Targeted consultation on the EU external action Gender Action Plan (GAP) III 2021 - 2025

This survey is available in English, French and Spanish (see drop down menu on the right-hand side bar). You can reply in any of these three languages.

The consultation will be open between 2 April and 4 May 2020.

Contact: EuropeAid-TARGETTED-CONSULTATION-GAP3@ec.europa.eu

Privacy statement on the processing and the protection of your personal data.

I have viewed and understand the privacy statement on the processing and the protection of personal data.

* Organisation contributing to the consultation

WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform

Please provide contact information

a.dekker@wo-men.nl

* Email

a.dekker@wo-men.nl

* Do you consent that the name of your organisation or institution be made public in the list of contributors to this targeted consultation?
Yes

No

I am giving my contribution as:

- [ ] Non-governmental organization
- [ ] Public authority
- [ ] International organization
- [ ] Other

Scope of your organization's activity:

- [ ] Local
- [ ] National
- [ ] Regional
- [ ] International

Organization’s size:

- [ ] Micro (1 – 9 employees)
- [x] Small (10 – 45 employees)
- [ ] Medium (46 – 250 employees)
- [ ] Large (250 or more employees)

Does your organization have a gender equality strategy?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Give a concise description of the gender strategy, if applicable, such as title, period covered, url, etc. 

*3000 character(s) maximum*
WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform strives for equal power relations between women, men and gender non-conforming persons in the Netherlands and worldwide. Around 50 organisations and 125 professionals are member of WO=MEN: development and peace organisations, women’s and gender rights organisations, diaspora organisations, trade unions, police, journalists, knowledge institutes, academics, military personnel, entrepreneurs, students and opinion-makers.

WO=MEN monitors policy, shares knowledge, joins forces and connects and mobilises people. We work on social transformation to achieve equal power relations between women and men, girls and boys, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. In order to achieve worldwide gender equality and respect for women’s rights we fight against entrenched role patterns, racism and exclusion. Together with our partners and members we demand continuous attention for the impact of gender equality on conflict, climate and the environment. We also fight against the shrinking space available for gender equality and women’s rights activists. We are convinced that we can achieve the best results by working together and sharing knowledge.

Consequently, we focus on three objectives:
1. Sustainable social, political and financial support for gender equality and women's rights;
2. Women, men and gender non-conforming persons have equal influence and entitlement to natural resources (land, water, forests), manufacturing chains, (international) companies and climate agreements;

See for our Theory of Change 2018-2022 and our multi-annual plan at our website: https://wo-men.nl/bestanden/ToC%20WOMEN%202017%202021%20Final.pdf

The underneath answers are a compilation of our members’ input among which are CARE, WIDE+, Oxfam, Cordaid, Darfur Women's Organization VOND, WECF, Rutgers and Light for the World.

**EU's added value**

**Question 1. With regard to the EU’s promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment worldwide, how would you assess the EU added value for the following?**

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Additional remarks including any region or context specific focus

*3000 character(s) maximum*
- The increasing influence of rights-repressing states and anti-rights groups - coupled with cuts in public spending, over-reliance on market forces, insufficient corporate regulation, patriarchy, continued use of GDP growth as an indicator of progress - have weakened the multilateral system and undermines women’s, girls’ and LGBTI rights. The space to hold states accountable and draw attention to abuses at domestic-level, is shrinking. Multilateralism, gender equality, and civic space are under pressure. The EU must use its resources (political leverage, financial resources incl. ODA, presence in UN fora, regional partnerships, convening power, influencing of joint positions) to build a strong and shared response to defending SRHR, women’s rights, civil space, human rights and democratic values.
- The EU should increase its support to civil society groups and communities, at local, regional, international levels, and in particular women-led and women’s rights organisations, in partner countries, including conflict-affected and fragile states. Local NGOs have better reach, knowledge and trust of the local population, yet face both shrinking CSO space as well as access to funding. Their role is key to assist changing social norms, which is the basis to increase gender equality, yet an area which has received too little attention in the implementation of GAP II. The support in GAP-III should be political and financial.
- At partner country level, EU action is needed to remove legal, political, social, and cultural restrictions to the rights to association, peaceful assembly and freedom of expression faced by civil society actors working on gender equality and SRHR. At international level, the EU should overhaul the barriers to the meaningful participation of CSOs in relevant governance and decision-making processes. Aid alone will not suffice. The EU also needs to make the principle of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development a reality, by tackling global tax avoidance, adopting a corporate due diligence law with sanctions and liability and constructively engage in the UN negotiations for a Treaty on business and human rights, regulate finance, and operate a radical shift in its trade and investment policy, so that it abides by human rights.
- Work to advance gender equality and women’s rights in fragile states and conflict-affected states must be explicitly included in GAP III.

Areas for action
Question 2. To advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, in which areas should the EU prioritize action at a global level?

Please indicate the order of importance: 1 = most important; 10 = least important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms</td>
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<td>Participation and leadership, including civil and political rights</td>
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<td>Economic, social and cultural rights (including education, employment, social security, etc.)</td>
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<td>Sexual and reproductive health and rights for all</td>
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<td>Freedom from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and harassment</td>
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<td>Migration and forced displacement</td>
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<td>Climate change and environmental degradation (and its interconnectedness with gender equality and women’s empowerment)</td>
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<td>Digital technology and Artificial intelligence (with their challenges and opportunities for gender equality and women’s empowerment)</td>
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Mention any other specific or critical area for action to take into consideration

3000 character(s) maximum

All suggested priorities are important. Some are crosscutting, others focus on a particular sector. More important is the mechanisms to contribute to priorities and the regional uptaking of thematical priorities. The EU needs to continue and improve its dialogue with civil society, as an example to counter the shrinking spaces, and support civil society actors more within their aid. Policy coherence is in this context important.

