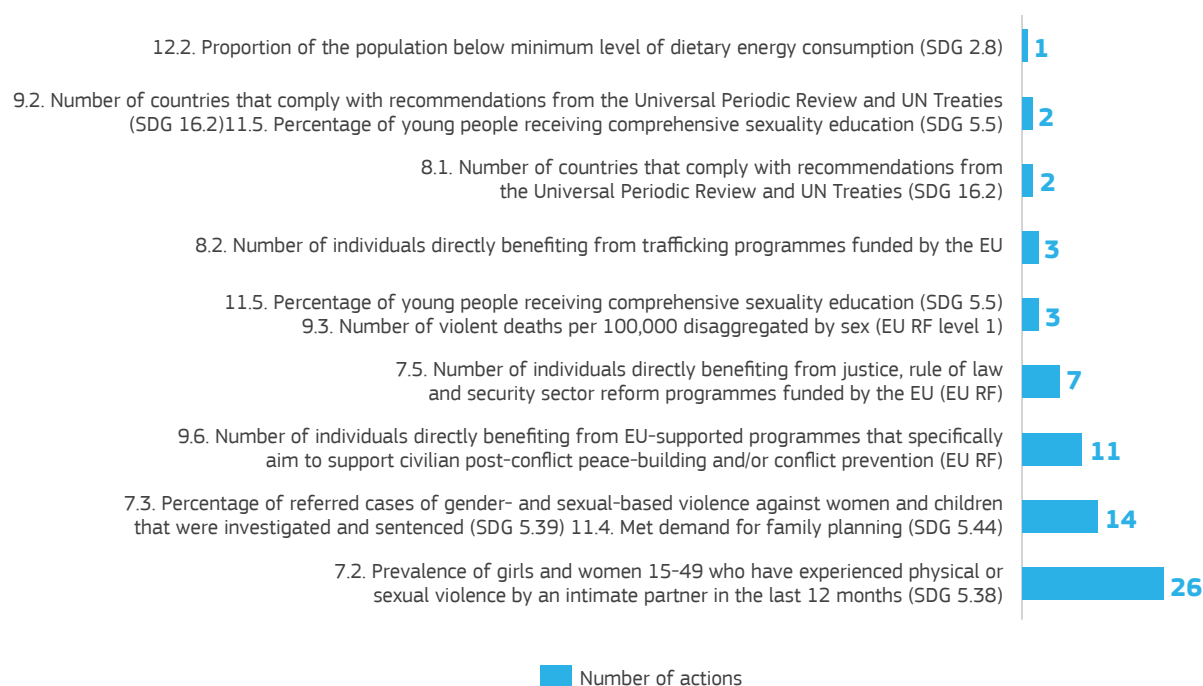
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 38:

## Latin America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018





## Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural rights – Economic and Social Empowerment

### Caribbean

In the Caribbean, the most frequently selected objective under thematic priority C was objective 15, on equal access to financial services and productive resources. In 2018, most actions in the sub-region addressed this objective, rising from five in 2016, to 19 in 2017 and 23 in 2018. The greatest number of actions reported by EU Delegations to Barbados, Haiti and the Dominican Republic focused on objective 15.

Under objective 15, indicator 15.8 was the most frequently selected, on the number of 'women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services'. This was followed by indicators 15.6, 'women receiving rural advisory services with EU support', 15.4 on GNI per capita and 15.3 on the gender wage gap. Environmental issues were the focus of two multi-country actions – one on forest landscape restoration and the implementation of the Green Development Fund, and another on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, the extent to which a gender perspective was integrated in these initiatives was not specified.

Objective 14 was the second most selected, with 12 actions addressing access to decent work. This was followed by objective 16, on 'equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable management'. Integrating a gender perspective in actions on climate change and environmental disasters is not yet common practice. Several actions focused on reconstruction after Hurricanes Irma and Maria; energy sector budget support in Barbados; and a bi-national programme in Haiti and the Dominican Republic on political dialogue concerning civil society, the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

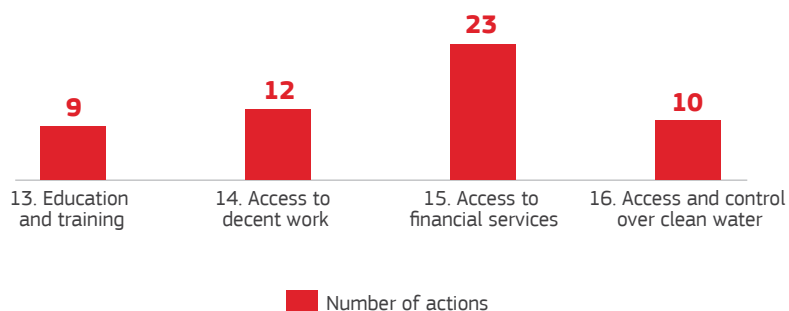
Compared to 2017, there was a change of focus in the Caribbean in 2018, as access to decent work received more attention than equitable access to, and the management of, water, energy and infrastructure. Reported actions reveal a strong focus on strengthening women's access to finance, the use of micro-credit and financial inclusion to support their economic empowerment. As noted above, indicator 15.8 was most often selected, especially by the EU Delegation to Haiti. There was also a strong focus on rural development (indicator 15.6).

Other issues addressed using a gender lens included the employment to population ratio by gender and age (indicator 14.4), road management (16.7), public finance management (15.4) and vocational education, training and skills development (13.10), such as on modern cooking methods. Although Objective 13 on access to education and vocational training was not a prominent focus in the region, some actions sought to improve education systems and professional training in rural areas (Haiti), as well as technical and vocational education and training (TVET) (Dominican Republic). The EU-Anguilla 11th EDF Education and Training Sector Policy Support Programme and a multi-country programme also focused on building skills to support economic growth.

Annex 3 Figure 39:

### Caribbean

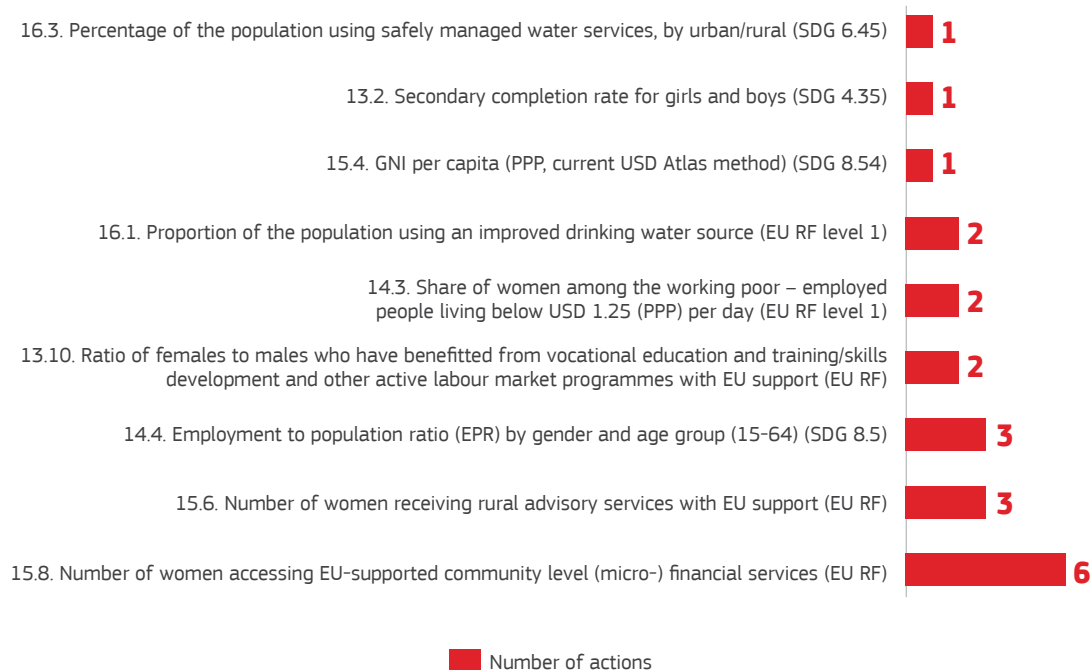
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 40:

## Caribbean

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



## Central America

Most actions by EU delegations and EU Member States in Central America contributed to thematic priority C. The most commonly selected objective was objective 15 (36 % of actions), on 'equal access of women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship'. This was followed by objective 13 (31 %), on 'equal access to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training'.

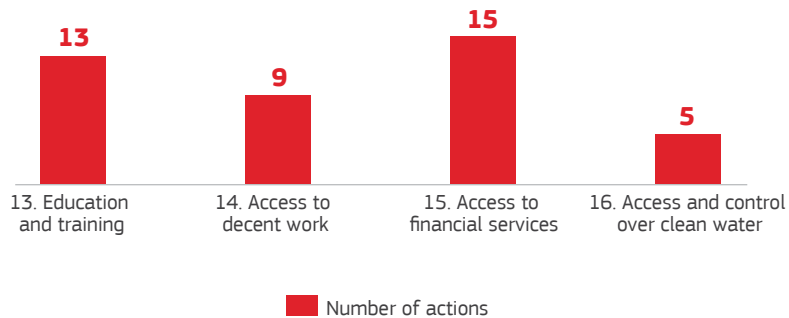
Only two of objective 15's eight indicators were selected – indicator 15.2 on protecting the rights of women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities, and indicator 15.8 on women's access to (micro-) financial services. Some of the actions that addressed objective 15 focused on environmental issues, such as biodiversity, forestry and ecosystems. These included a multi-country programme on supporting the economic potential of biodiversity, access and benefit-sharing in Central America; an initiative for tropical forest protection and watershed management in the Trifinio region; and a programme on conservation and sustainable coastal ecosystem management in Nicaragua (Fortalecimiento de condiciones y capacidades de la población para la conservación y manejo sostenible de ecosistemas costeros de la Costa caribe de Nicaragua). In Honduras, a focus was placed on food security through a dedicated programme and sector reform contract.

Objective 14 was the third most frequently selected objective in the sub-region, on 'access to decent work and employment'. All related indicators selected addressed women's income share, poverty, equal employment rates and informal employment, alongside support for the implementation and ratification of fundamental labour standards prescribed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Four actions addressed objective 16, on 'access and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure'. These targeted water management and sanitation in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The selection of indicator 16.3 reflects the EU's commitment to supporting the availability of safely managed water services in Central America.

Annex 3 Figure 41:

## Central America

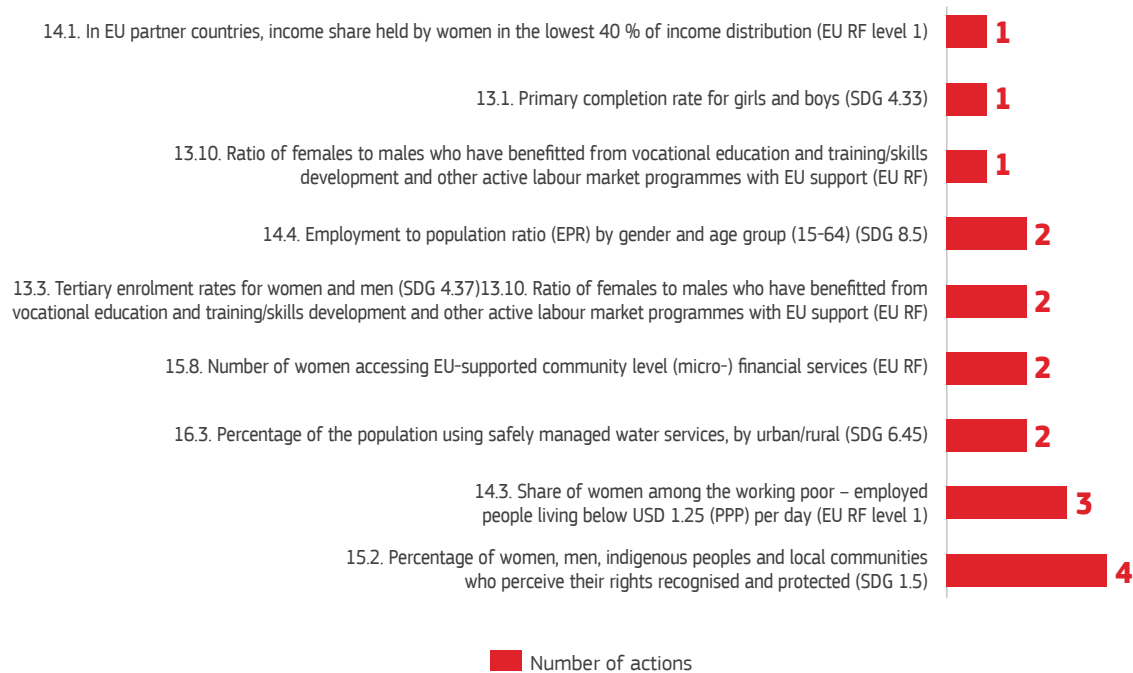
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 42:

## Central America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



## Latin America

Many countries in Latin America are experiencing an economic slowdown, with particularly dire implications for women. EU actors in the sub-region sought to support women's economic empowerment by implementing 40 % of their actions in 2018 under thematic priority C.

The greatest focus was on objective 15, 'equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship'. As this is considered a key strategy for women's socio-economic empowerment in the sub-region, 63 actions centred on it. Of these, 46 were implemented in Colombia, 10 in Peru, three in Ecuador, and one each in Suriname, Venezuela, Bolivia and Paraguay. Indicator 15.6 was the most frequently selected, on the number of 'women receiving rural advisory services with EU support'. Actions under objective 15 supported civil society actors to champion inclusive socio-economic development in Ecuador and Venezuela. They also focused

on economic development and value chains – such as involving more women in coffee and cocoa value chains – alongside indigenous people's rights and socio-economic participation (Colombia, Paraguay and Peru). In Colombia, most actions under objective 15 addressed the links between peace-building and economic and rural development. Specific initiatives on women's economic and social empowerment were also implemented in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

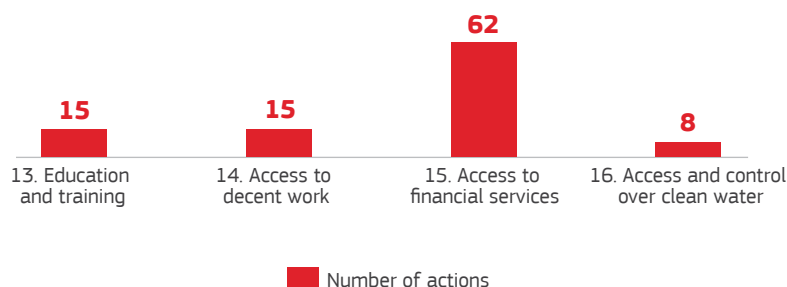
After objective 15, the objectives selected with roughly equal frequency were objective 13, on access to decent work, and objective 14 on equal access for girls to all levels of quality education, vocational education and training. Several actions sought to strengthen the quality of education; the labour market insertion and social inclusion of vulnerable youth; and women's economic empowerment through participation in labour markets and value chains, including cacao and chocolate in Venezuela, and crafts and processing camelids in Peru. The United Kingdom implemented a multi-country programme on girls' participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

While Latin America – like all world regions – faces environmental challenges that affect women and girls, there is limited evidence that these issues are being addressed from a gender perspective. In 2018, very few actions addressed water and the environment in Bolivia and Colombia. Gender mainstreaming was a feature of Paraguay's 'Sanitation and Potable Water Programme for the Chaco and the Intermediate Cities of the Eastern Region', and the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) in Suriname. With the exception of the GCCA+, all eight actions under objective 16 were implemented by EU Member States.

Annex 3 Figure 43:

## Latin America

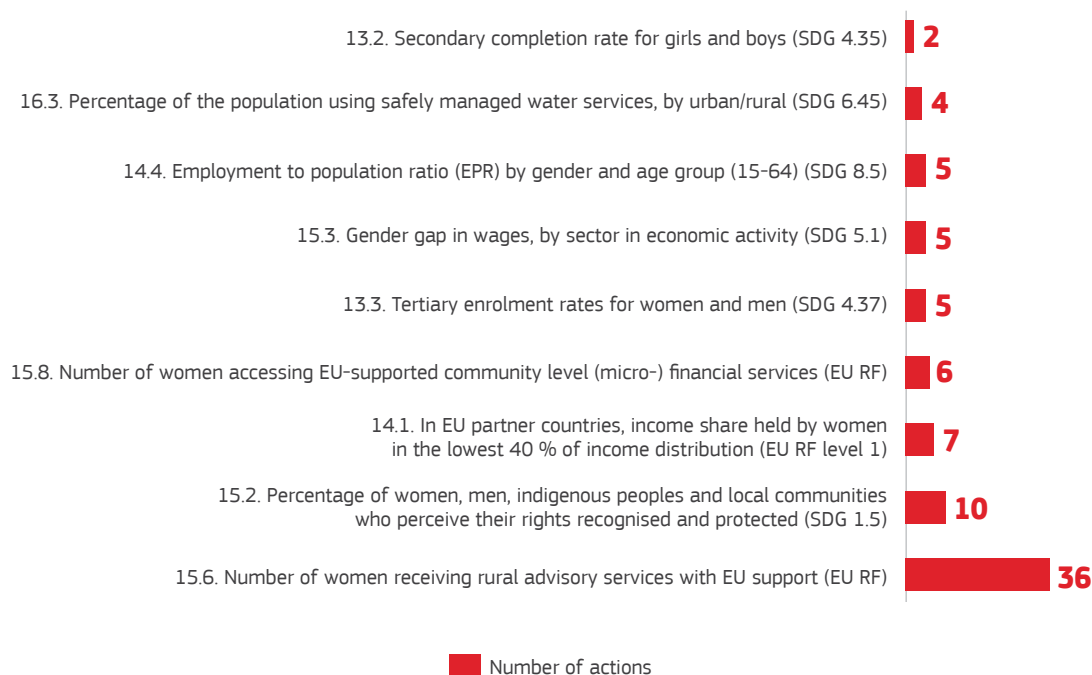
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 44:

## Latin America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



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

#### Caribbean

Objective 17 was the most selected objective under thematic priority D in the Caribbean, on women's 'equal rights and participation in policy and governance processes'. This marks a continuation of trends observed in previous years. This objective's selection has steadily increased since 2016, when it was addressed through four actions, rising to nine in 2017 and 10 in 2018.

Seven of the 10 actions related to objective 17 addressed indicator 17.7 on gender-responsive budgeting at the local and national levels with EU support. Both objective 17 and indicator 17.7 were most often selected by the EU Delegation to the Dominican Republic and, to a lesser extent, the EU Delegation to Haiti. Two actions targeted indicator 17.5, on women benefiting from legal aid programmes – one in Jamaica and another in the Dominican Republic.

In the Dominican Republic, a range of actions specifically addressed gender. Initiatives included a focus on women's empowerment to support democratic governance, and a child rights approach in local administrations to enhance participatory municipal management. EU technical assistance to support gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2014-2020 was also contracted.

Six actions addressed objective 18, on protecting women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. Two of these were implemented in Trinidad and Tobago, centred on strengthening lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights and combatting gender-based violence. Both actions addressed indicator 18.3, on the 'number of Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies that include gender equality objectives'.

Only the EU Delegation to Haiti addressed objective 20, on 'equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues', through three actions. These included monitoring indicator 20.1, on the 'number of deaths per 100,000 from climate-related and natural disasters – average over last ten years'.

No actions addressed objective 19 on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.

Annex 3 Figure 45:

## Caribbean

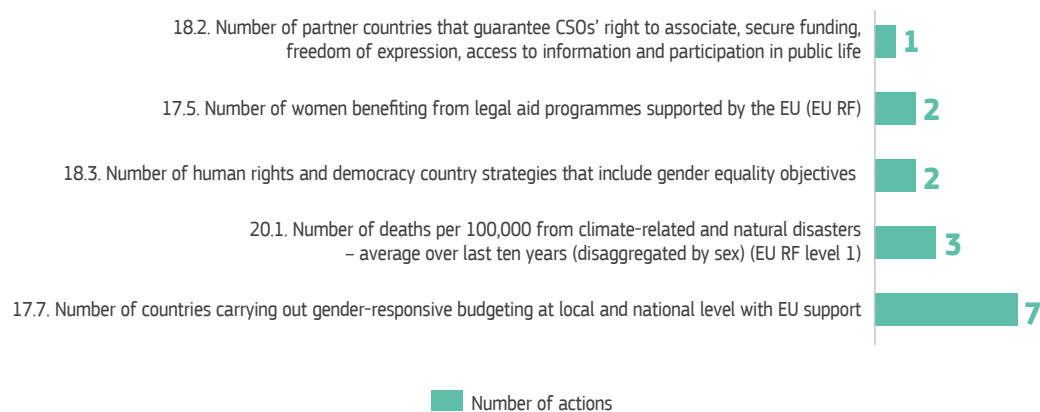
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 46:

## Caribbean

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



## Central America

In 2018, 19 actions in Central America strove to strengthen women's and girls' agency, voice and participation in political, social and economic life. This is a marked decline from 39 actions on thematic priority D in 2017.

Objective 18, on supporting women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, was the most selected objective in El Salvador, Guatemala and, to a lesser extent, Honduras. This illustrates the EU's engagement in advancing non-state actors' participation, while promoting political and civil rights. Actions focused on democratic governance and security (El Salvador), protecting Human Rights Defenders, including women, and civil society organisations (Guatemala), and supporting women survivors of violence and shelters for survivors (in both countries). Indicator 18.2 was most commonly selected, on guaranteeing civil society organisations' right to associate, secure funding, freedom of expression, access to information and participation in public life.

Four actions addressed challenging discriminatory social norms and stereotypes (objective 19), three of which were implemented in El Salvador. The fourth, in Nicaragua, sought to strengthen the complaint system for cases of discrimination, boost the judiciary's capacity to address this structural cause of violence, and mainstream cross-cutting equality issues in public administration. Under this objective, EU actors generally committed to supporting

positive changes on measures included in the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) (indicator 19.1) and the introduction of a quota system (19.3). Two initiatives in Guatemala addressed objective 20, 'equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues'. Only one action, also in Guatemala, addressed objective 17, 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels'.

Annex 3 Figure 47:

## Central America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 48:

## Central America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



## Latin America

Thematic priority D was the second most selected priority in Latin America in 2018, attracting far greater attention than in 2017. Three objectives (17, 18 and 19) under this priority are among the five most selected objectives in the sub-region. This reflects markedly greater EU support for Latin American women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders (objective 18), and for challenging discriminatory norms and stereotypes (objective 19).

Objective 17, 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes', was addressed across six countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Peru. Only one action – implemented by Sweden in Peru – selected indicator 17.7, on the 'number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting



at local and national level with EU support'. Many reported actions were workshops, speeches and initiatives. Nonetheless, programmes implemented covered a range of issues – from local development in Uruguay, to peace and gender-sensitive public policy in Colombia, civil society projects in Brazil, women's political rights in Paraguay, and gender-sensitive fiscal justice in Bolivia.

Objective 18 was addressed almost as often as objective 17 in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia and Venezuela. Actions focused primarily on indicator 18.2, on civil society's rights. Once again, the focus in Colombia was on human rights and peace, with support provided to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHA). In Brazil, several initiatives were funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). Support for Human Rights Defenders was especially pronounced in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

Of the 20 actions that explicitly aimed to challenge discriminatory social norms (objective 19), 15 were implemented in Peru. Many of these actions were exhibitions, forums, specific events and conventions.

Under objective 20, 'decision-making on climate/environment', the Black Women Permanent Forum was launched in Brazil. In Peru, the Human Rights and Rule of Law Franco-German Prize for 2018 was awarded to an indigenous woman leader fighting for indigenous and environmental rights. In Uruguay, women's socio-economic rights were promoted.

Annex 3 Figure 49:

## Latin America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 50:

## Latin America

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



## Asia

### Overview of progress in 2018

#### Asia and the Pacific

Approximately 500 actions contributing to the Gender Action Plan II's implementation were reported in Asia and the Pacific in 2018. These were reported by 10 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom – and 16 EU Delegations, three more than in 2017. The EU Delegations in questions represent 21 countries and one sub-region in Asia and the Pacific – Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Mongolia, Fiji and the Pacific Islands, India and Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

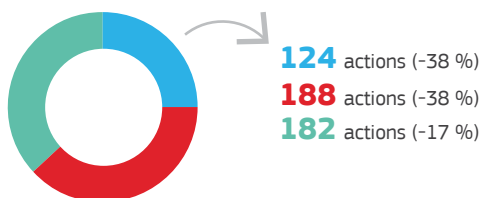
While the number of reported actions in 2018 remains high, they decreased compared with 2017. As in 2017, thematic priority C, on economic, social and cultural rights, remained the most targeted GAP II priority, accounting for 38 % of all actions. It was followed closely by thematic priority D, on political and civil rights (37 % of actions). Far fewer actions (25 %) were implemented under thematic priority B, on physical and psychological integrity. This marks a significant change in annual trends. In 2017, priority B was the second most frequently selected, while priority D was the least selected. Thus, in 2018 EU actors paid greater attention to women's and girls' political and civil rights in Asia and the Pacific.

Among Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan, the EU Delegation to Taiwan reported four specific actions, all of which addressed thematic priority B, with a specific focus on objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health. These actions were all rights-based and gender-sensitive, focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights.

Annex 3 Figure 51:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

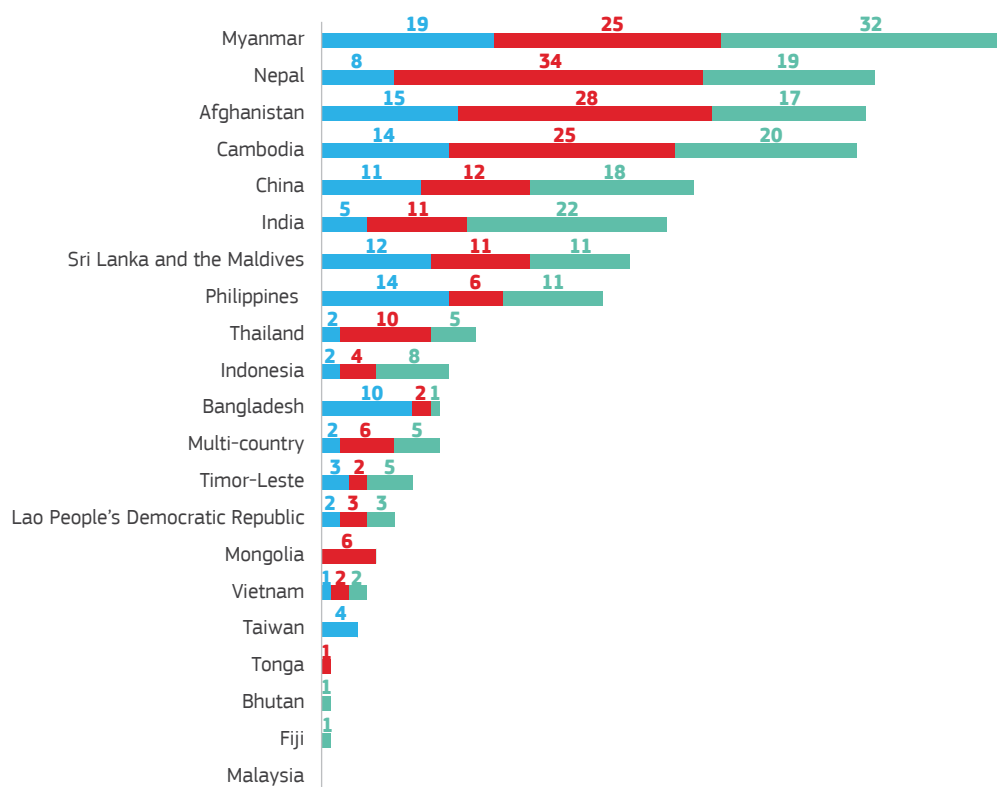


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 52:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018

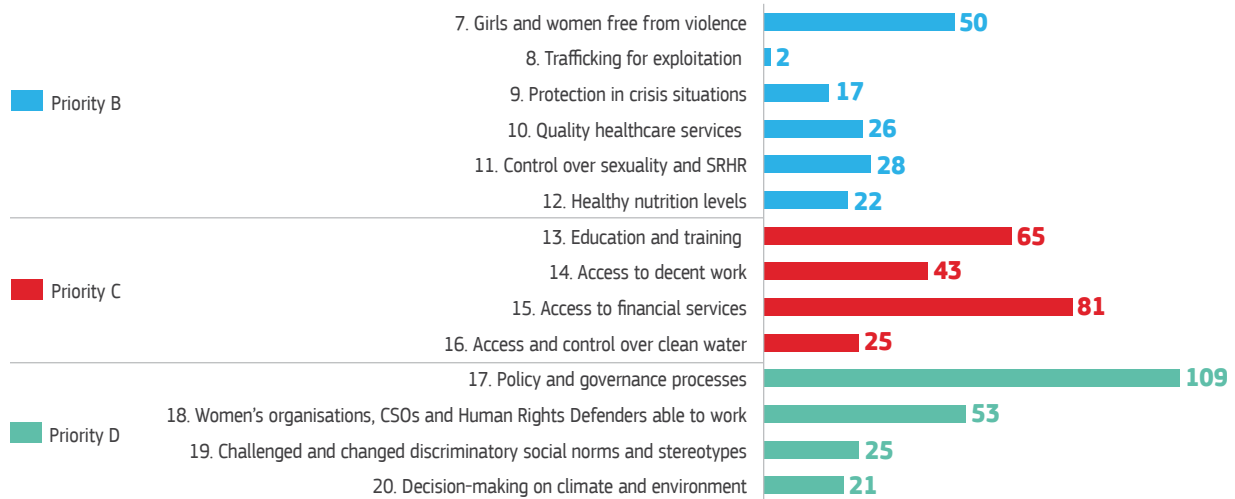


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 53:

## Asia and the Pacific

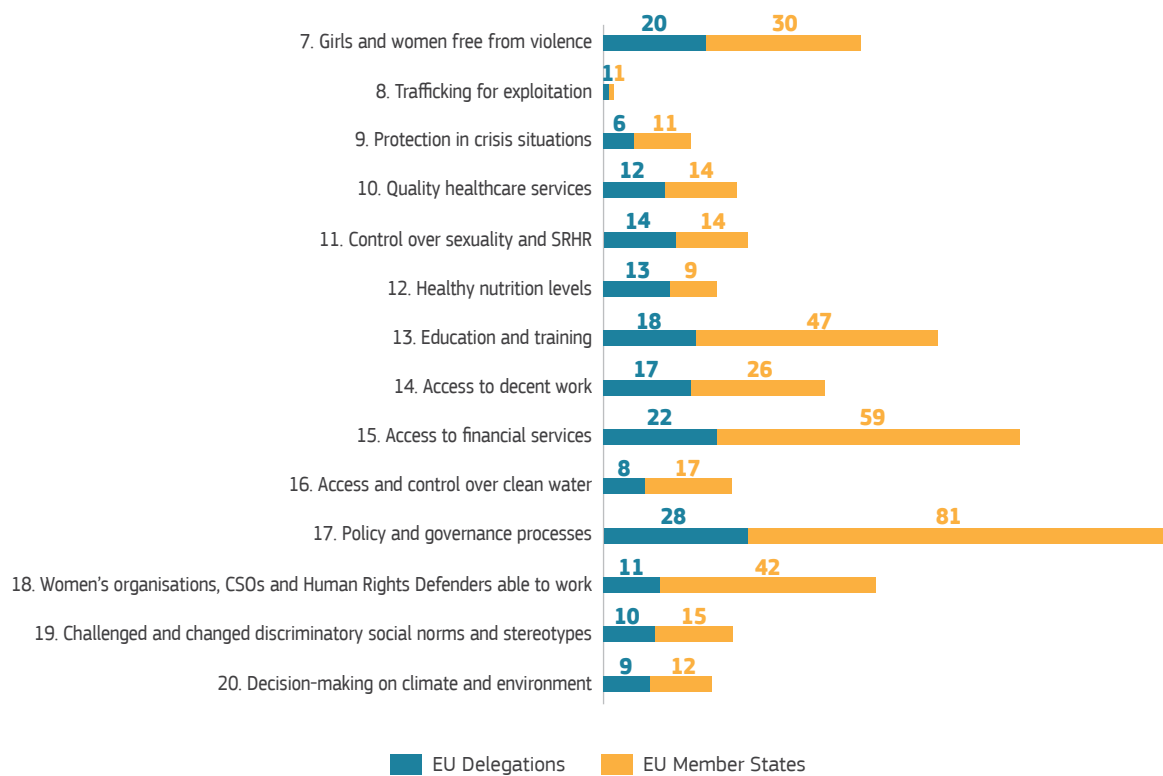
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 54:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



## Central Asia

In Central Asia, 51 actions were reported on the GAP II's priorities in 2018. These were implemented by three EU delegations – to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – and one EU Member State, namely the United Kingdom.

