

The Fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Our strengths and capabilities



NIRAS International Consulting joins the global effort to address gender-based violence (GBV) – one of the most pervasive violations of human rights worldwide affecting about one in three women in her lifetime. GBV is rooted in **gender inequality, systematic discrimination, and harmful cultural and social norms**. It impedes human development and results in negative and often generational consequences, preventing women and girls from realising their full potential as equal partners in development. Moreover, GBV results in tremendous social and economic costs to societies, and undermines progress towards attaining sustainable development.

NIRAS’ strategy for addressing GBV is founded on our principle of ‘Do no harm’ and our commitment to do better in all the projects we implement regardless of scale, sector, or donor. This is evidenced by NIRAS’ track record for providing high-level gender expertise to projects and programmes, proactive gender mainstreaming, and taking concrete action that interventions do not disadvantage and/ or result in violence against women, girls and other vulnerable groups.

#3 Good health and well-being
#5 Gender equality
#10 Reduced inequalities
#16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
#17 Partnerships for the goals

Our experience points to the following key lessons in the fight against GBV:

1 in 3

women or girls experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime

38%

of women are estimated to have been murdered by a male partner

- 1 Align/ integrate interventions within government structures and sectoral policies and programmes.** Improve/ enhance existing strategies. Avoid creating new layers of structure and/or interventions that cannot be sustained. Support multi-sectoral approaches and interventions.
- 2 Institutional capacity and coordination matter in preventing and responding to GBV.** Have a good overview of who is doing what along the prevention and response chain. A stakeholder analysis and assessment is always useful. Effective and efficient service delivery requires a coordinated government approach, both horizontally and vertically across ministries, agencies, and offices. Build capacity and empower institutions!
- 3 Secure local ownership with a shared vision and roadmap to prevent and respond effectively to GBV.** Link with non-governmental organizations. Build alliances with traditional leaders to create a local network to address GBV. Support the creation of a community of practice involving formal and informal institutions.
- 4 Prevent revictimisation.** Reduce the amount of times and number of places a survivor has to go to tell their story and get the help they need.
- 5 Monitor, evaluate, learn and take action!** Expand data collection. In addition to collecting data to produce statistics on prevalence and incidence, gather qualitative data to understand survivors’ experiences in accessing services. Find out what can be done better to improve the service response chain.
- 6 Identify locally preferred services.** Mobile phone applications can be useful for reporting incidences of violence. Measures should be put in place to mitigate the user’s risk of violence.
- 7 A one-size-fits-all approach may not always work.** Understanding the local condition is vital for an effective GBV response.

Learn more about NIRAS’ work addressing in this area on the following pages.

Donor: European Commission

Client:

DG INTPA G1

Consortium

Partners: Yellow Window, International Training Centre of the ILO

Locations: Global

Contract value:

€2,078,400

Duration: January 2017- April 2021

European Commission Gender Action Plan / Gender Support Service

The European Commission (EC) established the Gender Support Service to assist its Directorate-General for International Partnership (DG INTPA) and EU Delegations with the successful implementation of the second Gender Action Plan (GAP II) at all service levels. GAP II provides a framework for approaching gender equality through external relations and is targeted at the EC, the European External Action Services and EU Member States.

NIRAS manages the help desk and a team of experts provide services such as assisting DG INTPA with GAP II reporting, providing technical assistance to EU Delegations, supporting the EU's Gender Focal Points network, and developing knowledge products - like the collection of good practices in mainstreaming gender into the EU's external actions- and organising webinars on gender mainstreaming in the EU's work, especially where this is related to GAP II. Many of the support service's work / knowledge products can be found on the INTPA Academy website (login required).

Rights-Based Approach Help Desk

NIRAS is providing help desk services with the goal of improving INTPA's and EU Delegations' capacities to mainstream gender and a rights-based approach (RBA) in all their work, particularly EU-funded development cooperation projects.

Services include trainings for EU staff, revisions of action documents, development of toolkits and materials - such as updating of the EU's RBA Toolbox, briefs of Member States RBA approaches to development cooperation, and technical briefs on how to mainstream gender in the transportation sector.

Some of the services the help desk has provided include:

- +40 trainings and awareness raising workshops to EU delegations, reaching over 600 staff members;
- specific COVID-19 from a gender perspective and RBA-related trainings reaching 300 participants;
- assessment of and inputs to +500 EU action documents to improve gender perspective and RBA.



