



EVALUATION OF THE EU'S EXTERNAL ACTION SUPPORT IN THE AREA OF GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT (GEWE)

SELECTED EVALUATION FINDINGS

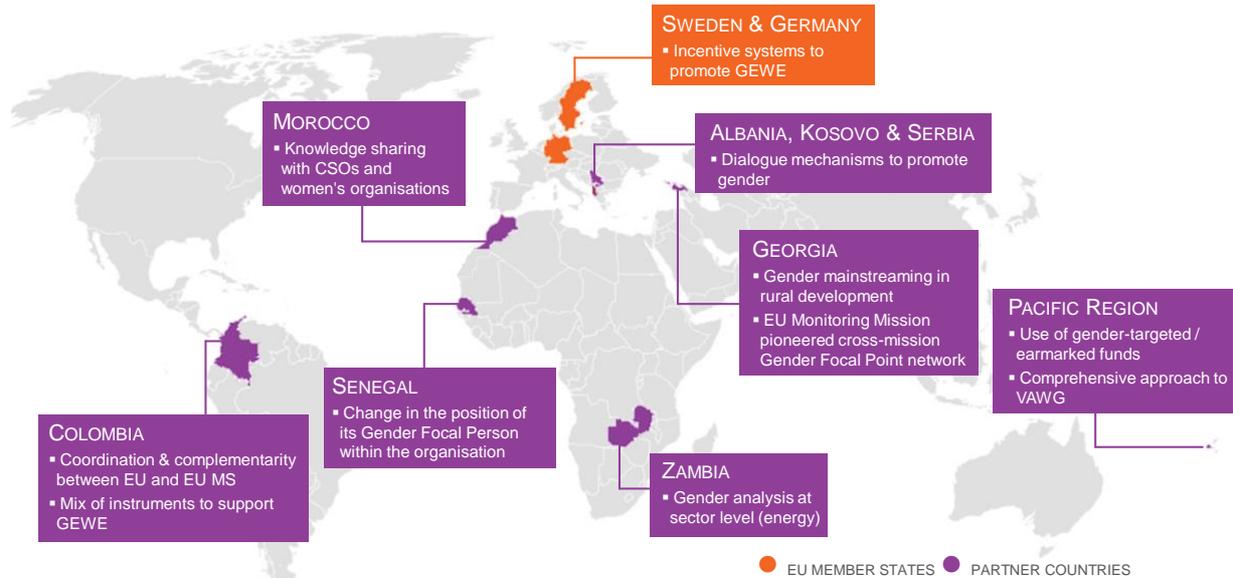
- 1 Broad **relevance** of EU external action in the area of GEWE building on a comprehensive policy framework accompanied with a high **policy ambition** and unambiguous political messages.
- 2 Several positive experiences of EU supported initiatives at the local level, but limited visible results at the **macro-level**, partly related to an insufficient emphasis on holistic approaches and a clear strategic vision at country level.
- 3 Some progress in institutionalising GEWE in EU external action; but promoting the GEWE agenda at EU level still too much dependent on a few **highly committed staff**.
- 4 Further progress in **mainstreaming** gender suffering from: i) an overall weak understanding of the concept of 'gender mainstreaming', in particular of its strategic nature; ii) a mismatch between EU policy ambitions and the resources mobilised to achieve them; and iii) the absence of EU strategic vision on GEWE at country level.
- 5 **GEWE-earmarked support** (gender-targeted individual interventions or gender-targeted activities within broader interventions) has had positive effects on gender mainstreaming in EU bilateral cooperation.
- 6 Substantial support provided to **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)**, but, a strategic and more comprehensive partnership with these actors, including grass-roots organisations, still lacking at country level.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

1	Making further progress on GEWE requires strong leadership, i.e. leadership at HQ and partner country level strongly embedded in the institutional and organisational set-up and processes.	5	It is useful to combine activities focussing on the EU's right-based approach with activities focusing on GEWE, as it contributes to increasing synergies between internal EU processes.
2	Gender expertise needs to be in place in influential positions in the hierarchy, both at HQ and at country (EUD) level; gender task forces cutting across sectors help reinforcing mainstreaming.	6	Multi-country initiatives with international organisations such as UN agencies can provide clear benefits at various levels for the EU, including access to expertise; they can, however, not compensate for the absence of leadership on GEWE at EU level.
3	The absence of comprehensive and coherent approaches based, where existing, on initiatives already in place in the partner country, hampers the consolidation of positive experiences at local level and limit the possibilities to strategically address root causes of gender inequality.	7	Actively involving national CSOs in structured programming and policy processes of EU external action in the area of GEWE, such as CSO Roadmaps, is a pre-condition for ensuring that the support to GEWE going through these actors contribute to the expected objectives at macro level.
4	Gender analysis needs to be further systematised and deepened, e.g. in sectors of cooperation not yet covered; it has proven its value for enhancing gender mainstreaming in EU support.	8	Non-spending activities promoting GEWE at country level (such as ad hoc events or site visits by high level officials) need to be better connected to EU support in the main areas of cooperation and related spending actions on GEWE; this would further enhance their value added in terms of contribution to the expected outcomes.

