

- Procurement of Technical Assistance;
- Consultations and negotiations with stakeholders, and where applicable establishment of financial close with relevant funding partners, to agree on programme/project outline, based on performed studies;
- Provision of Draft Action Documents for funding requests in the NDICI environment.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

The mining sector in Uganda is strongly characterized by artisanal and small-scale operations, which do not systematically adhere to environmental standards and pollute the environment heavily, e.g. by the use of mercury for gold extraction. Nevertheless, a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. Therefore, the proposed Action will contribute to efforts tackling environmental degradation through improved monitoring mechanisms of environmental protection laws and regulation in the mining sector by improving the oversight capacities of competent authorities. It will also sensitise citizens and local authorities on government commitments relating to climate protection to increase social pressure for compliance.

In line with NDICI-Global Europe Regulation 8.8, the development of Terms of Reference for preparatory studies shall mainstream fight against climate change, environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction and shall address interlinkages between SDGs, to promote integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. By design, the Action addresses such crosscutting themes as digitalisation, environmental sustainability and climate action. Wherever relevant, the interventions to be supported under the Green Support Facility will further foster the mainstreaming of gender equality, good governance and human rights.

**Outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening:** The EIA classified the Action as Category C (i.e. no need for further assessment).

**Outcome of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening:** The CRA screening concluded that this Action holds no to low risk (i.e. no need for further assessment).

---

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the Action is addressing gender equality, as a cross-cutting principle in all preparatory studies undertaken by this Action.

In line with the EU Gender Action Plan III, gender is a significant objective of this Action, making it an important and deliberate objective of this programme. A specific gender analysis was not carried out for this Action but the regional project which GIZ is implementing together with the ICGLR has produced a Gender in Mining Study which comprises a focus on Uganda. In addition, consultations with organisations active on gender equality and the empowerment of women relating to this area were held. Structural barriers pertinent to women in the Ugandan mining sector have been identified. In particular, women are generally underrepresented due to a combination of traditional gender roles in the associated field of work, as well as a lack of skills and the hazardous nature of artisanal and small-scale mining. In response, the Action will seek to promote the inclusion of women in the mining sector, the recognition of their critical role along the production chain, and hence gender equality and economic participation of women.

---

#### **Human Rights**

The mining sector suffers from multiple human rights violations. Most mining in Uganda is artisanal and small scale, with labour violations a recurring issue mainly in the form of poor working conditions and use of child labour. Poverty, a low level of mechanisation, inefficient extraction methods and insufficient knowledge and expertise are part of the root causes of these problems. As recognised in the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy, good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing.