

Management Response YES I DO Alliance Midterm Review

By the Board of Directors (BoD) – YES I DO Alliance

14 December 2018

Introduction

The internal midterm review (MTR) was a collective effort and allowed the Yes I Do Alliance (YIDA) to review and assess progress from January 2016 to 30 June 2018. This resulted in 7 country reports, which were synthesized in the Yes I Do midterm synthesis report (December 2018). This synthesis report identifies overall trends and provides overall key recommendations, applicable for all countries to improve programme implementation. These recommendations have been endorsed by the YIDA Programme Committee on November 28 and the YIDA BoD on December 10 2018.

The YIDA BoD acknowledges the efforts of the YIDA teams across the countries to take stock of what works well and what needs improvement. The open attitude that is required to be able to do this has been noted and is highly appreciated. The BoD also appreciates the reflection that took place not only of the programme but also of the partnerships both in the countries and in the Netherlands. The report writing workshop in the Netherlands, was valuable for learning and had the additional added value to share the progress made among the countries and with the staff in the Netherlands.

Main findings and Recommendations

The YIDA BoD is happy to see that the MTR outcome-level data and findings confirm that overall the programme is well on track and the YIDA theory of change (ToC) remains valid. The BoD would like to express its appreciation for the major achievements already realized in all countries as is shown in the MTR report. Of course the report also points to a number of challenges. To overcome the challenges, recommendations have been made, they constitute both a basis for reflection and action for the alliance members in the Netherlands as well as country alliances.

This management letter focuses on key recommendations and describes concrete actions country alliances can take to facilitate and implement the recommendations. The countries alliances are invited to discuss jointly which recommendations are most relevant and feasible in their specific context. Countries are not obliged to take over the recommendations, but everyone is requested to seriously reflect upon them and implement to the extent possible.

Overall Recommendations

Below a number of key recommendations are presented, followed by a maximum of two recommendations per pathway and the recommendations for M&E and YIDA partnership. Monitoring of these MTR recommendations will form part of the Dutch Programme Committee agenda twice a year and will be included in the M&E advisory group agenda.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations, suggestions for actions and monitoring are included for you to be able to accelerate the programme as much as possible and continue to realize impact in the lives of adolescent girls and boys.

Overall key recommendation One: <u>Strengthen interlinkages between the pathways will improve synergy of the programme</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
When country alliances reflect on their ToC: actively list interlinkages between pathways to increase synergy	In-country teams, NL Country Leads	Yearly ARM
Revisit the M&E framework (including discussing minimum set of key indicators and communicate to in-country teams they can add indicators if they want).	M&E team Netherlands with M&E Country Leads	Q1 2019
Overall key recommendation Two: <u>Increase connection between programme information (outcome level) and research findings with advocacy efforts of YIDA</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Include M&E data, programme information, best practices and research findings in advocacy messages	Partners working on advocacy	2019 / 2020
Identify local champions (e.g. religious leaders or people of influence) to speak out on child marriage, teenage pregnancy and where applicable FGM/C	In-country teams	First half 2019
Connect where possible to other alliances and networks	In-country teams	2019 / 2020
Overall key recommendation Three: <u>Meaningful youth participation (MYP) needs strengthening throughout the pathways</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Small Group in Netherlands to discuss MYP vision	Youth led partner in Netherlands (CHOICE)	January 2019
Discuss vision on MYP and clarify how to include youth better in design, planning and decision making	In-country teams, NL country leads	Joint meetings /Yearly ARM

Discuss social norms within communities that sustain young people not being able to speak out, especially related to sexual health and youth sexuality.	All Partners	2019 / 2020
Keep the age gap between peer educators and Champions of Change agents and the young people they engage with to a minimum	In-country teams	2019 / 2020
Promote MYP as cross cutting issue to strengthen MYP in partner organizations so that young people are involved throughout and in planning, design, implementation, evaluation, etc.	All partners	2019 / 2020
Overall key recommendation Four: <u>Include out-of-school youth and married or pregnant girls more in the programme</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
when reviewing ToCs, include out-of-school youth, married or pregnant girls in relevant pathways to ensure they are included in the YIDA interventions.	In-country teams, NL country leads	Joint meetings and yearly ARM
Include these actors in the YIDA M&E framework	Dutch M&E group, in-country M&E teams	2019 / 2020
Overall key recommendation Five: <u>A renewed focus on the YIDA core principles¹ and value clarification among staff is needed to further strengthen programme implementation</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Discuss the YIDA core principles as listed in the MTR Synthesis report	NL country leads to take lead in initiating the discussion with in-country teams and further	Joint Meetings and Yearly ARM
Conduct value clarification sessions	NL country leads to take lead in initiating the discussion with in-country teams and further	Joint Meetings and Yearly ARM
Recommendations Pathways ²		

¹ See Annex 1.

