



Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability Theory of Change mid-term Reflection brief

Background

As set out in the plan for the YW4A programme, and based on the learnings identified during the internal Mid-Term Review (MTR) process, KIT developed this separate reflection brief on the Theory of Change (ToC). It aims to pick up where the MTR left off. With the programme's ToC as the starting point, this brief will consolidate cross-programme and Pathway learnings and place them in a forward-looking context. As such, it is the expectation that the brief will provide a stepping stone for the consortium partners¹, and partner women's rights organisations (WROs) and faith-based organisations (FBOs), as well as the Young Women Reference Groups (YWRG), to continue reflecting on, and developing their programming and interventions using the Theory of Change as the joint frame of reference.

The brief is structured to first briefly introduce the YW4A programme Theory of Change and its functions, to make sure we have our common starting point in sight when moving on to the ToC reflections made by different actors which were captured during the MTR process.

The aim of this brief is to show cross-country and Pathway similarities, but country specific examples will also be shared. Covering a range of reflections, the idea is that the different YW4A partners, which we will refer to as actors in this brief, pick topics that speak to them and are relevant in their context. In other words, this brief is not meant as

an exhaustive list where every topic needs to be covered by every actor.

In a programme spanning four countries and several communities there is bound to be differences in how the programme is understood and implemented. While it is important to jointly work towards the common objectives and maintain key messages, it is also important to recognize and acknowledge the differences and that this recognition can help to bring understanding and harmonization to the YW4A programme.

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences."

Audre Lorde

This brief hopes to inspire and connect reflections with concrete actions. As such, KIT aims to pair each section with a number of questions that can be used by individual actors, or in a concerted effort lead by the Country Lead or a Technical Partner to spark a conversation around the ToC. We know for example that consortium partners YWCA Kenya conducts Annual Reflection meetings with relevant actors engaged in the YW4A in Kenya, which can serve as inspiration for this kind of exercise.

Moreover, this brief together with its proposed actions will be one part of the YW4A Learning Agenda that is being fine-tuned following the MTR.

¹ World YWCA (lead), Equality Now, Faith to Action Network, KIT Royal Tropical Institute, IMC, YWCA Kenya, YWCA Palestine, and YWCA South Sudan

YW4A Theory of Change



YW4A is a multi-dimensional, multi-stakeholder programme, which as such imposes a certain level of complexity of its Theory of Change. KIT, as the consortium

partner responsible for outcome monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) within YW4A, believes that thinking and treating the ToC as a process to understand and guide change, is a useful way of working towards the programme's goal.

The comprehensive goal of YW4A 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.

YW4A proposes this can be achieved through its strategic objective:

Defending and expanding the fulfilment of young women's human rights to dignity, bodily integrity, and equal participation in decision-making, through the implementation of gender-just policies and laws.

From this outset, strategies and actions are further broken down into the four Pathways and then contextualized into country-specific ToCs. However, in a programme of this calibre and size, maintaining coherence while also allowing for necessary adaptation of the different intervention's, for example trainings and material, to the different country contexts can be challenging.

Three years into the programme, it is clear that the context in which the ToC was developed is ever changing. A learning that emerged from the MTR

ToC reflections, was the need and desire for guaranteeing proper interconnectedness between the programme's four Pathways during implementation, as was originally set out in the development of the programme. With adaptive programming at its core, the YW4A programme allows for the space to not only reflect on these findings, but also to use them to make sure that the ToC, in its many iterations serves the purpose of guiding the work of the programme's diverse actors.

A Theory of Change (ToC) is considered a 'living document' for a programme; and essential for developing and maintaining a joint understanding, across Pathways and countries of YW4A's objectives and goals. As such, it needs to be continuously revalidated and updated.

Continuous reflection of the ToC with the programme's key actors (young women, WROs and FBOs) serves to maintain the connection between the programme-wide ToC and the country-specific TOCs, as well as to make sure that the link between theory and implementation remains strong.

In this reflection brief, rather than addressing the reflections within a Pathway, we have sorted them under three categories:

- Rights,
- Approaches and methods, and
- Programmatic design and interventions.

