

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025
Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) for the Republic of Seychelles

1. Context for EU action gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country

i) Women’s rights and gender equality

Seychelles’ HDI value for 2019 is 0.796—which put the country in the high human development category—positioning it at 67 out of 189 countries and territories. Globally, some progress on women’s rights has been achieved. However, work still needs to be done in Seychelles to achieve gender equality. The adolescent birth rate is 68.3 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 as of 2018, up from 64.4 per 1,000 in 2017. As of February 2021, only 22.9% of seats in parliament were held by women.

As of December 2020, only 22.1% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available, with gaps in key areas, in particular: violence against women, unpaid care and domestic work and key labour market indicators, such as the gender pay gap. In addition, many areas – such as gender and poverty, physical and sexual harassment, women’s access to assets (including land), and gender and the environment – lack comparable methodologies for regular monitoring. Closing these gender data gaps is essential for achieving gender-related SDG commitments in Seychelles. It is worth noting that EU is already supporting battered women through a shelter project. Besides EU is also supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2015-2020, by strengthening the capacity of the Seychelles National Human Rights Commission.

ii) Status of Joint programming for Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP)

Seychelles was initially not entitled for any allocation under the NDICI given that it is a High-Income Country. The EU Delegation in Mauritius¹ made a call for a reconsideration of Seychelles eligibility to the programming for 2021-2027 based on the country's escalating vulnerabilities and based on the real risk of eroding EU influence in this strategic partner country. In this context, it was convened that Seychelles will be eligible for an amount of EUR 2 million.

In as much as the joint programming is concerned, it is noteworthy that the only EU Member State present in Seychelles is France. EUD will continue full cooperation and convergence of priorities with France and its development agency, i.e. the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), as well as the Région La Réunion.

The current MIP proposal is therefore based on a joint analysis of the main strategic objectives. These were also presented to other non-resident Member States while calling for reinforced cooperation and contribution. The whole consultation process was based on a Team Europe approach. With a view to maximising synergies, ongoing and recently committed programmes are also closely and jointly monitored. For the time being, it is not possible to go beyond this step given the uncertainties about future resources available to AFD in 2021-2027; however, convergence on development objectives and communication will be ensured throughout the programming period, also to maximise Team Europe’s visibility.

The EIB is actively involved in Seychelles in the public utilities sector but also recently in a joint blending operation with EU and AFD for the rehabilitation and upgrading of Port Victoria.

¹ EU Delegation in Mauritius covers Seychelles as well

With its high income status, Seychelles serves as a good model to showcase such innovative financing.

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The selected “*areas of engagement*”² and their respective specific objectives and corresponding indicators that will guide our future intervention in promoting gender equality; women and girls’ empowerment; women, girls’ and children’s rights and human rights are summarised as follows:

- i) Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence;
- ii) Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- iii) Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women;
- iv) Promoting equal participation and leadership; and
- v) Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation

3. Targeted actions supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment

Seychelles qualifies as a High-Income country and as such bilateral envelope is limited (*indicatively to be around EUR 2 million*). The entire NIP will be committed by way of a Cooperation Facility which is the preferred approach. Based on the successful implementation of the 11th EDF – entirely committed in the form of a TCF, a similar approach will be used under the present NIP to allow for a consolidation of work that the EU has already engaged into with Seychelles in the environment, climate change and good governance fields. Under the latter priority area, human rights, gender equality, women and girls rights as well as children’s rights will be given due priority. Our intervention will be backed by the updated Gender Country Profile³ for which a Gender Expert has been recruited.

Under the TCF, we propose to address the above retained thematic areas which are in line with our GAP III in the form of:

- Capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance and exchange of public expertise, such as TAIEX and Twinning and the participation of Seychelles in EU Programmes and cooperation with EU Agencies;
- Supporting dedicated policy dialogue on gender: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support gender policy dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders;
- Support to facilitate Team Europe coordination at country level and the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union’s cooperation, including via T.A.;
- Assist Government in the formulation and preparation of project proposals that addresses women empowerment, gender equality, women and girls’ rights, human rights and gender based violence and domestic violence;
- Possibility of maintaining our support notably under shelter project for battered women and the Seychelles Human Rights Commission focusing on women; Ensure that all actions are gender-sensitive. Eg under EPA programme, focus will be on supporting women-led SMEs. In that way, women is the focus either through direct targeted actions

