This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 2


**Action Document for Call for Proposals: Promoting Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' empowerment in developing countries**

**INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS**

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS**

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections concerning calls for proposals: 5.3 where the implementation modality 5.3.1.1. “Grants – call for proposals (direct management)” has been used.

| 1. Title/basic act/CRIS number | Call for Proposals: Promoting Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' empowerment in developing countries
|                              | CRIS number: HUM/2017/39577
|                              | Financed under Development Cooperation Instrument |
| 2. Zone benefiting from the action/location | Global: Developing countries
|                              | The actions shall be carried out in developing countries and regions |
| 4. Sector of concentration/thematic area | Human Development - Gender equality
|                              | DEV. Aid: YES |
| 5. Amounts concerned | Total estimated cost: EUR 33 833 000
|                              | Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 30 450 000
|                              | The contribution is for an amount of EUR 30 450 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2017, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget.
|                              | This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 3 383 000. |
| 6. Aid modality(ies) | Project Modality
|                              | Direct management: Grants – call for proposal |
and implementation modality(ies)

7  a) DAC code(s)  15170 – Women's equality organisations and institutions

b) Main Delivery Channel  Official Development Aid (ODA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</th>
<th>General policy objective</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Main objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participation development/good governance</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aid to environment</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender equality (including Women In Development)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trade Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RIO Convention markers</strong></td>
<td>Not targeted</td>
<td>Significant objective</td>
<td>Main objective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological diversity</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Combat desertification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change mitigation</td>
<td>☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>☒</td>
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</table>

9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships

| NA |

**SUMMARY**

Within the broader context of the implementation of the Gender Action Plan II (GAP II), the Commission intends to promote initiatives to fight against **all forms of discrimination and violence** against women and girls, as defined in the three thematic priorities of the GAP II, which include physical and psychological violence, but also economic discrimination and exclusion from decision making processes. The objective is to maximise its impact and contribution to fight for women and girls’ rights, especially for those women and girls that have been the most "left behind".

This action therefore concerns a call for proposals to contribute to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in developing countries by promoting civil society organisations' role and effectiveness to work in this area.

The overall objective of the call is to contribute to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in geographically remote or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced in developing countries.
The specific objective is to reinforce the technical and financial capacity of local CSOs to foster rights of women and girls living in the most remote areas or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced, and to implement related activities. This call is relevant for the Agenda 2030, contributing primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

Innovative partnering, associating multiple stakeholders/partners, will be supported from this call to help civil society organisations (CSO) which are operating in the most remote areas or isolated communities or working with refugees or internally displaced, to develop their technical and financial capacities to work on improving gender equality and women's empowerment in the target communities. Thematic priority is given to actions in the areas of all forms of sexual and gender based violence as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences.

The call will be launched in the first quarter of 2017.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Thematic area

Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are enshrined in different international conventions and commitments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Programme for Action and the MDGs, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The past year has marked a political momentum in the international community with the adoption of the new development goals: Transforming Our World - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda includes gender specific goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) as well as targets in other goals that are contributing to ensuring that gender equality and girls’ and women’s rights are fulfilled and that empowering action is adequately supported through galvanised efforts of the new development Agenda.

Globally, significant progress has been made towards achieving gender equality and girls’ and women’s empowerment1: Girls’ access to primary education and women’s economic empowerment have all significantly improved during the last decennia. Many more girls are now in school compared to 15 years ago and the developing regions as a whole have achieved the target to eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education. In Southern Asia, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 1990 whereas today, 103 girls are enrolled for every 100 boys. Women now make up 41 per cent of paid workers outside the agricultural sector, an increase from 35 per cent in 1990. The proportion of women in vulnerable employment as a share of total female employment has declined 13 percentage points between 1991 and 2015. In contrast, vulnerable employment among men fell by 9 percentage points. Women have gained ground in parliamentary

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representation in nearly 90 per cent of the 174 countries with data over the past 20 years. The average proportion of women in parliament has nearly doubled during the same period. Yet still only one in five members is women.

More women have access to health care services and modern methods of contraception and less die in childbirth. Globally an estimated 210 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births occurred in 2013, a decline from 1990, when 380 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births were recorded. In developing regions, the proportion of deliveries attended by trained health personnel rose from 59% in 1990 to 71% in 2014.²

Nonetheless, the level of achievement has been uneven across regions and within countries. Worldwide, girls and women continue to be systematically left behind and discriminated against. Women typically experience higher levels of poverty than men do³; this is also evidenced by Eurostat data available for the EU Member States.

