

# MY RIGHTS, MY VOICE

COMPLETION REPORT 2011-2016



OXFAM



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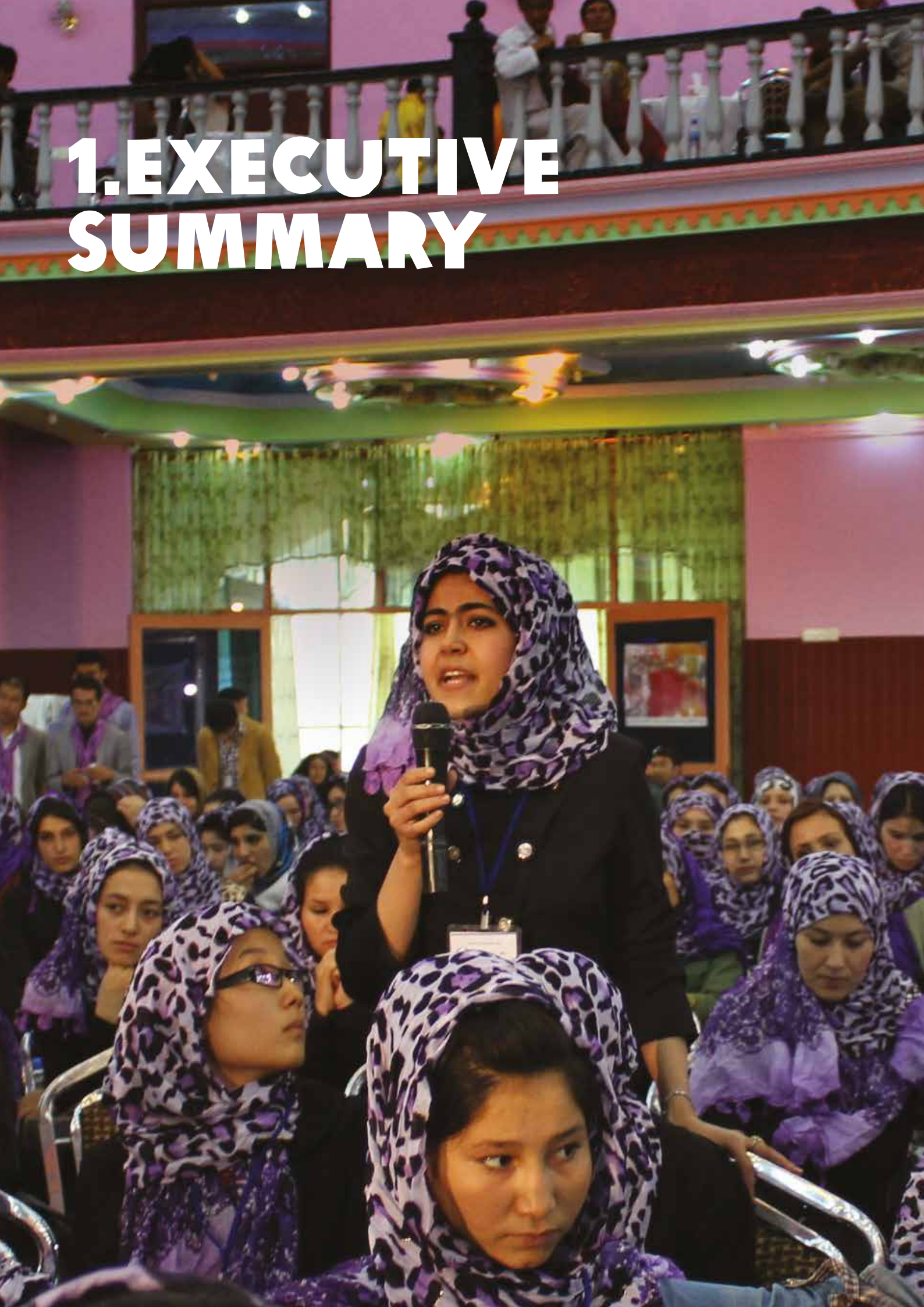


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## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
Edutainment	Education through the medium of entertainment
ESG	Effective School Governance
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MEAL/MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MRMV	My Rights, My Voice
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OGB	Oxfam Great Britain
ON	Oxfam Novib
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
YAC	Youth as Active Citizens

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**Young people have a vital part to play in driving development and overcoming poverty and inequality within their families, schools, communities and ultimately, their countries. This is the vision underlying 'My Rights, My Voice' (MRMV).**

MRMV is an innovative programme which aims to unlock young people's potential by giving them the knowledge, skills and confidence to become 'active citizens', able to voice their rights to education and healthcare, and to hold duty-bearers to account. By doing so, the programme also sought to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on health, education and gender, as the 2015 deadline approached.

Children and young people living in poverty – and particularly young women and girls – are among the most marginalised and voiceless within society. Unaware of their rights or unable to call for them, many go without the access to education and healthcare that could change their lives. This perpetuates poverty and deepens inequality, further preventing young people from fulfilling their potential and holding back entire societies in the process.

Through the MRMV programme, Oxfam and our partners aimed to demonstrate that young people are not just passive bystanders in development, but a positive force for change. Since its inception in 2011, the programme has worked directly with more than 400,000 children and young people in eight countries – Afghanistan, Georgia, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Tanzania and Vietnam. MRMV's 2013 Mid-Term Review led to a shift in the programme's focus, with young people increasingly setting the agenda. As youth grew in awareness of their rights and gained the confidence to voice them, they began to take over from Oxfam and our partners in designing and delivering their own activities – clearly demonstrating their capacity to contribute to decision-making processes.

More than half of the youth reached by the programme are young women and girls. Promoting gender equality was central to MRMV from the start, and efforts to increase participation – and particularly leadership – among girls and young women were stepped up following the Strategic

Gender Review in 2013. These efforts clearly had an impact: in the final year of the programme, 59 percent of the young people involved were women and girls, up from 47 percent in 2014, with more females than males leading MRMV youth groups. Even in very conservative societies, where girls' participation was initially very restricted, there were important shifts in attitudes and norms, and girls got involved in ways that were not possible at the start of the programme – and were even supported by their communities to do so.

Empowering young people – and over time, encouraging and enabling them to take the lead in driving their own campaigns and initiatives – was a relatively new approach for Oxfam and for most of our partners. It challenged traditional roles and ways of working. It required a leap of faith from stakeholders at all levels, including from the young people themselves. Their enormous contribution is all the more impressive given the backdrop of poverty, inequality and gender discrimination which for so long meant their voices went unheard.

The achievements presented in this report bear testimony to young people's capacity as agents of change; in every one of the eight countries, there are examples of duty-bearers responding to youth's demands with action. In Nepal, all political parties included youth health needs in their 2014 election manifestos, while in Mali and Pakistan, youth lobbying resulted in the introduction of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education to the national curricula. Such changes will have a far-reaching impact on the children and young people involved, and will eventually become embedded in wider society.

While MRMV officially ends in 2016, it leaves an important legacy – not just in terms of policy changes, but in the lives and futures of the thousands of empowered young people who have the confidence to speak out and work for change; in the wide networks of active youth groups able to design and implement their own campaigns and activities; and in a more receptive environment, with teachers, leaders and authorities ready and willing to listen to – and act on – what young people have to say.

**'Before MRMV, government authorities and elders didn't trust youth; now this has completely changed. Young people are invited by community leaders and service providers, and they listen to us and our suggestions.'**

Osman, aged 17, MRMV youth group member, Afghanistan





This report reflects on those successes, but also on the many challenges the programme faced in working in post-conflict and fragile countries, and addressing sensitive or taboo issues, such as SRH, in extremely conservative cultures. The report also provides a summary of the final Global Evaluation, which found that in many countries MRMV went beyond its objectives of youth voicing their rights, to young people actually ensuring these rights were fulfilled, particularly with regard to SRH; and suggests recommendations to enable future programmes to learn from MRMV's experience.

## HEADLINE ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of MRMV is to achieve *'sustainable changes in policies, practices and beliefs to meet the specific health and education needs and aspirations of marginalised children and youth, with a particular focus on the rights of girls and young women, to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals'*.

Some of the stand-out achievements are presented below, under MRMV's four objectives. The programme was designed in such a way that the objectives are sequential – with the achievement of Objective 1 preparing the way for the

achievement of Objective 2, and so on. Since there is no separate annual report for 2015, this final MRMV report gives a four-year overview, with an emphasis on the progress made in the final year.

**1. Children, youth and allies (parents, educators, health staff, etc.) are more aware of the specific health and education rights of children and youth and with confidence voice these rights, needs and aspirations in a manner that strengthens equality.**

Over the past four years, MRMV reached an estimated 522,858<sup>1</sup> people, of whom 416,201 (80 percent) were young people. With time, empowered young people took over from Oxfam and partner organisations, and started designing and delivering activities to raise awareness about their needs with peers and decision makers. This often resulted in a more focused influencing strategy, with increased attention paid to country-specific topics including SRH rights, gender-based violence, child marriage and female genital cutting.

Throughout the programme there was a continued increase in examples of allies acting as advocates for child and youth rights and needs within their communities, and increased evidence of changing attitudes. In Pakistan, eight million

# 'The project has created a dynamic which will allow us to change the destiny of our communities.'

Sofia, aged 24, MRMV youth group member, Niger

families have seen MRMV's nationally broadcast soap opera addressing SRH issues, and a campaign which reached 10 million people resulted in the federal government including SRH in the national curriculum.

In Afghanistan, 6,354 parents and community elders were reached by awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of youth participation and girls' education. In Nepal, thanks to young people's efforts to raise awareness, project areas reported a reduction in the number of child marriages of as much as 61 percent in 2015. In Georgia, civil society organisations and doctors reported 344 child health-rights violations over three years, of which 270 were resolved. None were reported in 2011, the year before MRMV began. In Mali, an e-learning platform provided more than 22,000 young people with information on SRH issues; this is now being integrated into the national curriculum. In Vietnam, over 10,000 ethnic minority children and their parents have strong knowledge of their rights and are confident in engaging in school decision-making processes.

**2. Children, youth and allies (parents, educators, health staff, civil society organisations etc.) successfully apply improved individual and collective skills, confidence, resources and organisational skills to claim their rights to health and/or education in decision-making spaces.**

This objective addresses young people's ability to organise themselves effectively to agree and voice a shared agenda. Over time, the emphasis moved from the establishment of new child and youth groups to strengthening young people's leadership, lobbying and advocacy skills, and deepening their knowledge on specific topics.

Youth groups increasingly paid attention to the specific rights and issues of young women. Examples from Afghanistan, Nepal, Vietnam and Niger demonstrate a more positive attitude towards the participation of girls and women, not only within MRMV groups but also in community life; for example, girls in Afghanistan are now permitted to travel and to attend literacy classes. In Nepal, advocacy work resulted in more than 1,600 women being elected to local decision-making bodies, where they have successfully influenced male counterparts to ensure gender-responsive planning and implementation.

MRMV Vietnam engaged youth ambassadors and researchers from rural and urban settings to work with project schools.

They documented 10 child-friendly school governance models in a manual which has been widely distributed. Youth campaigners in Niger gained the support of municipality officials, imams and community leaders on gender equality issues, including access to education and ending domestic violence, child marriage and female genital cutting. Young people have built community trust by successfully advocating for improved roads, better school infrastructure and a new maternity unit.

Within the global MRMV programme, 1,081 examples were recorded of youth and children taking part in public decision-making events and/or processes, many of which received strong coverage on local and national radio and television. In Afghanistan, roundtable talks with duty-bearers were broadcast on radio, reaching an estimated 690,000 listeners. At national level, children and youth in Vietnam were involved in consultation workshops with the government, leading to the revision of the law on children and the development of the national programme on promoting child participation.

In 2015, we noted a strong increase in strategic influencing initiatives undertaken by youth. In Mali, the Youth Advisory Board transitioned into AJCAD, a formal, independent youth-led NGO which became MRMV's main implementing partner in the final year, during which it established university clubs in Mali's three main universities and created new youth groups in more deprived areas of the capital.

**3. Duty-bearers and influencers (ministries, politicians, donors, parents, teachers, health staff, religious leaders, NGOs etc.) engage directly with marginalised children and youth, and as a result take specific actions to deliver better access to, and quality of, health and education.**

The many examples of the recognition of MRMV youth groups by duty-bearers demonstrate a clear shift in attitudes, whereby – as a result of the young people's activities and initiatives – duty-bearers and leaders at many levels now perceive children and youth as capable actors who need to be consulted. For example, youth leaders in Niger are now called on by traditional leaders to help solve issues within their communities. In Nepal, many Community Discussion Centres are actively linked to governmental district health networks and child welfare committees.

Duty-bearers are increasingly involving youth in monitoring and fact-finding processes; the number of examples of this



doubled between 2014 and 2015. In all MRMV countries, duty-bearers undertook action as a direct result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy efforts. In Nepal, following MRMV campaigns, 13 additional outreach clinics were established by the government, the number of free medicines provided by the state increased from 40 to 70, and over the four years there was a 65 percent increase in the use of healthcare services in project areas. In Tanzania, student lobbying led to corporal punishment being banned in MRMV project schools, while in Georgia, the government improved the design and implementation of its state drug-prescription programme following monitoring and advocacy activities by MRMV youth and partners.

National and regional governments have adopted, scaled up and mainstreamed several policy recommendations put forward by MRMV. In Tanzania, the MRMV *barazas* (student councils) are now recognised by law. In Vietnam, MRMV models for effective, child-friendly school governance have been officially recognised by local governments in two provinces.

In Mali, the MRMV e-learning platform on SRH was officially adopted by the government, while in Niger, the Ministry of Education publicly adopted a declaration on access to education for all children and young people, with special attention given to girls' education. In Afghanistan, the National Youth Policy was ratified by the government in 2014. MRMV youth campaigners advocated for the policy and contributed to the drafting process to ensure a strong gender equality component. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the government Directorate of Literacy to ensure the continuation of MRMV literacy classes after 2015.

#### **4. Oxfam, partners and others have strengthened capacity to work on youth agency in country programmes, and Oxfam's global campaigning force has facilitated youth claiming and accessing better health and education.**

This objective aims to join up MRMV's national-level advocacy with Oxfam's global campaigns, and to engage young people in the planning and implementation of Oxfam's wider work. Efforts to strengthen children's and youth's networking, coordination and influencing skills resulted in stronger links between groups in different areas and with existing national-level initiatives for and by young people. Global Annual Learning Events and a Global Advocacy Workshop provided a platform for collective reflection and continuous improvement of the work carried out by MRMV youth groups in different countries. In the final year of the programme, there was a steep increase in youth participation in national and global advocacy processes – from 13 recorded cases in 2014, to 33 in 2015.



In 2015, MRMV youth campaigners from several countries, including Mali, Nepal and Afghanistan, took part in international events, conferences and meetings on the rights of young people. In June 2016, MRMV young people led sessions with development practitioners and donors at a Learning Event with the Department for International Development (DFID) in London, and at a Youth Symposium in The Hague, both organised by Oxfam. In August, MRMV youth took part in the Oxfam Youth Summit focusing on inequality campaigning during the World Social Forum in Montreal, supported by an Oxfam Policy Briefing on Youth and Inequality. They worked together with other youth campaigners to develop a Youth Manifesto on Inequality which will support future advocacy work.

MRMV has been an inspiration and a catalyst to other Oxfam multi-country programmes. These include 'Youth as Active Citizens', a dynamic initiative through which eight Oxfam affiliates<sup>2</sup> are joining forces to promote youth engagement, inclusion and gender justice in the spirit which MRMV helped to foster, ensuring the sustainability of work on youth active citizenship beyond MRMV's lifetime. During a Youth Programme Development Workshop in Istanbul in 2015, Oxfam staff, youth and partners from more than 25 countries met to share learning and identify ways to ensure participatory and impactful youth-led programming.

## 2. INTRODUCTION



## THE MRMV VISION

My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) is Oxfam's first global programme with the aim to engage marginalised children and youth in their rights to health, education, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. The programme recognises the vital role that children and youth – alongside their allies, such as parents and teachers – can play in their own personal development and that of their communities and countries.

The belief driving the initiative is that children and youth have a right not only to access good quality and free health and education services, but also to voice their needs, hold their governments (whose duty it is to provide and regulate such services) to account, and ultimately to be listened to as 'active citizens'. By enabling young people to bring about change, MRMV also aimed to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

MRMV launched in December 2011 in eight countries – Afghanistan, Georgia, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Tanzania and Vietnam – and was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Initially conceived as a three-year programme, it was extended to a fourth additional year in all of the countries except Georgia and Tanzania. MRMV officially ended at country level in March 2016, with global-level programme activities concluding in August 2016.

## A GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMME FOR OXFAM

While much of the programme built on Oxfam's previous or existing health and education projects, the focus on working predominantly with young men and women, girls and boys was a relatively new approach for Oxfam and most of our partners. From the start, MRMV was informed in its design, implementation and monitoring by the voices and experiences of youth in all its diversity – rural and urban youth, schoolchildren and young adults, marginalised and less marginalised groups.

With each year of the programme, young people's confidence – and stakeholders' confidence in them – has grown, with youth increasingly designing and driving their own initiatives, based on their priorities. Youth have become confident in voicing their rights, and are working with duty-bearers to ensure that these rights are fulfilled. Duty-bearers are not only allowing, but are actively seeking young people's engagement in decision-making processes – this is one of the most significant achievements of the programme.

Country teams were given the flexibility to adapt the programme to their specific context in order to most effectively engage with young people, as well as to take advantage of any opportunities created by existing levels of youth organisation. The thematic focus of each country increasingly reflected the concerns and priorities as seen by the young people themselves, with some running campaigns on child marriage (Nepal) or female genital cutting (Mali), and

other youth groups going beyond the programme's focus areas to campaign for improved infrastructure (Niger and Nepal) or environmental protection (Afghanistan and Vietnam).

MRMV's achievements are all the more remarkable given that it was implemented in 'difficult' or hostile socio-political environments. Most of the eight implementing countries experienced security problems or faced natural disasters; for example, the mega-earthquake in Nepal, floods in Vietnam, violence in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Mali, and the Ebola outbreak in Mali.

**'Young people are a source of energy, innovation and activism, and that's what's needed to bring about fast and sustainable change.'**

Ousmane, aged 23, Secretary General of AJCAD Youth Association, Mali

## STRIVING FOR GENDER JUSTICE

As with all of Oxfam's work, the ambition to achieve gender justice was at the core of MRMV. In most countries, the programme initially had to invest in substantial efforts to be able to work directly with youth – particularly girls and young women – and ensure their effective participation. An increased focus on gender equality, which followed the MRMV Strategic Gender Review in 2013, is reflected in the final-year results: up to 59 percent of the youth involved were girls and young women (up from 47 percent in 2014), and more than half of the programme's youth group leaders were female. This is a major achievement given the deeply conservative contexts of several of the implementing countries, where female participation, let alone leadership, went against social norms.

Crucially, there is also clear evidence of a shift in attitudes to gender equality at family and community levels – with some communities who initially barred girls' participation in activities now actively supporting it. Examples from Afghanistan, Nepal, Vietnam and Niger demonstrate a more positive overall attitude towards the participation of girls and women, not only in MRMV groups but also in wider aspects of community life. The transformation is reflected in individual lives, with girls and young women becoming awakened to their own potential, and realising that they have the right – and ability – to participate and lead.



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‘MRMV has helped me to gain confidence and raise my voice to fight for youth rights and to be a good leader. I have undergone a complete change. MRMV should be extended to the whole country because it has brought about immense success, especially for girls.’

Elizabeth, aged 19, MRMV student *baraza* leader, Tanzania

### AN INNOVATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MDGs

From the outset, MRMV outlined that the inclusion and participation of the most marginalised and vulnerable groups in society – especially women, children and youth – were crucial to reach the MDGs by the 2015 deadline. In line with the global programme objectives, each country therefore placed marginalised children and youth, especially girls and young women, as ‘active citizens’ at the heart of the MRMV activities, approaches and direction.