² The areas of engagement follows from the new Gender Action Plan III (2021 – 2025)

³ EU-financed 2018 GAP analysis to Government. A Gender expert has been retained to update the gender gap analysis.

or indirectly via more general projects but where performance indicators are deliberately made gender sensitive.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

Violation of human rights is a major preoccupation in Seychelles and is on the rise because of the incidence of drugs and alcohol consumption. Victims of domestic violence are predominantly women. Gender Analysis reveals that whilst women and girls have made tremendous progress in the last three decades in the Seychelles, there are still many disadvantaged and vulnerable women. Poverty has a feminine face with more women than men likely to be poor. Compounding the problem of poverty, is also the situation of domestic violence and gender-based violence, and women using drugs in Seychelles. The most vulnerable women and girls are also more likely to report to various services for health and psychosocial support. New cases of domestic violence average more than 400 per year.

The updated CSO Roadmap 2021-2024 has been elaborated after consultation with CSO to guide our support to CSO in promoting gender equality and women empowerment. As in the past, the EU has engaged with civil society organisation in Seychelles in areas such as the environment, human rights and gender based violence, electoral governance and fight against corruption. The EU will continue to engage with CSOs to promote the fulfilment of the objectives of GAP III, improve the perception of the EU and its policies and ultimately facilitate future cooperation. The updated Gender Country Profile will also serve as reference document for future intervention.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

Our Delegation has formulated a public diplomacy framework that revolves around 10 key priority areas as we believe that Public diplomacy initiatives allowing to engage with our target audiences and partners can be key to build trust, enhance the understanding of the EU, support the implementation of our policy priorities. Not surprisingly, Human Rights, Gender Equality, Youth Engagement & Empowerment features prominently among them.

Below is an extract of our public diplomacy framework that focuses on HR and Gender Equality priority.

Political priorities	Policy and communication objectives	Key messages for 2021 to 2025	Planned Activities for 2021 - 2025
Human rights, and Gender Equality, Youth engagement & empowerment	<p>Human rights: To protect and promote the universality and indivisibility of human rights within the EU and in our partner countries</p> <p>To contribute to the respect by the partner country of international commitments taken in the field of human rights</p> <p>To support human rights defenders with funding, capacity building and advocacy in order to promote respect for human rights</p>	<p>The EU is committed to respect fundamental rights within the European Union and to advance and consolidate human rights in its external action.</p> <p>Human rights are part of the annual gender policy dialogue and Article 8 Political Dialogue with the Government. In this framework, the EU calls on all its partners to combat all forms of discrimination on any ground, including on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, property, birth,</p>	<p>Article 8 Political dialogue (<i>annual</i>)</p> <p>Dialogue with Human Rights Defenders and engagement with the civil society (<i>annual</i>)</p> <p>Project-related events</p> <p>Sensitization campaigns</p> <p>Conferences</p> <p>Public debates</p> <p>Joint EU-Human rights defenders messages</p>

		disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity. The EU has been providing support to institutional partners and human rights defenders to promote the rights of women and children, persons with disability, elderly, etc.	European Film Festival: films on some human rights issues such as the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons
	<u>Gender equality :</u> To reduce gender inequality in the Republic of Seychelles To raise awareness on EU policies, positions and actions on human rights and monitor convergence with EU positions and initiatives in relevant international HR fora	Team Europe is ready to provide technical assistance and twinning to promote gender equality and a higher participation of women in the economy and in the decision-making fronts.	Annual Political Dialogue Project-related events Sensitization campaigns Conferences Public debates
	<u>Youth:</u> To promote youth engagement & empowerment	In line with EU's Youth Strategy to engage youth and their organisations to take part in the dialogue with CSOs.	Dialogue during Youth Forum (<i>annual</i>)

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

Indicatively Seychelles can expect to receive around EUR 2 million as bilateral envelope to support activities that would address the priority areas of the MIP. The fund is likely to be used in the form of TCF to support, among others, implementation of activities related to GAP III.

Date:

Signature by Acting Head of Delegation: Géza STRAMMER [e-Signed]