

Gender Action Plan III- 2021-2025

Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) - Papua New Guinea

1. Context for EU Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Papua New Guinea

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is clearly enshrined in the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. Under its' second goals and directive principles (paragraph 5) the Constitution recognises women as citizens having the same rights as men and it calls for equal participation of women citizens in all political, economic, social and religious activities.

PNG has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women. (UNCEDAW) and other related international treaties and conventions including the Convention on the Rights of People with DisAbility, Convention on the Rights of Children and the Human Rights Charter. PNG enacted national laws including the Family Protection Act and the repealing of the Sorcery Act. It also amended the Criminal Code Act making rape within marriage a crime punishable by law.

The government's Ministry for Religion, Youth and Community Development is entrusted with the mandate for women and girls affairs. Furthermore, the Government established the Office for the Development of Women (ODW), which is housed under the Ministry for Religion, Youth and Community Development directly reporting to the Minister. An expired National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2010-2020 is currently under review. The Government endorsed the National GBV Strategy 2015-2030 and has established the GBV Secretariat.

In 2020, PNG established the National Parliamentary Committee on GBV through the support provided by EU under the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative Programme; it held its inaugural sitting, enquiring into GBV issues, in June 2021.

However, participation of women and girls in the political, economic and social activities have not been that fair for especially when they represent half of the population (10million) of Papua New Guinea (PNG). PNG's Gender-related Development Index (GDI) places PNG at 124th among the 157 countries assessed, with the life expectancy of females being lower than that of males. Women generally suffer from excessive workloads, mal-nutrition, poor access to safe water and healthcare service, excessive repeated pregnancies, and gender-based violence. Gender-based violence is so prevalent that the Department for Community Development (DFCD) recognizes it as a serious problem. However, the relevant departments have not yet taken sufficient concrete actions. Women are poorly represented in decision-making systems. Current parliament (9th Parliament) saw no women elected into parliament. PNG elections are conducted every 5 years. The next elections for the 10th Parliament will be held in June/July 2022. In many rural communities, where traditional customs still largely dominate the everyday life of the inhabitants, women tend to face more serious challenges than in urban areas. These challenges include polygamy, child marriage, and "witch-hunts" etc. Additionally, the custom of paying a "bride price" reinforces the view of women being the "property" of men.

2. Selected Thematic Areas of Engagement and Objectives

The target of GAP III for all new actions is that at least 85% of new actions must have at least gender equality as a significant Gender Marker 1. Consequently, the Delegation is targeting at least three specific actions directly focussing on gender equality and women's empowerment and at the same time it is ensuring that gender is mainstreamed in the new MIP. The current support under the Spotlight Initiative will continue and will be complemented by the implementation of the 2020 CSO-LA Programme, 2020 EIDHR Programme and the new NDICI CSO 2021-2025 and the NDICI Human Rights 2021-2025.

Delegation will also seek the support and close cooperation of member state France and partners at multilateral, regional and country level on the shared vision of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Delegation's 2021-2027 Multiannual Indicative programme (MIP) has three priority areas:

(i) "Our Forest Our Future" - Team Europe Initiative (TEI) to address the Forestry-Climate Change- Biodiversity (FCCB) nexus.

This priority area addresses the FCCB nexus, using an integrated systemic approach aimed to transform an area that is on top of the global agenda and of major relevance for PNG, as evidenced not least by the Prime Minister's (PM) commitments at the 2021 UNGA and COP 26. This action covers the EU input of the Team Europe Initiative "Our Forest, our Future" for which substantial synergies with, and potentially additional funding from, other EU public and private sector sources are expected.

(ii) "Water is Life": Water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) in connection with Human Development

In a country where 80% of the population do not have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, access to WaSH is a crucial foundation for human development, even more so in light of the current pandemic. Immediate implementing focus will be on WaSH capacities and delivery in rural areas of Papua New Guinea especially in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB^o, which is one of the most under-served areas and later extended to selected areas in the country.

(iii) Transparent and accountable Governance

This priority sector addresses strategic elements of the governance/human rights space, considered key obstacles to the transformation of PNG's natural wealth into development gains for its people and progress towards the SDGs. These actions also address some risk factors described in more detail in the RMF+.