The various achievements outlined throughout this report are very much in line with MDG 2 on the achievement of Universal Primary Education, even if our overall contribution to high-level goals such as the MDGs remains hard to quantify.

MDG 3 was geared towards the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. As noted above, a strong focus on girls and women permeated the MRMV programme in all countries. Girls and women have been empowered to gain knowledge and make conscious decisions in relation to their SRH. Significant advances have also been made in terms of stimulating female leadership, which in countries such as Nepal directly resulted in women’s increased political participation.

MRMV has informed young people about their rights related to SRH, with clear signs of young people actually changing their behaviour, and positive results in terms of the reduction of early marriages and female genital cutting. Through edutainment and partnerships with media, the programme was able to break some of the taboos on these topics in conservative environments. In this way, MRMV contributed to MDG 5 related to the improvement of maternal health and MDG 6 on tackling HIV and AIDS.

### ADDING VALUE THROUGH A GLOBAL APPROACH

Oxfam’s previous experience had shown that significant value could be added to individual country projects by bringing them together as a global programme. This was achieved by creating opportunities for national and transnational capacity building of partners, young people and staff; promoting networking and sharing of experiences across countries; continuously distilling and sharing good

practice for improved impact both within Oxfam and with other actors; and driving forward innovation and programme quality. This ‘global layer’ of the MRMV programme also ensured effective programme management oversight and accountability – with the aim of making the greatest possible impact on the lives of children and young people.

This MRMV completion report gives an overview of progress and achievements at country and global levels over the four years, and includes a section presenting the main findings of an independent final evaluation of the programme. The evaluation confirms the programme’s achievements, and the fact that in some cases MRMV went beyond its own objectives. It also reflects on where these objectives were perhaps too ambitious – particularly in terms of linking up with global campaigning and advocacy. Crucially, the evaluation provides recommendations as to where Oxfam can learn from MRMV to improve the design and implementation of future multi-country programmes, and to effectively engage young people in our work to overcome poverty and inequality.

### YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING THE WAY

While the programme has officially ended, MRMV has led to lasting changes that will ensure its impact continues well beyond programme completion: changes in the lives of the individuals whose potential has been unlocked; changes at the level of teachers, community leaders and duty-bearers, who now actively seek youth involvement in decision making; and changes to laws and school curricula that will ensure better child protection and education for this generation and the next.

Over the four years of the programme, MRMV also underwent a transformation – from a programme working *for* young people to a programme implemented *with* and led *by* young people. These young people have demonstrated to us all – teachers, religious leaders, government ministers, parents, and Oxfam and partner staff alike – their enormous, undeniable capacity to be present and future drivers of inclusive and sustainable development. The insights they have given us will continue to challenge us to involve young people – as the innovators of today and the guardians and duty-bearers of tomorrow.

# 3. COUNTRY REPORTS



# AFGHANISTAN

## OSMAN'S STORY

'Before MRMV, I could not advocate for my rights, but after getting involved I campaigned in my school for the first time. This was a great achievement for me. Now I am able to raise my voice and advocate on behalf of my school. The people in my village trust me and my abilities, and accept me as an activist who thinks about his community; they even share their problems with me. It shows their trust, and I think it is a really positive change.'

Youth are the foundation of the country, family and society. So they should have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. This can help them to bring about change in their society, because they are talented and have the energy and enthusiasm to work in their communities. Before MRMV, government authorities and community elders didn't trust youth; now this has completely changed. Young people are invited by community leaders and service providers, and they listen to us and our suggestions. If community members have a problem, they ask us to advocate for them. Now young people are working together for their community with one powerful voice.'

Osman, aged 17, MRMV youth group member



## STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Afghanistan, My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) supported over 6,600 children and young people to claim their rights to quality health and education. In the first three years, the project worked with four partners in Kabul, Balkh, Daikundi and Badakhshan provinces to empower young people to demand policy changes and improvements in health and education services, and to increase CSOs' capacity to lobby for child and youth rights. Youth groups at the community, district, provincial and university levels provided a platform for young people to increase their knowledge of youth rights, lead community activities and engage with duty-bearers.

In Year Four, the project concentrated on improvements in education services and building youth capacity to lead community volunteering and advocacy initiatives. There was a particular focus on strengthening youth dialogue with government and non-government authorities, and supporting out-of-school girls to access formal education.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Afghanistan National Youth Policy was ratified by the government in 2014. MRMV youth campaigners advocated for the policy and contributed to the drafting process to ensure a strong gender equality component.
- Over 3,000 youth group members have strong networks with government officials and can lead their own advocacy campaigns. In one district, education ministry officials agreed to provide land and build new schools following lobby meetings.
- Youth representatives have been trained in monitoring and evaluation to assess health and education services. Youth monitoring led to the closure of unscrupulous pharmacies and the replacement of unqualified teachers and health staff.
- Radio shows raising awareness on child and youth rights to health and education reached over 2.6 million people.

## GENDER JUSTICE

- Strong collaboration with community stakeholders has enabled young women's involvement in project activities and the establishment of mixed youth groups. Young women are now leading the majority of project youth groups and organising advocacy initiatives, while communities are increasingly supportive of girls' education and family decision-making roles.
- Youth groups identified literacy classes as a solution to some young women's non-participation in project activities. Classes were set up in 48 communities to support young women's involvement in MRMV and enrolment in formal education.

## INNOVATION

- Twelve resource centres were built with internet access and young people were trained in photography, video-making and social media to facilitate online and evidence-based advocacy.
- Youth groups organised a learning exchange between project provinces to improve networks for future advocacy initiatives. Youth groups visited schools, clinics, and health and education departments, and met with peers to share strategies and achievements.

## CHALLENGES

- Security risks were an ongoing cause of implementation delays. MRMV teachers and young people implemented some project activities with remote support when security concerns prevented partner staff from travelling.
- The 2014 presidential election limited politicians' availability and delayed MRMV advocacy work. Project staff took the opportunity to train youth groups in citizen rights and safeguarding against political manipulation.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- Youth groups will continue to provide space for young people to organise activities and engage with duty-bearers. There are strong connections with community leaders, NGOs and government officials, who are regularly invited to district-level youth meetings.
- MRMV youth campaigners are now actively involved in other Oxfam projects, and research is being undertaken to develop future projects on youth and employment.



# GEORGIA

## GIORGI'S STORY

'MRMV has really helped us to realise our health rights – each project creates new opportunities, and gives us new skills and knowledge. What I like about the programme is that youth from the regions of Georgia are also involved, which is very important because they get a chance to express their opinions and participate in different campaigning and awareness-raising activities at the national level. These young people and children now know about their health rights and can share this information to support others.'

My biggest experience with MRMV was when I took part in a Youth Forum dedicated to International Children's Day, where I presented on health rights and child-friendly health systems. My dream is to become a successful lawyer and, as for any human being, health is a very important issue for me. Health is something that everyone needs and you should not be able to buy it with money; healthcare should be free. I hope that everyone in Georgia and all over the world is able to benefit from their right to health services, particularly children who need special care.'

Giorgi, aged 19, MRMV Youth Advisory Board member



## STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Georgia, MRMV supported over 12,400 children and young people to voice their needs and drive policy changes to protect their right to healthcare. The project worked with two partners and the country's health ombudsman (the Public Defender's Office) to promote child and youth health-rights among internally displaced persons in the post-conflict regions of Samegrelo and Shida Kartli. A network of 30 youth groups raised awareness and campaigned for changes on healthcare, while Youth Forums provided a platform for youth leaders to share their experiences and influence policy makers directly. Doctors and civil society organisations (CSOs) were trained to identify child health-rights issues and bring them to the attention of the health ombudsman, while parents were engaged through media campaigns and community meetings. The Georgia MRMV project completed after three years.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Monitoring and advocacy activities conducted by youth and partners led the government to improve the design and implementation of the state drug-prescription programme.
- Extensive capacity building through training, workshops and forums significantly improved MRMV youth campaigners' knowledge of their health rights and ability to identify and advocate for health issues.
- CSOs and doctors reported 344 child health-rights violations to the health ombudsman over three years, of which 270 were resolved. None were reported in 2011, the year before the project began.
- Youth group members designed and conducted an extensive monitoring survey of accessibility to child healthcare services in project regions. They developed joint recommendations with healthcare professionals and presented them at a national policy meeting with the health ombudsman and government officials, who made commitments to integrate them into their work plans.

## GENDER EQUALITY

- Youth group members ran seminars on gender justice issues in schools across the two project regions to raise awareness of harmful behaviours such as gender-based violence.
- Gender justice was one of two main topics for the final MRMV National Youth Forum. Youth participants agreed on future activities to tackle gender inequalities in Georgia.

## INNOVATION

- The Georgia project created a campaign on reproductive health issues, building on learning from the Pakistan project's sexual and reproductive health (SRH) campaign. Youth groups organised workshops for their peers, distributed brochures and discussed the campaign on a television talk show.
- Children and youth campaigned on World Health Day and International Children's Day, marching for their health rights, distributing flyers and performing flash mobs which were broadcast on local television.
- The 'I Have a Right to Live' campaign on state accountability around young leukaemia patients' health rights engaged 20 renowned journalists, who wrote articles and organised radio and television shows to raise awareness.

## CHALLENGES

- Numerous staff changes at the health ombudsman at times affected the continuity and effectiveness of project activities. MRMV made connections with and trained new staff members to ensure the ombudsman's continued involvement with the programme.
- Demands on family doctors limited their ability to identify health-rights violations. Capacity-building activities were adapted to take their busy schedules into account.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- Training modules for doctors to protect child and youth health rights through engagement with the health ombudsman and CSOs were designed, and promoted for replication with doctors across Georgia.
- Project staff worked with youth, schools and partners to develop fundraising and sustainability strategies, and promoted MRMV as a model for future youth health-rights initiatives with government officials.

# MALI

## OUSMANE'S STORY

'MRMV empowers young people. It supports them to lead activities and to bring their messages directly to duty-bearers. Through MRMV we have led huge social mobilisation campaigns on SRH and education. We've organised spaces for exchange, information-sharing and for lobbying politicians on the improvement of young people's education and SRH. I am proud of our advocacy work for the inclusion of the e-learning platform in the school curriculum, and of the creation of AJCAD [independent youth association]. Now I know that if young people want change, they can achieve it. We have become real leaders of Malian civil society.'

Young people are the first victims of bad services. If we want to see a change in our lives, we have to put ourselves out there. Giving us space allows duty-bearers and community members to better understand our problems. Young people are a source of energy, innovation and activism, and that's what's needed to bring about fast and sustainable change. I hope that young people will continue to campaign for a better Mali, a better Africa and a better world in which every citizen has access to basic social services and in which their rights are protected.'

**Ousmane, aged 23, Secretary General of AJCAD Youth Association**



## STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Mali, MRMV supported over 64,000 young people to claim their rights to education and SRH. In the first three years, the project worked with a coalition of partners and a Youth Advisory Board to raise young people's awareness of education and SRH rights, in Bamako, Kati and Segou. An e-learning platform and online service strengthened young people's SRH knowledge in schools and youth groups, while advocacy initiatives held duty-bearers accountable for the quality of essential services. In Year Four, the Youth Advisory Board transitioned into a national youth association – AJCAD – and became the main implementing partner. The project focused on strengthening youth capacity to lead campaigning activities, integrating the e-learning platform into the national curriculum, and collaborating with Oxfam's child marriage and education projects.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Young people now independently lead project activities and processes. Strong capacity building enabled the Youth Advisory Board to transition into a youth association and deliver MRMV activities as a partner in Year Four.
- The *Info Ado* e-learning platform provided information on SRH issues to over 22,000 young people, including those in vulnerable groups. Compatible with computers and mobile phones, the platform is being integrated into the national curriculum.
- Youth campaigners lobbied political parties on essential services during the 2013 presidential elections, created a manifesto which was signed by two presidential candidates, and carried out monitoring to ensure that the pledges were kept following the election. They also encouraged young people to vote, raising awareness through campaign floats and national television.
- Young people have broken taboos on SRH, and duty-bearers are responding positively to their initiatives. Some schools have reported a decrease in early pregnancy, and students are speaking out against child marriage.

## GENDER JUSTICE

- MRMV has improved young women's confidence; young women now talk openly about SRH issues and lead the organisation of public activities.
- The e-learning platform provided information on gender equality issues including child marriage and female genital cutting.

## INNOVATION

- The *Info Ado* website and text-messaging service allowed over 73,000 young people to ask anonymous questions about SRH. The service was promoted through radio, television, concerts and campaigning events.
- Youth campaigners were trained in 'Most Significant Change'<sup>3</sup> and participatory video to capture the impact of MRMV and strengthen programme monitoring systems.

## CHALLENGES

- The political coup in 2012 led to delays in project implementation and the cancellation of planned activities in northern Mali.
- Political instability has increased turnover among officials and led to shrinking civil society space. MRMV worked with officials in more stable positions, while youth used their political networks to ensure ministers attended meetings and events.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- The *Info Ado* website, text-messaging service, radio shows and social media platforms will be continued through Oxfam partners, while ownership of the e-learning platform has been officially transferred to the Ministry of Education.
- MRMV partners have integrated programme strategies into a new Oxfam project on child marriage, while AJCAD is jointly implementing Oxfam's 'Even It Up' campaign on inequality.
- Young people carried out in-depth, youth-led research and participated in a Youth Programme Development Workshop in Benin in 2016 to develop a programme on youth employment in West Africa.

## NEPAL

### MINA'S STORY

'Before MRMV, I thought I was too young to do anything. But after joining the Child Health Committee, I started believing that we can do many things. We have organised many campaigns from the local to the national level. We have met ministers, parliamentarians and political parties to form and revise policies related to children and youth. We have intervened to make sure the Village Development Committee budget meets the different needs of young people. We have raised awareness about child marriage and violence against women through advocacy, door-to-door campaigns and community interaction. Now duty-bearers are more accountable towards the public and they support us in different activities and campaigns. We have better relationships with all community members. We have been able to win their trust.'

Young people are the pillars of nation-building. We can be key actors in bringing about social change; that's why it is important to give us space. MRMV has given us skills and confidence. Now my plan is to work for my community to make it a better place.'

**Mina, aged 15, Child Health Committee member and Chairperson of a Village Development Committee Child Network**



### STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Nepal, MRMV supported over 218,000 children, youth and young mothers to claim their right to health services that meet their needs, including on SRH. In the first three years the project worked in three districts – Dailekh, Banke and Surkhet – with local partners and a national-level youth association supporting young people to voice their needs to increase accountability within the health system. REFLECT<sup>4</sup> method-based Community Discussion Centres and Child Health Committees supported children and young people to increase their knowledge and campaign on health and SRH rights, while radio programmes and forum theatre raised awareness among communities. MRMV worked with children, youth and duty-bearers to identify child marriage as the key focus in Year Four, empowering young people to work with community stakeholders to raise awareness in Banke, Nawalparasi and Surkhet districts.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than 2,000 youth and young mothers in Child Health Committees and Community Discussion Centres are confident in claiming their rights to health and SRH, and can lead information campaigns independently.
- Awareness-raising and campaigning decreased child marriage cases in project areas by 61 percent in Year Four, while work to make duty-bearers accountable increased usage of health services by 65 percent over the project's four years.
- Youth campaigners lobbied local authorities to establish 13 outreach clinics, while advocacy around elections influenced all major political parties to include commitments to improve health services with special youth measures in their election manifestos.
- Campaigning by MRMV and other civil society initiatives led the government to announce a new policy on child marriage, and to commit to an increase in the number of free medicines from 40 to 70.

### GENDER JUSTICE

- Advocacy work resulted in over 1,600 women being elected to local decision-making bodies, where they have successfully influenced male counterparts to ensure gender-responsive planning.
- Girls and young women have been recognised as change agents in the community due to their new leadership roles and coordination of initiatives on child marriage, gender-based violence and SRH.

### INNOVATION

- The MRMV radio programme gave young people the opportunity to report back as citizen journalists through interactive voice-recording systems, raising awareness of health and SRH rights, and creating dialogue between right-holders and duty-bearers.
- Forum theatre performed by children and youth engaged audiences in discussions on social issues and encouraged them to find solutions to their problems.
- Participatory video training supported youth campaigners to make powerful films on healthcare issues and to lobby decision makers.

### CHALLENGES

- In 2015, youth and women elected to local-level decision-making bodies could not stand in local elections due to the delay to the promulgation of the Constitution. Strikes and protests relating to this process disrupted project activities and required high levels of flexibility from programme staff.
- Following the 2015 earthquake, project implementation was delayed as efforts focused on the humanitarian response. Some national partner project activities were diverted to support students in affected areas.

### LOOKING FORWARD

- Community Discussion Centre members have built meeting facilities and managed monthly savings to support the continuation of group activities. They have lobbied the Village Development Committee to secure a budget for women's initiatives, and are linking with cooperatives for training in income-generating activities. Schools will ensure the continuation of Child Health Committees as children's clubs.
- Oxfam is incorporating learning from MRMV into the design of a new programme on preventing child marriage.



# NIGER

## SOFIA'S STORY

'In Niger, SRH is a difficult topic for young people to discuss openly. MRMV is the only project which addresses these sensitive issues. Now, all young people who come to our meetings know their SRH and education rights. Through MRMV, I've been able to discuss these issues and today I'm able to express myself freely and talk about anything in front of lots of people. I am proud to be the leader of my group and to be able to mobilise my peers. I am proud, because if someone in my community needs a girl with knowledge of education and SRH rights, they will call on me.

Young people are tomorrow's future. In Niger, over 51 percent of the population are young. So it's up to young people to drive the change process, and their ideas have to be listened to and taken into account in decision making. The project has created a dynamic which will allow us to change the destiny of our communities. We are halfway through the process of realising the effectiveness of our rights. We will carry on the fight. Rights aren't just given; we have to grab them through struggle, determination and responsibility.'

**Sofia, aged 24, MRMV youth group member**



## STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Niger, MRMV supported over 7,600 children and young people to claim their rights to education and SRH. In the first three years, the project worked with partners in Say, Téra and Torodi departments to support young people in improving their knowledge of education and SRH issues and raising awareness among their peers. Youth groups provided a space for peer-to-peer discussion and engagement with community leaders, while edutainment initiatives increased support. Radio debates were a strong platform for advocacy and transforming social attitudes to break taboos on SRH.

In Year Four, the project developed initiatives to build young women's confidence and support them to lead campaigns. Advocacy work was scaled up to the national level by strengthening youth networks between regions, creating a Youth Advisory Board and facilitating engagement with government duty-bearers.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- 7,630 youth campaigners, both in-school and out-of-school, are engaged in MRMV youth groups. They can lead discussions on education and SRH issues, and are confident in organising intergenerational exchanges with community leaders.
- Young people have built community trust by successfully advocating for improved roads and school infrastructure, and a new maternity unit.
- Radio debates targeting 54,000 listeners raised awareness on education and SRH rights and ensured strong community interest in youth issues. Young people engaged with religious leaders and successfully lobbied local authorities on quality education for girls.
- Youth groups in different regions coordinated advocacy efforts through social media and a network of MRMV telephones. Youth campaigners are now linked with wider advocacy networks, including the National Youth Board, the Youth Parliament and the International Youth Chamber.

## GENDER JUSTICE

- Young women's confidence has greatly increased as a result of leadership training, female-only youth groups and a focus on girls' participation. Young women are now taking part in radio debates, performing in edutainment initiatives and leading community mobilisation efforts, while over 30 young married women have returned to formal education.
- Youth campaigners have obtained the support of three municipality-level officials, 19 local imams and 189 community leaders on gender equality issues, including access to education and ending domestic violence, child marriage and female genital cutting.