Donor: European Commission

Client: DG INTPA G1

Location: Global

Contract value:

€2,806,000

Duration: May 2018-

May 2022

EU4Gender Equality Reform Help Desk

To tackle deep-rooted gender norms in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, the EU has joined forces with the UN Population Fund and UN Women to launch a programme that challenges gender stereotypes and harmful practices against women and girls. EU for Gender Equality (EU4GE) is the first regional project covering gender equality and supports the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine as they work with civil society to shift perceptions about gender roles and increase men's participation in child care and the fight against gender violence.

NIRAS provides support and technical assistance in the form of the EU4GE Reform Help Desk, which offers expertise on the inclusion of a citizen and gender perspective in planning and implementation of major reforms to EaP countries' governments and EU Delegations in these countries. The Help Desk will provide support and assistance to increase the knowledge base and use of gender analysis in decision-

making and reforms. It will deliver on-demand assistance to EU Delegations on specific tasks related to gender mainstreaming in programme identification and formulation and to governments to include a gender and citizen's perspective in reform work.

Capacity development through a set of different activities includes: working on joint engagement plans with EU delegations and governments, facilitating and organising both cultural and thematic events across wider social actors, as well as arranging study visits to the EU. Equally important is the creation and dissemination of a sound evidence base, built from local and external knowledge, showing the positive impact of reforms on women in Eastern Neighbourhood countries and increasing knowledge sharing and learning around gender mainstreaming.

Donor: European Commission

Client: DG NEAR C1

Locations: Eastern Partnership countries

Contract value:

€1,425,500

Duration: January

2021- April 2024

Client: European Commission
Location: South Africa
Contract value: €2,078,400
Duration: May 2019–October 2020

Mapping of Services for Survivors of Violence amongst Women and Children (SEIA Lot 4)

NIRAS conducted a comprehensive study defining psychosocial response services to victims of violence, in particular women and children (VAWC). The study identified minimum core services and funding for implementation.

- Identification of **seven core care and support services** and **one shared specialised service**:
 1. 24/7 toll-free service call centre;
 2. Community-based counselling offering a range of psychosocial, psychoeducational and socio-economic services;
 3. Safe houses and shelters;
 4. Health facility – first responder service for adult and child survivors of GBV;
 5. First responder, victim-friendly rooms at police stations;

6. Court preparation – offered by the National Prosecuting Authority;
7. Court support; and
8. Specialised shared services (i.e. sign language and other language interpreters, psychological services, transport, etc.).

- Recommendations and next steps:
 1. Revision of the **Victim Empowerment Programme** to develop a stronger overarching policy framework recognising the multi-faceted and complex nature of victimisation;
 2. Improving the **health sector response** by linking mental health services to shelters and community-based services;
 3. Increasing **equitable access to care and support** through shared specialised services
 4. Enabling and supporting the **development of NGO services**.



Client: European Institute for Gender Equality
Location: EU Member States
Contract value: €199,300
Duration: May 2018–May 2019

Closing the Gaps between Gender Equality Commitments and Resources in the EU

This was a research initiative which focused on gender budgeting with the EU structural investment funds (ESIF). Relevant outputs included:

- A gender assessment of the European Social Fund (ESF).
- A tracking system to track spending on gender equality within the ESIF, including measurements of investments in prevention and response to violence against women and GBV.
- A model for integrated initiatives supporting gender equality and work-life balance in the ESF and ERDF. This model includes work-life balance measures in private companies and enterprises
- Practical step-by-step module (tools, approaches, fact sheets) to implement gender budgeting as a tool for gender mainstreaming within the ESIF. All research outputs are aligned to the *EU Engagement Strategy for Gender Equality*, which prioritises the elimination of violence against women.

Client: EU Delegation to Georgia
Location: Republic of Georgia
Contract value: €2,400,000
Duration: Oct 2017–May 2019

Support to the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

In this assignment the team delivered the following relevant outputs:

- Training for legislative, executive and judicial bodies to mainstream gender into

- policy-making at national and local levels including on GBV;
- Awareness-raising campaigns to reduce GBV;
- Technical assistance to GEOSTAT to improve knowledge on gender equality and capacity building on collecting gender-disaggregated indicators with focus on GBV;
- Research on, e.g., identification of sexual and GBV risks and psychological needs of vulnerable groups of people, including rural women, displaced and conflict-affected persons, and persons with disabilities;
- Development of tools to support the Commission.

