



NOVEMBER 30, 2020

OUTCOME HARVESTING MID-TERM
REVIEW OF DANIDA HUM
PROGRAMME

FINAL REPORT

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OUTCOME HARVESTING MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE DANIDA HUM PROGRAMME

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This mid-term review was supported by a wide range of individuals from ActionAid Denmark, ActionAid Palestine, ActionAid Arab Region, ActionAid International Kenya, and the International Humanitarian Action & Resilience Team (IHART), as well as local partners. The authors and contributors gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the ActionAid federation and local partners in generating outcomes during the project implementation, conducting periodic reviews and learning events, and engaging in extensive validation and analysis for the completion of this report. In particular, we would like to thank ActionAid staff Amani Mustafa, Sukaina Khalawi, Samah Kassab, Ibrahim Ibraigheth, Hadia Ghadban, Mushera Assaf, Moath Odat, Christina Nayef Shawaqfeh, Dia AlMasry, Paras Mani Tamang, Clare Bleasdale, Grace Ileri, Francisco Yermo, Clement Chesire, Rebecca Murphy, Susan Otieno, Anusanthee Pillay, Sara Almer, and Edwina Morgan-Bodo, Dorte Nita Simonsen, and Helene Bach. We would also like to thank the external participants who contributed to learning in this report, including international organisation representatives, local partners, local government leaders, and programme participants. Finally, we would like to acknowledge Danida for their generous support.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Danida-funded (Lot HUM) programme “Strengthened rights and resilience for women and young people affected by protracted crises and disasters” has been implemented since 2018 through global and national projects in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon. ActionAid Denmark with its federation partners ActionAid Arab Region, ActionAid Palestine, ActionAid International Kenya, and the International Humanitarian Action & Resilience Team (IHART), as well as local partners in each country have sought to spark transformative change through an integrated set of interventions in protection, resilience, localisation, and accountability.

This mid-term review was conducted in order to assess and map achievements against the expected programme results and ActionAid’s wider strategic objectives, as well as synthesise learning on key themes and provide recommendations.

Methodology

The methodology selected for this mid-term review was outcome harvesting, which has been used in other ActionAid programmes to assess change and lessons learned. Outcome harvesting allows for an understanding of the complex settings in which the programme is implemented. It captures major changes as they occur in areas of relevance to the programme objectives, and then works backward to determine how and why change occurred.

Throughout the programme implementation, ActionAid staff and local partners generated a total of 49 outcome descriptions. These included representation of all partners, thematic areas of interest, and levels of change (individual, community, national, and global). To verify, substantiate, and analyse the outcome harvest, two independent consultants were engaged (one international, one in Gaza). A stratified random sample of 8 outcomes was drawn for further substantiation to test the overall validity of the outcomes harvested and the conclusions and learning drawn from them. In addition, 5 other outcomes were examined to explore specific areas of interest in the theory of change. Substantiation included a review of documentation, interviews and focus groups with staff and partners, as well as interviews with external stakeholders who were engaged in the outcome of interest. A final review team workshop was held to consolidate lessons learned, conclusions, and recommendations from the outcome harvest.

Key Findings and Themes

The outcome harvest generated substantial evidence in support of the programme theory of change that strategies implemented at multiple levels of the humanitarian system can help shift the power to women, young people, and their organisations in protracted crises. Substantiation and analysis by external consultants reflected support for the soundness of conclusions and recommendations generated by the internal mid-term review team.

Increased skills, space, and opportunities for collaboration led to increased social cohesion and capacity for collective action

The comprehensiveness and quality of programming at the local level was widely acknowledged by stakeholders, as well as reflected in the positive changes captured by the outcome harvest. In the different national projects, vulnerable women and youth joined together in local committees where they identified their own goals and agenda, conducted community needs assessments, and implemented initiatives for community benefit. Participants strengthened their social cohesion and capacity for collective action, which was an important goal of the resilience building strategy. In addition, improvements in social cohesion were particularly notable as they strengthened relationships between refugees and host communities.

Protection involving women, communities, and young people is an entry point to implement the resilience framework

Having women representatives from protection frontline organisations in global discussions emphasizes that localisation is important for protection work. The programme activities at global level—in particular through the work with CARE in the GBV AoR localisation task team—has shown that bringing the experiences of GBV prevention and response programming into global protection spaces has advanced the case for localisation in protection work. Resilience remains a highly relevant approach in protracted crises, and ActionAid’s approach at global and national levels have shown encouraging results.

Increased resilience of local communities was demonstrated powerfully in their proactive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic

The results achieved to date demonstrate the promise and potential for ActionAid’s approach to resilience. The emergence of COVID-19 was a new systemic shock to already challenging and complex environments. In the face of this challenge, women and youth tapped into their internal capacities and proactively launched collective action for the response. These effects were seen in multiple countries and locations without the initial direction of ActionAid, demonstrating how resilience has been strengthened at the local level.

ActionAid’s strategies have strengthened the broader enabling and supportive environment for women’s and youth leadership

The Danida HUM programme excelled by integrating service delivery with support to community-based organisations as well as strategic engagement with municipal, district, and national stakeholders. The outcome harvest showed that it is possible to achieve results in governance and accountability in emergencies, and these results can be transformative in nature. In this way, the programme demonstrated the value of linking short-term responses with longer-term objectives, affecting the broader ecosystem in which women, youth, and their organisations operate.

International actors have increased their recognition of priority themes, including the role of local perspectives in leading global humanitarian action

At the global level, ActionAid contributed to a number of changes in the policies, guidance, membership structures, and practices among international actors. Creating opportunities for women and youth affected by crisis to speak directly to decision-makers remains a powerful approach, even though challenges remain to realising this vision. ActionAid’s work has generated a high degree of credibility and recognition, which in turn brings a strong opportunity to replicate successful approaches to women’s and youth leadership more broadly.

Recommendations

1. Build on programme successes in community-based protection and resilience to accelerate achievements in localisation and accountability

The Danida HUM programme has registered significant successes by working at the grassroots, community level. Promising initial results in strengthening accountability and the representation of women and youth in local structures can be reinforced and more widely integrated into programming. A more direct linkage from protection and resilience activities to the objectives and localisation and accountability will be beneficial.

2. Enhance local leadership in design and adaptation of programming

ActionAid has developed and strengthened relationships with local partner organisations and continually demonstrates a commitment to local leadership of vulnerable groups in order to shift power in humanitarian settings. The mid-term review committee identified a need to design and adapt programming through greater local leadership and ownership, as well as to establish long-term engagement strategies at the local level.

3. Increase youth engagement and perspective in design

ActionAid's approach to working with youth in protracted crisis has shown demonstrable results, as seen in the outcome harvest. However, the programme as a whole was considered to remain more oriented toward the needs of women. The review team reflected that greater youth engagement and perspective was needed at the design stage. In alignment with ActionAid's Strategic Implementation Framework, ActionAid has an opportunity to contribute to "feminizing the youth movement and ensuring youth representation within the women's movement." In addition, youth needs assessments should be intersectional. Participatory needs assessments with a focus on women and youth have been developed under the programme offer an opportunity for further to advance on this.

4. Integrate global, national, and local efforts

One of the strengths of the programme was its ability to address women's and young people's leadership at different levels of the humanitarian system, as well as to share learning across contexts. The mid-term review team identified opportunities to further integrate global, national, and local efforts so that systemic barriers to local leadership are dismantled and new commitments are upheld.

5. Strengthen sustainability of national projects

The outcome harvest reflected important achievements in strengthening the resilience of women and youth in protracted crises. However, further attention is needed to consolidate and sustain gains, particularly in these complex settings. These include addressing the operational and financial sustainability of activities to date, as well as providing enhanced support to target populations. Specific strategies such as linking targeted women with micro-finance institutions, allocating flexible funds for local committees to manage and use, and sharing research results with communities are expected to support the effectiveness of future efforts.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Danida-funded (Lot HUM) “Strengthened rights and resilience for women and young people affected by protracted crises and disasters” has been implemented since 2018 through global and national projects in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon. ActionAid Denmark with its federation partners ActionAid Arab Region, ActionAid Palestine, ActionAid International Kenya, and the International Humanitarian Action & Resilience Team (IHART), as well as local partners in each country have sought to spark transformative change through an integrated set of interventions in protection, localisation and accountability, and resilience.

This midterm review sought to:

- Assess the programme’s achievements to date on how to link short-term responses with longer-term community asset building and leadership;
- Generate recommendations to inform the remaining implementation period of the programme;
- Synthesise learning for global and country-level efforts to shift the power to local communities in protracted crises and disasters; and
- Advance the use of outcome harvesting in ActionAid’s portfolio.

With these objectives in mind, the midterm review was organised to answer the following questions:

1. Assess and map achievements against the expected programme results and ActionAid’s wider strategic objectives
 - What achievements have been reached thus far?
 - To what extent have the achievements contributed to the expected results as stated in results frameworks?
 - To what extent are the achievements proving the overarching theory of change for the programme?
 - What is ActionAid Denmark’s added value in the identified achievements?
 - To what extent are the achievements unique to ActionAid and its approaches?
 - In what ways and to what extent have the achievements shown Value for Money?
2. Synthesise learning and provide recommendations to the key themes
 - What are the key common themes and messages arising from the learning generated by the Danida HUM programme?
 - What strategies and approaches have worked and not worked, and why?
 - In what ways and to what extent has ActionAid influenced replication of approaches, as well as built the capacity of local actors to shift the power?

About the Programme

ActionAid Denmark has a strategic partnership with Danida for 2018 to 2021 that includes a humanitarian grant of 15 million DKK annually for the programme “Strengthened rights and resilience for women and young people affected by protracted crises and disasters”. The desired impact of the programme is to shift power to women, young people and their organisations in protracted crises and disasters in order for them to lead and influence humanitarian action that builds increased protection and resilience. The programme consists of a global project and national projects in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon.

Underpinned by ActionAid’s Humanitarian Signature, “shifting power” to communities themselves and in particular women and young women and young men, is a multidimensional approach across all programme components. ActionAid’s “women- and youth-led community based” approaches place the agency and voice of women and youth at the centre of all activities and seek to build their leadership. The programme has three main thematic areas: Protection; Localisation and Accountability; and Resilience. These thematic areas are closely

interconnected and complementary. The programme has a joint summary results framework as well as results frameworks for each of the four programme components.

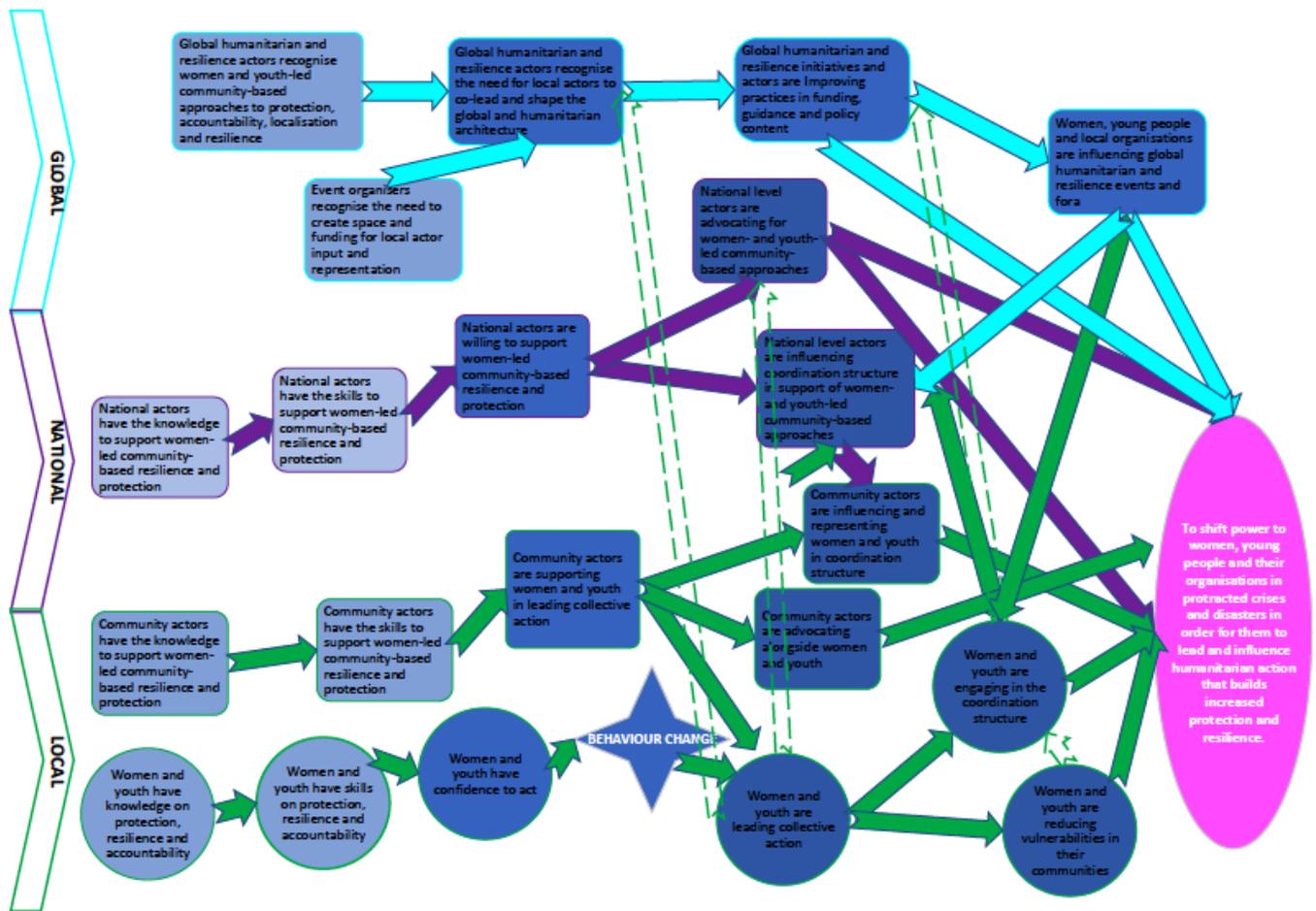
At a country level, the long-term outcomes seek to empower women and youth to take leadership in reducing protection risks and building resilience while simultaneously establishing an enabling environment for women and youth-led, community-based humanitarian action within existing networks, platforms and humanitarian architecture. While the expected results are similar across the three countries, the key actions generating these results differ between the countries due to the contextual differences. At a global level, the long-term outcomes seek action from global humanitarian and resilience actors to improve practices in funding, guidance and policy as well as core membership in the humanitarian architecture to enable changes at a national level which in turn will facilitate an enabling environment for community-based humanitarian action. The interlinkages between global and country programmes are expected to amplify the results, with the evidence-based learning from countries being used to advocate for action at global level while such action in turn will support an enabling environment at a national level.

Results Framework and Theory of Change

The programme is informed by several guiding frameworks, including a results framework, theory of change, the ActionAid Humanitarian Signature, resilience and protection frameworks, the ActionAid Accountability Charter, and ActionAid’s Approach to Localisation. In addition, a number of tools and approaches were developed or refined as an innovative part of the programme and these have also served as guidance. This includes a new Women-Led Community Based Protection Manual and Toolkit, a chapter for the Resilience Framework on protracted crises, and a revision of the SHAPE framework, developed by the START Network. Recommendations to shift power to young people in humanitarian action were also developed. Finally, guidelines for engagement of women leaders in global humanitarian and resilience spaces were developed. The overall programme objectives and targeted outcomes are listed in the following table (excerpted from the HUM results framework). It is divided between national and global programmes.

Strengthened rights and resilience for women and young people affected by protracted crises and disasters	
Impact: To shift power to women, young people and their organisations in protracted crises and disasters in order for them to lead and influence humanitarian action that builds increased protection and resilience.	
National Programmes	Global Programme
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women and youth are reducing vulnerabilities in their communities through collective action. 2. Community, district and national level actors are supporting women and youth in leading collective action to reduce vulnerabilities in their communities using coordination and advocacy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global humanitarian and resilience initiatives and actors are taking action to improve practices in funding, guidance and policy content that promote and support women and youth-led community-based approaches to protection, accountability, localisation and resilience. 2. Women, young people and local organisations are resourced and fairly represented to participate in a meaningful manner at global humanitarian and resilience events and fora. 3. Changes in structure, ways of working and core membership of existing global and humanitarian architecture to ensure local actors can co-lead and shape them going forward.

In addition, during the implementation of the programme, a consolidated theory of change was developed to describe the pathways through which change occurs, as well as how different programme components interact with each other. The theory of change is pictured below. It outlines expected changes at the individual, community, national, and global levels.



II. METHODOLOGY

About Outcome Harvesting

Outcome harvesting allows for an understanding of the complex settings in which the programme is implemented. It captures major changes as they occur in areas of relevance to the programme objectives, and then works backward to determine how and why change occurred. In accompaniment to traditional and indicator-based MEL systems, outcome harvesting helps to understand emergent and unpredictable effects, and to draw broader lessons learned from these achievements. The method is well-suited to complex crisis environments where a confluence of factors interact to cause change, often in a non-linear manner.

Outcome harvesting was piloted under AADKs previous framework agreements and was integrated into the implementation of ActionAid's global and national projects as a method for measuring achievements and fostering learning in this programme. With the technical assistance of ActionAid Denmark, outcome harvesting was used by federation partners in ActionAid Arab Region (Jordan and Lebanon), ActionAid Palestine (Gaza), ActionAid International Kenya (global) and IHART (global).

This review is the first application of outcome harvesting in ActionAid's humanitarian work. To continue to build internal capacity and learning, the review was internally managed with key elements such as substantiation and analysis being led by an external consultant. The review followed the 6 steps of Outcome Harvesting:

- 1) Design harvest (Completed internally by ActionAid)
- 2) Review documentation (Completed by ActionAid)
- 3) Engage with informants (Completed by ActionAid)
- 4) Substantiate (Completed by an external consultant)
- 5) Analyse and Interpret (Completed by an external consultant with input from ActionAid)
- 6) Use findings (To be completed by ActionAid)

The review was conducted internally from the design of the harvest, to the initial data collection, to the development of outcome descriptions. ActionAid staff and local partners generated 49 outcome descriptions, which include representation of all partners, thematic areas of interest, and levels of change (individual, community, national, and global).¹ The mid-term review team then conducted an analysis of these outcomes, their relative impact, and their implications for learning and adaptation in the program. An initial list of reflections and recommendations was generated and subsequently analysed and refined by the team.

Substantiation

For the substantiation stage, two independent consultants were engaged to conduct verification and analysis (one international, one in Gaza). This process sought understand the validity of the entire outcome harvest process, i.e., if the outcome harvest has proceeded according to methodological standards, and if the ensuing conclusions and recommendations are based on evidence.

Due to time and feasibility limitations, it was not possible to fully substantiate and analyse all 49 outcomes. In order to test the overall validity of the outcomes harvested and the conclusions and learning drawn from them, a sampling frame was developed. This allowed for an understanding of the overall quality of the data in the outcome harvest, the extent to which the learning and conclusions generated through the outcome harvest to date are valid, and any additional considerations that are helpful in interpreting and analysing the overall results.

A total of 13 outcomes were selected for further review during the substantiation stage: 8 through a stratified random sample and 5 for additional learning related to the programme theory of change. Substantiation included a review of documentation, interviews and focus groups with staff and partners, as well as interviews with external stakeholders who were engaged in the outcome of interest. The interviews followed a semi-structure format and used the same data collection tool across all partners. Palestine has engaged a local consultant to assist with interviews of local stakeholders (10), while the international consultant interviewed IHART stakeholders (3). ActionAid staff conducted the interviews for logistical, linguistic, and practical reasons with stakeholders in Jordan (2) and Lebanon (2).

