

Annex

Bangladesh

EU Head of Missions in Dhaka have not identified caste discrimination as a significant human rights concern in Bangladesh. While some minorities can suffer social discrimination, general relations between different social (ethnic, religious etc.) groups are reasonably good. The main developmental and human rights problems faced by Dalit communities seem to stem from their impoverishment.

The EU finances several projects focusing on poverty reduction and the rights of the most vulnerable/impoverished groups, including the Dalit community. In particular the 'Small Initiative by Local Innovative NGOs – SMILING' (EUR 2.5 million) tackles the issues of exclusion and vulnerability. Inclusiveness of education and access of the discriminated groups of population is addressed through a EU-funded non-formal education programme entitled 'Support to the Hard to Reach through Basic Education - SHARE' (EUR 51.8 million). Similarly, the EU's food security portfolio directly addressing the needs of the ultra-poor people includes the Dalits among the beneficiaries.

In addition, the thematic budget lines give a good opportunity to directly address the discrimination of low castes and other vulnerable groups. The EU project 'Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Dalits' funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). In this same programme, the 2012 Country Based Support Scheme focuses on 'enhancing access to justice and promoting the rights of vulnerable groups' as one of its priorities.

India

Caste discrimination is a cross-cutting human rights and development concern, so 'discriminated and socially excluded groups' are a target group and as a cross-cutting issue in calls for proposals under the EIDHR Country Based Support Scheme, for a total amount of EUR 4.2 million from 2009-12.

A further EUR 4.3 million is available under the Non-State Actors thematic programme aimed at promoting integrated water management as a vital element for poverty reduction and sustainable economic development, with the priority population groups being those suffering the highest levels of poverty and socio-economic exclusion, and with a geographic focus on backward districts identified by the Government of India under its Backward Regions Grants Fund, which by inference benefits scheduled caste communities the maximum, among others.

Children (and especially girls) belonging to disadvantaged communities such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities are the main target of the EU Sector Policy Support "Programme for universalization of elementary education" (SSA, for children in the age group of 6-14) and the "Programme for universalization of secondary education" (RMSA, for children aged 15-18 years). The two programmes support interventions for enhancing quality of education with equity, as well as improving governance. The EU contribution to SSA for the period 2007-2011 was EUR 66.7 million and for SSA and RMSA jointly for the period 2012-2017 is EUR 80 million.

The State Partnership Programme with Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan States in India (EUR 160 million for the period 2006-15) supports the water sector and Education, Health and Forest Livelihoods sectors respectively, focusing on under-served communities and ensuring their increased participation in the planning and implementation processes. The EU has included

specific outcome indicators for the programme, through benchmarking services delivery for poor and marginalised social groups.

The EU also maintains a steady political human rights agenda which includes addressing the situation of all vulnerable groups and all forms of discrimination. The EU Delegation has regular exchanges with civil society organisations working in the field and participates in public events and consultations. The situation of vulnerable groups is, moreover, specifically addressed in the periodic exchanges with the Government of India, in particular with members of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Finally, several EU Member States took up the issue in India's Universal Periodic Review in May 2012 and made specific recommendations regarding improving the situation of vulnerable groups. The EU will be maintaining a regular dialogue with the Government on the implementation of these recommendations. It will also continue to make recommendations arising from evidence-based reports compiled by national/state Commissions (e.g. National Human Rights Commission), NGOs, UN and other international bodies.

Nepal

In Nepal the two sectoral support, School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP) and Programme for Stability and Peace (SP), have specifically addressed the issues of marginalised communities including Dalit. SSRP policy direction has required giving priority to ensure access to the marginalised communities. It has required developing and implementing code of conduct for the protection of the integrity of all children, with particular focus on Dalit and other marginalized populations. Strategic interventions of the SSRP has required introducing incentive schemes to ensure access to and completion of secondary education for Dalit, other marginalised groups, disables, girls, and children from economically poor households. The programme has required giving priority to recruit Dalit and other disadvantaged groups when filling teachers' positions. This way the programme has expected to demonstrate significant results in promoting equity in education.