Persistent, and in some cases unprecedented, violations of women’s rights occur on a daily basis. Conflict exacerbates the situation. Rape is used as a weapon of war. Women and girls are being trafficked, enslaved and even sold as merchandise. Harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) continue to exist; more than 125 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to FGM in Africa and the Middle East.⁴

In many countries, young women are less likely than young men to be in paid work, education or training.⁵ They are also less likely to complete secondary education. Women still do not earn the same wages as men and do not have the same access to, or control over, productive resources such as land.

Social norms lock girls and women into unequal power relations, leaving many girls and women with little control over decisions that affect their lives, be it at household, community or national level. Discriminatory laws, practices or norms often limit girls’ and women’s social, economic and political participation. The gender gap is even larger when gender inequality intersects with other forms of exclusion such as disability, age, caste, ethnicity, sexual orientation, geographical remoteness or religion.

There is still a long way to go. Not only must progress be accelerated but achievements to date need safeguarding against any deterioration or backlash.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

Equality between men and women is at the core of values of the European Union (EU) and enshrined in its legal and political framework.⁶

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⁴ FGM, WHO Fact sheet, No. 241, February 2014. In the EU, the figure of 500,000 victims is commonly cited – see "Towards the elimination of female genital mutilation", COM(2013) 833 final, 25.11.2013

⁵ OECD, Closing the Gender Gap: Act Now (2012a)

The EU Gender Action Plan, *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020*, \(^7\) reiterates the EU commitment to breaking the vicious cycle of gender discrimination. The EU aims at a world where the rights of girls and women are claimed, valued and respected by all, and where everyone is able to fulfil their potential and contribute to a more fair and just society for all. It believes that:

- Women’s empowerment is a question of democracy and good governance. Strengthening women’s voice and participation at all levels of society can have significant positive impacts. It can facilitate peace, reconstruction and state building processes.
- Gender equality is about the realisation of human rights for all. Ignoring the systematic and consistent discrimination of half of the world’s population is unethical and a breach of fundamental rights.
- There are clear moral and ethical reasons to promote gender equality in all spheres of life as there is growing evidence that it is a fundamental ingredient of development that is socially, economically and ecologically sustainable.
- Gender equality and girls’ and women’s empowerment are part of the formula for economic progress. Girls’ and women’s economic empowerment is a driver of development that addresses poverty, reduces inequalities and improves development outcomes.
- Promoting gender equality and shifting norms and value-sets that limit girls and boys, women and men, from fulfilling their potential, are mutually reinforcing processes. They challenge deeply rooted structural inequalities to benefit society as a whole.
- In fragile, conflict and emergency situations, it is essential to take gender and age differentiations into account to adopt effective and high quality programmes.

To deliver on this vision, the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 focuses on four pivotal areas - three thematic and one horizontal area on institutional changes of EU services. The three thematic areas for action are:

1. **Ensuring the physical and psychological integrity:**
   Eliminating all forms of violence against girls and women and of gender-based violence (e.g. through access to justice and strengthening child protection systems); Eradicating trafficking of girls and women; Ending sexual violence and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and in humanitarian crises; Increasing access by girls and women of all ages to quality, affordable health care services; Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights, including sexuality education; Improving girls’ and women’s nutrition levels, especially during key life cycle moments; Eliminating the phenomenon of gender-based sex selection, female infanticide and son preference through promoting equal opportunities for girls and women; Ending child, early and forced marriages.

2. **Promoting Economic and Social Rights and Empowerment of Girls and Women:**
   Increasing the number of girls and women receiving quality education at primary, secondary and tertiary level, including in science, technology and engineering, and receiving vocational, professional and/or entrepreneurial training; Improving access by women of all ages to decent work and to the national social protection floors; Women’s equal access to financial services,

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and to the use of, and control over, land and other productive resources, as well as support to women entrepreneurs; Improving girls’ and women’s access to, use of, and control over, clean water, energy, information and communication technology and transport infrastructure.

3. Strengthening Girls’ and Women's Voice and Participation:
Women’s increased participation in policy, governance and electoral processes at all levels; Empowering girls’ and women’s organisations and human rights defenders; Supporting agents of change working to shift negative social or cultural norms, including the media, women’s grassroots organisations and the active involvement of men and boys; Women’s increased participation in decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues.

