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EU GENDER ACTION PLAN III, 2021-2025

ZAMBIA COUNTRY LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (CLIP)



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INTRODUCTION

This Gender Country Level Implementing Plan (CLIP) is a document to guide the EU Delegation to Zambia and COMESA in its implementation of the EU's Gender Action Plan (GAP) III from 2021- 2025. The GAP III aims to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls, and safeguarding gains made on gender equality during the 25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action.

The information in this CLIP largely comes from the Zambia Gender Country Profile developed in June/July 2021. The profile reflects consultations with EU Member States in Zambia, EU staff, the Ministry of Gender and other relevant government bodies as well as civil society.

This CLIP is a working document and is planned for review in 2023. It will evolve and be adjusted where appropriate, taking into account information from the mandatory gender sector analysis for all new EU funded programmes under the new EU-Zambia Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027.



Currently, over half the population (**55.8%**) are poor, and of these, **40.8%** are extremely poor.



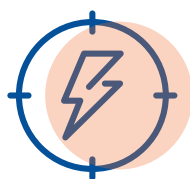
Zambia is a predominantly **patriarchal society** with customs and traditions that often prohibit the **empowerment of women**.



Zambia is ranked very low on gender gap reduction and inequalities, sitting at only **146** out of **178** countries in the Gender Inequality Index.

GENDER ACTION PLAN (GAP) III-THEMATIC AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT

Drawing from the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020 – 2025, the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III provides the EU with a policy framework to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls, by setting objectives and actions in six key thematic policy areas:



Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence.



Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.



Promoting equal participation and leadership.



Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women.

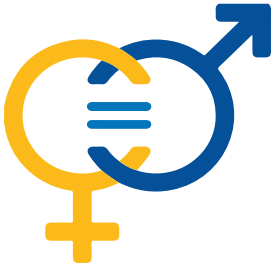


Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Integrating the women, peace and security agenda.

The GAP III objectives will ensure new actions under the EU's Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) in Zambia, prioritize gender equality and ensure complementarity and synergies of initiatives in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.



At least

85%

of all new actions must have gender equality as a significant (Gender Marker 1) or principle objective (Gender Marker 2).



All programmes must be informed by mandatory context-specific gender analyses and must apply gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated indicators and statistics.

ZAMBIA MULTI-ANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME (MIP) PRIORITY AREAS

The MIP for the period 2021-2027 is aligned with the Zambian 7th and 8th National Development Plan (at the drafting of this document) and was drafted with direct participation of EU Member States present in Zambia, in line with the Team Europe approach. The priority areas are;

- i. Green partnerships for sustainable recovery, growth and jobs;
- ii. Supporting the people of Zambia to reach their potential and build resilience; and
- iii. Fair, inclusive and peaceful society.

Crosscutting GAP III Areas of Engagement

Two crosscutting GAP III areas of engagement have been selected to be implemented in all MIP programmes in Zambia:



Promoting equal participation and leadership - Equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviour must be fostered for women and girls to be visible and portrayed as equal contributors and participants of society.



Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence - This is pervasive in all sectors and levels of society. The focus should be on women's organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations, to ensure they are influential in ending Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

GAP III Areas of Engagement by Priority Area

MIP Priority Area 1

Green Partnerships for Sustainable Recovery, Growth and Jobs. The selected GAP III thematic areas of engagement for this priority area are:



Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition.



Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women.

Support will focus on ensuring that women and men increasingly participate in and have improved access to jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities and alternative livelihoods. At the same time, addressing climate change and preserving the natural environment will be supported. This will include developing strategies and agreements to ensure climate mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity are more gender-responsive. For example, support the implementation of the Climate Change Gender Action Plan or support NGO platforms on renewable energy/energy efficiency to conduct advocacy on gender responsive solutions.

In order to promote social and economic rights, focus will be on increased access for women to financial services and products, as well as productive resources. It will also work to ensure improved nutrition levels for women, men, girls and boys to combat the food insecurity and nutrition challenges, particularly in rural areas. Improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities will be prioritised to overcome challenges including a lack of access to proper sanitation facilities and adequate and affordable hygiene materials, including menstrual hygiene.



Climate change and the high rate of deforestation in Zambia increases distances to collect firewood used for household energy, impacting women and children who usually have the responsibility of collection.



Men make up **62%** and women **38%** of formal employment.

In contrast, **73.2%** of women contribute to family labour, which is usually unpaid, as opposed to **26.8%** of men.



MIP Priority Area 2

Supporting the People of Zambia to Reach Their Potential and Build Resilience. The selected GAP III thematic areas of engagement for this priority are:



Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women.



Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence.

Focus will be on improving access for every individual to sexual and reproductive health care and services, information and education on sexual and reproductive rights. Improved nutrition levels to combat the food insecurity and other nutrition challenges will also be a priority, as well as better protection from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres.

The EU will focus on gender disparities in enrolment, progression and retention at all levels of education and lifelong learning for women, men, girls and boys under the GAP thematic area on economic and social rights. Given the high number of teenage pregnancies and the fact that women are usually primary care givers, greater access to ECED should also free-up time and enable girls to pursue their education, training and employment opportunities. TVET and skills development will target girls and women at risk of leaving school and increase their chances in the labour market.

In Zambia, the first programme to have gender equality as a focus objective will sit under this priority area. It will focus on the nexus between Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).



Only **35.6%** of women in Zambia have access to family planning.



More than one-third (**36%**) of women age **15-49** have experienced physical violence at least once since age **15** and **14%** have experienced sexual violence.



51% of men and **43%** of women aged **15-49** have attended or completed secondary school and the literacy rate among men and women is **82%** and **66%** respectively.

MIP Priority Area 3

Fair, Inclusive and Peaceful Society. The selected GAP III area of engagement for this priority is:



Promoting equal participation and leadership.

It is important that enabling conditions are created for equal participation of all in decision making in Zambia, as female representation is very low at national and local levels. To reinforce the democratic space in Zambia, government and civil society will be supported to address discriminatory practices and improve women's representation in parliament and government institutions, including decision making at national and local levels. This priority will also work to foster equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours that promote equal participation and leadership working with the media, which is very gender biased in Zambia, as well as traditional, religious and community leaders. Initiatives to respect human rights and access to justice will aim to ensure that women and girls, in all their diversity, have improved access to justice and awareness of human rights, to safeguard their civil and political rights.

Budget processes in Zambia need to increase consideration of the specific needs, interests and constraints of women and men. The public sector support programme will work to enable conditions for equal participation in decision making by ensuring that Zambia has systems to explicitly allocate and track public resources for gender equality and women's empowerment.



Women and girls are more vulnerable to the growing trend of **"sextortion"** in exchange for services and opportunities.



Only **14.9%** of parliamentary seats are held by women and even fewer women hold Cabinet positions at approximately **7%**.





DIALOGUE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Dialogue with civil society will include the annual CSO road map dialogue that will have Women's Rights Organisations as participants. Policy dialogue with cooperating partners is also conducted regularly in the context of the cooperating partner groups including the group focused specifically on gender. Wide stakeholder consultations are foreseen for the programming of the different actions under the MIP. Specific topics for political and policy dialogue with government should include advocacy for the setup of the Gender Commission to ensure the implementation of the Gender Equity and Equality Act of 2015.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

High-level events on gender equality projected for the period 2021-2025 should include:

- Europe Month - at least two activities will have a direct or indirect gender theme.
- Celebrations to commemorate Women's Day.
- 16 Days of Activism against GBV - national government and civil society activities will be supported recognising these days.
- The EU Gender Champion (selected among the EU Heads of Mission) will also have an important role in promoting public diplomacy activities.
- Green Transition Campaign – will also include showcasing and success stories involving women.



STORY OF SUCCESS: DORIS PHIRI

It is a known fact that investing in women's economic empowerment sets a straight path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

Chipata District Women Development Association (Chipata DWDA) was awarded a grant in 2017 by NGOCC with financial support from the European Union to implement an economic empowerment project in chicken rearing. Sixty-five-year-old Doris Phiri from Chiparamba area in Chipata is one of the women who benefitted from the grant. With 8 children and 26 grandchildren to support, Doris increased the number of chickens she received from 5 to 30 chickens.

"Before I was given the 5 Black Astrolopes, I had challenges buying food and paying school fees for my grandchildren. The chickens gave me 60 eggs in three weeks. We use the eggs for home consumption and also sell to raise money to buy things like sugar, salt and cooking oil. I am also happy to say that I was able to repair my roof and buy two goats with proceeds from the project. My encouragement to other women is to get up and do something for their families. We have the power to transform our lives for the better and develop our country," – Doris Phiri, Chipata District Women Development Association chairperson.








EUROPEAN UNION

CONTACT US

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ZAMBIA AND COMESA

 Plot 4899, Los Angeles Boulevard, Longacres,
Lusaka, Zambia

 Delegation-Zambia@eeas.europa.eu

 +260 211 250711 / 251140 / 255585

 +260 211 250906

 [European Union Delegation Zambia](#)

 [@EUDelZambia](#)

 [EU Delegation in Zambia](#)

 [@EUDZambia](#)