

# MY RIGHTS, MY VOICE

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2013



**OXFAM**



# CONTENTS

<b>Glossary of abbreviations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Introduction</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3. Context</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4. Country Progress Reports</b>	
Afghanistan	16
Georgia	17
Mali	18
Nepal	19
Niger	20
Pakistan	21
Tanzania	22
Vietnam	23
<b>5. Programme Learning and Development</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6. Progress against the Global Programme Framework</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>7. Programme Management</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>8. Sustainability</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>9. Risk Analysis</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Annexes</b>	
I. MRMV Risk Analysis Table	60
II. Youth Audit Table	61
III. MRMV Global Programme Framework	62
<b>List of tables</b>	
Table 1 My Rights, My Voice Global Programme Objectives and Outcomes	35
Table 2 Progress against outcome 1.1 – awareness and knowledge	40
Table 3 Progress against outcome 1.2 – confidence and voice	41
Table 4 Progress against outcome 2.1 – increased skills, confidence and effective organisation	43
Table 5 Progress against outcome 2.2 – shared agenda and collective voice	46
Table 6 Progress against outcome 3.1 – recognition and consultation	48
Table 7 Progress against outcome 3.2 – duty-bearers and influencers taking action	50
Table 8 Progress against outcome 4.1 – youth networking, capacity building and advocacy	51
Table 9 Progress against outcome 4.2 – knowledge and tools to engage children and youth	53

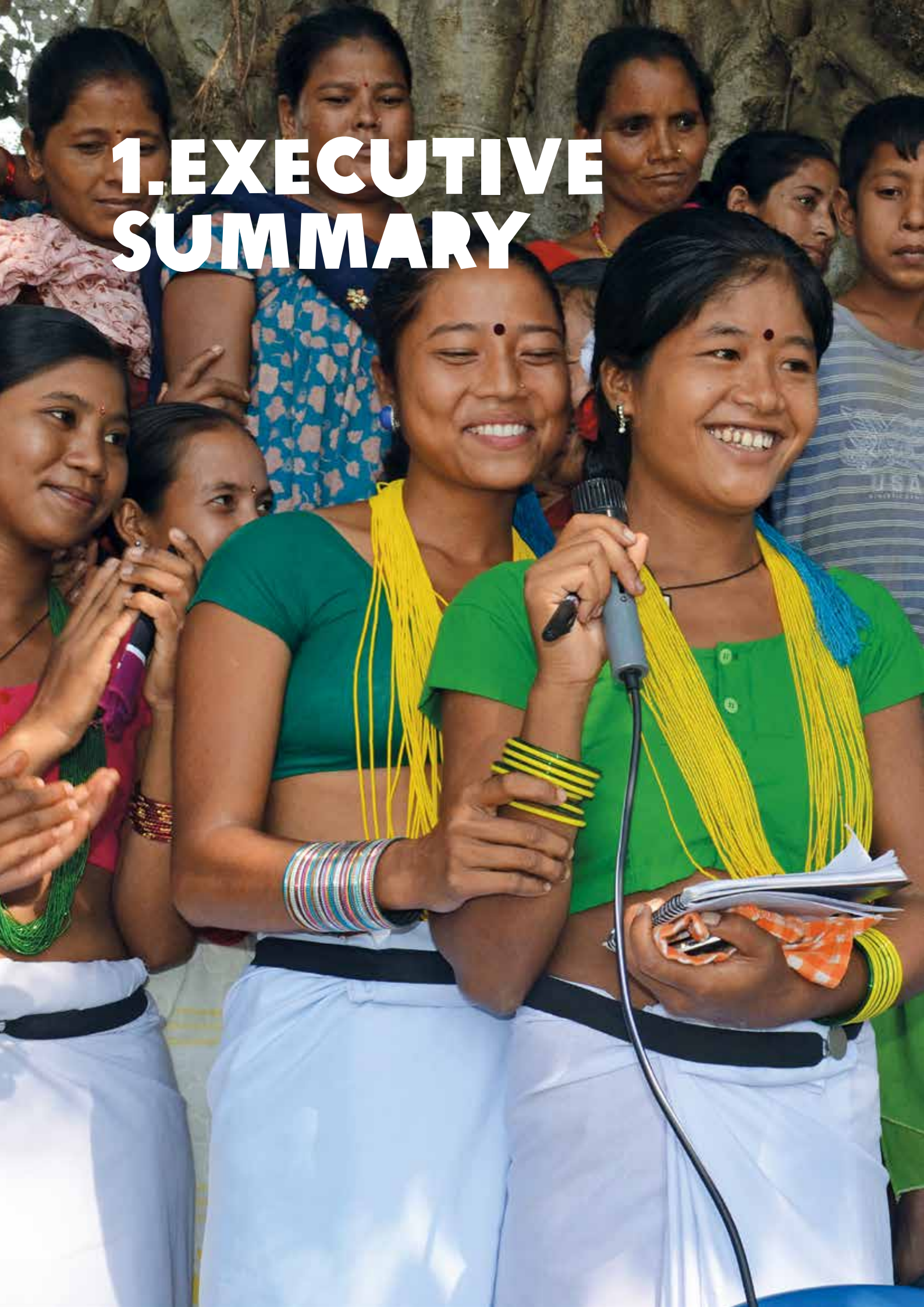
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## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIHRC	Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDC	Community Discussion Class
CHC	Children’s Health Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DEO	District Education Officer
Edutainment	Education through the medium of entertainment
ES	Essential Services
GAW	Global Advocacy Workshop
GCT	Global Coordination Team for the My Rights, My Voice Programme
GPF	Global Programme Framework
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LAL	Learning About Living
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRMV	My Rights, My Voice
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OGB	Oxfam Great Britain
OI	Oxfam International
OM	Outcome Mapping
ON	Oxfam Novib
OQ	Oxfam Quebec
PC	Project Coordinator
PDO	Public Defenders Office
PO	Project Officer
Post-2015	The Post-2015 Development Agenda
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RBA	Rights Based Approach
SC	The Steering Committee for the My Rights, My Voice programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMS	Single Management Structure
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
YAB	Youth Advisory Board
VDC	Village Development Committees
YHC	Youth Health Committee



# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**Oxfam and its partners believe that young people have the potential to become dynamic forces for transformational change in their lives, their families, their communities and ultimately their countries. This vision and belief is supported through the My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) programme, which actively aims to engage, support and work with children, youth and their allies in ways that strengthen and support their voice and rights to health and education.**

The three-year initiative challenges the notion of children and youth as passive bystanders or 'beneficiaries' in development initiatives affecting their lives. With close to half the world's population being under the age of 25 and almost 85 per cent of those living in developing countries, it is vitally important for international organisations, such as Oxfam and our national and regional partners, to ensure that these young voices are heard.<sup>1</sup>

It has been well documented how a lack of access to, and poor quality of, essential services perpetuate and deepen inequality and marginalisation, preventing young people from fulfilling their potential and breaking generational cycles of poverty. MRMV is working with young people and allies specifically in relation to their rights to quality health (including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and education services in eight countries – Afghanistan, Georgia, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Tanzania and Vietnam – with each country adapting activities and focus depending on the specific conditions of children and youth in those contexts. The programme started in December 2011 and has now entered its third year. This report analyses the progress of the programme in its second year (January to December 2013).

Throughout the second year, all country projects and global-level initiatives provided many examples of young people continuing to grow in their levels of awareness, knowledge and confidence to claim their rights to health and education. Most impressively, it was the young people themselves who achieved this outreach through peer education initiatives and also through informing their parents and others about their rights to health and education. Throughout Year Two, young people became agents of change, changing how they were perceived and heard, and strengthening their knowledge, skills and networks.

Some of the greatest lessons over the past year have been in relation to children and youth's motivation and involvement. What has been insightful, informative and a huge asset to the programme is the analysis, energy and dynamic ideas that young people have brought to MRMV, working to find opportunities for constructive change and to drive innovation. This involvement has contributed to a feeling of shared ownership and responsibility for MRMV by Oxfam and partners, and youth, as we witnessed at our Annual Learning

Event, through our Mid-Term Review (MTR) process, and at a Global Advocacy Workshop (GAW) co-designed with youth. The conscious creation of 'space' for young people (and those involved in delivering the programme) to convene, exchange and participate is absolutely critical, and has been one of MRMV's greatest strengths. The contribution of the children and youth to the programme has been enormous. This is even more impressive in light of the inequality, discrimination and poverty many of them face. They have invested in MRMV against a backdrop of institutional, social and cultural hierarchies and perceptions (including those around 'being too young' or 'inexperienced'), major political processes and change, growing civil unrest, skyhigh youth unemployment and 'underemployment', and high rates of violence against girls and women. Many of these issues have come up in these spaces, where young people have felt safe to express their fears, needs and aspirations. These insights continue to challenge us as development practitioners to involve young people – as the guardians and duty-bearers of tomorrow and as the innovators and change agents of today and the hereafter – in all that we do.

## **PROGRESS AND REFLECTION**

After a promising first year in 2012, the programme steadily built on these foundations. Key moments of reflection and analysis in Year Two proved critical in assessing our progress against the Global Programme Framework (GPF), reviewing our activities and sharpening our learning and strategies. The Annual Learning Event, MTR process, Strategic Gender Review and GAW were watershed moments of reflection, review, alteration and innovation. In addition to our reporting schedule, these events and corresponding processes provided further critical 'space' for midcourse improvements, validation and strengthening the value in global programming and peer exchange.

As well as helping to identify MRMV strengths these initiatives also highlighted programme challenges, especially in relation to strengthening our gender analysis to ensure we are supporting the specific experiences, needs and aspirations of girls and women. Consultants facilitating the MTR noted that at its inception MRMV created a truly innovative design by viewing youth as a new target group who needed new approaches. They concluded that we should celebrate the successes and re-invent the programme for the second half of its cycle to further achieve new and relevant impact relevant to this stage in its development.

There is still more to be done in the final year, but there was evidence of strong progress in Year Two, which will hopefully take us a step further towards our ambitious programme goal of achieving 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.

Examples of some of the Year Two achievements are outlined below under the four key objectives of the programme.

**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.**

The number of young people and their allies reached through awareness-raising messages, more than trebled to over 207,000 children, youth and their allies (46.7 per cent girls and young women). In Year One, partner organisations were largely responsible for this outreach, but in 2013, young people took forward awareness-raising activities, educating their peers and allies using a variety of methods and channels, including social media and popular culture. In Niger, rap, poetry and popular theatre were all used as communication tools; in Nepal, forum theatre was a key channel to raise awareness levels and discussions on health issues; and in Tanzania, young people recorded their own

‘My Rights, My Voice’ song. There was solid evidence that children and youth also engaged in discussions with duty-bearers and others. Youth in Mali were heavily engaged in designing and implementing a youth-focused election campaign, meeting with three of the leading parties’ leadership, including the party of the elected President, and convincing all parties to sign up to their health and education manifesto for Malian youth. In 2013, we also identified that the specific needs and aspirations of girls and young women were not being fully articulated. A Strategic Gender Review was commissioned and provided valuable analysis and recommendations to help address challenges and strengthen work on girls’ and women’s rights.

**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.**

By June, all countries achieved their planned number of child and youth groups, and interventions shifted towards strengthening groups’ effectiveness and networking capabilities. Young men and women proactively became

community and school leaders and were more effective at claiming their and their peers' rights to health and education. In addition, young women were also identified as pursuing and being nominated and elected to leadership positions outside of MRMV groups. For example, in Nepal 535 women who participated in MRMV Community Discussion Classes (CDCs) were nominated or elected to take up representative positions or to participate in key community decision-making structures. There was also evidence of similar examples in the Tanzania project, where the cadre of girls and young women student leaders is growing. These examples provide us with insight into the broader impact of increased confidence levels, participation and leadership on levels of active citizenship and the valuable contribution this plays in strengthening voice, citizenry, and the rights of women and girls. Groups' organisational skills and the development of shared agendas also increased along with their presentation to duty-bearers. Global MRMV events supported young people in strengthening these areas, with the GAW giving space for country peer groups to develop national- and global-level advocacy agendas. The number of meetings between organised groups and duty-bearers doubled to 113, with the quality of the conversations and discourse between these two groups becoming less formalised and more engaging, involving dialogue and debate. The number of organised allies (NGOs and CBOs) also increased slightly from 204 (2012) to 252 (2013). We also identified influential individuals supporting MRMV playing a key role, creating space at local levels for groups to speak out. In Afghanistan, village elders were critical in convincing parents to allow their daughters to join community youth groups, and in Pakistan, religious leaders were instrumental in supporting youth engagement and involvement via parents and the broader community.

**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.**

All MRMV projects cited examples of duty-bearers – at all levels – recognising child and youth groups as valid bodies to engage, discuss and consult with on issues pertaining to health and education services. In five MRMV projects, there was evidence of 111 initiatives where youth groups were formally recognised by duty-bearers as representatives of the youth population of their communities and invited to engage in discussions and participate in initiatives relating to their peers' health and education rights. The greatest number was in Tanzania, where all democratically-elected *barazas* (student councils) were identified and acknowledged by head teachers and district educational officers as

being the representative body of student populations in their respective schools. Moreover, in all eight countries duty-bearers took action as a result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy activities. In Nepal, Village Development Committees (VDCs) approved and earmarked funds to implement 28 proposals formally submitted by CDCs. While it is still too early to see changes in policies, recommendations from young activists have been included in draft policies on five occasions. In Afghanistan, through an MRMV partner organisation, youth representatives had their input integrated into the country's first youth policy. Evidence in all countries reveals that duty-bearers and 'influencers' (policy-makers, head teachers, village elders and other power-holders) are meaningfully engaging with children and youth, listening and taking their experiences, needs, and recommendations seriously, and taking initial action.

**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.**

In an effort to strengthen cross-programme connections and global networking among peers, representatives of MRMV youth groups were involved in two global events, facilitated by Oxfam and partners. These provided an opportunity for youth to engage with global campaigners and programme staff to exchange learning, build capacity and inform the overall direction of the programme's (global- and national-level) advocacy work. These meetings resulted in youth participating in analysis, monitoring and formulating a global-level MRMV advocacy agenda and country-specific advocacy plans. All countries now have structures in place to facilitate children and youth voice in project activities and strategies. By the end of Year Two, Youth Advisory Boards were functioning in five out of eight countries, with the remaining three facilitating similar group structures to support accountability and quality. As well as strengthened capacity to work with youth, progress was made in sharing country-specific examples of MRMV work to international audiences, predominantly through social media.

While MRMV is already being regarded as innovative, the number of approved new projects supported by the programme's Learning and Innovation Fund rose to eight in Year Two. All projects experimented with innovative and non-traditional ways of working, reviewing and communicating to engage children and youth and strengthen their ability to express themselves in public spaces and to duty-bearers and power-holders. This report provides an overview of progress against the MRMV Global Programme Framework along with developments and highlights from the second year.



# 2. INTRODUCTION



## OVERVIEW

My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) is an innovative global programme engaging marginalised children and youth – in all their diversity, and especially girls and young women – and their allies in their rights to health and education services. The belief behind 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, to deliver on these provisions effectively, and ultimately to be listened to as members of society and rights-holders: as ‘active citizens’. The programme recognises the vital role that children and youth – alongside their allies, such as parents, teachers, and community nurses – can play in their own personal development and in that of their wider communities. Oxfam and our partners believe that the greatest and most lasting impacts on the lives of children and youth will be achieved if they themselves are supported to become active citizens.

The three-year programme delivers a holistic and contextualised vision of the rights of children and youth to health, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and education, in eight countries – Afghanistan, Georgia, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Tanzania and Vietnam – adapting activities and focus depending on the specific conditions of children and youth in those countries. Whilst the thematic focus differs from country to country – some work on health, others on education, some on SRH, a few on more than one of these issues – all of these country-level projects place marginalised children and youth, especially girls and young women, as ‘active citizens’ at the centre of their thinking, approaches and activities. In addition, a global layer connects and reinforces each country project with the aim of driving and supporting programme learning and

innovation, influencing and partnering with global peers and stakeholders, and ensuring effective programme management and accountability, ultimately to deliver better outcomes and have the greatest impact on the lives of children and youth.

## THE JOURNEY SO FAR

The MRMV programme, principally funded by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida), has been implemented for the past two years. Across all eight countries, we have already seen impressive examples of young people, with support from their allies, growing in their levels of awareness and confidence to claim their rights. In Year One (January to December 2012) work was focused on increasing levels of rights awareness and confidence, deepening knowledge and creating spaces for children and youth to come together – all in relation to their health and education rights; the first stages to support them and their allies in becoming ‘agents of change’.

Year Two has deepened and built on these foundations, but purposefully strengthened children’s and youth’s skills and their individual and collective levels of confidence to agree and share an agenda, and to ‘voice’ their rights amongst peers, allies and duty-bearers.

