GAP III Briefing note n. 5

Digital4GenderEquality:

How to develop gender-transformative digital programmes
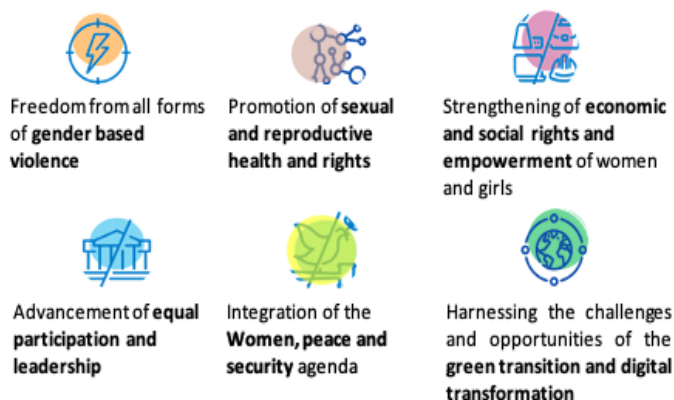
September 2021

Purpose

This briefing note follows the adoption of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III on 25 November 2020, including the accompanying joint Staff Working Document, SWD(2020) 284 final. Addressing specific challenges and opportunities for gender equality offered by the digital transformation is among the key areas of engagement of the GAP III (see GAP III p. 19-20 and SWD p. 31-33).

The briefing note aims to provide guidance to colleagues in INTPA geographical and thematic units and in EU delegations on how to design actions in the digital arena – across all modalities and investment frameworks, and in political and policy dialogue – that contribute directly to promoting and supporting gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment.

Freedom from all forms of **gender based violence**

Promotion of **sexual and reproductive health and rights**

Strengthening of **economic and social rights and empowerment** of women and girls

Advancement of **equal participation and leadership**

Integration of the **Women, peace and security** agenda

Harnessing the challenges and opportunities of the **green transition and digital transformation**

GAP III areas of engagement

Contents

The briefing note takes a reciprocal approach seeking, firstly, to provide **guidance on mainstreaming gender** in digitalisation policies and measures, and secondly, to focus on **how digitalisation can contribute to gender equality** and women's and girls' rights and empowerment across all key areas of engagement highlighted in GAP III.

Specifically, it can help to identify focus areas for gender sector analysis which supports the formulation of digital programmes that contribute to transforming gender-power relations for positive economic, social, and cultural change.

1. Key Challenges and Opportunities to Promote Gender Equality in Digitalisation

The unprecedented digital transformation of nearly all economic sectors furthers growth rates and accelerates progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, the **distribution of gains** from this global digital revolution has been unequal across and within regions and countries as well as across various segments of the population. The digital gap is wide and widespread (ITU). Specifically, the gap between women's and men's access and capacity to use digital technology and connectivity – the **gender digital divide** – severely limits women's and girls' chances to benefit from and enjoy the opportunities of digitalisation. Women and girls, and men and boys, living in rural or remote areas, and those living in poverty, are particularly digitally disadvantaged. The widest, and unfortunately widening, gender digital gap is in Africa.

165 million fewer women than men own a mobile phone in low- and middle-income countries. **48%** of women use internet compared to **58%** of men.

Women are under-represented in ICT careers: men are **4** times more likely to be ICT specialists.

52% of young women and girls using the internet have experienced online abuse, including threatening messages, sexual harassment, and the sharing of private images without consent.

Digital for Gender Equality

Closing the gender digital gap offers huge **potential** for women's and girls' empowerment – economic, social, political, cultural – and for the improvement of their communities and societies. Digitalisation offers **opportunities in education, training, and employment, and in political engagement** and influence in policy- and decision-making. It opens doors to information, for example, on health, sexual and reproductive rights, and social protection, as well as facilitating access to civil registration, to advisory services in finance, entrepreneurship, and agriculture, to name but a few.

