



The Director-General



Secretary General

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025 Country Level Implementation Plan- CLIP (GUYANA)

Context for EU action gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country

Guyana has approved the most relevant international human rights instruments for women’s rights including (but not limited to) the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Guyana has also adopted the Inter-American Convention on Elimination of Violence against Women.

Other relevant Conventions related to women’s rights protection such as N°100 Equality in Remuneration, the N°183 regarding the Protection of Maternity and the N°156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities were not ratified by the country.

Internally, women benefit from constitution rights, through Art. 29 of the Constitution of Guyana which is further supported by the Equal Rights Act (1990), the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the Sexual Offences Act, among others. There are also several laws, including labour, which provide specific labour rights, including protection against maternity discrimination.

Although there were progress, there is still the perception that the legal system is a bottleneck, that it is often ineffective in protecting the rights, specifically protecting women’s and girls’ rights against discrimination and violence and that enforcement needs strengthening particularly with regards to discrimination and gender based violence offences.

The intervention of the Guyana SPOTLIGHT Initiative (2020-2023), supported the country to further advance the establishment of robust legal frameworks that support the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). Extensive Researches were undertaken that explored New and Emerging Forms of Violence (NEFV), a comprehensive Legislative Analysis of Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Legislation was also undertaken. These projects informed the drafting of the Domestic Violence Bill 2022 which will be tabled in the Parliamentary agenda by the end of 2023 or early 2024. This piece of legislation will enhance the protection for women and domestic violence victims.

Guyana also has a Harassment Bill ready to be finalized, this was done in response to pressing concern of sexual harassment, and will also complement the broader legislative reform agenda in Guyana, furthering objectives in gender-based violence prevention and response.

With regard to Policy Development: A revised Family Violence policy and a harassment policy are currently being developed which will bolster the commitment to addressing family violence and harassment comprehensively. Further, under legal and policy reform, the Government is drafting new legislation relating to Social Protection. This is intended to, among other things, repeal the Poor Relief

Act of 1931 and provide a stronger basis for social protection (as part of addressing the economic vulnerabilities).

Regarding paid labour force, the employment to population ratio of persons aged 15 and above is substantially higher for men than for women (62.1 percent male vs. 36.9 percent for women). While women continue to dominate traditional roles, there is an increase of younger women in the energy sector, as well as in leadership roles in the private sector. These opportunities are accessible mostly to women living in urban and peri-urban communities, and/or women with tertiary level education.

Particular attention was paid to gender mainstreaming during the Guyana Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) on forest partnerships development. The information and data gaps on gender equality, especially in the forestry sector, had presented a significant setback in understanding the disparities that could exist in the forestry sector. However, a gender forest sector analysis for 2024 with the support of the Joint Implementation Framework (JIF) for the FLEGT VPA will be able to support the information and data gap that still exists.

Present briefly the analytical basis used to develop the CLIP, the Gender Country Profile¹ and Conflict Analysis where relevant, and other relevant documents as the Roadmap for engagement with CSOs. Indicate which actors have been consulted in the preparation of the CLIP such as national/local authorities, the national gender equality mechanism², women's organisations and other civil society actors, Women's Human Rights Defenders, peacebuilders, international organisations or any other actors³.

The original CLIP was developed in consultation with public, private and civil society actors (as for the CSO roadmap) in Guyana, and guided by a small sectoral analysis on gender in forestry. Experts in gender and forestry formed part of those who were consulted, along with civil society organisations, the Women and Gender Equality Commission and the private sector. The review was further supported with CSOs working in gender and forestry, women and child rights, Indigenous Peoples rights among others.

1. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

Guyana's MIP lone priority area is forest partnerships. SDG 5 (Gender Equality) is among those targeted by this priority area which comprises four specific objectives (SO). SO 2 which addresses the livelihood opportunities enhancement for forest communities, and provides the opportunity to pay attention to gender equality in forest value chains and capacity building was developed and the action (Sustainable Forest Livelihoods) is currently under implementation.

The action document for Support Measures was adopted and considered activities to address women's socioeconomic development in the scope of the EU-Guyana forest partnership and additionally, the MIP has incorporated sex disaggregated and gender specific data as a tool to be used in this forest partnership, thereby encouraging actors in the forestry sector to systematically adopt a gender lens when planning, implementing and reporting on activities.