Most of the themes quite smoothly sort in under one (or more) of the four Pathways. Nonetheless as was highlighted in the Mid-Term Review report, since activities and outcomes often have cross-cutting impact, the approach in this brief allows for each actor to decide which reflection corresponds to their context and under which Pathway(s) it is best addressed.

Reflection category 1: Rights

While prevention and eradication of female genital mutilation (FGM) practices and early/forced marriage are not part of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Power of Women policy framework, these have become target areas for the YW4A programme's interventions, since they have been identified by young women active in the programme, as impacting the programme objectives. As such, it requires YW4A partners to reflect on how to address these issues in relation to the programme objectives and its mandate.



1. Early marriage

“For the past seven years, I have been working in the field of development, primarily focused on peacebuilding. Initially, my understanding of gender-related issues was limited, but through YW4A, my awareness has significantly expanded. Specifically, I gained new knowledge about FGM and GBV. While I knew that FGM was harmful, I lacked a comprehensive understanding of its practices and the specific nature of FGM itself. Furthermore, I **had not previously connected FGM and child marriage as forms of violence.**”

Young woman, Egypt, MTR story-based inquiry

Although early or forced marriage was initially not an explicit theme for YW4A, the MTR showed that the issue of early/forced marriage among young women is present for many of the actors within the programme. As such it could be categorized as a part of the advocacy and work for defending and expanding young women's human rights to dignity and bodily integrity, and changing harmful practices.

In South Sudan a coalition for advocacy against forced marriage was created by the WROs and Country Lead (YWCA South Sudan). The coalition aims to make sure that the age of marriage is properly defined and maintained at 18, in the new constitution. Nonetheless, this is dependent on the constitutional process itself, and while the process gives opportunities to improve laws directly affecting young women, the current transitional nature also risk leaving young women in legal limbo.

As a harmful practice that impedes young women's access to human rights, bodily integrity and decision-making, early/forced marriage has a direct impact on the YW4A strategic objective. Further, seeing that this is a prevalent reality for young women participants in YW4A's (RiseUp! leadership) interventions, it would be useful to further investigate how YW4A interventions can address this issue.

This also links to the idea of expanding the target group for some of the trainings to for example include parents (see section on *diversifying the target audience*). In order to enable a supportive environment for young women to take up leadership roles, it is important that their guardians are made aware of the legal framework. If not the risk is high that when young women speak out against early/forced marriage it is rather seen as a disobedience and being rebellious.

Questions

- Is early/forced marriage an issue in your context?
- Under which Pathway(s) do you think it can be / is already being addressed by YW4A?
- How would it be possible to mobilize all four Pathways to address early/forced marriage?
- What updates are needed in order for your country ToC to reflect this issue and subsequent activities?

2. Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Sexual and gender based violence features in the programme with the goal to contribute to its elimination, several of the legal and policy interventions being pursued by the women’s rights organizations targeting SGBV. This includes the development of policies against sexual and gender based violence, or pursuing their implementation, or advocating for the creation of safe houses. The SGBV label provides a wide umbrella that covers many of the issues that the young women talk about in the Safe Spaces, ranging from domestic abuse, economic abuse, street harassment, etc.

However, SGBV is central to the program because many young women in YW4A have shared their experiences as survivors. The mid-term review found that in several program countries, there had been an increase in SGBV cases since the program’s start, highlighting the need for ongoing advocacy efforts and support for affected participants (this is discussed in the Adaptive Programming section). Further, in some contexts religion is still used as justification for sexual and gender based violence, speaking to the need of awareness raising and making visible harmful social norms.

Last, evident not only from how the prevalence of SGBV has negatively affected the implementation of YW4A, but also from a wide range of research showing how sexual and gender based violence effectively hinders those subjected to it, as well as whole communities and societies, from accessing rights and fulfilling their full potentials.

Questions

- Are there any updates needed to your ToC to capture the experience of working against SGBV that you did not have before the start of the programme?
- What measure/s has been the most effective to address SGBV?

3. Female Genital Mutilation

In the YW4A proposal, the occurrence of FGM is specifically addressed in the Egyptian context, but less in Kenya and South Sudan, and not at all in Palestine².

At proposal stage, the context analysis for Egypt showed that although the Criminal Code criminalized FGM it was still prevalent and noted that for example that also young men [not only older men] were upholding inequitable gender roles which contributed to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including FGM.

