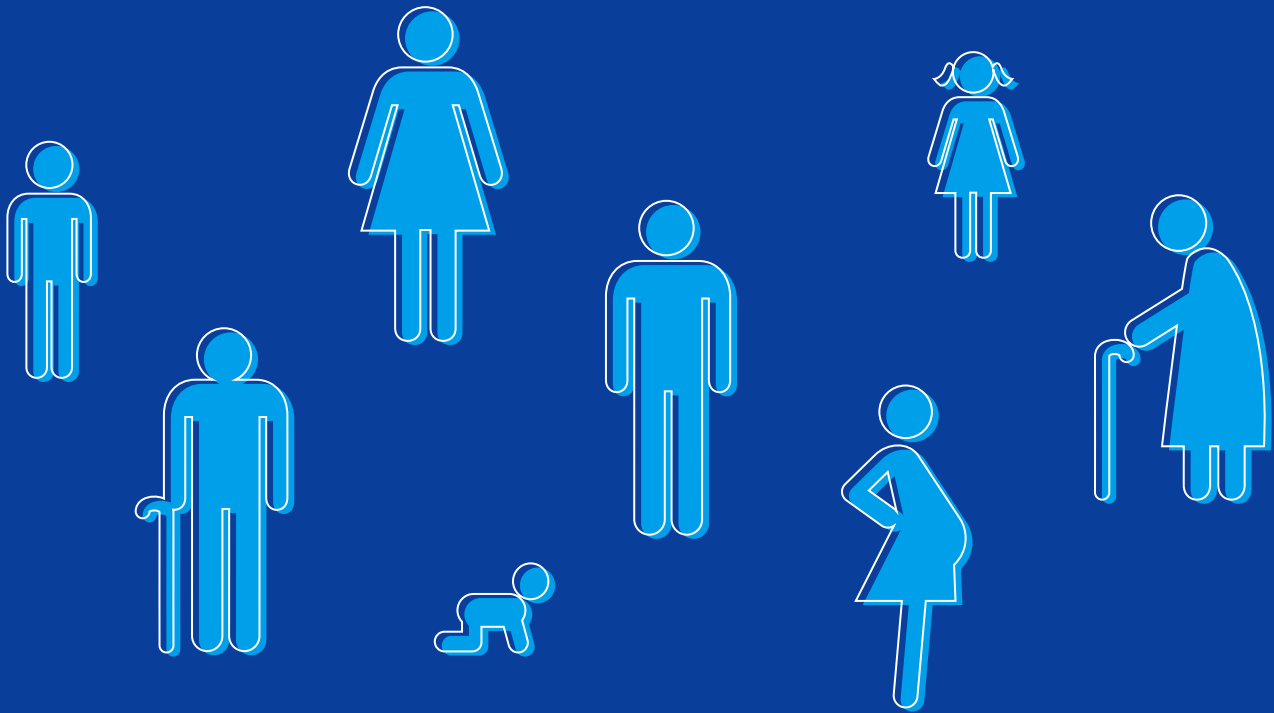




European  
Commission



# Gender–Age Marker

Assessment Report  
2018 – 2021

## **Gender-Age Marker**

Assessment Report 2018 and 2021

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### **DG ECHO Gender- and age-sensitive humanitarian aid documents**

DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document No 6:  
Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance  
(July 2013)

DG ECHO Gender-Age Marker Toolkit

DG ECHO Gender-Age Marker Report,  
Assessment 2014 and 2015  
(October 2018)

Further information:

[https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-and-age-sensitive-aid\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-and-age-sensitive-aid_en)

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# Acronyms

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<b>DG ECHO</b>	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FR</b>	Final report
<b>GAM</b>	Gender-Age Marker
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>PROGEN</b>	Protection and Gender Team
<b>HIP</b>	Humanitarian Implementation Plan
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters
<b>NR</b>	Monitoring
<b>RQ</b>	Request
<b>SADD</b>	Sex and age disaggregated data

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# Executive Summary

Gender is an important factor in humanitarian assistance since natural disasters and man-made crises have a different effect on women, girls, men, boys, and elderly people. They have distinct needs, risks, and capacities. The European Union's humanitarian aid should prioritize gender and age to effectively address the individual needs of different genders and age groups. In line with the 2013 humanitarian gender policy, 'Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance' and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the Gender-Age Marker<sup>1</sup> (hereafter referred to as «the GAM») was introduced on 1 January 2014 with the goal of making aid more engaging.

The purpose of the GAM is to make humanitarian aid more sensitive to the differentiated needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys, by creating a forum for the staff of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - DG ECHO) and partners to openly discuss gender and age issues in humanitarian actions. With the GAM, the staff involved can track and monitor actions to ensure gender and age-related goals are met.

The GAM consist of four criteria and is used across the entire lifespan of the project: from proposal and monitoring to the final report. The relevant DG ECHO staff and EU humanitarian partners provide the necessary data and inputs to determine the GAM. Finally, the GAM is issued by DG ECHO staff at the Brussels Headquarters.

DG ECHO released its first assessment report on the GAM in October 2018. This report highlighted the usefulness of the GAM and encouraged partners to invest in capacity-building on gender and age. Excitingly, the report concluded that, in 2015, 81% of all EU humanitarian aid incorporated gender and age considerations either: 'strongly' or 'to a certain extent'. In the second assessment report on the DG ECHO Gender-Age Marker (2016-2017) findings shown that, in both 2016 and 2017, 89% of all DG ECHO-funded actions integrated gender and age considerations either: 'strongly' (mark '2') or 'to a certain extent' (mark '1') showing a significant increase in the use of the GAM.

Finally, in 2020, DG ECHO undertook an evaluation of the implementation of its Gender Policy (2013) for the period 2014-2018. The evaluation looked at the impact of the Gender-Age Marker and presented some findings for the period 2014-2018, as well as highlighting some needs for clarification in the toolkit (focus on results and not efforts, and discrepancies among sub-criteria) and suggestions (use of the GAM for funding purposes and mention of the partner's own gender policy).

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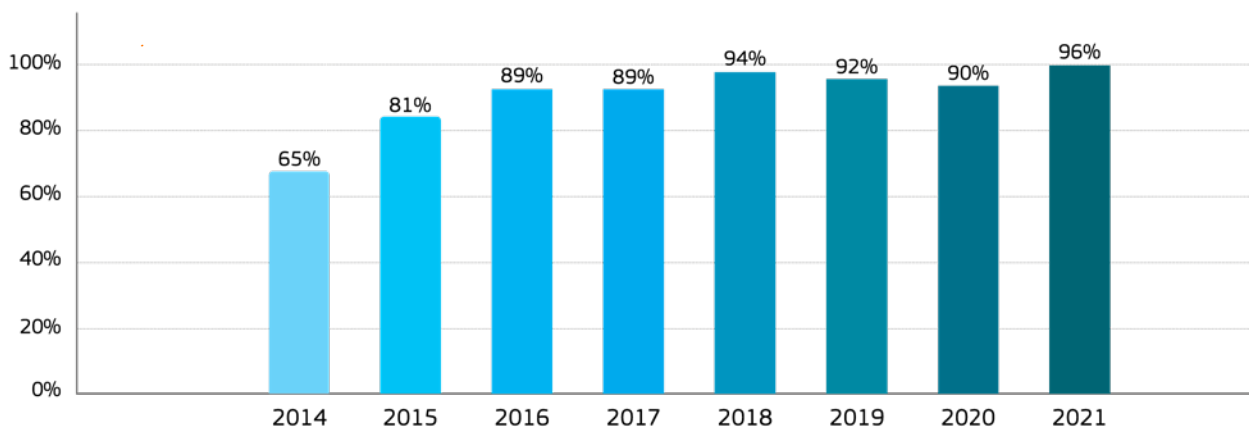
<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender\\_age\\_marker\\_toolkit.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_age_marker_toolkit.pdf)

# Main findings

## 1. An overall improvement in the integration of gender and age considerations into humanitarian assistance

Since 2018, the final marks have consistently shown an increase, with more than 90% of actions integrating gender and age considerations either 'strongly' (mark 2) or 'somewhat' (mark 1). This trend highlights an increase in the percentage from 65% to 96%, leaping to over 90% in 2018 and remaining steady through 2021.