- Reflect on policy coherence between aid, trade and diplomacy. Fe, the EU promotes trade relations with countries that at the same time are breaching human rights in its oversight. A gender-just trade policy implies undertaking ex-ante and ex-post gendered human rights impact analyses of trade agreements, ensuring trade agreements do not exacerbate existing inequalities or create new ones.

- Prioritize corporate social responsibility. A gender-just approach requires the EU to encourage companies to implement gender due diligence in their production chains and adhering to the gender dimensions of the UNGPs on business and human rights. The EU could make these regulations binding if necessary.

- Address taxation issues, as tax is central to women’s and girls’ rights and social protection. How much tax is raised as well as how it is raised and spent matter for gender equity, especially in times of scarce ODA.

- Include activities to increase gender equality in emergencies in every pillar of the next GAP.

- Advance political participation at local level and to climate. Special attention must be granted to the gender dimensions of climate action (currently missing in the European Green Deal proposal). Access of WROs to international climate funds and climate negotiations must be ensured, especially in light of the leadership women often take in tackling the impacts of climate change in their countries and communities.

- Support women as agents of change in their communities and peacekeepers and builders. Better link with the EU’s Strategy on Women, Peace and Security, which covers GBV, the role of women as agents of change in peacebuilding, relief and recovery, and the work done on gender in emergencies.

- See the humanitarian-development-peace nexus as an opportunity to advance women’s rights and gender equality worldwide. Ensure continuity of support for family planning services and sex education along the humanitarian-to-development continuum. In addition, in a fragile state or conflict context, it is still possible to move forward women’s economic empowerment or women’s participation in public life, and not just response to GBV survivors. Support and funding should be granted to NGOs aiming at working in a gender-transformative way even in those very difficult contexts.

- Refer to and support non-binary people and explicitly focus and support the LGBTQI population.

Indicate any regional or context specific area for action

3000 character(s) maximum

The GAP so far has lacked any significant inclusion of trade policies to be gender mainstreamed. The new GAP should address this gap and make sure gender equality objectives also apply in this domain. This should include EU’s role in the IFIs, IMF and World Bank.

Question 3. To fight against gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

at most 3 choice(s)

- Integrate changes in gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms into education and training systems
- Work with media
- Raise awareness about gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms through culture and public communication campaigns
Work in an inclusive way with communities, fully engaging men and boys as allies, in achieving gender equality and in challenging gender stereotypes and social norms at all levels and in all environments.

Collect and publish data on gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms through surveys and studies in partnership with key stakeholders.

Engage with religious and traditional leaders with a view to support joint actions for gender equality and women’s rights.

Support women’s participation in fields of study and occupations with historically low participation among girls and women (e.g.: science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEMs) and vice versa for boys and men (e.g. care sector, nursing, social care, etc).

Support gender sensitive public policies, strategies and sector reforms.

Other region or context specific issues that require consideration

3000 character(s) maximum

- Achieving gender equality and women’s participation requires changes on 3 levels: agency (building consciousness, confidence, self-esteem and aspirations (non-formal sphere) and knowledge, skills and capabilities (formal sphere)), relations (the power relations through which people live their lives through intimate relations and social networks (non-formal sphere) and group membership and activism, and citizen and market negotiations (formal sphere)) and structure (discriminatory social norms, customs, values and exclusionary practices (non-formal sphere) and laws, policies, procedures and services (formal sphere)).
- Support work on all 3 levels. While work on the formal sphere of structure is most straightforward via diplomatic work and with support for the national government, as a donor it is key that the EU and its Member States incentivize change at all levels by supporting NGOs work and in particular women’s CSO’s on the other aspects. Without that, there will not be a transformative change on the ground. Addressing discrimination is not optional.
- From 2018 on funding of social norms change is decreasing. Yet our members (ao CARE NL) address the need to engage men and boys fe in women’s economic empowerment programs. A backlash could entail increased GBV and an additional care burden for women. Prioritize gender-transformative action, incl addressing harmful gender norms, and stereotypes, as well as discriminatory laws, policies and practices. Put addressing unequal structures and power relations, harmful gender norms, gender-based discrimination and supporting girls and women’s agency at the center. Include this in all thematic objectives and support with indicators and activities.
- Current persuasive systems of power-relations based on gender norms also have underpinned stigma and violence against LGBTQI+ people. In line with the Consensus on Development, the EU’s rights-based approach to development, and the Gender Equality Strategy, the GAP should strive for gender equality and the support of the rights of all women and girls, men and boys, trans and gender non-conform people, in all their diversity.
- Invest in GBV prevention - both in humanitarian contexts and long-term development - to fight gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms. Key in addressing GBV and changing social norms is working with women and girls at individual and structural levels so they can claim their rights, and with men and boys so they can be positive agents of change. Family and intimate partners, peers and communities all have a role to play in achieving gender justice.
- Change policies based on women’s exploitation or that have disproportionate negative impacts on women’s rights. As with EU trade policy’s impact on women’s rights, gender equality and climate change, unpaid domestic & care work, the impact of the privatisation of public services, fiscal policies and austerity measures on women’s rights, and SRHR.
Question 4. To advance girls’ and women’s leadership and participation, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

**at most 3 choice(s)**
- Support legislation, policies and strategies that foster girls and women’s leadership, participation and involvement in decision-making at communal, regional and country levels
- Assess and publish the impact on women, men and others of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels
- Take affirmative actions (e.g.: quotas) to enable girls’ and women’s participation to decision making
- Document and track violence against girls and women in elections
- Support the role of girls and women's civil society organisations in policymaking
- Support legislation, policies and strategies that enable women’s leadership and participation in the private sector, including in the media
- Take action to prevent and criminalise / penalise violence against girls and women in politics and public life
- Provide leadership training and/or mentorship for women and girls
- Support civic education, awareness raising and mobilisation on gender equality and women’s empowerment at all levels of education, starting from early infancy
- Support an adequate mandate within the governmental landscape of the institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and support and adequate level of funding for them
- In recovery and reconstruction contexts ensure that women not only acquire skills and assets but exercise choice and control over opportunities and resources, and are able to shape economic decision making at all levels