Three years into the programme the issue has since been further highlighted in Kenya, linking the increase of SGBV including FGM to heightened insecurity, but also that the awareness raising activities within the programme has impacted the way participants think about the practice. From understanding FGM as a part of life, to linking it to a breach of bodily integrity and a

Socially, Kenya continues to grapple with grim statistics of gender-based violence, including FGM. Advocacy against FGM in particular is met with hostility. Faith leaders addressing the practice faced psychological and emotional violence and were accused of “leading women astray”.

MTR report, 2023

² Egypt and Kenya both are included in UNICEF’s country profiles of the 31 countries where FGM is most prevalent. Palestine and South Sudan are not included - [Female genital mutilation country profiles - UNICEF DATA](#)

crime against young women's human rights. However, the increase in focus on FGM is not [yet] reflected in the Kenyan country ToC.

For YW4A it is not only the prevalence of FGM in some of the programme countries that makes a case for rethinking how FGM can be targeted under the umbrella of combatting SGBV, but also the impact the programme has through awareness raising activities for the young women. Several young women testified to how trainings and advocacy had made them aware that FGM was illegal. By including strategies of how to specifically address FGM the momentum to broaden the awareness and build advocacy could be further captured.

Questions

- Is FGM prevalent in your context?
- Under which Pathway(s) do you think it can be / is already being addressed by YW4A?
- What updates are needed in order for your country ToC to reflect this issue and subsequent activities?

Reflection category 2: Approaches and methods

1. Agency and leadership

Through the stories collected from close to 90 of the young women involved in the programme for the mid-term review, we know that many testified to having a strong sense of personal autonomy and agency thanks in large parts to the FEMspaces and RiseUp! trainings. The young women shared that they had become more confident to speak up, and were more aware of the SGBV issues in their contexts, as well as having built capacity to challenge harmful gender norms and practices using their newly gained skills and knowledge of laws and policies. They also shared that this had enhanced their understanding and support for other (marginalized) women's experiences. Some of the young women also mentioned that they had become more active in their communities and were participating in political activities. However, as is discussed in the section focused on influencing policy change, the mid-term review also showed that the young women identified this level of agency as the least accessible to them at the midpoint of the programme.

Questions

- How should the Theory of Change be updated to reflect the young women's development?
- How can the strengthened sense of individual agency be translated into agency to influence decision making?

2. Social norms change and (legal/policy) advocacy

This is a good example of a reflection that cuts across the programme and the Pathways, as it is as relevant to efforts to transform social/religious norms and practices in communities as it is to legal and/or policy advocacy for example. It is also recognized that meaningful change in norms addressing patriarchal attitudes as well as harmful practices that require concerted efforts over a long period of time. This insight further underlines the importance of identifying and making more use of envisioned synergies between

the four YW4A Pathways³; and situating each country programme within the wider national advocacy environment⁴.

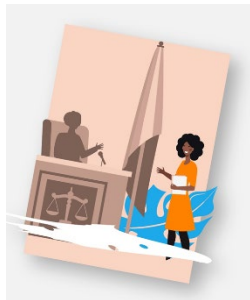
These two aspects can also be connected to ensuring long-term sustainability of the programme's impact.

Questions

- What synergies can be detected in your context?
- Are these reflected in the country-specific ToC?
- If yes, is there a need to update them under each Pathway?
- What outputs or outcomes have been, or could be furthered through working with synergies?

3. Influencing policy change, decision-makers and decision-making

When inquiring about the young women's experienced leadership enhancement since being part of the programme, their self-assessment attested to a strong impact at personal and peer level as well as within their direct family context (community level). However, the ability to influence policy making and laws (policy level) scored lower across the young women in all four countries⁵.



The MTR also showed that there often is a lack of [direct] access to these stakeholders for advocacy efforts by some of the women's rights organisations, but especially by the young women (due to their age and gender). Another barrier described in the MTR was that decision-makers at times solicited financial compensation ["financial facilitation"] for their engagement to support advocacy efforts.

