FINAL EVALUATION

Youth Talk - Empowering Young People through Media in Mali, Central African Republic, and South Sudan

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Abbreviations

ALU	African Leadership University
AU	African Union
CAR	Central African Republic
CEFM	Child, Early, and Forced Marriage
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
KII	Key Informant Interview
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	National Security Agency
PSS	Psychosocial Support
SPLM	Sudan People's Liberation Movement
SS	South Sudan

1. Executive Summary

I.a Project Background

Youth Talk was implemented in CAR, Mali, and South Sudan between 2019 and 2022, funded by the Bezos Family Foundation. The project aimed to empower the youth in the three conflict-affected countries and give them opportunities to raise issues, address topics of interests, etc. through producing radio programs. This project had three interconnected objectives:

1) To amplify the voice and agency of young people around each country's critical social and political issues related to building lasting peace.
2) To strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults.
3) To capture and share learning and tools with donors, policy makers, and practitioners.

I.b Evaluation Purpose and Use

In April 2022, Bodhi Global Analysis was contracted by Search to undertake a final evaluation of the Youth Talk project 'Empowering Young People through Media in Mali, Central African Republic, and South Sudan'. The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the impact of Youth Talk Project and its contribution to empowering young people leveraging media in CAR, Mali and South Sudan.

I.c Evaluation Methodology

The team conducted and supervised several forms of primary and secondary data collection, involving the following:
- **Desk review -** 68 documents were reviewed, including activity reports, baseline documents, reflection meeting notes, etc.
- **Key Informant Interviews -** 56 interviews with Search staff at the global level and national levels, external stakeholders and primary beneficiaries (youth journalists).
- **Focus Group Discussions -** 61 focus groups were conducted by enumerators hired by Search in countries, in Bamako (Mali), Bambari and Bangui (CAR) and Juba and Yambio (South Sudan).
- **Quantitative community survey -** 1159 respondents (567F, 586M). This endline covered Bamako (Mali), Bangui and Bambari (CAR), and Juba and Yambio (South Sudan).
- **Quantitative Youth Journalists survey -** 183 respondents (97F and 86M).

These data sources were analyzed against the evaluation matrix, which served as this report's analytical framework. That is, analysis was structured to address the evaluation questions and sub-questions. The evaluation team conducted qualitative and qualitative analysis, mapping key themes and content onto a findings, conclusions and recommendations matrix. Data analysis utilized triangulation throughout, to verify consistency of findings across different respondent types and sources.

I.e Key Findings and Conclusions

Achievement of expected results

Overall all indicator targets were met. The same holds true at the individual country level. The only indicator that was not met was *Percent of community respondents who believe in youth's agency to bring an important perspective in social and political debates in the media* in Mali. This is likely due to persistent distrust and deeply ingrained negative perceptions of youth. It is noteworthy that the program started shortly before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant that teams had to adapt their approaches to programming significantly.

Amplifying the voice and agency of young people around each country's critical social and political issues related to building lasting peace (Objective 1)

Thanks to an inclusive and context-sensitive selection process of youth journalists and relevant and participatory capacity-building sessions, the project successfully empowered hard to reach youth by providing them with a range of transferable skills that they have been able to use both within and beyond the project. The young journalists were able to produce quality radio programming which was very positively received by the communities, as 90 percent of surveyed community members found that the radio programs produced by the young journalists as part of the project bring an added value on critical social and political issues. This is a significant improvement from the baseline(35,7 percent in South Sudan, 16,7 percent in CAR and 76,2 percent in Mali), thus indicating the program's success in changing perceptions regarding the value of youth's perspectives. Nonetheless, both the audience and project staff identified avenues for improving the reach of the radio programs, including exploring other media, and increasing communication around the program and broadcast times.

Beyond enabling youth journalists to produce high-quality radio programs, the project also benefits them by fostering motivation, entrepreneurialism, agency and success as the evaluation found evidence of youth journalists creating their own initiatives, and acting as mediators in conflicts between friends or in their family. In addition, amongst youth from the community who participated in project activities, the project led to increased awareness of their role and capacities as change agents.

Strengthening mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults (Objective 2)

There is evidence to suggest that the program strengthened mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults. Across all three countries, the project's activities have led to a shift of perceptions as both qualitative and quantitative data reveals improved relationships between youth and adults, including within families. In particular, the consultative workshops were instrumental in breaking barriers and providing opportunities for open conversations between young journalists and community members. Overall, the program was found to have a positive impact on the wider communities' perceptions of the validity of young journalists' and youth' perspectives. However, the evaluation identified several persisting cultural challenges including among others, poverty, lack of trust, and substance abuse, which hinder the program's impact in terms of intergenerational understanding and collaboration.

The project also had a positive impact amongst youth (both participants and non-participants) from different backgrounds. Indeed, amongst youth journalists, the project led to increased understanding and tolerance of differences, as 73 percent of youth journalists surveyed completely agreed with the following statement: the program has improved your connections to people of different backgrounds. However, the project achieved limited success towards increased inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes, which highlights a need to further engage with decision-makers, both at local, national and global levels.

Although the project increased connection between youth journalists and policy-makers, with 61 percent of surveyed young journalists who completely agree that the program has improved their connections with other decision makers since training, it had a limited impact on policies.

Capturing and sharing learning and tools with donors, policy makers, and practitioners (Objective 3)

The emphasis on producing and sharing knowledge about the program is a best practice that will inform future programming beyond Search. In particular, the production of a guide on engaging and empowering hard to reach youth via youth-led programming, documenting the project's best practices, will maximize the use of the project's learnings and inform practitioners.

Whilst the youth journalists had opportunities to meet and interview high-level stakeholders including ministers, the evaluation did not find evidence of changes in those stakeholders' commitment to empower hard to reach youth. In future programming, increased emphasis on engaging with policy-makers might lead to greater impact on the inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes.

Safeguarding

The roll out and institutionalization of the safeguarding guidelines introduced as part of Youth Talk, at the level of the whole organization, was a key success. 99 percent of trained youth believe that Search treated them with dignity and respect through implementation. However, while considerable progress has been made in raising awareness about safeguarding among Search staff and program participants, there is room for improvement. In particular, there is a need to further develop strategies for overcoming cultural barriers to reporting safeguarding concerns, and for improved monitoring mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness of the safeguarding initiative.

Sustainability

Youth journalists demonstrated increased confidence, and have acquired transferable skills as a result of their participation in Youth Talk, including public speaking, advocacy, awareness raising, leadership and collaborative skills. Moreover, adults' perceptions of youth have undergone a significant positive shift. Both of these developments suggest attitudinal and behavioral change brought about by the program is sustainable. Initiatives beyond the scope of the project, started by youth journalists in Mali and by listeners in South Sudan, also demonstrate the sustainability of program impacts. However, further project engagement with youth, for example with continued support to connect youth to opportunities outside of

the program through training, scholarships and earning opportunities, is required to further entrench the project's impact.

I.f Recommendations

Select recommendations are presented below. The report's *Recommendations* section presents additional country-specific recommendations, along with further detail.

- **Design the program collaboratively with implementing partners and strategic partners.** For example, in South Sudan, Search should continue to partner with Eye Radio station managers, who demonstrated strong contextual knowledge of the issues affecting communities across South Sudan and were highly knowledgeable on the media landscape across the country. Future programming could seek to strengthen the external support provided to youth journalists in devising topics that are localized to different states, communities and experiences to amplify those voices and increase the listener base.

- **Increase the emphasis on engaging with policy-makers to yield greater impact on the inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes.**

- **Search should consider the most appropriate target groups for long-term impact of the radio activities and future programming and build this into the Theory of Change and/or logframe.** While both adults and youth show strong results in awareness and listener frequency, older generations are often the power holders within communities and the gatekeepers for social change. Therefore, future programming could build in an intergenerational component that directly measures the impact of radio programming on the attitudes and behaviors of older generations towards adolescents, with program schedules tailored to adults and radio stations selected which appeal to older audiences.

- **Develop radio program content to enhance creativity by including multiple segments, targeting radio stations that have a high youth listener base.**

Safeguarding

- **Conduct a thorough capacity assessment of Search staff's experience of/ability to work with adolescents from low-education backgrounds, different abilities and languages.** Subsequently, conduct further awareness raising of safeguarding among Search staff. In addition, establish robust monitoring systems to ensure effectiveness of safeguarding policies and procedures. In particular, specific qualitative indicators related to safeguarding could be built into the program's M&E plan to monitor the effectiveness of the safeguarding initiative.

- **The training curriculum and support services offered should be tailored** in order to ensure Search staff are trained to handle youth with complex, acute needs. Search staff should also ensure that these youth have access to required support services, such as counseling and MHPSS, while reinforcing trust in their effectiveness. Longer-term safety nets also need to be put in place

to ensure sustainability of project objectives once the youth journalists graduate from the program.

Sustainability

- **To enhance the referral process and strategic partnerships with stakeholders, Search could look to allocate greater funding to growing two-way partnerships with universities, media houses and other private sector organizations to strengthen the sustainability of program benefits.** Search could start by developing further Memorandums of Understanding with existing partners and expand to a number of others it identifies as having potential for mutual exchange and adjusting the logframe/Theory of Change to acknowledge the Youth Talk program's role as an incubator for youth. Refine recruitment criteria for participants and explore partnerships (e.g. UNICEF) for selection.

- **Support the establishment of a physical space for youth to organize and meet, while taking into account COVID related restrictions on gatherings.** This could take the form of youth clubs/associations, as a safe space for conversations between youth on different topics. In addition, Search should continue to connect youth to opportunities outside of the program through training, scholarships and earning opportunities.

2. Background Information

II.a Introduction

Youth Talk was implemented in CAR, Mali, and South Sudan between 2019 and 2022. The three countries covered by the project are all conflict-affected with youth making up more than half of the population in all of them.

In CAR, the project was implemented in Bangui and Bambari. When the project was launched, the country was facing heightened political tensions and insecurity due to the elections, which were held on 27 December 2020. The role of youth in the stability of the country and national dialogue is progressively being recognised, although their potential remains largely untapped and they are consistently excluded from decision-making around issues of post-conflict peacebuilding.[1] In addition, they remain highly vulnerable to the effects of ongoing violence in the country, including recruitment into armed groups.[2]

In Mali, the project was implemented in six municipalities of Bamako. In a context of political instability and violent extremism, the youth in Mali is disproportionately affected by insecurity and a general lack of

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[1] Morgan Martinez, Dafe Oputu (2017). Central African Republic Youth Key to Stability in the Region. Available at: Central African Republic Youth Key to Stability in the Region | International Republican Institute (iri.org)
[2] Conciliation Resources 2021) Youth Visions for Peace in the Central African Republic: Voices from Bangui: Available at: Voices_from_Bangui_English.pdf (amazonaws.com)

opportunities due to the rising issue of unemployment, with urban youth facing more barriers to professional integration than rural youth.[3] The combination of issues of a poor state of the education system, unemployment, and dissatisfaction with the government contribute to a feeling of hopelessness and increased vulnerability to adoption of risky behaviors including drugs, violent extremism and irregular migration.[4]

In South Sudan, youth are affected by the ongoing violence and instability in the country and face issues of low educational attainment, barriers to economic participation, and limited civic engagement. This combination of challenges has led to feelings of skepticism towards the older generation, as they do not trust decision makers to reflect youth's interests.[5] In addition, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy are major issues affecting young girls in South Sudan,[6] and the issue of domestic violence is also a major issue negatively affecting youth development .[7]

In view of these challenges the project Youth Talk, funded by the Bezos Family Foundation, aims to empower the youth in those three countries and give them opportunities to raise issues, and address topics of interest through producing radio programs.

II.b Programme Overview

Table 1: Objectives, results and activities of the program[8]

Specific Objectives	SO1 To amplify the voice and agency of young people around each country's critical social and political issues related to building lasting peace.	SO2 To strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults.	SO3 To capture and share learning and tools with donors, policy makers, and practitioners

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[3] Amadou DOLO et al. (2022) Youth Employment in Mali: Characteristics and Challenges. Available at: View of Youth employment in Mali: characteristics and challenges (ijafame.org), p.195.
[4] i-APS (2021) Research Analysis on Opportunities and Challenges for Youth Development in Mali. Available at: i-APS-Mali_Jeunesse-et-engagement-permanent-pour-le-developpement-local_Septmebre-2021.pdf
[5] World Bank Group (2019). Youth Education in South Sudan: Current Opportunities and Challenges, Available at: World Bank Document, p.19
[6] Plan International (2018). Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from South Sudan. Available at: REPORT: Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from South Sudan (reliefweb.int)
[7] Owen Ndoromo, Karin Osterman, Kaj Bjorkvist (2017). Domestic Violence as a Risk Factor for Ending up Sleeping in the Streets of Post-War South Sudan. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Behaviour.* Available at: JCALB-17-135 (bettercarenetwork.org)
[8] Provided Documentation: Revised Logframe

	ER 1.1Youth participants have new skills, relationships, and resources to share their perspectives through radio	ER 1.2 Youth-led radio programs are seen as bringing important youth perspectives to critical issues around peace and stability	ER 2.1 Youth-led radio programs have high reach and credibility with both youth and adult stakeholders	ER 3.1 Implementers, donors, and policymakers are more aware of effective tools and strategies to empower hard to reach youth
Expected Results				
Corresponding Activities	Activity 1: Selection of youth participants Activity 2: Audience/Constituent Research Activity 3: Youth Journalist Training	Activity 4: Youth-led radio production	Activity 5: Consultative and engagement workshops Activity 6: Coaching program Activity 7: Intergenerational dialogue sessions	Activity 7: Codifying approaches Activity 8: Sharing learning on youth programming Activity 9: Youth advocacy at the international level (Activity not conducted due to COVID)

3. Methodology

III.a Evaluation Objectives

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the impact of Youth Talk and its contribution to empowering young people leveraging media in CAR, Mali and South Sudan. The evaluation focuses on determining to what extent the project contributed to:

1) Amplifying the voice and agency of participating youth around each country's critical social and political issues related to building lasting peace;
2) Strengthening mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults;
3) Capturing and sharing learning and tools with donors, policy makers, and practitioners.

The study explored the role of media, and especially radio programming, in transforming youth knowledge and skills, and ultimately increasingly seldom heard adolescents' personal agency around social and political issues related to building lasting peace. It assessed the contribution of intergenerational activities to increasing mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults, and transforming relationships among them. Finally, it explored attitudes and changes in perceptions among both adolescents and adults:

1) Adolescent and adult attitudes shift towards each other, from an adversarial towards a collaborative attitude;

2) Change in adolescents' perceptions that their concerns and interests are reflected, and change in adults' perceptions that adolescents can bring valuable perspectives to critical social and political discussions on peace.

The evaluation mainstreams the criteria of effectiveness of youth-centred participatory approaches, safeguarding, and sustainability across the study, and disaggregates data by country and gender.

III.b Data Collection and Analysis

III.b.i Outcome Harvest Design

Bodhi conducted an outcome harvesting exercise to support this evaluation. In brief, outcome harvesting seeks to determine what changes have occurred since the initiative began (positive or negative, intended or unintended), the significance of these changes, and the contribution of each stakeholder and project partner in bringing about that change. It is an appropriate evaluation technique for an initiative of this scope and scale, which operates in a complex and regularly changing context and in partnership with multiple organizations and stakeholders.