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

3000 character(s) maximum

Recommendations for women’s leadership in formal and informal peace efforts at local, national, and regional level:
- Provide direct, flexible funding to national and sub-national level women’s organizations and coalitions to support women’s participation in peace processes. Flexible funding is essential due to the fast-pace of peace processes, which often take place out of country. Inflexible programme design risks limiting women’s participation, through pre-defined activities that are unable to respond to often dynamic, ever-evolving contexts.
- Invest in longer-term support for women’s organizations, movements and coalition-building. This builds up and strengthens women’s movements and capacities, making them more prepared to respond to conflict and to actively engage in peace processes.
- Develop platforms, or other mechanisms for greater donor coordination. This promotes greater coherency and complementarity in programming, and reduces the likelihood of stimulating, often-divisive, competition between women’s groups.
- Support the development of platforms and mechanisms that link women peacemakers at local, subnational and national levels, as well as refugees and women in the diaspora. This means women’s input in formal, national level peace processes is more likely to be representative of the needs, voices and concerns of a wider constituent of women, increasing their legitimacy, and increases buy-in for peace agreements at sub-national and local levels.
- Support women’s access to and engagement with high-level decision making spaces.

Question 5. To advance social rights*, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

**at most 3 choice(s)**

- Ensure that all children complete free and quality primary and secondary education leading to expected and equitable learning outcomes for girls and boys
- Ensure that all children have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- Increase the number of girls and women who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- Ensure equal access for girls and women to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- Support an equal sharing of household and care responsibilities at home
- Extend labour rights and entitlements for informal workers
- Address the working conditions of domestic workers in line with the ILO Domestic Workers Convention 2011 (No. 189)
- Address harassment in the workplace in line with the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and Recommendation (No. 206)
- Address hunger and malnutrition among women and girls by paying attention to their diverse nutritional needs at all stages of life
- Support non-discriminatory and inclusive social protection
- Support access to other essential services, e.g. water, sanitation, renewable energy, etc

**Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:**

**3000 character(s) maximum**

- Ratify ILO No 190 and No 198. In the current climate in which multilateralism is eroding, the EU should take a leadership role and confirm international human rights standards.
- Promote a fair and balanced global economic exchange that allows countries to build up their own social protection schemes, based on universal standards. This requires policy coherence, in which the EU invest and do more to promote human rights in their diplomacy, multilateral systems and trade policy.
- Support a more fair tax system. The EU should and can do more to build up national sources of income by supporting a more fair tax system. Redistributive and regenerative national tax policies and ensure a transparent international financial architecture that curtails illicit financial flows and supports gender equality through gender equal tax laws and budgetary practices. Encourage governments to 1) raise all tax revenues with truly ‘progressive’ rates - meaning each pays percentage wise a more socially just part of their income to tax, instead of the poor more and the rich pay less. 2) Ensure that taxes and regulatory policies collect the full costs from fossil fuel producers and consumers, eliminating and remediating all climate, ecological, and environmental damage and their disproportionate burden on women and girls. 3) Establish systematic coordination mechanisms to eliminate Illicit Financial Flows, human trafficking and gender-based discrimination including comprehensive introduction of the globally accepted ‘transparency’ policy platform of Automatic Exchange of Information, public registries of ultimate Beneficial Owners, and public registries of MNCs Country by Country Reporting. These provide important counter measures to global enablers /facilitators of tax abuse IFFs with a special focus on banks, secrecy jurisdictions, shell companies, legal advisors/law firms and corrupt government authorities and push for a more comprehensive definition of illicit financial flows that puts human rights front and centre. 4) Establish an adequately resourced UN intergovernmental tax body with membership of all nations and equal voting rights, providing it with gender equality expertise and mandating it to review national, regional and global tax policy in line with women’s
equality and human rights obligations.
- Promote and support universal social protection systems: gender-responsive public services and
  strengthened social work. Universal social protection systems and public services such as healthcare,
  education, water and sanitation are critical for girls’ and women’s full participation in all spheres of life.
  Ensure these social protection systems are universal and cover informal sector workers, the majority of
  women in the Global South.

Question 6. To advance economic rights, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have
the greatest impact?

at most 3 choice(s)
- Support girls and women’s equal rights to economic resources, including inheritance rights
- Support women’s access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property as well as
to natural resources
- Promote decent work agenda, labour rights and working conditions, across all sectors, both formal
  and informal
- Work on the recognition of unpaid work, including domestic work
- Support women’s access to finance and financial services, including credit
- Reduce labour market segregation and enhance job creation for women
- Promote women’s entrepreneurship through skills and business development services
- Ensure equal remuneration for work of equal value in line with the ILO Equal Remuneration
  Convention, 1951 (No. 100)

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:
3000 character(s) maximum

The options provided on equal rights to economic resources (including inheritance), ownership and control
over land and other forms of property, and (equal) access to finance and financial services are one and the
same package. This is about fighting discriminatory laws, policies and practices and achieving equal rights
and access to all productive resources.

Equal access and control over all kinds of economic resources, but especially access to ownership and/or
control over land and other forms of property as well as to natural resources provides protection to elderly
women.

Promoting the decent work agenda is absolutely crucial for women’s economic empowerment. Decent work
covers labour rights and standards, including ILO conventions. It also entails access to social protection, as
well as social dialogue. It is critical to support women’s organizing.

