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ANNEX IV

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Bangladesh for 2023

Action Document for Strengthening Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the public and workplace in Bangladesh

ANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Strengthening Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the public and workplace in Bangladesh OPSYS number: ACT- 61770 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The Action shall be carried out in Bangladesh
4. Programming document	Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Bangladesh 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	This Action responds to the Specific Objective 1 of Priority Area 3 of the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Bangladesh – ‘Inclusive Governance’: ‘Women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence in the public sphere and in the work place’.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	151 - Ending violence against women and girls
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 5 Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation Other significant SDGs and where appropriate, targets: - SDG 10: Reduced inequalities - SDG 16: Peace, Justice and strong institutions - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build

	effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels			
8 a) DAC code(s)	15180- Ending violence against women and girls – 100%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society - 20000 Multilateral organisation – 40000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital entrepreneurship		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 (NDICI South and East Asia) Total estimated cost: EUR 10 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 10 million.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through grants Indirect management with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.4.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Bangladesh is internationally recognised for its solid progress in reducing the gender gap and has positively experienced an increased participation of women in education and employment in recent years. This has, in turn, led to increased mobility in the public sphere and, as a result, increased exposure to multiple forms of discrimination, including violence and harassment. The rates of gender-based violence (GBV) remain high in Bangladesh, and have aggravated since the COVID-19 crisis, with a three-fold increase in cases of GBV between 2020 and 2021. As a result, sexual assault is today the most reported source of violence over time, accounting for at least 3 in 5 reported incidents.¹ Despite the high prevalence of GBV across the country, most of the cases are unreported: more than 70% of women who experienced violence never told anyone, and only 2.6% reported to the competent authorities.² In addition, the conviction rate in the Nari-O-Shishu Courts (courts specialised in crimes against children and women) stands at 0.5%, which shows that perpetrators are rarely held to account.³

In this context, and in line with the 2019 ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, the proposed Action will contribute to **strengthening both prevention and response to GBV in the public and workplace in Bangladesh**, through a gender transformative approach to promote change in social attitudes. The expected impact is greater participation of women in educational institutions and workplaces leading thus to an increased contribution of women to economic development, reduction in poverty and overall socio-economic growth.

There are three key result areas for this Action:

- (1) To strengthen an enabling policy and institutional environment for improved gender-response governance;
- (2) To improve access to survivor-centred services for survivors of violence; and

¹ Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). Available at: <http://peaceobservatory-cgs.org/#/>

² Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2016. Report on Violence Against Women Survey 2015. Dhaka, Bangladesh. Available at: <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/vaw%20survey/bangladesh%20vaw%20survey%202015.pdf?vs=2125>

³ 2018 Bangladesh Justice Audit. Available at: <https://bangladesh.justiceaudit.org/>

(3) To contribute to transforme harmful social and gender norms.

Under its first component, the proposed Action will contribute to the effective implementation of the 2009 High Court Directive on sexual harassment and the formulation of appropriate laws to address GBV in the public and workplace, in particular the Sexual Harassment Act pending for adoption since 2010. It will also advocate for gender-responsive budgeting, by working with elected officials at Union, Upazilla and District level. In addition, the Action will aim at repealing discriminatory provisions from the existing laws in accordance with the Rape Law Reform Coalition’s 10 point demands.

Under the second component, the Action will work to improve the access to integrated support by strengthening the local government’s referral linkages with multisectorial essential services, in line with the ‘Essential Service Package’⁴. The Action will also engage with local police and in particular the Bangladesh Police Women Network. This would translate into increased safety of women and increased confidence of women to report incidents, easy availability of support services to report and deal with incidents.

Finally, under the third component, the Action will aim at raising behaviour change awareness and understanding of GBV, including among men and boys. It will strengthen the capacities of 400 RMG factories, 450 secondary schools, 10 universities and the transport sector to prevent, report and respond to GBV, in areas where GBV and sexual harassment rate is comparatively higher. It will contribute to greater understanding and more support for victims and survivors.

Overall, the Action will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and, in particular, SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 16 (effective, accountable and inclusive institutions). Additionally, it applies the Leaving No One Behind Principle underpinning the SDGs by including strategic interventions to improve inclusion of services for women with disabilities and other groups living in vulnerable situations who experience sexual harassment. The Action is also aligned with the **EU Gender Action Plan III 2021 – 2025 to achieve a gender-equal world, in particular the thematic area of engagement ‘Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence’**.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

During the last decade, **Bangladesh has witnessed a remarkable economic and infrastructural growth**, with significant progress in human development⁵ and on poverty and inequality reduction (with a Gini Index of 32.4), which made it to graduate from its status of Least Development Country (LDC), with a delayed effect as of 2026.⁶ In the field of gender equality, Bangladesh is internationally recognised for its **solid progress in reducing the gender gap** and has positively experienced an increased participation of women in education and employment⁷ in recent years. In 2022, Bangladesh led regional performance with over 69% of its gender gap closed and consolidated its position as the top performer in the South Asian region and ahead of all other countries in Asia. In Bangladesh, women hold 20.9% of parliamentary seats, 50.6% of women have reached at least a secondary level of education⁸ and female participation in the labour market stands at 34.9%, which is higher than the South Asia average of 23.6%.⁹

⁴ The Essential Services Package is a guidance tool identifying the essential services to be provided to all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence, prepared by UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP & UNODC.

