



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND
TO THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

Head of Delegation

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025 Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP Nigeria (updated, November 2023)

The CLIP for Nigeria, signed in 2021, was based on a Gender Country Profile, consisting of an extensive desk review and primary research in all geopolitical zones of Nigeria conducted between June and August 2021. For the preparation of the Gender Country Profile, focus group discussions were held with grassroots organisations, selected households, minority groups and other stakeholders. Key informant interviews were held with respondents from ministries, departments and agencies at federal and state level, civil society organisations (CSOs, private sector entities and other organisations working on gender equality. In addition, questionnaires were deployed online using the Kobo Collect Toolbox in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Adamawa, Kano, Anambra, Lagos and Edo states targeting a total of 1,800 respondents (300 per state). In November 2023, the CLIP was updated to reflect the current context and the findings of a desk review and consultations conducted during the formulation a new G-2 EU action on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and sectoral human rights, gender and conflict sensitivity analyses on eight Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) sector priorities¹.

The CLIP is aligned with the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy 2021-2024 for Nigeria and the CSO Roadmap 2021-2025 for Nigeria and is aimed at fast-tracking gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in all thematic areas of the MIP for Nigeria. Specifically, the EU Delegation (EUD) is promoting economic, educational and social rights of girls and women, addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation, promoting women's equal participation and leadership, supporting the women, peace and security agenda, addressing issues related to gender-based violence and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In the following chapters, the CLIP presents a brief context description on gender equality in Nigeria, the areas of the MIP and the gender equality priority objectives the EU is pursuing, the political and policy dialogues that the EUD has been prioritising to engage with the partner country government and other relevant stakeholders, foreseen public diplomacy events on gender equality, and support for the implementation of the CLIP in the EUD's cooperation facility.

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

Nigeria is signatory to several international and regional instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1985, and the Optional Protocol in 2004, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2005. Nigeria has also committed to other international

¹ 1. climate-smart agriculture, 2. the power sector (energy access and job opportunities), 3. access to decent jobs, entrepreneurship, and digital skills, 4. health systems and reproductive health, 5. rule of law and anti-corruption, 6. social protection, 7. reintegration and criminal justice response to violent extremism and 8. migration governance.

and regional frameworks aiming at gender equality, including the ECOWAS Gender Strategy 2010-2020, the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework. In recent years, progress has been recorded in the adoption of domestic legislation having an impact on gender equality such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015 (adopted by 35 states) in a bid to eliminate all forms of violence both in public and private life and the Child Rights Act, 2003 (adopted by all 36 states) which prohibits child betrothal and marriage. In September 2022, Nigeria ratified the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention (C190), making it the first country in West Africa to do so.

While significant efforts have been made to advance gender equality and empower women in Nigeria in recent years, it is critical that progress and existing momentum to promote gender equality and prevent GBV across the country are not rolled back. Prioritising actions to enforce the current legal and policy framework, in a whole of government, whole of society approach, should be prioritised.

Over the past 6 years, significant progress has been achieved at Federal and state level in the establishment and expansion of government-led or civil society-driven mechanisms that offer stronger protection for survivors and provide appropriate punishment for perpetrators. For instance, 6 years ago, only 17 out of 36 states in Nigeria were recorded to have adopted the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) 2015; but by March 2023, as a result of persistent advocacy by stakeholders, an additional 18 states had adopted the VAPP, progressing us to 35 out of 36 states having adopted the VAPP or similar legislation.

In November 2020, as part of efforts to strengthen coordination of Nigeria's national response to GBV, the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, launched the National GBV Data Situation Room, a centralized database for collating and analysing data on gender-based violence from across the 36 states. A year before this, the EU funded Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) Programme supported the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to establish the National Sexual Offender Database and replicate it in 4 additional states. By December 2022, a total of 10 states were reporting sexual offender data to the NAPTIP register.

In 2022, RoLAC also initiated processes that led to the designation of 16 Sexual and Gender-based Violence Courts across 4 states as well as the development and adoption of Guidelines for the trial of SGBV cases by their respective Chief Judges. Perhaps the most striking progress made has been in the expanded availability of emergency medical, counselling and legal services for survivors of SGBV through the proliferation of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) around the country. In 2017, there were only 11 SARCs existing across 10 states in Nigeria but advocacy and direct assistance has grown this to 40 SARCs existing across 20 states; with nearly 40,000 survivors assisted. More recently in June 2023, an Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill criminalizing all forms of sexual harassment against students in tertiary institutions was also passed by both chambers of the National Assembly.

The Government has developed the National Gender Policy 2021 -2026 and the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Coordination Strategic Framework of the Development

Partners Group (DPGG) 2023 - 2028. Several other policies exist which have implications for women across sectors.

At the same time, there are still gaps in the legal framework. For instance, labour laws make discriminatory provisions that are unfavourable to women. The failure to enact the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill 2016, aimed at eliminating discrimination of women in employment, inheritance, marriage, divorce and land and property ownership in line with Nigeria's international obligations under the CEDAW and the Maputo protocol, also detracts from international commitments to gender equality made by Nigeria. On 1 March 2022, five bills² promoting gender equality in Nigeria were rejected by the Senate committee during the fifth attempt to review the 1999 Constitution since its adoption. The Constitution itself prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, in certain instances, also fails to employ inclusive language. For instance, Section 26 (2) is discriminatory because it allows a man to confer citizenship by registration on a foreign-born wife but does not allow a wife to do likewise for a foreign-born husband. Furthermore, there is still a significant difference between legislation and the day-to-day experience of people in Nigeria, especially women. Nigeria is a federation and has a tripartite system of civil, customary and religious law. This makes it more difficult to harmonise legislation and remove discriminatory measures.

Gender inequality is based on various social, cultural and institutional factors. It is illustrated in figures: for example, there are clear differences between women and men in employment, income, mortality, school drop-out rates and in the number of women occupying appointive and elective positions within government. The 2022 Global Gender Gap Report ranks Nigeria 123 out of 146 countries. There are also differences in gender equality indicators along geographical and income lines, and when gender inequality intersects with other personal characteristics/identities, for example for internally displaced persons, people with a disability, sexual and gender minorities and elderly persons. Gender inequality is worsened by a legal and governance system which is lacking in comprehensiveness and not effectively enforced.

With regard to employment and work, more women than men are unemployed with a majority of women working in the informal sector compared to men. Only 34% of Nigerian women are employed in the formal sector. The wage gap between men and women is apparent with policy measures doing little to correct it. There are also significant gaps between the number of men and women that are able to access loans from formal financial institutions.

Nigeria ranks very poorly on gender equality in terms of political participation. Women are significantly under-represented in appointed offices and even more so in elective offices. Following the 2023 general election, only 3,9% of elected positions are occupied by women, well below the global average of 26,5%.

² To create additional seats for women to increase women's representation in the National Assembly; Provide a minimum of 20% of ministerial or commissioner nominees for women; Affirmative action of at least 35% in political party administration and appointive positions across federal and state levels; Granting citizenship to foreign-born husbands of a Nigerian woman; Allow a woman to become an indigene of her husband's state after five years of marriage

The activity of terrorist groups and kidnappers in Northern Nigeria as well as secessionist groups and communal clashes in Southern Nigeria threaten the peace and security of the country. As evidenced by the situation in North-Eastern Nigeria, conflict often results in systemic human rights violations. These include sexual violence, forced marriage, rape, unwanted pregnancy and other types of inhuman and degrading treatments. These threats make it harder for women to access much needed sexual and reproductive health services and put young men and boys at risk of becoming child soldiers while decreasing access to education for children in affected areas.

Access to healthcare is fraught with difficulty especially for women. Nigeria records one of the highest maternal deaths globally with 20% of the total global maternal mortality rate and only 43% of births are attended by skilled health personnel. The unmet need for contraception is very high at 58%, and only 18% of all women and 21% of married women use modern contraceptives. Access to safe legal abortion and post-abortion care is restricted due to restrictive abortion laws, that result in clandestine and unsafe abortions (Nigeria has some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world). The country accounts for the third highest number of women and girls who have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) worldwide (accounting for 10% of the 200 million FGM survivors worldwide). The Nigerian government has over time put in place several policies, including the Revised National Gender Policy (2021-2026) and a new development action is planned on “Strengthening access to reproductive and adolescent health” (SARAH) to be implemented over the next five years (2023-2028).

