



SRHR & Climate

# Integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights with climate adaptation and resilience

An overview of the European policy and funding landscape

An illustration in the top right corner shows several hands of different colors (yellow, blue, pink, green, red) reaching out and holding each other in a circular, supportive gesture. The background is a solid light orange color.

# About this report

The overall objective of this research is to assess if and how 14 European donors<sup>1</sup> are bridging their efforts between the protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the fight against climate change. Considering that both priorities are urgent and inextricably linked, this research sheds light upon the degree to which donors politically acknowledge this connection and/or integrate it within their Official Development Assistance (ODA) programming. The paper assesses international cooperation policies from these 13 governments and

the EU institutions, and examines the level of allocated ODA to projects that simultaneously address both SRHR and climate change. A key finding concludes that all donors have made commitments to both areas individually, and that some are starting to acknowledge and address the important connections between them. As the climate crisis is expected to become more severe in the future<sup>2</sup>, there is significant opportunity to build upon what is starting to be done and to increase intersectional approaches that address both SRHR and climate change.

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1. In line with the focus of the C2030E Consortium, this paper analysed ODA investments from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the EU institutions.
  2. Ripple et al., *The 2024 state of the climate report: Perilous times on planet Earth*, BioScience, 2024.

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# A brief reminder of the climate change global framework

# 1



Climate change is considered to be the biggest challenge of the 21st century to both public health and the planet.

Climate change is ‘a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods’.

UNFCCC, 1992

Given the mounting evidence confirming the existence of this phenomenon, the United Nations adopted in 1992 the Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**), an agreement that sets the basis for international climate negotiations. UNFCCC’s main decision-making body is the **COP**, or Conference of the Parties, which serves as the formal meeting of members to negotiate and assess progress of commitments.

UNFCCC was first operationalised by the Kyoto Protocol (1997), under which industrialised countries and economies in transition committed to binding emission reduction targets. Given its shortcomings, the **Paris Agreement** was later adopted in 2015 by UNFCCC parties to prevent global temperatures from rising more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial levels. This was an unprecedented step as, for the first time, almost all world nations came together in a binding agreement to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.

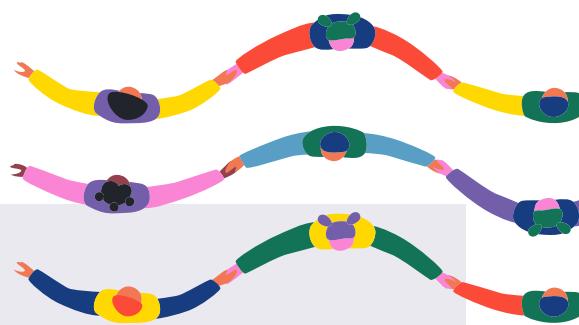
The Paris Agreement established that Parties should submit new commitments every five years to the UNFCCC secretariat in the form of the Nationally Determined Contributions (**NDCs**). The NDCs thus embody countries’ efforts for climate mitigation and adaptation, and each 5 years commitments are expected to bring in further ambition. Of relevance is also the fact that some NDCs may contain information about the needs of financing. Moreover, to better plan for climate adaptation, where relevant, countries engage in the National Adaptation Plan (**NAP**) process. This is a domestic planning exercise that outlines ‘how’ the NDC adaptation goals will be implemented. To inform the NAP process, national Ministries of Health also develop the Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP), to ensure a multisectoral approach. All countries, be it low- and middle-income or high-income countries - such as the European governments and the EU institutions analysed by this paper -, go through this process.

## What do we mean by

→ **Climate change mitigation:** adopted measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

→ **Climate change adaptation:** intends to support communities and systems to cope better with climate change. To be noted that climate adaptation may include climate risk mitigation.

→ **Climate change resilience:** is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate-related events.



# Setting the scene: the interlinkages between climate change and SRHR



The well-being of People and the Planet is highly interconnected. Our health is tied to the health of the planet, and when one is threatened, so is the other.

Climate change has far-reaching implications that go beyond the environmental dimension, affecting various aspects of life, such as human well-being and freedoms, especially of the most marginalised communities. **While the threat is global, climate change goes hand in hand with other forms of inequity:** the climate crisis and its impacts both reflect and exacerbate existing, deep-running inequalities between countries and among communities.<sup>3</sup>

**The climate crisis is underpinned by grave injustice. Those that contributed least to the climate crisis are most severely affected by its impacts while also having most limited access to resources to adapt.**

It is indicative of how entrenched inequalities stemming from deeply unjust global power relations and societal structures compound to further restrain access to resources and opportunity. Cognisant of these disparities, the UNFCCC adopted the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities principle, which acknowledges first the different responsibilities, and then the different capabilities, of individual countries in the universal combat against climate change. All countries should thus identify a path towards a climate-neutral future, but with very different levels of liability – the European donors addressed by this paper are no exception. Addressing this fight will thus require fundamental shifts in distribution of resources, voice, behaviours and decision-making power among countries and across societies.<sup>4</sup>

In particular, **climate resilience and gender (in)equality are intrinsically linked.** Already in 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) stated that climate change is a women's human rights issue, given how it disproportionately impacts women. For this reason, the UNFCCC established the first [Lima Work Programme on Gender](#) in 2014. Three years after, the COP decided to consult countries on the possible differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men. The vast [feedback from this exercise](#) confirmed that women are more impacted by climate change, especially in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). Among the most frequently mentioned causes were discriminatory and patriarchal laws

and customs; **limited access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care**, namely due to the onset of natural disasters, and **increased exposure to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**. As a result of this overwhelming feedback, in 2016 parties to the UNFCCC adopted the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its [Gender Action Plan](#) (GAP). The Programme aims to advance gender-responsive climate action based on five priority areas, namely:

- 1 capacity-building, knowledge management and communication;
- 2 gender balance, participation and women's leadership;
- 3 coherence;
- 4 gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation and
- 5 monitoring and reporting. As these areas are more systemic, they do not refer to specific sectorial interventions, such as those related to health or access to SRHR.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are a precondition to achieve gender equality and are thus crucial to adapt and build resilience to climate change gendered impacts.

**When SRHR are fully realised, people are able to make informed decisions about their lives and the life of their ecosystem, to better manage risks, participate in the public sphere politics and engage in collective action.**

Even though more research is beneficial, there is enough evidence to confirm this inextricable link and to initiate action.<sup>5</sup>

3. IPPF, [The climate crisis and sexual and reproductive health and rights](#), (2021).
4. Idem.
5. For more information, please consult the IPPF Position Paper on [The climate crisis and sexual and reproductive health and rights](#) (2021), as well as Women Deliver, [Climate Change Report](#) (2021).



On the one hand, **climate change significantly impacts SRHR**. The change of climate may lead to water and food insecurity, which drastically increases the maternal risk of complications like anaemia or eclampsia. It also increases the spread of vector-borne diseases. The loss of assets, changing production patterns and scarcity of resources can lead to economic instability and higher levels of poverty. In these contexts, expressions of SGBV are often exacerbated and varied, from increases in intimate partner violence to harmful traditional practices, such as early forced marriage (EFM) and female genital mutilation (FGM). Moreover, climate change may also disrupt access to healthcare, including SRH commodities - this includes products potential efficacy given exposure to high heat and humidity beyond shelf stable temperature parameters -, and services. Furthermore, there is strong evidence that indicates climate-led disasters lead to displacement, which heightens the risk of SGBV and lack of SRH services.<sup>6</sup>

On the other, **realising SRHR is a robust way to improve climate adaptation and resilience**. Healthy people conducting healthy lives, who are empowered to decide what to do with their bodies and how to live, can become agents of change for collective action and protect both public health and their surrounding environment. Realising SRHR improves education outcomes and subsequently leads to economic empowerment and gender equality. Investing in SRHR is also instrumental for preparedness and risk management of climate-led disasters, as people are equipped and empowered to lead those efforts.

Unfortunately, the link between SRHR and climate action has often led the way towards instrumentalising the provision of contraception in high-fertility rate countries (mostly LMICs), as a means to reduce fertility and control population growth as a mitigation measure to decrease levels of greenhouse gas emissions. In this sense, in 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the UN launched its [Fifth Assessment Report assessing the impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability brought in by climate change](#). In this report, the

IPCC linked access to RH services with population growth and its effects on the consumption of resources and GHG. The report identifies as a solution, to simultaneously reduce emissions and improve health, the provision of 'access to reproductive health services (including modern family planning) to improve child and maternal health through birth spacing and reduce population growth, energy use, and consequent CAP emissions over time (medium confidence)' (p.714).