Unpaid care and domestic work underpins the economy and the GDP growth mantra. It is a major obstacle
to women’s access to economic justice and decent work. Valuing unpaid care and domestic work should be
mainstreamed in all the policy domains of the GAP, including trade policy. The EU shouldn’t promote women’
s entrepreneurship without having additional programmes to address increased workloads on women’s paid
and unpaid labour.

Implementing these priorities means improving intersected sex-aggregated data collection, including
support for other countries to improve this in order to come to comparable data that could assess the impact
of European trade and development policies, including assessing its impacts on the informal work.
Question 7. To advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

**at most 3 choice(s)**

- Position sexual and reproductive health rights at the centre of social protection, health and education policies and programmes
- Enhance access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education
- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio
- Reduce selective gender/son preferences and infanticides
- Promote awareness campaigns on negative health impacts of harmful cultural practices and others (e.g.: female genital mutilation, early child marriages, child abuse, etc.)

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

SRHR encompass a broad range of rights and services that are essential for gender equality, and a comprehensive approach to SRHR is needed. GAP III should:

- Go further in promoting of the SRHR, bodily integrity and freedom of choice. Therefore it is important that GAP III adopts the comprehensive Guttmacher-Lancet Commission definition of SRHR. It should also allow for an increased investment in broad definition of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including safe abortion care.
- Build on the inclusivity as elaborated in the Gender Equality Strategy and should explicitly aim to achieve equality between women and men, girls and boys and gender non-conform people, in all their diversity, including in relation to their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.
- Support the provision of accessible, affordable and appropriate youth-friendly services regarding SRHR, free from stigmatisation, discrimination and coercion, including access to comprehensive sexuality education and information. The needs of young people most at risk of discrimination, including adolescent girls and young LGBTI+ people should not be overlooked and receive specific attention in GAP III.
- Recognize that women have different SRH needs at different stages of their lives and adopt a life-course approach. It should support the provision of accessible, affordable and appropriate youth-friendly SRHR services, free from stigmatisation and coercion, including access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education and information.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage is an important part of promoting SRHR for all: SRHR form an integral part of the right to the highest attainable standard of health. In this regard, GAP III should:

- Ensure integration of human rights and gender equality in the design and implementation of UHC models. UHC strategies should be based on the principles of non-discrimination, informed choice, transparency, accountability. Health systems should be available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality. They should be gender-sensitive and address gender-related barriers to health for everyone, including people with non-conforming gender identity.
- Recognise SRHR as an indispensable and integral component of UHC, key to the realisation of the right to health, sustainable development and a necessary precondition for gender equality.
- Support the adoption and endorsement by partner countries of a comprehensive package of SRHR interventions to be delivered through UHC schemes.

Finally, CSOs and community-led organisations play a key role in SRHR service delivery, especially
reaching the furthest behind, community outreach, awareness raising and advocacy. GAP III should therefore prioritise financial and political support for local groups, including women rights and SRHR organisations, youth-led movements and communities.

Question 8. To eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and harassment, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

**at most 3 choice(s)**

- Work on prevention, including by tackling inequalities, gender stereotypes and discrimination
- Support legislative measures to penalise all sexual and gender-based violence and to protect victims
- Develop data collection and research aimed at identifying the root causes, prevalence, consequences or costs of sexual and gender-based violence in different contexts: family, community, educational facilities, workplace, sport, politics, public life, and online
- Train and build capacities of professionals, such as support service providers, healthcare and criminal justice professionals
- Strengthen the access to quality support services for victims/ survivors of violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence
- Support the capacity and actions of civil society involved in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence
- Facilitate access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence and more broadly of gender-based discrimination
- Support/ develop information and awareness-raising campaigns
- Address violence and harassment in the world of work

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

**3000 character(s) maximum**

GBV remains a critical rights violation committed against people based on their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation. There are several acute forms of GBV: 1) intimate partner violence; 2) child, early and forced marriage and other harmful traditional practices; 3) emergencies and violence; 4) and social norms about women and men’s roles. Our members, both in humanitarian and development settings, recommend to:
- Invest in girl’s education, as girls who have attained secondary education are up to six times less likely to be married as a child
- Monitor, mitigate and respond to GBV
- Work on sex education and GBV prevention with women, girls, boys and men
- Invest in inclusive and accountable institutions to diverse people’s rights and needs.
- Invest in and partner more with feminist movements and organizations
- See humanitarian crises as a window of opportunity to transform unequal gender relations and shift harmful gender norms. EU commitments (in GAP II, Consensus on Humanitarian aid, G7 Declaration, Grand Bargain, Women, Peace and Security Strategy, IASC, etc.) and tools already exist. We need action to translate commitments into practice and to use tools at hand to ensure every single humanitarian action is gender-sensitive and where possible gender-transformative. As OECD-DAC noted already in 2017: “Donors could do more to transform gender inequalities and violence by addressing gender norms. Some donors missed opportunities to contribute to transformative change by neglecting a root cause of gender inequality and a catalyst of violence: discriminatory attitudes about what roles are appropriate for women and men, and how these are shaped by other forms of exclusion prevalent in fragile situations.” Particularly GBV prevention in emergencies is falling between the cracks. Therefore we recommend:
- Ensure that access to comprehensive survivor-centred GBV response services is explicitly addressed from the onset of every humanitarian response
- Invest in long-term capacity and accountability across the wider humanitarian sector for GBV prevention and risk mitigation. Both should be seen as an integral part of humanitarian action
- Develop a joined up approach across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to address GBV prevention in emergencies, which requires engaging with men and boys and supporting shifting social norms that lead to GBV
- Promote women’s and girls’ empowerment through education and livelihoods programmes, by promoting decent work and eliminating legal and policy barriers preventing women from safely generating income.
- Ensure gender is mainstreamed and integrated throughout all steps of the humanitarian programme cycle so that adequate and efficient services and assistance is provided, with attention to users’ safety, dignity and equal access.
- All states should ratify the ILO Convention 190 on ending harassment in the world of work.

