

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025 Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP SUDAN

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

In 2022, Sudan continues to face intersecting political and economic challenges coinciding with increased violence involving paramilitary forces in peripheral areas as well as ongoing anti-government demonstrations. The civilian -led technocratic government was overthrown on 25 October 2021 by the military coup. As a consequence, Sudanese people took the streets condemning the coup and calling for a restoration of the civilian-led transition. The overall context remains extremely challenging with ongoing instability and the political solution long to surface, persistence of poor human development indicators, inequality, regional instability, and new threats posed by climate change.

Against this backdrop, gender rights and equality remain fundamental areas for change, especially as the country emerges from three long decades of political oppression, in particular the suppression of women's rights. The national legislation related to gender equality has been slowly improving, bolstered by gender rights articulated in the 2005 Interim Constitutional Framework. Hence, Sudan recognizes several international human rights frameworks including UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sudan has re-articulated its national development policy framework in several national strategies and plans incorporating various gender goals, including the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2012-2014), and Twenty-Five Years National Strategy (2007-2031).

Despite legislative and new policy frameworks, government action in gender goals has been insufficient, and tangible progress towards change in women and girls' rights has been slow and uneven, with continued restrictions on spaces for women's citizen participation. The revolution in April 2019 marked a 'significant moment' for women's public participation, at both national and state level, with young women notably involved in the resistance movement. In the (draft) Interim Constitution (2019), the quota for women's political participation was raised to 40 percent, and women, during the transitional period were holding 20 percent of ministerial posts. In reality, a significant gap remained in women's public participation between states, and between rural and urban areas.

The ongoing **conflicts continued to disproportionately affect women and girls**, who suffer the consequences of violence, abuse, deprivation, and loss of livelihood. The responsibility for family well-being in these difficult circumstances places a phenomenal burden on women. Although women's rights are guaranteed under the Sudanese Constitution gender mainstreaming has not been effectively institutionalized within government bodies. As a result, gender equality objectives are rarely reflected and implemented in policy frameworks and action plans. In addition, Sudan's budget and budget allocations are not gender sensitive, and gender units in different ministries are often under-resourced and poorly trained.

While UN agencies and INGOs continue to promote women's political and social participation, most of the actions remain concentrated in the capital and other urban centres, with low presence in conflict affected areas. The social, economic and cultural inequalities combined with the lack of participation in political and leadership processes, prevent women from exercising their rights to participate and make decisions in the social, cultural, political and economic spheres. In addition, prevailing gender social norms prevent women from their involvement in the early identification and resolution of potential conflicts.

Gender Based Violence (**GBV**) remains a highly prevalent and persistent phenomenon facing women and girls in Sudan. The most common forms of GBV include harmful traditional norms and practices related to female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C), early and forced marriage, and physical and sexual violence. Yet there is significant variation between states, and between urban and rural areas. Despite the amendment of the criminal act outlawing FGM¹, **FGM/C** is still highly prevalent, with an estimated 9 out 10 women

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¹ As of July 2020, a national law against FGM covering the whole of Sudan was implemented. Sudan's Ministry of Justice Official Gazette issue no. 1904, issued on 13 July 2020, published Law No. 12 of 2020, which amends certain provisions of the Criminal Act (1991).



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(aged 15-49 years) having undergone the procedure. Early or underage marriage remains significant in Sudan, with over a third of young women (aged 20-24 years) married by 18 years of age. In pursuing legal support for GBV, the current justice system is considered unclear and 'ineffective' in particular in regions affected by conflict and instability, with access to justice inhibited by cultural norms, geographical distance and security concerns. In 2017, Women's Directorates were set up in 18 states of Sudan and gender focal points assigned to each ministry to combat violence against women and children. The public order laws of 1996 that incorporated strict moral codes disproportionally targeting women and ethnic groups³ were repealed by former Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok in November 2019. However, in August 2022, Human rights activists expressed concern over the creation of a "community police unit" which has been raiding homes in the capital and arresting people for alleged offenses putting the country at risk of returning back to the Public Order Act.

