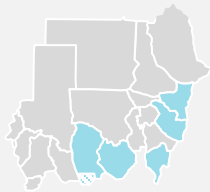


Final Evaluation: *Maa Baaad Nanmo*

We Grow Together: Supporting Sudanese CSOs to improve multi-sectoral development for vulnerable women and girls

METHODOLOGY



- ✓ **Desk research, 15 Key Informant Interviews, and five Focus Group discussions** were completed to capture various perceptions and insights related to project activities.
- ✓ Two types of surveys were carried out as part of this evaluation, **a listenership survey with 100 responses** collected across local communities. **The endline survey had 34 responses** among CSO representatives that contributed to the baseline survey.

KEY FINDINGS

RELEVANCE

Overall, the theory of change of the project was relevant to the context and responsive to the needs of the local communities. Throughout the project's design and implementation, differences in the perceptions and priorities of women, men, and vulnerable groups were accounted for. The project was perceived by different stakeholders including the local community as a great benefit to the entire community and as necessary to support local women's multi-sectoral development, especially in the areas of implementation where there is a lack of awareness of the importance of women's active participation in society. Nonetheless, greater engagement of all relevant stakeholders working on similar matters and building on previous experiences of partner CSOs could have increased the fitting of the project design to the context even more.

EFFECTIVENESS

Despite the political instability in Sudan and the outbreak of COVID-19, most of the planned activities and objectives have been accomplished. CSOs, communities, and government representatives were provided with space to exchange ideas on vulnerable women and girls' development. The slow pace of project activities and difficulties in the timely access to grants, however, hindered the overall effectiveness of the project. The capacity-building component was successful and tailoring it further to participants' needs and more focus feedback could increase its effect. Indeed, the percentage of CSOs that provide testimonies of the effectiveness of applying the Common Ground Approach grew from 51.5 percent in the baseline to 61.8 in the end line. Meanwhile, CSOs reporting improved government coordination grew from 94.6 percent to 100, and CSOs that cited that their perspectives are represented in government decision making grew from 68.5 percent to 91 percent in the end line. Finally, the radio programming was effective at transmitting its messages in support of a more active role for women in society and greater awareness of women's rights.

IMPACT

Project activities had positive effects on the local community, especially regarding the strengthening of coordination between CSOs and government institutions. Moreover, there was a consensus that the most successful component of the project was capacity-building training. With a focus on financial management, proposal writing, transitional justice, and English language classes, the courses supported the professionalization of local organizations, which strengthened their capacities for future collaboration and provision of services to their local communities.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project increased the capacities of local CSOs and facilitated the establishment of multiple partnerships and networks between CSOs and government institutions both at the local and national levels. All these constitute very promising prospects for the sustainability of the project in the long run. Nonetheless, the project could have leveraged more on livelihood supporting activities which were perceived as the most impactful to vulnerable women and girls' multi-sectoral development in the long run.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DURATION



- ✓ Shortening the duration between project activities would ensure that participants do not lose interest in the work carried out and that learnings continue to effectively build on one another. In the occurrence of any compelling circumstances such as political instability or the COVID-19 pandemic, additional efforts could go into keeping partner CSOs and CSO networks engaged through calls, messages, WhatsApp groups, and even visits from the Search team (if possible).
- ✓ Ensuring the provision of project funds to partners in a timely manner would help avoid implementation delays.
- ✓ Building on past CSO experiences, skills, and capacities of partner CSOs during project design would prevent the duplication of efforts and ensure efficient fund allocation

INCLUSION OF STAKEHOLDERS

- ✓ Including all stakeholders relevant to the multi-sectoral development of women and girls (such as pre-existing networks working on women's rights and empowerment) in the project's design and implementation could enhance the project's acceptance and sustainability within the communities.
- ✓ Facilitating the inclusion of governmental stakeholders in the CSO networks. This would facilitate communication with governmental counterparts and pave the way for potential future collaborations.
- ✓ Continuing ensuring the effective inclusion and participation of women throughout all project phases.

CAPACITY BUILDING



- ✓ Continuous consideration of inputs provided by participants in capacity-building activities could ensure more ad-hoc and flexible programming. This includes ongoing support with administrative and financial management, as well as on communication and soft skills.
- ✓ Integrating a mid-term training session into the training plan. This session would allow for learning from the initial project implementation phase and would be based on feedback provided by participants. This would ensure that activities provide the greatest value-added possible.
- ✓ Training of trainers could be provided for local communities to enhance the impact and reach of the Search's Common Ground Approach (CGA).
- ✓ Training all local CSOs on the existing national legal frameworks associated with the field of women's development to ensure full contextual awareness.
- ✓ Training partners and local CSOs to identify and apply to funding opportunities would cater towards greater sustainability of project objectives.
- ✓ Training partner and local CSOs on how to sustain their created CSO networks and how to effectively communicate to ensure the continuity of their collaborations.

PROGRAMMING

- ✓ Enhancing the focus on livelihood support and the economic empowerment of women could better suit community needs and ensure the continued sustainability of the project's positive impact.
- ✓ Creating a women's center in each of the target project areas to ensure local women have a safe space to access psychological support, leisure activities, and targeted courses.
- ✓ Ensuring the continuation of the efforts in tackling the root causes of inequalities faced by women in future programming and maintaining a context-sensitive approach would guarantee the continuation of project impact in the long run.
- ✓ Supporting the creation of media networks with the objective of connecting local radio stations committed to spreading awareness on the role and rights of women and girls. This initiative could expand the reach of the project and ensure the engagement of the communities through consistent programming.
- ✓ Continuing to uphold a Do No Harm and a context-sensitive approach during the design and implementation phases on the local, state, and national levels.
- ✓ Ensuring the continuation of context-informed activity design and implementation to facilitate the achievement of desired programmatic objectives.