## INNOVATION

- Young people worked with famous national artists to develop raps, songs, poems and sketches raising awareness and advocating on education and SRH issues.
- Youth Development Centres provide a space for youth groups to run peer-to-peer learning sessions, support awareness-raising and hold discussions with community stakeholders.

## CHALLENGES

- The project did not engage with sufficient numbers of duty-bearers during initial activity monitoring. From the third year, MRMV involved officials in training and coordinated meetings between ministers at the state and local levels to increase involvement.
- Initially, youth participants did not pass on new skills learned in training. MRMV introduced peer-learning initiatives to improve sustainability and ensure that training benefited the wider community.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- Youth groups will continue to meet and campaign through Youth Development Centres, while the National Youth Board and Youth Parliament will provide a platform for national-level advocacy.
- Successful approaches from MRMV have been integrated into a new Oxfam project on preventing child marriage in MRMV implementation areas.
- Young people took part in in-depth, youth-led research and participated in a Youth Programme Development Workshop in Benin in 2016 to contribute to the development of a programme on youth employment in West Africa.

## PAKISTAN

### AISHA'S STORY

'Because of the cultural background in my area, young people can't discuss the issue of SRH with their parents, and they don't have access to information. I grew up with very little knowledge about health or SRH. Through MRMV, I attended SRH rights training and workshops; we involved religious leaders, journalists, teachers, parents and, most importantly, young people. During the training, we asked religious leaders to discuss SRH issues during their Friday sermons, and asked teachers and parents to do the same with young people. I have used every available opportunity to express my opinions about SRH rights, and I have seen that parents are now ready to discuss SRH issues with their children.'

In every society, young people are change agents. Young people have energy, zeal and enthusiasm, and can influence others once they understand their own problems. This is why it is extremely important to provide them with the space to talk, share and learn. MRMV has helped young people to have a voice by educating them about their rights and encouraging them to be part of community-building. It has raised our consciousness and supported us to engage major stakeholders on the issues that affect us most.'

Aisha, aged 26, Youth Advisory Board member



### STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Pakistan, MRMV supported over 98,000 children and young people to claim their right to SRH and make informed decisions about their lives. In the first three years, the project partnered with a women's organisation and major media outlets to increase awareness of youth rights to SRH, in nine districts. A mass edutainment campaign sought to change social attitudes to SRH issues and lobbied for SRH rights to be integrated into the education curriculum, while the Youth Advisory Board and a Steering Committee of prominent religious leaders informed project activities.

In Year Four, MRMV partnered with a youth-led organisation to ensure meaningful youth participation. Young people formed district youth groups in four districts to discuss and campaign on SRH issues, and collaborated with partners and Oxfam staff to implement project activities.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Eight million families have seen the nationally broadcast soap opera addressing SRH issues. Almost half of all national television viewers watched at least one of the 16 episodes, and over half of viewers were under the age of 26.
- The campaign to incorporate SRH education into the national curriculum reached 10 million people, with backing from prominent religious leaders and major media outlets helping to shift public opinion. The federal government has worked with MRMV to develop and launch a Life Skills-Based Education curriculum.
- Young people have collaborated on SRH issues and planned youth-led campaigns through district-level youth groups. Together with national-level Youth Advisory Board members, they have engaged in all levels of project implementation including planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- Following lobbying from MRMV and other civil society initiatives, the provincial government has approved a progressive provincial Youth and Population Policy, and is preparing to approve a draft Population Welfare Policy supporting youth rights.

### GENDER JUSTICE

- MRMV worked with women's campaign groups to promote gender equality, highlighting child marriage, gender-based violence and SRH issues through street theatre performances and radio shows.
- Young women were coached in leadership skills to support their participation in theatre, public speaking and media events.

### INNOVATION

- Edutainment initiatives including street theatre, concerts, radio dramas, talk shows and the soap opera have brought parents, community elders and young people together to discuss SRH issues.
- Text-messaging and social media increased awareness on SRH rights and enabled people to participate in live radio shows.

### CHALLENGES

- The campaign's success in promoting SRH rights brought it to the attention of opponents, who issued counter-messaging in the media. MRMV strengthened its collaboration with religious leaders and other allies, building a strong coalition to advocate for SRH rights.
- Conservative gender roles sometimes prohibited girls from performing street theatre. MRMV continued to strengthen girls' leadership skills and challenge restrictive social norms.

### LOOKING FORWARD

- Oxfam is working with the federal government to ensure that the Life Skills-Based Education curriculum is implemented in schools, while strong partnerships with the media, religious leaders, education institutions and government officials will ensure continued support for SRH rights and youth issues.
- MRMV youth groups will provide an ongoing platform for young people to raise awareness and claim their rights, with the Youth Advisory Board coordinating youth participation at the Oxfam level. A strong network of MRMV-supported youth-led organisations is developing a youth-led civil society movement.
- Oxfam is integrating successful strategies from MRMV into a child marriage project, while mainstreaming youth participation into other programmes.

# TANZANIA

## ELIZABETH'S STORY

'This programme has taught students to understand the appropriate way to demand their rights without the use of conflict. The *baraza* meetings we hold as a student body are one example – after we were elected, we were taught how to carry out our meetings and present our issues. We did not have suggestion boxes before, but after we attended a seminar on how to effectively use them, we were able to convince the teachers. There have been so many changes as a result. For example, teachers used to hit girls on their feet as a punishment, but through the suggestion boxes we presented the problem to the head teacher and urged him to stop the practice.

MRMV has helped me to gain confidence and raise my voice to fight for youth rights, and to be a good leader among the students at my school. I have undergone a complete change. MRMV should be extended to the whole country because it has brought about immense success, especially for girls. I am very proud to say that we currently have a girl as the new head prefect in our school.'

Elizabeth, aged 19, MRMV student *baraza* leader



## STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Tanzania, MRMV supported over 68,400 school students to demand quality education through democratically elected school councils. The project worked with five partners in Arusha, Dodoma and Ngorongoro regions to empower students to understand their rights, win community backing, and hold schools and authorities to account on the quality of education. The project created and strengthened student *barazas* (councils) in 80 schools as democratically structured, gender-sensitive platforms enabling children to influence decisions on education and their school environment. Students were given information on their education rights, trained in leadership skills and supported to develop monitoring tools, while teacher mentors supported *barazas* in each school. *Baraza* champions built joint policy positions and developed campaign materials to lobby decision makers for educational improvements at regional and national levels. The Tanzania MRMV project completed after three years.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- As a result of student advocacy, unlawful corporal punishment was banned in MRMV project schools. Students raised the issue through suggestion boxes, organised meetings with teachers and decision makers, and lobbied school inspectors to develop a document for teachers outlining the government Act on corporal punishment.
- MRMV sensitised over 2,500 teachers and education officials to embrace the *baraza* model, and documented good practice for it to be replicated nationally.
- Collaboration with education officers and government leaders built their understanding and appreciation of a youth-centred approach, paving the way for its rollout across local government councils.
- Schools outside the project areas requested their inclusion in the MRMV project, and several were supported by education officers to adopt the *baraza* model.

## GENDER JUSTICE

- In Arusha, girls' enrolment increased as a direct result of community sensitisation on girls' right to go to school, while in Ngorongoro, the parents' council minimised barriers to girls' education by providing adequate toilets, sanitary facilities and accommodation.
- Attitudes towards young women changed as an increasing number of girls contested and won leadership positions in student elections, while the positions 'Head Girl/Boy' were renamed as 'Head Prefect'. Teachers, village leaders, parents and education officers promoted the election of female students as leaders, and girls have become more aware of their rights and better able to speak out.

## INNOVATION

- Suggestion boxes were a powerful tool in raising student voices, particularly for girls and marginalised groups. The boxes enabled youth to raise serious issues anonymously with power-holders.
- The 'My City, My Voice' participatory research project built the capacity of urban youth to engage with duty-bearers on access to health and education services. Both in- and out-of-school youth participated in project activities including advocacy meetings, youth dialogues, exchange visits and training.

## CHALLENGES

- Students campaigning on the use of corporal punishment in schools faced some resistance from teachers. To counteract this, students held discussions with teachers about the effects of violence in learning institutions.
- As *barazas* matured to campaign on student concerns, members required extra support and guidance beyond skills in knowledge-building and awareness-raising. MRMV ran training sessions in advocacy skills to support students to lobby schools and authorities on quality education.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- MRMV worked with youth, schools, partners and authorities to develop fundraising and sustainability strategies, ensuring the continuation of project activities and promoting the *baraza* model for national replication.
- Government stakeholders provided strategic support to continue project implementation and work with youth on issues raised through the suggestion boxes and student *barazas*.



## VIETNAM

### THUY'S STORY

'Before participating in MRMV, there was discrimination among ethnic groups in my school. Now we can share our problems and worries with our teachers through the suggestion box system. When teachers found out about these issues, they organised joint activities for students from the three ethnic minority groups, and now there are articles related to non-discrimination against ethnic minority groups in our school and class regulations. We also raised concerns about hygiene with the School Management Board and local authorities at the child forum, and the toilets in our school were upgraded to improve sanitation.

In the past, we were very shy and had little confidence. Sometimes we wanted to share our thoughts and ideas, but we didn't have the courage to do it. Since participating in MRMV, we have become more confident and now we know how to express our opinions. We take part in school activities as well as studying, and we know how to deal with our problems by ourselves because we have become more confident, knowledgeable and capable.'

Thuy, aged 14, involved in MRMV activities



### STRATEGIES AND APPROACH

In Vietnam, MRMV has supported over 10,000 ethnic minority children to exercise their rights (especially the right to participation) and to communicate with decision makers to shape an education that meets their needs. In the first three years, the project worked with two youth-led organisations and 12 government partners to support children – particularly girls and ethnic minority children – to improve their access to education, using innovative edutainment and ICT initiatives. Implemented in three provinces, the project promoted an Effective School Governance (ESG) model encouraging dialogue and accountability between children, parents, schools and local authorities through participatory approaches.

In Year Four, MRMV integrated a youth-led approach into its project delivery in two provinces, supporting young people to implement initiatives with children in project schools and to develop youth-led campaigns. There was also an increased focus on gender equality and girls' specific needs regarding education rights.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 10,000 ethnic minority children and their parents have strong knowledge of child rights. They are confident in engaging in decision-making processes and communicating their needs to teachers and local authorities.
- Teachers and education managers have adopted a collaborative approach, supporting child participation, consulting children and parents on school policies, and encouraging accountability through participatory planning and monitoring. Teacher-led task forces have promoted the ESG model and supported project scale-up initiatives.
- MRMV has collaborated closely with NGOs and government bodies to integrate a chapter on child participation into the Vietnam law on children, and to develop the national programme to promote child participation. Both drew on MRMV findings and the ESG model.
- Young people have developed their own initiatives to support children's participation and education rights, and worked to expand MRMV models to non-project areas.

### GENDER JUSTICE

- Project schools have provided leadership training and increased opportunities for girls' participation. Girls have demonstrated high levels of confidence, and equal numbers of girls and boys have now assumed school leadership positions.
- Gender-sensitive approaches were integrated into all MRMV training and activities, while extra-curricular activities challenged stereotypical gender roles.

### INNOVATION

- The 'PhotoVoice' initiative supported ethnic minority children to express their education needs to decision makers at local and national levels.
- Interactive gameshows, arts, drama, child forums, edutainment events and trilateral dialogues between teachers, parents and local authorities improved children's participation and diversified awareness-raising activities on child rights and gender justice.

### CHALLENGES

- Social accountability initiatives and participatory approaches challenged government partners' traditional processes. MRMV created constructive spaces for interaction between rights-holders and duty-bearers, and involved government partners in programme planning and monitoring processes to ensure buy-in.

### LOOKING FORWARD

- The cost-effectiveness of Oxfam projects has provided an example for government implementation of follow-up activities, including ESG-model expansion in non-MRMV areas. Youth partners are now applying the ESG model to build youth-led movements and campaigns.
- Empowered children and parents, along with secured government funding for parent associations, will ensure that school authorities and government actors continue to be held to account.
- Youth active citizenship is a thematic focus for Oxfam's country strategy and operation plan in Vietnam, and Oxfam has conducted context analysis and youth programme-design research as a strong foundation for building a youth movement.

# 4. PROGRAMME LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT







## OVERVIEW

The vitality and creativity of the work of My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) with young people was made possible by a collective commitment to learn, reflect and adapt with the changing realities in the particularly challenging context presented by post-conflict or fragile countries and conservative environments. Programme learning and development processes strengthened MRMV programme quality and impact throughout its four years, supporting country-level progress and achievements against the Global Programme Framework (Annex III). Country-project learning activities empowered young people to know their rights and demand access to health and education services, while global-level initiatives such as the Annual Learning Events and the 2013 Global Advocacy Workshop provided a platform for exchange, collaboration on future initiatives, and collective reflection and improvement.

The 2013 Mid-Term Review and Strategic Gender Review pushed the programme to challenge its practice and thinking, and to develop new, more effective ways of working. Online spaces at the country and global levels supported these processes, facilitating networking and exchange throughout the programme cycle, while Information and Communications Technology (ICT) played a vital part in MRMV's work to amplify youth voice and increase reach and impact. The programme's Innovation and Learning Fund in Years One to Three, and the Programme Development Fund in Year Four, further encouraged innovation and ensured sustainability of youth active citizenship initiatives beyond MRMV.

## GLOBAL LEARNING EVENTS

### THE GLOBAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

A dynamic group of MRMV youth campaigners from all eight countries came together in Nairobi in December 2013 to participate in a Global Advocacy Workshop. The week-long event was developed and designed with youth leaders and their peers, with the support of Oxfam and partner staff. It provided youth representatives with a global space in which to develop and strengthen their campaigning and communication skills, and to connect, exchange and network with their peers. The workshop culminated in each country group developing an advocacy strategy on health, education and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights. A global vision and shared agenda were also agreed through a participatory video process. On their return, participants led workshops with their country Youth Advisory Boards to share lessons, skills and strategies from Nairobi and to finalise national-level advocacy plans. The Global Advocacy Workshop allowed youth campaigners to develop creative outputs (videos, blogs, images and stories)

capturing their diversity of experiences and aspirations for future campaigning initiatives. This informed the direction of Oxfam's, partners' and youth campaigners' advocacy strategies and activities over the remainder of the programme cycle.

### ANNUAL LEARNING EVENTS

Cross-programme learning processes allowed MRMV participants to celebrate successes while stretching their thinking and challenging each other to achieve impact with young people at the fore. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, MRMV held Annual Learning Events in Hanoi, The Hague and Istanbul respectively. Each event saw around 30 Oxfam staff, partner representatives and youth campaigners come together from the eight country projects as well as the Netherlands and the UK, to reconnect and exchange experiences and learning with one another. The events were also an opportunity to re-energise and consolidate efforts for the programme's future and beyond.

During the Annual Learning Events, participants gained a deeper understanding of the approaches and strategies that enable young people to lead transformational change in their own and others' lives. A recurring theme was the emphasis on building youth's capacity to design their own activities and processes, reconfirming the changing role of Oxfam and partners in the programme from one of implementation to one of facilitation and guidance. MRMV youth participants were increasingly at the forefront of the Annual Learning Events – in 2014 and 2015 they took part in a two-day participatory video workshop before the main event, enhancing their skills and enabling them to explore programme learning in safe, creative and fun ways. The resulting films were shown at the event to communicate youth representatives' ideas and ensure a youth-led process. The films were also promoted more widely beyond the event, to showcase the importance of involving young people and demonstrate their potential for achieving change.

The balanced mix of global and national Oxfam staff and partner and youth representatives, brought a diversity and richness of experience, perspective and voice into the learning space. In this way, the Annual Learning Events pushed MRMV further in its journey as a youth-led programme, and linked young people from the local to the global level by forming an international alliance of youth.

## PROGRAMME REVIEWS

### MID-TERM REVIEW

Halfway through the programme, the MRMV Global Coordination Team commissioned a Mid-Term Review to assess progress against the Global Programme Framework, identify concrete recommendations for global- and country-level improvements, and support cross-programme learning. The review was conducted in Tanzania, Niger and Nepal, focusing on the period between December 2011 and September 2013, and covering MRMV's three thematic areas (education, health and SRH) in its diverse socio-political and cultural environments (highly conservative, non-conflict and post-conflict countries). The Mid-Term Review was conducted as a peer review in order to broaden its scope and stimulate cross-programme learning. Project participants (from schoolchildren and parents to religious leaders and politicians) in the selected countries shared their experiences, while MRMV country and global staff were able to learn from respective team members and partners about the work they had been implementing and contribute to the future direction of the whole programme.

During the review process, peer reviewers and consultants identified nine 'working mechanisms' that are key to MRMV's success at the country and global levels: building on existing structures or methods; ensuring a strong connection between Oxfam staff and partners; undertaking robust selection processes for project roles; focusing on the needs of girls and young women; linking project interventions to one central element; developing spaces for young people to connect; adopting an innovative attitude for new programme approaches; achieving 'small' successes to motivate project participants; and creating a 'youthful' and open environment. The Mid-Term Review also acknowledged five 'central dilemmas': match of interests between youth and duty-bearers now versus potential mismatch of interests in the future; needs-based approach versus rights-based approach; empowerment promise versus reality; development needs time versus short programme cycles; and the pragmatic approach versus the ideological approach.

The review posed six key questions as a recommended focus for the programme's future: whether to develop more in depth or in width; how to adapt interventions to match young



people's increasing empowerment; which intervention styles best fitted the developmental stage of the target group; how to deal with participant turnover as young people get older; how to support young people's transition from beneficiaries to co-owners of the programme; and how to shape Oxfam's role as an advocacy network. Finally, consultants noted that at its inception, the MRMV programme created a truly innovative design by viewing youth as a new target group needing new approaches. They recommended that this strength be employed again at the mid-term point to achieve new and powerful impact.

### STRATEGIC GENDER REVIEW

Following the 2012 Annual Progress Report and 2013 Annual Learning Event, both of which recognised the need to strengthen quality gender analysis and gender relations within the programme, the Global Coordination Team commissioned a Strategic Gender Review in the fourth quarter of 2013. A consultant undertook a literature review alongside interviews with Oxfam staff, surveys and live chats with youth representatives, to assess the gendered realities of youth participants, gender dynamics within youth groups and the gender approach of the MRMV programme.

The Strategic Gender Review recognised that MRMV had made excellent progress in supporting girls and young women to take on new leadership positions and participate meaningfully in youth groups, allowing them to have their voices heard and to exercise their rights. However, the young people surveyed were found to disassociate themselves from issues of gender inequality and discrimination, seeing these as 'adult problems' perpetuated by elders rather than acknowledging them as realities for young people within their groups and organisations. The review noted that youth active citizenship should go beyond conventional political practices to do politics in new ways, including more gender-sensitive ways, and concluded that MRMV did not sufficiently address gender dynamics in its projects.

The review outlined how MRMV could strengthen its gender perspective by challenging established gendered and patriarchal group dynamics and political and organisational practices, particularly by encouraging gender-sensitive approaches in youth groups and project spaces. It recommended facilitating spaces for gender analysis within youth groups, identifying women leaders as youth-group mentors, and running workshops on patriarchal dynamics with youth groups, Oxfam staff and MRMV partners. Learning on gender strategies was encouraged through facilitating cross-country exchange for MRMV staff and youth, connecting youth groups and organisations with national youth and women's rights movements, and integrating MRMV findings into Oxfam's international advocacy and influencing

work. At the global level, recommendations included developing a specific gender objective, incorporating a deeper gender perspective in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning reporting formats, and strengthening safeguarding resources. The consultant advised that these changes would allow MRMV to make a bigger, more transformative contribution to gender justice, support young people to do politics differently and, in the process, redefine what Oxfam means and understands by active citizenship.