*Graphic 1. % of actions that integrate gender and age considerations (mark 1 or 2 in Gender-Age Marker) 2014- 2021*



In the benchmark years under assessment, partners gave the highest score (mark 2) being more generous, DG ECHO staff has increased the markers, leading to partners partially improving and justifiably receiving positive assessments for their proposal, and gaps between self-assessment and ECHO assessment has been reduced over time. This has been a continuous trend since the previous assessments, showing a general increase in the use of mark 2. As an example, the assessment of the DG ECHO staff in marking actions with a mark 2 at the proposal stage has increased significantly from 30% in 2015 to 48% in 2021 for the field experts, and from 21% in 2015 to 51% in 2021 in the case of the HQ.

## 2. Different levels of meeting the GAM's four criteria

Looking at each criterion, it's noticeable that Criterion 1 (Gender analysis) is the one where the greatest improvement has been made in all phases and progressively during the benchmark years of assessment. The criteria least met are Criterion 4 (Adequate participation) in 2015; Criterion 3 (Negative effects) in 2018 and Criterion 3 (Negative effects) in 2021. This shows that there is no pattern in the evolution of the use of the GAM in each criterion.

## 3. Discrepancy in marking between DG ECHO and its partners

A divergence in marking, between the DG ECHO personnel and its humanitarian partners, has persisted over time, as shown in the assessments from 2014 till 2021. With regard to marks 0, although there has been a decrease over the eight years of assessment by DG ECHO and its partners, especially notable since the introduction of the GAM in 2014<sup>2</sup>, there was an increase in them in 2021, mainly from DG ECHO staff (from 2% in 2020) to 4% in 2021 by field staff; and from 1% in 2020 to 4% in 2021 by HQ staff) that could be attributed to a further familiarity with the GAM.

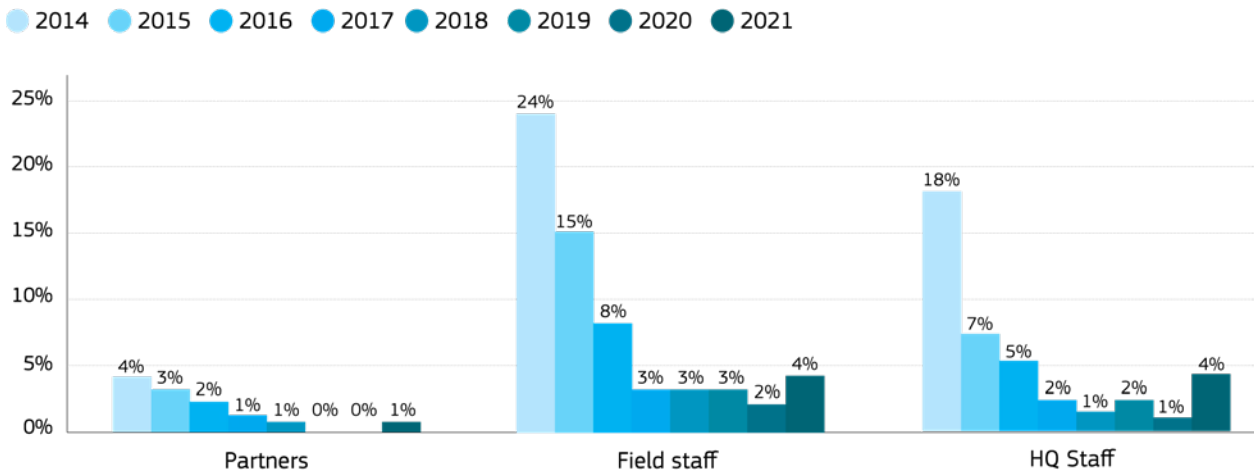
In general terms, data results suggest that partners are the most generous markers with the lowest number of marks 1 (which gradually declined from 25% in 2014 to 8% in 2021) and a constant rise in marks 2, from 63% in 2014 to 90% in 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The Gender-Age Marker only became mandatory in July 2014.

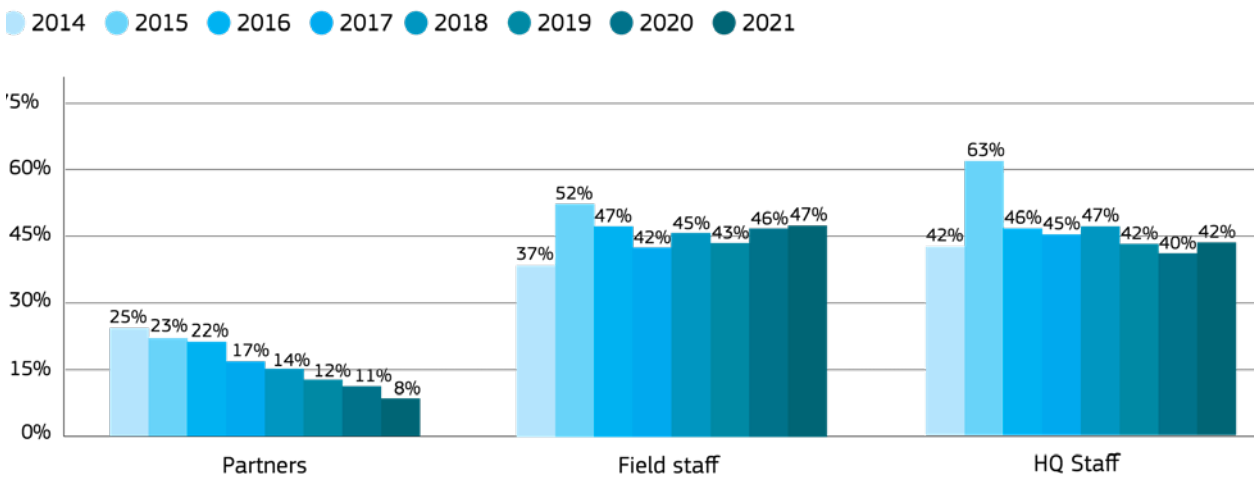
To provide a better understanding of this result, the average of marks 1 given by partners, from 2014 to 2021, was 16%, while for DG ECHO field it was 45% and for HQ it was 46%. This, together with the average scores of marks 2 given by partners (78%), DG ECHO field staff (43%) and HQ staff (42%) demonstrates the disparity between partners and DG ECHO staff, as well as how the DG ECHO field and HQ are closely aligned in the ratings they provide.

The graphs below show the trends highlighted above in terms of the use of the GAM from 2014 to 2021.