The multi-annual indicative programme of the Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme\(^8\), which is the programming document covering this intended call for proposals, foresees in its objective for Gender to promote global and regional alliances of relevant stakeholders, innovative partnerships, policy debates and the exchange of experience and good practices in the area of gender equality, women's empowerment, girls' and women's rights.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The final beneficiaries of the actions resulting from this call for proposals are families and communities, especially women and girls, but also boys and men, living in geographically remote or isolated communities, refugee camps or who are internally displaced. They will benefit from actions and services provided to them by capacitated civil society organisation (CSO) and improved gender equality and development of their communities.

The direct beneficiaries and stakeholders are local civil society organisations, especially women's rights groups and those working with women and girls, which are benefitting from the re-granting scheme to conduct their actions and are receivers of capacity building and peer assistance on their work to improve gender equality. Civil society and other organisations as applicants to this call and managing the re-granting scheme and providing the capacity building to local organisations are also beneficiaries.

In addition, projects from the re-granting scheme will also involve local authorities and decision makers of different sectors as well as other existing providers at relevant level (local and regional level) for improved coordination and complementarity. These other stakeholders include for instance schools and education boards, providers of health and social services and the related authorities, legal and judicial service providers, Traditional Courts and police. Media, bodies providing entrepreneurial and vocational training or rehabilitation, traditional and religious leaders, youth groups, boys and men as vectors for women's empowerment, and opinion leaders are also stakeholders to the actions.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Gender equality and women's empowerment requires action at all levels of society. Assistance to the government in policy reforms, endorsing and implementing legislation that is conducive for gender equality is often best supported through policy dialogue and bilateral cooperation

programmes. However, many actions, especially to change cultural perceptions on gender roles, gender-based violence and low value given for women in general, require work also at the grassroots level involving local organisations and communities themselves. This also means working with young people who currently make the majority of population in many developing countries and provides a window of opportunity for a norm change within their generation. Involvement of men and boys as well as traditional leaders and opinion makers is essential for acceptance of gender equality and women's empowerment.

CSOs have an important role to play also in voicing the concerns and needs of marginalised and vulnerable population groups at district, regional or national level and pushing for reforms or, vice versa, paving the way for implementing reforms at community level by creating supportive environment and increasing acceptance for instance for legislations changing women's traditional roles, or supporting government in its efforts to deliver essential services and benefits for all its citizens. In other words, CSOs are essential in the democratic process towards gender equality.

In many developing countries local civil society organisations may have a lack of financial and technical resources and a low capacity to effectively pursue advocacy work on gender equality, run campaigns or engage in policy work with the public sector and decision makers. They can be particularly weak in using research based methods in gathering evidence base as well as lack the capacity to apply for external funding and manage donor funds and the related procedures. Furthermore, CSOs ability to act and work on sensitive gender issues can be very different from one country to another not only depending on the level of development but also on many cultural and political factors which influence the way CSO can be visible, for instance in bringing issues into a public debate or providing essential services.

This capacity and experience of policy dialogue exist among many bigger or international civil society organisations and can be transferred to the benefit of local CSOs with facilitated innovative partnership and cooperation programmes, providing opportunities for tutoring and peer assistance, for exchange of experiences and lessons learned and for providing financial management support.

Innovative partnering to this end, associating multiple stakeholders/partners, will be supported from this call to help CSOs which are operating in the most remote areas or isolated communities or working with refugees or internally displaced, in developing their capacity and delivering their services. Thematic priority is given to actions in the areas of sexual and gender based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

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9 Internal Displaced are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border." Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.1, February 11, New York: United Nations.

10 In accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the outcomes of their review conferences’
2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks</th>
<th>Risk level (H/M/L)</th>
<th>Mitigating measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low interest among INGOs (applicants) to get involve in redistribution of grants to local CSOs due to the financial risk and complexity of oversight.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Foresee and accept in proposals increased allocation of funds for management costs of redistribution of grants and for monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk and costs of re-granting scheme and related management and oversight</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Encourage recruitment of well experienced financial experts in projects and to include training for re-grantees on financial management, monitoring and evaluation. The overall benefit in terms of getting better the support to the grassroots organisations and to final beneficiaries overcomes the additional costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of sustainability of support services beyond the lifetime of the programme</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Development of a sustainability plan for each project. In particular encourage building and strengthening of linkages with existing (governmental) structures where appropriate from start of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of direct contact at the implementation level due to 'externalisation' of small grants management to applicants.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Monitoring system of grants (and the redistribution of grants) is established using support measures. External Mid-term (and final) evaluations are done by the EC. Conference(s) between contract holders and re-grantees is/are organised to exchange and share lesson learned.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumptions

- Existence of enabling conditions to allow Civil Society Organisations to register and deliver programmes on gender and women's empowerment.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The EU has used a wide range of external assistance modalities to better reach women and girls, such as budget support, support to civil society organisations and thematic interventions.