Access to education remains uneven and gender disparities are prevalent. In 2016-17 the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) was approximately 75 percent for boys, and 71 percent for girls. Gender, geography and wealth are key determinants of access to, and participation in, education in Sudan. Non-participation of girls may be attributed to a mix of inter-related factors, including the persistence of negative community cultural attitudes towards girl's education, early marriage, and movement in nomadic families, domestic chores, and distance from home to school, especially in conflict-affected areas.

Traditional social roles and gender norms place the burden of caregiving solely on women, confining them to the home, thus generating challenges for women in having access to education and obtaining leadership roles at economic and community level. With reference to the labour market, two thirds of women remain outside of the labour force altogether, and there are distinct geographic inequalities. Gender-based constraints, including limited access to productive resources such as land, financial services, agricultural extension services, as well as limited power, agency, and negotiation skills undermine women's productivity and entrepreneurial potential. Gender discrimination impacts the overall performance of the agricultural value chain. In particular, land ownership among women is uncommon, with a resulting lack of collateral for credit, and lack of access to membership in cooperatives and extension and production technology. Women's access to banking is inhibited by the poor regulatory and business environment, as well as existing social and cultural practices. Tradeswomen's associations and unions have remained largely elusive in Sudan but new trends are emerging in urban and rural areas. It is worth mentioning however that unions and trade associations are almost completely absente across the whole spectrum, in spite of Sudan ratification (in 2021) of the ILO Convention on freedom of association. Supported by NGOs, the development of Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) in regions such as Darfur but also in Gadaref and Kassala have boosted women's micro-businesses, and generated both social and economic benefits. The National Women Empowerment Policy of 2017 aimed at empowering women and deepening their participation in economic development was further enhanced by the transitional government.

During the transitional period, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development was leading the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender, an advisory committee composed of 45 ministerial representatives, women leaders and experts⁴, with main mandates to adopt policies, strategies, plans and budget allocations as required for women's advancement. Linking this Committee with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) would have been crucial to advance gender sensitive budgeting, implement and monitor women's economic empowerment policies. Since the military takeover, the designated gender machinery has suspended the ongoing efforts towards advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE).

Indeed, although the transitional period had opened up a new potential democratic era and space for championing women's rights and equality in Sudan, and the new (draft) Interim Constitution of 2019 foresaw a special Commission for Women and Equality, the government's action towards the advancement of GEWE has stalled with the military takeover of 25 October 2021.

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² OHCHR, 2016

³ Ref. REDRESS and SIHA reporting

⁴ Divided into 12 supporting sub-committees according to Beijing Platform of Action



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The present analysis is informed primarily by the African Development Bank and UN Women "Country Gender Equality profile: Sudan. Prospects of change in a new era?" prepared in 2020 and validated in a workshop with Government's representatives and other stakeholders in February 2021. The EU Delegation decided to use it as basis to avoid duplication. Consultations with relevant EU Member States to inform the CLIP were conducted. Large-scale consultation of civil society organisations and women's groups, as well as government actors and like-minded partners were consulted ahead in the process, while formulating the MIP and the two Team Europe Initiatives.

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The EU, under the Multiannual Indicative Plan (MIP) for Sudan, initially identified three priority areas (i) Peace, good governance, rule of law and human rights; (ii) Green growth and decent job creation and (iii) Human development. The interventions under these priority areas were aimed to stimulate **pro-poor sustainable and inclusive growth through a focus on youth-centered and gender-sensitive development**.

The focus of EU's engagement on gender in the priority area of *Peace*, good governance, rule of law and human rights is meant to strengthen women's role in decision-making at local and federal level, and the protection of women's rights. The objective is to promote women's access to justice and accountability by providing legal aid, but also supporting a human rights and gender-based approach into the management of penitentiary administration and detention facilities. It aims to promote women's role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to contribute to the implementation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Moreover, particular attention will be given to tackle Violence Against Women in Elections (VAWE) in all forms, and also address the gender dimensions of disinformation in elections, politics, and the digital information space.