⁵ Its gross national income per capita increased by about 252% between 1990 and 2021. Human Development Report data centre, Bangladesh. Available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/BGD>

⁶ The country is in the medium human development category and ranks 129 out of 191 countries and territories with an HDI of 0.661.4.

⁷ World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2022. Bangladesh ranks 71st among 153 countries and first among seven South Asia countries. The GGGR ranks countries based on their progress towards closing the gender gap across four thematic dimensions: (i) Economic participation and opportunity, (ii) Educational attainment, (iii) Health and survival, and (iv) Political empowerment.

⁸ Girls’ education has been prioritised for the last two decades. Gender parity in access to education in both primary and secondary levels was achieved well ahead as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

⁹ Human Development Report 2021/2022, Table 5, page 29.

Bangladesh has signed most of the UN conventions related to women’s human rights. This includes the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which the country ratified in 1984. The Constitution recognises equal rights for women and men in the public sphere and there is a comprehensive legal and policy framework guaranteeing women’s rights. The Prime Minister has declared Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment as one of the ten priority action areas, and Bangladesh has taken multipronged actions to achieve this goal. In its journey to a middle-income country, Bangladesh prioritises, as outlined in its 8th Five Year Plan, improving women’s human capabilities, increasing women’s economic participation and security, enhancing women’s voice, and creating an enabling environment for women’s advancement.

However, **despite these efforts and positive trends, the rapid economic growth has exacerbated patterns of marginalisation, especially among women.** With a female-to-male HDI ratio of 0.898, the Gender Development Index (GDI) shows low equality in HDI achievements between women and men.¹⁰ Inequality gaps persist in labour markets, and in particular, regarding women’s participation and representation in high-levels of decision making, women’s participation in the formal economy and the persistent wage gap between women and men in most sectors. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down progress, resulting in a reversal of some development gains. The pandemic has impacted women more than men, emphasised pre-existing social and economic vulnerabilities and posed new challenges to social cohesion. In fact, Bangladesh has experienced in 2022 a decline in overall gender parity, as reflected in a lower gender gap score and index ranking compared to 2021. The change is the result of lower country performance on ‘educational attainment’ as well as on the ‘economic participation and opportunity’ sub-index, with a reduction in women’s workforce participation of 5.45% points. Gross national income per capita for Bangladeshi women stands at USD 2,811, compared to USD 8,176 for men. In the 2022 World Bank’s Women, Business and the Law index, which measures a country’s legal and regulatory framework to promote women’s participation and representation in economic life, Bangladesh gets a score of 49.4 out of 100. The overall score for Bangladesh is lower than the regional average observed across South Asia (63.7).¹¹

In addition, **GBV is another major barrier to gender equality.** GBV remains highly prevalent in the country and Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriages worldwide, with 59% of girls marrying below the age of 18 and 22% below the age of 15.¹² A survey in 2015 by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BSS) found that almost two thirds of women experienced violence at least once in their lifetime.¹³ A 2021 WHO report analysing violence against women in 61 countries between the years 2000 and 2018 found that Bangladesh has become one of the top-ranking countries in domestic GBV. In 2013, the Government of Bangladesh approved the Domestic Violence Act. The legislation aims to prevent domestic violence, which was until then considered a private matter, protect women and children from domestic violence, and establish equal rights for women and children. However, the Law has only been implemented so far in four districts due to the lack of budget allocated for its implementation.

Besides domestic violence, other forms of violence include violence towards domestic workers, rape, acid violence, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence and punishment by Salish (mediation). As a response, the Government of Bangladesh started implementing in 2000 the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (MSPVAW), in partnership with Denmark, and developed a comprehensive National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2013 - 2030 (revised in 2018 to extend the Action Plan until 2030) with the aim to achieve “a society without violence against women and children by 2025”. CEDAW Concluding Observations to the 8th Periodic review in 2016 still highlighted concerns related to legal reform, women’s access to justice, tackling harmful social norms and stereotypes, and strengthening the gender-responsiveness of law enforcement and judiciary. Further, the Government has yet to allocate a budget to the

¹⁰ Human Development Report 2021/2022, Table 4, page 288

¹¹ The WB index covers 190 economies and is structured around the life cycle of a working woman. 100 represents the highest possible score. Available at:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/36945/9781464818172.pdf?sequence=13&isAllowed=y>

¹² [Girls Not Brides, Bangladesh](#)

¹³ Report on violence against women (VAW) 2015. Available at: <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/vaw%20survey/bangladesh%20vaw%20survey%202015.pdf?vs=2125>

National Action Plan on Prevention of Violence against Women and Children (NAPVAWC) and its Monitoring and Evaluation framework awaits approval.

2.2 Problem Analysis

High prevalence of GBV is acute in public spaces, workplaces and at education institutions of Bangladesh.