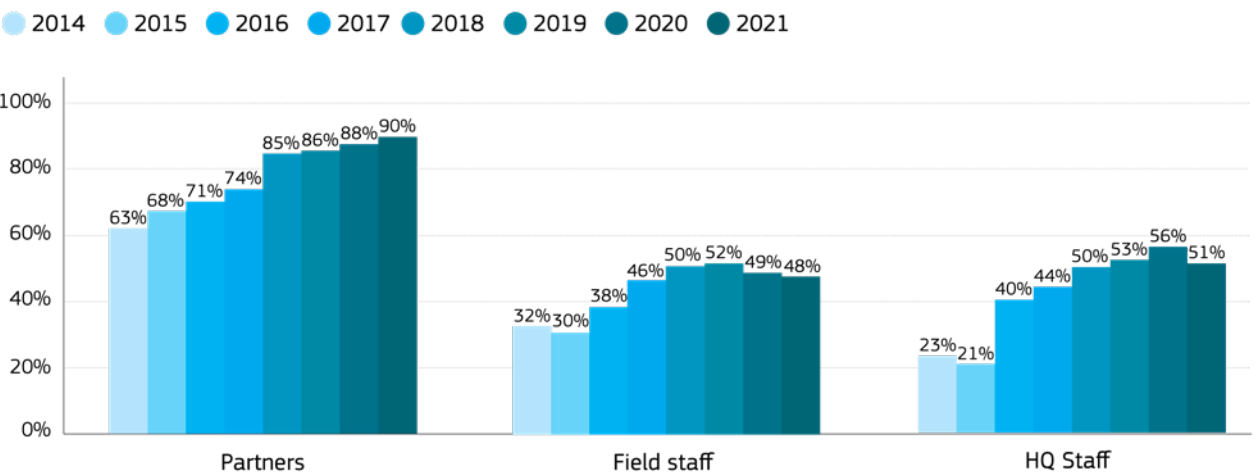
**Graphic 2. % of proposals marked with '0' 2014-2021**



**Graphic 3. % of proposals marked with '1' 2014 - 2021**



**Graphic 4. % of proposals marked with '2' 2014 - 2021**



#### 4. Consistent improvement in correct and consistent marking due to improvements in the IT system

The GAM was integrated into the IT system in July 2014 and, since then, the consistency of marking at both proposal and final report stages has been remarkable. Making the GAM mandatory for DG ECHO field and HQ staff in July 2017 has further enhanced the accuracy of marking, with a near-perfect score of 100%.

In general terms, the trend of correct marking at proposal and final report stages has been positive with very high scores, although there has been a slight decrease since 2018 at both stages of 2-3 percentage points. However, monitoring has steadily increased from 2015 to 2020, with a 7% rise in 2021, reaching 98%, reflecting how this issue has been taken into account by DG ECHO field staff in the last years.

## Recommendations

### 1. Increase advocacy and clarification towards partners

DG ECHO must continue to ensure that its staff and partners implement the GAM process correctly to enhance the integration of gender and age in humanitarian aid funded by DG ECHO. This can be achieved by increasing advocacy and providing systematic feedback at all stages of project cycle. The emphasis should be on continuing to foster an in-depth understanding of the GAM process among staff and partners countering the risk for the tool to become a mere tick-the-box exercise.

### 2. Improve the IT system with regard to missing information

The IT system (e-single form) should be improved so as not to allow cells to be left blank in one of the criteria – all criteria should be mandatory – and the final mark should be generated automatically. This would avoid the high number of incorrectly marked actions.

Moreover, partners should be given the possibility to provide a mark at both proposal and reporting stages, aiming at further enhancing dialogue between DG ECHO staff and partners on issues related to gender and age integration.

### 3. Rationalize mainstreaming requirements

Since the introduction of the GAM in 2014, DG ECHO has developed the Humanitarian Protection policy, the Guidance on Disability inclusion as well as the Protection Mainstreaming Key Objective Indicator. Moreover, in all proposals and actions, DG ECHO must ensure that Accountability towards Affected Population (AAP) as well as other issues such as GBV mainstreaming, child safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse etc., are appropriately incorporated and operationalized. The development of a framework that attempts to consolidate several mainstreaming priorities could contribute to a better understanding of the different topics, especially the several similarities ultimately contributing to enhancing the quality of assistance.



# Introduction

Natural disasters and human-made crises are not gender neutral — they have a different impact on women, girls, men and boys. They have unique needs in these situations, and access to resources and services may not be the same for everyone. This is why the European Union’s humanitarian assistance must be sensitive to gender and age – not only to ensure the most vulnerable are given the help they need, but also to prevent risk such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid recognizes this need and the European Commission’s policy ‘Gender in Humanitarian aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance’ (2013)<sup>3</sup> stresses the importance of providing assistance that is tailored to the specific needs and capacities of each gender and age group.

To support effective gender and age-related commitments, DG ECHO introduced the Gender-Age Marker (GAM)<sup>4</sup> in 2014. The GAM improves the quality of humanitarian aid actions by fostering assistance that is more sensitive to the differentiated needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys. Consisting of four criteria: gender and age analysis / SADD; adapted assistance; negative effects; and adequate participation, it is assessed by both DG ECHO staff and the EU’s humanitarian partners throughout the project life cycle of: proposal; monitoring; and final report stage. Overall, the GAM creates a forum for the European Commission’s humanitarian staff and partners to constructively discuss gender and age issues in humanitarian projects, by tracking gender and age-sensitive actions and financial allocations, and by enabling DG ECHO to monitor its own performance in integrating gender and age.

This assessment looks at the application of the GAM to humanitarian actions with a starting date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2021. It follows two previous assessments, allowing for a comparison of the outcomes and providing valuable insights into the progress made by DG ECHO and partners in respect of gender and age sensitivity of DG ECHO funded humanitarian aid.

The information included in this report will be crucial to supporting the implementation of the recommendations provided by the Evaluation of the European Union’s DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document “Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance” of July 2013 (2014-2018)<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/Gender\\_SWD\\_2013.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/Gender_SWD_2013.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender\\_age\\_marker\\_toolkit.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_age_marker_toolkit.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-06/ade\\_gender\\_policy\\_evaluation\\_executive\\_summary\\_en\\_final.pdf](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-06/ade_gender_policy_evaluation_executive_summary_en_final.pdf)

# 1. Objective of the Assessment

This assessment reviews the use of the GAM from 2018 to 2021. The objective of the assessment is to provide insights into the progress made by DG ECHO and partners regarding gender and age sensitivity of humanitarian aid funded by DG ECHO, identify gaps and challenges and develop recommendations to overcome them over the next years.

This assessment examines the following:

- measure and compare the marks of 0, 1, 2 and N/A attributed to DG ECHO's actions with a start date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2021;
- examine the use of the GAM by both partners and DG ECHO staff;
- give an overview of the number of targeted actions funded by DG ECHO from 2018 to 2021; and
- ensure that challenges concerning the use of the GAM are systematically assessed and addressed in order to enhance gender and age integration in EU funded humanitarian actions.

By conducting a desk review, this assessment mainly analyses the quantitative data produced by the GAM's use for all project cycle stages by partners and DG ECHO staff in Brussels and in the field. Qualitative data was consulted to analyse the incorrectly marked actions. This assessment has been conducted by independent experts of the INSPIRE+ Consortium with the support of the DG ECHO Protection and Gender Working Group (ProGen)<sup>6</sup>.

## 2. Methodology

### QUANTITATIVE DATA

#### Desk review

A total of 1,652 DG ECHO actions with a starting date between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2021 were reviewed (538 in 2018, 472 in 2019, 445 in 2020 and 197 in 2021). The criteria used for the assessment were:

- a. proposal must have been funded between 2018 and 2021 Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs); and
- b. a final report must have been already submitted by partners to be able to assess all phases. 467 actions were removed, corresponding to actions for which the starting date was in 2022 and, therefore, the monitoring missions and final reports were not available at the time of drafting this assessment, as well as those actions for which a final report was neither assessed nor submitted.

By using data from previous assessments, a comparative analysis of the evolution of the use of the GAM since its introduction in 2014 was conducted, with specific attention to data from 2015, 2018 and 2021, in order to determine trends at three-year intervals for reliable comparisons.

<sup>6</sup> The DG ECHO Protection and Gender Working Group (ProGen) consists of the 8 thematic experts on Protection and Gender based in the DG ECHO regional field offices as well as the policy officer for Gender and Age based in Brussels.