Oxfam and its partners, working together in the fight against poverty and injustice, view poverty as not only relating to a lack of material resources, but also a lack of voice, power and opportunities. Achieving accessible quality education and health services for children and youth is a fundamental necessity to tackling poverty and powerlessness. The most lasting impacts on the lives of children and young people will be achieved only if they themselves are supported to become actively engaged in voicing their rights to, and demanding and monitoring accessible quality education and health services in their communities.

‘Youth cannot wait to become future leaders, they want to act. All they need now is the space for it, and they can and should create it.’<sup>2</sup>

Mina Thapa (partner representative) and Khusbu (Children’s Health Committee member) both involved in MRMV in Nepal



## YEAR OF VOICE AND AGENCY

Our second year has seen tremendous examples of young 'agents of change' at community and national levels. If the second year of MRMV were to be given a title it would perhaps go by 'the year of youth voice and agency'. The young people involved in the MRMV programme made their voices heard: through our Youth Advisory Boards (which inform the planning and strategies of each MRMV country project); in the spaces where MRMV youth participants meet to share, learn and develop strategies together (school clubs, health committees, community discussion classes, student councils, etc); in the spaces where young people have engaged with duty-bearers at the community and national levels; and in spaces at the global level (through both physical spaces at the Annual Learning Event and Global Advocacy Workshop, and virtual spaces via online platforms). If last year we had strong examples of increased awareness, knowledge and confidence, this year we have heard strong and knowledgeable individual and collective voices taking forward the demands and aspirations of individuals, their peers and their 'communities'. It has been impressive to see and hear.

## NOT WITHOUT COMPLEXITY

With such strong results in relation to altering beliefs and changing behaviours, there is always a need for deep levels of reflection and analysis. These are complex and contextual processes which highlight the competing forces of the external environment and power relations (both visible and hidden), and the internal changes and transformation taking place at an individual and group level. With rights awareness, knowledge and increased confidence also come responsibilities: both of youth to claim their rights, and of the state (when it exists and is capable) to deliver. The second year of the programme has seen these complexities, challenges and opportunities play out across the country projects. A dilemma for this programme, along with other, similar initiatives, and societies where a large proportion of the population is under the age of 26 (as is the case in many of the countries where MRMV is being implemented) is how to best support children and young people to become the very best they can be within their families, communities and world. With rising levels of youth unemployment globally, reduced or no investment in child- and youth-focused services as part of economic measures, and increasing levels of privatisation amongst the education and health care sectors, this is a question for our times.

Combined with this, institutional, social and cultural hierarchies and perceptions (young people are 'too young', 'immature', 'lacking knowledge and experience') and the diversity among young people also limit the places and spaces for the vital articulation of their needs and concerns. These difficulties result in the reduced participation of children and youth, even in development initiatives intended to address their needs.<sup>3</sup>

## LOOKING BACK TO MOVE AHEAD

This Annual Progress Report analyses work undertaken and progress against our Global Programme Framework over 2013. As is evident, MRMV went to a deeper level of analysis and programming in Year Two. As well as evidence of increased levels of confidence, knowledge and innovation amongst young people involved in the programme, this development could also be seen in many of the initiative's stakeholders, along with Oxfam and partner staff. This change was evident in their engagement with children and youth and in the development of work and strategies. Again, there have been challenges, surprises and progress throughout the year, mistakes, revisions and learning. We still have a long way to go towards our goal and objectives and the learning from Year Two will be critical to our further development as a programme. However, the results are promising and set us off in a stronger position going into our final year. A key achievement has been that young men and women are increasing their space and influence across the programme, and inspiring, challenging and working with us to drive forward the quality of the programme and their role in their societies as active citizens.



# 3. CONTEXT



## OVERVIEW

Over the course of MRMV's second year, there have been a number of socio-political events in many of the countries where the programme is being implemented, including several parliamentary and presidential elections and political campaigns. Globally, youth unemployment and underemployment remains a pressing issue. The International Labour Organization's (ILO) report 'Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013: A generation at risk' highlighted that global youth unemployment was estimated to stand at 73.4 million in 2013. The report also estimated that in some developing economies, two-thirds of young people are 'underutilized', that is to say unemployed, in irregular and insecure employment, or not in the labour force, education or training. With increasing levels of contact and opportunities to engage and listen to the young people involved in the MRMV programme during 2013, it was very clear that a trend was emerging from what we were hearing. Health and education were critical to their lives and future, but issues relating to current and future employment were also a pressing concern which emerged across all eight countries. Personal security and violence against girls and women also arose in focus group discussions and in spaces where young people were exchanging their fears, hopes and aspirations. These events and critical reflections have challenged us in our global and national-level analysis, planning and implementation in different ways across the programme's diverse country and social contexts.

## NATIONAL CONTEXTS

Several major elections took place in MRMV project countries throughout 2013. These included Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Mali and Pakistan and a newly elected President in Georgia. In addition to this, Nepal held an election for its constitutional assembly. In September, young MPs in Afghanistan launched a campaign to encourage Afghan youth to participate in the 2014 Presidential and Provincial elections, which acknowledged the large youth demographic and sizeable number of potential youth voters in the country. Major events continued to unfold in Mali, with French forces arriving in January to secure the north of the country after militants extended control there following the coup d'état of 2012. Once again, these events intensified the national-level analysis undertaken by country teams. Opportunities were also identified by country teams and youth to engage in some of these moments. In Mali, youth involved in the MRMV project were heavily engaged in designing and implementing a youth-focused election campaign which involved encouraging youth-voter registration, and increasing awareness about their rights to health and education.

## GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

At the global level, we have continued to monitor the numerous post-2015 initiatives that are ongoing, specifically those involving youth and children in the thinking and work regarding the new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Young people involved in some MRMV projects have also engaged in online forums where they have had the opportunity to share their views on the next set of SDGs, but for many of them this is still very new and we envisage that this engagement will increase in 2014. Over the course of the year the programme has engaged and exchanged with other INGOs, including Restless Development and MS ActionAid Denmark.

## ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

In 2013, Oxfam launched its strategic plan for 2013-2019, which highlights the importance of strengthening the capacity of CSOs, and focusing on supporting youth, women and indigenous people's organisations in both rural and urban settings. Oxfam's strategy particularly focuses on women and youth because deep-rooted inequalities of societal power are often gender- and generation-based. The MRMV programme is presently Oxfam's only global programme working directly with young people to connect and support them as social change leaders and to strengthen youth organisations and networks in their efforts to overcome poverty and injustice.



# 4. COUNTRY PROGRESS REVIEWS







# AFGHANISTAN

## SAMERA'S STORY

'Education and health play an important role in society and in the development of youth. I think that our participation in youth groups is a big achievement for us which has raised our voice and seen action towards our demands. When we face any problem we develop a policy and according to that policy we can raise our voice, share the problem with other committee members, then share it with the provincial youth group for which I am a representative. We then raise the issue with the relevant government authorities with support from the Afghan Civil Society Forum Organisation [MRMV partner]. In terms of education, we've succeeded in solving book shortage issues in some schools and regarding health we've monitored clinics and noted problems.

As a young person, I would like to ask the government to take youth issues into consideration and provide regular events and training for youth development because we are an important sector of society and could bring about real and lasting change in Afghanistan. If the government involves us we could play a role in the stabilisation of our country and bring about positive changes in politics.'

Samera, aged 18, MRMV provincial youth group representative



## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

After receiving permission from community elders, parents and local religious leaders in the first year of the project, the Afghanistan team has rapidly expanded the number of community youth groups to 180. In Year Two, the My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) team established youth councils at the district and provincial level to foster networking among youth and create leverage for higher-level policy changes. These youth councils consist of elected and chosen representatives from community groups, and a network of connected young people is now emerging, linking local to district and provincial levels. The government has also given permission for university youth groups, and intensive training has enabled district, provincial and university youth groups to educate their peers at the community level on advocacy, education and reproductive health issues.

Oxfam and partners have also connected district and provincial youth councils to corresponding government authorities to discuss ways to improve access to, and the quality of, education and health services. The inclusion of youth representatives in the monitoring activities of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has further increased youth visibility. Young women have played an important role in these activities, and 88 youth groups are led by young women. In addition, 107 girls and young women participated in meetings with partners on project activities, and 37 girls and young women were part of the AIHRC monitoring activities. In a country with severe travel restrictions, particularly for females, this is a huge achievement, indicating shifting practices and beliefs among parents, community elders and local leaders.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- 600 community members and leaders, including *mullahs* (religious leaders) and parents have recognised the importance of youth participation and allowed them to join groups at the community, district and provincial level.
- Supported by Oxfam and partners, government officials at district and provincial levels are including youth in their planning processes, while selected youth have had their input integrated into the national government's draft youth policy.
- The MRMV team organised a learning event in Kabul to enable youth from the four MRMV provinces to connect and develop a shared agenda. The event provided space for youth to directly interact with duty-bearers, including government ministers, Members of Parliament, the AIHRC, the UN, and various Civil Society Organisations and media outlets. The event was broadcast on 15 radio and television channels throughout the country.