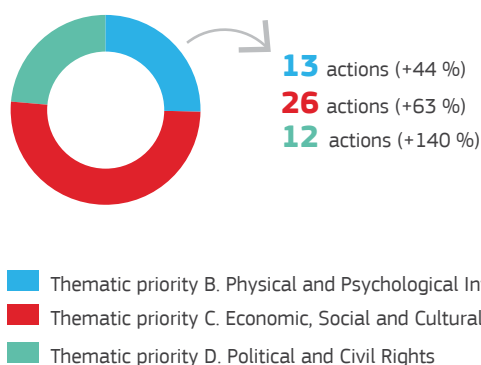
There was a marked focus on thematic priority C, which was selected by all EU Delegations and accounted for 51 % of all reported actions in the sub-region. A roughly equal focus was apparent on thematic priority B (25 % of all actions, including most actions by the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan), and thematic priority D (24 %). The EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan carried all actions on thematic priority D, with the exception of one action implemented in Tajikistan. Comparing annual trends reveals that priority C was selected far more often in 2018 than in 2017, priority D somewhat more often, and priority B was less frequently selected.

Overall, 2018 was a year of sharp progress on the GAP II's implementation in Central Asia compared to previous years. This is due to a significant increase in reported actions – 51 in 2018, up from 28 in 2017.

Annex 3 Figure 55:

### Central Asia

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

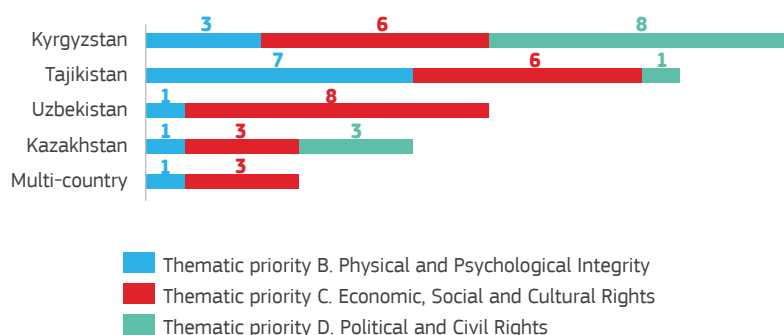


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 56:

### Central Asia

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018

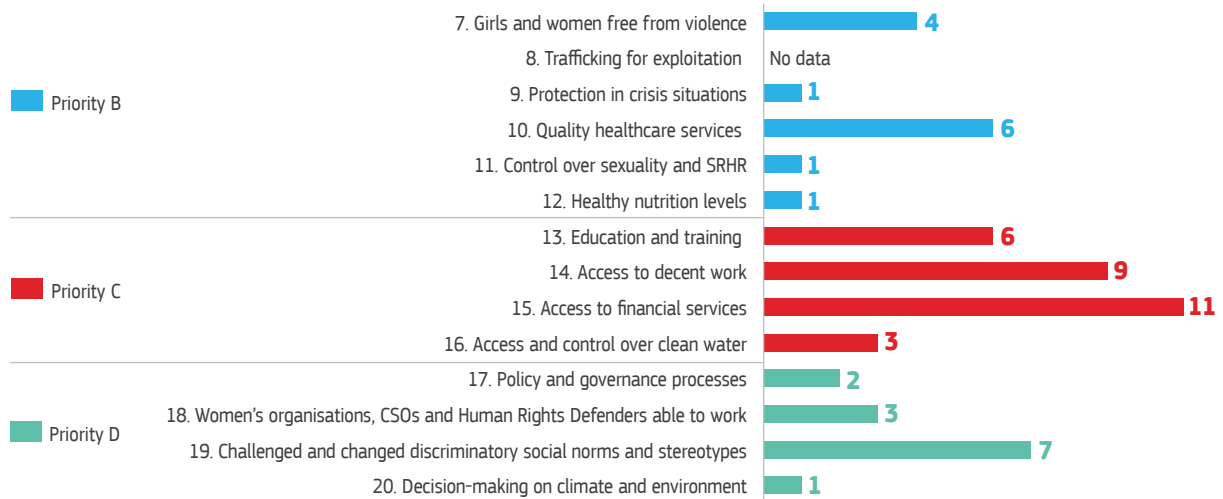


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 57:

## Central Asia

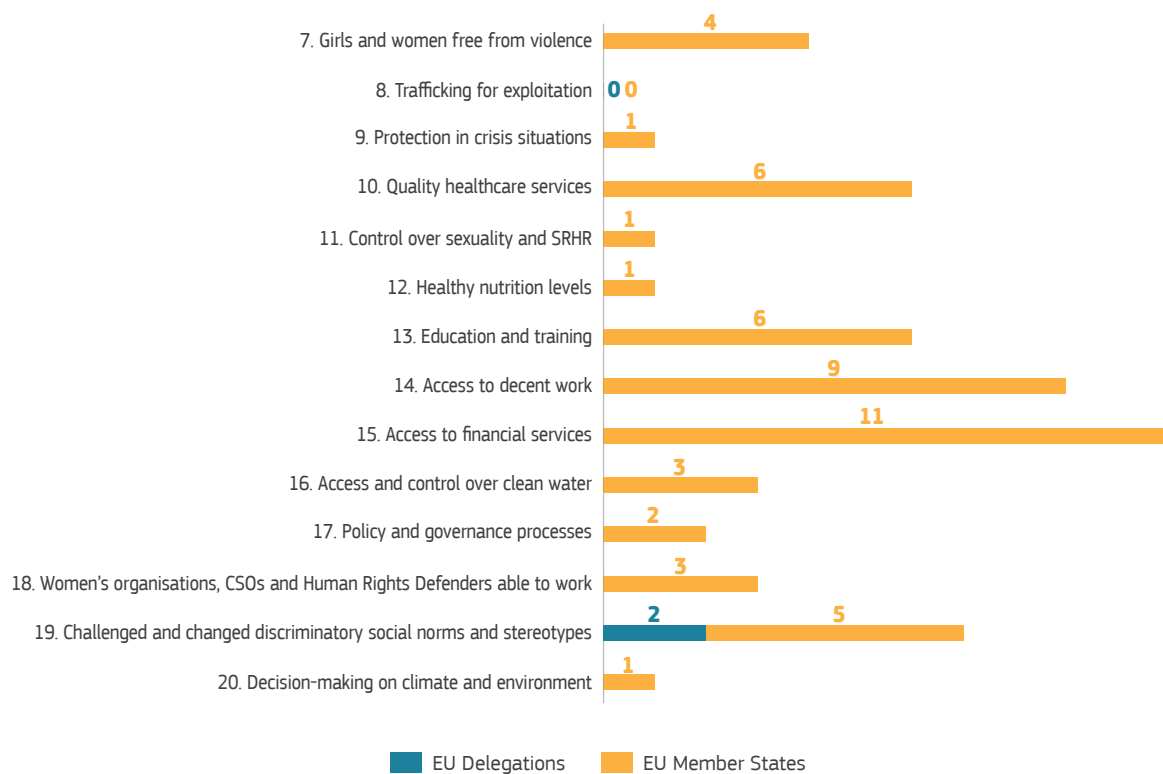
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 58:

## Central Asia

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



## Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

### Asia and the Pacific

In 2018, 145 reported actions in Asia and the Pacific contributed to thematic priority B. These were implemented by 13 EU Delegations – in Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Fiji and the Pacific Islands) – and 10 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This marks a significant decrease in actions focused on priority B since 2017, when 213 actions were reported.

The greatest proportion of actions under this thematic priority addressed objective 7 (34 %), on combatting all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). This reflects an increase compared to 2017, when objective 7 was the second most popular objective (accounting for 28 % of actions), and a decrease compared to 2016, when it was the most selected objective (50 % of actions). Actions in 2018 covered a variety of issues linked to VAWG, including gender mainstreaming, supporting civil society, promoting human rights and women's empowerment, food security, access to justice and education. The EU Delegation to the Pacific reported on the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls, and increase access to quality response services for survivors.

The selection of indicators under objective 7 shows a focus on addressing physical violence by intimate partners (7.2), following the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases (7.3).

Objective 11, on sexual reproductive health and rights, was the second most selected objective in Asia and the Pacific, accounting for 19 % of reported initiatives (28 actions). Seven of these were implemented in Myanmar, and six in the Philippines. A focus on sexual reproductive health and rights was apparent in Afghanistan (family planning and reproductive health), India, Nepal and the Philippines (reproductive services). In Taiwan, one action focused on LGBTI rights.

Other frequently selected objectives included objective 12 (15 % of actions), on healthy nutrition levels for girls and women, objective 10 (17 %) on equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women, and objective 9 (12 %) on gender-based violence in crisis situations. Actions to foster security and peace, while reducing conflict, were implemented in Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Myanmar, three EU Member States – Finland, Italy and Sweden – funded a programme on sexual reproductive health and rights and combatting gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas.

Objective 8 on trafficking was addressed by two actions – an international Dialogue on Human Trafficking in the Philippines, and a programme to support Cambodian migrants' rights in Thailand, with a view to preventing rights violations and human trafficking. Indicators related to this objective were not selected.

Annex 3 Figure 59:

### Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018

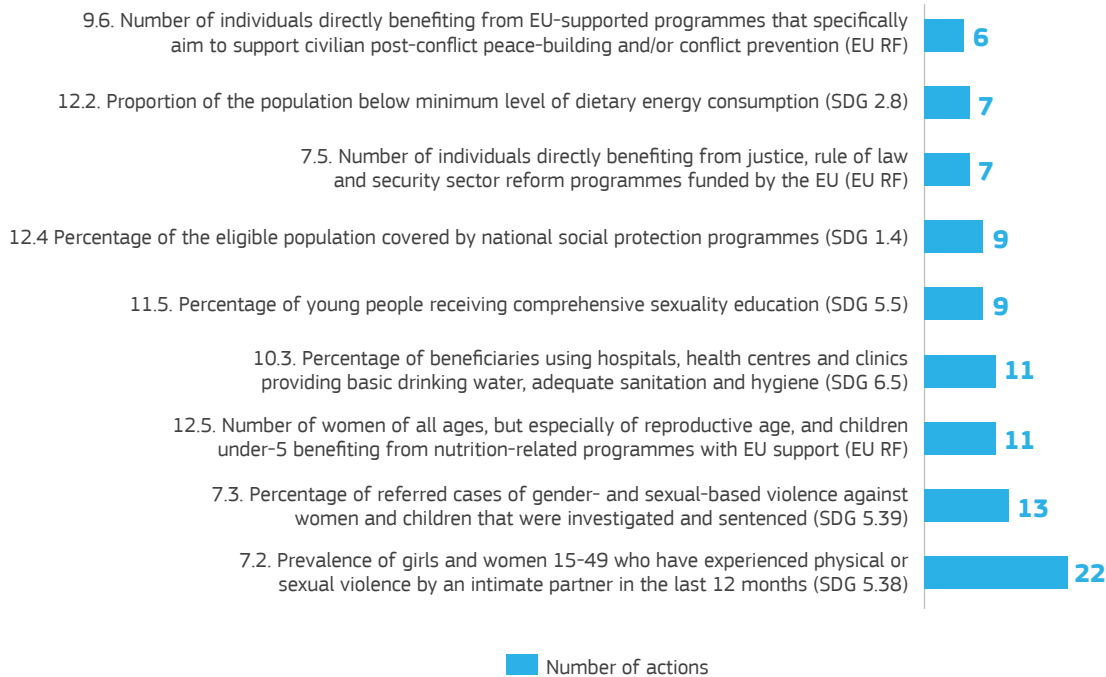




Annex 3 Figure 60:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



### Central Asia

In 2018, 13 actions by three EU Delegations in Central Asia – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – contributed to thematic priority B. This marks an increase of four actions in 2018, up from a total of nine actions in 2017. The EU Delegation to Tajikistan implemented eight of the 13 actions under this priority.

Greater attention was paid to health in Central Asia than in the rest of Asia and the Pacific. Objective 10 was most frequently selected under thematic priority B, on access to quality physical and mental health care services. This was especially true in Tajikistan. Three reported initiatives focused on improving community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities by supporting civil society, improving social services and applying best practices. Objective 7 was the second most commonly selected, on girls and women free from all forms of violence. This was addressed by all EU Delegations who reported on this thematic priority, with a focus on gender-based violence (Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan), women's rights (Uzbekistan) and the rule of law (Kyrgyzstan).

Trends between 2016 and 2018 reveal an increased focus on objective 10, which was not reported on in 2016, but was the most selected objective in 2018. Indicator 10.2 was the most frequently addressed indicator – both under this objective and within priority B as a whole – concerning the proportion of persons with a severe mental disorder who are using services. Under objective 10, other commonly selected indicators were 10.3, on the percentage of beneficiaries using hospitals, health centres and clinics that provide basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene, and indicator 10.4, on the number of people with advanced HIV infection receiving antiretroviral drugs.

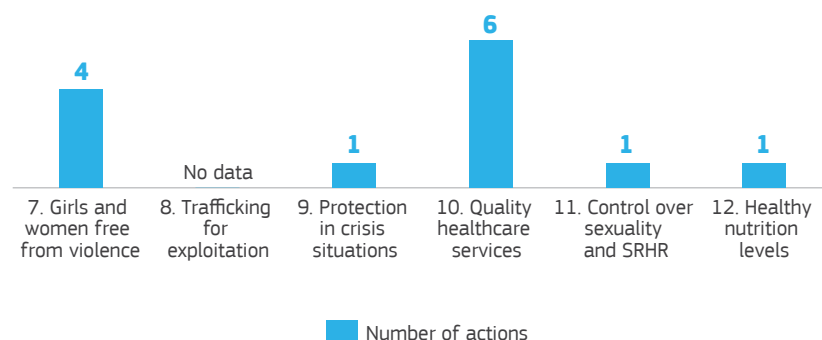
Under objective 7, the selection of indicators – namely indicators 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.5 – suggests engagement by EU Delegations in promoting actions to combat violence against women and girls, prevent early marriages, and support legislative actions to protect survivors and prosecute perpetrators.

Objective 11, on sexual and reproductive health and rights, was included in one action in Tajikistan related to the country's Health Management Information System. Similarly, objective 12 on nutrition was addressed by one initiative on social protection in Kyrgyzstan.

Annex 3 Figure 61:

## Central Asia

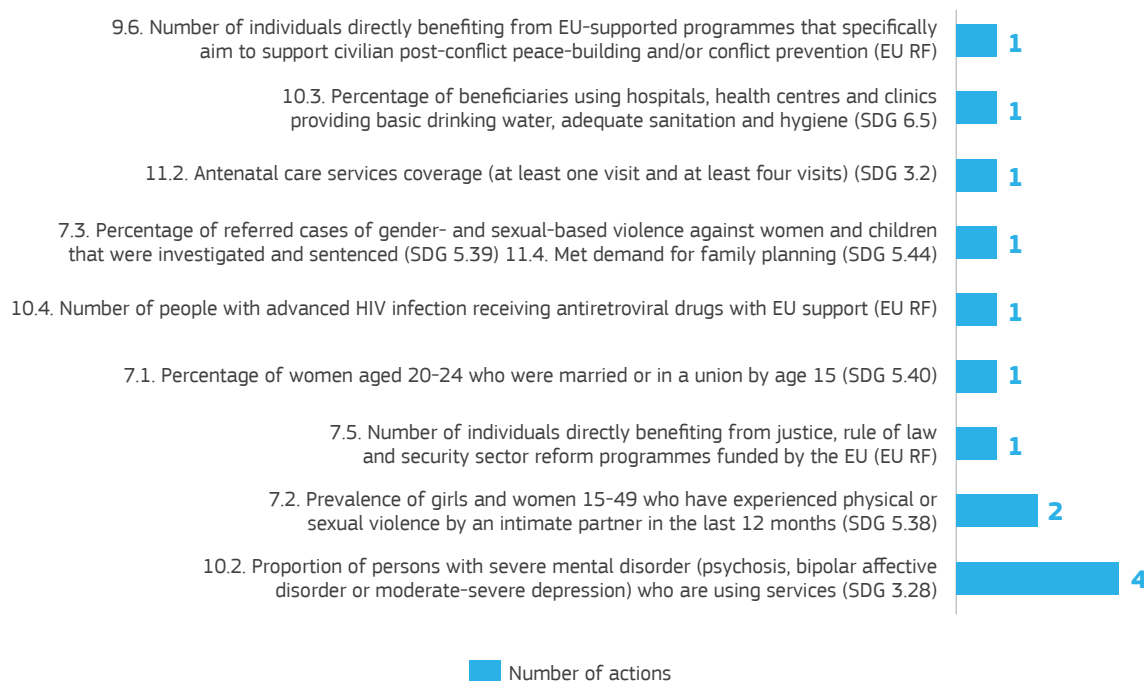
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 62:

## Central Asia

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



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

#### Asia and the Pacific

Following trends in 2017, women's socio-economic empowerment was the thematic priority most frequently selected in Asia and the Pacific in 2018, addressed by 214 actions. Almost all actions under this priority were implemented by EU Delegations, particularly in Sri Lanka. As in 2016 and 2017, the most frequently selected objectives under this priority were objective 15, on equal access to financial services and productive resources, and objective 13 on access to education. These objectives were addressed by 81 and 65 actions, respectively.

Initiatives that contributed to objective 15 covered issues such as food security, peace-building (Sri Lanka), governance (Myanmar and the Philippines) and trade. Other targeted gender-related actions included improving

the distribution of cook stoves in Myanmar by replicating best practices from Cambodia and the broader region. In Nepal, actions promoted women's economic empowerment, supported women's cooperatives to locally produce sanitary pads, and developed guidelines for mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the energy sector. Initiatives in Afghanistan combated gender-based violence and championed women's right to own and inherit property.

Indicator 15.6 was the most frequently selected indicator under objective 15, as 23 actions addressed the 'number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support'. Over 50 % of these initiatives were implemented in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, in the fields of socio-economic, environmental and nutritional development; livestock and fisheries; livelihoods and the environment; and trade. Indicator 15.8 was the second most commonly addressed (19 actions), regarding the 'number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services'. These 19 actions on financial inclusion were implemented in seven countries – Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Mongolia, the Philippines and China.

Indicator 15.2, on the rights of women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities, was addressed by 17 actions carried out in Afghanistan, China, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the

Actions under objective 13 covered a range of issues, including women and the media (Myanmar), menstrual hygiene management in schools and rights-based education for marginalised adolescent girls (Nepal) and responsiveness to gender equality (Cambodia). They also encompassed the right to education for transgender people (China), women's entrepreneurship through vocational training and the response to violence against women (Afghanistan), the rights of ethnic minority girls (Lao People's Democratic Republic), and gender-inclusive socio-economic development (Sri Lanka). The most frequently selected indicator under objective 13 was indicator 13.10, on the 'ratio of female to males who have benefitted from vocational education and training/skills development and other active labour market programmes with EU support'. This was the focus of 25 actions in nine countries – Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand and Timor-Leste. Indicators 13.1 and 13.2 on primary and secondary education completion rates were widely selected, indicating the importance of EU support for education sector reforms. Seven actions addressed gender equality in tertiary education. Smaller-scale programmes supported schools to provide drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene services, while working to improve the quality of teaching.

As in 2017, there was an increase in the selection of objective 14 on access to decent work. However, reported actions largely centred on increasing women's access to employment in general. The fact that this objective was addressed by 43 actions demonstrates EU actors' growing focus on a gender-sensitive, rights-based approach to economic development. This was reflected in initiatives on informal employment in Afghanistan (indicator 14.6) and unpaid labour in China and Thailand (14.2). Actions in Nepal and Sri Lanka targeted both indicators. The EU Delegation to China implemented a programme on women's informal employment by cooperating with the Beijing Women's Federation on women's development, social assistance and the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project.

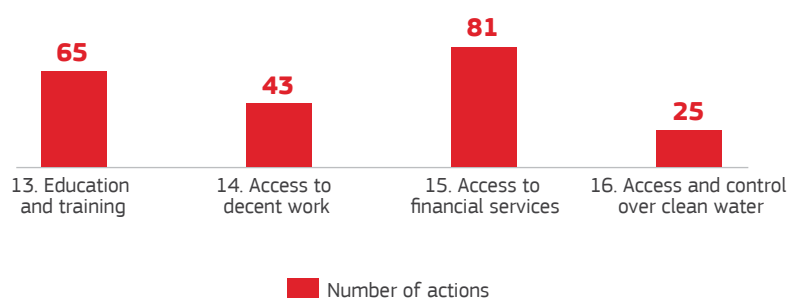
Objective 16 was addressed by 25 actions in seven countries, indicating greater capacity among EU Delegations and EU Member States to identify the gender dimensions of infrastructure, energy and, especially, water management programmes.

Continuing trends observed in previous years, EU Delegations addressed GAP II priorities to support economic development in partner countries across a broad range of sectoral initiatives. Actions also concerned several 'non-traditional' sectors, such as waste management, infrastructure, industrial management, fisheries and the environment.

Annex 3 Figure 63:

## Asia and the Pacific

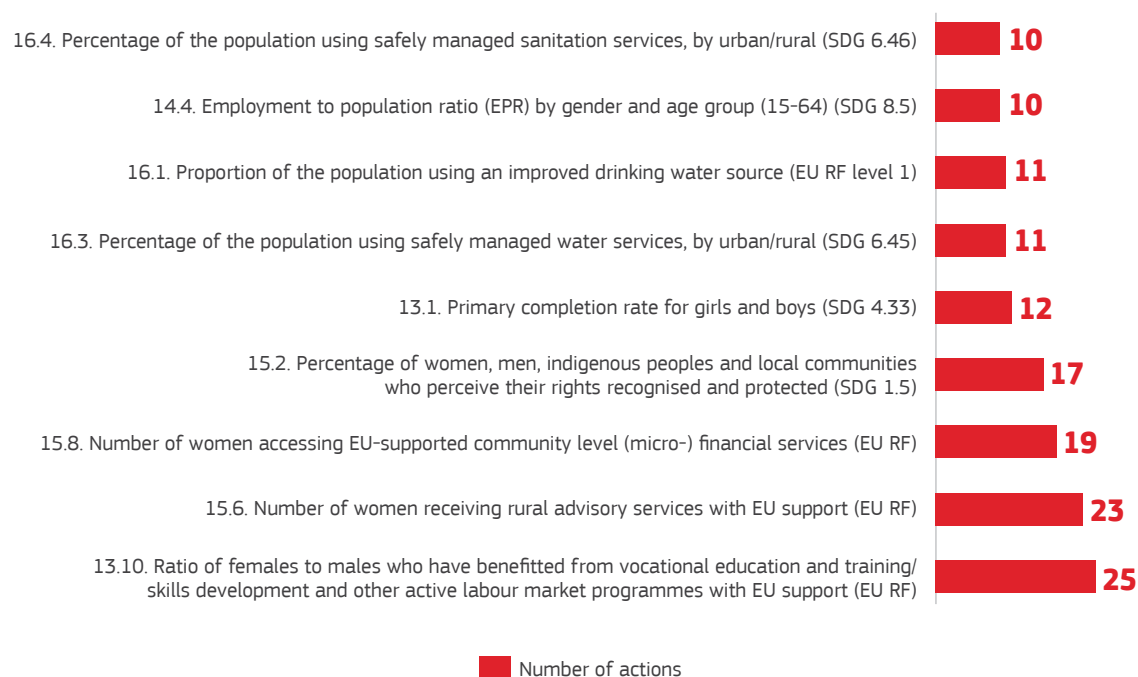
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 64:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



### Central Asia

In Central Asia, thematic priority was the most frequently selected priority by EU Delegations in 2018. There was a clear focus on objective 15, on equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship. This marks a change from 2017, when objective 13 was most frequently selected, on 'access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training'. In 2018, objective 13 was the third most commonly selected.

Eight of 11 actions addressed indicator 15.6, on 'the number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support'. The selection of indicators 15.2, 15.3 and 15.8 reveal that actions encompassed efforts to promote human rights, address the gender gap in wages and increase women's access to financial services. Objective 14 was addressed by nine actions on social economic development in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The most frequently selected indicator under this objective was indicator 14.6, with five actions targeting 'informal

employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex’.

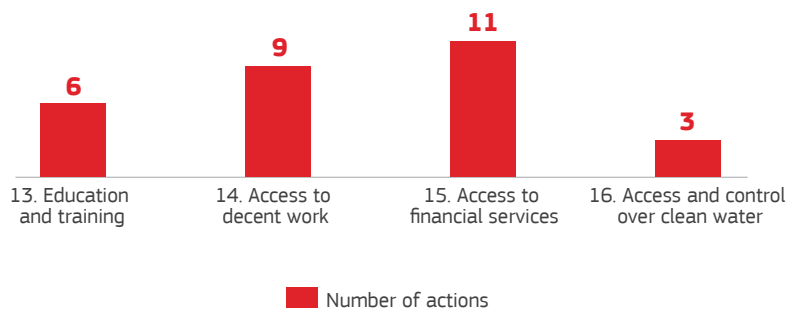
Under objective 13, selected indicators reveal that actions tackled gender mainstreaming in literacy, education and vocational education and training for girls and women, alongside the availability of teachers.

While objective 16 was not selected by any EU actor in 2016, in 2018 it was addressed by three programmes in Tajikistan – on water and natural resource management, livelihoods and food security – and one programme in Kazakhstan, on the green economy. Indicators 16.1 16.4 and 16.8 were selected, regarding the ‘proportion of population using improved drinking water sources and sanitation services’ and ‘women’s access to sustainable energy services’.

Annex 3 Figure 65:

## Central Asia

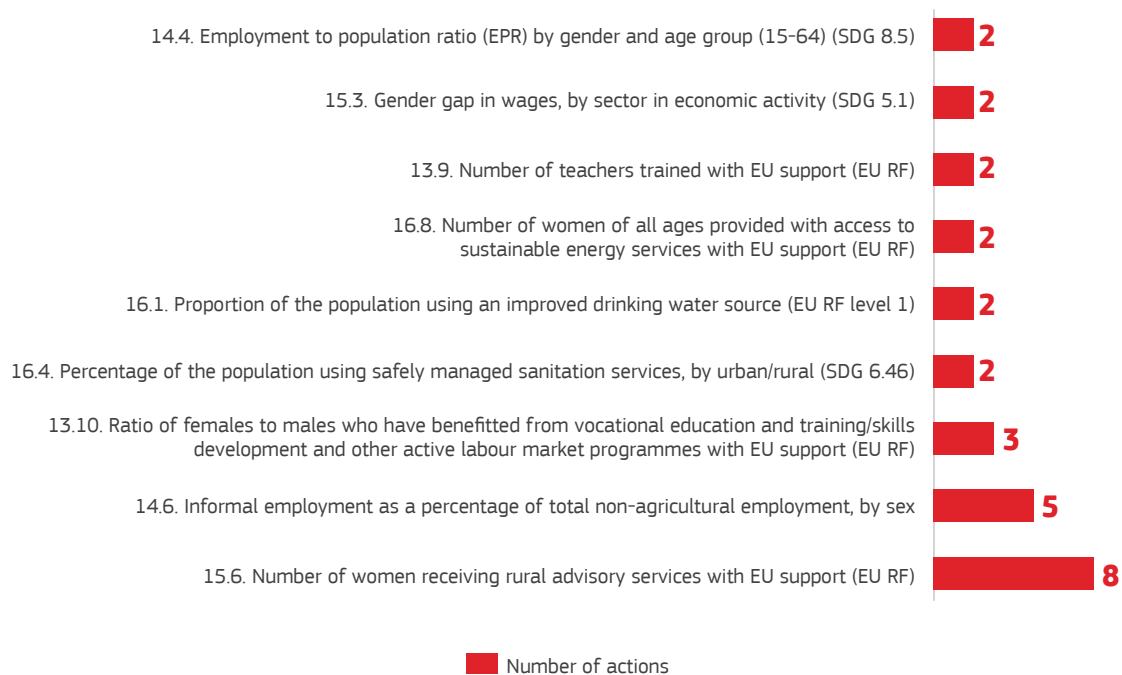
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 66:

## Central Asia

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



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

### Asia and the Pacific

Promoting women's and girls' active participation in democratic processes continued to be an important objective for EU cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. Although the number of actions contributing to all four objectives under this priority had been rising since 2016, this increase came to a halt in 2018. This is largely due to an overall reduction in the number of reported action in the region. Nevertheless, thematic priority D was the second most selected priority in Asia and the Pacific in 2018.

Most reported actions (109 actions) contributed to objective 17, on the 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes'. Actions involved support for public finance management (PFM) reforms (Indonesia, Nepal and Timor-Leste), democratic development, elections and electoral capacities (Afghanistan, Myanmar and Nepal), good governance, local governance, finance, the media, discrimination and peace-building (Myanmar, and Sri Lanka and the Maldives), and business and justice (China and Vietnam).

Initiatives to empower women and girls were implemented in Nepal (5 actions), Indonesia (3), Myanmar (2) and one each in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand. These actions concerned a variety of issues, including gender-responsive budget planning, women's rights, supporting women's and girls' voice, empowerment, justice, women's role in countering violent extremism, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence in conflict areas.

Under objective 17, indicator 17.4 was the most frequently selected, as 24 actions addressed the 'representation of women among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations'. This was followed by indicator 17.7, with 21 actions addressing the 'number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level'. Indicator 17.3 was also addressed, on the 'percentage of seats held by women and minorities in national parliament and or sub-national elected office', in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

EU actors in Afghanistan and Myanmar measured women's representation in peace negotiations in 2018. Gender-responsive budgeting at the local and national levels was largely addressed by EU actors in Myanmar, Nepal and the Philippines, while they paid particular attention to monitoring women's representation in parliaments in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Nepal.

The second most selected objective under thematic priority D was objective 18, concerning women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. Most related actions (29 %) were implemented in India. Almost all actions related to objective 18 reported on indicator 18.1 on the number of women Human Rights Defenders who have received EU support.

Objective 19 was addressed by 25 actions that challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes. These generally addressed indicator 19.1, on the 'number of countries that have a positive change in the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) rating'. This was followed by indicator 19.3, on 'countries introducing quota systems to address discriminatory practices and improve women's representation in government institutions and decision-making positions', and indicator 19.4 on the 'number of communities that formally declare abandoning a practice that discriminates or harms girls and women of all ages'. Under this objective, specific gender-related actions sought to empower civil society and local authorities to promote gender equality (Myanmar), address diversity in public discourse (China), promote women's participation in society, culture and science, while empowering LGBTI persons (China and the Philippines), support women Human Rights Defenders (India and the Philippines) and support a network of women conflict survivors (Nepal). Challenging discriminatory practices towards LGBTI persons was predominantly addressed in China.

Objective 20 was the least frequently selected objective, with 15 actions addressing the 'equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues'. Indicator 20.1, on the 'number of deaths per 100,000 from climate-related and natural disasters – average over the last ten years (disaggregated by sex)', was only selected in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

Annex 3 Figure 67:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 68:

## Asia and the Pacific

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



### Central Asia

In Central Asia, 13 actions in 2018 contributed to thematic priority D. These were implemented by three EU Delegations – to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan – and one EU Member State (the United Kingdom). Ten of these 13 actions were carried out in Kyrgyzstan, seven of which tackled objective 19, on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes. These centred on indicator 19.3, regarding 'quota systems to address discriminatory practices and improve women's representation in government institutions and decision-making positions'. Objective 18 was addressed by three actions, reflecting support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. These encompassed support for state and civil society efforts to combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in Kyrgyzstan, and support for Human Rights Defenders in Kazakhstan.



Objective 17 was selected only twice, on 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels', while objective 20 was selected only once, on 'equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues'.

Annex 3 Figure 69:

## Central Asia

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 70:

## Central Asia

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



## Gulf States

### Overview of progress in 2018

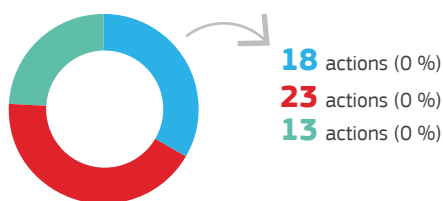
In 2018, 60 actions on the GAP II's implementation were reported in the Gulf region by two EU Delegations – to Yemen and Iraq – and one EU Member State, Germany, on its work in Yemen. This reflects a strong increase in actions since EU efforts in the region restarted in 2017, when only five actions were reported. Of the 54 actions which addressed GAP II priorities, the highest proportion (23 actions) addressed thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', followed by priority B (18), 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', and D (13), 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'.