To accurately evaluate the GAM's performance, the data set was modified to fix any incorrectly calculated marks (i.e. marks that did not correspond to the number of criteria sufficiently met or where no criteria was filled in but had a mark). In the process of correcting incorrectly marked actions, 61<sup>7</sup> actions had some or all criteria filled in but had no mark and, therefore, the final mark was added. In order to avoid a high number of incorrectly marked actions, the logic used was that a blank cell had been considered as not meeting the criteria, and therefore the final mark was manually added. Also, 72<sup>8</sup> actions had no criteria filled in but had a mark, and therefore the given mark was kept even if it was not supported by any explanation.

### Targeted actions

Certain actions concentrate exclusively on one or more specific gender or age group, rather than helping most or all people in a community (e.g. boys at risk of being recruited by armed groups). This data was used to calculate the degree to which Gender-Based Violence (GBV) actions were funded by DG ECHO.

### LIMITATIONS

1. Due to incorrectly calculated marks, some marks were calculated (scores not matching the number of criteria met), others remained as they were (marks given without proper consideration of the different criteria), and any missing data (N/A or blank) was excluded from the total data set used to create the graphs.
2. Regarding targeted actions, they are commonly defined as targeting a specific gender or age group, rather than providing assistance to the majority or all members of a community. While this definition of targeted actions entails a wide range of actions from different sectors, this assessment solely focuses on two of these dimensions, namely Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection.

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<sup>7</sup> More in detail, 25 actions in "RQ: Field Expert Mark", 23 actions in "NR: Field Expert Mark", and 13 actions in "FR: Field Expert Mark".

<sup>8</sup> Being 4 actions in "RQ: Field Expert Mark", 2 actions in "NR: Field Expert Mark", and actions in "FR: Field Expert Mark".

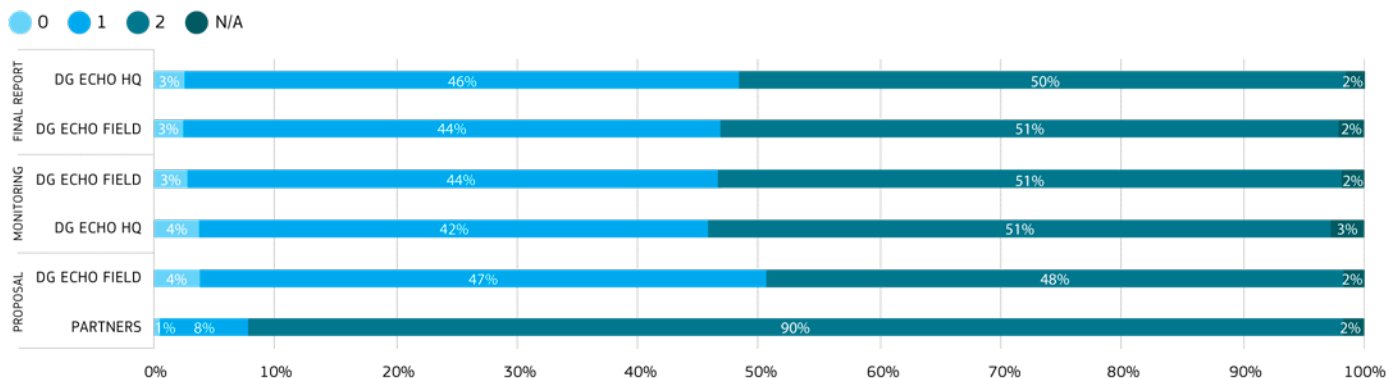
## 3. Marking from 2018 to 2021

### 3.1. OVERALL MARKING

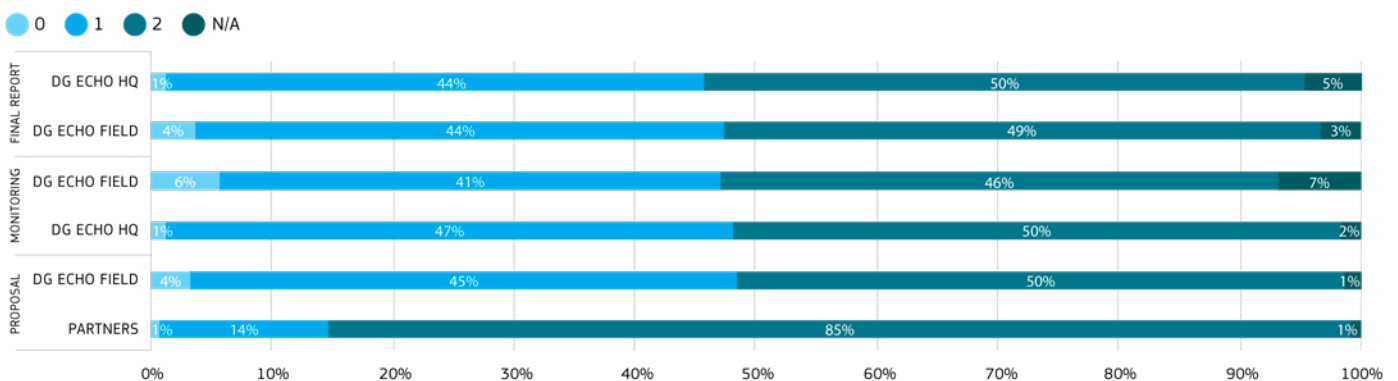
In this section the marks provided by DG ECHO and partners at each of the phases of the marking process (final report, monitoring and proposals) will be analysed, with a focus on the trend evolution in 2015, 2018 and 2021.

As explained in the Gender-Age Marker Toolkit, DG ECHO staff (field and headquarters) and partners have different roles at different stages of the project cycle management. In the graph below, this is why partners are only listed for the proposal stage, and DG ECHO headquarters staff only for proposal and final report. Note that for the projects at proposals stage, emergency actions have been excluded<sup>9</sup> according to the toolkit instructions, and that the mark that is considered relevant for statistical purposes is the mark that DG ECHO headquarters (HQ) staff gives at final report stage.

Graphic 5. Marks (in %) provided by partners and DG ECHO staff at all stages in 2021

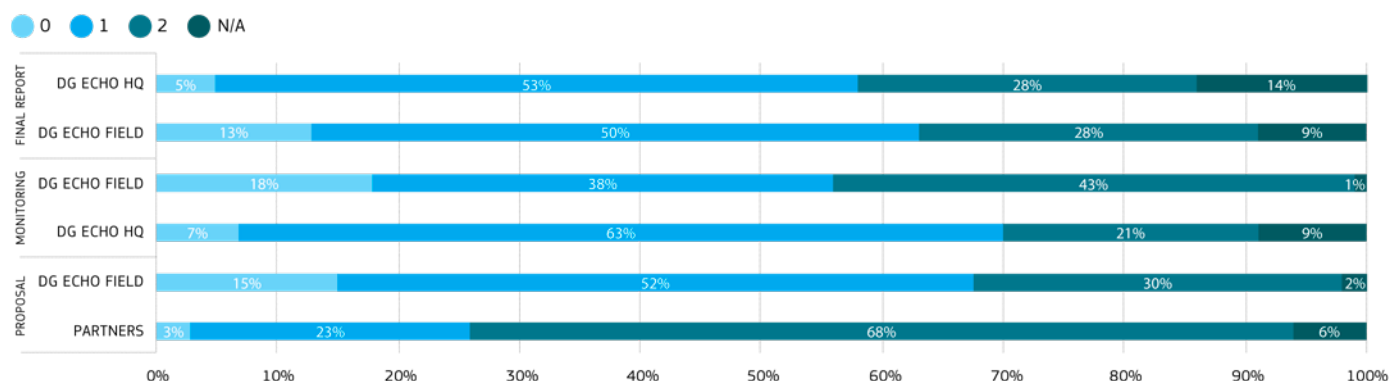


Graphic 6. Marks (in %) provided by partners and DG ECHO staff at all stages in 2018



<sup>9</sup> When dealing with 'Emergency' actions, partners and DG ECHO staff mark urgent actions and actions undertaken under emergency decisions for gender and age only when the final report is submitted. There are actions that have not been marked or marked as 'N/A' at the Request stage, and are therefore taken out of the sample since it is not mandatory to mark them. In more detail, 207 actions have been removed (77 actions in "RQ: Partner Initial Mark", 3 actions in "RQ: Field Expert Mark", and actions in "RQ: Desk Officer Mark").