Sexual assault is today the most reported source of violence over time in Bangladesh, accounting for at least 3 in 5 reported incidents.¹⁴ Recent studies conducted by Care and Karmajibi Nari have shown that about 84.7% RMG woman workers reported experiencing verbal harassment, while 71.3% mental harassment, 20% physical harassment, 12.7% sexual harassment, and 52% experienced physical harassment from supervisors. At educational institutions, around 74% female students in Bangladesh face violence and harassment according to a study conducted by Plan International.

In 2010, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court issued guidelines to prevent sexual harassment at the public and work place and stated that any kind of physical, mental or sexual harassment of women and girls at their work, educational and public places, including roads, was a criminal offence, punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. In 2018, the High Court issued another judgment on rape and sexual violence, where it prohibited the ‘two finger test’ on rape survivors to determine the occurrence of rape. It also provided guidelines on conducting medico-legal tests on rape victims and the responsibilities of the police in supporting victims. In 2022, the Amendment of Evidence Bill repealed the provisions that allowed questioning about the character of a rape survivor during cross-examinations in court and included a provision allowing the submission of digital evidence before a court.

Despite these steps, **discriminatory laws and provisions remain in the national legislation**, such as different definitions of a ‘girl child’ and ‘boy child’ in various acts, and **monitoring and implementation remain insufficient**. The formation of complaints committees and the installation of complaints boxes at educational institutions and workplaces as directed by the High Court has rarely been enforced. This often prevents girls and women from attending schools or work. As per the directives of the High Court and the Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee in 2016, a comprehensive law on Sexual harassment was drafted in 2010, but has been pending for adoption.

In addition, **national and local institutions lack capacities in mainstreaming gender and GBV prevention and response**. The Beijing+25 review and the CEDAW Committee in its Concluding Observations (2016) recommended strengthening gender-responsive financing as a tool to advance gender equality and emphasised the importance of fortifying the institutional capacity of the National Women Machinery.¹⁵ Further, the gender focal points/desks of different Ministries and Divisions have a weak institutional capacity in terms of their ability to design and implement programmes.¹⁶ Moreover, VAW Committees¹⁷ or NNPCs at district and upazila levels are largely not functional or not sufficiently functional, and no activities are tabled in the field to prevent violence against women and girls.¹⁸

There is also a clear lack of capacities to implement and monitor gender-responsive budgeting, which limits the efficient use of national resource allocation for GBV prevention. Regarding Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB), it has been found that the existing mechanism is not yet fully functional as several ministries effectively lack the capacity to conduct gender-responsive planning, which affects resource allocation, including for GBV prevention. There is also an absence of systematic monitoring for the GRB allocation/expenditure by the Ministry of Finance. At the Upazila Parishads, 3% of the annual budget is required to be allocated for women’s

¹⁴ Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO): <http://peaceobservatory-cgs.org/#/>

¹⁵ Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/8) as cited in UN Women Bangladesh Strategic Note 2022-2025

¹⁶ Voluntary National Reviews 2020 Bangladesh (VNR 2020) “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” as cited in UN Women Bangladesh Strategic Note 2022-2025

¹⁷ MOWCA issued a circular to form/reform *Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Protirodh Committees* (NNPC) in every District, Sub-District and Union. The aims of the committees are to support the central violence against women and children prevention cell of the country, to combat violence against women and girls, and prevent child marriage in the country.

¹⁸ UN Women Assessment on the Effectiveness of the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Protirodh Committees (NNPC)

development. However, a joint UN programme's baseline survey of 8 Upazilas in 2021 found that some Upazila Parishads were only allocating 1% of their annual budgets for women's development¹⁹.

On **access to services**, through its multi-sectoral programme on Violence Against Women led by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), thirteen One-Stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) have been established in hospitals to provide integrated services (health care, police assistance, DNA test, social services, legal assistance, psychosocial counselling and shelter services). This means that the majority of GBV survivors living outside metropolitan cities, in the Upazilas and in rural areas, often face challenges in accessing services. In addition, 67 One-Stop Crisis Cells have been established 47 districts and 20 Upazilas and offer primary health care, police and legal assistance. However, these **state-provided essential services packages for GBV survivors are yet inaccessible to many women** due to their strict eligibility requirements (e.g. court rule required, children not allowed, or male children above a certain age). **Capacity deficits are also limiting their functionality**, mainly due to lack of funding, knowledge and skilled service providers. Also, referral systems and coordination among service providers are inefficient and ineffective.

Finally, CEDAW Concluding Observations highlighted that **attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes** about the roles and responsibilities of women and men are persistent in the family and in society. Bangladesh has so far made limited efforts to eliminate such stereotypes, which constitute serious barriers to women's equal enjoyment of their human rights and their equal participation in all spheres of their life. In fact, more than 70% of women who experienced violence never told anyone and only 2.6% reported to the competent authorities.²⁰

This is also due to a widespread **culture of impunity in Bangladesh**, with a 0,5% conviction rate in the Nari-O-Shishu Courts (courts specialised in crimes against children and women)²¹. Women and girls remain silent because of stigma, fear of re-victimization, lack of trust in service providers and obstruction by community people. Perpetrators of gender-based violence are rarely held to account in Bangladesh. According to data provided by the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women, of the over 11,000 women who filed legal cases through one of the Government's One-Stop Crisis Centers for women and girls, only 160 saw a successful conviction. These figures show the barriers that women and girls faced in Bangladesh in seeking legal recourse through the criminal justice system. Insufficient evidence from weak police investigations is also considered as one of the key reasons for low convictions rates.

