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e della Cooperazione Internazionale



AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO

# 2024

## THE ITALIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

ACTIVITY REPORT – 2023



### ACTIVATE | 16 DAYS *of* NAIROBI | ACTIVISM



*Photos 1 - Poster of the event organised by the Italian Development Cooperation in Nairobi for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence - 2023*

**Editorial note:**

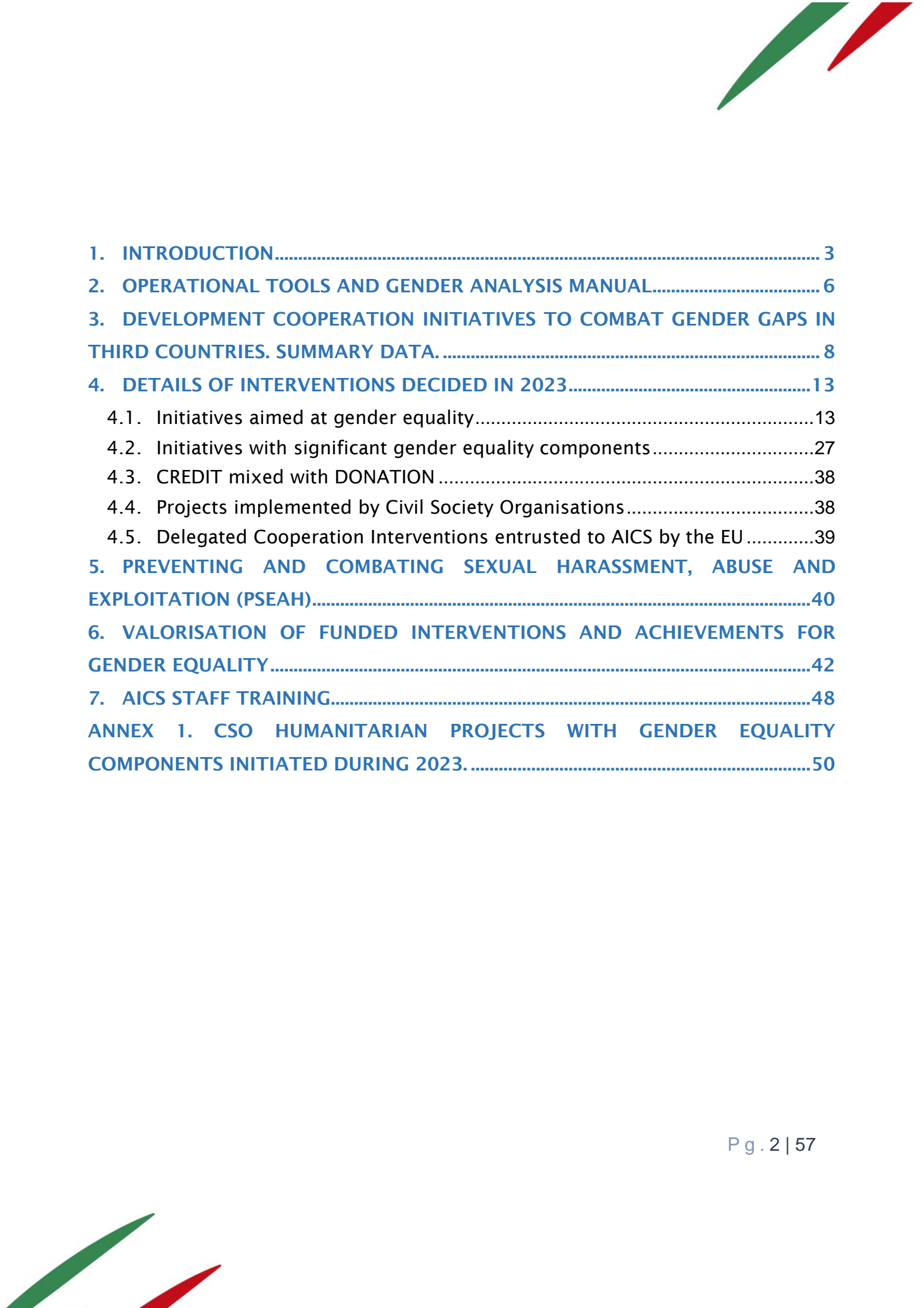
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## 1. INTRODUCTION


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The protection and promotion of women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the fight against all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, are a key priority of Italy's international human rights action in multilateral and regional contexts, in bilateral relations with third countries and within the framework of the Italian Development Cooperation programmes, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goal 5), with the EU Strategy on Gender Equality 2020-2025 and with the related Third Gender Action Plan (GAP III).

The protection and promotion of women's rights and the fight against all forms of sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence was also a priority in Italy's latest mandate (2019-2021) in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). Furthermore, with regard to human rights initiatives in the HRC and the General Assembly (GA), and jointly with our EU partners, Italy has committed to ensure gender mainstreaming in all relevant documents, and to adopt an approach that takes into full account the multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by many women and girls.

Within the United Nations, Italy is also a member of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Additional Protocols, and actively participates in the work of the ECOSOC Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which is the principal international forum dedicated to promoting women's rights, which holds a meeting every year. Italy's commitment in this area was acknowledged, in April 2024, by its appointment to the CSW for the period 2025-2029.

Gender equality is also one of the priority themes on the agenda of the Italian G7 Presidency for 2024, with a special working group being dedicated to the issue. Furthermore, Italy strongly supports international campaigns for the eradication of harmful practices against women and girls, such as female genital mutilation and




early and forced marriages, also by promoting and actively participating in negotiations on the relevant General Assembly (GA) and Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions. As such, the country is part of the Core Group presenting the Deliberation on Child, Early and Forced Marriages in the GA and HRC.

The defence and promotion of women's fundamental rights and the promotion of the Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the so-called Istanbul Convention) have also been the focus of Italy's six-month Presidency of the Ministers' Committee of the Council of Europe (17 November 2021 – 20 May 2022), based on the conviction that there is a close tie between women's empowerment and the reduction of violence against women. During its six-month Presidency, and in light of the profound impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on women, with a dramatic increase in cases of domestic violence and gender abuse and a significant contraction of women's participation in the labour market, Italy has led a broader reflection within the Council of Europe on women's empowerment and empowerment and the fight against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are an essential precondition for eradicating poverty and building a global society based on the nexus of sustainable development, social justice and human rights. Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is one of the priorities of the development cooperation action carried out by the Agency, as stated in Law 125/2014 (article 1, paragraph 2) and in line with Italy's above-mentioned international commitments to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

In the second half of 2023, as already mentioned above, a process of reflection and in-depth analysis was initiated to identify the relevant priorities of the Italian G7 Presidency for 2024, with this objective in mind and in line with how the issue of



gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls has been addressed by previous G7 Presidencies. This preliminary activity led to the adoption of a gender mainstreaming approach, according to which the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls was analysed on the basis of multi-sectoral and multi-actor dynamics, identifying the achievements, challenges and gaps that needed to be addressed and narrowed, with a special focus on the condition of the female population living in the African continent.

This is reflected in the Agency's technical and operational activities, through the implementation of humanitarian and development programmes specifically targeting gender equality, as well as by reinforcing gender mainstreaming activities in all cooperation actions, and by improving its capacity to formulate, manage, monitor and enhance increasingly gender-sensitive and transformative interventions.

## 2. GENDER ANALYSIS TOOLKIT AND HANDBOOK

Considering the commitments set out in its [Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in International Cooperation – 2020/2024](#)" (adopted by AICS in December 2020 and also approved by CICS – Inter-ministerial Committee for Development Cooperation – on 15 October 2021), the Agency started putting into place a range of activities aimed at reinforcing its capacity to formulate, manage and monitor increasingly gender-sensitive, responsive and transformative interventions, and to disseminate the results achieved through its actions. In particular, in 2022, AICS began rolling out operational toolkits for gender equality, primarily by publishing a [Gender Glossary](#), approved by the Director of AICS with Deliberation No. 185 of 01-07-2022.

During 2023, the above-mentioned Guidelines were translated and published in English, French, Spanish and Arabic ( [ENG](#) | [FR](#) | [AR](#) | [ES](#)), and the Gender Glossary in English, French and Spanish ( [ENG](#) | [FR](#) | [ES](#)), for the purpose of sharing and disseminating the contents of the Guidelines both internationally, with other donors and multilateral and civil society organisations, and locally, with the beneficiary population, as well as with local authorities, communities and organisations that play a key role in project implementation.

In 2023, AICS also adopted the Gender Analysis Handbook (Deliberation No. 2510 of 26-09-2023), prepared by the Technical Deputy Directorate with the active involvement of the Field Offices – especially the AICS Headquarters in Dakar -, the Thematic Offices, the Statistics Unit, the Emergency and Fragile States Unit and the VDT Effectiveness Group.

This document is an operational tool created by AICS to provide a standard consistent methodology for carrying out gender analyses.

STRUMENTI OPERATIVI PER  
L'UGUAGLIANZA DI GENERE  
E L'EMPOWERMENT DI DONNE,  
RAGAZZE E BAMBINE:

## MANUALE PER L'ANALISI DI GENERE




Photo 2 – AICS Gender Analysis Handbook.

The document is available in the [Gender Equality](#) section of the Agency's website, currently only in [Italian](#), although it is being translated into several other languages as well.

The ultimate objective is to ensure a gender-sensitive approach in the Country programmes and in all international development cooperation initiatives, including – where possible – the humanitarian aid projects undertaken directly by AICS and by other entities engaged in implementing development cooperation interventions financed and/or co-financed by the Agency.

The Handbook, which has also been shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, is designed to support the Agency staff members and the operators involved in setting out the policies, programmes and projects – at local, national and international level – to help them sharpen their skills in elaborating appropriate analyses for promoting a gender-sensitive approach in all the initiatives and programmes financed by the Italian Development Cooperation, in accordance with the principle of “do no harm”. This specific toolkit is consistent with the commitments made by Italy and, in particular, by AICS, within the framework of the "Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (2020/2024)", for gender mainstreaming by AICS, in relation to any cooperation projects carried out by the actors of the Italian Development Cooperation system, through technical support by encouraging the use of a multidimensional approach to the empowerment of women and girls. The






Guidelines also commit the Italian Development Cooperation system to produce operational manuals, especially with regard to the priority action on "Gender Equality, Humanitarian Aid and Fragile Contexts".

The handbook looks into the importance of gender analysis and how it can be implemented in different types of policies, programmes and projects. Moreover, it also includes guidance on the different methods for data collection and identifying gender discrimination issues, providing examples of useful questions for the overall analysis of the issue. Furthermore, the document also contains a special focus on "Intersectionality", a theory suggesting that the social characteristics of people (such as race, ethnicity, faith, socio-economic status, class, caste, geographical location, age, aptitude, sexual orientation, religion or belief, migration status and gender) come together – or intersect/overlap – conditioning an individual's life experience and contributing to unique discriminatory experiences. There is a special emphasis, in this regard, on women with disabilities, who face discrimination, prejudice and marginalisation, and experience discrimination and violations of their rights, as a result of the combined effect of gender with age and/or disability.

### **3. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INITIATIVES TO COMBAT GENDER GAPS IN THIRD COUNTRIES. SUMMARY DATA.**

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At the operational level, in 2023, the Italian Development Cooperation programming promoted the importance of achieving gender equality and ensuring the rights of all women and girls through the implementation of programmes designed to tackle the various obstacles that hinder the full enjoyment of their rights, and which aim to address the structural causes of gender inequalities. The programmes, concentrated primarily in Africa, as well as in the Middle East, Latin America and Europe, have promoted the narrowing of the gender gap by



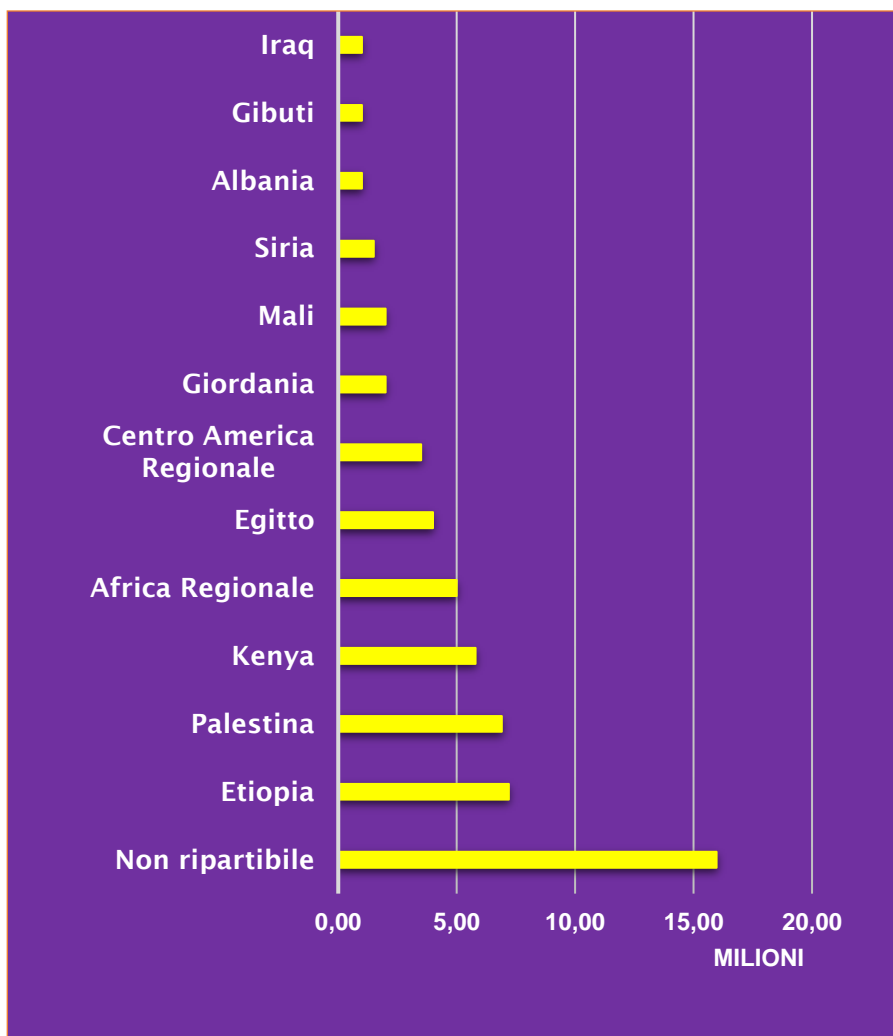
reinforcing three priority aspects for the Italian Development Cooperation system, namely, the **protection** of women, which includes combating sexual and gender-based violence, whether domestic or non-domestic, promoting maternal, child and reproductive health, the collection of disaggregated data and the inclusion of women in humanitarian and peace actions; the **empowerment** of women, by cutting back the barriers to accessing credit, economic empowerment, the support of women's employment and the promotion of women's role in political life; women's **resilience**, through capacity-building, education, vocational training and support for employment including in the green economy, inclusion in agricultural systems and food security, enhancing women's role in environmental protection and combating climate change.

During the year 2023 alone, several initiatives aimed at achieving gender equality were approved in Albania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Palestine, Syria, Central America and several African countries, on the basis of a regional approach, while in several other countries, gender components were included in multi-sectoral projects (Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Moldova, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Pakistan, Central African Republic, Senegal, Syria, Somalia, Sudan,

Diagram 1 - New interventions featuring gender equality as the principal objective (2023)

Tanzania, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uganda).

In 2023, a total of 24 new contributions had gender equality as the principal objective (G2 Gender Marker), totalling more than 56 MEuro, or almost 6% of the total amount resolved in 2023. In particular, 16 new interventions were approved on the



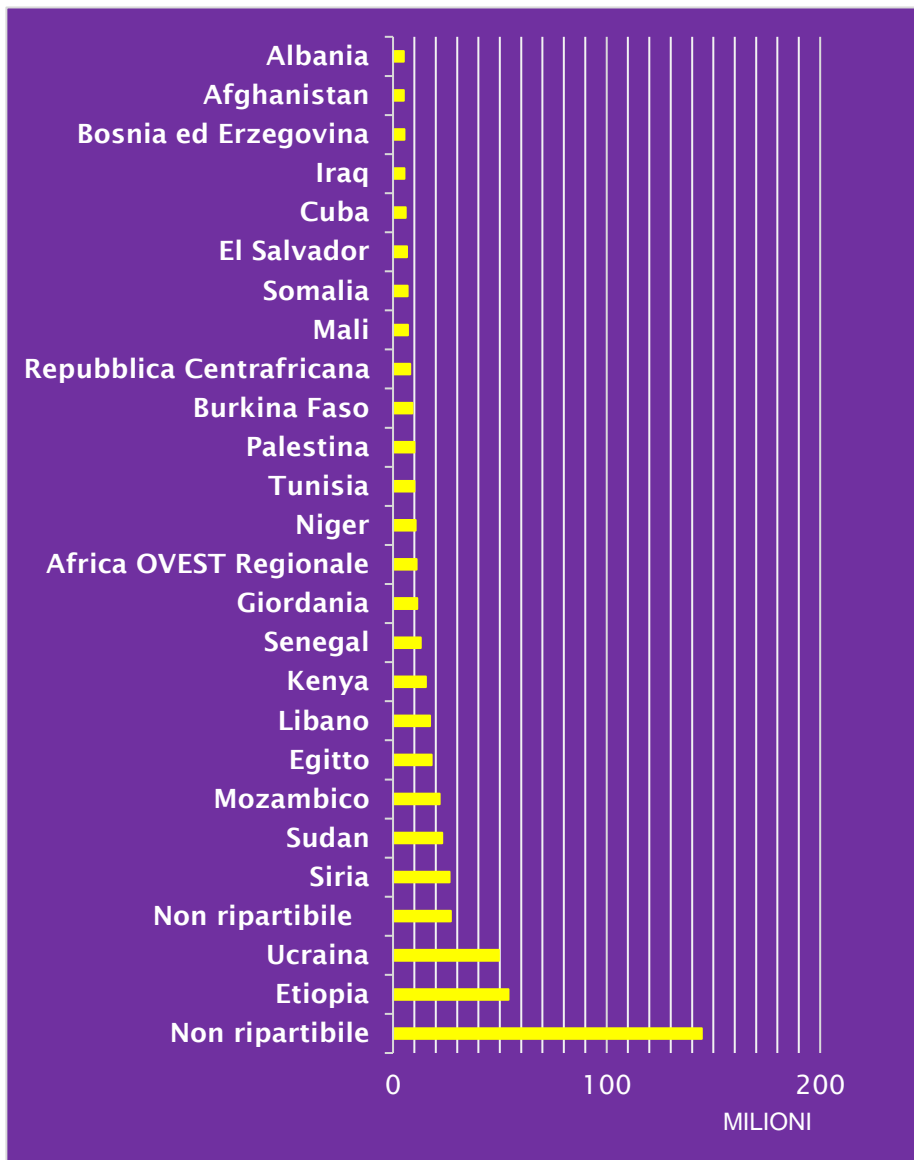


Diagram 2 - New interventions featuring gender equality as the principal objective or with significant gender equality components - amounts above 5 MEuro (2023)


ordinary channel (over 39 MEuro), 6 new voluntary contributions on the multilateral channel (almost 13 MEuro), and 2 projects to address humanitarian emergencies (4.5 MEuro).

On top of this, the Italian Development Cooperation initiated numerous other interventions with gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a **significant objective**

(G1 Gender Marker), totalling approximately

661 million Euro<sup>1</sup>, equal to over 69% of the total grant-based allocations, bringing the overall share of grant projects with gender equality as a principal objective and significant components on gender equality to 75% of the total approved in 2023.

<sup>1</sup> The share also includes the grant allocated to the CSO Call for Proposals and Territorial Entities Allocation 2023, considered a significant objective, by virtue of the content of the call, which includes gender mainstreaming.




With specific reference to the interventions for addressing **humanitarian emergencies**, 2 have gender equality as their principal objective (G2), totalling 4.5 million Euro (about 2.2% of the total humanitarian allocations), while interventions with significant gender components have been resolved for a total of about 158 million Euro (almost 80% of the total humanitarian allocations). In relation to voluntary **multilateral contributions**, a total of almost 13 million Euro (about 7% of the total multilateral allocations) were resolved for international organisations having gender equality as their principal objective, while about 110.6 million Euro were allocated to international organisations that feature gender equality as one of their strategic objectives (almost 60% of the total multilateral allocations).

With regard to the **projects financed under the "Christian Minority Support Call"** (Deliberation CC No. 37 of 27/01/2023), approved by the AICS Director under the Director's Deliberation No. 3414 of 15/12/2023, 7 feature components related to gender equality and women's empowerment, for an allocated amount of 8.3 million Euro (about 79% of the total amount specified in the Call).

With regard to the **projects financed under the "Call for Financing Synergistic Initiatives proposed by CSOs, Public Research Organisations and Universities, within the framework of the Technical Support Spending to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria"** (Deliberation CC No. 48 of 30/03/2023), 5 projects, approved by the AICS Director with the Director's Deliberation No. 3523 of 22/12/2023, feature components related to gender equality and women's empowerment, for an allocated amount of 2.2 million Euro (about 74% of the total announced amount).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The total call amount of 3 million Euro was allocated for € 2,699,435.98, while the unallocated amount of € 300,564.76 will be allocated in the next call for proposals.



Finally, it is worth mentioning, that during 2023, 2 aid credits were approved by the Joint Committee in Mozambique and Pakistan, with significant gender equality components, totalling 24 million Euro (or 7% of the total approved credit<sup>3</sup>).