There are however exceptions to the gap, for example in South Sudan where YW4A - not least through its Country Lead - regularly interacts with political decision-makers through trainings and events, and in Kenya at local level where YW4A partners work with SGBV courts. In Palestine and Egypt the same can be said for the interactions with the religious courts and religious authorities. Activities to influence decision-makers and by extension policy and legal frameworks could for example be connected to the coalition building, networking and good practices sharing opportunities envisioned under Pathway 1 (in case not already an applied strategy).

The MTR showed that many programme actors only defined decision-makers as politicians, be it at local or national level. Further, the preliminary discussions during the sensemaking workshops showed limited impetus to broaden this definition to include other stakeholders than politicians or religious leaders. As a way forward it could be useful to define the understanding of who is a decision-maker, and include this in the country-level advocacy plans, including proposed actions of how to gain access to these identified stakeholders, and based on this fine tune the assumptions and activity framework in the respective ToC(s). An idea that was brought forward during the sensemaking workshop in Egypt in August, 2023.

This exercise can build on a model similar to the actor mapping that has been done for the programme at large, but specifically focus on identifying decision-makers and platforms.

³ See further discussion on this under "Programmatic reflections".

⁴ As an example YWCA Palestine have since many years been a member of the Al-Muntada (the Forum for Combating Violence Against Women), a national platform of WROs working to eliminate GBV.

⁵ Note on the methodology: The story-based inquiry questions should be interpreted carefully as young women had the possibility of choosing multiple answers and the ordering remained the same – with policy level as the 4th choice, thus order bias is possible.

Questions

- Does the ToC for your country reflect the policy and advocacy landscape in your context?
- Does the ToC for your country reflect who can be considered a decision-maker? Does this align with your understanding?
- If not, what needs to be updated?

4. Diversifying the target audience

The need to include, or at least inform, parents and other family stakeholders in some of the programme trainings was expressed across the four countries. The case was made that ensuring these stakeholders receive the same information as the young women, for example on legislation and rights, could help make sure that young women were on the one hand permitted to participate in YW4A activities, while also supported or even allowed in their leadership enhancement and advocacy efforts. An effort to enable the environment that the young women are active in.

This dovetails with the importance that was put on continuing and deepening the work with men on positive masculinities, as well as in many countries, be able to include older family members (parents) in parts of the trainings in order to ensure (and in some cases even enable) the participation of the young women.

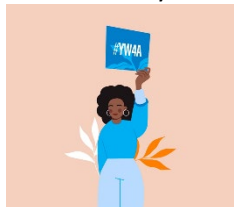
Since in many of the countries the Positive Masculinities training started to be implemented during 2023 only, there are likely more experiences to be captured in the upcoming year(s). These could in turn enrich the ToC to reflect the use and outcome of the method in more detail. This would also allow for reflecting on the potential effect of giving this training also to the WROs – and not only to FBOs as was the initial strategy - as has already been done in Kenya and South Sudan, and is planned in Egypt and Palestine.

Questions

- Is widening the target audience(to for example parents/other family stakeholders) relevant in your context?
- If yes, who should be included, and how, while still maintaining the main focus on young women?
- What updates would be needed to the ToC to reflect this?

Reflection category 3: Programmatic design and interventions

This section is dedicated to the more internal structures and characteristics of the YW4A programme, which KIT considers not to be unique only for the YW4A programme, but common challenges that similar multi-country and multi-stakeholder programmes face. Many areas such as financial reporting, or



sequencing of interventions are often thought of as ‘technical’ questions, but since they are often at the core of a programme, or in case of financial resources the oil that keeps the machinery running, they should be considered to be reflected in a central process such as the Theory of Change. This is also an encouragement to think about the process as a parts of the outcomes, and as such planning and allowing them to take time. This can for example be making sure that there are mechanisms

and resources in place to be able to include young women in (the preparation for) the Annual Planning Meetings, which in itself can contribute to amplify their voices and influence.

1. Adaptive programming

Acknowledging the ever changing contexts in which the programme is being implemented, and taking advantage of the possibility to update and adapt the programme can serve as an important instrument. Below we present two examples; the first one where programme actors succeeded in adapting to new circumstances, and another one where there's still work to be done.

Psycho-social support

YW4A is an advocacy programme, and does not in its set up include providing participants with psycho-social or medical services. However, over the course of the programme the need for these services have come to the fore when interacting with young women survivors of (S)GBV, young mothers and those forced into (early) marriages, which YW4A targets in particular.