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

- As Duty-bearers:
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) and its Department of Women Affairs (DWA): this is in Bangladesh the ministry responsible for the formulation of policies to advance women's rights and gender mainstreaming across all government, and key stakeholder for the Action. MoWCA is mandated to implement national policy and ensuring social rights of the women and children and ensure prevention and response to GBV. The Action will aim at strengthening their institutional arrangement and capacities to address GBV. Given the importance of employing local governance and participation strategies, the project will also work closely with local government institutions, officers and elected officials and council members (including DCO, District Council, UNO, Upazila Parishad, Union parishad) to build capacities on gender-responsive budgeting, and sexual harassment and other forms of violence prevention; especially in making the local Violence Against Women committees functional and effective. Moreover, the partnership will ensure collaboration and coordination among GBV service providers, especially with police at local level.
- Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA): MoLJPA is the lead ministry for administration of justice, and drafting, scrutiny and provide opinion on laws, acts, regulations and technical amendment of laws. To advocate for legislative policy and law changes and enacting the Sexual Harassment Act, the

¹⁹ Baseline and Local Economic Assessment Survey of WING, 2021 by Disaster Management Watch (DM Watch) on behalf of UN Women.

²⁰ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2016. Report on Violence Against Women Survey 2015. Dhaka, Bangladesh. <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/vaw%20survey/bangladesh%20vaw%20survey%202015.pdf?vs=2125>

²¹ 2018 Bangladesh Justice Audit. Available at: <https://bangladesh.justiceaudit.org/>

partnership with MoLJHPA is essential. MoWCA will lead on advocacy with the MoLJPA for the enactment of the Sexual Harassment Act in close collaboration with the CSO and WROs under the Action.

- University Grants Commission and selected University administrations: UGC is responsible for formulating higher education policy to upgrade the qualities of tertiary level educational system, improve governance issues, and promote innovative research and development in Bangladesh. The partnership with UGC and selected universities will expand on the campus-based prevention mechanism to inform, educate and mobilise students, teachers and university administrations to make campus free of sexual harassment in line with the High Court Directive 2009. The Action will strengthen the monitoring mechanism, adapt behaviour changing initiative for administrative staff as well as students, teachers and other officials through the Action.
- Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA): under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Bridges, the BRTA has a mandate to ensure sound road transport management and road safety in the transport sector. The Action will engage with the BRTA and local (district, upazila and union) level transport authorities to determine ways of enhancing women's safety and security in public spaces, especially in the transports. One aspect of the engagements will be to sensitise the transport authorities and actors about high rate of sexual harassment in the transports and improve redressal mechanism, behaviour changing campaigns at the local and national level for community and mass awareness raising.
- As Rights-holder:
- Media: media, including social media, plays critical role in changing social norms and behaviours among mass. With an aim to raise awareness and transformative changes in behaviour and social norms, the partnership with media will ensure reporting of GBV incidents are gender responsive and survivors' centred.
- Women Rights Organization and CSOs, including Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs): The majority of CSOs, and WROs effort to eliminate GBV have so far focused largely on raising awareness and provision of services. Civil society efforts to prevent GBV have usually been singular attempts lacking the breadth that is needed to create social change. The Action will support the CSOs to expand their repertoire of evidence-based and evidence-producing interventions, enhancing their capacity to design comprehensive approaches to prevention of GBV. The already existing advocacy networks will be supported to reach a wider network of CSOs and women's rights advocates.
- The committees on prevention of violence against women, called 'Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Protirodh Committee' (NNPC): these were expected to be established in every district, upazila and union level based on the official circular issued by MoWCA in 2014. The Union committees are headed by Union Parishad Chairperson, while the District and Upazila Committees are headed by the Deputy Commissioner and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) respectively. Their role is to support the central committee under MoWCA to combat GBV and prevent child marriage in the country by raising awareness at the community level on GBV, holding monthly meetings, collecting data on violence against women and children and coordinating with service providers who support survivors of violence. In terms of actual implementation, there are significant gaps regarding the realistic scope of the committees and their operational process. The committee members are not actively involved in implementing the mandated activities and there is a lack of accountability within the system. In addition, the members are not knowledgeable about the responsibilities of the committees.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this Action is to **strengthen the prevention and the response to gender-based violence at the public and workplace.**

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this Action are as follows:

- **Outcome 1:** To strengthen an enabling policy and institutional environment for improved gender-response governance.
- **Outcome 2:** To improve the access to survivor-centred and equitable essential GBV services for survivors of violence.
- **Outcome 3:** To contribute to transform harmful social and gender norms and stereotypes that perpetuate gender inequality and GBV.

The expected outputs to be delivered by this Action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

For Outcome 1

- **Output 1.1:** National government institutions and their subdivisional administrative offices have strengthened policy and institutional capacities to address GBV;
- **Output 1.2:** Local government institutions (i.e., DCO, District Council, UNO, Upazila Parishad, Union Parishad) have increased capacities on gender-responsive budgeting and GBV prevention;
- **Output 1.3:** Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) have increased capacities to advocate for GBV and sexual harassment related laws and other policies.