More than half of the reported actions are considered promising practices. The EU Delegation's gender analysis of Yemen and Iraq may be regarded as a transformative practice because it addresses gender inequalities, while focusing on lessons learned to inform corrective actions. Another eight actions (24 %) may be regarded as partially gender-transformative. Among these, 17 actions in Iraq and six in Yemen addressed women, peace and security. Many combined humanitarian and development approaches to deliver relief or assist stabilisation amid severe, long-lasting conflicts.

Annex 3 Figure 71:

## Gulf States

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

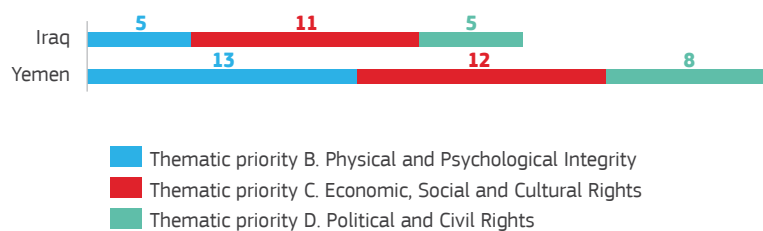


- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Annex 3 Figure 72:

## Gulf States

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018



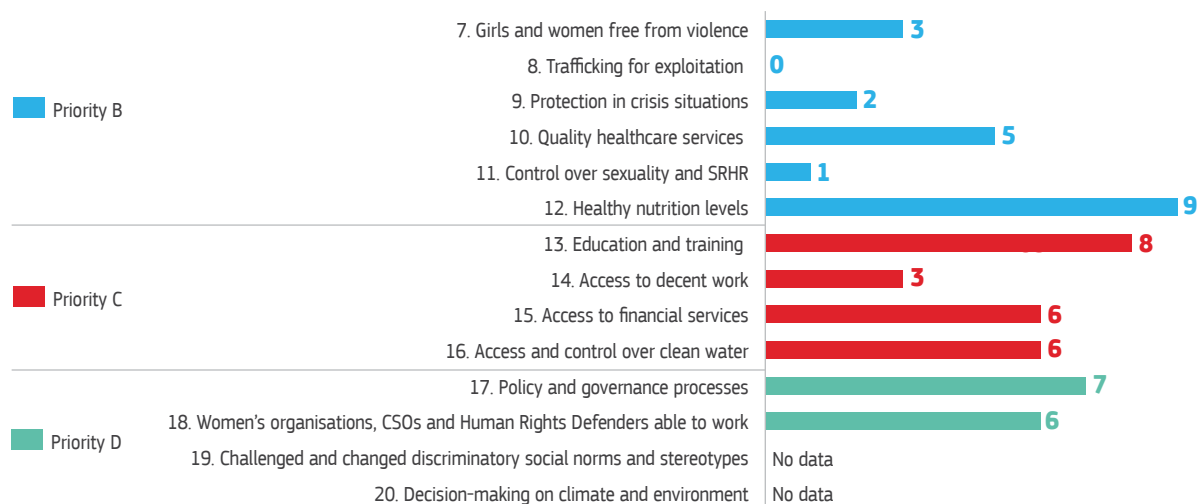
- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

Key areas of intervention in 2018 included nutrition (objective 12), education and training (objective 13), policy and governance (objective 17), access to financial services (objective 15) and resources (objective 16), as well as support for civil society. This reflects the EU's focus on responding to the basic needs of local populations, alongside reconstruction and stabilisation processes.

Annex 3 Figure 73:

## Gulf States

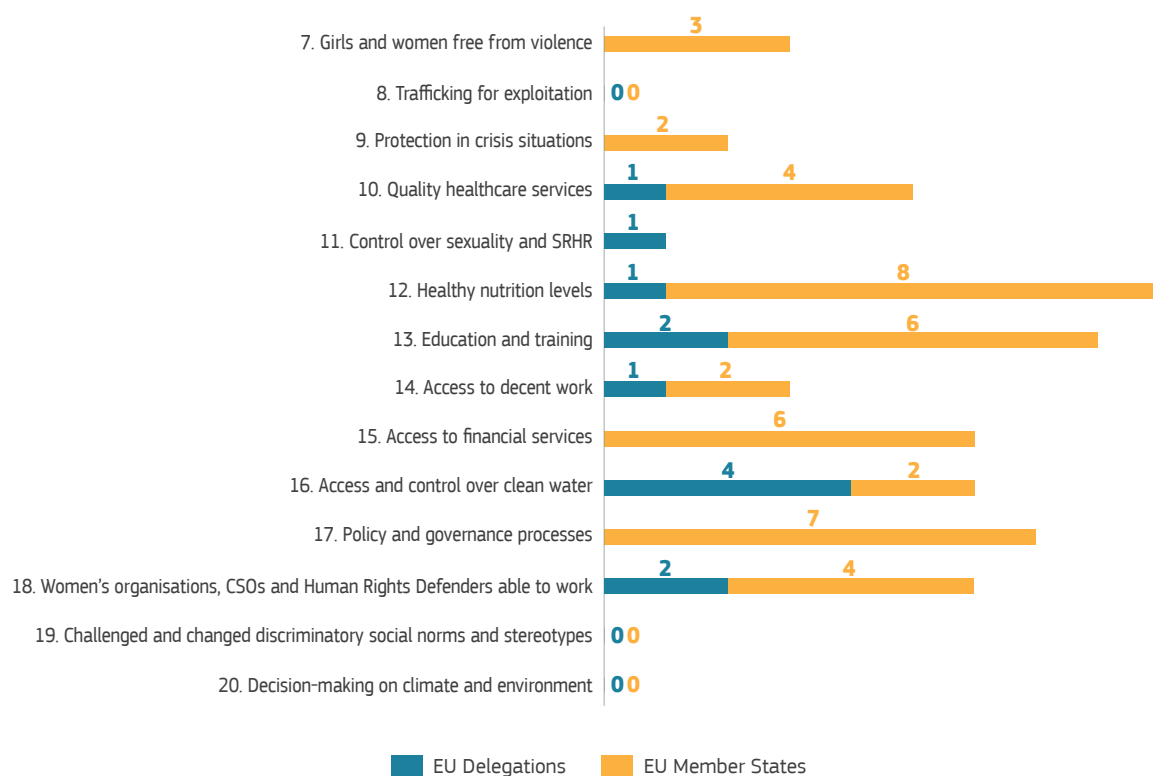
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 74:

## Gulf States

Number of actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States by objective, 2018



### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

In 2018, the EU Delegations to Yemen and Iraq implemented 13 actions that addressed thematic priority B, while Germany undertook five actions in Yemen.

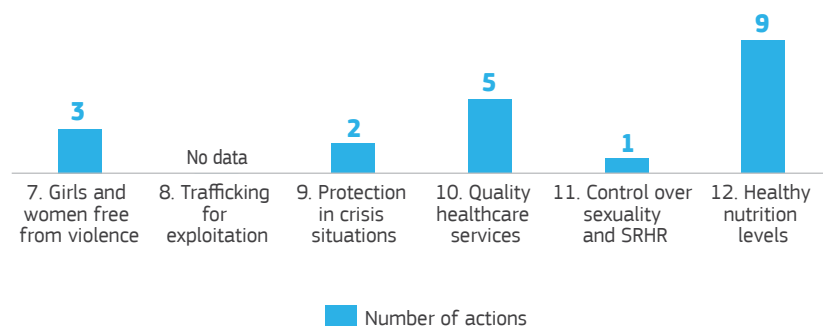
Objective 12 was most frequently selected, as EU actors implemented nine actions to address food and basic health needs in Yemen. These aimed to avert famine, enhance rural communities' resilience and food security, maximise opportunities for rural entrepreneurs, and support community health workers. Objective 10 was targeted by initiatives to strengthen Yemen's health worker system, while improving civil registration to ensure a legal identity for all children. Actions included a focus on immunisation (indicator 10.5), basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene (indicator 10.3). Objective 11, on sexual and reproductive health and rights, was addressed by Germany in Yemen through the 'Reproductive Health VII' programme on maternal and child health.

The EU Delegation to Iraq addressed objective 7, on curbing violence against women and girls, and objective 9, on protecting them from violence in crisis situations. It did so through a programme to expand access to justice for vulnerable groups in northern Iraq, as well as a programme to protect women and girls from human trafficking, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence. These issues are also linked to objective 8, although they were not reported under that objective.

Annex 3 Figure 75:

### Gulf States

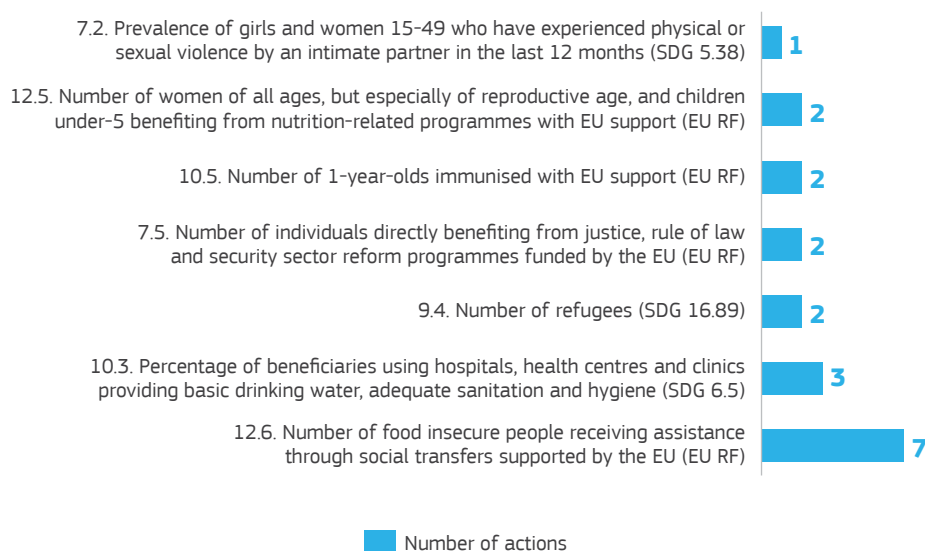
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 76:

### Gulf States

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



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

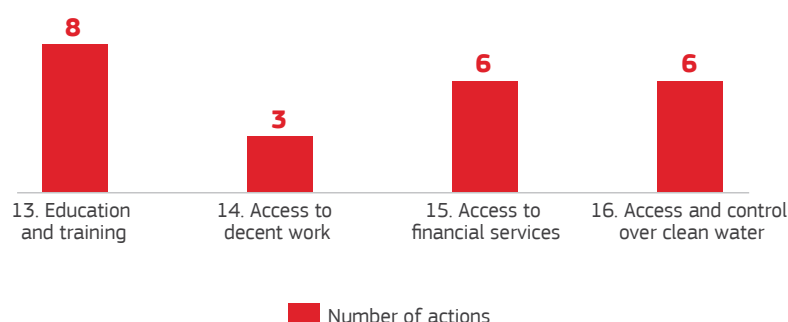
More initiatives in Yemen (12 actions) addressed thematic priority C than in Iraq (11). Objective 13, on ensuring access to inclusive education, was a primary concern in 2018. In Iraq, the EU Delegation promoted quality primary and secondary education for internally displaced persons and refugees in crisis-affected areas. It also encouraged cultural heritage education for social cohesion, coupled with a programme to strengthen the visibility of women and girls in education in order to foster gender equality.

Germany was active in Yemen through the Social Fund for Development's education programme. The EU Delegation to Yemen addressed objective 15, on women's access to financial services, through the Approach for Development Finance Enhancement (ADEN) programme. The Delegation of Iraq similarly targeted objective 15 through the Local Area Development Programme (LADP II), in addition to an initiative on youth entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. Objective 14, on access to decent work, was addressed in Yemen through the EU Delegation's cash-for-work and social resilience initiatives, as well as by Germany's Social Fund for Development's strengthening resilience and labour-intensive works programme.

Annex 3 Figure 77:

### Gulf States

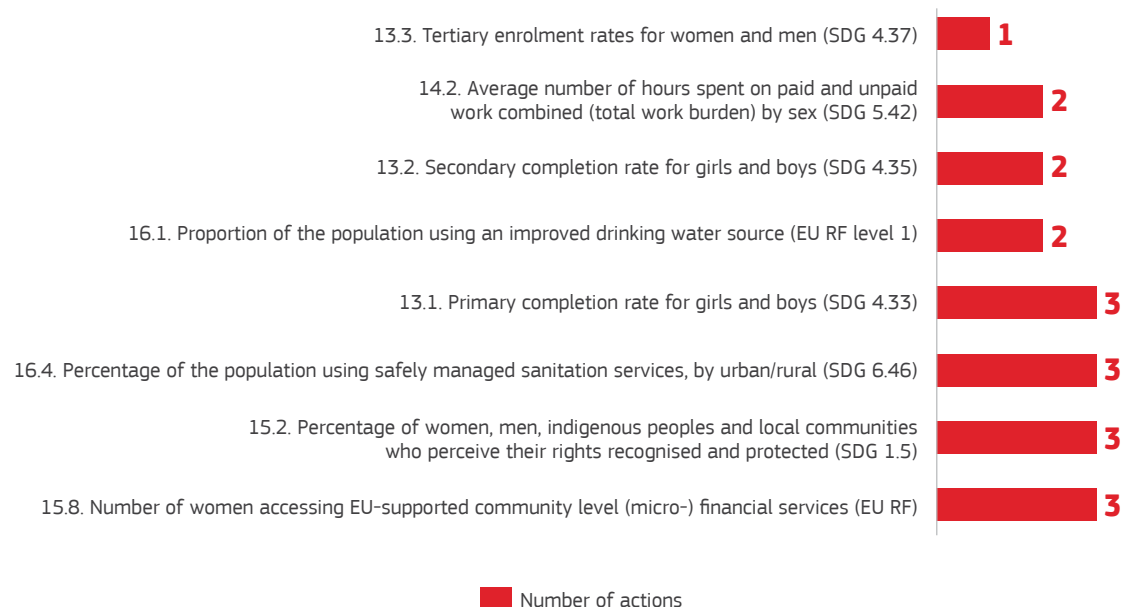
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 78:

### Gulf States

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



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

Seven actions by EU Delegations addressed objective 17, on 'equal rights and the ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes. Among these was the gender analysis of Yemen and Iraq, mentioned above. In Yemen, a Track II initiative for development, social and economic priorities was implemented during the conflict and post-conflict period. In Iraq, actions included a programme to consolidate media freedom was undertaken, initiatives to foster dialogue among conflict-affected communities, and efforts to increase the share of women on corporate boards in national and multi-national corporations (indicator 17.2).

Objective 18, on support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, was addressed in Yemen by an initiative to enhance peace-building and human rights in 16 Yemeni governorates. Two programmes by the German development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), supported peace and good governance clusters in Yemen. In Iraq, objective 18 was targeted by measures to engaged youth in democratic governance, social cohesion and reconciliation, while protecting for Iraqi Human Rights Defenders.

Annex 3 Figure 79:

### Gulf States

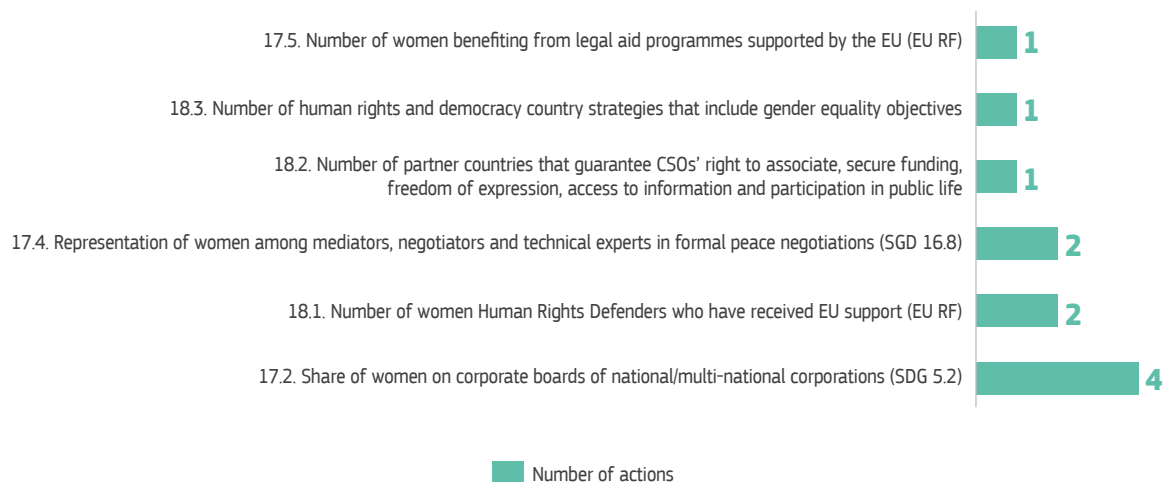
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 80:

### Gulf States

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

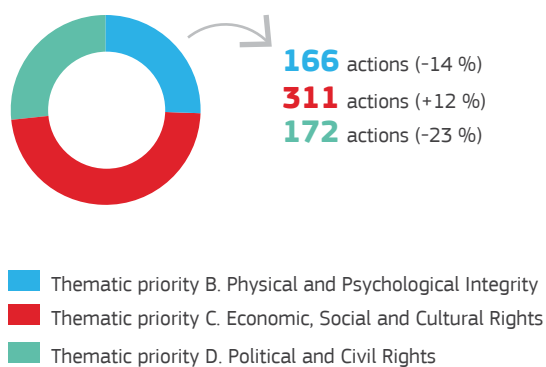
### Overview of progress in 2018

In 2018, there was a substantial progress on the GAP II's thematic priorities in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Russia. Across 22 partner countries, 21 EU Delegations and 11 EU Member States reported 691 actions – 4 % more than in 2017 (665 actions), of which 626 were aligned to GAP II priorities. In 2018, the selection of objectives (693) was far broader than in the previous year (206). Commitments on thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', increased by 12 %. However, reported actions declined by 23 % on thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', and by 14 % on priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'.

*Annex 3 Figure 81:*

### Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

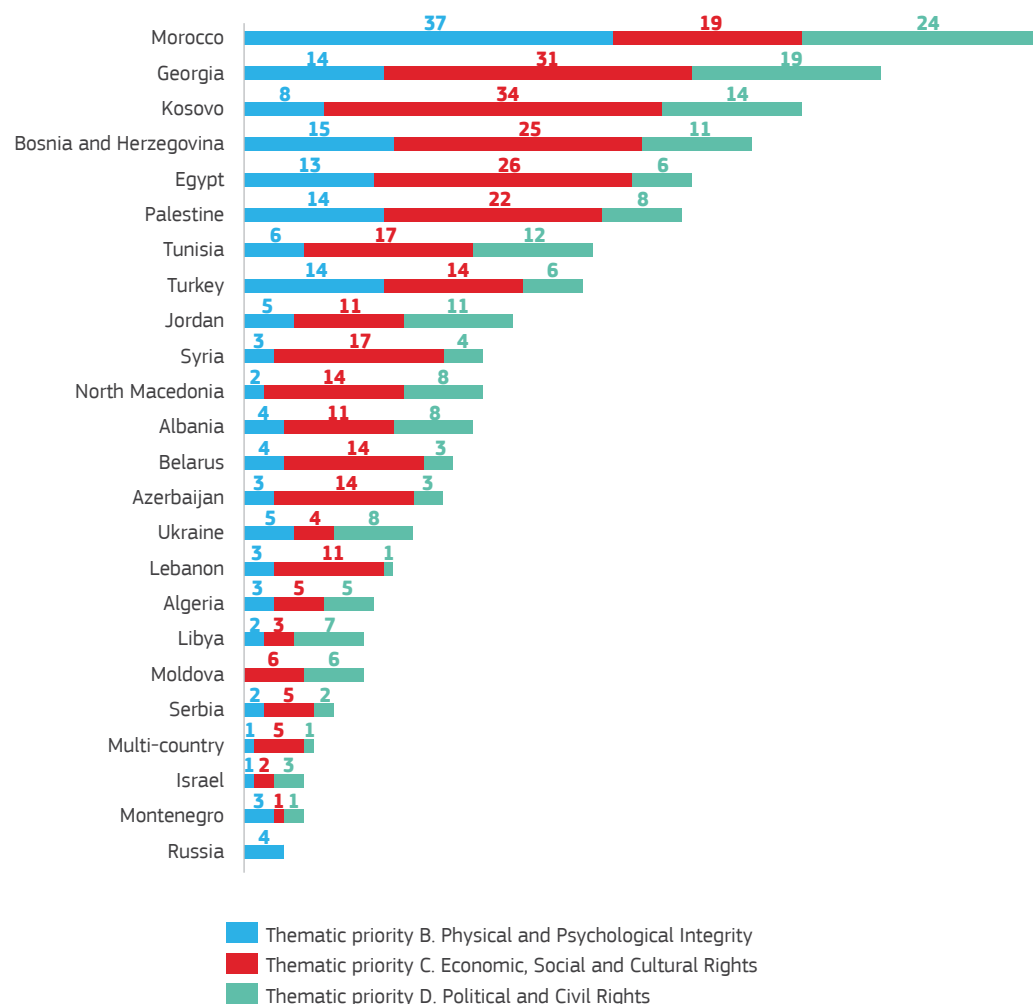




Annex 3 Figure 82:

## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Number of EU Delegations' and EU Member States' actions by thematic priority, 2018



EU actors considered 64 % of their reported actions in the region as promising practices. Of these, 7 % were regarded as partially gender-transformative and 14 % as gender-transformative. This indicates that they aim to evoke a positive change or shift within the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm that currently produces gender-based discrimination and inequalities in a given context.

### Eastern Neighbourhood

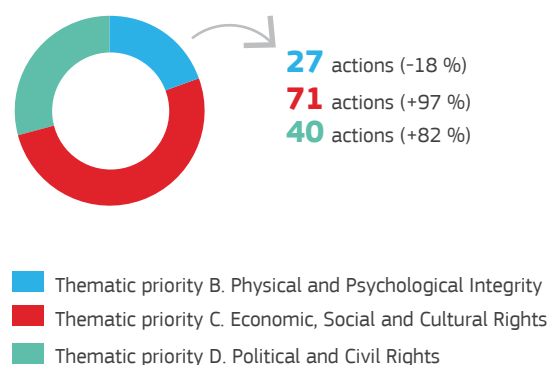
In the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, 171 actions were reported by five EU Delegations – to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – and five EU Member States. These were Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Of these actions, 139 were aligned with GAP II thematic priorities. This marks a significant increase from 88 reported actions in 2017. Armenia was the only country in the sub-region where EU actors did not submit a progress report on the implementation of the GAP II's priorities.

Thematic priority C was the most frequently addressed (71 actions), followed by thematic priorities D (40) and B (27).

Annex 3 Figure 83:

## Eastern Neighbourhood

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017



### Enlargement Negotiations

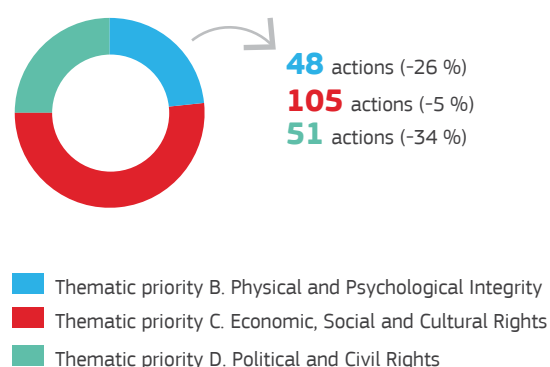
In 2018, 223 actions were reported in the Enlargement negotiations sub-region, of which 188 were aligned to GAP II thematic priorities. These encompass actions by seven EU Delegations – to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>\*51</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey – as well as by six EU Member States – Austria, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This reflects an increase of 11.5 % in reported actions – up from 200 actions in 2017 – largely due to the report from North Macedonia.

Thematic priority C was by far the most commonly addressed (105 actions), while priorities D (51) and B (48) were the focus of a similar number of actions.

Annex 3 Figure 84:

## Enlargement Negotiations

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017



### Southern Neighbourhood

In the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, 292 actions were reported in 2018 – 14 % fewer than the 340 actions reported in 2017. Reports were submitted by 10 EU Delegations – to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya,

51 \* The use of "\*" after the name of Kosovo is without prejudice regarding its status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

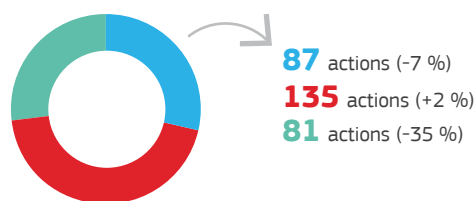
Morocco, Palestine\*<sup>52</sup>, Syria and Tunisia. They were also submitted by six EU Member States – Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and Spain.

With 135 actions geared towards thematic priority C, this was by far the most addressed priority, followed by thematic priorities B (87 actions) and D (81).

Annex 3 Figure 85:

## Southern Neighbourhood

Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017



- Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity
- Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights

In 2018, EU actors in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations regions, 19 % of actions focused on GAP II objective 15, 'equal access for women to financial services and productive resources'. This was followed by with 15 % of actions targeting objective 17, on 'rights for women to participate in policy and governance' and 14 % targeting objective 14, on access to decent work. By contrast in 2017, actions focused on objective 7, on combatting violence against women and girls, followed by objectives 17 and 14. There was significantly less focus on these three objectives in 2018 than in the previous year. Although many countries in the region made progress on combatting violence against women and girls, there is still much to be done. This is especially true among Southern Neighbourhood countries, among which only Tunisia passed an organic law on VAWG.

Marking a stable trend since 2016, commitments were maintained on objective 11 on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, which was the focus of 11 more actions in 2018 than in 2017. Actions addressing objective 10, 'support to qualitative preventive, curative and rehabilitative health and mental health' increased by 56 %. This is most probably due to new interventions to cover the healthcare needs of Syrian refugees in countries such as Turkey, in the framework of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. However, actions on objective 8 to combat the trafficking of women and girls decreased significantly (-37 %). Actions on objective 9 also decreased (-28 %), regarding protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations.

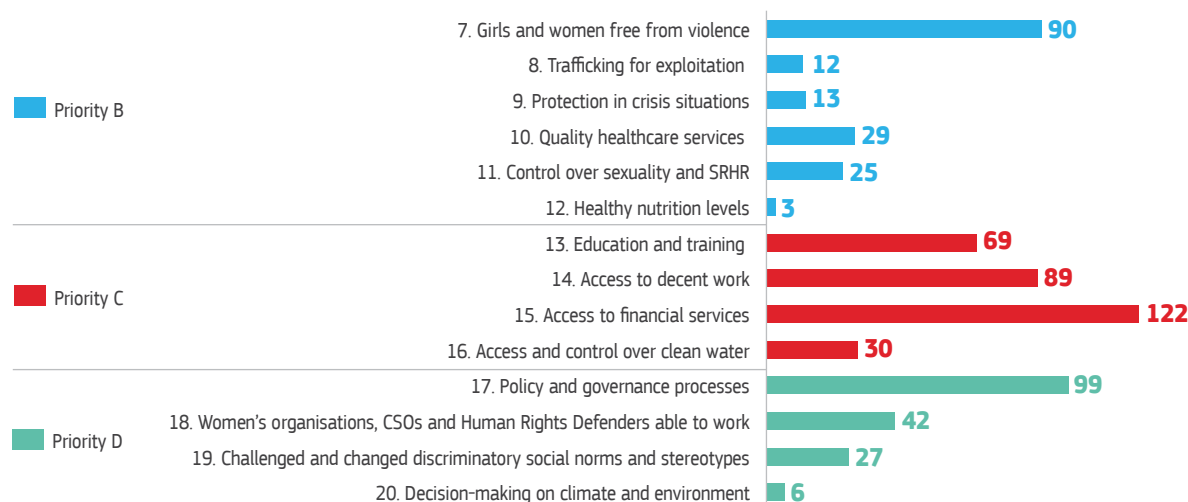
One noteworthy initiative was MADAD, the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, which supported actions tackling gender-based violence against Syrian women and girl refugees. It encompassed a range of interventions, such as information campaigns and awareness sessions, such as risk education sessions to raise awareness of mine contamination threats, as well as specialised treatment in the area of mental health and psychosocial support. Actions reached out to vulnerable people in Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and the Western Balkans.

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

Annex 3 Figure 86:

## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



It is difficult to compare actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States on the GAP II's implementation because of the voluntary nature of reporting and different volumes of actions and portfolios. Nonetheless, broad trends can be identified.

As in previous years, aligning reported actions with GAP II indicators is a challenge. In 2018, EU actors in the region selected 63 indicators – a decrease from 73 in 2017. Those selected are generally linked to SDGs indicators or indicators in the Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes funded by the EU (EU RF). While this reflects uniformity in monitoring methodologies, it may be related to the challenges of data availability and collection at the country level. This suggests the need for stronger support to, and partnerships with, national statistics offices in the region. Most selected indicators are quantitative in nature and may not always reveal gender imbalances or gaps. Greater alignment is visible for the indicators linked to the five most selected objectives in the region (objectives 15, 17, 14, 7 and 13), as well as to objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and objective 16, on access to clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure. Data analysis also shows that EU Delegations aligned their actions to GAP II indicators more so than EU Member States.

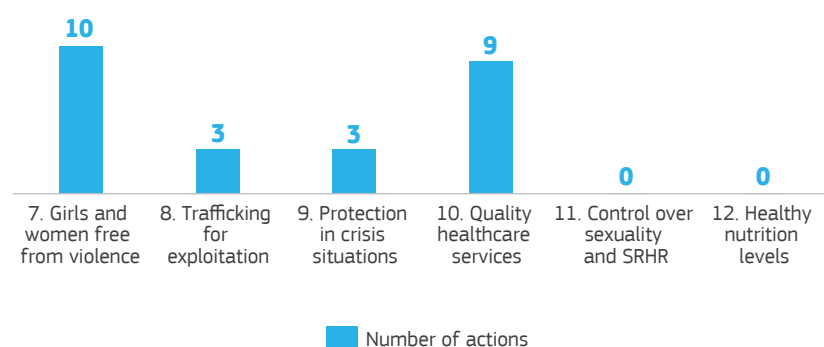
### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

#### Eastern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 87:

## Eastern Neighbourhood

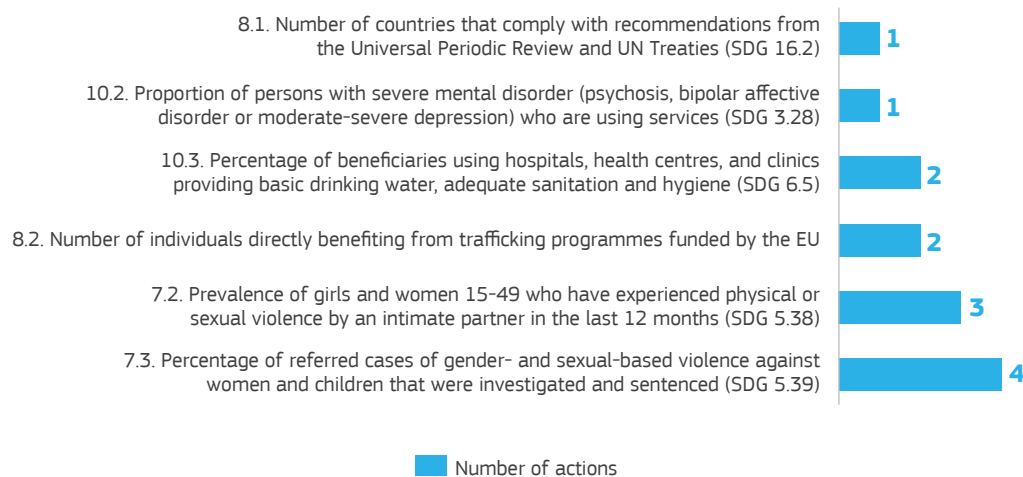
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 88:

## Eastern Neighbourhood

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



In 2018, 25 actions in the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region addressed thematic priority B, a decline from 33 actions in 2017. However, more objectives were selected under the priority – four in 2018, compared to two in the previous year.

The focus of 40 % of actions under priority B, objective 7 on ‘girls and women free from violence’ was the most frequently selected objective in the sub-region. Nonetheless, it was targeted by roughly half as many actions in 2018 as in 2017. Objective 10, on physical and mental healthcare, was addressed by 36 % of reported actions – a change from 2017, when objective 8 on curbing trafficking was the second most selected objective. Combatting trafficking and ensuring protection from gender-based violence in crisis situations continued to be a focus of actions in the sub-region. It is worth noting that only EU Delegations addressed trafficking (14 % of actions), while EU Member States focused more on physical and mental healthcare (50 % of actions).