## CHALLENGES

- Security risks and extreme winter weather conditions make it difficult for district and provincial youth councils to meet regularly.
- There is a risk that youth groups will be exploited by politicians campaigning during the 2014 presidential elections.
- Community youth groups have indicated that they would like more activities to be organised for them, and with the focus on district and provincial youth councils, there is a risk that they will lose interest in the project. To mitigate these risks, three community-level debates on relevant social issues were organised in 2013 involving 421 youth members, and these activities will be continued during 2014.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- To overcome travel restrictions, youth groups are using an innovative internet platform to interact. 'Bayan' is a social network with combined SMS and social media tools which enables networking and joint campaign efforts.
- To increase youth group participation, partners are organising literacy classes to enhance members' education. Oxfam and partners are also considering helping youth group members to obtain identification cards, as some government institutions have asked for this documentation before agreeing to meetings with government officials.



# GEORGIA

## ANA'S STORY

'I knew nothing about my health rights until two years ago when I became involved in MRMV and became the youth club leader at my school. Information has come through training seminars with my peers, receiving booklets and becoming familiar with all the latest news around health care. I've also met other young people involved in MRMV from different parts of Georgia and exchanged experiences and opinions. We've done a lot to bring up health care issues in our city through campaign actions, pantomime and even demonstrations. I've also conducted training workshops in my school and shared information and skills with my peers.'

A very large part of the population in Georgia doesn't even know what their rights are due to a lack of information, and therefore cannot even defend them. I think awareness should start from a young age and children should be provided with information about their rights at school. Young people also need to communicate with local and central government so that the government takes notice of our problems and concerns and can respond to every question and problem we have.'

Ana, aged 17, MRMV youth club leader



## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

The Georgia MRMV project reached its target number of youth groups, CBOs (22) and family doctors (25) in its first year of implementation. In the project's second year, the MRMV team continued to strengthen these youth groups and worked to raise the capacity of CBOs and family doctors to identify and report child health rights violations. Although the project experienced some delays due to the newly-elected government introducing a new health policy framework, progress has been significant. Project staff have noted that children and youth in the project are able to talk about health rights and issues more easily and with more clarity than in 2012. CBOs and family doctors reported a total of 92 cases of child rights violations to the Public Defender's Office (PDO), of which 81 were resolved. Progress was also made in youth groups'

ability to initiate, plan and implement their own projects, which has greatly enhanced their sustainability. Furthermore, the MRMV team launched the wide-reaching national campaign 'I Have A Right To Live' together with 20 renowned Georgian journalists to raise public awareness and state accountability around the health rights of young leukaemia patients.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- A clear example of the increased autonomy of the project's youth groups is the publication of the first youth newspaper on health rights issues. Five thousand copies of the newspaper were distributed by the youth groups in their schools and communities.
- The 'I Have A Right To Live' campaign was led by 20 journalists who generated extensive media attention in newspapers and on radio stations and television channels. The campaign asked the government to allocate sufficient financial resources for children's health care, especially for children with leukaemia. In the project regions, youth groups organised a wide variety of events to back the campaign, including demonstrations and pantomime performances explaining the need for affordable quality child health care services. After the one-month campaign, the government allocated resources to finance bone marrow transplantation for children with leukaemia and to support the establishment of a leukaemia centre.
- With partners, the project developed and finalised a health-rights monitoring strategy for the PDO, which was presented to major stakeholders. The strategy will be piloted in 2014.

## CHALLENGES

- Many youth group members are finishing their secondary school education and will soon leave the areas where the project is being implemented. To mitigate this loss, project partners have organised meetings with young people to recruit new group members and facilitate the transferral of knowledge and skills.
- The Oxfam country office in Georgia may be closed in the near future, which limits development of a potential second phase of the MRMV project. In 2014, a phase-out strategy will be formulated emphasising the need to make MRMV activities sustainable in the work of CBOs, family doctors and youth groups.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- Recruiting well-known journalists to support the 'I Have A Right To Live' campaign generated far more exposure than would otherwise have been possible, and their strong involvement in defining the agenda provided them with the motivation to write articles and organise radio and television shows. In 2014, the MRMV project will build on this partnership by exploring other areas of overlapping interest in the area of child and youth health rights.
- The MRMV Georgia team is seeking to develop youth groups' autonomy by funding youth-based initiatives. For example, the project supported an anti-smoking campaign initiated and organised by youth groups in Shida Kartli and Samegrelo regions. Here, the predefined Oxfam and partner agenda is slowly being replaced by the shared agenda of youth groups.



# MALI

## ADAM'S STORY

'What is really special about MRMV is that youth are at its core. Youth are participating in the analysis, the development and the implementation of activities and that is rare. Because in general, there are projects that are geared towards youth, but they are only onlookers. But in MRMV we have something to say. We know ourselves what problems we are facing. What is missing in many African countries is that the leaders do not have confidence in youth. So youth have to be recognised as key actors of change to have them participate, to give them responsibilities and place trust in them.'

A special moment in MRMV last year was the election campaigning. We're with thousands of youth, we all have our voter cards, we want to vote for someone who takes into account our needs with regards to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights and quality education. So [the presidential candidates] told us "That's not our priority right now, our priority is the war [in the North]". We told them, "Health and education are essential. If you don't sign this commitment, we're not going to vote for you." We discussed and discussed until they all signed.'

Adam, aged 21, MRMV Youth Advisory Board Member



## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

After the Mali project's challenging start in 2012, and despite ongoing political turmoil in the country, its second year saw far-reaching progress on its work around education and SRH. In 2013, the 'Learning About Living' initiative (rebranded *Info Ado*) launched a website in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to provide information on SRH. Website users can anonymously post and receive answers to questions on these issues, while mobile telecom providers have assigned an SMS number for youth without internet access. A Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was established in early 2013, which worked closely with MRMV staff to organise a youth-led campaign around the presidential elections. Over 1,700 youth activists helped their peers to register

as voters and raised public awareness on education rights. Around 200 youth activists analysed presidential candidate manifestos and lobbied them to include the views and concerns of young people, especially with regard to education and SRH.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- As a result of the collaboration with the Ministry of Health around *Info Ado*, mobile telecom providers agreed to allocate an SMS number for questions relating to SRH. 1,216 questions were received and answered by a team of six tele-counsellors in the first two months.
- The Ministry of Education has shown a strong interest in the MRMV project, and SRH e-learning activities are due to be piloted in 13 schools. The Ministry has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Oxfam, which will greatly enhance the sustainability of project activities.
- The lobbying of presidential candidates to include youth issues around education and SRH in their manifestos gained extensive media attention, and two of the three candidates signed commitments to do so. While none of the three candidates were elected, one has become a minister. In Year Three, youth activists will monitor commitments to the pledges.

## CHALLENGES

- Ongoing political instability continues to be a factor hindering project scale-up. Most of the existing MRMV activities are limited to the urban areas of Segou and Bamako.
- Integration of hard-to-reach marginalised young people in project activities has proved difficult. In Year Three, the YAB will work with Oxfam and partners to try to reach out-of-school youth through informal groups. This strategy has been influenced by the MRMV project in Niger, which organises inclusive groups starting with groups of friends.
- Collaboration between MRMV and the Oxfam Quality Educators programme in Mali is progressing, albeit slowly. Teacher unions, which are a powerful partner in the latter, do not always consider MRMV youth as serious partners with a shared agenda.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- The formulation in November 2012 of a separate outcome with specific indicators on youth involvement gave a strong incentive to include youth in project activities around both education and SRH. This allowed the YAB to successfully claim space in both components, which greatly improved synergy between the two.
- The creation of a comprehensive ICT package consisting of the *Info Ado* website, the e-learning curriculum and SMS services, means young people now have access to correct information about their SRH and can anonymously approach professional counsellors with questions. The volume of questions received after the launch of *Info Ado* indicates there is an unfulfilled need for these services.

# NEPAL

## BIPUL'S STORY

'I got involved in the Children's Health Committee (CHC) at my school because I wanted to contribute to my society. We've done many awareness-raising campaigns to improve the situation in our school and community, such as door-to-door campaigns and forum theatre performances on health services and access to medicines. Now, most young women in our area know about the importance of going for health check-ups during pregnancy and their right to free medicines.

