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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the individual measure in favour of Venezuela for 2022

Action Document for strengthening resilience through community participation and protection of human rights

ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and individual measure in the sense of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Strengthening resilience through community participation and protection of human rights CRIS number: NDICI LA/2022/043-799/OPSYS: ACT-61044 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 Venezuela.
4. Programming document	The Americas and the Caribbean: Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	* protect and promote human rights, human dignity and inclusion; * support to community resilience, strengthening sustainable access to basic services, local productive capacities/income generation, supporting the fight against the environmental degradation caused by the extractive industries and promoting sustainable socio-economic management of natural resources.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	151 - Government & Civil Society-general 160 - Other Social Infrastructure & Services
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 10 "Reduce inequalities" Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 1 No Poverty

¹ C(2021) 9356, 13.12.2021

	SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 13: Climate Action SDG 5: Gender Equality			
8 a) DAC code(s) ²	15160 - Human rights – 37.5% 16050 - Multisector aid for basic social services – 62.5%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	21000 - International NGO 20000 - Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society 41000 - United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN)			
9. Targets³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" 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 ⁴ (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

² DAC sectors (codes and descriptions) are indicated in the first and fourth columns of the tab 'purpose codes' in the following document: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dac-anders-codelists.htm>

³ Actual contribution to targets will be confirmed ex-post based on a standardised methodology.

⁴ For guidance, see <https://www.oecd.org/development/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/> (go to "Data collection and resources for reporters", select Addendum 2, annexes 18 (policy) and 19 (Rio) of the reporting directive).

If an action is marked in the DAC form as contributing to one of the general policy objectives or to RIO principles as a principal objective or a significant objective, then this should be reflected in the logframe matrix (in the results chain and/or indicators).

	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	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: BGUE-B2022-14.020140 (EUR 8 000 000) Total estimated cost: EUR 8 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 8 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing⁵	Direct management through: - Grants Indirect management with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, Venezuela has no country Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP). Venezuela will however be supported under the regional programmes and the thematic programmes in the areas of civil society and human rights. The “Americas and the Caribbean Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027” (Regional MIP) foresees support to transformative bottom-up and nascent democratic processes in Venezuela, by strengthening the social fabric and promoting the re-establishment of confidence and dialogue at local and community level. The Regional MIP identifies three main priorities for EU support in Venezuela: (i) protecting and promoting human rights, human dignity and inclusion, (ii) promoting civic values, conflict prevention and resolution, and democratic participation, and (iii) support to community resilience, strengthening sustainable access to basic services, local productive capacities/income generation, and promoting sustainable socio-economic management of natural

⁵ Art. 27 NDICI

resources. The Regional MIP also foresees addressing migration from Venezuela. The Commission's pledge in the context of the "International Conference for Solidarity with Venezuelan Migrants" (June 2021), included EUR 8 million from the Regional MIP, from the 2022 budget, for actions inside Venezuela.

In order to cover priority areas (i) and (iii) above, AAP2022 proposes a support package focusing on:

- i. Contributing to protecting and promoting human rights through continued support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- ii. Support to community resilience by promoting citizen engagement at community level around the prioritisation and rehabilitation/management of basic services.

The **first component** of the Action will provide further support to the country presence of the OHCHR Office and will thus aim to contribute to human rights promotion and protection, and to strengthening civil society resilience and counteracting some of the main restrictions on civic and democratic space. Through the Action, OHCHR will continue its work of documenting attacks against civil society and human rights defenders, allowing the Office to continue to provide regular updates on the situation of defenders and journalists. OHCHR will also monitor and report on the level of respect for public freedoms and political rights including in the framework of electoral processes that will take place throughout the upcoming years.

The **second component** of the Action aims at strengthening community resilience by promoting citizen engagement at community level around the prioritisation and rehabilitation/management of basic services. This component will seek to identify at community level, in a participatory and inclusive manner (citizens, private sector and local authorities where possible), basic services to be rehabilitated and could also provide (limited) funding for their renovation.

Complementary measures financed by thematic programmes on support to Human Rights and Democracy and Civil Society Organisations, will also cover the priority area (i) and (ii) of the Regional MIP (see below).

This Action is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Consensus for Development, the EU's Human Rights Country Strategy and the Gender Action Plan. The Action will contribute to SDG 10 Reduce inequalities, SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 5: Gender.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

Since the 2015 parliamentary elections, disregard of the rule of law by the Maduro administration gained speed, civic space has progressively closed and democratic processes have virtually disappeared. The 2018 Presidential elections took place without complying with the minimal international standards and they were therefore not recognised by the EU and a large part of the international community, giving rise to the creation of two competing executive branches. Since then, the situation has evolved with the appointment in May 2021 of a more balanced National Electoral Council (CNE) and the decision in September 2021 by the mainstream opposition to return to the electoral arena and participate in the 21 November 2021 local and regional elections. In order to build on a possible window of opportunity to start a gradual process of re-institutionalisation of the country, the EU sent an Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the 21 November elections. While acknowledging these elections as the first electoral process since 2015 that saw participation of the majority of opposition political parties, and improved electoral conditions compared to previous elections, the EOM also highlighted structural deficiencies and concluded that the lack of legal certainty and independence of the judiciary, non-adherence to the rule of law together with some media legislation, compromised the level playing field and the fairness and transparency of elections.

In January 2022, Venezuela underwent its examination in the framework of the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. Recommendations from the majority of the countries which took the floor asked Venezuela to cease criminalisation, harassment, threats and intimidation against political opponents, dissidents, HRDs, and journalists, to restore the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and the rule of law, and to strengthen the cooperation with international bodies and mechanisms, including the OHCHR and the Fact Finding Mission.

The announcement late 2021 of the opening of an investigation by the International Criminal Court into alleged crimes against humanity under Maduro's rule as well as the suspension of the opposition-regime dialogue in Mexico following a Chavista frontman's extradition to the US are two other important events that will influence the path Venezuela is walking.

In more general terms, the Venezuelan State has progressively lost its capacity to control the territory, giving rise to an increased presence of armed groups spread out over large parts of the countries and in particular the border areas and the Orinoco mining belt. In terms of **economic performance, the downward spiral** which Venezuela has entered since 2014, continued and is reflected in extreme hyperinflation, pulverising domestic purchasing power and pushing over three quarters of its population into extreme poverty. Oil production has reached a historic low in over 70 years and state revenue depends largely on international oil prices (reaching a peak in March 2022 due to the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine). Although the economic crisis finds its roots in years of mismanagement and corruption, international restrictive measures applied to entire sectors have contributed to the further decline of industry and economic life. Various pragmatic responses of Maduro government (opening for imports and tax exemptions, *de facto* dollarization), are rapidly increasing economic and social inequalities, although they contribute to a misleading perception of mild economic recovery. It is true nonetheless that the political and economic spheres are evolving at a very different pace, with a transition happening in the latter but not in the former.

Above mentioned factors, and despite the recent (February 2022) announcement to increase the minimum monthly wage from about USD 2 to USD 29, the lack of good social practices, political and legal instability, inefficient management of resources and the defective administration of the State leads to **extreme poverty** which is **multidimensional** and directly related to indicators such as access to basic services, energy, health, education, standard of living, employment and housing. The lack of professional growth, the derisory payment for the activity performed, the usurpation of functions by the State to the organs of power and autonomous institutes of the country, the denied access to basic elementary services and precarious food, the deterioration of the primary, secondary and university education system, have been the repeated reasons expressed by the Venezuelan migrant population.

As a direct consequence, the lack of access to economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights in recent years has been a root cause of **migration** out of the country. Since 2014, over 6 million⁶ Venezuelans are estimated to have left the country. An increasing number of Venezuelans has been crossing into neighbouring countries through irregular routes since the easing of quarantine measures in the region, being exposed to lack of access to food, water, sexual, and reproductive health services, as well as violence (including sexual and gender violence), sexual and labour exploitation and abuse, and human trafficking, particularly for women and children. Since March 2020, thousands of Venezuelan migrants and refugees have lost their income and been evicted, leaving them homeless with limited financial resources due to the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown measures. Increased discrimination and xenophobic attitudes further limit their access to basic services. This has led thousands of Venezuelans to temporarily return to their country.

The EU has publicly expressed its concern about the political, economic and social situation in Venezuela and the deteriorating quality of life of Venezuelans and the weakening democracy in the country. In line, the 2021 EU EOM provided an impartial and independent assessment of the electoral process in Venezuela, which fits in the overall EU contribution to support efforts towards a peaceful and Venezuelan-led negotiated solution to the political and institutional crisis including credible,

⁶ According to the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

inclusive and transparent elections. The EU has and will continue to support civil society groups and international partners, to create spaces for dialogue, to monitor human rights and the improvement or rehabilitation of basic services. Thus, the EU intervention will take place in a sensitive political climate, with the clear objective of facilitating dialogue and inclusion of all parties involved. The action will **build on the EU's partnership with all Venezuelan stakeholders**, in coordination with EU Member States and other international partners and will contribute to promote dialogue, democracy, equality and the rule of law in the country. The EU intervention will thus complement the EU's political commitment to governance in the country.

This Action is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Consensus for Development, the EU's Human Rights Country Strategy and the Gender Action Plan. The Action will contribute to SDG 10 Reduce inequalities, SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy, SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 13 Climate Action and SDG 5 Gender, Equality and Women Empowerment.

The Action will continue to recognise the EU as a unique player working along a **Resilience and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** in Venezuela. The current protracted and complex nature of Venezuela's crisis re-enforces the importance of developing longer-term development interventions that complement humanitarian assistance as well as peacebuilding challenges. The action will support EU priorities in the areas of good governance and resilience with a special focus on strengthening human rights and improving access to basic services through community participation.

With this action, the EU continues and reaffirms its commitment to support the functioning and objectives of the OHCHR office in Venezuela. Given the absence of political dialogue between the EU and Venezuela, the relative isolation of Venezuela in the Organisation of American States and the consequent limited impact of the latter's human rights mechanisms in the country, coupled with the lack of access to justice, makes the OHCHR office the only significant international mechanism of protection for victims of human rights violations.