Actions linked to objective 7 were largely implemented in Georgia (6 actions), Ukraine (3) and Belarus (1). They ranged from advocacy for child and youth protection to the social integration of survivors of domestic violence. In Georgia, anti-VAWG campaigns were spearheaded in areas where ethnic and religious minority communities are concentrated. In Belarus, an initiative managed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was implemented. The EU Delegation to Ukraine mobilised internally displaced women to address domestic and gender-based violence, as well as the restoration of governance and reconciliation in conflict-affected areas, while promoting women as agents of change for peace-building and conflict prevention at the grassroots level.

Nine actions addressed objective 10, on ‘access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women’. These included a multi-country action across Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In Belarus, the EU Delegation promoted efforts to prevent non-communicable diseases, modernise the healthcare system, and pilot advocacy services to protect the rights of children with severe disabilities or life-threatening conditions. It acknowledged the need for a gender analysis to better respond to children’s needs. In Georgia, the EU Delegation supported violence prevention programmes for perpetrators of domestic and gender based violence but also provide psycho-social rehabilitation support to mothers and women in vulnerable circumstances. These tackled rehabilitative and mental health concerns to prevent and combat gender-based violence. In Ukraine, Germany assisted municipalities to provide health services to internally displaced persons, including services to address gender-based and domestic violence cases.

Three actions by EU Delegations on objective 8 combatted human trafficking. In Azerbaijan, actions enhanced national capacities to counter trafficking. Initiatives in addressed rising numbers of irregular migrants in Belarus, while in Georgia they focused on improving security, accountability and combatting crime. The delegations highlighted lessons learned to improve the implementation of gender sensitive interventions. For example, in Azerbaijan, strengthened inter-agency cooperation is required to build efficient systems to welcome refugees and asylum

seekers. In Belarus, measures are needed to address the gender-related vulnerabilities and socio-cultural needs of migrants at risk of trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery. Such measures must include access to justice and safe reporting, without fear of detention, deportation or penalty – all vital aspects of combatting human trafficking. Reported actions selected indicator 8.1, on the ‘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)’ – an adaptation of SDG target 16.2. They also addressed indicator 8.2, on the ‘number of individuals directly benefiting from trafficking programmes funded by EU’.

Three actions addressed objective 9 on the ‘protection for all women and men from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations’. Two actions were implemented in Georgia, where the EU Delegation tracked violent crimes against women, provided access to protection for survivors of sexual, gender-based and domestic violence, and worked with local counterparts to strengthen protection mechanisms. One action in Azerbaijan involved French support for the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

Objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and objective 12 on nutrition were not addressed in 2018 or in 2017. Despite this EU is supporting a regional programming in Azerbaijan that focus on preventing Sex Selection Abortion of girls.

## Enlargement Negotiations

*Annex 3 Figure 89:*

### Enlargement Negotiations

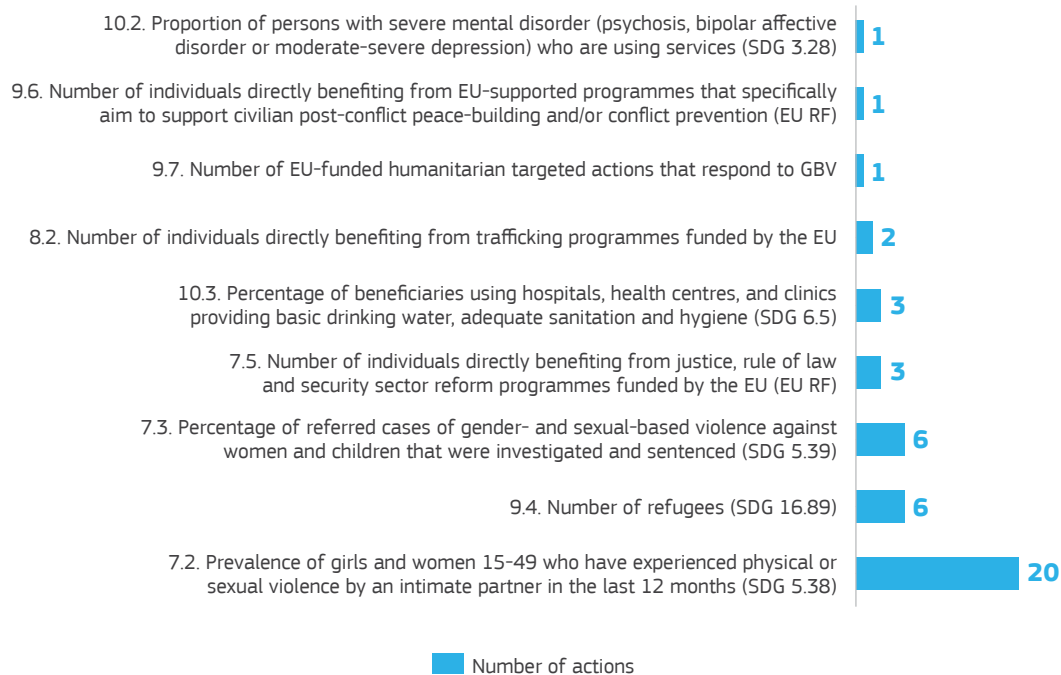
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 90:

## Enlargement Negotiations

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



In the Enlargement sub-region, objective 7 on violence against women and girls was the focus of 29 actions in five countries. The objective was addressed by 56 % of actions reported under thematic priority B. In Albania, Sweden supported a UN joint programme to end VAWG, as well as a police cooperation programme. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, actions varied widely, with the EU supporting gender justice, including for rural women, child protection, and greater efficiency among the high judiciary and prosecutors. In tandem, Germany supported initiatives to prevent trans-generative war trauma and social exclusion, while supporting the rehabilitation and reconciliation of survivors. Sweden assisted civil society efforts to improve the institutional response to gender-based violence, judicial and prosecutorial efficiency, and gender justice, alongside a child protection programme implemented by UNICEF. In Kosovo, the EU Delegation supported social services and the reintegration of violence survivors. In Montenegro, it contributed to a gender-transformative programme to name and shame instances of sexual harassment and VAWG.

The EU Delegation to Serbia promoted the project 'Raise Voice for Silent' to enhance the identification of security risks with a view to preventing femicide in the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights' 2015 programme. As a result, the Government of Serbia declared the 18<sup>th</sup> of May as 'Remembrance Day for Murdered Women Victims of Violence'. In Turkey, the EU Delegation supported civil society and the development of a model for VAWG-related data collection.

Objective 10 on preventive rehabilitative physical and mental healthcare was addressed by two actions implemented by Luxembourg in Kosovo, as well as by the EU Delegation to Turkey. The latter's actions were undertaken in the framework of two European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights programmes, and three initiatives by the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey which supported communities and institutions to address Syrian refugees' healthcare needs.

Objective 9 was addressed by the EU Delegation to Turkey. Actions to protect and prevent gender-based violence in crisis situations were implemented in the framework of Facility for Refugees in Turkey under IPE and in the framework of the EU Regional Trust Fund for the Syrian Crisis MADAD. While all actions targeted Syrian refugees, three also addressed host communities and one included a focus on Iraqi refugees.

Only two EU Delegations addressed objective 8 on trafficking in the sub-region. Actions encompassed dedicated



programmes in Kosovo and the development of a mobile application with IT students for the prevention of youth labour exploitation in Serbia.

Objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights was only addressed by Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina through their support for the Open Centre in Sarajevo. Luxembourg was the only EU Member State to address objective 12 on nutrition by supporting UNICEF efforts to strengthen Kosovo's family-centred health system, enabling it to reach more vulnerable children and mothers.

## Southern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 91:

### Southern Neighbourhood

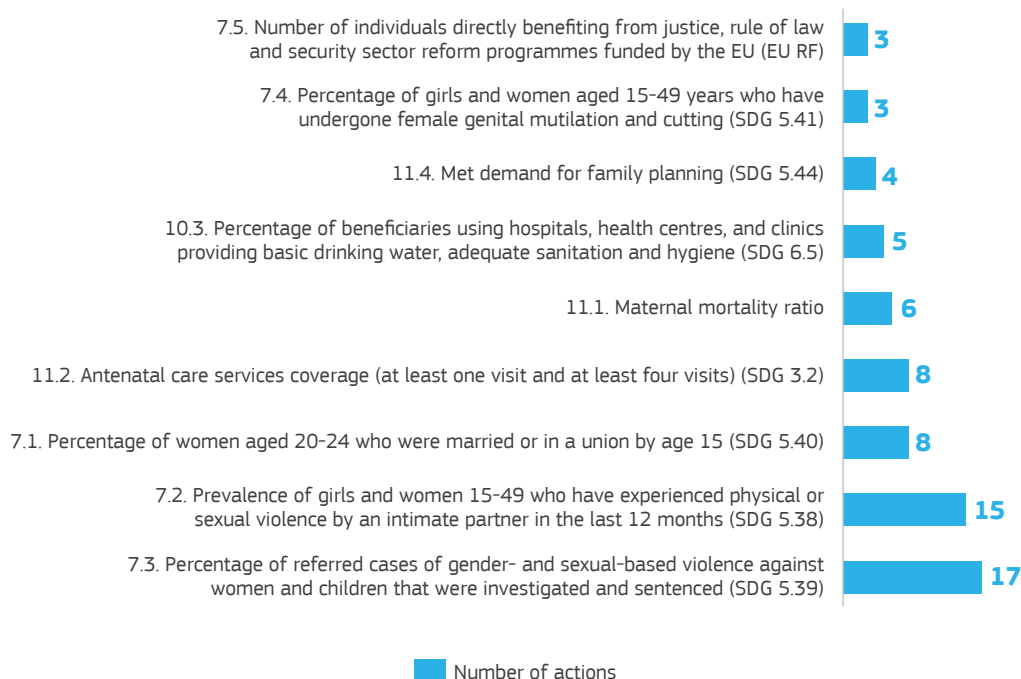
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 92:

### Southern Neighbourhood

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018



In the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, objective 7 on combatting violence against women and girls remained the focus for EU actions under thematic priority B. However, the number of actions that addressed objective 7 in 2018 fell by one-third compared to 2017. While some countries introduced ambitious legislation to combat gender-based violence and discrimination, many obstacles remain, not least as gender inequalities are embedded in discriminatory cultural norms and traditions. EU Delegations predominantly worked in Morocco (12 actions) and Egypt (4 actions) to address violence against women, while EU Member States were more active in Palestine (7 actions). Programmes varied widely, ranging from supporting access to justice for gender-based violence survivors – in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia – to the prevention of child marriage in Palestine.

Efforts promoted the empowerment of single mothers and their children in Morocco, alongside support for civil society organisations combatting the gender stereotypes and discrimination that underlie violence. In Egypt, where the harassment of women and girls in public transportation is a major concern, the EU Delegation supported an inclusive public transport project, coupled with actions to engaging boys and men in preventing and combatting violence against women and girls. Some actions were also combined with sexual and reproductive health and rights initiatives – in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine and in Tunisia, through the *'Moussawat'* programme. As in 2017, all GAP II indicators linked to objective 7 were included in the actions reported in 2018.

Actions targeting objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights increased significantly in the sub-region – rising by 42 %, with 21 new actions in 2018. In Egypt, the EU Delegation and Italy initiated a budget support programme to assist the national population strategy, which also aims to establish mechanisms to meet demands for family planning (indicator 11.4). The EU Delegation in Jordan supported actions in the framework of the EU support for civil society organisations. In Lebanon, the EU Delegation contributed to strengthening protection mechanisms for Syrian refugees and vulnerable communities, including by working to reduce economic barriers to accessing health services. In Morocco, several on-going actions were implemented in the framework of the health sector reform support programme (PASS II), gender budgeting in the sphere of basic health coverage, and social protection initiatives, including for children, supported by the EU and UNICEF (PAGODA). Other actions aimed to enhance primary healthcare. These included initiatives in the framework of the EU Delegation to Syria's support for transitional justice processes, and the EU Delegation to Tunisia's support for decentralised services.

Actions that targeted objective 10, on 'preventive and rehabilitative physical and mental healthcare', decreased by 27 % in 2018. Reported actions targeted Syrian refugees, most notably initiatives by Italy in Egypt, as well as access to healthcare services – addressed by the EU Delegations to Lebanon and Syria, and by Italy in Palestine. The EU Delegation to Libya supported improved health information system and supply chain management. In Morocco, the EU Delegation assisted integrated care for migrant women, while Italy in Tunisia supported efforts to strengthen mother-child relationship management in mother and child protection centres.

Actions addressing objective 8 on the trafficking of women and girls decreased by 17 % in 2018. The objective was addressed by EU Delegations to Algeria, Jordan and Morocco, largely in the framework of initiatives to uphold the rights of migrants and refugees, including through budgetary support for migration policies in Morocco. Some actions integrated efforts with objective 14, on access to decent work, such as the EU Delegation to Morocco's measures to support entrepreneurship and the professional inclusion of migrants.

Two EU Member States addressed objective 9 on protection from gender-based violence in crisis situations. Spain targeted this objective in Palestine in the framework of humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip, while Italy did so in the context of protection mechanisms for schoolchildren in the Jordan Valley.

Objective 12 on healthy nutrition levels was targeted by two actions in the sub-region. In Egypt, Italy worked to enhance household food and nutrition security. The EU Delegation to Palestine promoted family health by supporting improved pregnancy, maternal and child health outcomes.

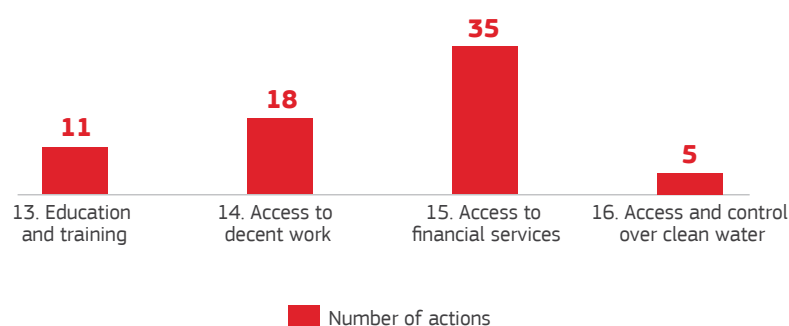
## Thematic Priority C: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Economic and Social Empowerment

### Eastern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 93:

#### Eastern Neighbourhood

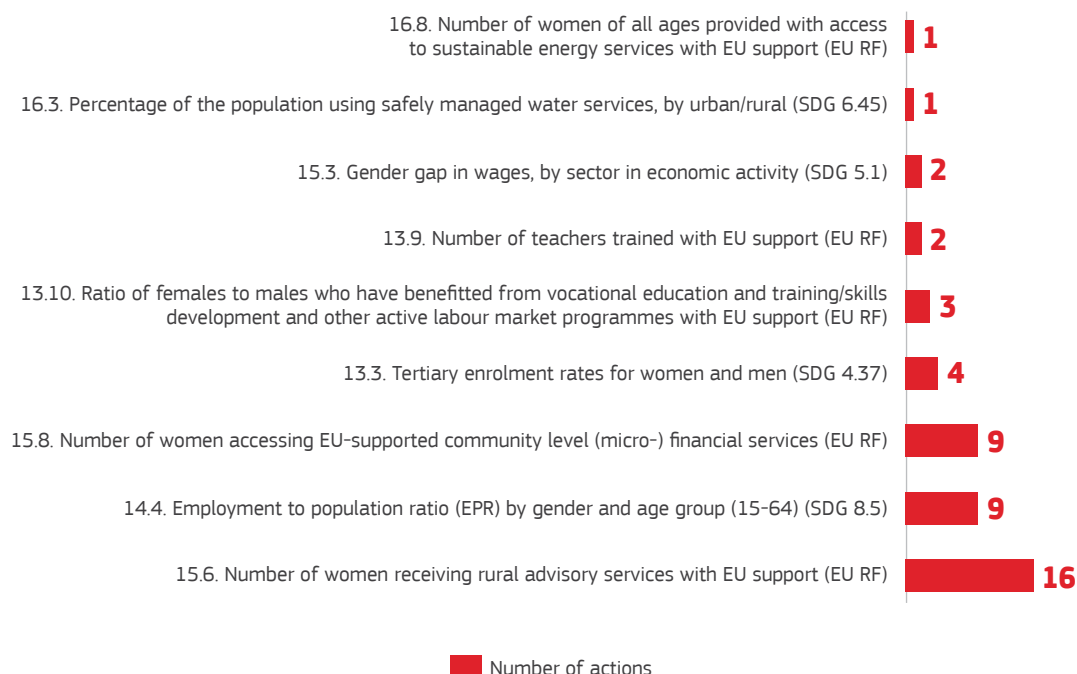
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 94:

#### Eastern Neighbourhood

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



In the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, 35 actions (51 %) under thematic priority C addressed objective 15, on 'access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship' – marking a steady increase compared to 2017. Actions were implemented across five partner countries. EU Member States addressed gender gaps in wages (indicator 15.3) through start-up projects for women in Azerbaijan by France, and Sweden's investments climate advisory service projects in Belarus. In Georgia, Austria supported the implementation of agricultural and rural development strategies, sustainable mountain tourism and farming initiatives. In Azerbaijan and Belarus, the EU Delegations were active in supporting rural advisory services for women (indicator 15.6), including by enhancing

participatory decision-making processes and local socio-economic development. In Azerbaijan and Georgia, the EU Delegations engaged in initiatives to eliminate the gender gap (indicator 15.3), particularly by supporting civil society. EU Delegations to Belarus and Georgia focused on promoting women's access to financial services (indicator 15.8), including through vocational training and the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Objective 14 was the second most selected objective under thematic priority C, with a marked increase (by 80 %) in actions addressing decent work. Reported actions often also matched objective 15 and centred on promoting women's employment in rural development (indicator 14.1). In Belarus, Sweden promoted economic research and outreach centres, while the EU Delegation backed targeted people-to-people mobility schemes for, alongside education and vocational training. In Georgia, the EU Delegation actively promoted skills development, rural development and diversification. The EU Delegation to Moldova supported the implementation of the EU-Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (EU-Moldova DCFTA), prompting a 65 % increase in Moldovan exports to the EU, paired with inclusive economic empowerment programmes, including a business academy for women.

A focus grew on objective 13 regarding education and training, as 83 % more actions addressed this objective in 2018 than in 2017. The EU Delegations to Belarus and Georgia, as well as Sweden in Belarus and Germany in Ukraine, supported efforts to boost tertiary enrolment rates for women and men (indicator 13.3). The EU Delegation to Georgia focused on teacher training (indicator 13.9), coupled with vocational education and training, skills development and labour market programmes (indicator 13.10). These included a focus on internally displaced persons and were implemented in the framework of education sector reform.

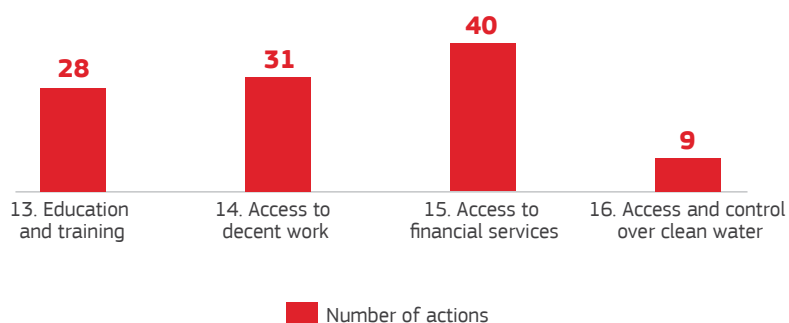
While objective 16, on access to and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure, was not selected in 2017, it was addressed by actions in 2018. These were generally implemented by EU Member States. In Ukraine, Germany implemented projects to increase communities' water security, with a view to averting displacement and migration in the Mariupol area, Donetsk Oblast. In Belarus, Sweden supported Coalition Clean Baltic, while in Georgia, Austria promoted sustainable forest management for climate-resilient rural development.

## Enlargement Negotiations

Annex 3 Figure 95:

### Enlargement Negotiations

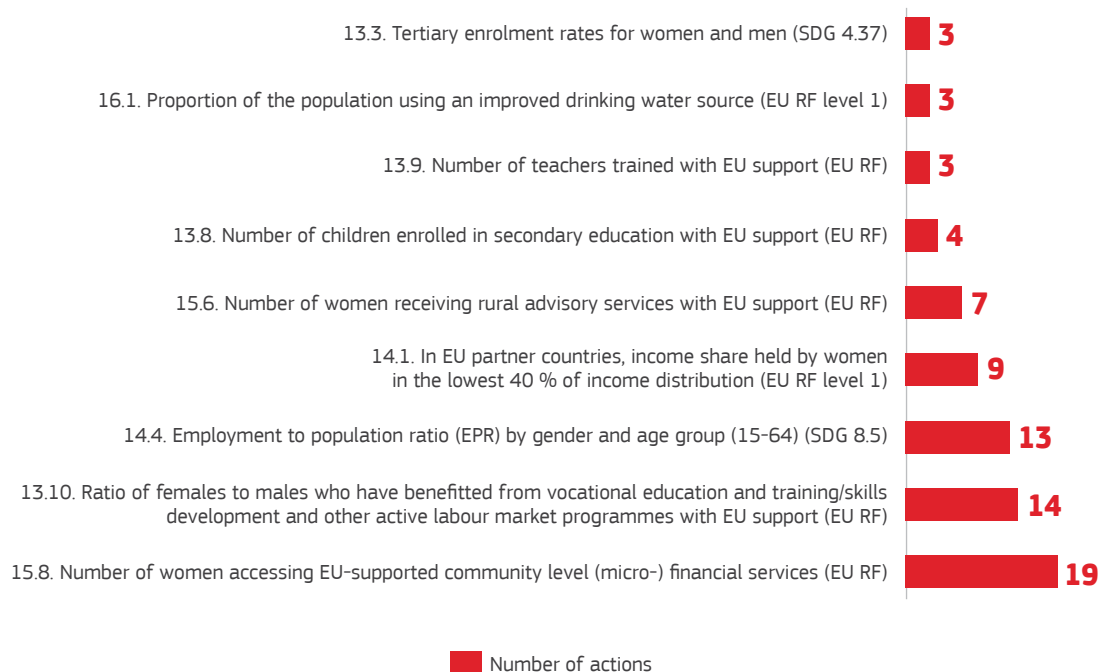
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 96:

## Enlargement Negotiations

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



In the Enlargement Negotiations sub-region, objective 15 was the focus of 40 actions (37 %) under thematic priority C. This marks a significant increase in support for ‘women’s access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship’. Actions were implemented in six countries, including five regional actions implemented by the EU Delegation to Kosovo and North Macedonia, as well as by the EU Delegation to Turkey. Actions centred on vocational training, such as those by Germany in Albania, and Luxembourg and the EU Delegation in Kosovo. The EU Delegations to Albania and EU Office in Kosovo also addressed women’s participation in agriculture and rural development, as well as in sustainable tourism in Albania. The EU Delegation to Turkey focused on responding to refugees’ labour demands. In Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden made particular efforts to champion gender mainstreaming in relation to the environment, including as an opportunity for women’s employment. Overall, the most frequently selected indicators were 15.8, on the ‘number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services’, and 15.6, on the ‘number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support’. Both are aligned with the indicators of the EU’s Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes (EU RF).

In 2018, EU actors in the sub-region continued to address objective 14, however the number of actions that addressed decent work nearly halved compared to 2017. A focus was placed on women’s employment in sustainable development programmes, especially in the fields of agriculture and rural development – as in the case of Germany’s efforts in Albania and the EU Office’s work in Kosovo. These actions were also rolled out in the framework of stability programmes, as by Sweden in Kosovo. Partnerships with local actors were a priority for the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina to create viable conditions for rural women’s employment, the development of micro-enterprises, access to legal aid, and women’s entrepreneurship in the framework of the EU integration reforms related to economic policy. However, most programmes focused on the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises and promoting women’s participation in the labour market. EU Delegation encouraged sustainable tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in Albania in the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights project to support the Women of the Mountains Empowerment Network. The most frequently selected indicators were 14.1, ‘income share held by women in the lowest 40 % of income distribution’, and 14.6, ‘informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex.

Compared to 2017, actions which addressed objective 13 on education and training decreased by 10 % in 2018. Some of these actions overlap with those linked to objective 15, particularly in terms of agriculture and rural development – such as Germany's efforts in Albania. However, most actions that addressed objective 13 focused on vocational education and training, skills development and other labour market programmes. This was the case, for instance, for actions by Luxembourg and the EU Delegations in Albania and EU Office in Kosovo. Overall, indicator 13.10 was the most frequently selected indicator under thematic priority C in the sub-region. The Facility for Refugees in Turkey supported 11 programmes targeting Syrian women's resilience and empowerment, vocational training and social cohesion, the integration of Syrian children into the Turkish education system, and young Syrians' access to higher education.

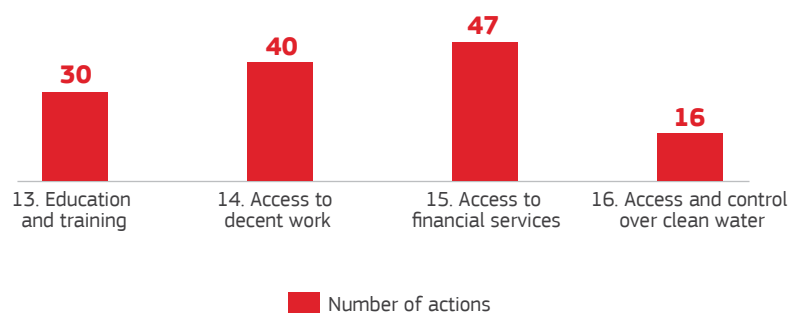
Actions that addressed objective 16 doubled between 2017 and 2018. It is worth noting that actions on women's access and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure were only reported by EU Member States. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, Sweden focused on improving access to water and sanitation, green economy development and environmental programmes. In Albania, Germany worked on customising drinking water and waste water services.

### Southern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 97:

## Southern Neighbourhood

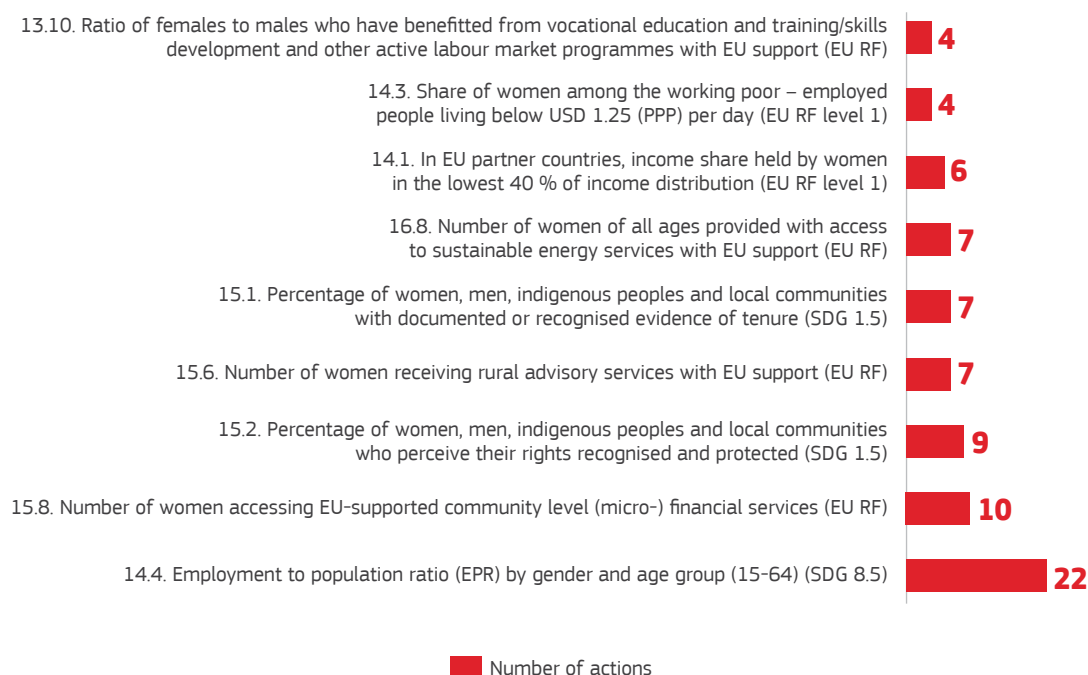
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 98:

## Southern Neighbourhood

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018



In the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, objective 15 was addressed by 47 actions (36 %) under thematic priority C. This reflects an increase in actions on ‘women’s access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship’ compared to 2017. Actions focused on improving women’s access to financial services in the framework of inclusive economic growth, as reported by EU Delegations to Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia, as well as by Italy in Palestine. In Egypt, the EU Delegation provided support for women who are former prisoners and suffer marginalisation upon their release. Significant attention was paid to improving food security and recovering agriculture value chains – most notably by the EU Delegation to Syria and Italy in Palestine. Spain and Italy addressed the gender gap in wages and sectors of the economy (indicator 15.3) through economic development initiatives in Palestine and Tunisia.

In 2018, attention to objective 14 increased compared to 2017. Efforts to promote decent work responded to the immense gender gap in labour force participation – 21 % for women and 74 % for men in the extended Arab region.<sup>53</sup> Reflecting a strong understanding of these gaps and the diverse measures needed to create employment opportunities, indicator 14.4, ‘employment to population ratio by gender and age group’, was the most commonly selected under thematic priority C, followed by indicators 14.1 on the ‘income share held by women in the lowest 40 % of income distribution’ and 14.3, on the ‘share of women among the working poor’. Actions addressed the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises and sustainable economic development – most notably actions by Italy and the EU Delegation to Egypt, as well as the EU Delegation to Tunisia. In Israel, the EU Delegation supported women’s organisations for gender justice and economic and employment equality. In Jordan, the EU Delegation collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to monitor the labour aspects of the EU’s ‘rules of origin’ implementation. In Lebanon, the EU Delegation contributed to improving farming and fisheries. Italy supported rural business opportunities, social innovation, solidarity and inclusive business in Palestine, as well as social and economic inclusion for young people, women and migrants in Tunisia.

53 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2018) *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018*. Beirut: ESCWA.



Slightly fewer actions addressed objective 13 in 2018 than in the previous year. EU Delegations implemented more initiatives targeting education and training (19 actions) than EU Member States (10). Most of these addressed indicator 13.10, on 'technical vocational education, training, and skills development'. This was especially the case for EU Delegations to Libya and Syria, as well as Spain and Italy in Palestine. In Tunisia, the EU Delegation and Italy contributed to providing quality education for children who dropped out of school, especially rural girls. In Morocco, Belgium offered education and training opportunities in the framework of support for the national strategy for immigration and asylum.