In the period 2007-2013, the EU committed an amount of around EUR 1.258 billion to activities targeted at improving gender equality and girls’ and women’s empowerment.
Provisional OECD data shows that in 2014, 39% of the EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) considered gender dimensions as either a significant or principal objective.

The EU support to the health sector in partner countries strongly focuses on the strengthening of national health systems and tackling inequality in access to essential services, which also covers sexual and reproductive health including family planning and appropriate sexuality education. From 2008 to 2013 the EU provided EUR 2.9 billion for health aid to third countries. In the same period the EU aid contributed to programmes and projects specifically targeting maternal and new-born child health and sexual and reproductive health by EUR 1.8 billion.

The EU policy, the Gender Action Plan for the period 2010-2015 (GAP I) and its subsequent Plan for the period 2016-2020 (GAP II), highlight the importance for EU dialogue to benefit from the input of CSOs, including women’s organisations and other relevant stakeholders, such as the UN. These organisations are an important part of the national context and for effective cooperation it is important that EU at HQ and local level are not only in touch with but also work closely with external partners to drive change for gender equality. Despite this policy priority, the independent evaluation of the EU Gender Action Plan for the period 2010-2015 (GAP I) showed that CSOs have been consulted and involved in the delivering gender equality only in a limited way.

The evaluation also found that there is evidence that the EU has contributed to improvements in the lives of girls and women, such as their increased access to basic services including education and health. Though much has been done to improve gender equality in EU cooperation, the full extent of the EU’s financial investment in gender equality, as well as the results achieved, have not systematically been measured. Moreover, measuring and quantifying financial investment and results is difficult because most often they take the form of mainstreaming gender equality in many types of different interventions across sectors.

In order to underline the importance of working with CSO in the wider development context to further GEWE objectives and the vital part that CSOs embody in that context, the Commission decided to reinforce these links by targeted call for proposal in support of CSOs.

### 3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

Gender is mainstreamed in all EU external cooperation including bilateral programmes and thematic instruments. To this end the Action will act in complementarity with other Programmes and Instruments namely the thematic programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities, the European Instruments for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the thematic programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges and it’s other themes beyond Gender, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the Partnership Instrument, the European Neighbourhood Instrument, the Pan-African Programme, projects supported by

11 Calculated according to the Muskoka method, the contributions include funding from other sectors such as education and food security. [http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/methodology.html](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/methodology.html)

12 Evaluation of EU Support to Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Partner Countries, Final Report, April 2015
bilateral or regional cooperation, including the European Development Fund and EU humanitarian aid.

A number of complementary targeted activities are funded primarily through the Human Development part of the Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme and are targeted improving the lives of girls and women: for instance UNICEF and UNFPA programmes to end female genital mutilation (FGM), gender biased sex selection, end child marriage\(^{13}\) and UNFPA Supplies programme aimed at improving demand for and access to essential reproductive health commodities and high quality comprehensive family planning services\(^{14}\). Furthermore programme EUROsociAL+ provides support to gender equality public policy at regional level in Latin America. The call is also complementary to the CSO Framework Partnership Agreement with global and regional networks of women's organisations approved by instrument of Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities.

The Call will also complement the calls for proposals of Pan African programme\(^{15}\): LOT 4 - CSOs’ contribution to the effective realization of women's rights in Africa, which focus on actions supporting CSOs acting at continental and AU level; planned call of EIDHR\(^{16}\) Lot 1, supporting women's human rights defenders. The call may also be supplemented by allocation from Global Public Good and Challenges Energy programme which intends to support action in favour of women from the Annual action programme 2016 (currently under preparation).

### 3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The call for proposals is gender specific and improvement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is at the core of the action.

The fulfilment of gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to sexual and reproductive health care information and services, are critical aspects in the development of human capital and economic development, and are essential to ending poverty and achieving sustainable and inclusive human development.