To respond to these needs many of the programme implementers at country level, supported by the World YWCA, have established connections and referral systems to support YW4A participants in the need of this kind of services, while there is room for further strengthening. Also psychological first aid has been added to the RiseUp! (refresher) trainings.

“[The] programme has opened Pandora’s box by bringing issues to the surface, but has limited resources to address those issues.”

MTR, Kenya, 2023

These actions are also a useful example of adaptive programming, and underlines the strength of being open to going back to the drawing table when circumstances change. However, for the remainder of the programme, and as a lessons learned for future programmes of a Power of Women framework, the ToC could be updated to reflect these needs, and how they affect the advocacy activities.

Questions

- How is this change in programming reflected in the global ToC and the country-specific ToCs?
- How would you use adaptive programming, as has been done with psychosocial support, in other parts of the programme?

Retaining young women in the programme

YW4A has experienced challenges in keeping the young women engaged in the programme. While some young women dropped out of the programme due to life changes such as marriage, relocation, or work (including the need to seek paid work), for other young women different expectations on their involvement or the programme’s support plays an important role.

There has been attrition amongst young women, both Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) (RiseUp! cohort 1) and young women involved in other activities (FEMspaces/Safe Spaces/Women’s Clubs, advocacy campaigns etc.). The question of retaining ToTs partly comes back to the idea of making clear that it is a voluntary position, and that as such there is no salary attached to it. Issues around the programme needing to extend its support beyond the sessions planned for in RiseUp! was also raised.

Moreover, representatives of WROs shared that many of the ToTs still needed accompaniment when conducting trainings with other young women, which YW4A was not structured to include. When/if the ToTs did not feel supported, especially working in communities hostile or with misconceptions around the idea of women's rights, it was difficult to retain them in the programme. Further, it was highlighted that low frequency of engagement with the ToTs and young women in some of the countries also was a contributing factor to the challenge to keep them engaged in the programme. Another challenge was related to WROs dropping out, and the young women lost their affiliation to YW4A in some cases (mentioned in for example South Sudan).

Questions

- What expectations are there on the young women's skills before and after the trainings?
- Do these expectations match the YW4A objectives?
- If not, how could the ToC be updated to better reflect the expectations and actual outcomes in your Pathway and/or country context?

2. Terminology and definitions

Based on the reflections and results of the MTR, during the sensemaking workshops a number of terms have been identified that would benefit from further discussion across actors to identify different perspectives, if needed clarify misunderstandings and if possible agree on common understandings. Some of these terms, like 'intersectionality' and 'marginalized', are already explicitly defined in the RiseUp! manual⁶, which could be a good place to start.

Example of Key Terms

- Gender – at times conflated with sex?
- Decision-maker – is it always someone in the political system, or a religious leader?
- Transformative – which for example in Egypt was associated with someone identifying as trans in terms of gender identity. In the RiseUP! manual it is explained as “[...] *change that shifts power structures, is long lasting, and sustainable.*”
- Agency - alwakaala
- Advocacy - munaasrah (see brief developed for AOCA)

This reflection includes both linguistic considerations, taking into the account that the programme operates over several language areas including local languages, as well as addressing the understanding of a number of common terms that are being used in the programme. Having a common understanding of the definition of key terms is not least important for coherence across the programme and to advocate for common causes. Both aspects require knowledge and expertise of the terminology but also of the context in which they are discussed and applied.

⁶ Intersectionality was also mentioned but it's included in the annex of the RiseUp! manual (p.114) and is defined as: “A term created by law professor Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw. The interconnected nature of social categorisations such as race, class, and gender. When these social categories apply to an individual or group, they overlap to create new and interdependent power relations, discriminations, (dis)advantages, or privileges.” Marginalized is another term that was mentioned but also defined in the manual (p.115), as: “Groups of people within a given culture, context, and history at risk of being subjected to multiple discrimination due to the interplay of different personal characteristics or grounds, such as sex, gender, age, ethnicity, religion or belief, health status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or income, or living in various geographic localities.”