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

### Eastern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 99:

### Eastern Neighbourhood

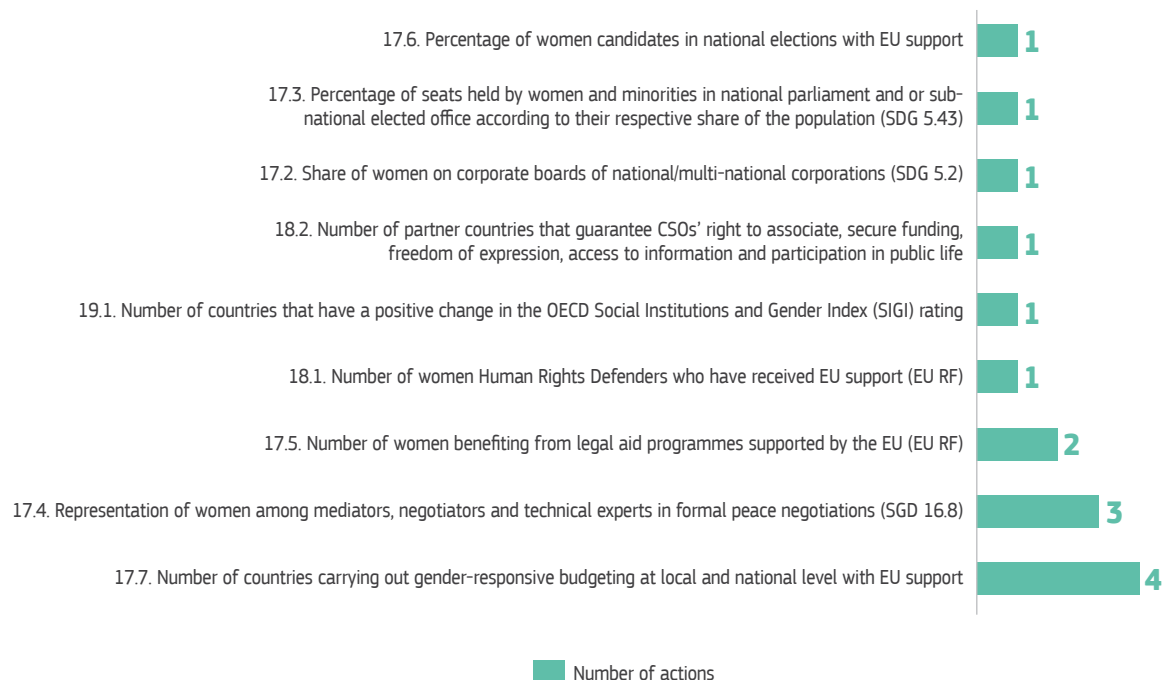
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 100:

### Eastern Neighbourhood

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



In the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, objective 17 was most frequently selected under thematic priority D, as 29 actions (76 %) addressed 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels'. EU Delegations were particularly active, especially on gender-responsive budgeting (indicator 17.7) and enhancing women's representation among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations (indicator 17.4). The EU Delegation to Georgia funded the largest number of initiatives (16 actions) under this objective in the framework of budgetary support for public administration reform, civil service reform, and the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. Actions included partnerships for inclusive policy-making, community development in multi-ethnic municipalities, a joint EU-UNDP programme for rural development (ENPARD III) and efforts to improve the legislative framework for effective civilian oversight over the security sector. In Moldova, the EU Delegation contributed to tackling corruption, alongside budgetary support for police reform and support for civil society advocacy on inclusive and fair elections, in line with recommendations and human rights commitments of the EU, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The support to the police particularly focuses on increasing the number of women in the police force. In Ukraine, Sweden funded UN Women's initiatives to advance gender equality in national reforms, peace and security, and gender budgeting in government institutions. Germany and the EU Delegation to Ukraine also supported administrative reform.

EU Member States addressed objective 18 on support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. Actions were implemented in the framework of programmes on women's rights, including a joint EU-UNDP civil society support programme. In Ukraine, Sweden assisted women's participation in peace and human rights initiatives through the NGO, *Kvinna till Kvinna*.

Three actions addressed objective 19, challenging and changing discriminatory norms and stereotypes that prevent gender equality. Two were implemented by Sweden in Belarus, including an action that focused on engaging men, while a third was undertaken by the EU Delegation to Moldova.

Two actions in the sub-region focused on objective 20, on 'equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues'. France backed a conference at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) University in Baku, while the EU Delegation to Georgia fostered networking for efficiency and development (N4ED).

## Enlargement Negotiations

Annex 3 Figure 101:

### Enlargement Negotiations

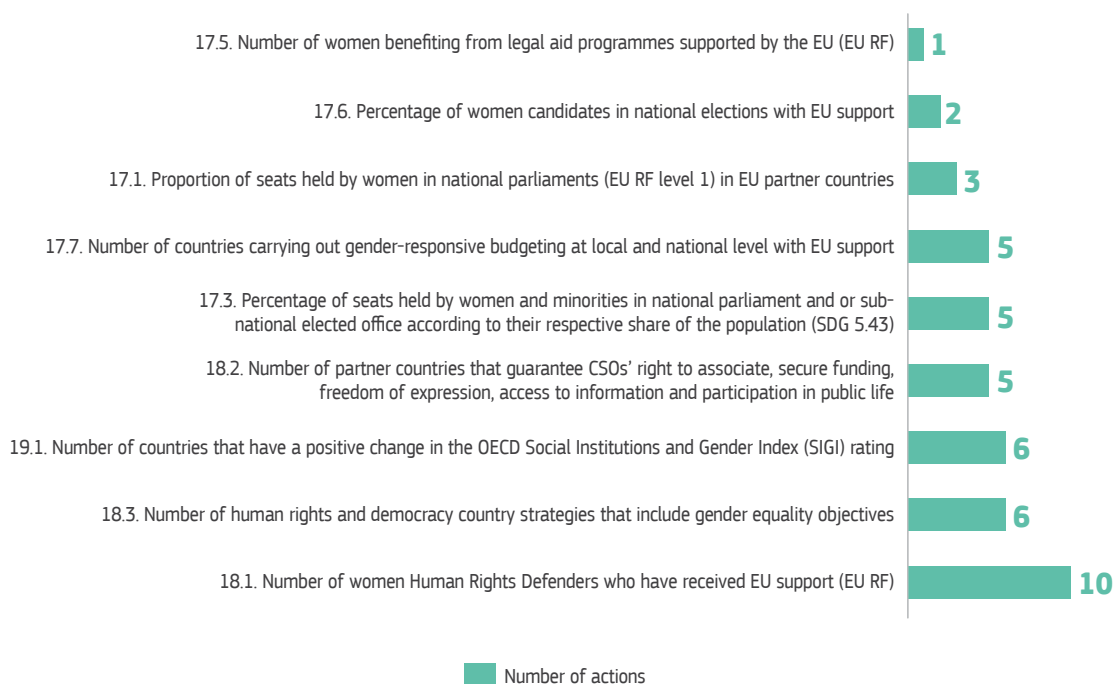
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 102:

## Enlargement Negotiations

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



In the Enlargement Negotiations sub-region, EU actors focused on objective 18. Support was particularly provided for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

In Albania, the EU Delegation, Germany and Sweden bolstered civil society and human rights defenders, including in rural areas, while promoting the rights, inclusiveness, dignity and equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Lessons learned included the need for building women's organisations expertise on EU accession processes and gender equality challenges. They also point to the importance of documenting results and investing in research on the role of women's organisations in transforming gender norms as a means of evoking substantial change.

Objective 17 was the second most targeted objective under thematic priority D in the sub-region. Slightly more EU Member States than EU Delegations implemented actions on 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels'. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden supported the 'Women in Elections' programme, alongside other capacity development actions for local communities and civil society organisations. The EU Delegation continued to engage in the 'Women's Dialogue Initiative', selected as a good practice in 2017. In Kosovo, Sweden mainstreamed civil society work in the framework of support for municipal administrations. The EU Delegation promoted youth's engagement in democracy and evidence-based policy-making, as well as young women's participation in political parties and decision-making processes. In Montenegro, the EU Delegation supported the establishment of the Women Political Network; the United Kingdom was the only EU actor to address objective 17 by developing the strategic communications capacities of Montenegrin state institutions. The EU Delegation to Serbia supported civil society organisations in the framework of UN Women's global HeforShe solidarity campaign. In Turkey, the EU Delegation fostered networks between women academics, politicians and students in the framework of a programme spearheaded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Two EU Delegations addressed objective 19, 'challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes'. In Kosovo, a human rights programme tackled discrimination against survivors of sexual violence to transform prejudices, including through theatre plays. In Turkey, two European Instrument for Democracy and

Human Rights' programmes strengthened awareness and advocacy for LGBTI rights, while striving to foster LGBTI equality policies in municipalities.

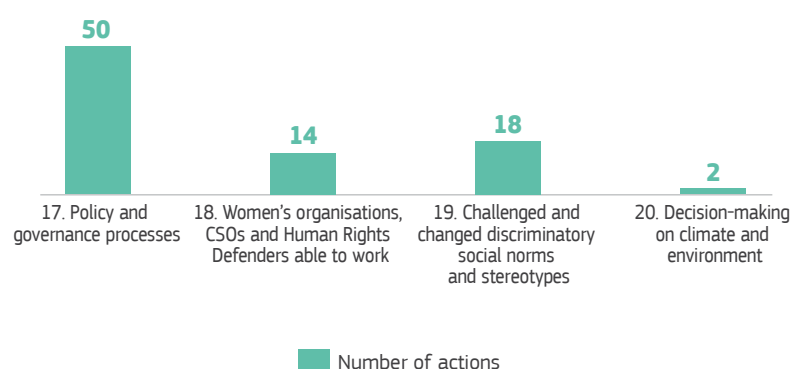
Sweden was the only EU actor that targeted objective 20, on 'equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues'. It did so through two actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina – one on air quality management and another to support a civil society environmental lobbying and advocacy network.

## Southern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 103:

### Southern Neighbourhood

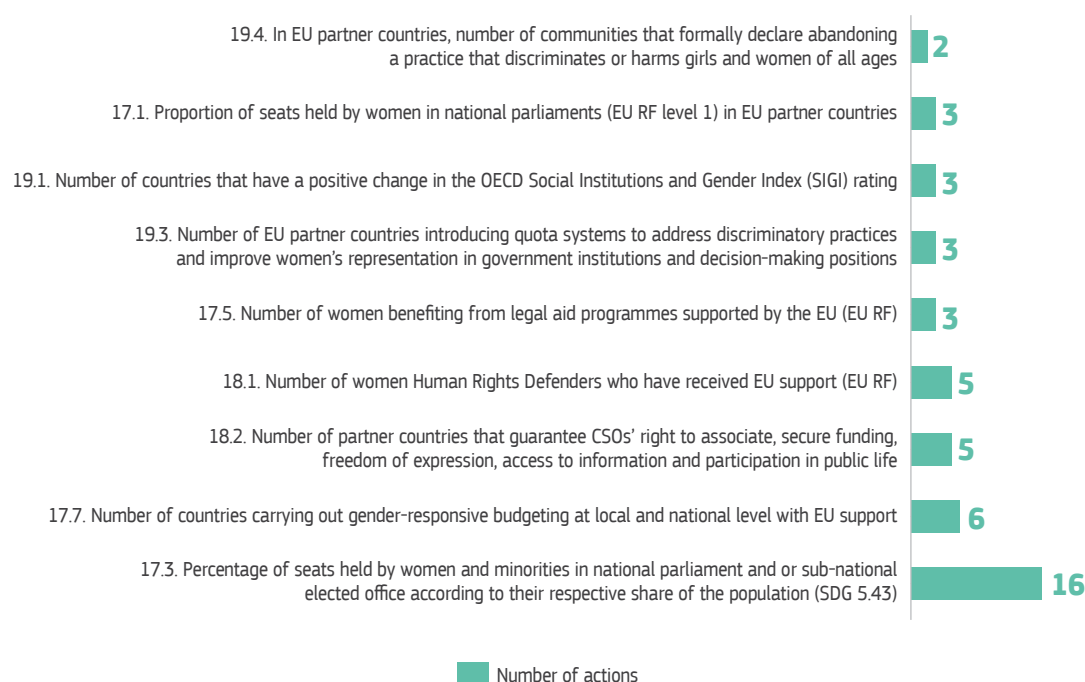
Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Annex 3 Figure 104:

### Southern Neighbourhood

Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018



EU actors in the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region implemented 46 actions that addressed objective 17, reflecting a strong focus on women's participation in policy and governance processes. This is noteworthy as the wider Arab region ranks second-to-last in the world in terms of women's participation in politics. Tunisia has the highest proportion of women parliamentarians (31.34 %) due to its strict quota system.<sup>54</sup>

In Algeria, the EU Delegation promoted democratic governance and women's participation in local governance. In Egypt, Finland worked to strengthen women's role in local councils, while Italy supported women's leadership in agriculture and food security and the EU Delegation championed their citizenship rights. In Jordan, Denmark implemented a special programme on the Danish-Arab partnership, while the EU Delegation contributed to democratic development. In Libya, the EU Delegation actively engaged in democratic transition at the local and national levels, including by building capacities for local governance. In Morocco, the EU Delegation undertook 15 actions, largely in the context of its wider programme to support the national gender equality plan. These spanned spheres such as gender-responsive budgeting, health sector reform, rural development, democracy and civil society. In Palestine, Spain was the only EU actor which addressed objective 17 by promoting the rule of law and the implementation of the recommendations of the Palestine CEDAW report. In Syria, the EU Delegation focused on women's civil society organisations as drivers of stability and cohesion.

In Tunisia, the second largest number of initiatives addressed objective 17 (12 actions). These sought to increase women's participation in local governance processes and participatory democracy, including in the framework of the *Moussawat* programme that strengthened the capacities of the Ministry of Women, Children, Family and Elderly People.

Objective 19 was the second most frequently selected under thematic priority D. Actions to overcome discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes centred on strengthening civil society in Algeria, Morocco and Syria. Initiatives were also undertaken in the framework of youth programmes by Belgium in Palestine, as well as initiatives to expand access to justice and improve media communications on gender in Algeria, Jordan and Morocco.

In 2018, 14 actions addressed objective 18. In Jordan, the EU Delegation supported women's organisations, civil society organisations as part of comprehensive strategies to strengthen civil society, such as the EU Delegation's efforts in Jordan. Others actions were part of human rights strategies, as implemented by EU Delegations to Libya and Israel, or youth interventions, as in the case of the EU Delegation to Algeria.

Only two actions focused on objective 20, on 'women's participation in and influence on decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues'. The EU Delegation to Israel addressed this objective in the context of a women and peace-building project, while the Delegation to Lebanon did so by supporting civil society efforts towards a 'plastic-free' Mediterranean Sea.

## Russia

In 2018, the EU Delegation to Russia reported progress on GAP II thematic priority B, encompassing four actions. Three of these actions addressed objective 7, on 'women and girls free from violence'. These aimed to structure civil society organisations' participation to advance the effective implementation of social policy to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. They also supported the National Action Strategy for Women (2017-2022), alongside initiatives to combat violence against children and women.

One action targeted objective 10, 'quality preventive and rehabilitative physical and mental health care'. Through this initiative, the EU Delegation supported civil society and local authorities to develop holistic initiatives to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among girls and women in remote regions of Russia.

## Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development

### Overview of progress in 2018

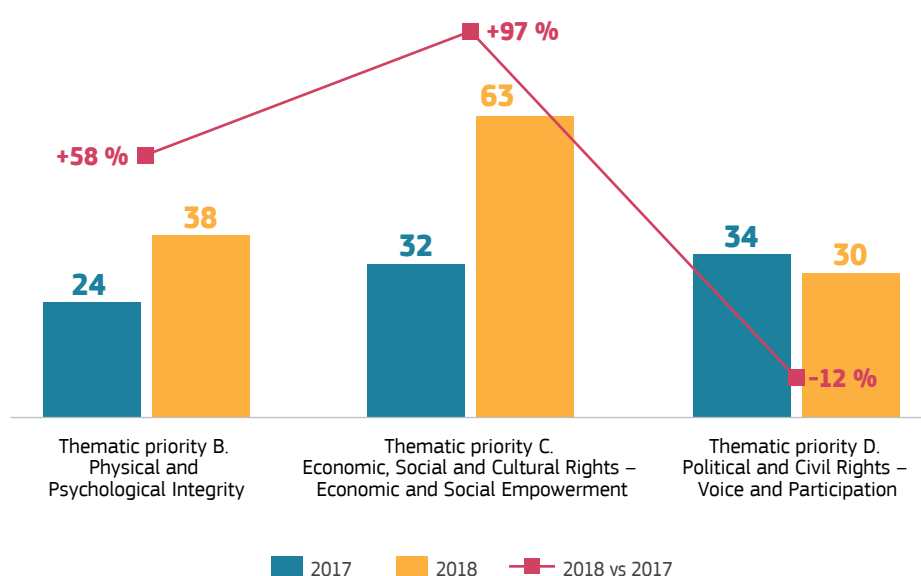
In 2018, the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development continued to contribute strongly to the implementation of the GAP II's thematic priorities. With 123 actions, the number of actions reported

54 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2018) *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018*. Beirut: ESCWA.

rose considerably from 90 in 2017. Almost half (48 %) of the initiatives in 2018 (63 actions) addressed thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment'. While 29 % (38 actions) addressed priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', 23 % (30) targeted priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'. Comparing trends in 2018 with 2017 indicates a significant increase in actions under thematic priorities C and B, and a slight decrease under priority D. Some actions address more than one objective related to these priorities. In addition, five initiatives were supported within Europe. These included activities to mobilise active support among Bulgarian citizens for EU and Bulgarian development cooperation, as well as a campaign to galvanise global citizenship education for sustainable development.

Annex 3 Figure 105:

International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017

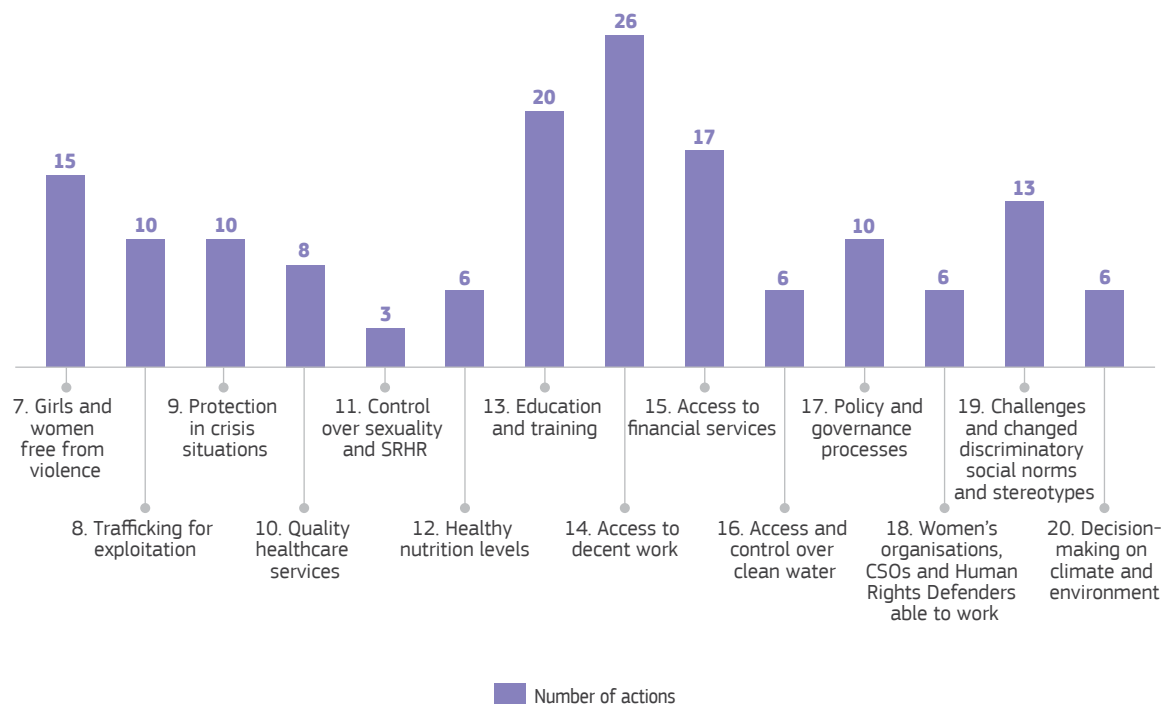


There was a clear focus on issues related to migration. For example, actions addressed the rights of migrant workers and support for economic opportunities in partner countries. Environmental and sustainable energy initiatives also featured prominently, as did actions to foster intercultural dialogue. The EU's contribution to large-scale global programmes was a significant component of development cooperation support at the headquarters level.

Compared to 2017, there was an increase in selection of GAP II objectives in 2018, as well as changes in the order of selection. Overall, actions contributed to all 14 objectives, albeit only a few actions in some cases. Objective 14 was selected most often, on access to decent work, followed by objective 13, on quality education and training, and objective 15, on access to financial services and productive resources. While in 2017 the most selected objective was objective 19, 'challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes', it was the fifth most frequently addressed in 2018. Similarly, objective 18, on support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, dropped from fourth to tenth place between 2017 and 2018.

Annex 3 Figure 106:

## International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions by GAP II objective, 2018



Approximately half of all actions were linked to the GAP II's indicators. In general, selected indicators overlapped with indicators used by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes (EU RF). This reflects on-going issues surrounding the availability of disaggregated data. It may also indicate reluctance to retrospectively apply indicators to actions initiated in 2016 or before. Overall in 2018, the GAP II indicators most frequently selected by Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development were:

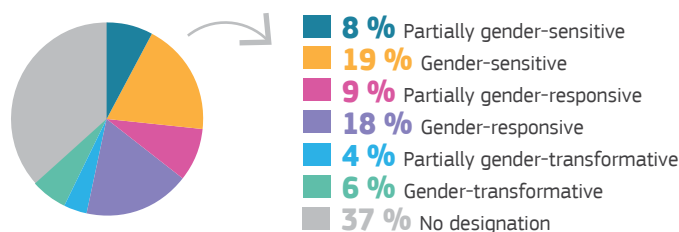
- indicator 14.4, 'employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64) (SDG 8.5)', addressed by 12 % of actions;
- indicator 13.10, 'ratio of female to male who have benefitted from vocational education and training/skills development and other active labour market programmes with EU support' (EU RF), addressed by 8 % of actions;
- indicator 15.8, 'number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services' (EU RF), addressed by 5 % of actions; and
- indicator 19.1, 'number of countries that have a positive change in the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) rating', addressed by 5 % of actions.

For the first time, reports on the GAP II's implementation were asked to specify whether actions were gender-sensitive, gender-responsive, or gender-transformative – as reflected in the table below. Overall, 64 % of reported actions listed were listed as 'promising practices', while 26 % were marked as 'not a promising practice' and 10 % were left blank.



Annex 3 Figure 107:

## International Cooperation and Development – Breakdown of reported actions, 2018

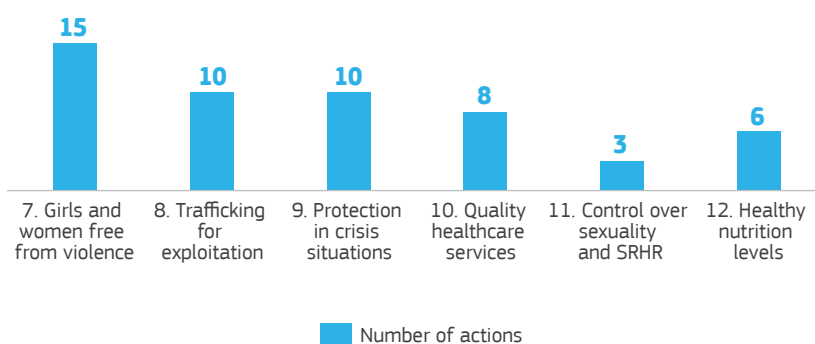


Report writers were also asked to identify three lessons learned from promising practices, yielding a number of valuable findings. One key lesson was the significance of inclusiveness in processes to ensure that women's and girls' voices are heard, alongside those of men, boys, traditional leaders and other stakeholders. Reports emphasised the need for women-only spaces, separate focal group sessions, and capacity strengthening for women's organisations. They pointed to the importance of regularly updating context analyses using a gender perspective, mainstreaming gender throughout all activities, and ensuring gender-sensitive monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). Reports also highlighted the contributions of specialised technical support, coupled with gender equality training for partners and service delivery actors – such as water, sanitation and hygiene stakeholders, the police and others. Training is vital to inform and change their attitudes towards women and girls. The need to address the historical context of an issue, rather than just the issue at hand, was another key lesson learned.

### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

Annex 3 Figure 108:

## International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



### Global

Several global programmes addressed more than one GAP II thematic priority, as indicated below where relevant. Global actions reported by the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development addressed one or more objectives under thematic priority B. Objective 7 on violence against women and girls was addressed through eight global or multi-country actions. Objective 9 was also addressed by eight actions, focused on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations. While four actions targeted objective 8 on combatting trafficking, two actions addressed objective 10 on equal access to physical and mental healthcare services. Objective 11, on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, and objective 12, on healthy nutrition levels, were the focus of one action each.

Actions in 2018 included contributions to a range of global programmes, such as the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Accelerating Change, 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, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,

Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

Compared to 2017, headquarters increased the number of actions that addressed objective 8 in 2018, through initiatives to curb trafficking. These programmes were directly managed by headquarters both globally and regionally. Examples include the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Human Beings and the Smuggling of Migrants, GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East, and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU Migration Action. Support was provided for migrants in countries experiencing crisis situations, with a view to building an evidence-based approach for effective, cooperative state action. Two programmes were also implemented in West and Central Africa and in East and Southern Africa. Headquarters also reported on a programme funded by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, entitled 'Safe and Fair: Realising women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region'.

The EU supported a programme to increase accountability, while preventing enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Mexico, Nepal, the Gambia and beyond. Support was also provided for the Civil Society United Against Torture initiative. As part of support for the *Naseej* programme in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), efforts were made to end violence against women and girls and connect their voices. A framework agreement was established with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET). The latter programme also addressed thematic priority D.

## Africa

### East and Southern Africa

Headquarters' actions under thematic priority B in East and Southern Africa focused on migration, through two multi-country projects which addressed objective 8 on trafficking and objective 9 on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations. Actions in the sub-region also centred on supporting the Spotlight Initiative, targeting objective 11 on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health and objective 7 on violence against women and girls.

### West and Central Africa

In West and Central Africa, the greatest number of headquarters' actions addressed objective 12 on healthy nutrition levels. This was followed by actions addressing objective 9 on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, objective 8 on trafficking and objective 10 on physical and mental healthcare services. There was a strong focus on improving food security and nutrition among displaced and vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Senegal. In Nigeria, priorities included investing in the safety and security of girls, including psychosocial support for children, while strengthening conflict management capacities. A number of multi-country actions aimed to build resilience and respect for human rights.

## Americas

In the Americas, development cooperation support from headquarters encompassed 14 multi-country actions across the three GAP II thematic priorities. The greatest number of actions addressed objective 15 on access to financial services and productive resources, followed by objectives 7 on violence against women and girls, 14 on decent work, 17 on policy and governance processes, and 16 on access to and control over water, energy, transport and infrastructure. Only one action each in the region addressed objectives 10 on quality healthcare services, 12 on nutrition, 8 on trafficking, 13 on education and training, 18 on support for women's organisation and civil society, 19 on challenging and changing gender stereotypes, and 20 on climate and environmental decision-making.

Several actions in the Americas addressed more than one objective – most notably objectives 7, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15. These included support for the Cooperation Programme on Anti-Drugs Policies (COPOLAD II), Eurosocial+, EL PACCTO, the Spotlight Initiative and the Police Community of the Americas (Ameripol). Key outcomes and activities of support for Ameripol included:

- outcome 4, 'increased the capacity of AMERIPOL to strengthen police cooperation, investigations and joint operations'; and
- activity 4.2, 'one research course on violence against women' (December 2018).

## Asia and the Pacific

Two multi-country actions by headquarters focused on migration in Asia and the Pacific. One worked to protect

children affected by migration in South-east, South and Central Asia – addressing objective 7 on violence against women and girls and 10 on quality healthcare services. The other centred on women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. This covered all three thematic priorities and, in addition to targeting objectives 10 and 7, also addressed objectives 8 on trafficking, 14 on decent work and 17 on women's participation in policy and governance processes.

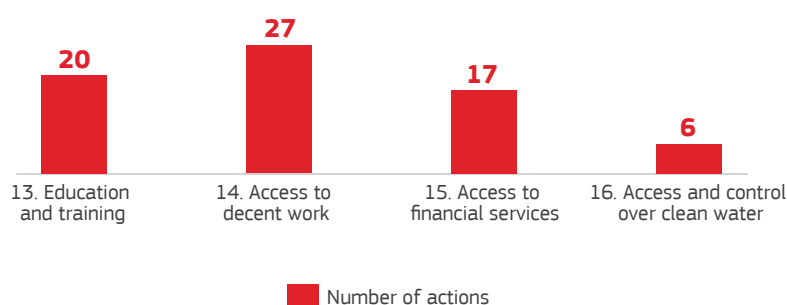
### Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

A regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East – implemented in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan – addressed objectives 10 on quality healthcare services, 11 on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, 7 on violence against women and girls, and 9 on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations. The programme also addressed objectives under thematic priorities C and D.

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

Annex 3 Figure 109:

International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



### Global

Global actions in 2018 covered are all objectives under thematic priority C to some extent. These spanned a range of sectors, such as culture, labour migration, land degradation, the environment and sustainable energy. Education also featured prominently in joint work with UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Digital2Equal initiative. Capacity building was another major focus. In African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, for example, support was provided to strengthen research and innovation capacities. Capacity building was also supported for institutions in charge of minerals, as well as small-scale private sector enterprises working with low-value minerals – with actions linked to objective 14 on access to decent work.

Two other programmes addressed migration, including a global action to improve the recruitment framework for labour migration, and support for assessing the economic contribution of labour migration in developing nations which are destination countries for migrants. Two multi-country actions promoted intercultural dialogue coupled with investment in culture and creativity, broadly addressing objective 13 on education and training and objective 14 on access to decent work.

### Africa

#### East and Southern Africa

Actions led by headquarters in East and Southern Africa covered objectives 13 on education and training, and 15 on access to financial services and productive resources. These addressed the need for the provision of quality, protective alternative education for displaced children in the Democratic of the Congo and Tanzania, as well as in Ethiopia and Somalia. A third action focused on investment in migrants' entrepreneurship, entitled the 'Platform for Remittances, Investments and Migrants' Entrepreneurship in Africa' (PRIME Africa).

### **West and Central Africa**

Most actions supported by the Commission services for international cooperation and development at headquarters level addressed thematic priority C in West and Central Africa. These addressed objectives 13 on education and training, 14 on access to decent work and 15 on access to financial services and productive resources.

In Mauritania, 10 actions focused on increasing employment opportunities and fostering inclusive development, including by targeting youth and women. These paid particular attention to artisanal or traditional fishing and protecting natural resources. A multi-country action in the sub-region sought to improve the durability of micro-enterprises. Nine actions aimed to improve education and teacher training, including initiatives to enhance the quality of learning environments.

### **Americas**

Development cooperation support from headquarters in the Americas consisted of six multi-country actions. As mentioned above, two of these addressed aspects of thematic priorities B, C and D – namely the Cooperation Programme on Anti-Drugs Policies (COPOLAD II) and Eurosocial+. These addressed objectives 7 on violence against women and girls, 8 on trafficking, 10 on quality healthcare services, 12 on healthy nutrition, 14 on access to decent work, and 15 on access to financial services and productive resources.

Other actions, including Euroclima+, addressed objectives 14 and 16, 'equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure'. The Latin American Investment Facility targeted objectives 16 and 13, 'equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination'.

### **Asia and the Pacific**

Support from headquarters focused on women migrant workers' rights and decent work (objective 14), as noted above under thematic priority B in relation to the Safe and Fair initiative. Objective 13 on education and training was the focus of support for Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, as well as for returnees and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan.

### **Gulf States**

One headquarters' level action was reported in the region, targeting decent work (objective 14) by strengthening Iranian civil society organisations to empower Afghan refugee women through livelihoods and access to economic opportunities.

### **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**

Objective 15 on access to financial services and productive resources was the focus of a regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East. As noted above, the programme implemented in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan also addressed thematic priorities B and D.

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

Annex 3 Figure 110:

International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



### Global

Objectives under thematic priority D were addressed by one or more global actions. Support for parliamentary processes included the global EU 'Parliaments in Partnership' project to strengthen the capacity of parliaments, alongside the mapping of support for parliaments, political parties and anti-corruption initiatives.

Women journalists and Human Rights Defenders in Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were the focus of another project, thus addressing objective 18. Objective 19, on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes', was targeted by initiatives to foster cultural and religious pluralism in Niger and Nigeria, as well as efforts to promote cross-border cultural connections for peace, social inclusion and development in Niger and Burkina Faso. Other programmes worked to improve monitoring and the effective implementation of core international conventions in Generalised Scheme of Preferences' (GSP+) countries and Kyrgyzstan.

One initiative tackled objective 20 on women's participation in decision-making on climate and environmental issues. This special programme focused on institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

Support for civil society organisations as actors of governance and development was the crux of a large multi-annual action, which included gender equality as a key focus. The action provided support for civil society organisations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Neighbourhood countries (see the box below).

*Annex 3 Box 1: International Cooperation and Development – contribution to civil society development in partner countries*

Gender equality will be one of the main focuses of the action to support the critical role of civil society organisations in reinforcing women's participation as actors of change. It will contribute to the EU's commitment of ensuring that 85 % of projects include a gender component or approach. Notable specific objectives and outputs of the action include:

- Specific objective 2: Women's participation in decision-making increased.
- Output 2: Strengthened women's civil society organisations' capacities and engagement for participation in decision-making.

A number of framework agreements were reported under thematic priority D, such as with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), mentioned above. Other agreements were reached with Women Engaged for a Common Future (WECF) and with Cooperation Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE).