For Outcome 2

- **Output 2.1:** Coordination mechanisms between state and non-state service providers are strengthened at district, upazila and union levels to deliver services;
- **Output 2.2:** Institutional capacities of police, including the Bangladesh Police Women Network, are improved to provide gender responsive and survivor centred policing services, including to women with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

For Outcome 3

- **Output 3.1:** Universities and secondary schools administration, teachers and students have increased capacities to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and transform social norms;
- **Output 3.2:** Workplaces have strengthened prevention, protection and referral services on sexual harassment
- **Output 3.3:** Women's Rights Organisations have increased knowledge and skills to design and implement prevention strategies and to engage with media, transport sector, and local government.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Outcome 1

Indicative activities relating to **Output 1.1**

- 1.1.1. Develop partnership with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) to increase capacities of the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) offices and DWA District Officers to monitor GBV incidents, conduct sensitisation, monitoring and supervision, as well as to coordinate GBV prevention efforts.
- 1.1.2. Conduct advocacy with Ministry of Public Administration and Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives to develop and implement guidelines for implementing gender-responsive budgeting in the Districts and upazila and addressing sexual harassment in the Government offices to comply with the 2009 High Court Directive.
- 1.1.3. Orient relevant agencies e.g., Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) on how to address sexual harassment in public transport and other public spaces.

Indicative activities relating to **Output 1.2:**

- 1.2.1. Capacity development for improved sexual harassment prevention and response at the workplace with DCO, UNO, Upazila and Union Parishads, including for effective budget allocation for GBV and ensuring that the Violence Against Women Committees (the Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committees-NNPC) are functional.
- 1.2.2. Form and train a resource pool of trainers from local government institutions and ministry focal persons to conduct capacity development on gender responsive budgeting, implementing and monitoring GBV related policies, addressing GBV in public spaces and workplaces, and improving the referral mechanism for services,

including for women and girls with disabilities who experience violence and other vulnerable groups of women.

- 1.2.3. Strengthen capacities of Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committees in the district, upazila and union levels to improve their functioning.
- 1.2.4. Strengthen leadership of the Women Development Forum at district and upazila level and of women Vice Chairs of upazila and union parishads to champion GBV prevention and response within their roles in the local government and to advocate for gender-responsive budgeting.

Indicative Activities relating to **Output 1.3:**

- 1.3.1. Support women's rights organisations to develop and implement a multi-sectoral advocacy plan at the national level to increase legal protection for women against sexual harassment and sexual violence, and to improve GBV prevention and response.
- 1.3.2. Convene and support a national prevention forum and build the forum's capacities on effective GBV prevention strategies based on global evidence on what works to prevent GBV

Outcome 2

Indicative Activities relating to **Output 2.1:**

- 2.2.1. Conduct capacity building for local government, CSOs (other non-gender-focused NGOs and associations), WROs, and youth-based organisations in project districts, to increase women's access to SH and SV related services in line with the UN 'Essential Services Package'.
- 2.2.2. Facilitate trainings with service providers, including the police, on strengthening GBV coordination based on the UN 'Essential Services Package' Module on Coordination and Governance of Coordination (Module 5)

Indicative Activities relating to **Output 2.2:**

- 2.1.1. Support Bangladesh Police to review and strengthen training curricula for new police recruits based on the Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, including sessions on disability sensitisation.
- 2.1.2. Develop and deliver new training modules and online courses to target in-service officers, including front line, service desk staff, investigators, police station commanders and senior officers on gender-responsive policing and supporting women and girls with disabilities and other vulnerable groups who experience violence.
- 2.1.3. Build the capacity and empower the Bangladesh Police Women Network (BPWN) to advocate for women's representation in the police and for institutional improvements in gender-responsive policing.

Outcome 3

Indicative Activities relating to **Output 3.1:**

- 3.1.1. Support the University Grants Commission (UGC) to monitor the implementation of the 2009 High Court Directive on Sexual Harassment and implement the 'Whole of School' approach in selected universities to address on sexual harassment (SH) and sexual violence (SV) in universities.
- 3.1.2. Develop and conduct trainings for teachers and students on peer education, becoming active bystanders, preventing GBV in universities and challenging harmful social and gender norms.
- 3.1.3. Develop and pilot tools to analyse and measure shifts on social and gender norms.
- 3.1.4. Develop a GBV prevention action plan for schools.

Indicative Activities relating to **Output 3.2:**

- 3.2.1. Conduct a study on Return on Investment to develop the business case for RMG.
- 3.2.2. Support the establishment of Sexual Harassment Prevention Committees and strengthen the capacity of managers, supervisors, and human resource personnel in the RMG factories.

