



European
Commission



COLLECTION OF GOOD PRACTICES

in Mainstreaming
Gender into European
External Action

From the **2017 Annual**
Implementation Report of the
EU Gender Action Plan II



FIFTEEN GOOD PRACTICES

**in Mainstreaming Gender
into European External
Action from the 2017
Annual Implementation
Report of the EU Gender
Action Plan II**

Contents

Map		2
Introduction		4
HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON GENDER: Joint Monitoring Framework on the EU-Mauritius Gender Action Plan		5
STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES and planning for gender equality through the EU intervention in Chad		7
GENDER ANALYSIS IN MALAWI		9
GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING in the Moroccan sectors of sustainable development, water, energy and mines, and fisheries		11
POLITICAL AND POLICY DIALOGUE on gender equality in Morocco		13
COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE EU DELEGATION AND MEMBER STATES to implement the EU Gender Action Plan in Mozambique		16
BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY on gender equality in Somalia		19
EUD CHILE GENDER ACTION PLAN 2018-2020		22
“CIUDAD MUJER” and “Apoyo al Plan Social 2014-2019” programmes in El Salvador		24
UNFPA SUPPLIES PROGRAMME		27
ENABLING CIVIL SOCIETY TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE in advancing gender equality and women’s rights in Azerbaijan		31
AUTONOMY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT of rural women in Sur del Cauca, Colombia		33

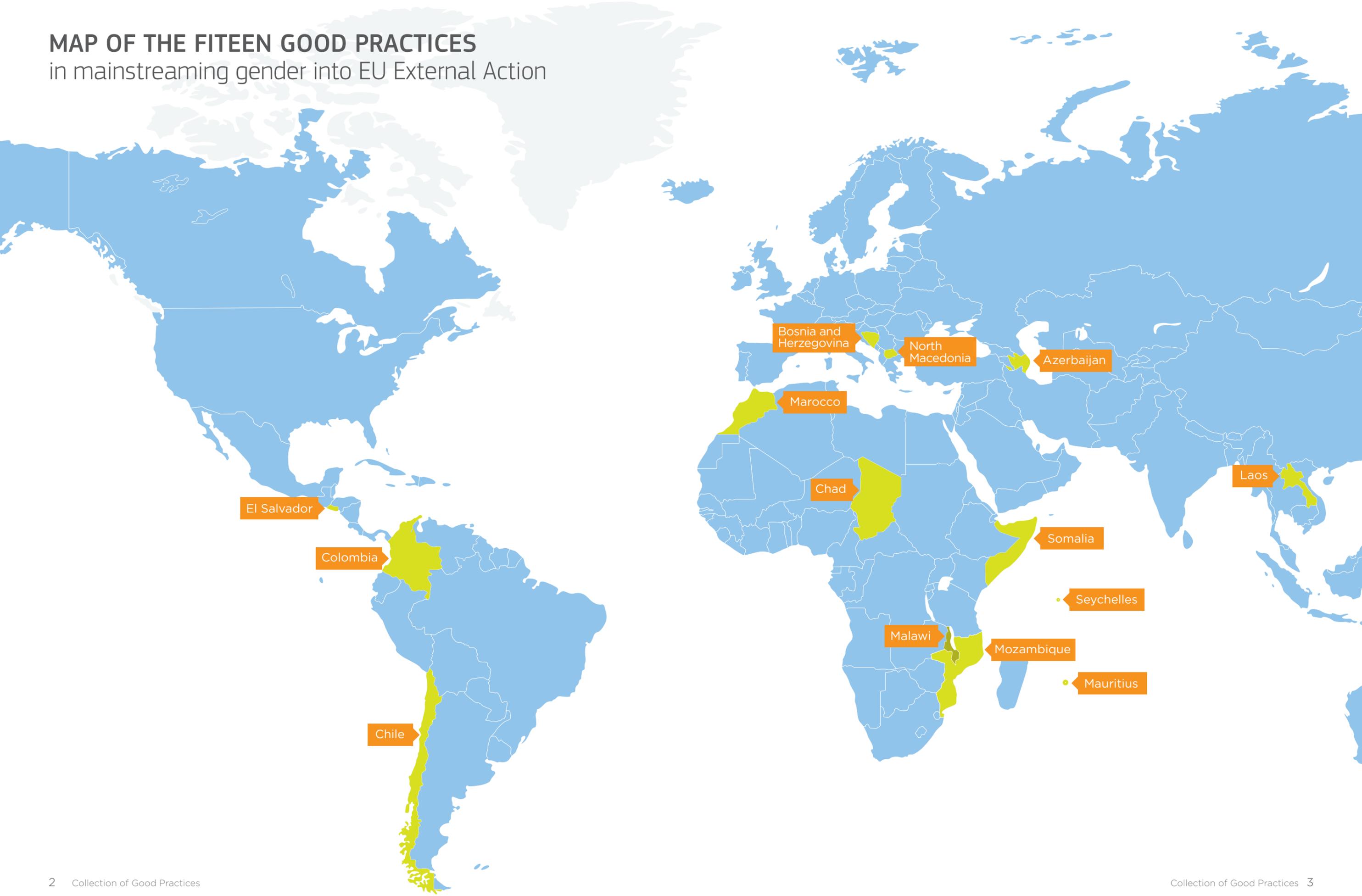
EDUCATION BUDGET SUPPORT PROGRAMME and Basic Education Quality and Access Programme in Lao People’s Democratic Republic		35
WOMAN’S DIALOGUE INITIATIVE 2017/2018 in Bosnia and Herzegovina		37
STRENGTHENING THE MONITORING OF GENDER EQUALITY in projects and programmes in North MACEDONIA		40
Annexes		43
Annex 1: Template for good practice reports		44
Annex 2: Criteria for the selection of good practices		45
Annex 3: Priorities and objectives of the EU Gender Action Plan II (GAP II)		46

Legend:



MAP OF THE FITEEN GOOD PRACTICES

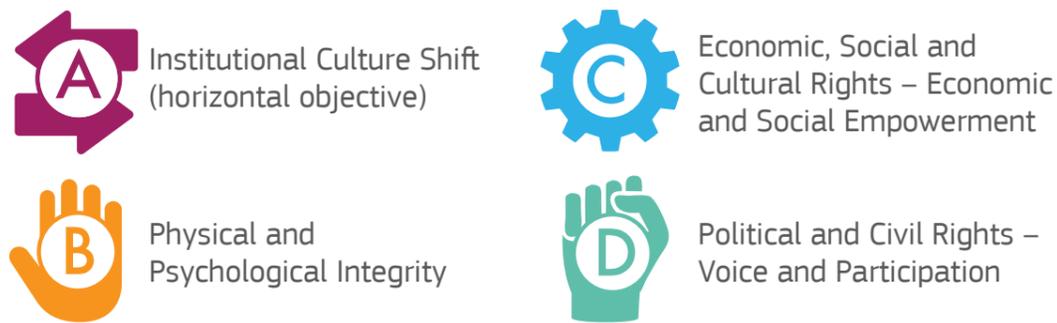
in mainstreaming gender into EU External Action



Introduction

The EU Gender Action Plan II, *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), translates the European Union's policy and political commitments to gender equality into a set of concrete objectives. Achieving these objectives is vital for attaining results for girls and women, including by promoting more efficient coordination, implementation and monitoring of EU activities. As such, the GAP II's implementation is mandatory for all EU Member States, EU Delegations and EU Commission Services. Each year, these key players provide information on their programmes, projects and actions that contribute to implementing the GAP II – inputs which are compiled into annual implementation reports to monitor progress achieved.

This collection of fifteen good practices in mainstreaming gender highlights cases collected through the 2017 EU Gender Action Plan II Annual Implementation Report¹ and the 2017 External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR). It aims to provide an inventory of examples of programmes, projects and initiatives – implemented by EU Delegations, the European Commission, the European External Action Service and EU Member States – in which gender is mainstreamed well, and which promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The collection covers a wide range of geographical areas, sectors and cooperation modalities. The practices are grouped by the four GAP II thematic priorities that they contribute to (see Annex 3 for details):



A list of criteria was used to select the good practices included in this collection (Annex 2). Once a practice was selected, it was summarised, inserted into a standard template (Annex 1) and shared for comments and clarifications with the person in charge of the selected programme, project and/or action at the EU Delegation in the relevant partner country.

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



HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON GENDER: Joint Monitoring Framework on the EU-Mauritius Gender Action Plan

European Union Delegation (country)
Mauritius and Seychelles

Period 2017-2020

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit E2. Southern Africa and Indian Ocean

Partners

Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Mauritius

Scope

National

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)²

Priorities



Objectives

1, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17

Indicators

1.1.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.6, 8.1, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 15.2, 15.3, 17.1

Most relevant elements

In line with Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, the European Union (EU) and the Government of Mauritius held a high-level policy dialogue on gender equality on 7 May 2018. As a result, a Joint Monitoring Framework was established to track progress on the implementation of the EU-Mauritius Gender Action Plan. The framework includes six GAP II objectives and 18 indicators relevant to the country.

Based on the joint framework, the EU provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and began collaborating with the National Human Rights Commission to combat gender-based violence.

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

Main achievements

In 2017, the Government of Mauritius committed to setting up a dedicated policy dialogue on gender equality, following their Article 8 Political Dialogue with the EU. The first day of 'Europe Week', 9 May 2018, was dedicated to the theme of gender equality – an illustration of the importance which both Mauritius and the EU accord to equality between women and men.

Under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), the EU provides technical assistance to Mauritius' Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. Thus far, it has supported the ministry to elaborate a *Gender Equality Bill*, a *Children's Bill* and an *Adoption Bill*. Assistance also involves capacity building on gender mainstreaming for Gender Focal Persons in line ministries, and support for improving gender statistics.

Lessons learnt

The EU Delegation began a process of gender mainstreaming at the policy and political levels within the delegation itself. Accordingly, the high-level policy dialogue on gender equality enabled the identification of objectives and indicators of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (GAP II) that are relevant for Mauritius.

Good practices

The Article 8 Political Dialogue between the EU and the Government of Mauritius, held in May 2017, allowed both parties to agree that a dedicated policy dialogue on gender equality should be set up, as it is a cross-cutting EU priority and an immensely relevant issue for Mauritius.

Advocacy for gender equality at the political level enabled the EU to support Mauritius' elaboration of key bills related to gender equality, to provide targeted gender-related technical assistance, and roll-out gender-sensitive capacity building for line ministries on gender mainstreaming.

The National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming met as a Technical Committee in early 2018 to specifically select relevant GAP II thematic priorities, objectives and indicators for Mauritius to implement and monitor progress on.

Additional information or comments

The policy dialogue on gender equality was conceived as a two-stage process, involving a technical meeting, followed by a high-level meeting co-chaired by the EU Ambassador and the Minister for Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. The Technical Committee's meeting to identify relevant GAP II objectives – co-chaired by the EU Delegation's Head of Cooperation and the ministry's Permanent Secretary – was followed by an update on the technical assistance which the EU will provide to the ministry for elaborating gender-related bills, capacity building and other instruments to address thematic priorities.

The Technical Committee led to the formulation of the Joint Monitoring Framework to track progress on the EU-Mauritius Gender Action Plan's implementation. The framework, signed by the EU Ambassador and the Minister for Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare of Mauritius, provides opportunities to jointly monitor key performance indicators (KPIs) on promoting gender equality, addressing gender-based violence, and advancing women's and girls' economic empowerment, among other issues.



STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES

and planning for gender equality through the EU intervention in Chad

European Union Delegation (country)
Chad

Period 2016-2020

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit E1. Central Africa

Partners

Line ministries and local authorities in Chad; the private sector; civil society; women's rights organisations

Scope

National

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)³

Priorities



Objectives

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18

Indicators

1.2.1, 4.1.1, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 11.2, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2, 12.5, 15.3, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8, 16.1, 16.3, 16.4, 17.3, 17.5, 18.1

Most relevant elements

Following a review by an external gender consultant, gender has been mainstreamed into two key projects in Chad – one on justice, the *Projet d'Appui à la Justice Phase II (PRAJUST II)*, and another on the security sector, *Projet d'Appui à l'Amélioration de la Sécurité Intérieure au Tchad (PAASIT)*.

During a workshop organised with the authorities responsible for implementing project activities – the Ministry of Women, Social Action and National Solidarity, and the Ministry of Economy and Planning for Development – both projects were screened against gender criteria and indicators. They were reviewed and adjusted in order to better mainstream gender and contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (GAP II).

National partners' involvement in revising these projects, in line with the GAP II's aims, enabled strong national ownership of the workshop's results and evoked greater commitment to mainstreaming gender. Thereafter, the Gender Action Plan 2018-2020 for Chad was developed. In cooperation with EU Member States, this country-specific action plan was finalised in early 2018.

³ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)*, is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Main achievements

Gender analysis and the support of a gender consultant contributed to mainstreaming gender in both the PRAJUST II and PAASIT projects. This, in turn, has contributed to the GAP II's implementation in Chad. Organising a workshop to present the findings of the gender analysis, while discussing objectives and indicators, enabled the revision of PAASIT project's logical framework to include GAP II and sex-disaggregated indicators. Three other projects are also being revised.

The Gender Action Plan 2018-2020 for Chad incorporates 12 GAP II objectives and 22 indicators that partners will monitor through a result-based approach.

Main difficulties/obstacles

Gender is poorly mainstreamed within the 11th European Development Fund's (EDF) National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Chad. The programme is not based on gender analysis, gender inequalities are only sporadically considered and no indicator is sex-disaggregated. Gender is poorly mainstreamed within the 11th European Development Fund's (EDF) National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Chad. The programme is not based on gender analysis, gender inequalities are only sporadically considered and no indicator is sex-disaggregated.

Lessons learnt

The revision of certain actions within a specific project from a gender perspective can highlight the need for a complete 'gender screening' and possible overall revision.

The EU Delegation in Chad needs to strengthen its position on gender equality and women's empowerment, in addition to improving its internal gender expertise. The delegation's activities also need to be planned with a view to implementing the GAP II. The systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics is equally essential.

Good practices

Involving the partner country's authorities in reflections on the importance of gender mainstreaming in programmes and projects through the GAP II brought about the joint revision and adjustment of the PRAJUST II and PAASIT projects, while cementing commitment to the joint monitoring of results and achievements. Involving the partner country's authorities in reflections on the importance of gender mainstreaming in programmes and projects through the GAP II brought about the joint revision and adjustment of the PRAJUST II and PAASIT projects, while cementing commitment to the joint monitoring of results and achievements.

Additional information or comments

The Projet d'Appui à la Justice Phase II (PRAJUST II) aims to strengthen the rule of law and respect for human rights in Chad by supporting a high-quality system of justice, accessible to everyone. Its specific objectives are to:

- support the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MJDH) to implement the project's activities;
- support institutional strengthening, particularly by strengthening the independence of judicial powers, in collaboration with the High Judicial Council, the Parliament (General Political Commission), the General Secretary of the Government and civil society organisations;
- support the inclusive elaboration of a new justice sector strategy from 2016 onward; and
- support the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to define and implement a policy on access to energy.

The Projet d'Appui à l'Amélioration de la Sécurité Intérieure au Tchad (PAASIT) aims to improve day-to-day security; support local security governance, communication and consultations between the population and internal security forces (ISF); and pay special attention to the role of women in internal security. The duration of the project's implementation period is 54 months (2016-2020).



GENDER ANALYSIS IN MALAWI

European Union Delegation (country)
Malawi

Period 2017

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit D2. Eastern Africa and Horn of Africa

Scope
National

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)⁴

Priorities



Objectives

4

Indicators

4.1

Most relevant elements

In 2016, a gender analysis was conducted for the EU Delegation's focal sectors agreed in Malawi's National Indicative Programme 2014-2020 – education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET), agriculture and nutrition, and governance. This analysis was conducted to inform programming and guide the policy dialogue on gender equality.

In 2017, the EU Delegation carried out an exercise to integrate gender in all programmes under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). As a result:

- The Social Support for Resilience (SoSuRe) action and all relevant indicators are sex-disaggregated.
- The thematic Pro-Resilience Pro-ACT programme provides for a comprehensive, gendered community and households analysis and needs assessment, known as the Gendered Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (GPVCA).
- The Skills and Technical Education Programme (STEP) increased women's participation in skills training and entrepreneurship. This includes trade and a focus on female students' participation in the male-dominated trade systems. All relevant indicators for the project are sex-disaggregated.

In 2018, a gender analysis of the infrastructure sector (energy, transport and water) was carried out to inform measures to be taken in this sector and other related sub-sectors.

⁴ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Main achievements

Pro-Resilience Pro-ACT programme: A Gendered Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (GPVCA) was undertaken in the framework of the programme to inform gender-responsive project delivery approaches. It also aimed to promote gender inclusion, equality, women's empowerment and resilience to the impacts of different shocks, including climate change.

Through community frameworks, the assessment conducted gender dialogue sessions and analysis to understand household and community dynamics, while enabling vulnerable or marginalised communities to participate in policy development, planning and implementation. This analysis enhanced gender mainstreaming in the Logical Framework by using both quantitative and qualitative methods, and by disaggregating data, project indicators and results by sex, age and income bracket/group. The methodology is designed to employ gender-sensitive participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools, which can be used by women for self-monitoring, in addition to allowing more targeted monitoring, evaluation and reporting on results by sex.

Skills and Technical Education (STEP) Programme: A study was conducted on gender-based violence in technical and vocational colleges. This highlighted the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence in these settings. It also identified the fact that there are no policies, reporting or response mechanisms in place to address the challenge.

In response, the STEP programme supported the development of a Code of Conduct for instructors and students on gender-based violence, alongside supporting training for both target groups in technical colleges. A reporting and response system has been set up in each institution, including a hotline for reporting cases of violence.

Transport sector: As the Ministry of Transport and Public Works recognises the importance of gender equality, this is included in Malawi's 2015 National Transport Policy. Following gender analysis in this sector, pro-active measures will be supported to address the gender imbalance among the ministry's technical staff.

Main difficulties/obstacles

While the Ministry of Transport and Public Works plays a very important role in Malawi's economy, women are generally excluded as players. Limited women's representation in training is especially notable, as is the need for women's strategic and deliberate inclusion.

Lessons learnt

There is a need for adopting an inter-sectoral approach to address gender inequalities. For example, strategies in education should be complemented by those in social protection and resilience in order to maximise the impact of interventions. There is also a need to develop a shared approach with partners on gender equality measures to be included under the External Investment Plan (EIP) in terms of blending and guarantees.

The EU should use Malawi's high levels of investment in infrastructure as leverage to influence change within the sector and in other related sectors.

Good practices

Thanks to the gender analysis conducted, the EU Delegation engaged in policy dialogue on gender equality, including through programmes it is supporting. In education and TVET, for instance, dialogue focused on measures to increase access for girls and young women to secondary education and technical training, thus tackling socio-economic barriers. Through the social protection and agriculture programmes, policy dialogue has also addressed issues related to women's access to financial services and productive resources.

Support in the governance sector linked to gender equality and women's empowerment is addressing gender-based violence and women's representation in decision-making positions.



GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

in the Moroccan sectors of sustainable development, water, energy and mines, and fisheries

European Union Delegation (country)
Morocco

Period 2018

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Unit B2. Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South

Partners

Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco; Centre of Excellence for Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Scope

National

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)⁵

Priorities



Objectives

6

Indicators

6.1

Most relevant elements

The EU is supporting a second generation of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) in Morocco. GRB was originally introduced by the country's Finance Organic Law No. 130-13 (2015), which requires 15 ministries to adopt sex-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive indicators and gender-responsive budgets.

In the framework of partnership between the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union, research was conducted by the Centre of Excellence for Gender-Responsive Budgeting of the Moroccan Ministry of Economy and Finance to inform GRB in four sectors: sustainable development, water, energy and mines, and fisheries.

Main achievements

Four studies were published based on the Centre's research, one on each of the four sectors. Each study analyses the status of gender equality in the sector, national legal frameworks, and tools and recommendations for gender mainstreaming in strategic planning and budgetary programming. The studies particularly highlight intersectoral challenges related to gender equality.

⁵ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)*, is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Study on the sustainable development sector: The study offers recommendations to facilitate the strategic integration of gender equality in policies and planning. These recommendations focus on enhancing the competencies and knowledge of women and men, while promoting their equitable participation in the labour market, governance processes and decision-making.

Study on the water sector: The study provides an overview of intersectoral challenges in the spheres of sustainable development, migration, education, health and governance, while underscoring gender inequalities in procurement, sanitation and the management of water resources. It includes a checklist for conducting a gender-sensitive analysis of the water sector and related existing policies, alongside providing recommendations to address gender gaps.