## Africa

### East and Southern Africa

In 2018, no actions were implemented by headquarters under thematic priority D in East and Southern Africa.

### West and Central Africa

Overall, fewer actions supported by headquarters addressed thematic priority D in this sub-region. Three multi-country actions promoted women's empowerment in Morocco and Benin, as well as women's and girls' voice and participation, and institutional and community resilience.

### Americas

In the Americas, four actions supported by headquarters addressed thematic priority D. Three of these are outlined above, as they also targeted priorities B and C. One initiative addressed objective 17 on women's participation in policy and governance processes – a framework partnership agreement and grant between the European Commission and Articulaci3n Feminista Marcosur (AFM).

### Asia and the Pacific

One action was reported in the region, 'Safe and Fair: Realising women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region', as mentioned above under thematic priorities B and C.

### Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

The aforementioned regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East targeted objectives under thematic priority D, as well as priorities B and C. In Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, the programme addressed objective 18 on support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, as well as objective 19 on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.

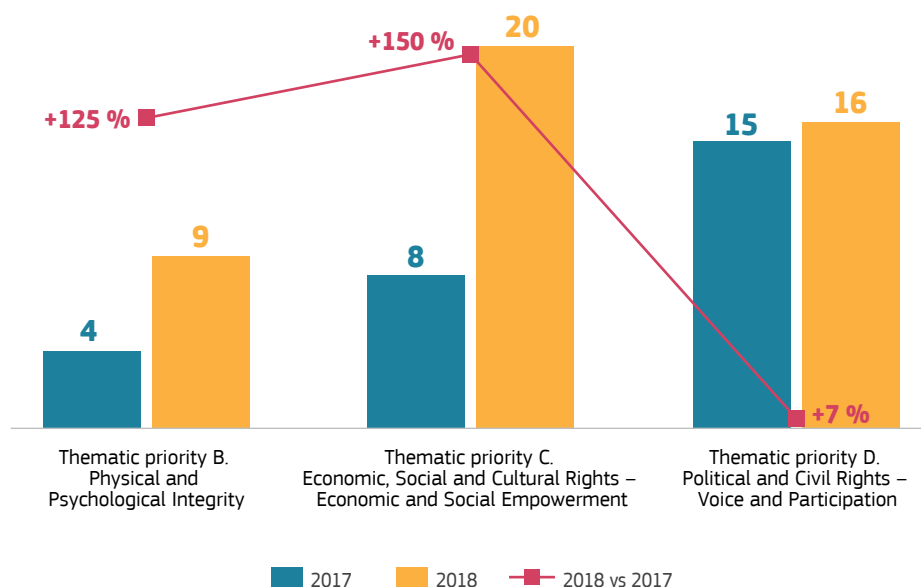
## Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations

### Overview of progress in 2018

In 2018, units responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations at the headquarters level reported 47 actions that contributed to the GAP II's thematic priorities. These included units responsible for regional programmes in Southern Neighbourhood (6 actions), for regional cooperation and programmes in the Western Balkans (20), for Neighbourhood Cross-Border Cooperation, Georgia and Moldova, and for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Neighbourhood countries (21).

Annex 3 Figure 111:

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017



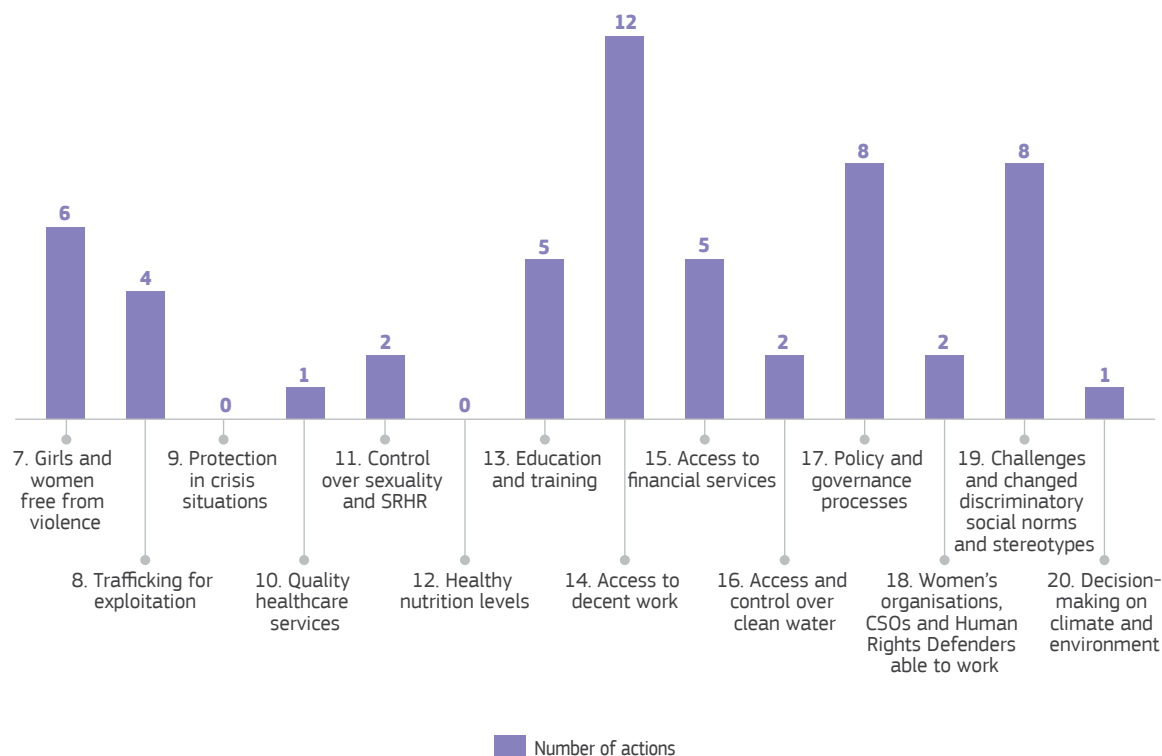
At headquarters, the greatest proportion of actions (44 %) addressed thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', followed by priorities D (36 %), 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation', and B (20 %), 'Physical and Psychological Integrity'. This indicates a change in trends since 2017, when thematic priority D was the most frequently targeted.

Overall, reported actions were aligned with one or more of 12 of the GAP II's 14 thematic priority objectives. The most frequently selected was objective 14, 'access to decent work'. This was followed by objective 19, 'challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes', and objective 17, 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels'. Objective 7 was also frequently addressed through actions to combat violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres. No reported actions addressed objectives 9 or 12.



Annex 3 Figure 112:

## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Reports revealed limited alignment with GAP II indicators, with the exception of the following three:

- indicator 7.3, percentage of referred cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced;
- indicator 14.4, employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64); and
- indicator 17.7, number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level with EU support.

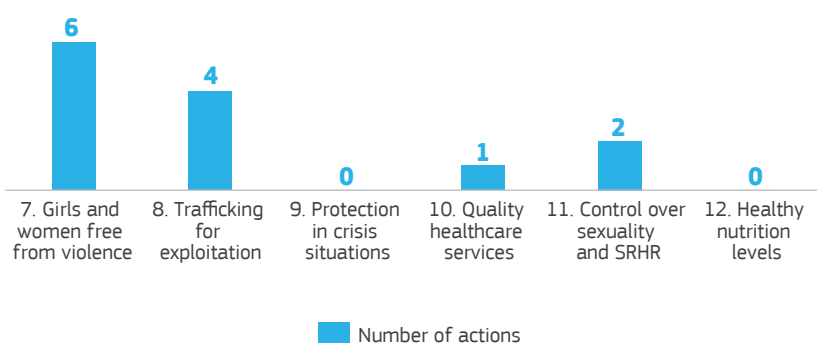
### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

Regional support for protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey contributed to objectives 7 and 8, on combatting violence against women and girls and trafficking for all forms of exploitation. Efforts to end gender-based violence included an action in the Western Balkans and Turkey, alongside support for a regional campaign in Southern Neighbourhood countries. Actions also included the consolidation and extension of support for a regional civil society organisation network working on women's rights and gender equality. This is part of a multi-country civil society facility and media programme, entitled 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds'. Objective 8 was the focus of the 'Balkans Act (Against Crime of Trafficking) Now (BAN – phase III)', funded by the EU. The initiative brings civil society organisations and justice sectors actors together in order to protect the rights of women trafficking survivors.

An EU/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey worked to improve women's access to healthcare services. Its efforts were aligned with objective 10, 'equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women', and objective 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'. Objective 11 was also addressed by the Regional Roma Survey, which generated, analysed and disseminated evidence on the incomes, living conditions and human development outcomes of marginalised Roma communities in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Annex 3 Figure 113:

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



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

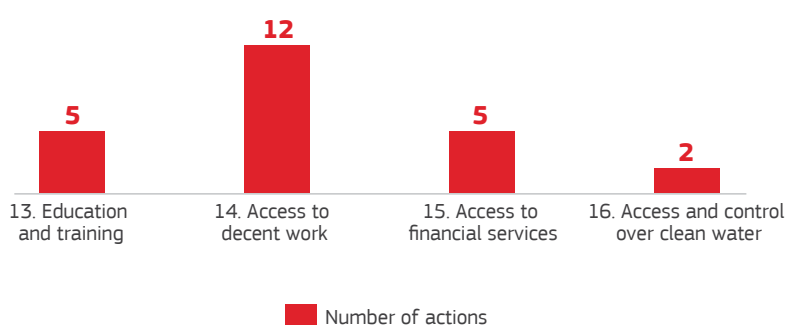
All four objectives under thematic priority C were addressed in 2018, most notably through actions in Neighbourhood Cross-Border Cooperation, Georgia and Moldova, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Neighbourhood countries. Actions were also implemented in the Western Balkans.

Objective 14 was addressed by half of all actions under priority C with a clear focus on improving the skills and employability of young people, particularly in Armenia, Belarus and in conflict-affected areas of Georgia and Ukraine. These were paired with general actions to increase access to decent work. Support was provided for civil society organisations working to combat discrimination and advance women's labour rights. An 'EU Regional Action for Roma Education' to increase educational opportunities for Roma students in the Western Balkans and Turkey addressed objectives 13, 'equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination', and 14 on access to decent work. The initiatives also promoted good governance and the empowerment of Roma people at the local level, thereby addressing objective 17 on 'equal participation in policy and governance processes'. Another action that focused on education, training and employment opportunities involved assistance to facilitate the reintegration of returnees in the Western Balkans.

Objective 15, on 'equal access to finances services and productive resources', was addressed by EU- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) investment climate reviews, action plans and efforts to strengthen fiscal governance in Eastern Neighbourhood countries. Support was also provided for women in business. A regional housing programme addressed both objectives 15 and 16, on 'equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable engagement in their management, enjoyed by girls and women'. Other actions aligned with objective 16 included the Eastern Neighbourhood 'Covenant of Mayors East' – a climate and energy initiative to support cities and municipalities.

Annex 3 Figure 114:

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



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

Of the 17 actions reported under thematic priority D, eight were aligned with objective 17, ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels’. Notable initiatives encompassed cooperation between the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) and EU candidate and potential candidate countries, with a view to improving the monitoring of progress on gender equality. Actions in the Western Balkans involved supporting young professionals, a regional justice survey, and technical assistance for civil society organisations.

As noted above, actions to promote Roma integration and empowerment at the local level in the Western Balkans and Turkey addressed objective 17’s aim of equal involvement in policy and governance processes, while upholding political and civil rights and changing discriminatory social norms. Thus, the actions also addressed objective 18, on women’s organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, and objective 19, on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes’. Civil society organisations were also the focus of support to Eastern Neighbourhood countries, through a civil society facility.

Empowering youth to speak up was the focus of support in the Middle East, yielding notable film and media work. For example, support was provided to enhance gender-responsive film sectors in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. One action worked to widen the audience for films that tackle social and gender issues in the Mediterranean region. Another sought to promote the role and image of women in the Southern Mediterranean audio-visual sector. The media sector was also emphasised in Southern Neighbourhood countries, bolstering its role in promoting the empowerment of young women and men.

Objective 20, on women’s engagement in climate and environmental issues, was addressed through EU support for a regional civil society network on women’s rights and gender equality. As noted above, this is part of the multi-country civil society facility and media programme, ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’.

Annex 3 Figure 115:

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



## Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments

### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

#### Asia and the Middle East

Through the action ‘**Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice**’ under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, as discussed above, a group of survivors of sexual violence related to the previous armed conflict in **Nepal** were trained to raise awareness of survivors’ needs and to advocate against prejudices. By writing and recording their stories, and publishing them on an online platform launched in 2018, survivors collectively broke their silence to create an enabling environment for ‘Truth, Justice, Dignity and Reparations’. IcSP funding for computer skills training, storytelling and production workshops enabled this action. A new action, ‘**Preventing violent extremism: a gender-sensitive approach**’, aimed to prevent the rise of violent extremism in **Jordan and Pakistan** by strengthening the capacities of local actors to address gender dynamics. This was included under the

annual action programme 2017 for conflict prevention, peace-building and conflict prevention (under IcSP Article 4) and contracted in 2018.

### **Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood**

The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace continued to support the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) survey on women's safety and well-being, covering violence against women and gender-based violence in South East and Eastern Europe. The action aimed to improve policy-making and programming by relevant actors – including the security sector, the executive and legislative branches of government and international stakeholders – to prevent and combat violence against women in the OSCE region. It also aimed to provide the evidence for the benefit of governments and civil society, as well as to inform the design and implementation of possible future interventions. The evidence base was gathered using the methodology of the survey undertaken by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on violence against women in EU Member States. Through this major study, the Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments directly contributed to filling the gap in existing data on women's security and safety in OSCE-participating states which are not covered under the FRA survey. In this way, the service contributed to EU commitments on combatting gender-based violence.

A **Transitional Justice Resource Centre** – the first of its kind in **Kosovo and the region** – was established at the University of Pristina in 2018 under the IcSP action, 'Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice'. The centre provided students born during or after the war with a gender perspective on war and peace-building, with a specific focus on conflict-related sexual violence. The centre will provide education programmes, academic resources, scientific research and awareness raising activities on transitional justice. **Kosovo – alongside Colombia and the Philippines** – was one of **three pilot countries** under the aforementioned action in the area of conflict-prevention and peace-building (under IcSP Article 4). The action aimed to increase the effectiveness of transitional justice processes to contribute to more just and stable societies, by increasing the extent to which these processes prioritise survivors and respective needs, while taking into account the different needs of conflict-affected populations.

Similarly, **EU Special Representatives** addressed gender issues throughout their communications and diplomacy, particularly through engagement with civil society organisations. This was especially important as, in some many the regions where Special Representatives work, women's rights remain weak. Among the most visible achievements of the EU Special Representative to Kosovo, alongside other relevant local and international stakeholders, was the establishment in February 2018 of the Commission to Recognise and Verify Survivors of Sexual Violence during the conflict in Kosovo. As discussed in detail above, the Commission will ensure access to individual benefits and compensation for survivors.

Some non-proliferation and disarmament projects directly mainstreamed gender issues, in addition to their general impact on peace and security, and by extension, their indirect impacts on reducing sexual and gender-based violence which are especially common in conflict-affected areas. This was particularly the case for non-proliferation and disarmament projects that addressed the trafficking, security and accumulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). These included specific gender-related activities both in the generation of intelligence, as well as the implementation of solutions.

Another component of this action involved support for the establishment of the government Commission to Recognise and Verify Survivors of Sexual Violence during the Kosovo War. This was established after the Kosovo Assembly approved a law in March 2014 which legally recognised victims of sexual violence during Kosovo's armed conflict. As survivors are entitled to receive a monthly compensation payment, this Commission has the mandate to provide reparations to survivors after it verifies their status. Nearly two decades after the conflict, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence are finally able to apply for compensation for the physical, psychological, economic, and social traumas they endured. Since it began receiving applications from survivors in 2018, the Commission has already received more than 1,000 applications. In 2018, over 200 survivors received compensation payments.

The EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (**EUPOL COPPS**) continued its support, under Palestinian ownership, of an effective, sustainable policing and wider criminal justice system. The mission specifically assisted the Family Protection and Juvenile Department of the Palestinian Civil Police, the Attorney General's Office Family Protection Unit and specialised gender judges. These stakeholders were provided with capacity building in the area of investigating, prosecuting and judging crimes related to sexual and gender-based violence. Support also assisted the further development of the One-Stop Centre in Ramallah (**EUBAM Rafah**) through the provision of specialised equipment. The centre serves both women and children survivors of violence. Moreover, the mission continued to actively support women's empowerment in both the police force and justice system through targeted activities and

advocacy at the highest management levels. Advocacy called for more women to be appointed to leadership and operational roles. To contribute to ensuring that security needs of the entire society are met – and that discrimination is curtailed – the mission continued to cooperate with UN Women to support the implementation of the Palestinian Civil Police gender strategy. In particular, the mission supported the roll-out of an ‘equal opportunities’ campaign within the police.

### Russia

A new Partnership Instrument action, ‘**Cooperation on the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women (2017–2022)**’, was contracted in 2018. According to domesticviolence.ru, more than 16 million women per year are estimated to experience domestic violence in the Russian Federation, but only 10 % seek assistance from the police. Russian state statistics, released in July 2018, reveal that the number of cases of domestic violence reported to the police in 2017 almost halved since physical abuse became punishable by a fine, rather than a prison sentence. To this end, the action will work to enhance knowledge and competencies regarding standards related to the prevention of violence against women and the protection of survivors. It will also foster women’s public and political participation. The action seeks to provide technical support for Russian authorities, so as to facilitate the implementation of the strategy in Moscow and selected regions. Implemented by the Council of Europe, and the Russian Federation’s Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, the action aims to:

- strengthen knowledge and expertise in local legislative, judicial and administrative structures related to GBV prevention and protection standards, and
- raise awareness and exchange best practices.

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

Through the Partnership Instrument, the Commission service for responsible for foreign policy instruments strengthened key EU partnerships with like-minded countries that are members of the G7, as well as countries in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. This influenced agenda-setting in multilateral fora, bolstering gender equality as a priority global issue. Specifically, the service supported the implementation of EU commitments on women’s economic empowerment, while fostering an enabling environment for advancing women’s empowerment at work across the public and private sectors, and advancing women’s entrepreneurship.

Concrete synergies and added-value were demonstrated in the EU’s support for the **G7 Summit in Canada** in 2018, in preliminary work for the next G7 Summit in France, and in the framework of the G20. Partnership Instrument actions in the field of women’s economic empowerment contributed to improving economic, societal and social resilience by recognising women as key drivers of innovation, growth and jobs. These actions aim to promote a level playing field and fair competition for business and international trade. These actions, implemented in close partnership with the UN, advanced progress towards gender equality by promoting business links, joint ventures and innovation between women from the EU and 16 non-EU countries in Asia, in the G7, and in Latin American and the Caribbean. At a policy level, actions supported inter-regional dialogue and the exchange of good practices to foster closer partnerships on gender equality.

The three ongoing actions discussed above – ‘We Empower – G7 countries’, ‘Win-Win’ and ‘We Empower – Asia’ – created synergies in public and private sector commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment, while strengthening the capacity of private companies and employers’ organisations to implement these commitments. The action ‘**We Empower – G7 countries**’ facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchanges between companies, governments and public institutions in Canada, Japan, the United States of America, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and Germany. ‘**Win-Win**’ promoted the economic empowerment of women in the corporate sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Costa Rica and Jamaica. ‘**We Empower – Asia**’ promoted the economic participation and empowerment of women in seven Asian countries – China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. It focused on the role that the private sector can play in partnership with the public sector and networks of women entrepreneurs, women-owned businesses and associations.

Activities under these three actions included assisting companies in developing and implementing women’s empowerment corporate policies and practices. Training was provided for companies on how to measure, monitor and report progress on women’s empowerment. Dialogues were facilitated to develop tools and incentives for improving the situation of women at work, as well as to stimulate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned among the public and private sectors.

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

### Africa

In **Kenya**, the IcSP-funded action '**Ms President**' produced a reality television series to raise awareness among a broad audience of the need for effective peace-building and the leadership role that women can – and should – play in achieving peace. In 2018, the call for participation in the 26-episode series was released. Over 1,000 women from across the country applied, all of whom have exemplary community projects and are passionate about advancing social change. Of these applicants, 71 extraordinary women leaders were chosen to participate in the series. They captivated the national audience by undertaking a number of tasks and challenges designed to display their leadership capacities.

The civilian CSDP mission, **EUCAP Sahel Mali**, supported the designation of 26 gender focal persons within Mali's police force. This laid the groundwork for the creation of a gender unit within each of the country's internal security forces, as well as the more systematic integration of gender. The mission conducted activities such as workshops and plays in Mopti, in collaboration with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali. Within the mission itself, following the adoption of the Operational Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming, a gender action plan was agreed in consultation with all mission units. This plan aimed to strengthen gender mainstreaming.

### Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood

Supported by the third phase of the IcSP-funded mediation facility, European Resources for Mediation Support (**ERMES**), enabled 30 prominent women representatives of Syria's political opposition to engage with representatives of local councils and civil society from within and outside of **Syria**. They jointly elaborated a list of recommendations on empowering Syrian women in the political, economic and social spheres. The list laid out a set of concrete, measurable steps to enhance women's political empowerment and participation in the Syrian peace process, including in the current context and post-conflict phase, as well as in opposition bodies and at the local level. The recommendations were shared with representatives of EU Member States and implementing partners. They were also shared with the leadership of the political opposition's institutions, including the Syrian Negotiation Commission (SNC) – the opposition negotiation party in the Intra-Syrian talks in Geneva, under the auspices of the UN. The SNC's President and Chief Negotiator in Geneva, Nasr Hariri, expressed full support for the recommendations and affirmed the SNC's commitment to implementing these recommendations to increase women's participation.

Throughout 2018, civilian **CSDP missions** took care to mainstream gender activities in their work, particularly through measures to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls.

The EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (**EUPOL COPPS**) supported the Palestinian Civil Police's media and gender unit representatives in outreach activities, within the context of a wider communications campaign due to be run in 2019. The mission organised a workshop for District Coordinators on Gender to promote the Palestinian Civil Police strategy.

Through training and other interventions, the EU Border Assistance Mission to Rafah (**EUBAM RAFAH**) supported efforts to enhance the awareness of the General Administration for Border and Crossings' staff on human rights and gender issues. A project conducted by the mission on human rights, gender balance and anti-corruption principles was finalised in 2018. The mission helped to finalise the drafting of the action plan, in addition to instructions on the integration of gender and human rights principles in the programmes and policies of the General Administration for Border and Crossings.

The EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine (**EUAM Ukraine**) continued to champion human rights and gender mainstreaming by supporting the Human Rights Directorates within the Ministry of the Interior and Ukraine's police force. Support was also provided for a gender focal person in the Ministry of the Interior. The mission supported the police by delivering training for senior leadership, including practical and theoretical exercises on human rights and gender mainstreaming.

The EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (**EULEX Kosovo**) contributed to the launch of the Association of Women in the Kosovo Correctional Service. This new association aims to advance the position of women within the service, raising awareness on gender equality and offering professional development opportunities for women.

The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (**EUMM Georgia**) supported activities on gender mainstreaming, such as



through the mission's Gender Focal Person Network. The network provided regular guidance, advice and capacity building on gender issues. The mission also continued to seek ways to improve the gender balance within the mission itself, for instance by reviewing job descriptions to ensure the inclusion of gender-neutral language.

### Multi-country

In 2018, the regions that benefitted from EU electoral observation missions (EOM) included Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This reflects the fact that the missions are a truly global instrument.

The Commission service responsible for foreign policy instruments deployed a total of 33 electoral observation missions in 2018. These included nine fully-fledged missions in Sierra Leone, El Salvador, Paraguay, Tunisia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Mali and Madagascar. They also included 10 exploratory missions to assess the usefulness, feasibility and advisability of an EU electoral observation mission, alongside 11 election expert missions (EEMs) to Nigeria, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Iraq, Timor-Leste, Colombia (two deployments for legislative and presidential elections, respectively), Bangladesh, Guinea and Sao-Tomé and Príncipe. Moreover, four election follow-up missions (EFM) were deployed in Jordan, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Haiti.

The number of electoral missions is important *per se*, as election observation contributes to strengthening democratic institutions, building public confidence in electoral processes and helping deter fraud, intimidation and violence. Election observation also serves to reinforce other key EU foreign policy objectives, most notably to enhance security and development in partner countries, as well as to support them in improving governance and capacity building. More specifically, EU assistance in 2018 focused on *"promoting the equal participation of women and men in social, economic and political life, and supporting gender equality, the participation of women in decision-making processes and political representation of women, in particular in processes of political transition, democratisation and state-building."*<sup>55</sup>

## Commission services responsible for humanitarian aid and civil protection

In 2018, it is estimated that the EU allocated nearly EUR 30 million in humanitarian aid to help fight sexual- and gender-based violence under its protection and health programming.

The EU also supported global capacity projects on sexual and gender-based violence. At the end of 2018, the EU awarded nearly EUR 445,000 to the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands (KIT) and Save the Children to study access and barriers for survivors of sexual violence to medical and psychosocial support. Case studies were used from Haiti, Nigeria and Yemen. This project will last for approximately two years. At the end of 2017, the EU allocated EUR 975,000 to UNFPA, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility and the Women's Refugee Commission – under the EU's Enhanced Response Capacity – to support the implementation of the Call to Action in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This assistance will also support the development of global minimum standards on gender-based violence – a major deliverable of the Call to Action Road Map. The North East Nigeria Road Map was launched in July 2018, as was the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Road Map in the spring of 2019. This project will last until the end of 2019. Furthermore, in 2016, the EU allocated EUR 1.8 million to support capacity building, including EUR 600,000 allocated to UN Women and Oxfam for the revision of the IASC Gender Handbook and EUR 1.2 million to the International Rescue Committee for the development of tools and approaches to conduct GBV case management in hard-to-reach areas. Both these projects were finalised in 2018, with the launch of the IASC Gender Handbook in April 2018 and the Guidance for Mobile and Remote Gender-Based Violence Service Delivery in August 2018. The EU funded both nutrition-specific severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment projects and nutrition-sensitive prevention projects in the sectors of health, food assistance and WASH. In 2018, EUR 128 million were allocated to nutrition projects, reaching more than 14 million beneficiaries, most of whom were children under the age of five and women of reproductive age. The EU's humanitarian policy for nutrition focused on life-saving interventions in areas with alert or emergency thresholds for global acute malnutrition (GAM) and nutrition sensitive programming. This entailed increasing the impact of activities implemented in other sectors to prevent undernutrition and using all opportunities to identify and refer cases of undernutrition. Beyond support for field programming, the EU supported pilots to implement the simplified protocol approach in Burkina

55 Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0235>

Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan, in order to generate evidence on how to be more efficient in tackling severe and moderate acute malnutrition.

The third most frequently selected objective in 2018 concerned equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (objective 13). To this end, the EU dedicated over 8 % of its humanitarian budget to education in emergencies (EiE). This is well on track towards the pledge by the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to reach 10 % by the end of 2019. In 2018, over 1 million girls and boys benefitted from this assistance in over 30 countries across the world. The EU also led on policy development in this thematic area, culminating in the adoption of a Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises in May.<sup>56</sup> The new policy framework will enable the EU to leverage its resources more predictably, flexibly and effectively, based on a holistic and coordinated humanitarian-development nexus approach and clear strategic priorities. A number of elements will contribute to the EU's focus on the continuity of education in crisis contexts, including partnerships for a rapid, efficient, effective and innovative education response; promoting access, inclusion and equity; championing education for peace and protection; and supporting quality education for better learning outcomes. EU Member States endorsed the policy framework in the Council Conclusions adopted in November.<sup>57</sup> At the G7 Charlevoix Summit, the EU pledged to invest EUR 72 million over three years to promote equal access to quality education and learning opportunities in emergencies and protracted crises.

## EU Member States

### Overview of actions in 2018

EU Member States reported 412 centrally-managed actions contributing to the implementation of the GAP II in 2018. Over half of these were initiated during the course of the year, and 104 were global actions. This reflects a significant increase from 258 actions reported in 2017.

The Americas was the region in which most actions were implemented (76 actions), followed by West and Central Africa (64), Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (55) and East and Southern Africa (44). Fewer actions were reported in Asia and the Pacific (19), Europe (13), Sub-Saharan Africa (4), the Gulf States (3) and Central Asia (2). EU Member States which reported the greatest number of actions included Spain (162 actions), Luxembourg (56) and Austria (54). Global or multi-country actions generally addressed thematic priorities B and C, with fewer initiatives targeting thematic priority D. A significant number of actions involved core contributions to UN bodies, global programmes and agendas – including the women, peace and security agenda – as well as thematic donor funds and grant funding. Many targeted more than one GAP II thematic priority and several objectives.

In 2018, the greatest number of actions addressed thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment' (180 actions), followed by thematic priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', (149) and D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation' (89). Some actions fell under more than one priority. By contrast in 2017, actions focused on thematic priority B (115), followed by priorities C (86) and D (57).

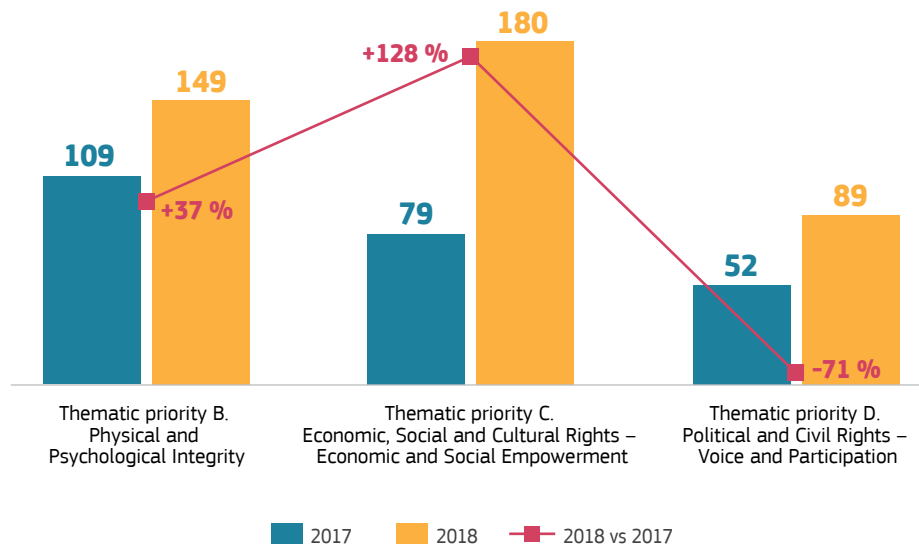
<sup>56</sup> Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises (COM (2018)304 final of 18 May 2018).

<sup>57</sup> Council Conclusions on education in emergencies and protracted crises (12817/18 of 26 November 2018).



Annex 3 Figure 116:

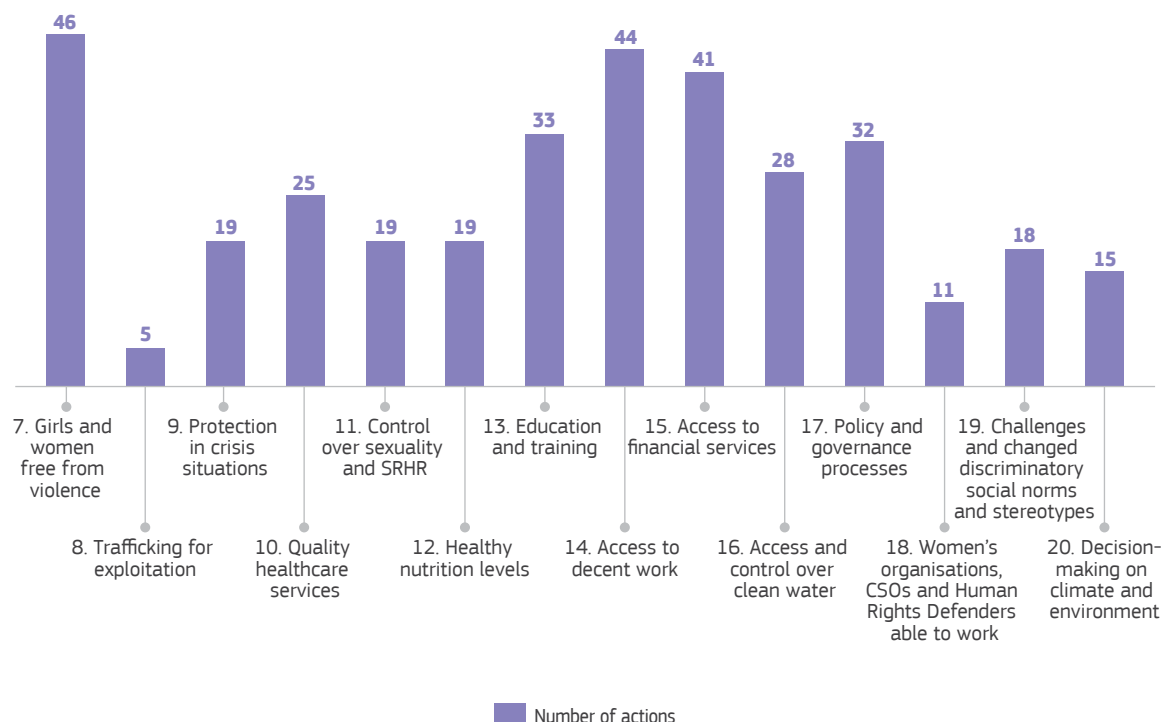
EU Member States – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017



Objective 7, on girls and women free from all kinds of violence, was the most frequently targeted in 2018 by 13 % of all EU Member States' actions. Objective 7 was the most commonly selected in 2017 as well. The second most frequently selected objectives were objective 14, on increasing women's access to decent work, and objective 15, on measures to increase women's access to financial services and productive resources, each addressed by 12 % of all EU Member States' actions. Objective 13, on equal access to all levels of education and training, and objective 17, on equal rights and ability to participate in policy and governance processes, were each addressed by 9 % of centrally-managed actions.

Annex 3 Figure 117:

EU Member States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018



Overall, very few GAP II indicators were selected. Indicator 10.3 was the most frequently addressed by 7 % of all actions, concerning the ‘percentage of beneficiaries using hospitals, health centres, and clinics providing basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene’ – aligned to SDG target 6.5. Indicator 14.4, regarding the employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64), was selected by 6 % of actions. Indicator 15.6, on the number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support, and indicator 13.1, on the primary education completion rate for girls and boys (SDG 4.33), were each listed by 4 % of actions. Indicator 20.1 was addressed by 3 % of actions, concerning the number of deaths per 100,000 from climate-related and natural disasters – average over last ten years (disaggregated by sex) (EU RF Level 1). While some other indicators were addressed by 2 % of reported actions, most were addressed by only 1 %.

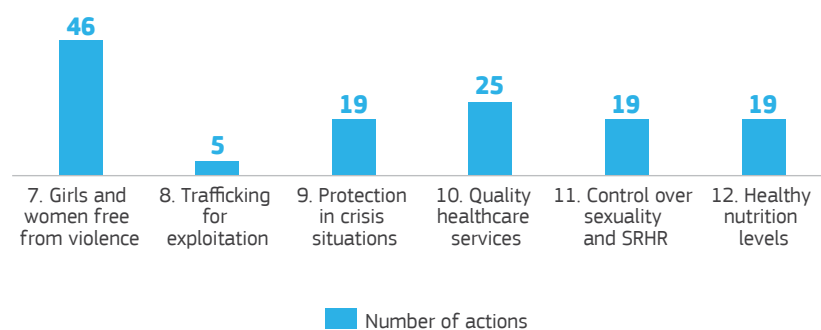
### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

Under thematic priority B, objective 7 was the most frequently targeted – by 46 actions seeking to ensure women’s and girls’ freedom from all forms of violence. Objective 10 was the second most selected, as 25 actions sought to improve access to quality physical and mental healthcare services. Three objectives under this priority each was the focus of 19 actions – objective 9 on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, objective 11 on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and objective 12 on healthy nutrition. Five actions addressed the elimination of trafficking of girls and women for all forms of exploitation (objective 8). Furthermore, 34 actions contributing to priority B did not select a GAP II objective.

Comparisons with 2017 reveal considerably more of a focus in 2018 on combatting violence, improving nutrition and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. Thus, while objectives 7, 12 and 11 were the focus of more actions in 2018 than 2017, more interventions targeted objective 10 in 2017 – when improving access to quality healthcare was most frequently targeted by reported actions.

Annex 3 Figure 118:

EU Member States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority B, 2018



Actions addressing harmful practices featured prominently in 2018, particularly related to female genital mutilation (FGM). These included community-based interventions in Burkina Faso to curb FGM while promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. They also encompassed a grant for building an evidence-base for ending FGM. Ending child marriage was the crux of several actions that addressed 19 by seeking to challenge and change discriminatory social norms. Measures were reported to enhance gender equality within the women, peace and security agenda, conflict prevention and stability in the Horn of Africa and Iraq. Several actions broadly addressed gender equality, women’s rights and health – including maternal health – psycho-social support for refugees, and efforts to address HIV/AIDS. Three actions tackled objective 8 on trafficking, including one seeking to intervene across the ‘trafficking chain’.

Most actions that addressed objective 9, on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, were supported by Austria. Many simultaneously targeted objective 8. Notably initiatives included building the resilience of households and communities in earthquake-affected areas of Nepal, making the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region safer from drugs and crime, and contributing to a women, peace and humanitarian fund in Iraq. Several contributions to multi-donor funds and UN initiatives addressed objective 10 by working to improve access to quality physical and mental health care. Initiatives promoted the social inclusion of Roma children and children with disabilities, contributed to improving maternal health in Mongolia and elsewhere,

and established dementia-inclusive structures in two model regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Contributions to large-scale multi-donor-supported programmes represented the bulk of actions that addressed objective 11, on ensuring 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', and objective 12, on healthy nutrition.

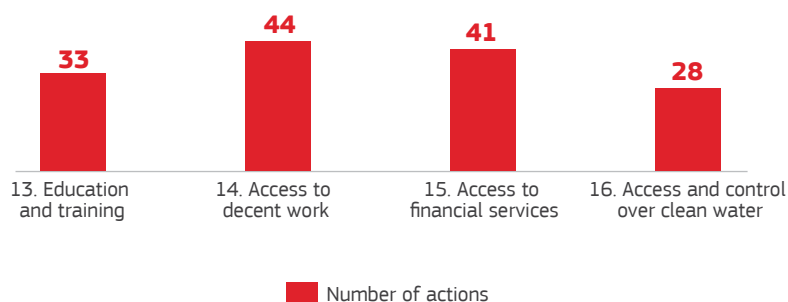
### Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Rights

As noted above, the greatest number of centrally-managed actions reported by EU Member States addressed thematic priority C. Of these, 44 actions addressed objective 14 through measures to enhance access to decent work, while 41 targeted objective 15 on improving access to financial services and productive resources. There was also a considerable focus on objective 13, 'access to education and training' (33 actions), and objective 16, 'access to and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure' (28 actions). In addition, 56 actions reported as contributing to priority C did not select a GAP II objective.

Compared with reported actions from 2017, it is clear that increasing access to financial services and resources continues to be a high priority for EU Member States, paired with a growing focus on access to education and training, and to water, energy, transport and infrastructure.

*Annex 3 Figure 119:*

EU Member States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018



Many actions reported in 2018 targeted more than one thematic priority C objective. For example, over 30 actions which addressed objective 13, on enhancing access to education and training, also targeted objective 14 on access to decent work. Initiatives ranged from a boarding school for girls in Burkina Faso to and a shelter for sexually abused girls in the Philippines. Youth employment was the focus in Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kenya. In the latter, a vocational training centre was constructed for street youths and drug addicts. Training was delivered to bolster women's business management skills in Azerbaijan, to support a new generation of women leaders in Mozambique, and capacity development for sustainable tourism in Ethiopia. In Eastern Africa, an emphasis was placed on training for the sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems. Funding windows were reported, such as the Girls Education Challenge Fund. A notable private sector partnership with Marks and Spencer sought to open opportunities for women's leadership across their supply chain.

Other initiatives which targeted access to decent work, financial services, productive resources, clean water and energy (objectives 14, 15 and 16) included a range of actions to promote resilient, sustainable livelihoods in Zimbabwe, as well as measures to optimise conventional and non-conventional irrigations systems in Palestine. In Uganda, efforts promoted clean cooking and electricity for households, alongside measures to boost resilient water resources management and reforestation. Improving food security and drinking water supplies for refugees and local Ugandans also a focus in the country. In Guatemala, support was provided for civil society efforts to claim indigenous land rights.

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

Objective 17 was the most frequently addressed objective under thematic priority D, with 32 actions focusing on women's participation in policy and governance processes. Objective 19 was the second most targeted, as 18 initiatives sought to challenge and change discriminatory social norms. While 15 actions under priority D addressed objective 20, on women's rights to participate in and influence climate and environmental issues, and 11 actions dealt with objective 18, on support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human

Rights Defenders. There was considerable overlap between actions under thematic priority D and those addressing objectives related to priorities B and C. Moreover, 25 actions reported on as contributing to priority D did not select a GAP II objective.

Actions related to objective 17 which promoted women's rights and participation in policy and governance processes were prioritised in both 2018 and 2017. Compared to the previous year, 2018 witnessed a significant increase in interventions to challenge and change discriminatory social norms, and women's role in decision-making on climate and environmental issues (objectives 19 and 20). There was a more modest increase in support for women's organisations and Human Rights Defenders.

*Annex 3 Figure 120:*

EU Member States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018



Multi-country initiatives to foster democratic governance addressed objective 17, while objective 18 was advanced through actions to enhance the safety and security of Human Rights Defenders in Africa. Women's political empowerment was the focus of a literature review, identifying research on the digital harassment of women and the effectiveness of aid interventions to support women's leadership. Another action-research oriented project, 'Empowerment and Accountability', funded studies on the importance of women's organisations and women's political agency in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Fostering ethical media and opportunities for overcoming gender stereotypes was a focus in Belarus.

An action in Georgia addressed objective 19 on challenging stereotypes by working to strengthen the system for addressing domestic violence and protecting survivors. To build resilience, enable climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation, grant funding was provided for national, regional and international organisations representing, or working with, impoverished people on coping with the impacts of climate change – thereby addressing objective 20.

## Annex 4. European Official Development Assistance for Gender equality and women's empowerment in 2018 and progress on achieving the GAP II target

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

This Annex presents official development assistance (ODA) data for the Commission services and for those EU Member States<sup>58</sup> that submit reports to the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) through the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). It highlights the proportion of ODA actions that contributed to gender equality and women's empowerment in 2018.

An 'Institutional Culture Shift in the European Union's external relations' is thematic priority A (a horizontal priority) of the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020. Objective 5 under this priority, "results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress", encompasses three key activities. These include indicator 5.3, "apply systematically the Gender Equality Policy Marker of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (GM) and justify GO scores to management". Two indicators are used to measure progress on this activity, assessing the percentage of EU actions that have been marked G0, G1 or G2, in line with the gender equality policy marker (see below). The target is to ensure that **85 % of all new EU actions score 'G1' or 'G2' by 2020**. This target focuses on the number of actions that are marked G1 or G2, rather than the amount of funds committed. Thus, the focus is on monitoring the degree to which programming and planning processes are informed by, and include, gender equality objectives. In tandem, this target is meant to encourage concrete measures to ensure that the processes enable gender equality considerations to be part and parcel of decision-making processes.

#### Annex 4 Box 1: Gender equality marker

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) uses the Creditor Reporting System, which allows its members to **calculate the amounts of money within their official development assistance (ODA) that contribute to gender equality, as well as the number of actions that are being funded by them** (among others).

The OECD tracks aid by its members in support of gender equality and women's rights using the Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) gender equality policy marker.<sup>59</sup> This qualitative statistical tool records aid activities that target gender equality as a policy objective. It is used by DAC members as part of annual reporting on their aid activities (and therefore the allocated funding) to the DAC, to indicate whether each aid activity targets gender equality as a policy objective. The gender equality policy marker is based on a three-point scoring system, with scores accorded on the basis of an assessment undertaken during the design phase:

- **Principal** (marked 'G2') means that gender equality is the main objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The initiative would not have been undertaken without this objective.
- **Significant** (marked 'G1') means that gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme.
- **Not targeted** (marked 'G0') means that the project/programme has been screened against the gender marker but has not been found to target gender equality.

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

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

Thus, to determine the gender marker for an initiative, an assessment is undertaken based on determined criteria. For example, the following criteria are used for marking a programme as 'G2':

- A gender analysis of the project/programme has been conducted.
- Findings from this gender analysis have informed the design of the project/programme, and it adopts a 'do no harm' approach.
- The initiative includes at least one explicit gender equality objective, backed by at least one gender-specific indicator (or a firm commitment to include this if the results framework has not yet been elaborated when the initiative is marked).
- Data and indicators are disaggregated by sex where applicable.
- Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results that are achieved by the project in the evaluation phase.

The data for 2018 included in this Annex is preliminary. The final figures will become available in 2019, after the publication of the present GAP II's Annual Implementation Report for 2018. The information on EU Member States is from two sources:

- Information on the **number of actions marked 'G0', 'G1', or 'G2'** was provided by EU Member States for 2018 (the present report) via the GAP II reporting template. This was the first time that this information was collected through the template.
- Information on the number of actions marked 'G0', 'G1', or 'G2' for the Commission services was provided by the internal CRS database.
- Information on the **amounts of ODA** was provided by the OECD.<sup>60</sup> As such, figures were not available for all EU Member States. The latest available data at the time of drafting this report was from 2017. The figures for the Commission services were provided by the internal CRS database.

In this annex, two types of information is provided:

- **Amounts of ODA commitments** that are marked with OECD gender marker 0, 1, and 2; and
- **Number of new activities** marked with OECD gender marker 0, 1, and 2.

The amount of funds marked with OECD gender marker 1 and 2 provides a view of the overall financial support available for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. The proportion of number of new actions marked with gender marker 1 and 2 provide also a view of the methodological effort made for gender mainstreaming.

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

### Commission services

Analysis of preliminary data<sup>61</sup> for 2018 indicates that 76 % of total EU official development assistance contributed to actions marked 'G1' and 'G2' using the OECD gender marker, up from 71 % in 2017.

60 For more information, see: [https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV\\_DCD\\_GENDER#](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV_DCD_GENDER#)

61 Data for the OECD creditor reporting system for 2018 will be validated in 2019, after the drafting of this report. Figures on ODA specifically geared towards gender equality for 2018 – which are more detailed than the overall ODA figures – will only be available by December 2019/January 2020. Therefore, this report uses figures for 2017, available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/Aid-to-gender-equality-donor-charts-2019.pdf>. ODA data in this report only concerns ODA managed by Commission services. Data on actions under the mandate of the European Investment Bank are not included.

## International cooperation and development

Annex 4 Table 1: International cooperation and development's percentage of ODA commitments for actions marked G0, G1, or G2<sup>62</sup>

Commitments	OECD G0 % of total regional funds				OECD G1 % of total regional funds				OECD G2 % of total regional funds			
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2018	2017	2016	2015	2018	2017	2016	2015
International cooperation and development												
Africa	28.03	31.02	34.06	44.00	70.27	66.76	64.10	52.00	1.71	2.23	1.84	5.00
Americas	25.37	50.85	33.48	48.00	67.14	49.15	64.54	48.00	7.49	3.47	1.98	4.00
Asia	8.67	11.30	36.68	48.00	90.18	88.70	56.72	47.00	1.15	0.00	6.61	5.00
Europe	21.90	14.72	65.75	67.00	78.10	85.28	34.25	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Oceania	34.14	2.11	22.51	43.00	65.86	84.37	74.72	43.00	0.00	13.52	2.76	14.00
Developing countries (unspecified)	26.76	31.02	46.09	82.00	51.53	57.17	43.85	17.00	21.71	11.82	10.06	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.48</b>	<b>28.98</b>			<b>68.81</b>	<b>67.17</b>			<b>6.71</b>	<b>3.84</b>		

ODA commitments for international cooperation and development actions which mainstream gender (those marked 'G1') increased in 2018 in Africa, the Americas and Asia, but decreased sharply in Oceania. As in 2017, the largest proportion of funds committed across global regions was allocated to international cooperation and development actions that mainstream gender in Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

The Americas experienced the greatest increase in funds for actions marked 'G1' – nearly 26 % more than in 2017. Trends in the Americas over the past four years reveal a roughly even increase in funds marked 'G1', following an earlier decrease. Funds marked 'G0' experienced an inverse trend.

In Asia, the increase in funds marked 'G1' corresponds inversely to the decrease in funds marked 'G0'. The difference between 2015 and 2018 is remarkable. Trends in Africa are similar, although changes from year to year are smaller. Overall, therefore, Africa is further from the target than Asia.

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

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

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

An important investment marked 'G2' is the funding of actions through the Spotlight Initiative. In 2018, the SI committed EUR 50 million for Latin America and EUR 350 million for Africa.

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



*Annex 4 Table 2: Change in ODA commitments for international cooperation and development contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment (funds marked G1 and G2), 2018 vs 2017*

Funds committed for international cooperation and development per region	Difference in commitments marked OECD 'G1' and 'G2', 2018 vs 2017 (% points)	Difference in overall ODA commitments, 2018 vs 2017 (EUR)
Africa	Increased by 2.99 %	Decreased by EUR 766,732,085 -
Americas	Increased by 25.48 %	Increased by EUR 55,746,613
Asia	Increased by 2.63 %	Increased by EUR 3,191,122
Europe	Decreased by 7.18 % -	Decreased by EUR 102,987,385 -
Oceania	Decreased by 32.03 % -	Increased by EUR 97,810,000
Developing countries (unspecified)	Increased by 4.26 %	Increased by EUR 31,661,086
<b>Total</b>	<b>Increased by 4.50 %</b>	<b>Decreased by EUR 123.403.712</b>

### Neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations

*Annex 4 Table 3: Neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations' percentage of ODA commitments for actions marked G0, G1, or G2<sup>63</sup> 2018 (provisional data)*

Commitments 2018	OECD G0 % of total regional funds		OECD G1 % of total regional funds		OECD G2 % of total regional funds	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Southern Neighbourhood	42.9 %	37.12 %	56.8 %	58.8 %	0.3 %	4.08 %
Eastern Neighbourhood	44.0 %	52.23 %	53.4 %	45.18 %	2.6 %	2.59 %
Enlargement negotiations	26.6 %	30.48 %	72.8 %	65.6 %	0.6 %	3.91 %
Developing countries (unspecified)	88.5 %	93.47 %	11.5 %	5.14 %	0. %	1.4 %

Unlike in previous reports, calculations for 2018 are presented following the country grouping in line with neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations instruments. In the past, these were presented following OECD nomenclature for regions and country groupings. The countries covered by Enlargement Negotiations during 2018 had the highest rate of funds which supported actions that are gender mainstreamed. The Eastern Neighbourhood region had the highest rate of funds supporting actions that had gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective.

*Annex 4 Table 4: Neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations' percentage of ODA commitments for actions marked G0, G1, or G2 in 2017*

Commitments 2017	OECD G0			OECD G1			OECD G2		
	2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015
Africa	31.23	14.93	56.00	63.56	80.57	31.00	5.20	4.49	13.00
Asia	44.58	31.36	45.00	53.00	68.24	50.00	2.42	0.40	5.00
Europe	37.86	34.72	82.00	58.50	63.73	17.00	3.64	1.55	1.00
Developing countries (unspecified)	93.47	95.81	95.00	5.14	4.19	5.00	1.40	0.00	0.00

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

Annex 4 Table 5: Change in ODA commitments for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment (funds marked G1 and G2), 2018 vs 2017

Neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations	Difference in commitments marked OECD G1 and G2, 2018 vs 2017 (% points)	Difference in overall ODA commitments, 2018 vs 2017 (EUR)
Southern Neighbourhood	Decreased by 12.49 % -	Decreased by EUR 99,120,770 -
Eastern Neighbourhood	Increased by 19.46 %	Increased by EUR 5,664,302
Enlargement negotiations	Increased by 2.86 %	Decreased by EUR 29,873,674 -
Developing countries (unspecified)	Increased by 5.09 %	Increased by EUR 137,806,331
<b>Total</b>	<b>Increased by 2.41 %</b>	<b>Increased by EUR 14,476,188</b>

### Other Commission services

Annex 4 Table 6: Other Commission services' percentage of ODA commitments marked G0, G1, or G2<sup>64</sup>

Commitments	OECD G0 (%)				OECD G1 (%)				OECD G2 (%)			
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2018	2017	2016	2015	2018	2017	2016	2015
Other Directorates-General												
Africa	82.58	43.55	93.05	80	17.42	56.45	6.95	19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Americas	99.82	99.86	47.10	80	0.18	0.14	52.90	20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asia	87.51	85.28	89.50	91	12.49	14.72	10.50	9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Europe	42.45	7.67	81.57	78	53.02	92.33	18.43	20	4.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oceania	0.00	0.00	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Developing countries (unspecified)	80.28	86.57	89.90	96	19.72	13.10	10.10	3	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.21</b>	<b>48.79</b>			<b>22.90</b>	<b>51.14</b>			<b>0.89</b>	<b>0.07</b>		

Other Commission services are services other than those specifically in charge of external relations. These 'other' services carry out international relations within their sectoral mandates. In 2018, the **ODA commitments of other Commission services decreased by more than half for actions contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment**. There was a sharp decrease in funds marked 'G1' for Africa and Europe, and a slighter decrease for Asia. With the exception of a 4.5 % increase in funding for 'G2' actions in Europe, none of the other regions received funds for actions that have gender equality and women's empowerment actions as a principal objective.

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

Annex 4 Table 7: Change in ODA commitments for external relations by other Commission services<sup>65</sup> contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment (funds marked G1 and G2), 2018 vs 2017

Commitments by other Commission services	Difference in commitments marked OECD G1 and G2, 2018 vs 2017 (percentage points)	Difference in overall ODA commitments, 2018 vs 2017 (EUR)
Africa	Decreased by 9.04 % -	Increased by EUR 126,470,023
Americas	Increased by 0.04 %	Increased by EUR 51,287,876
Asia	Decreased by 2.24 % -	Increased by EUR 120,414,300
Europe	Decreased by 34.78 % -	Decreased by EUR 640,441,484 -
Oceania	No change	No change
Developing countries (unspecified)	Increased by 6.29 %	Decreased by EUR 281,087,547 -
<b>Total</b>	<b>Decreased by 27.43 %</b>	<b>Decreased by EUR 623,356,832 -</b>

## EU Member States

Annex 4 Table 8: EU Member States'/OECD Members' ODA commitments G1 and G2 commitments as percentage of overall ODA (OECD data)<sup>66</sup>

EU Member State	% of G1 and G2 funds		
	2017	2016	2015
Austria	37	45	45
Bulgaria			
Belgium		51	64
Croatia			
Cyprus			
Czech Republic	50	18	16
Denmark	34	34	47
Estonia			
Finland	61	53	51
France	29	28	22
Germany	39	40	43
Greece	21	25	39
Hungary			
Ireland	83	84	81
Italy	44	38	35
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Luxembourg	28	33	33
Malta			
Netherlands	64	61	61
Poland	2	3	2
Portugal	31	26	23
Romania			
Slovakia	38	35	22
Slovenia	33	18	17
Spain	49	41	39
Sweden	87	88	88
United Kingdom	47	45	43
Average EU Member States	43	41	41

65 Refers to commission services other than those in charge of international cooperation and development, and neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations.

66 Data extracted on 15 May 2019 from OECD Stat: [https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV\\_DCD\\_GENDER#](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV_DCD_GENDER#)

The data above provides only a partial picture regarding the actions of EU Member States. In part, this is because not all EU Member States report to the OECD. It is also due to the fact that data for some countries was not available at the time of drafting this report, for the reasons explained above.

There was a significant increase of 32 % in the Czech Republic's financial contributions for gender equality and women's empowerment as a portion of its overall ODA, compared to 2016 and 2017. Slovenia followed with a 15 % increase, as did Finland and Spain each with an increase of 8 %, Italy with a 6 % increase, Portugal with a 5 % increase, the Netherlands and Slovakia each with a 3 % increase, the United Kingdom with an increase of 2 %, and France with an increase of 1 % between 2016 and 2017.

During the same period, other countries reported that the portion of their ODA contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment decreased, as identified by the use of the OECD 'G1' and 'G2' marking. These decreases ranged from 1 % for Germany, Ireland, Poland and Sweden, to 4 % for Greece, 5 % for Luxembourg, and 8 % for Austria.

As a whole, the joint contribution of EU Member States' ODA (for which data is available) for gender equality and women's empowerment between 2016 and 2017 increased, and represented 43 % of their overall ODA.

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

When accounting for the number of actions – as required by the GAP II target – the budget of each individual action is not considered. The focus instead is on the quality of processes. However, the quantity of funds that are made available to support gender equality and women's empowerment is highly relevant.

### Commission services

Annex 4 Table 9: Commission services – Percentage of new ODA commitments actions marked G0, G1, or G2<sup>67</sup>

Instrument	% of G0 actions			% of G1 actions			% of G2 actions			% G1 + G2 <sup>68</sup>
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018
International Cooperation and Development	32	34	41	65	61	54	4	5	4	68
European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENI)	44	51	43	54	46	53	2	3	4	56
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II	46	62	65	52	32	33	2	6	3	54
Partnership Instrument <sup>69</sup>	86	88	95	9	8	3	5	4	2	14
Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace <sup>70</sup>	41	25	23	52	71	73	7	3	5	59
European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights Election observation missions				100						100

In 2018, the number of new actions contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment increased compared to 2017 for almost all instruments. However, across the board, the share of actions which mainstreamed gender equality increased in 2018. This demonstrates that the work undertaken to improve procedures and strengthen

67 The data show gender actions data based on EU Results Framework – Level 3, 2016-2018 (provisional figures as of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019). EIB actions and administrative costs (Administrative lines and "Type of Aid" G01) are excluded.

68 The sum is rounded up to the nearest percent.

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

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

capacity – for instance, capacity for gender analysis – is yielding positive results.

In 2018, consistent efforts were made through internal **quality assurance mechanisms** to monitor the quality of gender mainstreaming within EU actions. In addition, **procedures and templates** used for the preparation of new international cooperation and development actions were **reviewed to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender-sensitive, rights-based approach**, as well as other key cross-cutting issues.

## EU Member States

Annex 4 Table 10: EU Member States' percentage of new ODA actions marked G0, G1, or G2

EU Member State	% of G0 actions			% of G1 actions			% of G2 actions			% of G1 + G2 <sup>71</sup>
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018
<b>Austria</b>	20.47	27.72		71.67	65.46		7.86	6.82		80
<b>Bulgaria</b>										
<b>Belgium</b>	82.4	39.8	68.9	14.6	56.1	26.8	2.9	4.1	4.3	18
<b>Croatia</b>										
<b>Cyprus</b>										
<b>Czech Republic</b>										
<b>Denmark</b>										
<b>Estonia</b>	12			4			7			11
<b>Finland</b>	51.1			38.1			10.8			49
<b>France</b>										
<b>Germany</b>	36.50	23.48	36.71	63.73	70.66	63.05	1.46	1.40	1.99	65
<b>Greece</b>										
<b>Hungary</b>										
<b>Ireland</b>										
<b>Italy</b>	44.90	38.96	50.87	8.42	6.71	5.22	46.68	54.33	43.91	55
<b>Latvia</b>	N/A	80	N/A	33	10	N/A	7	10	11	40
<b>Lithuania</b>							12			12
<b>Luxembourg</b>	0	28	25	89	67	75	11	5	0	100
<b>Malta</b>										
<b>Netherlands</b>	55.35	38.98	50.16	25.59	42.98	26.83	19.06	18.09	23.01	45
<b>Poland</b>		94	90		3	6		3	4	
<b>Portugal</b>										
<b>Romania</b>										
<b>Slovakia</b>	92.5	91	92	7.5	9	8				8
<b>Slovenia</b>	79	86	132	27	25	9	11	11	9	38
<b>Spain</b>		40.90	43.28		21.50	21.29		37.60	35.43	
<b>Sweden</b>										
<b>United Kingdom</b>	46			49			5			54

EU Member States which complied with the obligation to justify actions marked 'G0', as required by the GAP II, included Austria, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden. The United Kingdom's International Development Act (Gender Equality) (2014), requires that all new programmes consider their impact on gender equality.

According to the information available, 100 % of Luxembourg's funds are allocated to actions marked 'G1' and 'G2'. After Luxembourg, Austria (80 %) is the country closest to the GAP II target of ensuring that 85 % of all new actions score G1 or G2 by 2020, followed by Germany (65 %), Italy (55 %) and the United Kingdom (54 %).

71 The sum is rounded up to the nearest percent.

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With additional data, it would be possible to form a clearer picture of progress and strategies for strengthening support for the GAP II's objectives. Current data is useful for analysing both the overall efforts of Member States, and different approaches that contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment objectives. Using a joint target for 'G1' and 'G2' actions ('G1 + G2') is useful as it supports the three-track approach: mainstreaming, actions with gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective, and political and policy dialogue to advance the promotion of gender equality and women's rights.

Overall, 50.51 % of Member States' actions were marked 'G1 + G2' in 2018, up from 50.1 % in 2017 and 43.75 % in 2016. The trend for Member States is positive, although data is not complete for all Member States. To reach the 85 % target, it is clear that more focused efforts are required.

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

## Annex 5. Sexual and reproductive health and rights in EU external action in 2018

### EU policy framework

The European Union promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in line with the global framework to combat gender discrimination and inequalities, while contributing to the empowerment of women and girls.<sup>72</sup> The EU has incorporated and expanded these principles in key policy documents that lay the groundwork for EU support for comprehensive equitable, universal health systems that encompass SRHR and family planning (FP) services.<sup>73</sup>

The EU Gender Action Plan II 2016–2020 (GAP II) emphasises the importance of addressing a variety of aspects connected to SRHR in EU external action, specifically within the scope of thematic priority B, ‘Physical and Psychological Integrity’. This implies providing protection and support to eradicate violence against women and girls; increasing access to quality, affordable and equitable sexual and reproductive health services and rights, including rehabilitative physical and mental healthcare services; promoting sexuality education; and improving women’s and girls’ healthy nutrition levels throughout their lifecycle.

The ‘European Consensus on Development – Our world, our dignity, our future’, recalls this framework, reiterating the EU’s strong commitment to the “promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence”. It also stresses “the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.”<sup>74</sup>

As the world’s fourth-largest donor, the EU undertakes key interventions to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that most concern SRHR. These include target 3.7 under SDG 3 (‘Good Health and Well-Being’) and target 5.6 under SDG 5 (‘Gender Equality’).

### Challenges of addressing the SRHR agenda

Beyond the EU’s strong policy and financial commitments, upholding SRHR in their entirety requires a broad understanding of their complexity and intersectional characteristics, alongside a holistic factual and financial response to ensure that no one is left behind.

The ‘SheDecides’ initiative was jointly launched in March 2017 by the Governments of the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.<sup>75</sup> In 2018, the initiative continued to gain traction, evoking renewed attention, as well as policy and financial commitments on SRHR. The EU Member States that continue to financially support SheDecides include Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden.

The International Conference on Family Planning, held in November 2018, reaffirmed partners’ commitments to ensuring that every woman and girl has access to high-quality, affordable family planning information and services. The United Kingdom was among the major donors in the wake of the conference, announcing an additional EUR 222 million in funding.<sup>76</sup>

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

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

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

75 For more information, see: <https://www.shedecides.com>

76 For more information, see: <http://www.countdown2030europe.org/storage/app/media/uploaded-files/Annual%20Tracking%20Report%20-%20web.pdf>

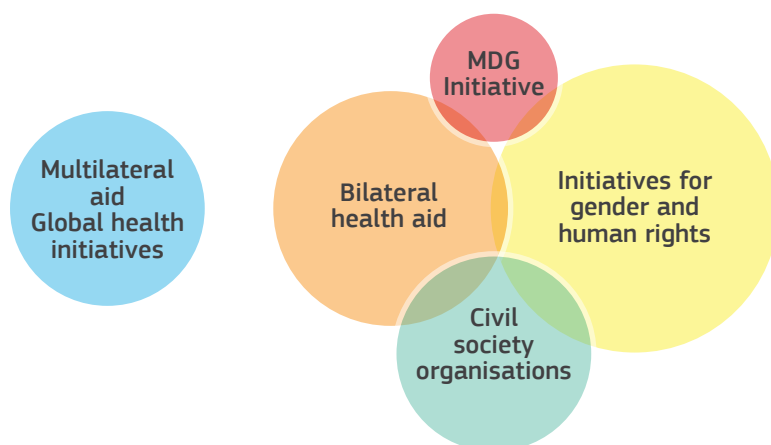


In 2018, the lack of an international definition of SRHR was addressed. In May, the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission launched a landmark report<sup>77</sup> that re-conceptualises SRHR. The report defines these rights vis-à-vis seven core components: contraceptive services, maternal and newborn care; the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and care for sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) other than HIV; comprehensive sexuality education; safe abortion care; prevention, detection and counselling for gender-based violence; prevention, detection and treatment of infertility and cervical cancer; and counselling and care for sexual health and well-being.

