

**Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025**  
**Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP Ethiopia**  
**Update 2023**

This updated Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) Ethiopia is based on the Gender Country Profile and Sector Gender Analysis of 2021 conducted by a gender expert contracted by the EU Delegation, consultations with the women-led and women-focused local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and international NGOs and consultations with the EU Member States in 2023. This CLIP is aligned with the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP 2024-2027) for Ethiopia that has been adopted in October 2023.

Prior to the MIP adoption, during the two-year war in northern Ethiopia, the EU has consistently supported the Ethiopian population. Throughout three sets of **Individual Measures**, all with strong gender components, a focus was set on the provision of basic services, the restoration of economic activities in the conflict-affected areas, and a response to acute water and food shortages triggered by climate change related weather patterns. MIP 2024-2027 identifies three priority areas - **Green Deal, Human Development and Governance and Peacebuilding** - which contribute to advancing Ethiopia's development in a transformative, inclusive and forward-looking manner, taking into account strategic areas of mutual interest, while ensuring that no one is left behind. MIP 2024-2027 recognises that gender inequalities in cultural, social, political and economic life are widespread and deeply entrenched among significant segments of society. Strong alignment between the EU programming in this MIP and the Government of Ethiopia's long-term goals as well as EU responsiveness to the emerging needs provides a significant opportunity for gender transformative EU engagement with the country. Gender sensitive and gender transformative programming is, therefore, highly important as a crosscutting priority. A three-pronged approach will be pursued by:

- Making EU engagement on gender equality more effective as a crosscutting priority, contributing to the NDICI-Global Europe target that 85% of all new actions have gender equality and women's empowerment as their main or principal objective.
- Stepping up the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III, in close cooperation with EU Member States, government, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and other key stakeholders.
- Tackling the root causes of gender inequality and gender based violence, focusing on cultural change, ensuring government institutions move from policy to implementation, and increasing awareness through community driven action.

These three priorities will be addressed throughout the implementation of this MIP. Policy dialogue for gender equality will continue to remain an important aspect of the work of the EU Delegation, together with the EUMS. Targeted actions will support tackling the underlying reasons behind gender based violence, improving gender equality and mainstreaming at governmental entities and communities, in particular through priority area 3 – Governance and Peacebuilding. The Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme will complement this MIP and will contribute to supporting actions, focusing in particular on supporting gender-based violence, which dramatically increased during the war in northern Ethiopia.

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

Ethiopia **faces a multitude of challenges** to reach the Sustainable Development Goal 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. In a patriarchal society, women and girls are strongly disadvantaged compared to men and boys. Gender imbalances intersect heavily with other forms of discrimination such as living in rural and conflict areas, poverty, HIV/AIDS, disability and old age. The 1995 Constitution avows for the principle of gender equality and non-discrimination. Ethiopia has ratified several international human rights instruments, now part of national legislation, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The national legal **framework** regarding women's rights has evolved to address specific

issues, such as the revised Family Law of 2000 and the Criminal Code of 2005 that banned harmful traditional practices (HTP) such as female genital mutilation (FGM). However, it does not cover all forms of discrimination against women and a law criminalising all forms of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) is still missing. There was however a significant progress made on the areas of labour law, rural land administration law, justice, health and education policies, focusing on equal employment, maternity leave with pay, sexual harassment in work space, inheritance, rural land ownership, access to health and education. The implementation of these policies remain, however, challenging. After two years of devastating war in northern Ethiopia, the signing of the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) in November 2022 has put the country on the road to peace and reconstruction, but also exposed new challenges for women and girls, in particular with relation to conflict related sexual and gender-based violence, lack of access to basic health services, access to justice for survivors and women's participation in the key peacebuilding processes.