Question 9. To address migration and forced displacement from a perspective of gender equality and women’s empowerment, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

*at most 3 choice(s)*

- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for migrant workers, in particular women migrants
- **Offer opportunities of quality education and training to migrant girls and women**
- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for migrant workers, in particular women migrants
- **Ensure access to health care irrespective of migration status**
- Prevent and respond to violence, particularly sexual- and gender-based violence (including trafficking, in the forms of forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, and exploitation) along migratory routes and in refugee camps and internally displaced persons camps
- Ensure access to health care irrespective of migration status
- **Ensure access to basic services to women, children and adolescents in refugee camps and internally displaced persons camps**
- Support migrant workers’ organisations, and in particular girls and women migrants’ organisations
- **Support migrant workers’ organisations, and in particular girls and women migrants’ organisations**

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

*3000 character(s) maximum*

The things to be prioritised, from a perspective of gender equality and women’s empowerment, are equal opportunities of quality education and training to migrant women and to women and girls in the IDP camps. Also, to equally have access to basic services to women, children and adolescents in refugee camps and in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

However, preventing and responding to violence is a precondition for women and girls to remain attending school and to be able to go to work and take care of themselves and their family members.

In addition, the support to women’s and girls migrant and refugee’s organizations is key to ensure women’s and girls representation and participation in decision making regarding these issues.

Question 10. In the area of environmental protection and climate change, adaptation and mitigation, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?
Promote the participation, influence and leadership of girls and women, as well as of marginalised groups, in decision-making on environmental and climate change issues, including financial decision-making.

Engage and consult with girls and women’s civil society organizations on actions and projects for environmental protection and climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

Mainstream a gender perspective into environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies including through use of gender analysis to inform formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all environment and climate change, adaptation and mitigation actions/projects.

Strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Enhance protection and access to justice for environmental defenders.

Acknowledge and integrate rural girls, women and indigenous peoples’ knowledge in environmental management, extension programmes and conservation planning.

Acknowledge and promote girls and women’s contribution to research and development, including for sustainable human settlements.

Acknowledge the different roles of girls/women and boys/men as producers and consumers.

Acknowledge and actively promote the diverse roles women play as educators and knowledge agents at household, community and national levels.

Promote women’s access to food security, sustainable farming practices and renewable sources of energy.

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

- The next GAP should make clear links to the Paris Agreement and other relevant environmental international standards and also commit to ensure access of women’s organisations to international climate funds.
- Ensure women’s and girls’ participation in decisions and planning of mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience initiatives at all levels. Make sure women’s groups are represented at international climate negotiations and dialogues and that a gender analysis informs all climate policy and programme documents and initiatives resulting in concrete measures to advance gender-just climate actions. The European Green Deal is currently gender-blind, which is unacceptable. A gender-just transition is needed.
- Ensure gender-just national climate action plans (NDCs): Gender equality must be integrated more strongly into the revised NDCs, and women’s groups be meaningfully involved in their design and implementation. Gender responsiveness should be enhanced with regard to a) policy alignment, b) institutional coordination, c) capacity building, d) sex-disaggregated data and gender information, and e) dedicated financial resources.
- Step up financial support to gender-just climate actions: GAP III and the EU Green Deal should increase financial support to tackling climate impacts, for adaptation and addressing loss and damage in developing countries. Actions which integrate climate action and gender equality, including climate action undertaken by grassroot women’s organizations, should receive much higher priority. Targeted gender responsive funding and programmes for women’s rights and feminist organisations themselves to strengthen resilience and agency against climate change should be ensured.
- Address the trend of shrinking democratic space for women and girls environmental and human rights defenders in international dialogues and in bilateral dialogues with partner countries. Advance the international legal framework for the promotion and protection of women and girls environmental human rights defenders and step up protection systems and flexible financial support systems to women and girls environmental human rights defenders.
- Ensure that rural girls’ and women’s as well as indigenous peoples’ knowledge and expertise in
environmental management and the protection of natural resources is taken into consideration when shaping mitigation policies and programmes.
- Strengthen the support to women involved in the agri-food sector, especially small-scale women farmers, as well as their access to energy, is vital to strengthen their adaptation to climate change and through it, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

Question 11. To strengthen the gender perspective and women’s empowerment in the digital and artificial intelligence field and through it, what should be prioritised and could be expected to have the greatest impact?

at most 3 choice(s)

- Increase the access to and use of technology, including expanding rural access, including by increasing affordability and boosting digital literacy for women and girls
- Promote a gender transformative approach in the field of Artificial Intelligence in order to promote girls and women’s perspectives and sensibility
- Address the gender inequality related risks and challenges emerging from the use of artificial intelligence
- Support women and girls’ access to and use of digital finance
- Protect women and girls against online abuse, violence and harassment
- Address discriminatory gender stereotypes and promote women’s employment in the tech sector
- Support digital skills at all levels of education and training
- Promote gender sensitive digital infrastructure planning
- Include girls and women in the design of digital content and digital technologies