Gender-based violence is widespread. Forms of violence prevalent in the country include rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation, harmful traditional practices, widowhood rites, family violence, forced marriage, trafficking in persons, child marriage and cyberbullying. According to the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, one in three women have suffered physical violence. Nigeria currently ranks the 11th highest in the world in terms of child marriages. 15.7% of girls in Nigeria are married before the age of 15 years and 43.4% are married before the age of 18 years compared to 3.2% of boys. It is estimated that 20% of all women between 15 to 49 years, have undergone female genital mutilation. Women and girls constitute the largest number of victims of domestic and cross-border trafficking. In June 2020, following a surge in fatal cases of sexual and domestic violence during the COVID lockdown, the Governors of Nigeria’s 36 states unanimously declared a state of emergency on sexual and gender-based violence. The Governors called for the immediate launch of sex offender registries in all states and advocated for stricter federal punishments for abuse and violence against women. The Federal Government also committed to ending violence against women as a national priority by inaugurating an Inter-Ministerial Management Committee on gender-based violence, tasked with leading a coordinated response.

Agriculture is a major source of livelihood for over 70% of the population, with smallholder farmers accounting for most of the country’s agricultural production. An estimated 7 out of every 10 women are based in rural areas and make a living from the land. Women are involved in farming, aquaculture, crop processing and marketing and are facing numerous challenges including limited access to land, credit and other productive resources. The impact of climate change, observed in drastic increases in temperature, desertification and drought (prevalent in

the North), inconsistent rainfall, and flooding (prevalent in the South and occasioned by rising sea levels), is likely to have negative consequences for men and women involved in agriculture. The National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change 2020 and the National Gender Policy in Agriculture 2019 articulate Nigeria's commitment to ensuring that the ways in which climate change affects men and women in all their diversity are properly managed.

With Information Communication Technology (ICT), there has been observable positive change towards gender equality. The internet is being used as a tool to highlight issues affecting women and men while mobile devices are allowing people access wealth creating opportunities, education and healthcare in non-traditional ways. Despite the tremendous potential of ICT, there is still a significant gap with a clear need for improving access for people, particularly women in rural communities.

A multi-faceted approach is required to address the various issues related to gender equality. Priorities include advocacy and stakeholder engagement towards addressing threats to security, improved investment in research on digitalization, provision of technical support to stakeholders in the health and education sectors. Although these recommendations are consistent with existing policies, the SDG goals and Nigeria's international obligations, more support is required to effectuate policy provisions and action plans.

The EUD in Nigeria has been at the forefront of fighting for gender equality and women's empowerment using a wide range of instruments. Gender is reflected as a key priority in all political and policy dialogues between the EU and the Nigerian government including but not limited to the Human Rights Dialogue, the COVID-19 response under the One UN Basket Fund, the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Coordination Strategic Framework of the Development Partners Group (DPGG) 2023 – 2028 and the seventh EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue. The Development Partner Group on Gender has organised strategy meetings in 2022 and 2023 for re-introducing the Gender and Equal opportunities and for advocating to the Five gender bills (additional seats for women in the National Assembly, etc).

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The overall objective of the CLIP is to fast-track gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in all thematic areas of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for Nigeria. To reach GAP III targets, the EUD will ensure that at least 85% of all new actions in the programming 2021-2027 will have gender equality as a significant ([Gender Marker 1](#)) or principal objective ([Gender marker 2](#)) in each priority area of the MIP.³ The MIP for Nigeria will focus on three interconnected priority areas: 'Green and Digital Economy', 'Governance, Peace, Migration', and 'Human Development'. Through the implementation of the MIP for Nigeria, the EUD will pursue several GAP III "areas of engagement"⁴ on gender equality and women's empowerment. Across all priority areas, the EU is emphasising a human rights-based approach (HRBA), gender mainstreaming and conflict sensitivity as well as

³ The OECD gender markers G1 and G2 will be applied: for G1 each action should include at least one specific objective on gender equality complying with and/or including targeted actions (OECD gender marker G2).

⁴ Presented in chapter 3 of the Joint Communication on GAP III

ensuring the ownership and accountability of authorities. In its actions, the EU will also encourage a broader change in culture working together with authorities, communities and community leaders.