The EU's intervention will also strengthen relations with civil society and local communities in a context of transparency and dialogue. The action will therefore be an expression of the EU's political **commitment to civil society and local communities**, by increasing its capacity to fulfil its role of counter-weight to the current administration in the areas of democracy, rule of law and provision of basic services.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

During the 40th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Venezuela (25 January 2022), great concerns were expressed about the systematic and widespread **violations of human rights** in Venezuela, which led to the restrictions of the civic and democratic space. OHCHR has documented patterns of serious human rights violations, such as arbitrary detentions, torture and ill-treatment, sexual and gender-based violence, and extrajudicial executions in the context of security operations. OHCHR has also identified systemic issues that increasingly prevent the full realisation of fundamental freedoms and impair free participation in public life. These favour repressive action targeting the political opposition, a further shrinking of the democratic space, and curtailing of independent media.

Lack of independence of the justice system, including its public defence, contributes to preventing effective access to justice and remedies for the majority of victims of human rights violations. Few file complaints for fear of reprisals and lack of trust in the justice system. There is also an excessive use of pre-trial detention linked to judicial delays.

In spite of lack of trust in the justice system, victims, human rights defenders and organisations still wish to access justice mechanisms, even it is only to exhaust internal recourse mechanisms and be able to raise cases before international mechanisms.

Women are often at the forefront of the struggle for truth, justice and reparations, often in a hostile environment.

In spite of increase in the number of children with disabilities enrolled in special schools in 2016-2018, and the increase in the number of teachers and support staff in special education, accessibility issues in connection with educational institutions and public hospitals for persons with disabilities are reported by civil society.

Lack of regular and sufficient access to water, sanitation, health services (including sexual and reproductive rights), education and energy are a long-lasting challenge in many communities. Investments in public service infrastructure have been neglected due to a combination of mismanagement and the inability to import the supplies needed to ensure maintenance and operation. The public health system in general has limited capacity. This is due to a combination of factors, including shortages of medicines and supplies, lack of regular water and electricity and migration of health professionals. The entrenched political stalemate, reflected by the halted Mexico talks, in an international context of sanctions, is not currently facilitating a resolution of the complex economic and social crisis, and has led to the loss of faith in citizens in state institutions. This, added to economic instability and the mass exodus of Venezuelans, has weakened the social fabric. The local and community level is the space where the identification and implementation of small-scale solutions in basic services currently have the greatest chance of bearing fruit. This is where bottom-up transformation can be promoted and trust restored through dialogue on neutral issues of concern to the community as a whole, and the social fabric can be strengthened.

Regarding gender aspects related to the action, negative stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes adversely affect women in public and private media, and sexist and discriminatory language targeting women who had disagreed with the Government had been used in official media outlets. In addition, there is an absence of a legal framework for women's participation and gender parity, the discretionary actions of the National Electoral council, the absence of regulatory enforcement measures and the lack of visibility of the role played by women in elected office can be highlighted. As of February 2021, only 22.2% of seats in parliament were held by women.

In Venezuela, the **effects of the COVID-19** pandemic have continued to compound the protracted multi-dimensional crisis resulting into further insecurity, patchy supplies of running water and access to electricity and gasoline, loss of income and severely diminished food production capacity as well as physical and sexual violence against women. The social quarantine and the state of alarm imposed by the government as a response to the pandemic have led to an increase in the harassment and attacks against human rights defenders and against media and health professionals trying to report on the real extent of the pandemic and sanitary crisis in the country.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues to be covered by the action:

1. Civil Society active in Venezuela:

Main stakeholders of the Action are the Venezuelan civil society at large, working on a variety of issues throughout the country, including organisation representing people with disabilities and youth as well as women organisations, organisations with disabilities and other organisations representing more marginalised groups.

As regards operational capacity and constraints, civil society faces challenges in capacity, both on general issues linked to civil society resilience, alliance building and public advocacy and on specific issues of safety and security and working with international human rights mechanisms. Due to a complex number of issues and a criticism-averse Maduro government, civic space is very limited and there is no direct policy dialogue between civil society and the government. In some cases, in particular as regards human rights projects, civil society has become wearier to give too much visibility to donor (including EU) support, against the background of official discourse criminalising recipients of foreign funding as destabilising forces. The social quarantine in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has limited freedom of movement and gatherings. This, compounded with continued shortages of fuel and public services in particular outside Caracas, posed difficulties in

implementation of civil society activities. While international CSOs and UN agencies often have better financial capacity to implement projects, limited financial capacity remains a challenge especially for local CSOs, compounded to a large extent by the relatively small number of foreign donors. The legal framework for CSOs is extremely restrictive, and civil society sees their work constrained by administrative and normative restrictions, and some of its members face criminal procedures related to their work. At the same time, the failures of governance and weakness of state institutions and lack of public resources in particular at local level emphasises the importance of the work of local civil society not only in its role of monitoring of human rights violations and claiming rights, but also as providers of services at local level, such as food, water, sanitation, support to communities living in the most vulnerable situations, and preservation of the social fabric. The Action will also take into account the important role of Local Authorities in the management and delivery of social services, by including these institutions in the dialogue at local level.

The Civil society organisation will represent the voices of the rights holders in all their diversity: women, men, children, migrants, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, etc.

2. UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights:

The EU is the main donor to the country office of the OHCHR. As part of its mandate in the country, the OHCHR has established a mechanism of exchange of information with government authorities on cases of human rights violations, including individual cases. Through this mechanism, and through the various reports presented in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), the office acts as a bridge between civil society and the government on human rights issues. The High Commissioner's reports and interventions in UN fora on the human rights situation in Venezuela are also an important pressure mechanism on the Maduro government. OHCHR in Venezuela continued expanding its team and activities throughout 2021. In September 2021, an agreement was reached with the authorities to increase the team from 6 to 12 human rights officers, and to add new areas of cooperation. OHCHR continued strengthening civil society organisations and working closely with journalists and human rights defenders including through field missions to gather information from first-hand sources. OHCHR continues sharing concerns and alerts with relevant authorities through the mechanism on individual cases and situations of human rights. In terms of challenges OHCHR⁷ has to maintain the quality of its monitoring and reporting work with limited human resources, while balancing good relations with the government so that it can continue having access to the country, as well as continued impact of its work. While losing reporting mandates before the HRC due to the non-renewal of one of the HRC resolutions on Venezuela, OHCHR has to maintain the interest of the international community on the human rights situation in the country and keep ways to fully play its role of early warning and prevention.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to strengthen the social fabric and consolidate civic and democratic space in Venezuela.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are to

1. enhance effectiveness of civil society actors and organisations, including human rights defenders, representatives of marginalised groups, victims-survivors and their families

⁷ The cost of OHCHR's annual work programme amounts to USD 3,214,801 yearly for 2022 and 2023. OHCHR's budget is financed through both voluntary contributions and support from the regular budget through mandates of the Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/45/20, which ends in September 2022. Additional regular budget contribution will depend on the activities mandated by any eventual resolution(s) on Venezuela. The main voluntary contributions to the OHCHR country office come from the EU (EUR 1.9M for January 2020 – July 2022), Canada (USD 0.7M for 2021), Germany (USD 0.2M for 2021), Italy (USD 0.1M), the Netherlands (USD 0.3 M), Norway (USD 0.3 M), Spain (USD 0.1M), Switzerland (USD 0.03M).

and journalists in preventing violations of human rights and increase protection and access to justice (SO1);

2. improve access to basic services in a participatory and inclusive manner and based on dialogue processes at the local and community level so as to contribute to tackle one of the main drivers of migration (SO2).

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are

- 1.1 Increased capacity of civil society and human rights defenders in accessing justice and protection mechanisms (O1.1);
- 1.2 Increased capacity of OHCHR Office to document and analyse cases of attacks against HR (O1.2);
- 2.1 Improved and rehabilitated the basic services at the local community level in selected states so as to increase the resilience of the Venezuelan population and reduce its need to emigrate.
- 2.2 Strengthened dialogue and participation at community level in the rehabilitation of basic services and creation of livelihoods (O2.2).

3.2. Indicative Activities

Indicative activities related to Output 1.1:

- workshops with human rights defenders, journalists and civil society activists, on documentation of human rights violations including women's rights violations and violations of the rights of persons with disabilities, use of international human rights mechanisms, mechanisms for self-protection and security in the handling of information;
- technical assistance and support to NGOs and victims seeking access to justice, particularly women's associations (workshops and support exchange of experience, support and advice to victims' groups on how to make their cases visible and demand justice);
- exchange of information sessions between civil society organisations representing the population diversity and the special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council;
- workshops with media professionals on self-protection measures, protection against digital attacks on news platforms.

Indicative activities related to Output 1.2:

- recording, documenting and systematisation of cases of attacks against human rights defenders and journalists in Venezuela, and issues related to democratic space;
- meetings with authorities on individual cases of attacks against human rights defenders and journalists, as well as trends and patterns identified;
- follow up on the institutional response of the Office of the Attorney General, the Justice and the NHRI that has been given to the request for protection and investigation measures of emblematic cases of attacks against human rights defenders and journalists;
- preparation of confidential notes on human rights concerns to be shared with the Government as an early warning tool;
- advocacy activities with key authorities to promote the expansion of civic space;
- monitoring missions to states and regions throughout the country to document issues related to democratic space;
- technical support to the relevant authorities to address specific emblematic cases in which protection measures have been requested, and to share guidelines on investigation of human rights cases.

Activities for Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 will be implemented through grants and will be detailed at a later stage but may include:

Indicative activities related to Output 2.1:

- training workshops, with technical roundtables on sustainable and inclusive management of accessible water, sanitation, electricity, risk management and disaster risk reduction, solid waste, climate change and environmental impact on the community;
- communication and awareness campaigns on water and sanitation (WASH), solid waste, electricity and environmental management;
- mapping of local stakeholders, included grassroots youth organisations interested in the implementation of the action;
- development of community action plans for the creation, rehabilitation and/or installation of WASH services whose design is aligned with climate and economic resilience principles as well as environmental sustainability and accessibility;
- equal and inclusive provision of job training related to the rehabilitation of services (disaggregated by sex and age).

Indicative activities related to Output 2.2

- capacity training to social comptroller committees and local community members, including meetings to promote dialogue, methodologies and conflict resolution as well as youth and women's participation;
- awareness raising of the rights of people directly or indirectly affected by project interventions and related consultations;
- community dialogue roundtables, inclusive citizen participation and interaction mechanisms between the community and identified stakeholders;
- organisational strengthening and capacity building programs for better local governance in terms of community leadership, communication with citizens (women, men, youth and marginalised groups such as persons with disability among others) who participate in the dialogue spaces;
- training for community leaders and public officials on good practices in the management of services;
- awareness-raising campaign on non-discrimination, the right to work, gender equality and disability rights for officials of public service entities and private companies.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

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

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

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (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 OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1 and will be implemented in line the third EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) and CLIP for Venezuela. The action will respond to identified needs of women in the following areas of intervention: (a) women, men, girls and boys participate equally in policy development and decision-making; and (b) women and men involved enjoy improved participation and better access to jobs, work opportunities and alternative livelihoods in the economy. The activities financed under this action will:

- Each project must define its own gender strategy, gender action line within the objectives, verifiable indicators, and data of all final beneficiaries will be disaggregated by sex, age, ethnic group, current household location (municipality) and disability. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed in the identification, design and implementation of activities, as well as monitoring, evaluation and lessons learned processes.
- The beneficiaries of the action will include women and girls who are part of vulnerable groups such as indigenous, afro-descendants and women and girls with disabilities among others.
- The action will ensure equitable participation of women at all levels of implementation.
- As an activity, the generation of decent jobs is foreseen, which will ensure that women will have equal access, including women from marginalised groups.
- Establish a robust approach to gender mainstreaming into the action, to comply with both the European regulations, including the recently adopted Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment framework or GAPIII.

Human Rights

The first component of the action is specifically focused on promotion and protection of human rights, through support to the OHCHR in the country. Activities under this component will address both rights holders and duty bearers through capacity building of rights organisations, journalists, social movements, associations of victims of human rights violations, on human rights protection mechanisms. Also included is support for victims of human rights violations in accessing national and international accountability mechanisms; documentation and monitoring of human rights violations, and interaction of the OHCHR office with relevant state institutions on HR violations.

Women's rights organisations, organisations representing indigenous groups and other vulnerable groups are among the target groups of the OHCHR's work in Venezuela and will benefit from activities under this component.

As regards Component 2, both duty bearers and rights holders will be addressed through: establishment of dialogue mechanisms at community level on access to economic and social rights (water, sanitation etc.), awareness raising and capacity building of right holders on the status of access to basic services in their communities, obligations of duty bearers in provision of such services, mechanisms for claiming rights, and empowerment on participation in securing these rights themselves. In the process of awarding the grants, applicants will be requested to focus activities on the most vulnerable, including minorities such as Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples.

The action will apply a human rights based approach and its working principles; all human rights, participation, transparency, accountability, and non-discrimination.

Disability

The EU will continue to support CSOs to ensure that representatives of persons with disabilities can participate in all relevant processes through specific and inclusive structured dialogues, at EU, partner countries and local level. As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the action, in particular Component 2, will seek to include persons with disabilities as well as organisations specifically representing, and/or as part of their mandate targeting, the rights of people with disabilities.

Democracy

The current action includes a strong element of protection and promotion of human rights, and of strengthening of civil society and journalists, two pillars of democracy. The support provided to the OHCHR through this action will also contribute to monitoring and working towards improving the civic space in Venezuela. The second component of the action focuses specifically on promotion of citizens' engagement and participation at the local level and the creation of dialogue mechanisms bring different stakeholders together, citizens, private sector, local authorities, in identifying solutions to local problems.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The complex humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has created further social, political, economic and environmental fragility. The action is expected to further strengthen civil society capacity in this regard, as well as to include civil society in local policy dialogue. Civil society is a vital actor for conflict prevention, resilience, peacebuilding and security in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and is furthermore often the basis of resilience at community level, and vital partner in risk reduction as well as in response to crisis. Having the overall objective of strengthening the social fabric and increasing resilience of the Venezuelan people will impact and reduce migratory flows from Venezuela to neighbouring countries with measures and activities to create resilience in the population and stop or minimise the migratory flow. Activities will be implemented to; 1. Improve access to basic services, for example; water, electricity, sanitary conditions, 2. Generate decent jobs, promoting socio-economic development as much as possible, 3. Promote and guarantee human rights, promote systems of care and protection of Venezuelans, and 4. Promote community dialogue and prevent conflicts.

A conflict analysis for Venezuela will be carried out in the course of 2022 and conclusion and recommendations will be taken into account the design of the Action to ensure conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm approaches.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The action is not focused on disaster risk reduction. However, the action will promote the improvement in the quality of life of the beneficiaries and its climate change resilience by having access to or improvements in basic services, it will promote jobs for post-pandemic economic recovery, with special attention to the environmental effects.

Other considerations if relevant

NA

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Worsening of the political, economic and humanitarian crisis.	Medium	High	Mitigating measures include increased monitoring (including electoral, including follow up dialogue with authorities), continued dialogue with private sector, civil society and international community and EU diplomacy to leverage international solidarity and support. A conflict sensitive approach will be applied systematically to this action. The delivery of support might require