These development and humanitarian contributions approved by the Italian Development Cooperation include both support for the institutional activities of the organisations traditionally committed to the promotion of gender equality as a priority, and interventions to be implemented in partner countries in collaboration with international organisations, local authorities, and civil society organisations (both local and international) and other Italian entities, such as universities.

## 4. DETAILS OF INTERVENTIONS INITIATED IN 2023


### 4.1. GENDER EQUALITY PROJECTS

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In 2022, acting in continuity with past years, the Italian Development Cooperation supported numerous United Nations Agencies, strongly committed to the fight for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with **voluntary contributions**. In particular, “core” contributions were confirmed to UNWOMEN (3,000,000 Euro), UNFPA (2,500,000 Euro), as well as contributions to the programme managed by UNFPA/UNICEF “Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation – FGM” (2,000,480 Euro), to the UNICEF/UNFPA programme to combat child and early marriage (Global Programme to End Child Marriage – ECM – 500,000 Euro), and to actions aimed at schooling for girls, carried out within the Global Partnership for Education – GPE (2,500,000 Euro). In addition,

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<sup>3</sup> Aid credit funding is sourced from the Revolving Fund for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), established pursuant to Law 227/1977, and is managed by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Spa (CDP) in accordance with an agreement concluded with the MEF. Instead, the grant components associated with aid credit project are included in the AICS financial years.



a contribution was made to the UNWOMEN Trust Fund for the Elimination of Violence against Women (2,475,000 Euro).

In addition to these voluntary contributions, numerous **development** and **humanitarian aid interventions** have been funded in various countries. Many international organisations have received funding for ad hoc programmes aimed at addressing the structural causes that fuel gender inequalities and at removing obstacles to full and effective gender equality. To this end, they promote women's empowerment through capacity building in partner countries and implement interventions for promoting women's resilience, combating gender-based violence, supporting women's participation in decision-making processes, particularly in conflict situations, as well as promoting maternal, child, reproductive and sexual health.

### **Women's empowerment in Africa**

Forty-five per cent of all contributions approved in 2023 have been allocated for women-centred initiatives in African countries, through several regional projects and specific actions in Egypt, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya and Mali. In particular, key support was provided, in Africa, to activities implemented in collaboration with United Nations Agencies (UN WOMEN and UNFPA), bilateral partnerships with local government bodies, the African Development Bank, and interventions conducted by Italian CSOs. Specifically, the focus is on the protection of women and girls and combating sexual and gender-based violence, on support for health (by improving the local reproductive, maternal, child and mental health services), on women's economic empowerment and facilitating access to credit, on improving the local statistical systems for collecting data on the gender gap, and on leadership capacity-building and for participation in economic and social activities.

### Action for Middle Eastern, Albanian and Latin American women

The Italian Development Cooperation system also continued to provide support for women in the Middle Eastern region (Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Syria), as well as in Albania and Latin America. In the Middle East, the focus was on reinforcing the role of women in political life (Jordan), enhancing the response to gender-based violence and supporting Syrian refugee women and host communities (Iraq), combating gender-based violence and supporting income-generating activities in the Governorate of Raqqa (Syria), supporting women and girls in the Gaza Strip and

gender equality education in Palestine.

In Albania and Latin America, the Italian Development Cooperation focused on the economic empowerment of women, especially the most marginalised and in rural areas.



*Photo 3 - Italian Development Cooperation Project in Albania  
(Photo by AICS Tirana).*








## Protected women: combating gender-based violence, improving disaggregated data collection, humanitarian action

A significant share of the Italian Development Cooperation's contributions to gender equality has focused on protecting women, also in areas affected by crisis and conflict. The priority projects in these areas aimed at combating gender-based violence and providing life-saving services for maternal and child health, demonstrating how the Italian Development Cooperation strives to work for systemic change, with a view to addressing the root causes of gender-based violence, ensuring a survivor-centred approach that can guarantee the safety and dignity of women and girls, and reinforcing the leadership role of women and their organisations and their involvement in crisis and conflict resolution. On top of this, there was a special focus on strengthening statistical systems to enable disaggregated data collection.

In 2023, the Italian Government funded a new project, in **Egypt**, in favour of UNFPA “*Protection, services and empowerment for a "zero-tolerance" environment against all forms of gender-based violence*” (AID 012712/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 77 of 30/03/2023, Development Intervention, 36 months), with a contribution of 4,000,000 Euro. The programme aims to address gender-based violence by promoting and supporting greater social and economic empowerment of women, improved quality and accessibility of specialised services, advocacy actions on gender policies and the active engagement of affected communities. The project aims to change social norms, in the long term, and ensures the commitment of men to act both as active decision-makers within the family and as allies in combating gender-based violence at the community level.

**Ethiopia** received priority attention in response to the significant challenges posed by the continued gender-based discrimination faced by women. To this end, two



interventions were funded to counter gender-based violence and provide mental health support to survivors. The Italian Development Cooperation aims to contribute to the improvement of access and service quality, in response to gender-based violence and mental health/psychosocial support in the regions most affected by the conflict in the North of the country and in Addis Ababa, with the project "*Strengthening Response Services to Gender-based Violence and Mental Health - Psychosocial Support in Ethiopia*" (AID 012932/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 194 of 21/12/2023, Development Intervention implemented in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health), funded for 4,700,000 Euro. Specifically, the programme aims to strengthen the infrastructure apparatus of three regional One Stop Centres (OSC) (offering holistic, medical, psychosocial and legal support to the victims of violence) and one in Addis Ababa, expand mental health and psychosocial support services at the local level, and build the skills of social and health workers and law enforcement personnel. In synergy with the above initiative, the Italian Government has disbursed funds amounting to 2,500,000 Euro to the intervention "*Strengthening Gender and Mental Health Prevention and Social Reintegration Services in Ethiopia*" (AID 012933/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 195 of 21/12/2023, CSO awarded project), for the purpose of strengthening reception and social reintegration facilities for the survivors of gender-based violence and people suffering from mental disorders, improving the role of the community in preventing and responding to these problems, and building the skills of social and health personnel at hospitals and within the communities to adequately address these problems.

In **Djibouti**, the initiative called "*Strengthening the Health and Protection System for Women in Balbala*" (AID 012674/01/0, 012674/01/1 and 012674/01/2, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 11 of 27/01/2023 and Director's Deliberation No. 7 of 24/02/2023, Development Intervention) was supported with a total contribution of


1,000,000 Euro allocated to the UNFPA and Italian CSOs, with the objective of improving the health conditions of mothers and children, first and foremost, and to strengthening protection mechanisms for the women living in the Balbala district of Djibouti Ville. To this end, minor infrastructure rehabilitation projects will be implemented, training courses for healthcare personnel organised, and a One Stop Centre and psychosocial support facility set up, as well as a structured multidisciplinary response system for survivors of gender-based violence: Furthermore, community-based outreach activities on protection and health issues and income-generating activities for women will also be carried out.

*Photo 4 - A climate activist during the Activate Nairobi campaign workshop (Photo by Gaia Squarci).*



Two new projects have been initiated in **Kenya** with the aim of countering forms of gender-based violence and discrimination and promoting women's empowerment. The "*Let it not happen again*" initiative (AID 012652/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 13 of 27/01/2023,


Development Intervention), financed by the Italian Development Cooperation with an additional contribution of 1,800,000 Euro to UNWOMEN, is aimed at ensuring access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence and strengthening preventive and response mechanisms to violence building the capacities of the relevant judicial authorities and local civil society organisations. This intervention is in continuity with the first three project phases funded by the Italian Development Cooperation since 2019, bringing the total Italian contribution to 2,700,000 Euro. Along the same lines, the programme called "*Women's Empowerment and*



*Environment and Health Support in Kenya*" (AID 012835/01/0 and 012835/01/1, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 149 of 19/07/2023, Intervention awarded to OSCs) has been financed with a contribution of 4,000,000 Euros. The objective of the intervention is to combat forms of gender-based violence and discrimination (such as forced marriage, early pregnancy and female genital mutilation) and to strengthen the role of women in the decision-making dynamics of agro-pastoral communities, with the aim of ensuring equal access to land management and ownership, and therefore to agricultural markets, and promoting their leadership role in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation plans.

In **Mali**, the UNFPA's initiative "*Project for Strengthening Access to Reproductive Health Services, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and the Prevention and Management of Gender-based Violence*" (AID 012950/01/1, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 185 of 21/12/2023, Development Intervention) was supported with a contribution of 2,000.000 Euro, to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services, including holistic and integrated prevention/management of cases of sexual and gender-based violence for women, adolescents and young people (including persons with disabilities), in accordance with gender- and human rights-based transformative approaches, in the regions of Sikasso, Ségou, Mopti and the district of Bamako.

The Italian Development Cooperation in **Iraq** supported phase two of the initiative called "*Integration of Services in Support of Victims of Gender-based Violence for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities*" (AID 012704/01/0 and 012704/01/1, Director's Deliberation No. 5 of 24/02/2023) with a contribution of 1,000,000 Euro with the objective of improving the effectiveness of protection, support and reintegration services for survivors of gender-based violence in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The programme aims to build the capacities of local civil society



organisations and institutions for providing appropriate responses to persons at risk and victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Italy also supported new interventions in favour of **Palestinian** women and girls. The project, financed with a contribution of 979,020 Euro to UNRWA, called "*Safety and Security at Home and in Communities for Women and Girls in the Gaza Strip*" (AID 012659/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 26 of 27/01/2023, Development Intervention), is aimed at ensuring continuity with Italian support to the UNRWA by fulfilling Italy's political commitments and intentions. The protracted crisis in Gaza has created and exacerbated the risk of gender-based violence. The overall objective of the intervention is to improve the safety of women and girls in Gaza, in their homes and within the community at large.

In Eastern and Southern **Africa**, Italy supported UNWOMEN by funding the initiative "*Every woman must count - Making every woman and girl count*" (AID 012714/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 23 of 27/01/2023, Development Intervention) with a contribution of 1,000,220 Euro. The programme aims at strengthening the statistical offices and systems of the target countries for the production and dissemination of gender-based statistics, and especially the production and use of data on women's economic empowerment and violence against women, by modernising and innovating the statistical processes and increasing the accessibility and use of gender-based statistics in public policy.


A geographically unallocated contribution was also made through the **humanitarian** channel, with the “*Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund*” (UNDP/UNWOMEN) receiving 3 million Euro to support women's participation, leadership and empowerment in humanitarian response and peace and security contexts, on a flexible and needs-based basis, reaching women in 38 countries, mostly in Africa (Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Niger), but also in the Arab

*Photo 5 - AICS monitoring mission of the WPHF in Colombia (Photo by AICS).*



World (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen), Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan), Europe (Moldova, Ukraine, Kosovo) and Latin America (Colombia, Venezuela and Haiti). The fund supports local and grassroots civil society organisations led by women and addressing women's issues, peace and security and humanitarian action. Thanks to this

funding, women also receive protection and a range of assistance services to the survivors of gender and sexual violence and for maternal and reproductive health. The fund especially focuses on displaced and refugee women, as well as on key areas such as food security and combating climate change. By virtue of the funding disbursed in 2022, Italy was appointed to the WPHF's Central Board in 2023, thanks to which it was able to participate in decisions on financial allocations and to sit on the National Steering Committees, which are responsible for managing the fund at the local level, in Syria, Malawi and Afghanistan.



## Empowered women: access to credit, economic empowerment and the role of women in political life

The Italian Development Cooperation has also financed several actions for the empowerment of women, aimed especially at promoting entrepreneurship by facilitating access to credit, supporting women engaged in agriculture, raising awareness on women's rights, creating networks of women entrepreneurs and supporting their associations, starting up income-generating activities, combating violence for a safe environment in which women can move freely, and strengthening the role of women in political life.

In **Africa**, with a funding of 2,000,000 Euros to the African Development Bank, the Italian Development Cooperation supported the programme "*Gender Equality Trust Fund - Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (FAWA)*" (AID 012140/01/5, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 21 of 27/01/2023, Development Intervention), in order to contribute to the financial inclusion of Women in African countries, where over 70% of women are excluded from access to credit, especially for business activities.

In **Albania**, with a contribution of 1,000,000 Euro, the Italian Development Cooperation supports the initiative "*Support to Gender Equality, Rights and Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Northern Albania*" (AID 012819/01/0, Director's Deliberation No. 21 of 12/05/2023, Development Intervention), which aims to improve the condition of women in rural areas in the regions of Shkodra and Lezhë, along two priority axes: 1) Recognition of the role of women in rural areas, through the promotion of the culture of women's rights and the transversality of gender equality in the economic activities of the agricultural and rural development sector, and 2) Supporting the empowerment of rural women and female entrepreneurship through facilitating access to information on property rights, inheritance, and access to credit.



Photo 5 – Italian Development Cooperation Project in Jordan (Photo by UNWOMEN).

In **Jordan**, Italy financed, with a contribution of 2,000,000 Euro, UNWOMEN's initiative "*Strengthening the Role of Women in Jordan's Political Life*" (AID 012753/01/0, Joint Committee

Deliberation No. 107 of 09/06/2023, Development Intervention), aimed at improving individual and institutional capacities, supporting the formation of networks of actors and cross-sector groups of experts, promoting legislative and policy reforms, setting up coordination mechanisms for strategic partnerships, promoting change in social perceptions, behaviour and norms, establishing





Photo 6 - Italian Development Cooperation project in Jordan; (Photo by AVSI).

platforms for inclusion at both the political and grassroots community level and strengthening the participation of women in politics and their capacity to lead.

In **Syria**, Italy supported phase five of the UNFPA/UNDP initiative "*Support for Services Against Gender-based Violence and Income-generating Activities for Families affected by the Syrian Crisis in the Governorate of Raqqa*" (AID 011672/02/4, Deputy Minister's Deliberation No. 37 of

20/12/2023, Humanitarian Aid Intervention) with a contribution of 1,500,000 Euro, to address the problems caused by the lack of sexual and reproductive health services, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and income-generating opportunities for the most vulnerable women and youth in the Governorate of Raqqa. Activities include the provision of specialised and integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention and response services, and the distribution of "dignity kits" to women and girls, as well as community outreach and engagement activities to prevent gender-based violence.

Along the same lines, in **Central America**, phase two of the intervention "*Economic Empowerment of Women in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (second phase) MELYT 2 (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras)*" (AID 012699/01/0, Joint Committee

Deliberation No. 28 of 27/01/2023, Development Intervention), received a contribution of 3,500,000 Euro to support economic reactivation and recovery in the three countries, also in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme will strengthen the networks of Trifinio women entrepreneurs, established during phase one, through the promotion of new financial services and products and the provision of training and digital tools. The programme will also promote market access through local public/private institutions supporting micro and small enterprises and women's business and association networks.



Photo 7 – Melyt Project (Photo by UNWOMEN).

### **Resilient women: the education and empowerment of women**

The Italian Development Cooperation has also intervened to strengthen the resilience capacity of women, disproportionately affected by crises and at the frontline of crisis response, also by way of educational pathways capable of enhancing their ability to resist and respond to crises.

In **Senegal** and **Mali**, UNWOMEN's regional programme "*Project to Strengthen the Resilience, Protection and Participation of Women and Girls in the Border Areas between Senegal and Mali*" (AID 012735/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 85 of 27/01/2023, Development Intervention), financed with a contribution of


2,000,000 Euro, aims to consolidate peace and eradicate gender-based violence in order to strengthen the social, legal and economic empowerment of women in the border area between Senegal and Mali. The ultimate goal of the project is to economically empower women and adolescent girls, particularly those facing multiple discrimination, to foster a holistic approach by involving men and local communities to protect 1,500 women and girls from gender-based violence and harmful practices, and to strengthen the leadership and participation of women and youth for conflict prevention and peace building in conflict and border areas.



Photo 7 - The Italian Development Cooperation in Palestine (Photos of the Palestinian Employment Fund).

In **Palestine**, the programme called "*Multidisciplinary Intervention in Support of Gender Equality Education in Palestine*" (AID 012708/01/0, 012708/01/1, 012708/01/2, 012708/01/3 and 012708/01/4, Joint Committee Resolutions nos. 88 and 95 of 30/03/2023, Development Intervention),

financed with a contribution of 5,930,000 Euro, aims to launch a multidisciplinary model, based above all on (secondary and university) education and culture, capable of eliminating discrimination and gender stereotypes, which negatively affect the active participation of women in the political and social life of Palestine. In particular, the project aims to improve the quality of higher education, initiate critical reflection on the role of gender stereotypes, suggest a transformative pathway through extracurricular actions in schools and cultural events. A university master's degree in gender studies in Palestine, exchanges with Italian universities



(including three-year PhD programmes), seminars and cultural events for young people are also planned.

#### 4.2. PROJECTS WITH SIGNIFICANT GENDER EQUALITY COMPONENTS.

Several multi-sectoral projects stand out, among the other initiatives with significant components aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, especially in Africa and the Middle East. Specifically, these projects are substantially committed to the priority themes of the Italian Development Cooperation's action: intersectionality and women with disabilities; agricultural development and food security; environment and climate change; women's empowerment and the private sector; maternal, child, sexual and reproductive health; gender-based violence and women's/girls' rights; and education, vocational training and employment.

##### **Intersectionality and women with disabilities**

In **Mozambique**, the project called "*INCLU.DE - Inclusion for Development: Strengthening the System for Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Mozambique*" (AID 012759/01/0, Director's Deliberation No. 4 of 14/02/2023, Development Intervention), financed by the Italian Development Cooperation with a contribution of 2,000,000 Euro, carries out actions aimed at bridging the double gap suffered by women and girls with disabilities. The project features activities focusing on the right to health and accessibility to health services, especially with regard to the sexual and reproductive health of women with disabilities and to cultural and attitudinal barriers, including multiple discriminations, also related to gender and sexual orientation. There is a special focus on the equal participation of girls and women in all project-related activities, on their needs and specificities, to counteract the "double divide".



## Agricultural development and food security


In **Syria**, through the initiative "*Relaunching Agricultural Livelihoods for Vulnerable Farmers in Al Ghab - FAO*" (AID 012736/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 89 of 30/03/2023, total amount - 1,000,000 Euro, Development Intervention), the Italian Development Cooperation, in addition to removing the lily of the Nile to restore 3 irrigation canals, improved livelihoods and provided high quality agricultural inputs to farmers, especially women, to increase crop production and promote food security and economic opportunities. Specifically, the project involves communities, particularly women, in defining maintenance plans, as well as regular water cleaning and distribution programmes.

In **Mauritania**, the project "*Strengthening the Resilience Capacities of Mauritanian Agro-pastoral Communities to Cope with Environmental Risks and Conflicts - RECAP*" (AID 012812/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 106 of 09/06/2023, Development Intervention - total amount - 3,000,000 Euro), besides improving food and nutrition security through a preventive approach based on strengthening nutrition-sensitive agricultural production, aims to strengthen the resilience of agro-pastoral communities on the Mauritanian-Malian border through an approach based on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The most vulnerable agro-pastoral communities, particularly small-scale producers, women and youth, will thus be better prepared and equipped to safeguard the local ecosystems. Green spaces will also be created to foster the generation of decent rural jobs for young people and women, who will also be involved in the management of local systems. Indeed, the project considers young people and women as active agents of change, putting them at the centre of the transformation process, to sustainably manage ecosystems and create more sustainable and resilient food systems, also through technology and innovation.

## Environment and climate change

In **Uganda**, the project "*Support to Human and Environmental Development in Karamoja*" (AID 012788/01/0 and 012788/01/1, Deputy Director's Deliberation No. 37 of 13/11/2023, Development Intervention - total amount 1,930,000 Euro) aims to contribute to the programme for reforestation and the conservation and protection of the country's forest heritage envisaged in the "Third National Development Plan 2021-25", to promote inclusive investments and decent work opportunities in the forestry sector, with a focus on women and young people. The initiative will be implemented in the Karamoja Region, which is particularly exposed to extreme secondary climate change phenomena, such as desertification, drought and erratic rainfall, which further affect the spread of poverty and food insecurity typical of the region. In the process of transformation of the increasingly urbanised and sedentary Karimojong society, women have taken on a predominant role in agriculture, while men are more involved in pastoralism. Therefore, the initiative aims to encourage training among women to start up agroforestry activities that can ensure income and access to food for their families and improve the household economy. The role of women is extremely important in managing firewood and charcoal consumption and thus in the introduction of low-consumption technologies or alternative energy sources.

In **Mozambique**, Italy supported the WFP intervention "*Strengthening Climate Resilient Food Systems in the Province of Tete*" (AID 012867/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 177 of 20/11/2023, Development Intervention - total amount 2,000,000 Euro), whose objective is to improve climate-sensitive food systems in the Province of Tete, particularly in the districts of Moatize and Doa, to ensure food security of smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, and their families. The programme also aims to improve food intake, especially of children, pregnant and lactating women and adolescents. Furthermore, it will support the creation of micro-




enterprises led by women and young people offering nutritional products and services.

### **Economic empowerment of women and the private sector**

In **Iraq**, the ILO project called “*Improving Employment Opportunities by Supporting the Private Sector and the Green Economy in Southern Iraq*” (AID 012723/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 25 of 27/01/2023 – total amount 3,000,000 Euro, Development Intervention) aims to support the transformation of Iraq's private sector to expand and improve employment opportunities by 2025. Specifically, there is a strong focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, especially those led by women, to help them adapt, innovate, grow and prosper, in the green economy first and foremost.

In **Egypt**, the Italian Development Cooperation has supported two interventions aimed at strengthening the Egyptian business ecosystem, to create jobs and improve the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries through the creation of start-ups, especially by women and young people. In particular, the World Bank project “*Accelerating High Potential Entrepreneurship in Egypt*” (AID 012617/01/1, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 73 of 30/03/2023, Development Intervention – total amount 5,000,000 Euro) seeks to improve the capacity of start-ups and of the organisations that support entrepreneurship to receive investments and develop partnerships between local start-ups and the international ecosystem, with a strong participation of start-ups established and managed by women, who will be able to interact with female entrepreneurs operating in other ecosystems and explore investment opportunities with foreign financial institutions. Along the same lines, the initiative “*Supporting Start-ups and SMEs in Egypt*” (AID 012863/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 156 of 09/10/2023, Development Intervention – total amount 2,000,000 Euro) aims to improve the long-term competitiveness and



resilience of the most disadvantaged segments of start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Egypt, with the goal of ultimately reaching the most vulnerable sub-segments of MSMEs, such as micro and women-led enterprises, through business advisory services, also in the greenest business processes.

### Promoting maternal, sexual and reproductive health rights

In the **Central African Republic**, which ranks fourth in the world for maternal mortality rates, the initiative "*Responding to Maternal and Neonatal Health Needs in the Central African Republic*" (AID 012859/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 161 of 09/10/2023, Development Intervention), financed with a contribution of 5,000,000 Euro, aims to strengthen the country's health system, ensuring the provision of maternal, neonatal and paediatric care at the *Complexe Hospitalier Universitaire Pédiatrique de Bangui* (CHUPB), the only second-level paediatric referral hospital in the country. The primary aim of the project is to train local health workers, to enhance neonatal care, maternal health, infection control and hygiene practices and infectious disease management, and to promote the empowerment of women, jointly with a greater awareness of neonatal care.

In **Sudan**, which ranks third in the world for maternal mortality rates, Italy financed the project "*ASSESS – Ensuring Basic Health Services – Access to Health Services for Conflict-Affected Populations in the Eastern States of Sudan*" (AID 012860/01/0, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 171 of 09/10/2023, CSO awarded project) with a contribution of 4,000,000 Euro, in support of basic health services, especially in the field of women's health, to ensure care for pregnant and post-partum women. The programme also aims to develop skills in health facility management to improve integrated health care, in line with the gender responsive approach, which



aims at promoting the proactive participation of women in public health policymaking.



Photo 8 – Italian Development Cooperation project in Sudan (Photo by Francesca Nardi).

In 2023, Italy has also donated 57,950,000 Euro to the “**Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**”, (AID 012596/01/9, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 48 of 30/03/2023), which includes promoting gender equality among its strategic priorities, given that women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

### **Education, vocational training and employment**

In **Pakistan**, the Italian Development Cooperation financed the OSC ISCOS project “**BELIEF (Welfare, Empowerment, Employment, Education And Training)**” (AID 012970/01/1, Joint Committee Deliberation No. 37 of 27/01/2023 and Director's Deliberation No. 3414 of 15/12/2023 – total amount 1,234,203 Euro, Development Intervention – Call for Christian Minorities), which aims to enhance the socio-


economic inclusion of Christian majority communities in the Province of Punjab in an environment more conducive to interreligious dialogue. The project focuses on gender equality by ensuring the strong participation of women, to promote inclusion and provide more opportunities for girls and women in vulnerable situations in the Youhanabad district, enabling them to acquire vocational skills and access new job prospects, including training opportunities in non-traditional sectors and helping to eliminate gender stereotypes and promote equal opportunities.



Photo 9 – Activities funded by the Italian Development Cooperation in the Saharawi Camps, Algeria (Photo by AICS).


In Algeria, the initiative "*Emergency Intervention in favour of Youth and Women for Capacity Building through Vocational Training and the Improvement of Basic Services in Refugee Camps*" (AID 012891/01/0, Deputy Minister's Deliberation No. 40 of 20/12/2023 – total amount 2,000,000 Euro, Humanitarian Aid Intervention to be implemented with the involvement of CSOs), aims to increase access to

basic services and strengthen the livelihood capacities of the Saharawi refugee population, particularly women and girls. Specifically, it aims to improve access to education services, making them more inclusive for children with disabilities and safe for girls and young women. The project also aims to strengthen informal and institutional management systems within the Saharawi camps, in terms of inclusiveness and participation of women and young people.



In **Senegal**, with the aim of contributing to the country's inclusive economic development through professional inclusion and job creation, two bilateral and one multi-bilateral initiatives were financed, focusing on women's empowerment. The *“Project to Support the Territorialisation of Vocational Inclusion Policies for Young People and Women - PATIP-JF”* (AID 012790/01/2, Deliberation No. 94 of 30/03/2023), with 4,000,000 Euro, implemented by the Ministry of Vocational Training, for consolidating a system of vocational inclusion incentives across the country and strengthening the role of local authorities. In particular, the programme will take steps to actively involve women/girls, who will be the beneficiaries of at least 50 per cent of the 2,224 planned paid internship contracts, also focusing on women with disabilities. The *“Programme to Support Actors in the Social and Solidarity Economy (PROGRESS)”* (AID 012975/01/0, Deliberation No. 198 of 21/12/2023) - with 4,000,000 Euro funding for the Ministry of Microfinance and Social and Solidarity Economy (ESS), aims to contribute to the creation of jobs and additional wealth at the local level, with a special focus on women entrepreneurship, which will account for at least 40% of the supported enterprises. Finally, the ILO project *“Encouraging the Creation of Decent Jobs by Improving the Inclusion Mechanism for Young People, Men and Women, and the Formalisation of Enterprises in Senegal - (ADIJEFE)”* (AID 012729/01/0, Deliberation No. 17 of 27/01/2023, funding for 2,000,000 Euro), will focus on improving the living conditions and income of young men and women through the creation of decent jobs and enterprise development, according to an approach based on human rights, gender equality and the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

In **Tunisia**, within the framework of the programme called **"Support for the Training and Employment of Tunisian Youth"** - AID 012833/01/0, 012833/01/1, Deliberation CC No. 150 of 19 July 2023, Development/LRRD Intervention), a call for proposals was launched on 16 January 2024, addressing CSOs, to finance




training and decent employment projects in four priority sectors – tourism, agri-food, textiles and mechanics/renewable energy – for a total amount of 7,800,000 Euro.

The initiative aims to strengthen the supply of and access to vocational training and decent work opportunities for the most vulnerable groups, including young NEETs (*Not in Education, Employment or Training*) and women, through local processes aimed at building skills for the innovation, diversification and requalification of strategic sectors and supply chains, within a framework of raising awareness about and promoting social and environmental sustainability as a vehicle for creating added value and quality employment in the target sectors and areas. To this end, special emphasis is placed on gender equality and encouraging the participation of women from vulnerable groups in marginalised regions of the country and with a strong tendency to migrate.

### **Gender-based violence and the rights of women and girls**


In **Ethiopia**, the intervention "*Strengthening the Humanitarian Response in Ethiopia*" (AID 012882, Deputy Minister's Deliberation No. 25 of 06/11/2023, Humanitarian Aid Intervention – total amount 20,000,000 Euro) aims to contribute to the humanitarian response to the multiple emergencies taking place in Ethiopia. Besides strengthening protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable segments of the population, with a special focus on improving the legal and clinical management of cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and on providing psychological and social assistance, the project aims to promote the role of women as active participants in society and to protect the rights and enhance non-discrimination of women in societies. To this end, the following activities will be carried out: supporting the education of women and girls; generating income for women, in the agricultural and other sectors; raising awareness in the local communities on issues



related to the promotion of women as active participants in society; and promoting the inclusion of women in social and economic life.

In **Niger**, Italy has financed UNHCR's initiative "*Emergency Multi-sector Assistance for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Maradi Region of Niger*" (AID 012306/01/1, Deputy Minister's Deliberation No. 22 of 06/11/2023), in support of refugees and asylum seekers in the Maradi region through multi-sector assistance activities, also in emergency situations, by ensuring that refugee women and children are safe from abuse and exploitation, that persons with special needs are assisted, that the most vulnerable families are provided with adequate housing and that the population is assisted with livelihood activities to promote self-sufficiency. Specifically, the project aims to improve services to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Refugee girls and women, as well as host communities in the Maradi region, are at high risk of gender-based violence due to insecurity, in connection with the risk of trafficking, abduction, early and forced marriage.

In **Senegal**, the "*Project for Improving Access to and the Quality of Socio-educational Child Protection Services - PAQ-SPE*" (AID 012713/01/0, Deliberation No. 41 of 27/01/2023 - total amount 3,000,000 Euro) aims to improve socio-educational services for minors (boys and girls) at risk and/or in conflict with the law, by improving access to and the quality of care services based on international standards and national policies. The initiative will be implemented by the Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for the protection, re-education and reintegration of children/young people aged 0-21 who are at risk, victims, witnesses or in conflict with the law. In particular, the project intends to strengthen reception services to better take care of the needs of girls who are victims of violations of their rights, also by strengthening the capacities of the educators and staff involved in providing



care to women/girls who are the victims of abuse, gender-based violence and harmful practices (genital mutilation, early marriage and pregnancy, etc.).

In the West African region, Italy financed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the implementation of the "*Support Project for the Protection of Child Victims of Rights Violations (PAPEV) - Phase 2*" (AID 012709/01/0, Deliberation No. 84 of 30/03/2023), which provides support to the beneficiary countries – Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal – for the establishment of effective national child protection systems, in accordance with the recommendations of the regional and international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the rights of children (male and female), with a specific focus on the different needs of girls, also in emergency and climate change situations.

Finally, the contributions to the Country Based Pooled Funds – CBPFs, supported by Italy in **Ethiopia and Syria** (total 16 million Euro) deserve to be mentioned, which contribute more than 80 per cent to actions for promoting gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence. In disasters and emergencies, women and girls are usually among the most at risk and marginalised and may face increased vulnerabilities, including additional risks of violence. The CBPFs build partnerships with gender and protection experts to better inform policy-making and address and mitigate sexual violence, while also directly funding local organisations, including women-led and women's rights organisations.

Furthermore, the Italian Development Cooperation has invested in the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), from the annual humanitarian aid budget. In 2023, the disbursement of 17,500 million Euro ensured Italy's position among the top 10 donors to the fund, which currently includes the Netherlands, the UK, Sweden, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Canada, the USA,



Belgium and Italy. In 2023, the CERF financed numerous emergency interventions aimed at combating gender-based violence and protecting women in numerous countries, such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, DRC, CAR, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Yemen, Myanmar, Colombia, Haiti, Peru, Panama, Venezuela.

#### **4.3. MIXED AID CREDIT AND GRANT-BASED PROJECTS**


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In 2023, the Italian Development Cooperation also financed a project with significant gender equality components, to be implemented with a mixed grant and aid credit funding, called "*IN4JOB - National Programme to Promote Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovative Business Ideas*" (AID 012924/01/2 - Aid credit for 20 million Euro, CC Deliberation No. 182 of 21/11/2023; AID 012924/01/0 and 012924/01/1 - Grant-based funding for 6.4 million Euro, CC Deliberation No. 197 of 21/11/2023). The specific aim of the project is to increase the entrepreneurship and employability of young undergraduates and recent graduates, providing them with the skills they need to succeed in today's world of work. To this end, innovation is applied to the creation, incubation and acceleration of start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with a strong focus on technology. This strategy is aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda and the Mozambique government's priorities of economic growth and job creation. The programme includes specific actions to promote women's participation and enable equal access to employment, including in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

#### **4.4. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

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In the humanitarian sphere, it is worth mentioning the significant contribution of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): in the course of 2023, AICS Offices selected numerous projects following Calls for proposals launched as part of humanitarian aid initiatives resolved in previous years. In particular, there are projects specifically



dedicated to promoting gender equality or with components on the theme totalling around 20 million Euro. The CSOs have been mainly engaged in Africa and the Middle East (Ethiopia, Iraq, Central African Republic, Syria, South Sudan and Uganda), with interventions primarily aimed at supporting displaced persons, refugees, migrants and host communities to strengthen the resilience of women and young people in a vulnerable or risky situation and protecting from and preventing sexual and gender-based violence. Several projects will pursue strategies to enable safe deliveries and assist newborns in the crucial early stages of life even in crisis contexts, while others will be dedicated to food security and combating malnutrition among girls, lactating and pregnant women, enhancing the role of women in livelihood-generating activities, inclusive and equal education and strengthening the resilience of women and girls and strengthening the role of women in crisis contexts.


#### 4.5. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INTERVENTIONS DELEGATED TO AICS BY THE EU

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In 2018, the Agency completed the accreditation process as a qualified organisation for the indirect management of European funding, from which time AICS was delegated by the European Commission to carry out development cooperation initiatives.

Among the new agreements signed by AICS in 2023 with the European Union, one focused specifically on the empowerment of women girls and children. On 21/12/2023, in Egypt, AICS signed an Agreement with the Delegation of the European Union in Cairo (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/450-435) for the implementation of an initiative – for the value of 1,500,000 Euro – called "*Enhancing Women's Empowerment in Egypt through DESITA: Egyptian Italian Fashion Design School for Women and Girls*". The aim of this project is to improve the quality of life of women





and girls, promoting their socio-economic empowerment, through training courses for the acquisition of specific skills for female entrepreneurship in the design and marketing sector. To this end, the project shall promote a collaboration for the long-term transfer of skills between Italy and Egypt, through the creation of a Training School for Design, featuring two training pathways: i) a women's high school programme in applied technology (ATS), supported by a public-private partnership (PPP) between the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) and an Egyptian private sector entity; and ii) a postgraduate programme in the design sector. The project will also support new start-ups set up by women, through mentoring and business incubation support services. In line with the intersectional approach, the project will focus specifically on including women with disabilities and making activities accessible to these women, who are often doubly discriminated against. The start of project activities is conditional on the granting of permits by the Egyptian authorities, scheduled for the second half of 2024.


## 5. PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT (PSEAH)

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Italy has long advocated a **zero-tolerance policy** against sexual exploitation and abuse committed by UN peacekeepers and international cooperation and civilian personnel.

Indeed, these phenomena can seriously undermine the integrity, effectiveness and credibility of the entire international cooperation community rooted in situations of structural inequality, especially gender inequality, and jeopardise the global efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 5 to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

During our non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council, we promoted the inclusion of specific regulatory provisions in the mandates of peacekeeping operations to counter this phenomenon.




Following complex negotiations between like-minded countries and the UN Legal Office, harmonised language on SEAH<sup>4</sup> was approved in July 2021. Italy is particularly committed to including the agreed clause in all agreements for the implementation of projects by major UN agencies.

With regard to **PSEAH**, in implementing the commitments undertaken by Italy that led – among other things – to the adoption of the AICS PSEAH Code – Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment, the Agency strengthened its actions aimed at preventing sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation in humanitarian contexts, by including specific references to the need to intervene in this area in its humanitarian aid programmes. For example, in **Ethiopia** the Emergency Office of the AICS field office organised, in agreement with UNFPA, a training programme on PSEAH for all AICS partner CSOs operating in the country and for civil society organisations, eligible for funding from the Agency's humanitarian aid projects. The training covered the basic concepts of PSEA, the role of the PSEA contact person, risk mitigation for agencies, Community-Based Complaint Mechanism (CBCM). Interested organisations had a direct opportunity to become members of the PSEA network (also supported by the AICS multilateral emergency funds), so that they could fully utilise the resources and opportunities available through the network.

In **Ukraine**, under the Humanitarian Aid Initiative for the Population Affected by the Conflict (AID 012832/01/0, VM Resolutions No. 28/2023 and 8/2023), several CSO projects were initiated that include the strengthening of mechanisms to prevent sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment. For example, the following elements were included: in the “RISE UP” project implemented by WeWorld-GVC, in cooperation with CESVI and supported with 1,800.000 Euro from the Italian

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<sup>4</sup> [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/harmonized-seah-clause-july-2021-english-.pdf?sfvrsn=d4d44a31\\_9](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/harmonized-seah-clause-july-2021-english-.pdf?sfvrsn=d4d44a31_9)



Development Cooperation in the eastern Ukrainian regions, such as Kharkiv and Donetsk, which provides awareness-raising on protection and human rights consistently with the principles of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and PSEAH; in Moldova, in the project "EDU-PRO Quality of Education and Protection for Conflict Affected People and Vulnerable Groups in Moldova", coordinated by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in ATS with WeWorld-GVC and supported by the Italian Development Cooperation with almost 2 million Euro, which includes the establishment of safe spaces for women and girls, and staff training on child protection, gender-based violence, and PSEAH. Similar activities are carried out by other Civil Society Organisations (MEDU, INTERSOS, CUAMM, Plan International, Caritas, Soleterre, ActionAid, ARCS) in different areas of the country and in Moldova.

## **6. CULTIVATING THE VALUE OF FUNDED ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) has a primary focus on the issue of gender equality, also through communication and visibility actions regarding Italy's commitment, carried out jointly with national and international partners. Every year, on the occasion of World Women's Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, MAECI issues a [press release](#) and dedicates a number of posts on its social media platforms to highlight Italy's commitment on the international stage in support of gender equality. Each year, together with various UN Agencies, including UN WOMEN and UNFPA, we coordinate outreach and visibility actions - as part of the "Donor visibility week" - to promote the work of the Italian Development Cooperation on issues of gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and girls, including strong support for the UN Programme to eliminate female genital mutilation and other brutal practices. Each year, MAECI supports the UN's international "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign and the section of the MAECI website dedicated to in-depth information on development cooperation is

consistently updated with gender-related guidelines and documents. The MAECI network abroad implements a number of initiatives in this field too, such as the installation of a [“red bench” at the Italian Embassies](#) to highlight the importance of acting to eliminate violence against women or the initiative held last November for dedicating to [Giulia Cecchetti several scholarships for young non-Italians invited to study in Italy](#).

AICS also updated the Agency's website page with new content and documentation relative to [Gender Equality](#), including a session specifically dedicated to good practices to highlight the interventions funded and the results achieved on the ground.

Moreover, specific articles were published in the news section to celebrate

*Photos 10 and 10 – Leaflet produced for 8 March by a young Palestinian woman, beneficiary of a training project on graphic design in Palestine.*



International Women's Day ([8 March 2023: AICS to women with its projects around the world](#)), the International Day against Sexual Violence in Conflict (19 June - [Women and Armed Conflict: AICS supports women's leadership and the fight against sexual violence in conflicts](#)) and the fight against female genital [mutilation](#) (8 February - [AICS Khartoum at the forefront of the fight against female genital mutilation](#))

For the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2023 ([25 November](#)) and for the 16 Days of Activism on Gender Violence, a campaign was carried out with the almost daily publication

on the aics.gov.it website of articles and photos disseminating AICS achievements in the sector<sup>5</sup>.

The actions undertaken by AICS to foster gender equality was also highlighted on the occasion of the meeting at the Rome headquarters with a delegation of institutional officials from North Macedonia accompanied by UNWOMEN, aimed at



deepening the methodologies, approaches and projects for promoting gender equality in a perspective of exchange among equals (18 September - [AICS: meeting with a delegation from North Macedonia and UNWOMEN on gender equality - AICS](#)).

Photo 11 – Meeting with the Macedonian Delegation (Photo by AICS)

Numerous other activities were implemented by the field offices and disseminated through their websites and social media, as well as the local media.

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1. <sup>5</sup> 27/11/2023 - [Strengthening Gender Ambassadors in Gederaf, Sudan](#)
  2. 28/11/2023 - [Every word counts: AICS Dakar's digital campaign](#)
  3. 29/11/2023 - [ACTIVATE Nairobi: a campaign against gender-based violence in Kenya](#)
  4. 30/11/2023 - [AICS Hanoi jointly with the International Red Cross Committee to combat sexual violence in the Cox's Bazar area](#)
  5. 1/12/2023 - [Turning challenges into opportunities: Ethiopian women entrepreneurs' journey with WEDP](#)
  6. 4/12/2023 - [Tunisia, the voice of women against discrimination](#)
  7. 5/12/2023 - [Lebanon and Syria, eradicating violence from the grassroots](#)
  8. 6/12/2023 - [AICS Ouagadougou supports the empowerment of women through the valorisation of traditional agriculture](#)
  9. 7/12/2023 - [AICS in support of women in the Niger crisis](#)
  10. 8/12/2023 - [Rights, school, food: AICS Islamabad supports Pakistani women](#)
  11. 9/12/2023 - [Promoting peace and gender equality: first DELPAZ solidarity camp](#)
  12. 12/12/2023 - [AICS Amman's support to Italian CSOs in Jordan against gender-based violence](#)
  13. 13/12/2023 - [Women in the light: Italy supports new Declaration for rural women and girls in Albania](#)

“[Every word counts](#)” is the title of a video launched on 8 March by the **Dakar** field office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). The video, created as a social experiment, emphasises individual responsibility as a key driver for change, especially with regard to an issue such as violence. The video is at the centre of the digital campaign launched by the office on 25 November.



Photo 12 – Photo exhibition realised in collaboration with the Italian Development Cooperation in Senegal.

The AICS field office in **Yaoundé**, acting within the framework of the “16 Days of Activism”, in coordination with the other Member States on the ground, organised a conference (*Conference internationale pratique: genre et education inclusive*), with the principal objective of sharing technical knowledge and outreach tools on the rights of persons with disabilities and gender-sensitive school inclusion mechanisms among participants<sup>6</sup>.