The 2014 report had several egregious implications, not only in failing to affirm the criticality of voluntary, rights-based access to contraceptive care, but in the false belief that curbing population growth in LMICs is a valid solution to the climate crisis. This overall narrative falls dangerously into the neomalthusian logic of using population control to reach other objectives, in this case instrumentalising women's and girls' bodies to tackle the climate crisis. It also distracts from the responsibility of high-income countries to address the structural drivers of the climate crisis, placing the burden on those mostly impacted by it.<sup>7</sup>

### Climate solutions must be grounded in reproductive and climate justice.

6. There is a wide array of publications outlining these cause-effects. Examples include: [IPPF position paper: The climate crisis and sexual and reproductive health and rights](#), by IPPF (2021); [Climate Change and Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights \(SRHR\)](#), by the NAP Global Network (2021); [Violence against women and girls in the context of the climate crisis, including environmental degradation and related disaster risk mitigation and response](#), by the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences (2022); [Protecting maternal, newborn and child health from the impacts of climate change A call for action by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA](#) (2023); and [The Impact of Climate Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health](#), by YLabs (2024).
7. See IPPF Position Paper on [Position Paper on The climate crisis and sexual and reproductive health and rights](#) (2021).

## An example of how SRHR is featured in a country's NDC

THE SEYCHELLES



In its 2021 NDC, and as part of adaptation measures, the Seychelles commit to strengthen health systems to meet the SRHR needs of women and youth, and to ensure that financing for climate resilience considers risks to maternal and neonatal health and takes measures to reduce them.



The world should be looking at addressing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in high-income countries, where per capita levels of greenhouse gas emissions far exceed those in lower income countries.<sup>8</sup>

**In 2019, the richest 1% were responsible for 16% of global carbon emissions, the same as the emissions of the poorest 66% of humanity (5 billion people).<sup>9</sup>**

**Oxfam, 2023**

Instrumentalising women and girls' bodies is a human rights violation. Putting the burden on those who are not part of the problem to solve it is a failing (as well as unethical) strategy. Modern and voluntary access to contraceptive care, as well as to the whole spectrum of SRH services, is a crucial, human rights-based, and cost-effective approach to climate change adaptation and resilience building.

**It empowers people to make their own informed choices, being able to contribute to the collective good, rather than with the aim of curbing population growth.**

Despite the above mentioned progress in recognising that climate change is not gender-neutral, much more can be done. Some signatory parties of UNFCCC still refer to women as part of a 'vulnerable group affected by climate change', without emphasising their key role as agents of change.

**Out of 119 NDCs submitted for 2020-2022, only 38 included issues related to SRHR, GBV and harmful practices.<sup>10</sup>**

**UNFPA, 2023**

A UNFPA review found that the most common considerations around SRHR in NDCs referred to maternal and newborn health (23), followed by GBV (15), FP and SRHR (both 4).



The review showed that such references are mostly made at the level of the situational analysis and vulnerability assessments, with only some pointing to specific programmes or interventions in the area. Despite significant room for improvement, UNFPA considers 'promising' the fact that about one third of the reviewed NDCs includes SRHR considerations. Similarly, [Y Labs review of 58 NAPs and 21 HNAPs](#) shows that **references to SRHR remain limited, but have increased since 2020**. Once more, maternal and newborn health were the subject most commonly addressed (in 21 NAPs and 5 HNAPs).

Against all this increasing evidence and analysis made available over the last 5 years, in 2023, parties to the Paris Agreement committed to a '[Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership](#)'. In this context, countries recognised that **climate change exacerbates pre-existing inequalities and the risk of SGBV, and increases barriers to accessing critical services, such as SRH**. To enable this just transition, countries committed to '**encourage gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation**' and to '**identify funding sources and opportunities [...] for women and girls in the regions most impacted by climate change**'. All European donors analysed in this paper signed this commitment, except for Italy and the EU institutions. This offers a new opportunity to reinforce the links between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience in the near future. As access to SRHR is put at risk due to climate change, and evidence is clear that this crisis is expected to increasingly worsen in the future, European donors' financing must adapt to this new reality to ensure that resources are efficiently used and maximised to achieve their goals.

8. See Oxfam, [Confronting carbon inequality – Putting climate justice at the heart of the COVID-19 recovery](#) (2020).

8. Oxfam, [Climate equality: A planet for the 99%](#) (2023)

9. UNFPA, [Taking stock of sexual and reproductive health and rights in climate commitments. A global review](#) (2023).

Do European  
donors  
acknowledge  
the links between  
SRHR and  
climate change  
at policy level?

3



## Looking at the policy landscape

All 13 governments and the EU institutions analysed in this paper support access to SRHR, even if at different levels. This is reflected in the wide array of policy documents that help framing donors' international cooperation, but also sectorial strategies that include SRHR at its core.<sup>11</sup>

Moreover, all donors without exception include the fight against climate change as a priority in their framework for international cooperation. Climate action became increasingly prominent across the years, from originally being referenced as a threat or crisis to sustainable development, to becoming a central pillar for European donors' action in their partnership with countries in the Global South.

The assessment found that these two issues are prioritised by *all* European governments within their international

cooperation policies, however the interlinkage between climate change and SRHR is unfortunately not explicitly mentioned by the majority of the donors.

**While climate action and SRHR - or gender equality and women's empowerment, which includes SRHR - are often listed as side-by-side priorities in donors' policies, it appears that these areas are rarely linked.**

From the **78 policies** from the last ten years analysed for this paper, **only 11 by 6 European countries specifically link climate change and SRHR**<sup>12</sup>, be it because the former is acknowledged as threatening access to the latter, or because there are specific intentions to address both areas to mitigate the exacerbated effects of deriving inequalities. The table below provides an overview of the donors who include policies with this level of interconnection.

	SRHR	CLIMATE CHANGE	SRHR & CLIMATE CHANGE <sup>13</sup>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	✓	✓	
<b>DENMARK</b>	✓	✓	●
<b>FINLAND</b>	✓	✓	
<b>FRANCE</b>	✓	✓	◐
<b>GERMANY</b>	✓	✓	◐
<b>IRELAND</b>	✓	✓	
<b>ITALY</b>	✓	✓	
<b>THE NETHERLANDS</b>	✓	✓	●
<b>NORWAY</b>	✓	✓	●
<b>SPAIN</b>	✓	✓	
<b>SWEDEN</b>	✓	✓	
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	✓	✓	
<b>THE UK</b>	✓	✓	●
<b>EU INSTITUTIONS</b>	✓	✓	

There are **two commonalities between those policies that interlink SRHR and climate change**:

- i)** none of these are the donors' flagship policy for international cooperation, but rather other gender-related or sectorial strategies / frameworks that guide action in a specific area;
- ii)** all identified policies, except two, are centred on supporting access to SRHR, gender equality and women's rights, which then include considerations on climate change.

11. European governments and the EU institutions have developed a wide array of legislation to support their commitment to the legally binding target to cut net GHG emissions agreed upon in Paris. This section does not consider such policies, but rather frameworks
12. In this context, 'linking' means that the policy acknowledges that climate change significantly impacts SRHR or that access to SRHR can be a crucial means for climate adaptation and resilience. related to European international cooperation.
13. Half full or full circles are used in this column to illustrate the degree to which European donors acknowledge the interconnection between SRHR and climate in their policies: either through recognising a causality between both areas (half full circle), and through identifying concrete action to address them in an integrated way (full circle).

## In detail:

### Denmark

- In its 'Strategy for Denmark's Engagement with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 2022-2025', the country confirms support to the agency's new strategy to include climate change in its programming, including in humanitarian settings, and reaffirms the approach of *Doing Development Differently (DDD)*, which further links Danish multilateral and bilateral cooperation through the use of all tools, including climate related instruments.
- In addition, the links between SRHR and climate are also visible in other technical documents, namely the 'Evaluation of Support to Gender Equality in Danish Development Cooperation (2014-2021)', or the studies 'The intersection between climate change and education - Mapping and analysis of the evidence base' and 'The intersections between climate change and gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights - Mapping and analysis of the evidence base', commissioned by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and produced by the Nordic Consulting Group.



### Norway

- The 'Norwegian guidelines for sexual and reproductive health and rights' recognise that SRHR can be a useful tool for climate adaptation and encourages Embassies to link the importance of SRHR to national adaptation plan (NAP) processes.
- The 'A just world is an equal world: Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Norway's Foreign and Development Policy (2023-2030)' acknowledges the differentiated impact that climate change may have on LGBTIQ+ groups and women, be it through exacerbated violence or lack of access to life-saving services, and thus commits to the transition to a low-carbon society as a means to achieve gender equality, and to promote the role of women as climate activists.
- Finally, the 'Women, Peace and Security 2023-2030' recognises that climate-induced displacement may lead to SGBV.



### France

- In its 'SRHR International Strategy 2023-2027', France recognises that access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is hampered by the challenge of climate change. The strategy does not detail further action as to how access to SRHR can be safeguarded in such context.