Digital tools, platforms and social networks make it possible for women and girls, and men and boys, in all their diversity, to organise for collective action and engage in advocacy, to join gender equality and other social movements, to socialise and participate in cultural events. Social networks can document denial of rights and abuse, mobilise support for survivors of online and offline gender-based violence and harassment, and amplify pressure for change. New web-based applications enable Internet users to publish content and control data, as well as creating digital communities – shifting the power dynamics between information creators, owners, and users.

It is important now more than ever for the EU and related development organisations to act on the Gender Digital Divide, within its Digital for Development approach (D4D). Addressing the gender digital divide can have a fundamental gender equality impact on multiple levels. Improving digital skills and literacy presents a unique opportunity for increasing the inclusion of women in the labour market and contributing to their economic empowerment and independence. It can enable women to act fully as drivers of development for local communities and economies.

Every person has the right to use the internet as a means of communication. However, the digital environment is not free from discrimination and human rights violations, such as exposure to hate speech, cyber violence and bullying, and data theft or other types of fraud. Women and girls using digital technologies and the internet can be exposed to additional risks, including cyberstalking, online harassment, or even sexual trafficking. Data protection regulations are vital, as is tech education to enable users to analyse online information critically.

Equipping women and girls in all their diversity with the technical skills and the means to protect themselves is one of the key actions the EU can support, alongside advocating for norms and regulations for protecting rights online. The collection and dissemination of disaggregated data and gender statistics is another key area for action.

Box 1. How to enable women empowerment in Africa through mainstreaming digital technologies and services in EU development programmes

The EU funded an important regional study of the complex and interlinked inequalities and barriers women in Africa face – inequalities and barriers that fuel the gender digital divide and undermine women's possibilities to make the most out of the digital transformation.

The study highlighted the key issues of limited **availability and reach of digital connectivity** and infrastructure often combined with the lack of access and quality of other basic infrastructures (e.g., electricity), particularly, but not only, in rural areas. There are significant gender differences too in affordability and mobile phone ownership.

Sociocultural factors affect women's access and use of digital technology, for instance, through social norms prohibiting access to mobile phones, use of internet as well as access to education in general, and to acquiring digital literacy and skills more specifically. Women and girls are often discouraged or even prevented from enrolling in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) branches of education. **Gender stereotypes** can also hamper the ability of women to use digital technology, including due to the risks of the cyberspace (e.g., cyber-sexual violence and sexual harassment). Gender bias can also hold back women's potential to drive digital innovation and entrepreneurship by limiting access to capital and assets.

Mobile connectivity has catalysed the development and uptake of a wide variety **of e-services** across Africa - including mobile money payments, e-identification, e-health, EdTech, Agri-Tech, etc., which can be particularly beneficial for women. However, these **e-services do not automatically reach women**. These are often designed without considering the gender angle and the challenges that women face in accessing and using internet, digital technologies, and services. This underscores the need to promote context-specific and gender-responsive digitalised services, which are able for example to be effective with intermittent connection (e.g., with integration of offline solutions), and providing content in local languages.

The **low presence of women in decision-making positions** (public and private), together with the scarcity of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, has prevented the development of digital policies and programmes that can effectively tackle the gender digital divide and make women and girls agents of Africa's digital transition. The lack of gender-sensitive policy and regulatory frameworks (e.g., protecting women from online violence and abuses) is one result.

The **African Union (AU) strategy** envisages the development of gender-enabling e-solutions and the establishment of partnerships, including with tech-firms and financial institutions, to fund start-ups and innovation hubs, which promote these gendered solutions, and increase women's and girls' equal and effective participation in the technology space. The **AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa** (2020-2030) pays special attention to women and people living in remote areas, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged and marginalised communities. It sets out strategy to tackle the various forms of the digital divide and promote online cultural diversity and effective participation of every African citizen in the digital economy.

The envisaged areas of EU intervention include:

- Promoting digital policy and regulatory reform (e.g., re online violence);
- Universal access to sustainable, affordable, and secure connection;
- Promoting digital literacy for girls in education, as well as digital skills for jobs and entrepreneurship (e.g., e-services);
- Supporting the provision of public and private services.