In the area of *Inclusive and Green Economic Growth*, the focus is on strengthening government capacity to deliver services that address women's needs. This includes improving access to clean water and energy, transport and digital services with the objective of easing women's time and unpaid domestic burden. The EU will support girls' and women's education and skills development, including increasing the number of female school teachers, as a significant objective of education and training programmes. Support to entrepreneurship, business development and opportunities for accessing financing would equally target women as a priority.

In the Human development (*Resilience-Building and Social Inclusion*) priority area, women will play an important role in climate-resilient and low-carbon development. The objective is to improve women's livelihoods and resilience to shocks by increasing their role in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, as well as in sustainable resource management. Protection measures and access to basic services would contribute to empowering women in achieving durable solutions for displacement-affected communities and building resilience to shocks, and addressing the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty.

In line with the MIP priorities and after bilateral consultations with EU Member States but also other strategic partners on their respective upcoming plans, the EU Delegation propose to embrace the whole spectrum of "Supporting Women's Rights and enhancing their Role in Sudan's Society⁵". European partners can make a substantive impact by joining forces under the Team Europe Initiative (TEI). The TEI would address: (i) enhancing women's political participation, (ii) tackling gender based violence, (iii) women in peace and security, and (iv) promoting women's economic empowerment.

The MIP for Sudan was not presented to the Global Europe Committee and put "on hold" due to the military takeover on 25 October 2021. As a result, the strategic and transformative TEI described above has not yet been resumed and implemented. However, women will be at the core of the second TEI formulated for Sudan, which is going to be soon implemented. The TEI "Agri-food value chains: vector to food

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⁵ The potential synergies with Member States are identified in the Team Europe Flagship initiative: "Supporting women's rights and enhancing their role in Sudan's society" pg 7.



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security and rural livelihoods" is going to be resumed as part of the adoption of the second set of Individual Measures for Sudan (February 2023 TBC).

In the face of instability, compounded by the economic and hunger crisis, and in the absence of a MIP, the EU adopted two packages of the Individual Measures for Sudan focusing on (i) Peace, Good Governance and human rights; (ii) Inclusive education; (iii) Food security and (iv) Health. Thus the present CLIP, although retaining the priorities under MIP, focuses on the EU action on gender equality and women's empowerment in the framework of the Individual Measures for Sudan. The GEWE initiatives pertaining to the MIP, in particular TEI 1, will be launched should the political environment become conducive. At the time of the finalisation of the CLIP, the political volatility and violent disorder continued.

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

GAP III puts forward six "key thematic areas of engagement" and possible objectives: (1) Freedom from all forms of gender-based violence against women, girls, men and boys; (2) Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; (3) Economic and social rights and the empowerment of girls and women; (4) Women's participation and leadership in politics and public life; (5) Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda; (6) Including women and girls in the green transition and digital transformation These areas will be mainstreamed under the Individual Measures (IM) for Sudan which build on four priority areas, including one dedicated to women's participation in socio-economic life under the Team Europe Initiative 2. The table below highlights how each action under IM for Sudan will contribute to the objectives of GAP III:

INDIVIDUAL MEASURES FOR SUDAN	GAP III PRIORITY					
Human Rights, Peace and Democracy	1, 3, 4, 5					
Inclusive quality education for the most vulnerable children in Sudan	1,3					
Food security	3,6					
Health	1, 2, 3					

The first priority area under IM will strengthen the meaningful participation of women and youth in the democratisation process fostering respect for the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, protecting human rights defenders, and ensuring access to justice as well as gender equality and human rights in detention. It will focus on access to justice trough improved provision of legal aid services from a gender lens as well as on human rights in detention. Social and health services will be delivered to vulnerable groups of inmates with a focus on women, mothers and children and youth. The action will be implemented by UN Human Rights office, with a gender equality and women's rights unit, which will ensure that all violations against men and women of all ages, and especially against those with disabilities, and across sectors of the society are recognized.