² For specific recommendations and actions for pathway 2 and 5 please see under the overall recommendations.

Pathway 1: community members and gatekeepers have changed attitudes and take action to prevent child marriage, teenage pregnancy and FGM/C.

Include parents more strongly in the interventions

Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Include parents in the ToC and M&E framework to make sure they are targeted sufficiently.	In-country teams, in-country M&E teams	Joint Meetings and Yearly ARM
Scale up inter-generational dialogues to gradually include topics such as sexual health and youth sexuality and make sure rights based messages are delivered.	All Alliance partners working on pathway 1.	2019/2020

Focus on sustainable engagement with communities to address/discuss the underlying social and cultural norms of CM, TP and FGM/C.

Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Integrate topics of gender, power, norm change more strongly in community dialogues and focus on rights based messages	All Alliance partners working on pathway 1.	2019 / 2020
Promote rights based SRHR messages within communities and own organisations	All Alliance partners	2019 / 2020

Recommendations Pathway 3: Adolescent girls and boys take informed action on their sexual health

Strengthen access to youth friendly services

Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Provide stronger link between information provision to young people and access to youth friendly services	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020
Advance referral system (consider examples from Ethiopia - health development armies that do home visits and Indonesia where young	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020

people go to midwives for SRH information)		
Have continued focus on youth friendly attitudes of health-care providers to make sure they provide youth friendly services	Relevant partners working on this pathway	
<u>Strengthen Comprehensive Sexuality Education</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Provide value clarification on CSE among staff of partner organizations	In-country teams	2019 / 2020
Consider lobby and advocacy for CSE inclusion in school curricula	Relevant partners working on the pathway	2019 / 2020
Promote and monitor SRH rights based messaging instead of fear based messages	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020
Recommendations Pathway 4: Adolescent girls have alternatives beyond CM, FGM/C and TP through education and economic empowerment		
<u>Focus on continued education and alternative livelihoods for young people, girls and boys</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Improve identification drop-outs (post) primary school	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020
Increase age-appropriate employment and livelihood opportunities	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020
Provide training to delay marriage for older adolescent girls	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020
Continue support child-friendly schools	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020
Engage boys and men and provide them access to economic empowerment activities	Relevant partners working on this pathway	2019 / 2020
Recommendations M&E		
<u>Foster stronger linkages between M&E and research</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame

Ensure closer cooperation between M&E and research team	M&E teams, Dutch County Leads, In-country teams and Research team	2019 / 2020
Integrate ToC reflection in reporting format and cycle	M&E group NL	Q1 2019
<u>Revisit M&E framework</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Establish stronger link between outputs and outcomes	M&E teams in NI and in-country	2019 / 2020
Monitor quality of YIDA interventions (all pathways)	M&E teams in Netherlands and in-country	2019 / 2020
Recommendations Alliance Partnership		
<u>Ensure appropriate Alliance set-up for adaptive programming</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Foster decision making at country level for increase ownership, will be discussed between programme Committee members and NI country leads	Alliance Desk	2019 / 2020
Provide clarity on planning and milestones for countries, but leave space to adapt	Alliance Desk	2019 / 2020
<u>Prioritize learning agenda</u>		
Concrete action	Responsible	Time frame
Organize cross country learning	Alliance Desk	2019 / 2020
Foster learning on YIDA key principles	Alliance Desk / country leads / in-country teams	2019 / 2020
Organize learning events with other CM alliances and MoFA	Alliance Desk	2019 / 2020

The BoD realizes this is a long list of recommendations, together we are committed to make sure they are implemented!

Annex 1; YIDA Core Principles:

Core principles

Discussing young people's SRH needs is difficult; therefore, it is important to increase the emphasis on the YIDA's core principles in the programme. Up to now, they may have been too implicit within the YIDA ToC; therefore, there is a need to focus on the core principles and value clarification as a means to strengthen programme implementation.

The core principles include:

- **Do no harm:** We need to be able to identify unintended negative or positive impacts of our interventions in the settings where we work
- **Inclusivity:** Reaching out to difficult target groups such as out-of-school youth
- **MYP:** Involving youth is not difficult, but giving them decision-making power is, in a culture that favours decision-making by elders
- **Child safeguarding:** Ensuring that alliance member organizations have internal policies and means to prevent unacceptable behaviour and are able to identify, report and respond to cases in our organizations and programmes
- **Rights-based approach:** Young beneficiaries in the Yes I Do programme are enabled to play an active role in the identification of their needs and have a say in what action is taken, at all levels of the programme
- **Learning:** Including research and reflection is a core principle requiring an open mind and the capacity and willingness to reflect, identify gaps and learn from each other at all levels.