Green and Digital Economy: This thematic area focuses on achieving low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient development while promoting job creation for youth and women and better conditions for economic growth, including through digitalisation. Through this priority area, the EUD is promoting economic and social rights of girls and women, addressing the challenges to their empowerment, and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and digital transformation. Interventions are concentrating on climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, climate/circular economy and ICT/innovation, as sectors with a high job-creation potential, and where women's economic empowerment needs to be promoted, especially when it comes to the non-traditional sectors. Interventions are seeking to create decent jobs in the formal economy. Working in partnership with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the government of Nigeria at all levels, financial institutions, private sector partners, civil society and women's organisations, this priority area will mainstream gender through increased women's access to lifelong learning to improve their employability, decent work, financial services and products, and entrepreneurship and career opportunities, and strengthen their participation in the green and circular economy. The planned activities are contributing to a number of thematic areas of engagements especially those related to promoting economic and empowering girls and women and those addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation. We have identified key objectives and indicators that will be integrated into the individual activities to be implemented. The actions will also align with Nigeria's National Action Plan on Gender & Climate Change (2020-2025) whose goal is to ensure that national climate change processes in Nigeria mainstream gender considerations to guarantee inclusivity of all demographics in the formulation and implementation of climate change initiatives, programmes and policies. The actions in this thematic area have been nourished by three sectoral human rights, gender and conflict analysis on climate-smart agriculture; the power sector; and access to decent jobs, entrepreneurship and digital skills).

Governance, Peace and Migration: The overall objective of the EU support in this priority area is to contribute to government (federal and state levels) and civil society actions in order to enhance democracy and participatory governance, improve human security and ensure the sustainable management of migration. Through this priority area, the EUD is promoting women's equal participation and leadership in the decision-making process, especially young women, addressing issues related to gender-based violence, and supporting the women, peace and security agenda. In partnership with the federal and state governments, civil society organisations, and communities, this priority area is ensuring that women and children are better protected from all forms of gender-based violence through legislation and effective enforcement, including in fragile and humanitarian crisis situations. Three key areas for support, advocacy and intervention are the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, the adoption and gazetting of the Child Rights Act and Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act law at state level, legislative oversight on gender budgeting and the support for the ongoing

constitutional review to address gender equality issues including affirmative action and political participation. This MIP priority area seeks to improve access to essential gender-based violence services and provision of adequate and quality services for socio-economic integration and psycho-social support for trafficked persons. The MIP is ensuring women's participation and involvement in the EU supported capacity building initiatives targeted at key governance institutions at federal and state levels. This thematic area has been nourished by three sectoral human rights, gender and conflict analysis on migration governance; reintegration and criminal justice response to violent extremism; and the rule of law and anticorruption.

Human Development: This thematic area aims to strengthen the linkages between social protection, education and reproductive health. To bring about the human capital transformation that is needed to reduce poverty, Nigeria must prioritise investment in youth, with a special focus on women and girls to ensure that the next generations of all young adults are healthier, better educated and more able to contribute to decision making, economic growth and development. Working with multilateral organisations, civil society and local authorities at community and state level, this priority area is promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights and economic and social rights of girls and women. It is creating an enabling legal, political and societal environment allowing women and girls to access quality sexual and reproductive health care and services. It is also reducing gender disparities in enrolment, progression and retention at all levels of education and strengthening skills development as well as improving nutrition levels of the most vulnerable. This thematic area has been nourished by two sectoral human rights, gender and conflict analysis on health systems and reproductive health, and social protection.

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

Even though 19 EU Member States are represented with an Embassy in Abuja, only a limited number have bilateral development cooperation funds (the main cooperation portfolios are those of AFD and GIZ). Despite this, gender equality and women's empowerment is a key common agenda item and there is willingness to share information and steer the political dialogue on these priorities. For Member States without bilateral development cooperation, focus is on seeking increased cooperation and synergies during key events and public diplomacy campaigns including the International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Coordination and joint implementation with Member States is also an integral part of the EU programming exercise.

There are specific areas for potential synergies in collaboration with the AFD, and Spanish and Irish Embassy:

- The AFD is very committed to gender issues, especially on the following themes: 'Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women', 'Promoting equal participation and leadership', and 'Climate change and environment and Digitalisation'. Areas for increased synergy can be sought especially in the 'Green Economy' thematic area of the MIP.