The Delegation will mainstream gender across all priority areas of the MIP. Specifically, the Delegation will address the following priorities for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

(i) The focus of EU's engagement on gender in the priority area of **Our Forest, Our Future** will respectively address issues of women's access to resources, access to employment of women and youth, empowering women in the choices that can be made on land use and decarbonised food production systems, also improved cooking system (less dependent on wood fuel) and the protection of women's rights. The focus on this is to improve women's livelihoods and resilience to shocks by increasing their role in the sustainable resource management.

(ii) The focus of EU's engagement on gender in the priority area **“Water is Life”: Water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) in connection with Human Development will be on** strengthening government capacity to deliver services that address women's needs especially on access to clean water and easing women's time and burden.

(iii) The focus of EU engagement on gender in the priority area **“Transparent and Accountable Governance”** will be on strengthening women's role in decision-making at national and at local authority levels, and the protection of women's rights. The Delegation will promote women's role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. In particular, the objectives of EU actions and related political dialogues will be to enable women's political participation and leadership by securing participation of women to the parliamentary process at national, provincial and other local authority governments, reduce instances of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and other human rights violations and improve women's access to justice by providing legal aid.

3. Targeted action(s) supporting gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender and Women's Empowerment will be continuously pursued through policy and strategic dialogues with Government, EU MS France, Multilateral partners like UN Agencies, ADB, World Bank, DFAT, NZAID, JICA, Japanese Embassy, KOICA, and Civil Society Organizations. Targeted actions will be carried out within the MIP process and the ongoing 2020 CSO-LA Programme, 2020 EIDHR Programme and future planned programmes under the NDICI Human Rights 2021-2025 Programme and the NDICI CSO 2021-2025 Programme where specific actions will be targeted. The Delegation plans to implement three targeted actions which are as follows:

- Action to support equal participation and representation of women in the parliamentary democracy process including their participation in elections and their voice is represented;
- Action to strengthen women's capacities to participate and contribute meaningfully in the economic and social life and;
- Action to addressing the pandemic induced issues of sexual and gender based violence.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

In August 2021, the Delegation initiated a dialogue with PNG Women Leaders on a number of areas, including the need to ensure participation of women in the parliamentary process. Women Leaders exchanged views on the abandoned 22 reserved seats proposal; the current 5 regional seats proposals for women; the 2022 national general elections and the participation of women as voters, contesting as candidates and their chances of winning the elections. Furthermore, a recent UNWOMEN and EU supported informal economy survey indicated that women who are economically empowered have strong chances of winning elections. This is one of the area that EUD is focussing on and will continue to prioritize for the period 2021-2025 in order to foster gender equality promotion and empowerment. EUD's current Call for Proposals under the 2021 NDICI Human Rights is on the following priorities: increased election awareness, education and participation of women, increased women leadership as well as economic, legal and political empowerment, increased voice and capacities of women's organizations, increased capacities of women's organizations to promote peaceful conflict resolution and improved gender balance in the political decision making.

The Delegation will continue to make human rights, SGBV, gender equality and women's empowerment central to its political dialogue at the national level. Political dialogues and Human Rights Dialogues take place annually and will be held jointly with resident EU Member State France. Those dialogues will continue to address women's rights. Political and human rights dialogues on gender will be the passing and implementation of laws protecting women from SGBV, sorcery accusation related violence and enabling women's participation and access to political space.

Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

The Delegation's 2021-2025 priority areas on communication and advocacy outlook on gender equality and women's empowerment will focus on delivering keys messages targeting specific audiences coinciding with significant calendar days of the year. This include the International Women's Day that falls on 08th March, National Women's Day that falls on the 25th March, International Peace Day and the 16 Days of Activisms. Organizations who are implementing partners of actions financed by EU are requested to include gender equality and women's empowerment in their communication and advocacy plans.

5. Technical Facility and/or financial resources all allocated to support GAP III implementation

The Delegation is working to allocate funds under its MIP to gender equality and women's empowerment. Significant complementary support will come from the thematic budget lines under the 2020 CSO-LA Programme, 2020 EIDHR Programme, the 2021-2025 NDICI CSO Programme and the 2021-2025 NDICI Human Rights Programme. More specifically, the 2021 NDICI Human Rights allocation of EUR 460,000 has been committed to gender equality and women's empowerment. It is expected that out of this allocation, two project actions directly supporting gender equality and women's empowerment will receive financial grants. At least one more Call for Proposals will target gender equality and economic empowerment.

Dated: 15/11/2021

Signature by Head of Delegation:

