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### ANNEX

## **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe**

### **Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding Zimbabwe**

#### **1. IDENTIFICATION**

Action:	Support for the prevention of electoral violence and for the promotion of women's political participation
Action Reference:	NDICI CR 2023 / 04
Cost:	EUR 3 000 000 (European Union (EU) contribution).
Budget Line:	14 02 03 10
Duration:	Maximum 18 months. The authorising officer responsible may decide to extend this period twice by a further period of up to six months, up to a total maximum duration of 30 months, under the conditions laid down in Article 23(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.
Lead service:	FPI

#### **2. ACTION SUMMARY**

This action seeks to prevent political violence during the 2023 electoral period in Zimbabwe. It will provide support to political parties to train, deploy and build the capacity of election polling agents to observe and monitor the electoral process, thereby protecting the voting procedure and building confidence in the electoral process. The action also aims to mitigate violence against women and to promote women's participation and leadership in the electoral and political domain by raising awareness of the particular challenges and threats faced by women in the political context. This will be achieved by using an arts-based approach and various communication channels.

#### **3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

##### **3.1 BACKGROUND**

The upcoming Presidential elections could represent a key turning point for Zimbabwe. The last elections in 2018 ended in violence after heavily disputed results. After the by-elections, held in March 2022, the EU commended the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and the Government of Zimbabwe for their successful organisation marked by a calm and well

organised voting day. However, ahead of the 2023 elections, despite the general public appeal by all political parties to refrain from political violence, the anti-violence message has not been effectively transmitted, particularly in rural areas where there are examples of youths and miners being mobilised to intimidate with impunity, and sparks of violence linked to political activities have been reported. Such violent episodes are expected to become more frequent and opaque in their origin and nature as the country approaches election day, as well as during the collection and announcement of results and it is expected that elections might be contested. In recent months there have been claims that politically active women, including prominent women journalists, have been targets for intimidation, abduction and torture.

In response to this situation, this action will aim to prevent political violence during the electoral period, mitigate violence against women and promote women’s political participation and leadership in electoral processes.

**3.2 RATIONALE FOR CRISIS RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDER THE RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT**

Increasing violent episodes, intimidation and the risk of political violence in the run-up and following the 2023 Presidential elections, constitute an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4) (a) of the NDICI Regulation. An adequate response cannot be provided under any other European Union Instrument due to the urgency with which the funds are required and available resources already being firmly committed.

Annex IV, paragraph 1, second paragraph, points (a), (b) and (n) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to (a) support, through the provision of technical and logistical assistance, for the efforts undertaken by international, regional and local organisations and by State and civil society actors in promoting confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, transitional justice, women’s and youth empowerment, in particular with regard to community tensions and protracted conflicts; (b) support for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) on women, youth, peace and security, and (n) support for measures to promote and defend respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and the related international instruments.

**3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

Risks	Impact	Mitigation
The security situation during election period deteriorates affecting the implementation of the action.	High	Action to be implemented with a high degree of flexibility and adaptability to react to changes on the ground. Contingency planning and continuous evaluation of the activities and timelines of different activities.

Increased tensions ahead of the elections and break out of intra and inter party violence.	High	Work on a Code of Conduct and Peace Pledge to diffuse tensions and encourage peaceful conduct during elections.
Civil unrest due to growing dissatisfaction with the economic situation.	Medium	Work with civil society organisations to create platforms for engagement between the state and citizens.
Intra-party dynamics and inter-party conflicts lead to some parties pulling out of the activities.	Medium	Bilateral training approach will enable political parties to participate on their own terms and allow other committed parties to move on. A written consent by all parties will be sought.

#### **4. OBJECTIVES**

##### **4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The overall objective of the action is to support the prevention of violence in Zimbabwe’s 2023 elections.

##### **4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- 4.2.1 To support a reduction in the number of disputed electoral results.
- 4.2.2 To raise awareness of violence against women in politics as well as the particular challenges and threats faced by women in politics.

#### **5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

**The main expected results/outcomes** include:

**Expected Result (1):** Political parties have increased capacity to protect the vote.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Training of constituency monitors;
- 5.1.2 Training of election polling agents to observe and monitor elections;
- 5.1.3 Support election polling agents deployment in polling stations.

**Expected Result (2):** Reduced violence directed against women in the political and electoral domain.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.2.1 Roll-out of theatre plays on violence against women in selected communities;
- 5.2.2 Production, dissemination and broadcasting of radio plays on community radios and outreach materials (comics, leaflets) in the capital and provinces;
- 5.2.3 Engagement with different actors (e.g. media practitioners, civil society organisations, member of parliament, women's wings of political parties) on violence against women and harmful social cultural practices that deter women from participating in politics;
- 5.2.4 Development of an application to provide information on services regarding violence against women and to collect data on occurrences of violence against women.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **6.1 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES**

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>1</sup>.

#### **6.1.1 Grant: direct award (direct management)**

##### (a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will contribute to achieving the Expected Result 1 related to Specific Objective 4.2.1.

##### (b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted for this direct award is a Non-Governmental Organisation.

##### (c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because **the action entails crisis management aid as referred to in Article 195(a) and as defined in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation** at the date of the Financing Decision.

#### **6.1.2 Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity**

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: solid previous experience in this specific field, strong financial and operational capacity in terms of technical competences and previous experience in the country. The implementation by this entity entails awareness raising of violence against women and promotion of women's participation and leadership in the electoral and political domain, related to Expected Result 2 related to Specific Objective 4.2.2.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu) Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

## 6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total European Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 3 000 000**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

### Indicative budget breakdown

Components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Component 1: Support to Election Polling Agents		
6.1.1 – Direct grant (direct management)	2 200 000	n/a
Component 2: Reducing violence against women and promoting women’s participation and leadership in electoral and political processes		
6.1.2 – Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity	800 000	n/a
Total	3 000 000	n/a

## 6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action shall be implemented under direct and indirect management. It will be devolved and sub-delegated to the **European Union Delegation in Zimbabwe**, with the support of the Commission for the conclusion of the contracts implementing the action.

## 6.4 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final report. Each report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

## 6.5 EVALUATION

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

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

## **6.6 AUDIT**

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

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

## **6.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

The 2021-2027 programming cycle has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

The 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for external actions" reference document shall be used to establish the appropriate contractual obligations.

## **7. COMPLEMENTARITY, COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

This measure has been designed in coordination with the European Union Delegation to Zimbabwe and will complement ongoing or planned interventions in the country such as the support to Inter-party dialogue and institutional support to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) through the UNDP basket fund.

Zimbabwe is a priority country for EU election observation and should the EU receive an invitation by the Zimbabwe authorities to observe the presidential elections in 2023, a strong cooperation between implementing partners and an EU election observation mission should be strongly encouraged when possible and necessary.

The action is in line with the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III)<sup>2</sup> and the EU's action plan on Women, Peace and Security, notably its key priority area to help increase women's leadership and participation in both formal and informal decision-making. The action will also contribute to the implementation of Zimbabwe's Team Europe Initiative on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

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<sup>2</sup> Eu Gender Action Plan (Gap) III – An Ambitious Agenda For Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action {SWD(2020) 284 final}.