It also examines key questions for a gender-responsive budget analysis, supplying a list of gender-sensitive objectives and indicators to include in programmes on governance, management, preservation, meteorology and water sector development. Its recommendations to address gender gaps focus on the management and development of water services and facilities, the preservation and protection of water resources and the natural environment, and adaptation measures needed to address the effects of climate change.

Study on the energy and mines sector: The study suggests criteria for analysing the sector using a gender and human rights-based approach. It identifies the needs and challenges that women face in terms of energy sources – including electricity, biomass and mechanical power – and uses the example of lighting to examine intersectoral challenges linked to gender equality.

The study also supplies a checklist for undertaking a gender-sensitive analysis of the sector, with a focus on existing policies. It outlines key questions on how to integrate gender equality in sectoral strategies and GRB. In addition, it proposes gender-sensitive objectives and indicators to support and pilot programmes related to geology, mines, energetic efficiency and renewable energy.

Study on the fisheries sector: The study provides an overview of gender inequalities in the sector, before pinpointing intersectoral gender equality issues related to economic development, food security, health, transportation, infrastructure and governance. Like the other studies, it contains a checklist for conducting a gender-sensitive analysis of maritime fisheries, related policies and budgets. It identifies key issues to consider when developing a sectoral strategy, and proposes gender-sensitive objectives and indicators for programmes to support fisheries' development, aquaculture, resource valuation, qualifications, employment promotion and seafarers' safety.

Good practices

The research conducted on GRB in these four key sectors can be replicated in other sectors, in line with Morocco's Finance Organic Law No. 130-13 (2015) and existing sectoral strategies. Operationalising GRB at the procedural level requires a focus on governance and putting into practice the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and transparency.

Applying a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach to sectoral budgets requires moving away from current 'techno-economic' approaches – such as the concept that, for each need, a corresponding technical solution is available. It is vital to move towards a human rights-centred approach that takes into account the intersection of gender and human rights issues within and across sectors – most notably health, employment, poverty, conflict, education and housing, among others.



POLITICAL AND POLICY DIALOGUE on gender equality in Morocco

European Union Delegation (country) Morocco	Headquarters (unit) Commission Services in charge of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Unit B2. Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South	EU Member State Belgium
Period 2017	Partners Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Ministry of Family, Equality, Solidarity and Social Development; National Human Rights Council; Ministry of Human Rights; Mohammadia League of Scholars (<i>Rabita Mohammedia Ulema</i>)	Scope National
Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)⁶		
Priorities 	Objectives 1	Indicators 1.1.1, 1.1.2

Most relevant elements

In 2017, Belgium and Morocco engaged in a range of dialogues on gender issues. These involved partner ministries in Morocco in the framework of bilateral cooperation – notably the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the Ministry of Family, Equality, Solidarity and Social Development (MFSEDS) – and key state organisations working to promote gender equality and human rights, such as the National Human Rights Council, the Ministry of Human Rights and the Mohammadia League of Scholars. Dialogues were also held with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to follow-up on projects supported by Belgium and in the context of coordination for the Universal Periodic Review.

Main achievements

Roughly 30 dialogues, meetings and initiatives on gender equality issues took place in 2017, including:

- Dialogues with Heads of Missions, namely two high-level meetings with the Secretary-General and Minister for Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development; two meetings with the Director General of European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; a statement at the Belgian Moussem Nomadic Arts Centre (13 November); a field visit to the Oriental and Tafilalet regions involving meetings with local officials (April 2017); and ten meetings with NGOs working on gender.

⁶ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

- Dialogues with Heads of Cooperation, encompassing periodic follow-up meetings on the implementation of cooperation projects with the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development; meetings with NGOs working on gender; and statements at the launch of programmes/projects supported by Belgium's development cooperation.
- Dialogues with Gender Focal Points, such as follow-up meetings with the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development on the implementation of cooperation projects; and ten meetings with civil society organisations working on gender regarding project monitoring and Universal Periodic Review consultations.
- Other dialogues with actors working on gender during the visits of the Minister-President of the Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles (CWB), Rudy Demotte (17-19 January); the Mayor of Antwerp, Bart De Wever (10-14 September); the Ambassador for Migration, Michel Lastschenko (2-5 October); the Minister of State, Andre Flahaut (8-13 November); and the Walloon Parliamentary Mission (20-22 November).

Lessons learnt

Gender should be mainstreamed in policy dialogue; thus, every dialogue with state authorities, on any issue, should include gender dimensions. During any high-level meeting or event with Moroccan officials, it is important to deliver messages on how gender equality contributes to better results.

It is important to liaise with local partners before conducting policy or political dialogues. As local partners understand local institutional culture, they offer advice on how to deliver appropriate messages through effective strategies. Civil society organisations can be consulted in the framework of donors' meetings to obtain their feedback and analysis of situations on the ground.

While including gender in high-level policy dialogue is key for supporting gender equality, meetings do not produce effective results if they occur sporadically. Therefore, such meetings should be part of a wider strategy to engage in effective policy dialogue. These meetings do not always provide the best platform to discuss certain topics related to gender equality; in such cases, other alternatives should be explored.

Good practices

A proximity approach proved useful when engaging in policy dialogue. Such dialogues need not be held exclusively with central government authorities. Meetings conducted by the Belgian Embassy in 2017 with local authorities – at the regional, provincial and community levels – in the context of field visits by the Head of Mission were important for addressing gender with local officials.

Multi-actor policy and political dialogue is equally useful. Engaging with local authorities as a group of like-minded donors/institutions can be an effective way of achieving better results. Such initiatives have been conducted in the past and should be intensified in the future. Interventions by civil society organisations and local partners can also provide safe and discrete ways to engage in the process of policy dialogue with governments.

It is important to maintain close relations with the EU Delegation and EU Member States. Effective policy dialogue requires strong knowledge of other Member States' actions on gender equality. The EU Gender Group in Morocco has been useful in this respect, as it enabled closer coordination and coherence between EU Member States working on gender.

Similarly, it is vital to maintain coordination with United Nations (UN) agencies. The UN in Morocco has built strong relationships with the Government; thus, UN agencies can facilitate access to information and interlocutors, in addition to delivering messages through different strategies. The Belgian Development Agency in Morocco has a highly positive relationship with UN agencies working in the field of gender equality. Belgium provides core support to several agencies, funding several specific projects on women's and children's rights implemented by UNFPA and UNICEF. Belgium also provides funding for a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) working with UN Women in Morocco.



Additional information or comments

As the Government of Belgium's Gender Strategy highlights, Belgium is committed to gender equality. Since 2009, its development agency has worked on promoting and protecting women's and girls' rights in Morocco. Initially, this work was oriented towards civil society. From 2009 to 2014, Belgium's development cooperation directly supported civil society organisations working on women's and children's' rights. In tandem, efforts were made to mainstream gender in all Belgian cooperation programmes, including projects on agriculture and water management.

The Belgian bilateral programme in Morocco (2016-2020) includes projects specifically intended to promote and protect women's rights. These projects have two inter-connected aims: to support the Moroccan government to fight violence against women, and to reinforce the capacity of civil society organisations to combat violence against women.

Belgium also continues to directly support civil society organisations through two main projects. The *Tamallouk* project aims to change social and judicial attitudes to gender-based violence, while the Legal Clinics project promotes access to justice for vulnerable populations, particularly women and women migrants.





COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE EU DELEGATION AND MEMBER STATES to implement the EU Gender Action Plan in Mozambique

European Union Delegation (country) Mozambique

Period 2017

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)⁷

Priorities



Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit E2. Southern Africa and Indian Ocean

Partners EU Member States

Scope National

Objectives 1

Indicators 1.41

Most relevant elements

To support the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016–2020 (GAP II) in Mozambique, a six-month participatory consultative process engaged EU Member States through the EU Gender Focal Persons Group. As a result, eight GAP II objectives were selected as especially relevant for Mozambique:

- objective 7, 'Girls and women free from all forms of violence against them (VAWG) both in the public and in the private sphere';
- objective 9, 'Protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender based violence in crisis situations through EU supported operations';
- objective 11, 'Promoted, protected and fulfilled right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence';
- objective 12, 'Healthy nutrition levels for girls and women and throughout their life cycle';
- objective 13, 'Equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination';
- objective 15, 'Equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship';
- objective 17, 'Equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels'; and
- objective 18, 'Women's organisations and other CSOs and Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights freely able to work and protected by law'.

⁷ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016–2020 (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

To improve coordination and reporting on these objectives, the EU Delegation and EU Member States agreed to the division of tasks and engaged in policy dialogue with the Government of Mozambique.

Main achievements

The division of tasks between EU Member States and the EU Delegation was agreed according to their programmes and areas of expertise:

- objectives 7 and 12 – The Netherlands, France and Sweden;
- objective 9 – EU Delegation, Italy, United Kingdom and Ireland;
- objectives 11 and 17 – Spain;
- objective 13 – Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom, Ireland and Finland;
- objective 15 – Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Austria and Germany; and
- objective 18 – EU Delegation to Mozambique.

Objectives 7 and 17 were also raised during policy dialogues with government partners, such as Mozambique's Ministry of Gender, Social Action and Children.

The EU Delegation and EU Member States in Mozambique have advanced joint programming, alongside coordination on GAP II reporting and implementation via the EU Gender Group. The Delegation's efforts to mobilise this group, in addition to organising and supporting public discussions on gender, make it a recognised partner for gender equality and women's empowerment in the country. In 2017, almost all projects formulated by the EU Delegation marked gender equality as a significant objective (according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Gender Equality Policy Marker⁸), including projects in the sectors of energy, public finance management, elections, civil society and employment in the cultural sector.

Main difficulties/obstacles

Challenges are posed by Mozambique's country context, complex aid coordination architecture and EU partners' perceptions that joint programming entails limited added value. Joint programming largely focuses on development cooperation. The EU Delegation is striving to broaden the spectrum of issues covered to include topics like trade, in order to make the EU's response more influential.

Lessons learnt

An agreement is needed to further progress on joint analysis, mapping updates and other areas. The EU Delegation consulted EU Member States, as they endorsed a proposal to employ EU joint programming technical assistance, with a scoping mission planned in 2018. Both the Delegation and Member States will continue to share information, pursue joint actions and seek greater complementarity to ensure better-integrated programmes and coordinated action.