The outcome harvesting methodology facilitated the development of responses to all evaluation questions, and resulted in the additional deliverable of a set of qualitative 'outcomes', which features in this final evaluation report (see Annex).

III.b.ii Data Collection

Using a mixed methods approach, the evaluation drew on data collected through:

- In-depth document review;
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with program staff, primary beneficiaries (youth journalists) and external stakeholders;
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with community members (participants and non participants to the project), and primary beneficiaries (youth journalists);
- Quantitative surveys with community members and youth journalists.

Some of the qualitative data collection was conducted remotely by Bodhi's evaluation team, including KIIs with Search staff and youth journalists. KIIs with external stakeholders, FGDs and both surveys were completed in person by enumerators hired by Search program teams in the implementation countries. Prior to deployment in the field, the enumerators were trained in person by Bodhi's team members. The fieldwork was directly supervised by Search's M&E teams in-country, and remotely by Bodhi's team.

III.b.iii In-depth document review

Search provided program documents (see Table 2 in Annex), which were reviewed by the evaluation team. Evidence from the documents were entered into a desk review matrix against the study EQs. These

documents included baseline tools and the corresponding report, MEL data collection instruments, activity reports, monitoring outputs, etc. The findings from the desk review also informed the development of the evaluation matrix and data collection instruments.

III.b.iv Target Audience Analysis

A preliminary target audience analysis was undertaken during the inception phase, based on the project documents provided by Search. The target audience analysis was then further consolidated throughout the evaluation process, with the aim of informing future programming and feeding into a potential next phase (see Table 3 in Annex).

III.b.v Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with Search staff, external stakeholders and primary beneficiaries (young journalists)

KIIs were conducted in English and French with key stakeholders identified with input from the Search. Discussion guides were developed based on the desk review, and were approved by Search following an iterative review process. Core discussion guides were tailored to stakeholder type and specific respondents.

KIIs were conducted with 56 stakeholders (see table 4 in annex), including:

- Search staff (at global and national levels): 19 KIIs
- External stakeholders: 3 KIIs with development partners, 6 KIIs with government stakeholders, 9 KIIs with community leaders, 8 KIIs with radio partners and 7 KIIs with educational actors (in South Sudan)
- Youth Journalists: 4 KIIs

III.b.vi Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with participants

A total of 61 FGDs were conducted across the three implementation countries. The FGDs' aim was to assess participants' and stakeholders' perspectives on the program's relevance, impact and sustainability. FGD participants were chosen from target profiles (i.e., respondent types) using convenience sampling. FGDs were conducted with the following respondent types (see Table 5 in Appendix for more details):

- Community members (participants and non participants):[9] 55 FGDs
- Young journalists: 6 FGDs

In order to ensure maximum engagement these FGDs involved two types of participatory exercises. In some FGDs, the enumerators conducted content testing, whereby respondents were exposed to program-produced content to assess the extent to which content adequately conveys intended cognitive and emotive outtakes, as well as to assess the extent to which the content is relevant and resonates with audience members. In other FGDs, the enumerators facilitated a bridge exercise. The bridge is a visioning

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[9] Were considered program participants members of the community who participated in at least one face to face activity of the program (consultative workshop and/or intergenerational dialogue).

and planning tool, helping people identify where they are, where they want to be, and how to bridge the gap between the two situations.

III.b.vii Youth Journalists Quantitative Survey

The team supported Search to implement a quantitative survey with young journalists, targeting all active program participants. The survey was administered face to face. The survey was modular in design. The purpose of this survey is twofold: first, to measure performance against program indicators (see table below) as well as assess program participants' knowledge, attitudes and perceptions. The latter component facilitated a comparison between non-participants (i.e., community members).

Table 6: Indicators for young journalists survey

Indicator definition	Sample frame	Sample size	Disaggregation
Percent of trained youth who produce quality radio programming after being trained by Search	Young journalists who participated in the program.	183 (149 in Mali, 20 in CAR, 14 in South Sudan)	Age, country and gender
Percent of trained youth who affirm being connected with other youth and decision-makers since the training	Young journalists who participated in the program.	183 (149 in Mali, 20 in CAR, 14 in South Sudan)	Age, country and gender
Percent of trained youth that take action to influence peace, stability and social and political issues they care about	Young journalists who participated in the program.	183 (149 in Mali, 20 in CAR, 14 in South Sudan)	Age, country and gender
Percent of trained youth who felt safe participating in the program and were aware of how to report safeguarding concerns	Young journalists who participated in the program.	183 (149 in Mali, 20 in CAR, 14 in South Sudan)	Age, country and gender

III.b.viii Quantitative Survey - Community Members

The team supported Search in implementing a community member survey. This survey was geared towards community members within the radio coverage areas, and included youth and adults, as well as exposed and unexposed (i.e., listeners and non-listeners). The survey was administered face-to-face through a household survey, the parameters of which are described below. The survey was modular in design, with lines of questioning directed to all respondents, and lines of questioning that were directed at specific respondent-types. The survey measured progress against the indicators identified in the table below.

Table 7: Indicators for community survey

Indicator definition	Sample frame	Sample size	Disaggregation

Percent of youth stating that national social and political debates in the media represent their interests	Youth residing within targeted communities	516 (169 in Mali, 207 in CAR, 140 in South Sudan)	Age, country, exposure status and gender
Percent of community respondents who believe in youth's agency to bring an important perspective in social and political debates in the media	Individuals residing within targeted communities	1,159 (358 in Mali, 423 in CAR, 378 in South Sudan)	Age, country, exposure status and gender
Percent of respondents who find that the radio programs highlight young people's concerns around peace, stability and social and political issues	Individuals residing within targeted communities	1,159 (358 in Mali, 423 in CAR, 378 in South Sudan)	Age, country, exposure status and gender
Percent of youth in the communities reporting that their perspectives on peace, security and social and political issues are reflected in the radio programming	Youth residing within targeted communities	516 (169 in Mali, 207 in CAR, 140 in South Sudan)	Age, country, exposure status and gender
Percent of community members who find that the radio programs produced by the young journalists as part of the project bring an added value on critical social and political issues	Individuals residing within targeted communities	1,159 (358 in Mali, 423 in CAR, 378 in South Sudan)	Age, country, exposure status and gender

III.b.ix Data Analysis

These data sources were analyzed against the evaluation matrix, which served as this report's analytical framework. That is, analysis was structured to address the evaluation questions and sub-questions. The evaluation team conducted qualitative analysis, mapping key themes and content onto a findings, conclusions and recommendations matrix. The team also produced descriptive statistics of the quantitative data. Data analysis utilized triangulation throughout, to verify consistency of findings across different respondent types.

III.b.x Ethical considerations

Measures were taken to adhere to 'Do No Harm' principles to ensure the safety of the participants. Participants were informed of the purpose of the study, and that they may end participation at any time. They were encouraged to ask any questions that they may have about the study before giving consent. They were informed that they may skip any questions that they did not feel comfortable answering.

III.c Limitations

Recall bias - After an extended period, some respondents' recall of project's activities may have faded. Informants may have had difficulty accurately recalling program changes and innovations, since the evaluation covered a multi-year period.

Response bias - Informants may have formed their responses based on personal motivation rather than the most accurate information. Certain respondents may be incentivised to offer positive responses because they benefit from Search's support.

Data unbalance - In Mali, the number of youth journalists trained with the program is considerably higher than in CAR and South Sudan. The quantitative findings at program level have been interpreted accordingly, emphasizing country by country analysis to avoid generalizing the findings.

Data quality - Despite the implementation of quality control measures, including enumerator training and quality checks by country teams, in some instances the data collected by enumerators was unsatisfactory, this was mostly the case in CAR and South Sudan. For example, at times, the wrong data collection guides were used for a particular respondent type, which limited the evaluation team's ability to compare and contrast a particular type of respondent's answer to the same questions. In other cases, a very limited detail was provided in the enumerators' notes, suggesting incomplete notetaking or lack of probing, hindering the ability to adequately interpret respondents' answers or understand some statements. These issues were raised to the country teams and whilst some minor issues were addressed, time and resource constraints limited the possibility of retrieving satisfactory data.

Data gaps - Some categories of stakeholders, mainly at higher levels (national and international), could not be reached (unresponsive), hence limiting findings in some instances, especially regarding Objective 3 "Capturing and sharing learning and tools with donors, policy makers, and practitioners".

4. Findings

4.1 Program Outputs and Impact on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices

Below is an overview of results achieved towards project indicators. In appendix, (Table 9), another table disaggregates results by exposure vs. non-exposure to the project. It therefore differs from the logframe, allowing for a better understanding of correlation between program activities and effect.

Table 8: Indicator table

Indicator	Target Group	Baseline	Target	Overall	CAR	Mali	South Sudan
IMPACT LEVEL							
Community members							
Percent of youth stating that national social and political debates in the media represent their interests	Youth residing within targeted communities (14-18)	SS: 32,8% CAR: 46,2% Mali: 56,7%	50%	84%	97%	70%	82%
Percent of community respondents who believe in youth's agency to bring an important perspective in social and political debates in the media	Individuals residing within targeted communities (+18)	N/A	60%	71%	87%	53%	71%
OUTCOME LEVEL							
Community members							
Percent of respondents who find that the radio programs highlight young people's concerns around peace, stability and social and political issues	Individuals residing within targeted communities (+18)	SS: 66,9% CAR: 52,1% Mali: 62,1%	70%	85%	97%	75%	81%
Percent of youth in the communities reporting that their perspectives on peace, security and social and political issues are reflected in the radio programming.	Youth residing within targeted communities (14-18)	SS: 53,4% CAR: 40,2% Mali: 39,7%	70%	86%	97%	79%	81%
Percent of community members who find that the radio programs produced by the young journalists as part of the project bring an added value on critical social and political issues.	Individuals residing within targeted communities (+18)	SS: 35,7% CAR: 16,7 % Mali: 76,2%	70%	90%	94%	85%	90%
Programme participants							
Percent of trained youth who produce quality radio programming after being trained by Search	Young journalists who participated in the program	Not measured at baseline level	80%	93%	80%	95%	93%

Percent of trained youth who affirm being connected with other youth and decision-makers since the training	Young journalists who participated in the program	N/A	60%	78%	75%	79%	79%
Percent of trained youth that take action to influence peace, stability and social and political issues they care about.	Young journalists who participated in the program	N/A	Target figure not available in the logframe	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of trained youth who felt safe participating in the program and were aware of how to report safeguarding concerns	Young journalists who participated in the program	N/A	Target figure not available in the logframe	77%	75%	79%	64%
Other stakeholders							
Percent of political and professional actors interviewed who provide positive feedback on our shared lessons learned and recommendations.[10]	External stakeholders / desk material	N/A	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of concrete actions taken by political and professional actors based on our recommendations.	External stakeholders / desk material	N/A	6 per country	3	0	0	3
OUTPUT LEVEL							
Radio coverage in each country (estimated). [awareness]	Relevant radio programs Radio coverage by awareness from general public[11]	N/A	25% coverage	N/A	45%	20%	35%
Number of listeners (estimated). [listenership][12]	Relevant radio programs	N/A		N/A	40%	5%	26%

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[10] Content analysis of 17 KIIs with community leaders (incl. teachers and religious leaders) and government officials supported the calculation of this indicator.

[11] Percentage calculated by taking the proportion of respondents who were non-beneficiaries of the program (broad-based community) who reported hearing of the following radio programs: Lugara Shabaab (South Sudan, n=293); Ngoi Ti Masseka - Tables Rondes or Ngoi Ti Masseka - Émissions Publiques (CAR, n=209) and Denmisenw Kuhkah (Mali, n=189)

[12] The figures provided are for the percentage of respondents listening, which differs from the logframe, where the figure provided is for 'coverage'. Calculated from the frequency of listenership of broad community members - i.e. the percentage of those who have heard of radio station *and* listen often, sometimes or rarely / total number of respondents.

4.2 Project Objectives & Project Output Indicators

4.2.i Amplifying the voice and agency of young people around each country's critical social and political issues related to building lasting peace (Objective 1)

A context-sensitive process for the selection of beneficiaries in each country ensured that the most vulnerable youth were identified. Particular efforts were made to be as inclusive as possible of hard to reach youth, with a focus on including different groups, whether based on gender or religion, young people with disabilities, and those out of school, depending on the specific vulnerabilities in the country. One respondent reported that a best practice as part of the selection process was to reflect on how to access hard to reach people rigorously, being intentional in setting criteria, avoiding discrimination and finding the right entry points for specific types of youth, and finding ways to convince them to join the project, with other youth that they might be reluctant to get in contact with.[13]

The program intervention logic was found to be plausible and directly responsive to the needs in the three countries of implementation. In Mali, one respondent admitted being initially dubious about the intervention's ambition to achieve behavioral change through radio programming led by adolescents, with concerns about whether or not the broader community was going to be interested in the radio programs. The respondent stated that it took around 4 to 5 months before these concerns disappeared, as there were no immediate audience reactions following the first broadcasts.[14] At the time of the evaluation, no respondents raised concerns about the relevance of the intervention logic. On the contrary, one respondent stated that while the program logic was not particularly innovative, the approach of using radio as a tool for young people to get a chance to analyze and understand conflicts and peacebuilding stood out in comparison with other projects.[15] The relevance of the program logic and the activities put in place to implement this logic were also confirmed by youth journalists as overall, 77 percent of surveyed young journalists reported that they completely agreed with the statement 'the activities related to important concerns in your life' (see below).

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[13] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[14] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[15] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.

The activities related to important concerns in your life
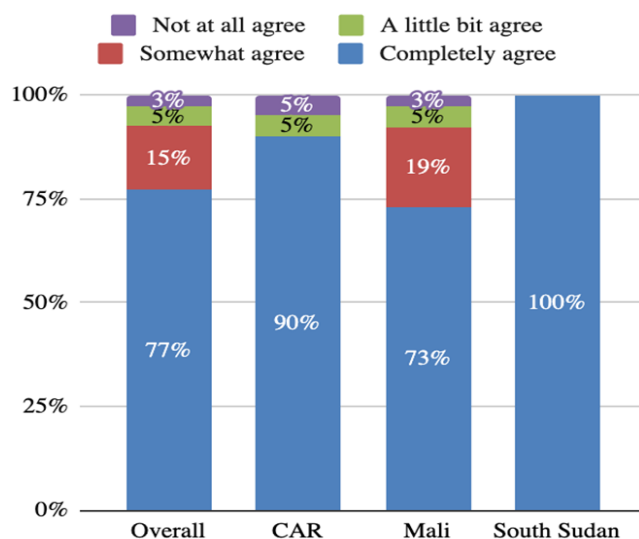
Audience research at the beginning of the project was useful in enabling young journalists to get to know the target audience of their radio programs. In South Sudan, an initial target audience analysis/audience survey assessment was carried out by Forcier Consultancy which informed which radio stations the program would air on and the timing of the program. Eye Radio was chosen for its efficiency, having a wide reach rather than choosing multiple stations to air across. The program design pivoted based on the results of the assessment. Initially, the team had wanted to air the program at night, but given that political programs are regularly aired at night, the team chose 10-11am on Saturdays to keep social and political issues separate.

However, there was a lack of monitoring to assess whether the project successfully targeted its intended primary audience. During the program, there were challenges in understanding audience numbers and receiving/processing feedback in real-time from radio stations.[16] One respondent in Mali explained that a key issue was the lack of reliable data regarding listening trends.[17] This respondent suggested that conducting audience surveys/community audience polls could have been taken into account in the logical framework of the project.

Output 1: Youth participants have new skills, relationships, and resources to share their perspectives through radio

The training modules were effective not only in equipping young journalists with the necessary skills to produce quality radio programs, but also with transferable skills that they are now able to use beyond the scope of the program. In the three countries, youth participants were trained in basic

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[16] KII. Radio Partner. SS, May 2022.
[17] KII. Search Staff. Mali, remote, May 2022.

journalism skills, radio production, advocacy and awareness raising, stress management and the Common Ground Approach (learning about conflict, how to work together, highlighting issues of and youth). They developed analytical skills through community research for shows, leadership skills through coaching, public speaking and pooling,[18] and developed confidence in interacting with members of the community. In CAR, beyond the original training sessions, two respondents explained that the youth journalists were also provided with continuous coaching sessions throughout the implementation. Coaching included advice and mentorship, and trainings organized by the M&E team on topics like administration of social networks (eg. moderation of the project's Facebook page), the follow-up of listeners' clubs, continuous coaching on production, depending on the young journalists' requests.

Across the three countries, the training was found to have had a range of positive effects, including on youth journalists' skills and confidence levels. In South Sudan, the convener of the Psychosocial Support (PSS) training stated that by day three, changes could be observed through increased eagerness of participants to interact further, enhanced concentration and listening, and increased motivation to speak out on issues within their families and communities.[19] Thanks to the training provided, youth journalists were effectively equipped to become 'change agents' in their communities, adopting neutrality in discussions and mediating disagreements. For example, in CAR, a young journalist explained that the knowledge gained through the training had an impact on their social life, as they started to apply the principles of impartiality to resolve arguments between people and try to reconcile them.[20] The support provided by Search also had a direct impact on youth journalists' self confidence and social relationships. For example, in CAR, one youth mentioned that they were now more tolerant and sociable than they were before the training.[21]

However, the evaluation found reports that in South Sudan, some Search staff experienced challenges in understanding the training materials on the Common Ground Approach (CGA) training, with calls for more regional support in the form of refresher training to ensure full understanding.[22]

In South Sudan, as the selection and training of beneficiaries was done in two cohorts, with 12 youth selected and trained in 2020, followed by 12 others in January 2021, mentoring sessions were organized in 2021 with both cohorts to foster continuous engagement and acquaintance with the old and newly recruited adolescents.[23] These sessions were a relevant addition to the capacity-building sessions as it addressed issues related to psychosocial health and allowed the adolescents to share issues including of personal nature, affecting their performance and to enable them to develop their self-esteem. **Coaching youth journalists in Mali was found to be a highly successful activity to strengthen young journalists' understanding of the professional reality of journalism.** The involvement of professional journalists to deliver coaching sessions to the youth journalists played a key role in motivating and inspiring them. Two young journalists interviewed individually identified coaching as the most valuable

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[18] In Mali, 'pooling' was the way they organized cohorts. As there was a large number of youth journalists, they were divided into two 'pools' per municipality, each of which was managed by a coach.
[19] KII. External Stakeholder. SS, Juba, May 2022.
[20] KII. Youth Journalist. CAR, Remote, May 2022.
[21] Ibid.
[22] KII. Search Staff. Remote (SS), May 2022.
[23] Provided documentation: BezosQuarter4Report_SSD_Final (5), p.4

activity to them, as it gave them the opportunity to engage with experts.[24] Two Search staff members further emphasized the role of this activity in presenting the youth with positive role models and offering a realistic insight into the field of journalism, by exposing the young participants to the realities of the job, the challenges, and the pathways to access it.[25]

Given the success of this activity, replication in other countries could be considered, albeit with some adaptations as one Search member highlighted some shortcomings related to the organization of this activity. Indeed, this respondent explained that given the high number of youth journalists, not all were able to participate in the coaching sessions, despite high demand.[26] In addition, the respondent indicated that it was often the same youth who participated in the coaching, which led to some complaints from other youth. Consequently, the format of this activity should be adapted to the size of the cohort to ensure that all can participate in the coaching.

The capacity-building activities led to positive unintended results, including initiatives led by young journalists, beyond the scope of the project. This indicates that the project benefits went beyond increased skills and awareness of rights, by fostering motivation, entrepreneurship, agency and success. Across the three countries, 54 percent of surveyed youth journalists reported having taken actions beyond the project to influence peace, stability and social and political issues they care about, since completing training.[27] In Mali, visually impaired people trained by the project are now training visually impaired people at the national school for the visually impaired to motivate them around their disability.[28] In addition, young journalists started a local organization, others initiated community work activities in their area, and some started a radio program outside of the project - "The voice of the voiceless," hosted by persons with albinism.[29] In Mali, young journalists also mobilized to create their own association called 'Parlons Jeunesse' whose goal is to help the most disadvantaged.[30] In South Sudan, two young journalists were promoted to the position of coaches in the program,[31] and others have organized themselves into local associations.[32] In addition, the evaluation found anecdotal evidence that in CAR and Mali, young journalists are more engaged in their education (at school), more engaged with their schoolwork and more actively participating in class.[33]

As a result of the activities under Objective 1, including audience research and training, trained youth were able to produce quality radio programming. Overall, 93 percent of the surveyed youth journalists reported that they were able to produce quality radio programming after being trained by Search, which highlights the relevance of the support provided to youth journalists.[34] In order to further deconstruct the notion of quality programming, for the purpose of this evaluation, the following quality

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[24] KIIs. Young Journalists. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[25] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[26] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[27] Youth Journalist Survey. May 2022.
[28] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[29] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[30] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[31] Provided documentation: BezosQuarter3Report_SSD, p.6.
[32] Provided documentation: Year 2_Progress Report__4.30.2021, p.2.
[33] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote (Mali and CAR), May 2022.
[34] Youth Journalist Survey. May 2022.

criteria were defined: 1) provided accurate information, 2) entertaining to the audience, 3) research-driven/informative, 4) well produced/crafted, and 5) authentic/reflected youth' perspective on peace and security issues. Across the three countries, a majority of the surveyed youth journalists reported that they were completely able to produce content that met all these standards, with some variations indicating some potential areas for improvement. For example, whilst 84 percent reported that they were completely able to produce content that provided accurate information, 56 percent reported that they were completely able to produce content that was entertaining to the audience, which highlights some room for improvement regarding the attractiveness of the radio programs. This echoes one respondent in Mali who explained that the project led to the realization that it is difficult to reach young people (as they do not listen to the radio so much) and that the approach and strategy will need to be improved to reach as many young people as possible and gain their interest in the discussions.[35] This highlights the difficulties relating to producing content that appeals to both a youth audience, adult community members, and key decision makers, hence Bodhi's recommendation for Search to consider the most appropriate target groups for long-term impact of the radio activities and future programming and build this into the Theory of Change and/or logframe.

Most importantly, 78 percent reported that they were completely able to produce content that was authentic/reflected their perspective on peace and security issues (see below), which reflects the project's commitment to putting youth at the center of the intervention and to give them the freedom to choose topics that matter to them.

To what extent were you able to produce content that was authentic/reflected your perspective on peace and security issues?

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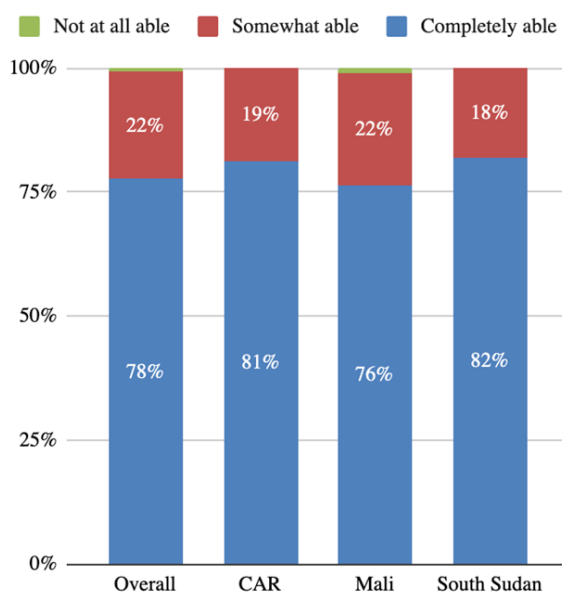
[35] KII. SC Staff. Mali, Remote, May 2022.

Output 2: Youth-led radio programs are seen as bringing important youth perspectives to critical issues around peace and stability

Youth-led radio production and the participatory approach to determining the topic and content of the radio programs is a best practice that allows to put youth, including the most marginalized, at the center of the activity. In Mali, all female youth journalists who participated in FGDs reported that they felt like their ideas and needs were listened to by Search staff, and that they responded in the way they expected.[36] One of these respondents mentioned that during activities a sheet was distributed to identify their concerns. Another respondent explained that the project successfully placed youth at the center of the initiative, as the activities were prepared and presented by young people. This emphasis on encouraging the youth themselves to express their ideas and opinions enabled the youth journalists to become aware of their potential to bring valuable perspectives into public debates:

"My participation in the program has enhanced my reflective capacity to offer valuable insights into social and political discussions about peace" Male Youth Journalist FGD, Mali.

The program was particularly successful in putting young people with specific vulnerabilities at the heart of the activities, including girls, young people with disabilities, and out of school adolescents, thus participating to visibilising these youth and providing a platform for their seldom ignored voices to be heard.

The inclusion of high-level stakeholders, including ministers, government representatives, security actors, NGO staff, and radio personalities added value to the radio programs and attracted wider audience numbers. In Mali, the former Prime Minister agreed to be a guest and to answer youth questions on the social and political situation in Mali. In South Sudan, Youth Talk journalists were able to interview several political leaders, including the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, the Undersecretary for Ministry of Youth, Sport, and culture, the national undersecretary of general education, etc. In South Sudan, one respondent explained that the ability to reach out to high-level stakeholders to conduct interviews (e.g. Justice Ministers on GBV), had an impact on listeners.[37] Indeed, the buy-in of high-level stakeholders to participate in radio programs, not only increased the confidence of young journalists but also reinforces their legitimacy as the presence of these actors validates the importance and seriousness of the radio programs.

The program was highly successful in producing youth-led radio programs that are seen as bringing important youth perspectives to critical issues around peace and stability. The radio programs produced by youth journalists attracted a large audience from the communities as across the 3 countries, more than half of the surveyed community members had heard of the program (see below).

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[36] FGD. Youth Journalists (female). Bamako, Mali, May 2022. Due to data collection limitations, the perspective of male youth journalists was not collected on that issue.
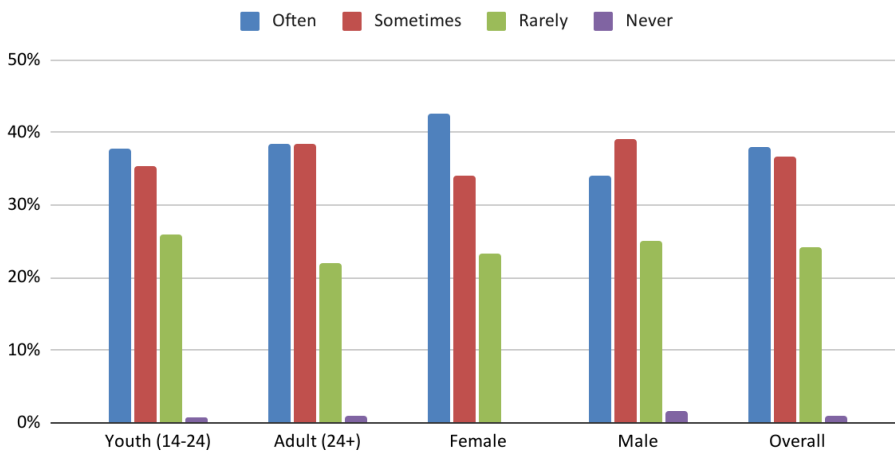[37] KII. Search Staff. SS, remote. May 2022.

Have you heard of any of the following radio programmes?
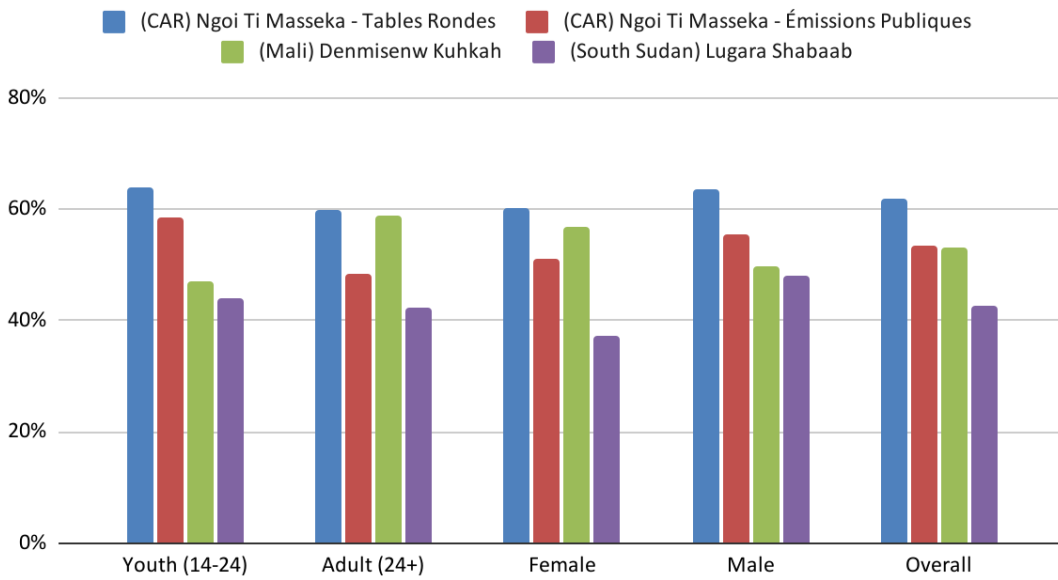
In CAR, 47 percent of the respondents who had heard of Ngo Ti Masseka (tables rondes), listened frequently to the program (see below).