2. Tools

2.1 Gender Analysis of the Digital Sector

A **gender sector analysis** is required by GAP III for all selected priority areas/sectors in the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) in the 2021-2027 programming cycle. The analysis provides the necessary data and information to integrate a gender perspective into programming processes, policies, strategies, dialogues, and actions. It analyses the importance of the sector for the economy and social fabric of the country or region, the **institutional and legal framework** that regulates the sector. It explores how the sector implements national gender equality and anti-discrimination policies, and how it responds currently to the different gender needs and interests of women and men (and girls and boys, as appropriate), in all their diversity, as rights' holders, clients, consumers, workers, managers and suppliers.

A gender analysis **investigates the needs and interests** of women, men, girls, and boys, in all their diversity, to understand the obstacles they face – such as violations of their human rights, and discriminatory norms, policies and practices – and to identify **gaps and opportunities for interventions**. It **assesses the capacities of sectoral bodies** – whether public, private, or civil society bodies. It asks: What support do sectoral bodies need to ensure that they can integrate and deepen gender-responsive strategies and plans in all new commitments for the digital transition? How can we avoid reinforcing existing gender disparities?

A gender analysis also **maps stakeholders** – both rights' holders and duty bearers – to show who should be consulted, who is influential, who will support and who may reject the gender equality ambitions of a policy or action. **Consultation** with different groups, bearing in mind intersecting layers of inequality, is critical in order to formulate gender equality objectives for action and dialogue (see the Guidance for Gender Country Profile and Gender Sector Analysis).

The gender analysis should integrate a **human rights-based approach** by assessing the application of all rights, participation and access to decision-making processes, non-discrimination and equal access, accountability, the rule of law and transparency (see box 2).

Disaggregated data

The **collection of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics** is necessary to understand the gender differences related to the digital transition. Actions and dialogue are strengthened when using data that are disaggregated, at a minimum, by sex, age, and disability status, and, where appropriate, safe, and possible, by other intersectional indicators such as belonging to indigenous peoples and minority ethnic groups, different income levels, gender identity, migrant and refugee status, among others.

National data systems and statistics offices in partner countries require encouragement and support to collect disaggregated data so that partner governments can understand gender-related barriers, design gender-responsive and transformative policy and programmes, and track women's participation. Data need to be collected and analysed on, for example, gender differences in access to digital education and skills, access to and use of digital platforms and tools, to decision-making on digital policy and strategy, and incidences of online and offline violence and harassment.

Gender-targeted actions

Alongside robust gender mainstreaming, it is important to identify and support gender-targeted actions to address context-specific gender-related problems, and to close persistent gender gaps. The

GAP III makes it obligatory to have at least one targeted action per country. Any sector can be a candidate for a targeted action. See the GAP III Joint Communication, section 1.2, "*There will be at least one action with gender equality as a principal objective supported in each country.*"

The gender sector analysis should be framed by the **GAP III six areas of engagement** and the **EU Digital for Development (D4D)** approach which covers four pillars:

i)   Governance, policy, and regulatory frameworks;
ii)   Supporting universal access;
iii)   Supporting digital literacy, skills, and entrepreneurship; and
iv)   Accelerating the adoption of e-services.

D4D is a framework for mainstreaming digital technologies into development policy, contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and effective delivery through a coordinated approach to multi-stakeholder partnerships, using a mix of budget support, technical assistance, innovative instruments (blending and guarantees) and calls for proposals. It provides a clear framework for achieving digitalisation objectives of GAP III. The EU is committed to a **human-centric approach** leading to an inclusive and fair digital transformation. It supports the promotion of respect for human rights in an open, safe, and free internet, and the promotion of democratic principles and transparency in the use of digital technologies.

As for context and problem analysis of all thematic areas and the Multi-annual Indicative Programme priority sectors, the gender analysis of the digitalisation sector should take a **Human Rights-based Approach** (HRBA) so that all actions in the digital arena are seen through the prism of the HRBA five **working principles:** i) applying all rights; ii) participation and access to decision making processes; iii) non-discrimination and equal access, iv) accountability and rule of law, and v) transparency. Pointers to applying the HRBA five principles are in Box 2.