The second priority will contribute to the fulfilment of the right to education, ensure the improvement of learning outcomes and the increased completion rates in quality primary education of children in Sudan, with particular attention to groups living in vulnerable situations, including migrants, children with disabilities, IDPs and refugees, especially girls. In addition, school feeding component will give vulnerable girls and boys from impoverished communities the opportunity to learn and grow to their fullest potential since learning is



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not possible without adequate nutrition. Therefore, the second priority will contribute to increasing equality and empowerment for girls.

The third priority will tackle food insecurity among the most vulnerable populations, especially women and girls. The action will focus on enhanced economic opportunities for women through improved access to resources (e.g. land, water, inputs, training and mechanization) that help women to close the yield gap between men and women and realize women's rights to land and other productive resources. In particular, it results in improved agency as women get access to their own income, have more say in developing household budgets and have reduced time poverty due to mechanization. It further contributes to changes at community level as a result of women being perceived as equal actors in the overall socio economic environment. In addition, women's access to water for agricultural and productive uses has a significant impact on household incomes and food security since water is a key agricultural input. Indeed, it contributes to increased resilience of small-scale farmers and to increased incomes, particularly among women small-scale farmers, by enabling dry season agriculture and cultivation of high-value crops during the off-season, while protecting water sources for other uses. Last but not least, enhancing access to land will not only contribute to women's economic empowerment and social stability but also to peace.

The fourth priority focusing on health, will, in particular, target women of reproductive age who face life-threatening complications related to pregnancy, birth, Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs), and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) due to limited access to quality Reproductive Health (RH) services. The Action will contribute to gender equality by addressing socio-cultural and behavioural barriers (SBC), increase awareness and skills-building level with the financial support designed to optimize women's health-seeking behaviours, including access to primary healthcare. In particular, cash transfers to pregnant women or women with children will aim to further reduce barriers in accessing health care and promote health-seeking during the critical period in a mother and a child's life. The action will also contribute to an increased decision-making power of women and girls within their families and communities through the work with men and boys to challenge gender social norms such as the role of fathers in parenting, will deconstruct the hegemony of masculinity and assess intersectionality. FGM and child marriage will be addressed through community engagement approaches that promote positive social norms and empower girls in their families and communities. In addition to health priority under the IM, FGM will be addressed under the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM⁶, which has been extended until the end of 2023.

Women reinvest up to 90% of their income in providing a social safety net for their families, with a positive impact on health, education, and nutrition. Consequently, gender mainstreaming and investing in women under the priorities of the IM for Sudan is expected to generate higher development returns.

In addition, through the thematic programmes under NDICI 2021-2027, the EU in Sudan will continue to support women organisations and organisations working on gender equality, including human rights defenders. In particular, the actions identified as G1 and G2 will aim to strengthen women's participation in democratic processes though civic education, political participation and gender-sensitive information and media. It will further strengthen women's role in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

The EUTF projects, marked as G1 in their majority, will continue addressing the underlying social norms, empowering the most vulnerable women and men to develop, negotiate, implement and monitor their own plans for improving productivity, raising the quality of produce, increasing incomes, reducing livelihood risks and increasing gender equality within households. Underlying norms, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate gender inequalities will be addressed through multi-stakeholder approaches (e.g. in value chains) and will continue to enable an environment of mutual respect, collaboration, equality and participatory decision making.

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⁶ Under the Spotlight Regional Programme for Africa



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4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

The main interlocutor for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Sudan has been the Federal Women's Directorate, within the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. However, the military takeover resulted in the pausing of the EU's, its Members States and like-minded donors' engagement with the government, including technical assistance to the government and line ministries in charge of gender equality.

Similarly, the drafting of a new Sudan Roadmap for engagement with civil society for the period of 2021-2025 is yet to start. In advanced consultations with the Civil Society, the EU Delegation will seek to plea gender equality and women's empowerment as a key crosscutting element issue.

The EUD has been actively engaging with its Member States in the framework of the TEI 1. While the TEI 1 has been put on hold, the EUD continues to engage with the EU Member States on gender and human rights issues during regular Heads of Missions and Heads of Cooperation meetings.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

Outreach and communication on GAP III priorities, in particular under IM priority on food security will integrate a Team Europe approach, with coordinated and joint messaging and events. Gender equality will be integrated through the strategic communication and public diplomacy activities rhythmed by the most relevant international days:

- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation on 6 February
- International Women's Day on 8 March
- Europe Day on 9 May
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December
- Human Rights Day on 10 December

6. Financial resources allocated to support GAP III implementation

With a view to support gender mainstreaming efforts and meet the 85% of G1 actions target, dedicated gender expertise will be mobilised under all future studies, analyses and evaluations of individual programmes. The EU Delegation will aim to make the best use of available resources in Headquarters to support gender mainstreaming efforts, including via training of EUD staff. In addition, TCF resources will be mobilised by the EU Delegation to support the implementation of GAP III in Sudan, namely to update of gender country strategy (dated of 2016) and produce gender sector analyses.

Date:					 	 	 	 		
Signa	ture by	Head	of Dele	gation:	 	 	 	 	 	



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ANNEX

<u>Team Europe Flagship initiative: "Supporting women's rights and enhancing their role in Sudan's society"</u>

Following our joint assessment with the EU Member States of the current situation in Sudan, including its recent historical background, we have identified women's rights as the main area where European Partners can make a substantive impact by joining forces.

CONTEXT:

- Sudan has witnessed a tremendous change in its political environment with the fall of the Bashir Government in April 2019 and the gradual negotiated agreement between the civilian protest movement and the military towards a managed transition of the country. This had greatly impacted the human rights situation in the country. However, with the fluidity of the transitional period, human rights —and in particular women's rights—remain of concern. Women have been crucial drivers of the Sudanese revolution and for the first time in Sudan, they find themselves better represented in government than before. However, there is still a long way to go for more gender equality on each level in the government. Clearly, the civilian transitional government has a clear vision towards a democratic country in which human rights are respected, but the process to inverse thirty years of autocratic rule in a shaky balance with of civilian and military components in the transitional set-up is a long-term task. The transitional government has declared that is will ratify all **core human rights treaties** (in particular the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)). The Minister of Justice has presented in December 2019 a reform package to the government to this end.
- Sexual and gender-based violence continues to be a concern. Harmful traditional practices, such as Female Genital Mutilations (FGM) and child marriage, still exist. However, the adoption of new legal provisions in July 2020 constitutes a historical move in the country toward the reform of the criminal justice system, eradication of harmful social practices against women and girls, elimination of discrimination against women in law, better protection of child rights, and enabling and ensuring accountability for Human Rights violations. In particular, a new Article 141 was included in the Criminal Code prohibiting the harmful social practices of FGM deeply rooted in the Sudanese society, with sanction commensurate with the gravity of the offence. Moreover, Article 149 (2) in the Criminal Code on rape was repealed and replaced with a new article that punishes a perpetrator of rape with life imprisonment. In the meantime, unclear evidential standard for rape still exacerbates victims' fear that a rape case may not be established and if prosecution for rape failed, it could lead to adultery charges punishable by death. Therefore, as long as a crime of adultery exists in the Criminal Code many victims of rape may not report the case and impunity for the crime may persist. In addition, domestic violence and marital rape have not been criminalized.
- Women's political participation: Amendment to art 14(c) of Political Parties Act of 2007 looks to comply with the positive discriminatory measure provided in the 2019 Constitutional Declaration which enshrines that the proportion of women representativeness in public elected bodies shall not be under 40 %. Thus, the participation of women in the political sphere will not depend on the political party decision, but would apply according to the constitutional proportion. This needs to be enhanced by further empowering provisions in the new electoral law as well as in the new political parties law when reviewed by the Independent Legal Commission.
- Women economic empowerment: Sudan ranks 168th over 189 countries in the Human Development and Gender Inequality indexes (2018) emblematically signifying the gender-linked disparities still rooted in the country. More significant in rural than urban areas, gender discrimination is further aggravated in extreme poverty and vulnerability situations as for women