Becoming CHC chairperson has helped me to improve my leadership skills. Before, I was very shy, but now I can talk in front of large groups and share my insights with older people. We used to think that the Village Development Committee (VDC) budget for children wasn't an issue for us to get involved in, but now we monitor the budget allocation and make sure that it goes towards scholarships for poorer students. My ultimate wish is to change society by becoming a teacher or national leader – I would like to implement laws on health and social problems such as child marriage and discrimination. These sorts of issues are really important because at the moment they are dragging society backwards.'

**Bipul, aged 15, MRMV Children's Health Committee Chairperson**



## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

In the project's first year, some strong examples of groups successfully advocating for improvements in community health services had already emerged. In Year Two, this evidence increased substantially, with the 18 CHCs and 81 Community Discussion Classes (CDCs) established in Year One creating far-reaching changes in their communities. In 2013, the number of CDCs increased to 91 and all groups attended refresher training in health rights and services – particularly maternal health – as well as in advocacy and the strengthening of groups. In the first months of 2013, Oxfam and partners also created spaces for groups to interact with local-level decision-makers such as VDCs – opportunities which groups then built upon and expanded. As in 2012, young women's leadership is widespread: all 91 CDCs are led by women,

while 535 women from the CDCs have been invited to take positions in various local-level public decision-making bodies including Parent Teacher Associations and Community Forest Users' Groups. This involvement has greatly enhanced the way in which women can influence decisions affecting their lives. The CDCs and CHCs are also having an impact on the project through quarterly review and planning meetings facilitated by Oxfam and partners in VDCs and districts. At these meetings, group representatives evaluate project activities and have a say in future initiatives, thereby increasing their confidence and planning abilities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Twenty eight demands from CDCs and CHCs to local-level authorities have been granted, ranging from constructing a community building to providing funds for sports and extracurricular activities in schools.
- Nine official Community Health Service Monitoring Committees established at VDC level are monitoring health services. The monitoring committees include representatives from CDCs.
- A Citizens' Manifesto on Health was written in consultation with CHCs and CDCs and was presented by representatives of these groups to leaders of the main political parties. These leaders included the Manifesto's recommendations in their political programmes.

## CHALLENGES

- The success of the project has created demand from other communities for broader implementation. Some stakeholders have also requested that the MRMV team extend support to income-generating activities and livelihoods initiatives. The team has emphasised the project's focus on child, youth and maternal health rights.
- The project has been very successful in raising community awareness and demand for government services and accountability. As the government structures have limited capacity to fulfil all these demands the resultant shortfall in service provision creates tension and potential conflict between communities and government.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- To increase local government officials' involvement in and ownership of the project, the MRMV team invited local duty-bearers and rights-holders (including CHC and CDC members) to co-design and implement project activities. This has led to increased commitment from local duty-bearers to the success of the project.
- To stimulate discussions within communities on issues around their health rights, the MRMV team provided selected CHC members with training in forum theatre. The actors perform plays to community members on relevant issues, and ask the audience to provide solutions and intervene to change the outcome of the play. The performances have helped to mobilise communities around how they can collectively fight local problems such as poor health services, domestic violence and child marriage.

# NIGER

## NOURIDINE'S STORY

'As leader of my *espace* (youth confederation), I facilitate meetings and discussions every two weeks on questions around education rights and SRH rights affecting youth in my community. Thanks to MRMV, I have benefited from several capacity-building sessions on rights and communication and campaign techniques. This training has allowed me to improve my public speaking skills, to make me more aware of my responsibilities, and above all to have access to a lot of information which enables me to be a leader in my group and in my community. My involvement in the project has also had an impact on parents as there is now collective awareness around issues such as educating young girls and the dangers of child marriage.

One of the best contributions of MRMV is that my community now has internet access. Before the project, more than 95 per cent of the youth there did not have access— we did not even have a simple email account. But now we are rushing onto the internet, connecting ourselves and making the most of social networks like Facebook and Google to exchange with other young people all over the world.'

Nouridine, aged 19, MRMV *Espace* Leader



## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

In early 2013, the Niger project reached its target number of *espaces*. At present there are 70 *espaces*, each comprising five youth groups, with approximately 20-25 members. While the youth groups are single sex, the *espaces* are made up of a mixture of both girls' and boys' groups. Throughout Year Two, all group leaders received intensive training on leadership skills, group formation, and education and SRH rights. Group leaders have become important sources of information for group members as well as for their parents and other adults, speaking during Friday sermons to inform their communities about training content and

youth group activities. Popular culture has also been a successful strategy in connecting with youth in Niger, and in 2013 youth groups collaborated with a famous rap group, a poet and a theatre group. The artists supported selected youth group members to write raps, poems and plays to express their needs and aspirations around education and SRH rights, which were then performed to peers and in local communities, and broadcast on local radio stations. In Year Three, this initiative will be evaluated to share lessons on alternative spaces and ways for youth to express their rights.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Radio broadcasts continue to be an important channel to raise awareness around project activities and education and SRH rights. In 2013, 43 radio shows were broadcast in which two youth group members debated with adults on their rights to health and education services.
- A small local initiatives fund has been established for youth groups, and members have been trained in problem analysis and proposal writing to assist with funding applications. MRMV received 40 proposals, ranging from funds for a maternity centre roof to seed-funding for a youth-operated medicine distribution chain. Thirty applications have been approved.

## CHALLENGES

- So far, youth groups have prioritised local-level activities aimed at improving immediate problems without looking at deeper causes. For example, while an initiative to construct a local maternity facility indicates commitment from groups, it raises the issue of supporting state provision of health and education services.
- Similarly, linking local problems identified by youth groups to higher-level advocacy is a challenge. At present, only partner organisations carry out national-level advocacy around the quality of education.
- In the *espaces*, boys' youth groups tend to dominate discussions at the expense of the girls' groups. Female members often find it difficult to speak about sensitive issues, especially with boys and adults. A potential strategy to improve this may come from Tanzania, where the MRMV team has developed a girls' leadership initiative.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- The establishment of a small fund for youth initiatives has been an innovative way of encouraging young people's active involvement in community issues around health and education.
- Strengthening and formalising existing youth groups has proved to be an inclusive strategy for reaching youth both in and out of school. Within the groups, it continues to be the more educated youth who are elected by peers for leadership positions, indicating that education is crucial for citizenship.
- A 'one-size-fits-all' approach to awareness-raising and training sessions for girls' and boys' youth groups does not take into account gender relations and girls' leadership. Specific strategies for girls will be adopted in order to improve their self confidence and enable them to take on leadership positions within their communities.



# PAKISTAN

## A YOUNG WOMAN'S STORY

'MRMV in Pakistan is a mass-awareness campaign for youth to be more aware of their SRH rights and have better access to health, education and sexual health services. The special thing about MRMV is that it involves young people. Sixty per cent of people in our country are youth, the majority of the population. Through MRMV, youth are given opportunities to address their rights; to fight for them. MRMV's local partners have conducted seminars and dialogue between youth, policy-makers and religious scholars involving health and education ministers and other government ministers, and they have shown a positive response because MRMV has given us the opportunity to talk to them face-to-face.

Many positive changes have occurred. Two months ago, a bill was passed in two provincial assemblies in Pakistan against child marriage, and to implement the law in a better way. Youth are the ones who face these problems, and MRMV has given us the opportunity for equal participation, to engage policy-makers, and address our problems more effectively, because that's the best way – that we ourselves talk to them about what we experience and what problems we are going through.'

MRMV Youth Advisory Board Member, aged 20

## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

In the second year of the Pakistan project, the MRMV team continued its campaign to raise awareness around SRH rights. This was done through television and radio talk shows on the importance of education on SRH in schools, as well as through concerts with famous Pakistani artists which were broadcast on television. A campaign was also launched targeting men, stressing the important role of fathers in their daughters' upbringing. In addition, the project engaged with religious leaders who preached during Friday sermons about the importance of education on SRH in schools. Through these small-scale activities, the campaign was able to reach more than 1.5 million people – mostly men – in the nine project districts. Millions more read articles about the campaign in national newspapers, while others were reached through social media (27,000 via a campaign page on Facebook) and SMS messages (5,000). The campaign will be further strengthened in 2014 by an edutainment soap on the importance of education on sexual and reproductive health. In 2013, the script was finalised and the main actors and producers were identified. The programme will be broadcast in 2014.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Seventy religious leaders from all denominations of Islam pledged their support to the campaign; some through written statements, others through video testimonials. In addition, 33 imams preached on the importance of education on SRH in their Friday sermons with thousands of community members and parents present.
- Journalists from leading media outlets have also become allies of the MRMV project on their own initiative, promoting the importance of education on SRH rights in newspaper articles and on television and radio shows.