The **creation of gender machinery** in 1992 with the Women Affairs Office was a relevant stimulus together with the first National Policy on Ethiopian Women of 1993. Related structures such as Women's Affairs Departments in ministries, Women's Affairs Bureaus at regional and sub-regional (woreda) level and Women's Affairs Units at the local (kebele) level were set-up. The Ministry of Women's Affairs developed and launched the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (NAP-GE), 2006-10 to promote the implementation of Ethiopia's commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action. In 2010, the ministry expanded its mandate to Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA). The ministry introduced its 10-year sector plan 2021-2030 featuring women's rights, representation, participation and resources and started working on the revision of the National Policy on Ethiopian Women. CARE took a first step to support MoWCYA towards an updated gender/women's policy with an in-depth study in 2019. In October 2021 with a slight change of its mandate was renamed as the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA). As of October 2023, the updated policy is finalised, however it has still not entered into force. Overall, the gender machinery is underfinanced, institutionally weak and need to be bolstered to fulfil their mandates. Limited capacity of the gender machineries was also recognized as a key challenge in the recent National Beijing Platform for Action Country report prepared by MoWCYA. Within the revision of the Civil Society Law in 2019, more opportunities for advocacy around gender equality and women's rights exist for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). In general, the **women's movement** as well as **women's organisations** still face severe capacity constraints ranging from structural, institutional, organisational, financial and technical gaps.

In Ethiopian society, a range of **attitudes and beliefs reinforce unequal gender roles**. Persistent gender stereotypes, traditional and religious beliefs and norms define women by motherhood and household responsibilities. HTPs including child marriage, early pregnancy and FGM (affecting about 65% of Ethiopian women in 2016), SGBV (23% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 having experienced physical or sexual violence with high rates of domestic violence) are widespread. Gender stereotypes also affect boys and men when it comes to straying from masculine norms or trying to live up to the male role as provider and protector of the family. Young boys, especially street children are at high risk of sexual exploitation. The topic and the quest for non-toxic masculinities is rarely discussed.

The **Green Deal** priority area of the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP 2024-2027) focuses on climate change (mitigation, adaptation and resilience), sustainable energy, and facilitate sustainable agricultural and agro-industry involvement in sustainable value chain production, digitalisation and decent and green job creation. The EU's Global Gateway strategy becomes crucial under this priority area as activities aim to attract the interest of the private sector and International Finance Institutions (IFIs) to invest in large infrastructure initiatives, and contribute to support the development of green financing. Women are disproportionately vulnerable in all these areas while at the same time being key players to achieve transformation. Traditionally bearing the responsibility of ensuring water and energy supply and in charge of cooking, women are the primary energy users at household level. As biomass constitutes the primary fuel for 90% of households, shifting to renewable sources would allow not only combating deforestation, environmental degradation and climate change but also to reduce the exposure of women to indoor air pollution and relieve them

from the time burden and security threat of collecting firewood. **Agriculture** accounts for around 80% of all employment, where 47% of the agricultural workforce are women, predominantly as small holders or subsistence farmers. Land ownership is a critical issue with men account for 74% of land ownership and the average size of male-owned land being considerably higher accounting for 81% of all land. There has been a strong gender-equality focus in the recent land certification process. Women also tend to have less access to technology, knowledge and networks and financial services to support their transition to more sustainable agriculture practices. The creation of jobs associated to the Green Deal entails changes in the industry sector and needs to pay attention to existing gender gaps. Women are more likely to be unemployed and are excluded from economic sectors like agro-industry, fishing and infrastructure developments.