While carrying out the MTR data collection, young women in the programme were asked to self-identify according to the ‘marginalized groups’ categories agreed upon in the Young Women Leadership capacity assessment (baseline study of 2021). However, when analysing the MTR findings during sensemaking workshops, it was discovered that for example categories such as ‘ethnic minority or indigenous person’ created confusion. For example, in Palestine it was understood as a way to underline being Palestinian by nationality, rather than being a part of a minority within the country.

The MTR also showed the preference of some actors to even further ‘localize’ the content of some of the training material, such as the RiseUp! manual⁷ in addition to the contextualization of such resources that were done at the start of YW4A, with the involvement of young women and partner organisations.

Questions

- In your country/context is there a common understanding of these above presented key terms?
- If yes, how did you develop this, how did you share it to ensure coherence, and how is it reflected in the ToC?
- If no, what effects do you think this has for programme implementation?
- What activities are needed to develop a common understanding across all YW4A partners?

3. Financial guidance

When selecting the partner WROs and FBOs, one of the criteria was for organisations to have strong financial capacity in place. This does not diminish the fact that each organisation, including consortium partners, needed to learn and adapt to the YW4A / MoFA programme financial reporting requirement. Moreover, there have been needs for further clarity and transparency around financial flows and reporting requirements for the larger group of actors. This in order for country partners to be able to plan and prepare activities throughout the fiscal year, and know what is expected when it comes to what needs to be reported and how, in order to be sure that expenses will be reimbursed.

The MTR showed that failure to provide this clarity, risks having direct negative impact on programme implementation when partners feel the need to become overly cautious concerning which activities they are prepared to carry out, out of the fear that they will not be reimbursed in case of need for cancellation or changes. Both which are not unlikely considering that many of the organisations operate in contexts that due to external factors are unpredictable.

Questions

- Are potential limitations in financial guidance and financial reporting requirements posing a risk for implementation in your country/context? If so, how?
- How is this risk reflected in the ToC?
- How can the programme’s financial structures support flexibility in implementation?

⁷ Used in Pathway 2 for training the young women in leadership skills.

4. Financial remuneration

This discussion often was connected to the young women participants as trainers, and the task to conduct training as volunteers. In some cases the perception was that they were often carrying out tasks meant for ordinary staff who are being remunerated. This practice raised questions to why volunteers were not paid for their work, putting into question the concept of volunteerism in the programme. There was a distinction made between being (sufficiently) reimbursed for transport or provided with refreshments at trainings, and being compensated for tasks being carried out for example a young woman training a next cohort – so between participation in and carrying out trainings.

In regards to the reimbursement of travel expenditures/refreshments, the MTR found that for example in Kenya there had been a drop in attendance in trainings if this was not provided since many of the young women could not afford these costs. Further, both in Kenya and in Egypt sentiments around the voluntary aspect of the ToT's not having been fully understood by some of the participating young women.

Questions

- Should participants in workshops and trainings be remunerated? Why/why not? If so, what should be remunerated?
- How do you manage expectations of organisations and individuals participating in the programme?
- How is the voluntary structure (of the RiseUp! ToT) reflected in the ToC and the outreach strategy of the programme?

5. Interconnectedness of Pathways

At the outset of the programme, and as reflected in the ToC, the four Pathways are intended to interact, support and complement each other. Nonetheless, at country level YW4A actors, including WROs and FBOs, have expressed experiencing isolation between the Pathways. This was further highlighted by the MTR, which showed that it was not uncommon that actors at country level, targeted through the different Pathways, were unaware of (part of) other Pathway's activities/strategies/actors, and therefore in some cases were not able to leverage the different YW4A interventions, and through this amplifying the outcomes and create synergies. This isolation was also recognized by the consortium partners.

During the MTR's sensemaking workshops several actors committed to address this isolation by for example keeping each other informed and even expand their activities to for example include young women and/or WROs in Pathway 3 trainings in Positive Masculinities, in addition to the originally targeted FBOs.

Questions

- How can the interconnectedness between Pathways be better reflected in the ToC?
- What measures are needed to break the silos? (for example enhanced collective planning, harmonized workplans, joint whatsapp groups or email threads, regular in person meetings)
 - What specific resources would each action require?
- Where do you think there are most synergies, between which Pathways?
- How can synergies be measured and made visible in reporting?

6. More MEL support at country level

During the MTR data collection, including the sensemaking workshops, Country Leads expressed the desire for more MEL support from the YW4A consortium in country level efforts. There was a fear that opportunities to catch outcomes and measurements were missed by the programme when the documentation was limited, for example in the case of capturing trainings outcomes.

Making sure that MEL structures are properly in place and supported is important to make sure that the work done and the success of the programme is being documented, but also to ensure that decision-making is well-informed and based on evidence.

Questions

- How is this flow of activities and support reflected in the ToC?
- Is this in line with your expectations?
- What resources not reflected in the ToC would be needed to strengthen your MEL activities?

Theory of Change



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

DEFENDED AND EXPANDED FULFILLMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO DIGNITY, BODILY INTEGRITY, AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING, THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-JUST POLICIES AND LAWS.

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

STRENGTHENED AND DIVERSIFIED PARTICIPATION AND AMPLIFIED VOICES OF YOUNG WOMEN TO EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING TOWARDS GENDER-JUST LAWS, POLICIES, NORMS, AND PRACTICES RELATED TO THEIR BODILY INTEGRITY AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

IO 1: the advocacy capacity of up to 27 women's rights organizations (WROs) strengthened to amplify young women's voices in Palestine, Egypt, Kenya, and South Sudan by 2025.

IO2: Leadership of 13,700 young women enhanced to effectively engage in collective action and decision-making in public, private, and civic spaces in Palestine, Egypt, Kenya, and South Sudan by 2025.

IO3: Social norms and practices of 18 faith-based organizations (FBOs) that constrain young women's rights in Palestine, Egypt, Kenya, and South Sudan transformed by 2025.

IO4: 21 laws and policies promoting young women's rights to leadership, participation and ending SGBV in Palestine, Egypt, Kenya and South Sudan adopted, amended, withdrawn or effective by 2025.



SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES



STO 1.1 Enhanced capacity to apply commitment, skills and organizational resources to develop and implement short- and long-term strategies for advocacy, critically addressing internal power relations and security of young women

STO 1.2 Demonstrated continuous commitment to issues of diverse groups of young women

STO 1.3 Greater access to advocacy opportunities and power structures, through partnerships and coalition building.

STO 1.4 Collectively, WROs and young women identify national advocacy priorities, objectives, and strategies

IO 2a Strengthened leadership of 13,700 young women (individual)

IO 2b Strengthened collective leadership of young women with peers and coalitions.



STO 2.1 Strengthened individual agency and social capital

STO 2.2 Evidence on young women's diverse realities and challenges generated and used for policy, legal, and social norms transformation

STO 3.1 Faith actors mobilized and capacitated to challenge gender-discriminatory social norms and promote women's rights.

STO 3.2 Gender-transformative norms promoted through local social and behavioural change communication by faith champions, opinion leaders, and groups

STO 3.3 Men and boys practicing positive masculinities to secure young women being safe and heard.



STO 4.1 National level decision makers' positive responses to demands by young women and their diverse allies.



STO 4.2 Young women and their allies hold governments accountable through advocacy initiatives including engagement with national, regional, and international decision-making spaces

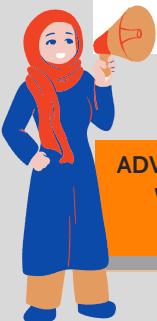
PATHWAYS

ADVOCACY CAPACITY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

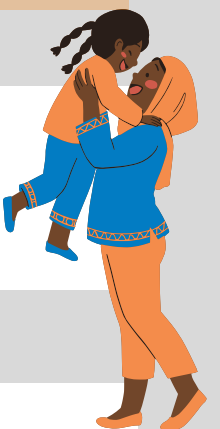
SOCIAL NORMS CHANGE

LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM



CORE ASSUMPTIONS

Ecosystem change at individual, community and societal levels, through joint advocacy between women's rights organisations, young women leaders, faith actors, women's rights advocates, for legal, social and norms change ensures young women's human rights



PROBLEM

Violence against young women and their exclusion from public and private decision making are profound manifestations of gender inequalities and restricted civic space.



Colophon

YW4A mid-term Theory of Change Reflection Brief

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