Graphic 7. Marks (in %) provided by partners and DG ECHO staff at all stages in 2015



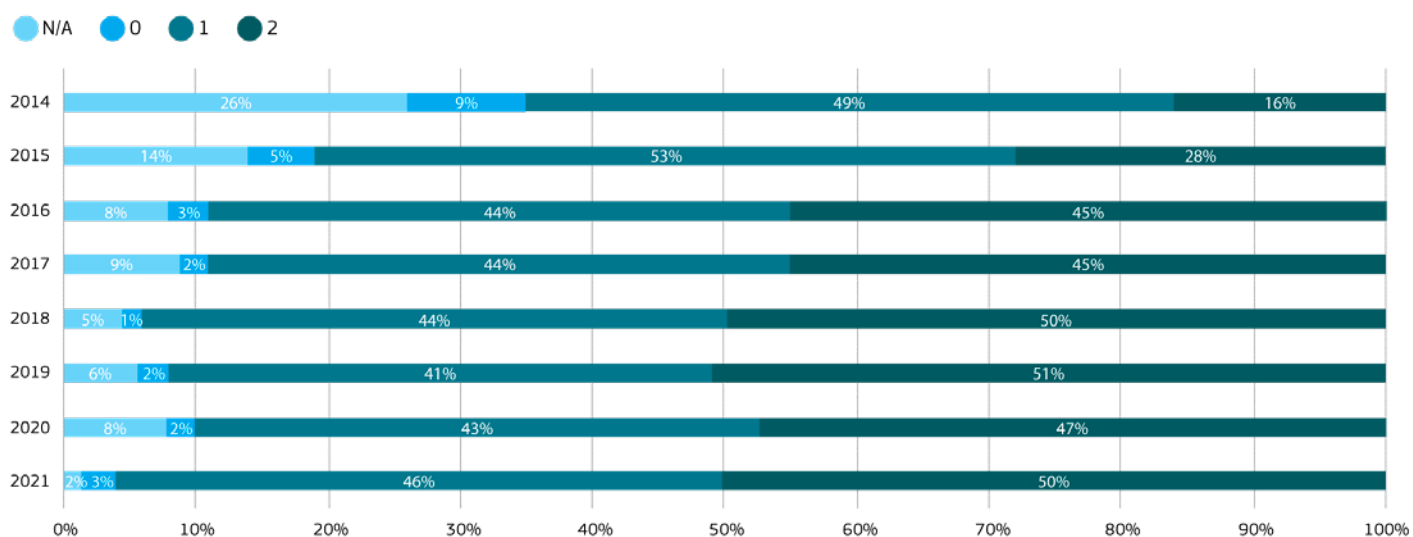
Partners have consistently been more generous in their self-assessment when compared with the ratings provided by DG ECHO staff. In the benchmark years under assessment, partners gave the highest score (mark 2), while DG ECHO staff marks 2 have increased mainly at the monitoring and final report phase. The gaps between partners' self-assessments and DG ECHO assessments have gradually decreased over time.

There has been a constant trend of a general increase in the number of **proposals** marked with 2 by DG ECHO staff. The percentage has increased significantly from 30% in 2015 to 48% in 2021 for the field experts, and from 21% in 2015 to 51% in 2021 in the case of the HQ.

At **monitoring stage**<sup>10</sup>, the trend has been remarkably consistent over the benchmark years, with a progressive increase in Marks 2 with 43% in 2015, 46% in 2018 and 51% in 2021. This is considered an extremely positive finding as "monitoring stage" is the only stage where implementation (ie actual activity) is assessed.

With regard to the **final report marks** allocated by DG ECHO staff, there has been a constant increase of around a 20% in the use of mark 2. In the case of DG ECHO HQ, being the statistically relevant marks, there has been no variation from 2018 to 2021 (50% in both years) while marks given by DG ECHO field have been steadily increasing (28% in 2015, 49% in 2018 and 51% in 2021).

Graphic 8. Final report marks: % of actions integrating gender and age considerations 2014- 2021



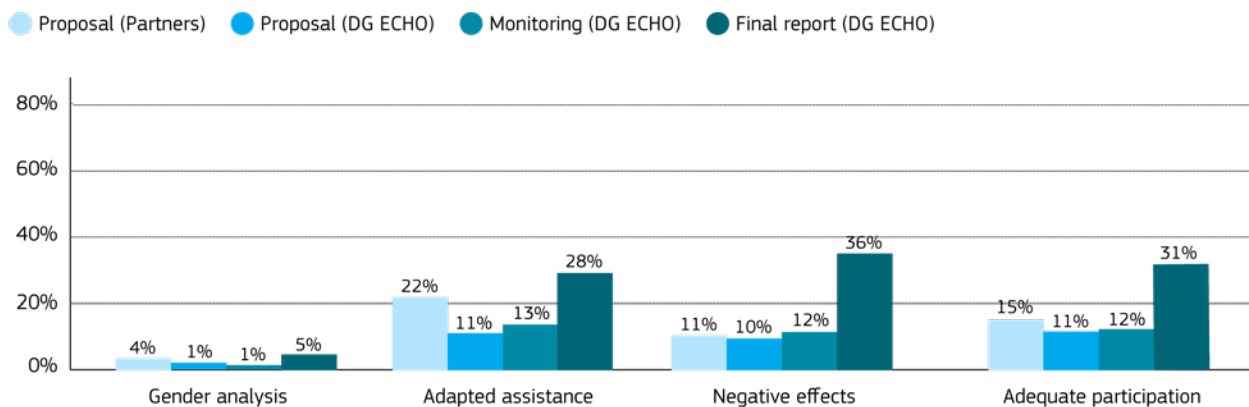
<sup>10</sup> At monitoring stage, DG ECHO staff conduct field visits to observe the progress made by a project on the ground. On the basis of these monitoring visits, DG ECHO staff assign a mark to each action, which can either confirm or change the mark provided at proposal stage.

Focusing on the final report marks provided by DG ECHO staff at HQ, the change from 2014 to 2021 shows a progressive decrease of marks 1 and N/A, but an increase in marks 2. Since 2018 at least 90% of projects are considered to integrate gender and age to a certain extent<sup>11</sup> (94% in 2018, 92% in 2019, 90% in 2020 and 96% in 2021) as shown in the graph above.