### Germany

- The 'BMZ Initiative – Strengthening of SRHR', launched in 2023, also acknowledges the challenges brought in by climate change to accessing SRHR.
- Also, the German Feminist Development Policy, published that same year, recognises that some groups are more at risk due to this crisis, such as LGBTIQ+. There is no further detail as how to address these hurdles.



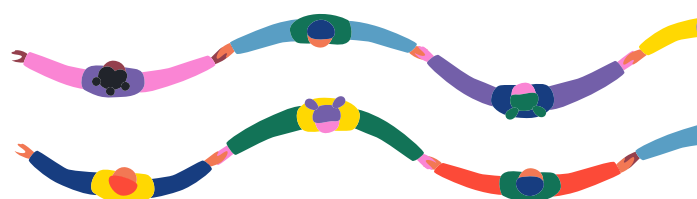
### The Netherlands

- In the 'Global Climate Strategy - from ambition to transition', the Netherlands 'stress that SRHR and education are important for climate change adaptation and resilience, particularly for girls and for young people with fewer opportunities'.



### The UK

- The 'Ending the Preventable Deaths of Mothers, Babies and Children by 2030: Approach Paper' (2021) emphasises the importance of climate-resilient health systems to reinforce reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH), and commits to focus on system strengthening by linking health, food and nutrition, SRHR, climate and WASH.
- The 'Health systems strengthening for global health security and universal health coverage: FCDO position paper' calls for integrating key essential services, including RMNCH, while 'transforming the infrastructure so it is more accessible for all and more resilient to climate change, such as investing in clean energy'.
- The FCDO position paper 'Addressing the climate, environment and biodiversity crises in and through girls' education' also commits to 'take a multi-sectoral approach to bring together education, improved health and wellbeing, including SRHR, and wider (economic) development measures' as a way to support systems strengthening.





The UK position paper 'Addressing the climate, environment and biodiversity crises in and through girls' education' and the Dutch 'Global Climate Strategy' are the two cases centred on fighting climate change and that include specific reference to SRHR. None of the other analysed donors' strategies focused on climate change includes reference to this agenda. Instead, there are significant mentions of gender equality and women's empowerment, given the recognition of women as agents of change in the fight against climate change. When there is reference to a specific priority linked to gender equality, it is often to promote the participation of women in this context. But without realisation of SRHR there is no participation possible for any woman or girl.

Climate mitigation is only mentioned in a few cases as a structural solution to be adopted to alleviate the differentiated impacts that climate change may have over women and other groups, such as lack of access to SRHR. On the other hand,

SRHR never appears to be mentioned as a tool to mitigate climate in the analysed European policies, which is a positive finding.

It is thus possible to conclude that **existing policies that link SRHR and climate change largely do so by focusing on the impact climate change has on SRHR outcomes.** When donors adopt specific approaches, these are mostly linked to SRHR as a means to reinforce climate adaptation and resilience.

**Considering all these findings, there is an imperative to further support SRHR as a pre-condition to promote women's empowerment, participation and engagement in the global fight against climate change.**



IPPF/Mercy Juma/Kenya

Rain failure for a third consecutive rainfall season in Eastern and Northern Kenya, has caused most Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) to experience critical drought conditions. Consequently, large-scale, climate-induced, humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the Horn of Africa and as of March 2022, where 14 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure in the Horn of Africa, and acute malnutrition rates have increased considerably, affecting 5.5 million children

In their search for survival, women have limited or no access to sexual health and reproductive services.

Are European  
donors financially  
investing in the  
links between  
SRHR and climate  
change?

4



The section below is based on an assessment of European donors' ODA allocated to projects that link SRHR and climate change. As such, it does not consider European investments made for domestic decarbonisation or climate adaptation.

## Methodology

This section is based on findings from two separate analysis:

- i) to assume how much European donors spent on SRHR, this paper relies on the conclusions from the C2030E 'Tracking What Counts' reports ([2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#));
- ii) for climate funds, a new analysis was made based on the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). To consider the overall spending from European donors on climate action, this paper considers only projects reported to have climate change – be it adaptation or mitigation – as a principal objective.

## The Rio markers system

Following the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Rio Conventions, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD adopted specific policy markers to statistically report on ODA promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation. Projects are thus labelled with the Rio Marker 2, if climate is the principal objective; with the Rio Marker 1, if climate is a significant objective but receives only part of the budget; and 0, if climate is not targeted at any level. Because [donors may attribute different percentages of budget](#) to projects that have climate as a significant objective only, those funds are not included in the overview below, as it would not be possible to determine the accurate coefficient for each project. Biodiversity and Desertification are other themes included in the CRS system, following the Rio Conventions, but not measured here.

To be noted that there is no policy marker dedicated to SRHR. The closest would be the one targeting RMNCH, followed by Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), or even Participatory Democracy / Good Governance' (PD/GG). For that reason, the measures used in this analysis are different from one another and the Tracking What Counts reports are used instead as a reference for European funding to SRHR.

To further select relevant programmes that address both SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience, an analysis was made of all projects reported in the OECD CRS that were labelled as: having a relevant policy marker; being reported as contributing to crucial SDG targets; or reported under relevant sector purpose codes. Because there are no OECD sector purpose codes only about SRHR, climate mitigation or adaptation, examples of analysed codes include 130 Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health, 120 Health, 150 Government & Civil Society, 310 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and 410 General Environment Protection. Projects were selected when both SRHR and climate adaptation or/and resilience were explicitly addressed as part of the problem analysis, the objectives and results, and/or the activities. As such, it should be noted that there might also be relevant programmes supported by European governments and the EU institutions that are not captured by this paper, in





the cases where the triangulation in research here described was unable to identify relevant public information.

## Looking at the financial landscape

Between 2020 and 2022, the 14 European donors<sup>14</sup> spent a total of **19.5 billion Euros** on **climate action**, considering projects that have both climate mitigation<sup>15</sup> and adaptation as a principal objective<sup>16</sup>. Adaptation represented about a third of this total, as climate mitigation was the central focus of the analysed projects. If projects that include climate adaptation or mitigation as a significant objective would have been included, this overall amount would have significantly increased. This overview also shows that those same European donors' spending on **SRHR** was equivalent to **8.5 billion Euros** across those three years (see graph 1).

Despite spending across climate mitigation, climate adaptation and SRHR, the assessment found that financing across these three domains were very rarely interlinked.

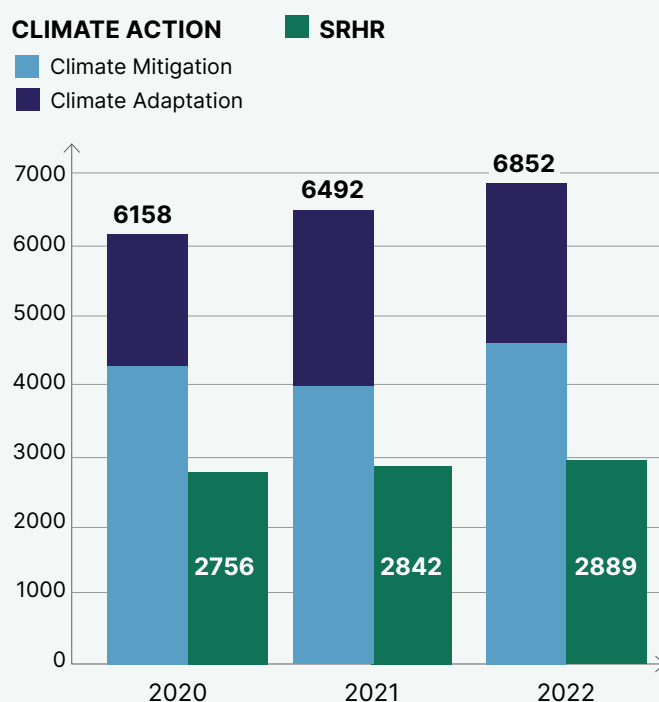
When analysing reported projects by 13 European governments and the EU institutions that fall within the eligible categories relevant to this paper, the findings are quite revealing (see graph 2). On the one hand, there are **very**

**few projects that specifically aim at tackling both SRHR and climate action** – a total of **75 million Euros** between 2020-2022. On the other hand, when this analysis takes into account **programmes working on both SRHR and climate adaptation and/or resilience among other areas**, the volume of funds **increases by more than ten-fold**. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a very limited amount of programmes prioritising specifically the interlinkages between SRHR and climate action, but there is quite a significant number of them addressing this interconnection among many other issues.

14. To be noted that Italy is not accounted for in 2020, only in 2021 and 2022, to ensure comparability with the findings on SRHR spending from the Tracking What Counts reports.
15. To be noted that some of the projects here selected are actually reported as climate mitigation, but none of respective intervention logics considers SRHR, family planning or access to contraception apopulation growth. Instead, these interventions have a focus, for example, on climate or forest protection policy, while simultaneously investing in the health and well-being of women, so that these can become agents of change.
16. To be noted that this amount considers only grant-equivalent ODA from European donors, i.e. only the grants and the 'grant portion' of loans and other flows (the amount 'given' by lending below market rates) are factored in.