Good practices

Through the EU Gender Group, the EU Delegation and EU Member States have achieved greater shared responsibility for coordinating and reporting on the GAP II's implementation.

Although there is no formal joint programming on gender, coordination through the EU Gender Group allows the EU to speak with a single voice. One example of this is the EU Delegation's and Member States' contribution to reviewing the Government of Mozambique's gender policy, an ongoing process led by the Ministry of Gender. Inputs were presented in a single, consolidated manner through the EU Gender Group.



⁸ OECD Gender Equality Policy Marker: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

A calendar of topics for discussion was also agreed with Member States, enabling technical debates on gender-based violence, girls' empowerment and men's engagement.

Additional information or comments

As part of policy dialogue on GAP II objective 7, on violence against women and girls, the EU Delegation funded a public debate on preventing early marriage, organised by the Community Radio Forum. The Delegation also contributed to a week of activities on women's rights (6-11 March) organised by the French Embassy – including public debates, roundtables, exhibitions, a football championship and concerts to draw public attention to violence against women.

To further objective 17, on women's participation in governance, a public debate was held in November during EU Week. This engaged the Government of Mozambique – represented by the Minister for Gender, Social Action and Children – and civil society to discuss men's role in championing gender equality. In the context of the local economic development programme (ProDEL), the EU Delegation advocated for the inclusion of gender in local policies by supporting provincial gender analyses in the rural development sector.

As part of the EU Delegation's efforts to advance joint programming in late 2017, it participated actively in the regional workshop on joint programming in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, delivering a presentation on Mozambique's experience with four EU Member States.



BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY on gender equality in Somalia

European Union Delegation (country)
Somalia (based in Nairobi, Kenya)

Period 2017

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)⁹

Priorities



Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit D2. Eastern Africa and Horn of Africa

Partners

EU Delegation; EU Member States; Federal Minister for Women & Human Rights, Somalia; partner organisations

Beneficiaries

Initial: 60 Reached: 78

Scope

National

Objectives

3

Indicators

3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3

Most relevant elements

Based on the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (GAP II) framework, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken of institutional capacity on gender within the EU Delegation to Somalia and partner organisations. The analysis offered recommendations to improve performance on institutional culture shifts, burden sharing for the GAP II's implementation, and planning with partners.

An EU Delegation Gender Task Force was created, with three members representing each focal sector in the EU Delegation. Alongside the Gender Focal Point (GFP), this team will work to ensure that gender is placed at the forefront of project management and discussions within the Delegation's sections.



⁹ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Main achievements

The analysis screened the planning and management performance of the EU Delegation, EU Member States and partners against several parameters:

- institutional culture shift;
- responsibility for gender mainstreaming;
- communicating on the gender mainstreaming process;
- coordination with partners and Member States;
- technical capacity versus commitment;
- the role of the Gender Focal Point and human resources;
- gender mainstreaming in partner organisations;
- financing for gender equality and women's empowerment;
- gender analysis;
- research and data collection;
- assessing gender programmes and components; and
- reporting on the GAP II.

Main difficulties/obstacles

Commitment to gender equality: Commitment to gender equality poses a challenge, as gender mainstreaming is not always seen as a practical necessity, priority or obligation, either by partners and/or EU Delegation staff. Instead, it is seen as an optional ideal to be aspired towards when time and human resources are available. Office culture and environments are not sufficiently attentive to gender mainstreaming. Moreover, gender issues are accorded low priority by donors, and there is a lack of gender analysis tools and staff training on gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

Championing gender equality: Apart from the Gender Focal Point, no one within the EU Delegation's management has taken up the task of championing gender equality, especially at the policy or political level. This challenge was addressed when the Head of Cooperation was nominated as the Gender Champion on behalf of the EU Delegation. EU Member States have also been requested to nominate gender champions at their embassies to create a strong team of gender champions.

In-house gender expertise: The analysis found a lack of in-house gender expertise and limited capacities among EU Delegation staff to address gender issues. One-on-one sessions were organised to build programme managers' monitoring capacities and understandings of their role in mainstreaming gender vis-à-vis other stakeholders.

Lessons learnt

While the GAP II was designed as a tool for coordinating and charting mutual progress, it is considered cumbersome by many; as such, attitudes to the GAP II are varied. Staff and other stakeholders who participated in the analysis would like to see feedback, guidance or a strategy for future planning emerge as a result of the form-filling process. The GAP II report would be useful if it functioned as a mapping exercise.

Targeting women in separate side-projects is not always a good practice in gender mainstreaming. For instance, without engaging men, training for women in accounting, finance and information technology can lead to resentment among men. Thus, separate projects that target women without engaging men and boys should be phased out.

Ensuring dedicated leadership on gender equality, with incentives and disincentives at all levels as envisaged in the GAP II, requires putting commitments into practice.

The EU Delegation to Somalia is following many of the instructions and recommendations put forth by the GAP II, particularly the main requirement of focusing and streamlining the gender mainstreaming process. It may be useful to have a group to coordinate the process and develop a gender mainstreaming strategy that takes forward current best practices and identifies opportunities for improvement.

Good practices

The analysis identified similarities between the Somalia's current context and that of Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban over a decade ago. In Afghanistan, the international community focused on short-term gains before realising that many opportunities for change were lost because they did not adopt a long-term approach based on sound gender analysis.

The EU Delegation and its implementing partners formed a Gender Working Cluster to share information on challenges and opportunities to narrow gender gaps. One of the cluster's responsibilities is to raise awareness on the GAP II in Somalia, particularly at the community level.

Another priority for the EU Delegation is to push for Somalia's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Parliament's passage of the National Gender Policy and the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation (Zero Tolerance) Bill. While the latter was passed in 2016, it does not ban the practice completely. It is important to note that a Sexual Offence Bill was passed in Somaliland.

Additional information or comments

The analysis offers recommendations to help the EU Delegation improve its capacities on gender. In terms of institutional change, recommendations include training, working on internal coherence and stimulating participation.

The analysis also recommends transforming the GAP II assessment and reporting process into a useful tool with a number of products that can inform the gender mainstreaming process, improve coordination with EU Member States and ensure the delivery of clear messages on gender equality.

Recommendations on programming and working with partners include:

- offering partners 'gender support packages';
- focusing on gender relations, rather than solely on women;
- ensuring that women are not confined to stereotypical sectors;
- examining the portrayal of masculinity, femininity and gender relations in the media;
- addressing the negative manifestations of cultural notions of masculinity;
- empowering women to recognise their rights, albeit in relation to men and male-dominated socio-political spaces; and
- exploring questions around women's power and participation.





EUD CHILE Gender Action Plan 2018-2020

European Union Delegation (country)

Chile (European Union
Delegation to Brazil)

Period 2018-2020

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International
Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit G1.
Latin America and the Caribbean

Partners

Ministry for Women and Gender Equality, Chile

Scope

National

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹⁰

Priorities



Most relevant elements

The EU Delegation in Chile developed a Plan of Action for the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (GAP II) in the country. The plan, developed in collaboration with the Government of Chile, is based on Chile's first National Plan for Human Rights 2016-2022, which covers 15 thematic areas and includes a specific thematic area on women's rights.

Main achievements

A result-oriented framework was developed to operationalise the EUD Chile Gender Action Plan 2018-2022, encompassing performance indicators and baselines.

Following the EU Delegation's support for Chile's National Plan for Human Rights through the formation of the EUD Chile Gender Action Plan, the Government announced 12 measures to promote gender equality. Some of these involve constitutional reform to fully guarantee women's rights. For example, reforms on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment, including in the workplace, which are supported by school-based and education programmes. Others concern women's participation in the public, private and academic sectors, the maternal health rights of women prisoners, and in vitro fertilisation (IVF).

¹⁰ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Good practices

The priorities identified by the EUD Chile Gender Action Plan are in line with women's struggles for equality and respect for their rights. They are also fully aligned with gender-responsive public policies declared and implemented in the five countries in the region covered by EU Delegation to Brazil – Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela. These priorities reinforce demands by social movements for democracy, including women's and men's active participation in politics and the provision of quality public services for all.

Gender equality was the main priority of the call for proposals for local authorities and civil society organisations in Chile. Moreover, advocacy efforts and frameworks to implement the EUD Gender Action Plan in Chile are in line with the GAP II's thematic priorities. Political and policy dialogue between the EU Delegation and Chile's government authorities will be pursued across the plan's components.

Additional information or comments

Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity:

- During the implementation period, policy and political dialogues will focus on follow-up for the drafting and implementation of laws on gender-based violence, including laws on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Within the scope of the EU-Chile Cooperation Agreement, a broad awareness raising campaign will be conducted on gender equality, alongside actions to monitor the implementation of laws and regulations to combat gender-based violence and promote the physical and psychological integrity of women and girls.

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

- Policy and political dialogues will focus on the development of a national system for the shared care of dependent persons, in order to address the socially-constructed roles that assign care-giving responsibilities primarily to women – disproportionate responsibilities which constrain their inclusion in the labour market.
- The exchanges of experiences on pension schemes and social security for women will be promoted.
- Within the EU-Chile Cooperation Agreement, the law on equal pay will be a priority, including monitoring measures for its implementation. Chile's National Plan for Human Rights and Enterprises will be linked to action on gender. Synergies will be established with other intersectoral programmes, while advocacy and communication initiatives will be carried out by local and international actors.
- Within the regional programme and EU support for local authorities, technical assistance will be provided for the development of guidelines and instruments that promote women's economic empowerment through public policies and social programmes.

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

- Policy and political dialogues with civil society organisations, the public and private sectors, and international organisations should be promoted, coupled with support for global and regional initiatives.
- Awareness campaigns to address gender stereotypes in general, and specifically in the media, should be promoted with other stakeholders to open up space for debate.





