



EN

THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX I

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2022 for the Conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness part of the Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention Thematic Programme

Action Document for the Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness

ANNUAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness OPSYS number: ACT-60774; JAD.965351 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	Priority 1: Continuing to enhance capabilities relating to analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms to better detect early signs of conflicts, monitor conflict and design appropriate responses; Priority 2: Promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes; Priority 3: Supporting peace processes and transitions of conflict-affected societies/communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 16 Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies Other significant SDG: 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
8 a) DAC code(s)	15220 - Civilian peace building, conflict prevention and resolution
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	21000 International non-governmental organisations (NGO) 23000 Developing country-based NGO

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: BGUE – B2022-14.020230-C1 – STABILITY AND PEACE Total estimated cost: EUR 13 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 13 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement			

1.2. Summary of the Action

The proposed action aims to support in-country civil society actors in their effort to prevent conflicts, respond to crises and build peace. It is envisaged to support actions implemented by local civil society and international non-governmental organisations in conflict-affected contexts to strengthen their institutional, operational and networking capacity in three priority areas relating to conflict prevention and peace-building: a) human security, resilience and stabilisation; b) inclusivity in peace and security, and c) support to locally-led peacebuilding.

Thus, the proposed action will continue to strengthen the role of civil society as an actor and beneficiary that promotes the protection of people from threatening situations and create a conducive environment for stabilisation; that increases the sense of inclusivity of a wider population to prevent and respond to conflict and crises; and contributes to enhancing the capacities and agency of local actors to become agents of positive change and the building blocks of more peaceful and resilient societies.

2. RATIONALEContext

Empowering civil society to play an active role in conflict-affected contexts is essential to more resilient societies, more vibrant state-society relations and to long-term peace. Civil society organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in a wide variety of crises contexts. As conflicts continue to threaten global security, it remains crucial to gather local perceptions and organise tailored responses to bring about positive change for communities. Whether they are local and community based organisations or international non-governmental organisations, CSOs are often best placed to detect early signs of tension and conflict and to provide responses tackling root causes and symptoms of these conflicts. They also play a critical role in articulating citizens' concerns, in engaging in the public arena to demand responsive services, reforms and accountable governance, all the more in those contexts facing increasing shrinking space for civil society.

Supporting and empowering civil society to play a role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes is a fundamental aspect of the EU External Action, including through EU's political, diplomatic and advocacy efforts, as highlighted in the 2016 EU Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy¹; the 2017 Joint Communication on A Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's External Action²; the 2018 Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises³ and the EU Consensus on Development, 2017, with its focus on peaceful and inclusive societies⁴; the 2012 Communication on CSOs, "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations"⁵. SDG 16 is also a strong policy foundation for civil society capacity building. In this respect, continuous support has been provided to actions

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eugs_review_web_0.pdf

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017JC0021&from=en>

³ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5413-2018-INIT/en/pdf>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/european-consensus-development_en

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0492:FIN:EN:PDF>

aiming at strengthening capacities of in-country civil society actors through the different EU funding instruments available, namely the crisis preparedness component of the Instrument for Stability (IfS) (2007-2013), the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) (2014-2020), and the current Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (2021-2027).

CSOs have a significant potential to generate opportunities in the three thematic areas prioritised for this action, hence contributing to the EU overall engagement in effective and inclusive peace building, conflict prevention and crises preparedness. This is underlined in the 2016 Joint Communication on Elements for a EU-wide Strategic Framework to Support Security Sector Reform⁶, the 2017 issues paper suggesting parameters for a concept on Stabilisation⁷, as part of the EU Integrated Approach to external conflicts and crises, the 2018 Council Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security⁸, the 2020 Council Conclusions on Youth in external action⁹, and the 2020 European Democracy Action Plan¹⁰.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Support to in-country civil society actors under the AAP 2022 will focus on the following three priority areas:

a) Human security, resilience and stabilisation: When conflict-affected contexts make it difficult to keep or restore state institutions so that they can ensure overall safety and security, community resilience and endogenous capacities are key tools to prevent and resolve conflicts. In such situations local actors, including local administrations, non-state actors, community leaders, citizens themselves (inclusive of children, youth, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples or diverse minorities), and civil society organisations play a key role as rights holders in filling the human security gap within the population, including for internally displaced persons. When these actors are viewed as legitimate among the population, and when communities are consulted and included in relation to their own security and safety concerns in a gender responsive way, they may become important partners to implement resilience actions aimed at re-establishing an environment where peace and development prevail. Experience from similar initiatives shows that the approach to stabilisation needs to explore inclusive community-driven processes as an essential complement to large-scale and highly politicised stabilisation efforts that can sometimes prove limiting. Building safety at the community level will also follow a needs-based approach whereby support for the population prevail over the promotion of a political agenda, as well as a rights-based approach inclusive of women, youth and children, the elderly, persons with disabilities internally displaced persons, minorities, etc.

b) Inclusivity in peace and security: there is a pressing need to involve all groups in peacebuilding efforts as they all become victims of conflicts – whether directly or indirectly. In particular, if well understood and valued, diversity in its broad sense (gender, age, nationality, sexual orientation, language, nationality, religion, ethnicity, the elderly, persons with disabilities, etc) can help address issues inclusively and support populations in conflict-related settings more effectively. This should be done **in a conflict-sensitive manner**, in line with the principles of “do no harm” and to “leave no one behind”. It is a known fact that women all around the world are at the forefront of building and sustaining peace in their communities, and the same applies to other groups.

c) Locally-led peacebuilding: As conflicts and crises persist in the world, frontline local peacebuilders are those who have the critical expertise and knowledge of conflict drivers and resilience factors at the local level, as well as of local conflict resolution and prevention mechanisms. These can flag early signs of conflict at local, regional, national level and propose solutions for peace and coexistence to governing bodies. Nonetheless, they often suffer from scarce resources and technical capacities to harness their potential to effectively engage on the ground. In addition, local peacebuilders may continue to face increasing shrinking space coupled with strict approval and licensing procedures, in some cases requiring funds to be channelled through government-controlled intermediaries with arduous administrative requirements..

Taking these challenges into account, systems of small grants will be explored at local level to allow local peacebuilders to contribute to the overall efforts of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, either through small-scale projects or short-term assignments and partnerships, such as events, research, analyses, and advocacy – among others.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016JC0031&from=EN>

⁷ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15622-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

⁸ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15622-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

⁹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8629-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

¹⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0790&from=EN>

The Action will explore potential intermediaries for small grants's delivery – preferably well-established national ones - with the necessary capacity to manage the complexity of EU grant management in terms of processes, timing, risk management, local knowledge, conflict sensitivity, monitoring, etc. National intermediaries will have the possibility – if necessary - to partner with international non-governmental organisations to ensure due diligence and the reporting requirements. The beneficiaries of the small grants and/or assignments will be local peacebuilders who will be involved from the identification stage, with the ultimate aim to strengthen their role as leading, credible actors in peacebuilding and to be in the driving seat, including in their engagement with local, national and regional authorities. This approach is part of the EU's continued commitment to empower local peacebuilders in crises-affected contexts for long-term peace.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

- International and well established national civil society organisations as direct beneficiaries of EU funding: their role is to manage the overall implementation of the projects to be funded in the framework of this action. They have a thematic expertise in conflict prevention, peace building and crises preparedness. These organisations are based on solid and sound financial systems that allow them to manage EU funding effectively and transparently. They have established partnerships with local civil society actors aiming to strengthen local capacities to deal with challenges to stability and peace. They are also able to engage national and international actors to advocate for changes at policy and practice levels. Specifically for priority area c), the idea is for international and national civil society organisations to work together on the basis of a shared responsibility whereby the international entity provides the necessary capacity to report to the donor, while the local entity delivers on the financial requirements to manage a sub-granting scheme and the wider network of local actors for the distribution of micro-grants.

- National and local civil society actors as partners of direct beneficiaries: their role is to implement activities of the projects to be funded in the framework of this action. They have experience in the priority areas identified above, working with local communities, local and national authorities. Yet, challenges related to their financial systems and their national registration makes it sometimes difficult to obtain and manage EU funding. In this particular case, support from international and/or national civil society organisations will be essential to strengthen their capacities and opportunity to actively participate in peacebuilding efforts, including by responding to challenges to peace and stability and engaging in policy and advocacy debates with international actors.