MIP Priority Area 2 looks at aspects of **Human Development**, addressing equity, access to basic services, and vulnerability in the social sectors and concerning migration/forced displacement. The EU, which has been a major provider of support in social protection and health under previous MIPs, has added education to its portfolio through an Individual Measure in 2022, and will extend its commitments to 2024-2027 with a strong link to TVET and decent job creation. The 2020-2022 civil war in northern Ethiopia caused a need to rehabilitate and build new infrastructures linked to the social sectors, which will be addressed in line with the priorities set out in the Ethiopia Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction Planning Framework (2023-2028). School dropout is considerably higher for girls, with 47% of girls who start Grade 1 not completing Grade 5, and 75% of secondary school-age girls not attend secondary school. This is the result of multiple factors such as teenage pregnancy, early marriage, household obligations, diminished investment from families compared to boys, low social status, hostile learning environment, the distance between homes and the risk of violence in transit. Women participation in TVET sector reached 52.95% recently but women have tended to focus more on soft skills. The reason generally given is that shorter-term courses in such fields as ICT, business and hairdressing are traditionally more appealing to women. There is a need to support women participation in diversified TVET programs including hardware skills. While there is a strong consensus on the potential of ICTs as a tool for the promotion of gender equality, still there is lower number of women accessing as well as using ICT as compared to men. While the implementation of the digital skills action plan is meant to all students in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and TVETs, special consideration will be given to encourage female students. This includes giving priorities to female students, for example in respecting their choices, in the placements to IT related fields. Only 27% of the university population are female students whereby 25% will drop out before concluding their studies. A segregation of women and men students across fields of study, with female students being particularly absent in the science and engineering fields can be observed. Women's constrained access to education and lower literacy rates (42% of women contrasting with 69% of men are literate) influences their chances on the job market. While women have specific needs related to their sexual and reproductive roles (average national fertility rate is 4.6 children per women), they are less inclined to seek medical help than men. Factors that influence women's health and limit their access to health services include lack of agency and autonomy to take health decisions, limited financial capacities, time poverty, HTP, FGM, child marriage, early pregnancy, poor water and sanitation access, poor nutrition levels, a higher rate of AIDS/HIV (62% were female in 2017) and large distance to health facilities in rural areas, combined with lack of transportation means. Sexual and reproductive health services are not equally accessible for all and health services fail in being sensitive to the specific needs of adolescents.

In Ethiopia, migration is a gendered phenomenon as motives, expectations, and challenges of migrant women and girls are determined by traditional gender norms and economic disadvantages that women are facing. For female (internal and international) migrants and displaced persons (refugees and internally displaced people – IDPs), the risk of being subjected to SGBV is constantly present, as is the risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation and/or forced labour. The extreme marginalisation of female refugees and IDPs can force them to engage in negative coping mechanisms. Despite community-based protection approaches applied throughout the country, participation of women and girls in the community remains very limited. Female migrant workers who reach their final destination tend to work in the informal sector, where they lack a decent job and social protection, both within Ethiopia and abroad. Most of them work as domestic workers, often subjected to

exploitative work. Irregular female migrants that are intercepted, end up detained in facilities lacking any sort of gender-sensitive measure, exposing them to high SGBV risk.

When it comes to priority area 3 **Governance and Peacebuilding**, it includes support motivated by three interrelated strategic goals: (i) fulfilling basic preconditions for support in all priority areas under this MIP; (ii) promoting all human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural) together with a rights-based approach to sustainable development (iii) promoting gender equality. The ultimate goal is to promote the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and transparency by strengthening capacity of both rights-holders and duty-bearers to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. These, together with a stable and safe Ethiopia, are key enablers for delivering on Global Gateway in Ethiopia. The challenge remains that women have fewer opportunities for education, employment and decent earning makes them less autonomous in making decisions related to their lives and participating in social and political life. When it comes to women's political participation, women who are willing to be politically active are constrained by social norms but also overburdening with household duties, economic status and a volatile security environment. Politics are perceived as highly competitive and violent, void of any feminine characteristics, therefore considered as unsuitable for women. The electoral legal framework includes a number of provisions that promote women's participation but the 2021 election saw fewer female candidates. At the beginning of the current Prime minister's reign, he had a cabinet with full gender parity. This is not the case anymore after the 2021 elections. The Prime minister then appointed women for only 6 out of 22 positions (7 with the "Planning Commissioner"). Women who have minister positions have an actual influence and affect decision and policy making processes, thanks to an organisational structure that gives the minister the power to make key decisions. However, normally being the deputy means very little influence.

Women and girls are heavily affected by conflicts throughout the country. While SGBV is highly prevalent in the country, the the war in the northern regions of the country has resulted in widespread gender-based violence (GBV), with rape being used as a weapon of war. In addition, SGBV survivors have limited access to medical and social services and justice due to its invalidity and the risk of stigma and fears. Women are underrepresented in peacebuilding and conflict-resolution initiatives, despite the existence of both formal and customary mechanisms for women's participation in conflict resolution. In spite of the National Dialogue Commission's commitment for meaningful participation of women in the process, only 3 out of the 11 commissioners are women. Women have also been absent from the CoHA negotiation process in Pretoria and misrepresented in the peace agreement. They are expected to represented 20% of the ex-combatants, and therefore fully benefit and participate from the DDR process designed by the GoE. There is a need to overcome the dominant image in relation to women and conflict (that of victimisation and vulnerability), to recognise their significant but usually invisible contributions as well as ensuring their active participation and decision-making in formal and traditional peace processes as stated in the UN SC Resolution 1325 (2020). In this regard, the Government of Ethiopia has already embarked on the critical process of developing a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, however full leadership and ownership of the process by the Ministry for Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) and the Ministry of Peace (MoP) and participation of the women's movement is essential for its success.