## CHALLENGES

- The campaign's success has brought it to the attention of opponents to education on SRH rights, who issued counter messages in the media and put pressure on allies to withdraw their support. In 2014, the campaign's allies will increase their efforts to challenge these negative messages.
- The project's edutainment soap will be aired in Year Three, and it will be difficult to assess its impact before the project finishes.
- Youth involvement in project activities is high. However, the frequency of activities means they are often incompatible with their education schedules; it is therefore difficult to keep youth involved for long periods.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- Religious leaders' video testimonials have been important in countering any religiously-motivated objections from the media or government officials, as well as in garnering support.
- The YAB wrote a monitoring report highlighting their views on the quarterly progress of the project and provided recommendations.
- Public transport was an important channel to communicate campaign messages. As part of a campaign targeting fathers, a telop (moving text superimposed onto a screen) was displayed for one month in 250 buses operating around the country. The bus company estimated at least 20,000 bus-users saw the telop per day, a total of approximately 0.6 million over the month.

# TANZANIA

## ROSE'S STORY

'The changes that I need to see at my school are more science teachers, a well-equipped laboratory and enough books in the library. MRMV can help me to bring these changes because participating in project activities has improved our knowledge and created spaces that enable us to give our opinions at school, to communicate with decision-makers, and to ask teachers to respond to issues we have raised.

MRMV has empowered me to become a leader: I am the school head prefect and a chairperson of the *baraza* (student council), where we discuss the various challenges we face in school. In the *baraza* (student council) we have managed to solve some of our school's book needs by setting agendas, discussing them, and contacting teachers and duty-bearers. It has also helped us to obtain water at the students' hostel, to improve student discipline, and to elect the leaders we want, and whom we trust to listen to us and defend our needs. Elected leaders become confident in fulfilling their responsibilities because they are respected and supported by other students who have voted for them.'

Rose, aged 18, Chairperson of the MRMV-supported Student Baraza



## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

Election campaigns for new student leaders have become common in the 87 schools of the MRMV project in Tanzania. In 2013, new elections were held in most schools, which in turn increased the number of youth leaders. A total of 21,406 students and 162 mentor teachers have continued to attend civic education courses, deepening their knowledge on education rights and services in

schools. There are now 102 community champions who have been raising awareness among parents on the importance of sending children, and particularly girls, to school. In order to support these community champions, 17,212 parents have received information about the importance of democratic election procedures in school elections, and many parents now take an active interest in their children's election campaigns.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- The first improvements in schools which can be attributed to the activities of student *barazas* have started to emerge. In many schools, teacher punctuality has improved and more books are available for students. In one school, a dormitory for girls is under construction after the student *baraza* raised the issue of the long and unsafe road to school. In other schools, students have successfully advocated for water wells, and female-only latrines are being constructed at their schools.
- Close coordination and cooperation with District Education Officers (DEOs) in all three of the project districts is proving successful. DEOs are actively promoting the democratic *baraza* model, and five schools outside of the project have adopted the model.

## CHALLENGES

- Neighbouring schools and communities are requesting to be included in the project while existing student *barazas* need more guidance and support in their advocacy efforts towards head teachers and higher-level education officials. Both demands are straining the capacities of project partners, particularly as providing guidance to student leaders requires new skills beyond awareness-raising and knowledge-building.
- To increase the sustainability of the project, the existing national policy on student *barazas* needs to be adapted. In the third year, the national advocacy strategy will need to influence policy.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- Oxfam and partners are supporting students to become peer educators and to form youth rap groups. Both of these awareness-raising strategies have led to an increased sense of ownership of the project among youth.
- Support for the project can come from unexpected sources. While DEOs are traditionally viewed as duty-bearers and targets for lobbying, they have become strong supporters of MRMV. Evidence of improved academic performance, increased enrolment and lower drop-out rates in project schools is helping them to reach their targets in these areas, and has, therefore, helped to gain their support.

# VIETNAM

## SU'S STORY

'I have participated in many activities of the MRMV project, including life skills training and child-rights training. Now I know there are four main groups of child rights: the right to survival, to protection, to development and to participation. I was trained on how to take pictures and look after a camera. I took pictures on the way to school and during school activities. I also took pictures of my friends' difficulties and then told teachers and local authority leaders to support my friends in dealing with these.

In the future, I want to become an engineer so I can build houses for homeless children and orphans. I hope many children will have the opportunity of participating in the project training.'

Su, aged 12, involved in MRMV project activities



## YEAR TWO PROGRESS

In the second year, the MRMV project in Vietnam has made steady progress in creating space for children and their parents to interact with teachers, education managers and local authorities. A number of child forums were organised at school level in three project provinces, where children expressed their needs and aspirations with their teachers and community. A live television programme on the Provincial Child Forum helped gain the commitment of local decision-makers to promote the implementation of child rights, and children have played an active role in organising school activities such as student clubs and events to promote child rights. Hundreds of parents were also mobilised to participate in the planning and monitoring of school activities and in dialogue with teachers. Teachers also proposed initiatives promoting child participation, including carrying out questionnaires through 'game shows' with learning games on child rights and gender equality. In Year Two, the media was identified as an ally in the project's advocacy strategy, and media representatives were engaged through training workshops and visits to become involved in MRMV activities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Mid-Term Review (MTR) provided strong evidence that the awareness of teachers, parents, boys and girls and their understanding of child rights has increased significantly compared to baseline levels. Students' knowledge and awareness increased in all three project provinces: in Ninh Thuan, figures rose from 10.1 per cent of students interviewed in 2012 to 77.1 per cent in 2013; in Dak Nong, figures rose from 23 per cent to 90.8 per cent; and Lao Cai experienced the largest increase from 4.5 per cent to 80 per cent. These figures clearly indicate that the training sessions and events organised under the MRMV project are having a large impact on knowledge and awareness levels.
- Student self-evaluations during the MTR also showed high levels of confidence in identifying their needs (91.4 per cent, 78.9 per cent, and 84.0 per cent in Ninh Thuan, Dak Nong and Lao Cai respectively), and in communicating their needs and aspirations with teachers (67.1 per cent, 59.2 per cent, and 80.0 per cent).