> **Box 2. Applying the Human Rights-Based Approach - five working principles to gender sector analysis of digitalisation**
>
> 1) Applying all rights (legality, universality and indivisibility) for women and men, in all their diversity, so that the same rights apply offline and online, and human rights standards and principles are incorporated.
>
> 2) Ensuring inclusive, meaningful participation and access to policy- and decision-making.
>
> 3) Ensuring non-discrimination and gender-equal access to digital training, technology, connectivity.
>
> 4) Fostering accountability and access to the rule of law for all, e.g., gender-responsive regulatory, data protection and cyber protection frameworks; access to effective digital justice including legal recourse re online violence, harassment and bullying.
>
> 5) Promoting transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data (at least by sex, age and disability status) and gender statistics.

The Digital for Development Hub

The Digital for Development hub is a valuable tool to foster partnership and coordination at partner country or regional level, to create opportunities for investment, and ultimately for jobs and growth (see *Box 3*). It is an important means for implementing GAP III's digitalisation objectives.

> **Box 3. Digital for Development Hub**
>
> The D4D Hub was launched in December 2020 by the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the Heads of State and governments of the founding members of the Hub (Germany, France, Estonia,

Luxembourg, and Belgium. The hub is a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and coordination mechanisms that wishes to serve as a catalyst of the Team Europe action in partner countries' digital transformation.

Currently eleven EU Member States[1] together with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission are the members of the D4D Hub. They joined the ambition to contribute to reducing the digital divides, including the gender digital divide, ensuring a human rights-based approach, and leveraging digital innovation for a fair, inclusive, and green sustainable development.

The Hub seeks to **enhance the coordination** of the European actors (EU institutions, EU Member States, private sector, civil society organisations, etc.) and foster the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships and joint investments between the EU and partner countries' stakeholders. Its ambition is to magnify the impact and visibility of EU action on the ground, in the pursuit of a more equal, fair, and inclusive digital transformation in partner countries.

In June 2021, EU Members States part of the D4D Hub contributed to the "Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality" committing to prioritising and mainstreaming gender in the Team Europe programmes and initiatives in which they participate.

The D4D Hub offers **a range of tools and tailored assistance** that can be activated on demand and adapted to the various development needs of partner countries. For instance, the D4D Hub can be instrumental in reaching out to the networks and expertise of EU Member States, as well as to the private sector, CSOs and other key stakeholders in each country. This will serve the goal of co-design, co-fund, co-create partnerships and interventions that will advance the development of a digital economy in line with the human-centric model promoted by the EU and the relevant EU values and standards.

The D4D Hub **aims to promote women's empowerment and enhance gender equality** through digital technologies and solutions by:

- Supporting the multi-stakeholder dialogue to build understanding on the key challenges and possible solutions to the gender digital divide;

- Providing technical assistance for the design and implementation of gender-sensitive and gender-transformative digital programmes; and

- Facilitating the establishment of partnerships and identification of opportunities for joint investments and interventions.

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[1] Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden

3. Implementing GAP III Digitalisation Objectives

The GAP III sixth area on engagement is **addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the digital transformation.** The overall impact it seeks is that women, men, girls, and boys, in all their diversity, can participate equally in shaping the digital world of tomorrow.

As for all thematic areas, the **GAP III SWD provides a comprehensive set of objectives** and related indicators, to be selected and used in programming, implementation and monitoring of EU external action in the digital sector. **These objectives are aligned with the four pillars of the EU D4D approach**.

Examples of possible interventions are provided below. Every intervention should be informed by the gender sector analysis. (For more objectives and indicators see GAP III SWD.)

3.1 GAP III objectives and examples of possible interventions

Promoting **policy and regulatory reform** in partner countries, ensuring that digital transformation aligns with the EU's human-centric approach, bringing benefits to all, while protecting human rights, both online and offline, and ensuring a safe and secure cyber space, where data are protected in line with EU standards (e.g., GDPR).

