



UNION EUROPEA

DELEGACION EN MEXICO

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025

Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP – Mexico

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

Gender equality is a core value of the EU and a universally recognised human right as well as an imperative to well-being, economic growth, prosperity, good governance, peace, and security. However, challenges to gender equality in Mexico persist, particularly in the GAP III thematic areas of freedom from all forms of gender-based violence and economic rights and empowerment.

Mexican women have unequal access to basic rights and the context generated by the global COVID-19 pandemic has made more evident existing gender inequalities, while disproportionately and negatively impacting women, adolescents, girls, and other vulnerable populations. These groups have faced notably increased violence, diminished economic opportunities, and a lack of equal access to health services.

The Mexican State has signed and ratified the most important regional and international conventions that protect women's rights and promote gender equality, demonstrating a solid commitment to the latter. For example, it co-hosted, together with the French government and in coordination with UN Women, the Generation Equality Forum 2021, which seeks to accelerate progress for gender equality by 2026. One of Mexico's primary achievements at the forum was launching the Global Alliance for Care Work, an initiative to address the burden of care that hinders women's economic opportunities. At the national level, gender equality is established in Article 4 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States and within the National Development Plan 2019-2024, a mechanism that outlines the federal government's social policy priorities. The government asserts that gender equality crosscuts the Plan, and is included in the principal of 'leave no one behind' derived from the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, in November 2019, the Mexican President signed a National Agreement for Gender Equality. Nevertheless, during the current administration, as under previous governments, there is a significant gap between international commitments and the legal and normative framework when compared to implementation and practice at the national, state, and local levels. Moreover, both public and private financing in Mexico for gender equality is increasingly restricted. This tendency can be observed in the elimination of various sources of government support for women, as well as reductions in various budget line items assigned to women's issues (most particularly, the amount allocated to sexual and reproductive health services). In parallel, various private foundations that supported human rights or gender equality have withdrawn from the country due to shifting priorities and legal reforms, making the EU's support even more critical.

Regarding priority areas, special attention should be paid to femicide and physical and sexual violence against women, adolescents, and girls, particularly those who face the intersection of multiple vulnerabilities, such as: women living in poverty or in rural and/or marginalized communities; women of indigenous peoples or Afro-descent; those in situations of migration or detention; those living with a disability or forming part of the LGBTQI+ community. For example, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's International Homicide Statistics database, in 2018, **5.8 women and girls died from intentional homicide for every 100,000 female inhabitants**, which places Mexico at the fourth highest rate in the world after only Venezuela, Honduras and

Guyana. Additionally, the most recent official data from 2020 reveals that **10.2 women and girls are assassinated every day in Mexico, in addition to facing serious human rights violations**, such as trafficking, disappearance and enforced disappearance, torture, extrajudicial executions, and sexual exploitation. Worrisome as well is the alarming adolescent pregnancy rate in Mexico, the highest among all OECD countries. As related to economic rights, Mexico has the one of the largest economic participation gaps between the genders (more than 30%), again, of OECD countries. Women make up 45% of the economically active population in Mexico however, six out of every ten women, versus five out of every ten men, work in the informal sector, without social protections, for lower salaries and under more precarious conditions. Moreover, while women's political participation has increased substantially at the federal level, it remains lower than the global average at the local level. In addition, the Mexican judicial sector continues to apply criteria based on gender stereotypes, including behaviour, physical appearance, maternity as well as undue requirements to prove sexual violence, impeding women's access to justice.

