

Indicator name
Number of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, activists and environmental rights defenders acting as agents of change on fighting climate change and pursuing environmental justice, at local, national and regional level, disaggregated at least by sex.
Thematic area of engagement
Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation - Climate Change and Environment
Aggregable indicator
Yes
Indicator type (quantitative/qualitative)
Quantitative
Related objective in the Gender Action Plan III
Overall thematic objective: Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions. Specific thematic objective 1: Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues.
Technical Definition
This indicator is intended to measure how many activists and environmental rights defenders actively fight climate change and pursue environmental justice through EU support. The UN definition of human rights defenders applies: - “Individuals and groups who, in their personal or professional capacity and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment, including water, air, land, flora and fauna”.¹ Some environmental activists may not self-identify as human rights defenders and refer only to their community or the environmental causes they pursue. As the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders² recommends, it is important to include those individuals too in this definition.
Rationale
A healthy environment is integral to the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life, health, food, water, and sanitation.³ Living in an environment that is unsafe or damaged by human intervention or climate change may result in violations of human rights.⁴ In this context, environmental human rights defenders make a critical contribution in ensuring that state policies are consistent with human rights, and in defending victims of environmental human rights violations. Sadly, these activists are amongst those most at risk of persecution, oppression and intimidation.⁵ In order to involve and support all those who fight against climate change and for a fairer management of the environment it is important to advocate for an inclusive approach to the identification of environmental human rights defenders.
Data source and calculation

¹ [Who are environmental defenders?](#) (UNEP)

² For further information see [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders](#)

³ [Universal recognition of the right to a healthy environment](#) (UNEP, 2021)

⁴ Extract from [Environmental rights activism and advocacy in Europe: issues, threats, opportunities](#) (Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, 2020)

⁵ [“Living in a clean environment: a neglected human rights concern for all of us”](#), Council of Europe, 2019

Reporting covers cooperation and development initiatives, humanitarian (if applicable) and investment frameworks funded by the EC (INTPA, NEAR, FPI, ECHO) and EEAS.

EUMS may provide information related to their interventions through their contributions to GAP III reports or through the EUDs, e.g., in cases of joint dialogue (i.e., as part of joint programming or TEI).

Data sources:

The intervention's monitoring and reporting systems, e.g., inception, interim and final reports from implementing organisations (including governments, international organisations, national and international civil society organisations, etc.), ROM reviews and evaluations.

Surveys/interviews conducted and budgeted by the intervention can also be relevant data sources.

Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted within the EU intervention using the same data collection methodology. The baseline and endline studies can be conducted as part of the gender country profile and/ or gender sector analysis, or be based on existing official reports and published data.

Calculation:

Each activist and environmental human rights defender (disaggregated as below) benefiting from different services thanks to the EU supported intervention should be counted separately and only once if they benefit from more than one intervention of the same type (e.g. different phases of the same programme).⁶

In particular, to avoid double counting a peak year result should be taken, i.e., by reporting the highest number of people who benefited from the EU intervention on a yearly basis. Results on a multi-year basis will be calculated by adding the number of new individuals reached in years 2, 3, etc. to the total reached in year 1.

Worked example

In country A the EU is working with civil society organisations to protect environmental rights defenders and support them to strengthen their advocacy role through capacity building, and to organise awareness raising activities on environment and climate change. The intervention is backed up by policy dialogue to advocate for the adoption of national action plans that guarantee a safe and free situation for environmental defenders by integrating a wider perspective of collective protection, including political measures to legitimise communities and groups involved in the protection of the environment.

	Year 1		Year 2 (<i>new individuals</i>)		Year 3 (<i>new individuals</i>)		Total	
	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male
N° of environmental rights defenders who received EU support	18	12	11	13	23	19	52	44

⁶ Avoiding double counting is especially relevant when aggregating values of different indicators. As a general rule, it is acceptable to record the same individuals under different indicators and between different interventions if the EU funds different services (i.e., a child under one receives nutrition in the framework of one intervention and is also immunised in the framework of another intervention). Where an individual receives the same service in the framework of the same EU supported intervention (e.g., different phases of a nutrition programme), this cannot be matched to different indicators and between different interventions.

DISAGGREGATION								
Age group - over 55	3	4	1	3	5	5	9	12
Age group 25 - 54	11	6	8	7	13	11	32	24
Age group – 16 - 24	4	2	2	3	5	3	11	8
Rural	17	12	7	9	17	14	41	35
Urban	1	0	4	4	6	5	11	9

Each person who received EU support is counted once.

Baseline

Surveys and reports from human rights and environmental organisations, national gender equality mechanisms, CSOs, academia, national statistic institutes, line ministries / authorities in charge of human rights/ environment.

Data from international/ regional organisations working on the protection of human rights and environmental justice as well as other independent non-state actors.

If baseline data are lacking, a mapping can be done at the start of the intervention using surveys/ interviews.

The baseline can be 0 when the indicator is achieved with the EU funded intervention.

Disaggregation

Data need to be disaggregated by sex⁷ and age⁸ as a minimum, and by gender⁹ and disability status, whenever possible.

As a person's gender identity does not necessarily equal nor can it be deduced from their sex, for international and national reporting it is recommended, whenever possible, to collect data disaggregated by gender.

Taking into due account the “do no harm” principle, it is also recommended to collect data on other intersecting grounds of potential discrimination (e.g., geographical location, population group - ethnic minority, linguistic or religious group member- socio-economic situation, migration status, etc.) based on relevance to the intervention and availability of data.

Data disaggregation to capture the intersecting dimensions is necessary to increase the quality and effectiveness of programmes, projects, and dialogue, and make visible the experience of different individuals.

The collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data is a priority, regardless of previous practice. Due consideration should be paid to national data collection capacity. Furthermore, those in charge of data collection need to assess carefully if and how to collect sensitive data, for example, concerning sexual identity and the legal situation in the national context to avoid harm to individuals or groups by revealing characteristics they carry.

Availability and Timeliness

Information should become available annually, depending on the duration of the action.

DAC Code / CRS

151 - Government & Civil Society-general/15160 - Human Rights
410 - General Environment Protection/41010 - Environmental policy and administrative

⁷ Sex refers to a person's biological characteristics at birth. Sex disaggregation categories should be: Male/Female/Intersex/Prefer not to say

⁸ Age groups: 0-15; 16-24; 25-54; 55+

⁹ Gender encompasses a person's identities, expressions, and societal roles (man, woman, non-binary, other options)

management

Associated SDGs

SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Target 13.1, Indicator 13.1.2 (See [Metadata](#)) and Indicator 13.1.3 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 13.2, Indicator 13.2.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 13.3, Indicator 13.3.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 13.a, Indicator 13.a.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 13.b, Indicator 13.b.1 (See [Metadata](#))

SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Target 14.1, Indicator 14.1.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 14.2, Indicator 14.2.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 14.3, Indicator 14.3.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 14.4, Indicator 14.4.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 14.5, Indicator 14.5.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 14.6, Indicator 14.6.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 14.b, Indicator 14.b.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 14.c, Indicator 14.c.1 (See [Metadata](#))

SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.1, Indicator 15.1.2 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.2, Indicator 15.2.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.3, Indicator 15.3.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.4, Indicator 15.4.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.5, Indicator 15.5.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.6, Indicator 15.6.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.7, Indicator 15.7.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.8, Indicator 15.8.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.9, Indicator 15.9.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.a, Indicator 15.a.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.b, Indicator 15.b.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Target 15.c, Indicator 15.c.1 (See [Metadata](#))

SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target 16.10, Indicator 16.10.1 (See [Metadata](#))

Other issues

The gender country profile and / or gender sector analysis can be relevant sources of information for establishing baselines.

If there is no gender analysis available at the EUD, it is recommended to look at the analysis undertaken by EU Member States or other trusted partners (UN, World Bank, human rights national and regional mechanisms, etc.) as well as the [national-level reviews](#) carried out in 2019 by UN Women and the partner countries to assess progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Special attention should be paid to following up on partner country institutions reached with EU support.