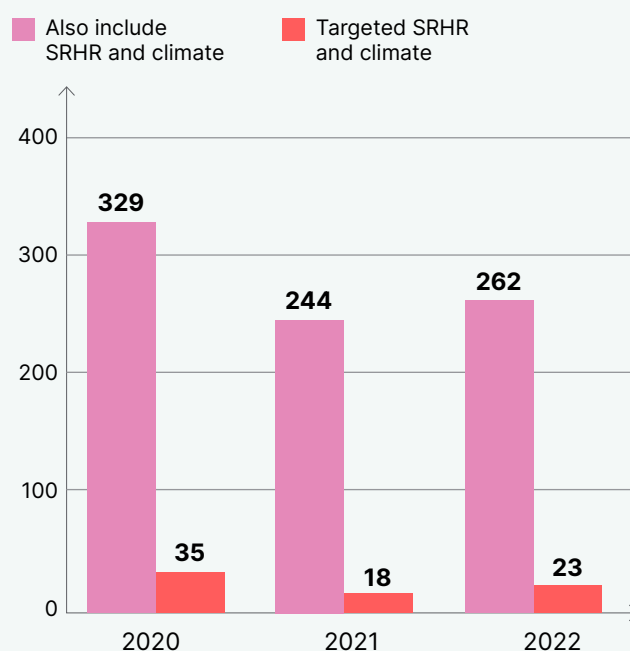
Graph 1

### European donors' overall investment on SRHR and climate action (million Euros)



Graph 2

### European donors' spending on projects that address both SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience, per year (million Euros)



Examples of programmes that fall under the latter category include: support to humanitarian response plans of countries where these areas are specifically prioritised, among others<sup>17</sup>; or support to strategic plans of organisations that include both areas as priorities for a multiannual period. Because it is not possible to disaggregate how much funding goes specifically into SRHR and climate adaptation and/or resilience, opposed to other areas, the full amount disbursed for the selected projects is here included.

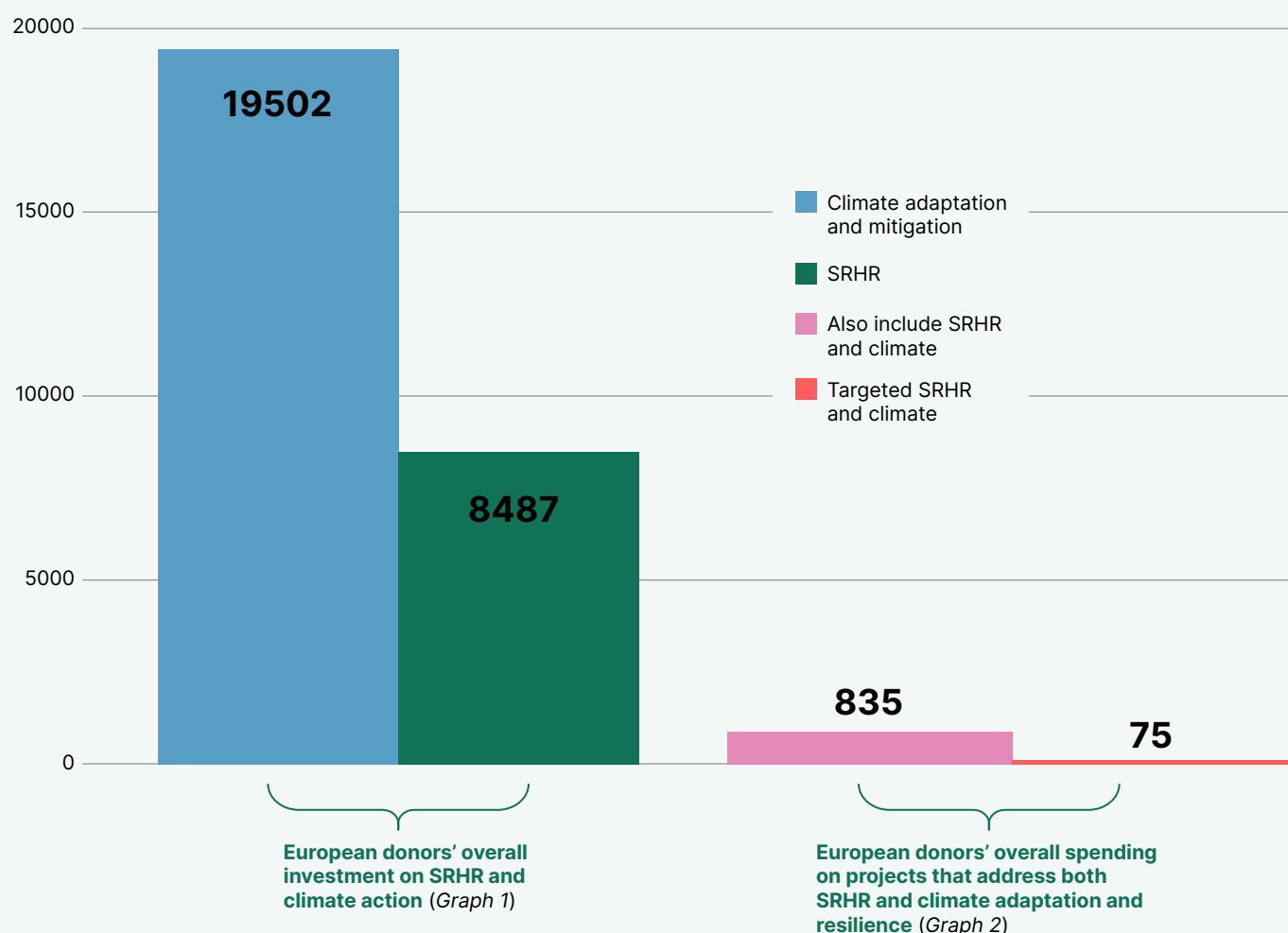
The figures presented in *graph 2* for all three years of analysis are therefore included either in the projects targeting SRHR only or on those that have climate adaptation and mitigation as a principal objective (*first two columns of graph 3*).

Ultimately, the total of projects that either specifically target both areas, or that address them among other sectors (*last two columns of graph 3*), represent 11% of European donors' overall funding dedicated to the promotion of SRHR and 5% of European funds for climate adaptation and resilience.

17. For the sake of accuracy, overall funding going to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is not included in these findings, as it would not be possible to quantify how much of it is relevant to this analysis – and even if ultimately such funds do support SRHR climate-sensitive actions or the integration of both areas.

**Graph 3**

### Total European donors' spending 2020-2022 (million Euros)



Moreover, European donors rely on different channels to implement these projects (see graph 4). The analysis of the past three years of ODA disbursements shows that the multilateral system, with predominance of UN agencies, is the funding stream that mostly channels European investments that support simultaneously SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience – about double of the investments compared to other funding streams.

While the multilateral system receives the chunk of the funds, European donors fund three quarters of their projects through the category ‘organisations & initiatives’ - which includes grassroots, national or international NGOs, network, universities or the private sector (see graph 5)<sup>18</sup>. That is to say, what European donors spend in one multilateral programme that links SRHR and climate action is as much as about three projects implemented by these other organisations.

Investment in ‘organisations & initiatives’ is welcome, considering that development actors such as civil society organisations (CSOs) play a key role in accessing the most

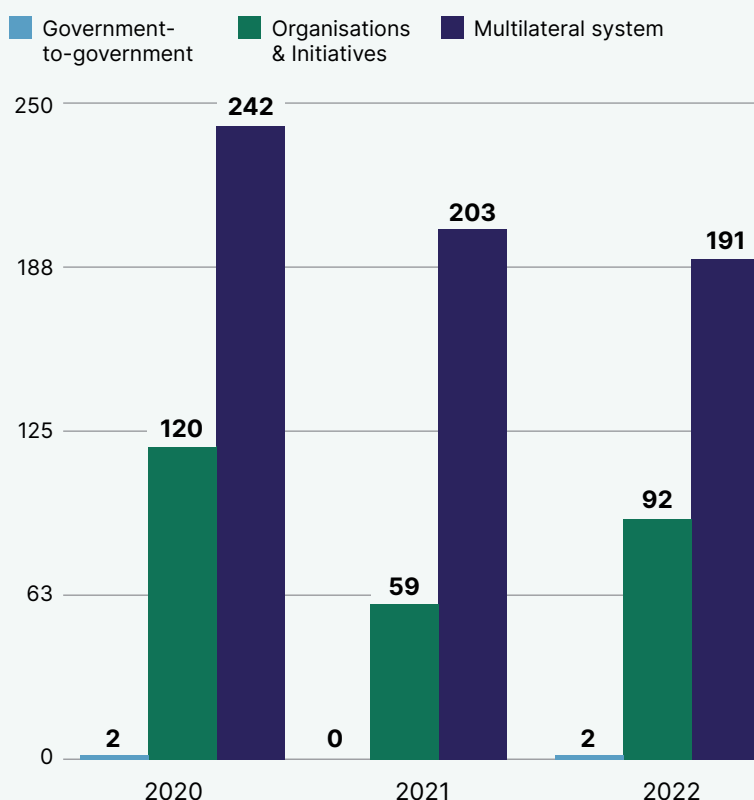
marginalised populations, and are instrumental in contributing to an accurate needs assessment. Furthermore, CSOs play an instrumental role in supporting community engagement and safeguarding ownership of initiatives at local level. In the context of the links between SRHR and climate action, this is fundamental to ensure that efforts are placed where they are needed the most.

