

Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025)

Update of the Country Level Implementation Plan – RWANDA

November 2023

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

The EU Delegation (EUD) to Rwanda elaborated a Country level Implementation Plan (CLIP) in 2021 to “localise” Gender Action Plan (GAP III) at country level. CLIP Implementation is assessed mostly on track as regards on-time and on-budget implementation of planned actions and political initiatives.

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

No changes.

3 – Targeted Actions on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

As part of AAP 2024, The EU Delegation formulated the Action Document entitled: “*Agricultural Transformation through skills upgrading of women and youth in Rwanda*”, a EUR 16 million G2 Action, financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) and part of the Team Europe Initiative on “Investing in Sustainable and Inclusive Agricultural Transformation”. This AD’s thematic priority areas Education, Skills and Decent Jobs for the Youth; related to GAP III thematic area of engagement - Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women. Its specific objective of inclusive growth is characterized by expansion in income opportunities/reduced vulnerability by poor men and women in Rwanda through access to jobs and improved livelihoods.

This action will be delivered through a Team Europe approach with a parallel funding contribution from Luxembourg and a contribution from France, further positioning the EU and its member states as important funders of the TVET sector in Rwanda. The action will primarily contribute to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) but also to SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 10 (Reducing inequalities) and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Although the rate of women's participation in the agriculture sector is higher than men's, this does not reflect in their representation in the broader labour market. The impacts of climate change, such as unpredictable weather patterns and increased droughts, disproportionately affect women, exacerbating their vulnerabilities in the agricultural sector. The percentage of women in unstable job roles, such as self-employment or as contributing family workers, is considerably higher than that of men.

This action will require a mix of entities in both the TVET and the agriculture sector, public and private, as well as the National Gender Machinery institutions overseeing efforts, coordination, and implementation mechanisms in the areas of gender and women empowerment.

This G2 Action is part of the AAP2024 approval process for a Financing Decision planned beginning 2024.

Additionally, in the framework of the EU initiative on Climate-relevant Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (and food systems) – DESIRA, FAO Rwanda is implementing a G2 Action entitled: “Capacity development for innovation in Rwanda: strengthening innovation partnerships in six districts: Burera, Rutsiro, Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Bugesera, and Ruhango”. Its overall objectives are to ensure that agriculture, fisheries and forestry are more productive and sustainable, and to reduce rural poverty. The expected results are as follows:

- Innovation partnerships established, facilitated and strengthened to streamline climate-smart gender-responsive agriculture best practices.
- Technical capacity needs and functional knowledge gaps on climate-smart agriculture are addressed.
- Gender responsive climate smart agricultural best practices are adopted and endorsed by the policies for their scaling up.
- Smart Agricultural best practices.

The Delegation is closely following up on ensuring that FAO implementation delivers on gender commitments of this project.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

Civil society organisations and women’s organisations are consulted on an ad hoc basis, most recently during the MIP mid-term review consultations in August 2023 where more than 30 associations were invited to contribute.

Women, peace and security was addressed as self-standing agenda item in the first EU-Rwanda Security and Defence consultations in January 2023. Women empowerment and gender equality issues have been part of the Art. 8 dialogue with Rwanda, and of the justice sector policy dialogue - Women’s Rights (including digital access) and the elimination of violence against women are part of the EU's HR country strategy.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

The strategic approach with MS around outreach initiatives on gender equality has been successfully evolving; gender equality has been one of the main priorities and EU and MS have been able to organise several Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) events and debates on gender equality between 2021 and 2023. The Women Deliver 2023 Global Conference (WD2023), which took place 17-20 July 2023, is another successful example of this joint endeavour. Indeed, as one of the largest multi-sectoral gatherings to advance gender equality, WD2023

main objective was to enable inclusive and co-created spaces that foster solidarity for sustainable solutions on gender equality. WD2023 convened 6,300 people in Kigali and 200,000+ people online through the virtual Conference and six-month Global Dialogue leading up to the Conference. The Embassy of Sweden took the onus of leading the Team EU initiative for Women Deliver 2023, both in the lead up to the conference and during the event in July. The Ambassador of Sweden, jointly with the EU Delegation organised a reception during the International Women's Day celebrations, themed around digital inclusion of women and girls. This set off a series of Team EU branded events in the following months touching on various themes. These included an exhibition themed around women entrepreneurs in arts and culture organized by the Embassy of Belgium, and a dialogue on women in Sports by the Embassy of France. During the WD2023 Conference itself, the Embassy of Sweden, through the team EU initiative also hosted a networking reception on the 18th of July, themed around the topical issue of adolescent bodily autonomy – meeting the growing challenges addressing ASRHR. A networking and cross learning development focused luncheon was hosted by the Embassy of Sweden and UN- Women, in the auspices of the conference. At this luncheon, where The EU Head of Delegation and UN Women Regional Director were among those present, Rwanda specific GEWE priorities were mapped out, with the gender mainstreaming agenda expounded upon, a basis upon which the NST2 Gender discussion was initiated. Whereas these events were well attended by high level representatives from a cross section of state, non-state and development focused institutions, and were also well covered by various media platforms, it is the coordination of EU member states, utilising the auspicious WD conference being held in Kigali to maximum advantage, showcasing interventions on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, that stood out as an outcome and was worth noting. The EU and Member States contributed to this global gathering through organising thematic side-events on sexual reproductive health rights, women's economic empowerment and historical accounts and growth of Rwanda's Women's rights movement.

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

No changes.

EU Member States' contributions to achieving GAP III Objectives

EU Member States present in Rwanda contribute in various ways to GAP III's Objectives aimed at promoting Gender Equality and Women and Girls' Empowerment (GEWE):

- Denmark, which was not yet active in Rwanda in 2021 when the CLIP was done communicated that it had no substantial contribution to share.
- Luxemburg provided EUR 5.5 million contribution to the EU funded KWIHAZA project, implemented by ENABEL. KWIHAZA is a TEI that will support the establishment of a programme on feeding the cities through the Kigali wholesale market and the organisation of functional fresh value chains (fish, small livestock, fruits and vegetables), supporting Rwanda's agricultural transformation for social and environmentally inclusive food systems. KWIHAZA covers GAP III's promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women; promoting equal

participation and leadership thematic areas. All other projects and programmes are still under formulation.

- France contributed to various Team Europe visibility events on GEWE including by hosting a French Delegation at Women Deliver 2023 Global Conference held in Kigali in July 2023.
- Germany together with France, Belgium, and the EU funded theatre performances to raise awareness around gender-based violence across Rwanda during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in 2022. A similar operation will take place in November 2023.
- Belgium, Germany and Sweden provided detailed updates reported in Annex I: UPDATE on EU actors' actions in Rwanda that contribute to achieving GAP III objectives (attached).
- No update received from NL
- Hungary is not a signatory to GAP.

Date:

Signature by Head of Delegation:

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