GAP III specific thematic objective 1. Equal participation in policy- and decision-making for the digital world.

Possible interventions to achieve this objective

- Through dialogue and funding, advocate for more participatory approaches, e.g., for women's involvement in policymaking and in the design of programmes and projects in digitalisation.

- Engage with organisations working on digitalisation and human rights, including women's rights organisations, the national gender equality machinery (women's ministry or department), gender focal persons in other ministries, and social partners to ensure a human-centric approach to digitalisation.

- Support, through technical assistance, grants, budget support and policy dialogue with partner governments and structured dialogue with the private sector, gender transformative reforms, programmes and strategies aiming at regulating the access and use of new technologies to address issues such as artificial intelligence gender bias, gender quotas for new training and jobs, recruitment, and promotion practices, and fostering women's engagement.

- Propose, and support with funding and technical assistance as required, measures that can promote better understanding of the risks and challenges related to data privacy and security, including online harassment and violence, and possible means to counter them and facilitate women's and girls' access to effective legal justice.

- Promote and support, through funding and dialogue, partner government capacity to adopt gender-responsive, regulatory frameworks that will unleash women's digital innovatory and entrepreneurship potential (e.g., regulatory and policy reforms to tackle discriminatory laws or practices).

- Support the collection of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for the different areas of the digital economy, including accessibility and use, and on online gender-based abuse and harassment (e.g., by providing technical support to partner government and national statistics office).

Supporting universal access: Improving access of girls and women to affordable, accessible, safe, and secure digital connectivity, reaching out to the rural and remote areas.

GAP III specific thematic objective 2. Equal access to affordable and secure broadband, technology, and digital tools.

See also GAP III Thematic area of engagement: *'Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence'* **specific thematic objective 1**: Women, men, girls, and boys in all their diversity are better protected from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres, in the workplace and **online** through legislation and effective enforcement.

Possible interventions to achieve this objective:

- Support the building of comprehensive and strategic infrastructure for connectivity in remote, rural, and underserved areas, with a particular focus on women's and girls' access (e.g., explore fibre optic cables or other mixed connectivity models).

- Improve affordability of digital connectivity and technology to close the gender digital divide (including through public-private partnerships, and through grants and technical assistance).

- Address the gender gap in mobile-phone ownership to enhance women's access to connectivity (e.g., by promoting and supporting the use of communal devices).

- Develop and/or support gender-sensitive "digital safe spaces" or ICT hubs (e.g., through the creation of women-only spaces or community mixed-spaces).

- Support, through grants, women's organisations' participation in and use of online networks to raise their voices and advocate for change (e.g., on gender equality legislation, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, land rights, etc.).

She Secures

She Secures is an organisation based in Nigeria for women professionals and enthusiasts in cyber security. The organisation builds awareness in cyber security and information security for women and girls of all ages and engages existing professionals in knowledge sharing and mentorship. Through its supportive and resilience groups of almost 200 members, and a following of five thousand plus, She Secures opens spaces to learn, get access to latest jobs, and network with professionals in cybersecurity fields.

Moussawat' ('Equality') in Tunisia

Moussawat' promotes coordination and coherence among state and non-state actors to anchor the principles of equality within Tunisia's emerging democracy. Focusing on three 'axes': i) supporting institutional governance and policymaking; ii) improving women's representation and participation in public and social life; and iii) eradicating gender-based violence. Moussawat tackled gender norms and stereotypes and used diversified tools to communicate on gender equality. It engaged start-ups led by young people to spearhead digital communications on fighting gender-based violence and discrimination. One notable good practice was the participation of 16 start-ups in the 'hackathon: #Hack4Her' and the digital photo, video, and design competition during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence – highlighting how young talent can contribute to advocacy on women's rights.