## EU financial mechanisms for SRHR

Annex 5 Figure 1:

EU financial mechanisms for SRHR



In 2011, the European Commission committed to spending at least 20 % of EU aid on social inclusion and human development by allocating these funds to basic social services, with a focus on health, education and social protection.<sup>78</sup> This commitment was reiterated by the new European Consensus on Development in 2017. The implementation of the GAP II represents a key opportunity to channel additional funds to SRHR, based on identified country needs and linked to a comprehensive monitoring framework for measuring progress.

The EU's financial investment in SRHR and family planning takes place through different financial instruments and programmes. These include regional programmes on gender, health and population development, contributions to global initiatives and UN organisations, and grants to civil society organisations.

Annex 5 Box 1: Main EU external action programmes contributing to SRHR

In the context of the **11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund 2014-2020**, the EU-Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) strategy 2014-2020 highlights SRHR under its health objectives. Moreover, the EU-ACP multi-country cooperation strategy on health includes the objective “to strengthen the capacity of health systems in ACP countries to deliver basic universally available healthcare” and the target of “improving access to prevention, treatment, and care for reproductive health, and universal access to affordable contraceptives and commodities”. Similarly, the 11th Intra-ACP strategy 2014-2020 acknowledges SRHR as a priority, as reflected in the outcome document of the second meeting of ACP health ministers, held in 2015.

77 Guttmacher-Lancet Commission (2018) *Accelerate progress – sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission*. Available: <https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights>

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

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

The **Humanitarian Aid Instrument (HAI)** and the **European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR)** specifically addresses several issues related to SRHR. These include the rights of women and girls, of persons with disabilities, of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and of minorities, as set forth in international and regional instruments in the areas of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In 2018, contributions to global initiatives made through the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) ensured that the EU played a significant role in shaping the international SRHR policy agenda. Key global initiatives include the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the Global Alliance Vaccine Initiative (GAVI), the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, World Health Organization (WHO) Universal Health Coverage Partnership, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Supplies programme.

## EU financial investments in SRHR

The bulk of EU financing for SRHR takes the form of direct bilateral support to the health sector at the country level, encompassing EUR 1.5 billion for the 2014-2020 period through the EDF and DCI. In this way, the EU supports efforts to strengthen health systems and ensure universal access to an essential package of health services, including family planning, maternal health and reproductive and sexual health services. The Global Public Goods and Challenges programme of the DCI also advances SRHR through its gender equality, human rights child well-being components. It particularly focuses on combatting harmful practices, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation and gender-based violence.

During the 2016-2019 period, the EU funded several SRHR initiatives implemented through UN agencies, such as the UNFPA-led global programme to address son preference in selected countries (EUR 4 million), the UNICEF-led programme 'Towards universal birth registration' (EUR 4 million), and the joint UNFPA-UNICEF programme to curb female genital mutilation (EUR 11 million) and end child marriage (EUR 5 million). In the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2018, the EU supported the Panzi Foundation's *Programme intégré d'appui holistique aux survivants des violences sexuelles et femmes souffrant des pathologies gynécologiques à l'hôpital général de référence de Panzi et autres vulnérables* ('Integrated programme of holistic support for survivors of sexual violence and women suffering from gynaecological pathologies at the Panzi Reference General Hospital and other vulnerable groups') (EUR 3.9 million).

However, it is difficult to accurately quantify how much of this funding benefits family planning or SRHR. There is an ongoing international debate on how best to track SRHR expenditures, including disbursements for programmes targeting adolescents. May 2018 witnessed the establishment of a Joint Countdown to 2030 and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health Technical Working Group for the Tracking of Financing for Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH). With inputs from the London Schools of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the technical working group is developing an updated version of the Muskoka methodology, the 'Muskoka 2'. This new methodology is a work in progress of the international community, including members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), alongside non-DAC bilateral, multilateral and private donors who report their disbursements to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The methodology will rely exclusively on required reporting fields in the creditor reporting system (CRS). It will generate global and recipient-specific estimates from 2020 onward. The revised Muskoka methodology and the ongoing reorganisation of the EU general financial tracking system are expected to result in the creation of a more comprehensive methodology to gauge EU support for SRHR in the near future.

At present, the EU uses different methodologies to track its commitments and disbursements for SRHR, including the Muskoka methodology and family planning subset, in addition to human development commitments. These methodologies are not interchangeable, as they each consider different aspects of EU financial support for SRHR. In this third GAP II report, the quantitative assessment of EU support for SRHR in 2018 was based on data from the

OECD creditor reporting system disbursement for 2016 and 2017, using the Muskoka and FP2020 methods, as well as aggregated results from the EU Results Framework (EU RF). A qualitative analysis was undertaken by reviewing External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) and the aggregated results from the EU RF.

In 2018, the Commission services for international cooperation and development committed EUR 1.86 billion to actions contributing to human development, representing 23.3 % of the total annual commitment. In addition to exceeding the 20 % target, this reflects a substantial increase compared to 2017 (EUR 1.48 billion, or 17.1 %) and 2016 (EUR 1.2 billion). This increase is also due to the refinement of the reporting methodology in 2017, following the introduction of the OECD-DAC CRS code on violence against women (15180). As a result, programmes on combatting gender-based violence were reported under the human development sector, rather than the health sector.

Overall, the EU's financial disbursement for maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) in 2018 was EUR 350.8 million, calculated using the Muskoka methodology. This was considerably lower than EUR 469.4 million in 2017 and EUR 477 million in 2016. Disbursements in line with the Muskoka family planning subset methodology totalled EUR 29.6 million, compared to EUR 58.9 million in 2017 and EUR 43.1 million in 2016. The figures below illustrate the budgetary disbursements during the 2016-2018 period, according to the Muskoka methodology for MNCH and the family planning tracking methodology. The two methodologies should not be seen as complementary, as the family planning disbursement is a subset of overall MNCH expenditure.

Commission services provided a grant of EUR 28 million to WHO for 2016-2018 to support the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Partnership programme, undertaken in collaboration with Luxembourg and Ireland. The programme contributed to improving donor coordination and aid effectiveness, while strengthening health systems in 28 partner countries. It supported countries to reach their universal health coverage targets, including targets related to SRHR. By the end of 2018, the programme was poised for an advanced stage of expansion, most notably in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Extensions will involve regional initiatives that support priority actions in over 100 countries in five regions, encompassing EUR 118.5 million for the 2019-2023 period.

Commission services also contributed two grants to the UNFPA Supplies Trust Fund, worth a total of EUR 45 million for the 2016-2020 period. These contributions helped to improve access to SRHR, including family planning, in 46 largely low-income countries by financing efforts to strengthen national capacities and systems, including in-country supply chains. In 2018, commodities procured by the UNFPA Supplies programmes prevented 10.4 million unintended pregnancies, 25,000 maternal deaths, 157,000 child deaths and 3.2 million unsafe abortions. They saved USD 620 million in healthcare costs and provided 38.2 million years of protection to couples around the world.<sup>79</sup>

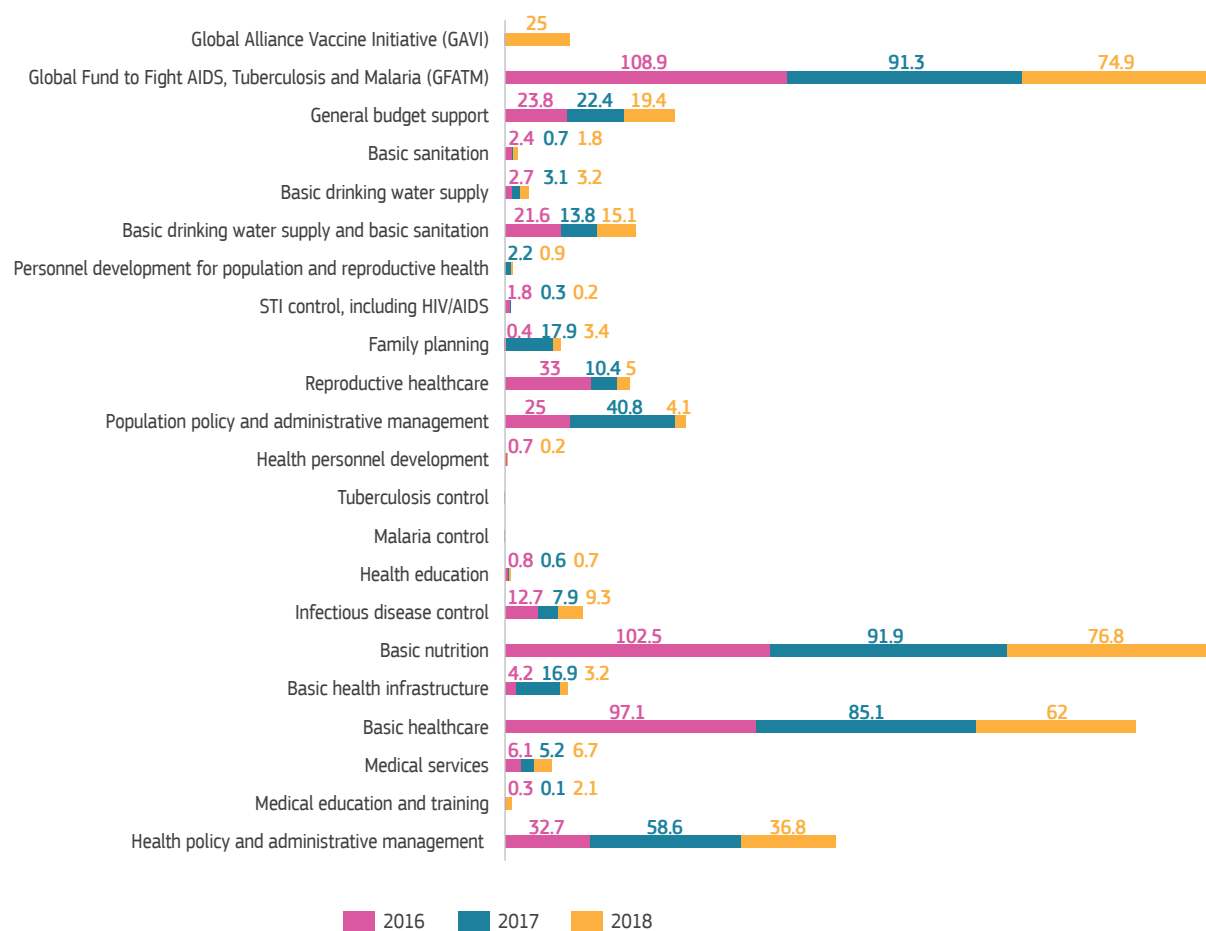
In November 2018, the Commissioner responsible for international cooperation and development pledged EUR 26.5 million in support of the World Bank Global Financing Facility, which will contribute to innovative measures that bridge the financing gap and improve health outcomes for women, children and adolescents.

Each year, the European Commission provides an estimated EUR 200 million to support humanitarian health programmes that include sexual and reproductive health services, in line with the health policy of the Commission services for humanitarian aid and civil protection. In 2018 under its health programming, the European Commission allocated nearly EUR 41 million to reproductive health and the medical response to sexual and gender-based violence.

79 Provisional information from UNFPA's draft annual report (unpublished).

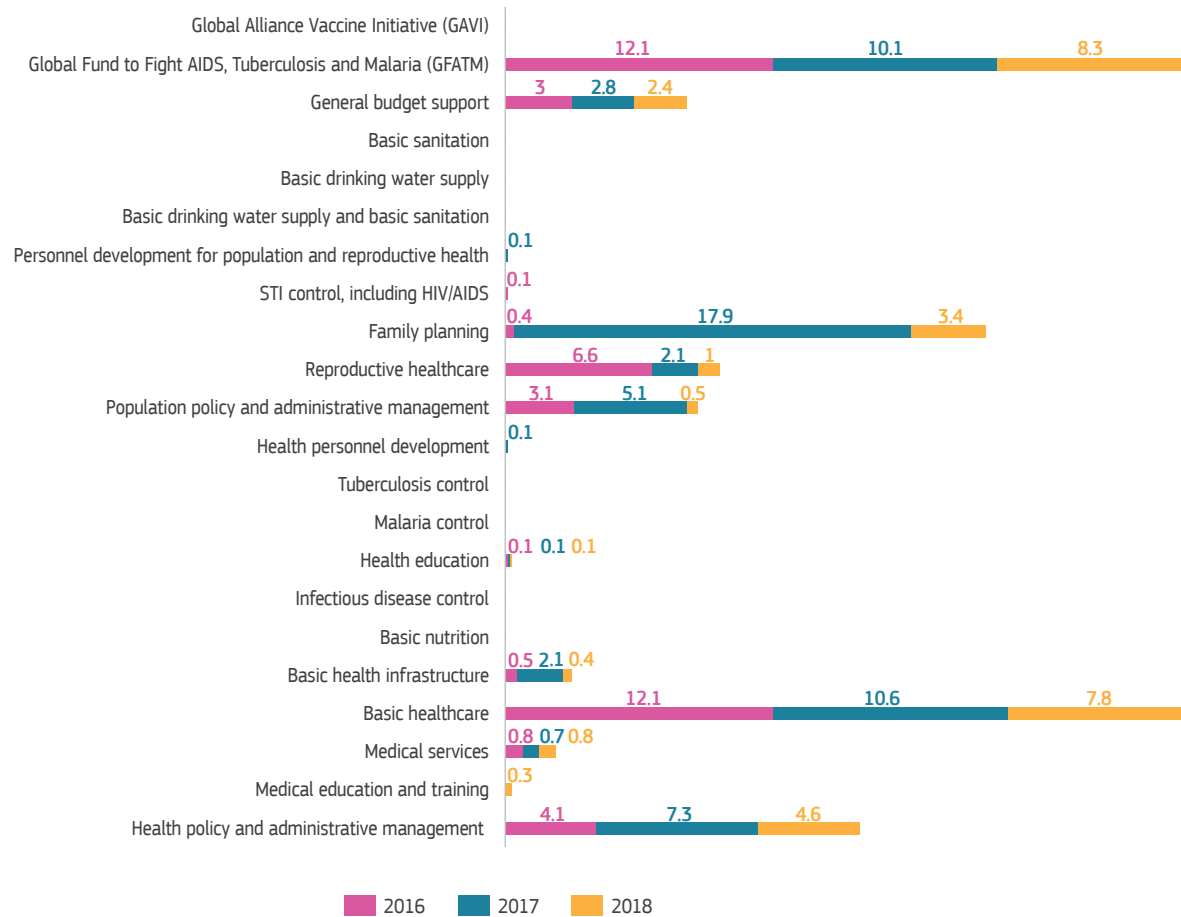
Annex 5 Figure 2:

Disbursement for maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH), 2016-2018 (EUR million)



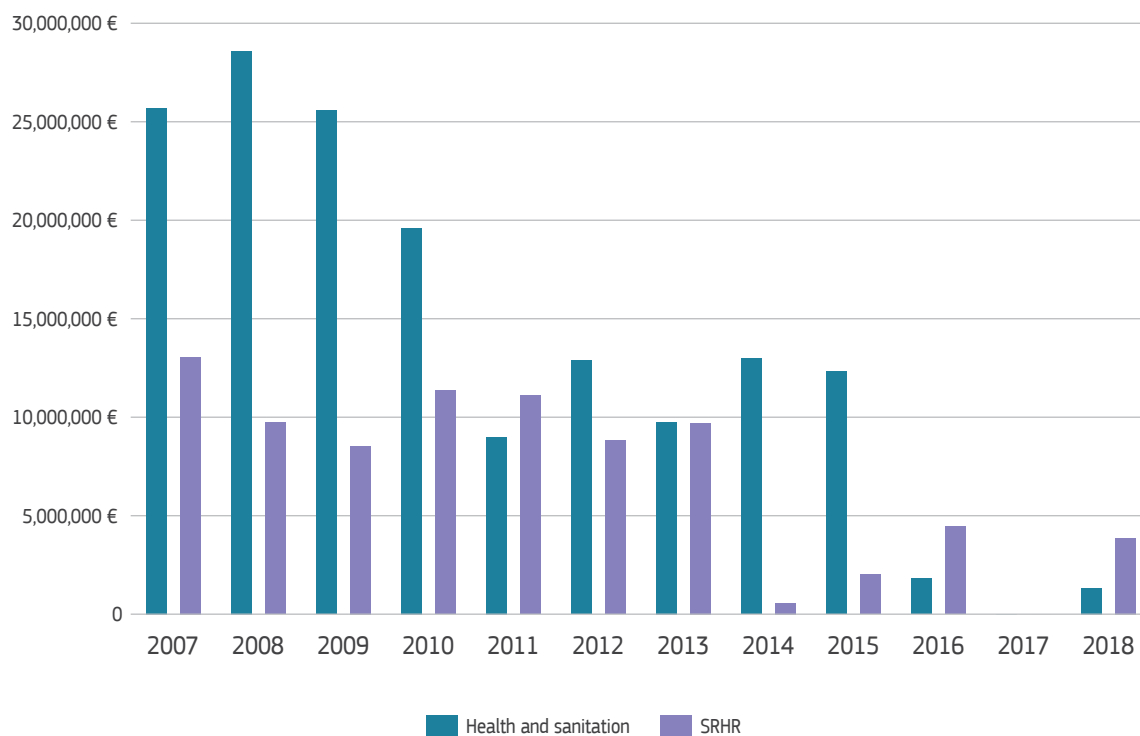
Annex 5 Figure 3:

## Disbursement for family planning, 2016-2018 (EUR million)



Annex 5 Figure 4:

EU CSO-LA programmes – Total amount contracted for health and SRHR by decision and year, 2007-2018



In 2018, the European Commission funded six programmes by civil society organisations, with a total budget of EUR 3.87 million. Two of these programmes were encoded as 'family planning' and 'reproductive healthcare' initiatives. The other four include SRHR components under other sector codes, such as human rights, basic healthcare, democratic participation and civil society, and ending violence against women.

Annex 5 Figure 5:

EU CSO-LA programmes – Regional distribution of health and SRHR contracts  
(number of contracts by decision and programming period), 2007-2018



Through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) 2014-2020, six programmes contributed to SRHR in 2018, with a budget of EUR 1.542 million. These programmes were implemented by civil society organisations to address child marriage in Cameroon and the Dominican Republic; the protection for single mothers and children born out of wedlock in Sudan; the rights of transgender people in China; access to services in Madagascar; and initiatives in the framework of fighting corruption in the health sector in Mauritania.

The regional distribution of projects and funding for the 2007-2018 period reveals that most contracts related to health and SRHR were implemented in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, followed by Asia, Latin America, the EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Europe. Of the SRHR contracts awarded under the CSO-LA programme in 2018, seven were concentrated in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mauritius and Sierra Leone) and one in the Solomon Islands.

## Select SRHR results and good practices

The EU Results Framework provides the aggregated results of EU-funded programmes over selected indicators in 100 partner countries on an annual basis. In line with the priorities of the new Consensus on Development, the EU RF was reviewed in 2017-2018 to harmonise indicators between sectors and optimise the number of indicators included. As a result, some health sector indicators were discontinued. With EU support in 2018, 2.86 million women of reproductive age and children under five-years-old benefitted from nutrition-related programmes and 13.85 million women of reproductive age used modern contraceptive methods. The examples below illustrate the EU's ongoing contributions to SRHR around the world.

### *Annex 5 Box 2: UNFPA Supplies programme*

The UNFPA Supplies programme is a multi-donor trust fund which has been managed by UNFPA since 2007. Its overall objective is to increase the availability and utilisation of reproductive health commodities in support of reproductive and sexual health services, including family planning, especially for poor and marginalised women and girls in 46 low and low-middle income countries.

The EU has prioritised improved access to essential health commodities, and sexual and reproductive health services, in its Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2020. As such, the UNFPA Supplies programme was provided with EUR 20 million for 2016-2017, and EUR 25 million for 2018-2020, to advance universal access to reproductive health. Various EU Member States support the UNFPA Supplies programme. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands are its largest donors, followed by the EU and Denmark. The European Commission is an active member of the programme's Steering Committee and its recently-established Donor Accountability Council. These fora provide ample opportunity for EU actors take an active role in strategic decision-making and shaping the approach for ensuring global commodity security beyond the current programme.

In 2018 as a result of the contraceptives procured by the UNFPA Supplies programme, the family planning needs of 38.2 million couples were met. Through the commodities it provided during the year, the programme's impact was significant: potentially averting an estimated 10.4 million unintended pregnancies, 25,000 maternal deaths, 157,000 newborn deaths and 3.2 million unsafe abortions. These contraceptives had saved families and countries USD 620 million in direct healthcare costs in 2018 alone.

The programme's appraisals reveal that its approach works best in countries with established policy and programming related to reproductive health, including maternal health. Strong government support and a functional health system at the community-level have facilitated vast improvements in reproductive health commodity security.

### *Annex 5 Box 3: Health General Guidelines*

The European Commission's Health General Guidelines set out the parameters of the EU's humanitarian health assistance, particularly the view that sexual and reproductive health services should be integrated into primary healthcare, rather than being a standalone programme. Sexual and reproductive health is almost always included as a part of the 'Basic Package of Health Services' (BPHS), a package of interventions designed to meet the most important health needs of all segments of the population at the community, primary healthcare facility and, at times, hospital levels.

The guidelines and their technical annexes also refer to the Minimum Initial Service Package of reproductive health in crises (MISP), a series of crucial actions required to respond to reproductive health needs during the onset of any humanitarian crisis.

### *Annex 5 Box 4: 'Being a girl is a right' project in Cameroon*

In June 2018, the 'Being a girl is a right' project in Cameroon was launched to contribute to reducing gender-based violence and harmful socio-cultural practices, such as sexual harassment and child marriage.<sup>80</sup> Funded through the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights programme, the initiative is implemented by the Association pour la promotion du développement local (APDEL) and its partners, who support community youth groups in neighbourhoods, villages and schools.

The partners defined the project's baseline through an initial analysis that engaged 418 people in local communities, identifying high rates of sexual harassment and child marriage. One-third of young people reported that a family member was married before the age of 18 during the past 12 months, and that they themselves had been subject to repeated unwanted sexual overtures. Two-thirds of the youths surveyed admitted that they feel unsafe as a result of sexual harassment.



To date, the project has trained 100 young people on human rights, child rights, child marriage and sexual harassment. 'Animation techniques' were used to sensitise youths on behavioural change and mechanisms of care. The trained group will, in turn, reach out to another 250 young people, engaging them as awareness raising agents on child marriage in their communities, and on sexual harassment in schools.

*Annex 5 Box 5: Creating an enabling environment for young people to claim SRHR in Bangladesh*

The project, 'Creating an enabling environment for young people to claim and access their sexual and reproductive health rights in Bangladesh', supports the Government of Bangladesh to improve SRHR, with a focus on young people – in line with the objectives of its National Action Plan (NAP). Funded in the framework of the Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Thematic Programme (CSO-LA) of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) 2014-2020, the project's implementing partners are Plan International and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA).

The project encompasses capacity building and technical advisory initiatives to strengthen the capacities of local and district government to translate the NAP into action, while strengthening public sexual and reproductive health services for youth. In 2018, the project enhanced trainers' and peer educators' education skills and advocacy techniques, while providing them with comprehensive sexual education (CSE) and life skill education (LSE). It also developed age-appropriate information education communication (IEC) materials and a SRHR module for the public teachers training curriculum. The initiative established a technical advisory group with relevant ministry officials and other development organisations.

Throughout 2018, the project consolidated important results. Access to sexual and reproductive health information and services improved for young people in the target areas. As a result, they are increasingly more able to take informed decisions to curb child marriages, adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. National and local governments' capacities and use of resources to implement the NAP has increased, while more accessible, inclusive and youth-friendly quality health services are available at local health facilities. Moreover, the project has contributed to empowering civil society organisations to advocate for SRHR and youth-friendly health services.

## Annex 6. Summary table of promising practices on the GAP II's implementation

This annex contains a list of promising practices included in the GAP II's 2018 Annual Implementation Report, which illustrate the work of EU actors around the globe to advance the GAP II's priorities and objectives. A description of each example is included in the core report, within Part 2 on the GAP II's 'Institutional Culture Shift' priority, and Part 3 on the GAP II's three thematic priorities.

For most of the examples included in this annex, interviews were carried out with the EU actors that financed or implemented the actions. These provide a glimpse into the scope of the work, partnerships, methodologies and the transformative effect of the results. The promising practices were selected using the action databases of the reporting EU Delegations and EU Member States in the partner countries, as well as EU Member States. This is in line with Council Conclusions 14027/18 of 26 November 2018, which state: *"Keeping in mind the GAP II report's objective to monitor the implementation of the Gender Action Plan by all EU actors on a yearly basis, the Council welcomes the (inclusion of) qualitative data in the next reporting phase."*

Overall, 1,817 actions were indicated as promising practices. Of these, approximately 50 were selected for follow-up through an interview, for inclusion in the report. These included 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 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 practices for inclusion in the report was made based on the basis of agreed criteria – which included attention to regional division – related to the GAP II's thematic priorities and objectives, sectors and modalities, among other factors. For details on the criteria used, see Annex 1.

Many more examples of promising practices collected through the reporting process are included in Annexes 2 and 3. These are not referenced in the table below.

### Institutional Culture Shift

#### Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development

Title of the action	Start year	Region	Country/ countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
Gender and religion at the European Development Days 2018	2018	Europe	Global	6	Religion and partnerships	17

### Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

#### Commission services

Title of the action	Start year	Region	Country/ countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
EU-UN Spotlight Initiative	2017	Global	Multi-country	7	Violence against women and girls	24
Support to the 'Sinjar Action Fund' in Iraq	2018	Gulf States	Iraq	7-12	Reconstruction	26
Support to Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo	2018	West and Central Africa	Democratic Republic of Congo	7-12	Health	26

### EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries

Title of the action	Start year	Region	Country/countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
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	2016	Global	Azerbaijan EU Delegation	7	Son preference and gender-biased sex selection	32-33
Respect Rural Women	2018	Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Bosnia and Herzegovina EU Delegation	7	Women's organisations and violence against women and girls	33
Más información, menos violencia: prevención y erradicación de violencia de género, en especial femicidio	2016	Latin America and the Caribbean	Ecuador EU Delegation	7, 9	Violence against women and girls, and femicide	30-31
Inside Justice: Ensuring Formal Justice Sector Responsibility and Accountability to Redress Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) against Women and Girls in Sri Lanka	2017	Asia and the Pacific	Sri Lanka and the Maldives EU Delegation	7	Justice	31
Support for the prevention of, and coordinated intervention of the police in, the effective treatment of gender violence in Mauritania	2017	West and Central Africa	Mauritania EU Member State (Spain)	7	Justice and the police	37

### EU Member States

Title of the action	EU Member State	Start Year	Region	Country/countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
Integrated WASH, food security and gender and protection response	Belgium	2018	West and Central Africa	Democratic Republic of Congo	10	Water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food security	35
Muskoka Fund	France	2011	East and Southern Africa	Multi-country	10	Physical and psychological integrity	36
Innovation in maternal health services in Mongolia: from pilot to institutionalisation. Telemedicine Project Exit Phase (2017/2018), UNFPA	Luxembourg	2017	Asia and the Pacific	Mongolia	10	Health	36
Psychosocial Intervention Services for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Asylum Seekers	Malta	2018	Europe	Malta	7, 9, 10	Refugees and violence against women and girls	36-37
ComVoMujer: Combatting Violence Against women and girls in Latin America	Germany	2009	Americas	Multi-country	7	Violence against women and girls	37
WE DECIDE: Programa de fortalecimiento de políticas de inclusión social, género y prevención de la violencia sexual para poblaciones en situación de vulnerabilidad, con énfasis en el ámbito de la discapacidad	Spain	2018	Global	Multi-country	7	Women and persons with disabilities, civil society, violence against women and girls/gender-based violence	38

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

### EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries

Title of the action	Start year	Region	Country/ countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
DITERCU: Right to the Land in the Cunene	2017	East and Southern Africa	Angola EU Delegation	15	Land rights	44
LandCam: Securing land and resource rights and improving governance in forest areas of Cameroon	2017	West and Central Africa	Cameroon EU Delegation	15	Land rights and governance	44
Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Tanzania	2018	East and Southern Africa	Tanzania EU Delegation	16	Energy	44-45
OIKKO: Women's Economic Empowerment	2015	Asia and the Pacific	Bangladesh	14	Women's rights	45-46
Trade Related Assistance for Mongolia (TRAM)	2017	Asia and the Pacific	Mongolia EU Delegation	14, 15	Trade	46
Towards Resilience and Social Inclusion of Adolescents and Young People in Libya	2016	Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Libya EU Delegation	13	Youth and social inclusion	48
Capacity Building in Primary and Secondary Education: Improve the quality and equality of the education system	2017	Gulf	Iraq EU Delegation	13	Education	46-47

### EU Member States

Title of the action	EU Member State	Start year	Region	Country	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
Strengthening Resilience of Crisis-Affected Communities in Rakhine State	Czech Republic	2018	Asia and the Pacific	Myanmar	14	Vocational education and training, and employment	49-50
Optimisation of conventional and unconventional irrigation for rural development and activation of women and youth in Palestine	Poland	2018	Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Palestine	14	Rural development and irrigation	50
Improve women's skills in autonomously running and managing business	Lithuania	2018	Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Azerbaijan	13, 14	Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)	50-51

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

### Commission services

Title of the action	Start year	Region	Country/countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
EU INTER PARES – Parliaments in Partnership	2018	Global	Multi-country	17	Women and politics	52
Ms President	2018	East and Southern Africa	Kenya	17	Women's empowerment and participation	53

### EU Delegations and EU Member States in partner countries

Title of the action	Start year	Region	Country/countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
Building Peace and Enhancing Human Rights in 16 Yemeni Governorates	2017	Gulf States	Yemen EU Delegation	18	Peace and human rights	60
Budget Support to Police Reform in the Republic of Moldova	2016	Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Moldova EU Delegation	17	Justice and the police	61
Women's Dialogue in Atareb	2018	Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Syria EU Delegation	19	Violence against women and girls, civil society organisations	61-62
Fortalecer los procesos de Transversalidad del principio de Igualdad en la Administración Pública Salvadoreña	2018	Americas	El Salvador EU Member State (Spain)	19	Public administration and gender equality	58
A Sexual Culture of Justice: Strengthening LGBTIQ and GBV partnerships, capacity and efficacy to promote and protect rights in Trinidad and Tobago	2017	Americas	Trinidad and Tobago EU Delegation	18	Justice	58
EU and CSO join forces in Madagascar for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building	2017	East and Southern Africa	Madagascar EU Delegation	20	Disaster risk reduction and resilience	55
Somalia Social Contract: Contributing to state building and inclusive politics in Somalia	2018	East and Southern Africa	Somalia EU Delegation	17	Governance	56
Aide budgétaire Genre (avenant à l'appui budgétaire bonne gouvernance)	2018	West and Central Africa	Burkina Faso EU Delegation	17	Governance	56
SHE Leads: community-based activism, response and empowerment to prevent and respond to GBV	2018	West and Central Africa	Liberia EU Delegation and EU Member State (Ireland)	19	Activism and violence against women and girls	56-57
Strengthening civil society to protect and promote social, economic and cultural rights of ethnic communities in Bokeo province	2016	Asia and the Pacific	Lao People's Democratic Republic EU Delegation	19	Civil society organisations	59
Partnership to improve service delivery through strengthened Public Finance Management and Oversight	2017	Asia and the Pacific	Timor-Leste EU Delegation	17	Public finance management and services	60

## EU Member States

Title of the action	EU Member State	Start year	Region	Country/countries	GAP II objective(s)	Key theme(s)	Page in the core report
Ge.Mai.Sa 2: Enhancing gender mainstreaming for sustainable rural development and food security programme	Italy	2018	Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia	14, 17, 19	Women's empowerment, rural development and food security	62-63
Empowerment and Accountability research	United Kingdom	2016	Global	Multi-country	18	Women's collective action	63
Implementation of Latvia's Development Cooperation Guidelines 2016-2020	Latvia	2016	Global	Multi-country		Gender mainstreaming	64
Leading from the South (LFS) programme (2017-2020)	The Netherlands	2017	Global	Multi-country	18	Civil society organisations	64
Women's Rights in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe	Portugal	2018	West and Central Africa	Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe	18	Women's rights	65