In addition to these priority areas, two Team Europe Initiatives priorities support to the **job creation** and **digital transformation**. In Ethiopia 77.2% of women access the job market compared to 87.8% of men, and working women are still overrepresented in the informal sector (74%) compared to men (61%). Not only women are more likely of being unemployed than men, but they are also excluded from some economic sectors. Inequality is also visible in the public service, with 35 % of public servants being female contrasting with 65 % that are male. Women are more likely to do unpaid care work, work in the informal sector (36%) and low paid jobs, with limited social protection. Women are less likely to hold leadership positions and experienced various challenges when seeking those positions due to gender biases. Sexual harassment and GBV in the workplace are common. There is a large digital divide in Ethiopia, affecting women of older ages and rural women more heavily. Affordability is the primary obstacle to women and girls' access to digital technologies. Women and girls' poor literacy rates impede

more extensive ICT use, as classes start in secondary school that 75% of Ethiopian girls are not attending. Women's exclusion from ICT-related education also limits their access to job opportunities in the digital labour market. Women and girls tend to be exposed to disproportionate risks when using the Internet, ranging from cyber stalking to online harassment and even sexual trafficking.

## **2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives**

The MIP 2024-2027 is committed that at least 85% of all new actions will have gender equality as a significant (Gender Marker 1) or principal objective (Gender marker 2) in each priority area.

### *I. The overall objectives of EU action for gender equality and women's empowerment*

- Women, girls and boys are free from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres, in the work place and online
- Women and girls access universal health and fully enjoy their health and sexual and reproductive rights
- Women and girls fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights
- Women and girls participate equally in decision-making processes, in all spheres and at all levels of political and public life, including online, to take on leadership roles, to enjoy and exercise their human rights and seek redress if these rights are denied.
- The Women, Peace and Security Agenda (Participation, Gender Mainstreaming, Leading by example, Prevention, Protection) is better integrated into the work of the EU and MS.
- Women in all their diversity are key actors in addressing climate change.
- Women and girls can equally participate in shaping the digital world of tomorrow.

### *II. Selected "areas of engagement" on gender equality and women's empowerment and the "specific thematic objectives"*

#### **1. Thematic area of engagement - Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence**

1. Women, girls and boys are better protected from all forms of gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage.
2. Women, men, girls and boys, who experience gender-based violence have increased access to essential services.
3. Women's rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations are influential in ending gender-based violence.
4. Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices are increasingly collected and used to inform laws, policies and programmes.

#### **2. Thematic area of engagement - Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights**

1. Enabled legal, political and societal environment allowing women and girls to access

quality sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) care and services and protecting their sexual and reproductive rights.

2. Improved access for every individual to sexual and reproductive health care and services, including family planning services, information and education on sexual and reproductive rights.

**3. Thematic area - Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women**

1. Increased access for women to decent work, including women's transition to the formal economy and coverage by non-discriminatory and inclusive social protection systems.
2. Increased access for women in all their diversity to financial services and products, and productive resources.
3. Public health systems are equipped to address the health needs of women and girls in all their diversity.
4. Women and girls have improved nutrition levels and access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

**4. Thematic area of engagement - Promoting equal participation and leadership**

1. Women and girls have improved access to justice to safeguard their civil and political rights.
2. Women's organisations, other CSOs and women human rights defenders are effectively working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights.

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

1. Women and girls who are victims of conflict and SGBV have access to appropriate services that respond to their needs including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.
2. Increased role for women and girls in peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution, where they form an integral part of mediations and negotiations teams at all levels.
3. Women and women's organizations' increase their access and capacities to exercise a more significant role in all efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts in the country.