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

3000 character(s) maximum

- Access to digital technology and the internet remains a challenge in many parts of the world, and affordability is often the main barrier for girls and women. The EU can play a role in ensuring universal access to digital services is safe, by setting up legal frameworks aimed at protecting consumers’ online safety.
- The EU should promote gender sensitive and transformative approach to build and plan the digital infrastructure. Girls and women need to be included in the design of content and technologies, but the sector needs to be even more diverse and accessible: people with disabilities, non-binary and LGBTI people, etc. need to be included.
- Developing digital literacy and skills and encouraging girls and young women’s participation in STEM and ICT subjects is important for their transition into the world of work. It will also support their access and use of digital finance, their knowledge of how to be safe online, and their ability to drive the development of digital technology. The EU should support the inclusion of girls and women in the creation of digital content and digital technologies. Algorithms should be transparent to the public, as they have proven gender biases. Doing so will create a ‘digital world’ that better recognizes the needs of girls and women in all their diversity as users and consumers, and that avoids the replication of inequalities online and through artificial intelligence.
- In order to address gender inequalities and biases in the digital sphere it is important to strengthen the national and regional regulations of data extractivism and management. Large international companies now can make use of digitalization to shape international value chains in order to avoid responsibilities to provide decent work to the producer or service deliverer, many of which are women. We see companies create far-reaching oversight mechanisms, which is problematic.
- Also online social media platforms sustained by above mentioned companiers are contributing to spreading mis-information, and/or enable cyber-bullying and online sexual abuse that harm women and girls.
Especially women human rights defenders are a target for online abuse, including sexual bullying. There should be much more support for states and civil society to help regulate and create more accountability and transparency within these platforms to protect women’s human rights. Much more policy reflection on who should own which data should be encouraged. Victims of online abuse should be able to easily retrieve data from social media platforms on their abuser(s) for further action. And tools should be implemented to address abuses such as Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

- In order to achieve regulation of data-collection and management the EU should encourage low- and middle income states to develop their national policies as part of ongoing trade negotiations.

Question 12. To accelerate the implementation of the EU policy framework on Women, Peace and Security, which objectives/actions have the greatest impact to contribute to gender equality and women’s rights and empowerment in the short to medium term?

☐ Ensure that humanitarian responses address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys, men of all ages

☐ Support state Institutions including Security Sector reforms with capacity building as well as with the establishment of internal mechanisms to prevent and address Human Rights violations and the meaningful participation of women and a systematic integration of a gender perspective

☑ Enhance women’s leadership and participation in all policy-making decisions/ processes in all areas related to peace and security (from conflict prevention and conflict resolution to mediation, peace-negotiations, reconstruction/rehabilitation and peacebuilding)

☑ Systematically mainstream a gender perspective, as an integral part, in all EU planning and action related to peace and security

☐ Promote the prevention, monitoring and reporting of conflict-related human rights violations (including sexual and gender based violence) particularly against women and girls and the promotion of zero-tolerance/full accountability policies to end impunity and to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice and to ensure safe and quality services for survivors

☐ Play an active role, globally, regionally, nationally and locally, throughout the conflict-cycle through the WPS approach

☐ Ensure access to education, health services, employment and nutrition for women and girls throughout the conflict-cycle (from conflict prevention and conflict resolution to mediation, peace-negotiations, reconstruction/rehabilitation and peacebuilding)

☐ Support all efforts for the protection of girls and women activists, women Human Rights defenders, peacemakers and peacebuilders

☑ Promote initiatives that strengthen the links across the different objectives for the implementation of the WPS Agenda (among others, in relief and recovery, rehabilitation, resettlement, reintegration, reconstruction and sustainable development policies, including gender mainstreaming in humanitarian and development aid and in emergency assistance)

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

3000 character(s) maximum

- The new GAP should be explicitly linked to and aligned with the EU’s Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security. At the same time, as WPS has a different purpose than the GAP, as the first priority is peace and not gender equality, WPS must also remain an independent chapter, via the existing WPS Strategy and Action plan. Particularly, the next GAP can play a crucial role in reinforcing the relief and recovery pillar of the WPS strategy, that we consider as the weaker pillar. GBV, WEE and women’s voice are important in all settings.

- Currently, there is very little money going to women’s organisations in crises, and only a tiny fraction of
that reaches women peacebuilders. The EU should step up their investment in this field and create a pathway to support women’s rights organisations, with systemic funding.

- GAP III should also include gendered conflict analysis as part of context analysis, across the programming cycle – which implies there is capacity at various levels to implement the results of that analysis
- Gender-sensitive humanitarian aid is essential for effective humanitarian response, as emergencies impact differently on men and women, boys and girls—and women have an essential role to play in response. However, humanitarian aid was only marginally included in GAP 2, while it is to some extent included in the relief and recovery pillar of the WPS Strategy. Rectifying this, activities to increase gender equality in emergencies must be included in every pillar of the next GAP. GBV, Women’s Economic Empowerment and women’s participation are important in all settings.
- Humanitarian response can be gender-sensitive, but could also go beyond that, be gender-transformative. Meaningful participation of women, girls, men, and boys of all ages across design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of humanitarian response is crucial.

Question 13. What types of actions should the EU support to mitigate the gender-differentiated impact of global crisis notably affecting health such as the COVID-19 pandemic?

at most 3 choice(s)

☑ Continue to collect, analyse data and to take relevant measures regarding the gender-differentiated impact on girls and boys, women and men
☐ Adherence to WHO guidelines in antenatal care and delivery for pregnant women affected by COVID-19
☐ Continue to collect, analyse data and to take relevant measures regarding the impact on girls and women of an inadequate access to reproductive and sexual health and rights
☐ Continue to collect, analyse data and to take relevant preventive and protective measures regarding the largest risk that women incur (being predominant workers in the following sectors: health, care, other indispensable services but also informal sector and micro/ small businesses while bearing the care burden when confinement is required)
☑ Continue to collect, analyse data and to take relevant measures regarding the gender-differentiated impact on the economy and the responses to alleviate the economic hardship, including the impact on the particularly vulnerable parts of the economy, such as low income women and women led micro, small and medium enterprises
☐ Study and provide solutions to tackle the marked increase in sexual and gender-based violence which occur during the exceptional restraining conditions necessary in times of pandemic crisis
☑ Make sure that women are included in decision making for outbreak preparedness and response at all the stages of the pandemic crisis

Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

3000 character(s) maximum

Many of our members and partners are currently developing adequate responses to COVID-19 in fragile and conflict affected countries. Oxfam fe. recommends the following:
- Ensure a flexible approach for humanitarian assistance that is both preventative and responsive to evolving communities’ needs and response realities. Ensure the humanitarian response is centred on gender equality and women’s rights, from the outset ensuring that the humanitarian response to COVID-19 takes into account and addresses intersectional gendered differences in risks and vulnerability.
- Recognise the critical role that women and women-led organisations will play in delivering the response and work in partnership with them as local experts. Given that the response will likely be different depending
on context (urban centres, rural areas and displacement -refugee and IDP -camps), women’s expertise about their communities will be vital for designing tailored responses that ensure the needs of most vulnerable are met.