To prepare this document, various consultations were organized with the Mexican authorities responsible for designing and implementing public policy on gender, seven UN agencies, the civil society working group on human rights and 19 Member States with a presence in Mexico. (See Annex I)

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

Gender equality and women's rights feature very prominently within the priorities of the EU Human Rights & Democracy Country Strategy for Mexico 2021-2025. The following areas have been identified as overall priorities for the country and action lines were identified considering the EU Gender Action Plan III. The same are, therefore, proposed for the CLIP Mexico, namely:

- a. Fight all forms of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls (including trafficking and exploitation)
- b. Increase awareness on issues of gender equality, sexual and gender-based violence and specific issues related to indigenous, Afro-descendent, and LGBTQI+ populations
- c. Increase support for and protection of victims of sexual and gender-based violence
- d. Promote gender equality and fight discrimination, in law and in practice
- e. Promote women's sexual health and reproductive rights and address teenage pregnancy
- f. Increase women's political participation
- g. Support women at risk whose livelihoods were negatively affected by COVID-19

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

Actions:

- a. Funding of relevant projects through **EIDHR and/or CSO/LA Call for Proposals, NDICI-Global Europe instrument** and promotion of gender issues through the **Sectoral Dialogues Instruments (FPI)** for exchange of experiences with the government on legislative and regulatory reforms, and funding of FPI projects. Particular attention will be paid to the preparation of the **Team Europe Initiatives (TEI)** with full participation of Member States, focused on the priorities of the Green Global challenge and Social cohesion and the fight against inequalities, and to the **priorities of the EU Cooperation Partnership** of supporting the implementation of the EU-Mexico new Global Agreement related to a) Democratic governance, b) Trade and sustainable development, and c) Migration and youth social and economic insertion.
- b. Gender specific interventions will take place under the **regional program EUROsocial+**, with focus on offering technical assistance to the National Women's Institute (Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES), the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence (Comisión Nacional para Prevenir y Erradicar la Violencia (CONAVIM), the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and the Protection of Personal Data (Instituto Nacional de Transparencia, Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos Personales (INAI), the Federal Institute for Public Defence (Instituto Federal de la Defensoría Pública), the National Population

Council (Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO) and the State Institutes for Women with the aim of: (a) Strengthening the National Strategy for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy; (b) Incorporating a gender focus in transparency and access to information policies; (c) Strengthening the strategy to fight violence (including cyber), sexual exploitation and trafficking of girls, adolescents, and women (support for the modernization of laws and public policies, the creation of strategies and pilot initiatives for their implementation to address this type of violence); and (d) Designing and adapting a legal defence protocol with a gender perspective (adaptation of legal codes – Gender Violence Alert and Prevention of violence against women). Other regional programs such as COPOLAD (fight against the use of drugs) and EL PAcCTO (fight against organized transnational crime) will also include specific activities related to gender equality. The gender dimension is now a transversal issue that should be integrated in all EU funded activities.

- c. A second phase of the **Spotlight Initiative against gender violence** should take place until December 2022, focusing on the following major activities: (a) Promotion of legislative reform packages at the federal and state level on access to justice; (b) Technical assistance and monitoring of budgets at the state and local level as related to gender; (c) Implementation of the Comprehensive Model for the Primary Prevention of VAW&G; (d) Training of law enforcement and judicial authorities responsible for caring for women, adolescents, and girls who face gender-based violence; and (e) Financial support for civil society organizations (CSOs) and the feminist movement to help them deliver psycho-social support and self-care measures to women victims of violence.

The primary indicators for measuring results of EU actions and evolution of the situation in Mexico include:

Thematic area of engagement - Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence

- Number of individuals benefiting from EU-funded programmes to counter sexual and gender-based violence (indicator to be integrated into the European Union results framework – EU RF)
- Number of grassroots CSOs benefiting from (or reached by) EU support (EU RF)
- Extent to which federal and state entities and justice structures allocate resources for the prevention and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence including sexual exploitation and trafficking (SI 2.2 amended)
- Extent to which all relevant federal and state actors -such as police, justice sector, social services, and health care providers- coordinate actions to end gender-based violence
- Number of adequate, accessible, and protected shelters for victims of gender-based violence available

Thematic area - Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women

- Number of government programmes implemented to improve women's ability to benefit from employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, including social entrepreneurship, offered by the digital transformation
- Number of gender-responsive policies approved by partner government in the green economy sector

Thematic area of engagement - Promoting equal participation and leadership

- Number of victims of human rights violations, disaggregated at least by sex, directly benefiting from assistance funded by the EU (EU RF)
- Number of women human rights defenders who have received EU Support
- Extent to which federal and local legislation is revised to remove gender-discriminatory clauses on family, divorce, custody of children, inheritance, employment, pay, social security, ownership of assets, land, etc.

- Extent to which women's rights organisations, feminist organisations and other CSOs, peacebuilders, and women human rights defenders working for gender equality and women and girls' empowerment and rights can work independently without fear for their safety and security

Thematic area of engagement – Integrating the women, peace and security agenda

- Number of gender focal points/persons with gender-related responsibilities in their job descriptions, and Number of persons that are evaluated against this, in EU Delegations, including Number of fulltime gender advisors and gender subject matter experts in EU Delegations
- Number of projects/programmes by theme: (a) Security (and Justice) Sector Reform [S(J)SR], (b) humanitarian aid, (c) good governance, (d) human rights, and (e) transitional justice, where a gender perspective is mainstreamed

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

- a. Participation within EU - Mexico **political and human rights dialogues**
- b. **Dialogue and outreach to relevant Ministries**, -in particular, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Citizen Security-, as well as the National Human Rights Commission and other relevant state institutions, including the judiciary and the Mexican Congress
- c. Engage in continuous dialogue and seek **common positions with Mexico** before the UN Human Rights Council
- d. Network, consult, and share information with relevant **Civil Society Organizations** under the framework of the CSO Working Group on HR
- e. Network, consult, and share information with **International Organizations** (UN Women, UNHCR, UNHCHR, UNICEF, etc.)
- f. Organise dedicated sessions of the **EU Political and Cooperation Counsellors** inviting relevant stakeholders on non-discrimination, gender equality, and VAW&G
- g. Facilitate dialogue between relevant Congressional groups and Commissions and related Committees in the **European Parliament** (DROI, ENVI, FEMM, etc.)

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

Anticipated communication and public diplomacy activities for this CLIP include:

- a. Participate in press interviews, press articles, events, and site visits (when health conditions allow) to call attention to the situation of all priority areas listed in this CLIP
- b. Collaborate in relevant academic events, seminars, conferences, and public hearings in Congress
- c. Organise yearly promotional activities for all International Human Rights Days and anniversaries, specifically commemorating gender, women's rights, and LGBTIQ+ rights, with EU Member States and the UN to coordinate complementary activities, including but not limited to: International Women's Day (8 March), International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (17 May), International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August), International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), and Human Rights Day (10 December), among others
- d. Include a gender dimension in EU and Member States joint visits and carry out ad hoc EU visits (virtual or in person)
- e. Organise ad hoc public diplomacy meetings gathering key decision makers from Government, Parliament, CSO, private sector, academia, and pertinent activists

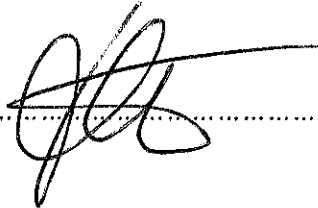
6. Technical Facility and/or financial resources allocated to support GAP III implementation

The implementation of the CLIP Mexico does not require specific resources. Instead, as previously mentioned, Mexico incorporates gender equality activities in cooperation programs particularly within the following programs:

- a. **Spotlight Initiative**, Phase II until December 2022, \$2.7 million USD;
- b. Activities of the **Regional programmes** including EUROsociAL+, EL PAcCTO, and COPOLAD;
- c. Funding of relevant projects through **EIDHR** and/or **CSO/LA** Call for Proposals;
- d. Specific activities of the **NDICI-TEI** focused on the priorities of: Support the implementation of the EU-Mexico new Global Agreement, particularly on governance, trade and migration and Green Global challenge, and Social cohesion and the fight against inequalities.

Date: Mexico City, September 1, 2021

Signature by Deputy Head of Delegation:



Annex: Gender Equality Projects of the EU in Mexico (including actions of EU Member States)