

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grants</li> <li>- Procurement</li> <li>- Prizes</li> </ul> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.4</p>
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## 1.2 Summary of the Action

The Action aims to combat the root causes of gender and income inequalities by strengthening and protecting the rights and needs of young children and those of female adolescents in vulnerable situations. It will support multi-sectorial and integrated interventions (education, health, nutrition, hygiene and protection) that will place the child/adolescent girl at the centre, and ensure they receive all the services they need to thrive. The child needs nutrition, nurturing parents, good health and stimulating early education to fully realise their development potential and build strong life learning foundations. An adolescent girl needs quality education, incentives to remain in school, access to reproductive health and freedom and protection from the risks of HIV, early pregnancy, Gender Based Violence and low self-esteem.

The Overall Objective of the Action is to support the children of Zambia to reach their potential and to improve young female adolescent's resilience in alignment with Zambia's human development commitments under the 8<sup>th</sup> *National Development Plan (8NDP) (2022-2026)*<sup>1</sup>.

To achieve this global objective, the Action will follow three more specific objectives:

- Improve nurturing care through more inclusive and equitable access to quality Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) for young children (0-8);
- Decrease inequalities through enhancing wellbeing and opportunities for adolescent girls;
- Strengthened coordination across government systems to enhance the effectiveness of integrated service delivery to young children (0-8) and to female adolescents.

The Action will adopt a dual approach by strengthening early education and health systems that target children and young female adolescents and by enhancing service provision. Strengthening Early Childhood Development (ECD), including health, nutrition, an Early Childhood Education (ECE) systems aims at improving efficiency in governance and coordination at national and sub-national level. The service provision will allow to focus on those children and young female adolescents in households and communities in vulnerable situation, where the lack of access to quality services is often compounded by deeply embedded social and cultural norms that constrain life choices for children and girls. Here interventions will also look at improving access to and quality of ECD and to youth friendly services.

The Action will be implemented for an amount of EUR 50 000 000, in two of the most undeserved and poorest provinces in Zambia; Luapula and North Western. Coordination actions, technical assistance and collaborative technical work with the Government of the Republic of Zambia will be carried out also at central level for national systems strengthening. The proposed programme has been designed in close collaboration with the Government, and follows the country-level priorities of the Multiannual Indicative Plan (MIP) and the Team Europe Initiative on Human Development. The proposed programme is in alignment with the Zambia country level implementation plan of GAP III<sup>2</sup> and contributes significantly to the thematic area on promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights for female adolescents. It also contributes to GAP III objectives to ensure freedom from all forms of gender-based violence, promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women. The programme also contributes to the objectives of the EU Youth Action Plan (2022)<sup>3</sup>, particularly the pillar to partner with young people and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health rights.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.zda.org.zm/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/8th-NDP-2022-2026.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Gender Action Plan III is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed by 24 Member States through EU Presidency Conclusions of 16 December 2020. Drafting was led by European Commission in close consultation with EU Member States, EEAS, civil society organisations, partner governments, and international organisations (UN entities, International Finance Institutions among others). The different parties contributed to the drafting of the document through meetings and through responses to a survey conducted during the process.

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/qanda\\_22\\_5882/QANDA\\_22\\_5882\\_EN.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/qanda_22_5882/QANDA_22_5882_EN.pdf)