Indicative Activities relating to **Output 3.3:**

- 3.2.1. Conduct capacity building for WROs on advocating for better GBV prevention and response—engaging with media, transport sector, and local government, and on implementing social and gender norm change interventions.
- 3.2.2. Facilitate joint awareness-raising and learning sessions in collaboration with organisations for persons with disabilities (OPDs) and other CSOs representing marginalised groups on how to support women and girls with disabilities and other vulnerable women who experience violence.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G2. This implies gender equality is the principal objective. The Action aims to strengthen the prevention and the response to sexual harassment and sexual violence in public spaces, workplace and tertiary education institutions, including through contributing to transforming harmful social and gender norms that perpetuate gender inequality. In that sense, the Action is aligned with the priorities of the EU Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025, in particular “Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence” and “Women, Peace and Security” agenda. It is also in line with EU priorities on promoting gender-responsive budgeting and funding women’s rights organisations. The Action will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and, in particular, SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 16 (effective, accountable and inclusive institutions).

Human Rights

GBV is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. The prevention and response components of the Action includes mutually reinforcing strategic approaches that strengthen the accountability and capacities of duty bearers to better prevent and respond to sexual harassment, while building capacities of women’s rights organisations, education institutions and media to advocate for stronger legal protection for women and improved implementation of laws and policies on GBV. The Action will apply the human rights based approach. By doing so, the proposed Action will aim at strengthening the respect, protection and fulfilment of women’s human rights.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that disability is a significant objective. The intersectionality of gender with other forms of discrimination will be addressed, by including and providing gender responsive services to women and girls with disabilities who experience violence. Additionally, organisations for persons with disabilities (OPDs), especially those led by women with disabilities (WWD) will be engaged in the Action to conduct joint activities with other WROs and youth based organisations.

Reduction of inequalities

The action applies the leaving No One Behind Principle (LNOB) underpinning the SDGs by including strategic interventions to improve inclusion of the most marginalised groups of women—particularly, women survivors of sexual harassment, women with disabilities and other vulnerable groups who experience violence. Given that GBV

is caused by, and exacerbates, gender inequalities, the Action directly works on reducing inequalities that disadvantage various groups of women through primary prevention (preventing GBV before it occurs), and secondary prevention (immediate response and provision of gender responsive policing services. This in turn empowers women to claim their rights, access opportunities and participate in public sphere.

Democracy

The Action is expected to empower women which could in turn provide the basis for their more active participation in society. The current Action will contribute to democracy through capacity building of local authorities and communities to understand women’s rights and promote community-base protection. The Action will also work with local CSOs and NGOs to strengthen the role of civil society in both prevention and response to GBV.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by disasters and threats. Due to gender-specific barriers and inequalities, women experience higher loss of lives and livelihoods during disasters and a longer recovery time. Across the board, from life expectancy to education, housing, health, safety, job security, and nutrition, women and girls are impacted more severely than men. Yet, women are largely excluded from shaping disaster risk reduction and resilience policy, strategies, and programmes. This Action targets climate vulnerable areas to address gender inequality issues.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Gender inequality is a root cause and driver of conflict and fragility. In this sense, the Action contributes to the resilience of Bangladeshi society by addressing gender inequalities and by contributing to women’s empowerment.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Weak capacity of MoWCA for inter-ministerial coordination and inform cross-government action	High	Medium	UN Women is supporting MoWCA in building the ministry’s technical expertise to position them as a strong lead on gender equality within GoB. Further, the Action will include training on improving Coordination and Governance of Coordination mechanisms for local government actors.
External environment	Underreporting of GBV due to lack of systematic and comprehensive data	Medium	Medium	UNFPA intends to provide technical support to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to carry out a survey on GBV in 2023. However, goB may decide to publish the report only after the elections in January 2024.
External environment	Barriers to change	Medium	High	Social norms, power imbalances and discrimination prevent progress in eliminating GBV. Key components of the

				Action should include the identification of the root causes of GBV, the barriers to change and drivers of change, as well the identification of a series of mutually reinforcing strategic approaches that should be implemented together to affect change.
External environment	Lack of Government budget to ensure proper implementation of policies and laws.	High	High	Support to a Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning will be considered in the Action.

Lessons Learnt:

- Need to provide institutional support to Government partners, especially MoWCA, for the sustainability of the Action: The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is responsible for advancing women's rights and gender mainstreaming across all government departments. However, the Ministry has a vaguely defined mandate, weak institutional structure and lacks the necessary human, technical and financial resources to effectively promote women's rights and gender equality. Building MoWCA's capacity must be enshrined in the Action.
- Support to a comprehensive legislative framework on GBV is not sufficient if not coupled with support to a gender responsive budgeting, which is often lacking in Bangladesh: implementing commitments towards gender equality requires intentional measures to incorporate a gender perspective in planning and budgeting frameworks and concrete investment in addressing gender gaps.
- The persistent patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society are deeply engrained in the social mindset and often constitute a concrete barrier to women's equal enjoyment of their rights. Addressing discriminatory stereotypes by raising awareness about women's rights and gender equality among young people and adults, at education institutions, as well as the media, is necessary. In this sense, a key component of the action should include the identification of the root causes of GBV, the barriers and the drivers of change, as well as the identification of a series of mutually reinforcing strategic approaches that should be implemented together to affect change.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

If: (1) An enabling policy and institutional environment to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence at workplaces and public spaces is strengthened, **If** (2) access to survivor-centred and inclusive policing services for survivors of violence are improved, **If** (3) harmful social and gender norms are transformed.

then: the prevention of, and the response to, gender-based violence (GBV) in public spaces, workplace and tertiary education institutions will be strengthened in three districts of Bangladesh.

