

# WHAT YOUNG WOMEN WOULD LOVE TO SEE

Priorities for the YW4A programme



The Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy, and Accountability (YW4A) programme is a 5-year programme (2021-2025) implemented in Palestine, Egypt, Kenya, and South Sudan. The programme's goal is to **Strengthen and diversify young women's participation and amplify their voices to effectively influence decision-making towards gender-just laws, policies, norms, and practices related to their bodily integrity and equal participation.**

## WHY THIS BRIEF?

This brief summarises the changes that young women would love to see around the behaviours, practices and actions of key actors in the YW4A programme. It serves as benchmark and reference for the project as a whole and will be used to support the implementation of the project's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL).

## HOW WAS THE DATA DERIVED?

The YW4A programme uses a gender-transformative approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (GTMEL). Drawing on feminist principles, a key premise of GTMEL is that young women drive the process of MEL. In practice, this means young women define what positive change looks like for them in their lived realities. This informs what the project defines as success and what is subsequently tracked to ensure accountability.

KIT Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) operationalised this approach by establishing a **Young Women outcome MEL reference group** in each country comprising 30 (24 aged between 15 and 30, 6 aged >30) young women from across the four countries. Through a three-day participatory MEL design workshop in each country, the young women reference group defined the changes they would love to see in their context. It is their views that are represented in this brief.

## YOUNG WOMEN WOULD LOVE TO SEE:

### Women's rights organisations (WROs) that amplify young women's voices by...

...being **outspoken advocates** for young women's rights to bodily integrity and participation in decision-making, supporting **diversity and inclusiveness**. This requires WROs to develop and demonstrate...

- Knowledge & skills
  - Understanding of **young women's rights**, including national and international laws that influence women's position
  - **Advocacy and communication skills**
  - **Staff capacity** to engage and empower young women
- Organizational behaviour & practices
  - Promoting **equal participation, representation, and leadership** of young women
  - Ensuring **organizational integrity** that protects young women
  - Displaying **commitment to diversity**
- External action
  - Instigating **policy change and legal reform**
  - **Coalition building and partnerships** that promote the rights of diverse groups of young women, including religious, refugee, disability, and LGBTI
  - Advocating for young women's rights through **media and campaigns**



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## Young women who exercise leadership by...

...being **strong, independent** women who express their opinions and **speak up for their rights**, while being friendly, open and empathic. This requires young women to develop and demonstrate...

- Household & family influence
  - Exercising **decision-making power** and economic independence at home
  - **Managing household** tasks and solving family problems
  - Being a **role-model** advocating for (her own) rights
- Community behaviour & influence
  - **Advocating** for women's rights: raising awareness and influencing public opinions, policies and laws
  - Assuming **community leadership** positions
  - **Mobilising**, inspiring and mentoring other young women
- Behaviour in WROs
  - Enhanced **advocacy skills** and techniques
  - Displaying strong **knowledge of women's rights** to bodily integrity and participation in decision-making
  - **Networking**, communicating and collaborating with other young women, WROs, and key stakeholders

## Faith based organisations (FBOs) that support young women's rights by...

...**speaking out against harmful norms** and practices around bodily integrity and young women's participation in decision-making, instead becoming **advocates for young women**. This requires FBOs to develop and demonstrate...

- Knowledge & skills
  - Displaying **awareness of laws and policies around young women's rights** to bodily integrity and participation in decision-making
  - **Advocacy commitment** and skills to support young women
- Organizational behaviour & practices

- Promoting young **women's leadership and equal participation** in decision-making
- Developing **internal non-discrimination policies**
- External action
  - Promoting **religious teachings** that support women's rights
  - **Mentorship and training** of young women and religious leaders on rights
  - **Coalition building** through partnerships with WROs and influential stakeholders and inter-faith collaboration

## Decision makers who are responsive to young women's demands by...

...supporting gender equality and **speaking out for young women's rights** to bodily integrity and participation in decision-making through **legal change and policy reform**. This requires decision-makers at the local and national level to develop and demonstrate...

- Knowledge & skills
  - Displaying **understanding of young women's rights**, including national and international laws that influence women's position
  - Illustrating an **awareness of diversity** and issues faced by marginalised young women
  - Having the **leadership and networks** to influence stakeholders and public
- Behaviour & practices
  - **Being accessible to young women** for input and consultation
  - Being **representatives** for young women's voices
  - **Sharing power** by engaging, encouraging, and empowering young women
- External action
  - **Advocating for women's rights** through changing harmful laws and policies
  - **Coalition building**, coordinating, and collaborating with stakeholders and decision makers
  - Supporting young women's rights through **media and campaigns**

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## COLOPHON

What young women would love to see: Priorities for the YW4A programme © March 2022

This brief was developed and published in the context of the Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability (YW4A) programme, implemented by a consortium of eight partners and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. KIT coordinated and facilitated the GTMEL process and developed this brief which was validated by the young women reference groups (YWRG) in the four countries. The contextual differences are captured in more detail in country reports, available upon request. The YWRG included the following young women:

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