Final Review Team Workshop

A virtual workshop was held on November 5 with the review team. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide updates from data collected and reviewed during the substantiation phase
- Review and validate lessons learned, conclusions, and recommendations from the outcome harvest

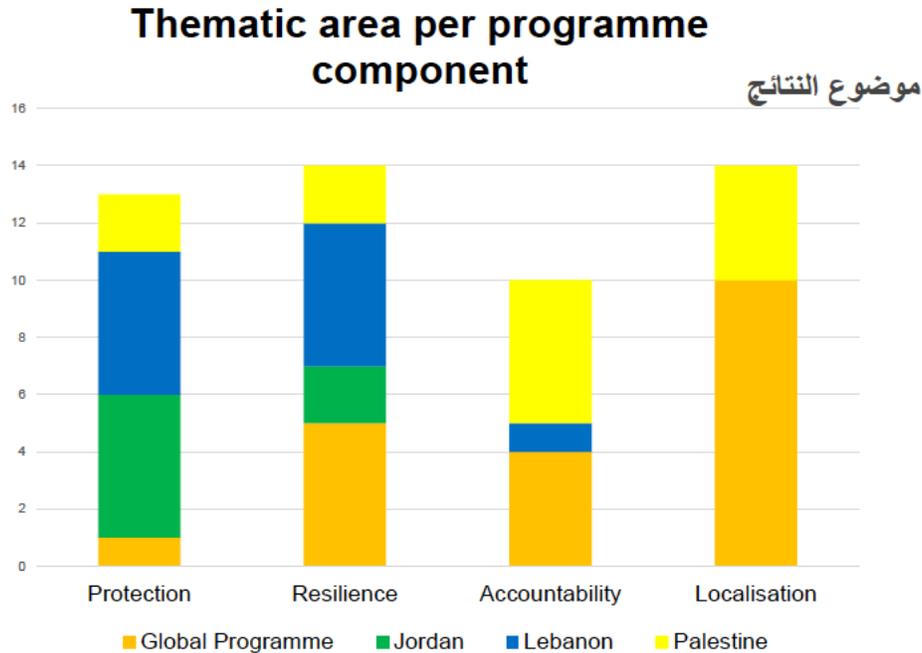
Feedback from the final review team workshop was incorporated into the final report.

¹ A review of the outcomes harvested showed that this list was not exhaustive, and more outcomes could have been generated. For example, the national project in Palestine did not collect any individual-level outcomes.

III. FINDINGS

Summary of Harvested Outcomes

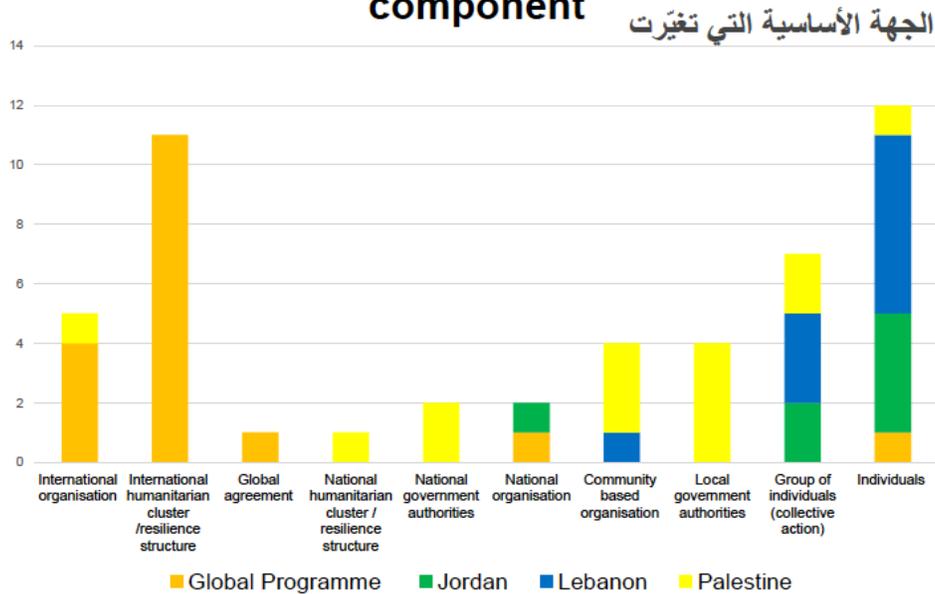
The outcome harvest generated a total of 49 outcomes, which included results from all country and global projects, as well as all thematic areas (protection, resilience, accountability, and localisation). As shown in the figure below, activities in Jordan and Lebanon harvested more outcomes in protection (10) and resilience (7), while harvested outcomes in Palestine were more concentrated in accountability (5) and localisation (4). IHART activities were represented in all thematic areas, with the most results generated in localisation (10).



This distribution partly reflects the way that outcome harvesting was conducted in different settings; Palestine did not harvest individual-level outcomes that are often tied to protection and resilience. In addition, this distribution is aligned with the activities planned under each project. While all projects were planned to support the overall goals and objectives of strengthening rights and resilience for women and young people, specific activities were tailored to the needs, opportunities, and conditions of the local context. As a result, the project in Palestine included a relatively greater emphasis on affecting local governments and structures. While projects in Jordan and Lebanon included activities under the thematic areas of accountability and localisation, project plans focused primarily on support to and capacity building of community-based organisations. It should also be noted here that outcomes were sorted according to their singular most prominent theme; in reality, an individual outcome could contribute to multiple themes.

The review team also completed an analysis of the outcomes harvested to assess the level where the change occurred, which is summarised in the figure below.

Main Actor of change per programme component



Considering who affected and was affected by the change, the review team determined:

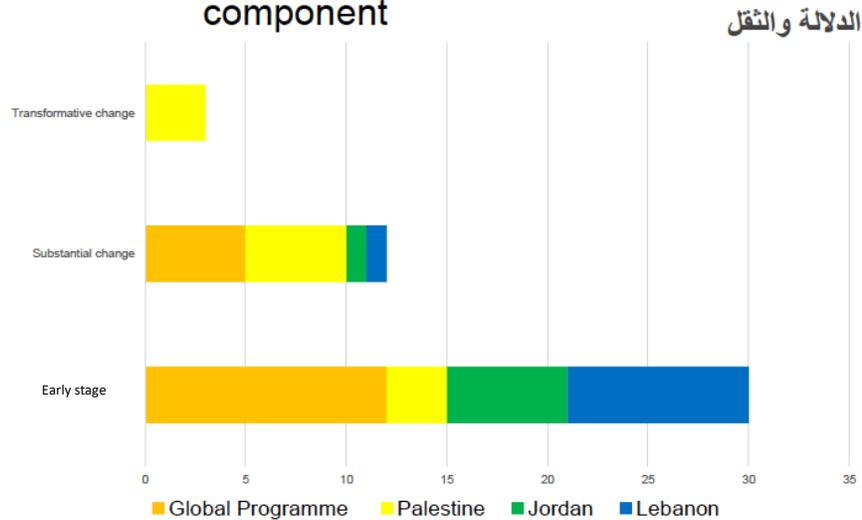
- Many outcomes were harvested at the individual level (12) and collective action level (7), which together represent 39% of all outcomes. As noted earlier, Palestine did not harvest outcomes at the individual level, though based on project reporting, individual-level results were achieved and serve as basis for collective action level and results on localisation and accountability.
- 13 outcomes were harvested at the community, district, and national levels, representing 27% of all outcomes.
- 17 outcomes were harvested at the international level, representing 35% of all outcomes. Nearly all of these were generated by the global project.

This distribution of outcomes is aligned with programme plans and expectations. For national projects, the results framework outlined two levels of expected results: 1) at the local level, women and youth reduce vulnerabilities in their communities through collective action, and 2) at the community, district, and national level, actors are supporting women and youth to lead collective action and reduce vulnerabilities. The global project was expected to achieve results at the global level, with linkages to activities and actions at national and local levels.

Lastly, the review team conducted an analysis to identify the phase and reach of the changes identified. These were categorised according to:

- Early stage results (30) that were meaningful precursors to future progress, demonstrating incremental changes and/or focusing on direct project participants;
- Substantial changes (12) that achieved significant milestones and effects beyond direct project participants; and
- Transformative changes (3) that represented new patterns of behaviour and shifts in perspective that could spark sustainable change in a broader system.

Significance rating per programme component



In the next sections, the outcome harvesting results will be presented from each of the national and global projects according to the common themes that emerged.

Midterm Review Question:
What achievements have been reached thus far? To what extent have the achievements contributed to the expected results as stated in results frameworks?

Outcome Harvesting Results from ActionAid Palestine

The situation in Gaza can be characterised as a protracted protection crisis with severe humanitarian consequences, caused by restriction of access to basic services, recurrent violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, and weak accountability among duty bearers. Palestinians in Gaza have lived through 3 wars since 2008, the latest of which killed over 2,200 Palestinians and destroyed or severely damaged 18,000 homes. These wars, coupled with recurring violence, the ongoing illegal Israeli blockade, and an escalation in the internal Palestinian political divide, have severely eroded the socio-economic situation and coping mechanisms of the population.

The dire humanitarian situation has been intensified by COVID-19 with increasing poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity, and sporadic outbreaks of violence threaten to ignite into a wider confrontation. Women and girls have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, its consequences, and the associated containment measures. Women and girls faced an intensified in restriction of movement, and increased responsibilities in the home, including household chores, and attending to the needs of family. The Ministry of Social Development reported an increase in domestic violence during the period of home quarantine imposed by governmental agencies.

Project activities and indicators

Since activities started in 2018, 6 women-led protection committees (WLPCs) have been established in the vulnerable border areas of Rafah and Khan Yonis to facilitate the identification and participatory analyses of protection risks. Youth preparedness and response committees (PRCs) have been formed; trained on preparedness, mitigation, and humanitarian

response; and supported to implement specific initiatives in their communities. Activities were implemented through local partners Wafaq Society for Women and Child Care (Wafaq), Ma'an Development Center, and Palestinian Non-Governmental Organisations Network (PNGO), with a focus on strengthening their capacity and influencing municipal and national actors.

In addition, 13 CBOs have been mobilised and supported to provide a safe space for women-led protection committees' meetings, outreach activities, and psychosocial and legal services. In 2020, 374 people (151 women, 138 young women, and 58 men) participated in 12 awareness raising sessions on human rights and women's rights. In addition, 200 women and young women GBV survivors have accessed effective formal and informal protection mechanisms.

These activities generated a range of outcomes at the community, municipal, and local levels, which are described in the sections to follow.

Increased representation of youth and women's perspectives in local structures

In Palestine, several major developments in strengthened rights and resilience for vulnerable groups emerged that were linked to the project's support to youth PRCs. In 2019, 3 municipalities in southern Gaza appointed members of the youth-led preparedness and response committees to their review and/or advisory municipality committees. This meant that a total of 9 young women and 1 young man were appointed. In a related result, 6 young members of the women-led committees were designated as focal points for the Protection Cluster. This provided them with the opportunity to influence the cluster agenda and steer INGO interventions by sharing their community-based intervention plans and reports. (See *Case Study: Young Community Members Join the Protection Cluster.*)

Both of these results are major achievements in shifting the power to young people and women in a sustainable, systemic way. It was significant to have politically-independent youth and women participating in municipal committees, which drive local decision-making processes and are typically only represented by elected or appointed members. The participation of young women in cluster meetings was a new milestone for members of affected communities, representing a change in vulnerable community's access to the cluster coordination system.

More supportive environments for women's and youth leadership

An important part of the HUM programme theory of change is to generate support at the community and national levels for women's and youth leadership. Several outcomes in Palestine reflected increased receptivity for community-led resilience and protection, among government actors in particular.

First, in 2019, local authorities lifted a prohibition on community research in the border areas of Rafah and Khan Yonis to allow the youth-led PRCs to conduct needs assessments and focus group discussions. Despite facing a tense security situation at this time, municipal leaders signalled trust in the youth leaders and the legitimacy of the PRCs. With better access to and understanding of the needs of the most disadvantaged households in the border area, the PRCs were able to capture and represent community needs.

In addition to allowing local committees to work in local communities, municipal actors directly supported their activities. Municipal representatives and staff from Rafah and Khan Yonis provided technical support to the WLPCs and PRCs in their initiatives to install streetlights and bus stations (two initiatives aimed at increasing women's safety and reducing harassment). For example, municipal engineers helped the committees select areas for the intervention and provided recommendations for materials. It is rare for municipalities to provide in-depth expertise for community initiatives. Again, this example demonstrated increased trust and support for the locally-led groups.

CASE STUDY: Young Community Members Join the Protection Cluster

Background: As part of the strategy in Gaza to support vulnerable women and youth to lead and influence humanitarian action, ActionAid and its local partner identified a need for better representation in the Protection Cluster. The cluster coordinates the protection activities of international and national humanitarian and human rights actors, and advocate human rights and international law in humanitarian action. OHCHR is the lead agency of the protection cluster and coordinates sub-working groups led by the following agencies: Child Protection and MHPSS is led by UNICEF; GBV by UNFPA, Legal Aid by NRC and Mine Action by UNMAS. While the cluster is described as a “broad-based, participatory forum,” it did not include any formal designation for community members.

Outcome: ActionAid held several one-to-one meetings with relevant people at the cluster coordination. At first, the protection cluster coordinator did not find it necessary for community members to attend the meeting, but instead they should be represented by NGOs. ActionAid staff persisted that it was necessary for the community members to attend. Two community members (one young woman and one young man) gained access to 5 meetings. Then, in 2019, six young members of the women-led committees were designated as focal points for the Protection Cluster. This provided them with the opportunity to influence the cluster agenda and steer INGO interventions by sharing their community-based intervention plans and reports.

Contribution: From the implementer’s perspective, several activities and strategies contributed to achieving this change. In 2018, PNGO developed a fact sheet about youth and women participation in the decision making in the humanitarian actions. PNGO presented this fact sheet in a central workshop targeting women, INGOS, human rights organisations and clusters members. PNGO conducted three focus groups in partnership with ActionAid, with youth and women, national NGOs and INGOS and the cluster system, PNGO conducted several meetings the clusters about youth participation. ActionAid conducted a training about HRBA and IHL, which provides new skills for the committees’ members around evidence-based advocacy and stakeholders analysis, and in turn facilitates their access to new tools and channels. In addition to another two trainings, one on participatory vulnerability assessment, and another on beneficiary’s registration which prepare the members to become key informant focal points in the communities that the cluster can relate to in time of emergencies.

Additional Perspectives: During the substantiation phase, an interview one of the young focal points reflected that—while the training and support was highly praised and valued—the key factor driving change was the insistence of ActionAid on their participation. “The point is that ActionAid believed in the importance of our participation. They believed in us, the youth, to create the change and be more effective in our committees.” It was not clear whether the young members would continue to participate in meetings in the future, and additional support from ActionAid was requested. Though cluster members were unable to be reached during the time frame for this review, future follow up could explore whether the training and support from PNGO facilitated more productive dialogue in the clusters, and the extent to which youth perspectives are being acted upon by the wider group.

Improvements to the supportive and enabling environment were also achieved for CSOs. From 2019 to 2020, local partner PNGO lobbied the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah to reduce its pressure on CSO banking activities. Due to the complicated procedures in place, many CSOs had their bank account closed, causing severe limitations on their work and even closures. As a result of this lobbying, 8 CSOs were able to reopen their bank accounts and resume work in their communities.

Increased resilience in facing COVID-19 crisis

There was no greater test of the extent to which resilience of local women and youth had been strengthened than the emergence of COVID-19. When a new, systemic shock emerged, several important changes took place. In different ways, women and youth who had been engaged in the project tapped into their internal capacities and launched collective action for the response.

First, 16 youth members of the WLPCs and PRCs independently and proactively led actions in their communities to reduce the threat of COVID-19. Through linkages with CBOs and youth centres, the members planned and executed a distribution of hygienic gel and gloves to taxi and bus drivers. They also facilitated recreational activities for children to relieve psychological stress during the lockdown. This was one of the first response efforts during a new crisis when little was known about the disease, showcasing a high degree of confidence, skills, and commitment to action.

Next, as quarantine centres were established, 24 WLPC and PRC members conducted online sessions with government representatives to discuss core issues of human rights and gender sensitivity. In both Rafah and Khan Younis, committee members met virtually with government heads of the quarantine centres and social development agencies. They discussed the services provided by the government, the extent to which core humanitarian standards were being met and how to avoid rights violations in the centres, and how to consider gender sensitivity in the facilities. Youth demonstrated that they knew the humanitarian standards and were confident to ask government leaders to be accountable to them.

After youth raised concerns about gender issues in the centres, government representatives reflected that meeting the needs of women was challenging, but that they would seek a better solution. They then took some actions such as transferring residents of quarantined women and girls to local hotels, where police women could serve the women. In a separate but related effort, local partner PNGO held a roundtable meeting with the Ministry of Social Development in Gaza to advocate for more attention to women and gender-related concerns for the 1600 women in quarantine. Ministry representatives stated they would follow up on this issue in more depth, and intended to hire a female facilitator to support women's needs better. While the Ministry has not yet found and appointed a female facilitator, they did increase support for quarantined women by providing hygiene kits and additional psychological and health support by phone from female providers.

Increased incomes and resources for vulnerable groups

Two outcomes harvested related to increased availability of resources. At the individual level, 80 percent (64/84) of GBV survivors who received support to develop small-scale businesses were able to maintain their operations over time. These vulnerable and marginalised women generated an average income of 1000 NIS monthly even during a deteriorating economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip. At the broader level, in early 2020, Oxfam announced USD \$30,300 in new funding for farmers in the eastern border areas. This followed advocacy efforts from local partner PNGO that used evidence gathered by the local committees, urging a response to critical community needs in an overlooked geographic area.

Local stakeholder feedback on youth committees: general perspectives

During interviews with participants, implementers, and other stakeholders, youth committees were highly valued for the opportunities that the committees present for putting youth

leadership skills into action. During the formation of these groups, youth received training, which was rated highly by participants during the substantiation phase. Youth participants reported that the length of the training (11 days rather than 1 or 2 days) allowed for sufficient coverage and depth of different topics, including emergency planning, first aid, and gender. Participants highly praised the development of preparedness and emergency plans as part of the training and committee development. In addition to increasing their skills, the plans offered an avenue to engage with the municipality and community-based organisations. With the support of the project, youth committees implemented the plans and initiatives, ranging from distributing plastic films for winterization and LED lights for homes without electricity, as well as distributing food and health packages. These initiatives were well received by municipal counterparts contacted during the substantiation phase.

Participants perceived the activities in this project to offer a more comprehensive package and to be at a larger scale than other NGO programming, which typically offered only technical training. Participants valued building skills in leadership and needs assessment. The implementation of small initiatives was perceived as useful for helping youth identify needs in their communities, make an operational plan and budget, implement and coordinate actions, and evaluate the results of their efforts. This process was described as building committee members' self confidence, trust, and understanding of how they can help their community. Initiatives were also credited with strengthening community confidence in the youth participants and improving attitudes toward youth, as the committees were providing a useful service to their community members.

Local stakeholder feedback on youth committees: future needs and opportunities

Youth participants identified some needs and opportunities for the project to be strengthened. They desired larger budgets for the launching initiatives, both the budget size per initiative as well as the number of initiatives. While recognizing and appreciating the opportunity to implement initiatives, youth and municipal officials showed some stress that they could only serve a small number of beneficiaries with these resources. One interviewee reflected that the process had strained relationships, as some community members did not understand or agree with why one group was selected to benefit over another. In terms of the content, participants requested advanced training for emergency planning and first aid, as the current training modules were not considered to be in sufficient depth.

Youth advised that including income-generating opportunities in the project would help to generate funds for more initiatives. Youth also requested linkages with NGOs for employment opportunities. On a related point, youth suggested to incorporate financial incentives for their participation, for which they are volunteers. They also requested funds for communications, transportation, and similar costs. This need was also echoed by municipal officials who requested more comprehensive support for the youth to carry out their initiatives, including as protection coats, shoes, and uniforms to wear during crises.

While these types of financial and material support may cause additional disruptions or unintended consequences, it is worth reflecting that the presence of ActionAid's project appeared to raise expectations for enhanced and more comprehensive support among youth and municipal actors alike. This feedback also underscores that even small-scale interventions in complex crisis settings must be grounded in a full understanding of the local context and dynamics.

Project activities and indicators

ActionAid has supported a variety of strategies to strengthen vulnerable women's leadership in locations near the Syrian border: Baalbek and Jeb Janine in Lebanon, and Zarqa and Mafraq in Jordan. Both locations are challenged by complex political, economic, and social crises. Support included the development of women's safe spaces, women's circles, and Women's Protection Action Groups (WPAGs). Women participants received training on a variety of humanitarian and leadership topics, conducted community protection assessments, led campaigns in their communities. The programme was shaped around the women's interests, as well as gaps identified by ActionAid and partner staff. WPAG members also conducted outreach to local officials; for example, in Jordan, the Governor and Mayor of Mafraq attended women-led events on topics such as ending early marriage and gender-based violence. Activities were implemented with local partners including Family Guidance and Awareness Centre (FGAC), Al Asayel, and Afaq al Riadah in Jordan and the Lebanese Democratic Women's Gathering (RDFL) in Lebanon.