But while organisations & initiatives are commonly supported to interconnect SRHR and climate action, as graph 4 shows, they receive only a modest amount of overall European disbursements, as the biggest volume of funds is channelled through the multilateral system. Even if part of these resources is later cascaded to organisations such as CSOs, it is possible to ascertain that there is leeway for European donors to further invest financially on the work of non-governmental or non-multilateral organisations.

18. For further information about this category, please refer to the methodology of the [Tracking What Counts report](#).

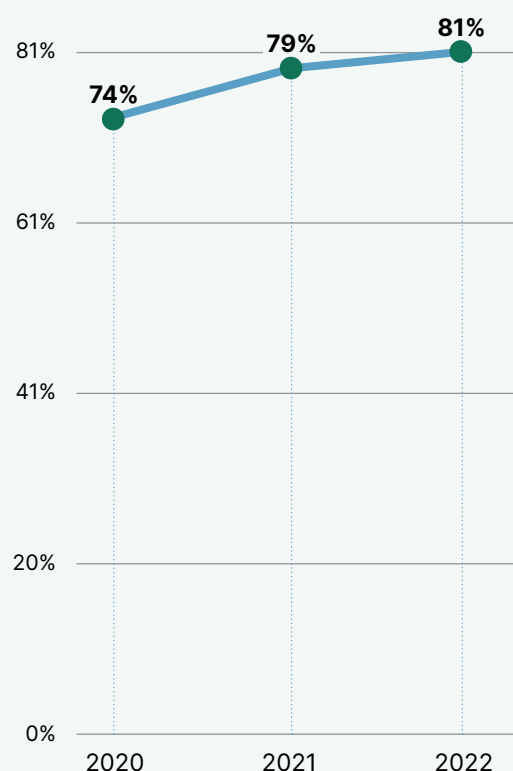
Graph 4

### Funding streams for linking SRHR & climate (million Euros, 2020-2022)



Graph 5

### % of projects led by organisations & initiatives



## Other considerations about European funding

There are two **other areas** that are intertwined with both SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience and in which European governments invest significantly, namely: **sustainable food security**, with a focus on safeguarding nutrition, and **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**. Both areas are or can be impacted by climate change and have significant effects over pregnant and lactating women, in addition to newborns. Pregnant women have increased nutritional requirements to meet the demands of the growing baby and are thus especially vulnerable to food insecurity, including in the postnatal phase. Climate change is also one of the key reasons for the global water scarcity; but maternal hydration is fundamental for the well-being of both mother and child, while clean water is essential for preventing infections, water-related diseases and supporting menstrual hygiene. European donors invest significantly in both food security and WASH. But because the vast majority of those projects do not specifically target sexual and reproductive health<sup>19</sup>, nor the protection and promotion of respective rights, but rather consider these as a co-benefit, they are not accounted for in the figures presented above.

It is also relevant to highlight the role that **intermediary donors** have in this context. The analysed European governments and EU institutions are supporters of key players in the climate field that may, on their turn, be instrumental in addressing SRHR needs in a human rights-based approach in environment and climate change programmes. For instance, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the main climate finance mechanism that mainstreams gender perspectives as a critical decision-making variable. At the time of writing, the Fund provided an average of 55% of its grant funding to adaptation projects, against 45% to mitigation. In that context, the GCF 'Sectoral guide: Health & wellbeing' acknowledges the importance of addressing protecting and promoting the realisation of SRHR through its adaptation investments. But given how difficult it is to quantify these, European donors' investments to the GCF are not accounted for here.

Other climate entities that can be an authority in exploring a pathway for realizing SRHR and resilience to climate change are the **National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network** and the **NDC Partnership** (NDCP). The former aims to support donor coordination with countries in the Global South to ensure that ODA is aligned with the priorities set out in their

NAP processes, while the latter supports the implementation of countries' NDCs and the coordination of international climate finance among donors. Both global partnerships have a key role to play in supporting a gender analysis and respective entry points to further protect and promote SRHR. And both are supported by European governments, such as Germany, France, Ireland and the UK. The International **Union for Conservation of Nature** (IUCN) is another unavoidable player, given its Biodiversity & Family Planning Task Force, and its role in supporting countries' gender analysis for both the NDCs and NAPs. European overall contributions to IUCN, given its strategic focus on gender equality, are accounted for in this analysis as part of the projects that also interlink SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience, among other areas.

Finally, it is worth mentioning key SRHR players, funded by European governments have increasingly embraced climate justice as a must-go for their intervention logic. For example, Amplify Change has adopted this as an area of action, even if not as high in the agenda as other priorities. And, in 2023, the UK announced that 20% of its contribution to the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) would come from international climate finance, with the aim to mainstream climate considerations into all RMNCAH-N programmes, and report on climate outputs.

These two funds are however not included in the above analysis for two reasons: i) it is not possible to accurately ascertain how much of Amplify Change links SRHR and climate justice; and ii) the new British announcement regarding GFF happened outside the analysed period of this paper.

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19. The exception to this exclusion is when projects specifically target menstrual health, a domain of SRHR.

## How is European donors' funding linking SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience connected with the SDGs?

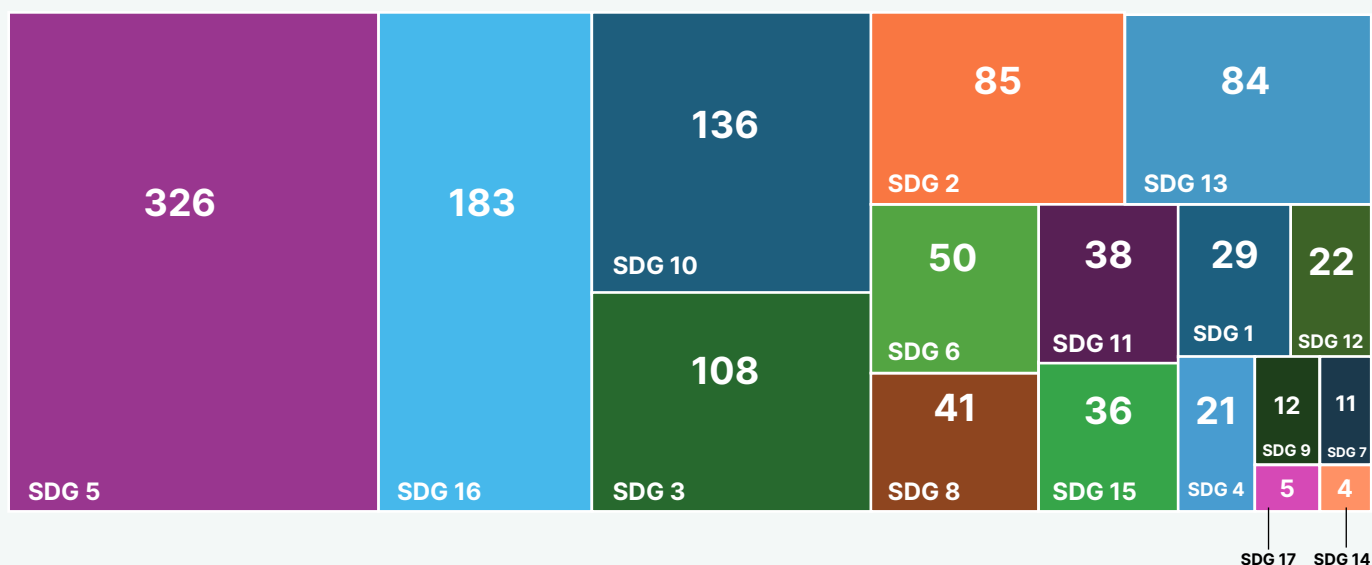
The 2030 Agenda brought in a growing appreciation of the need for a stronger focus on integrated all-sector approaches. This was even further highlighted after the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with a renewed impetus towards health systems strengthening (HSS). As the world has passed the

halfway point of its journey towards 2030, it is important to understand if and how donors are targeting these combined approaches.