### INTEGRATING LEARNING FROM THE REVIEWS

The learning from both review processes was integrated into programme strategies and activities during MRMV's final two years. All country and global MRMV staff took part in webinars in early 2014, during which review consultants presented their key findings and recommendations, and answered questions from programme staff. These webinars provided a forum for teams to feed back on progress made so far, share learning and ideas with one another, and receive advice on future strategies. The learning process continued at the 2014 and 2015 Annual Learning Events through workshop sessions which culminated in youth, partners, and country and global teams adapting their work plans to better reflect the learning from the two review processes. Gender justice training was provided at both events to encourage youth and staff to think about gender dynamics within programme initiatives and their own teams and groups, while at the 2015 Annual Learning Event, the Global Coordination Team piloted and gathered feedback on gender equality training for youth groups. In 2015, an Oxfam Gender Advisor supported country teams to measure progress and encourage further development in gender equality initiatives, and ran a webinar on 'Gender Justice Work in Conservative Socio-Economic Contexts' for project staff in Afghanistan, Mali, Niger and Pakistan.

The impact of both reviews is evident in the progress made on gender equality strategies and youth-led processes in the second half of the programme. The Strategic Gender Review pushed Oxfam staff and partners to go beyond a 'numbers' approach in the planning and implementation of MRMV activities, and to look more deeply at what more gendered active citizenship could look like and achieve. Youth were challenged to recognise and address the unequal gender dynamics within their own groups, and supported to question established organisational practices and ways of doing politics to transform existing patriarchal structures. Gender-sensitive approaches and mechanisms were incorporated into all stages of the programme cycle including design, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Country projects committed to carry out gender training with staff and youth groups in the final two years, while many





projects increased their focus on young women's leadership and gender equality issues, including female genital cutting, girls' education and child marriage.

The Mid-Term Review encouraged Oxfam and partners to adopt a youth-led approach and to rethink and redesign the way in which programmes are typically run. This involved creating space for innovation, and shifting power relations to ensure that youth were at the heart of MRMV processes. Oxfam and partner staff at the global and country levels recognised that the young people's ideas and strategies made the programme stronger, pushed it in new directions and helped drive a spirit of solidarity. In the second half of the programme, young people took greater ownership of MRMV through participation in Youth Advisory Boards, community-level decision-making spaces and national influencing work. There was also a growing willingness among duty-bearers to meaningfully involve youth. It became increasingly clear in the second half of the programme that MRMV's strength lay in trusting youth campaigners to lead programme activities and provide direction.

## INNOVATION

### *INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY*

The innovative use of ICT increased young people's capacity in raising their voice and spreading messages at both the country and global levels. Mobile phone technology was critical in this endeavour: in Pakistan, mass text-messaging communications increased support for youth SRH rights, while in Mali, the project ran a text-messaging service whereby trained counsellors answered young people's anonymous questions on SRH concerns. Text-messaging allowed listeners to take part in MRMV radio shows in both countries, and to gather youth feedback on MRMV initiatives in Pakistan. Radio dramas, debates and information shows were an essential component of awareness-raising and campaigning efforts in the majority of MRMV country projects, alongside television soap operas, live debates and reality shows. In Mali, an e-learning platform on SRH issues was integrated into the national curriculum, while in Vietnam, gameshow software taught schoolchildren about their rights in an interactive way, and the 'PhotoVoice' (participatory

photography) initiative enabled ethnic minority children to communicate their education rights and aspirations to duty-bearers. Training was provided for youth participants in all country programmes in blogging, photography, video-making, social media and digital communications skills to improve their ability to engage with new technologies and use these in their campaigning and awareness-raising work.

Participatory video was also a key ICT tool, ensuring that MRMV projects were driven by youth experience and need, and involved young people in a meaningful way. In 2014, youth campaigners in Nepal made films on healthcare issues; the films were shown to local decision makers and community members, resulting in healthcare funding commitments from village authorities. In Mali in 2014, following training in participatory video and 'Most Significant Change', Youth Advisory Board members made films assessing impact and capturing project participants' experiences. These processes allowed the story of the programme to be told in the words of its youth leaders, and put their experiences at the centre of MRMV's work. As mentioned above, participatory video was also used at global learning events – enabling youth participants

to share their ideas and experiences across countries, and decide collectively on common advocacy goals. The process provided a flat, inclusive structure for young people of diverse nationalities and ages, working in different contexts, to connect with one another and – following the events – to voice their rights and needs to duty-bearers.

Online spaces were also integral to the programme's work. The majority of country projects set up Facebook pages to raise awareness, enhance campaigning efforts and improve networking between young people. In some countries, these have been managed by youth campaigners themselves, who received training in social media and digital safeguarding to ensure effective monitoring. These efforts helped to spread the reach of campaign messaging – in Pakistan, for example, comedy sketches highlighting youth SRH issues went viral, and were watched more than 404,000 times. In Afghanistan and Niger, social media helped youth to exchange ideas and experiences with their peers, using internet facilities in youth centres set up by MRMV. These connections were further strengthened in Niger by a free phone-messaging network to enable young people to connect with each other.





At the global level, MRMV developed a strong digital media strategy to improve connections between programme stakeholders and to share communications and learning materials both internally and externally. The MRMV Ning website and quarterly e-newsletter kept programme stakeholders updated, while the Facebook group provided an informal space for staff, partners and youth participants to share information, ideas and experiences. Facebook proved particularly successful in sustaining relationships between youth participants following global events and workshops. Skype calls and group chats forged deeper connections between youth peers and between project staff and youth group representatives, while webinars facilitated MRMV training and learning initiatives. Online content-sharing platforms, including Flickr accounts for photos, YouTube channels for 'vox pops', videos and films, and an Audioboo page for radio shows and podcasts, allowed the programme to disseminate information and learning from the programme more effectively, while Twitter was useful in spreading MRMV's messages and making connections between youth-led and youth-focused organisations. Oxfam's and partners' own online communications and social media channels were fully utilised to ensure wide reach of communications and learning materials, and from 2016, MRMV online platforms have migrated to Oxfam systems to ensure sustainability.

#### **LEARNING AND INNOVATION FUND**

Lack of flexible funding can often be a barrier to the development of new ideas, approaches and technologies during a programme's lifespan. The MRMV Learning and Innovation Fund was active between 2012 and 2014 to support the programme's commitment to learning and innovation, and to foster experimentation and learning initiatives across country projects and the global programme.

In MRMV's first three years, 11 projects were approved by the fund with a total value of \$661,505. These projects experimented with new ways for children and youth to express their experiences, needs and aspirations in relation to their rights to health, education and SRH. In Nepal and Vietnam, project teams carried out participatory video and participatory photography projects respectively, to strengthen advocacy efforts among marginalised youth and support them to claim better health and education services. In Niger, young people experimented with edutainment initiatives, working with famous artists to create raps, songs, poems and sketches, raising awareness on youth rights to education and SRH, and communicating their demands to duty-bearers. In Tanzania, the funding provided an opportunity to engage with out-of-school youth in urban areas. The Learning and Innovation Fund also supported youth-focused learning processes – the Global Advocacy Workshop, two Annual Learning Events, the Mid-Term Review and the Strategic Gender Review – allowing youth, partners and Oxfam staff to connect, build capacity and exchange ideas to strengthen programme quality.

A review upon the fund's completion in December 2014 found that it had been effective in supporting innovative and experimental projects which built on and developed programme learning, and that these projects would not have been possible without specific extra funding. In many cases, the projects acted as pilots for further successful initiatives which scaled up the initial achievements. The review found, however, that funding application requirements were sometimes too complex and time-consuming, causing a delay in implementation, and that feedback mechanisms needed to be simplified. It therefore made recommendations on how to make financial and administrative management more flexible and effective. These findings have since improved the design of similar funds, and informed the creation of a Programme Development Fund to cultivate new projects to strengthen the programme in Year Four, and to ensure the sustainability of MRMV's achievements and ethos through Oxfam's Youth as Active Citizens initiative (see below).

#### **THE OXFAM YOUTH AS ACTIVE CITIZENS INITIATIVE**

Oxfam's 'Youth as Active Citizens' (YAC) initiative supports new youth-led programmes globally, and builds on the extensive experience and learning gained through MRMV at global and country levels. At a 2014 workshop in Oxford, MRMV staff met with colleagues from four Oxfam affiliates to create the YAC Working Group. In 2015, the group met again in Istanbul to consolidate its structure and develop three subgroups: a Steering Committee, a Programme Development and Resource Mobilisation Group, and a Learning Community. The YAC Learning Community now brings together Oxfam staff from eight affiliates and youth partners from over 25 countries to promote a culture of sharing, collaboration and organisational learning. YAC youth and Oxfam representatives from eleven affiliates met at the Oxfam Youth Summit in Montreal in August 2016, where the YAC Learning Community digital platform was launched to support knowledge management and learning for those working on youth issues both within Oxfam and externally. The YAC initiative is hosted by the Oxfam Governance and Active Citizenship Knowledge Hub to increase its reach and influence, both within Oxfam and with external stakeholders.

The MRMV Programme Development Fund, which was set up for 2015 and the first half of 2016, contributed to the establishment and sustainability of the YAC initiative through programme development workshops, global events and the development of partnerships, ensuring the continuation of Oxfam's work on youth active citizenship beyond the life of MRMV.



## YOUTH PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

In 2015, Oxfam hosted its first Youth Programme Development Workshop in Istanbul; this followed on immediately from the Annual Learning Event to ensure that MRMV learning could be fully integrated into the workshop process. Oxfam staff, youth and partners from over 25 countries met to share experiences and learn about Oxfam's rich and diverse youth focused work across different regions, and to identify paths for more participatory, impactful youth-led programming. Together, participants explored how to design youth-led, multi-country programmes, building on lessons and looking at future opportunities to expand Oxfam's work in this area. Country teams identified thematic areas of interest, leading to the development of regional Youth Programme Development Workshops in 2016. In West Africa, there were national workshops in six countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal) and a regional workshop in Cotonou (Benin) in April 2016, where youth campaigners, Oxfam staff and donors worked together to create a youth employment programme. In South Asia in May 2016, national level workshops were held in Indonesia and Nepal to develop a programme on early marriage. In South-East Asia, a workshop took place in June 2016 for youth partners in Indonesia to develop a programme on climate change adaptation. This was followed by Oxfam staff and youth leaders from Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam meeting at the ASEAN Youth forum in Cambodia in August 2016 to share the outcomes of the Oxfam Youth and Inequality Summit in Montreal and further develop youth advocacy work on a number of issues relevant to young people in the region. All of these initiatives will be supported by Oxfam's YAC Programme Development and Resource Mobilisation Group to ensure their continuation and securing of funds during 2016 and beyond.

MRMV has also committed to sharing its learning on youth issues and youth-centred approaches with existing Oxfam programmes. For example, MRMV staff and youth campaigners supported a joint process to create a new Oxfam programme, 'Empower Youth for Work'. Funded by the IKEA Foundation and launched in July 2016, the programme will increase young people's rights, resilience and employment in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Pakistan. MRMV learning has been integrated into the programme development process to ensure a youth-led approach at every stage of the programme cycle. Learning has also been mainstreamed into programmes which have not traditionally focused on youth issues – for example, the Programme Development Fund instigated research into young people's unpaid care responsibilities in Uganda in 2016, as part of Oxfam's 'Women's Economic Empowerment and Care' (WE-Care) programme. Focus group discussions and participatory

action research methods supported young people to identify gender inequalities in household care activities which affect young people's – and particularly young women's – ability to enjoy their rights, while also developing youth-led strategies to address these issues. The findings will be integrated into the wider WE-Care programme, the Empower Youth for Work programme and other future initiatives on youth active citizenship, youth employment and gender justice.

## GLOBAL EVENTS

Oxfam has increased its presence at external events on youth engagement to further expand its influence, build partnerships and develop networks for its YAC programme work. Oxfam held a stall at DFID's 2015 Youth Summit in London, with the MRMV Global Coordinator appearing on a panel on governance and accountability. Oxfam also shared its experiences of working with young people at the MasterCard Foundation's 2015 'Young Africa Works' event in Cape Town, and at the 2016 UNHCR NGO Annual Consultation in Geneva with the overarching theme of 'youth'. In 2016, Oxfam organised several events to build relationships between those working on youth initiatives to strengthen programme development processes. These included a Youth Symposium in The Hague in June to build on experiences and best practice around meaningful youth participation, and was attended by youth partners, NGOs, academics and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Oxfam also hosted a learning event in London in June as a response to DFID's youth agenda launched in April 2016, with Oxfam colleagues and youth leaders exchanging ideas and experiences with representatives from DFID, Comic Relief, Plan UK, Save the Children, Restless Development, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). In August 2016, Oxfam held a Youth Summit to coincide with the World Social Forum in Montreal. This enabled youth partners and Oxfam staff to reconnect, engage more young people and Oxfam affiliates in the YAC initiative, network with youth-focused organisations at the World Social Forum and develop strategies for ongoing work on youth inequality campaigns. Youth participants from MRMV, the Empower Youth for Work programme, and the Istanbul and Cotonou Youth Programme Development Workshops shared their experiences at the events in The Hague, London and Montreal to enrich the learning process and ensure that young people are central to Oxfam's programme development initiatives on youth active citizenship.

## PARTNERSHIPS

In 2015 and 2016, Oxfam increased its efforts to engage with donors to spread awareness on the importance of working on youth issues, and to ensure sustainable resources for its YAC initiative. In 2015, British DFID set up a Youth Task Force to consult with UK-based NGOs, gathering experiences on youth participation. Oxfam met with DFID to share MRMV



learning and to update it on developments in the YAC Working Group – DFID was consequently invited to the roundtable on youth employment in West Africa in April 2016 as part of the regional programme development process, coinciding with the launch of its youth strategy. Oxfam also connected with the EU, Swedish Sida, French AFD, Dutch MoFA and Canadian DFATD to discuss approaches to youth-led development and youth active citizenship; all of these organisations were invited to or participated in the roundtable organised during the West Africa Youth Programme Development Workshop in Cotonou, Benin, at which young people and Oxfam presented the findings of the workshop and sought donor support for youth employment in West Africa. A meeting with Australian DFAT in January 2016 explored a shared interest in youth climate change concerns in South-East Asia, which will be relevant for programme development in the region. In Southern Africa, Oxfam met with the Rockefeller Foundation and the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA), the latter of which is keen to support Oxfam in a Youth Programme Development Workshop in the region. Oxfam also responded to donor calls on youth engagement programmes in 2015–2016 from DFATD, MoFA, the EU, EUROPEAID, ECOWAS, Comic Relief US, Amplify Change, the Ford Foundation and the IKEA Foundation, several of which were successful and/or led to meetings strengthening Oxfam’s positions in future partnerships.

Partnerships with youth-focused organisations were also critical in increasing Oxfam’s networks for its ongoing YAC programme development work. Oxfam shared its current approach and exchanged experiences on working with youth at a meeting with BBC Media Action – the two organisations have now commenced a collaboration on youth active citizenship in fragile states. Separate meetings with Accenture and McKinsey & Company led to both companies expressing an interest in Oxfam’s work on youth employment, with Accenture expressing a specific interest in generating employment through ICT. Youth-led NGO Restless Development is interested in becoming a partner in the YAC programme in Southern Africa, while International Alert has engaged with youth-led programming in Niger and Nigeria. Oxfam partnered with IDS and Plan UK for a DFID tender for research on ‘Youth Transitions in Protracted Crisis’, and engaged in a consultation by the Institute of Education for its DFID-commissioned report on ‘Empowering Young People as Global Citizens’. Oxfam also increased its research capacity on youth-led programmes by developing a proposition paper on youth radicalisation, while MRMV learning was integrated into a Plan UK review on ‘Youth, Participation, Governance and Accountability in Fragile and Conflict-affected States’. These wide-ranging partnerships will be crucial as Oxfam expands its YAC programme in future.

# 12 WAYS TOWARDS YOUTH-LED PROGRAMMING

How to go from programmes developed *for* young people, to working *with* them and on projects led *by* them.



OXFAM

1



## INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FULL PROGRAMME CYCLE

Engage with young people right from the start and throughout implementation and evaluation.

2



## PARTNER WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Support programme staff to see young people as partners, not beneficiaries. Work with youth-led organisations.

3



## ADDRESS GENDER DYNAMICS

Prioritise young women's equal participation and leadership.

4



## RECOGNISE DIVERSITY

'Young people' are not a homogeneous group. Clearly define who you aim to reach within a specific context.

5



## CONSTRUCT AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Design strategies to get parents, teachers, community and religious leaders, employers and policy-makers on board.



6

## ACTIVELY ENGAGE MARGINALISED YOUNG PEOPLE

Work in rural and urban settings and avoid domination by more privileged youth leaders.



10



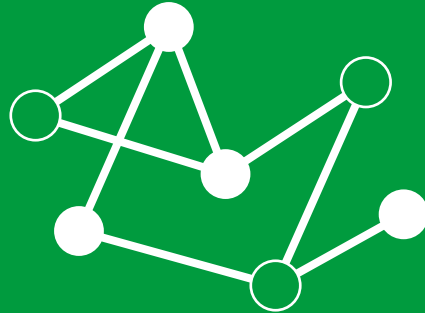
## ENABLE INFLUENCING

Support young people to campaign on their own issues, mobilise their peers and link up with local, national and global leaders and change-makers.

7

## INNOVATE AND CONNECT

Foster experiments with creative strategies and new technologies suitable for the context.



8

## BUILD YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAPACITY

Encourage young people to meet, develop skills and confidence, and organise to act on their ideas.



11



## CREATE SAFE SPACES

Protect children and youth in online and offline spaces so that they can participate and safely speak out.

9

## PROMOTE FLEXIBLE WAYS OF WORKING

Be responsive and adapt to young people's needs, priorities and agendas.



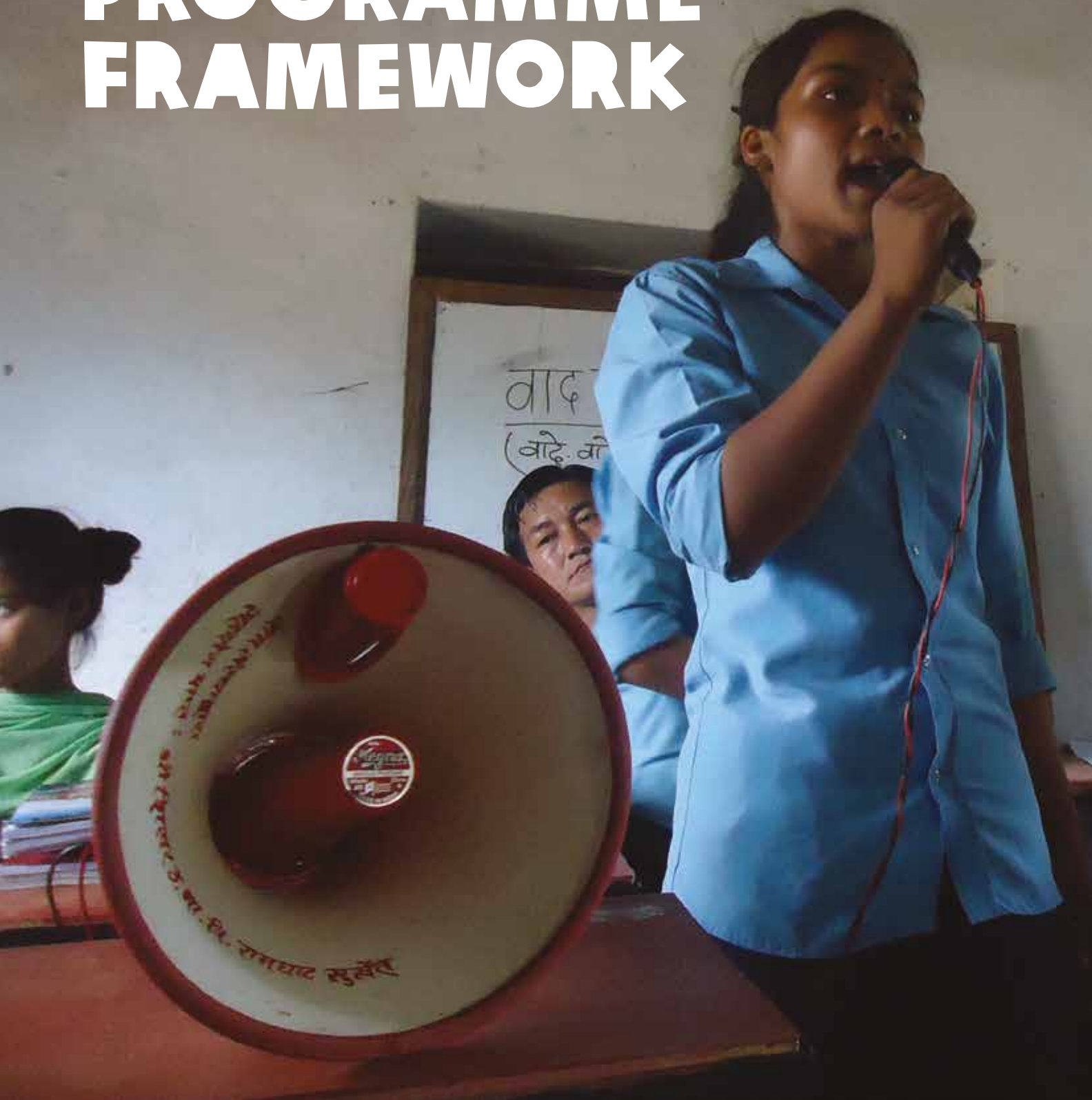
12



## ENSURE LONGER PROGRAMME DURATIONS

Be realistic about the time required for young people's initiatives to result in lasting success.

# 5. PROGRESS AGAINST THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK



This section gives an overview of progress made by My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) against its Global Programme Framework (Annex III). In accordance with the MRMV Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning plan, countries reported their progress on a quarterly basis; these quarterly reports provided the main source of evidence for the calculation of our global indicators. In addition to tracking progress at activity level, countries consistently captured and documented more complex, long-term changes at outcome level and impact level.

## THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

The overall goal of MRMV is to achieve ‘*sustainable changes in policies, practices and beliefs to meet the specific health and education needs and aspirations of marginalised children and youth, with a particular focus on the rights of girls and young women, to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals*’. This overall goal was translated into four global objectives.

- **OBJECTIVE 1:** Children, youth and allies (parents, educators, health staff, etc.) are more aware of the specific health and education rights of children and youth, and with confidence voice these rights, needs and aspirations in a manner that strengthens equality.
- **OBJECTIVE 2:** Children, youth and allies (parents, educators, health staff, civil society organisations, etc.) successfully apply improved individual and collective skills, confidence, resources and organisational skills to claim their rights to health and/or education in decision-making spaces.
- **OBJECTIVE 3:** Duty-bearers and influencers (ministries, politicians, donors, international institutions, parents, teachers, health staff, religious leaders, NGOs, etc.) engage directly with marginalised children and youth, and as a result take specific actions to deliver better access to and quality of health and education.
- **OBJECTIVE 4:** Oxfam, partners and others have strengthened capacity to work on youth agency in country programmes, and Oxfam’s global campaigning force has facilitated youth claiming and accessing better health and education.

The four global objectives are sequential and interlinked, meaning that the achievement of Objective 1 enables and facilitates the achievement of Objective 2, and so on. Each objective is composed of two corresponding sub-outcomes with specific progress indicators. This overall framework has formed the basis for tracking MRMV’s progress over the course of the past four years. The focus of this section is predominantly on the global level, although specific examples from implementing countries are given in the text.

Since earlier annual reports exist for 2012, 2013 and 2014, this final MRMV completion report aims to highlight the achievements and progress made during 2015. As MRMV phased out in Tanzania and Georgia at the end of 2014, the

programme was active in six rather than eight countries in Year Four. This explains why the value for certain indicators is lower in 2015 than in previous years, even though the six countries involved during the extension phase reported an increase for most of the indicators.

## SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES

During the first two years of MRMV, there was a consolidated effort towards building the knowledge and capacity of youth and their allies to actively voice their rights, aspirations and needs on health or education (Objectives 1 and 2). In 2014 and 2015, MRMV continued to record steady progress with regard to these objectives. We strengthened existing child and youth groups and their allies, while at the same time scaling up our models through the establishment of new child and youth groups. As a consequence of the Strategic Gender Review and its follow-up, the participation of girls and young women in MRMV groups increased significantly: in 2015, up to 59 percent of all targeted children and youth were girls or young women (up from 47 percent in 2014), with more females than males leading MRMV youth groups.

MRMV has put children and young people at the heart of its activities, many of which have become truly youth-led. Together with allies, strong children’s groups and youth groups are now able to advocate for their own rights and needs in all countries. Their efforts have paid off: duty-bearers at different levels, from teachers and school principals to local and national government officials, are increasingly consulting child and youth groups. They are consequently taking action, resulting in a number of substantial improvements in the quality of health and education services provided. All of this means we made huge progress on Objective 3.

In relation to Objective 4, Oxfam staff and partners in all countries built up an extensive body of knowledge and experience on how to work with children and youth. MRMV went from a programme implemented ‘for’ young people, to a programme where young people took the lead and were able to initiate activities based on their own needs and priorities. During the 2015 Youth Programme Development Workshop in Istanbul, young people, partners and Oxfam staff shared and documented their MRMV experiences and agreed a joint agenda on issues highly relevant to young people. As a result, a number of exciting new youth programmes have already started up, or are currently being developed, on topics such as youth employment, youth active citizenship and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights.



## **OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASED AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE, CONFIDENCE AND VOICE**

Objective 1 aims to increase awareness and understanding of young people's needs in relation to health and education, not only among children and youth themselves, but also among allies (parents, teachers, health workers and others). Over the course of the past four years, MRMV reached an estimated 522,858<sup>5</sup> people, of whom 416,201 (80 percent) were young people. In 2015 alone, we reached 60,357 people, of whom 49,190 were children and youth.

With time, empowered young people took over from Oxfam and partner organisations and started designing and delivering activities to raise awareness about their needs with peers and decision makers. They started to set the agenda, which often resulted in a more focused influencing strategy, with increased attention for country-specific sub-topics rather than health and education in general. Topics that proved to be especially relevant to MRMV youth and their peers were SRH rights, gender-based violence, child marriage, female genital cutting and maternal health services.

After a strong focus on edutainment and influencing of public opinion during the first three years, MRMV Pakistan engaged with youth in a more direct way during Year Four: throughout 2015, 884 young people were able to learn about SHR and life skills. MRMV Mali continued to benefit from the widespread promotion of the free text-messaging service; trained SRH counsellors were able to respond to the questions and concerns of over 9,000 young people in 2015 alone. The MRMV e-learning platform supported boys and girls in 25 schools to gain knowledge and skills about their SRH rights. In Vietnam, 50 young people and 19 youth researchers carried out research in ethnic minority schools. They suggested child-focused initiatives, many of which were successfully implemented, for example the opening of 10 child-friendly libraries. The involvement of these 'youth ambassadors' helped to amplify the voice of ethnic minority children in MRMV project schools.

MRMV collaborated with many different groups of allies. In 2015, there was a continued increase in the number of examples of allies acting as advocates for child and youth rights and needs within their communities. Many recent examples contain evidence about actual changes in attitudes within the community, thereby going beyond increased awareness of child and youth rights. In Niger, 25 mothers' associations (*mères éducatrices*) supported youth in fighting gender-based violence and addressing issues such as early marriage and complications arising from childbirth. In Afghanistan, 6,354 parents and community

elders were targeted by awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of youth participation and education for girls. After continued careful negotiations, all communities accepted that youth groups can be mixed, even in areas where single-sex groups had to be established initially because mixed groups were not acceptable to parents and elders. Data from youth monitoring visits show that youth, especially girls, are increasingly being enrolled in schools, with an increase of 17 percent in project communities in 2015. In Georgia, doctors and CSOs were trained to identify child health-rights issues and bring them to the attention of the country's health ombudsman (the Public Defender's Office). Over three years, 344 child health-rights violations were reported, of which 270 were resolved. None were reported in 2011, the year before the project began.

In Vietnam, teachers and education managers are consulting children and parents on school policies, and encouraging accountability through participatory planning and monitoring processes. Teacher-led task forces have promoted MRMV's participatory school governance models and supported project scale-up initiatives. Partner NGOs have integrated MRMV models for child-friendly teaching, and now include this in their routine training for teachers.

MRMV established strong links with journalists and media organisations. The Pakistan edutainment campaign is estimated to have reached 1.45 million people. Interactive radio debates and other innovative approaches, such as sketches, songs and forum theatre, proved to be important instruments for awareness-raising and breaking taboos about sensitive topics across all MRMV country projects. Through the 2013–2014 edutainment initiative 'I've also got something to say', young people in Niger worked with famous national artists to develop raps, songs, poems and sketches, raising awareness and advocating on education and SRH issues. In both Niger and Mali, radio debates served as a strong platform to open public debate about SRH issues and to influence social attitudes. In 2015, Nepal broadcast 52 episodes of a MRMV radio programme promoting child and youth health rights and supporting accountability in health-service provision. The shows were widely listened to in project communities, and proved instrumental for community-level women's groups in holding national-level policy makers accountable for the implementation of existing healthcare policies.

**Table 1: Progress against Outcome 1.1: Awareness and Knowledge**

Boys and girls, young women and men, and their allies are more aware and knowledgeable of their rights to health and/or education.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, % increase in boys and girls, young women and men that can verbalise examples of country-specific laws, policies and/or services on health and/or education (age specific) as provided by the government (disaggregated by gender).	61,666 children/youth reached with awareness-raising messages.	179,971 children/youth reached with awareness-raising messages.	158,672 children/youth reached with awareness-raising messages.	42,220 children/youth reached with awareness-raising messages.
b. By December 2015, % increase in allies that can verbalise examples of country-specific laws, policies and/or services on health and/or education as provided by the government.	3,302 allies reached with awareness-raising messages.	27,052 allies reached with awareness-raising messages.	23,929 allies reached with awareness-raising messages.	13,049 additional allies reached with information about youth health and/or education rights (58% women).
c. By December 2015, % increase in allies that can verbalise examples of specific rights, services and/or issues of girls and young women on health and/or education.	Messages to emphasise girls/young women's rights.	Examples of adults mentioning girls/young women's rights.	Allies more aware about specific rights and needs of girls/young women.	Continued increase in reported examples, not only demonstrating stronger awareness but also actual behaviour change at the level of families and communities.

Throughout MRMV, young people have increasingly taken a leading role in lobbying and advocacy initiatives. In 2015, children and youth led a wide range of awareness-raising efforts at local and national levels, demonstrating their increased capacity and confidence to articulate their needs and aspirations. In Afghanistan, MRMV youth led 126 awareness sessions for youth groups within their communities, including 12 on family violence, and held 15 dialogue meetings with basic service providers.

In Nepal, the Community Discussion Centres organised direct door-to-door campaigns, community theatre and mass gatherings to show support for child and youth rights to health and SRH, and to campaign against child marriage – successfully reaching more than 63,000 people in the project's four years. Child Health Committees were also instrumental in conducting school-based health campaigns to raise awareness about child rights and child marriage. A considerable reduction in child marriages, of up to 61 percent, was reported in project communities during 2015. Reports on the realisation of child and youth rights to health are increasingly being published in local and national newspapers in several countries, including Nepal and Pakistan. In Pakistan, young people themselves

spoke about their needs and aspirations with drama writers and journalists during 32 interactive discussions, resulting in increased coverage of SRH issues by local and national media.

The concept of peer education proved extremely valuable, with children and youth indicating that they would have not been able to discuss sensitive issues with adults. Youth groups in Mali, Afghanistan and Georgia spontaneously replicated MRMV trainings to share the information and knowledge with their peers. Thanks to peer-to-peer education, gameshows, drama dialogues and child forums in MRMV project schools in Vietnam, 70 percent of Vietnamese children in these schools were able to verbalise examples of children's participation in a school environment by the end of the project. Through child forums, television programmes and suggestion boxes in their schools, the children's ideas and feedback on teachers' performance were shared with local authorities, teachers and adults.

**Table 2: Progress against Outcome 1.2: Confidence and Voice**

Boys and girls, young women and men girls articulate their needs and aspirations on health and/or education amongst their peers, allies and other actors.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, % increase in the number peers, allies and other actors that indicate that they have discussed education and health rights, needs and aspirations with girls, boys and young women and men. Disaggregated by gender.	Indicative evidence that youth are articulating their needs with peers, allies and other actors.	Ample evidence of youth who have discussed their rights with peers and allies, allies also discussed among themselves.	Growing number of examples where youth groups are leading awareness-raising efforts, including rights of girls and young women.	Continued increase in reported examples. The examples reported in 2015 show that the needs of girls/young women have become part of these debates in the majority of cases.

## OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SKILLS, ORGANISATION AND A UNITED VOICE TO CLAIM RIGHTS

While Objective 1 focuses on the initial steps of building awareness and strengthening knowledge, this second objective addresses young people's ability to organise themselves more effectively (Outcome 2.1) in order to agree and voice a shared agenda (Outcome 2.2). Over time, the emphasis within the MRMV programme moved from the establishment of new child and youth groups to strengthening these groups in terms of leadership, organisational and networking capacities. Training became more geared towards improving young people's lobbying and advocacy skills, and deepening their knowledge on specific topics. In 2015, we noted a strong increase in strategic influencing initiatives undertaken by MRMV youth. Fewer new youth groups were established as efforts were focused on strengthening the impact of existing groups. Pakistan is an exception to this: after an initial emphasis on edutainment, 36 youth groups were successfully started in 2015. Mali and Nepal also replicated the MRMV youth group model in new areas, allowing MRMV to reach more young people. In Mali, the Youth Advisory Board established university clubs in the countries' three main universities.

MRMV continued to work with organised groups of civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs and individual champions for child and youth rights. In Vietnam, 32 NGOs, businesses and volunteer groups teamed up with MRMV for youth-led research on participatory school governance models. Vietnam and Nepal also worked with a total of 66 teacher and parent associations and school management committees. In addition, Community Discussion Centres in Nepal partnered with many health posts, health workers and government authorities. MRMV Niger built the capacity of four existing youth organisations, and established stronger links with the ministry responsible for SRH and the departmental administrations in charge of health and youth issues. Within the 25 project villages, 50 community leaders are now acting as advocates for girls' education.

In 2015, all countries reported that the majority of children and youth participating in activities were girls and young women (59 percent of all children and youth reached by the programme). The number of girls with a formal leadership role in existing MRMV groups went down in absolute terms; this is explained by the exclusion of the groups in Tanzania and Georgia, which phased out in 2014. All other countries report that the number of female leaders either remained stable or increased. After the Strategic Gender Review, examples from Afghanistan, Nepal, Vietnam and Niger demonstrate a more positive overall attitude towards the participation of girls and women, not only in MRMV groups but also in different aspects of community life. Examples in 2015 range from girls now being able to travel and attend literacy classes and training sessions in Afghanistan, to the election of 206 female youth and young mothers from Community Discussion Centres as members of official district structures in Nepal.



**Table 3: Progress against Outcome 2.1: Increased Skills and Effective Organisation**

Through programmes executed by local partner organisations, boys and girls, young women and men, and their allies are organising themselves more effectively to claim their rights to health and education.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, % increase in organised groups (youth groups, CSOs, parent associations, health committees, etc.) actively pursuing youth and child rights to health and/or education.	410 child and youth groups. 204 CSOs, NGOs and other champions.	Additional 153 child and youth groups. 252 CSOs, NGOs and other champions.	628 child and youth groups. 497 CSOs, NGOs and other champions	574 child and youth groups have been actively pursuing rights to health and/or education in 2015. 71 of these groups were established in 2015. MRMV worked with 284 CSOs, NGOs and other champions for child and youth rights.
b. By December 2015, % increase in the number of girls and young women participating in these groups and taking up leadership roles.	200 girls and youth women take up (formal) leadership positions in MRMV groups.	2,161 with leadership role in MRMV groups or communities.	2,992 girls and young women have taken up positions of leadership.	1,210 girls taking up formal leadership roles in current MRMV groups. Strong overall increase in the participation of girls in MRMV activities across countries.

The majority of youth groups discussed problems faced by children and youth in their communities, and consequently developed a shared agenda to tackle these issues. Youth groups in all countries are increasingly interacting and collaborating, thus dramatically increasing their leverage and ability to influence duty-bearers in a more targeted and coordinated manner. The Youth Advisory Board in Mali has taken the lead in the development of a joint declaration on SRH rights for young people, together with other youth-led organisations and national and international NGOs. In addition to its advocacy work with ministry officials to integrate the SRH e-learning platform into the curriculum, the Youth Advisory Board started organising ‘coffee with citizens’ meetings, where high-level government officials are invited to discussions about selected topics and held accountable by young people. MRMV Vietnam engaged youth ambassadors and researchers from rural and urban settings to work with MRMV project schools. They were able to document 10 child-friendly school governance models which were collated in a manual and widely distributed. In Niger, young people have built the community’s trust by successfully advocating for improved roads, better school infrastructure and a new maternity unit.

We have seen youth groups increasingly paying attention to the specific rights and issues of young women, and including these issues more systematically in their official agendas. All youth groups in Afghanistan now have equal representation of female and male members, and efforts have been made to ensure that issues concerning both young women and young men are discussed. In Vietnam, an increased number of children were able to verbalise examples of gender equality in a school environment, and parents started paying attention to a more equal distribution of household chores to ensure that girls are able to attend school and do their homework.

Within the global MRMV programme, 1,081 examples were recorded of events or processes involving youth and children in public decision making. During 315 MRMV-sponsored meetings, allies spoke in favour of child and youth needs. Many of these events received strong coverage on local and national radio and television. In Afghanistan, roundtable talks with duty-bearers were broadcast on local radio, reaching an estimated 690,000 listeners. At national level, children and youth in Vietnam were involved in national consultation workshops with the government, leading to the revision of the law on children for the national assembly and the development of the national programme on promoting child participation 2016–2020.

**Table 4: Progress against Outcome 2.2: Shared Agenda and Collective Voice**

Boys and girls, young women and men, and their allies, are capable of agreeing and voicing a shared agenda in open and closed decision-making spaces to claim their rights to health and education.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, % of above groups with documented shared agendas (policy recommendations, agreed activities and purpose, etc.).	410 youth groups working towards shared agenda.	563 youth groups including Youth Advisory Boards have organised themselves around shared agendas.	618 youth groups have shared agendas, with increased networking between groups.	539 youth groups have a shared agenda and partnered with allies to support them in voicing their rights, needs and aspirations.
b. By December 2015, % of above groups with documented shared agendas (as above) where the specific rights and issues of girls and young women are mentioned.	200 girls and youth women take up (formal) leadership positions in MRMV groups.	2,161 with leadership role in MRMV groups or communities.	2,992 girls and young women have taken up positions of leadership.	1,210 girls taking up formal leadership roles in current MRMV groups. Strong overall increase in the participation of girls in MRMV activities across countries.
c. By December 2015, % increase (compared to project Year One) in the number of key formal/public decision-making events/processes (as defined relevant in each country) with children and young people raising their voice to claim their rights to health and/or education, disaggregated by gender.	56 recorded MRMV-sponsored events.	113 recorded MRMV-sponsored events.	534 recorded MRMV-sponsored events.	378 recorded MRMV-sponsored events involving youth and children in formal/public decision-making events and or processes.
d. By December 2015, % increase (compared to project Year One) in the number of key formal/public decision-making events/processes (as defined relevant in each country) with people other than youth (i.e. allies of children and youth) raising their voice to claim the rights of boys and girls, young women and men to health and/or education.	50 recorded MRMV-sponsored events with people other than youth raising their voice.	57 recorded MRMV-sponsored events with people other than youth raising their voice.	107 recorded events. This number was mainly accounted for by projects in which allies are the main actors (Vietnam, Pakistan).	101 examples of MRMV-sponsored events where allies raised their voice. 53 of these were lobby meetings in Vietnam with very active roles for duty-bearers working on child rights.