As of July 2020, the national projects in Lebanon reported training 68 individuals (10 women, 29 young women, 29 young men) and in Jordan 118 individuals (42 women, 62 young women, 13 young men). Implementation of the counting methodology is planned to track intermediate and long-term outcome indicators, such as the capacity of women and youth to identify and address protection risks, build resilience, and influence stakeholders and hold duty bearers accountable. Data collection for the counting methodology was delayed due to COVID-19 and is planned for late 2020.

However, through programme reporting, ActionAid Arab Region has captured feedback and observations on the participating cohorts. In both Lebanon and Jordan, women reported increased feelings of protection and safety as result of participating in the programmes. They also reported increased awareness of their rights, more confidence to voice their perspectives, and stronger friendships and connections in their community. It is particularly noteworthy that these trends are seen across different types of participants—refugees and host community members-- offering an opportunity to reduce social tensions and build positive relationships.

From the outcome harvest, two major themes were identified: 1) increased confidence and skills of local women to take action, and 2) strengthened bonds among refugee and host community women. These are further described in their country context below. Both themes show the promise of adopting a women-led, community-based model where women identify and address their protection risks and wider vulnerabilities as an entry point to building resilience.

Lebanon

Lebanon hosts an estimated 1.5 million refugees, accounting for 25% of its population and making Lebanon the country with the highest proportion of refugees per capita in the world. The strain of the conflict in Syria has exacerbated pre-existing development needs and increased vulnerabilities for the population at large in Lebanon. Unemployment, which was already high before the Syria crisis, is further increasing and even more so for women and youth. Socio-economic disparities are rising, shaped also by geographical inequalities: The traditional poorest parts of Lebanon are also hosting a disproportionate number of refugees, especially in Bekaa, Baalbek and northern Lebanon, which leads to eroding resilience and increasing vulnerabilities in those areas in particular.

Vulnerability among both refugees and the Lebanese host community has increased immensely during 2019-20. Political protests against a corrupt and sectarian political system erupted in the fall of 2019, where large sections of society called for a "revolution". The protests caused large closures of schools, restrictions on mobility as well as a change of

government. Lebanon's already existing economic crises deepened with mounting debt, loss of GDP, dramatic devaluation of the currency, soaring food prices, and capital controls affecting all parts of society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the circumstances for refugees in Lebanon with the number of refugees living in extreme poverty rapidly rising¹. Protection concerns have risen sharply with 54% of women and girls interviewed after the COVID-19 outbreak experiencing some form of harassment, violence, or abuse, 44% reporting feeling less safe in their homes and 57% less safe in their communities since the start of the pandemic according to the UNFPA. As the situation deteriorates, more people lacking social protection (refugees, LGBTIQ+, domestic workers) will be unable to meet basic needs and will be entirely dependent on service providers, or have to revert to negative coping mechanisms exposing themselves to exploitation and abuse.

Increased skills and confidence to take action

In alignment with the programme theory of change, outcomes reflected increased knowledge, skills, and confidence to take action in the areas of protection and resilience. In a demonstration of locally-led collective action, in April 2020, youth and CBOs formed emergency committees in both Baalbek and Jeb Janine to respond to COVID-19. (*See Case Study: Youth-Led COVID Response Committees in Lebanon*) Also in 2020, shortly after the accountability training in Lebanon, two members of the accountability committee in Baalbek directly engaged with an organisation that had decided to postpone programme implementation in their community. They raised concerns about budget expenditures and participant selection criteria, demonstrating youth willingness and ability to apply skills on core humanitarian standards and accountability.

Participating women also took actions that challenged norms and social traditions, and in the process strengthened rights, health, and opportunities for themselves and their families. In Lebanon, mothers in two different Syrian families prevented early marriages for their daughters. Using information, skills, and confidence gained through participating in safe space activities, women convinced their husbands of the negative consequences of early marriage.

Strengthened social bonds among refugee and host community women

Multiple outcomes were harvested that reflected strengthened social bonds between Syrian refugee women and Lebanese women as well as with their wider communities. In Lebanon, 3 WPAG members sought support via WhatsApp for a member who needed medical help for her daughter. This showed how the women are using their own network to address issues that they encounter, and demonstrates an ability to act as find a way to support and help others. Friendships emerged across nationality lines; for example, 5 Syrian women and 3 Lebanese women who had engaged in the safe space activities began meeting daily in their homes and public parks. Participating women invited other women to join activities at safe spaces, as well as identified needs for services and generated referrals. This demonstrated women's local leadership and also allowed the projects to reach a greater number of marginalised women.

CASE STUDY: Youth-Led COVID Response Committees in Lebanon

Background: ActionAid has supported a variety of initiatives to strengthen the leadership of vulnerable groups in two separate locations near the Syrian border (Baalbek and Jeb Janine). In February 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reached Lebanon, presenting a new crisis in an already unstable and complex setting. By mid-March, the country began lockdown procedures.

Outcome: In April 2020, local youth activists joined with local CBOs to form emergency committees for the COVID-19 response. Emerging from both locations independently, the committees recognised and responded to needs at the local level, on their own initiative and in the absence of intervention from international NGOs. Committees shared information in their communities about COVID-19 risks and protection measures, as well as distributed emergency supplies. Youth were particularly active in planning and executing the emergency food distribution for the most vulnerable families, which mobilised more than 100 volunteers. This response was considered to be a strong demonstration of youth leadership in crisis, which is not typical in this setting.

Contribution: Both participating youth and CBOs in the committees had previously been engaged in ActionAid activities, including the Danida HUM programme as well as another project. CBOs had participated in training on the Core Humanitarian Standards and how to respond in a timely and appropriate manner. Youth had participated in trainings on leadership, community engagement, and accountability. Youth also used the social audit that had been conducted as part of ActionAid programming to set beneficiary criteria and target the emergency food distribution to the most vulnerable. In addition, while the committees were initiated and driven locally, ActionAid provided some technical support in response to their requests.

Additional Perspectives: Youth and CBO representatives of the committees credited ActionAid's leadership training with equipping them with skills and motivation to respond in the face of a crisis such as COVID-19. However, after the initial response, by October 2020 the committees were no longer active. While youth and CBO members expressed personal motivation and interest to continue in the response effort, there were no funds available to support their objectives. The groups were able to generate some funds from local community and diaspora members, but this was insufficient given the high level of needs.

Jordan

Jordan hosts 662,569 registered Syrian refugees, making Jordan the country with the second-highest refugee population per capita. Close to 8 out of 10 Syrian refugees in Jordan live below the poverty line, and the majority (84%) live outside refugee camps, with concentrated populations in urban centres in Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq and Irbid. The already overstretched public infrastructure, services and resources have increasingly failed to keep pace with demand, in particular in water, sanitation, electricity, solid waste management, health and education. These pressures are a source of social tensions. Studies by ActionAid and others have shown that the lack of access to jobs and resources have a negative effect on social cohesion.

The situation in Jordan has further deteriorated with the emergence of COVID-19, which has increased unemployment, which is already disproportionately high among youth and women. A recent ActionAid assessment conducted among Syrian and Jordanian women and youth showed that respondents did not have enough money to cover basic needs during COVID-19, and that decreases in purchasing power led respondents to resort to negative coping mechanisms. Already vulnerable groups have also been affected in both Zarqa and Mafraq by their inability to access non-emergency medical assistance. COVID-19 and the associated containment measures, in particular the lockdown, have affected women and girls in a multitude of ways. Women and girls face heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence, due to multiple factors including the survivor's proximity to the perpetrator. Other emerging forms of GBV in Jordan include attempts of sexual exploitation by phone and risks of increased negative coping mechanisms such as early marriage.

Increased skills and confidence to take action

The outcome harvest showed that individuals participating in the activities demonstrated increased confidence and leadership. At the onset of activities, one refugee from Syria did not want to speak or uncover her face in front of other women. Through her engagement with the project, she experienced a major change in her openness and assertion of women's rights, and began leading monthly sessions at the safe space on topics such as protection, GBV, women's leadership, and life skills. She also showed increased leadership and confidence at home. This Syrian refugee successfully convinced her brother not to force early marriage for her 14-year-old niece, in opposition to social norms and traditions. As a result, her niece was able to continue her schooling. In another example, a women's circle member led a training for 10 other women in her community on heater repair. This challenged stereotypical perceptions and social norms for women, as well as addressed a larger need for income-generating activities.

Strengthened social bonds among refugee and host community women

Similar to what was seen in Lebanon, in Jordan, members of a women's circle provided emotional support and raised funds for a Syrian WPAG member who lost her son in an accident. These examples showed how women were using their social networks to support each other emotionally and financially, even in communities where refugee-host country relationships are strained.

In another outcome, two women from the safe space independently created a WhatsApp group in order to share knowledge they gained with other women in their communities, reaching both refugees and host country participants. In a similar example, a WPAG member from Lebanon used the existing WhatsApp group to share information about COVID-19 prevention that she learned through volunteer work with the UNHCR. All of these examples are considered to demonstrate changes in behaviour and relationships that are important to the long-term leadership and engagement of women in protracted crises.

Participating women also extended the reach of the programme through referrals. From April to August 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown, WPAG members referred 59 women in Zarqa (including 38 Syrians) and 70 women in Mafraq (including 40 Syrians) to access health and

livelihood services. This showcased how WPAG members are using their knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills to lead change in their community. It was also noteworthy for expanding the reach of protection services, considering that WPAG members have access to under-served and marginalised women. Though different efforts are underway by ActionAid and others to increase knowledge and use of services for vulnerable women, such as printed leaflets and a mobile application, the WPAG referrals had an additional significance. Referrals from WPAG members not only the share information, but also strengthen social supports and connections.

Outcome Harvesting Results from IHART, ActionAid International Kenya, and ActionAid Denmark

The global project has an ambitious aim to transform the humanitarian sector. Too much focus on short-term needs, neglects the agency of affected communities, potentially undermining their resilience. Gender and women's rights is not regarded as a mainstream agenda, and ActionAid has documented how the international humanitarian system still is male-dominated and gender-blind. Revelations of sexual abuse and exploitation within the sector have placed power and gender at the heart of the discussions on reshaping the international humanitarian architecture. While most of these discussions remain niche and a closed conversation mostly among the employees of the so-called "international humanitarian system," they represent a first and important step in a largely self-mandated and self-regulated sector to openly challenge the unequal power relations and unequitable distribution of resources that exists in this system that managed last year almost US \$29 billion. COVID-19 and the Black Live Matters movement are further disrupting this status quo, showing the criticality of "localisation" at a time of travel restrictions and demanding to "decolonise humanitarian aid." Yet international humanitarian assistance going directly to local and national actors has only increased decreased from 3.5% in 2018 to 2.1% in 2019.

With the aim of shifting power to women and young people, this programme focuses on three interconnected and complementary strategic areas: Protection, accountability and localisation, and social and economic resilience. A team of global advisors both provide technical advice to the country projects and conduct advocacy at the global level in their respective areas. ActionAid's global advisors work closely with multiple international stakeholders, including the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance; and the Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC) global protection cluster gender-based violence area of responsibility (AoR), Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, Grand Bargain and Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action.

During this programme, IHART, ActionAid International Kenya, and ActionAid Denmark have led the revision and development of a number of tools, with the aim of supporting implementation in countries as well as placing them at the centre of advocacy efforts. This includes a Women-Led Community Based Protection Manual and Toolkit, a chapter for ActionAid's Resilience Framework on protracted crises, a needs assessment guidance tool and a revision of the SHAPE framework, developed by the START Network. Furthermore, through the involvement of young leader and a consultation of more than 300 young people across 54 countries, recommendations to shift power to young people in humanitarian action were developed. Finally, guidelines for engagement of women leaders in global humanitarian and resilience spaces were developed. All pieces were developed with a view to further the participation and leadership of women and young people and transform the humanitarian sector in accordance with the result framework.

Increased dialogue and recognition by international actors on priority themes

The global project registered a number of changes that ActionAid contributed to across policy, guidance, and practices among international bodies in support of women- and youth-led community-based protection and resilience. These included several first-time achievements

in localisation. The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2021-2025 included localisation in all the six outcomes for the first time. The updated Road Map brings added emphasis to partnerships with local organisations, particularly women's organisations. In a similar recognition, the IASC produced its first ever guidance on localisation following the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. ActionAid ensured that references to the role of women's and young people's organisations were included.

Another development in support of the project's goal to influence global humanitarian and resilience initiatives was found in the UNDRR 2019 platform. The Co-Chair Statement included the importance of (1) women's leadership, (2) localisation and shifting the power, (3) taking a HRBA approach, (4) increased attention required for conflict and protracted crisis contexts, (5) increased need for risk financing. All of these themes were specific advocacy objectives of the global project and represented by ActionAid, local partners, and community leaders at high-level and side events. This was the first time that ActionAid's recommendations had a direct effect on UNDRR's Co-Chair summary. It is expected that the recommendations outlined in the co-chair's summary will be integrated into the updated United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2030, which guides and measures all UN member government's national disaster risk reduction plans and policies. Therefore, this development has an important potential to shape government plans in alignment with the lessons learned and recommendations for resilience in protracted crises developed through this programme. It also developed opportunities for ActionAid to play an advisory role to UNDRR, which will be described in subsequent sections.

The Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) included in their 2020-2025 strategy (1) local level leadership, (2) promoting gender equality, (3) accountability to affected communities, and (4) conflict and protracted crisis as a driver of risk. In addition, the strategy included that Arabic would be a formal working language, increasing accessibility to local actors and recognition for including countries in the Arab region. These changes were significant as the GNDR is the coordinating body for all INGO and NGO's on DRR and leads advocacy among a membership of 1,300 organisations working in 120 countries. In another accomplishment, increased understanding and recognition of gender issues were also registered in the Grand Bargain, with gender equality and women's rights incorporated into the agreement. (*See Case Study: Inclusion of Gender in Grand Bargain Commitments*) Taken together, these shifts reflect positive changes in international dialogue and commitments in alignment with the objectives of the programme and ActionAid's humanitarian signature.

Elevated local perspectives in global humanitarian settings

The global project has a stated goal to change the structure, ways of working, and core membership of global and humanitarian architecture. This involved not only bringing local voices to international humanitarian dialogues, but also advocating for permanent representation of local organisations in decision-making bodies.

Funding under this programme and connections to country-level programming increased the direct participation of local women leaders in international deliberation and decision-making fora. For example, the GNDR invited ActionAid to support women leaders in sharing their lived experiences in disaster risk reduction in protracted crises. ActionAid led an all-women panel at their global summit 2018, and was the only organisation to secure a place for a local organisation. A young woman leader on the panel shared her experiences and recommendations. These sessions contributed to their new global strategy, mentioned earlier, which has the potential to guide all its members policy and advocacy and programmatic work on DRR and resilience. The UNDRR also invited ActionAid to speak at high-level and side event panels to showcase local women-led and resilience work in protracted crises.

CASE STUDY: Inclusion of Gender in Grand Bargain Commitments

Background: The Grand Bargain was launched in 2016 as a collaborative effort among donors, government, and humanitarian organisations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of international humanitarian aid. At its onset, the Grand Bargain outlined a set of commitments to better address the long-term needs of the humanitarian sector, but did not directly address gender equality and women's rights. Presently, the Grand Bargain includes 63 signatories who represent approximately 84% of all donor humanitarian contributions.

Outcome: At the Grand Bargain annual meeting in June 2020, signatories included gender equality and women's rights in the summary note. Specifically, they emphasised ensuring consistent analysis of gender and gender-based violence concerns in needs assessments, as well as discussed the integral role of gender in the Grand Bargain's future of advancing humanitarian aid effectiveness. Gender was prioritised in a recent survey (October 2020) by signatories as one of the cross-cutting issues to be considered in the future Grand Bargain agreement that will replace the current one, ending in June 2021. In addition, gender prioritisation was mentioned in the outcomes of the three previous Grand Bargain annual meetings (2017, 2018 and 2019). The new Grand Bargain Eminent Person, Dutch Minister Ms. Sigrid Kaas, also stated at the meeting's opening speech that the signatories had "made progress on including gender in the implementation of our Grand Bargain commitments." This recognition represented an important step in the change process where women, women's organisations, and prioritisation of women's and girls' issues are embedded in country responses.

Contribution: ActionAid has been engaged in the four annual Grand Bargain meetings from 2017 to 2020. As part of the Friends of Gender Group alongside UN Women and CARE, ActionAid has held events, roundtables, briefings, webinars, as well as authored papers highlighting the role of gender in humanitarian action. ActionAid conducted consultations with local women's organisations to generate key messages and considerations from their perspectives, and brought these perspectives to high-level plenary meetings. For multiple years, ActionAid brought local women leaders to events where they could directly interact with donors. Hearing the messages directly from the perspectives of affected women was credited with the extent to which the ideas gained traction in the minds of signatories.

This major shift in outlook at the Grand Bargain was influenced by other actors and trends as well. UN Women, CARE, and other members of the Friends of Gender Group all contributed their collective voices and efforts to advance gender priorities. The MeToo movement and revelations around sexual exploitation and harassment by international NGOs created an urgency around addressing gender issues. Moreover, specific individuals who came into leadership positions at the United Nations and the Grand Bargain created openings for greater discussion of gender issues based on their individual agendas and backgrounds.

Additional Perspectives: The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has led independent assessments of the Grand Bargain convenings for the last three years. In a 2019 report, ODI concluded that the Grand Bargain was applying pressure to implement existing commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. In a 2020 report reflecting on the future of the Grand Bargain, ODI recognised signatories' shift toward a greater understanding and attention to gender issues, stating: "Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Gender Group, gender equality and women's empowerment has become a core feature of the Grand Bargain."

Interviews with external stakeholders engaged in the Grand Bargain reflected that ActionAid is particularly recognised for strengthening the capacity and access to funding for local women-led organisations. ActionAid was considered to be a vocal and credible actor in elevating gender issues as part of Grand Bargain discussions. Consistent presence and participation in the international space, as well as joining together with other NGOs to strengthen the humanitarian system, were identified as valuable activities for ActionAid to continue.

In another example, at the 2019 CHS Alliance learning exchange, ActionAid and partners led sessions on best practices and accountability mechanisms drawing from learning from the Danida HUM programme in Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine to promote women's leadership to the 91 participants. Mercyline Kadii George, Chairperson of Sauti Ya Wanawake Magarini, an ActionAid partner, delivered a speech on the importance of supporting women's leaders for effective and accountable humanitarian response. While the list of events and their participants are too numerous to list here, the effect of local participation was well recognised by external stakeholders contacted during the external review. ActionAid was praised for their success in advocating for and bringing local perspectives to international bodies, which remain largely inaccessible to those who are directly affected by crises. ActionAid also developed guidelines for event organisers to ensure a meaningful participation of local perspectives in global humanitarian and resilience spaces.

With regards to changes in the membership and structure of international bodies, several key shifts have been achieved. In 2019, the CHS Alliance agreed to increase the number of national NGO members by 20%. They planned to achieve this through expanding several activities promoted by ActionAid, including in-country meetings for national and local organisations, increasing opportunities for decision-making input for national members, and fostering dialogue between international and national actors during CHS events. A key objective of the CHS Alliance is to work with members and partners in seeking improvements to meet the CHS. Also in 2019, a national NGO, ABAAD (Resource Center for Gender Equality) from Lebanon was announced as co-lead of the Call to Action NGO working group. Among 87 partners, only 7 are national NGOs, and this marked the first time a national NGO has been appointed as a co-lead. Lastly, in 2019 the GBV Area of Responsibility core members for the first time considered opening membership to local organisations. Though this change has yet to be implemented, ActionAid has contributed to increased dialogue around this topic.

Recognition of ActionAid leadership and increased opportunities for influence

Global advocacy initiatives have generated recognition of ActionAid's leadership in the areas of localisation, protection, resilience, gender and youth. This is reflected in several requests and appointments from key international agencies. First, in 2019, UNDRR asked ActionAid to formally engage in the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) for the first time. This allows ActionAid to formally advise UNDRR going forward on the updates of the Sendai Framework for Action and UNDRR work. In 2020, UNDRR also requested ActionAid to formally support them with their work on Financing for Development (FfD) and to include a call for increased DRR financing with a focus on women-led DRR finance. This was also the first time ActionAid was asked to support UNDRR in this capacity, transforming their role from an advocate to an advisor within the system.