For a more comprehensive financial overview of the 2030 Agenda, in 2018 the OECD DAC put forward a voluntary reporting field for the SDGs for its members. This measure is only qualitative in nature, and is not associated with monetary values. The graph below shows that European donors advance the interlinks between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience through different lenses<sup>20</sup>:

Graph 6

### Projects linking SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience and the SDGs (2020–2022)



SDG 5 Gender equality and women's empowerment, 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions and 10 Reduced inequalities are the Goals European donors refer to the most when reporting on projects that link SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience. Although this is not cumulative, as donors may choose several SDGs for each programme, more than half of the total selected projects by this analysis are linked to these three Goals. SDG 13, Climate Action ranks only sixth, after SDG 2 Zero Hunger. SDG 3 Good health and well-being is only the fourth Goal donors mostly associate these projects with. While this means that European donors have been integrating SRHR and climate in different areas of cooperation, it may also signal that the health aspect is not such high priority in such approach<sup>21</sup>.

There is also good news: in 2022, European donors reported almost double of the number of identified projects by this analysis as related to SDG 3.7, Sexual and reproductive

health, and more than double SDG 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, compared to 2021. While this increase of European supported programmes is welcome, there is also a significant opportunity to further interlink SRHR and climate adaptation in connection to both SDG 3 and 13.

20. To be noted however that, because the SDG focus field is voluntary, not all European donors report with the same level of detail. In 2020 there were still several programmes not labelled in the OECD CRS, but it became possible to have more granularity, including at the SDG targets level, after 2021.

21. It is to be reminded that this section considers only how European financial contributions are allocated, and not how respective programme results are measured. While there is a complex network of interconnections across the SDGs, attributing results to interventions targeting the different Goals is often done vertically, making it difficult to track and assess the interlinkages between them.

## Case studies

A snapshot  
of concrete  
examples of  
how European  
governments  
support  
the links between  
SRHR and climate  
adaptation  
and resilience

5





As observed in the previous section, European donors support the links between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience through different channels and with a different focus - either by having this interconnection as a targeted objective or as part of broader multisectoral interventions.

It is also relevant to understand how these interventions may look like in practice, to ensure potential inspiration for further funding and scaling up. The case studies presented in this paper provide a sneak peak of the different approaches adopted by relevant programmes funded by European donors. Projects were selected given their representation of different European donors' support and geography, as well as following the key criteria of relevance, innovation and replicability.

The result is a shortlist of **six projects interlinking SRHR and climate action, funded by six European donors** (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK) through the multilateral system, as well as organisations and initiatives, around the world.

These projects are examples of how European donors support the links between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience. These are relevant in simultaneously tackling both areas, while being both innovative in integrated approaches and replicable. It is however not easy to identify the integrated impact delivered by the selected initiatives, given the lack of publicly available data for some cases. Moreover, existing results frameworks tend to measure outcomes vertically, in line with the individual SDGs, making it difficult to track and assess how results in one area may influence others. To make sure that outcomes and impacts from intersectoral approaches can be adequately measured, it would be crucial for European donors to identify a framework that assesses the interlinkages between the key intervention results.



The Cook Islands is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, in particular coastal erosion and inundation, droughts, flooding, cyclones, increasing temperatures, changing ocean currents and abnormal weather patterns. CIFWA, a Member Association of IPPF, has been preparing to support vulnerable and underserved women and girls living in humanitarian settings by improving access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health and rights services for crisis-affected populations in Cook Islands through the implementation of the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for reproductive health in crises.

IPPF/Hannah Maule-ffinch/Cook Islands





## Integrating climate action into SRHR programmes

### TITLE My Body My Future 2 (MBMF2)



#### EUROPEAN DONOR

Finland



#### LEAD PARTNER AND OTHER PARTNERS

Plan International Finland | Plan International country offices



#### LOCATION

Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Laos, and Myanmar



#### PROJECT TERM

2022 - 2025



**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** A gender transformative multi-country programme. This is the second phase of a SRHR programme which aims that children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity have control over their bodies and futures in a healthy, safe and supportive environment. The MBMF2 aims at transforming gendered power relations and tackling the root causes of gender inequality and exclusion at the level of individual, families, communities and the state. The programme's climate resilience work intends to highlight the effects of climate change on the achievement of SRHR and disability inclusion objectives. The lead partner supports the climate adaptation expertise of country offices, local NGOs and partners implementing the programme. This includes training on climate risks analysis, development of materials for climate education as part of SRHR, promotion of community resilience to disaster risks, and support youth climate action.



#### RELEVANCE, INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY:

The My Body My Future 2 project builds upon the success of its predecessor and invests significantly in an intersectional approach. This phase of the project recognises, on the one hand, the need to build resilience of essential SRHR services in the face of climate change; on the other, it invests in the design and facilitation of a gender-transformative and inclusive climate action for SRHR. It does so by building staff capacity on the links between SRHR and climate, while supporting youth-led action. This project is thus relevant to the interlinkages between both areas, and also replicable in different contexts, as interventions are guided by community-led situational analysis.



### TITLE Safeguard Young People (SYP) programme



#### EUROPEAN DONOR

Switzerland



#### LEAD PARTNER

UNFPA



#### LOCATION

East and Southern Africa



#### PROJECT TERM

Since 2013



**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** The SYP programme contributes to the reduction of HIV infections and improved sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people in eight Southern African countries. It supports the adoption, domestication and implementation of regional policies and helps increase young people's knowledge, skills, agency, and equitable access to integrated HIV/SRHR services. In the context of SYP, UNFPA developed the educational module called 'Resilient Futures: Young People, Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health', to be included as part of the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) offered by the programme to young people in and out of school.



#### RELEVANCE, INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY:

The SYP programme created this first-of-its kind module that helps young people to both learn about the effects of climate change on their rights, health and well-being, and to engage on climate action. Because there is an undeniable link between SRHR and climate change, educational materials of this nature are always very relevant in any given space, and easily replicable in programmes that include CSE or other education elements. This is all the more relevant for other UNFPA programmes, given the agency's focus on integrating the effects of megatrends, such as climate change, into its programming, as per its strategic plan 2022-2025.

## Integrating SRHR into climate adaptation and resilience programmes

### TITLE Blue Ventures - Sustainable and Inclusive Coastal Marine Economy



#### EUROPEAN DONOR

Norway, UK



#### LEAD PARTNER AND OTHER PARTNERS

Blue Ventures



#### LOCATION

Across the globe, with a flagship in Madagascar (where it started)



#### PROJECT TERM

Since 2003



#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Blue Ventures works to restore the world's oceans and improve the livelihoods of fishing communities. It aims at making marine ecosystems healthier and more resilient to climate change. The organisation, among other things, focuses on the participation of women in decision-making bodies and increasing their economic autonomy. For that purpose, it strives to improve access to rights-based contraception services, through technical and capacity-building support, as well as sub-grants.



#### RELEVANCE, INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY:

Blue Ventures adopts an integrated health and conservation programming approach across coastal regions. It is one of the longest examples of the Population, Environment, and Development (PED) and Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) approaches that recognise and address the inherent link between people's health and the environment. Blue Ventures' track record has proven that bridging public health services, with a focus on SRH, with community-based fisheries and conservation can strengthen wellbeing, ownership and resilience. By prioritising the needs of women and girls living on the frontline of climate change, Blue Ventures has been also successful in increasing climate resilience in coastal areas. Its model can be used as a blueprint for similar initiatives or even expanded into other coastal regions.

### TITLE Gender-transformative and Equitable Natural Resource Management (GENRE) for Resilience, Social Cohesion and Peace



#### EUROPEAN DONOR

UK



#### LEAD PARTNER AND OTHER PARTNERS

CARE International UK | CARE National Office



#### LOCATION

Mali



#### PROJECT TERM

2021 – 2022, 2023 – 2025



#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The project aims to strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change, reduce the risk of natural resource-related conflicts, and improve social cohesion and the inclusion of women and youth through community-led and consensual natural resource management. Its successor, GENRE+, pilots gender-transformative approaches in climate resilient natural resource management, encouraging social cohesion, peacebuilding, and gender equality.



#### RELEVANCE, INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY:

The first phase of the project brought in evidence on the potential for building social cohesion through gender-transformative natural resource management and subsequently improved the inclusion of community decision-making forums. To inform its approach, the implementing partner resorts to the tool 'Conflict and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CCVCA)', which compiles and analyses information on community-level vulnerabilities to and capacities for climate change. This tool became instrumental to identify different underlying causes for exacerbated SGBV, and therefore reinforcing the programming to prevent it. This intervention is thus a good example of how vulnerability assessments can include SRHR considerations.