This is BECAUSE the action will contribute to the effective implementation of existing sexual harassment and sexual violence related laws at workplaces and public spaces—made possible by strengthening gender-responsive budgeting, and by improving gender responsive policing and coordination among government and non-government service providers. Further, the Action will increase awareness and gender norm change by engaging men and boys and strengthening the capacities of women’s rights and youth-based organisations, media, as well as private and public institutions (universities, government workplaces, secondary schools, transport sector) to better prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence.

The main underlying assumption in this theory of change is that the Government of Bangladesh remains committed to improving the prevention and response to sexual harassment and sexual violence in line with the GBV related objectives of Bangladesh’s 8th National Five-Year Plan 2020 – 2025.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

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

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

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (e): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (e): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen the prevention and the response to GBV at the public and workplace in Bangladesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of women and girls who report feeling or/and experiencing increased safety in work and public spheres (including mobility) (GAP III key outcome indicators) Number of individuals benefiting from EU-funded programmes to counter gender-based violence (EURF).** Percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence (SDG 5.2.2) ** 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> TBD TBD 72,6% (BSS VAW Survey 2015) 	<p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p>	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	To strengthen enabling policy and institutional environment to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence at workplaces and public spaces	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extent to which legislation and/or policy has been developed, strengthened and implemented (GAPIII) Extent to which women civil society organisations working on violence against women and girls have been engaged on policy development and / or implementation of the action (FPI RF) (GAPIII) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the Sexual Harassment Act 1 legislative change by CSO led coalition (17 organisations under the Rape Law Coalition effectively advocated for 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> By 2027 legislative changes by CSO led coalition 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PMO adoption records Intervention Evaluation Framework 	The GoB remains committed to improving the prevention and response to GBV

			a change in Evidence Act			
Outcome 2	To improve the access to survivor-centred and equitable essential GBV services for survivors of violence	<p>2.1 Percentage of woman workers with increased both knowledge and confidence on the reporting mechanism to report sexual harassment and GBV in workplaces</p> <p>2.2 Extent to which all relevant state actors -such as police, justice sector, social services and health care actors- coordinate actions to end gender-based violence (GAP III)</p>	TBD	TBD	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	
Outcome 3	To contribute to transform harmful social and gender norms and stereotypes that perpetuate gender inequality and GBV	<p>3.1. Percentage of women/ men and girls/boys who acknowledge that gender-based violence is not acceptable (adapted from GAP III)</p> <p>3.2. Existence of accessible and accountable school mechanisms and systems to take action on reported cases of school related gender-based violence (adapted from GAP III)</p>	TBD	TBD	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	Output 1.1. National government institutions and their subdivisional administrative offices have strengthened policy and	1.1.1. Existence of multistakeholder initiatives in place to prevent and respond to sexual violence including sexual	Coordination mechanism of services providers not in place in project districts	Coordination mechanism of services providers in place in	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	National government bodies will be receptive to improve

	institutional capacities to address GBV	harassment in public and/or private spaces		project districts		prevention and response to GBV in public spaces
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	Output 1.2: Local government institutions (i.e., DCO, District Council, UNO, Upazila Parishad, Union Parishad) have increased capacities on gender-responsive budgeting and GBV prevention;	1.2.1. Number of partners with capacities to apply Gender Responsive Budgeting tools in the budget cycle	0	3 (district level governance institutions)	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	Local government institutions in project districts are receptive to receiving trainings on gender, GBV prevention, and gender responsive budgeting
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	Output 1.3: Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) have increased capacities to advocate for GBV and sexual harassment related laws and other policies.	1.3.1. Number of coordinated actions by women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant civil society organisations in partner country to advocate jointly on ending violence against women and girls (S1 6.1)**	0	10	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	National government bodies will be receptive to coordinating and collaborating with WROs on strengthening national legal and policy frameworks including on GBV prevention in public spaces
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	Output 2.1: Coordination mechanisms between state and non-state service providers are strengthened at district, upazila and union levels to deliver services	2.1.1. Number of institutions supported to develop and/or implement guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures to strengthen	0	3 (in each project district)	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	

		EVAWG services in line with the global Essential Services Package				
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	Output 2.2: Institutional capacities of police, including the Bangladesh Police Women Network, are improved to provide gender responsive and survivor centred policing services, including to women with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.	2.2.1. Number of women and men police officers engaged on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence	0	500	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	Output 3.1: Universities and secondary schools administration, teachers and students have increased capacities to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and transform social norms;	3.1.1. Percentage of targeted institutions have functional mechanisms/action plans in place to address sexual harassment incidents	TBD	10 universities and 450 secondary schools	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	Administration staff is proactive in sustaining standards and procedures to create a harassment and violence free environment for women
Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	Output 3.2: Workplaces have strengthened prevention, protection and referral services on sexual harassment	3.2.1. Number of targeted workplaces have functional mechanisms/action plans in place to address sexual harassment incidents	TBD	400	Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the intervention	Management at work places are proactive in sustaining standards and procedures to create a harassment and violence free environment for women
Output 3 relating to Outcome 3	Output 3.3: Women's Rights Organisations have increased knowledge and skills to	3.3.1. Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefiting from (or reached	0	3	Baseline and endline studies conducted and	CSOs are interested and able to acquire knowledge

	design and implement prevention strategies and to engage with media, transport sector, and local government.	by) EU support (EU RF) (GAP III)**			budgeted by the intervention	
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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this Action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of Bangladesh.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this Action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

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

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component [For Budget Support only]

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures²².