- **Key areas of engagement for the Spanish Embassy** are ‘Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence’ and ‘Integrating the women, peace and security agenda’. Potential synergies can be found between the **MoU on WPS Spain has with ECOWAS** and the **work other MS are doing in this field with Nigeria**.
- For the Irish Embassy, focus is on addressing gendered gaps in governance, i.e. the deficit in women’s participation, sexual and reproductive health, and on protection of human rights, especially in combatting sexual and gender-based violence, including through citizen-led movements. Also, possibilities of a third National Action Plan on WPS, working with key partners such as UN Women can be explored. The Embassy is engaging with UNOWAS and ECOWAS and is considering support for regional gender and WPS initiatives.

Civil Society Engagement

The EU is committed to supporting civil society around the world and to ensure that they have a greater role in designing and implementing European policies, programmes and projects. Civil society was extensively consulted in the development of the MIP for Nigeria, and other strategic documents including the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy and the CSO Roadmap. The MIP underlines the need to promote an enabling environment for civil society, to enhance their meaningful, continuous and structured participation in policies as well as their capacity to perform their roles as independent development and governance actors. Nigeria’s civil society is vibrant and active, particularly on issues related to gender equality and women’s empowerment. Civil society in Nigeria is also diverse and the EU will engage with CSOs in the wider sense to include youth organisations, business associations, academic institutions and think tanks, faith-based organisations, and traditional and religious leaders.

In the context of the implementation of the Roadmap for CSO engagement, there are regular joint interactive sessions between the EU, Member States, national stakeholders and implementing partners across thematic areas. The CSO Roadmap addresses all thematic focal areas of the MIP; digital economy, governance and human development with a cross cutting objective of promoting participation of women, youth and marginalised groups. The EU is working with civil society organisations for programme implementation at community level while promoting a rights-based approach, ensuring that the authorities co-finance programmes and assume their responsibilities to provide basic services. The CSO Roadmap found that the ability of CSOs to mainstream gender in their programmes and project activities has improved. This mainstreaming is further supported in the implementation of the MIP, by making gender mainstreaming, the human rights-based approach and conflict sensitivity a requirement beyond just ticking the box by nourishing the actions with sectoral human rights, gender and conflict sensitivity analysis and applying EU guidelines, core principles and tools.

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 objective⁵ with a target of a least one G2 action implemented in each country by 2025.

For Nigeria, a G2 action has been identified and formulated during 2023. This G2 action will be focused on gender-based violence and build on the results of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative project that ends in 2023. In addition, gender-based violence will be tackled under other EU actions, such as the new phase of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) programme.

Key considerations:

- Gender-based violence remains an issue affecting many women and children in Nigeria.
- Linkages can be sought between eradication of gender-based violence and MIP priority sectors (for example on women's economic empowerment, political participation of women, SRHR, education and the Women, Peace and Security agenda).
- The EUD has been able to establish a strong track record and visibility as a credible partner on gender-based violence.
- There are opportunities for increased ownership and funding by the government.
- More support and continued political engagement remain necessary for these commitments to materialise.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

The CLIP identifies the political and policy dialogues that the EUD is prioritising to engage with the Nigerian government and other key stakeholders. The EUD is engaging in dialogue at different levels, targeting senior government officials including the President, State governors, government ministers, parliamentarians and civil servants in senior positions. Dialogue aims to assist in putting issues on the agenda, in promoting more government ownership and sustainability, in encouraging policy shifts and legislation, in ensuring implementation of laws, and for priority to be given to gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment in national development planning and resource allocation.

The Human Rights Dialogue provides a venue for open dialogue at a high political level to address key human rights issues including discrimination of LGBTIQ people, the rights of women and children, gender equality, freedom of expression and the rule of law, human rights and migration, and the challenges facing democratic governance in Nigeria. The EUD also hosts and supports a wide range of dialogues between member states, like-minded and other embassies, and multilateral agencies and partners to foster mutual understanding, facilitate the establishment of agreed priorities and shared agendas, and strengthen cooperation between EU actors and partners. Regular dialogue is also foreseen in the framework of the CSO Roadmap, where gender equality and women's empowerment is both a stand-alone and a key crosscutting priority. The monthly meetings of the Development Partners Group on Gender (DPGG) is another forum where the EU engages on gender equality issues. The DPGG is co-chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in cooperation with UN Women and aims to ensure

⁵ Defined as G2 actions in line with OECD gender maker [G2](#). These actions should aim at achieving a long-lasting change tackling harmful gender norms and stereotypes, by implementing a comprehensive and gender-transformative approach.

