

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT



The Director-General



Secretary General

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025
Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP [Zimbabwe]

CLIP Template

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

- The constitution of Zimbabwe (one of the most progressive in the region) provides a strong legal framework for the protection and promotion of the rights of women in the following sections: Section 17 (Gender Balance); Section 56 (Equality and Non-Discrimination); Section 80 (Rights of Women); and Section 245 (Establishment and Composition of the Gender Commission). Furthermore, any law, practice, custom or conduct inconsistent with it is invalid to the extent of its inconsistency. Zimbabwe has also made significant strides in amending and enacting legislation that promotes GEWE. Aside from the current constitution it has passed 17 pieces of legislation to advance gender equality and equity objectives, among them being the Domestic Violence Act (Chapter5:16) which makes provision for the protection and relief for victims of domestic violence.
- Zimbabwe is party to a significant number of international and regional conventions and protocols that promote gender equality and human rights.¹ ,
- However, despite all these legal instruments, women face hindrances in the exercise of their rights due to negative patriarchal traditions and harmful cultural and religious beliefs and practices. About 1 in 3 women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 4 women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. Gender-based violence is perpetrated with almost full impunity. The current programmes that are being implemented in that area in partnership with the State and Civil society, including the Spotlight Initiative, are beginning to bear results with communities’ involvement in the fight against GBV.

¹ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Beijing Platform for Action and the Beijing +20; the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development; the African Charter on Human and People’s rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the African Union’s Agenda 2063; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

- The biggest challenge that Zimbabwe faces is that of implementing the positive policy and legislative provisions in order to transform women’s lived realities
- Despite being the majority of registered voters, women hold only 13% of Local Government seats and 12% of House of Assembly seats.
- Women continue to experience challenges related to access to equal opportunities, including access to health, access to resources and means of production.
- Zimbabwe has faced challenges in implementing the national gender policy due to inadequate allocation of funding to its implementation.

Analytical basis for the CLIP

The CLIP has been prepared based on the existing country gender profile conducted by the EU in 2016 as well those recently prepared by other development partners (USAID, GIZ and World Bank) to inform their programming. The conflict analysis, the CSO Roadmap and the national gender policy have also informed the selection of the priority areas. .

The following have been consulted: EU Member States, UN Agencies, the Women’s Coalition, Civil society Organisations in the various thematic areas, the Youth Sounding Board, the national gender machinery, other government Ministries and the various independent constitutional Commissions.

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The MIP priority areas are:

- **Good governance and Citizens’ rights** which will focus on improving transparency and accountability in public service delivery, strengthening the institutional oversight framework as provided for in the constitution and promoting inclusive democratic processes. Priority will be to empower women and youth
- **Green economic growth** which will promote inclusive economic growth with due regard given to environmental protection. Focus will be on climate smart agriculture, renewable energy and natural resources management.
- **Social recovery and human development** which will focus on improving health outcomes as well as fostering equitable socio-economic inclusion for all. Support will be provided to the health sector to ensure access to health by all, including SRHR as well as to address vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and general economic decline

Empowering women and young people is a strategic aspect across the three MIP priority areas and will be implemented in the frame of the Gender Equality TEI

- ***The overall objectives of EU action for gender equality and women’s empowerment***

The overall objective of EU action for GEWE is to promote gender equality through women’s social, political and economic empowerment, guided by the “leave no one behind principle.

- ***The selected “areas of engagement”² on gender equality and women’s empowerment***

All the six thematic priorities of the GAP III will be addressed in the MIP. Sexual and Reproductive health and rights will be addressed in GAP thematic priorities 1 and 2.

Specific thematic objectives under each theme:

1/ Ensuring freedom from all forms of GBV and promoting Sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity:
 - are better protected from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres, in the work place and online through legislation and effective enforcement, including in emergency and humanitarian situations.
 - are agents of change regarding discriminatory social norms, gender stereotypes, and gender-drivers of conflict
 - have increased access to sexual and reproductive health rights services.
- Women’s rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations are influential in ending gender-based violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and other violations of women’s rights

2/ Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women

- Promoting universal access to health and improved access for every individual to a comprehensive package of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Economic empowerment and access to finance
- Promote integration of women and youth in climate smart agriculture;
- Gender responsive regulatory frameworks in renewable energy, climate change and natural resources management.
- Digitisation / closing the digital divide in the wake of COVID.

3/ Advancement of participation and leadership

- Promote women and youth participation, representation and leadership in political and governance processes
- Strengthen implementation of constitutional and institutional framework for gender equality and women and youth empowerment
- Amplify women and youth voices through use of ICTs
- Improved access to justice
- Improved systems for collecting quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on women and youth political participation and leadership.

4/ Integrating the women, peace and security agenda

- Strengthen peacebuilding, cohesion and reconciliation
- Promote equitable and meaningful participation, representation and leadership in prevention, protection, conflict resolution, peace building and reconciliation initiatives and dialogue, at the national and sub-national levels
- Strengthen the capacity of decision-makers to formulate, review, and implement gender-sensitive policies, and protocols that promote women’s rights in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda

- Strengthen local peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes

5/ Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation

- Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues
- Improved nutrition levels
- Improved access to and usage of ICTs by women and girls
- *Potential for synergies, cooperation, partnerships, training and joint implementation with EU Member States and other EU actors.*

The member states have already committed to working together on the team Europe Initiatives, ensuring joint implementation in the areas of social, economic and political empowerment. Coordination on gender equality and women's empowerment is already in progress and will be further strengthened. Training on GEWE will be conducted jointly both at embassy and programmatic levels. Initial conversations have been held with European financial institutions such as the EIB for joint initiatives in the area of women's economic empowerment

- *In what way will civil society be included in the design, implementation and monitoring*

Civil society has been consulted on the GAP III during the roadmap consultations and have contributed to the selection of the thematic objectives. They will also be consulted in the formulation phase and will benefit directly through grant implementation. They will be invited to be members of Steering Committees and will be involved in monitoring and evaluation missions. The youth Sounding Board will serve as an advisory board on youth inclusion. A women's rights national reference group will be constituted to provide advice and CSO voice in the steering committees.

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

Thematic area(s) of the targeted action(s) and related GAP III thematic objective(s)

- Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women
- Advancement of participation and leadership
- Ensuring freedom from all forms of GBV

- *Rationale for the chosen action(s) and expected results*

The aim is to transform women's lived realities through empowering them in all spheres of life. The actions will strengthen implementation of legislation and policies on gender equality and women's empowerment as well as strengthen relevant institutions. The EU and MS are already recognised as leading partners in supporting gender equality in Zimbabwe.

Expected results

Gender equality through women's empowerment

- Increased participation and leadership of women in planning, budgeting, decision-making and accountability processes at the local level
 - Improved health outcomes including access for every individual to health and to a comprehensive package of SRHR
 - Increased access by women, in all their diversity, to financial services and products and productive resources
 - Strengthened capacity for collection of quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on women and youth social, political and economic empowerment.
- ***Main indicators to measure results (see SWD) if possible***
 - Number of women and girls accessing e-services in health, governance and economic arenas
 - Number of individuals with improved access to health and SRHR services and information disaggregated by sex
 - Number of beneficiaries, disaggregated at least by sex, with access to financial services
 - Number of female farmers benefitting from EU support
 - Proportion of women in leadership and decision-making positions at the national (Parliament, local government) and sub-national levels (Village, ward and district).
 - ***Estimated amount and/or other resources for the action(s)***

Euro 1m has already been provided under the CSO Thematic Programme.

- ***Collaboration among Member States, Team Europe initiatives and with other - development partners***

Support is already being provided to the Ministry of women affairs to strengthen its coordination role at both the national and local levels through the SI. Support will also be provided to independent constitutional commissions which promote human rights enforcement and monitoring and peace and security.

The bulk of the support will be directed to women's rights organisations which will receive support for implementation and monitoring in the form of grants.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

The EUD will prioritise to engage via:

- Political dialogue platform under the equivalent of the article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement
- Donor gender and women's rights groups – Policy dialogue was initiated in April 2021 and both parties (Government represented by the Ministry of women Affairs) agreed to formalise it. The Office of the President and Cabinet is also represented at these meetings

- Policy dialogue with Government Ministries in the MIP priority areas
- Policy dialogue through the Project Steering Committees which will include CSOs
- Policy dialogue with women's rights organisations and Youth Sounding Board
- Policy dialogue with independent commissions (ZGC, NPRC, ZHRC and ZEC)

Regular dialogue involving civil society in various sectors is foreseen through the frame work of the EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

Traditional and social media and community friendly channels will be used as means of communication.

- Launch of the CLIP, Launch of the MIP,
- Announcement of the TEIs, Adoption of the High Level Political Compact (developed under the SI), Commemoration of international days, e.g. IWD and 16 days of activism,
- Joint demarches,
- EU Day/week,
- Press statements prior to major events in the country, e.g. calling for equal participation of women and men in the elections,
- Organise dialogue on GEWE during the political dialogue.

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

A specific amount been earmarked in the EUD's cooperation facility to support

- Reporting and communication
- Gender mainstreaming training
- Partner training on gender responsive results and indicators

Other specific allocation

Under the CSO thematic programme and ICSP have been earmarked as well as in the MIP.

Date: 30 July 2021.

Signature by Head of Delegation: e-signed.