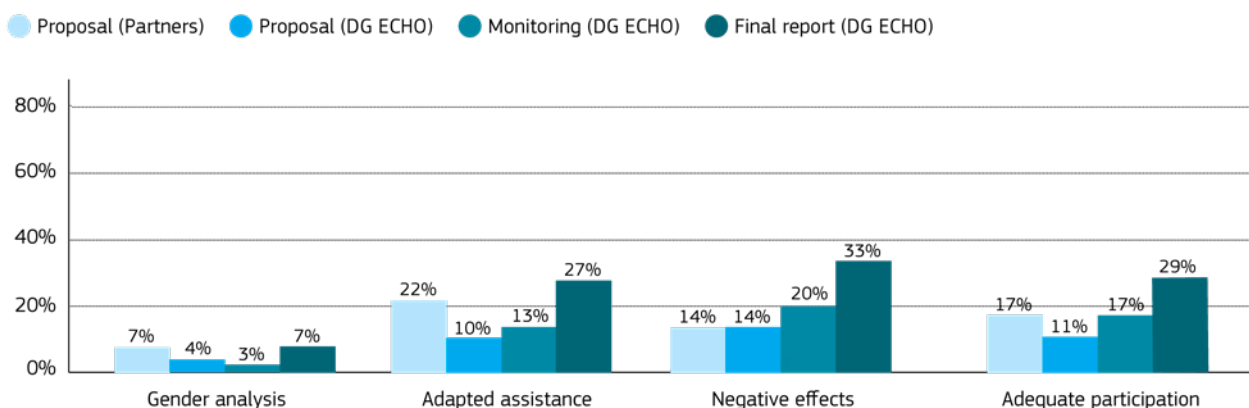
### Marking According to Different Criteria

Examining the individual criteria of the GAM allows us to evaluate which aspects of gender and age integration are better comprehended than others, and subsequently highlighting challenging areas. It is crucial to remember that the overall score is determined based on feedback from partners and DG ECHO field staff for each of the four criteria, marked as either «Yes» or «Not sufficiently.» By studying the individual criteria, it can better assess which areas of gender and age integration are well understood, and which require further investment. Most proposals and actions received positive reviews from both partners and DG ECHO. Therefore, these graphs only provide information on criteria that have been considered “Not sufficiently met” for the benchmark years under assessment (2015, 2018 and 2021), so that key challenges can be identified and better addressed.

Graphic 9. “Not sufficiently” marks provided by partners and DG ECHO staff to each criterion in 2021 (in %)

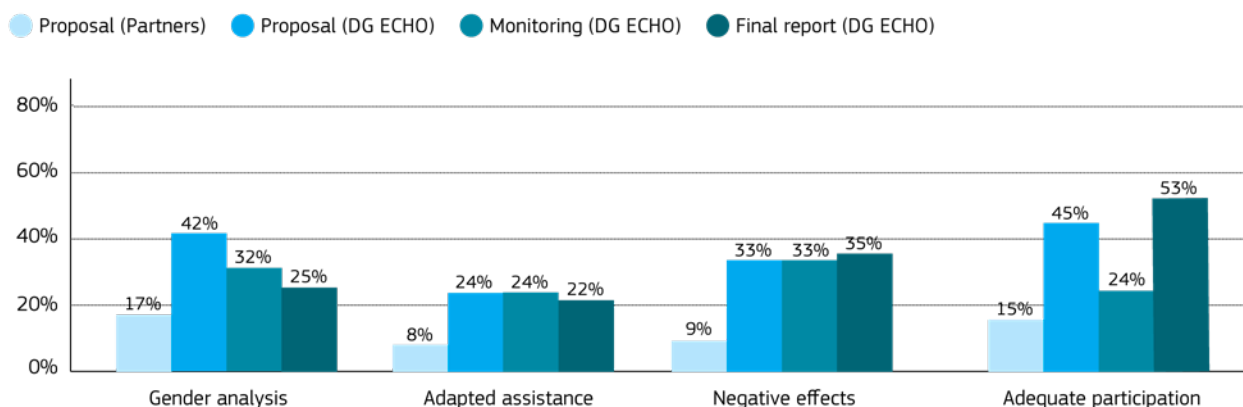


Graphic 10. “Not sufficiently” marks provided by partners and DG ECHO staff to each criterion in 2018 (in %)



<sup>11</sup> Actions marked either 1 or 2 by DG ECHO staff at HQ.

Graphic 11. “Not sufficiently” marks provided by partners and DG ECHO staff to each criterion in 2015 (in %)



- Criterion 1 (Gender analysis/SADD): is the area where the greatest improvement has been made and is especially significant at proposal and monitoring stages.
- Criterion 2 (Adapted assistance): 2018 and 2021 data show that partners started rating themselves lower than DG ECHO at proposal, but during the final report assessment, DG ECHO field align their mark with what was given by partners at the proposal phase.
- Both Criterion 3 (Negative effects) and Criterion 4 (Adequate participation): have generally improved from 2018 onwards except for the final report mark of DG ECHO field that remains the highest.

In general terms, the average of the scores obtained shows that: in 2015 the least met criterion was Criterion 4 (Adequate participation) at 34%; in 2018 it was Criterion 3 (Negative effects) at 22%; and, in 2021 Criterion 2 (Adapted assistance) at 18%. As there is no general trend in the marking of criteria in the different phases, it could mean that actions undertaken following the other assessment reports have produced positive effects and that dialogue needs to continue between DG ECHO and partners on each criterion individually.

### 3.2. CONSISTENT AND CORRECT MARKING<sup>12</sup>

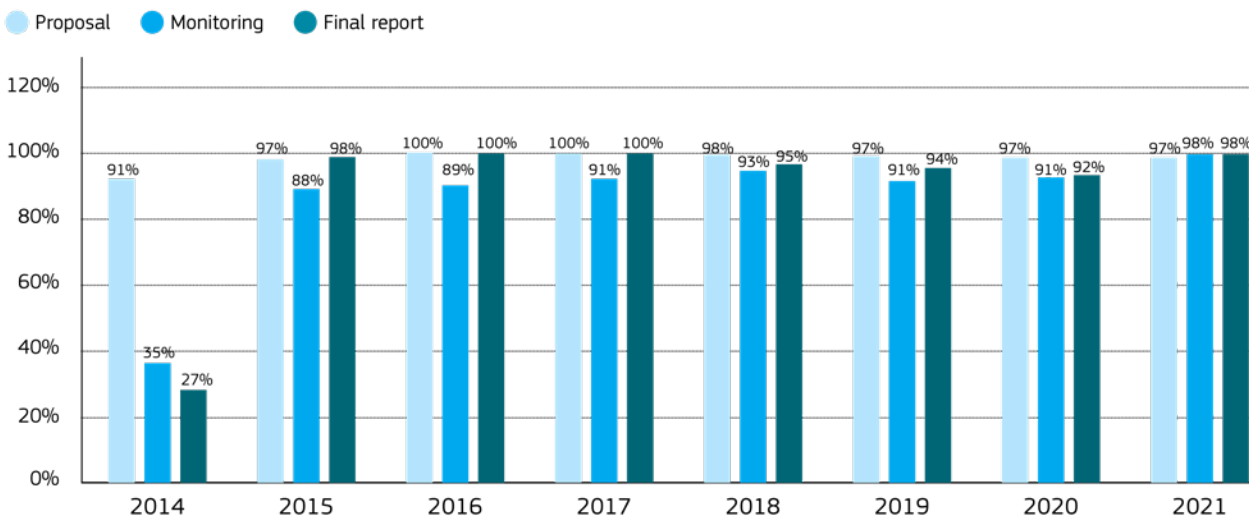
This section presents findings on consistency and correct marking from 2018 to 2021 in each of the different phases by both partners and DG ECHO staff.

Table 1. Percentage of marked actions in 2018-2021

	MARK PROPOSAL STAGE				MARK MONITORING STAGE				MARK FINAL REPORT STAGE			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
PARTNERS	99%	98%	99%	98%								
DG ECHO FIELD	99%	98%	97%	98%	93%	90%	91%	98%	97%	94%	94%	98%
DG ECHO DESK	98%	97%	97%	97%					95%	94%	92%	98%

As of 2021, 98% of DG ECHO funded humanitarian actions have been marked by all actors at all phases of the project cycle. This represents a great improvement compared with 2015. This achievement might be explained by the fact that, while the GAM was integrated into DG ECHO and partners IT system (APPEAL) in July 2014, following the findings of the first assessment, the GAM was made mandatory for DG ECHO field and HQ staff in July 2017 and has further enhanced the accuracy of marking, with a near perfect score of almost 100%.