Since the adoption of the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)\(^{17}\) in 1994, sexual and reproductive health and rights are fully recognised as human rights. Sexual and reproductive rights play a significant role to achieving gender equality. The ability of women to control her own fertility forms an important basis for the enjoyment of other rights (as stated in the Beijing Platform of Action, 1995, C. 86-106). Benefits of family planning include higher education rates among girls, increased female labour participation and higher female earning.

Following the adoption in 2014 of the Tool-box "A Rights-Based Approach, encompassing all human rights, for EU development cooperation"\(^{18}\) and the subsequent adoption in 2014 of the related Council Conclusions\(^{19}\), the European Commission committed to moving towards a

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\(^{13}\) CRIS: HUM/2015/38680

\(^{14}\) CRIS: HUM/2016/38865

\(^{15}\) EuropeAid/150550/DH/ACT/Multi

\(^{16}\) EuropeAid/152550/DH/ACT/Multi

\(^{17}\) http://www.unfpa.org/publications/international-conference-population-and-development-programme-action


Rights-Based Approach for development cooperation. Consequently, the EU shall apply a Rights-Based Approach (RBA) encompassing all human rights - whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural - in all external cooperation.

The implementation of the five RBA principles: (i) legality, universality and indivisibility of HR, (ii) participation, (iii) non-discrimination, (iv) accountability, and (v) transparency must be applied in each step of the project cycle from identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring to evaluation.

All proposals under the call for proposals must therefore follow a Rights-Based Approach.

The call does not directly include actions to prevent and mitigate climate change or protect environment. However, family planning contributes to better use of planetary resources in terms of managing population growth and stress on land and environment.

All projects from this call will be instructed to pay attention to sustainable development in their activities.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results and main activities

The overall objective of the call is to contribute to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in geographically remote or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced in developing countries.

This call is relevant for the Agenda 2030, contributing primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG goal 5: Achieve gender equality and embower all women and girls”.

This does not imply a commitment by the countries benefiting from this programme.

The specific objective is to reinforce the technical and financial capacity of local CSOs to foster rights of women and girls living in the most remote areas or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced, and to implement related activities.

Given the minimum size of each grant allocated under this call for proposals, redistribution of grants will be compulsory. At least 60% of the total amount, unless duly justified, will be further distributed to local and developing country based civil society organisations to implement activities related to one or two of the following themes:

Theme 1: Ending all forms of sexual or gender-based violence (SGBV) perpetrated especially against women and girls;

Theme 2: Increasing access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including sexuality education especially for women and girls, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD)20.

Main activities that could be financed may include, among others:

- Training and capacity building, peer assistance and tutoring of local CSOs in relation to different aspects of girls’ and women’s empowerment, conducting policy work and advocacy campaigns including use of media, working with main stakeholders to

change social norms and stereotypes; in financial management of grants, monitoring, evaluation, research methods and data collection etc.

- Networking and exchange of best practices and experience

Projects benefitting from re-grants may include:

- Activities aimed at shifting negative social or cultural norms, awareness raising, information counselling and education (IEC); peer support, media and information campaigns, sensitisation;
- Policy advocacy; tracking of policy implementation and results; facilitation of policy dialogue among diverse stakeholders;
- Activities aiming at improving access to quality essential sexual and reproductive health care services and rights; capacity building of health service providers;
- Provision of basic sexual and reproductive health care including family planning, sexuality education, IEC, and referral to care;
- Rehabilitation of victims of GBV, including medical, psychological and socioeconomic support;
- Legal advice and support;
- Research methods, surveys, monitoring and evaluation, collection of evidence of change, data and best practises\(^\text{21}\).

The types of eligible activities will be further detailed in the Guidelines of the call for proposals.

Sufficient funds must be reserved for financial management of the redistribution of grants including monitoring and oversight. Applicants can participate in the actions directly related to the themes using the grant amount remaining outside the sub-granting scheme.

Partnership will be encouraged and therefore Applicant must act in partnership at least with one organisation based in each country where the action takes place.

The expected results of the call are: improved policy dialogue between public stakeholders, decision makers and CSOs; and improved financial and technical capacity of CSO to prevent all forms of gender based violence and increase access to essential sexual and reproductive health and rights\(^\text{22}\) of people living in the most remote or isolated communities, refugees camps or internally displaced.

