

Global Europe Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator name
<p>GERF 2.28: Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support</p>
2. Technical details
<p><i>Please use the information provided in OPSYS or the SWD.</i></p> <p><u>Results Dashboard code(s)</u>: 65244.</p> <p><u>Unit of measure</u>: Number of (#).</p> <p><u>Type of indicator</u>: Quantitative (not qualitative) – Numeric (not percentage); Actual ex-post (not estimated or ex-ante); Cumulative (not annual); Flow (not stock).</p> <p><u>Level of measurement</u>: Specific Objective – Outcome; Direct Output; Output.</p> <p><u>Disaggregations</u>: None.</p> <p><u>DAC sector codes</u>: 15110 – Public sector policy and administrative management; 15111 – Public finance management; 15112 – Decentralisation and support to subnational government; 15150 - Democratic participation and civil society; 15170 - Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions.</p> <p><u>Main associated SDG</u>: 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decisionmaking at all levels.</p> <p><u>Other associated SDGs</u>: 16.3 rule of law and justice; 16.6 accountable institutions; 16.7 participatory decision-making; 16.10 protect fundamental freedoms.</p> <p><u>Associated GERF Level 1 indicator</u>: 1.21 World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) Voice and Accountability Score.</p> <p><u>Associated GERF Level 3 indicators</u>:</p> <p>3.8 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance directed towards fragile states</p> <p>3.13 Number and share of EU- external interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>3.14 Number and share of EU-funded external interventions promoting disability inclusion</p> <p>3.16 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance qualifying as ODA</p>
3. Policy context and Rationale
<p>The importance of civil society as a crucial component of any democratic system is reflected in the 2012 Commission communication on civil society in external relations. CSO's participation in policy and legislative processes is key to ensure inclusive and effective policies that reflect the views and needs of citizens. CSOs contribute to building more accountable and legitimate states.</p>

Traditional EU support to CSOs through grants and involvement in policy dialogue requires a significant level of technical, advocacy and management capacities on the side of the CSOs. Consequently, EU grant beneficiaries are often EU-based organisations with significant capacities and resources to apply for EU funding, but which are not necessarily acting on behalf of the local communities/constituents they serve/represent. However, the EU has committed itself to enhance outreach to local civil society organisations with different levels of managerial, technical and advocacy capacities, engaging and supporting organisations beyond those based in the EU and in capitals in partner countries. This should be achieved by using the broadest possible range of different funding modalities tailored to the different levels of capacities, including financial support to third parties, operating grants, Framework Partnership Agreements and technical assistance service contracts.

4. Logframe inclusion

If an intervention generates the result measured by this indicator, then it must be reported in OPSYS. Corporate targets have been set for the indicators used to monitor the Strategic Plan and the Multiannual Financial Framework (see Section 9). Progress towards these targets is reported annually in the Annual Activity Plan (for the Strategic Plan) and the Programme Performance Statements (for the Multiannual Financial Framework). These values are calculated by aggregating the results reported in OPSYS. These reports ultimately contribute to the Annual Management Performance Report submitted by the European Commission to the Council and Parliament during the annual budgetary discharge procedure. If targets are not met, explanations must be provided. Therefore, it is crucial that all results are recorded in OPSYS.

There are two ways of doing this:

1. Include the indicator directly in the logframe (recommended approach);
2. Match the indicator to the closest logframe indicator (only if the indicator was not originally included in the logframe and modification is not possible).

Why? The matching functionality in OPSYS only accommodates reporting current values and does not yet support encoding baselines and targets. This is a significant drawback because targets are a valuable piece of information, especially at the beginning of a Multiannual Financial Framework. Indeed, results take time to materialise as they are the last step in the chain, appearing only after programming, commitments, contracting, and spending have occurred. Targets allow to see what results are expected long before they materialise, which is reassuring to the different stakeholders concerned with accountability. **Therefore, include all corporate indicators directly in the logframe whenever possible, and reserve the matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible.**

5. Values to report

The following values must be determined in line with the definitions provided in Section 6.

Baseline value: the value measured for the indicator in the baseline year. The baseline value is the value against which progress will be assessed. For GERF indicators, this value is usually zero. This is because the results being measured must be directly attributable to EU support;

prior to the start of implementation, the specific intervention has not yet occurred and therefore cannot have generated a result. A non-zero baseline may only occur if the intervention is following up on work achieved by another intervention financed by the same instrument.

Current value:

- **For logframe indicators:** the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting. The current value includes the baseline value which is reported separately for logframe indicators in OPSYS.
- **For matched indicators:** the most recent value for the results achieved at the time of reporting since the start of implementation of the intervention. This value is obtained by taking the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting and subtracting off the baseline value which is not reported separately for matched indicators in OPSYS.

Current values will be collected at least once a year and reported cumulatively throughout the implementation period.

Final target value: the expected value for the indicator in the target year.

Intermediate target values (milestones). A tool has been developed in OPSYS to generate intermediate targets automatically¹.

- **For outputs:** the intermediate targets are generated using a linear interpolation between the baseline and target values because it is assumed that outputs materialise sooner and more progressively over implementation (than outcomes).
- **For outcomes:** the expected progression over the course of implementation will vary across interventions. During the creation of a logframe, the expected outcome profile must be selected (OPSYS offers four options²) and this selection triggers the generation of intermediate targets for all 30 June and 31 December dates between the baseline and target dates for all output and outcome quantitative indicators. All automatically generated intermediate targets values and dates can be subsequently

¹ This has been done in the context of the Primary Intervention Questionnaire (PIQ) for the EAMR. Three new KPIs provide an overall assessment of ongoing interventions (current performance and future performance) and completed interventions (final performance). Scores will be calculated for all INTPA and NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.

- *KPI 10* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of ongoing interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided either by the logframe data, if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- *KPI 11* reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability that can be achieved by ongoing interventions in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational Manager's responses to questions in a survey.
- *KPI 12* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of completed interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided by the logframe data if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.

² a. *steady progress*: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. *accelerating progress*: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. *no progress until end*: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. *none of the above*.

modified by the Operational Manager or the Implementing Partner with the approval of the Operational Manager.
6. Calculation of values
<p><i>Specify all assumptions made, list definitions for all technical terms, provide any relevant guidance on (double) counting, and include checklist for quality control.</i></p> <p>The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support, using the technical definitions and counting guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the quality control checklist below.</p> <p><u>Technical definitions</u></p> <p>The definition of <i>Civil Society Organisation (CSO)</i> follows the 2012 EU Communication on Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations. The EU considers CSOs to include all structures that are non-State, not-for-profit, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. Organisations range from grassroots and community-based organisations to non-governmental organisations, women organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations and research institutions, trade unions, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the media.</p> <p>The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity.</p> <p><i>Local Civil Society Organisations</i> are CSOs that are established and operate in the same partner country. They determine their leadership and governance structures autonomously. They set their own strategic direction, priorities and programmatic focus. They make independent financial decisions and conduct their own fundraising. They are part of and accountable to the communities they serve.</p> <p>A <i>grassroots organisation</i> is a local organisation, often active at a subnational level. This may include registered organisations working at local level, as well as organisations with a lower degree of formality, such as community-based organisations and self-organised groups of individuals pursuing common interests and taking action regarding a specific issue or advocating for change, applying bottom-up approaches and community-organising strategies to define their goals and how to achieve them.</p> <p><i>EU support to local and grassroots organisations</i> covers both financial and non-financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support: either directly through grant agreements with the EU, or indirectly, through financial support to third parties; • Non-financial support (capacity building support): provided to implementing partners of EU-funded grant contracts or technical assistance service contracts.

All areas where the EU has provided support to local and grassroots organisations in partner countries are to be considered. Examples of areas where grassroots organisations may be active and may have received EU support include health care, childcare, access to or quality of education, agriculture and food security, access to and quality of basic services (such as water and sanitation, waste management, public transport), countering violent extremism, etc.

Counting guidance

1. INGO Country Offices and INGO Subsidiaries are not to be considered Local Civil Society Organisations and therefore cannot count as grassroots organisations.
2. A Local Civil Society Organisation is considered to be established and to operate in the same partner country if its head office or main basis of operations is located in the concerned partner country.
3. Double counting is not allowed: an organisation can be counted only once in the same reporting period. This means that if the same organisation benefits from one or more forms of support over one or more years in the same reporting period, from the same intervention or different interventions, this organisation should be counted only once. To avoid the double counting of organisations over time, two approaches are possible. If it is possible to reliably estimate the number of organisations supported in the first year, and the number of new organisations supported in the following years (i.e. not yet supported during the reporting period in question), these numbers can be added up without the risk of double counting. However, if this information is not available, the maximum result of the reporting period should be used instead. Record the calculations in the calculation method field to facilitate quality control of the values reported. Report the geographic location of the organisations in the comment field to facilitate quality control of double counting.