Graphic 12. Actions marked (by DG ECHO HQ staff for proposal and final report, and DG ECHO field staff for monitoring report) 2014-2021



A review of the past eight years has revealed an improvement in the consistency of the marking process, as the GAM was made mandatory in the IT system in July 2014. In general terms, the trend of correct marking at proposal and final report stages has been positive, with very high scores. On the other hand, monitoring has seen a steady increase from 2015 until 2020, culminating in a 7% rise in 2021 reaching 98%, thus reflecting how this issue has been taken into account by DG ECHO field staff in the last few years. This is considered to be an extremely positive finding, as monitoring stage DG ECHO staff and partners discuss an in-person visit to the action in the field and are therefore able to assess how gender and age have been robustly integrated in humanitarian assistance.

<sup>12</sup> See footnote 7..



Table 2. Correctly marked actions in 2018-2021

	MARK PROPOSAL STAGE				MARK MONITORING STAGE				MARK FINAL REPORT STAGE			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
PARTNERS	99%	98%	99%	98%								
DG ECHO FIELD	99%	98%	97%	98%	93%	90%	91%	98%	97%	93%	91%	97%

Analysis of the narrative comments provided by partners and DG ECHO staff, shows that the primary concerns expressed about the GAM's inapplicability are linked to:

- a. the sector (coordination, logistics and services for the humanitarian community – UNHAS);
- b. the target audience/beneficiaries (organizations such as OCHA and INGOs, rather than individuals);
- c. the fact that despite some advancements in addressing gender and age-related issues, further improvements are needed to utilize the GAM effectively, that is, the use of sex and gender disaggregated data in the final questionnaire.

## 4. Targeted actions

To address specific gender-related vulnerabilities, needs or risks — especially when one group is more exposed than others — activities targeting that specific group, rather than providing assistance to most or all members of a community, may be deemed necessary. Previous assessments have shown that the particular part of the **e-single form** which would provide this data (ie Section 5.3 “Does the proposed action provide a specific targeted response for groups or individuals with specific vulnerabilities?”) has often been misused by partners to demonstrate that their interventions targeted all vulnerable people.

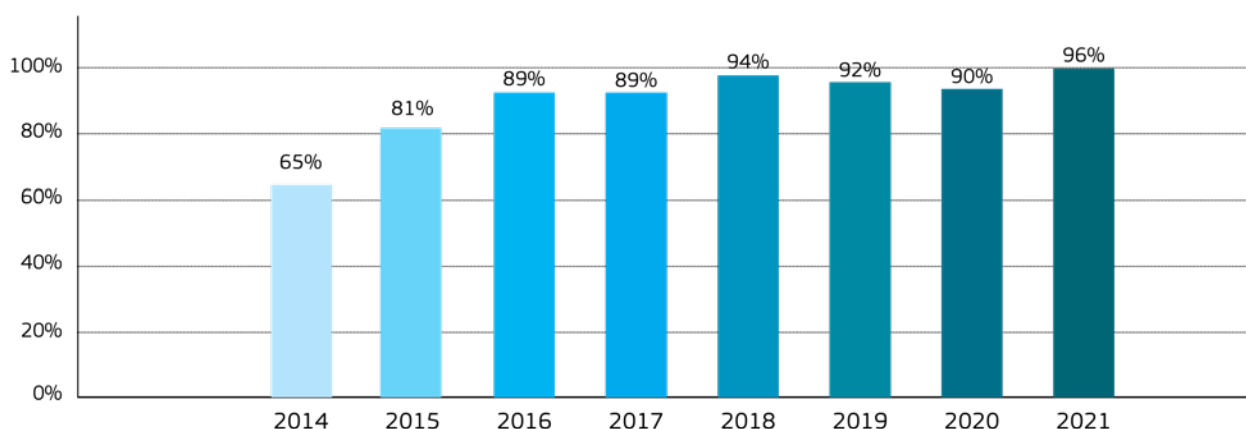
In 2018, approximately EUR 26.8 million was allocated to sexual and gender-based violence, in 2019 approximately EUR 30 million, in 2020 EUR 27.6 million and in 2021 EUR 38.4million. While this shows a general increase from 2018 to 2021, amounts fluctuate. This can be explained by DG ECHO's funding allocation process, which for the vast majority of funding is allocated using a needs-based approach as elaborated in DG ECHO's Humanitarian Implementation Plans.

# Conclusions

## 1. A CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER AND AGE CONSIDERATIONS INTO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Since 2018, a significant increase has been observed in the final scores compared with the previous evaluation period: reaching, in 2021, 96% of all initiatives funded by DG ECHO integrating gender and age elements either 'strongly' (grade 2) or 'moderately' (grade 1). A general increase from 2018 to 2021, amounts fluctuate. This can be explained by DG ECHO's funding allocation process, which for the vast majority of funding is allocated against geographical Humanitarian Implementation Plans and on the basis of need.

Graphic 13. % of actions that integrate gender and age considerations (mark '1' or '2' in Gender-Age Marker) 2014-2021



## 2. DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SUCCESS IN MEETING THE GAM'S FOUR CRITERIA

Looking at each criterion, it's noticeable that Criterion 1 (Gender analysis) is where the greatest improvement has been made in all phases progressively during the benchmark years of assessment. The criterion that was least met was: Criterion 4 (Adequate participation) in 2015; Criterion 3 (Negative effects) in 2018; and Criterion 3 (Negative effects) in 2021. This shows that there is no pattern in the evolution of use of the GAM in each criterion. In other words, as findings showed that all criteria were mostly met, there are no specific criteria that need targeted actions to address specific challenges.

## 3. DISCREPANCY BETWEEN MARKING BY DG ECHO AND ITS PARTNERS<sup>13</sup>

A divergence in the marking between the DG ECHO personnel and its humanitarian partners persisted over time, as it shows the assessment presented from 2014 to 2021.

With regard to marks 0, although it has decreased over the eight years of assessment by DG ECHO and its partners, especially notable since the introduction of the GAM in 2014<sup>14</sup>, in 2021 there was an increase in them, mainly from DG ECHO staff.

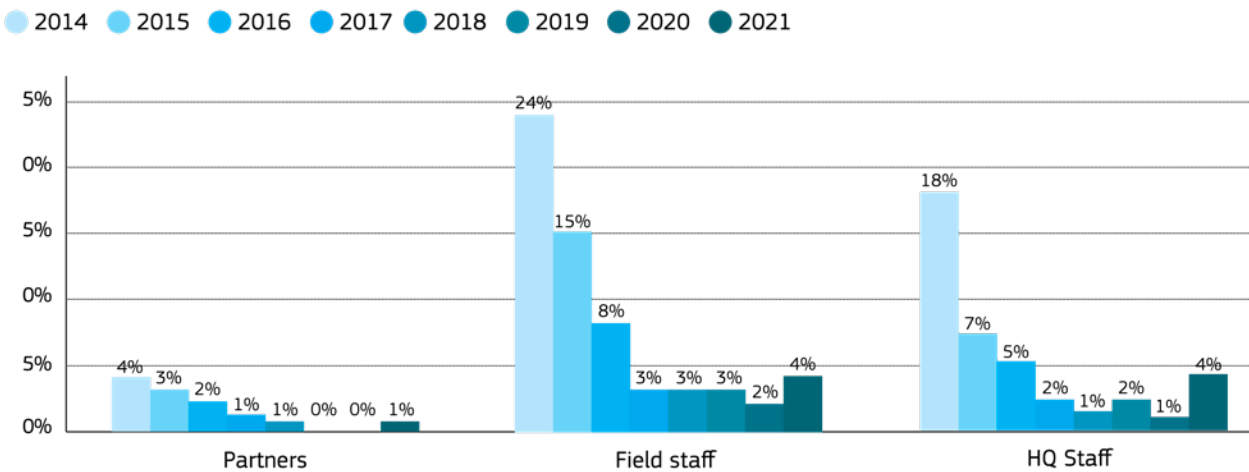
In general terms, the data results suggest that partners are the most generous while marking, as their proposals had the fewest marks 1 and gradually declining, and the most noteworthy rate of marks 2 on a constant rise, reaching 90% in 2021. In other words, there was a massive increase in marks 2 with a resulting decrease of marks 0, 1 and N/A.