## CHALLENGES

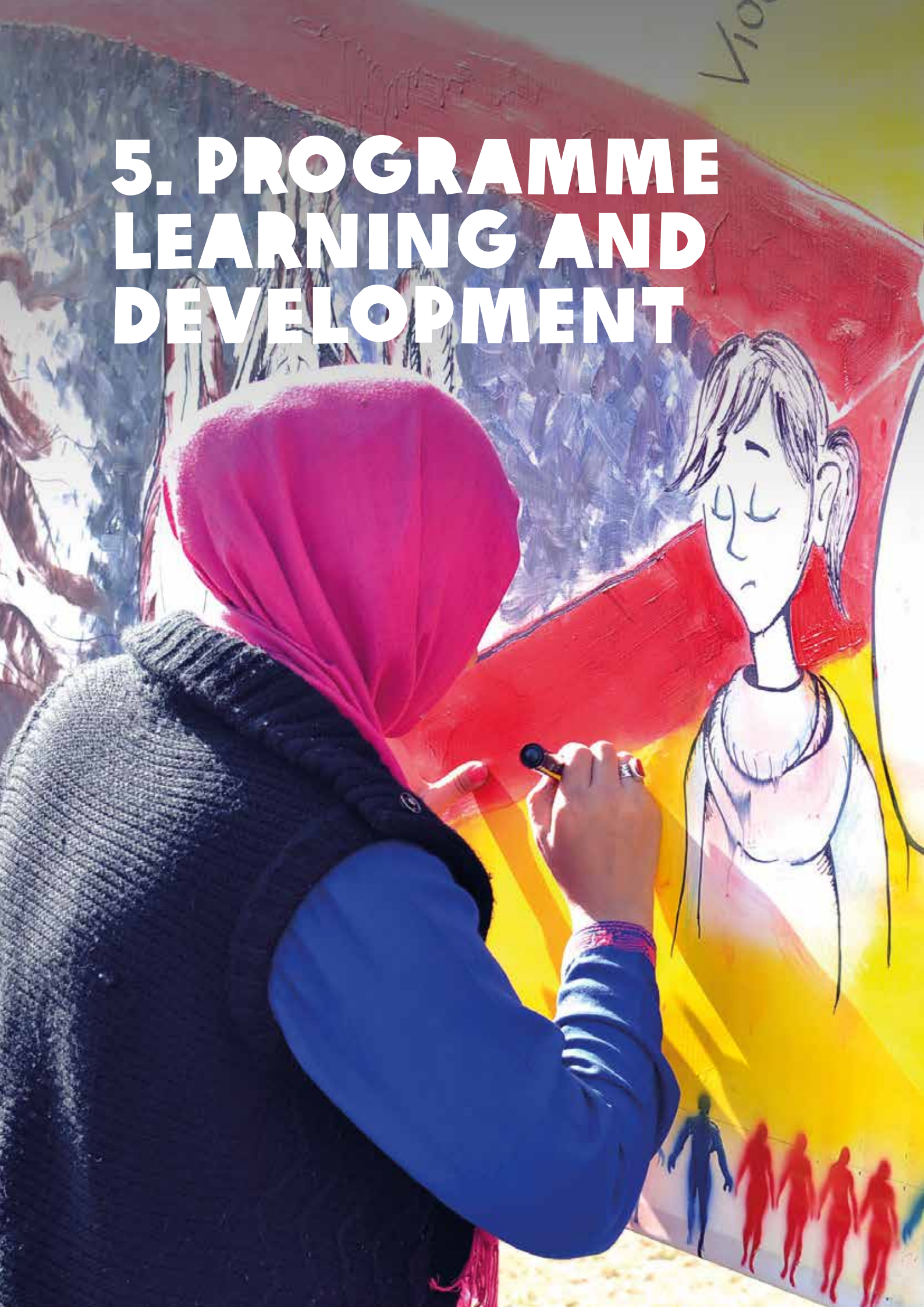
- Being used to hierarchical structures with little autonomy, some partners find it difficult to hand over responsibility to schools, and do not always implement project activities in an empowering way. To address this challenge, it has been agreed that in Year Three, the Project Management Board will focus on monitoring roles while schools will play an active role in project activity planning and implementation.
- Due to long school hours, many project activities take place at the weekend, and while this is wonderful proof of the enthusiasm of schools, teachers, parents and children, it can also stretch their capacity. In Year Three, the project will provide small grants for schools' own initiatives, including integrating project activities into school timetables.

## INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- In Year One, the MRMV team provided digital media support to children through journalist clubs and the 'Photo Voice' project, in which children took pictures of their daily life related to study and shared their visualised stories with friends, teachers, parents and communities. In 2013, the MRMV team carried out a 'Photo Voice' project on a much larger scale, and a mobile photo exhibition is planned in Hanoi and the three project provinces in mid 2014. Children will be supported to convey messages around their education needs to stakeholders at all levels during the project.
- In late 2013, a pilot initiative supported schools to develop a questionnaire bank on child rights. Learning games that were initially developed to attract and strengthen children's ability to participate effectively were used in 'game shows' to deliver the questionnaires, and partners have recommended that the model be implemented more widely.



# 5. PROGRAMME LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



## OVERVIEW

The second year of My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) was one of action, learning, and strengthening of programme quality. Throughout 2013, a tremendous amount of work and impact was seen across all country projects, contributing towards our progress against the MRMV Global Programme Framework (GPF). In addition to this, many global-level cross-programme learning, exchange and joint initiatives took place, with numerous related and integrated activities and moments to strengthen these areas of work and our collective reflection. This work ranged from the continued strengthening and implementation of our Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) plan, through to developing child safeguarding training for MRMV project teams, facilitating a 'peer review' process as part of our mid-term reflection, a review of how we are working on gender justice and youth perceptions of gender, and hosting a global advocacy workshop for youth involved in MRMV. The MRMV Innovation and Learning Fund also received a number of exciting applications to further push the programme in new and innovative directions. Following are highlights and major developments from Year Two.

## WORK, REFLECTION, LEARNING, ACTION

As a global programme, there were four critical moments and processes in Year Two which created space for reflection on our work thus far, allowed for cross-programme learning and ideas to be exchanged, and led to improvements in our existing work, incorporating new thinking and approaches going forward. These were the MRMV Annual Learning Event, the Mid-Term Review (MTR) process, a Strategic Gender Review of MRMV, and a Global Advocacy Workshop for youth involved in the programme. The four initiatives were interconnected, aligned to the programme's objectives and ethos, and critical to driving innovation and progress.

### *MRMV Annual Learning Event 2013*

Youth involved in MRMV along with partner representatives and Oxfam colleagues working on the programme came together in May for the Annual Learning Event in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was the first time that youth involved in MRMV from all eight countries had come together with Oxfam and partners. This diverse and dynamic group brought a deeper level of experience, analysis and ideas to the workshop which would inform the programme's approaches and work for Year Two. The event aimed to bring together MRMV Oxfam and partner staff and youth representatives to reconnect with each other, revisit the programme's core purpose and share learning from the past year. There were four key objectives: first to review progress, share experience and identify learning to take back into our work, exploring in particular how to strengthen quality and foster innovation;

second to refine and further strengthen our knowledge in key areas of practice and programming (e.g. engaging youth and children meaningfully and safely, working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, linking grassroots work to national-level advocacy); third, to renew our relationships and sense of community so as to continue to exchange, learn and provide mutual support during and beyond the learning event; and finally, to re-energise and gain fresh ideas and inspiration for the final stage of the programme.

Having youth representatives as participants meant we were able to hear their wealth of ideas, successes, challenges and aspirations for MRMV and also test our assumptions and approaches. With space for considerable reflection on first-year progress, we also agreed that we would need to strengthen our monitoring, analysis and work on gender justice in Year Two. Following on from this, MRMV MEAL processes were evaluated and strengthened to include greater levels of gender analysis going forward and a Strategic Gender Review was commissioned to provide us with clarity on where we were in our work and thinking to support gender justice and women's rights, and what we could do to go much further. There was also recognition that there would be a considerable focus on advocacy in Years Two and Three (most countries will experience parliamentary or presidential elections) and that country teams were at very different levels in terms of experience and contexts. In order to identify advocacy opportunities in relation to child and youth rights, country teams acknowledged the need to continuously update and reflect on their national-level advocacy strategies and skillsets.

### *Mid-Term Review<sup>4</sup>*

In August 2013, halfway through the programme, the MRMV Global Coordination Team (GCT) commissioned the MTR to assess how the programme had progressed against the GPF in order to identify concrete recommendations for mid-course corrections or improvements at global and country levels if necessary, and to support cross-programme learning. The MTR focused on the period between 15 December 2011 and 31 September 2013, and was conducted in Tanzania, Niger and Nepal, covering the three thematic areas of the programme (education, health and sexual and reproductive health (SRH)). To broaden the scope of the review and stimulate cross-programme learning, the MTR was conducted as a peer review, designed and facilitated by external consultants using the approach of 'Appreciative Inquiry'. This gave MRMV staff from the GCT, Georgia, Mali, Pakistan, Niger, Tanzania, Nepal and Vietnam the chance to very actively participate in the review processes in Tanzania, Niger and Nepal. The Afghanistan team was involved virtually. Colleagues, partners and all stakeholders involved in the programme in the three countries (from school children and



parents, to health officials and duty-bearers) were able to share their experiences and participate in the process.

The MTR explored four key questions with an explicit focus on the rights of girls and young women. It wanted to identify what changes children and youth were beginning to see and experience in relation to their levels of knowledge, confidence and agency to voice their rights to health, education and SRH. In addition, reviewers hoped to establish whether youth agency is being established in country projects through the MRMV programme's engagement of children and youth. Reviewers also wanted to know if there was any evidence that MRMV interventions had led to an increase in allies' support and facilitation of youth agency. Finally, the process asked if there was evidence of meaningful engagement of children and youth in the design, implementation and monitoring of activities in country projects. Reviewers then enquired, analysed and drew conclusions along three perspectives, which formed the basis of the MTR findings. These comprised 'the secret strengths' or working mechanisms of the programme and the country teams; the dilemmas encountered by the teams; and relevant and productive questions for the future of the programme. The belief behind this approach was that the most productive findings would be those that stimulated further thought, learning and action.

