

enhanced capacity of NEBE's ICT department to develop and manage large scale and complex election information systems, develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS), develop a database of election officers and poll workers that is continuously updated with performance indicators and contact information, strengthen voter education activities in rural areas and in minority languages, enhancing awareness of gender and inclusion issues, confirming the rights of observers to follow all steps of the electoral process, enhancing the capacity of observer groups to fulfil their mandate and review accreditation procedures to ensure effectiveness of the process, including partial delegation of services at field level. Lessons learned by ECES in 2021 point to the need of stronger and timelier involvement in operational planning to avoid late minute NEBE requests for logistical stopgap support.

Specific objective 4 is in line with the Ethiopia Resilient, Recovery and Reconstruction planning framework 2023-2028 (3RF) in Tigray and therefore will support a governmental initiative. This approach will help reducing uncertainties and potential obstacles during the implementations phase.

Specific Objective 5 is based on the extensive consultations with EUMS and other stakeholders. The choice of specific activities will be based on, i.a., the Donor Mapping exercise executed in 2022 in order to prevent duplication and gaps in the intervention as well as results of the EU funded project 'Determining Ethiopian Women's Status and Priorities: an Action Research Project'. Additionally, Spanish Cooperation is conducting an assessment of capacities of the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and the Regional Bureaus in late 2023, which is a complimentary activity to this planned action.

Relating to all Specific Objectives of this Action: in response to the aid diversion scandal there will be thorough discussions with implementing partners on safeguarding measures in place to reduce risk of misuse of funds, complemented by regular monitoring and enhanced control, as well as additional risk mitigation measures if and when needed.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

If inclusive and sustainable peace, stability and social cohesion is strengthened in Ethiopia; **if** current efforts to design a transitional justice process is supported with increased human and institutional capacity within key criminal justice institutions and CSOs; **if** NEBE, democratic institutions, political parties and CSOs working on elections have strong capacities and strengthened skills ; **if** democratic governance reforms in Tigray are ongoing, reestablishment of the civil service and independent judiciary is in place, strong multi-party political system exist and autonomous civil society and media are in place; **if** Ethiopian institutions on all levels deliver gender equality outcomes in all spheres, policies, laws, strategies and action plans are designed with gender sensitivity and CSOs and Ethiopian women and girls have skills to influence decision-making processes **then**, all groups of the Ethiopian society will be able to live in peace and harmony; the rights and dignity of women, youth, survivors will be fulfilled, NEBE will be equipped to conduct transparent, accountable, responsible and gender-responsive electoral processes, better enjoyment of human rights by all Ethiopian women and girls will be achieved, **because** an enabling environment for inclusive governance, democracy, accountability, non-discrimination, economic autonomy, decent work, shock responsive social protection and a violence-free society will have been created through **strengthening democratic institutions, transitional justice, gender equality and social cohesion in Ethiopia.**