The Stability and Peace Programme focused on supporting the Nepal Peace and development strategy. On the basis of the Medium- and long-term commitments contained in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the strategy emphasized on ending discrimination, recognising the problems faced by Dalit and other marginalised groups and ensuring their representation in state structures and public services.

The Commission includes 'discriminated and socially excluded groups' as a target group and also as a cross-cutting issue when formulating, implementing and evaluating its bilateral cooperation: the Human Rights Country Strategy Paper is the guiding reference for different initiatives that the EU Delegation carries out in Nepal.

The EIDHR Country Based Support Schemes specifically included combating discriminations and protecting and promoting Human Rights of the marginalised communities as the priorities. Number of projects funded through these processes are contributing to eliminate discriminations and also to promote rights based approach. The ongoing EIDHR Call for proposals 2012 (EUR 1.5 million) includes the priority "Combating discriminations based on caste, disability, ethnicity and gender and promoting economic, social and cultural rights".

In addition, the EU Delegation in Kathmandu specifically addresses the situation of vulnerable groups in the periodic exchanges with the Government, in particular with the concerned Ministries, the Dalit Commission etc. With the enormous pressure and lobbying from different stakeholders of the country, Nepal adopted an Anti Discrimination Law in May 2011. The dissolved Constituent Assembly facilitated detailed discussions on (among others)

the Dalit issues and - in agreement with all political parties - included number of strategic issues in the draft Constitutional Committee reports. The EU will be maintaining a regular dialogue with the Government on the implementation of these recommendations, commitments, legal provision and the political understandings.

Pakistan

The EU supports reforms in the education system in Pakistan targeting an improvement of access of all children, especially the most vulnerable, like girls, minorities, the rural poor and underprivileged children. The reforms also intend to modernise the curricula and the quality of teaching and promote the values of tolerance and non-discrimination.

On-going EIDHR projects, focusing on child protection, target underprivileged groups. The annual allocation is EUR 900,000.

Social inclusion of all community members, including the underprivileged, will also be tackled in the planned community development programme in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Sri Lanka

In its development cooperation, humanitarian programme and human rights dialogue with Sri Lanka, the EU focuses on social exclusion, vulnerability and gender rather than caste discrimination per se, given that high-caste Hindus have clearly not monopolised the state apparatus. This applies to thematic programmes, e.g. EIDHR and NSA-LA, as much as to the large reconstruction and economic development programmes in the war-affected areas, funded under DCI-Asia, most recently a EUR 60 million programme under MIP 2011-13, i.e. Support to District Development Plans (SDDP).

Earlier programmes funded by the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) in the area of housing and livelihoods, notably Assistance to Conflict-Affected People (ACAP) and Socio-Economic Measures (SEM), as well as EU humanitarian projects in shelter and food assistance also focused on vulnerability criteria. Outside the Northern and Eastern Provinces, the descendants of indentured labourers in the plantation area include a high proportion of dalits. Under its thematic budget lines, the EU has been continuously funding a range of NGO-implemented projects which directly aim at the socio-economic empowerment of that group.

Yemen

Throughout its support programme in Yemen, the EU focuses on strengthening participation and inclusiveness in decision-making. There is no specific focus on caste-discrimination, which was not identified as a main human rights concern in Yemen; the EU rather focuses on all marginalized groups, including women, youth, disabled people and vulnerable poor communities. The most vulnerable and poorest community in Yemen is the Akhdam community, which is actively supported by the EU in particular through projects aiming at improving their access to education and health services. In addition, a broad portfolio supporting overall human rights and gender concerns is maintained by the Delegation in Yemen. The focus of the human rights programmes is on gender, inclusiveness and political participation as well as protection of human rights defenders and improving prison conditions.