The AICS field office in **Nairobi**, on the other hand, collaborated with the Italian Cultural Institute and the Embassy of Italy to implement an outreach campaign to promote debate on gender-based violence and women's empowerment in Kenya. This resulted in the Activate Nairobi campaign, consisting of a range of events, including panel discussions, film screenings, theatre performances, a national conference and photo exhibitions, organised in collaboration with numerous local

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<sup>6</sup> Below is the link to the publication on the AICS institutional website: <https://www.aics.gov.it/news/diritti-delle-persone-con-disabilita-delle-donne-e-educazione-inclusiva-una-conferenza-a-yaounde/>

partners, including the State Department for Gender, Nairobi County Government, University of Nairobi, Physicians for Human Rights<sup>7</sup>.

**THE 'ACTIVATE NAIROBI' CAMPAIGN!**

**ABOUT THE INITIATIVE**

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the Italian Institute of Culture (IIC) in Nairobi, and the Embassy of Italy in Kenya invite you to participate in the 'Activate Nairobi' campaign. This initiative is a series of cultural events, debates, and discussions aimed at advancing the conversation on gender-based violence and women's empowerment in Kenya. Be a part of this crucial movement for change!

**EVENT 1**

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE ACTION**

Event: Panel Discussion  
 Title: Women's Leadership in Climate Action: Strategies and Transformative Solutions  
 Date: 24/11, 9:30 - 13:30  
 Location: University of Nairobi, Chandaria Hall  
 Moderator: Ms. Aleya Kassam  
 Panelists: Ms. Charlene Ruto, Ms. Elizabeth Wathuti, Ms. Francesca Di Matteo, Dr. Mary Lucia Mbiti Luncheon provided; includes a collective exhibition and vernissage

Join us at Chandaria Hall, University of Nairobi, to hear from 4 inspiring women leaders on how climate change affects women's empowerment and their innovative solutions. Contribute your ideas in this vital discussion!

Featuring a special exhibition by Ms. Gaia Squarci, Italian photographer and National Geographic grantee, showcasing her work with Nairobi's youth and women leaders fighting climate change in collaboration with Cortona On The Move, WeWorld Onlus and Mwelu Foundation. Don't miss the post-discussion vernissage showcasing these impactful stories!

Please register at the following link: <https://bit.ly/register-activate>

**EVENT 2**

**COMMUNITY ADVOCACY WITH SURVIVORS**

Event: Community Advocacy with Survivors  
 Organization: Physicians for Human Rights - Kenya (PHR-K)  
 Date: 25/11, 8:00-12:30  
 Location: Dandora 3 Social Hall  
 Contact: Ms. Naitore Nyamu  
 Email: nyamu@phr.org

Physicians for Human Rights - Kenya (PHR-K) will gather the community of survivors of violence to spark a debate over the challenges in terms of accessibility, availability, and quality of healthcare services aimed at survivors of sexual violence.

**EVENT 3**

**THEATRE PERFORMANCE**

Event: Theatre Exhibition  
 Title: Social Justice Travelling Theatre Performance  
 Date: 01/12, 09:30 - 14:00  
 Location: Comboni Primary School, Korogochi Reserved for Comboni Primary School students

Gender equality and gender-based violence are topics that should also and above all be promoted among the youngest. The Social Justice Travelling Theatre will perform a show to bring gender issues closer to young students. The entertainment will be enhanced by the live performance of the young illustrator Ms. Giulia Mezzadri, who will sketch drawings related to the theme of the theatre exhibition.

**EVENT 4**

**MOVIES FOR EMPOWERMENT**

Event: Movies for Empowerment  
 Theme: Kenyan - Italian Perspective  
 Dates: 1/12 & 8/12, 20:30  
 Location: UNSEEN cinema, Nairobi  
 Tickets on a first-come, first-serve basis

Two movie nights at the iconic UNSEEN cinema to spark the conversation around women empowerment and GBV.

**EVENT 5**

**COMEDY NIGHT**

Event: Comedy Nights  
 Title: Highly Debatable Show - Gender Roles Edition  
 Organizer: Stand Up Collective  
 Event 1 Date: 2/12, 19:30  
 Location: Nakuru Players Theatre, Nakuru

Event 2: Date: 9/12, 19:30,  
 Location: Levels Hotel, Nairobi  
 Featuring a Kenyan-Italian jazz trio  
 Contact: standupcollective@gmail.com

With a unique blend of comedic talent, lively discussions, and active audience participation, the shows, organized by Stand Up Collective, aim to showcase diverse viewpoints on often polarizing topics. Each event will feature three rounds of humorous discussions on various aspects of gender roles. At Levels Hotel (Nairobi), the show will be accompanied by a Kenyan-Italian jazz trio led by Serena Bernardeschi to make the night unforgettable.

**EVENT 6**

**NATIONAL CONVENING ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS**


Event: National Convening on Mental Health Services for Survivors  
 Title: Enhancing Access to Mental Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence  
 Organization: Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)  
 Date: 8/12, 08:00 - 15:00  
 Location: Sarova Stanley Nairobi  
 Contact: Ms. Naitore Nyamu  
 Email: nyamu@phr.org

The National Convening will bring together survivors of sexual violence, key civil society partners, and state actors to deliberate on the gaps, opportunities, and good practices in provision of mental health services.

Photo 13 – Activate Nairobi campaign events programme.

In Senegal, in May 2023, the AICS field office in Dakar was appointed co-chair, jointly with UNWOMEN Senegal, of the gender thematic group that brings together technical and financial partners (bilateral and multilateral agencies) to promote initiatives for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The mandate, which is renewable, is for two years. During the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Thematic Group organised a two-day [joint event in Sédhiou](#) (South

<sup>7</sup> Below is the link to the publication on the AICS institutional website: [ACTIVATE Nairobi: a campaign against gender-based violence in Kenya](#)



Senegal) on 4 and 5 December, which included, among other activities, a day of free legal and advocacy consultations for the population, with the support of the AICS-funded National Gender Strategy Support Project implemented by the Ministry of Women ([PASNEEG](#)), the Senegalese Association of Women Lawyers and the [boutique de droits](#) in Sédhiou.

The AICS field office in **Beirut**, in connection with the 16 Days of Activism campaign against gender-based violence, published in various formats<sup>8</sup> 12 stories, accompanied by explanatory texts, of women detained in Lebanese prisons, to recall the drama of many survivors and the commitment of our development cooperation system in Lebanon in support of human rights and the fight against gender-based violence.


Numerous articles have been published by the Field Offices on the launch of projects dedicated to gender equality. An example is the news published on the website of the AICS field office in Maputo, on the occasion of the solidarity camp to

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<sup>8</sup> The articles are available in the news section of the platform: <https://beirut.aics.gov.it/>

1. 11/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 #End: Triptych: Project - Campaign - Transparency](#)
  2. 10/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 Day #13, Gerosa: 'More discriminated against as Women'](#)
  3. 09/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 #day12 Lamis: between early marriage and violence](#)
  4. 08/12/2023 - [#Campaign16 #days11: "A Campaign as our contribution"](#)
  5. 07/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 STORY #10: "Basma, victim of violence at work"](#)
  6. 06/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 day #9, Lawyer Khoury: "FIGHTING AGAINST VIOLENCE WITH DEDICATED POLICIES AND RULES"](#)
  7. 05/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 day #8: Samar: the emotional scars of rape and continued abuse](#)
  8. 04/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 day #7: "You see us as human beings not as murderers and criminals"](#)
  9. 01/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 day #6, The Advocate: "We need to work on mentality, family, education, religion and values"](#)
  10. 01/12/2023 - [Campaign #16 day #5: Psychologist: "Many women prisoners we follow have experienced violence"](#)
- 2023, November
    1. 30/11/2023 - [Campaign #16 Day#4: Pauline's story, from a "toxic" marriage to jail for drug trafficking](#)
    2. 28/11/2023 - [Campaign#16 - #day3 : WORD is the medicine to cure violence](#)
    3. 27/11/2023 - [Campaign16 #day2: Violence against Women: the story of Fatima, victim in the family](#)
    4. 24/11/2023 - [Campaign#16 - #day1: 16 days of stories between violence and hope](#)





promote peace and gender equality, held as part of the DELPAZ delegated cooperation project during the 16 Days of activism” campaign<sup>9</sup>.

## 7. AICS STAFF TRAINING


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In order to strengthen the capacity of staff in the area of gender equality, the first coordination meeting on gender equality was organised on 13 June 2023 to update the Field Offices and Headquarters on the activities for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the central level and to foster the exchange of information and good practices in the field. The meeting, convened by the Deputy Technical Directorate, was attended by several Directors and experts. The importance and transversality of gender equality, as a priority of Law 125/2014 and the Three-Year Programming and Policy Document 2021/2023, as well as the commitments made by AICS under the "Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls", were highlighted, envisaging gender transversality in all the initiatives and calls for tenders of the Italian Development Cooperation, improving gender analyses, a monitoring system including disaggregated gender indicators, a gender-sensitive communication strategy that enhances the results, support to the MAECI for participation in the collegial bodies of the international organisations.

Ad hoc training was also provided on 4 May to 40 newly recruited AICS technical officials to prepare them on AICS thematic priorities, gender equality framework concepts and the correct use of the OECD DAC gender policy marker. A similar training programme was also held on 6 October for the AICS Bogotá staff by the AICS Gender Equality Contact Person, who was in the country for the monitoring mission of the WPHF actions in Colombia.

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<sup>9</sup> For the AICS Maputo article: <https://maputo.aics.gov.it/news/promuovere-la-pace-e-luguaglianza-di-genero-primocampeggio-di-solidarieta-delpaz>;



Furthermore, on 18 July, at the request of the Head of AICS Office VII on Cooperation, Partnerships and Development Finance, a training session on gender equality was held for staff involved in the management of the development finance programmes and interventions. The training provided an informal exchange on the framework concepts of gender equality and the correct use of the OECD DAC gender policy marker. Staff from the Programme Office in Yaoundé participated in two days of hybrid training organised by the Delegation of the European Union in Yaoundé, in the framework of the actions envisaged by the CLIP for the implementation of GAP III Cameroon and reinforcement of Team Europe initiatives. The training sessions, held in October and December 2023, focused on gender-based violence and gender-equitable leadership (Gender Transformative Leadership).

The Agency also participated in awareness-raising and training activities at: the University of Roma Tre - Seminar dedicated to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (27 March); the University of Pavia - Master in Cooperation and Development (2 May); the University of La Sapienza, Advanced Training Course on "Women Peace and Mediation" 6th edition (8 September); the University of Pavia, Human Rights Centre - seminar "Transforming the future: youth and women for building peace" (25 October); the *Istituto Affari Internazionali* - course on "Women and Leadership in International Relations" (16 November); the City of Turin during the day dedicated to "The fight against economic violence against women in international cooperation policies and activities" (25 November).

## ANNEX 1. CSO-BASED HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS WITH GENDER EQUALITY COMPONENTS INITIATED DURING 2023.

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### Colombia

AID 012684/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 102 of 10/10/2022) - Project title: *"Humanitarian aid and peace building in Colombia through the protection and promotion of the role of women and young people"*.

- OIKOS in ATS with CESVI. Project title: *"PACE BUENA: Protection, Welcome, Involvement, Empowerment at BUENAventura"*, Total amount 900,000 Euro.