technical coherence and a common agenda between government, donors and civil society on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Sectoral dialogues to implement priority areas of the MIP are also taking account of gender equality and women's empowerment as key crosscutting issues. In addition to line ministries, these dialogues are held with other key stakeholders, such as relevant faith-based communities and private-sector businesses. Moreover, the EU engages regionally with actors including ECOWAS, the African Union (AU) and other key stakeholders. The gender equality and women empowerment indicators are present across all EU programmes benefitting ECOWAS such as institutional support, energy, health, agriculture/fisheries, security and governance, and the very important area of peacebuilding and elections. The high-level meetings and events organised in the margins of EU-funded programmes give a valuable platform for dialogue on how to achieve a greater gender balance, the roles of West African women across different areas of society and they enable female participants to become end-users of our dialogues or capacity building activities. Other key stakeholders at the regional level include the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), which supports the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission to enhance greater gender mainstreaming and bring at the forefront the importance of women in peace building efforts within the ECOWAS region.

Key areas for dialogue are the adoption of relevant laws at state level (Gender and Equal Opportunity Laws), and the review of other laws that have discriminatory provisions such as the Labour Act. The next review of Nigeria's 1999 constitution provides an opportunity for the EU and MSs to join voices and address gender equality issues including affirmative action, political participation and the amendment of provisions that are not aligned with gender equality principles. In its policy dialogues, the EUD will also advocate for the implementation of the National Gender Policy 2022-2026, gender-responsive budgeting, and the monitoring and publication of gender commitments in national, state and sectoral budgets.

5. Outreach and other communication/public diplomacy activities

The objectives for engaging in public diplomacy are twofold. First of all, continued high-level advocacy is required to ensure that the legal framework provides a complete and adequate foundation for gender equality in the country. Secondly, harmful gender norms are the foundations for gender inequality and cut across most of the thematic areas studied in the Gender Country Profile for Nigeria. To effectively address these root causes of gender inequality, and promote equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours, the EUD is engaging in effective public diplomacy activities to empower the public with information.

Over the past years, the EUD has been actively engaged in strategic communication and high-level events on gender equality. This specifically includes key annual events such as the International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-Based Violence. Also, other international days are celebrated, with a specific focus on gender equality such as the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia and the International Human Rights Day.

These campaigns have raised the profile of the EUD as a frontrunner on gender equality and women’s empowerment issues and will continue to be key moments for outreach and public diplomacy. The public diplomacy events aim to raise awareness and conduct advocacy to ensure that gender equality and women’s empowerment issues remain high on the political agenda. To shift gender-power relations for a positive change of the societal and cultural paradigms, the EUD engages target groups, youth, social media influencers, cultural actors and (social) media to multiply the reach of its campaigns. Importantly, men and boys will be engaged in interventions to promote gender equality.

High-level advocacy and public outreach are usually organised in collaboration with EUDs implementing partners. In recent years, the EUD has increased cooperation with Member States and like-minded countries for the organisation of high-level events and public diplomacy. Specifically, this means that joint events are being organised as Team Europe.

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

The cooperation facility remains a major tool for the implementation of the CLIP. The cooperation facility is strengthening the EUD’s role in delivering on its commitments for people with disability and applying conflict sensitivity. The technical cooperation facility includes an allocation of 4.5 m EUR under objective 3 which covers: public diplomacy on youth, disability inclusion, GAP III implementation and cultural diplomacy. In addition to the cooperation facility, a technical assistance project on applying the human rights-based approach (HRBA), gender mainstreaming and conflict sensitivity in EU priority sectors of the MIP was implemented during 2023. As a result, the EUD’s capacity to deliver on and fast-track the HRBA, gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment and conflict sensitivity across all thematic areas of the MIP, has been strengthened, supporting the implementation of the CLIP. In particular, the technical assistance has helped develop eight human-rights, gender and conflict sensitivity sector analyses, supported gender mainstreaming through a ‘Helpdesk’, and trainings/awareness raising, reporting and communication.

Other Member States also have their own policies that support gender mainstreaming. The Spanish Exterior Action Strategy 2021-2024 includes gender equality as transversal principle that should guide all actions. Moreover, it highlights, among others, the prevention and eradication of GBV and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, following the goals established for 2025.

Date:

Signature by Head of Delegation: