

Indicator name
Extent to which women's rights organisations, feminist organisations and other CSOs, peacebuilders and women human rights defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights are able to work independently without fear of their safety and security
GAP III Thematic area of engagement
Promoting equal participation and leadership
Aggregable indicator
No
Indicator type (quantitative/qualitative)
Qualitative
Related objective in the Gender Action Plan III
Overall thematic objective: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, participate equally in decision-making processes, in all spheres and at all levels of political and public life, including online, to take on leadership roles, to enjoy and exercise their human rights and seek redress if these rights are denied. Specific thematic objective 3: Women's organisations, other CSOs and women human rights defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights work more freely and are better protected by law.
Technical Definition
This indicator intends to measure to what extent a safe and secure environment enables women's rights organisations, feminist organisations and other CSOs, peacebuilders and women human rights defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights to work independently. This includes being free from gender-specific violence, such as verbal and sexual abuse, attacks to bodily integrity, rape, intimidation, death threats and killing. Women working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, indigenous rights and environmental issues are most at risk. The following definitions apply: - <u>Women's rights organisations</u> refer to those civil society organisations with an overt women's or girls' rights, gender equality or feminist purpose.¹ - <u>Women human rights defenders</u> (WHRDs) refer to all women and girls working on any human rights issue ("women defenders" and "girl defenders"), and people of all genders who work to promote women's rights and rights related to gender equality. It also includes other civil society actors who may not self-identify as human rights defenders or those who work in the broader human rights field (e.g., journalists, health workers, environmental activists, peacebuilders, private actors, development and humanitarian workers, etc.). It includes lesbian, gay, bisexual/ nonbinary, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) activists, as issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity are part of achieving gender equality.²

¹ OECD (2016): [Donor support to southern women's rights organisations](#)

² OCHR: [Women human rights defenders](#)

- Feminist organisations refer to those women's organisations that aim to improve women's collective status, living conditions, opportunities, power, and self-esteem. They are pro-women, political, and socially transformational.³

Rationale

Equal participation in political life, leadership and decision-making by women's rights and feminist organisations, human rights defenders and peacebuilding actors is crucial for effective and equitable governance, including in conflict contexts and as part of peace and reform processes. The independence of these actors is a sign of democratic and healthy state systems.

Nevertheless, in many countries and in conflict and crisis contexts, these actors face barriers to participation and threats to their safety and security. In particular, leaders of women's rights and feminist organisations and women human rights defenders are often the target of gender-specific violence, such as verbal and sexual abuse, attacks to bodily integrity, rape, intimidation, death threats and killing, including, in some circumstances, by family and community members. They may also experience judicial penalties such as arrest as a consequence of their activities in defence of human rights and peace.⁴ Furthermore, women working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, indigenous rights and environmental issues are most at risk.⁵

Therefore, in order for women to participate fully in political and public life and without fear for their safety and security, states bear the duty to prevent, investigate and punish acts of gender-based violence against women, whether those actions are perpetrated by the state, groups or individuals.⁶ As duty bearers, states must institutionalise and apply a zero-tolerance approach to intimidation and threats, sexual harassment and any other form of gender-based violence, adopting relevant legislation and policies, as well as making the requisite resources available to promote and enable the full, meaningful and safe participation of women's rights activists in political and public spheres.⁷

Data source and calculation

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

³ Freeman, 1979

⁴ [Women in Political and Public Life](#) (OCHR)

⁵ [Global Analysis 2019](#) (Front Line Defenders, 2020)

⁶ [UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#), 1993

⁷ [Women and peace and security Report](#) (UNSC, 2020)

reports and published data.

Calculation:

- Existence, application and effectiveness of specific measures to ensure a safe and secure environment for women's rights organisations, feminist organisations and other CSOs, peacebuilders and women human rights defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights.

To monitor the application of these measures, carry out surveys and interviews among members of women's rights organisations, feminist organisations and other CSOs, peacebuilders and women human rights defenders.

Worked Example

The EU supports the government of country A in promoting and ensuring a safe and secure environment for women's rights organisations, feminist organisations and other CSOs, peacebuilders and women human rights defenders by adopting a new National Plan and launching an awareness-raising campaign on zero-tolerance of intimidation, sexual harassment and any other form of gender-based violence.

Surveys and interviews carried out at the end of the intervention show that:

- a) An increased number of members of women's rights organisations, feminist organisations and other CSOs, peacebuilders and women human rights defenders feel safer, more secure and independent when working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights.
- b) A decrease in the number of intimidation and threats, sexual harassment and any other form of gender-based violence.

Baseline

Data from official counterparts (i.e., line ministries and government institutions, national women's machinery, gender observatories, human rights institutes, etc.).

Data from civil society and international organisations as well as from 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

N/A

Availability and Timeliness

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

Related DAC Code/CRS

151 - Government & Civil Society-general / 15150 Democratic participation and civil society/ 15170 – Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions / 15180 - Ending violence against women and girls

Associated SDGs

SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Target 5.1: Indicator 5.1.1 (see [Metadata](#))

Target 5.2: Indicator 5.2.2 (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.