- A gender and protection integrated response is vital. Structural gender inequalities and pre-existing social and cultural norms intersect with other identities (age, ability, legal status, ethnicity and socio-economic status) to determine access to resources, information and services as well as safety, security and care responsibilities and impact how different men, women, boys and girls experience both the primary and secondary impacts of an epidemic.

In addition, CARE recommends to:
- Accelerate the New Way of Working and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Triple Nexus: ensure joint humanitarian and development work and sustain support for critical social and economic development sectors – food, nutrition, agriculture and support for the small-scale and informal economic sector is crucial, or the secondary impacts could be worse than the primary impact of COVID-19
- Increase funding to NGOs and adapt funding mechanisms to maximize flexible COVID-19 responses: with only 5% of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan earmarked for NGOs (rest for UN), there is a crucial need to step up direct donor funding, given the centrality of local NGO responders in terms of reach, trust by and knowledge of the local population.
- The COVID response must address food and nutrition security and water and sanitation, particularly among the most vulnerable and those in extreme poverty, including women and girls.
- Maintain support to climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods, especially for small-scale farmers and women


Means for action

Question 14. How should intersectionality be addressed in the implementation of the GAP III?

3000 character(s) maximum

See A Union of Equality: Gender equality strategy 2020-2025

EIGE defines "intersectionality" as an “analytical tool for studying, understanding and responding to the ways in which sex and gender intersect with other personal characteristics/identities, and how these intersections contribute to unique experiences of discrimination”.

According to Article 10 TFEU, when “defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation”.

Women are not affected equally by the same phenomenon, as gender inequalities is compounded by other factors such as race, age, caste, ethnicity, ability, migration status, sexual orientation, etc. An important step to increase gender justice is to recognize the overlapping and reinforcing inequalities that arise from multiple additional factors and to acknowledge the problems of those facing intersecting discriminations. Ao :
- LGBTQI+ people are particularly targeted by GBV, with 76 countries criminalizing same sex relationships, exposing individuals to criminalization and state violence, as well as militia/individual hate violence. Although such violence is widespread and brutal, it is also mainly under-reported, as survivors may not come forward and systems in place may not track these abuses, which ends up with impunity.
- Violence against indigenous women and girls is very high. Race and ethnic discrimination, colonialism, age, gender, and dispossession of lands put indigenous women in positions that expose them to higher rates of GBV.
- Women and girls with disabilities often face multiple and intersectional discrimination due to their gender and disability status and continue to be at a disadvantage in most spheres of society and
development. Evidence show that women and girls with disabilities continue to face barriers which create situations of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in many interrelated dimensions, incl systematic barriers in the environment and the attitudes which prevent them from having equal access to education, health care (incl. SRHR), employment and decent work, and justice as well as hindering their civic and political participation.

Consequently, women and girls should not be considered a homogeneous group. GAP III must:
- adopt an inclusive and intersectional approach and recognize the differences that exists within and between communities. The GAP III must consider the possible impact of EU policies on all women and girls in partner countries. This includes mainstreaming an intersectional analysis and supporting the design and implementation of policies and initiatives that do not adversely impact women and girls with disabilities, through conducting needs and risk assessments.
- invest in systematically collecting accurate and comparable disaggregated data and in supporting partner countries to do so, in order to know where and what the intersectionalities are, to determine how to address them and to analyse whether the results of interventions are having a positive impact on those furthest behind. In line with SDG target 17.18, data should be disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location.
- any strategy addressing intersectionality must have inclusive tools to respond to the overlapping forms of discrimination that are identified.
- train EU HQ & delegates to integrate a disability-inclusive & intersectional perspective.

Question 15. Which concrete actions could the GAP III include to strengthen gender mainstreaming in EU external action?

3000 character(s) maximum

- In the past years gender equality and women’s empowerment were discussed during all human rights dialogues, but they seem to be mainly discussed in those fora, and are more limited during other political dialogues such as trade, energy, etc. The EU should play a stronger role when it comes to promoting gender equality in multilateral spaces and in diplomacy with other countries to strengthen international human rights standards and counter the shrinking spaces and attack on women’s rights globally.
- The EC should improve the quality of gender mainstreaming and provide clear guidance and support for the correct use of the OECD gender marker.
- The current GAP mentions the number of programmes that has gender as a significant or principal objectives. However, this indicator remains silent on the amount of funding spent on this. And unfortunately, from CONCORD’s calculations, we see a big discrepancy between number of projects and committed funding on the one hand, and actual disbursements on the other hand. For this reason, there should be a commitment in GAP III that 85 % of official development assistance (ODA) should go to programmes which have gender equality as a significant or as a principal objective, and that, within this broader commitment, 20 % of ODA should be allocated to programmes with gender equality, including SRHR, as a principal objective.
- ‘Gender mainstreaming is not free’. It does cost if you are serious about it and want to do it well. In their implementation of GAP III, the EU and Member States should not just allow but actively encourage implementing partners to budget human and financial resources for gender mainstreaming.
- The resulting product of a process that includes a gender analysis should never be gender-blind, e.g. a Humanitarian Response Plan or Peace Plan or Development Plan that is based on gender analysis and with involvement of women CSOs cannot be gender-blind.
Question 16. What could make GAP III more relevant, and would maximise its impact, at country /local level at the partner countries?