“CIUDAD MUJER” and “Apoyo al Plan Social 2014-2019” programmes in El Salvador

European Union Delegation (country)

El Salvador

Period 2014-2020

Beneficiaries

Initial: 1,000,000 women

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit G. Latin America and the Caribbean

Scope National

Partners

Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency (*Secretaría Técnica y de Planificación de la Presidencia*); Secretariat of Social Inclusion (*Secretaría de Inclusión Social*); 18 public institutions including the Ministries of Employment, Education, Health and Work, the police, the Women's Institute (*Instituto de la Mujer*), the Ministry of Economy's National Commission of Small and Micro-Enterprises (*Comisión Nacional de la Micro y Pequeña Empresa – CONAMYPE*) and the El Salvador Institute of Professional Training (*Instituto Salvadoreño de Formación Profesional – INSAFORP*)

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹¹

Priorities



Objectives

7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17

Most relevant elements

‘Ciudad Mujer’ – which translates as ‘Woman City’ in English – is the Government of El Salvador’s flagship programme for gender equality. The EU Delegation supports Ciudad Mujer’s work on basic health care and women’s economic empowerment. The programme aims to improve the living conditions of Salvadoran women by providing services that meet their basic needs and strategic interests in five areas:

- sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- gender-based violence;
- economic empowerment;
- territorial and knowledge management; and
- child care.

Main achievements

Comprehensive attention protocols were developed and are being used to support women victims of gender-based violence. These include legal counselling, assistance for filing complaints and psychological care, among other measures. Achievements also include awareness raising on gender equality, human rights, women’s rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

¹¹ *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II)*, is the EU’s framework for action to promote gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

In 2018 alone, 434,000 services were granted to 219,000 women. 68,116 women have been trained in gender equality, women’s rights and different technical and vocational fields. These include agricultural techniques, family farming, poultry breeding, the production of cleaning products, computer literacy, the arrangement and decoration of events, cosmetology, tailoring, jewellery making, the preparation of pickles, styling, baking, pastry-making and confectionery.

Good practices

Government level: Ciudad Mujer seeks to empower women to exercise their rights to participate in decision-making, achieve economic independence and live in environments free from gender-based violence and discrimination. The programme involves:

- paying comprehensive attention to women’s needs in order to improve the quality of women’s lives;
- acknowledging women as agents of development to generate a dynamic circle of sustainable development;
- a focus on rights and social inclusion to contribute to social cohesion; and
- a territorial approach to the realisation of concrete actions, according to specific on-the-ground realities.

EU Delegation level: Timely support for national programmes and policies that aim to generate structural change represent a good practice. This approach is informed by the results of the previous Multiannual Indicative Programme’s (MIP) implementation.

Additional information or comments

Led by the Secretariat of Social Inclusion, the Ciudad Mujer programme concentrates 18 state institutions in a single service point: the Women’s City Centre. These institutions work in an articulated manner, operating through women officials trained in gender and human rights. Currently, six Women’s City Centres operate in El Salvador – in Colón, Usulután, Santa Ana, San Martín, San Miguel, Morazán. Their infrastructure is fully accessible for women with disabilities and the elderly.

The programme offers women a range of specialised services, including quality sexual and reproductive health care; services to address the physical, psychological and emotional consequences of domestic and gender-based violence; economic empowerment services to improve women’s employability and entrepreneurship; child care; and a territorial and knowledge management component.

- Sexual and reproductive health services: gynaecology and obstetrics; dentistry for pregnant women; paediatric medicine; internal medicine; nutrition-related services; the prevention and early detection of cervical cancer and breast cancer; radiology and ultrasonography services; clinical laboratory services; nursing services; the delivery of drugs; information and education on healthy life practices; and free transportation for pregnant women to the Ciudad Mujer Centres for pregnancy controls.
- Gender-based violence-related services: crisis care; legal advice; psychological therapy; support groups; self-care, talks in communities; and training for specific groups within the centre to prevent violence. The services are provided by qualified personnel who follow up on each case. Women are treated with warmth and respect to prevent re-victimisation, humiliation or shame. Institutions that participate in this programme component include the Salvadoran Institute for Women’s Development (ISDEMU); the national civil police (PNC) and their 24-hour service; the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic (FGR); the Institute of Legal Medicine; the Attorney General’s Office (PGR); and the Ministry of Culture.



- Economic empowerment-related services: employment exchange to bring employers and employees closer together, involving the Ministry of Labour as an intermediary; orientation and the updating of CVs and résumés; job opportunities; vocational training and education; technical assistance to promote entrepreneurship through the development of small and micro businesses; microcredit services with competitive rates; and fairs of women entrepreneurs. These services are grounded in the understanding that economic empowerment hinges on promoting access to credit for entrepreneurship, an approach based on the experience of the EU's *Comunidades Solidarias* programme (PACES). The institutions that take part in this programme component are: the National Commission for Micro and Small Enterprises (CONAMYPE); the Salvadoran Institute of Vocational Training (INSAFORP); the Solidarity Fund for Small Family Businesses (FOSOFAMILIA); the Agricultural Development Bank (BFA); the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTPS); the National Registry of Natural Persons (RNPN); the Consumer Advocacy Group; the Ministry of Education (MINED); the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG); and the Development Bank of El Salvador (BANDESAL).
- Child care services: providing users' children with a safe space to stay while their mothers access services; Child Care Rooms with areas for play and intellectual stimulation adapted to children of different ages – from 3 months to 12 years old; child health and nutrition services; and cradles and an area for breastfeeding at all Ciudad Mujer Centres. At the Columbus headquarters, for example, there is a 'bus game' – a space designed so that children can learn and have fun while their mothers access services offered by the centre.
- Territorial and knowledge management component: Territorial management is a fundamental component of the Ciudad Mujer model of care, since it guarantees that the supply of services is appropriate to the different realities of the communities in which women live, both urban and rural. To strengthen women's knowledge and ability to exercise their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights – with a view to enhancing women's full citizenship, participation and decision-making in all areas of public and private life – the Ciudad Mujer programme uses participatory methodologies that promote reflection and the transformation of women's lived realities. To this end, the programme works with local stakeholders, including municipal governments, women's organisations and associations, NGOs, schools, cultural centres and private companies. This component also includes the Community Ciudad Mujer strategy, which aims to improve women's access to quality services offered by different state institutions, while facilitating overall community level service delivery.



UNFPA SUPPLIES PROGRAMME

European Union Delegation (country)

West and Central Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo. East and Southern Africa: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe. Asia and the Pacific: Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste. Arab States: Yemen. Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Haiti, Honduras

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit B4. Culture, Education and Health

Scope Regional, national
Period 2017-2017

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹²

Priorities



Objectives

11

Indicators

11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7

Most relevant elements

The UNFPA Supplies Programme is a multi-donor trust fund managed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) since 2007. Its overall objective is to increase the availability and utilisation of reproductive health commodities, in order to support reproductive and sexual health services – including family planning – especially for women and girls living in poor and marginalised conditions in 46 low and low-middle income countries.

In its Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2020, the EU prioritised improving access to essential health commodities and sexual and reproductive health services. During 2016-2017, the UNFPA Supplies Programme received €20 million in EU support to foster universal access to reproductive health care.

Main achievements

During 2016 and 2017, the needs of approximately 25 million women were met through contraceptives procured by the UNFPA Supplies Programme. These women are both existing and new users of contraceptives, including those who switched to a different method.



¹² *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

The programme's estimated impact has been significant, even when only taking into account the commodities procured between 2007 and 2017. Contraceptives provided by the UNFPA Supplies Programme potentially averted an estimated 69 million unintended pregnancies, 1.2 million maternal and newborn deaths and 21 million unsafe abortions. These contraceptives saved families and countries an estimated US\$3.3 billion in direct health care costs.

Main difficulties/obstacles

Gaps between funding cycles and procurement timelines: Aligning donor funding cycles with timelines for the procurement of reproductive health commodities proved challenging. To address this, the UNFPA Supplies Bridge Funding Mechanism was designed in 2017 with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

Overstock: In Burundi and Benin, the slow roll out of training for health workers lead to overstocks, which are difficult to account for when creating procurement plans. Excess supplies of the contraceptive depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate for intramuscular administration (DMPA-IM) in Burundi were moved to Tanzania. In Benin, a quantification error in consumption rates caused an overstock of female condoms, emergency contraceptives and DMPA-IM. This stock was moved to other countries in West Africa. In Zimbabwe, as training had not expanded fast enough, an overstock of magnesium sulphate was identified. This excess stock was moved to other countries in East and Southern Africa.

Lessons learnt

In 2017, the programme focused on checking operational aspects, while reviewing progress in specific areas. These include achievements in capacity strengthening and training; humanitarian interventions; working with partners, resource mobilisation efforts; stock monitoring; and injectable contraception (DMPA-SC) programming. In addition, financial updates were prepared on setting ceilings, resource allocation for procuring reproductive health commodities, resources released to country offices for programme implementation, and the funding situation for UNFPA supplies.

The review of progress showed that training interventions concentrated on supply chain management, family planning service delivery – including the insertion and removal of implants – and humanitarian response.

The key lesson for the quarterly programme management (QPM) process is that, in its current form, the UNFPA Supplies Programme is better at tracking management and operational results than it is at tracking programme results. Going forward, tracking programme results on a quarterly basis will require agreeing on key programme deliverables with quarterly benchmarks, beyond the indicators in the programme's monitoring framework. This will also require a special tool designed for monitoring and reporting on progress.

Good practices

The European Commission is an active member of the UNFPA Supplies Programme's Steering Committee. The recently established Donor Accountability Council also provides ample opportunity for the EU to take an active role in strategic decision-making, while shaping the approach to ensure global commodity security beyond the current programme.

Appraisals of the UNFPA Supplies Programme reveal that the approach it uses worked best in countries with established policy and programming in reproductive health, including maternal health.

Strong government support and a functional health system at the community level facilitated improvements related to reproductive health commodities.

Additional information or comments

Stressing the importance of sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR), the European Parliament increased the budgetary allocations for the EU's Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) programme for 2018 by €12.5 million. This sum is specifically earmarked for SRHR and human development. A proposal for ongoing support to the UNFPA Supplies Programme for the 2018-2020 period, including the additional €12.5 million allocated for 2018, is currently going through an internal approval process.