How frequently did you listen to Ngoi Ti Masseka - Tables Rondes (CAR)

In Mali, only 22 percent of the respondents who had heard of Denmisenw Kuhkah, listened frequently to the program (see below), 32 percent sometimes listened and 33 percent rarely listened to the program. In addition, 14 percent never listened to the program, thus indicating that although they knew about it, they either did not have the opportunity to listen to it, or decided not to. Respondents from the FGDs in Mali gave possible explanations for lower listenership rates, as they mostly reported that people in their community would listen to this program if they were able to, but that there are some barriers, including a lack of knowledge on the broadcasting times, a lack of time for adults, and young people's preferences for other broadcasting platforms such as social media.[38]

How frequently did you listen to Denmisenw Kuhkah (Mali)

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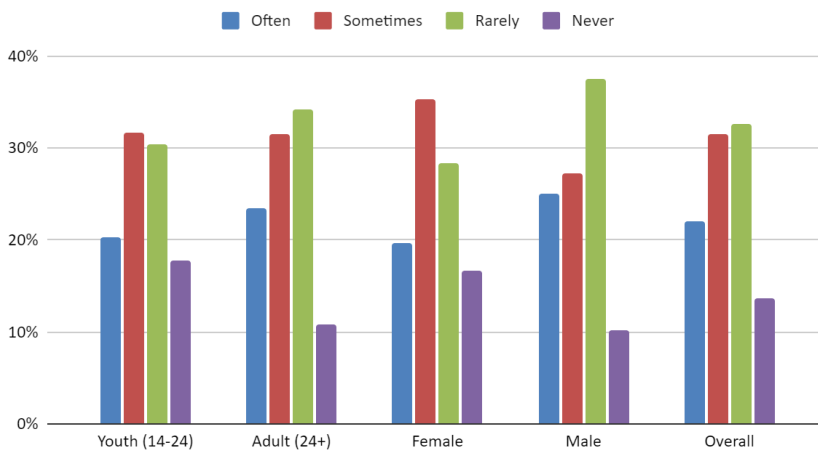
[38] FGDs (content testing). Adult and youth participants, male and female. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.

In South Sudan, 44 percent of the respondents who had heard of Lugara Shabaab, sometimes listened to the program (see below), only 1 percent never listened to it.

How frequently did you listen to Lugara Shabaab? (South Sudan)
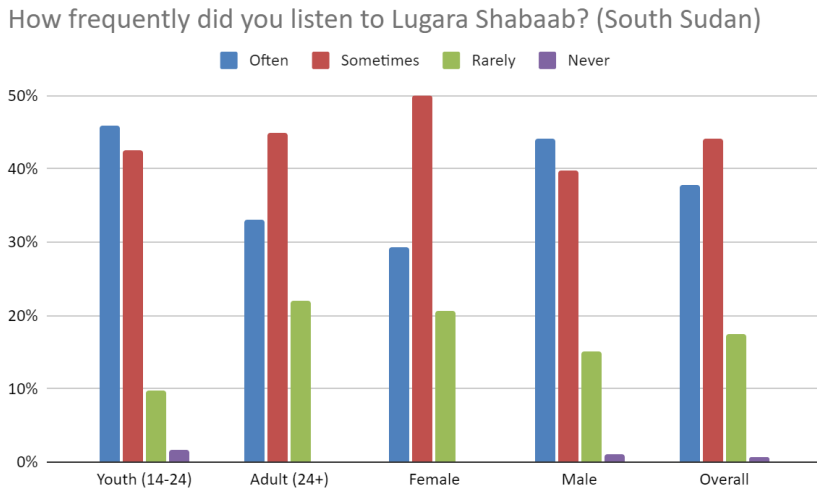
The evaluation found that 84 percent of young community members stated that national social and political debates in the media represented their interests (Target: 70 percent), which is considerably more than in the baseline (32,8 percent in South Sudan, 46,2 percent in CAR and 56,7 percent in Mali). Across the three countries, youth with program exposure were more likely to agree that national and political debates in the media represent their interests. Overall, a 18-percentage point difference was found between youth with program exposure and those with no program exposure (92 percent and 74 percent respectively). This suggests that the radio programs produced by the young journalists served to increase knowledge and awareness of critical socio-political issues in the media they consume.

Percent of youth stating that national social and political debates in the media represent their interests
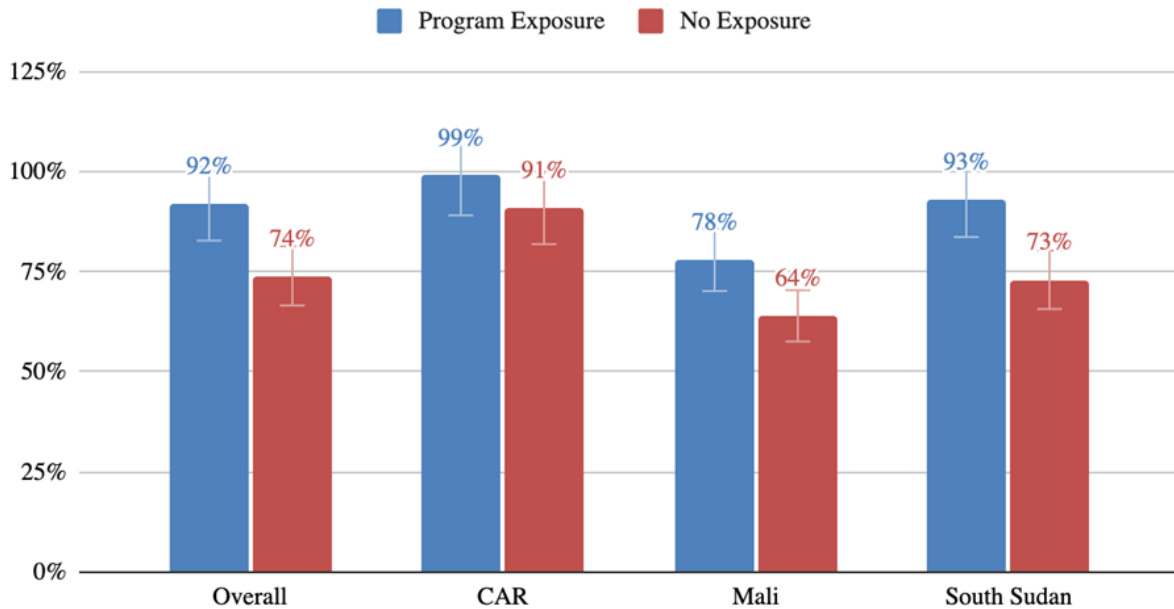
In addition, the evaluation found that radio programs highlighted young people's concerns around peace, stability and social and political issues. Indeed, 86 percent of community members reported that the radio programs highlight young people's concerns around peace, stability and social and political issues (Target: 70 percent). There is evidence to support the fact that the radio program's intended message and strategy was executed well, with radio listeners and offline participants more likely to state that radio programs highlight young people's concerns on peace, stability and social and political issues. Overall, a 13-percentage point difference was found between respondents with program exposure and those without exposure (91 percent and 78 percent respectively).

Percent of respondents who find that the radio programs highlight young people's concerns around peace, stability and social and political issues

Program Exposure   **No Exposure**
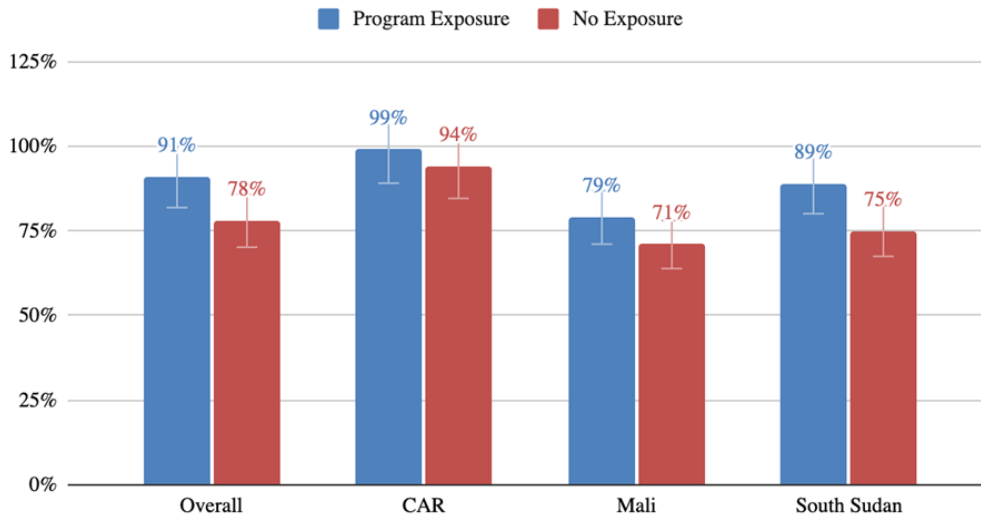
Finally, the survey revealed that 86 percent of youth in the communities reported that their perspectives on peace, security and social and political issues were reflected in the radio programming (Target: 70 percent). Building on the positive effect observed on community members' awareness of radio programming that highlights young people's concerns, the community survey also found that youth listeners were also more likely to state that their perspectives were reflected in the program content. An overall 15-percentage point increase was found between youth exposed to the program and those not exposed.

Percent of youth in the communities reporting that their perspectives on peace, security and social and political issues are reflected in the radio programming.

Program Exposure   **No Exposure**
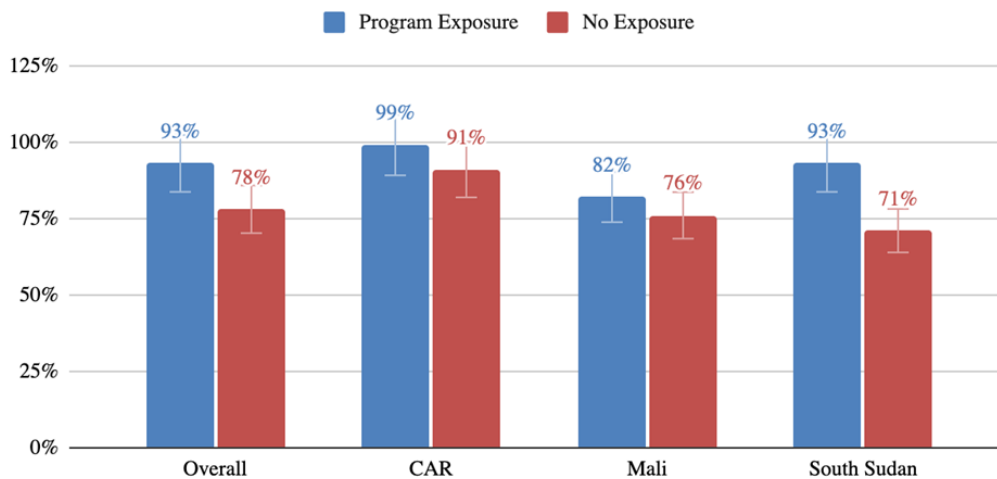
In South Sudan, an unintended outcome was that youth programming was seen to benefit radio stations. A respondent from Eye Radio noted how the youth journalist programming was significant

because the station is merging youth content with other programs at a time when there are limited youth programs being aired. This was seen to add greatly to the value of content the radio station managers had to air.

4.2.ii Strengthening mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults (Objective 2)

The organization of frequent consultative workshops between young journalists and community members is a best practice which led to significant changes in perceptions. Consultative workshops supported dissemination of youth voices and experiences and acted to bolster attitudes and perceptions across project indicators. As mentioned by a community leader in Mali, the project enabled a barrier to be broken. According to one community leader, while traditionally in Malian society are not supposed to get involved in 'adults' business,' youth journalists have managed to involve the adults in their endeavors and to show adults that everything they are doing is also 'adults' business.'[39] One respondent explained that in Mali, the activity shifted from being organised in conference rooms, to taking place within the youth journalists families, which provided an environment that was more conducive for discussions, allowing for a space of trust and confidence, which changed a lot the way the project was perceived by parents.[40]

"Our collaboration [with adults] is currently better, as thanks to the program we were able to sit down with our parents, that is to say the adults, and discuss at least one subject where everyone gave their opinion." Female Youth Participant FGD, Mali

The strategy of engaging closely with young journalists' parents/guardians is a best practice that contributes to reinforcing collaborative relationships in the family. Through facilitating youth-adult interaction, consultative workshops have improved family relationships, specifically in Mali where the workshops were involved in the households with the young journalists' families and neighbors.

"Since the consultative workshop held at my house, my parents trust me a lot. In my community I am nicknamed "young journalist" and I am consulted during discussions." FGD with young journalists in Mali.

One respondent highlighted the importance of engaging parents and caregivers as their concerns are often a barrier, especially for adolescent girls in some contexts, with cultural restrictions.[41] Parents are now seen to recognise youth efforts, have greater trust for youth, and take their opinions into account in family decisions. Three respondents from Search explained that the consultative workshop created a framework for communication and exchange which allowed the young journalists to express themselves more freely

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[39] KII. Community Leader. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[40] KII. Search Staff (global). Remote, June 2022.
[41] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.

in front of their parents.[42] One of these respondents gave an example as they explained that whilst it is generally taboo to talk about female genital mutilation (FGM) with parents, through a consultative workshop, the youth were able to explain the harmful consequences of these practices.[43] However, in Mali, one respondent reported that the format of this activity would benefit from being reviewed, by either reducing the number of or diversifying the audience, by inviting decision-makers for example.[44] Improved relationships with parents were also observed in South Sudan and CAR. One member from Search staff in CAR reported that changes in parents' behaviors could be observed beyond the youth journalists' families.[45] The respondent described a 'snowball effect' as parents begin to ask the opinion of these young people and to approach them on questions that concern them, which served as an example and inspiration to other parents in the community, ultimately leading to adoption by other parents of this tendency to listen to their on the subjects that concern them.

In South Sudan, the program responded well to the challenges faced in obtaining the consent of guardians to allow youth to participate. Culturally, fathers were initially seen as particularly restrictive and closed off to the idea of their daughters participating fully in the program. Acknowledging that participation of parents matters for the success of the program, Search staff held regular meetings (monthly) with parents and to familiarize them with the office and encourage them to listen to the programs. Staff also consulted parents on the code of conduct documentation to prevent parents from withdrawing their consent for their children's participation. In addition, they advised parents on how to take care of their children when they are at home.[46] One outcome of this is noted below:

"One Muslim parent was very strict but he actually changed. When he listened to the radio at home and heard his daughter speaking and the topics she was discussing, he changed. She was discussing sexual reproductive health for young people and he wasn't aware of the issues. He called the radio producer and said he was happy that he is now aware and his relationship with his daughter has improved - she is now entrusted with money to take care of siblings and can intervene in fights at the home as the father listens to her without beating her."[47]

More broadly, the program was also found to have an impact on the wider communities' perceptions of the validity of young journalists' and youth' perspectives. As illustrated below, participants exposed to the programm, especially offline, were more likely to believe in youth's agency to bring an important perspective in social and political debates in the media and to find that the radio programs produced by the young journalists bring an added value on critical social and political issues, as opposed to community members not exposed to the program.