### Ethiopia


AID 012470/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 35 of 13/04/2022) - Project title: *"Emergency initiative in response to humanitarian needs caused by conflict and violence in Ethiopia"*

- CUAMM. Project title: *"Risposta umanitaria di servizi salvavita e protezione per le Comunità di Dassenech colpite dalla siccità in south Omo - REACH OUT"* (Humanitarian response of survival and protection services for Dassenech communities hit by drought in South Omo - REACH OUT), Total amount 550,000 Euro.

AID 012459/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 52 of 23/11/2021) - Project title: *"Emergency response programme, support to basic services and reconstruction of the socio-economic fabric in the areas affected by the South Sudan crisis in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda"*.

- OXFAM GB/IT. Project title: *"WASH inclusive emergency response for South Sudanese refugees and vulnerable host communities in Gambella, Ethiopia"*, total amount 1,000,000 Euro

AID 012629/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 57 of 15/09/2022) - Project title: *"Response to the complex South Sudanese emergency in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda"*.

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- PLAN/CUAMM. Project title: *“Integrated health, nutrition and protection intervention to support refugee population and host communities in Gambella”*, total amount 1,000,000 Euro

AID 012626/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 56 of 15/09/2022) - Project title: *“Drought response in Ethiopia”*.

- SAVE THE CHILDREN. Project title: *“Helping promote livelihoods opportunities and positive health practices and reduce malnutrition in drought-affected areas in the Somali region, Ethiopia”*, total amount 1,000,000 Euro

### **Jordan**

AID 012485/01/0 (CC Deliberation No. 140 of 23/11/2021) - Project title: *“OPPORTUNITY 2” – MLA Initiative for the economic empowerment of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians aimed at alleviating the effects of the Syrian crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic in Jordan”*.


- AVSI. Project title: *“Boro'om - Formal Employment Opportunities and Entrepreneurship Development in the Governorates of Mafraq and Aqaba”*, Total amount 1,595,999.22 Euro.

### **Iraq**

AID 012704/01/0 (Director's Deliberation No. 5 of 24/02/2023) - Project title: *“Integration of services in support of victims of gender-based violence available to refugees, displaced persons and host communities - Phase II”*.

- INTERSOS. Project title: *“P.A.S.I.(K): Protection and support for the social inclusion of GBV survivors in Kurdistan”*, Total amount 984,999.75.00 Euro.

AID 012458/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 49 of 11/11/2021) - Project title: *“Integrated education and protection intervention for the benefit of displaced persons, refugees and returnees to Iraq”*.

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- COOPI. Project title: "*Safer schools, safer communities: Increasing access to inclusive education and protection services in order to create a safe environment for children affected by the Iraqi crisis in Nineveh and Salah al Din*", Total amount 619,999 Euro.

AID 012704/01/0 (Director's Deliberation No. 5 of 24/02/2023) - Project title: "*LRRD Initiative - Integration of services to support victims of gender-based violence available to refugees, displaced persons and host communities - Phase II*".

- INTERSOS. Project title: "*P.A.S.I.(K): Protection and support for the social inclusion of GBV survivors in Kurdistan*", Total amount 984,999.75 Euro

### **Libya**

AID 012272/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 13 of 04/05/2021) – Project title: "*Emergency programme in Libya to support paediatric services*".

- ICU in ATS with CESVI. Project title: "*AL SAHA: Improvement of health services and psychosocial support for girls and children in Libya*", Total amount 1,600,000 Euro

### **Palestine**

AID 011957/01/3 (CC Deliberation No. 33 of 9/11/2019) – Project title: "*LRRD initiative aimed at strengthening essential services to the most vulnerable population and capacities to respond to the structural causes of the non-realisation of human rights*".

- WWGVC. Project title: "*P.O.N.T.E. - Promoting Opportunities for Nexus-oriented Territorial Empowerment and Economic Resilience*", Total amount 1,065,000 Euro.

### **Central African Republic**


AID 012660/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 73 of 4/10/2022) - Project title: "*Integrated programme in favour of the vulnerable population of the Central African Republic in the areas of Health, Protection and Food Security*".

- CUAMM/ACF. Project title: "*Humanitarian support in response to the paediatric and nutritional care needs of the population of Bangui and Bégoua*", Total amount 1,800,000 Euro
- FRIENDS FOR CENTRAL AFRICA. Project title: "*Strengthening decentralised health action in Bangui and on the Bangui-Mbaiki axis with free and quality health coverage*", Total amount 567,200 Euro
- SANT'EGIDIO\_ACAP. Project title: "*Expansion of the basic maternal and child services of the Clinique DREAM and strengthening of the safe blood bag supply system in Bangui*", Total amount 400,000 Euro.

## Syria

AID 12469/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 55 of 9/12/2021) - Project title: "*Emergency and early recovery intervention in the areas of protection, food security and livelihoods, health and education to strengthen the resilience of the vulnerable population in Syria*".

- WWGVC. Project title: "*Inclusion in Action, education and social inclusion of vulnerable young people in resilient communities in Syria*", Total amount 600,000 Euro.
- ARMADILLA. Project title: "*Food and health - development paths in emergencies*", Total amount 599,985 Euro.
- Intersos. Project title: "*EducAzione Protetta: Integrated Education and Protection Intervention for Children Affected by the Syrian Crisis*", total amount 600,000 Euro.
- OXFAM ITA/GB. Project title: "*Strengthening food security and sustainable livelihoods in the conflict-affected community in the governorate of Deir Ez Zor, Syria*", Total amount 599,859 Euro
- UPP/DOZ. Project title: "*Darna. Phase V - Our Home. Support to health and protection services for the city of Raqqa and its province*", Total amount 600,000 Euro.



AID 012469/01/1 (VM Deliberation No. 94 of 10/10/2022) - Project title: *"Emergency and early recovery intervention in the areas of protection, food security and livelihoods, health and education to strengthen the resilience of the vulnerable population in Syria"*.

- WWGVC. Project title: *"LIFE (Life-saving Intervention Focused on the Earthquake): Multi-sectoral life-saving and early recovery intervention for the earthquake-affected population in Aleppo"*, Total amount 470,000 Euro.
- AiBi/KP. Project title: *"Integrated intervention in the areas of protection and FSL aimed at orphaned children and caregivers in the Harim district"*, Total amount 470,000 Euro
- AVSI. Project title: *"Aleppo earthquake: an immediate response"*, Total amount 469,528 Euro
- TDH. Project title: *"Natakafal (we support each other) - Emergency response for the most vulnerable families affected by the earthquake in the governorates of Aleppo and Latakia"*, Total amount 470,000 Euro.
- COOPI. Project title: *"Multi-sectoral emergency and early recovery support for the vulnerable population in Aleppo, Syria"*, Total amount 468,838 Euro
- Project title: *"Talimak moustakbalak/Your Education, your future - Education for girls and boys in Yabrouma and Duma"*, total amount 428,000 Euro.
- Intersos. Project title: *"Emergency response to support the education system and distribution of basic hygiene materials for earthquake-affected communities in Hama and Idleb"*, total amount 470,000 Euro.
- Project title: *"Response to improve access to medical and sexual and reproductive health services for vulnerable communities in Hama, Idleb and Rural Damascus"*, total amount 428,000.00 Euro

## **Somalia**

AID 012466/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 39 of 8/06/2022) - Project title: *"Multisectoral intervention in response to the humanitarian crisis and environmental emergencies in Somalia"*.

- COOPI. Project title: *“Integrated and inclusive humanitarian intervention in response to natural disasters in the Baidoa and Doolow districts of Somalia”*, Total amount 499,998 Euro.
- CEFA. Project title: *“RICREA - Water Resources for Resilient, Fair and Autonomous Communities. Equitable Development and Resilient Adaptation to Climate Change in Support of Displaced Populations and Host Communities in Jowhar District”*, Total amount 500,000 Euro.
- ACF. Project title: *“Multi-sectoral life-saving assistance and famine prevention for people in a vulnerable condition affected by the humanitarian crisis and climate emergency in Baidoa District, Region Bay, South West State, Somalia”*, Total amount 500,000 Euro.
- AVSI. Project title: *“Durable solutions to the food, water, climate and economic crisis in host and internally displaced communities in Lower Juba”*, Total amount 500,000 Euro.
- CISP. Project title: *“Provision of quality integrated health, nutrition and protection services for the most vulnerable in the State of Galmudug”*, Total amount 500,000 Euro.

## **South Sudan**

AID 012459/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 52 of 23/11/2021) - Project title: *“Emergency response programme, support for basic services and reconstruction of the socio-economic fabric in the areas affected by the South Sudan crisis in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda”*.

- CUAMM in ATS with INTERSOS. Project title: *“Support to the Lakes State health system to ensure the continuous delivery of quality, emergency resilient and integrated life-saving services for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children, whose health needs to be protected from gender-based abuse and violence”*, Total amount 1,700,000 Euro.

AID 012629/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 57 of 15/09/2022) - Project title: *“Response to the complex South Sudanese emergency in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda”*.



- ACF US in ATS with ACF IT and IRC. Project title: “*Strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of crisis-affected populations in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity States, South Sudan*”, Total amount 1,800,000 Euro.
- AVSI in ATS with INTERSOS. Project title: “*ASAP - Increasing the Food Security of the Most Vulnerable Populations in East Kapoeta, South and Jebel Boma, through an integrated and multi-sectoral approach*”, Total amount 1.800.000 Euro

## **Sudan**

AID 012461/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 58 of 15/12/2021) - Project title: “*Emergency Initiative for vulnerable populations in Sudan affected by natural disasters and conflicts*”.

- EMERGENCY. Project title: “*Reproductive and paediatric health in Sudan: reinforcing the second level health system in support of vulnerable groups in Port Sudan*”, Total amount 400,000 Euro.


## **Uganda**

AID 012279/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 5 of 14/04/2021) - Project title: “*Emergency initiative in support of the socio-economic integration of displaced South Sudanese populations, returnees, refugees victims of the protracted humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda*”.

- AMREF. Project title: “*SCOREP +. Accompaniment to the resilience of refugee and host communities, through the improvement of infrastructure and equipment, in the Terego and Madi-Okolo Districts, West Nile*”, Total amount 118,000 Euro

AID 012459/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 52 of 23/11/2021) - Project title: “*Emergency response programme, support to basic services and reconstruction of the socio-economic fabric in the areas affected by the South Sudan crisis in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda*”.

- CUAMM in ATS with CBM. Project title: “*Inclusive emergency initiative to strengthen health services and hygiene practices in refugee and host communities in West Nile, Uganda*”, Total amount 475,000 Euro

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- AID 012629/01/0 (VM Deliberation No. 57 of 15/09/2022) - Project title: *"Response to the complex South Sudanese emergency in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda"*.
  - AVSI. Project title: *"Transition from Emergency to Sustainable Development Programme - STEP"*, Total amount 485,641 Euro