In another first-time development, in 2020 GNDR asked ActionAid to apply and then successfully appointed ActionAid to be civil society's official UK focal point on DRR and resilience. ActionAid will sit on the European Advisory Board for GNDR for the 2020-2024 period. This has the potential to influence all of the UK based civil society, the UK government and wider European technical board. Taken together, these appointments and connections are expected to present opportunities for further influence during the remainder of the project.

In 2019, ActionAid joined the Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action, a multi-stakeholder compact that is composed of youth leaders, UN agencies, NGOs and countries including Denmark. It was formed in relation to the Grand Bargain in 2016. Compact members had worked on a set of interagency youth programming guidelines, that in 2020 has been endorsed by the IASC as sector-wide best practice. ActionAid was able to contribute to these guidelines with recommendations on how to strengthen the leadership of young women in humanitarian action, and as the guidelines are rolled out, the potential is there to impact other humanitarian actors in this issue.

In a final example, until March 2020, a representative from ActionAid has held a position on the CHS Alliance Board. This is an important space to influence and further promote ActionAid's approach in particular a focus on shifting the power and women's leadership. Other opportunities for influence include CHS Alliance membership surveys, positions in various CHS member Communities of Practice, and participation in CHS learning events for ActionAid and partners.

Summary of Observations During the Substantiation Phase

As described in the earlier section on methodology, the purpose of the substantiation phase is to understand the validity of the entire outcome harvest process. This provides insight into whether the outcome harvest proceeded according to methodological standards, and if the ensuing conclusions and recommendations are based on evidence.

During the substantiation phase, no major anomalies or threats to validity in the outcome harvesting process were identified. Among the outcomes selected for the random sample (8) and for learning (5), outcome descriptions were well known and understood by the implementation teams. In many cases, outcomes were readily supported by documentation, particularly at the global level. On the whole, external key informants were aware of the outcomes and agreed that the statements were accurate. In a limited number of cases, the outcomes described in the statements were slightly more formalised and final than they were in reality; for example, a government actor had committed to an action, but had not yet followed through with the action. On a 5-point scale (1 being not at all, 5 being very much), nearly all interviewees rated the accuracy of the statements as 4 or 5. Taking all of these factors into account, the overall population of outcomes was considered to be valid, and the conclusions and recommendations based on these outcomes were considered to be sound.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on an analysis of programmatic accomplishments and activities described in the previous section, this section describes the conclusions drawn from the Danida HUM programme.

Key Lessons Learned

Midterm Review Question:
What are the key common themes and messages arising from the learning generated by the Danida HUM programme?

Supporting local women’s and youth leadership is critical for transformative change

Supporting young people and women to form local preparedness and response committees in fragile contexts, where direct response work is needed regularly, is a form of organising that leads to transformative outcomes. ActionAid’s feminist approach to protection has been critical in this effort to build the leadership of women, who in turn are fighting for change. Country-level work in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon has shown that mobilisation of women and young people is possible in protracted crises and conflict settings. As well, women’s and youth empowerment and life skills development are highly valued by participants. These activities have been particularly effective in increasing social cohesion, improving self confidence, and generating momentum for action at the local level.

Further, the experience of this programme shows that it is possible to achieve results in governance and accountability in emergencies, and these results can be transformative in nature. At the same time, results that are transformative need to be sustained constantly, and can backslide in the short term. For example, a policy-level commitment to increase women’s and youth participation in decision-making bodies may be implemented without continued attention and support. Moreover, transformative change often involves reforms at all levels of the humanitarian sector. Influencing local actors and humanitarian architecture requires system change at the top, while continuing to exert pressure from local communities.

Increased skills, space, and opportunities for collaboration led to increased social cohesion and capacity for collective action

The comprehensiveness and quality of programming at the local level was widely acknowledged by stakeholders, as well as reflected in the positive changes captured by the outcome harvest. In the different national projects, vulnerable women and youth joined together in local committees where they identified their own goals and agenda, conducted community needs assessments, and implemented initiatives for community benefit. Participants strengthened their social cohesion and capacity for collective action, which was an important goal of the resilience building strategy. In addition, improvements in social cohesion were particularly notable as they strengthened relationships between refugees and host communities.

Protection involving women, communities, and young people is an entry point to implement the resilience framework

Having women representatives from protection frontline organisations in global discussions emphasizes that localisation is important for protection work. The programme activities at global level—in particular through the work with CARE in the GBV AoR localisation task team—has shown that bringing the experiences of GBV prevention and response programming into global protection spaces has advanced the case for localisation in protection work. Local actors

have demonstrated the importance of their activities and considerations not only to respond to GBV but also to effectively address gender inequality and to shift cultural norms. They have contributed to making localisation part of the GBV AoR and Call to Action Agenda, offering opportunities to further link with national work.

Resilience remains a highly relevant approach in protracted crises

ActionAid's approach to resilience (originally a climate change approach) has been tested in protracted crises by the HUM programme, but the testing has been hampered by two factors. First, the necessary and foundational "participatory vulnerability analysis" was not conducted from the beginning in the three contexts. Secondly, the term resilience has been used in different ways in the programme.

Nevertheless, the results achieved to date demonstrate that the promise and potential for these approaches. Responses to a new crisis (COVID-19) show how resilience has been strengthened. When a new systemic shock emerged, women and youth engaged with the programme tapped into their internal capacities and launched collective action for the response. The fact that these efforts emerged in multiple countries and locations without the initial direction of ActionAid lends support to the conclusion that the strategies employed under the HUM programme have increased resilience at the local level.

Moreover, protection and resilience must work hand in hand to challenge the conditions that reinforce vulnerability and demand women's rights while protecting women and communities. ActionAid's resilience approach is complemented by its Women-Led Community-Based protection approach, which has been supported by the programme and is being rolled out. The synergies between protection and resilience has shown the importance of recognising the support in the different areas – accountability, resilience framework, and SHAPE framework – as a complementary and comprehensive package for protracted crisis.

The national work, particularly in Gaza, has shown that the enhancing economic resilience of the targeted vulnerable women is tied with enhancing their social resilience and mitigating any social barriers affecting the participation or involvement of women. It is therefore necessary to provide psychosocial support and counselling services alongside the economic resilience component. The importance of mental health and psychosocial support will only become more crucial in light of acute, medium and long-terms impact and consequences of COVID-19. There is also an inextricable link between increasing incidences of GBV, due to COVID, and the need for mental health and psychosocial support.

***Midterm Review Question:
In what ways and to what extent has ActionAid influenced replication of approaches, as well as built the capacity of local actors to shift the power?***

Global advocacy presents opportunities for structural and wide-scale change

Through the global project, ActionAid seeks fundamental and wide-ranging reform of the humanitarian sector, and has contributed to important developments in international frameworks and commitments in that direction. This was achieved by participating in the global dialogue and advocating for policies and practices that shift the power to local organisations, women and youth. Influencing practices and memberships of international bodies is a highly ambitious goal, and has presented a strong opportunity to reinforce and replicate successful approaches to women's and youth leadership. A high degree of credibility and effectiveness was drawn from the project's ability to bring the voices and perspectives of women and youth directly to decision-makers in power. However, the full expected benefits of linking activities at the global and national levels have yet to be realised.

Transformative change efforts include a focus on a broader set of community and national actors

Many humanitarian programmes focus on service delivery to vulnerable groups: protection, psychosocial support, livelihoods, cash transfers, and training. These components are critical to serving the immediate needs of women and young people in fragile and crisis contexts. However, to ensure that women and young people are not only able to speak, but also that they are heard, programmes must include a focus on a broader set of actors. Beyond women, outreach and engagement of men in the community is important. The Danida HUM programme also excelled by integrating service delivery with support to community-based organisations as well as strategic engagement with municipal, district, and national stakeholders. In this way, the programme demonstrated the value of linking short-term responses with longer-term objectives, affecting the broader ecosystem in which women, youth, and their organisations operate.

This type of programming must be conducted sensitively and cautiously, as external actors can be disruptive and generate unintended negative consequences in complex and crisis settings. ActionAid's strategy of working with local partners in the lead was critical to achieving substantial and transformative changes in how women and youth participate in their communities.

Programmatic Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

**Midterm Review Question:
What strategies and approaches have worked and not worked, and why? What was ActionAid's added value?**

The mid-term review team considered that there are several strengths and approaches that have driven the successes seen to date. First, community-based protection approaches that empower vulnerable individuals at the local level are paramount, as demonstrated by the changes in behaviours and perspectives captured in the outcome harvest. Supporting local groups to set their own goals and agendas, strengthening relationships and networks among women, and providing opportunities to apply new skills through small initiatives were all important to the success of these strategies. Moreover, the comprehensiveness and quality of services provided was recognised as a strength of ActionAid. Partnership with and leadership of local organisations was credited with establishing strategies and activities that were more contextually-appropriate, as well as offering some flexibility to change programming based on local needs.

At the same time, further efforts to embed local perspectives at the design stage would strengthen the potential for impact. An honest reflection at mid-term revealed that, while activities were carried out according to plans, and though activities were aligned with the overall objectives of the programme, more attention to needs and contextual analysis at the design and early stages of implementation was needed. Review team members felt that the initial development of the programme did not fully adhere to the Core Humanitarian Standards, as the programme initially was developed too far from the contexts where it was implemented. In particular, the lack of youth engagement and perspective during the initial design and needs assessment was seen as an important opportunity for improvement. The mid-term review team also reflected that more attention is needed to remain flexible and adapt programming as the context and needs evolve.

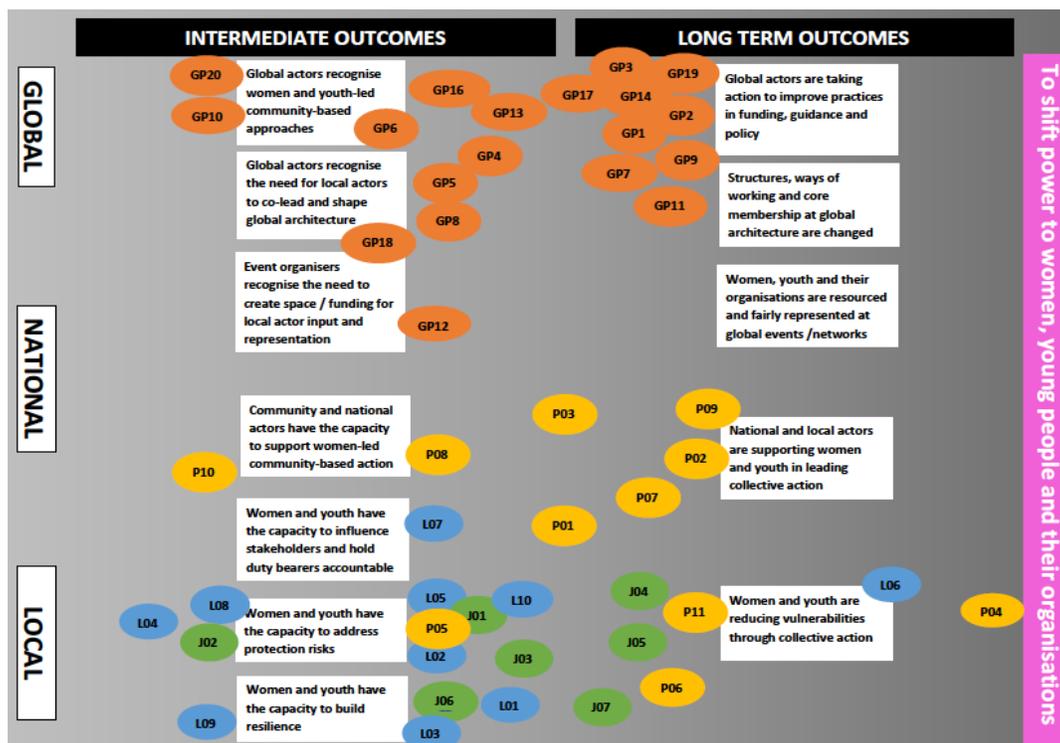
Nevertheless, the programme achieved major successes in the areas of accountability, providing an important proof of concept that such progress in complex crises is possible. Bridges were successfully built between government, women, and youth through increased representation of women and youth in local structures, which was demonstrated in the outcomes seen in Palestine. Equipping women and youth with the skills to engage effectively along with fostering mutual trust supported these efforts. ActionAid played a particularly active role in leveraging its influence to amplify local voices. In both global and national programmes, ActionAid offered a platform and access to decision-makers that were highly valued in achieving change. The presence of grassroots and frontline organisations in deliberation and decision-making spaces was recognised and praised by both ActionAid and external stakeholders. Yet efforts to open spaces and ensure representation remain challenging, perhaps due to the perceived threat that this can pose to those in power. Creating opportunities for women and youth to share their perspectives directly requires persistence, as well as a long-term vision and duration of the partnership.

Lastly, working through a federation model, as well as combining global and country projects, offered opportunities for peer-to-peer learning. External stakeholders perceived this as a strength of partnering with ActionAid, and praised opportunities to connect national to global initiatives. Documenting ActionAid’s approach to women’s leadership, accountability, localisation, and resilience to share with a wider group was also valued as part of this effort.

Reflection on the Programme Theory of Change

Midterm Review Question:
To what extent are the achievements proving the overall theory of change for the programme?

The mid-term review team mapped the outcomes harvested to the programme theory of change, pictured below.



This analysis showed support for nearly all the expected results in the theory of change. At the country level, outcomes achieved were most closely related to “women and youth have capacity to address protection risks,” “women and youth have the capacity to build resilience,” and “women and youth are reducing vulnerabilities through collective action.” While outcomes from Palestine were associated with “national and local actors are supporting women and youth in leading collective action,” fewer outcomes were associated with broader and national level changes. This indicates that the programme was registering expected results at the short-term and local levels, and that more time, attention, and adaptations may be needed to see results in the longer-term and at national/municipal levels. This analysis also indicates that the project in Palestine was particularly relevant for generating lessons learned and programming recommendations, given the achievement of longer-term results at the national and municipal levels.

At the global level, outcomes were clustered around “global actors are taking action to improve practices in funding, guidance, and policy” and its precursor “global actors recognise women and youth-led community-based approaches.” Fewer outcomes were tied to the result “event organisers recognise the need to create space / funding for local actor input and representation” and no outcomes were categorised as “women, youth and their organisations are resourced and fairly represented at global events/networks.” This indicates that the strategies in place are achieving meaningful results in the short- and longer-term, especially for recognising the role of localisation and institutionalising practices as a result. Additional attention and strategies may be needed for advancing the appropriate representation of women, youth, and their networks.

In summary, the outcome harvest has generated substantial evidence in support of the programme theory of change that strategies implemented at multiple levels of the humanitarian system can help shift the power to women, young people, and their organisations in protracted crises.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Programmatic Recommendations

Based on the results of the outcome harvest as well as analysis and reflections from the mid-term review committee, a set of recommendations are presented below. These can be applied during the remainder of the programme, as well as for future programme designs.

1. Build on programme successes in community-based protection and resilience to accelerate achievements in localisation and accountability

This programme has registered significant successes by working at the grassroots, community level. ActionAid should leverage its existing strengths to engage local partners, foster connections and cohesion at the local level, and deliver comprehensive and quality programming. Moreover, promising initial results in strengthening accountability and the representation of women and youth in local structures can be reinforced and more widely integrated into programming. A more direct linkage from protection and resilience activities to the objectives and localisation and accountability will be beneficial, as described in a recent internal ActionAid paper on integrating the Humanitarian Signature and technical areas. Ensuring women and youth representation in consultative committees and general assemblies is important for achieving the goals of shifting power and transformative change. ActionAid can consider how best to connect women and youth with decision-makers, either through direct efforts or through other actors and strategies.

2. Enhance local leadership in design and adaptation of programming

ActionAid has developed and strengthened relationships with local partner organisations and continually demonstrates a commitment to local leadership of vulnerable groups in order to shift power in humanitarian settings. At the same time, ActionAid can further build on this perspective to develop new programmes in better alignment with the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS). The mid-term review committee identified a need to ensure local ownership for youth and women-led actions, as well as to establish a long-term engagement strategy among municipalities, local actors, and locally-led actions. By developing programme plans and adaptations in the contexts where the implementation will take place, it is expected that the strategies will be more effective and sustainable. Participatory, vulnerability, and capacity analysis (PVCA) and action plans with communities are also aimed at improvement in this area.

At the same time, ensuring that CHS commitments are met at all levels of implementation requires financial resources, human resources, and time, and this continues to be a challenge in this activity's complex settings. Having the knowledge and motivation to enact the standards is different than securing the funding, partners, and space to achieve them, but using the SHAPE framework is helping ActionAid and partners assess the areas in which progress and support is required

3. Increase youth engagement and perspective in design

ActionAid's approach to working with youth in protracted crisis has shown demonstrable results, as shown by the outcome harvest. However, the programme was considered to remain more oriented toward the needs of women. The review team reflected that greater youth engagement and perspective was needed at the design stage, and tools and approaches more specifically tailored to target young people. In addition, youth needs assessments should be intersectional, using the frameworks developed under the programme. Young people are impacted by crises and disasters in many different ways depending on their relationship with power and privilege, and intersecting identities including race, gender, sexual identity, class, religion, physical ability and refugee status. There are some factors unique to young people – at the stage when they transition from dependence to independence – that combine to

exclude them from existing power structures and prevent them from accessing support. This programme has provided a solid platform for advancing more youth-centred approaches, which can be further emphasised in future programmes.

4. Integrate global, national, and local efforts

One of the strengths of the programme was its ability to address women's and young people's leadership at different levels of the humanitarian system, as well as to share learning across contexts. The mid-term review team identified opportunities to further integrate global, national, and local efforts so that systemic barriers to local leadership are dismantled and new commitments are upheld. This can be achieved through more intentional linkages of activities at different levels. For example, by continuing to open spaces at the global level (such as the Call to Action, Grand Bargain, and CHS Alliance) from the inside, ActionAid can bring national and local actors to these spaces and support implementation of global commitments at the national level. Similarly, increased engagement of the Feminist Humanitarian Network was identified as an important avenue for advancing women's leadership and holding stakeholders accountable at different levels of the humanitarian system. Opportunities were also identified to strengthen the integration of strategies at national, municipal, and community levels within countries.

5. Strengthen sustainability of national projects

The outcome harvest reflected important achievements in strengthening the resilience of women and youth in protracted crises. However, further attention is needed to consolidate and sustain gains, particularly in these complex settings. These include addressing the operational and financial sustainability of activities to date, as well as providing enhanced support to target populations. Specific strategies to consider are:

- Develop project expansion/development plans for the implemented projects including considerations how target groups can be involved, that show the prospects of development for each project independently, the required human and financial resources to carry out this development, the potential sources of finance, and how plans can be effectively communicated. This should be accompanied with safety mapping to analyse the possible risks that might afflict the projects after the exit.
- Link targeted women with micro-finance institutions to ensure women have access to financing opportunities to scale their projects up or respond to economic shocks.
- Enhance the skills of women in business management, marketing, negotiation and communication to encourage the sustainability of their businesses.
- Allocate flexible funds in the budget to support initiatives from local committees. These funds should be owned and managed by the youth and women groups themselves and act as an encouragement for them to take action on the things they have learned through the programme activities.
- Consider the best ways to respond to youth and local stakeholder requests for stipends, subsidised travel, and additional materials needed to successfully execute their initiatives.
- Share assessment and research results with communities and women and youth groups so they can use the knowledge and tools they gained to take action regarding other priority topics in their communities.

Reflections on Outcome Harvesting Process

Based on this mid-term review, ActionAid's commitment to outcome harvesting and orientation toward generating useful learning should be recognised and commended. Outcome harvesting was integrated into ActionAid's implementation approach in different countries and settings, allowing for an open-ended exploration of the changes to which the projects contributed. This approach has been useful for exploring diverse and meaningful changes in complex crisis settings.