### OBJECTIVE 3: DUTY-BEARERS AND 'INFLUENCERS' RECOGNISE AND CONSULT MARGINALISED CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND TAKE ACTION

Objective 3 aims to ensure that duty-bearers engage directly with marginalised children and youth, with lasting changes as a result. This objective is certainly more ambitious than Objectives 1 and 2. In many MRMV countries, children and youth are considered inexperienced, and too young to have any say in decision making. Through MRMV, leaders at many different levels – from government officials to community elders – have started to recognise young people as capable actors who are able to make unique contributions in decision making affecting their own lives and communities. Parents, teachers, school principals and education managers in

Vietnam are showing an increased concern for child rights and child-friendly teaching practices, while youth leaders in Niger are now called upon by traditional leaders to help solve issues within their community. In Nepal, many Community Discussion Centres are actively linked to governmental district health networks and child welfare committees.

In 2015, MRMV Afghanistan received letters from authorities in all four project districts, thanking MRMV for supporting youth rights and establishing youth groups. The Ministry of Youth Affairs also asked MRMV to be its partner in organising International Youth Day celebrations. Similar instances of support for MRMV from government authorities can be observed in all the countries. In Pakistan, there were 23 instances of regional departments officially recognising MRMV youth groups.

Youth groups' strengthened networks and influencing capacity have resulted in a huge increase in the number of meetings between youth groups and duty-bearers. The number of duty-bearers actively involving youth in review and fact-finding processes has doubled since 2014. Eight youth-group monitoring visits on school enrolment and retention, health and sanitation conditions, and adolescent health services in schools were carried out in Afghanistan

during 2015; the findings included a 17 percent increase in school enrolment. Duty-bearers are discussing these results with young people, illustrating the importance they give to their findings and to youth needs. In Georgia, the government made improvements to the design and implementation of the state drug-prescription programme, following monitoring and advocacy activities conducted by MRMV youth and partners.

**Table 5: Progress against Outcome 3.1: Recognition and Consultation**

Duty-bearers and influencers recognise boys and girls, young women and men as a valid constituent with specific health and/or education needs and aspirations and consult with them on issues of health and/or education policy and services.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, local and national policy makers in target countries create, recognise, and/or formalise spaces for young people's voices (e.g. youth parliaments, child caucuses and youth fora).	Initial meetings bringing together youth with duty-bearers (local- and national-level policy makers).	111 duty-bearers recognised, invited or created spaces for young people's participation and voice.	203 duty-bearers officially recognised MRMV youth groups. 140 of these were in Tanzania, where <i>barazas</i> were recognised by law.	85 recorded cases of local, regional and national duty-bearers officially recognising MRMV youth groups.
b. Numbers of cases that bring evidence that duty-bearers include young people and/or children as a panel in their fact-finding and monitoring, evaluation and learning systems relating to health and/or education policy and services in the project area.	Not yet applicable.	100 cases of duty-bearers including children and youth in fact-finding missions/ review processes.	165 cases of duty-bearers including children and youth in fact-finding missions/ review processes.	396 duty-bearers involved children and youth in their fact-finding missions and review processes, more than double the number of cases recorded in 2014.

In all MRMV countries, duty-bearers took action as a direct result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy efforts, leading to important improvements in health and education services for children and youth. In Nepal, campaigns informing rural communities about their rights to public healthcare and lobbying of government officials led to improvements in both access to and quality of services. Thirteen additional outreach clinics were established by the government, the number of free medicines increased from 40 to 70, and an overall 65 percent increase in the use of healthcare services in project areas was registered over the programme's four years. In Tanzania, students raised the issue of unlawful corporal punishments through suggestion boxes, meetings with teachers and decision makers, and lobbying of school inspectors, which resulted in a ban on the practice in MRMV project schools.

While many of the changes brought about by the efforts of MRMV youth were at local or district level, during the course of the programme there were increasing numbers of examples of young people's involvement in national

policy processes. Generally, duty-bearers were found to be receptive to information and suggestions put forward by young people and backed up by evidence. National and regional governments have adopted, scaled up and mainstreamed several policy recommendations put forward by MRMV. In Tanzania, the MRMV *barazas* are now recognised by law. In Vietnam, MRMV models for effective, child-friendly school governance have been officially recognised by local governments in two provinces, where authorities will implement the models in all 302 primary schools and 140 lower-secondary schools by the end of 2019. Children's playgrounds introduced by MRMV were also scaled up to 130 kindergarten schools in one province. MRMV Vietnam also made significant contributions to the revision of the national law on children and the national programme of promoting child participation, which reflected several good practices of children's participation in school activities as promoted by MRMV. The programme is fully funded by government from 2016 to 2019, and has been passed as an official decree by the Prime Minister.



In Pakistan, MRMV launched a campaign to incorporate SRH education into the national curriculum, with backing from prominent religious leaders and journalists. This led the federal government to work with MRMV on the development and launch of a Life Skills-Based Education curriculum, which includes SRH. In Mali, the MRMV e-learning platform

on SRH was officially adopted by the Ministry of Education, while Niger's ministry publicly adopted a declaration on access to education for all children and young people, with special attention given to girls' education. In Afghanistan, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the government directorate of literacy to ensure the continuation of MRMV literacy classes after 2015.

**Table 6: Progress against Outcome 3.2: Duty-bearers and Influencers Taking Action**

Duty-bearers and influencers recognise boys and girls, young women and men as a valid constituent with specific health and/or education needs and aspirations and consult with them on issues of health and/or education policy and services.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, number of documented country actions by duty-bearers on health and/or education in favour of youth and child rights enacted and/or implemented as a result of MRMV's advocacy and campaigning actions.	4 examples identified.	98 cases where duty-bearers took action as a result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy.	68 cases where duty-bearers took action as a result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy.	76 cases where duty bearers took action as a result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy.  In Vietnam, local governments in two provinces are planning to scale up MRMV models for child participation in all schools.
b. By December 2015, number of policy recommendations made by children and youth within the context of the MRMV projects that are taken into account and implemented by duty-bearers.	2 examples in Vietnam and Nepal.	5 examples recorded.	83 examples recorded.	25 examples recorded.

#### **OBJECTIVE 4: OXFAM, PARTNERS AND OTHERS SUPPORTING YOUTH AGENCY AND CONNECTING YOUTH TO GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMMES**

Objective 4 is also comprised of two different outcomes. The first concerns the creation of connections between young people and campaigners at the global level (Outcome 4.1). MRMV youth groups were mostly organised at the district level, or in schools in the case of Georgia, Tanzania and Vietnam. In the first years of the programme, many of the actions taken by duty-bearers were therefore situated at local level. In 2014, MRMV focused on strengthening children's and youth's networking, coordination and influencing skills. This resulted in stronger links between groups in different areas and with national-level initiatives such as the Youth Advisory Board or the existing Youth Parliaments in Pakistan and Niger. Global Annual Learning Events provided a platform for collective reflection and continuous improvement of the work carried out by MRMV youth groups in different countries. During the MRMV Global Advocacy Workshop in Nairobi in 2013, youth leaders presented their work and exchanged examples of good practice within their context. They overcame language and cultural barriers to develop 'outside-the-box' solutions to make their advocacy and influencing work more successful.

All of these processes resulted in a steep increase of youth participation in national and global advocacy processes – from 13 recorded cases in 2014, to 33 in 2015.

In Nepal, MRMV Community Discussion Centres participated in official policy consultations on the Nepalese Youth Vision 2020, youth-responsive budgetary processes and the health insurance policy. In Afghanistan, young people's ideas were incorporated in the Afghanistan National Youth Policy. They were also consulted by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission to conduct research and develop a policy related to *Bacha Bazi*, a practice often related to male child sexual abuse. A young female leader from the youth groups was invited by the Government of Afghanistan to participate in the World Youth Conference in Sri Lanka on the post-MDGs 2015 agenda. During 2016, MRMV youth exchanged with youth activists, development practitioners, academics and donors at the Annual Learning Event with DFID in London and the Youth Symposium in The Hague, both organised by Oxfam. MRMV youth leaders also took part in the Oxfam Youth Summit held at the World Social Forum in Montreal, where they campaigned on inequality issues and worked with other youth campaigners to develop a Youth Manifesto on Inequality. Together with Oxfam's Policy Briefing on Youth and Inequality, this Manifesto will guide Oxfam's future advocacy work in this area.

**Table 7: Progress against Outcome 4.1: Youth Networking, Capacity Building and Advocacy**

Young women and men have gained experience in relating to each other and in connecting to campaigners at global level who support their ability to claim their rights to health and education, thanks to the intervention of Oxfam and partners.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, number of youth and advocates supported by Oxfam and partners to engage in policy processes at national, regional and/or international levels. (Target: M/F 40/60).	Not applicable in Year One.	Oxfam Annual Learning Event and Global Advocacy Workshop actively involved youth.	MRMV youth participated in 13 policy processes at national and international levels.	33 recorded examples of policy processes at national and international levels where MRMV youth actively participated.
b. By December 2015, evidence demonstrates that international/global advocacy by Oxfam and its partners has significantly contributed to national-level policy changes in favour of child and youth rights to health and/or education in at least two MRMV countries.	4 country power analyses and 3 advocacy strategies developed.	4 country advocacy strategies developed. At least 2 MRMV countries will feature impact assessment study related to Oxfam Essential Services campaign.	Capacity building from Global Advocacy Workshop shared with peers to strengthen national campaigns. MRMV youth and staff contributed to global inequality campaign.	Examples recorded in Afghanistan and Vietnam. Young people's ideas were incorporated in the Afghanistan National Youth Policy. A female youth representative was formally invited by the Government of Afghanistan to participate in the World Youth Conference in Sri Lanka post-MDGs 2015 agenda.  In Vietnam, MRMV contributed to the revision of the law on children and the national programme for promoting child participation.



The second outcome is more internally oriented. It refers to Oxfam and partners' strengthened knowledge and capacity to meaningfully involve children and youth in our work (Outcome 4.2). Since the start of MRMV, this aspect has received a very prominent place in the programme. National-level events have allowed youth to become more effective in claiming their rights, needs and aspirations to health, education and SRH. A series of global initiatives, including Annual Learning Events, have enabled Oxfam and partners to take these reflections to a higher level and draw more general lessons related to working with children and young people.

Every year, countries completed a youth audit, allowing us to track the prioritisation of young people's voices and the gender sensitivity of the work carried out by partners, Oxfam staff and Youth Advisory Boards (see Annex II). The Mid-Term Review was structured as a 'peer review' to stimulate maximum exchange and learning between countries. During 2013 and 2014, the Learning and Innovation Fund led to

the introduction of new digital media and other innovative approaches within the MRMV programme. An example is the 'PhotoVoice' project in Vietnam, where ethnic minority children took pictures of their everyday lives. The resulting exhibition with stories from the children was taken to the capital, Hanoi, and shared with politicians and journalists to challenge prevailing perceptions about the lives of children and ethnic minorities.

A strong global digital media strategy allowed programme stakeholders to remain connected, and facilitated the dissemination of communications and learning materials both internally and externally. This was done through the MRMV Ning website and quarterly MRMV e-newsletter, which kept programme stakeholders informed. Facebook groups fostered informal exchange between staff, partners and youth participants. Webinars were also organised to share and discuss the findings from the Mid-Term Review, Strategic Gender Review and Global Evaluation.





**Table 8: Progress against Outcome 4.2: Knowledge and Tools to Engage Children and Youth**

Oxfam and partners have the knowledge and tools to better engage youth and children in programmes, campaigning and decision-making spaces.				
INDICATOR	OUTPUT 2012	OUTPUT 2013	OUTPUT 2014	OUTPUT 2015
a. By December 2015, MRMV country teams and partners improve performance on annual youth audit.	27 youth audits received.	39 youth audits received.	30 youth audits received.	47 youth audits received.
b. Number of local and international partners working on child and youth rights to health and/or education, with the resources and capacity to document their experiences and to publicise them beyond the national level.	1 desk study and 1 field research on youth involvement.	7 countries posted blogs on the MRMV Ning platform. MRMV shared information through Facebook pages, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr updates. 8 country case studies published.	20 blogs by all 8 countries on MRMV Ning platform. MRMV Facebook pages regularly updated. All countries used YouTube, Flickr or Picasa to document events and publish materials.	Country completion report published per country to document their MRMV journey including achievements and key lessons. 29 blogs published on Ning platform and 3 on Oxfam's Policy & Practice website. 6 case studies published, including MRMV's lessons on working with young people. Official communiqué on Istanbul Youth Programme Development Workshop. Annual Report 2014, Final Report and Global Evaluation Report published.
c. Number of young women and men involved in decision-making structure of MRMV and Essential Services campaign.	Guidelines for the establishment of Youth Advisory Boards shared across MRMV programme; 2 Youth Advisory Boards established.	10 Youth Advisory Boards established at national or district level. No formal Youth Advisory Boards in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Nepal but informal youth groups consulted. Global advocacy workshop planned, organised and implemented by youth at HQ and country levels.	44 instances where children and youth were involved in decision-making structures of the MRMV programme. Youth Advisory Boards and other youth groups involved in project planning and monitoring meetings.	90 instances recorded where children and youth were actively involved in project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In 2014, Oxfam's 'Youth as Active Citizens' initiative was born, with eight affiliates joining forces to promote youth-led work. During a Youth Programme Development Workshop in Istanbul in 2015, Oxfam staff, youth and partners from over 25 countries met to identify paths towards more participatory and impactful youth-led programming. The MRMV Programme Development Fund has been a key driver in this respect, and has ensured the sustainability of youth-focused initiatives beyond MRMV's lifetime.

The Annual Learning Events, and in particular the Mid-Term Review and Global Evaluation, encouraged Oxfam to adopt a more youth-led approach and rethink more traditional

ways of working. Children and youth have become active agents in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MRMV programme, as well as organising campaigns and awareness-raising activities for their peers. They are taking part in policy dialogues, and were actively involved in guiding the MRMV Year Four proposals. Young people in Afghanistan and Nepal have carried out monitoring visits, and three countries worked with MRMV youth as 'peer evaluators' in the Global Evaluation process. In Mali and Niger, the Youth Advisory Board and the Junior International Chamber respectively, became official youth-led partners of Oxfam.

# 6. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT



## OVERVIEW

With its focus on empowering children and youth, My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) engaged in a relatively new area of work for Oxfam – and as both a multi-affiliate and multi-country programme, it required a new way of working within Oxfam. As such, we had a responsibility not only to our donor, Sida, and to our partners, but also to the children and young people who would benefit from this work. To ensure that MRMV met its potential, a programme and financial management guide was developed and shared with all the involved affiliates and implementing country teams. This guide supported programme management at all levels, and included a clear framework for timely and accurate reporting.

MRMV was jointly implemented by Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) and Oxfam Novib (ON), and involved Oxfam Quebec in Niger, with each affiliate contributing different areas of expertise and resources in terms of systems and people.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Oxfam provides 'Partner Minimum Financial Standards and Procedures', which all partners must adhere to in managing Oxfam grants. This guidance aims to assist partners in addressing risk, to provide tools for good practice in financial management, and to clarify Oxfam minimum standards on accountability, transparency and reporting.

The MRMV global programme budget for the four years was \$14.5m. Total spend across the entire programme was \$14.3m. Of this, partner organisations received \$7.7m and spent \$7.4m. Programme income received amounted to \$13m after exchange rates fluctuation. The difference between funds received and funds spent is accounted for by co-financing, with Oxfam securing an additional 4 percent above the contractual 10 percent co-financing. Final audited figures and full details of expenditure against the global budget will be available in the MRMV Final Financial Report, due to be submitted on 30th September 2016.

## PROCUREMENT

A common procurement policy for the Oxfam Confederation enabled coherent procurement practices, with a strong emphasis on transparency and accountability. 'The Oxfam Guide to Mandatory Processes' was approved by Oxfam Confederation Executive Directors in September 2013 and adopted by all country programmes. It includes mandatory agreements on code of conduct, planning and reporting, supply and logistics, and financial management. Across the programme's four years, audited procurement included equipment and services (such as computers, motorcycles, printing, research, consultants), with a minimum of three quotes received for all goods and services.

## COST-EFFECTIVENESS

MRMV worked hard to achieve cost-effectiveness throughout the programme. As evidenced during the Annual Learning Events (2013, 2014, 2015) and in the country and objectives reviews in this report, collective knowledge and experience enabled countries to expand their reach and impact beyond expectations. In all of the MRMV countries, Oxfam partnered with strong and professional local organisations, NGOs in particular, in a way that had a positive impact on programme efficiency.

All Oxfam affiliates have clear programme frameworks, with specific objectives, goals and targets per country, to deliver effective, results-focused and accountable programmes. These frameworks are further complemented by Oxfam's programme-management information systems (OPAL for OGB, and SAP for ON), where all data and corresponding information relating to Oxfam's programmes and projects are held and managed. The transition towards Oxfam's Single Management Structure, bringing together all of the different affiliates as 'One Oxfam', also increases our cost-effectiveness. MRMV was Oxfam's first inter-affiliate global programme, and has modelled a way of working for future programmes through its joint planning, processes, implementation and monitoring with an inter-affiliate Global Coordination Team and Steering Committee. In 2015 and 2016, other Oxfam affiliates and non-MRMV countries provided additional funding to expand on the research, workshops and events made possible by the Programme Development Fund, ensuring ownership and long-term sustainability.

Overall, from 2012 to 2015, staff turnover and costs related to new recruitment and inductions were limited (see below). At the country level, strong coordination with other agencies and the recruitment of new partners strengthened synergies. Our activities and results were in line with our budget estimate for the four years, with total spend expected to exceed 99 percent of the planned programme budget. The final figure will be confirmed in the MRMV Final Financial Report due to be submitted on 30th September 2016.



## PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

From the outset, Oxfam recognised that a global programme that works with young people in conservative environments, and focuses on very sensitive issues such as sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and education rights, requires a strong management structure. Oxfam therefore put in place a dynamic structure, as follows:

A **Steering Committee**, composed of six members from the involved affiliates, whose main role was to oversee the overall direction and strategy of the project, and to ensure that its implementation remains on course. In 2015, several MRMV committee members joined the broader Youth as Active Citizens Steering Committee.

A **Global Coordination Team**, with a Global Programme Coordinator, Finance Manager, MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) Advisor and Programme and Communications Officer, was responsible for ensuring programme quality, providing support and sharing learning across the eight country projects. Financial and programme management was overseen by OGB, while ON was responsible for managing the programme's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL), including the Learning and Innovation Fund. The Global Coordination Team also provided a link between the programme and Sida as well as other global-level stakeholders.

Within both OGB and ON, a number of global advisors were available to provide support to the Global Coordination Team and directly to the country projects – they included Global Gender Advisors and the Head of Global Safeguarding.

At **country level**, country project coordinators and officers managed, monitored and supported the delivery of MRMV projects' specific country objectives, and ensured that partners delivered the programme according to the jointly and contractually agreed work plans and budget allocations. They also communicated frequently with the Global Coordination Team to share and document learning, good practice and challenges, seek guidance and support, and to provide financial and narrative reports. From the third year, a clear trend was the increasing involvement of young people and Youth Advisory Boards in project management.

