

security, especially in urban contexts (SDG 11) and at work (SDG 8). The Action supports women and girls to become productive and active citizens, which in turn contributes to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8).

The action contributes to the MIP 2021-2027 Priority Area 2-Fighting against inequalities, and in particular to Specific Objective 3: to enhance gender equality and to reduce gender based violence. It complements other “equality builders” under the same priority areas such as social protection and education.

The proposed Action is one of the core actions of the Team Europe Gender Action Plan in Paraguay (CLIP). The action also contributes to the Gender Action Plan III, specifically supporting the GAP III’s first priority “Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence.”³

2.2 Problem Analysis

Paraguay shows high rates of feminicides and violence against women and girls (1.0 per 100,000 women in 2021). Official national figures also show high rates for VAWG, being Alto Paraná and Central the Departments with most occurrences. In 2022, the Ministry of Women’s Observatory reported 36 femicides committed in Paraguay. Twenty-two of the 36 cases in 2022 occurred in the Departments of Alto Paraná and Central (Gender Violence Observatory, CDE). In 2021, the Public Prosecutor handled 35 cases of femicide, with the largest number of cases occurring in the Departments of Alto Paraná and Central.

With respect to domestic violence, in 2021, the Office of the Public Prosecutor received almost 30,000 reports –an average of 80 cases per day– representing an increase of 158% since 2015. The Ministry of Health (MSPBS) statistics, in turn, record 1,707 cases of mistreatment and abuse in 2020, and 1,438 in 2021. In both years, the Departments of Central and Alto Paraná recorded the greatest number of cases. Central is also the Department where the Peace Courts issued the greatest number of measures in 2022 to protect victims of domestic violence or violence against women: a total of 11,470 protective measures. The GBV statistics from government institutions are not always updated and suffer from underreporting. Considering these figures, this Action will focus on Departments where VAWG is most prevalent: Alto Paraná and Central (including Asunción metropolitan area).

The Survey on the Situation of Women (ENSIMUP, 2022) confirms the administrative records, showing that 78.5% of surveyed women have experienced gender-based violence in their lifetime, and 40.6% report having experienced violence in the last 12 months. In addition, younger women seem to suffer even more: almost 90% of women between 18 and 29 years of age report experiencing gender-based violence. Sexual violence is the most common: 60.9% of the surveyed women reported having experienced it, of which 25.5% in the last 12 months. These figures are even higher amongst young and urban women (ENSIMUP, 2022). This suggests that the multidimensional problem of violence against women and girls is aggravated by age and social class. This is evidenced by the information indicating its greater occurrence in the women living in urban suburbs and girls and adolescents suffer more from sexual violence, also resulting in high rate of pregnancies in those age groups.

³ The [Gender Action Plan III](#) is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through [EU Presidency Conclusions](#) of 16 December 2020. Drafting was led by European Commission in close consultation with EU Member States, EEAS, civil society organisations, partner governments, and international organisations (UN entities, International Finance Institutions among others). The different parties contributed to the drafting of the document through meetings and through responses to a survey conducted during the process.