## TITLE Innovative and Gender sensitive Nature-based Solutions for Resilience and Green Jobs



**EUROPEAN DONOR**  
Denmark



### LEAD PARTNER AND OTHER PARTNERS

Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA), WWF DK | WWF Uganda Country Office (UCO), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), key local CSO hubs, District Timber Growers Associations and The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO)



**LOCATION**  
Uganda



**PROJECT TERM**  
2021 - 2024



### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The project aims to create and scale green jobs by applying a Nature-based Solutions approach. It promotes access, particularly for women and youth, to improved livelihoods, decent green jobs and enterprise creation within strengthened product value chains and linkages to robust markets, thus investing in climate resilience. One of its key outputs is that communities have improved understanding of SRHR, gender equality and enhanced capacity in climate adaptation and sustainable management of key ecosystems.



### RELEVANCE, INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY:

As part of the project's objectives, selected women and youth receive vocational training and are connected to employers offering green jobs. The focus on the economic autonomy of these groups, and respective understanding on how SRHR and climate change can be interlinked, helps building women's and youth agency, providing a firm foundation to support progress towards both gender equality and climate resilience. This project is thus relevant to the interlinkages between both areas, while possibly replicable in different geographies and contexts.

## TITLE Reduced Emissions from Deforestation (REDD+) in DRC



**EUROPEAN DONOR**  
Sweden



### LEAD PARTNER AND OTHER PARTNERS

Food and Agriculture Organization



**LOCATION**  
Democratic Republic of the Congo



**PROJECT TERM**  
2018 - 2020



### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

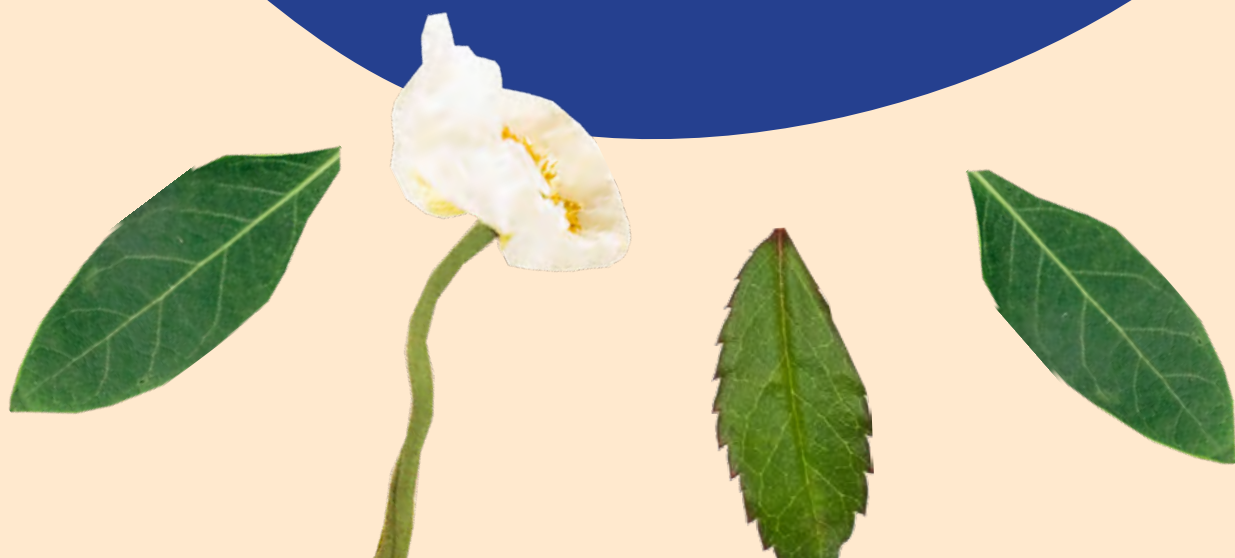
The Equateur project aims at stabilizing deforestation, afforestation and improving living conditions and income for the province's rural population through, among others: sustainable community-based forest management, to reduce pressure on forests and enhance forest carbon stocks; support for urban and peri-urban forestry for food security and the creation and promotion of sustainable energy sources; and access to FP services and nutritional services for local populations and indigenous peoples.



**RELEVANCE, INNOVATION AND REPLICABILITY:** This project is funded by DRC's National Fund for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (FONAREDD), in connection to the REDD+ process<sup>22</sup>. In addition to the promoted forest protection, the programme fostered sustainability through support of women's associations, aiming at the progressive empowerment of women. While there is no available information about the project results related to SRHR, the programme has recorded overall success in empowering women: about 66 women's associations were supported in connection to local markets, having generated an overall higher gross income than before the programme. This is thus a good example of how FP can be integrated in projects that aim to reduce GHG emissions, namely in the context of REDD+, which supports low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) across the globe. Chances of replicability are therefore significantly high.

22. The REDD+ framework was established by the Paris Agreement in the context of UNFCCC. It stands for activities focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, to foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Under this framework, LMICs can receive results-based payments for emission reductions when they reduce deforestation.

# Conclusions and Recommendations



## Conclusions

SRHR and the climate crisis are inextricably linked. Access to sexual and reproductive health services and the realisation of respective rights is a critical and cost-effective approach to climate change adaptation and resilience. It enables people to become healthier and empowered, able to make choices that help shaping their health and the planet's, becoming positive agents of change.

The 2030 Agenda already encouraged adopting an integrated all-sector approach, given the interconnectedness between the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. SRHR and the fight against climate change should thus be approached under this light: **through a multi-sectoral approach grounded in rights-based voluntary services that address deeply entrenched inequalities, while encouraging communities to adopt sustainable practices to preserve their ecosystems and to cope with the impacts of increasing climate change threats.**

By acting together and in an interconnected way, we achieve more. That is why it is important that European donors continue to scale up their ODA investments in approaches that aim to protect and promote the health and well-being of [both people and the planet](#). C2030E acknowledges the promising work that is already taking place and encourages continued momentum from all sides - from European donors and partner countries, from CSOs and the multilateral system.

The overall aligned goal is about ensuring that social and climate justice become a reality, for which collective action is necessary and only made possible when there is everyone's engagement. For this, it is crucial to keep promoting community engagement, while safeguarding accountability of existing commitments - be it either from European donors, given their international cooperation policies, or from partner countries, considering commitments expressed in respective plans, NDCs or NAPs. European governments and the EU institutions have a key role to play by leveraging existing innovations, that contribute to ongoing learning and support further scale and impact.

**This paper shows that there is significant room for improvement for European donors to increase their efforts towards this end, in terms of politically acknowledging the links between SRHR and climate action, and also investing in such interconnections.**

There is significant opportunity to do so, by building upon existing investments and commitments, while advancing greater attention towards intersectional approaches. SRHR and climate change are intrinsically intertwined, their linkages should not be a piecemeal or vulnerable to budget cycles, but rather a blueprint for the actions of European donors who prioritise both areas in their international cooperation.



Climate change is one of the main challenges of the Maldives government since the rise of sea level threatens the existence of the islands, which rise only 1.5 meter above sea level on average. Along with this, there is a rapid expansion of tourism and mega infrastructure projects which have put the islands, communities, livelihoods, and infrastructure at additional risk of climate change vulnerabilities. The Society for Health Education (SHE), a Member Association of IPPF, is proactive in identifying and addressing the crucial health and social concerns of the Maldives and protecting the quality of life of Maldivian families.



## Recommendations

While the current report focuses its analysis and recommendations around external action policies and funding by European governments and the EU, it goes without saying that such stakeholders still have a substantial amount of work to do on the fight against climate change at domestic level. Despite existing progress in respective decarbonisation pathways, the countries analysed by

this paper remain significant greenhouse gas emitters. Advocates have pointed out the need for more ambitious targets, which are technically feasible and in line with a just social and economic transition. **To ensure a climate-neutral and sustainable future, European governments and the EU institutions must urgently reduce their carbon footprint and build resilience in all fronts.**

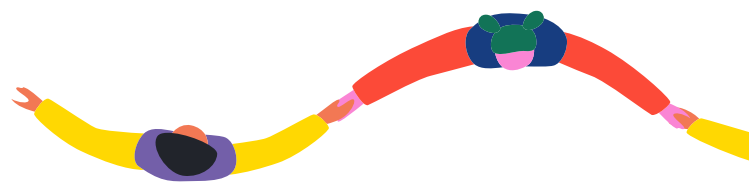
# Countdown 2030 Europe calls on European donors to:

## 1 Further align policies

**European donors should strive to acknowledge more the links between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience in their policy frameworks. Examples of how this could be done include:**

→ **Recognise this interconnection at the level of international cooperation policies.** All European donors analysed in this paper prioritise the protection and promotion of SRHR, on the one hand, and the fight against climate change, on the other, in their international cooperation. But these flagship guiding policies never allude to the links between both areas, which are only acknowledged, if at all, in sectorial strategies. European donors had already confirmed in different occasions their increased efforts to address SRHR needs in the context of environment and climate action programmes, and this would be one way to showcase such endeavours.<sup>23</sup>

→ **Include the importance of SRHR in strategies or action plans for international cooperation dedicated to the fight against climate change.** Only two of the analysed European strategies focused on this objective includes references to SRHR. But several of them consider the important role women can have as agents of change, and confirm the will to promote gender-responsive approaches to climate action. Empowering women as changemakers and integrating their voices into decision-making processes can foster relevant solutions that address both environmental and social needs.