The above groups contributed to enhancing the quality and profile of the programme; this resulted in MRMV becoming an inspiring and powerful youth programme within the Oxfam Confederation, creating a considerable shift in Oxfam thinking on working with young people.

Some staff turnover and changes occurred during the programme implementation period. In Year Two, these were in Afghanistan (one change to the Project Officer role and one change to the MEAL Officer role), Niger (one change to the MEAL Officer Role) and Pakistan (one change in Project

Coordinator). In Year Three, there were several changes in Niger: two staff members of a government-suspended partner were redeployed within Oxfam to run the project until the end of 2014; the MEAL Officer was replaced by two monitors; and Oxfam Quebec's role was transferred to ON. In Tanzania, the Programme Manager and Programme Officer left before the project was phased out at the end of the year, and their roles were immediately covered by other Oxfam staff. In Afghanistan, MEAL work was taken over by the Oxfam GB Monitoring Evaluation Coordinator, and there were two staffing changes (Project Coordinator and Project Officer). In Year Four, the Project Coordinator in Nepal took up a new role in Oxfam and was replaced by the Project Officer. At the global level, the Global Programme Coordinator was replaced by the former Mali Project Coordinator, while a new Global MEL Advisor was also recruited. These changes were well managed and did not substantially affect programme implementation and management at global or country levels.

## PARTNERSHIP

Oxfam's 'Working Principles' outline Oxfam's principles, beliefs and values regarding partnership. Key values are respect for the diversity of people and partner organisations; respect for partners' autonomy, and the transparency and accountability of their own organisational policy and processes; and a consultative style that ensures the voices of partners and allies can effectively influence Oxfam thinking and practice. These principles were applied to our partnerships throughout the MRMV programme.

During the four years of the programme, we worked with 29 partner organisations across eight countries. We also partnered with national authorities, community leaders, informal youth groups and women's associations in all countries. In Year Two, one partner was replaced in Afghanistan. In Year Three, partnership agreements were ended with three partners (in Tanzania, Afghanistan and Nepal) due to financial mismanagement, while in Niger one of the implementing partners was suspended by the government. During the extension period (2014–2015), all countries engaged with youth-led organisations to enhance youth participation and leadership, and continued monitoring partnerships in accordance with the monitoring plans.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

To ensure accountability – one of Oxfam’s core values – OGB’s ‘Accountability Background Paper’ was shared at the outset with all teams involved in MRMV programme implementation. All countries worked hard to adopt and strengthen the measures and approaches outlined in the document, and organised quarterly review meetings with partners to discuss progress and review implementation plans.

In order to ensure accountability to MRMV’s main stakeholders – the young people themselves – youth participated in implementing and monitoring activities at every stage of the programme. Young people’s participation in the Mid-Term Review helped the programme team to better understand young people’s aspirations for MRMV, which resulted in youth-led programming. The establishment of Youth Advisory Boards in five of the eight countries in Year Two helped to strengthen our accountability mechanisms, enabling country and global teams to learn from board members’ views, ideas, concerns and feedback. The Youth Advisory Boards were actively involved in designing and participating in workshops and informing project activities, particularly in the final year; this enriched the programme, while at the same time building young people’s skills and confidence. The inclusion of MRMV youth as peer evaluators during the Global Evaluation also proved to be a rewarding approach, enhancing both the findings and young people’s capacity.

These strategies and activities to strengthen accountability towards stakeholders are recognised by both the partners and Youth Advisory Boards. Evidence of this can be found in the results of our annual youth audits (see Annex II), which highlight the progress recorded by most countries in terms of youth involvement from one year to the next.

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Throughout MRMV’s implementation, countries were supported with strong child safeguarding mechanisms and tools, including the programme’s ‘Child Safeguarding Minimum Standards’. In 2013, two safeguarding training sessions were carried out in Tanzania for Oxfam staff, partners and young people from four MRMV projects, with further training in 2015 for all country projects at the Annual Learning Event in Istanbul. This second training included a specific focus on digital safeguarding and considered specific contexts, such as the implications of safeguarding in religious, conservative or fragile countries. Country projects undertook capacity building to further enhance knowledge, skills and awareness among programme stakeholders.

The safeguarding tools and guidelines developed for these training initiatives will be disseminated in Oxfam to share best practice and build the organisation’s capacity to assess, mitigate and respond to safeguarding issues across its youth programming.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The strong risk analysis and mitigation strategy developed at MRMV’s inception remained relevant throughout the four years of programme implementation, and additional risks were identified by the Global Coordination Team each year (see Annex I).

MRMV was implemented in fragile countries and security has always presented a risk for project staff and stakeholders; project implementation has been delayed on many occasions as result of the security situation. The Global Coordination Team, in collaboration with country staff and Oxfam security advisors, continued to assess and update the risk analysis and to apply the mitigation strategy throughout the programme, so that the majority of activities planned were successfully implemented.

In 2012, three additional risks to the programme’s delivery and impact and to youth agency were identified, relating to election processes, political change and shrinking civil society space. In 2013, the Global Coordination Team identified four new risks: the impact of disaster and climate change, overstretch of project scope, mismanagement of funds by partners, and restructuring processes within Oxfam. In 2014, three further risks were recognised: staff turnover towards the end of project implementation, the possibility that MRMV may not realise its ambition of global-level change, and conflicts between young people’s involvement in the programme and their education or work commitments.

Individual country projects also faced a number of specific risks. In 2012, these included conflict in Mali, ethnic tensions in Afghanistan, and disruption to activities during elections in Georgia. In 2013, risks included drought in Vietnam and Tanzania, and a particularly harsh winter in Afghanistan. In 2014, programme activities were threatened by the outbreak of Ebola in Mali, the volatile security situation in Pakistan, and elections in Afghanistan. In addition to the overarching risk management strategy, country teams continued to assess and (where necessary) revise their own project-level risk mitigation strategies.

In 2015, the internal transition towards ‘One Oxfam’ and the impending closure of MRMV presented a risk of high staff turnover, which could have threatened the programme-closing activities; however, most of the country programme staff remained till the end of the programme and activities were carried out as planned. Also, as most of the countries are continuing to work on youth issues, many in-country staff were given the opportunity to support the new programmes. In 2015, concerns remained that the ambitious goal of global-level change, as outlined in the programme’s fourth objective, would not be fully reached. A Global Partnerships Advisor was recruited to provide support with finding potential new sources of funding, and global

workshops culminated in the Oxfam 'Youth as Active Citizens' initiative, which will build on the learning of MRMV and ensure a continuing focus on youth-led programmes across Oxfam.

During Year Four, Oxfam organised some key global events to connect young people to other global youth organisations, partners and initiatives. These included a Youth Symposium in The Hague and a youth event in London. Supporting youth campaigning on global inequality was a key focus of the Oxfam Youth Summit, which was held to coincide with the 2016 World Social Forum in Montreal.

As in previous years, insecurity remained a risk in all the countries in 2015, though again this did not have a serious impact on programme implementation. In Afghanistan, heightened security risks meant activities had to be implemented through MRMV youth group members and teachers, with the remote support of partners. In Nepal, while the MRMV project districts were not among the areas worst

affected by the April 2015 earthquake, implementation was delayed and some national partner project activities were diverted. Also in Nepal, youth and women elected to local-level structures could not stand in local elections due to delays to the promulgation of the Constitution, while related strikes and protests disrupted project activities. Despite these difficult circumstances, sensitive handling and rapid adjustments by country staff ensured that project activities were completed on time.

The experience gained in the programme's four years increased the capacity of Oxfam and partner staff to identify risks and respond rapidly to mitigate their effects on project activities and participants. The 'My Rights, My Voice Risk Analysis' (see Annex I) reflects this strengthened capacity, showing that the potential impact of identified risks has reduced (excluding risks outside the programme's control, such as political instability, disease outbreaks and catastrophes).





# 7. FINAL EVALUATION



## BACKGROUND

The My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) Global Evaluation consisted of an extensive analysis of programme documents for all eight MRMV countries, field research in four countries, and in-depth interviews with key staff from the Global Coordination Team and Steering Committee. The evaluation was led and the results compiled by a team of independent evaluators. The original Global Evaluation report, and Oxfam's management response to it, are available at [www.oxfam.org.uk/mrmv](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/mrmv).

The evaluation team visited Vietnam and Mali. Unfortunately, the two other countries selected for the field research, Pakistan and Afghanistan, could not be visited due to visa and safety issues. In these countries, a senior national evaluator conducted the fieldwork with distance coaching from the core evaluation team.

In line with MRMV's approach and philosophy, youth familiar with the programme were included in the field research as 'peer evaluators' in three out of the four countries. After initial training and the development of appropriate data-collection tools, they independently carried out evaluation research with peers, parents and teachers, and presented the findings to Oxfam staff and partners. Additional interviews with Oxfam staff and partners were carried out in parallel by the professional evaluators, allowing us to further triangulate the findings and gain complementary insights.

The Global Evaluation has brought much-needed thinking and learning about both the advantages and constraints of complex multi-country programmes such as MRMV. Several valuable insights emerged from this exercise, including the need to be realistic about the time required to set up new programmes and to achieve the kind of change desired; and the importance of creating meaningful changes through thoughtful processes of reflection and continual adaptation, while at the same time respecting work plans, systems requirements and financial accountability. The evaluation's findings and recommendations will be shared broadly with other programme staff managing multi-country programmes and with programme development teams, to ensure that they are systematically considered for upcoming programmes and projects. We will also share our learning with donors and peer organisations aiming to engage young people.

## ACHIEVEMENT OF MRMV OBJECTIVES

The evaluation report explains that the programme had to invest in substantial initial efforts to be able to work directly with youth and ensure their effective participation, particularly that of girls. As such, the recognition of both girls and boys as citizens with specific rights, needs, aspirations but also capabilities, is recognised as a first important achievement of the programme.

According to the report's findings, most country programmes logically focused first on developing knowledge, awareness and capacity of youth to articulate their needs and aspirations, in accordance with the principles of a rights-based approach. These activities continued to be important throughout the programme cycle, and explain the programme's achievement in reaching a significant number of youth and allies (estimated at 522,858 over the four years), be it with different levels of intensity. This increase in awareness and capacity prepared the ground for developing young people's collective skills and resources; the promotion and consolidation of strong leadership among both girls and boys, and of independent youth organisations, was also a key strategy. By the end of the programme, an estimated 699 children's and youth groups had been established. In these processes, the key role of Oxfam and partners was to create adequate frameworks and spaces for young people to carry out activities, and to provide, where needed, strategy-development and capacity-building support.

Achievements in terms of increased youth capacities have varied from country to country, which to a large extent can be attributed to the substantial differences in levels of youth engagement in individual countries prior to the programme. However, many of these achievements were innovations in their context and, as such, other stakeholders and wider communities were often impressed by the increase in youth capacity at individual and organisational levels. This allowed youth, often in close association with supporting NGOs and programme staff, to foster interest in MRMV programme issues among government authorities (at national and local levels), informal leaders, journalists, religious scholars, parliamentarians and others, and to encourage them to engage in dialogue and exchange. In many cases, this led to duty-bearers and others openly endorsing the advocacy and policy agendas of MRMV youth.

The report also underlined that the programme dynamics went beyond the MRMV framework's focus on claim-making, lobbying and advocacy on youth rights and needs. Country programmes also directly invested in realising actual changes (in terms of fulfilment of needs, and changed behaviour and practices) at the level of children and youth and their allies, in particular in the area of sexual and reproductive health (SRH). These achievements often appear to be valued most by the youth and their care-takers.

Despite this progress in specific areas, however, the evaluation report found that the impact has been limited in terms of wider-scale improvements in the quality of education and health services for young people. There are various reasons for this, including severe resource limitations at the level of the authorities concerned, and the relatively short duration of lobbying and advocacy efforts, which to be truly successful would require sustained efforts for a period longer than the programme duration.

The fourth programme objective relates to Oxfam's strengthened capacity to work on youth agency in country programmes and to link youth with its global campaigning force. This was found to have been less directly addressed than the other objectives in the day-to-day implementation of the programme, with country projects tending to focus on in-country dynamics. While MRMV has been instrumental in further building Oxfam's internal capacities to work with youth and to develop complex multi-country programmes, the report suggests that the aim to include country projects in global campaigning efforts might have been rather ambitious for a programme as innovative and complex as MRMV.

## OVERALL IMPACT

The evaluators found ample evidence that MRMV has had an influence beyond the youth directly targeted by the programme. Most countries have recorded important changes in the views and attitudes of parents, who, for instance, have become open to discussing SRH issues with their children, allowed their daughters to participate in youth-led activities, and liaised with authorities to defend the rights of their children. At the level of communities, probably the most fundamental change – as reported in various countries – is that youth are now considered to be important change agents in their own right, able to play an active role in decision-making processes at local and higher levels, and to

pursue change via their own organisations.

Linking the programme with the MDGs was an explicit aim during programme formulation. While contributing to the achievement of the MDGs was found not to have been a direct source of inspiration and motivation during programme implementation, the evaluation concludes that MRMV made a number of direct contributions to several MDGs, specifically those related to access to education (MDG 2), gender equality and empowerment of girls and women (MDG 3), maternal health (MDG 5) and the fight against HIV and AIDS (MDG 6).

## INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

All country programmes have attempted to ensure the active involvement of children and youth in implementing and driving the programme. The evaluators found that this proved to be an exciting if sometimes challenging journey, with each of the eight countries working at a different pace and with varying levels of progress. Different forms and degrees of participation of children and youth often co-existed within the same country project. In several countries a smaller group of very active 'frontrunners' substantially informed, influenced and participated in project implementation, while broader groups of children and youth assisted with predefined project activities. There were instances where Oxfam's local partners struggled to create frameworks and





spaces to optimise youth participation and involvement, and for a long time continued to resort to 'traditional' approaches whereby they remained in control of decision-making processes. However, there are clear signs that in virtually all countries the level of youth involvement significantly increased over time, with this trend going hand-in-hand with the development of stronger youth groups and organisations.

## CHALLENGES

The evaluation report states that in the early stages, programme management was successful in streamlining the views and perceptions of the programme actors and ensuring that MRMV's aims, approaches and values were slowly but steadily internalised by the country implementation teams. This process was crucial in shaping MRMV into a programme with a shared identity across all eight countries, despite the diversity of their contexts and characteristics. However, the enthusiasm and motivation of the Global Coordination Team and Steering Committee could not overcome some of the remaining constraints to programme implementation. These included challenges related to Oxfam's internal reorganisation processes, the fact that Global Coordination Team members were based in different countries, weak development of the monitoring and learning function, the turnover in Steering Committee membership, and cumbersome administrative and financial procedures and requirements.

MRMV was explicitly conceived as a multi-country programme and became exactly that; while there were many differences between the eight countries involved, they were united under MRMV by the same youth- and rights-based philosophy. As noted above, the evaluation report states that country projects were strongly focused on in-country dynamics and issues, and suggest that international exchange was considered by country teams mostly as an interesting add-on, rather than an essential component of MRMV work. The fact that there was a high level of socio-economic and cultural heterogeneity among the countries certainly played a role here. However, the evaluation found that for Oxfam itself, the global approach has had many benefits. Bringing country teams together generated huge learning opportunities and internal challenges, and triggered the development of the organisation's capacities to work with youth.

Despite the explicit overall goal of working specifically with 'marginalised' youth, the evaluation found that a clear strategy on this was not articulated at the start. Some countries did manage to reach disadvantaged groups quite successfully, while others continued to rely on more advantaged or educated youth to achieve an impact. Some other challenges specific to working with youth (such as high

rotation among youth leadership, particular characteristics and needs of youth organisations) were explicitly addressed in the preparation phase, and most countries dealt with these effectively. However, the evaluators also found that while gender considerations were well analysed during the preparation phase, these were not sufficiently operationalised.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability considerations were found to be well addressed in programme design, both at the global and country levels. Strong key principles and strategic considerations laid the foundations for developing a solid sustainability strategy, such as promoting ownership by youth and the strong focus on capacity building. However, the evaluation found that during implementation, sustainability was not systematically built in as a continuous point requiring attention. It only became a key issue late in the process, and was addressed via the organisation of workshops and the development of exit strategies, etc. The scope of these exit strategies and plans remained rather narrow, and often they could not (or could not entirely) be implemented, due to lack of time and an underestimation of the complexity of implementing actions to sustain programme benefits.

The evaluation emphasised that applying the key principle of a programme run *by or with* youth still remains a challenge for many traditional development actors. Clear strategies are needed to deal with the inevitable rotation in youth participation and leadership, caused by the simple fact that youth become older and enter a new phase of life with other challenges and requirements. Finally, to ensure sustainable results, specific approaches need to be developed to support youth organisations in the post-programme period, as they often lack the experience and networking capacity to ensure continued funding for their activities.

## MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

The MRMV Global Evaluation offered the following recommendations to Oxfam and the wider development community:

**1. Recognise the need to adopt an 'expanded' rights-based approach.** It is important to continue adopting a rights-based approach in youth programmes, but such an approach should be well adapted to local circumstances and to the needs and aspirations of youth, and should not be restricted to 'voicing and claim-making' directed at government and other duty-bearers. The approach should also include concrete and direct attempts to address the key needs of the youth.

**2. Seek clarity and realism on the role and position of marginalised youth.** The inclusion of marginalised youth should always be part of the programme; however, it might be adequate to start by engaging relatively better-off youth, as they might have the greatest potential as agents of change, particularly in socio-culturally sensitive areas such as SRH rights and gender. Better-off youth also seem best-placed to devise approaches to engage marginalised youth in the later stages of the programme.

**3. Redesign the approach to mainstream gender in the programme.** Mainstreaming gender in youth programmes faces particular challenges. Adequate gender mainstreaming should begin with efforts to make it completely clear that the aim of gender mainstreaming is (to contribute to) gender equality. The inclusion of gender equality as a specific programme objective is therefore strongly recommended. It should be accompanied by specific outputs and activities, the implementation of which can be closely monitored, making the achievement of the gender objective a realistic aim.

**4. Operationalise strategies and approaches towards genuine 'implementation by youth'.** Guaranteeing adequate and genuine participation of youth and youth groups should be based on an adequate assessment of youth's capacities, but also on a very clear decision by NGO partners and Oxfam offices to empower youth by making them responsible for programme implementation. Any tensions or dilemmas in this regard should be made explicit from the very start of the programme, whereby the legitimate institutional interests of NGO partners should be acknowledged and become part of programme strategies that allow win-win solutions.

**5. Continue with the development of multi-country programmes, but remain realistic about what they can achieve.** When designing multi-country programmes, it is important to delineate which added value is aspired to, and later to ascertain whether such added value has been achieved. Key to a successful multi-country programme is the quality and success of the individual country programmes within it, which should serve as a basis for broader exchange, learning and (maybe) regional impact. Before engaging in cross-country learning and exchange, country programmes should first invest in country-level learning with youth, their NGO partners and other actors. It is further recommended that multi-country programmes involve countries with similar socio-cultural characteristics (including a common programme language), as this will offer broader and more cost-effective opportunities for cross-country learning and exchange.

**6. Simplify financial and administrative procedures.** Multi-country programmes are by default rather complex. Explicit efforts should therefore be undertaken to avoid excessive financial and administrative requirements which lead to overkill in terms of rules, regulations and policies, with inefficiency of programme implementation an inevitable consequence.

**7. Recognise the need for a longer programme duration.** Similar future programmes should avoid implementation periods of less than five years, as the type of changes aspired to require substantial time to materialise and ensure benefit sustainability. This is particularly the case when the programme includes fragile countries or countries with low levels of institutional development (as is the case for most MRMV countries).