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[42] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
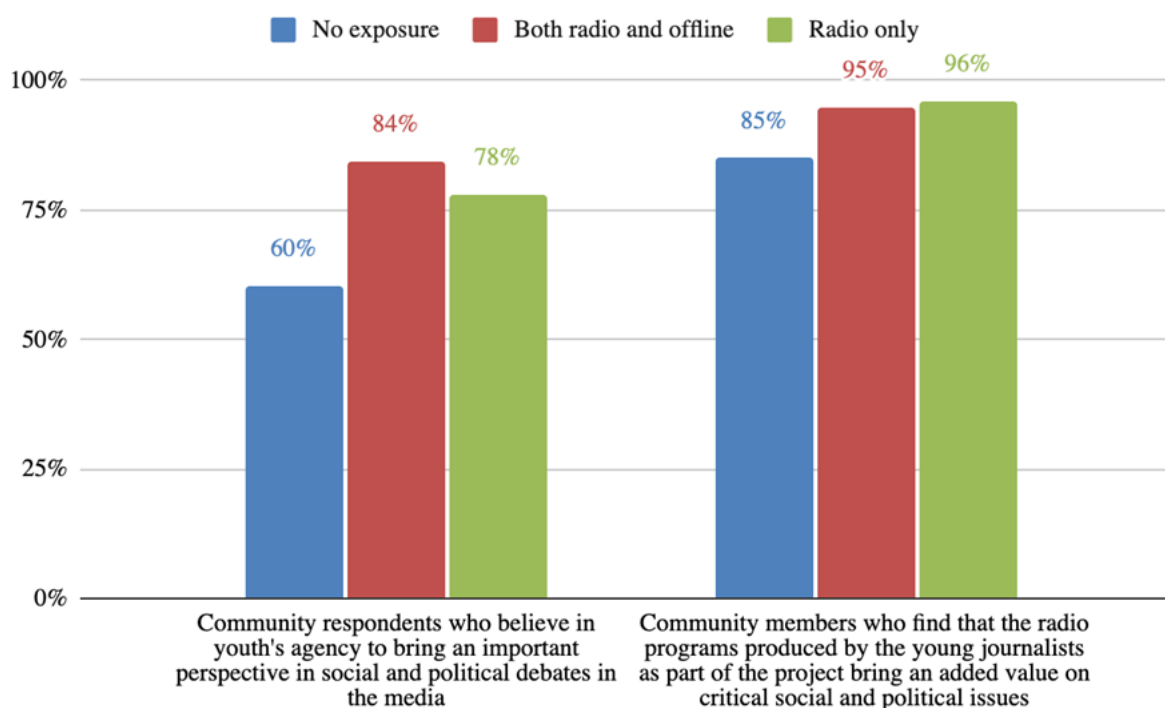[43] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[44] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[45] KII. Search Staff. Remote (CAR), May 2022
[46] KII DM&E Officer, Juba, May 2022
[47] KII Program Coordinator, Juba, May 2022

The format of the intergenerational dialogue activity was found to be inadequate. This activity was not organised in South Sudan, but took place once in Mali and in CAR. One respondent reported that the design of this activity, with around 200 people gathered in a room, was not a sustainable approach because it was a costly event and only a one-off.[48] Consequently, this respondent indicated that this activity would not be reconducted during an eventual phase II of Youth Talk. Nonetheless, regarding the prevalence of intergenerational issues in the intervention countries, rather than being abandoned, the approach to intergenerational dialogue could be redefined and designed in a more suitable format. Undertaking intergenerational dialogue with reduced attendance, only with families was suggested as an alternative. This would involve bringing together family members to listen to programs together and discussing the content. The benefit of this approach would be to put participants at ease. This model was adopted successfully in Mali for the consultative workshops and could be replicated in the other countries.

An unintended impact of the program was a reduced financial burden on households in South Sudan. As part of the youth journalists selection and training process, Search directly subsidized the school fees and scholastic materials of youth journalists, paid through quarterly grants to respective primary and secondary schools.[49] Some of this money dispersed was used to alleviate the effects of

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[48] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[49] KII. Search Staff. SS, May 2022.

poverty at the household level through allocation of money to pay for food.[50] In South Sudan, it seems that most youth journalists were already attending school, though the subsidization ensured sustained, if not greater, access to education opportunities, and guaranteed improved rates of educational attainment, likely to support greater access to career opportunities in the future. This was further supported by career guidance, which has helped the youth in making their own decisions without being influenced and forced to take a career that they are not interested in.[51] Respondents stated that the youth can now choose their own careers and professions. Adults' perceptions of adolescents were improved as a result of household's reduced financial burden. Moreover, improved parental understanding of youth concerns also likely contributed to decreasing levels of violence in the household and structural barriers to youth development (e.g. access to education).

The diversity of youth has led to positive changes in perceptions among youth journalists. 73 percent of youth journalists surveyed completely agreed with the following statement: the program has improved your connections to people of different backgrounds.[52]
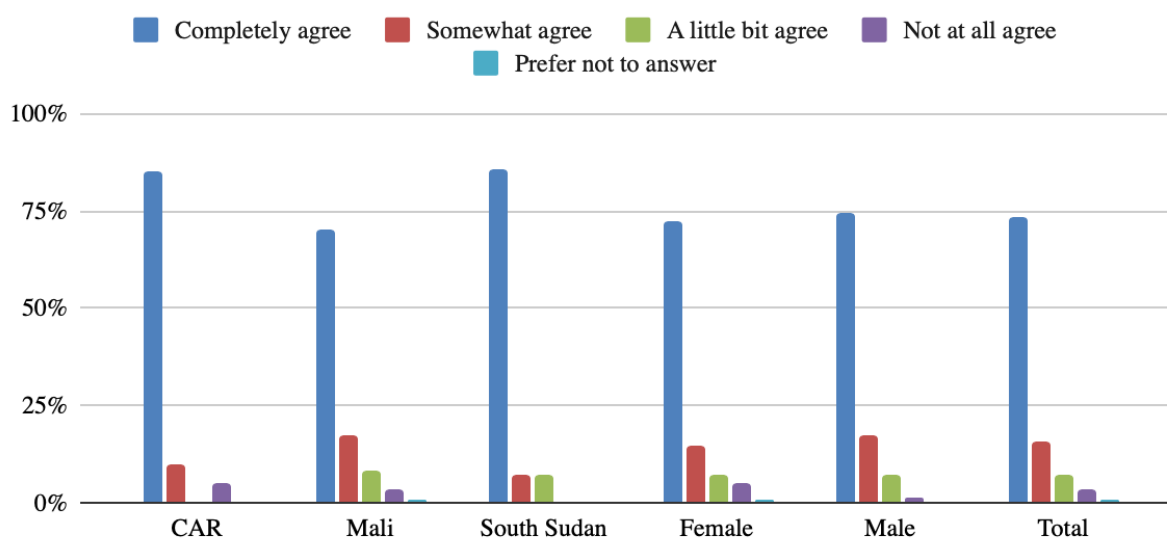
Both in Mali and CAR, the links between youth journalists have grown beyond the program as they have been socializing outside of project activities.[53] In Mali in particular, the inclusion of youth with disabilities, young people with visual impairments and youth with albinism has led to breakthroughs in terms of challenging stereotypes and building mutual respect. For example, in a KII, a young journalist explained that the relationships within the youth journalist group have changed enormously, especially in

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[50] Ibid.
[51] KII. External Stakeholder. SS, May 2022.
[52] Youth Journalist Survey. May 2022.
[53] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote (Mali and CAR), May 2022.

relation to visually impaired people. She stated that before the project she did not know that these youth had the same abilities as her.[54] A respondent also reported that the inclusion of visually impaired young people provided an opportunity to combat preconceived ideas about them.[55] This respondent related that at the beginning of the project, some non-visually impaired young journalists were afraid of 'catching blindness' if they touched visually impaired people, and they would not dare to sit next to them. However, these behaviors and ideas quickly disappeared. The respondent stated that this impact could be maximized by integrating even more visually impaired young people, to further encourage changes in perceptions.

The diversity of youth included also had some negative effects. One respondent in CAR reported that due to socio-cultural beliefs, the inclusion of early married youth led to other participants dropping out, as some parents considered these youth no longer reputable and did not want their children to be in contact with what they saw as 'bad kids'.[56] This respondent explained that this tension between the socio-cultural context and the ambitions of the program was a constant challenge. This highlights the need for increased awareness raising around the program, the rationale behind the selection of the youth participants and the focus on social cohesion, in order to counter such resistance and to lead to increased adoption of the program's ethos and messaging at the community level. Similarly, in South Sudan, the diversity of youth journalists initially created some challenges as one youth reported that they initially feared joining the group due to the presence of youth from other tribes.[57] However, the youth reported that these fears were allayed after joining the group, getting to know one another and working together.

Results Output 3: Youth-led radio programs have high reach and credibility with both youth and adult stakeholders

The concept of Youth Talk was well designed and positioned to address the underrepresentation of youth voices in society and drive appetite for youth-led programming. 81 percent of respondents completely agree that they are interested in hearing from the youth through youth led radio programs. Notably the percentage of those interested in hearing from youth through radio was higher for those who had been exposed to the Youth Talk radio programs, in both CAR and Mali. In CAR the figure stood at 89 percent for those exposed, compared to 74 percent for those not exposed. In Mali, the figure stood at 79 percent for those exposed and 65 percent for those not exposed. However, in South Sudan the opposite held true. The figure for those exposed was 76 percent, compared to 85 percent of those not exposed. Phone-ins were particularly popular in all three countries, with strong demand for 'live' radio sessions for listeners to voice their opinions on air.

Younger youth journalists successfully leveraged their position within society to raise sensitive socio-political issues with adult audiences. In South Sudan**,** several respondents noted the influence of the younger cohort of youth journalists (those aged 14-17), who were able to broach issues that were seen as more sensitive for adult journalists to discuss. This includes issues around the treatment of young people in general, military recruitment and Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM), with broader

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[54] KII. Youth Journalist. Remote (Mali), June 2022.
[55] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[56] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[57] Youth Journalists Survey, May 2022.

community members and stakeholders seen to give more space to these younger voices, creating an opportunity to trigger discussion for further debate on such issues.[58]

The program had a positive impact on non-participant youth. In Mali for example, one respondent reported that the young people from the community who were invited to participate in the consultative workshops were relieved because the young journalists were able to voice certain truths that the young community members did not feel comfortable to voice themselves.[59] As a result, through the youth journalists, the parents of the young community members were able to realize what they were also thinking and feeling without voicing it. In FGDs, the young community members who participated in the workshops explained that the program allowed them to be more open with their parents and improved their relationships with adults in general.[60] In addition, young respondents in FGDs highlighted that their participation to the program changed the way they feel about their ability to offer valuable perspectives on critical social and political discussions, and to be a positive agent for peace, with testimonies that the program was a source of inspiration and restored their confidence in their rights and abilities, as illustrated by the following statement:

"The program showed me that young people must stand up and fight alongside adults and claim their rights." FGD, Participant (non-journalist) Youth male, Mali, Bamako.

These changes could not be captured in CAR and South Sudan, due to data collection issues and the misuse of the guides provided by the evaluation team.

The evaluation identified persisting cultural challenges to achieving the expected outcomes in terms of changes in adult perceptions of youth, including stereotypes around youth, and lack of mutual trust between youth and adults. In FGDs in Mali, the bridge exercise with young members of the community enabled the identification of tensions and contradictions between the youth' aspirations and a sense of interiorised victimization. Whilst it appears that the young respondents from the community were showing a willingness to act as positive change agents in the communities and were expressing the desire to play a more important role in issues related to peacebuilding and social stability, and to improve relationships with adults, they were also self-deprecating. For example, when asked to explain what led to strained relationships between youth and adults in their community, the young respondents replied with statements such as: *"young people do not do what adults recommend," "Young people are not respectful of elders,"*[61] *"there are two categories of teenagers: the good ones and the bad ones," "This is partly due to the bad behavior of young people,"*[62] *"young people think they can learn a lot more on the internet, rather than from adults," "the bad behavior of adolescents is at the root of this situation, they indulge in the consumption of narcotics,"* and *"Adults no longer trust most young people due to bad behavior,*

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[58] KII. Search Staff. Juba, South Sudan. May, 2022.
[59] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[60] FGDs (the bridge exercise). Participants, Youth Male and Female. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[61] FGD. Youth female Non participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[62] FGD. Youth female Participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.

increased juvenile delinquency."[63] These generalizations about the bad character of young people reveal deeply entrenched stereotypes, which are fuelling negative self perceptions amongst youth. Whilst this highlights the relevance of the program's logic and the need to challenge such widespread preconceived ideas, it also highlights the fact that they still persist and that further effort to counter this narrative are necessary.

On the other hand, when asked to explain what led to strained relationships between youth and adults in their community, adult respondents in all FGDs in Mali largely referred to the issue of parental education, referring to a lack of parent's involvement with their education and a weakening of intergenerational relationships.[64] For example, *"it is mainly the parents who have neglected the education of , have given them freedom without following them or teaching them moral principles,"*[65] *"it is due to the disappearance of classical education (the involvement of all in a direct and indirect way). Teenagers judge this classical education as archaic and authoritarian which deprives them of all their rights."*[66] This issue of education was also raised by youth respondents: *"Some modest families fail in the education of their child due to the non-monitoring of the child because professional life takes precedence over family life. It's the case of a classic family, in which parents abandon the education of children due to financial problems. The child of this category of family is forced to self-educate in the street."*[67] This highlights a need to address underlying issues around social understanding of roles within the family.

In South Sudan and CAR, FGDs with community members also revealed several barriers to peaceful intergenerational relationships. When asked what led to the current strained state/nature of the relationships between adolescents and adults, respondents listed a range of issues. In South Sudan, some reasons mentioned by respondents were poverty, which puts strains on parents and leads to limited time and resources available to support their children, and early marriage, which leads to estrangement between young girls and their family.[68] In CAR, the political situation was a recurring issue, as respondents explained that it contributed to a rise in violent behavior among youth.[69] Other factors hampering relations between youth and adults mentioned in the FGDs in CAR included illiteracy, conformity of youth,[70] substance abuse, lack of mutual respect, and issues of sexual harrassment of young girls by some adults.[71]

The project achieved limited success towards increased inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes, which highlights a need to further engage with decision-makers, both at local, national and global levels. 61 percent of beneficiaries completely agree

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[63] FGD. Youth male participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[64] FGD. Adult male and female participants and non-participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[65] FGD. Adult female participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[66] FGD. Adult female non-participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[67] FGD. Youth male non-participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[68] FGD (Bridge exercise). SS. May 2022.
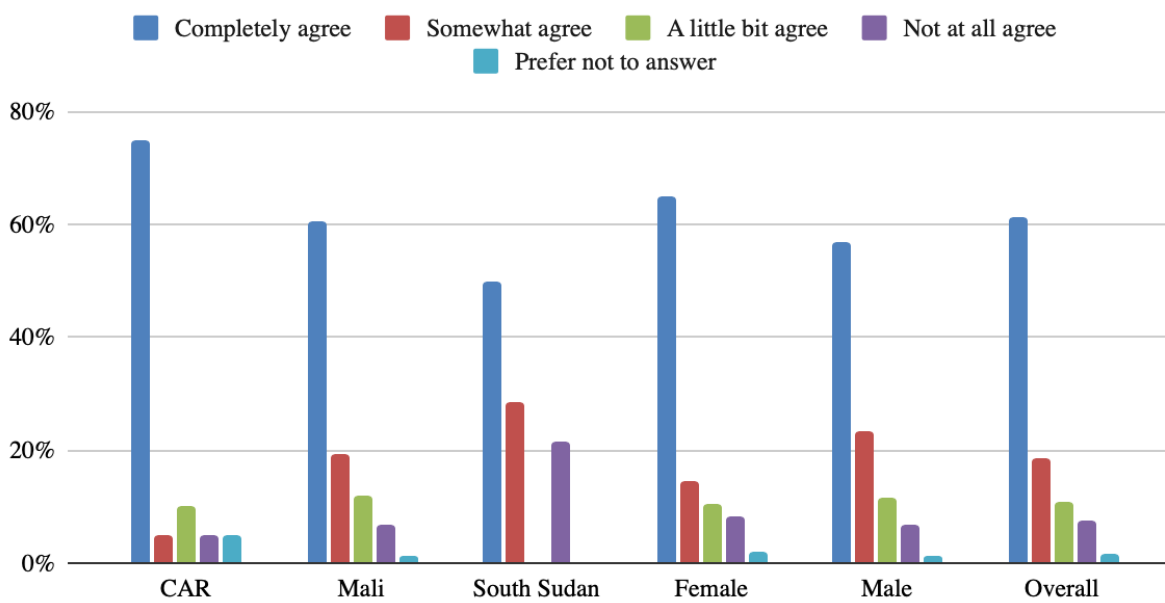[69] FGD (Bridge exercise). Adults Participants (Women). CAR, Bambari, May 2022.
[70] Conformity of youth here refers to general adolescents' compliance with peer-defined social norms, due to peer pressure, or desire to fit in. This conformity to group norms can further deepen the divide with adults and prevent mutual understanding.
[71] FGDs (Bridge exercise). All respondents types. CAR, Bambari and Bangui, May 2022

that the program has improved their connections with other decision makers since training. The figure was highest in CAR (75 percent), followed by Mali (60 percent), South Sudan (50 percent).

The programme has improved your connections with other decision makers since training

Legend: Completely agree · Somewhat agree · A little bit agree · Not at all agree · Prefer not to answer

One respondent mentioned that several campaigns were undertaken to increase visibility of youth outside their countries. For example, in 2021, two youth journalists from Mali were awarded the Common Ground award for peace. As the awardees could not travel to receive their prizes, due to visa reasons, an event was organized in Mali to increase their visibility at the national level. Opportunities for youth journalists to connect with high-level stakeholders, beyond the national level, remained limited. An advocacy visit was supposed to be held in Addis Ababa, the AU (African Union) hub, with young journalists of the three countries to provide them with an opportunity to interact with stakeholders at the regional level (AU level). However, this event had to be canceled because of COVID-19, and the activity was not rescheduled, as the end of the program was approaching.[72] This respondent noted that although this event could not take place, the youth journalists in South Sudan received a visit from UN envoyees and were able to interview them. There needs to be greater integration between program activities and national-level political activities in future programming to ensure great inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes. Physical visits and conferences are key to achieving this.

The radio programs reportedly produced positive unintended behavioral changes among both youth and adults in the community. One Search staff member related how the military command of the

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[72] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) came to barracks with the press to release child soldiers under their command the day after Lugara Shabaab interviewed the spokesperson of SPLM.[73] While causality cannot be established this constitutes anecdotal evidence of the program having a positive impact on decision-makers. Similarly, a youth journalist interviewed the Undersecretary from the Ministry of Education regarding cheating in schools and the leaking of exam papers. The youth journalist went back to the Undersecretary after exam papers were leaked, and as a result the Undersecretary reportedly had the National Security Agency (NSA) investigate the matter, and the individual responsible for leaking the exam paper was arrested.

One youth journalist in CAR reported that following a program on drug use, one of their cousins who had listened to the program decided to reduce his drug use, having understood the negative impact of drugs. However, as with the examples provided in the paragraph above, this evidence is anecdotal.[74]

The program was particularly successful in adapting to external developments. COVID-19 had an impact on project activities, with program staff making country specific adaptations. Some activities had to be canceled while others were implemented in a different way to what was initially envisaged. Similarly adaptations were required due to the political situation in Mali, including temporarily suspending production activities and subsequently, airing a program related to the changing socio-political situation. Youth journalists chose the subject *'What is the role of children in a country in crisis?'* These efforts demonstrate the program's flexibility and the ability to adapt to complex and sometimes volatile contextual dynamics.

4.2.iii Capturing and sharing learning and tools with donors, policy makers, and practitioners (Objective 3)

The project successfully implemented participatory approaches that placed youth at the center of the intervention. In Mali, one respondent explained that some young journalists were entrusted with coordinating "pools" of youth journalists across Bamako.[75] Due to the high number of youth journalists in Bamako, the cohorts were organized by locality, and then in each locality, two pools of young journalists were created, each supervised by a coach and coordinated by young journalists. The youth journalists appointed themselves their 'captains' as in each pool, two young journalists (1 boy, 1 girl) were put in charge of the pool management, including with the responsibility to inform their peers, choose the places for the consultative workshops, and raise awareness among the participants to these workshops upstream. This practice was found to have a direct impact on the broader youth engagement as this respondent reported that when the adolescents took over the management of the pools from the coaches, it aroused much more enthusiasm among other young people in the community.

The design of age-appropriate and inclusive training modules is a best practice that has the potential to inform future programming. A consultant was recruited to provide technical support in the development of training material adapted to an adolescent audience, adapting some of the existing Search

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[73] KII. Search Staff. Juba, South Sudan. May 2022.
[74] KII. Youth Journalist. CAR. May 2022.
[75] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.

training material and building on other agencies' material around participatory engagement with young people, with methodologies around enhancing adolescent-friendly approaches.[76] For example, Search's existing Common Ground Approach was adapted to make it easier to access for a youth audience, changing some language and case scenarios to make it more inclusive. Insights were brought in from other participatory work with adolescents to shape the length of the activity or the timing or just making sure they would use easier language, or make it even more interactive, collaborative and adolescent-led. Then, based on the feedback of the young journalists and local facilitators, the training guides were refined.[77]

Beyond the content of the training sessions, particular efforts were also made to adapt the timing of the training sessions around the young journalists' lives. One respondent reported that part of being inclusive was juggling program activities with the lives of young people and recognising that harder to reach adolescents might be busy doing household chores or earning an income, so efforts were made to understand these contextual factors and understand when they were available and when to organize the training at times that suit them.[78]

As part of this objective, Search worked with a consultant to capture learning and programming recommendations across the countries in a practical guide on engaging seldom-heard adolescent voices in peace and security. Although the dissemination of the guide had not started at the time of this evaluation, which limits the evaluation of its influence, the development of this guide crystallizes the project's commitment to documenting learnings and constitutes a best practice. Throughout the project, continuous efforts have been for continuous learning, with a number of sessions articulated around specific topics including the training modules, and safeguarding, to document lessons learned.[79] The guide, still in a draft version at the time of the evaluation, was created by an external consultant through a series of KIIs and FGDs using participatory tools to get the perspectives of both staff and young journalists on what had worked well, what had been the challenges and gather their suggestions on how to improve. This guide aims to bring together the project's learnings around how to support adolescent voices in peace and security, looking at principles for working with adolescents; learnings around access and inclusion; around safeguarding mechanisms in place, psycho-social support and building adolescents' resilience through the programming. It also includes practical guidance on how to involve adolescents (reaching out and selection), engaging parents/caregivers/guardians, maintaining cohesion among the group, and building skills, confidence and leadership of adolescents, focusing on building a motivating learning environment, building intergenerational collaboration and mutual understanding between adolescents and adults, with practical tips and approaches. The guide also includes young people's own tips on how to produce radio programs as well as a series of case examples from the project and links to other relevant practical resources. One respondent reported that the intention is for the guide to be uploaded and rolled out in Search's set of tools and methodologies for program quality and to be published externally, accompanied by some dissemination efforts, including amongst a global community of practice groups that Search members are part of.[80]

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[76] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[77] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[78] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[79] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[80] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.

One respondent highlighted that the guidance piece is really important to amplify the visibility and maximize the use of the project's learnings, sharing the barriers and the enablers, to help inform design and implementation of future programming about how to better reach hard to reach adolescents.[81] Whilst the guide had not yet been disseminated at the time of this evaluation, this respondent highlighted the potential for this guide to contribute to the broader existing body of work/literature on engaging with hard to reach adolescents and to be useful both for within Search and for other agencies.

Results Output 4: Implementers, donors, and policymakers are more aware of effective tools and strategies to empower hard to reach youth

The program created an interface between policy-makers and youth journalists but was seen to have limited impact on policy issues. This evaluation was not able to capture this change from high-level decision makers (national level) and donors, as it was not possible to carry out KIIs with these stakeholders. However, according to other categories of respondents, there has been extremely positive feedback and a positive response to program activities from some political and professional actors, including ministers, military commanders, and senior decision-makers.

In South Sudan, the project launch was attended by government institutions, including the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Youth, youth unions, and international organizations and INGOs like UNICEF and Save the Children. This served as a means to raise awareness of the upcoming program. On the same day as the launch, there was a roundtable discussion, with youth journalists and government officials, which created a forum that strengthened youth engagement with policymakers.[82] The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth invited young participants to his office to see how the Ministry could support their program. However, there was no follow-up. The Ministry was willing to engage, but lacked the financial ability to do so. Nevertheless, they provided recommendations and connections. Moreover, the Undersecretary joined the project's WhatsApp group and sometimes comments there, demonstrating a willingness to engage with seldom heard adolescents.[83] Other examples of high-level engagement, discussed earlier in this report, include an interview being conducted with a military commander in South Sudan on the recruitment of child soldiers. In addition, the Minister of Education listened to the program and requested to meet with those who made the program to congratulate them.[84]

In Mali, a total of 360 consultative workshops were organized. A large number of professionals participated, including community leaders, school principals, and politicians. An advisor from the Youth and Sports Ministry participated in one workshop. These workshops therefore provided youth journalists with the opportunity to discuss topical issues that matter to them, in the presence of personalities and authority figures. One Search staff member reported that many adults participating in the consultative workshops were 'amazed' and 'in disbelief' at the level of knowledge of the youth journalists. A Search staff member also mentioned that the program team made particular efforts to let the youth lead the

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[81] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[82] KII. Search Staff. Juba, South Sudan. May, 2022.
[83] KII. Search Staff. Juba, South Sudan. May, 2022.
[84] KII. Search Staff. Juba, South Sudan. May, 2022.

workshops and trusted the youth to speak freely, with minimum intervention from Search staff.[85] This is a good practice that allowed young journalists to fully demonstrate their abilities as change agents and their leadership potential to the community and decision makers.

From the examples outlined above, it is clear that the project was successful in connecting youth with high-level stakeholders and decision-makers through radio and consultative workshops in Mali and South Sudan. However, it achieved limited success towards increased inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes. Moreover, the research undertaken for this evaluation did not uncover any evidence of high-level engagement with the program in CAR.

In addition, in Mali, one respondent mentioned that increased efforts could be done to enhance collaboration with other relevant projects.[86] This development partner expressed a need for improved sharing of information about the project, including progress and results, as it can inform other projects. In addition, this respondent highlighted further opportunities for synergies with other programs, such as 'Just Future,'[87] as there is a crossover with Youth Talk given that some young journalists were also a part of the Just Future project. Therefore, exploring coordination could be useful to scale up the project in areas where other organizations are implementing relevant initiatives.

4.3 Crosscutting Considerations

4.3.i Intended/Unintended Consequences

Impacts have been discussed under each program component. In addition, the complete summary and descriptions of intended and unintended, positive and negative impacts of the project can be found in the substantiated outcome harvesting sheet.

4.3.ii Safeguarding

The project has provided a unique opportunity to pilot safeguarding measures developed as part of Search's new policy. A key success was the roll out and institutionalization of the safeguarding measures piloted as part of Youth Talk, at the level of the whole organization. One respondent explained that in 2019, Search initiated efforts to develop an organization-wide safeguarding policy based on a Search program in Nigeria focused on child protection, but with limited resources to finalize and operationalize the policy across the organization. Youth Talk then presented an opportunity to pilot safeguarding guidelines, given the focus on adolescents, that were then codified in an organization-wide Safeguarding

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[85] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[86] KII. Development Partner. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[87] 'Just Future' is a Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs project implemented in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Mali, Niger and Afghanistan, which seeks to promote more inclusive decision-making. Search is part of the implementing consortium, which is led by Cordaid.

and Child Protection policy adopted in November 2020 and rolled out across the organization.[88] Key Search informants have highlighted that safeguarding was a top priority throughout the project cycle.[89] Search appointed focal points in all the Youth Talk implementation countries.[90] In addition, confidential feedback mechanisms, referral pathways and reporting channels were put in place and communicated to Search staff and partners.[91] At the organizational-level Search also continued developing and rolling out a Search-wide policy based on insights from the Youth Talk project, holding regular (monthly) calls with safeguarding focal points on different areas of focus within their safeguarding responsibilities and developing an online training course that is mandatory for all Search staff.

Over a year after adopting the safeguarding measures in the Youth Talk project and establishing Search's safeguarding policy, Youth Talk funding was leveraged to bring in an external consultant to provide advanced safeguarding training to staff and support the strengthening of the global safeguarding policy and its implementation. The consultant held consultative conversations with the project teams and safeguarding focal points in each of the implementation countries to get a sense of the extent to which the global policy (adopted in November 2020) was implemented and identified specific needs and challenges for safeguarding in each context. Following these consultations, the consultant developed recommendations for how the safeguarding policy could be more effective. One respondent explained that Youth Talk enabled the organization to fill a gap in specialized capacities on safeguarding through hiring the consultant to assess the organization's policy, its implementation, and strengthen the capacities of safeguarding focal points across the Youth Talk implementation countries. This work was then incorporated into the global program and was therefore "highly valuable to the worldwide global organization."[92] As a result of the work of the consultant, there is now more active and regular engagement with the Country Directors as key leadership to support a culture of safeguarding for the staff.

One respondent highlighted that another key safeguarding-related achievement is the integration of a safeguarding risk assessment component into the recently updated project start up protocols used across the organization.[93] The respondent further explained that efforts are ongoing with program management staff to understand how monitoring of mitigation (identified during risk assessment) can work, and can be applied across programs. Two respondents explained that the project team informally discussed risks such as risk of incentivization, and developed mitigation approaches to achieve a balance between being supportive, whilst being fair and avoiding exploitation.[94]

Overall participants reported feeling safe, however, there are some factors that have hindered progress on safeguarding. These include the fact that the safeguarding policy is still relatively new, cultural barriers, and monitoring gaps. Overall, 88 percent of trained youth felt completely safe

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[88] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[89] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote, May and June 2022.
[90] KII. Search Staff. Remote, June 2022.
[91] Ibid.
[92] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[93] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[94] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022

participating in the program and 12 per cent felt somewhat safe.[95] In addition, 99 percent of trained youth believe that Search treated them with dignity and respect through implementation.[96] This indicates success in creating a safe space for youth journalists. This was reflected in Mali, where in an FGD, youth journalists reported feeling at ease and feeling like Search treats them well and feels like a family to them.[97] One of the FGD's respondents mentioned that the fact that Search had the parents' approval reassured the young journalists. Another youth journalist FGD respondent also gave an example of how their concerns were taken into account, as they mentioned issues related to the bus transfer to and from the project's activities, including delays, and excessive speed of the drivers, which was taken seriously by Search staff, as there has been a change of drivers and account.[98] The participants mentioned that Search staff would listen to them, and give them advice as necessary.

However, some safeguarding limitations were raised. In Mali, a case of sexual harassment by a coach was reported by a young journalist. Whilst this issue was raised during the young journalists survey for this final evaluation, and the young respondent mentioned that they knew about the reporting mechanisms, they had not raised the issue with Search until that time, highlighting a limitation of the safeguarding mechanisms, as the mechanisms are in place, but not fully utilized by the young journalists.[99] In South Sudan, staff turnover contributed to several changes in the youth journalists' safeguarding focal point. Over the course of the project, various different staff members were designated focal points for youth journalists to contact if they experienced psychosocial issues or safeguarding concerns.[100] This meant that youth did not always know who the current focal point was, and focal points may not have had the desired depth of knowledge of safeguarding. In South Sudan, a child rights expert who partnered with Search noted that interactions between youth journalists and government ministers exposed young participants to protection risks. The expert stated that while it was acceptable to interact with humanitarian actors, and maybe other community members, this should not have happened with politicians.[101]

Some efforts have been made to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding. For example, one respondent mentioned that two Search staff members at the global level from the HR & Administrative team and the Children & Youth technical unit had completed a self-audit, from the self-audit tool from "Keeping Safe" which allows organizations to evaluate aspects of the safeguarding infrastructure. Search also tracks each country office's progress on safeguarding on a performance dashboard.[102] Whilst this constitutes a useful action plan, laying out all the key steps needed for safeguarding, this respondent also stated that the dashboard has highlighted significant differences in countries' ability to engage in safeguarding. As a mitigation strategy, the respondent indicated that efforts are going at the organizational level to institutionalize safeguarding budget requirements. The organization's safeguarding self-audit highlights the need for closer monitoring of safeguarding's effectiveness at the country level, including specific

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[95] Youth Journalist Survey. May 2022.
[96] Youth Journalist Survey. May 2022.
[97] FGD. Female Youth Journalists. Bamako, Mali
[98] FGD. Female Youth Journalists. Bamako, Mali.
[99] This issue was escalated to project management in writing by the Bodhi project manager immediately after completion of fieldwork. Search then immediately reported the issue to the relevant HR and safety and security focal point for immediate action.
[100] KIIs. Search Staff. Juba, South Sudan. May 2022.
[101] KII. Child Rights Expert. Juba, South Sudan. May 2022.
[102] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.

qualitative indicators related to safeguarding could be built into the M&E plan to monitor the effectiveness of the safeguarding initiative. This is especially relevant as this evaluation identified some gaps in participants' knowledge of reporting mechanisms. In particular, across countries, 13 percent of the trained youth were not aware at all, and 9 per cent were only a little bit aware of how to report safeguarding concerns, with no significant difference between young boys and young girls.[103] In South Sudan, 29 percent of trained youth were not aware of how to report safeguarding concerns and 7 percent were only a little bit aware of how to do this.[104]

One respondent also highlighted that there are cultural barriers to take into account as even if the young journalists know about the focal points and about the reporting mechanisms, they might not feel comfortable in raising concerns and issues, as in some instances it would mean overcoming socio-cultural norms of obedience and compliance.[105] Consequently, such contextual considerations must be taken into account to design adequate reporting mechanisms, associated with awareness raising sessions around the participants' rights, to encourage comfort in reporting. In light of these challenges, it is clear that there is a need for continued awareness raising among staff and participants.

4.3.iii Sustainability

Evidence attitudinal and behavioral change amongst young journalists supports sustained results, with increased confidence to promote youth voices. Three respondents explained that the project's impact for the young journalists is sustainable as their experience with the project will influence their life paths in the long term and have an ongoing positive impact.[106] One of these respondents highlighted that this was particularly attributable to the 'power of radio' and the transferrable skills and confidence it provides to the young journalists, which can be used in other ways.[107]

In FGDs, youth journalists in Mali reported that they were highly confident in their ability to continue promoting youth voices.[108]

> *"I am very confident in my ability to maintain my collaboration with adults because now I know how to speak to them, how to discuss with them, and also thanks to the activity we did, I was able to collaborate with other young people and I believe that I can maintain this relationship."* Mali, Female Youth Journalist.

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[103] Youth Journalist Survey. May 2022.
[104] Youth Journalist Survey. May 2022.
[105] KIIs. Search staff. Remote, June 2022.
[106] KIIs. Search staff. Remote, June 2022.
[107] KII. Search staff. Remote, June 2022.
[108] FGDs.Young Journalists. Mali, May 2022.

In addition, the initiatives started by young journalists beyond the scope of the project, also indicates sustainable impacts. In Mali, some young journalists started a local organization, and some others initiated community work activities in their area. This indicated a willingness to continue building on the project's effort to make a difference. One respondent indicated that it would be key to find ways to support those initiatives, and continue investing in those young people.[109]

Evidence indicates that community members' perceptions regarding the role of youth have changed durably. FGD respondents have expressed confidence in sustainable perception changes. In Mali, adults who participated in the program reported that their participation changed the way they feel about youth's ability to offer valuable perspectives on critical social and political discussions, and to be a positive agent for peace, and they also reported that they trusted their ability to continue nurturing collaboration with youth.[110] In Mali, a media partner also reported that the changes would be durable as the radio programs penetrated topics pertaining to the daily lives of Malians, and led to significant changes in inter- and intra-personal relationships and social cohesion.[111] One respondent from Search reported that the way the whole community perceives these specific categories of adolescents (Persons with Disabilities, displaced) will continue to change since the people, including decision makers, can see the value they can bring to discussions.[112]

Continued engagement with youth and adults was raised as a priority to further entrench the project's impact. Whilst significant impacts have been secured through the project, it was observed that most initial problems persist, with ongoing intergenerational issues, therefore highlighting the need for continuous engagement, with youth and adults alike. In Mali seven respondents highlighted the need for a monitoring framework to follow-up on the young journalists.[113] One respondent reported that there is still a need to repeat training sessions on journalism and communication and to organize social cohesion activities.[114] This was also mentioned by one young journalist in Mali who expressed a fear of forgetting some journalistic notions.[115] One community also mentioned that the radio programs should not stop being broadcasted as it is through continuous exposure to the voices of young people that they will eventually be more listened to.[116]

Advocacy with relevant authorities, establishing youth associations, strengthening training and capacities of young people, financial support, integrating adults into programming and awareness raising on youth rights are seen as ways to move towards sustainable progress.

Identifying opportunities to connect youth with each other, and with media houses, in a more systematic manner, can further ensure the program's sustainability. In South Sudan, there were two

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[109] Ibid.
[110] FGD (Bridge exercise and content testing). Adults (male and female). Programme participants. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[111] KII. Media partner. Remote, May 2022.
[112] KII. Search staff. Remote, June 2022.
[113] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022 ; Media Partner. Bamako, Mali, May 2022 ; Community leaders. Bamako, Mali, May 2022.
[114] KII. Search Staff. Remote, May 2022.
[115] KII. Young Journalist. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[116] KII. Community Leader. Bamako, Mali, May 2022.

successful referrals from the program. First, a former child soldier with a physical disability was offered a scholarship opportunity to study in the United States. This was a result of Search partner connections with the African Leadership University (ALU) and universities in Ethiopia, and administrative support in the application process including providing the airline ticket and necessary documentation (national ID card and passport). This referral mechanism was established at project launch with the regional and implementing team in Kigali who workshopped approaches to capacity building and strategic partnerships. Second, a female youth journalist secured an internship with Samaritan FM based in Juba, who run a live version of Lugara Shabaab. From here she has been seconded to Eye Radio for three months to develop her program design, production and reporting skills in collaboration with the Media Development Institute. Search is covering 20 percent of the costs for a one-year diploma program.[117] In Mali, following a radio program on early marriage, the young journalist who presented this program was invited to undertake an internship by a radio station.[118]These actions are extremely positive steps for longer-term sustainability and elevation for South Sudanese youth participants. However, the evaluation found that these are largely driven on a personal basis through connections of well-established Search staff and partners, with limited exchange for the support and budgetary allocations dedicated to the radio programming, PSS, and airing of programs for the media component.

While the understanding, attitudes and skills of youth have been developed by the programming, concerns were raised about the long-term sustainability of these benefits without adequate government buy-in or tacit support. In South Sudan, suggestions from both Search staff and community leaders were made for mechanisms to be established which can create a physical space for youth to organize or meet such as creating centers for the youth to continue generating activities and voicing their opinions, as, without a youth platform at parliament or national level, there is limited visibility and support for youth through existing structures.[119]

"If they [youth journalists] don't have opportunities to connect to media houses, it will not be sustainable and will be difficult to maintain the positive benefits. Need to connect in primary and secondary school to opportunities to continue, to amplify the number of voices."[120]

Similarly, in CAR and Mali, the desire for increased opportunities for youth to connect was also expressed by youth (both journalists and non-journalists) in FGDs. In CAR, in three FGDs with young journalists, when asked what is needed to improve relationships between journalists, and youth/adolescents' perceptions that their concerns and interests are reflected in social and political discussions on peace, the respondents gave the idea of creating youth clubs/associations, as a safe space for conversations between youth on different topics.[121] In Mali, this idea was also mentioned by youth

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[117] KII. Search Staff. South Sudan, Juba, May 2022.
[118] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[119] KII. External Stakeholder. South Sudan, Yambio. May, 2022.
[120] KII. External Stakeholder. South Sudan, Juba. May, 2022.
[121] FGDs (the bridge exercise). Non-participants, Youth Female. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.

from the community (non-journalists) as a solution to increase adolescents' level of influence to inform programming and policies around social and political issues related to building lasting peace.[122]

Localisation of program content and activities in rural areas to ensure grassroots engagement would further strengthen the viability of project results being sustainable. In South Sudan, the program was primarily implemented at the national level in Juba. While Juba provides a good piloting environment given the variety of tribal identities, backgrounds and experiences, many socio-political issues foment at the local, grassroots level (state, county, payam). These issues remain underserved. With 64 tribes in South Sudan, localisation of content and language was mentioned as a key challenge for expansion and impact. In Central Equatoria, 90 percent speak Bari, while the remaining 10 percent speak Lulogo and Lukoya, resulting in English or Juba Arabic being the unifying language. Questions were raised over the targeting of radio content in English skewing towards urban-centered, more educated populations, raising the concern that more vulnerable communities may be unable to access the content. In other states such as Jonglei where each tribe has its own local language (e.g. Dinka, Nuer, Jiir, Anuak), a large amount of human resources would be required to localize the language. However, producing content that reflects the lived experience of listeners would serve to increase credibility, authenticity and potentially expand the audience base. The project has produced around 100 programs, with content produced in Juba and broadcast nationwide. This has built a listenership and awareness of youth issues across states but at present there are limited opportunities for communities outside of Juba to participate in the program, or for stories and experiences outside of Juba to be picked up and disseminated. In Mali, two respondents also highlighted the need to expand the reach of the program beyond Bamako, as other regions are facing the same challenges, including the North and Center of the country where communities are facing conflict and could benefit from the program.[123]

In South Sudan, organic diffusion into Yambio has already taken place, with young people forming a listener's group. There is therefore already a foundation for programming in Yambio. The fact that Eye Radio noted how the youth journalist programming added value to the other types of content they usually broadcast also indicates that youth perspectives are valued by professionals, indicating that after the end of the program, these partners may continue to promote youth voices and broadcast youth-led content.

5. Conclusions

5.1. Achievement of expected results

Overall all indicator targets were met. The same holds true at the individual country level. The only indicator that was not met was *Percent of community respondents who believe in youth's agency to bring an important perspective in social and political debates in the media* in Mali. This is due to persistent distrust and deeply ingrained negative perceptions of youth. It is noteworthy that the program started

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[122] FGD (the bridge exercise). Non-participants, Youth Female. Mali, Bamako, May 2022.
[123] KIIs. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.

shortly before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant that teams had to adapt their approaches to programming significantly.

5.2 Amplifying the voice and agency of young people around each country's critical social and political issues related to building lasting peace (Objective 1)

Thanks to an inclusive and context-sensitive selection process of youth journalists and relevant and participatory capacity-building sessions, the project successfully empowered hard to reach youth by providing them with a range of transferable skills that they have been able to use both within and beyond the project. The young journalists were able to produce quality radio programming which was very positively received by the communities. Indeed, the program was highly successful in producing youth-led radio programs that are seen as bringing important youth perspectives to critical issues around peace and stability. Nonetheless, both the audience and project staff identified avenues for improving the reach of the radio programs, including exploring other media, and increasing communication around the program and broadcast times.

Beyond enabling youth journalists to produce high-quality radio programs, the project also benefits them by fostering motivation, entrepreneurialism; agency and success as the evaluation found evidence of youth journalists creating their own initiatives, and acting as mediators in conflicts between friends or in their family. In addition, amongst youth from the community who participated in project activities, the project led to increased awareness of their role and capacities as change agents.

5.3 Strengthening mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults (Objective 2)

There is evidence to suggest that the program strengthened mutual understanding and collaboration between youth and older adults. Across all three countries, the project's activities have led to a shift of perceptions as both qualitative and quantitative data reveals improved relationships between youth and adults, including within families. In particular, the consultative workshops were instrumental in breaking barriers and providing opportunities for open conversations between young journalists and community members. Overall, the program was found to have a positive impact on the wider communities' perceptions of the validity of young journalists' and youth' perspectives. However, the evaluation identified several persisting cultural challenges including among others, poverty, lack of trust, and substance abuse, which hinder the program's impact.

The project also had a positive impact amongst youth (both participants and non-participants). Indeed, amongst youth journalists, the project had led to increased understanding and tolerance of differences. However, the project achieved limited success towards increased inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes, which highlights a need to further engage with decision-makers, both at local, national and global levels.

5.4 Capturing and sharing learning and tools with donors, policy makers, and practitioners (Objective 3)

The emphasis on producing and sharing knowledge about the program is a best practice that will inform future programming beyond Search. In particular, the production of a guide on engaging and empowering hard to reach youth via youth-led programming, documenting the project's best practices, will maximize the use of the project's learnings and inform practitioners.

Although the project increased connection between youth journalists and policy-makers, it had a limited impact on policies. Indeed, whilst the youth journalists had opportunities to meet and interview high-level stakeholders including ministers, the evaluation did not find evidence of changes in those stakeholders' commitment to empower hard to reach youth. In future programming, increased emphasis on engaging with policy-makers might lead to greater impact on the inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes.

5.5 Safeguarding

The roll out and institutionalization of the safeguarding guidelines introduced as part of Youth Talk, at the level of the whole organization, was a key success. However, while considerable progress has been made in raising awareness about safeguarding among Search staff and program participants, there is room for improvement. In particular, there is a need to further develop strategies for overcoming cultural barriers to reporting safeguarding concerns, and for improved monitoring mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness of the safeguarding initiative.

5.6 Sustainability

Youth journalists demonstrated increased confidence, and have acquired transferable skills as a result of their participation in Youth Talk, including public speaking, advocacy, awareness raising, leadership and collaborative skills. Moreover, adults' perceptions of youth have undergone a significant positive shift. Both of these developments suggest attitudinal and behavioral change brought about by the program is sustainable. Initiatives beyond the scope of the project, started by youth journalists in Mali and by listeners in South Sudan, also demonstrate the sustainability of program impacts. However, further project engagement is required to further entrench the project's impact.

6. Recommendations

Programme design/implementation
- Design the program collaboratively with implementing partners and strategic partners. This is important, as it can take time for partners to understand the project. In South Sudan, Search should continue to partner with Eye Radio station managers, who demonstrated strong contextual knowledge of the issues affecting communities across South Sudan, provided mentorship and technical skills to youth journalists, and were highly knowledgeable on the media landscape across the country. Future programming could seek to strengthen the external support provided to youth journalists in devising topics that are localized to different states, communities and experiences to amplify those voices and increase the listener base.

- Identify youth who are out-of-school to participate in the youth journalists program, providing financial support to their guardians or directly to schools (in the case of orphans). Search can enhance their coordination with child protection actors, such as UNICEF, to identify more vulnerable and expand the languages available to increase reach outside of urban centers.

- Search should consider the most appropriate target groups for long-term impact of the radio activities and future programming and build this into the Theory of Change and/or logframe. While both adults and youth show strong results in awareness and listener frequency, older generations are often the power holders within communities and the gatekeepers for social change. Therefore, future programming could build in an inter-generational component that directly measures the impact of radio programming on the attitudes and behaviors of older generations towards adolescents, with program schedules tailored to adults and radio stations selected which appeal to older audiences.

- Develop radio program content to enhance creativity by including multiple segments, targeting radio stations that have a high youth listener base and, if addressing issues on intergenerational gaps, identify radio stations that are popular with older audiences.

- Increase the emphasis on engaging with policy-makers to yield greater impact on the inclusion and representation of adolescents' needs in discussions on peace processes. Increase opportunities for high-level roundtables with decision-makers and advocacy on the radio.

- Provide refresher training for Search staff in South Sudan on the Common Ground Approach (CGA), to ensure full understanding.

- M&E systems could be enhanced to incorporate more audience monitoring e.g. through integrating surveys/community audience polls and closer monitoring of audience feedback with the partner radios.

- Logframe indicators should be refined, as the qualitative indicators encourage cherry picking good results from KIIs, with no real depth. It would be worth considering media monitoring of government announcements concerning youth in a period before, during and after programming, for example.

Safeguarding

- Conduct thorough capacity assessment of Search staff to work with adolescents from low-education backgrounds, different abilities and languages. Subsequently, conduct further awareness raising of safeguarding among Search staff. In addition, establish robust monitoring systems to ensure effectiveness of safeguarding policies and procedures. In particular, specific qualitative indicators related to safeguarding could be built into the program's M&E plan to monitor the effectiveness of the safeguarding initiative.

- The training curriculum and support services offered should be tailored in order to ensure Search staff are trained to handle youth with complex, acute needs, that those youth have access to required support services such as counseling and MHPSS and that longer-term safety nets are in place to ensure sustainability of project objectives once the youth journalists graduate from the program.

- Develop a systematic, written, risk analysis matrix to ensure that the program fully adheres to 'do no harm' principles, and that all steps to mitigate identified risks are documented. Efforts are ongoing with program management staff to understand how monitoring of mitigation (identified during risk assessment) can work, and can be applied across programs.

Sustainability

- To enhance the referral process and strategic partnerships with stakeholders, Search could look to allocate greater funding to growing two-way partnerships with universities, media houses and other private sector organizations to strengthen the sustainability of program benefits. Search could start by developing further Memorandums of Understanding with existing partners and expand to a number of others it identifies as having potential for mutual exchange and adjusting the logframe/Theory of Change to acknowledge the Youth Talk program's role as an incubator for youth. Refine recruitment criteria and explore partnerships (e.g. UNICEF) for selection.

- Support the establishment of a physical space for youth to organize and meet. Continue to connect youth to opportunities outside of the program through training, scholarships and earning opportunities.

Scalability

- A number of opportunities for scalability were identified during the course of the research undertaken for this evaluation. There is interest and potential of expansion to areas outside urban centers. In South Sudan, organic diffusion into Yambio has already taken place, with young people forming a listener's group. There is therefore already a foundation for programming in Yambio. Similarly, in Mali the program could be expanded outside Bamako.

- In Mali, respondents expressed a desire for digitalisation, going beyond radio programming to TV and social media platforms. This would increase exposure and reach for youth participants and encourage audience participation. In addition there is interest in partnering with more radio stations in Mali. Across all target countries this could also involve partnering with a wider range of radio stations for maximum impact. For example, a combination of youth stations, religious stations, and popular adult stations could be selected to ensure maximum reach. Radio programs could also have a more entertaining format, to facilitate faster learning and greater uptake. In South Sudan targeting of Lugara Shabaab to attract greater listenership from females, and community members who are more vulnerable, such as those not enrolled in school, would ensure the program is reaching those segments of society who are most marginalized.

7. Appendices

Table 3 : Consolidated Target Audience Analysis

	CAR	Mali	South Sudan
Target audience for the audience research activity (as defined by the young journalists)	Gap in provided documentation	Markets, families, and "grains" (where youth meet informally)."	Students, young people out of school, orphans and street living in the Gumbo, Shirikat, Jondoru, Gudele and Mangateen IDP camps. Young people in Yambio Township (Masia, Hai Kuba and Kisanga areas)
Target audience for the radio programs	Community members: Both youth (young men and women) and older community members (adult men and women), in the areas of intervention of the program more precisely, the areas where the radio programs are diffused by the local radio partners: in Bangui and Bambari[124] **Sub-groups:** -Christian and Muslim communities **Topics of interest:** -tension and mistrust between Christian and Muslim communities, including amongst youth -violence in the neighborhoods -cases of domestic violence -case of sexual violence / abuse -cohesion, living together, and reconciliation between Muslim and Christian communities. -participation of girls in community affairs. -poverty	Community members: Both youth (young men and women) and older community members (adult men and women), in the areas of intervention of the program more precisely, the areas where the radio programs are diffused by the local radio partners: in 6 municipalities of Bamako **Sub-groups:** -Urban youth **Topics of interest:** -Sense of disillusionment -lack of opportunities (issue of unemployment) -povery	Community members: Both youth (young men and women) and older community members (adult men and women), in the areas of intervention of the program more precisely, the areas where the radio programs are diffused by the local radio partners: in Juba and Yambio **Sub-groups:** -IDPs -youth of different communities -street **Special characteristics of the audience:** -community members widely use Arabic/Juba Arabic. **Topics of interest:** -Lack of mutual understanding between adults and young people, with adult perceiving young people to be 'lazy' -Culture and parenting as the main root causes of conflicts between parents and adolescents and Negative peer influence.[125] -issues of interest for youth in general were early marriage, FGM and education for girls, followed by drug use, and delinquency. -parents neglect, domestic

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[124] [Rapport Monitoring Media BEZOS.docx](#) p. 3
[125] Quarterly Report-April-June2021-Youth Talk Project (9 August), p.3

			violence, peer group influence and forced marriages = underlying conflictual intergenerational dynamics, especially at the household/family level. -poverty
Actual audience	-Groups of listeners set up by the program -Broader audience: community members including peers (young people), and adults (mostly teachers, guardians, neighbours) -In Mali, the youth audience was harder to reach than expected, thus highlighting a need for improving the attractiveness of the radio programs to appeal to this audience group.[126] -In Mali, the audience also included community members beyond the program implementation area in Bamako, as publications on Facebook allowed to reach a broader audience.[127]		
Lines of operation	Across the 3 countries, the messages are centred around crucial social and political issues, aiming to change adolescents' perceptions that their concerns and interests are reflected and change adults' perceptions that adolescents can bring valuable perspectives to critical social and political discussions on peace. To that end, the radio programs produced by the young journalists address educational topics and promote messages of peace and cohesion.		
Audience's emotional reaction to content testing	-moved -interest -realisation of youth's potential	-joy -understanding (of youth' perspectives) -impressed, surprised at the capacities of the youth journalists -touched, moved -happiness -patriotism, pride -hopefulness	-excitement -understanding (of youth' perspectives) -feeling good -feeling bad, due to the issue discussed, highlighting existing problems and their impact -moved, touched -feeling empowered (thanks to increased understanding of an issue) -happiness -feeling challenged by the content (people becoming aware of their own behaviours)
Audience's suggestions for improvement[128]	-increase number of radio stations broadcasting the program -use other media to raise awareness -advertising campaign to inform people of the program and the broadcast times	-use other media to raise awareness (social media and TV) -diversify the format, include sketches, competitions, etc. -communicate more about the program and the broadcast times	-broadcast in local language -communicate more broadly about the broadcasting times -increase frequency of programs

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[126] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[127] KII. Search Staff. Remote (Mali), May 2022.
[128] FGDs (content testing). Youth and adult community members. CAR, SS, Mali, May 2022.

Table 2: Reviewed provided documentation

Document type	Document
Baseline	• Baseline Report (in French and English) and databases • Data collection tools (interview guides and survey instrument)
Reports	• Year 1 progress report • Year 2 progress report • Quarterly reports • Monitoring reports
Learning Documents	• Year 1 Highlights • Lessons learned - Training Modules • Reflection Q&A • Learning Workshop report - Outcomes Harvesting (Mali) • Learning summary and reports, with pictures • Guides and tools for workshop with staff and young journalists • Programmatic reflection meeting notes and presentation • Youth Talk: A Practical Guide for Bringing New Adolescent Voices to Peace and Security (Draft V.3)
Safeguarding documents	• Safeguarding recommendations paper • Summary of child safeguarding learning from Youth Talk • Safeguarding Follow Up • ToR for safeguarding
Monitoring Tools	• Logical Framework • M&E Plan
Monitoring Data, by country	• For Mali: quarterly monitoring reports, monitoring visit report • For CAR: bi-annual report, success stories, lessons learned, reports from listening groups, media monitoring report • For South Sudan: activity report, audience research findings, quarterly reports, success stories, monitoring visit findings, narrative report on Child Protection Training and Psychosocial Support

Table 4: KIIs conducted

Stakeholder Type	Details	Data collection conducted by

Search Staff	• Global
	  ○ Senior Policy and Compliance Manager
	  ○ Member of the Global and Youth Technical Unit
	  ○ Regional Director for Central and East Africa
	  ○ Global Program Quality Specialist
	  ○ External Child Rights Consultant
	• Mali
	  ○ Project Manager
	  ○ M&E Manager
	  ○ M&E Officer
	  ○ Media Producer
		Bodhi, mostly remotely

	○ Coach (consultant) x3
	○ Ex-Media and Communication Coordinator
	● CAR
	  ○ Production Assistant
	  ○ DM&E Coordinator
	● South Sudan
	  ○ Media Producer
	  ○ Country Director
	  ○ DM&E Officer
	  ○ Programme Coordinator	

External stakeholders	● Development partners
	  ○ Mali
	    ■ INAM
	    ■ APROFEM
	  ○ CAR
	    ■ None
	  ○ South Sudan
	    ■ Child Rights Foundation
	● Government stakeholders
	  ○ Mali
	    ■ Advisor at the Prime Minister's Office
	  ○ CAR
	    ■ Mayor
	    ■ Mayor Advisor x3
	  ○ South Sudan
	    ■ Under Secretary, Ministry of Youth
	● Community leaders
	  ○ Mali x4
	  ○ CAR x2
	  ○ South Sudan x3
	● Media partners
	  ○ Mali
	    ■ Rabwah FM
	    ■ Radio Bamakan x2
	    ■ Peace FM Radio
	    ■ Radio Fréquence 3
	  ○ CAR
	    ■ Radio Voix de L'Evangile
	    ■ RJDH
	  ○ South Sudan
	    ■ EYE Radio
	● Other
	  ○ St Francis Primary School Headmistress (South Sudan)
	  ○ Teacher DR. John Garang
	  ○ Head Teacher, Future High School
	  ○ Director of Studies, St. Lawrence Academy
	  ○ Juba Orphanage (South Sudan)
	  ○ Deputy Head Teacher, St.Peters Secondary School
	  ○ Reverend Father/Teacher - Bishop Abangitess (Yambio, South Sudan)
		Primarily enumerators hired by Search in countries, face to face

Young Journalists	● Mali x 2 ● CAR x 1 ● South Sudan x1	Bodhi, remotely

Table 5: FGDs conducted

Stakeholder Type	Bridge Exercise	Content Testing	Total
Community members - Participants	- Mali 2 with adults (1F, 1M) 2 with youths (1F, 1M) - CAR 2 with adults in Bambari (1F, 1M) 1 with adults in Bangui (1M) 2 with youth in Bambari (1F, 1M) 2 with youth in Bangui (1F, 1M) - South Sudan 1 with adults 1 with youth	- Mali 2 with adults (1F, 1M) 2 with youth (1F, 1M) - CAR 3 with adults in (2 F, 1M) 2 with youth (1F, 1M) - South Sudan 2 with adults (1F, 1M)	24
Community Members - Non participants	- Mali 2 with adults (1F, 1M) 2 with youth (1F, 1M) - CAR 2 with adults in Bambari (1F, 1M) 2 with adults in Bangui (1F, 1M) 2 with youth in Bambari (1F, 1M) 2 with youth in Bangui (1F, 1M) - South Sudan 3 with adults 3 with you	- Mali 2 with adults (1F, 1M) 2 with youth (1F, 1M) - CAR 2 with adults (1 F, 1M) 2 with youth (1F, 1M) - South Sudan 3 with adults (2F, 1M) 2 with youth (1F, 1M)	31
Youth Journalists	- Mali x2 (1F, 1M) - CAR 2 in Bambari (1F, 1M) 2 in Bangui (1F, 1M) - South Sudan - None	N/A	6
Total	37	24	**61**

Table 6: Indicator and results table - disaggregation by program exposure vs. non-exposure.

Indicator	Target Group	Target	Overall		CAR		Mali		South Sudan	
			Program Exposure (May-June 2022)	No Exposure (May-June 2022)	Program Exposure (May-June 2022)	No Exposure (May-June 2022)	Program Exposure (May-June 2022)	No Exposure (May-June 2022)	Program Exposure (May-June 2022)	No Exposure (May-June 2022)
IMPACT LEVEL										
Community members										
Percent of youth stating that national social and political debates in the media represent their interests	Youth residing within targeted communities (14-18)	50%	92%	74%	99%	91%	78%	64%	93%	73%
Percent of community respondents who believe in youth's agency to bring an important perspective in social and political debates in the media	Individuals residing within targeted communities (+18)	60%	80%	60%	92%	75%	59%	47%	79%	65%
OUTCOME LEVEL										
Community members										
Percent of respondents who find that the radio programs highlight young people's concerns around peace, stability and social and political issues	Individuals residing within targeted communities (+18)	70%	91%	78%	99%	94%	79%	71%	89%	75%
Percent of youth in the communities reporting that their perspectives on peace, security and social and political issues are reflected in the radio programming.	Youth residing within targeted communities (14-18)	70%	93%	78%	99%	91%	82%	76%	93%	71%
Percent of community members who find that the radio programs produced by the young journalists as part of the project bring an added value on critical social and political issues.	Individuals residing within targeted communities (+18)	70%	94%	85%	96%	87%	92%	79%	90%	89%