**6. Thematic area of engagement – Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation**

**Climate change and environment**

1. Women and girls addressing climate change in their daily lives and preserving the natural environment are recognised and valued.
2. Women increasingly participate in and have improved access to jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities and climate-smart alternative livelihoods in the green economy and the

circular economy.

## Digitalisation

2. Women, men, girls and boys are equally provided with public digital literacy.

### III. *Potential for synergies, cooperation, partnerships, training and joint implementation with EU Member States and other EU actors.*

Donor Mapping on Gender Equality in Ethiopia, that was conducted by **Spain**, as a co-chair of the Gender Sector Working Group (GSWG), in 2022, provided an overview of the donors' activities in the GEWE sector. The results limited to the EU Delegation and the EU Member States in Ethiopia show that **all EUMS' mainstream gender in their work areas**, the embassies and development agencies have **gender experts among their staff** and the actions are guided by **feminist policies and strategies**. Majority of the EU and EUMS support goes directly to the **CSOs and Women's Rights Organisations** (33%). A quarter of the support is channeled to the Ethiopian Federal and regional institutions, 20% to the International NGOs, 18% to Multilateral Organisations, and the rest to local universities and analysis done by the gender experts. In terms of the intervention sectors the majority is focused on the **Women's Economic Empowerment** (26%), following by SGBV (21%), Women's Participation and Leadership (14%), SRHR (12%) and Harmful Traditional Practices (11%). The remaining funds are allocated to more generally understood health sector, employment and education.

According to the most current planning of the EUMS', there is an accumulation of donor activities with relation to the **SGBV response and support to SRHR**, especially in the view of the conflict/post conflict context. EUMS', specifically **Ireland, France and Spain**, are dedicated to support the initiatives of the National Alliance for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage as spaces for the implementation of the Roadmap of the Ethiopian Government, which foresees the eradication of both practices by the year 2025.

The following alignments with EUMS programming and the GAP III implementation in the MIP priority areas have been identified:

In the Priority Area 1 - **Green Deal** – the EUMS are active in the fields of enhancing the role of women in the climate change mitigation & adaptation, resilience, eco-restoration and biodiversity conservation (in particular **Austria, Italy, Ireland, Sweden**), food and water security and engagement of women in Integrated Water Resource Management (in particular **Austria, Italy, France, Sweden**), creating access for women to clean and affordable energy (in particular **Austria, Italy, France**), promotion of decent green jobs for rural women (in particular **Austria, Italy, Spain and Sweden**).

In the Priority Area 2 - **Human Development** – there is a strong alignment with the EUMS in their activities in the field of SGBV response, promoting SRHR and provision of basic serviced (in particular **Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, France, Spain, Sweden**), strengthening national health systems (in particular **Italy, Ireland, France, Spain and Sweden**), neonatal and child health (in particular **Denmark, Italy**), WASH (in particular **France**), women as most vulnerable group in the context of displacement and irregular migration (in particular **Denmark and Italy**).

In the Priority Area 3 - **Governance and Peacebuilding** – the EUMS are the most active in ensuring full and effective participation of women both in the private and public sphere (in particular **Austria, Denmark, Italy, France, Sweden, Spain**), support to women's access to labour market, female entrepreneurs and women-led businesses (in particular **Italy and Sweden**), access to justice (in particular **Austria and France**), supporting women in leadership and decision making positions (in particular **Italy and France**), active participation of women in peacebuilding processes and National Dialogue (in particular **Austria, Ireland, Denmark, France, Spain and Sweden**), promoting Women, Peace and Security Agenda (in particular **Austria, France, Ireland and Luxembourg**). and supporting women's participation in Electoral Processes through initiatives as SEEDS project leded

by UNDP (several EUMS).

Additionally, EU Delegation has worked together with the EUMS' to design the gender transformative component in the planned action of the AAP24 (see point 3) and identified complimentary actions with the EUMS', notably Spain. **Spain** is currently developing an exercise to analyse the best ways to strengthen the gender architecture in the country. The weaknesses of public institutions could be an important incentive to seek innovative work methodologies based on the generation of capacities, the establishment of alliances and the reinforcement of public policies. This could be an excellent entry point for joint initiatives among EU and MS, strengthening the Team Europe Approach.