GOOD PRACTICES

Selected good practices in EU external support to GEWE



MOROCCO

→ In March 2020, the EU organised a **capitalisation workshop** with **women's organisations** and CSOs active in the area of GEWE. The event focussed on taking stock of the support provided to the Moroccan civil society on GEWE and defining the EU's priorities in this area.

COLOMBIA

→ The EU and EU MS have achieved good **complementarity** and certain degree of **articulation** on gender issues, particularly in relation to the post-Peace Accords context. While, for instance, the EU has supported women's networks and women's rights during the peace process, Sweden has taken part in the International Accompaniment Component of the Final Peace Accord with a specific responsibility to promote and support a gender-sensitive approach.

→ The EU has identified rural women as a key strategic element in programming and it is through this lens that support to GEWE has been consistently delivered through a **variety of instruments and modalities**, including Budget Support, grants under EU thematic budget lines and the Trust Fund for Peace.

SENEGAL

→ The **GFP function** is held by the deputy Head of Cooperation who is also in charge of other cross-cutting functions such as M&E and joint programming. This position gives privileged access to information on EU cooperation in the country and facilitates the implementation of actions to ensure gender mainstreaming in new interventions.

ZAMBIA

→ The EU funded a sector gender analysis assessing measures promoting **GEWE in the energy sector**, the largest area of EU-Zambia bilateral cooperation (11th EDF). The study informed the development of new interventions in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

SWEDEN & GERMANY

→ In Sweden, structural **incentives** encourage mid-level and senior managers to promote gender equality within their areas of responsibility, and are based on a culture that views it as a proud common objective. There are also **motivational rewards**, inter alia in the form of recognition from the Ambassador for Gender Equality and publication of good examples. In Germany, GIZ promoted the inclusion of GEWE in technical cooperation programmes through a 'Gender Competition'.

ALBANIA, KOSOVO & SERBIA

→ The EU has successfully approached **policy dialogue** in the area of GEWE at country level by building upon the longstanding expertise of UN agencies, particularly UN Women, in supporting and liaising with local authorities and gender equality mechanisms.

GEORGIA

→ The European Neighbourhood Programme for **Agriculture & Rural Development** (ENPARD), has increasingly incorporated a **gender lens**, going from no consideration of a gender analysis in its first phase, to the progressive incorporation of explicit gender targets and activities.

→ The European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) pioneered the system of a **cross-mission Gender Focal Point** (GFP) network that has expanded to different CSDP missions. There is staff in each office and thematic unit providing guidance on gender mainstreaming and driving forward gender equality initiatives.

PACIFIC REGION

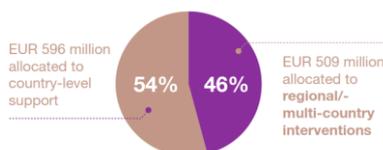
→ The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP) has integrated a strong gender and human rights-based approach since its design. A specific provision ensures that at least 3% of the total budget has been **earmarked** to ensure that the project is implemented in a gender-sensitive way.

→ Through the 'Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls' (PPEVAWG) the EU has built on a solid methodology and **comprehensive approach** focused strongly on the development of **national capacity** related to the elimination of VAWG.

KEY FIGURES OF EU ACTION*



EUR 1.106 billion were contracted for gender-targeted interventions, during the period 2014-2018



40% of EU external action support was marked as gender-sensitive between 2014-2018



Most of the committed amounts went to Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa received 52% of the total gender targeted support, and the **Enlargement region** 3% of the total



Gender-sensitive support more than doubled

in absolute value in the period under review (2014-2018)



66% of targeted interventions treated Physical and Psychological Integrity (including VAWG)



EUR 507 million support via UN agencies, mainly UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF



EUR 432 million support to CSOs, represented by 15% Women's organisations

(*) during the period 2014-2018 covered by the evaluation.