¹ Indicate the date of finalisation, where possible upload it on Capacity4Dev and insert link

² Typically serving as central coordinating units for women's affairs within national governments, national mechanisms promote the integration of gender equality measures across national policies and programmes.

³ Please refer also to the Roadmap for engagement with CSOs. Section 1, which includes a brief analysis of the state of the civil society sector, should also pay particular attention to civil society involvement in favour of gender equality/women's rights and empowerment.

The Cooperation Facility for Guyana will also support technical assistance to help bridge gender disparities in the forestry sector, at the request of the government. Capacity building as well as studies such as a sector gender analysis are also types of support envisioned by this facility.

Subsequently, the MIP was aligned with the following selected areas of engagement of the GAP III:

3.3 Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women

Specific thematic objectives 1, 4 and 5

3.6 Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and digital transformation

Specific thematic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4

With the recent presence of a permanent representative of the French embassy in Guyana, and some interactions between the EUD and France have taken place, joint programming is likely in the near future. France has been providing marginal support to indigenous peoples' organisations and Conservation International-Guyana. Civil society active in conservation and forest people's development are the main beneficiaries of this programme.

These considerations were noted in the development of the action document and financing agreement in which specific activities, modality, implementing partners and indicators were defined for the next four years.

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

The Delegation has defined concrete actions to promote gender mainstreaming in the various action documents. The Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy (HRDCS) as well as the CSO roadmap continue to be instrumental in guiding the designs of the guidelines for CSO and Human Rights and Democracy calls for proposals and successfully contracted two CSOs (Merundoi Incorporated in 2022 and HIAS in 2023) to implement actions to address gender equality, women's and girls' rights and empowerment. This is to support the enhancement of women's rights given the high rate of violence against women and girls (especially domestic violence, sexual abuse) in Guyana.

There will be at least two other G2 actions implemented in Guyana, with further scope for G1 actions through the forest partnership cooperation programme. CSOs will be the main implementing partners as they have the added value of working with public agencies, local authorities and community leaders in the execution of their actions

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

Policy dialogues surrounding the formulation and implementation of the action document for the country programme on forest partnerships included the issue of gender mainstreaming. Possibility of financing activities supporting gender quality and mainstreaming through the Cooperation Facility formed part of dialogues. Direct resources mobilization and technical assistance to support capacity building in national gender budgeting may figure among activities proposed. Consultations with private sector entities such as the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA) and the Forest Producers Association (FPA) were also pivotal in raising the issue of gender disparities in forest value chains

Capacity building of CSOs working on gender equality is noted for the revision of the Guyana CSO 2021-2025 roadmap. Policy dialogues were also held with civil society operating in the ambit of the forest partnership, which worked towards ensuring optimal levels of inclusivity and participation.

A Framework for Policy dialogue with Civil Society Organisation in Guyana is currently in draft stage and will be finalised and implemented by the second quarter in 2024; the Delegation will have least one policy dialogue per year with CSOs working on Gender Equality, Women and Child Rights, Indigenous

Peoples Rights, Forest Dependent products, Media, Conservation, LGBTQ, Electoral Reform, People with Disability among others. This platform will ensure adequate engagement and inclusivity with civil society and women's organisations taking into account intersectionality and diversity of organisations.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

Indicate if possible the strategic communication/high level events on gender equality foreseen during the period 2021-2025 by the EU or in cooperation with EU MS.

The Delegation continues to maintain visible contribution and participation in the outreach activities especially during the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in collaboration with the Government of Guyana (Ministry of Human Services) and the (United Nations in Guyana) mainly through the Office of the Resident Coordinator.

Outreach activities with the collaboration and involvement of all local stakeholders [government, civil society, international and diplomatic missions] will continue to promote gender equality in Guyana. Specific emphasis is also placed on celebrating and recognising all relevant international events and actions related to this subject.

The Delegation will cooperate with MS on activities that non-resident EU MS may implement during the period and will continue with joint activities within the ABCE partnership that have proven successful in the past. Similar collaborations will be undertaken to commemorate important international days and other events pertaining to the subject matter.

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

Guyana's Cooperation Facility envelope which is approximately EUR 2.7 million, will also provide some assistance to address gender related issues and this is in addition to the thematic allocations (CSO and Human Rights and Democracy programme) that will continue to address actions related to GAP 111 implementation.

Date: 21 December 2023

Signature by Head of Cooperation:

E-signed: Joan Nadal Sastre