- Conflict-affected communities, community level structures such as peace committees, traditional leaders, youth and women's associations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, human rights and environmental activists working on peace and conflict prevention, as ultimate beneficiaries: their role is to both take part and/or benefit from the activities of the projects to be funded in the framework of this action. They often do not have any formal or legal existence and therefore little, if any, capacity to manage processes or large scale funding on their own. They can benefit from collaboration with local, national or international civil society organisations that support their local level peacebuilding initiatives in order to maximise their effectiveness and sustainability.

- National and local authorities and stakeholders such as private sector organisations, media, unions, etc.: these actors sometimes take part in project activities. They also benefit from the projects' outcomes that support their mandate to better respond to communities' needs.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to build and strengthen sustainable, in-country capacities for effective conflict management and peace-building and support (sub-)national and regional initiatives in countries affected by/or emerging from conflict or whose peace and stability is at risk.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Strengthen institutional and operational capacity of civil society actors with regards to the three priority areas in an inclusive, conflict sensitive and gender responsive manner;
2. Improve in-country civil society actors networking and advocacy skills, including increased civil society involvement in the three thematic areas relating to both long-term and short-term conflict prevention and peace-building;

3. Establish or enhance cooperation between civil society actors and local, national, regional or international institutions on subjects related to the three priority areas, in a way that does not harm or create unintended negative impacts on conflict drivers.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1: institutional and operational capacity building interventions to better respond to challenges and opportunities in the three priority areas;
- 1.2 contributing to Outcome 1: peacebuilding interventions responding to the challenges and opportunities in the three priority areas;
- 1.3 contributing to Outcomes 2 and 3: strategic capacity building interventions to strengthen advocacy engagement and networking among civil society actors.

The action will be designed and implemented in complementarity with actions financed under the two NDICI thematic programmes on Human Rights and Democracy, and Civil Society Organisations. In terms of support to capacity building on peacebuilding and conflict prevention, complementarity will be sought also with the EU Geographic programmes targeting Civil Society. Synergies will also be sought when addressing the shrinking space for civil society in politically complex contexts, including through the EU's political, diplomatic and advocacy efforts.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to priority area a) Human security, resilience and stabilisation: Through this Action, it is proposed to support civil society's role in the design and implementation of context-specific actions that respond to the needs of individuals and communities facing human security threats in conflict-affected contexts, in particular for the most vulnerable. This will be part of the overall efforts at local level to promote stabilisation.

The following activities, inter alia, could be envisaged:

- Conduct community-led security assessments, stakeholder mapping, research and scoping, outreach, etc, to better understand perceptions of and drivers and root-causes of human insecurity linked to crises and conflicts. These will take into account gender/intersectional implications;
- Conduct capacity building of civil society organisations, networks and communities on human-security related issues, through training, peer-learning and exchanges;
- Facilitate community-level initiatives aiming to establish dialogue and cooperation mechanisms between communities, local authorities, non-state actors, and security actors where feasible to jointly tackle human security challenges in an inclusive, conflict sensitive and dignified way;
- Support intra-community dialogue to prevent and countering further lack of human security ;
- Raise awareness on the positive impact of human security on stabilisation and resilience efforts
- support community-led resilience initiatives, including for the reintegration of voluntary returnees following a displacement, and the rehabilitation of children in armed conflict;
- undertake advocacy towards, and partnerships with, national level authorities, human security and justice actors as well as other relevant national, regional and international stakeholders on the design and implementation of human security related frameworks, action plans and activities;
- conduct conflict sensitive monitoring and oversight initiatives to ensure security actors comply with rule of law and international human rights principles when responding the human security needs.

Activities related to priority area b) inclusivity in peace and security: Through this Action, it is proposed to support civil society's role in the design and implementation of context-specific and needs-based conflict prevention and peacebuilding actions that are as inclusive as possible in line with the principles of “do no harm” and “leaving no one behind”, and that involve women, youth, and at risk groups such as minorities, the elderly or people with disabilities, from the identification stage. Women and youth organisations, minority groups’ and Indigenous Peoples’ organisations shall be prioritized and empowered to implement inclusive and needs-based actions in various sectors.