At the same time, some opportunities remain to advance the use of outcome harvesting at ActionAid. This can be supported by continuing to strengthen capacity for outcome harvesting across federation partners. Despite interruptions to the training and travel schedule due to COVID, federation partners demonstrated a good understanding of outcome harvesting approaches and were able to participate in a useful process for this programme mid-term review. Additional attention to writing outcome descriptions, articulating the mechanics of change, and reflecting on external drivers of success will benefit the process in the future.

Outcome harvesting could be increasingly aligned with programmatic priorities, while remaining open-ended as to the specific results achieved. Greater consistency to generate learning relative to the key learning objectives would help to focus the review team's time and attention. For example, it would be useful to agree on whether or not individual-level changes are relevant for the outcome harvest. It may also be useful to engage a broader and more inclusive set of stakeholders in the analysis process. Providing opportunities for feedback from local stakeholders, either as part of the data collection or the substantiation phase, reinforces the quality of the outcome harvesting process as well as builds relationships and shared learning.

Lastly, ActionAid should continue to integrate outcome harvesting into other monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities. Outcome harvesting is one method of complexity-aware learning and includes advantages and limitations. In order to better understand common questions of interest (such as the overall reach of the programme, how stakeholders perceive the programme, what strategies were not successful, and the cost-effectiveness of interventions), outcome harvesting may be complemented by collecting other types of data and using other methodologies. Complementing analysis of outcome harvest with the counting methodology, in particular, would be useful.

ANNEXES

Annex A: Mid-Term Review Terms of Reference

SPA 2018-2021 HUM Programme Mid-Term Review

23.04.20 V2 UPDATED DUE TO COVID19

1. Background

ActionAid Denmark has a strategic partnership with Danida in 2018-2021 that includes a humanitarian grant of 15 million DKK annually for the programme “Strengthened rights and resilience for women and young people affected by protracted crises and disasters”.

The desired impact of the programme is to shift power to women, young people and their organisations in protracted crises and disasters in order for them to lead and influence humanitarian action that builds increased protection and resilience. The programme consists of a global project and national projects in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon.

Underpinned by ActionAid’s Humanitarian Signature, “shifting power” to communities themselves and in particular women and young women and young men, is a multidimensional approach across all programme components. ActionAid’s “women- and youth-led community based” approaches place the agency and voice of women and youth at the centre of all activities. The programme has three main thematic areas: Protection; Localisation and Accountability; and Resilience. These thematic areas are closely interconnected and complementary. The programme has a joint summary results framework as well as results frameworks for each of the four programme components.

At a country level, the long-term outcomes seek to empower women and youth to take leadership in reducing protection risks and building resilience while simultaneously establishing an enabling environment for women and youth-led, community-based humanitarian action within existing networks, platforms and humanitarian architecture. While the expected results are similar across the three countries, the key actions generating these results differ between the countries due to the contextual differences. At a global level, the long-term outcomes seek action from global humanitarian and resilience actors to improve practices in funding, guidance and policy as well as core membership in the humanitarian architecture to enable changes at a national level which in turn will facilitate an enabling environment for community-based humanitarian action. The interlinkages between global and country programmes are expected to amplify the results, with the evidence-based learning from countries being used to advocate for action at global level while such action in turn will support an enabling environment at a national level.

2. Audience and use of findings

Target audience	Use of findings
ActionAid Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illustrative examples of progress / challenges to improve programme design and implementation• Thematic learning related to key themes to improve future programme design in particular the upcoming SPA 2022 application• Learning to inform future partnerships

ActionAid Palestine and ActionAid Arab Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Illustrative examples of progress / challenges to improve programme design and implementation ● Thematic learning related to key themes to improve future programme design ● Learning to inform future partnerships
ActionAid International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Illustrative examples of progress / challenges ● Thematic learning related to key themes to improve future programme design
ActionAid wider federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thematic learning and evidence related to key themes ● Illustrative examples of how ActionAid is delivering IP4
Danida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Illustrative examples of humanitarian work in protracted crisis ● Examples of results generated through ActionAid’s approaches to humanitarian work

3. Purpose and objectives

The purpose of this mid-term review is to identify and assess the achievements and learning that ActionAid and partners have generated through the Danida HUM programme thus far. The review will also provide recommendations to improve programming in the remaining programme period. To do this, the review will focus on addressing the following objectives.

1. Identify, assess and map achievements against the expected programme results and ActionAid’s wider strategic objectives
2. Synthesise learning and provide recommendations to the key themes:
 - ActionAid’s women-led community-based approaches to Protection, Localisation and Accountability and Resilience in protracted crises
 - “Organising” in protracted crises
 - Youth leadership in humanitarian action

4. Scope

This review will consider the entire project period thus far e.g. from January 2018 onwards. The review will cover all three countries (Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon) as well as the global component of the programme. The review will focus on identifying and assessing achievements to date, as well as identifying major reasons for achievement or non-achievement of results, and key lessons to inform further implementation and future interventions. The review should also identify ActionAid Denmark’s added value and assess, where possible, what ActionAid contributes to the work that is unique to ActionAid. Finally, the level of transformative change should also be considered when assessing each achievement. Transformative change refers to the potential for, contribution to, and/or progress made in, achieving lasting solutions and behaviour changes through assessing the (a) catalytic effect, (b) scalability and (c) sustainability of the results.

5. Key questions

1. Identify, assess and map achievements against the expected programme results and ActionAid's wider strategic objectives

- What achievements have been reached thus far?
- To what extent have the achievements contributed to the expected results as stated in results frameworks?
- To what extent are the achievements proving the overarching theory of change for the programme?
- What is ActionAid Denmark's added value in the identified achievements?
- To what extent are the achievements unique to ActionAid and its approaches?
- In what ways and to what extent have the achievements shown Value for Money?

2. Synthesise learning and provide recommendations to the key themes

- What are the key common themes and messages arising from the learning generated by the Danida HUM programme?
- What strategies and approaches have worked and not worked, and why?
- In what ways and to what extent has ActionAid influenced replication of approaches, as well as built the capacity of local actors to shift the power?

6. Methodology

Outcome Harvesting was piloted under the framework agreements and integrated into our SPA programme as a key method for measuring achievements. This review will be the first application of Outcome Harvesting in our humanitarian work. To continue to build internal capacity and learning, the review will be internally managed with key elements being carried out internally. Building capacity in-country among ActionAid staff and partners will also be part of the review. For example, workshops having a dual focus of harvesting outcomes and build understanding of the method. To ensure accountability and validity of the review findings, an external consultant will substantiate the harvested outcomes and be part of analysing and sense-checking the outcomes and writing the final report as noted below.

The review will follow the 6 steps of Outcome Harvesting:

1. Design harvest (To be completed internally by ActionAid with input from the external consultant)
2. Review documentation (To be completed by ActionAid)
3. Engage with informants (To be completed by ActionAid)
4. Substantiate (To be completed by external consultant)
5. Analyse and Interpret (To be completed jointly by external consultant and ActionAid)
6. Use findings (To be completed by ActionAid)

As part of step five, Analyse and Interpret, the other approach under our SPA programme Value for Money will be used to analyse the identified outcomes. This will allow insight into the cost effectiveness of activities.

The review will use a participatory and collaborative methodology with the country and global team staff members, partners and rights holders involved in the delivery of the Danida HUM programme. A mid-term review team will be established to lead the review, which the external consultant will be part of. It is expected that the external consultant will develop a framework and plan to substantiate identified outcomes in a collaborative manner.

All findings will be triangulated using different sources of information to substantiate outcomes and thereby inform learning, findings and recommendations.

The final methodology for harvesting outcomes and substantiation as well as the analysis will be determined when the harvest is designed. It is expected that the methodology for the substantiation is adjusted by the external consultant once the outcomes have been harvested. The methodology is expected to include the following:

- To harvest outcomes:
 - Desk based literature review
 - Outcome harvesting workshops with partners and rights holders in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon
 - Joint outcome harvesting workshop with ActionAid global and country staff
 - Interviews with key informants
- To substantiate outcomes:
 - Desk based literature review
 - Field visits by external consultants to Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon (methods for data collection to be determined)
 - Online key informant interviews
- To analyse and interpret outcomes:
 - Online or in-person workshop with country and global team

7. Ethics and risks

This review must comply with ActionAid’s policies on safeguarding and other relevant policies. The review report will be shared externally, and the review team should carefully consider any implications this may have for the methodology including the proposed data and information collection methods.

8. Outputs and timeline

The expected outputs are:

1. Review report addressing the review objectives and questions with clear and actionable recommendations (max. 25 pages, excluding annexes)
2. Case studies from across three countries (minimum one per country) as well as the global component (minimum one) that best highlight critical learning, innovative and/or replicable approaches, stories of change or key contributions to ActionAid’s overachieving objectives. The case studies should be selected from learning documentation generated by the review.
3. Presentation of findings and recommendations. The review team will present the report and case studies to the wider Danida HUM team and other federation members if relevant.

The proposed timeline for the entire review is outlined below:

Output	Days estimated	Deadline	Who
Review team established	N/A	15 May 2020	Steering Committee
Harvest design	2 days	31 May 2020	Review team (with support from Helene)

Planning and preparing for outcome harvest workshops	2 days	30 June 2020	Helene with support from review team
Harvest outcomes from documents in preparation for workshops	4 days	30 June 2020	Review team (with support from Helene)
Online outcome harvest workshop: Gaza, Palestine	1 day	30 June 2020	Helene and AAP
Online outcome harvest workshop: Jordan	1 day	30 June 2020	Helene and AA AR
Online outcome harvest workshop: Lebanon	1 day	30 June 2020	Helene and AA AR
Online outcome harvest workshop: IHART	1 day	30 June 2020	Helene and IHART
Outcome harvest with partners and rights holders in Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon	1-5 days	15 July 2020	AAP and AA AR with support from review team as needed
Outcomes selection and description completed	2 days	31 July 2020	Review team
Outcome review and decision gate	1/2 day	31 July 2020	Review team
If it is deemed that there are not enough outcomes to move forward with, a plan for how to address this will be put in motion e.g. more outcome harvesting needed before moving on to substantiation.			
Substantiation of selected outcomes (online or in-person depending on travel restrictions)	2 days per country (+ travel if applicable)	15 September 2020	External consultant
Analyse and interpret findings	2 days	15 September 2020	ActionAid consultant +
Learning workshop for country and global teams	3-5 days TBD	TBD September 2020	ActionAid
Draft report + case studies	5 days	30 September 2020	ActionAid consultant +
Final report + case studies	2 days	15 October 2020	ActionAid consultant +
Adjust programme (if needed)	N/A	15 October 2020	ActionAid
Present report and case studies	1 day	30 October 2020	ActionAid consultant +

A more detailed timeframe and work plan will be developed by the review team as part of the harvest design.

9. Roles and responsibilities

ActionAid Denmark will lead the review with the Humanitarian Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Coordinator being overall responsible for the completion of the review. ActionAid Denmark's Head of International Programme and Policy is overall accountable, with direct line to the Danida HUM Programme Steering Committee. All major outputs such as the ToR and final report are signed off by the Steering Committee.

A review team will be established, comprising of members from all three implementing countries as well as AA Denmark, AA Kenya and IHART. All planning and outputs will be discussed and reviewed by the review team members. This includes the ToR, the harvest design, harvested outcome selected for substantiation, substantiation plan, draft and final reports. If any disagreements emerge within the review team, this will be raised with the Steering Committee.

The review team members selected to be part of the team should have relevant skills and experience that will strengthen the review. An external consultant will also be part of the team with specific responsibility of the substantiation of selected outcomes.

The external consultant is expected to meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated, extensive review experience in international development context
- Demonstrated expertise in developing customised and solid methodologies using outcome harvesting
- Knowledge and experience with qualitative and quantitative approaches such as interviews, focus groups discussions, observations, surveys etc.
- Experience with the key themes related to ActionAid's work
- Ability to work as an interdisciplinary team with complementary skills
- Ability to engage with, listen to and learn from a broad range of stakeholders
- Commitment to protecting confidential information
- Ability to communicate fluently in English, Arabic is highly desirable
- Ability to write concise reports underpinned by rigorous critical analysis of collected data and assembled evidence
- Ability to travel to Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon

The implementing countries are responsible for all logistic arrangements for this review in their respective countries.

10. Budget

The budget for this review is approximately DKK 200,000 (including VAT if applicable), which sits ActionAid Denmark's budget. This includes all costs including in-country and travel costs as well as consultancy fees. A detailed budget will be made as part of the harvest design.

Annex B: Selected Outcomes for Verification

Outcomes selected in the random sample

Code	Thematic Area	Actor	Title
JO-04	Protection	Collective action	Local women-led referral mechanism: WPAG members making referrals of other women
LO-01	Protection	Collective action	3 WPAG members sharing information with other women
PO-03	Localisation	Municipal/ district/ national	Municipalities of southern Gaza allowed the youth-led preparedness and response committees to conduct needs assessment and focus group discussions
PO-06	Resilience	Collective action	Youth-led independent response to COVID-19
PO-07	Accountability	Municipal/ district/ national	Youth-led accountability session
PO-11	Accountability	Municipal/ district/ national	Ministry of Social Development in Gaza assigned female facilitator inside the quarantine center to respond to the gender related issues
GP-18	Accountability	Global	ActionAid as a key ally for Women Network in Humanitarian Accountability Report 2018
GP-20	Multiple	Global	ActionAid and partners invited to share learning on ActionAid's humanitarian signature and the CHS Group verification at learning exchanges

Outcomes for learning and development of case studies

Code	Thematic area	Actor	Title
LO-06	Resilience	Collective action	Emergency committees formed by activists and local organisations in Baalbek and Jeb Janine
PO-01	Accountability	Municipal/ district/ national	3 municipalities in southern Gaza appointed members of the youth-led preparedness and response committees to their review and/or advisory municipality committees
PO-02	Localisation	Municipal/ district/ national	6 young members of the women-led committees were designated as focal points for the Protection Cluster
GP-01	Multiple	Global	Inclusion of gender as a priority in a gender-blind Grand Bargain
GP-09	Resilience	Global	UNDRR global platform 2019 Co-Chair Statement

Annex C: Sampling Methodology for Substantiation

According to the results of the outcome harvest as of 30 September, a total of 49 outcomes have been collected: 28 outcomes from national programmes (Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon) and 21 from the global programme. During a review team learning session in early October, these outcomes were categorised according to their level of significance, thematic area, and major actor of change.

Due to time and feasibility limitations, it is not possible to fully substantiate and analyse all 49 outcomes. In order to test the overall validity of the outcomes harvested and the conclusions and learning drawn from them, a sample is suggested. This will allow for an understanding of the overall quality of the data in the outcome harvest, the extent to which the learning and conclusions generated through the outcome harvest to date are valid, and any additional considerations that are helpful in interpreting and analysing the overall results.

Within the constraints of this activity, a total of 8-12 outcomes are feasible to review, including outcomes selected as part of the sample and outcomes of interest for learning and case study development. This is not a statistically significant sample. In a small population, drawing a statistically significant sample (95% confidence interval) essentially requires sampling all or most of the population. Nevertheless, by collecting new data related to the sampled outcomes and triangulating information from reporting, documentation, and other sources, the sample is expected to be programmatically useful.

The sample frame proposed is a stratified random sample:

- Random sampling introduces variety into outcome harvesting in order to uncover new learning that has not already been captured through internal reviews. Random sampling also provides independence to the analysis process (i.e., to avoid biased selection of the most positive changes and to present a more balanced view of the programme).
- Stratification ensures that the sample will provide insight into the different areas of the HUM theory of change, with pathways explored at different levels of intervention (community, national, and global).
- The resulting sample will be checked for coverage across the thematic areas (localisation, accountability, and protection). If it is too imbalanced, the sample will be regenerated.

In addition to outcomes at the community, national, and global level, a number of outcomes have been generated at the individual level. For the purpose of further substantiation and analysis, it is recommended to exclude these outcomes from the sample for the following reasons:

- With limited time for the analysis, it is necessary to focus on the areas of greatest learning for future programme designs. While individual results reflect important and meaningful changes that the programme has contribute to, they provide less information about the collective action and structural changes that are prioritised in the results framework and theory of change.
- Individual outcomes were only available for 2 of the 3 national projects; it appears teams may have used different approaches to selecting and prioritizing their outcomes.
- It is understood that some verification processes have already been put in place by the implementing partners in order to generate the individual-level outcome descriptions, and thus external validation would reveal relatively less new information.
- A preferred method of verifying individual outcomes is to follow up with the individuals cited in the outcome description. However, additional time and ethical considerations would be needed for following up directly with vulnerable populations. Limitations in travel and in-person interaction due to the COVID pandemic also present logistical constraints.

Other sampling frames were considered during the design of this methodology. Purposive sampling on the outcomes of greatest interest and/or least amount of available information was ruled out due to the potential for introducing bias into the process. Purposive sampling, while convenient, was expected to restrict the extent to which conclusions and recommendations could be drawn from the outcome harvest. Sampling relative to population (number of outcomes) size was also considered. However, it was theorised that the volume of outcomes may be more reflective of teams' abilities to generate outcome descriptions, rather than whether outcomes were occurring at all. As outcome harvesting becomes more integrated into ActionAid's work, this type of sampling could be useful in the future.

Level of intervention / main actor of change	Population	Sample
National – Collection action	10	3
National – Municipal/district/national	8	3
Global	21	2
Total	39	8

Using this approach, the set of outcomes was divided into categories and each outcome was assigned a new identifier. Then, using a random number generator (random.org), outcomes were selected in each category.

Outcome harvesting is a particularly useful tool for learning how and why change occurs. In order to better understand the linkages in the HUM programme theory of change, in addition to the outcomes randomly sampled, 4-5 outcomes will be explored in greater depth. This will generate additional perspectives and documentation on the outcomes of interest in order to develop case studies.

Annex D: Data Collection Tools

Key Informant Interview Guide

INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT (5 minutes)

As you may know, ActionAid/local partner has been implementing the Danida HUM Programme in [country/globally] since 2018. As the activity comes to its mid-way point, we are supporting a review to understand what is working well, what can be improved, and how to best design future activities.

One part of this review is to collect descriptions of important changes that have occurred among individuals, local communities, and local and national stakeholders. Then, the changes are reviewed across the programme for the purpose of learning. We have identified a change that you were involved in or are knowledgeable about, and we'd like to learn more about your perspective.

The results of this interview will be used internally to strengthen the programme. We will keep your name confidential during this process, and your responses will not be used to affect any benefits or services you may receive through the programme. We will develop a summary of the review's findings and will share it back with you.

Do you consent to participate? Do you have any questions?

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS (20 minutes)

I understand you have been engaged with ActionAid/local partners on [*insert general topic of outcome, such as WLPC, youth PRC, COVID response*].

- Can you briefly tell me about your experience with the programme?
- What part of ActionAid/local partner's work has been most effective? Why?
- Have you noticed any challenges with this work? Do you have advice on how the programme can be improved?

REVIEW OUTCOME DESCRIPTION (20 minutes)

As I mentioned, ActionAid has captured some achievements in a detailed format. I'm going to share a short narrative: it describes—from their perspective—the change that occurred, why it is significant, and how ActionAid contributed to this change. [Insert outcome.]

- In general, what do you think about what is written in the description?
- On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much), how accurate do you believe the description is?
- [Probe as needed:]
 - Is anything incorrect?
 - Is there anything missing from this description? Are there any details you would add? Has anything new happened since this was written?
 - What do you think about how ActionAid contributed to this change?
 - Is there anything else, besides the programme, that you think contributed to this change?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND CLOSING (5 minutes)

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the ActionAid programme?

Thank you for your time. Your perspectives are valuable to ActionAid to learn and improve about our programming. We look forward to sharing the results back with you.

Annex E: Harvested outcomes

Danida Humanitarian Programme: Compiled Harvested Outcomes

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Global Programme

Outcome number 1: Inclusion of gender as a priority in a gender-blind Grand Bargain
Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
The Grand Bargain signatories have included gender equality and women’s rights in the agreement. The process started in the first Grand Bargain annual meeting in June 2016 in Geneva and has been consolidated in June 2020 online meeting.
Significance
The outcome is highly significant. The Grand Bargain is an internal change process that is making the international humanitarian system more effective and efficient. There is consensus among signatories that including gender equality and women’s rights considerations is essential for that effectiveness. This is an important step in a change process where women, women’s organisation and prioritisation of women and girls’ issues are embedded in country responses. The Grand Bargain was gender blind when it was launched in May 2016.
Contribution
ActionAid has engaged in the four Grand Bargain annual meetings.
In 2017, ActionAid organised a roundtable, organised/participated in three side events and produced three briefing papers.
In 2017, 2018 and 2019, the women leaders invited to the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment side events made a powerful case on why gender is important in humanitarian action in front of those donors.
In 2020, CARE, ActionAid and UN Women organised consultations in Arabic, French and English with women’s organisations before the 2020 meeting and the messages were taken to the annual meeting through an ActionAid and UN Women interventions in plenary.
UN Women, CARE and the Friends of Gender Group have been contributors for this outcome. Externally, the MeToo movement in 2017 and the INGO sexual exploitation and harassment crisis in 2018 has also pushed donors, UN agencies and international NGO to prioritise gender and power issues.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available:
1: Grand Bargain Annual Meeting Chair’s Summary 2017
2: Grand Bargain Second Annual Meeting notes 2018
3: Grand Bargain Third Annual Meeting notes 2019

Verification tool: Interview with the Grand Bargain Secretariat (Gianmaria Pinto and Tamara Kajtazovic)

Outcome number 2: Gender measurement in the two core commitments indicators of the Grand Bargain workstream

Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2019, the Grand Bargain localisation workstream co-conveners the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC-EDA) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (IFRC) introduced gender measurement in the two core commitments indicators of the workstream, on percentage of partnership or funding agreements that incorporate multi-year institutional capacity strengthening support and of humanitarian funding awarded as directly as possible to women’s rights and women-led organisation, albeit both being optional².

Significance

The outcome is significant. The Grand Bargain is an internal change process that is making the international humanitarian system more effective and efficient.

There is consensus among signatories that including gender equality and women’s rights considerations is essential for that effectiveness, but women’s leadership and support to women and their organisations remains contentious. Having a gender mainstreamed in the core commitments indicators is an important step in this change process. Though there are still only limited organisations actually submitting figures, as it is not mandatory to submit figures. This outcome could have significant impact IF submission of figures become mandatory.

The Grand Bargain and its initial ten workstreams were gender blind when the process was launched in May 2016.

Contribution

ActionAid joined the localisation workstream core commitments working group at the end of the 2018. ActionAid proposed that capacity building of and funding to women’s rights and women-led organisations should be included in the indicator set.

ActionAid also proposed to make the reporting compulsory, though this was not retained. Instead the indicators were adopted as optional as a way to measure progress.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: Localisation workstream: Core Commitment Indicator and Target Result (not available online)

Verification tool: Interview with co-lead localization workstream (David Fisher, International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescent).

Outcome number 3: Localisation workstream released several guidance notes

Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In April 2020, after a long consultative process, the localisation workstream released the guidance note on “gender responsive localisation” and gender was also mainstreamed in the

² The localisation workstream recognised that women’s development is one aspect of gender sensitive approaches and recommended not establishing a specific target for funding to women-led local and national organizations. It was agreed that debate on a target could derail workstream progress and possibly reduce the primary focus of the commitment to increase funding to local actors. However, it was recognised that self-reporting on actual numbers will establish a baseline and naturally incentivize progress if values are low.

other five guidance notes that serve signatories and the humanitarian system to implement localisation in a country response.
Significance
This is significant, but it is an incremental change. The guidance notes demonstrate a willingness to ensure gender is embedded in implementation across all sectors.
Contribution
In 2019, ActionAid, CARE and UN Women worked together to organise three consultations with women rights and women led organisations in Addis Ababa, Amman, and Jakarta in the side of the regional localisation conferences of the workstream.
The participation of women’s organisations to the consultations gave legitimacy to the asks of mainstreaming gender in localisation.
ActionAid pushed having a reference in the “gender responsive localisation” guidance on tracking the funding to local women’s rights and women-led organisation. OCHA opposed to including that reference and after some negotiations, in what is a loss, it was agreed to take the reference out and leave the rest of the text to be approved by the workstream. The agreement was that the issue of funding tracking will be discussed in the workstream in 2020-2021.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available:
1: Guidance Notes
Verification tool: Interview with UN Women (Maria Karadenizli) and CARE (Joe Read).

Outcome number 4: Interagency Steering Committee (IASC) guidance note on COVID-19 response
Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In May 2020, the Interagency Steering Committee produced its first ever guidance on localisation to guide work to global and national humanitarian responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.
Significance
The outcome is relatively significant as it is the first time this has happened. The IASC is the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the UN system. The IASC endorsing a localisation guidance note with gender mainstreamed is part of the process to progress gender and localisation in the Grand Bargain (as the UN agencies are important stakeholders in the Grand Bargain).
Contribution
The initial drafts, produced by IFRC and UNICEF on behalf of IASC, did not have references to the gender impact of the pandemic or the key role that women and women’s organisations play in the response.
UNFPA, as lead of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), was requested to review the guidance note in April 2020. The global coordinator of the AoR asked ActionAid to give input, given that it had led in 2018-2019 the GBV AoR localisation task team. Several lines suggested by ActionAid and UNFPA were retained in the final May 2020 version.
The final version has gender mainstreamed and references the “IASC Interim Guidance: Gender Alert for Covid-19 Outbreak”.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available:
1: Guidance Note
Verification tool: Electronic mails exchanged between ActionAid and UNFPA.

Outcome number 5: GBV AoR governance structure
Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
<p>GBV AoR core and associate membership is currently limited to international organisations as members organisations need to operate in at least two countries. ActionAid launched in the GBV AoR annual meeting in November 2019 the discussion about changing the rules, but no progress has been done since then.</p>
Significance
<p>The outcome is somewhat significant as it is an incremental change towards national NGOs to systematically be co-lead in the national GBV cluster. Having women and women’s organisations meaningfully participating and be in decision-making positions in coordination spaces is a key component to progress gender and localisation.</p>
Contribution
<p>ActionAid was appointed to be a core member of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Area of Responsibility (AoR). ActionAid launched the debate on inclusive membership through the localisation task team. This preliminary debate culminated in the GBV AoR annual meeting in November 2019 with a discussion about changing the membership rules.</p> <p>As part of the GBV AoR localisation task team, ActionAid facilitated that local women leaders presented in three regional workshops, in Amman, Bangkok and Nairobi, the challenges to engage in coordination mechanisms and the way forward in each country. This presence of women’s organisations ensured legitimacy to the requests and contributed to embed gender and localisation in the subcluster and appears in key GBV AoR documents such as the 2019 review of the Handbook for Coordinating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Emergencies.</p>
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
<p>Documentation available: 1: Notes of the GBV Area of Responsibility meeting in November 2019 (not online).Verification tool: Interview with the GBV Area of Responsibility Coordinator (Jennifer Chase, UNFPA).</p>
Outcome number 6: GBV AoR global coordinator has become a localisation and gender champion
Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
<p>The global coordinator, Jennifer Chase, demonstrated that she has become a localisation and gender champion as she showcased via the GBV AoR the gender and localisation coordination work at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW), co-chaired by OCHA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC-EDA), on 3-7 February 2020 in Geneva.</p>
Significance
<p>The outcome is important in order for further changes to be achieved as the Global Coordinator holds a position of power in terms of setting the agenda for the GBV AoR.</p>
Contribution
<p>ActionAid has engaged with the Global Coordinator on a number of occasions as a core member of the GBV AoR. A few is mentioned below:</p> <p>In 2019, ActionAid facilitated, as co-lead with CARE of the GBV AoR localisation task team, that local women leaders presented in three regional workshops, in Amman, Bangkok and</p>

Nairobi, the challenges to engage in coordination mechanisms and the way forward in each country. ActionAid invited Jennifer Chase to the Nairobi workshop, where she participated actively in all sessions discussing issues around coordination with organisations from DR Congo, South Sudan, Somaliland, Nigeria and Kenya.

There are also several GBV AoR core members that also promote localisation and gender in coordination: CARE, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), International Rescue Committee (IRC), UN Women, Women Deliver, International Office for Migration (IOM), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Trocaire.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: [Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week \(HNPW\) 2020.](#)

Verification tool: Interview with the GBV Area of Responsibility Coordinator (Jennifer Chase, UNFPA).

Outcome number 7: Call to Action, gender and localisation

Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2021-2025 has, for the first-time, localisation included in all the six outcomes.

Significance

The outcome is highly significant. The Call to Action is a multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2013 by the United Kingdom and Sweden. The first [Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020](#) prioritised the activities of international stakeholders: donors, international NGO and International Organisations. The only reference to localisation was an indicator that by 2020 50% of the national coordination mechanisms will be co-led by a national actor. The updated Road Map brings added emphasis to partnerships with local organizations, particularly women’s organizations.

Contribution

ActionAid has facilitated women leaders from national women’s organisations being present at all the last three Call to Action annual meetings in Brussels in 2018, Geneva in 2019 and virtually from Ottawa in 2020. They featured in the opening video of the Ottawa virtual meeting.

ActionAid has also been commenting and reviewing directly, due to its prominent and visible role as co-lead of the GBV AoR localisation task team in 2019, in the different drafts of the Road Map and Field Implementation strategy, providing a strong gender and localisation angle.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: [Call to Action Road Map 2021-2015](#)

Verification tool: Interview with Women Refugee Commission (Joan Timoney) – WRC ensured the secretariat when the new Road Map was developed.A

Outcome number 8: National NGO as co-lead in Call for Action working group

Who wrote the outcome: Francisco Yermo – francisco.yermo@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2019, a national NGO, ABAAD (Resource Center for Gender Equality) from Lebanon was announced as co-lead of the Call to Action NGO working group. This is the first time a national NGO has been appointed as co-lead.

Significance

<p>The Call to Action NGO working-group has been co-led since 2013 by international NGO.</p> <p>The election in 2019 of ActionAid as new co-lead has demonstrated that localisation is embedded in the initiative. Call to Action is composed of three Working Groups (States and Donors, International Organisations, and NGOs), a Steering Committee (co-chairs of each Working Group) and a Lead (overseeing the whole process). Denmark will take the lead from Canada in 2021. There are seven national NGOs among the 87 partners.</p>
<p>Contribution</p> <p>ActionAid has been promoting localisation in the NGO working group. The current action plan includes a local engagement and leadership section, which will develop the working group's strategy and vision for local NGO engagement. This is a result of also of the presence of women leaders from women's organisations from Lebanon, Nigeria, and Philippines at the three last Call to Action annual meetings (Brussels in 2018, Geneva in 2019 and virtually from Ottawa in 2020).</p> <p>ActionAid sent an expression of interest at the end of 2019 to co-lead the Call to Action working group with CARE. The candidacy included as key elements to localise the Call to Action governance as well as its implementation at country level. However, when ABAAD presented itself as a candidate, endorsed and supported by NCA (Norwegian Church Aid), ActionAid recognised during the election that it made more sense and was coherent to vote for a national organisation.</p>
<p>Substantiation documentation for this outcome</p> <p>Documentation available:</p> <p>1: ActionAid application to the NGO working group (not available online)</p> <p>Verification tool: Interview with the NGO working group current co-leads CARE (Milkah Kihunah) and ABAAD (Gary Zeitounalian).</p>

<p>Outcome number 9: UNDRR global platform 2019 Co-Chair Statement</p>
<p>Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org</p>
<p>Outcome statement</p> <p>The UNDRR global platform 2019 Co-Chair Statement (May 2019) included the importance of (1) women leadership, (2) localisation and shifting the power, (3) taking a HRBA approach, (4) increased attention required for conflict and protracted crisis contexts, (5) increased need for risk financing.</p>
<p>Significance</p> <p>It is the first time that ActionAid's recommendations had direct impact on UNDRRs Co-Chair summary. Furthermore, it is expected, as per the usual process, that the recommendations outlined in the co-chair's summary will be integrated into the updated United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (in 2030) which guides and measures all UN member government's national disaster risk reduction plans and policies. Therefore, the secondary impact this may have has huge potential to shape government plans in alignment with the lessons learned and recommendations for resilience in protracted crises developed through this programme. Protracted crises never included before as seen as "conflicts".</p>
<p>Contribution</p> <p>ActionAid developed a Call to Action paper which was used to influence UNs Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) at its Global Platform. ActionAid applied to be part of a number of working groups leading up to the platform to guide on the agenda and content of special sessions and who should be invited to speak. A number of ActionAid staff, local partners and women leaders were invited to speak and share their lived experiences. This included teammates, partners and women leaders from Palestine (Gaza), Lebanon and Kenya. The team shared the advocacy messages outlined in the call to action paper in their</p>

own words alongside their own lived experiences at panels, from plenary audiences and the main event stage.

The call to action paper was also given to key representatives at UNDRR, GNDR and national governments. GNDR supported ActionAid to also communicate our call to action to high level UN members. This included the executive director including our call for local women leadership in the opening statement of the global platform.

In total, ActionAid attended the event with a large group of 25 representatives including women from affected communities.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

- 1: ActionAid Call to Action for the Global Platform 2019 (not available online).
- 2: [Chair's Statement of the Global Platform 2019](#).

Verification tool: Interview with UNDRR (Irian Zodrow)

Outcome number 10: UNDRR requested ActionAid to formally support them with their work on Financing for Development

Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In March 2020, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) requested ActionAid to formally support them with their work on Financing for Development (FfD) to include a call for increased DRR financing and a focus on gender and women led DRR finance.

Significance

This is significant as this is the first time that ActionAid has been asked to support UNDRR in this capacity. It takes ActionAid's relationship from advocating to UNDRR for local women lead DRR to advising and supporting UNDRR in their advocacy within the UN system.

This is unique opportunity to influence the sector standard for gender responsive financing for disaster risk reduction and development more widely.

Contribution

This is a direct result of ActionAid's successful applications to co-organise events and sessions at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, bringing women leaders to speak in many instances at the UNDRR global platform meeting and sharing ActionAid's call to action paper developed for the GP DRR 2019.

ActionAid gave the UNDRR key contacts after the sessions and followed up via online meetings and emails. This led to UNDRR asking for ActionAid's support on influencing the UN FFD process which falls under the SDG's and links the humanitarian and disaster risk work to longer term development.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

- 1: Electronic mail from UNDRR to ActionAid.
- 2: **Verification tool:** Interview with UNDRR (Irian Zodrow)

Outcome number 11: GNDR 2020 - 2025 strategy included Arabic as formal language as well as local leadership /gender/ accountability

Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In May 2020, the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) included in their [2020 - 2025 strategy that](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabic has been adopted as a formal working language, which has been an important focus for our advocacy efforts in order to meaningfully link the group’s work with our in-country implementation and local partners in Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon. • The GNDR’s strategy now include (1) local level leadership, (2) promoting gender equality and (3) accountability to affected communities.
<p>Significance</p> <p>This is of significance as the GNDR holds an important position in INGO disaster risk reduction. GNDR is the coordinating body for all INGO and NGO’s on DRR and leads advocacy on this from (I)NGOs to UN bodies and national governments across the whole globe. It is likely to influence a series of other INGOs to include these three principles in their interventions. GNDR’s strategy influences all of its network member organisations on policy, advocacy and practical DRR and resilience work. This includes over 1,300 organisations working in 120 countries.</p> <p>This is the first time ActionAid has been asked to provide guidance to GNDR on their strategy. It is also the first time we have seen a correlation between the 2018 GNDR local summit, where the Lebanon team, local partners and women leader and Syrian refugee spoke on panel about resilience in protracted crises from the Syrian refugee crises.</p>
<p>Contribution</p> <p>ActionAid successfully applied to run a session on women led resilience in protracted crises at GNDR’s 2018 global summit in Malaysia, which included women from Lebanon (ActionAid Lebanon team, local partner and Syrian refugee) speaking on the Syrian refugee crises. ActionAid facilitated the use of an Arabic translator as GNDR did not organise for Arabic translation (just Spanish and French).</p> <p>GNDR then asked for ActionAid’s support on including women leadership in their work, championing localisation and encouraging protracted crises contexts, particularly in the Arabic speaking world to actively participate and be included in global DRR advocacy spaces.</p> <p>ActionAid kept in close contact with GNDR after this event and shared their impact report through a call. ActionAid then asked GNDR to support ActionAid’s advocacy strategy at the 2019 UNDRR global platform.</p> <p>Following this GNDR asked ActionAid to review and comment their new strategy. This was done through email and a phone call meeting. ActionAid included the importance of making sure women leadership, localisation, protracted crises were included in the new strategy through written feedback in formal documents and through email. ActionAid also requested Arabic to become a working language for GNDR so the Arab world could meaningfully engage.</p>
<p>Substantiation documentation for this outcome</p> <p>Documentation available: 1: GNDR Strategy 2020-2025 (see link in the outcome statement section)</p> <p>Verification tool: Interview with GNDR (Valeria Drigo)</p>
<p>Outcome number 12: GNDR invited local women leaders to speak at global event</p>
<p>Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org</p>
<p>Outcome statement</p> <p>In May 2018, GNDR asked ActionAid to support local women leaders and team mates to share their lived experience of women led DRR in protracted crises contexts at a global event</p>
<p>Significance</p> <p>This outcome means that GNDR has recognized ActionAid as a leader on local women led DRR and resilience.</p>

GNDR is a (I)NGO network on Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience. It is a global network of over 1,300 organisations working in 120 countries. This was the first time ActionAid was asked to support local women leaders to organize a session and speak at their global platform in front of its members. These sessions and feedback fed into their new global strategy which has the potential to guide all its members policy and advocacy and programmatic work on DRR and resilience.

Contribution

ActionAid shared the DANIDA HUM programme and draft new chapter for the federation’s resilience handbook on resilience in protracted crises context with GNDR via an email and call to ask for reflections and feedback. GNDR then invited ActionAid to organise a session at their global platform in 2018 to share this work. ActionAid organised and held the only all women panel at the GNDR with ActionAid’s Resilience Advisor, ActionAid Lebanon Programme Manager, ActionAid Lebanon partner and ActionAid Lebanon women leader (Syrian Refugee).

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

- 1: Electronic mails from GNDR to ActionAid.

Verification tool: Interview with GNDR (Valeria Drigo).

Outcome number 13: UNDRR Stakeholder engagement mechanism

Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In December 2019, UNDRR asked ActionAid to formally engage in the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM)

Significance

This is the first time ActionAid has been asked to be part of this system. This opens the opportunity for ActionAid to more formally advise UNDRR going forward on the updates of the Sendai Framework for Action and UNDRR work.

Contribution

ActionAid actively participated in leading and co-organising sessions at UNDRR’s global platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva 2019. ActionAid’s local women leaders, partners and staff from the global team, Palestine, Lebanon and Kenya team made successful applications to lead sessions and co-organise high level working groups, spoke on panels and stages in sessions at the event. ActionAid authored a call to action for the UNDRR GP 2019 and shared this both in person, in these events and over email.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

- 1: E Electronic mail from UNDRR to ActionAid.

Verification tool: Interview with UNDRR (Irina Zodrow).

Outcome number 14: GNDR appointed ActionAid to be civil society’s official UK focal point on DRR and resilience

Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In April 2020 GNDR asked ActionAid to apply and then successfully appointed ActionAid to be civil society’s official UK focal point on DRR and resilience and sit on the European Advisory Board for GNDR for the period of 2020 - 2024

Significance

This is the first time ActionAid has been appointed onto a technical advisory board with GNDR and been asked to be the UK civil society focal point. ActionAid International will now officially lead the UK civil society’s DRR and resilience advocacy and links with UNDRR, GNDR

and the UK Government. This has the potential to influence all of the UK based civil society, the UK government and wider European technical board.
Contribution
ActionAid led a session on local women leadership and DRR in protracted crises at GNDR's 2018 global summit. ActionAid kept close connections with GNDR sharing advocacy messages and progress in programming through regular emails and calls with GNDR. ActionAid formally fed written advice and comments to GNDR's new strategy process. Then after being asked to apply, ActionAid wrote an application statement arguing why ActionAid's Resilience Advisor should be the UK focal point for civil society working on DRR and resilience and be the link between government, civil society and UN and GNDR platforms. The statement went to a formal election process where members and GNDR voted ActionAid into office at UK focal point.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available: 1: Electronic mail from GNDR to ActionAid
Verification tool: Interview with UNDRR (Valeria Drigo).