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
				continued crisis declaration and flexible procedures.
External environment	Further decrease of civic space.	Medium	High	Mitigating measures include continued pressure, continued support to CSOs' capacity in all their diversity
External environment	Gender inequalities and sexual and gender based violence	Medium	High	<p>Identify and assess the equal participation of men and women, including monitoring for harassment, abuse of power and all types of gender-based violence in the community and during the implementation of the action. If cases are identified, work with available support services for survivors of gender-based violence, including health services, psychosocial support, legal counselling, policing, and shelters.</p> <p>Define and implement measures to prevent and address risks related to gender inequalities and sexual violence. For example, require implementing partners to promote clear policies and actions on sexual harassment and verify that beneficiaries are aware of and respect codes of conduct.</p> <p>Maintain close communication with communities, informing them about project-related gender-based violence risks, prevention and mitigation measures, mechanisms for reporting gender-based violence, and details of the process in terms of procedures and possible outcomes, as well as support services available to victims of gender-based violence.</p>
External environment	Risks for the representatives CSO Networks, Platforms and their partners who are participating in local dialogue being harassed, persecuted or detained by the state security forces	Medium to High	Medium	<p>Continuous monitoring throughout implementation.</p> <p>Apply conflict sensitivity assessments when required, mitigating the risk of exacerbating tensions and divisions as well as protecting the security and safety of CSOs representatives.</p> <p>EU political dialogue with relevant actors to underline vital role of civil society.</p>
External environment	Risk of reprisals against human rights defenders, victims, journalists, women	Medium to High	High	<p>Implementation of OHCHR policy against reprisals and risk assessment.</p> <p>OHCHR advocacy with state authorities on individual cases of attacks against HRDs</p>

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
	participating in OHCHR activities			Capacity building of HRDs on protection measures
External environment	Venezuelan Government prevents OHCHR from implementing its mandate.	Medium	High	Mitigating measures include pressure from the International Community, particularly in the upcoming sessions of the Human Rights Council, stepping up high level contacts between OHCHR and Venezuelan government, including visits of high level OHCHR representatives to Venezuela.
External environment	Worsening COVID19 situation	Medium	High	Continuous monitoring of the impact on projects and if required adapting activities in order to minimise negative impact/delay of implementation
Lessons Learnt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development actions must remain a flexible instrument that can cater to changing needs, in full complementarity with humanitarian assistance and peace-building actions. - In-country presence of the OHCHR Office is key to ensure that victims/survivors feel they are being heard, to get a better and impartial sense of the human rights situation within the country and to publicly report accordingly. 				

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The 2021-2027 Regional MIP foresees support to transformative bottom-up and nascent democratic processes in Venezuela, by strengthening the social fabric and promoting the re-establishment of confidence and dialogue at local and community level. The Regional MIP identifies three main priorities of support: (i) protecting and promoting human rights, human dignity and inclusion, (ii) promoting civic values, conflict prevention and resolution, and democratic participation, and (iii) support to community resilience, strengthening sustainable access to basic services, local productive capacities/income generation, and promoting sustainable socio-economic management of natural resources. At the same time, the Regional MIP also foresees addressing the migration / forced displacement from Venezuela.

The Action will implement 2 out of the 3 priorities as established in the Regional MIP, more specifically priority (i): and priority (iii). In order to cover these priority areas, AAP2022 proposes a support package focussing on:

- i. Contributing to protecting and promoting human rights through continued support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- ii. Support to community resilience by promoting citizen, in all their diversity, engagement at community level around the prioritisation and rehabilitation/management of basic services.

The Action will address root causes of migration and forced displacement in terms of basic services and human rights as per defined in The European Consensus on Development⁸ and the Regulation establishing the NDICI- Global Europe Instrument.

Complementary measures financed by thematic programmes on support to Human Rights and Democracy and Civil Society Organisations, will also cover the priority area (i) and (ii) of the Regional MIP.

The first component of the Action will provide further support to the country presence of the OHCHR Office (O1.2) and increase the capacity of CSO and HRDs (O1.1) to prevent violations of human rights and increase protection and access to justice (SO1), and will thus aim at strengthening civil society resilience and counteracting some of the main restrictions on civic and democratic space. Through the Action, OHCHR will continue its work of documenting attacks against civil society and human rights defenders, allowing the Office to continue to provide regular updates on the situation of defenders and journalists. OHCHR will also monitor and report on the level of respect for public freedoms and political rights in the framework of electoral processes that will take place throughout the upcoming years. Critical assumption is the continued local presence of the office, approved by the Maduro administration. Last approval of the annual Work Programme was given in Sept 2021. The OHCHR in Geneva is in regular contact at high level with government representatives, including through regular visits to the country in order to ensure the continuation of their activities.

The second component of the Action will strengthen community resilience by promoting inhabitant in all their diversity engagement at community level (O2.2) around the prioritisation and rehabilitation/management of basic services (O2.1) which will address inequality of access to basic services (SO2). This component will seek to identify at community level, in a participatory and inclusive manner (citizens in all their diversity, private sector and local authorities where possible), basic services to be rehabilitated and could also provide (limited) funding for their renovation. Important conditions allowing the achievement of the objectives are improvements in the political, economic and humanitarian crisis and in civic space.

⁸ The European Consensus on Development, 'Our world, our Dignity, our Future', June 2017, art. 71.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

PROJECT MODALITY

In case baselines and targets are not available, they will be informed for each indicator at signature of the grant contracts linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen the social fabric and consolidate civic and democratic space in Venezuela.	1. Human Development Index rank 2. Global Freedom score 3. Gender Inequality Index	1. HDI rank 113(2019), HDI value 0.711 2. 14/100 (2022) 3. GII rank 119 and value 0,479 (2019)	1. HDI value 0.7 2. 15/100 (2024) 3. GII value and rank	1 Human Development Index 2 Freedom House Global Freedom scores 3 Human Development Index	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. Civil society actors and organisations, including human rights defenders, women organisations victims and their families and journalists, are more effective in preventing violations of, human rights, protecting human rights, and accessing justice.	1.1. Number of human rights protection/promotion activities and recourse to justice mechanisms initiated by civil society actors benefitting from EU-funded intervention. 1.2. Number of victims of human rights violations directly benefiting from assistance funded by the EU, disaggregated by sex**(GERF 2.30), age, ethnicity and disability	1.1 125 in 2020	1.1 500 (2024)	1.1 OHCHR records 1.2 OHCHR records	OHCHR is allowed to carry out its mandate in the country. Civic space will allow CSOs/HR defenders to carry out their work
Outcome 2	2 Access to basic services in a participatory manner and based on dialogue processes at the local and community level increased, addressing key drivers of migration and forced displacement.	2.1 Number of people with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility with EU support**(GERF 2.38) disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and disability 2.2 Number of people with access to electricity with	2.1 TBD 2.2 TBD	2.1 TBD 2.2 TBD	2.1 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems - Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.2 EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems - Progress and final	The local communities, CSO, grassroots organisations and stakeholders are willing to assume an active role in the management and

		EU support through improved access (GERF 2.3) disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and disability 2.3 Number of people emigrating from the areas of Venezuela targeted by the project			reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.3 Statistical data provided by IOM, UNHCR and other sources	delivery improvement to access to basic services
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 Capacity of civil society and human rights defenders to access justice and protection mechanisms is increased (O1.1)	1.1.1 Number of civil society actors trained by the EU-funded intervention who have increased understanding about international mechanisms for the protection of human rights and how to access them. 1.1.2. Number of NGOs and victims trained by the EU-funded intervention who have strengthened capacities to seek access to justice. 1.1.3. Number of members of human rights organisations, human rights defenders, women and youth organisations, and media professionals, trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in self-protection measures, protection against digital attacks on news platforms, and secure information management strategies, disaggregated by sex.	1.1.1 52 (2020) 1.1.2 46 (2020) 1.1.3. 25 (2020)	1.1.1 250 (2025) 1.1.2 100 (2024) 1.1.3. 70 (2024)	1.1.1. . Pre- and post-training test reports OHCHR event registration records Survey of workshop attendees 1.1.2. Pre- and post-training test reports OHCHR event registration records Survey of workshop attendees 1.1.3. Pre- and post-training test reports OHCHR event registration records Survey of workshop attendees	Civil society, HRDs, participate in OHCHR activities.
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Capacity of OHCHR Office to document and analyse cases of attacks against human rights is increased	1.2.1 Number of interviews conducted by OHCHR with victims and witnesses of human rights violations, lawyers, health and media professionals, human rights defenders, and ex-military and security officers with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age 1.2.2 Number of cases referred by OHCHR where authorities made	1.2.1 300 per year (2020) 1.2.2 53 (2020) 1.2.3. 14 per year (2020) 1.2.4. 2 per year (2020)	1.2.1 700 per year (2024) 1.2.2 100 (2024) 1.2.3. 20 per year (2024) 1.2.4 6 per year (2024)	1.2.1 OHCHR records 1.2.2 Exchanges with government authorities Monitoring of human rights violations 1.2.3 OHCHR public records 1.2.4. OHCHR records, Exchanges with government authorities	Venezuelan authorities will maintain technical cooperation with OHCHR OHCHR will be allowed to implement its mandate in the country.

		<p>progress with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex</p> <p>1.2.3. Number of communiqués, reports, and updates in which OHCHR reports on the human rights situation, including of human rights defenders, journalists, and political rights developed with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>1.2.4 Number of confidential notes on human rights concerns shared with the Government with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p>				
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 The basic services at the local community in selected states, has been improved and rehabilitated	<p>2.1.1 Number of rehabilitated basic services (% of those actions which are gender responsive (GAP III) with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of community members trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in technical roundtables on water, sanitation, electricity, risk management, solid waste, climate change and environmental impact disaggregated by sex</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of jobs created or supported by intervention, disaggregated by sex</p>	<p>2.1.1 TBD</p> <p>2.1.2 TBD</p> <p>2.1.3 TBD</p>	<p>2.1.1 TBD</p> <p>2.1.2 TBD</p> <p>2.1.3 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons TBD</p>	<p>2.1.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.2 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>2.1.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	Local communities are open to cooperate in project activities
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2. Local dialogue and participation at community level in the rehabilitation of basic services and creation of livelihoods has been strengthened	<p>2.2.1 Percentage of participants involved in community actions and participating in dialogue spaces with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex</p> <p>2.2.2 Percentage of women with decision-making power in the participation dialogue spaces promoted by the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>2.2.1 TBD</p> <p>2.2.2 TBD</p> <p>2.2.3 TBD</p> <p>2.2.4 TBD</p>	<p>2.2.1 TBD</p> <p>2.2.2 TBD</p> <p>2.2.3 TBD</p> <p>2.2.4 TBD</p>	<p>2.2.1 Database of beneficiaries/participants</p> <p>2.2.2 Database of beneficiaries/participants</p> <p>2.2.3 Database of beneficiaries/participants</p> <p>2.2.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	Local communities participating in project activities

		2.2.3 Number of CSOs and LAs involved in local participation processes (% of women's CSOs) with support of the EU-funded intervention. 2.2.4 Number of dialogue spaces created in Venezuela with support of the EU-funded intervention.				
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4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

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 adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3. Implementation Modalities

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 measures⁹.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants will contribute to achieve to Specific Objective 2 (SO2) "To improve access to basic services in a participatory manner and based on dialogue processes at the local and community level" and more particularly to Outcome 2.1 "Improved access to basic services in selected states, also taking into account out migration (O2.1)" and Outcome 2.2 "Strengthened dialogue and participation at community level in the rehabilitation of basic services and creation of livelihoods (O2.2)".

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Potential applicants for the grants will be not-for-profit making legal entities that have the required financial and operational capacity to manage the proposed activities, such as Civil Society Organisations, NGOs etc.

4.3.2. Indirect Management with an international organisation

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This implementation entails activities that will contribute to the achievement of Output 1.1 "Increased capacity of civil society and human rights defenders" and Output 1.2 "Increased capacity of OHCHR Office to document and analyse cases of attacks against HR" with the specific objective of "enabling civil society actors and organisations, including human rights defenders, victims and their families and journalists, to prevent violations of human rights and increase protection and access to justice" (SO1). The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: experience of working in Venezuela with civil society, human rights defenders, and government authorities, including capacity building, monitoring and documenting the human rights situation, and a strong gender mainstreaming approach. OHCHR is the unique strategic interlocutor, allowed by the Venezuelan government as regards human rights and a key partner for the EU in the field of promotion of human rights. Since establishing its country presence in 2019, OHCHR has played a key role in maintaining a depoliticised space for human rights, and contributing to confidence-building measures – such as in the resolution of human rights cases – in support to initiatives fostering a national dialogue.

⁹ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

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

Not applicable

4.4. 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, subject to the following provisions:

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).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Specific Objective 1: "To enable civil society actors and organisations, including human rights defenders, victims and their families and journalists, to prevent violations of human rights and increase protection and access to justice (SO1)" composed of	3 000 000
Indirect management with International Organisation – OHCHR	3 000 000
Specific Objective 2: "To improve access to basic services in a participatory manner and based on dialogue processes at the local and community level (SO2)" composed of	5 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	5 000 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	5 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy – cf. section 6	N.A.
Contingencies ¹⁰	N.A.
Totals	8 000 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

For the implementation of project modality components of the action, the responsible entities will set up steering committees made up of the main stakeholders involved in the implementation of the action, including civil society, private sector, local authorities, as appropriate and, where possible, the EU Delegation.

¹⁰ Consider that contracts where no financing agreement is concluded, contingencies have to be covered by individual and legal commitments by 31 December of N+1.

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.

4.7. Pre-conditions

Not applicable

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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:

All responsibilities for collecting, analysing and monitoring data, including monitoring and reporting on logframe indicators, belong to the implementing partners for both Specific Objectives SO1 and SO 2.

5.2. Evaluation

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

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the tangible results of the action and the impact achieved for people and civil society, the complementarity with the EU humanitarian assistance, as well as the lessons learnt.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. 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.

All 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 reports shall be shared with other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination¹¹. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the

¹¹ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

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

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

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

Option 1: Action level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Option 3: Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Grant agreement with OHCHR (budget line: Indirect management with International Organisation – OHCHR)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single of contracts 2	3-4 grant agreements with CSO (budget line: Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1)

APPENDIX 2 COMMISSION DECISION & TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Please delete before submitting to relevant quality review process

The template of the AD is used selectively depending on the type of financing and step of the procedure.

The table below illustrates which sections of the AD need to be used

- in the annex to the COM Decision and,
- when applicable, in the Financing Agreement to create the Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)

The following table presents an overview of the use of the sections of the Action Document template for the Commission Decision and for the TAPs.

	Project modality (Incl. thematic and regional programmes, as well as calls for proposals)		Budget support		No activities to be implemented by, and no funds to be transferred to, the Partner country, with signature of a Financing Agreement based of the 'simplified' template	
Action Document	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)
1. SYNOPSIS						
1.1. Action Summary Table	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
1.2. Summary of the Action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. RATIONALE						
2.1. Context	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
2.2. Problem Analysis	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
2.3. Additional Areas of Assessment [For Budget Support Actions only]	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.1. Pre-condition on Fundamental values (for a SDG contracts only)	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.2. Public Policy	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.3. Macroeconomic Policy	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.4. Public Financial Management	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.5. Transparency and Oversight of the Budget	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION						
3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

3.2.	Indicative Activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.3.	Mainstreaming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.4.	Risks and Lessons Learnt	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.5.	The Intervention Logic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.6.	Logical Framework Matrix	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS							
4.1.	Financing Agreement	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.2.	Indicative Implementation Period	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.3.	Implementation of the Budget Support Component (and subsections)	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
4.4.	Implementation Modalities (and subsections)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.5.	Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.6.	Indicative Budget	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.7.	Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If applicable and relevant	If applicable and relevant
4.8.	Pre-conditions [only for project modality]	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	If relevant and applicable
5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT							
5.1.	Monitoring and Reporting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
5.2.	Evaluation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
5.3.	Audit and Verifications	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
6. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY							
6.	Communication and visibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Appendix 1 Reporting in OPSYS		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Appendix 2 only for Blending: List Lead Finance Institutions		Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Appendix 2 only for Budget Support (Disbursement Arrangements, Conditions and Performance Indicators)		N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A