

EU GENDER ACTION PLAN (GAP) III IN ZAMBIA

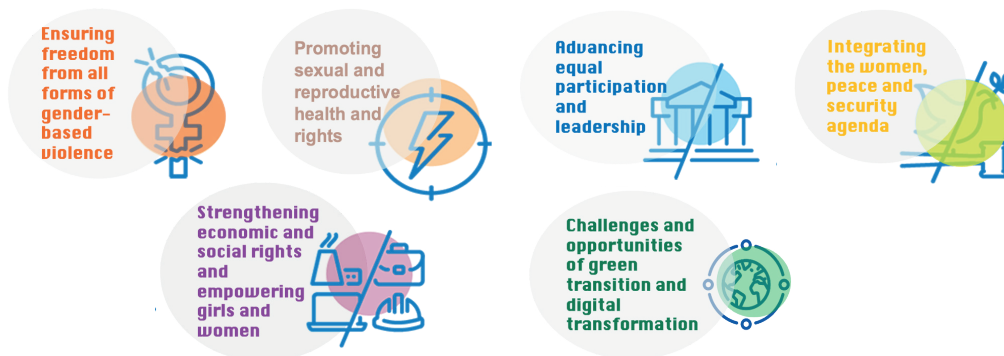


EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

WHAT IS THE EU GENDER ACTION PLAN?

The **European Union's Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025)**, extended to 2027, is a strategic framework aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. It underscores the EU's commitment to **integrating gender equality and women's rights across all spectrums of its external action**. The GAP III focuses on ensuring women and girls' rights, promoting their economic empowerment, and protecting them from violence. It operates on the principle that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also an essential foundation for a sustainable world.

THE SIX KEY THEMATIC POLICY AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT ARE:



WHAT THE EU IS DOING ON GENDER EQUALITY IN ZAMBIA

The EU, through its Country-Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) for Zambia, is taking concrete steps to address these challenges and advance gender equality:

- **Health and Rights:** Enhancing access to healthcare and reproductive rights for women and girls, including efforts to reduce early pregnancies, maternal mortality and increase access to family planning services.
- **Education and Empowerment:** Supporting initiatives aimed at closing the educational gender gap, such as providing education and vocational training to ensure girls are equipped for the modern workforce. The EU is also supporting early childhood development and education activities to set the stage for girls and boys to reach their full potential.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Facilitating women's entrepreneurship through access to finance, training, and market opportunities. The EU supports programs that empower women economically, enabling them to contribute more significantly to Zambia's economic development. We will also support initiatives to improve gender responsive budgeting.
- **Participation and Leadership:** Encouraging greater participation of women in politics and decision-making processes, the EU backs initiatives aimed at increasing the representation of women in leadership roles across various sectors.
- **Protection and Safety:** Addressing gender-based violence through awareness campaigns, the provision of healthcare, legal, and protective support for survivors, and promoting safe environments for women and girls. The EU is committed to working with local partners to combat all forms of gender-based violence.
- **Climate Action and Sustainability:** Recognizing the gendered impacts of climate change, the EU integrates gender perspectives into its environmental and climate action initiatives, ensuring women's inclusion in sustainability efforts.
- **Partnerships for Progress:** The EU collaborates closely with the Zambian government, civil society organizations, international partners, and local communities to ensure the successful implementation of gender equality initiatives.

THE SITUATION IN ZAMBIA

Zambia faces significant gender equality challenges, including high rates of gender-based violence, limited economic opportunities for women, educational gender gaps, and underrepresentation of women in political and decision-making positions. Despite progress in some areas, cultural norms and practices continue to hinder the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Zambia.

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THE GENDER ACTION PLANS ALSO MEANS...

Ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives

are included in at least 85% of all EU supported projects

The EU is leading by example by establishing **gender-responsive and gender-balanced leadership** at top political and management levels

Close **collaboration with EU Member States**, government, civil society, women's rights activists, and the youth through a shared vision

Measuring results, set up quantitative, qualitative and inclusive monitoring systems to increase public accountability, **ensure transparency and access to information** on its assistance to gender equality

CURRENTLY

- **More than one-third (36%) of women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence** at least once since age 15 and 14% have experienced sexual violence.¹
- The very **high prevalence of early and unintended pregnancies among adolescent girls** and young women (29% of 15-19 year olds) is mainly caused by lack of access to services and health related information.
- There remains a strong gender divide in literacy levels, with **66% of women being literate**, compared to 82% of men².
- In 2020, male labour force participation was 43.7%, compared to **27.2% among women**³.
- In the mining sector, **women's participation stands at 7.8%** compared to 92.2% for males
- **Financial literacy is higher among men at 26.1% compared to women at 21.4%**. The FinScope Survey (2020) shows that fewer women (56.6%) compared to men (62%) are banked, and more men (59.3%) than women (51%) use microfinance services.
- **Participation of women in decision-making positions remains very low**, consisting of only 15% of women Members of Parliament in 2021, representing a decrease of 3% from the previous elections.

CASE STUDY:

SEVERINO MUTALE: BRIDGING THE JUSTICE GAP IN ZAMBIA

Understanding and exercising one's rights can be challenging in the complex landscape of legal rights and policing standards. International standards mandate that arresting officers inform detainees of their rights, including access to free legal advice. Yet, for many in Zambia, the gap widens, with a lack of awareness and economic barriers significantly impeding access to justice.

Paralegals like Severino Mutale play a crucial role in narrowing this gap. Stationed at the Magistrate Court in Lusaka, Severino is often the first point of contact for individuals seeking legal assistance. With an average of six new cases daily, alongside following up on ongoing ones, Severino's dedication extends beyond the confines of her official duties.

"We also carry out outreach programs in correctional facilities where we visit those who are detained and inform them of the services that we provide as well as carry out legal consultations," Severino shares, highlighting a key aspect of her role in raising awareness about legal rights and services.

The need for such services is overwhelming, with Severino and her team frequently working late or over weekends to meet the demand. This dedication underscores the vital role of paralegals in providing legal assistance and representation to those in conflict with the law, especially among the economically disadvantaged.

Through their work, Severino and her colleagues ensure that more Zambians have the knowledge and support needed to navigate the legal system, making justice accessible to all, regardless of their economic standing.



From GIZ EnACT Project

¹ Zambia Health and Demographic Survey (ZDHS) 2018

² ESB, 2020

³ Zambia Labour Force Survey 2020