(Source: GAP II Promising Practices in Mainstreaming Gender into EU External Action, 2019)

The 'Jukta Hoe Mukta' project ('United We Stand') in Bangladesh

The project championed decent work and safe migration by working with young women, both current and potential migrants, in slums and marginalised communities. The project's digital component involved creating the 'Jukta Hoe Mukta' online platform to connect girls and young women through a mobile application and promote the new concept of a 'virtual adolescent club'. Connectivity among young women through the application lets them obtain and share useful information on different services available in slums and how to access them – from education and health care to training and employment, legal aid, safety, supportive institutions, utilities, and mobile banking. The app helps to empower women though access to information, enabling them to make informed choices about their own lives, protect themselves and enhance their self-reliance. A mobile phone company's corporate social responsibility programme contributed to the project by donating smartphones and standard mobile phones used by 220 adolescent girls in slums.

(Source: GAP II Promising Practices in Mainstreaming Gender into EU External Action, 2019)

Supporting **digital literacy for girls in education, as well as digital skills for jobs and entrepreneurship** while addressing the gender norms and stereotypes that steer women and girls away from technology.

GAP III specific thematic objective 3. Equal provision and use of public digital literacy.

Possible interventions to achieve this objective:

- Promote and support the teaching of digital literacy in basic education, and the monitoring and mitigation of risks related to girls' school attendance.

- Fund initiatives to increase the financial digital literacy of women entrepreneurs.

- Support measures to expand partner government, private sector, civil society, and media understanding of digital technology, the gender implications of its uses and applications, and knowledge on privacy and protection of personal data and information.

- Support the development of digital skills and competences for all students at all education levels, including capacity to analyse online information and data critically.

- Support partner governments to adopt measures to protect child rights in digital projects, and children's rights organisations to raise awareness of the risk of harm children can face online, while maximizing their opportunities for learning, participation and creativity (UNICEF).[2]

- Advocate for and support the involvement of the private sector in digital education and an enhanced focus on women's and girls' tailored programmes (e.g., as tech hubs and incubators to provide alternative training on digital basics and tools).

- Support initiatives that seek to deconstruct stereotypes and promote a cultural shift to counter the sociocultural barriers hindering women's and girls' access to digital technologies and the digital space (e.g., media stories of women digital innovators and entrepreneurs, and campaigns on the benefits of closing the gender digital divide).

- Where applicable, support existing initiatives by CSOs, community groups or local channels which promote women's and girls' digital and/or data literacy.

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[2] One in three internet users globally is a child. This proportion is likely to be even higher in the global South (UNICEF)

Fempower Africa

Fempower Africa is a social enterprise that seeks to train, teach and equip women in Africa with technology skills, leadership skills and entrepreneurship skills. It empowers women to venture into entrepreneurship, technology and leadership, through supporting, inspiring and empowering women founders and techies both online and offline.

Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE)

S4YE is a multi-stakeholder coalition among key players from the public sector, private sector and civil society aiming at closing the gender digital divide. It has two strategic priorities: accelerate innovation (through cutting-edge and evidence-based solutions) and generate knowledge and learning to scale programme impact and influence policy dialogue.

Supporting **women digital innovators and entrepreneurs** across multiple industrial ecosystems to build an inclusive digital economy, for example via public-private partnerships such as the International Finance Corporation, with the aim of closing the digital gender gap in big tech companies.

GAP III specific thematic objective 4. Full and equal participation in the digital economy.

Possible interventions to achieve this objective:

- Support the setting up of women entrepreneurs' networks as a base for gender-responsive, digital entrepreneurship training and mentoring programmes tailored to women's needs and interests.

- Support, through dialogue and funding, measures that address the underrepresentation of women as leaders and entrepreneurs across the innovation and digital ecosystem. For example, measures that identify, support and reward women innovators and champions, those that embed gender-responsiveness, inclusion and innovation in their products and services.

- Partner with the private sector to enhance the offer of e-services and solutions targeting women's needs and interests, i.e., through inclusive marketing and/or awareness raising campaigns, tailored services, such as targeted financial e-services and products.

- Support the setting up of targeted services or programmes by digital hubs/tech parks, etc., and inclusive initiatives, e.g., digital hackathons or other events for digital start-ups.

Women in Tech Africa (WiTA)

WiTA is a women-led organisation that focuses on entrepreneurship expansion and multiplying the numbers of women in technology in Africa. Over the years, WiTA has strategically focused on enabling women to drive Africa's growth story and create impact on personal life through technology.