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant will contribute to achieving of Specific Objective/Outcome 3 - to contribute to change social norms and gender stereotypes perpetuating gender inequality and GBV of the Action and their related outputs as described in section 3.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Applicants should be legal persons, national or international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or civil society organisations (CSO).

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined in section 4.4.4 below.

4.4.2 Direct Management (Prize(s))

N/A

4.4.3 Direct Management (Procurement)

N/A

4.4.4 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this Action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (a) recognised and solid expertise in gender equality and GBV, (b) close connection with relevant Ministries (e.g. with leadership role in the Local Consultative Group Women and Gender Equality, a forum bringing together Government and development partners) and (c) a conveyor role among the donor community in Bangladesh.

The implementation by this entity entails strengthening an enabling policy and institutional environment to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence at workplaces and public spaces (Specific objective/Outcome 1) and improving the access to survivor-centred and equitable essential GBV services for survivors of violence (Specific Objective /Outcome 2).

4.4.5 Indirect Management with the Partner Country

N/A

4.4.6 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If part of the action cannot be implemented in indirect management due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the direct management modality will be used instead (grants and/or procurement) to contribute to achieving Specific Objectives 1 and 2 of the Action. The indicative global budgetary envelope for this would be 4.800.000 EUR.

The type of applicant should fall under the European Union's broad description of Civil Society Organisations/Non Governmental Organisations or an international organisation that is not pillar assessed.

If direct management (grants) is not possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control the indirect management option will be used to contribute to achieving objective 3. The criteria for selecting implementation entity/ies would be the follow:

- Expertise in understanding the local context and dynamics of GBV, including knowledge of various forms of violence, root causes, risk factors, and the impact on survivors.
- Familiarity with national and international legal frameworks related to GBV in Bangladesh.
- Expertise in conducting capacity assessments and designing training programs on GBV for various stakeholders, including government officials and community leaders.
- Knowledge of community mobilization techniques, including raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and promoting community ownership.

The indicative global budgetary envelope for this would be 4.800.000 EUR

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Specific Objectives/Outcome 1 and 2	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.4.4	4 800 000
Specific Objective/Outcome 3	

Direct management (Grant) - cf. section 4.4.1	4 800 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	400 000
Totals	10 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The entrusted entities will implement the project. The entrusted entities will be responsible for development partner coordination, joint administration of the resources allocated by development partners, the mobilisation of additional resources and project assurance.

The project will be governed by a project steering committee (PSC) whose composition will be further established and which will include the EU, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders. The steering committee will meet at least twice a year to review progress against indicators, review the ongoing work plan and coordinate responses to issues identified in implementation.

A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) will also be established, with the participation of the implementing partners and EU. Thematic and technical monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the Action will be entrusted to the PIC. This body will meet at least quarterly, and *ad hoc* meetings will be organised whenever necessary. The detailed composition of the PIC and PSC will be defined during the inception phase.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partners together with the relevant Ministries are to provide a decentralised M&E system which appears simple and practicable. The implementing partners will conduct baseline, midline and endline surveys/reports in close cooperation with the EU. Furthermore, the EU will conduct regularly fields Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) missions. The project formulation mission will further refine the performance

monitoring system as well as its indicators (see Logframe). As BSS is expected to produce a survey in 2024 on GBV, collected data will need to be taken into account in the logframe.

Monitoring and reporting will assess the implementation of the human rights-based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring and reporting will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age and disability when applicable. In order to monitor development and equal access, data/indicators will be disaggregated even further when applicable (e.g. by minority group). As the Action aims at addressing inequality-reduction, the monitoring should provide the understanding of whether and how the intervention facilitates changes in the drivers of inequality.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the Action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

A final or ex-post evaluation is envisaged for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), in particular to assess the EU support to gender equality in Bangladesh, and to understand the extent to which the combined interventions contribute to change in identified drivers of sexual harassment. The evaluation can also assess whether the applied models and approaches can be scaled and made sustainable.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation mission. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities. The evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

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

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the

Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention²³ (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

Please delete this box before submitting the document

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention is defined in the related Action Document and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

- Tick in the left side column one of the four possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.
- In the case of 'Group of actions' level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.
- In the case of 'Contract level' and 'Group of contracts', add the reference(s) to the corresponding budgetary items in point 4.6, Indicative Budget.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSY#):
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Contribution agreement with an entrusted entity 4.8M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Grant 4.8M

²³ For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including 'Action' and 'Intervention' where an 'Action' is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission financing Decision and 'Intervention' is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).

	(...)	
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	