The following activities, inter alia, could be envisaged:

- strengthen gender-sensitive approaches to conflict analyses, conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding;
- promote leadership of women, youth and more minority groups in their policy and advocacy engagement, their political participation and role in decision making, through capacity building, networking, awareness raising, community level engagement, etc.;

- carry out actions related to the rehabilitation, trauma healing of children, youth and women and at risk groups affected by conflict, including mental health and psychosocial support for former combatants and their associates, as well as communities where they re-integrate;
- promote the resilience of children, youth, women and at risk groups against recruitment for, participation in, and supporting extremist violence or recruitment by non-state armed groups;
- promote inter-generational exchanges aimed at strengthening/rebuilding the role of minority groups, youth, elders and women in community-based conflict transformation and facilitating their civic engagement and volunteerism for peace;
- use the potential of traditional and new media to promote change in social norms and to promote the role of minority groups, youth and women in tackling challenges of conflict-affected societies and their inclusion in peacebuilding;

Activities related to priority area c) Locally-led peacebuilding: Through this Action, it is proposed to give more ownership to a diversified local civil society in the design and implementation of small-scale peacebuilding initiatives and/or assignments that respond to context-specific needs of communities. The Action will explore the possibility to integrate a system of sub-granting through intermediary non-governmental organisations, preferably well-established national ones, with the necessary capacity to manage the complexity of sub-grant operations in line with EU rules and procedures in terms of processes, timing, risk management, local knowledge, conflict sensitivity, and monitoring, etc. This will include capacity building for inclusive project design and management, mainstreaming of diversity and environmental protection when relevant, monitoring and evaluation, visibility and communications, as well as outreach and coordination with partners and stakeholders.

The following activities, inter alia, could be envisaged:

- test means to fund micro-grants through intermediary actors – preferably well-established national ones - to implement community-led initiatives and/or short-term assignments;
- accompany smaller local CSOs and strengthen their capacities for inclusive project design and management, mainstreaming of diversity and environmental issues, monitoring and evaluation, visibility and communications, as well as outreach and coordination with partners and stakeholders;
- forge stronger partnerships between local CSOs, interest groups and authorities reflecting reciprocal priorities and needs;
- support local CSOs facing challenges related to increasingly restrictive local legislations governing CSOs and their activities – including through exchanges of best practices and solutions.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Environmental issues such as access to, and management of, natural resources are critical drivers of conflicts, especially when aggravated by the effects of climate change. Implementing partners will ensure that their respective projects' design and the implementation of activities take these issues into account and address them when relevant.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that projects to be funded in the framework for this action should take into account the differences in the experiences and needs of men women, boys and girls when designing and implementing activities. Projects under the thematic priority “inclusivity in peace and security” notably aim to enhance the participation of women and youth – among others - in peacebuilding, security and justice processes. At community level, careful attention should be given to the possible negative impacts on gender and women’s equality when supporting traditional leaders and/or community representatives that do not actively include women, youth and minorities in consultations.

Human Rights

Projects to be funded in the framework of this action should aim to uphold human rights principles and a human rights based approach, in particular: participation in decision making processes, accountability of duty bearers, equality and non-discrimination, empowerment of individuals and communities to exercise their rights. The action should also take into account specific human rights of Indigenous Peoples, such as the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent supported in the 2017 Council Conclusions on Indigenous Peoples.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. While not significant, specific security and safety concerns related to people with disabilities should be addressed across the three priority areas to the extent possible, as well as their right to participate in peacebuilding when appropriate and relevant for the objectives of each project. Projects under the thematic priority “inclusivity in peace and security” notably aim to enhance the participation of more marginalised groups in peacebuilding, security and justice processes. The concept of “inclusivity” needs to be read broadly, referring to aspects of gender, age, nationality, sexual orientation, language, nationality, religion, ethnicity, the elderly, persons with disabilities, etc

Democracy

Projects to be funded in the framework of this action should uphold fundamental democratic principles such as transparent and accountable governance, participation and fair representation, balance of power, respect of human rights. Specific attention will be given to the risks related to the participation and activism of peacebuilders, including those working on human rights, on advocating against the shrinking space to civil society, on environment and climate degradation, on security forces accountability and so on.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

In line with the NDICI regulation, projects to be funded in the framework of the action should be based on a solid understanding of local conflict dynamics, should do no harm and maximise opportunities to make positive contributions to build peace and resilience at all levels, while at the same time mitigating risks of unintended negative impacts. Heightened visibility of peacebuilders might have the undesired effect of making them more vulnerable or targets of violence. Specific conflict sensitivity assessments should be undertaken for specific areas of work as appropriate (e.g., security forces, DDR, community security, etc.).

