Indicator name
Number of women and men headed enterprises receiving credit, micro-credit/financial services, 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 4:** Women in all their diversity increasingly participate in and have improved access to jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities in the green economy and the circular economy.
Technical Definition
This indicator intends to measure the number of women and men enterprises receiving credit, micro-credit/financial services. The following definitions apply: - Women and men headed enterprises are firms that are owned or controlled (either as total or majority shareholders) and run by women or by men. - Credit, micro-credit/ financial services refer to monetary support, generally provided in the form of a loan to low-income individuals or businesses that are typically excluded from the traditional banking credit system.
Rationale
Financial inclusion is crucial to achieve sustainable growth. Equal access and use of quality financial services (credit, micro-credit and other financial services) can open up economic opportunities for women and men headed enterprises on the green and circular economy sector.[1] Nevertheless, women entrepreneurs still face significantly greater challenges than men in gaining access to financial services (e.g., requirements for a male family member's guarantee or permission, limitations on women's access to bank accounts, lack of financial education, etc.). Moreover, other non-financial barriers may play a role in keeping women in small-scale, low-earning enterprises or preventing them from starting businesses at all. These barriers include restrictions on women's mobility, limited access to financial and business management literacy, and demands on women's time such as for child and family care.[2]
Data source and calculation

[1] Expanding Women's Access to Financial Services (World Bank)
[2] Women's Economic Empowerment Through Financial Inclusion A Review of Existing Evidence and Remaining Knowledge Gaps (Innovations for Poverty Action, 2017)

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 government, international organisations, national and international civil society organisations, etc.), ROM reviews and evaluations.

Government statistics on provision of credit/ micro-credits/ financial services (e.g., published reports and statistics from Ministry of Economy and Finance, national statistical office, women's national machineries, gender equality observatories, etc.). Data from international organisations, CSOs, bank operators, financial institutions and other non-state actors.

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. These studies should specify what credit and financial services are available and any accessibility constraints. The 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 individual woman or man headed enterprise (disaggregated as below) benefiting from different financial 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)[3].

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.

In case of interest and if possible, the number of beneficiaries can also be calculated by typology of services, e.g., credit, micro-credit, financial services.

Worked example

In country A, a three-year intervention supported women headed enterprises. The enterprises benefitted from financial credit and/or services through EU support.

Annual monitoring showed the following number of women-led enterprises benefited from financial support and/or training.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total

[3] 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.

Number of women-led enterprises	8	11	19	38

Each woman-led enterprise in counted once only, in the year in which the financial support and/or training was/were provided. The annual numbers are non-cumulative. From the above information, it is not possible to ascertain if some women-led enterprises benefited from both financial support and training, and which benefited from financial support only, or from other services. This highlights the importance of greater disaggregation in future interventions, and also disaggregation by age and disability status where possible.

Baseline

Data from official counterparts (i.e., line ministries, service providers, statistics institutes, etc.), from civil society and international organisations, and private sector working in credit/ micro-credit and the provision of financial services, 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 sex[4] and age[5] as a minimum, and by gender[6] 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 should also be disaggregated by typology of services, e.g., credit, micro-credit, financial services, whenever possible.

Data disaggregation to capture the intersecting dimensions of women's access to the financial services addressed in the indicator 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.

[4] Sex refers to a person's biological characteristics at birth (male, female, intersex, prefer not to say)
[5] Age groups: 0-15; 16-24; 25-54; 55+
[6] Gender encompasses a person's identities, expressions, and societal roles (man, woman, non-binary, other options).

Related DAC Code / CRS
240 - Banking & Financial Services / 24030 - Formal sector financial intermediaries / 24040 - Informal/semi-formal financial intermediaries
Associated SDGs
SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Target 5.5. Indicator 5.5.2 (See Metadata) SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all Target 8.3. Indicator 8.3.1 (See Metadata) Target 8.10. Indicator 8.10.2 (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.