<sup>13</sup> This assessment can only be done at proposal stage, where partners and DG ECHO staff both at field and in HQ provide marks.

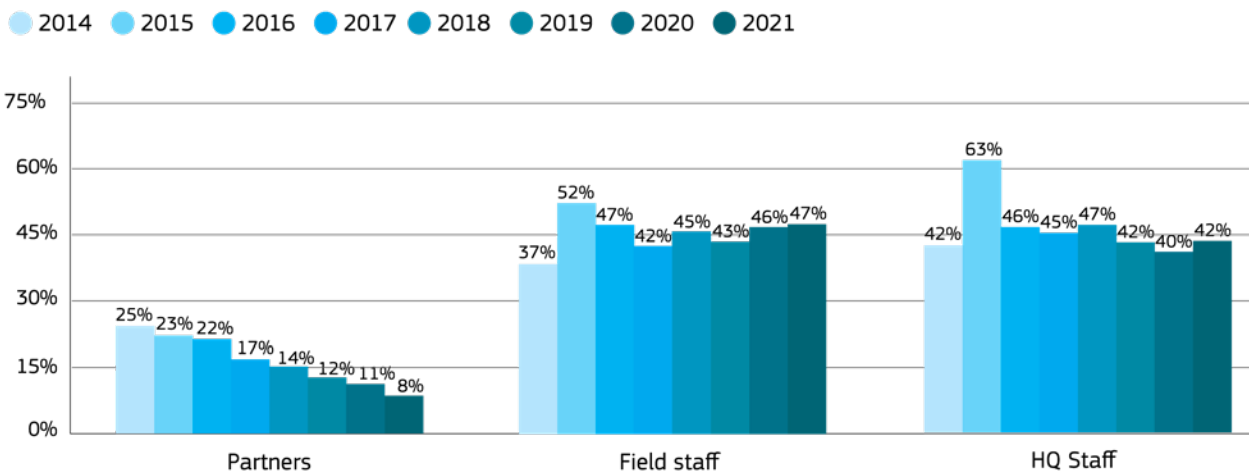
<sup>14</sup> The Gender-Age Marker only became mandatory in July 2014.

The percentage of actions marked as not applicable, or that barely integrate gender and age (ie Mark 0), have sharply decreased in favour of actions that strongly integrate gender and age (ie Mark 2). This data point shows both an improved quality of actions as well as a better understanding and use of the GAM. Overall, the data indicates that the gap still exists, but that it is gradually narrowing. This aligns with the understanding that incorporating gender and age is an ongoing process, and the GAM serves the purpose of evaluating this progress. The graphs below show the trends highlighted above in terms of the use of the GAM from 2014 to 2021.

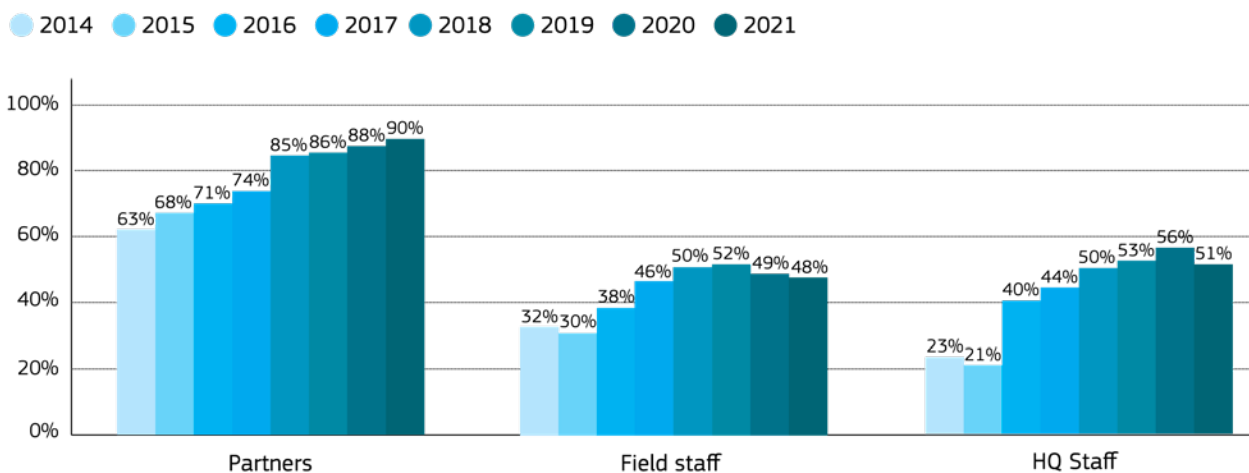
Graphic 14. % of proposals marked with '0' 2014-2021



Graphic 15. % of proposals marked with '1' 2014-2021



Graphic 16. % of proposals marked with '2' 2014-2021



#### 4. CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT IN CORRECT AND CONSISTENT MARKING

The GAM was integrated into the IT system in July 2014 and, since then, the consistency of marking at both proposal and final report stages has been remarkable. Making the GAM mandatory for DG ECHO field and HQ staff in July 2017 has further enhanced the accuracy of marking, with a near perfect score of almost 100%. In general terms, the trend of correct marking at proposal and final report stages has been positive, with very high scores. On the other hand, monitoring has seen a steady increase from 2015 to 2020, culminating in a 7% rise in 2021 reaching 98%, and reflecting how this issue has been taken into account by DG ECHO field staff in the last few years.

## Recommendations

### 1. INCREASE ADVOCACY AND CLARIFICATION TOWARDS PARTNERS

DG ECHO must continue to ensure that its staff and partners implement the GAM process correctly to enhance the integration of gender and age in humanitarian aid funded by DG ECHO. This can be achieved by increasing advocacy and providing systematic feedback at all stages of project cycle. The emphasis should be on continuing to foster an in-depth understanding of the GAM process among staff and partners countering the risk for the tool to become a mere tick-the-box exercise.

### 2. IMPROVE THE IT SYSTEM WITH REGARD TO MISSING INFORMATION

The IT system (e-single form) should be improved so as not to allow cells to be left blank in one of the criteria – all criteria should be mandatory – and the final mark should be generated automatically. This would avoid the high number of incorrectly marked actions.

Moreover, partners should be given the possibility to provide a mark at both proposal and reporting stages, aiming at further enhancing dialogue between DG ECHO staff and partners on issues related to gender and age integration.

### 3. RATIONALIZE MAINSTREAMING REQUIREMENTS

Since the introduction of the GAM in 2014, DG ECHO has developed the Humanitarian Protection policy, the Guidance on Disability inclusion as well as the Protection Mainstreaming Key Objective Indicator. Moreover, in all proposals and actions, DG ECHO must ensure that Accountability towards Affected Population (AAP) as well as other issues such as GBV mainstreaming, child safeguarding, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse etc are appropriately incorporated and operationalized. The development of a framework that attempts to consolidate several mainstreaming priorities could contribute to a better understanding of the different topics, especially the several similarities ultimately contributing to enhancing the quality of assistance.







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