Quality control checklist

1. Has the indicator been included directly in the logframe? Reserve the OPSYS matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible.
2. If the indicator has been included directly in the logframe, does the current value *include* the baseline value? If the indicator has been matched to a logframe indicator, does the current value *exclude* the baseline value?
3. Have INGO Country Offices and INGO Subsidiaries been excluded? Good! These do not qualify as Local CSOs.
4. Are all organisations established in the partner country in which they are operating? Good, otherwise they do not qualify as a local organisation.
5. Has all financial and non-financial support been considered? Good!
6. Is the GERF value a whole number? The number of organisations cannot be a decimal number.
7. Has double counting been avoided? Organisations should be counted only once.
8. Have all calculations been recorded in the calculation method field? Has all relevant information, including the geographic location of results, been reported in the comment field?

7. Examples of calculations

In country A, the EU finances a local development reform programme, part of which is implemented through an international CSO based in an EU Member State.

In country B, the EU implements a CSO technical cooperation facility via a consortium of 3 international CSOs based in EU Member States that acts as implementing partner. Via this facility, the EU provides both financial support and capacity development support to 30 local and grassroots organisations.

Of the 30 organisations, all receive capacity development support, while only 20 receive financial support.

The only organisations which count for this indicator are those supported in country B, which amounts to 30.

8. Data sources and issues

Please use the data source categories specified in OPSYS.

EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: *Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention; ROM reviews; Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention.*

Include any issues relating to the availability and quality of the data.

9. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

The data collected on this indicator will be reported in OPSYS by the Implementing Partner. The values encoded in OPSYS will be verified, possibly modified and ultimately validated by the Operational Manager. Once a year the results reported will be frozen for corporate reporting. The methodological services in HQ that are responsible for GERF corporate reporting will perform quality control on the frozen data and aggregate as needed to meet the different corporate reporting requirements.

This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:

- *NDICI via the Annual Report*
- *NDICI via the 2021-27 Programme Performance Statements*
- *INTPA Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *INTPA Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *NEAR Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *ENEST Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *MENA Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *FPI Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *FPI Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*

This indicator has been included in the following other Results Measurement Frameworks:

- *EFSD+*
- *GAP III*
- *IPA III*

○ <i>TEI-MORE</i>
10. Baseline alignment & Annualisation
<p>Corporate reports most often cover different timeframes. Only rarely does the 7-year Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) start in the same year as the 5-year Strategic Plans. Because the MFF drives the funding for these interventions, it serves as the primary baseline for data collection. To report against other cycles with different start dates, results must first be annualised and then re-cumulated starting from the required baseline year.</p> <p>The annualisation method depends on the type of indicator, which can be found in Section 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flow Indicators (discrete achievements): These measure "one-off" events or new beneficiaries reached within a specific timeframe (e.g., Number of people trained). To find the annual result, we calculate the variation (the difference between the cumulative total at the end of the year and the beginning of the year). <i>Example: If a project reached 500 total people by 2024 and 800 by 2025, the 2025 annual result is 300 (the new results generated that year).</i> - Stock Indicators (continuous support): These measure an ongoing state or sustained support (e.g., Number of countries supported). To find the annual result, we take the total cumulative value at the end of the year, as this represents the full extent of the EU's active footprint. <i>Example: If the EU supports 10 countries in 2024 and continues supporting those same 10 in 2025, the 2025 annual result remains 10 (the total "stock" of support active that year).</i> <p>In this case, the result is often achieved at the onset of the intervention and remains ongoing throughout implementation. When re-baselining for a new corporate cycle, these results are maintained rather than recalculated as variations. The annual value is the total number of entities under active support at the end of the reporting year, regardless of whether that support commenced before or after the new baseline year.</p>
11. Other uses
<p>GERF 2.28 can be found in the following thematic results chains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Rights - Remittances - Resilience, Conflict sensitivity and Peace - Sustainable cities <p>GERF 2.28 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) - Democracy - Human Rights - Remittances

- Resilience, Conflict sensitivity and Peace
- Sustainable cities

For more information, see: [Core indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions | Capacity4dev \(europa.eu\)](#)

12. Other issues