EUMS' are keen on the **joint programming** with the EU Delegation in the future and a possible **Team Europe Initiative** in the field of gender as well as **common advocacy** efforts. For the short-term coordinated exercise, the EUMS and EU Delegation a training for gender capacity building for all Gender Focal Points in the EUMS embassies is being considered.

EUMS and the EU Delegation have very good cooperation on the joint **communication campaigns** and **public diplomacy events** in the area of gender (see point 5).

For the **policy and political dialogue** the main topics identified by the EU Delegation and the EUMS concern access to basic services for women in the conflict affected areas, combatting impunity with regards to conflict related sexual violence, highlighting the importance of accountability and access to justice for survivors, women's participation in the national key processes such as the National Dialogue, Transitional Justice, the RRRF and DDR, Women Peace and Security Agenda.

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

EU Delegation is holding regular consultations with the CSOs. The last one took place in 2023 in two rounds – with local CSOs and international NGOs. Additionally, ad hoc consultations are taking place for the programming purposes and during coordination groups meetings. In 2024 and 2025 the donors aim to establish a joint platform for more structured joint dialogue.

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

GAP III aims at increasing the number and effectiveness of actions having gender equality as principal objective with a target of a least one G2 action implemented in each country by 2025.

The current G2 programme of the EU is the Addressing Social Determinants of Health for Gender equality programme (EUR 24 950 000) that support the the MoH at federal level, and regional health bureaus, Women & Children Affairs bureaus, Water, Irrigation & Energy bureaus in the four Developing Regional States (Afar, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambela). The intervention focuses on women and attempts to address health impacts of nutrition, SRHR and family planning, prevention of GBV and FGM, and linkages with WaSH. There is a wide range of indicators that are linked with the GAP III framework from prevalence of violence, FGM rates, use of contraceptives to quality and access of health services.

Under Individual Measure 2 adopted in 2023, the EU is implementing a G1 action with a strong gender component, Promoting Inclusive and Gender Sensitive Reconciliation and Peace Building in Ethiopia (EUR 20 000 000) that will focus on strengthening inclusive and gender sensitive dialogue and rebuilt social fabric at different levels, and particularly in conflict affected areas and facilitating recovery, inclusion, reintegration and resilience building of conflict affected population, particularly women and girls, and former combatants. The intervention will also includes the provision of comprehensive services on MPHS and SGBV to target communities and ex combatants and building



women's CSOs capacities for peace building in conflict affected regions.

Additionally, Determining Ethiopian Women's Status and Priorities: an Action Research Project (EUR 1 000 000), financed from the NDICI Human Rights Country Allocation, started implementation in January 2023. It is an in-depth study, the largest in the country up to date, on the needs of women in Ethiopia done with quantitative and qualitative methods in all regions of Ethiopia on the zonal administrative level. It will bridge a significant knowledge gap about the situation of Ethiopian women and contribute to need of the local CSOs and community based organisations, which are lacking advocacy skills and platforms for inclusion in decision and policymaking. Another gender-transformative project, Enhancing the Participation of Women in Ethiopian Politics: Balancing the Scales (EUR 2 800 000), that started implementation in 2022 is supporting gender equality and promoting women's access, participation and transformation related to political power in Ethiopia. The project works specifically with political parties, to encourage them to include women in their ranks.

In the planned AAP24, currently under review at the HQ, a G1 Action Document Strengthening democratic institutions, transitional justice, gender equality and social cohesion in Ethiopia (EUR 47 000 000) has a strong gender component - Improve capacities of Ethiopian institutions at all levels to advance Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) in line with international and national normative frameworks and commitments (EUR 15 000 000). The design of this component was a joint effort of the EU Delegation and the EUMS, followed by consultations with the relevant stakeholders. The planned outputs to achieve the gender transformative objective are improved quality of gender mainstreaming and capacities of Ethiopian institutions at all levels, improved policies, laws, strategies and action plans that promote GEWE, their evidence-based development, implementation and monitoring, enhanced capacities of Women's Networks, Women's Rights Organisations and Civil Society Organisations to influence decision-making processes, engage in evidence based civic dialogue and demand accountability and transparency for GEWE.

Another G1 Action Document for planned AAP24, currently under review at the HQ, Post-Conflict Restoration of Basic Health Services, Medical and Psycho-Social Support to Gender-Based Violence Survivors and Conflict Affected Communities in Ethiopia (EUR 25 000 000), has a strong gender component focusing on the GBV survivors, specifically to improve quality of medical treatment of GBV survivors, through skilled personnel and specialised equipment, improve GBV case management and increase availability of good quality MHPSS services in conflict affected areas and build capacities for social reintegration of GBV survivors and increased resilience of communities in conflict affected areas.

Potential future G2 Action Document in the AAP25 could focus on job creation and investments targeted at women, potentially in the energy sector.

#### **4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment**

**Internal dialogue** among donors are happening on two main platforms – EU Gender Task Force (EU GTF) chaired by the EU Delegation and the wider Donor Group on Gender Equality (DGGE).

- EU GTF is operational since 2010 as a working group on first GAP implementation. Currently it focuses on information & experience sharing, possible joint programming and coordinated programming and common messaging for advocacy & communication campaigns.
- DGGE operates since 1996, consists of EU Del, EUMS, CA, JP, NO, UK, US and the UN agencies. It started as a linkage between donors and the Government of Ethiopia/National Gender Machinery (prior to GSWG).

**Dialogue with government**, is ongoing through Gender Sector Working Group (GSWG), established at the end of 2020 and operating since 2021. The main role of the group is donors engagement with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), women's machineries in sector offices and gender policy dialogue to facilitate provision of technical guidance, support

gender integration and promote mutual accountability on national and international commitments on gender equality. The group is co-chaired by the Spanish Cooperation,

**Dialogue with CSOs** is happening on a regular basis. The last one took place in 2023 in two rounds – with local CSOs and international NGOs. Additionally, ad hoc consultations are taking place for the programming purposes and during coordination groups meetings. In 2024 and 2025 the donors aim to establish a joint platform for more structured joint dialogue.

#### 5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

The EU Delegation started to coordinate **social media campaign** with all EUMS present in Ethiopia in 2021, for the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. Gender Focal Points from the EU Delegation and EUMS each year draft 16 tweets contextualized for Ethiopia, with personalised hashtags and graphics and during the 16 Days of Activism post them on their social media platforms, in English and Amharic. Several like-minded countries, other International Organisations and implementing partners also take part in the campaign. In 2022 (and currently ongoing in 2023), the Italian Cooperation is assisting with the coordination of the campaign.

In 2022 (and planned for 2023), EU Delegation organised an **joint event** for 16 Days of Activism Against GBV (with financial support from Italy, The Netherlands, France, Ireland) focusing on capacity building of Ethiopian CSOs working on women and girl's rights. A two days event served as a networking and capacity-building platform between for smaller Ethiopian organisations and activists working on Gender Based Violence and GEWE topics, with over 100 participants from all regions of Ethiopia as well as donors, international NGOs, development cooperation agencies and institutional actors, was the largest event of this kind that gathered a lot positive feedback from the participants. EU Delegation is planning the second edition of the event in 2023 and ultimately to make it an annual event.

The need for more efforts towards **quality data** on the situation of women in Ethiopia, including different forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices to inform laws, policies and programmes, that was identified in the first version of this CLIP, is being addressed by the EU funded 'Determining Ethiopian women's status and priorities: an action research project' (NDICI HR INTPA/2022/438-830) that is the largest research on challenges and needs of Ethiopian women ever conducted in the country. The result of the survey will be a basis for decision and policy makers from the government for reformulation and implementation of gender-related policies. The action is also expected to respond to the constraints of gender related research funding in the country.

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

Support Measure - Cooperation Facility from the Individual Measure 1 was used to finance technical assistance for the communication tasks related to social media campaign and organisational tasks for the joint events in 2022 and 2023. In the planned AAP24 (currently under revision at the HQ) there is EUR 15 000 000 allocation for the specific gender transformative component of an Action Document.

*Date: 30.11.2023*

*Signature by Head of Delegation: <e-signed> in Ares by Roland Kobia*