This leaves an open door to further mention key tools, such as SRHR, to empower women, and other historically marginalised groups to play this role.

→ **Acknowledge and stress the importance of this link in policy dialogues with partner countries,** be it in the context of gender equality, health or climate change discussions. As much as possible, include in these dialogues civil society and grassroots organisations, including women's rights, indigenous and youth-led organisations, that are activists for gender equality, SRHR, and the fight against climate change.

→ **Continue to emphasise the important connection between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience in the multilateral arena,** using the 'Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership' and the review of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its GAP as entry points for further endeavours in acknowledging and supporting this interconnection. European governments and the EU institutions can also lead the way in making the case for including SRHR as a pre-condition to gender equality in the fight against climate change; and, as a result, in encouraging the inclusion of its reference in agreed language documents resulting from the COP.

23. For more information, please refer to '[Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Beyond 2020: a European Vision](#)', by Countdown 2030 Europe.

## Allocate more funding to the interlinks between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience:

**Increasing funding for integrated multi-sectoral approach is crucial if European donors do prioritise in their international cooperation the protection and promotion of rights and choice, on the one hand, and the fight against climate change, on another. It is particularly relevant to:**

→ **Increase the number of programmes that specifically target the interconnection between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience.** By doing so, European donors will be able to fight rooted inequalities while promoting collective action against the climate crisis. In this context, it is instrumental to also invest in community-based operational research that shows the links between both areas and provide ongoing agile learning. European donors could also integrate climate action into their efforts for strengthening the different health system pillars, and their links to SRHR, while, on the other hand, factoring in SRHR<sup>24</sup> on their climate change adaptation programmes. On this note, inspiration can be drawn from the case studies listed in this paper, as these can be scaled-up and replicated.

→ **Enhance the already mentioned integrated all-sector approach,** ensuring that both SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience are consistently included in broader programmes, such as those that simultaneously tackle different sectors (e.g. in humanitarian response plans). This can be applicable to projects related to SDGs 3, 5 and 13, but also many other areas, as the above section shows.

→ Linked to the point above, encourage intermediary donors or key platforms for the fight against climate change (like those listed in p.19) to **further integrate gender-responsive approaches to climate action.** This may subsequently offer entry points for the added-value of interventions promoting SRHR in LMIC countries.

→ **Continue investing in a mix of funding streams but deploy a larger volume of funds via organisations and initiatives.** Development actors such as CSOs are instrumental in improving access of under-served populations and promoting community engagement. This channel is already the most commonly funded by European donors to link SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience, but there is room for manoeuvre to increase the amounts going through these organisations, in comparison with – and not at the expense of – the multilateral system. This is particularly the case of smaller women's rights, indigenous communities and youth **grassroots CSOs** at the forefront of work at local level to promote SRHR and support climate action, which tend to be underfunded, as small investments could go a long way.

→ **Allocate respective ODA through financing modalities that encourage domestic resource mobilization in support of the links between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience in partner countries.** This is particularly relevant starting in 2025, when parties to UNFCCC will submit new NDCs, which may include relevant references to SRHR, followed by the NAP process (and HNAPs), where applicable.

24. European governments and the EU institutions already contribute significantly to health systems strengthening in order to advance SRHR and vice-versa. More information can be found in the Tracking What Counts report, available [here](#).





## Increase transparency of reporting on multi-sector projects

The OECD CRS database includes different elements that help donors report against relevant objectives, such as purpose codes or the policy marker system (please refer to the methodology for more information). But this system is not always used in a granular way by donors, making information difficult to find. Currently, it is only possible to access such information while going at the project level and triangulating different

reporting variables. However, it will become increasingly relevant to screen if and how European donors are simultaneously contributing to both fronts and thus serving their political commitments.

European donors should:

→ Systematically track how much of their funding benefits the links between SRHR, and its different components, and climate adaptation and resilience.

→ Produce more granular financial information, to support the difficult process of assessing how much ODA allocated to multisectoral interventions benefits SRHR and climate action.

Both points can be done by consistently using OECD's variables.



IPPF/Mercy Juma/Kenya

The Reproductive Health Network Kenya is travelling to the counties in Kenya most affected with mobile health clinics to provide: SRH information including prevention of HIV and STIs; Condoms; Diagnosis of UTIs and treatment; HIV testing.

## 4 Collaborate to collect further evidence

**While growing evidence shows that the climate crisis is not gender-neutral and that SRHR is crucial for adaptation and resilience, there are still some gaps in research that help understand more of this impact. European donors are well placed to support the collection of more evidence on the links between SRHR and climate action, be it in terms of causes and effects that they can have on one another. Examples of how this could be done include:**

→ **Invest in specific research:** in addition to funding community-based operational research, as above-mentioned, European donors can also support comprehensive research that helps documenting in a consistent way the links between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience.

→ **Encourage recipients of funding**, such as the actors who support countries in LMICs in developing their respective NAPs or NDCs, **to implement a gender-analysis at all stages and encourage that these processes take SRHR issues into consideration**, both to safeguard synergies and to ensure that the implemented actions 'do no harm', meaning do not negatively affect SRHR. This should also be applicable to European donors' own processes.

→ **Support donor community of practice for exchanging experiences and knowledge on how these areas are interlinked.** Given the importance of an integrated all-sector approach promoted by the SDGs, it is crucial to understand what makes an intervention effective and relevant in addressing both SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience. But the lack of definition and indicators, individually (in governments' results frameworks) or commonly agreed, make these hard to track. The European donors analysed in this paper are all part of established working groups in partner countries, be it among themselves or together with local actors<sup>25</sup>. This offers a great outlet to collect evidence on the problematics and solutions related to the links between SRHR and climate action. For the specific European donors that are EU Member-States, the Team Europe Initiative (TEI)<sup>26</sup> on 'Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in

Sub-Saharan Africa' would offer a great opportunity for such exchange, in addition to national TEIs dedicated to this theme. EU Member States like France or Germany, who do acknowledge the links between SRHR and climate in their policy framework, could lead the way in this approach. The same could be potentially applicable to the several regional and country-based TEIs dedicated to Green Initiatives.

25. Following the development effectiveness agenda, development partners present in a given partner country, which can range from international donors to international organisations, coordinate their work around thematic sectors in the shape of working groups. There are often working groups also established between donors and the recipient government and other stakeholders, such as NGOs, to follow progress in a given sector.
26. The Team Europe approach was created as a joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and became a part of the EU's international and development cooperation. By joining efforts from European development actors, the TEIs are flagship initiatives that aim to deliver results within a collective framework for partner countries or regions.

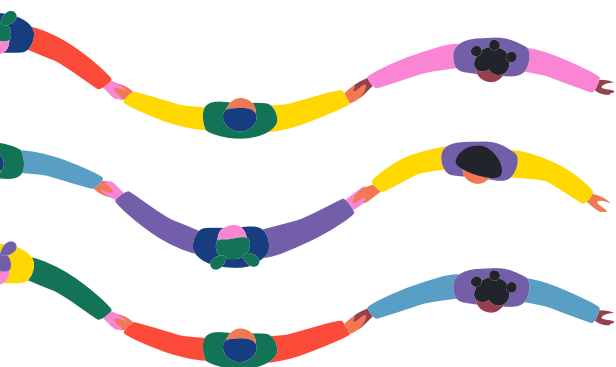


## Build capacity of staff of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and support partner countries to work more on the links between SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience

The approach here could be twofold:

→ Based on all the points above, it would be useful for European donors to **train their staff dedicated to international cooperation on how to address these links**. Several European donors analysed in this paper already train, particularly Embassies' staff, on SRHR programming. It would be important to reinforce such capacity-building on the links between both areas; namely for the staff dedicated to climate action, given the marginal reference to SRHR in climate policies or respective programming.

→ Ahead of the new NDC submission in 2025, support partner countries' efforts in conducting comprehensive vulnerability assessments that take into consideration sectors linked to SRHR. In addition to supporting domestic resource mobilisation to this end, as above-mentioned, European donors can also provide technical capacity for partner countries to drive an appropriate diagnostic of the needs – including financing – for both NDCs and the NAP process, if applicable.



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### About C2030 Europe

Countdown 2030 Europe is the 'go-to' cross-country sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) expert Consortium in Europe seeking to increase European SRHR funding in international cooperation and strengthen political support for sexual and reproductive freedom worldwide. The Consortium is made up of 15 leading European non-governmental organisations and is coordinated by IPPF European Network.

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