Disaster Risk Reduction

Projects to be funded in the framework of this action should take into account any risks of environmental degradation, climate change and natural disasters overall and aim to reduce those risks, especially when constituting an opportunity to strengthen communities’ resilience or achieving peacebuilding objectives.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1	Deterioration of a security or political situation within selected countries/regions making it impossible or dangerous for implementing partners and final beneficiaries to conduct or take part in the planned activities.	Medium	High	FPI regional teams, in close cooperation with relevant EU Delegations, will maintain regular contacts with and ensure that implementing partners put in place adequate security measures adapted to the level of identified risk.
3	Lack of a reasonable pool of local civil society actors working on peace-building and conflict prevention issues and capable of effectively implementing projects.	Low	High	Partnerships between international and local civil society actors in-country should be actively encouraged.
4	Unintended negative impact on women, youth and minorities, due to lack of inclusion and participation and/or increased	High	High	Link up with EU funded and other protection mechanisms; ensure specific protection measures for local peacebuilders in a gender and age responsive way;

	vulnerability linked to greater activism		Carry out systematic conflict sensitivity assessments and monitoring.
<p>Lessons Learnt:</p> <p>Even before the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, initiatives in support to in-country civil society to prevent and respond to crisis have been subject to regular exchanges with both internal and external EU stakeholders, including with EU staff members posted in EU Delegations in third countries, as well as external evaluators and peacebuilding organisations active around the world (including in the framework of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office). Concerned EU Delegations have also drawn roadmaps in their respective countries to track and measure the impact of EU’s effort in support of in-country civil society.</p> <p>These exchanges allowed to learn lessons with the purpose of maximising the impact of support to peacebuilding in crises-affected contexts. Building on the 2017 mid-term evaluation of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP, 2014-2020), a final sector evaluation of this support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness is ongoing and aims to obtain an independent performance assessment of the work and lessons learnt from the work performed under IcSP and by other donors working on strengthening civil society’s capacities for conflict prevention, resolution and peace building. This exercise will complement the following lessons learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the past several years, tangible results at grassroots level have been achieved through structural support to civil society actors (both international and national). In this regard the former have proven themselves effective in articulating responses to identified local peace-building and conflict prevention needs; - Long term funding for civil society actors has constituted a flexible tool to support civil society led initiatives in the areas of conflict prevention and peace-building globally and in different types of conflict-affected and transition contexts. Efforts will continue to be exerted to strengthen global efforts to ensure adequate, predictable, and sustained financing for peacebuilding by engaging with the peacebuilding community and other policy makers/donors; - Sub-delegating as much as possible the management of Calls for Proposals and grant contracts to FPI regional teams, in close cooperation with EU Delegations, is the most effective management mode for this kind of action, allowing greater local/regional focus, increased cooperation with in-country civil society actors and closer monitoring and follow-up of projects. 			

3.5. The Intervention Logic

<p>If the EU continues to provide support to in-country civil society actors in key conflict prevention and peacebuilding areas, then relevant in-country capacities and processes will be more effective at tackling conflict and security challenges because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local civil society actors themselves will be better able to engage on these areas on their own and in collaboration with others; • Relevant state institutions and state led processes will benefit from civil society expertise, analysis and support; • Partnerships between relevant actors active in specific fields will be strengthened and collective efforts and impact will be maximised. <p>In the longer term, continued support provided through the projects will contribute to further empower these local actors to become agents of positive change and the building blocks of more peaceful and resilient societies.</p>
--

