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|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Connectivity @ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | digital connectivity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | / |
| | energy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| | transport | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| | health | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| | education and research | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Migration @ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Reduction of Inequalities @ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Covid-19 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BUDGET INFORMATION | | | | |
| 12. Amounts concerned | Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 (NDICI South and East Asia) Total estimated cost: EUR 10 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 10 million. | | | |
| MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION | | | | |
| 13. Type of financing | Direct management through grants Indirect management with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.4. | | | |

1.2 Summary of the Action

Bangladesh is internationally recognised for its solid progress in reducing the gender gap and has positively experienced an increased participation of women in education and employment in recent years. This has, in turn, led to increased mobility in the public sphere and, as a result, increased exposure to multiple forms of discrimination, including violence and harassment. The rates of gender-based violence (GBV) remain high in Bangladesh, and have aggravated since the COVID-19 crisis, with a three-fold increase in cases of GBV between 2020 and 2021. As a result, sexual assault is today the most reported source of violence over time, accounting for at least 3 in 5 reported incidents.¹ Despite the high prevalence of GBV across the country, most of the cases are unreported: more than 70% of women who experienced violence never told anyone, and only 2.6% reported to the competent authorities.² In addition, the conviction rate in the Nari-O-Shishu Courts (courts specialised in crimes against children and women) stands at 0.5%, which shows that perpetrators are rarely held to account.³

In this context, and in line with the 2019 ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, the proposed Action will contribute to **strengthening both prevention and response to GBV in the public and workplace in Bangladesh**, through a gender transformative approach to promote change in social attitudes. The expected impact is greater participation of women in educational institutions and workplaces leading thus to an increased contribution of women to economic development, reduction in poverty and overall socio-economic growth.

There are three key result areas for this Action:

- (1) To strengthen an enabling policy and institutional environment for improved gender-response governance;
- (2) To improve access to survivor-centred services for survivors of violence; and

¹ Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). Available at: <http://peaceobservatory-cgs.org/#/>

² Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2016. Report on Violence Against Women Survey 2015. Dhaka, Bangladesh. Available at: <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/vaw%20survey/bangladesh%20vaw%20survey%202015.pdf?vs=2125>

³ 2018 Bangladesh Justice Audit. Available at: <https://bangladesh.justiceaudit.org/>