Projects benefiting from the redistribution of grants are expected to contribute to the following GAP II objectives/results as relevant to the target communities and the themes of this call:

- Girls and women free from all forms of violence against them (VAWG) both in the public and in the private sphere;

\(^{21}\)Several RTD-funded projects have focused on gender-related issues both under Framework Programme 7 and Horizon 2020. In particular, the Action can draw from lessons from the results / findings of the Project “Enhancing Knowledge for Renewed Policies against Poverty” (NOPOOR) http://www.nopoor.eu/

\(^{22}\) In accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the outcomes of their review conferences’
• Trafficking of girls and women for all forms of exploitation eliminated;
• Protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender based violence in crisis situation;
• Equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women;
• Promoted, protected and fulfilled right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence;
• Women's organisation and other CSOs and Human Rights Defenders working of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights freely able to work and protected by law;
• Challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modality

5.3.1.1 Grants: call for proposals Promoting Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' empowerment in developing countries (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overall objective of the call is to contribute to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in geographically remote or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced in developing countries.

The specific objective is to reinforce the technical and financial capacity of local CSOs to foster rights of women and girls living in the most remote areas or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced, and to implement related activities.
Thematic priorities are
- fighting against all forms of sexual and gender based violence
- access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

The types of eligible activities are described in the section 4.1 and will be further detailed in the Guidelines of the call for proposals.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In application of Article 8.7 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action (CIR), eligible applicants will meet the following criteria:

- be a legal person and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation23 or a not-for-profit association and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or in a developing country and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

The applicant must act with co-applicant(s) and have at least one co-applicant from each country where the action takes place.

Co-applicant(s) must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the applicant itself. In addition, the following are however also eligible: natural persons, networks and public sector non-profit institutions.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 5 000 000 and the grants may be awarded to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 60 months.

Redistribution of grants is mandatory. At least 60% of the total grant (unless duly justified in the proposal) must be redistributed to local or developing countries' based CSO.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 90%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

23 See definition COM(2012) 492 final
(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

The first quarter of 2017.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</th>
<th>Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1.1 – Call for proposals “Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ empowerment in developing countries” (direct management)</td>
<td>30 450 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>30 450 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The call for proposals will be managed in Brussels. The grant contracts will be managed by the European Commission services at HQ or by EU delegation in case if project is targeting one country only.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of projects resulting from a call for proposals will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, especially of the process of redistributing grants and its results, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation. The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for
independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation
Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants or through a joint mission contracted by the Commission. It will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes, in particular with respect to effectiveness of the redistribution of grants and results of the capacity building activities.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 60 days in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.9 Audit
Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility
Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.
**APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)**

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results chain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baselines (incl. reference year)</th>
<th>Targets (incl. reference year)</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Overall objective: Impact** to contribute to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in geographically remote or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced in developing countries. | SDG 5 indicators and EU results framework indicators:  
- N# of women benefiting from legal aid programmes supported by the EU**  
- N# of violent deaths per 100,000 disaggregated by sex (EURF Level1) **  
- N# of births attended by skilled personnel with EU support  
- N# of women using any method of contraception with EU support | to be defined by participating projects and by location/country | to be defined by participating projects and by location/country | To be drawn from the partner's strategy. | |
| **Specific objective(s): Outcomes** to reinforce the technical and financial capacity of local CSOs to foster rights of women and girls living in the most remote areas or isolated communities, refugee camps or internally displaced, and to implement related activities | The starting point or current value of the indicator. | The intended value of the indicator. | Sources of information and methods used to collect and report (including who and when/how frequently). | Factors outside project management’s control that may impact on the | |

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Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

[17]
| Outputs                                                                 | Increase in knowledge and technics to conduct policy advocacy among participating CSOs. Increase in knowledge and capacity to provide information, education and support to communities to eliminate all forms of gender based violence and improve access to SRHR among participating CSOs. #N of CSO benefiting from sub-grants # N of CSO and persons attending capacity building activities # N of policy advocacy initiatives taken by CSOs and successfully responded to by stakeholders #N of services and activities provided and conducted by participating CSO targeting communities | Idem as above for the corresponding indicator. | Idem as above for the corresponding indicator. | Idem as above for the corresponding indicator. | Factors outside project management's control that may impact on the output-outcome linkage. |

25 In accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the outcomes of their review conferences’