3000 character(s) maximum

- The EU needs to demonstrate its commitment at the highest level. Therefore, the next GAP should be an official Communication, rather than a Staff Working Document. It should also be endorsed again by the Member States through Council Conclusions, so that it commits both Member States and EU institutions
- The GAP should be better aligned with the Agenda 2030 and in particular with the achievement of SDG5 and other relevant SDGs
- The GAP should be relevant for implementation in every single partner country, including conflict-affected and fragile states. This means work on GBV, SRHR, women’s economic empowerment and women’s participation should be undertaken in every setting.
- To ensure a more impactful implementation of the GAP and beyond, the EU should (re)commit to gender budgeting for every area in the next MFF. This commitment should include concrete steps and achievements.
- The GAP should focus more on transformative areas for gender equality, and in particular on unequal structures and power relations, gender norms, gender-based discrimination and supporting girls and women’s agency at its centre, included in all thematic objectives and supported with indicators and activities. This would require an additional focus on quality, and not just quantity.
- GAP III should be accompanied by clear, measurable, time-bound indicators of success, including an attribution of responsibility to different actors, – European Commission and Member States - and with clear objectives in each partner country, developed with the partner country and civil society organisations, incl. local women’s CSOs, which are integrated in political dialogue and programming.
- EU delegations should strengthen their role as coordinator of various stakeholders and partners to increase the impact of the new GAP.
- The GAP should be the basis for every new gender strategy developed by an EU Member State, ensuring alignment and much better accountability.

In addition, to make this GAP more relevant for WROs and feminist organizations, we recommend to:
- Provide direct, flexible funding to national and sub-national level women’s organizations and coalitions to support women’s participation in decision-making spaces.
- Prioritise inclusive approaches, working with communities, to change social norms from the bottom up.
- Invest in longer-term support for women’s organizations, movements and coalition-building in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Develop platforms, or other mechanisms for ongoing engagement with national and sub-national women’s organizations and coalitions in the implementation and monitoring of GAP III.
- Provide resources and political support for women in conflict-affected countries to actively participate in regional and global decision-making spaces.
- Adopt a strong Gender Equality Social Inclusion lens, for example, recognizing vulnerabilities connected to marginalization of LGBQTI people.

Question 17. How could the EU improve its reporting and better communicate on the GAP III and its results?

5000 character(s) maximum

- Indicators and M&E systems should be in line with, but not limited to, the SDGs and can also be complemented by EU specific indicators based on international human rights standards, such as CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention.
- It is still very difficult to measure effectively the concrete impact of the GAP on the lives of women and
girls. The reporting continues to be essentially focused on quantitative indicators (e.g. the number of actions implemented in a given objective) and not qualitative (e.g. the difference it actually made in the life of people). The EU should include both quantitative indicators and qualitative indicators such as inclusive monitoring and evaluation. This implies not just measuring the number of people that participate in an activity, but also evaluating the transformative potential/impact of that activity (e.g. in terms of changing mindsets related to gender roles). Those should be aligned with the EU Development and Cooperation Results Framework.

- To facilitate the annual reporting on the GAP, it should be aligned with existing reporting structures in the EUDs. More detailed and specific guidance about what counts as a gender equality project is needed to reduce the subjectivity in applying gender markers.
- To ensure an increase in correct reporting, staff must be guided in how to use and report on GAP indicators and OECD Gender markers.
- To enhance transparency in reporting on the GAP, both Member States’ and EU delegations’ contributions should be made public. Member States should be encouraged to report more systematically their actions under the GAP and their good practices.
- Perhaps the EU could organize an annual event to showcase results and discuss challenges. The annual report is definitely helpful but tends to be too extensive and detailed for communication to wider public. An event could rectify that.
Question 18. In addition to gender mainstreaming and support to specific projects that implement the GAP III priorities, which of the following would be the most effective for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment?

Please indicate the order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important.

| High-level bilateral and multilateral political dialogue and diplomacy | 2 |
| Regular exchanges at operational level with partners | 2 |
| Integration of GAP III priorities and objectives in the joint programming exercise with EU Member States | 1 |
| Multi-stakeholder partnerships for joint actions | 2 |
| Close dialogue and engagement with civil society, including girls and women's organisations, as well as Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality and women empowerment | 1 |
| Close dialogue and engagement with youth organisations | 2 |
| Communication and campaigns | 2 |
| Support to gender budgeting | 2 |
| Gender responsive leadership among EU political leaders and management | 1 |
| Gender transformative projects/ flagships | 1 |
| Support the accountability on gender equality and women’s empowerment (e.g. parliamentary scrutiny, CSO monitoring, etc) | 1 |
Other remarks / any region or context specific priorities:

3000 character(s) maximum

Closing remarks and position paper

Please, share any additional issue or recommendation.

5000 character(s) maximum

This questionnaire was filled out based on contributions of different members of WO=MEN, ao CARE, Oxfam, WIDE+, Cordaid, WECF, Rutgers, Light for the World and VOND. All of them are vary in their focus on topics, regions, groups of people, etc. All of them are united in their mission to enhance gender equality and strengthen women's and girls rights and empowerment worldwide.

Due to our nature as a platform, it was often hard for WO=MEN to prioritize among the options, as everything was considered important. Also not everything was of the same 'level' (some crosscutting, some standalone, some political, some technical, etc). It is therefore that we do want to emphasize the need to always be context-specific and tailor make your responses.

Last but not least, we would like to endorse all our individual member's contributions to this consultation, ao CARE, WECF and in other compositions of Rutgers and Light for the World.

To conclude, you can upload here a position paper of your organization on GAP III; please limit the length of the paper to two pages.

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Contact

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