Highlights of the UNFPA Supplies Programme in 2017:

- An additional 17.9 million women and girls (aged 15–49) are using modern contraception as of July 2017 – bringing the total number of users in the 46 programme countries to 63.5 million (2012-2017). Mozambique stands out for its high number of additional users (over 1 million since 2012) despite its relatively small population.
- The programme purchased contraceptives worth US\$57.6 million, ensuring nearly 22.4 million couple years of protection (CYP) and prompting a reduction in the average cost per CYP – which fell to US\$2.68 in 2017 from US\$2.78 in 2016. UNFPA also succeeded in reducing the prices of key contraceptives in four of seven product categories, marking price reductions for approximately 89 per cent of the contraceptives procured in 2017.
- While modern contraceptive prevalence increased, while unmet contraception needs declined. The average demand for family planning satisfied through modern contraceptive methods in programme countries rose from 46.8 % in 2016 to 47.6 % in 2017. The average modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) for women of reproductive age rose from 23.2 % to 23.9 % over the same period, with the gap narrowing between urban and rural mCPR.
- The contraceptive 'method mix' continued to improve, meaning greater contraceptive choice and more sustained use of a person's chosen method. The number of countries where one method dominated declined from 18 in 2016 to 14 in 2017. Injectable methods predominated in nine countries, followed by birth control pills in five countries.
- More service delivery points (SDPs), regardless of location, are offering varied modern contraceptive methods, life-saving medicines and supplies for maternal health and family planning. In 19 of 25 programme countries surveyed (76 %), 85 % had primary-level SDPs with at least three modern contraceptive methods available. In these 25 countries, at least three life-saving maternal health medicines were available at 73.3 % of urban SDPs and 60 % of rural SDPs. In 18 of these countries, 68 % of SDPs have staff trained in logistics management information, while in six countries, 85 % of primary SDPs have trained staff in the provision of modern contraceptives. Rates are higher among tertiary level SDPs (72.4 %) than among secondary and primary levels SDP; they are also higher for SDPs in urban areas.
- The programme dispatched Reproductive Health Kits to 25 countries, enough for 2.7 million people, including 1.4 million women and girls. Humanitarian crises affected 75 % of the 46 programme countries – including natural disasters, conflicts and post-conflict situations.
- Government institutions demonstrated capacity and leadership on contraceptive demand forecasting and procurement processes in 33 of the 46 programme countries. In 27 countries, governments led procurement, in 28 they led forecasting and in 23 countries, they led both processes. Amounts allocated in national budgets for procuring commodities rose slightly – totalling US\$34.9 million in 2017, up from US\$32.2 million in 2016.
- The country support model introduced in 2016 yielded positive results. By January, 42 countries had finalised their annual work plans, received funds and launched activities. They received their first tranche of funding within two weeks of their plans' approval – a significant improvement.
- The programme applied a differentiated approach to country support. This meant reducing support for commodity procurement for countries able to fund commodities through their own budgets, and focusing instead on technical assistance for developing sustainable family planning programmes. For 'Category C' countries – i.e. those approaching sustainability – procurement was reduced from 94 % in 2016 to 73 % in 2017. The use of third-party procurement (TPP) by countries to purchase commodities from UNFPA's Procurement Services rose from 6 % to 27 % in the same period.



- Partnerships grew as UNFPA engaged with global, regional and sub-regional partners, universities, research institutes and private sector companies to strengthen family planning policies and supply chains, expand the contraceptive method mix, and reach marginalised populations. While shortages of reproductive health supplies (stock-outs) continued, partnerships helped curb them. Seven countries made ad hoc requests for commodities for reasons other than humanitarian crises, compared to 15 in 2016. Coordination with other international procurers, mainly the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), enabled the programme to identify where its additional assistance was needed.
- Advocacy in programme countries contributed to reaching marginalised groups. The programme continued to create a positive, effective policy and programming environment – including developing, updating and enacting policies and strategies, protocols and tools around family planning. The programme also launched several initiatives to improve procurement and supply chain management. For instance, UNFPA began developing a supply chain management strategy. With partners, it is elaborating a supportive tool to create a Global Visibility Analytics Network (VAN), through which supply chain teams will be able to simultaneously see the same data and take better informed decisions. The Coordinated Supply Planning Group, led by UNFPA and USAID, improved visibility along supply chains by collecting data, identifying countries with under-stocks and overstocks, and facilitating corrective action. The UNFPA Supplies Bridge Funding Mechanism strengthened supply chains to end stock-outs.
- Several media and communications activities boosted the programme's visibility and resource mobilisation efforts for family planning. A social media field mission to Sierra Leone allowed UNFPA to raise global awareness about the world's current unmet need for family planning, and its ongoing work to close this gap.



ENABLING CIVIL SOCIETY TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE

in advancing gender equality and women's rights in Azerbaijan

European Union Delegation (country)

Azerbaijan

Period April 2016 - May 2018

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in CHARGE OF Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Partners

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the Women Association for Rational Development (WARD), Azerbaijan

Beneficiaries

1,582 beneficiaries reached

Scope

National

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹³

Priorities



Objectives

15, 17

Most relevant elements

The project built the capacities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Azerbaijan to advance the gender equality agenda through a human-rights based approach, while strengthening the capacities of women's rights activists to exercise their right to social participation.

It also supported women living in vulnerable conditions to better exercise their economic rights, most notably through training, Women's Resource Centres (WRCs) and awareness raising.

Main achievements

Women's Resource Centres were established in Bilasuvar and maintained in Sabirabad and Neftchala. Over 450 women became active members of these centres, benefitting from opportunities for networking. The centre in Neftchala obtained legal status once it was registered by the Ministry of Justice as a non-governmental public union that provides 'support to the social development of women' in the region. The ministry is currently revising the registration of the other two centres. An NGO in Neftchala was granted AZN 3,000 (roughly €1,570) for the project under the NGO Council's call for proposals on for the 'motivation and encouragement of the population and soldiers at the frontline territory – Tartar'. The project's successful implementation received positive feedback from local authorities and community members in Tartar.

¹³ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Over 500 women benefitted from capacity building activities, including training on business development; financial literacy and family budget planning; accounting courses; computer courses; CV development, presentation skills and effective communication; organisational development; NGO establishment and management; and strengthening women's social participation in rural areas. In Bilasuvar and Sabirabad, 28 businesses have been created, providing work for 15 women and benefitting 43 direct – and 220 indirect – beneficiaries.

International experts conducted two assessments, which were used to develop the Women's Resource Centres' action plans – the *Assessment of barriers preventing women's civic engagement in the target regions* and the *Assessment of employment opportunities/vacancies in the local labour market that could be filled by active women of the target regions*.

Moreover, two documents were developed: the *Legal Education Guide for NGOs on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, and a toolkit on monitoring Azerbaijan's fulfilment of obligations under CEDAW, including guidelines on preparing an alternative CEDAW report. A study tour to Germany for WRC leaders and members enabled them to learn of the experiences, strategies and examples of similar organizations in terms of CEDAW, donor requirements and cooperation between government bodies and community organisations.

An awareness raising session for NGOs further improved understandings of CEDAW. Training honed the skills of 25 participants – including 14 NGO representatives and three Women Resource Centre members – on advocacy to promote women's rights, as well as on and monitoring and reporting under CEDAW. An awareness raising campaign engaged 60 participants in local communities on women's contribution to community development and Azerbaijan's tradition of women's social activism in Bilasuvar.

Three face-to-face meetings and social media platforms in Sabirabad engaged 40 participants to facilitate networking among women activists from the country's three target regions. More than 60 women and 11 companies took part in a jobs fair organised in Bilasuvar, leading to job offers for three WRC Members and one member of the public; as of mid-2018, eight persons are on the waiting list for different jobs. Over 500 children, youths and community members joined awareness raising events in the context of *16 Days of Activism on Violence against Women* in November.

Good practices

The assessments on women's civil engagement and employment opportunities were used to develop action plans for Women's Resource Centres, which ensured that these were evidence-based.

Capacity development of civil society organisations, particularly training on monitoring and reporting on CEDAW, is especially notable. Enabling these organisations to learn of the good practice experiences of similar organisations in Germany equipped them with stronger knowledge. This familiarized them with strategies and tools to implement CEDAW and strengthen their relationships with donors, community-based organisations and government bodies.



AUTONOMY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

of rural women in Sur del Cauca, Colombia

European Union Delegation (country)
Colombia

Period 2017-2018

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit G1. Latin America and the Caribbean

Partners

Mercy Corps; Cooperatives of Coffee Producers of Cauca (*Cooperativas de Caficultores del Cauca*); Caficauca; Vega Coffee

Scope

National

Beneficiaries Initial: 3,100 families associated with Caficauca; 4,000 women linked to the Departmental Network of Women of Cauca (REDEMUC); 12 local Municipal Mayors; the Government of Cauca; SENA and the National Land Agency

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹⁴

Priorities



Objectives

15

Indicators

15.6

Most relevant elements

The overall objective of the programme, '*Autonomía y Empoderamiento Económico de las Mujeres Rurales del Sur del Cauca*', is to strengthen rural women's autonomy and economic empowerment in the south of the Colombian province of Cauca. In this way, it aims to ensure inclusive rural development and gender equity.

The programme supported efforts to secure land tenure rights for women; the creation of an inter-institutional forum on financial literacy; access to credit and public goods for local women; and the introduction of new techniques for environmental management and agricultural practices.

Main achievements

Through the programme:

- Six women formalised their land tenure rights;
- Procedures are underway to secure land for 60 women – roughly 6% of women in the target area;
- 11 women were able to rent land and procedures;
- 163 women completed financial literacy training; and
- 734 women received technical assistance to improve quality and productivity.

¹⁴ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

The initiative strengthened sustainable, legal and inclusive development models by adopting a decentralised, differentiated and participatory territorial approach. This approach seeks to improve the quality of life in rural areas, restore public confidence in state institutions and continue reforms in the agricultural sector. Thereby, it aims to lay the groundwork for lasting peace.

Good practices

The programme's produced a cultural shift by enabling women to manage land, own land/property and take decisions within the value chain. The mechanism put in place by the initiative focuses on building trust among target communities and beneficiaries, while strengthening women's skills and providing them with the information they need to access land autonomously.

In the wake of the programme's focus on leadership and participation, more women leaders are emerging in rural areas. Overall, the programme contributes to:

- building peace;
- promoting sustainable, inclusive production models, particularly in the cocoa and coffee production sectors;
- strengthening capacities for territorial planning; and
- improving Colombia's productivity and competitiveness.

Additional information or comments

The programme's main activities include: formalising rural women's property rights, resolving territorial conflicts and access to natural resources, and creating inter-institutional forums on financial education, access to credit, public goods and government subsidies. To achieve its objectives, the programme seeks to:

- boost the incomes of 700 women agricultural producers in southern Cauca by facilitating their access to productive assets and supporting them to improve the production, quality and marketing of their agricultural products;
- bolster women's participation in the formal labour market, championing better working conditions for 1,800 rural women in the region and striving to influence the design of a public labour care policy;
- offer psychosocial assistance to women, coupled with technical training to strengthen their labour skills and understanding of cooperativism and associations; and
- engage men through gender training on new masculinities.