Formulation of a Programme to Prevent GBV

In this assignment, the judicial system was identified as key to providing protection and support to victims of GBV. Relevant outputs:

- Preparation of a programme to prevent GBV in all its manifestations, focusing especially on children and youth
- Articulation of the programme's intervention logic, context and application of a results-oriented approach.

Client: EU Delegation to the Dominican Republic
Location: The Dominican Republic
Contract value: €63,198
Duration: May–Sept 2019

Client:

Sida

Locations: Global**Contract value:**

SEK 3,268,171

Duration:

February 2015-ongoing

Sida Framework Agreement in the Thematic Area of Gender Equality

Under this framework agreement, NIRAS provides technical assistance to Sida in gender equality programming, including women's security and GBV. Relevant outputs to date include:

- The development of a **Sida Gender Tool Box**: A thematic overview, including a collection of good practice on women's political

participation, empowerment and influence. GBV is discussed in the public and private space.

- A **gender analysis of the comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreements with Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine**. The report discusses anti-discrimination and gender equality in the legislative reform agenda.
- Study on the benefits of and challenges to **women's economic empowerment**, including barriers such as GBV.

**Client:** FCDO**Location:** Ethiopia**Contract value:**

€41.2 million

Duration:

May 2014-ongoing

Land Investment for Transformation Programme (LIFT)

LIFT aims to improve the incomes of the rural poor (men and women) and enhance economic growth through second-level land certification (SLLC), improved rural land administration systems (RLAS) and

economic empowerment unit (EEU) interventions to ensure that the benefits of SLLC and the Rural Land Administration System are maximised. Relevant outputs include:

- Gender equality strategy, including preventing and mitigating land-related violence against women and vulnerable groups;
- Policy briefs on land use rights for women and vulnerable groups;
- Development of training and information material on good practices in promoting gender equality in land certification and economic empowerment.

Responsible and Innovative Land Administration in Ethiopia (REILA)

Now in its second phase of implementation, REILA II aims to develop efficient and transparent land administration system and procedures for a low-cost and participatory rural land registration. The project design is based on the human rights-based approach (HRBA) and supports all the priority areas of the Finnish Development Policy. Relevant outputs include:

- Establishment of a nationwide national rural land information system, which is linked to the monitoring and evaluation learning system and provides detailed data disaggregation to enable analysis on gender and land certification;
- Creation and training of village-level land committees to provide assistance to women and disadvantaged groups in land certification and conflict resolution;
- Development and delivery of training modules and public information and awareness to regional and local level land administration offices and communities to enhance the participation of women and vulnerable groups in land certification;
- Policy advocacy to safeguard women's land rights.

Client: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**Location:** Ethiopia**Contract value:**

€19.6 million

Duration:

2011-ongoing



Thematic Evaluation on Violence Against Women

This thematic evaluation focused on areas critical to ensure a sustained contribution for development results and changing priorities at the global and regional levels in the context of violence against women. Relevant outputs included:

- Analysis of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UN Women action to end violence against women from both a sub-regional perspective and at country level;
- Identification of strengths, weaknesses, challenges and current trends in UN Women initiatives that have implications for strengthening its future managerial, programmatic and funding directions;
- Provision of forward looking recommendations and a potential Theory of Change to strengthen programming in the area of violent against women in the sub-region.

Client: Social Development Direct (UK)

Location: Kenya

Duration: October 2011-March 2012

Joint Donor Partner South Sudan Gender Assessment and Support to Programming Exercise within Safety, Security and Access to Justice

The Joint Donor Team (JDT) is an advisory group comprised of South Sudan's six Joint Donor Partners (JDPs): Canada, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, the JDPs have supported peacebuilding and poverty reduction in South Sudan. The JDPs commissioned a gender assessment of their implementing partners', INGOs' and NGOs' projects and programmes in safety, security and access to justice. It covered issues pertaining to GBV; disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration; GBV survivors' access to justice; customary versus statutory law; peacebuilding initiatives; women's voice and leadership; conflict resolution; aid funding modalities and donor coordination.

Client: Joint Donor Team

Location: South Sudan

Contract value: USD 86,200

Duration: October 2012-August 2014