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To build and strengthen sustainable, in-country capacities for effective conflict management and peace-building and support (sub-)national and regional initiatives in countries affected by/or emerging from conflict or whose peace and stability is at risk.	1. Number of civil society actors supported (local and international), disaggregated by population groups (ethnicity, religion, gender, age, etc.) 2. Number of peace processes supported	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Strengthened institutional and operational capacity of civil society actors with regards to the identified priority areas.	To be adapted according to each country context and priority area(s): 1.1 Number of appropriate locally-led measures identified and implemented by civil society to prevent conflicts and their outcomes. 1.2 % of targeted population expressing confidence in and satisfaction towards civil society's effectiveness in tackling conflict risks, managing conflicts and building peace (disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity) 1.3 Number of people directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict peace-building and/or conflict prevention (disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity).	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	
Outcome 2	Improved in-country civil society actors networking and advocacy skills, including increased civil society involvement in the identified thematic areas relating to both long-term and short-term conflict prevention and peace-building.	To be adapted according to each country context and priority area(s): 2.1 Number and type of policy advocacy actions undertaken by in-country civil society actors and their outcomes.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	

		2.2 Number of members of CSOs trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their analytical/advocacy/negotiation skills (including conflict analysis and conflict resolution) (disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability status)				
Outcome 3	Enhanced cooperation between civil society actors and local, national, regional or international institutions on subjects related to the three priority areas.	To be adapted according to each country context and priority area(s): 3.1 Number of civil society actors consulted by local/national authorities and involved in peace processes (e.g. conflict resolution initiatives, recovery plans).	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	To be determined according to each project's priority area and specific objectives.	
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	The direct/tangible outputs will differ depending on the priority areas selected and the contexts of implementation.	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with a partner country/ regional organisation/territory.

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹¹.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The purpose of the grant is to build and strengthen sustainable, in-country capacities for effective conflict management and peace-building and support (sub-)national and regional initiatives in countries affected by/or emerging from conflict or whose peace and stability is at risk.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Civil society actors as defined in recital (46) of the NDICI Regulation 2021/947 are considered eligible under this Action. For international non-governmental organisation applicants, partnerships with local organisations established and active in the countries targeted will be particularly important in order to meet this measure's objectives.

Interventions will target: countries affected by/emerging from a conflict; countries affected by high levels of violence, or whose peace and stability is threatened; fragile states with weak capacity to perform core governance functions; countries in democratic transition, or where the lack of civic engagement and opportunities for participation in public life is seen as a factor threatening peace.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to international and local civil society organisations selected using the following criteria: experience working in, and good knowledge of, the country of implementation, expertise in community resilience and inclusive community-driven stabilisation processes, expertise in gender equality, inclusion and diversity as well as engaging women, youth, the elderly and minority groups on peace and security issues; capacity and credibility to foster collaborations with activists, human rights defenders, experience working with and strengthening capacities of local civil society organisations, institutional and financial capacity to manage EU funds, including sub-granting.

¹¹ 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.

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 of the crisis situation in the country of implementation, as per article 195, paragraphs a) and f) of the Financial Regulation.

4.3.2. Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement relating to support measures for the management of Calls for proposals (awareness raising, information, publication costs, evaluation of applications, etc.) shall be eligible.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	13 000 000
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.2	-
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	Will be covered by another decision
Contingencies	0
Total	13 000 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instruments will oversee the Action. The selection and subsequent management of the projects to be funded under this measure will fall under the responsibility of FPI regional teams unless a regional/local focus cannot be ensured, in close cooperation with relevant EU Delegations and EU Commission Services. FPI regional teams will monitor and report against the projects specific objectives and expected results, in line with those set out in this document. In order to promote synergies with other actions, other relevant Commission services and the EEAS will be regularly updated.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

5.1. 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 reports. Every 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

direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality).

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).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Data collection, analysis and monitoring will be the responsibility of, and carried out by, each project's implementing partners and will be financed under the regular budget of each project. In the case of multi-country projects, implementing partners will be requested to present how monitoring and data collection will be operated.

5.2. Evaluation

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

In case an evaluation is not planned, 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 Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination¹². The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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 audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt 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.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

It should be noted that targeted awareness-raising and information sharing activities necessary to achieve specific programme/project objectives by engaging with specific audiences identified by the action remain possible.

¹² See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

Option 1: Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Option 3: Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	