Its mission is threefold:
- Promoting the capabilities of African women achievers (career/entrepreneurship);
- Raising today's women leaders and role models for the next generation; and

> ▪ Ensuring African growth through technology by bridging the digital divide.
>
> WiTA is the largest group on the continent with membership across 30 countries globally with 12 physical chapters in Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Germany, Ireland, Britain, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, and Cape Verde. They host a Tech Digital Festival and other networking events.

Supporting the **provision of public and private services** through gender-responsive digital channels, technologies, and services (e.g., e-government, digital financial services) that will enhance women and girls' inclusion and participation in the society.

GAP III specific thematic objectives 1, 2, 3 as above.

Possible interventions to achieve these objectives:

- Identify and foster mobile-based, e-service 'niche' sectors that can benefit women and develop and design 'Digital4GenderEquality' projects, drawing on EU sectoral expertise (e.g., e-health, financial e-services, e-agriculture, e-commerce, e-trade advisory services, etc.).

- Support the development of e-governance applications and services that could foster gender equality, e.g., registration of births, land registry, voter registration, etc.

- Support partner governments and the private sector to scale up existing systems and platforms, and/or stakeholders advancing the 'Digital4GenderEquality' agenda.

- Promote, through dialogue and funding, the use of the local ecosystem – online and offline networks, citizens' movements, etc. – and their knowledge production (e.g., technological landscape, politics) to inform needs and situational analysis, including understanding about existing e-services, internet access, reliable power, government policies.

- Encourage partner governments and the private sector to promote low-tech and offline gender-responsive solutions when and where appropriate (e.g., developing offline solutions in remote and rural areas that lack the relevant infrastructure such as electricity or the Internet).

- Support projects using innovative data sources (e.g., social media platforms) to contribute to bridging the gender digital gap and inform programming efforts.

Tech4Policy - Kosovo

The Tech4Policy project promotes women's equal rights to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels, alongside their equal access to the untapped potential of digital technologies. It challenges social norms and prejudices that limit girl's participation in ICT, civic processes and pursuing higher education in the field of technology.

By providing girls and young women with opportunities for skill acquisition, it sought to boost the number of women coders and programmers. This fostered multiple benefits: 1) political benefits by promoting equal engagement and participation, 2) economic benefits by increasing women's chances of securing ICT-related jobs, economic independence, and empowerment, and reducing the pay gap, and 3) societal benefits by breaking down stereotypes.

Tech4Policy worked with local authorities to identify gaps in local governance that could be addressed by youth engagement in digital product development. It boosted interest among local authorities, citizens, civil society, and the private sector. In tandem, the project equipped young women coders with digital product development skills, with a view to leveraging expertise in digital technologies to contribute to social good. By the end of their training, coders proposed innovative products to implementing partners. Nine of these innovative ideas were selected as 'winning projects' for full development. Winning teams received EUR 20,000 to develop their digital platforms for local municipalities, signing their first-ever contracts to work closely with implementing partners' teams.

Over two years, Tech4Policy worked with 10 municipalities and engaged 250 young girls from all the municipalities. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by Open Data Kosovo and Girls Coding Kosovo.

(Source: GAP II Promising Practices in Mainstreaming Gender into EU External Action, 2019)

4. Resources

GAP III and EU guidelines

Digital4Development and Digital Hub

DIGITAL4DEVELOPMENT: a new approach in the EU's development tool kit and D4D Hub

EU Guidance Note – EU support for partners in the digital transformation. Ref. Ares(2020)4799298 - 14/09/2020

SWD(2017) 157. Digital4Development: mainstreaming digital technologies and services into EU Development Policy. Brussels, 2.5.2017

NDICI Programming Guidelines – Thematic Guidance Note – Inclusion of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

International sources

EQUALS in Tech

G20 (2017). Empowering women in the Digital Age

GIZ. Toolkit 2.0 Digitalisation in Development Cooperation

OECD. Bridging the digital gender divide – Include, Upskill, Innovate

Herbert, S. (2017). Digital development and the digital gender gap. K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK, Institute of Development Studies

UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) (2016). E-Government for Women's Empowerment in Asia and the Pacific.

