Rights in Crisis Campaign Afghanistan: 2012/13

The strategic focus of Oxfam’s Rights in Crisis (RiC) campaign in Afghanistan was 1) Women’s rights in transition, 2) Protection of Afghan civilians from harm from security forces and 3) Girls’ education (which has largely become subsumed within a broader focus on women’s rights). Aid effectiveness has also been an important area of work for the campaign. This evaluation assessed the campaign over the strategic period mid-2010 till mid-2012, specifically considering the effectiveness of efforts to promote women’s rights. In particular, the evaluation considered whether there was evidence of the campaign contributing to the following outcomes:

- The participation of Afghan Women in the Peace and Reconciliation Process (WPPRP) is maintained on the agenda of key Afghan decision makers.
- The implementation of the EVAW law has improved over the period mid-2010 to mid-2012.

Figure 1: Reconstructed Logic Model based on the documentation of the intervention logic that described the actual interventions.
Evaluation method

External evaluation firm The Coalition Factory, were selected to apply a pre-defined research protocol to rigorously assess the project’s contribution to key outcomes it sought to bring about. Drawing on theory-based evaluation approaches, Oxfam has defined a robust qualitative research protocol, ‘process tracing’, to enable assessment of:

a) the extent to which intended objectives, or interim outcomes that signal progress towards these objectives, were successfully achieved and

b) the extent to which the intervention contributed to these changes.

(Re) constructing the campaign’s theory of change with key stakeholders, the approach identifies the interim and final outcomes the campaign sought to achieve. The evaluator then seeks evidence for the extent to which these outcomes have materialised; identifies plausible causal explanations for those outcomes (including but not limited to the campaign itself); and assesses the extent to which each of the explanations are, or are not, supported by the available evidence.

Results

The evaluation concluded that outcome 1 had been realised in full as WPPRP has been maintained on the agenda of Afghan decision makers: Ministry officials as well as MPs and members of the HPC speak out openly in favour of WPPRP. It found that there was evidence that the RiC campaign had made a direct and indirect contribution by maintaining pressure on key international stakeholders from TCNs and ICBs through lobby meetings, by developing advocacy papers and providing policy information to key stakeholders, through their international media work and by facilitating access of Afghan civil society to international stakeholders. In addition to Oxfam’s interventions, national CSOs had some influence, especially because they were influencing the government directly, but the evidence indicated that international opinion leaders were the most effective actors putting the topic on the international and Afghan agenda.

Outcome 2, however, had only materialised in part, and while there was evidence that Oxfam’s interventions had contributed to influencing the International Community to increase pressure from key international actors, which arguably had led to more effective government control over the legal system, local and national (edutainment) media in combination with advocacy work of local and national CSOs / women’s rights NGOs were found to have played a bigger role in increasing the awareness and acceptance of the EVAW law.

In response to the programme learning considerations identified by the review, the campaign will work to build programme and campaign staff capacity on influencing work and invest in strengthening capacity of local partners for evidence based campaigning on women’s rights. They will work to develop a joint communications and media strategy in line with overall campaign objectives, including strategic engagement of national and international media and key journalists. As Afghani institutions establish themselves, the campaign will strengthen its focus on Afghan decision makers and other key national actors. This will be accompanied by an awareness campaign on increasing acceptance of women’s rights in Afghan society.

### Outcome Rating Commentary

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<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tr>
<td>The participation of Afghan women in the Peace and Reconciliation Process is maintained on the agenda of key Afghan decision makers</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>The outcome has been realised in full as WPPRP has been maintained on the agenda of Afghan decision makers: Ministry officials as well as MPs and members of the HPC speak out openly in favour of WPPRP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation of the EVAW law has improved in the period 2010 – 2012</td>
<td>🟢🟥</td>
<td>The outcome has been realised in part as there was a relatively steep increase in the number of reported and recorded cases of VAW. However, the number of court cases and convictions has remained very low.</td>
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For more information, please contact Oxfam’s Programme Performance and Accountability Team - ppat@oxfam.org.uk