# 8. CONCLUSION





My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) has clearly demonstrated the belief that has driven it from the start – that children and young people have the power to transform their lives and communities. In eight very different countries, and despite considerable cultural and social barriers, MRMV youth have gained the skills and confidence to call for their rights to education, healthcare, and sexual and reproductive health. Through their efforts they have won the attention, trust and respect of parents, teachers, religious leaders and duty-bearers from village to national level, while changes to laws and school curricula will ensure better child and youth rights for this generation and many more. Young people are not just being listened to – their opinions are now being actively sought, and their concerns addressed.

### YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING CONTROL

As the programme progressed, there was a clear shift in approach from working *for* to working *with* young people. Oxfam staff and partners came to consider young people not merely as ‘beneficiaries’ but as strong contributors to the success of MRMV’s vision. In Years Three and Four, youth designed and delivered their own activities and successfully influenced government policies and funding priorities. The resulting changes include better facilities and more child-centred approaches in schools; revisions in laws that will build youth participation into decision-making processes; and the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health in national school curricula – breaking taboos and enabling young people to make informed choices in their lives.

Crucially, MRMV has also led to a significant shift in attitudes. Parents, teachers, leaders and duty-bearers have seen the value – indeed the necessity – of including young people in decision making. Girls and young women are getting involved, and leading, in ways previously considered impossible in some of the project areas. Young people have surprised and challenged their peers, communities and governments, and indeed Oxfam and our partners, with their leadership and achievements.

As set out in its overarching goal, MRMV aimed to find innovative ways to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While direct attribution is difficult, MRMV definitively contributed to strengthening the enabling environment, attitudes, practices and in some cases policies towards achieving the MDGs in the countries where it operated. We welcome the greater emphasis on youth of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with goals relating to secondary and tertiary education as well as youth employment, health and wellbeing. In our work and that of the wider sector to achieve the SDGs, we will strive to apply the richness of experience and the valuable lessons from MRMV.

### INFLUENCING OXFAM’S WIDER WORK

Over the last four years, MRMV has been held up as model to inform and inspire current and future initiatives, both in Oxfam and beyond. It demonstrated good practice as a multi-country programme with strong inclusiveness and bottom-up principles, involving country staff, partners and young people. It exemplified the potential of flexible funding to seize innovation and learning opportunities, and showcased the benefits of close collaboration between Oxfam affiliates. Perhaps most significantly, MRMV has shaped the way Oxfam engages with young people in other priority areas – for example, strengthening the organisation’s commitment to gender justice, and influencing both the Oxfam Strategic Plan and many Oxfam country strategies for 2013–19. MRMV has inspired many other programme development and management initiatives beyond the two implementing affiliates (Oxfam Great Britain and Oxfam Novib), and has led to the creation of ‘Youth as Active Citizens’, a dynamic initiative that builds on the spirit of youth engagement, inclusion and gender justice which MRMV helped to foster.

### MRMV LESSONS AND LEGACY

As the Global Evaluation pointed out, a balance between a rights-based approach and building the capacity of duty-bearers to deliver on youth’s demands needs to be more solidly built into programme design. This important lesson has already been taken into account in subsequent programme development. The evaluation also emphasised that the change MRMV aspired to takes time, especially given the challenges related to building strong enabling environments, ensuring the inclusion of marginalised youth, and working in conservative and fragile countries. Clearly, we need to work with donors on long-term engagement, and to ensure we not only deliver short-term capacity but also long-term support both to young people and to our partners as they mature. Oxfam must strive to define what we mean by, and to include, marginalised young people. Finally, we should seek partnership beyond the ‘usual suspects’ and work with youth groups, youth-led and women’s organisations, social media and others to increase our reach and impact.

The legacy of MRMV will be taken up across Oxfam through the Youth as Active Citizenship initiative and in our wider programmes and campaigns. Its values, approaches and learning will continue to be applied by staff in Oxfam and our partner organisations. Our efforts throughout the programme to share the MRMV experience have already contributed to learning across the development sector, and will continue to do so. But the legacy of which we are most proud is the empowered young people who are already showing themselves to be the new leaders within their communities and countries, and are changing their world for the better.

## ANNEX I: MY RIGHTS, MY VOICE RISK ANALYSIS

NATURE OF RISK	MITIGATION	IMPACT	PROBABILITY
Norms and culture (of society, of NGOs) hinder children and youth from claiming their rights.	Involve key stakeholders identified as potential blockers (community leaders, teachers, etc.) from the outset to ensure their buy-in. Build on existing relationships with communities and organisations to generate support for empowerment of children and youth.	Medium	High
Diversity of children and youth leads to conflicting agendas (e.g. rural and urban, age-based, girls and boys).	Capacity-building of children and youth to identify allies and build effective networks across different groups/organisations. Foster spaces where a plurality of voices can be heard and the diverse needs of children and youth can be taken into account by duty-bearers. Use a gender-sensitive approach to improve understanding and communication of the different agendas between girls and boys, as well as young men and women.	Medium	Medium
Children and youth mobilisation leads to political or societal backlash, including gender-based violence.	Programme will work closely with children and youth to develop effective means of communicating their demands and claiming their rights. Creation of new spaces or revitalising existing spaces for children and youth to claim their health and education rights so that they do not have to resort to illegal/unpopular methods. Engaging duty-bearers from the outset to ensure their support for children and youth to claim their health and education rights and manage their concerns.	High	Low
A lack of actions or commitment of resources by duty-bearers.	Power analysis will be conducted at the beginning of the programme. Partners and allies have the capacity and knowledge to monitor commitments and decisions made by duty-bearers.	Medium	Medium
Changes take longer than three years to manifest, depending on context.	Country analyses will identify specific changes (policies, actions) that are achievable and realistic within the programme's lifetime. Programme recognises that in addition to immediate changes, activities and strategies will lead to transformative changes in individuals and groups (especially of youth) that may result in changes beyond the scope of this programme.	Low	High
Oxfam and partner staff lack sufficient knowledge and/or skills to work on child and youth rights.	Countries selected for this programme have demonstrated experience of working with children and youth and are committed to deepening their understanding of best practices around child and youth rights. Child and youth rights, specifically around gender-sensitive youth agency, will be a key area for learning in this programme.	High	Medium
Oxfam or partner staff abuse their position of power.	Oxfam GB has well established and clearly defined policies and guidelines on Preventing Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Child Protection, and Staff Malpractice. Oxfam GB's complaints procedure and other reporting mechanisms actively promote the reporting and investigation of all and any behaviour which may be inconsistent with our primary duty of care to the recipients of Oxfam's programmes. Oxfam and partner staff are required to sign up to Oxfam's Code of Conduct, which includes specific commitments around sexual exploitation and abuse, including child abuse. Ongoing training will be provided.	High	Low
Staff turnover in Oxfam and partner offices.	Oxfam and partners will ensure that more than one staff member is trained on programme activities. Succession plans will be supplemented by documentation and knowledge management of programme information.	Medium	Medium
Political and social instability disrupts programme activities.	Early discussion with partners and other stakeholders to manage expectations. Early focus on strengthening local groups and planning activities that can be continued or implemented during unstable periods.	Medium	High
Programme creates and/or raises expectations among partners, in particular new organisations (e.g. youth groups).	Countries will develop clear exit strategies with partners that outline roles and responsibilities leading up to the end date and beyond (including securing alternative funding if necessary). Expectations of partners and key stakeholders will be discussed and managed from the outset of the programme (through inception meetings).	Medium	Medium

NATURE OF RISK	MITIGATION	IMPACT	PROBABILITY
<b>ADDITIONAL RISKS IDENTIFIED IN 2012:</b>			
Changes in governments will hamper establishment of stable relations with key politicians and decision-makers.	The election processes will be continuously monitored in the countries with elections, including an assessment of the possible people in power. They will be approached immediately after the elections. Country-level power analyses should also identify long-standing civil servants in key ministries with whom Oxfam teams, partners and young people can strengthen working relationships.	Medium	Medium
Youth manipulated for political purposes and/or gains during times of political campaigning and electioneering.	Awareness-raising on this issue amongst youth. Creating a safe and open environment where such issues can be discussed, i.e. youth groups.	Medium	Low
Shrinking of civil society space and impact on youth voice (the ability of young people to speak up and out, and via social media which also might be 'closed').	Socio-political change and 'mood' will be continuously monitored through power, political economy and risk analyses in the countries, especially those with upcoming elections. Awareness-raising on this issue amongst youth. Creating a safe and open environment where such issues can be discussed, i.e. youth groups.	Medium	High
<b>ADDITIONAL RISKS IDENTIFIED IN 2013:</b>			
Because of harsh climate (drought or excessive rain/snow) project areas cannot be reached and families are prioritising income and food above project activities. Children and youth (especially girls and young women) cannot participate in project activities.	Countries will strengthen contact with duty-bearers to initiate, for example, school feeding programmes. Countries will increase information, education and campaigning to parents on importance of child rights even in difficult circumstances. Countries will take accessibility of project areas better into consideration when planning project activities.	Medium	Medium
Pressure from neighbouring communities and schools to be included in the project will stretch capacity of Oxfam and partners and erode quality of project activities and empowerment processes.	GCT will engage in a critical dialogue with the country offices and partners to hear their views. If country teams have compelling reasons to continue broadening the project (for example creating a critical mass for advocacy purposes), the GCT will in principle support, but will also discuss, this with the Steering Committee for advice. GCT will inventory training needs necessary for Oxfam and partners to take up the different roles necessary for deepening the project activities.	Medium	High
Mismanagement of funds by partners with weak financial management systems, resulting in change of partners and disruption of activities.	Oxfam has well established internal auditing systems and protocols for follow-up action to minimise the damage in case of mismanagement of funds. Cases will be quickly identified.	Medium	Low
Restructuring processes within Oxfam may cause unrest and demotivation amongst Oxfam staff and increase turnover rates.	Ensuring timely informing of staff in countries about developments within Oxfam including an analysis of possible repercussions/opportunities for the MRMV programme.	High	Medium
<b>ADDITIONAL RISKS IDENTIFIED IN 2014:</b>			
Staff turnover towards the end of programme implementation may affect the continuity of activities.	GCT will prioritise securing new funds in Year Four. Country teams will get involved in broader programme development efforts with other affiliates and countries. Recruitment of a Global Partnerships Adviser to support with new sources of funding. Global workshops throughout the year to allow MRMV staff and youth to develop a Youth Engagement Framework with others across the Oxfam Confederation.	Medium	Medium
The project may not be able to meet its ambition for global-level change.	GCT will work with country project teams and global-level campaigners in Oxfam and more broadly to identify opportunities for youth involvement. Country teams will support youth to engage in non-Oxfam campaigns of their choice.	Medium	Medium
Conflicts between young people's involvement in MRMV and education or work commitments has an impact on their wellbeing and/or involvement in the programme.	Advocate integrating MRMV activities in school calendars so that youth can continue to participate. Ensure flexibility in timing for MRMV activities to accommodate children and young people's commitments.	Medium	Medium
<b>ADDITIONAL RISKS IDENTIFIED IN 2015:</b>			
Risk that Oxfam will not be able to raise sufficient resources to continue its youth programming work	The Oxfam-wide 'Youth as Active Citizens' initiative will continue to build on learning from MRMV and ensure a continued focus on youth-led programmes. A Programme Partnerships Advisor was recruited to provide support with finding new sources of funding.	High	Low



## ANNEX II: YOUTH AUDIT TABLE

COUNTRY	PARTNER	POLICY (ON SCALE FROM 1-5)	LEADERSHIP (ON SCALE FROM 1-5)	CAPACITY (ON SCALE FROM 1-5)	PROGRAMMING/ ACCOUNTABILITY (ON SCALE FROM 1-5)	PARTNERSHIPS (ON SCALE FROM 1-5)	% WOMEN WITHIN THE ORGANISATION	% OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
AFGHANISTAN	ACSFO	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.8	4.4	42	42
	OHW	3.8	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.7	50	33
	OXFAM	3.5	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.7	25	50
	AVERAGE 2015	3.9	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.6	39	42
MALI	AJCAD	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.2	50	75
	OWUK	3.3	4.0	3.5	3.5	4.0	50	25
	OXFAM	2.5	3.0	4.0	4.3	4.0	75	75
	AVERAGE 2015	3.5	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	58	58
NEPAL	SAC	.	4.0	4.0	4.2	5.0	75	50
	AYON	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.5	38	38
	SDRC	3.3	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.3	50	25
	WAM	.	3.7	3.3	3.8	3.8	75	100
	AVERAGE 2015	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.4	59	53
NIGER	JCI	4.0	4.3	3.5	4.4	4.0	NA	NA
	DIMOL	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	NA	NA
	ASO-EPT	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	NA	NA
	OXFAM	4.3	5.0	4.5	4.8	4.8	NA	NA
	AVERAGE 2015	4.1	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.4	NA	NA
PAKISTAN	OXFAM	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.8	50	60
	CDA	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.2	63	50
	YAB	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.8	63	60
	AVERAGE 2015	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.6	58	57
VIETNAM	NING THUAN	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.8	4.8	33	28
	DAKNONG	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.4	4.6	28	25
	LIVES&LEARN	4.0	4.7	4.2	4.8	4.5	75	75
	AVERAGE 2015	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.6	45	43
TOTAL AVERAGE FOR ALL COUNTRIES IN 2015		3.9	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.5	52	50

## ANNEX III: MY RIGHTS, MY VOICE GLOBAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

### OVERALL GOAL:

Sustainable changes in policies, practices and beliefs to meet the specific health and education needs and aspirations of marginalised children and youth, with a particular focus on the rights of girls and young women, to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

**IMPACT INDICATORS\*:** By December 2015, in project areas percentage increase in the number of youth and children accessing quality healthcare and/or education. By December 2015, in project areas percentage increase of girls and young women accessing free quality healthcare and/or education. By December 2015, percentage increase in the number of informed children and youth able to make decisions on their SRH, disaggregated by gender.

OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE 1: Children, youth and allies (parents, educators, health staff, etc.) are more aware of the specific health and education rights of children and youth and with confidence voice these rights, needs and aspirations in a manner that strengthens equality.	OBJECTIVE 2: Children, youth and allies (parents, educators, health staff, CSOs, etc.) successfully apply improved individual and collective skills, confidence, resources and organisational skills to claim their rights to health and/or education in decision-making spaces.	OBJECTIVE 3: Duty-bearers and influencers (ministries, politicians, donors, international institutions, parents, teachers, health staff, religious leaders, NGOs, etc.) engage directly with marginalised children and youth and as a result take specific actions to deliver better access to and quality of health and education.	OBJECTIVE 4: Oxfam, partners and others have strengthened capacity to work on youth agency in country programmes, and Oxfam's global campaigning force has facilitated youth claiming and accessing better health and education.
OUTCOMES	1.1: Boys and girls, young women and men, and their allies are more aware and knowledgeable of their rights to health and/or education.	2.1: Through programmes executed by local partner organisations, boys and girls, young women and men, and their allies are organising themselves more effectively to claim their rights to health and education.	3.1: Duty-bearers and influencers recognise boys and girls, young women and men as a valid constituent with specific health and/or education needs and aspirations and consult with them on issues of health and/or education policy and services.	4.1: Young women and men have gained experience in relating to each other and in connecting to campaigners at global level who support their ability to claim their rights to health and education, thanks to the intervention of Oxfam and partners.
INDICATORS	A. By December 2015, percentage increase in boys and girls, young women and men that can verbalise examples of country-specific laws, policies and/or services on health and/or education (age specific) as provided by the government (disaggregated by gender). B. By December 2015, percentage increase in allies that can verbalise examples of country specific laws, policies and/or services on health and/or education as provided by the government. C. By December 2015, percentage increase in allies that can verbalise examples of specific rights, services and/or issues of girls and young women on health and/or education.	A. By December 2015, percentage increase in organised groups (youth clubs, CSOs, parent associations, health committees, etc.) actively pursuing youth and child rights to health and/or education. B. By December 2015, percentage increase in the number of girls and young women participating in these groups and taking up leadership roles.	A. By December 2015, local and national policy-makers in target countries create, recognise, and/or formalise spaces for young people's voices (e.g. youth parliaments, child caucuses and youth fora). B. Number of cases that bring evidence that duty-bearers include young people and/or children as a panel in their fact-finding and MEAL systems relating to health and/or education policy and services in the project area.	A. By December 2015, number of youth and advocates supported by Oxfam and partners to engage in policy processes at national, regional and/or international levels. (Target: M/F 40/60). B. By December 2015, evidence demonstrates that international/global advocacy by Oxfam and its partners has significantly contributed to national-level policy changes in favour of child and youth rights to health and/or education in at least two MRMV countries.
OUTCOMES	1.2: Boys and girls, young women and men articulate their needs and aspirations on health and/or education amongst their peers, allies and other actors.	2.2: Boys and girls, young women and men, and their allies, are capable of agreeing and voicing a shared agenda in open and closed decision-making spaces to claim their rights to health and education.	3.2: Duty-bearers and influencers take specific actions to improve access and quality of health and/or education services for boys and girls, young women and men.	4.2: Oxfam and partners have the knowledge and tools to better engage youth and children in programmes, campaigning and decision-making spaces.
INDICATORS	A. By December 2015, percentage increase in the number of peers, allies and other actors that indicate that they have discussed education and health rights, needs and aspirations with girls, boys and young women and men. Disaggregated by gender.	A. By December 2015, percentage of above groups with documented shared agendas (policy recommendations, agreed activities and purpose, etc). B. By December 2015, percentage of above groups with documented shared agendas (as above) where the specific rights and issues of girls and young women are mentioned. C. By December 2015, percentage increase (compared to project Year One) in the number of key formal/public decision-making events/processes (as defined relevant in each country) with children and young people raising their voice to claim their rights to health and/or education, disaggregated by gender. D. By December 2015, percentage increase (compared to project Year One) in the number of key formal/public decision-making events/processes (as defined relevant in each country) with people other than youth (i.e. allies of children and youth) raising their voice to claim the rights of boys and girls, young women and men to health and/or education.	A. By December 2015, number of documented country actions by duty-bearers on health and/or education in favour of youth and child rights enacted and/or implemented as a result of the MRMV's advocacy and campaigning actions. B. By December 2015, number of policy recommendations made by children and youth within the context of the MRMV projects that are taken into account and implemented by duty-bearers.	A. By December 2015, MRMV country teams and partners improve performance on annual youth audit. B. Number of local and international partners working on child and youth rights to health and/or education have the resources and capacity to document their experiences and to publicise them beyond the national level. C. Number of young women and men involved in decision-making structure of MRMV and Essential Services campaign.

\*Obviously there are many factors contributing to realising the overall goal of the MRMV programme. It is, therefore, difficult to attribute positive changes in the impact indicators to the results of the programme. To assess the programme's contribution to the overall goal, Oxfam proposes to organise a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) or use other innovative instruments that allow us to make a judgement on the programme's contribution to the overall goal at the end of the programme period.

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Photo: Moussa Abdou, Oxfam.

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Based on available monitoring data. Data for some countries did not allow the identification of youth and allies already involved in previous years.

<sup>2</sup> Oxfam America, Australia, Brazil, Great Britain, IBIS (Denmark), Italy, Novib (Netherlands) and Quebec.

<sup>3</sup> Most Significant Change is a methodology generating and analysing personal accounts of (meaningful) changes in people's lives.

<sup>4</sup> The project adapted the REFLECT method of social change, which is based on the teachings of Paulo Freire combined with participatory development approaches. It was developed in the 1990s through pilot projects in Bangladesh, Uganda and El Salvador, and is now used by over 500 organisations in 70 countries. It was used successfully by previous Oxfam projects in Nepal, including 'Raising Her Voice'.

<sup>5</sup> Based on available monitoring data. Data for some countries did not allow the identification of youth and allies already involved in previous years.





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