World Bank (2016), World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends.

ANNEX 1

GAP III Indicators for Digitalisation Objectives

(*See the <u>GAP III Staff Working Document</u>, Part II p.33 for all of the objectives, key thematic outcome indicators and other thematic outcome indicators*).

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND HARNESSING THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

GAP III specific thematic objective

1. Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity participate equally in policy- and decision-making for the digital world, on local, national, regional and international levels, and are represented in these policies and decisions

Key thematic outcome Indicators

- Number of women's organisations and networks with increased capacity to participate in discussions on gender-responsive ICT policies and Plans

- Number of actions, taken by partner government, which contribute to the development of legal or regulatory frameworks governing online abuse, violence, and bullying

Other GAP III thematic outcome indicators

- % of women participating as high-level speakers in EU events/forums where ongoing and future policy and strategy related to the digital world are discussed

- Extent to which legal or regulatory framework in partner country enabling survivors of online violence and their family to seek legal and other support services are in place

- Number of declarations and policy documents at UN and ILO levels which include specific actions to address the digital gender gap

GAP III specific thematic objective

2. Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have equal access to affordable and secure broadband, technology and digital tools

Key thematic outcome Indicators

- Number of people with access to Internet with EU support (disaggregated by sex, geographic region, urban/rural, age group, and type of connection, i.e., mobile, or fixed) (EU RF)

Other GAP III thematic outcome indicators

- Extent to which time-bound targets to overcome gender and poverty divides in Internet use are in place in national ICT strategies or broadband plans.

- Number of households with access to fixed broadband connectivity, disaggregated by sex of the head of household.

- Number of people with access to mobile broadband connectivity disaggregated at least by sex

- % of women and men that have and use an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider, disaggregated at least by sex

- % of students using Internet and Educative Media at least once a week, disaggregated at least by sex

- Number of government actions in partner country seeking to improve the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated ICT data

GAP III specific thematic objective

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

Key thematic outcome indicator

- Number of people who have benefited from institution or workplace-based vocational education and training/skills development interventions supported by the EU (EU RF 2.15)

Other GAP III thematic outcome indicators

- Extent to which partner government ministry of education acts to challenge and address discriminatory gender stereotypes in digital education and training
- Number of measures taken by partner country government to improve the access of women, men, girls, and boys, in all their diversity, to basic digital education and training, disaggregated at least by sex

GAP III specific thematic objective

4. Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity participate fully and equally in the digital economy

Key thematic outcome indicator

- Number of digital start-up enterprises led by women who benefit from financial support and/or training

Other GAP III thematic outcome indicators

- Number of women accessing services or programme offered by the digital hubs/tech parks, etc.
- Number of women nominated to top management positions in digital technology
- Number of women, men, girls, and boys participating in digital hackathons or other digital start-ups events, disaggregated at least by sex.

ENSURING FREEDOM FROM ALL FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

GAP III specific thematic objective

1. Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are better protected from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres, in the work place and online through legislation and effective enforcement

Key thematic outcome indicator

- Extent to which legislation and/or policy prohibiting/addressing VAWG has been developed, strengthened and/or implemented (results framework of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments –FPI RF)
- Number of individuals benefiting from EU-funded programmes to counter sexual and gender-based violence (indicator to be integrated into the European Union results framework – EU RF)
- % of referred cases of gender-based and sexual violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced (FPI RF)

Other GAP III thematic outcome indicators

- Extent to which state entities and justice structures allocate resources for the prevention and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence (SI 2.2 amended)
- Extent to which all relevant state actors -such as police, justice sector, social services and health care actors- coordinate actions to end gender-based violence
- Number of legislative actions taken in partner country to criminalise gender-based violence, including online, and to prosecute perpetrators, in line with international standards
- Number of legislative actions taken in partner country to ensure survivors of gender-based violence can access justice.