Technical assistance in good agricultural practices (*Buenas Prácticas Agrícolas*) and good manufacturing practices (*Buenas Prácticas de Manufactura*) (good manufacturing practices) is provided to productive units on inclusive business plans, compliance with social and environmental quality certification standards, soil studies, fertilisation plans, marketing, and agriculture-related business conferences. Social security and labour formalisation campaigns champion better health and safety conditions at work, welfare services for women, and environmental control measures.

Mercy Corps and Caficauca are currently working with Vega Coffee, a United States-based company that intends to import high quality coffee from Cauca. With these partners' support, Vega will establish a roster in Popayán to benefit all women coffee producers linked to the programme. Rural women participants will receive better payment for each pound of coffee they sell to Vega, while forming part of an inclusive, innovative and sustainable business.



EDUCATION BUDGET SUPPORT PROGRAMME and Basic Education Quality and Access Programme in Lao People's Democratic Republic

European Union Delegation (country) Lao People's Democratic Republic	Headquarters (unit) Commission Services in charge of International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Unit F2. East, South-East Asia and the Pacific	Beneficiaries Initial: 450, 000 children
Period 2018	Partners Ministry of Education, Lao PDR	Scope National
Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹⁵		
Priorities 	Objectives 13	Indicators 13.1

Most relevant elements

The Government-led programme, Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR (BEQUAL), supports children – especially those living in disadvantaged conditions – to complete quality basic education, achieve literacy and numeracy, and secure key life skills. With the EU's support, BEQUAL:

- builds the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Sports – through training, professional development and institutional strengthening – to lead and manage the basic education sector;
- enables more children from rural and disadvantaged areas, especially girls and children with disabilities, to attend school and complete their primary education;
- provides teachers with training and support so that they are better equipped to help children learn;
- enables teachers' and students' access to, and use of, quality teaching and learning materials; and
- improves school facilities to ensure that children are safe, comfortable and able to learn.

The programme's formulation reflects the gender analysis and gender assessment of the Lao Education Situation Analysis. The process also followed the gender, equity, disability and inclusion (GEDSI) checklist and the inclusive guidelines of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES).

In 2016, a new gender analysis was conducted, which informed the design the Education Budget Support Programme (AAP 2018).

¹⁵ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

The objectives of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (GAP II) related to education were raised during policy dialogue with the Government of Lao PDR. A specific indicator was selected on gender equality in the context of access to education in lower secondary education.

Main achievements

Negotiations for the Financing Agreement for the new Education Budget Support Programme drew specific attention to gender disparities in access to lower secondary education in Lao PDR.

The policy dialogue prompted the Ministry of Education to agree, in principle, to review its Education Sector Development Plan – with a view to setting specific targets to narrow the gap between girls and boys in access to lower secondary education, and to take specific steps that will be reported to the National Assembly.

Lessons learnt

During the celebration of Human Rights Day in late 2017, the EU Delegation opted to do something innovative to recognise the role that civil society organisations (CSOs) play in promoting human rights in Lao PDR. This was the first year that the theme of ‘access to education’ was selected and recognised civil society’s role in promoting rights to education.

One of the CSOs’ greatest achievements was tirelessly lobbying the Government and local authorities to open a provincial centre for persons with autism in Champasak province. This Association for the Autistic was recognised by the EU Delegation and EU Member States for protecting the rights of children with developmental, physical and mental disabilities, and particularly for enabling girls with disabilities to access education and treatment.

Good practices

Policy dialogue proved a useful means of engaging the Ministry of Education to:

- review its Education Sector Development Plan, in principle;
- set targets to narrow gender gaps in education; and
- take specific steps that it will report to the National Assembly.

Rewarding CSOs’ human rights work proved a good practice. When the EU Ambassador awarded the civil society association, the Autistic Centre, for its work to ensure education and care for children with disabilities, this drew attention to civil society’s leading role in lobbying for human rights in Lao PDR.

Additional information or comments

Basic education quality and access (BEQUAL) is a ten-year programme led by the Government of Lao PDR – through the Ministry of Education and Sports – and the Australian Embassy. It is supported by the European Union and BEQUAL technical staff at the national and sub-national levels. The programme also benefits from the expertise of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and a consortium of non-governmental organisations.

BEQUAL aims to enable 450,000 children receive better quality education, with a particular focus on children who traditionally experience poorer education outcomes – girls, students with disabilities and children from remote communities. The initiative supports the country’s 66 most educationally disadvantaged districts by training teachers from remote villages, developing new methods for teaching the Lao language, building new classrooms and providing sanitation facilities. To strengthen the national education system, the programme will aid the revision of the national primary education curriculum, which encompasses textbooks for every school in the country. It will also build capacity across the national, provincial and district levels.



WOMAN’S DIALOGUE INITIATIVE

2017/2018 in Bosnia and Herzegovina

European Union Delegation (country)
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Period 2017/2018

Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in charge of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Directorate C Neighbourhood East

Beneficiaries

Initial: 70

Scope

National

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹⁶

Priorities



Objectives

4, 17

Indicators

4.3.1, 17.3

Most relevant elements

The EU Special Representative (EUSR) to Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated a dialogue series with women engaged in political, economic and social processes, at both the local and national levels. By establishing meaningful consultation with women on the current political and social agenda, the initiative seeks to amplify their voices and ensure that women’s their perspectives are taken into account in key decision-making processes in the country, now and in the future.

The series was held in the context of the country’s continued implementation of the Reform Agenda, the 2018 general elections, the on-going Stabilisation and Association Process, and the long-term aims of EU integration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The initiative intends to positively impact government and donor policies and programmes by raising public awareness about women’s perspectives, rights and participation, while strengthening advocacy for women’s political roles. In light of the initial success of the initiative’s outcomes, the dialogue series may be considered a pilot for more sustained future consultation.

¹⁶ *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU’s framework for action to promote gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Main achievements

Through the dialogue initiative, women in different political, economic and social spheres were consulted on key issues on the current political agenda, including and beyond the Reform Agenda. As a result, an informal consultative group of key women has been established and is likely to influence policy discussions. The initiative is poised to ensure that women's perspectives are taken into account in decision-making processes and that EU engagement in the country is attentive to gender issues.

The dialogues also promoted the inclusion of civil society and women's organisations in the formulation and implementation of public policy as a core European value.

The dialogue initiative drew attention to the transversal nature of gender discrimination, highlighting that:

- the limited alignment of policies and implementation of legislation leads to discrimination;
- women's voices and needs continue to be ignored;
- women's roles and contributions are not valued;
- women face multiple forms of discrimination;
- men also suffer from gender inequality; and
- improved data collection is needed to ensure informed, gender-sensitive decision-making.

Main difficulties/obstacles

Although political commitments and legal provisions on representation exist, women remain underrepresented in politics and public life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Consultations with civil society and relevant interest groups during policy processes remain insufficient, or of low quality. Citizens – particularly women – have had little influence on ongoing processes. Partly as a result of women's exclusion from key decision-making processes, policies tend to be gender-blind, which perpetuates discrimination against women.

Legal reforms and cultural traditions do not address gender discriminatory practices, behaviours or legislation. A culture of gender discrimination in workplaces prompts inequalities and abuse. Overall, women entrepreneurs are neglected in legislation, family settings and in terms of financial support. Challenges are also posed by a lack of education related to sexual and reproductive health care and rights; a lack of coordination on access to justice and responses to gender-based violence; ethno-political rhetoric; and limited progress on transitional justice and peace-building, which compromises sustainable peace and economic prosperity.

Good practices

The initiative facilitated consultation with women's rights and civil society organisations on several topics that require particular attention and correspond to the EU's and partner's strategies in the national context. These include:

- rights and access to work;
- rights and access to health care and social protection;
- access to justice and the rule of law;
- the implementation of the national Law on Gender Equality at the local level; and
- women's views and priorities on the country's future, including its constitutional and legislative framework.

The design of new actions will be informed by the findings of the dialogue initiative with civil society, women's organisation and the country's Gender Equality Mechanism. This will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan 2016–2020's (GAP II) objective 4 (indicator 4.3.1).

Additional information or comments

During the pilot phase of the women's dialogue initiative, four thematic roundtables were organised. The first two took place in Sarajevo (14–15 December 2017), focusing on access to work, health care and social protection. The second two, held in Banja Luka (18–19 April 2018), centred on sustainable peace and justice. Themes and sub-themes were selected by co-organisers, based on existing analysis of the country context. All women participants in the roundtables were invited to a validation workshop in Sarajevo (29 May 2018).

To address the limited alignment and implementation of frameworks, the dialogue series recommended:

- ensuring the alignment of policies and harmonisation, or amendment, of laws to ensure uniformity in protection and enjoyment of rights, e.g. by adopting country-wide strategies that set minimum standards;
- amending relevant laws, where needed, to guarantee accountability and to sanction non-implementation by allocating funds for inspections;
- raising public awareness of women's rights and encouraging them to report violations or non-compliance; and
- ensuring the full implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

To prevent women's voices and needs from being ignored, the initiative recommended:

- facilitating women's meaningful participation in politics, at all levels;
- regularly and meaningfully consulting women and women's organisations in policy-making, priority setting and the development of legislation;
- support networking and the joint advocacy efforts of women's organisations;
- ensuring the consistent inclusion of a gender perspective in policy-making, including via gender impact assessments and gender-responsive budgeting;
- providing gender training, including on gender-based violence for the whole support chain – from prosecutors, health staff and social workers; and
- sensitising citizens and key functionaries on gender equality through, for example, public campaigns and community level discussions.

To prevent women's roles and contributions from being undervalued, suggestions included:

- undertaking research on the unpaid care economy and women's roles in the informal economy, and using findings to inform socio-economic reforms to respond to women's particular needs and daily realities;
- ensuring that social benefits take women's unpaid care roles into account;
- providing more and better jobs for women in the formal sector; and
- enabling women's participation in the workforce by providing childcare, care for the elderly, incentives and systematic support for women entrepreneurs.

To tackle multiple forms of discrimination, the initiative recommended:

- improving existing policies and funding affirmative measures by integrating more specific references to, and stipulating special measures providing support for, women facing multiple forms of discrimination; and
- training key functionaries, such as social services and health staff, to ensure greater sensitivity for women from marginalised groups.

To address the gendered challenges that men experience, the dialogues recommended:

- challenging restrictive gender norms, including toxic forms of masculinity, through programmes that promote gender equality; and
- raising awareness of men's right to parental leave and fathers' key role in their children's upbringing.

To ensure that data informs decision-making, suggestions included:

- improving evidence-based reporting and the use of sex-disaggregated data; and
- strengthening capacities and accountability among institutions in charge of data collection, analysis and dissemination.

Detailed findings and recommendations were also developed for key sectors: rights and access to work; rights and access to health care and social protection; sustainable peace; and access to justice.





STRENGTHENING THE MONITORING OF GENDER EQUALITY

in projects and programmes in North MACEDONIA

European Union Delegation (country) North Macedonia¹⁷

Period 2017

Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)¹⁸

Priorities



Headquarters (unit)

Commission Services in Charge of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Unit C1. Georgia, Moldova and Neighbourhood Cross-Border Cooperation

Scope National

Objectives 19

Most relevant elements

'Strengthening the monitoring of gender equality in projects and programmes' is the fourth component of the Twinning Programme, 'Support to the implementation of gender equality', in North Macedonia. The component involved introducing the Gender Equality Policy Marker (G-Marker) developed by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD). It also entailed introducing gender impact assessments and incorporating a gender dimension across both the country and EU programmes.

The purpose of this component was to look at the use of tools which allow assessments of the gender-related impact of current programmes in the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD). In this way, it aimed to support their deployment and provide recommendations on how these tools could be used in future EU IPA II programmes and beneficiary country programmes.

The twinning programme's fourth component involved seven key activities:

- 1) developing an action plan for the G-marker's introduction in the country;
- 2) introducing the G-marker for all EU projects under 'indirect management mode' – i.e. under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the IPA in the policy area of 'Agriculture and Rural Development' (IPARD);

- 3) training local and national level stakeholders on the G-marker;
- 4) supporting administrations that deal with IPA and IPARD funds to introduce the G-marker and use it as a monitoring tool;
- 5) integrating the G-marker in the monitoring information system(s) of the relevant administrations for all projects;
- 6) updating the G-marker in the monitoring information system(s); and
- 7) delivering a quantitative and qualitative analysis of gender equality within IPA funds by using the G-marker for each IPA programme under indirect management.

Main achievements

Activities 1 and 2: The quantitative and qualitative analysis of IPA projects showed that only 5% were marked as 'G-1' or 'G-2' – i.e. projects in which gender is a significant or main objective. Recommendations to support the introduction of the G-marker in North Macedonia included commissioning a gender country profile; producing an impact guide pack; updating project reporting; and promoting inclusive implementation structures.

Activities 3 and 4: Training was developed on gender equality – including on the G-marker and other tools – with materials available in the toolkit produced by the Twinning Programme. Discussions with the Secretariat for European Affairs helped to identify training needs and shape the training design. A workshop at the EU Delegation's Information Centre recommended mandatory gender training for all staff working on EU-funded projects and all staff in the operating structure.

Activities 5 and 6: It was not deemed feasible to integrate the G-marker in the IPA's management information system (MIS) by 're-opening' the design of the computerised MIS tool. Modifications would entail significant costs and disruptions of the IPA's wider administration. Therefore, a quantitative and qualitative analysis, involving a review of a sample of IPA projects, was carried out to assess the extent to which gender equality considerations are included in project design and delivery. The results of this analysis will inform work to integrate the G-marker in the MIS of the IPA II (and the IPA, if the EU decides that this would be desirable).

Recommendations included:

- gender-sensitive data collection and analysis;
- developing future actions consistent with accession requirements and North Macedonia's context (e.g. changing traditional attitudes towards women's roles);
- generating information from projects to inform wider policy change; and
- implementing processes and structures to disaggregate data that can inform national policies and coordination with the IPA's work.

To comply with the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (GAP II), a change in approach and investment will be required under the IPA II – involving a clear results-driven approach that sets high standards for reporting and evaluation.

Activity 7: A complete set of country statistics to assess gender inequality in the country is not available, although some robust materials exist. A national gender profile needs to be produced as part of the IPA II and the gender analysis required by GAP II.

Main difficulties/obstacles

As work by key organisations is also not always well communicated, this leads to duplication, including in training.

When applying the G-marker to a sample of IPA projects, it proved challenging to identify relevant gender information in project documents. This influenced how the component developed its advocacy approach for a G-marker Action Plan in North Macedonia.

Challenges were also posed by the lack of country level data on gender inequality, and the fact that the programme had concluded before work on the G-marker commenced.



¹⁷ North Macedonia is referred to as 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' in the 2017 EU Gender Action Plan II Report as the report was published in 2018, before the country's name was officially changed.

¹⁸ *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020* (GAP II), is the EU's framework for action to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in EU external relations. The GAP II has four priorities: A) Institutional Culture Shift (horizontal priority); B) Physical and Psychological Integrity; C) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and D) Political and Civil Rights. Each priority has objectives and indicators to report on.

Lessons learnt

A stark conclusion is that the horizontal principle approach to gender equality, deployed under the IPA, has not resulted in a significant investment in projects to tackle gender inequality in North Macedonia. The fact that only 5% of projects in the sample reviewed address gender equality show very limited attention to gender when compared to investments by the EU or other donor organisations elsewhere. The current paucity of gender-related information, and the lack of a comprehensive gender country profile, mean that the requirement to comply with the GAP II cannot be achieved without a significant change of approach to gender, and changes in investment, under the IPA II. Collective work is recommended to develop a new approach to gender. In this regard, the GAP II framework provides guidance on new and collective approaches.

In common with many other countries, North Macedonia lacks an overall gender analysis to contextualise projects and focus investment. There is also scant information on gender within projects, and no effective reporting mechanism on the gender impacts of projects – a situation which reflects wider difficulties in gender reporting in the country.

Given the nature of gender inequality in North Macedonia, a gender analysis profile – that reflects its ethnic and geographic complexity – is urgently needed. Following this, it will be essential to ensure the mandatory consideration of gender, mandatory reporting on gender and the appropriate presentation of information on gender (and other equality issues). Systems should be developed and implemented to ensure full compliance with EU requirements.

Good practices

The EU-funded Twinning Programme, ‘Support to the implementation of gender equality’, facilitated the EU’s leadership in coordination with national authorities, beneficiaries, partners and the HQ twinning team. As a result, seven twinning projects – six standard projects and one Twinning Light (TWL) project – were successfully contracted with EU Member State partner administrations in 2017. Work on the Twinning Programme also improved understandings of gender inequalities across North Macedonia, most notably regarding women of different ethnic groups.

Additional information or comments

Key EU Delegation and partner country staff should jointly develop a pragmatic action plan to ensure that the IPA II complies with the GAP II and with mandatory EU reporting requirements. This could also help identify unaddressed aspects of gender inequality for the IPA II to target or, at minimum, determine when these aspects will be identified in the composite implementation plan.

There is a need to swiftly move forward with the GAP II’s effective implementation in parallel with the IPA II’s roll-out. This would ensure that addressing gender inequality is given a sharper, and more needs-based, focus under the IPA II in North Macedonia. Much of the urgent work needed on gender for the IPA II will be useful for other actors’ missions. There is also an opportunity to advance gender-related work using new structures which engage other key stakeholders. This would provide a vehicle for better integrated, more evidence-driven delivery and development in the future.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Template for good practice reports

Title	
Headquarters (unit)	
European Union Delegation (country)	
General data	
Relevance for the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II)	<i>Period, scope, partners.</i>
Beneficiaries	<i>Relevant GAP II thematic priorities, objectives and indicators.</i>
Most relevant elements	<i>Point out those aspects that distinguish this experience in relation to others and that make it particularly relevant.</i>
Main achievements	<i>The achievement must be expressed as a product of the results chain or it must be a clearly replicable element in another context.</i>
Main difficulties/obstacles	<i>Briefly highlight two or three main issues, explain how you have tried to overcome them and with what results.</i>
Lessons learnt	<i>Include reflection on those aspects of the lesson learnt that can be replicated or what should not be done in the same way; if applicable, link this to the difficulties or obstacles mentioned above.</i>
Good practices	<i>Highlight those good practice aspects that can be replicated or that should not be done in the same way; if applicable, link this to the difficulties or obstacles cited above.</i>
Additional information or comments	<i>In this section, if applicable, the experience can be described in more detail. It is fundamental to always take into account the practical application of this experience, how it is replicable and whether it is clear to the person who reads the sections on 'what' has been done and 'how'. Focus on specific aspects that can serve as a model in the implementation of a similar initiative in another context.</i>

Annex 2: Criteria for the selection of good practices

Each practice included in this document met at least ten of the following good practice criteria:

- 1) It reflects at least one objective per each priority of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020.
- 2) It is informed by a context-specific and sector-specific gender analysis.
- 3) It was designed in consultation with, or with the engagement of, a diversity of women and girls, and men and boys, who are expected to participate and benefit from it.
- 4) It is evidence-based, i.e. it is substantiated by concrete measurable data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and socio-economic status resulting from a robust monitoring and impact evaluation.
- 5) It is responsive, i.e. it adequately addressed the situation and produced encouraging changes.
- 6) It is transformative, i.e. it addressed the root causes of gender inequalities and discriminations in a given context/sector and produced positive changes in the socio-economic, cultural, institutional and/or political paradigm(s).
- 7) It addressed gender inequality as a risk factor to the quality and sustainability of the development initiatives.
- 8) It produced good quality/desirable results for gender equality in comparison to other practices.
- 9) It can be replicated in similar situations or in order to achieve similar results by using the same technique or methodology that led to a positive outcome.
- 10) It has an acceptable efficiency (effort)/effectiveness (result) balance.
- 11) It is appropriately relevant to the context and ethically sound.
- 12) It is well-accepted, recognised and understood by rights holders who are keen to reproduce it.
- 13) It focused on lessons learnt to implement corrective actions and redress systems.
- 14) It has good quality performance management standards.
- 15) It is a good candidate for additional study (specific research on impact, evaluation, etc.).

Annex 3: Priorities and objectives of the EU Gender Action Plan II (GAP II)

GAP II – Horizontal priority

A. Institutional Culture Shift in the European Union's external relations

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

GAP II – Thematic priorities and objectives

B. Thematic priority: Physical and Psychological Integrity

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

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

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

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

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