Outcome number 15: Syrian refugee lost her refugee status in Lebanon due to attending global event
Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
ActionAid's local women leader and Syrian refugee lost her refugee status in Lebanon which meant she was eligible to stay in Lebanon visa free.
Significance
This negatively impacted the relationship between ActionAid Lebanon and the government authorities, caused uncertainty for our Syrian refugee and a financial burden on ActionAid to sponsor the refugee's visa status going forward.
Contribution
ActionAid supported the Syrian refugee to leave Lebanon and attend a global conference to speak and share her experiences in Malaysia in 2018 (GNDR Global Summit). Despite getting the legal visa documents and assurance via email and documentation that this would not affect her status, when the Syrian refugee returned to Lebanon the government decided to remove her refugee status unless ActionAid sponsored her. It was stated in an official document that this was because she had left the country on ActionAid business.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available: 1: Internal ActionAid electronic mail.
Verification tool: Interview with ActionAid Lebanon (Hadia Ghadban).

Outcome number 16: UNDRR to include in their advocacy the demand to include finance for gender responsive and women-led disaster risk reduction
Who wrote the outcome: Rebecca Murphy - Rebecca.Murphy@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
At the ECOSOC Finance for Development (FfD) follow up meeting in 2020, it was agreed by UNDRR to include in their advocacy the demand to include finance for gender responsive and women-led disaster risk reduction.
Significance
It is the first time that UNDRR/Disaster risk reduction issue is involved in the FFD space.
Contribution
See above
Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:
 1 Notes from the ECOSOC Finance for Development (FfD) follow up meeting in 2020.
Verification tool: Interview with UNDRR (Irina Zodrow).

Outcome number 17: CHS Alliance released a paper outlining their commitments to ensure local and national actors are better engaged in the planning, delivery, and accountability of humanitarian action

Who wrote the outcome: Clare Bleasdale - clare.bleasdale@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In April 2019, the CHS Alliance released a paper outlining their commitments to ensure local and national actors are better engaged in the planning, delivery, and accountability of humanitarian action.

Significance

This demonstrates the CHS Alliance’s own commitments to localisation both within the Alliance and the broader membership. Only 35% of the CHS Alliance members are local organisations and the CHS Alliance is now committed to increasing the number of National NGO members by 20%.

It will do this through in country meetings for national and local organisations (which ActionAid promoted); reduced membership fees; ensure that national members are given a substantial voice within the Alliance and are able to contribute meaningfully to the CHS Alliance’s decisions (which ActionAid promoted); foster dialogue between international and national agencies during CHS Alliance events and activities (which ActionAid promoted).

Contribution

Following a competitive election, Makena Mwobobia as Executive Director of ActionAid Kenya, was selected to sit on the CHS Alliance Board in December 2018. Makena was elected following a promise to explore how the CHS can ensure that women are heard and how the Standard can support their active engagement and transformative leadership within the system.

As a CHS Alliance Board member, Makena sat in the sub-committee to look at the CHS Alliance commitments to localisation and which produced the localisation paper. The paper was circulated in draft for so that ActionAid had the opportunity to input into the localisation paper.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: [CHS Alliance Accountability 2018 report \(chapter on localization\) as well as localization paper \(not online\).](#)

Verification tool: Interview with CHS Alliance Secretariat (Bonaventure Sokpoh).

Outcome number 18: ActionAid as a key ally for Women Network in Humanitarian Accountability Report 2018

Who wrote the outcome: Clare Bleasdale - clare.bleasdale@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

ActionAid is mentioned as a key ally to Tangelbei Women’s network as per the foreword of the Humanitarian Accountability Report 2018 [released 2019]

Significance

It was significant that the ActionAid was mentioned in the foreword, and that the role of women and girls as leaders in humanitarian action was highlighted in the foreword, and throughout the Humanitarian Accountability Report.

Contribution

As included in the foreword of the report, the Tangelbei Women’s Network is a longstanding partner of ActionAid. Amina Labarakwe is a member of the Tangelbei Women’s Network – Churo Chapter, Tangelbei in Baringo County, Kenya. Amina delivered the foreword to the [2018 Humanitarian Accountability Report](#). As per Amina’s opening message to the 2018 report, the key role of the community in responding to disasters, especially women and girls, has become more and more effective.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: [CHS Alliance Accountability 2018 report](#).

Verification tool: Interview with CHS Alliance Secretariat (Bonaventure Sokpoh).

Outcome number 19: CHS Alliance invited ActionAid to share learning in their newsletter

Who wrote the outcome: Clare Bleasdale - clare.bleasdale@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

ActionAid’s Humanitarian Signature and commitment to Commitment 4 was featured in CHS newsletter and website:

- January 2019: Improving Accountability by empowering women and vulnerable communities.
- January 2019: Women need to be empowered to make their voices heard
- January 2019: Affected communities are the ones who truly understand their needs
- August 2019: World Humanitarian Day. ActionAid First Group to Achieve Independent Verification

Links to the articles are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Significance

The space given to ActionAid was important to influence the CHS Alliance members and wider sector. These articles were important steps in a larger change process to ensure quality and accountable humanitarian action with the role of women’s leaders central to this.

These spaces focused on ensuring the voice, participation, representation, and influence of people affected by crisis the change the humanitarian architecture.

The CHS Alliance is a global network committed to making aid work better for people. It has over 160 member organisations with ActionAid being a key member.

Contribution

ActionAid were significantly involved in this outcome. The various articles included interviews, examples and learnings from ActionAid and partners to demonstrate ActionAid’s humanitarian signature.

Ahead of the publication and circulation of the various articles, ActionAid worked closely with the CHS Alliance to promote ActionAid’s approach and were successfully allocated space at pivotal moments – such as World Humanitarian Day – to share learning and advocate for a more accountable, women led system.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: See links to the articles in the “Outcome statement” section.

Verification tool: Interview with CHS Alliance Secretariat (Bonaventure Sokpoh).

Outcome number 20: ActionAid and partners invited to share learning on ActionAid’s humanitarian signature and the CHS Group verification at learning exchanges

Who wrote the outcome: Clare Bleasdale - clare.bleasdale@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

ActionAid and partners invited to share learning on ActionAid’s humanitarian signature and the CHS Group verification at CHS Alliance learning exchanges in November 2018, July 2019 and October 2020.
Significance
The outcome were steps towards a larger change process. ActionAid were invited to share learning and best practice of accountability in humanitarian action and used this opportunity to invite local organisations and networks to share learning alongside.
Contribution
The DEC co-hosted the learning exchange with the CHS Alliance in November 2018. Ahead of both learning exchanges, ActionAid remained in close contact with the DEC and the CHS Alliance. ActionAid were asked to lead sessions at the various learning events.
At 2018 event, the Executive Director of HQAI specifically highlighted ActionAid’s innovative approach to the CHS verification process. ActionAid also hosted a table discussion on our Accountability practices in the Rohingya Refugee Response.
At the 2019 event, ActionAid and partners led sessions on best practice and accountability mechanisms drawing on learning from the Danida HUM programme in Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine to promote women’s leadership to the 91 participants. Mercyline Kadii George, Chairperson of Sauti Ya Wanawake Magarini, an ActionAid Partner, delivered a speech on the importance of supporting women’s leaders for effective and accountable humanitarian response. Following the event, ActionAid and the CHS Alliance planned to deliver a regional event in 2020 but this has been delayed due to Covid 19.
In October 2020, the Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN) and ActionAid lead a session on ‘Feminist Approaches to Accountable Humanitarian Action’. It was proposed and accepted that the session was moderated by a member of the FHN from the Global South. The Feminist Humanitarian Network is not part of the CHS Alliance and is the only non-member to host a session at the annual learning event in 2020.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available:
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1: CHS Exchange event in Amman 2019 / CHS Exchange event in Bangkok 2019
2: CHS Exchange event virtual 2020
Verification tool: Interview with Executive Director of HQAI, Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (Pierre Hauselmann).

Outcome number 21: Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action guidance citing ActionAid/Restless Development report
Who wrote the outcome: Kirsten Hjørnholm kis@ms.dk
Outcome statement
In 2019, the Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action, an entity established in 2016 at the World Humanitarian Summit and made up of UN agencies, countries and NGOs, decided to refer to the ActionAid/Restless Development report “Shifting Power to Young People” as best practice in terms of “empowering young women in humanitarian and protracted crises” in their inter-agency youth programming guidelines currently under consideration by IASC to be acknowledged at best practice guidelines for the sector.
Significance
The outcome is of minor significance, as the reference to AA/RD report is only a small part of the inter-agency guidelines (Annex 5). However, if the guidelines as expected are adopted as IASC guidelines, then AA/RDs approach to youth work could stand as best practice for the

entire humanitarian sector and influence future programming and benefitting young people affected by crises.

Contribution:

Between November 2018 and April 2019, Restless Development undertook four streams of research to identify lessons and findings for good practice.

- A global online consultation using a survey that reached across 56 countries via ActionAid and Restless Development’s networks to capture views and voices from over 300 young people on their experience of living and working in emergencies and protracted crisis settings.
- Facilitated a series of focus group workshops with a total of 84 young people to reflect in-depth on their experiences in three distinct humanitarian contexts – the Ebola response in Sierra Leone, earthquake response in Nepal, and the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan.
- Conducted desk-based research of existing ActionAid and partners’ resources including evaluations and case studies shared by nine ActionAid members and ActionAid’s International Secretariat.
- Conducted key informant interviews with 12 ActionAid staff and three external partners to gather further knowledge from inside and outside the organisation on their experience of working with young people in humanitarian settings, as well as relevant insights from existing work to support women’s leadership, rights and protection in emergencies.
- Hosted a meeting with 21 ActionAid countries to hear experiences and get feedback.

This resulted in the report, which was then shared with the members of the Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action who then independently decided to reference parts in the inter-agency youth programming guidelines.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

- 1: IASC Guidelines on Working *with* and *for* Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises (forthcoming)

Verification tool: Interview with the Compact co-leads (Danielle Engel, UNFPA in New York, and Marcel Stefanik, International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in Geneva).

Palestine

Outcome number 1: 3 municipalities in southern Gaza appointed members of the youth-led preparedness and response committees to their review and/or advisory municipality committees

Who wrote the outcome: Sukaina Khalawi - Sukaina.Khalawi@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2019, 3 municipalities in southern Gaza appointed members of the youth-led preparedness and response committees to their review and/or advisory municipality committees, a total of 9 young women and 1 young man were appointed.

Significance

This is truly significant to have political independent youth and women penetrate these political spaces as municipal committees (the municipal committees contribute to the municipal council decision making process) are usually only represented by “elected” or appointed members, usually determined by political affiliation.

Contribution

Trainings provided by ActionAid to members of WLPCs and PRCs capacitated them on protection, needs assessment, social accountability, leadership to design and develop protection and preparedness plans, and initiative design.

Youth were also supported to share and discuss their plans of interventions with municipalities, local communities, and stakeholders in order to identify the needs of the communities to make sure that their plans of actions are matching and meeting these needs. Since the beginning of the HUM program Wefaq worked closely with the municipalities and have signed MOUs with them to facilitate the work of the youth and support them in implementing their plans of action smoothly.

Wefaq has also shared the list of names of the women led protection and preparedness and response committee members with the municipalities so they then can approach them easily and facilitate their access to the restricted areas to conduct their humanitarian actions.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

- 1: Emails between Wefaq and municipalities about correspondents, and concepts
- 2: Photos of committees' action and meetings inside municipalities
- 3: Documentation video organized and published by Action Aid Palestine highlight the committees' actions in their communities in partnership with municipalities
- 4: Excel sheet from the municipalities including names and phone numbers of the committee members who are now members in the advisory committee.

Verification tool: Online calls with the municipalities and the youth members

Outcome number 2: 6 young members of the women-led committees were designated as focal points for the Protection Cluster

Who wrote the outcome: Sukaina Khalawi - Sukaina.Khalawi@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2019, 6 young members of the women-led committees were designated as focal points for the Protection Cluster providing them with the opportunity to influence the cluster agenda and steer INGO interventions by sharing their community-based intervention plans and reports.

Significance

This is the first time that members of affected communities are designated as focal points in Southern Gaza. This is a change in access to the cluster coordination system.

Contribution

ActionAid held several one-to-one meetings with relevant people at the cluster coordination, and secured access to 5 meetings by 1 young woman and 1 young man community members. At first, the protection cluster coordinator did not find it necessary for community members to attend the meeting, but instead they should be represented by NGOs. ActionAid staff persisted that it was necessary for the community members to attend and succeeded in this.

In 2018 PNGO developed a fact about youth and women participation in the decision making in the humanitarian actions. PNGO presented this fact sheet in a central workshop targeting women, INGOs, human rights organizations and clusters members. PNGO conducted three focus groups in partnership with ActionAid, with youth and women, national NGOs and INGOS and the cluster system, PNGO conducted several meetings the clusters about youth participation.

ActionAid conducted a training about HRBA and IHL, which provides new skills for the committees' members around evidence-based advocacy and stakeholders analysis, and in turn facilitates their access to new tools and channels. In addition to another two trainings, one on participatory vulnerability assessment, and another on beneficiary's registration which prepare the members to become key informant focal points in the communities that the cluster can relate to in time of emergencies.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: Emails between Wefaq and Cluster coordinator

2: Photos of committees' member participation

3: Protection cluster contingency plan that include 6 focal point of Wefaq committees' member

Verification tool: Interview with the cluster coordinator.

Outcome number 3: Municipalities of southern Gaza allowed the youth-led preparedness and response committees to conduct needs assessment and focus group discussions

Who wrote the outcome: Sukaina Khalawi - Sukaina.Khalawi@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2019, the municipalities of southern Gaza allowed the youth-led preparedness and response committees to conduct needs assessment and focus group discussions in border areas in Rafah and Khan Yonis despite the high tense security situation during this period of time.

Significance

Needs assessments and focus group discussion is forbidden to any organisation to conduct in these areas, as instructed by local authorities in Gaza. The recognition of the municipality and the legitimate identity youth-led preparedness and response committees have led to dismantled barriers relating to their movement and access to the most impoverished households at border area. The trust of the municipality in the youth capability and ability to lead the change and believe in their role as key change actor has impacted the decision-making process within the municipality around the importance of youth participation.

Contribution

ActionAid has dedicated financial and technical support and resources to facilitate the youth meetings with the municipalities through which they share their plans of actions and initiatives. Wefaq has supported and coordinated the meetings between the preparedness and response committees and municipalities through the development of solid communication channels with the relevant stakeholders and municipalities.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

1: Photos

2: Mails correspondence between Wefaq and the municipalities (Rafah and Khuza'a)

3: Needs assessment report.

Verification tool: Phone interviews or/ and online meetings with municipalities.

Outcome number 4: Women led protection and preparedness and response committees independently responded to the emergency situation

Who wrote the outcome: WEFAQ/Samaher Abuzayed/ samazayed48@gmail.com

Outcome statement

In November 2019, in response to the latest aggression against civilians in southern Gaza, the women led protection and preparedness and response committees independently responded to the emergency situation through data collection on the affected population and the damage and information sharing with the relevant municipalities in order to provide immediate assistance to the impacted families, and through the implementation of psychological and recreational activities targeting most affected women and children.

Significance

This is the first time such intervention is designed and fully managed independent by the committees without any technical or financial support from ActionAid and its partners. In addition to the fact that youth has demonstrated the capability of networking and coordination with relevant stakeholders as independent entity without any support from ActionAid.

<p>Contribution</p> <p>ActionAid and Wefaq have involved 60 persons (52 members 3 women-led protection committees and 8 members of WEFAQ team) in 3 round training. They increased capacity to analyse their context, identify power structures, identify priority actions to analyze protection threats, identify gaps that magnify protection threats and GBV.</p> <p>ActionAid has trained 22 members of the committees HRBA, Participatory Vulnerability Assessment, team building, social accountability, participatory facilitation, learning circle, group discussions, training tools, theory of change among other facilitation and presentation skills acquired by the participants.</p> <p>The networking between Wefaq and the municipalities has paved the way for more smooth and sufficient cooperation between the committees and the municipalities.</p> <p>The youth-led initiatives have also increased the self-confidence and social responsibility among the committees' members where they feel more accountable towards their communities.</p>
<p>Substantiation documentation for this outcome</p> <p>Documentation available:</p> <p>1: Photos</p> <p>2: Excel sheet of municipalities' staff and member's numbers</p> <p>Verification tool: Conduct online meetings with both the youth and the municipalities.</p>
<p>Outcome number 5: Rafah and Khuzaa municipalities provided their technical support to the community committees</p>
<p>Who wrote the outcome: WEFAQ/Samaher Abuzayed/ samazayed48@gmail.com</p>
<p>Outcome statement</p> <p>In 2019, Rafah and Khuz municipality representatives and staff provided their technical support to the women-led protection committees and the preparedness and response committees in order to establish the street floodlight initiative and bus stations.</p>
<p>Significance</p> <p>Only in very few cases have the municipalities provided such an in depth and through technical and expertise support for community initiatives. In this case, the municipalities have recruited and dedicated all technical and human resources needed for the committees to implement their initiatives, which shows change in their attitudes and perceptions towards youth. The municipalities engineers helped the committees to select the areas in need of intervention and recommended the quality of materials used for waiting umbrellas stations.</p> <p>The coordination between the women-Led protection committees, preparedness and response committees is positively progressing, and reflect more harmonization and complementarity among the committees.</p>
<p>Contribution</p> <p>Seed funding has been provided by ActionAid and WEFAQ to the women-led protection committees, preparedness, and response committees to implement their priority actions.</p> <p>The women-led protection committees, preparedness and response committees' plans have been shared and discussed with relevant stakeholders to strengthen the recognition of the value of women and youth leadership in protection, preparedness and response actions, in addition to ensure the prioritized protection and preparedness actions inform future programming and advocacy initiatives either through local actors or international humanitarian organizations.</p>
<p>Substantiation documentation for this outcome</p> <p>Documentation available:</p>

1: Photos
 2: Initiative plan of action
 3: Social media coverage
 4: Emails correspondents between Wefaq and the municipalities (Rafah and Khuza'a) in relation to their support to the committees
 5: Documentation video organized and published by Action Aid-Palestine
Verification tool: Phone call with the municipalities and online interview with the youth

Outcome number 6: Youth-led independent response to COVID-19

Who wrote the outcome: Wefaq

Outcome statement

In 2020, 16 youth members of the Preparedness and Response and Women led protection committees (PRC and WLPC) in Rafah and Khan-Younis have independently and proactively led actions within their localities to reduce the threats of COVID 19 crisis by distributing hygienic gel and hand gloves to the essential drivers and facilitating recreational activities aimed to relief children psychological stresses during the lockdown.

Significance

This is truly significant as the PRCs and WLPC in Rafah and Khan Younis were among the first to respond to Covid 19 crisis in public spheres. With the crisis being new to the Palestinian context and people being very afraid and confused about the effect of the pandemic, only very few actions were taken by formal bodies.

The PRCs initiative is unique as at that time it was the only response focuses on public areas and not only families in quarantine. Youth were able to influence the CBOs programs, in turn CBOs were very supportive to youth and facilitated their actions with all logistics and technical support needed. Most of the CBOs and civil society organizations were closed during this period of time, however believing in the role of youth has shown high level of cooperation and solidarity with the communities.

Contribution

ActionAid and partners have established and supported the PRCs and WLPC as well as developed a risk register related to Covid 19 and shared it with all of them. Accordingly, Wefaq has discussed the concerns related to Covid 19 with the PRCs, and Wefaq protection officers.

Representatives from the protection and preparedness committees were attending the protection cluster and the GBV sub cluster online meetings, which has ensured coordination by informing the coordination members about the community needs and concerns and in turn they designed and carried out their own interventions as independent committees to respond to these needs.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

Documentation available:

- 1: Photos
- 2: Video.

Verification tool: Online meeting with the committees

Outcome number 7: Youth-led accountability session

Who wrote the outcome: Wefaq

Outcome statement

In 2020, 24 (10 females and 14 males) WLPCs and PRCs members from Rafah and Khan Younis conducted online accountability session for the South Quarantine Centers Services Officer and the Head of the Directorate of Social Development Development/Rafah to discuss the services

<p>provided by the government, the extent of considering the core humanitarian standards in the quarantines, how to consider the gender sensitivity in the quarantines facilities, how they distribute people into quarantines and based on what criteria, and how they avoid violation of rights in the quarantine's centers.</p>
<p>Significance</p> <p>This session is very unique and important as it included very critical issues related to human rights during emergencies, and has addressed very important topics related to people's dignity and privacy, fair access to services and above all equal opportunities in line with CHS.</p> <p>Youth led this session independently and it is their first-time conducting accountability sessions.</p>
<p>Contribution</p> <p>The capacity building programme for women-led protection committees and preparedness and response committees has been ongoing since the committees were established in 2019. There has been a strong emphasis on holding authorities and INGOs accountable as well as leading initiatives and advocacy campaigns.</p>
<p>Substantiation documentation for this outcome</p> <p>Documentation available:</p> <p>1: Communications between Wefaq and the Ministry of Social Development</p> <p>2: Link of Zoom meeting (video recording) is available, and Wefaq` social media coverage.</p>
<p>Outcome number 8: 68 GBV survivors with enhanced sustainable access to income</p>
<p>Who wrote the outcome: Ahmed Zaqout- Maa'n center – a.zaqout@maan-ctr.org</p>
<p>Outcome statement</p> <p>By December 2019, a total of 68 GBV survivors (80% of women who received small-scale businesses in 2018 and 2019) from Rafah and Khan Younis are generating an average income of 1000 NIS monthly.</p>
<p>Significance</p> <p>Almost 80% of the small-scale businesses established in 2018 and 2019 are still operating and generating an average income of 1000 NIS monthly despite the deteriorating economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip. The HUM programme has allowed a total of 84 GBV survivors from very marginalized areas in Rafah and Khan Younis to obtain a sustainable access to income by managing small-scale livelihood projects, which reduced their vulnerability, allowed them to restore self-confidence, and increased their acceptance in the community.</p> <p>This is very good result as per inputs received. Based on Ma'an past experience from the different relevant projects, the success rate in the economic empowerment projects is not usually this high in complex context similar to Gaza with an on-going protracted crisis for more than 14 years now.</p>
<p>Contribution</p> <p>In 2018 and 2019, MA'AN Development Centre implemented project activities related to economic resilience, which focused on promoting the capacities of 84 vulnerable GBV survivors in Rafah and Khan Younis to manage economic empowerment initiatives. This included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting training for 111 women on how to establish and manage small-scale business. - Developing business plans: the business plan development sessions have increased the capacity of the women to plan for, implement, and manage small-scale livelihood projects that are intended to increase their income resources, and this enhance their economic resilience. - Micro-grants to establish small-scale projects: A total of 84 GBV survivors were supported with micro-grants (1500-2000 USD) to establish small-scale livelihood

<p>projects related to animal husbandry and food production, in addition to diverse small enterprises such as beauty salons and educational centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site coaching visits: A total of 252 on-site coaching visit were conducted for 84 women, where each woman has received a total of 3 coaching visits. - Training subsidies: A total of 8 women who have implemented small enterprises such as beauty salons were provided with training subsidies (400-500 USD) to join TVET organizations for the purpose of addressing their gaps in the technical area of the project.
<p>Substantiation documentation for this outcome Documentation available: 1: Financial records of the project 2: Field report from the finance and technical expert 3: Consultant assessment report for the years 2018-2019 small projects. Verification tool: Face to face interviews with the women.</p>

<p>Outcome number 9: Oxfam dedicated to fill funding gaps</p>
<p>Who wrote the outcome: PNGO - Fida Senwar</p>
<p>Outcome statement In January 2020, Oxfam has dedicated an amount of USD30,300 to respond to the funding gap in eastern Gaza Borders area to support 101 farmers to overcome the occupation related violations and the damage affected the farmers and their lands.</p>
<p>Significance This is very significant and can be also highlighted as a break through change. This has been brought about through influencing stakeholders and funding agencies' agendas using evidence gathered through local community-led committees. PNGO has pushed the funding agencies to respond to the critical community needs in this overlooked geographical area, which is marginalized and vulnerable being border areas.</p>
<p>Contribution PNGO has produced a fact sheet paper about the funding trends in Gaza and the need for urgent revision of all the funding organizations policies and focus. This included providing concrete data on the areas and sectors most in need of support. PNGO has organized a field trip to the Eastern area of Gaza which a number of INGOs, funding agencies, donors, working groups and clusters representatives have participated in.</p>
<p>Substantiation documentation for this outcome Documentation available: 1: Field report 2: List of farmers received the fund Verification tool: Face to face interviews with the farmers, and face to face to Oxfam related focal point.</p>

<p>Outcome number 10: 8 CSOs bank accounts reopened due to lobbying by PNGOs</p>
<p>Who wrote the outcome? PNGO Fida Senwar</p>
<p>Outcome statement In 2019-2020, PNGO were able to support 8 CSOs with reopening their bank accounts by lobbying the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah.</p>

Significance
The bank accounts had been closed due to pressure from the Ministry of Interior and long-term complicated procedures. This has caused severe limitations on the CSOs work, leading to closure of a number of organisations. For 8 CSOs to be able to resume their work is very important for civil society in Gaza and for the community as community need is very high.
Contribution
PNGO produced a fact sheet about the impact of limitations and closure of bank accounts of some civil society organizations. PNGO also facilitated a meeting with the prime minister to discuss the fact sheet.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available: 1: Fact sheet 2: Bank account statement Verification tool: Face-to-face interviews with the CSOs and face to face meeting with PNGO representatives

Outcome number 11: Ministry of Social Development in Gaza assigned female facilitator inside the quarantine center to respond to the gender related issues
Who wrote the outcome: <i>PNGO Fida Senwar</i>
Outcome statement
In 2020, the Ministry of Social Development in Gaza decided to assign female facilitator inside the quarantine center to respond to the gender related issues as around 1600 women are in quarantine centers
Significance
This is very significant as PNGO was able to influence the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) plans and push them to give more attention to women and gender related concerns during crisis. More importantly, it is very critical for women in quarantine themselves as their needs were not met. It is too soon to assess what change this has had on the women in quarantine.
Contribution
PNGO members and the women sector within PNGO conducted round table meeting with the MoSD to discuss the situation of women in quarantine centers and during the meeting the MoSD has stated that they will follow up on this issue more in depth and will hire focal point to support women in particular.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
Documentation available: 1: Round table report 2: Media coverage Verification tool: Face to face interviews with the MoSD, and face to face meeting with PNGO representatives, and phone calls with women in quarantine centre.

Lebanon

Outcome number 1 – 3 WPAG members sharing information with other women
Who wrote the outcome: Malak Sharaneq - Malak.Sharaneq@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
During the last quarter in 2019, 3 women from WPAGs members in Jeb Janine sought support via What App for another woman who needed medical help for her daughter.
Significance

The women are using their own network to address issues that they encounter. This demonstrates ability to act as they take lead to find a way to support and help others in their social networks.
Contribution
Since the beginning of 2019, ActionAid has worked with this group of women to build within the group and to create social network and cohesion through safe space center activities. ActionAid has provided training in communication, facilitation and leadership and protection. The 3 WPAG women has also facilitated training for other women in the AA safe spaces.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 2 – Prevention of early marriage
Who wrote the outcome: Mushera Assaf - Mushera.Assaf@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In 2019, in Baalbek and Jeb Janine, two mothers and a young woman prevented early marriages in their close family by convincing their husbands to not force their daughters to marry by informing them about the negative consequences of early marriage.
Significance
This is two different Syrian families, one located in Baalbek and one in Jeb Janine. This is the first time that a direct link between the safe space activities and prevention of early marriage has occurred. The norms and social traditions as well as negative coping mechanisms led to early marriage of underaged girls. Yet in these instances the mothers and a young woman were able to convince their family to reconsider early marriage by using information and skills gained at the safe space. One of these mothers stating, <i>"I supported my daughter not to get married before 18, because this will harm her and prevent her from continuing her education and finding appropriate work and she is not able to be responsible for a house"</i>
Contribution
ActionAid and RDFL provides sessions for the women on early marriage to raise the awareness about the topic, and increase women's knowledge about mental, physical and emotional consequences of early marriage on the adolescent girls and boys. The women also attended the safe space activities over a period of time with other sessions on leadership and communication, among other topics.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 3 – Women socialising outside safe centres across nationalities
Who wrote the outcome: Malak Sharaneq - Malak.Sharaneq@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In the last quarter of 2019, 5 Syrian women and 3 Lebanese women from women circles meet daily in their homes and public parks rotationally in Jeb Janine.
Significance
This demonstrates that the networks the women have established through the safe space activities go beyond the safe space. The women are engaging in joint activities on their own, independently of ActionAid and RDFL. As part of the above, one woman is support other women with childcare support when needed as part of their rotationally social gatherings. It demonstrates that the safe spaces create an important social connection between the women from different nationalities.
Contribution
The women all attended safe space women circles, which was established with members from different nationalities. During Q4, these 8 women all attended English classes together held in the center in Jeb Janine.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome TBD

Outcome number 4 – Recruitment of new members
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Who wrote the outcome: Malak Sharaneq - Malak.Sharaneq@actionaid.org / Mushera Assaf - Mushera.Assaf@actionaid.org
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Outcome statement

By Q3 2019, around 20 members of women circles in Jeb Janine and Baalbek invited approximately 100 new women from their surroundings such as family members and friends to participate in the activities held in the safe spaces.

Significance

This is significant as it allows the programme to reach more marginalised women, who otherwise would not be reach through ActionAid led outreach. It also shows that women are able to engage and convince other women and men of the importance of the safe space activities.
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Contribution

The women circles members have engaged in safe spaces activities including awareness raising on a number of different topics as well as training on leadership and facilitation. The activities held in the centers reflected the women's need through consulting with them on the needed topics. ActionAid also hosted events for International Women’s day, which allowed the communities to engage with the centers.
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Substantiation documentation for this outcome TBD

Outcome number 5 – Husband trusts safe space center staff, and allow young wife to attend sessions alone

Who wrote the outcome: Mushera Assaf - Mushera.Assaf@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2020, a young woman is now attending the young women circle sessions alone without the supervision of her mother-in-law, which was a requirement from her husband when she first started to attend sessions in Baalbek safe space. The mother-in-law takes part in the women circles for older women.
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Significance

This demonstrate an important change for the young women as she spoke to her husband about taking part of the young women group activities, using the skills and confidence gained through attended sessions alongside her mother-in-law. It also demonstrates that social norms and traditions related to young women can be challenged by facilitating small incremental change at an individual level.
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Contribution

ActionAid and RDFL has created a safe space and build trust within the community by applying a transparent and participatory approach. The young women attended 3 sessions alongside her mother-in-law which included a general conversation with the group on why it is important to divide women into age groups as their interests and concerns differ.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome TBD

Outcome number 6 – Emergency committees formed by activists and local organisations in Baalbek and Jeb Janine
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Who wrote the outcome: Mushera Assaf - Mushera.Assaf@actionaid.org

Outcome statement
In April 2020, local CBOs and individual youth formed two emergency committees – one in Baalbek and one in Jeb Janine – to respond to COVID-19
Significance
This demonstrates that local CBOs and youth are willing and able to act and respond to emergencies. ActionAid was not involved in forming the emergency committees in the two location. This is highly significant as it validates an important element of our theory of change, namely that CBOs and community members – especially young people – are able to take the lead in emergencies if provided the space and power to do so.
Contribution
ActionAid provided training on CHS to Sada al Bekaa (an active CBO member and an early joiner in Jeb Janine) under another project.
ActionAid also provided training to 4 individual youth via the accountability committees and Youth Action Community Initiative groups were founders of the emergency committee in Baalbek.
Once the emergency committees were formed, ActionAid supported and collaborated with the committees including distributions under our Danida-funded youth project.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 7 – Two members of accountability committee in Baalbek holding organisation accountable to decision-making
Who wrote the outcome: Mushera Assaf - Mushera.Assaf@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In August 2020, two members of accountability committee in Baalbek raised their concerns related to budget expenditure and participant selection criteria with another organisation (NAME to be included) following the organisation’s decision to postpone programme implementation
Significance
This demonstrates that youth are willing and able to apply the training on CHS and accountability to hold organisations accountable to their actions. The two young people were able to analyse the challenges encountered and address these through direct engagement with the relevant stakeholder.
This is the first action youth has taken following the training completed in July 2020.
Contribution
ActionAid provided training on introduction to CHS, the 9 commitments as well as border accountability and tools/approaches to use in order to take action in July 2020
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 8 – Women receiving online PSS recognised the need for PSS for her underaged son, and acted to secure such support
Who wrote the outcome: Mushera Assaf - Mushera.Assaf@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In April and May 2020 during online PSS sessions, a WPAG member from Jeb Janine identified the need for psychological support for her son.

Significance
This is important as it validates online PSS sessions as a tool to improve mental health awareness and well-being. Through PSS sessions, the woman identified negative coping mechanisms in her son's behaviour and understood that this was linked to mental health. It also made her realise that she needed to attend to her son's mental health – not solely his physical health. This is the first direct outcome recorded as a result of moving the PSS sessions online following the COVID-19 lock-down.
Contribution
The women received 6 group online PSS sessions via Zoom, and then 4 online individual PSS sessions.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 9 – Zumba classes for children at home
Who wrote the outcome: Musherah Assaf - Musherah.Assaf@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In September 2020, a women circle member in Baalbek is conducting Zumba sessions for her children at home everyday
Significance
This is the first time that the woman is engaging in sports activities as well as focusing on her own well-being instead of putting her family before herself. The woman is engaging in positive coping mechanisms through leading fun activities with her children to release tension doing a time where pressure in the home is intensified.
Contribution
During quarantine in April 2020, the women circle members were asked online what type of sessions and activities they would like to engage in. Zumba and other sports activities were mentioned by several women. The woman engaged in the first session mid-august and second session in September conducted Zumba classes in Baalbek, with pre- and post-group dialogue on well-being. Women circle sessions – all circle will attend 4 Zumba classes
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 10 – WPAG member share COVID-19 information via What's App
Who wrote the outcome: Musherah Assaf - Musherah.Assaf@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In April and May 2020, a WPAG member who is volunteering with UNHCR shared information about COVID-19 prevention via the WPAGs Whats App group
Significance
The woman is demonstrating commitment to fellow WPAG members and the network that they have built by sharing the information she has access to. She is actively sharing the "power" she has through the access to information she has as a volunteer with UNHCR. This is fostering a shared power and ownership of the women network.
Contribution

ActionAid created the WPAG Whats App group to facilitate information sharing and network among the women. ActionAid has used the group to share information and coordinate activities previously.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

TBD

Jordan

Outcome number 1 – Women led monthly sessions in safe space centers

Who wrote the outcome: Christina Shawaqfeh - Christina.Shawaqfeh@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2019, Suria - a refugees from Syrian living in Jordan - led monthly sessions at the ActionAid safe space in Mafrag on topics such as protection, GBV, women leadership and life skills for other women.

Significance

This is a significant individual change. In early 2019, Suria did not want to speak or uncover her face in front of the other women. She is now leading sessions for other women. She comes from a small, closed community with limited access to information and knowledge about women's rights.

Contribution

ActionAid trained Suria on topics such as women's rights, facilitation, leadership and communication. Suria was involved in various activities in the safe space center, where she through peer-to-peer learning improved her facilitation and training skills. One of the key activities that Suria participated in was the monthly coordinating meetings under the Women Protection Action Group (WPAG).

Suria came to the center in January 2019, and by May 2019 she started facilitating sessions for others.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

TBD

Outcome number 2 – Woman prevented early marriage

Who wrote the outcome: Christina Shawaqfeh - Christina.Shawaqfeh@actionaid.org

Outcome statement

In 2019, Suria - a refugee from Syria living in Jordan - prevented an early marriage by convincing her brother not to marriage his daughter away at the age of 14.

Significance

This is the first time that a direct link between the safe space activities and prevention of early marriage has occurred. The norms and social traditions as well as negative coping mechanisms can lead to early marriage of underaged girls. The daughter is now in school, which she would not be had she been married.

Contribution

ActionAid trained Suria on topics such as women's rights, facilitation, leadership and communication. Suria participated in sessions on GBV and protection as well as early marriage. Prior to these sessions, Suria consider early marriage, SGBV and GBV normal behaviour.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

TBD

Outcome number 3 – Women received legal, livelihoods, education and health services via other (I)NGOs
Who wrote the outcome: Christina Shawaqfeh - Christina.Shawaqfeh@actionaid.org / Tala Mashaqbeh Tala.Mashaqbeh@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
From April to August 2020, 54 women in Zarqa and 39 women in Mafraq received legal, livelihoods, education and health services from other (I)NGOs through initial WPAGs referrals
Significance
This demonstrates that the programme has successfully established community-led protection mechanisms in the two project locations. The WPAGs members are able refer marginalised women who otherwise do not receive the support needed to address protection risks and wider vulnerabilities, and ActionAid’s referral pathways works as intended.
Contribution
ActionAid has trained and supported the WPAGs since 2019. This has included trainings on communication, leadership, access to services and referral pathways. ActionAid has also established referrals pathways that allows for smooth referral once WPAG members identifies potential referrals. ActionAid referred the women to other organisations such as IRC, CARE and Handicap International, AWO as well as the programme partners Family Guidance and Awareness Center and Al Asayel.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 4 – Local women-led referral mechanism: WPAG members making referrals of other women
Who wrote the outcome: Christina Shawaqfeh - Christina.Shawaqfeh@actionaid.org / Tala Mashaqbeh Tala.Mashaqbeh@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
From April to August 2020, WPAG’s members engaged with 59 women in Zarqa and 70 women in Mafraq in their local communities to identify needs for referral to services
Significance
This demonstrates that WPAG members have the ability and confidence to act by referring marginalised women to get the support they need. WPAG members have access to marginalised women who do not other access services, which is important to address deeply rooted issues related to protection and resilience in the communities.
Contribution
ActionAid has trained and supported the WPAGs since 2019. This has included trainings on communication, leadership, access to services and referral pathways.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 5 – Women creates Whats App group
Who wrote the outcome: Christina Shawaqfeh - Christina.Shawaqfeh@actionaid.org / Tala Mashaqbeh Tala.Mashaqbeh@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In 2019, two women from the safe space women circles created a WhatsApp group in order to share the knowledge that they gain from attending sessions at the safe space and connect with other women
Significance

This is significant as it demonstrates that women want to share their newfound knowledge with other women. It is also contributing to building social inclusion between the refugees and host community. This was the first initiative the women undertook without support from ActionAid or partners. ActionAid staff members are not part of the group.
Contribution
ActionAid, Family Guidance and Awareness Center and Al Asayel have provided sessions for the women circles on SBBV, using referral pathways, communication and the importance of social networks.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 6 – Woman train others in fixing and repairing heaters
Who wrote the outcome: Christina Shawaqfeh - Christina.Shawaqfeh@actionaid.org / Tala Mashaqbeh Tala.Mashaqbeh@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In 2019, a women circle member taught 10 women in her community to fix and repair heaters.
Significance
This is significant as it demonstrates that individual women when supported to build confidence and skills they are able to take action that (a) challenges stereotypical perceptions and social norms for women and (b) addressing the large need for income generating activities.
Contribution
ActionAid provided the woman with business skills training to increase her knowledge on home-based projects, marketing skills, viability studies and the importance of having her own income. She attended this training in September 2019. Prior to this training, she attended women circle sessions on a regular basis which focused on topics such as communication and facilitation skills and women’s rights. Note, she received training on how to technical repair heater through another organisation though she attended the aforementioned training beforehand.
Substantiation documentation for this outcome
TBD

Outcome number 7 – Social resilience through network among women
Who wrote the outcome: Christina Shawaqfeh - Christina.Shawaqfeh@actionaid.org / Tala Mashaqbeh Tala.Mashaqbeh@actionaid.org
Outcome statement
In 2019, members of a women circle provided emotional support and initiated a money collection in support of a Syrian WPAG member when she lost her son in an accident
Significance
This demonstrates how the women circles serves as social networks across nationalities. The refugee WPAG member has limited network in Jordan to support her in time of sudden shocks such as this accident. Due to the increasing tension between the host community and Syrian refugees, it is significant that Jordanian women supported the women in her time of need, both emotionally and financially. This establishes important building blocks for addressing tension among population groups.
Contribution
ActionAid, Family Guidance and Awareness Center and Al Asayel have provided sessions for the women circles communication and the importance of social networks. This has included

social events outside the centers to build further social relations among women circle members.

Substantiation documentation for this outcome

TBD