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with disabilities. Social norms, traditional practices, legislation and customary laws shape Sudanese women's role and status, influencing their integration in the productive sector, among the lowest in Eastern Africa (female labour force participation stands at 31.3%; in the formal non-agricultural sector, the percentage drops to 17%, demonstrating a female over-representation in agriculture and informal economy). Notably, women labour force participation rate in agricultural rural areas accounts for 80%, most women work as labourers in the farms of other farmers, rent agricultural lands to perform their own agricultural activities or work as unpaid family workers in their families' farms. Contemporarily, women owning farming lands, predominantly own medium and small lands with less productivity.

Women, Peace and Security: The various conflicts in Sudan led to the displacement of large numbers of people and especially affected women as they lost the economic means of survival and were constantly subjected to sexual violence and various kinds of degradation and humiliation. Successive peace agreements, such as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of in 2005, the Eastern Region Peace Agreement of in 2006 and the Darfur Peace Agreement in 2006, all have addressed gender issues to varying degrees. However, women were underrepresented in the negotiation processes leading to the signing of these peace agreements. The Doha Peace Agreement in Darfur 2011 was a milestone in addressing gender issues and explicitly recommended the drafting of documents addressing the needs of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Women's participation in the peace and security agenda continues to be a challenge in the current political situation, especially with no information on women's participation in the current negotiations between the Revolutionary Front and the Government of Sudan, despite the fact that the 2019 Constitutional Declaration identifies the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace & Security as a top priority in order to recognize women's active role in the peace movement. However, in March 2020, the transitional Government presented a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 for the period 2020 – 2022.

TEAM EUROPE APPROACH

Women's rights and empowerment are key for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development will only be achieved if SDG 5 on gender equality and gender targets under other Goals are achieved.

The recent political developments provide an opportunity to **contribute to enhance gender quality and women empowerment** in the new Sudan, by addressing gaps and barriers, and strengthening opportunities.

The proposed flagship lends itself well to pursuing a "Team Europe" approach, in particular by sharing experience, building on individual strengths and lifting synergies between EU and EU Member States. Consultation on this flagship with EU Member States has clearly confirmed strong EU Member States' interest and potential for EU – EUMS joint approach. Several Member States are already actively engaged.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

Actions can be implemented across a number of areas. The Team Europe initiative <u>Supporting women's rights and enhancing their role in Sudan's society</u> proposes to focus on four encompassing areas of intervention that are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, with the following potential actions for each of them:

- 1. Women's political participation:
 - Supporting initiatives that strengthen the constitutional, legal and policy frameworks to increase women's leadership and political participation in Sudan, as well as civil society's capacity to act as an advocating and monitoring force;



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• Building leadership capacities of women in parliament, decision-making bodies at state level, and political parties.

2. Women economic empowerment:

- Supporting the adoption and implementation of gender-sensitive national plans, legislations, policies, strategies and budgets;
- Enhancing and supporting women's sustainable livelihoods through gender-responsive services and access to and control over means of production, resources and markets.

3. Women and girls live a life free from violence:

- Supporting the development and implementation of laws, policies and strategies responding
 to violence against women and girls, such as female genital mutilations and other harmful
 practices and child marriage;
- Supporting initiatives that provide a better access to survivor-focused services;
- Enhance women's access to quality health care
- Supporting initiatives that promote and protect women's rights 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;
- Supporting the improvement of data collection and statistics.

4. Women in peace and security:

- Enhancing the capacity and engagement of women in ongoing recovery efforts, conflict resolution and peace-building activities
- Supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Security Council Resolution 1325.
- Supporting coordination efforts in the sector