During the review process, MRMV working mechanisms were identified by the peer reviewers and consultants in each country and at the global level. Nine strengths were established, including:

- **Building on what is there:** the programme uses existing structures or known methods as a base, rather than imposing a new or globally-unified model.
- **The connectedness of Oxfam MRMV teams with partners:** this collaboration is based on mutual respect and appreciation that goes beyond a contractual relationship.
- **Focus on girls and women:** through positive discrimination of girls and women, the MRMV programme has successfully changed their position and influence in communities.
- **Creating space:** the programme creates spaces in which young people can, and feel safe to, talk about sensitive topics. Additionally, the programme gives room to different approaches and supports diversity.
- **Doing things differently:** the management of the programme has used the 'newness' of the target group as an opportunity to invite Oxfam teams and partners to re-think and re-design how they would typically run programmes and creates a space for innovation and energy.

- **The youthfulness of the programme:** the programme is 'young' in different ways – it is innovative, run by young people, uses social media, and thinks in opportunities instead of challenges. This youthfulness and openness are key reasons why the MRMV approach is successful, as they strengthen and add value to the programme.

In addition, five 'central dilemmas' were outlined for the programme. These dilemmas centred around: the match of interests now versus the mismatch of interests in the future; the Needs-Based Approach versus the Rights-Based Approach; the empowerment promise versus reality; the time needed for development versus short programme cycles; and the pragmatic approach versus the ideological approach.

The review also posed key questions for the future of the programme, which consultants integrated into their recommendations. These included: should we develop the programme in depth or width?; if the remainder of the programme or a possible second phase requires different interventions, what does that mean for those running the programme?; how can the programme deal with younger people getting older?; and how can we shape the role of Oxfam as an advocacy network in a future where empowered young people around the globe influence duty-bearers to improve basic rights?

Finally, consultants noted that at its inception, the MRMV programme created a truly innovative design by viewing youth as a new target group who needed new approaches. They recommended that this strength of the programme team can now, at the mid-term, be put in to practice again. They concluded we should celebrate what we have achieved and, simultaneously, re-invent the programme for its second half and beyond to achieve new and powerful impact. This is an important challenge for us to reflect on and respond to as MRMV, both for sustainability and to further support young people (and their allies) with whom we are working.

In addition to the global MTR, three other countries commissioned project specific MTRs: Vietnam, Pakistan and Afghanistan, with final reports expected in early 2014. Mali postponed its MTR because of project delays and changes in 2012, and in Georgia the MTR was due to coincide with an Oxfam-commissioned review, which was delayed.

### *Strategic Gender Review*<sup>5</sup>

MRMV has made efforts to address gender equality from its conception. It now has an impressive portfolio of innovative and empowering activities that are already bearing fruit. However, as the 2012 Annual Progress Report noted, there is still significant work to be done to strengthen quality gender analyses and gender relations so that the programme



does not measure success by numbers. To address this concern and following discussion on this area at the MRMV Annual Learning Event with Oxfam colleagues, partners and youth representatives, a strategic gender review was commissioned in the fourth quarter of 2013. The review was designed to help the MRMV teams assess the programme's progress in terms of gender, while giving an insight into MRMV youth views and perceptions on gender inequality and active citizenship in their respective contexts. It was also tasked to propose practical recommendations for the final year of the programme and to inform the development of a second phase. The reviewer undertook interviews with Oxfam staff, surveys and live chats with youth representatives, and a literature review of MRMV and external documents on young people's active citizenship. These methods allowed for an examination of the gendered realities of young people involved in MRMV from the perspective of both Oxfam staff and youth, as well as the gendered dynamics within MRMV youth groups and the gender approach of the MRMV programme.

The review recognised that MRMV has done and continues to do an excellent job in supporting young people's active citizenship, and that it has already made an irreversible positive change to a great number of young people's lives. This includes girls and young women, and in supporting them to take on new leadership positions and to participate in youth groups in a meaningful way, the programme has made significant progress towards their ability to have their voices heard and exercise their rights. Approaches which have enabled this change include edutainment, peer education, media activities, leadership training, use of social media, building and supporting an enabling environment, and facilitating spaces that are organised and run by and for young people.

However, the review identified a number of areas where the programme is lacking in gender diversity issues. Particularly significant are the views that young people involved in the programme have on gender equality in their lives and in the groups of which they are a part. Although gendered roles,





responsibilities and relationships condition young people's active citizenship, the young people surveyed disassociate themselves with gender inequality and discrimination, seeing them as 'adult issues' which are perpetuated by older adults rather than as realities for young people and their groups and organisations. The review noted that active citizenship is about going beyond conventional political practices to do politics in new and different ways, including more gender-sensitive ways, as well as behaving differently towards each other in group settings. It concludes that the programme does not currently address gender dynamics sufficiently through its projects.

Some key recommendations are presented for how MRMV can raise the bar and deepen and strengthen its gender perspective. Primarily, the programme should challenge established gendered and patriarchal group dynamics as well as political and organisational practices. MRMV youth groups, as the programme's vehicle for young people's active citizenship, are particularly important in this endeavour,

and the review recommends going beyond supporting girls and young women to perform better in these groups to encouraging gender-sensitive approaches in collective and group dynamics. The programme should do this by both facilitating spaces for gender analysis within youth groups, as well as running workshops on patriarchal group dynamics and 'deep structure' with youth groups, Oxfam staff and MRMV partners. Identifying women leaders as mentors for youth groups would also allow them to develop and strengthen democratic and gender-sensitive group dynamics beyond formal procedures and protocols.

Also essential, particularly for MRMV's second phase, is the development of a specific gender objective for the global programme to help build a shared gender perspective on active citizenship and focus the efforts of the country projects in this direction. In terms of reporting, a clear gender objective would also help define the programme's MEAL needs. Questions in reporting formats should be adjusted to incorporate a deeper gender perspective and to bring



about a more qualitative reflection on gender equality and young women's rights in MRMV. In the second phase, it will also be important to strengthen safeguarding resources to ensure clear and shared policies and guidelines on how the programme works with children and young people.

The report recognises that country teams have an impressive level of knowledge and understanding of the gendered dynamics of young people's lives, while youth participants benefit from exchanging opinions and views on these issues. MRMV should capitalise on this intelligence by capturing and sharing learning on gendered active citizenship as well as facilitating cross-country dialogue and exchange on gender between both staff and youth in different countries. These measures would also improve the programme's understanding of the barriers to active citizenship which are exclusive to girls and young women. Connecting youth groups and organisations with national youth movements and women's rights movements to complement existing networks would similarly strengthen youth representatives' understanding, analysis and practices. MRMV should also feed its experience and knowledge in these areas into Oxfam's international advocacy and influencing work to implement the learning from the programme more widely.

Following these recommendations during both the final year of the programme and the design and development of a potential second phase will allow MRMV to have a bigger and more transformative contribution to gender justice, support young people to do politics in a different way, and in the process redefine what Oxfam means and understands by active citizenship.

## **WORKING WITH YOUTH TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE**

In December 2013, a dynamic group of young people involved in MRMV across all eight countries came together in Nairobi to participate in a 'Global Advocacy Workshop'. The week-long event was developed and designed with the young people and their peers over several months, and in coordination with Oxfam campaigns and communications colleagues and partner representatives. There were two principle dimensions to this initiative and its subsequent outcomes. The first related to 'voice' with a number of creative outputs (participatory videos, blogs, images and stories) being produced in the lead up to, and during, the workshop – both by and with young people who captured their diversity of experiences, aspirations and voice. These communication outputs have and will be used for campaigning purposes and at key moments throughout 2014. The second aspect focused on 'knowledge, skills, space and a shared agenda' with the creation of a global event and through the workshop itself strengthening young people's capacity and skills to campaign and advocate for their rights to health – including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) – and education services. This

event provided youth representatives with a global space in which to develop and strengthen their campaigning and communication skills, and to exchange and network with their peers, culminating with each country group developing an advocacy strategy to take forward in each of their contexts and relating to their rights to health – including SRH – and education over the final year of MRMV. They also developed and agreed a global vision of health and education rights, which they explored through the medium of participatory video. There was mutual recognition that only a select number of youth campaigners involved in MRMV were part of the workshop process. Each youth campaigner returned home with the agreed remit to convene a similar event with their country Youth Advisory Boards to share lessons, skills and strategies and finalise advocacy plans.

This global advocacy project with young people worked towards each of MRMV's objectives in different ways, but the programme's fourth objective was of particular relevance. This advocacy work will inform the direction of our – Oxfam, partners and young people's – advocacy strategy and activities over the remainder of the programme. The following 'comic strip' highlights some of the many inspiring moments from the workshop.



# MY RIGHTS, MY VOICE GLOBAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

IN DECEMBER 2013, OXFAM'S MY RIGHTS, MY VOICE (MRMV) PROGRAMME HELD A GLOBAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP IN NAIROBI FOR YOUTH PARTNERS. 16 YOUTH CAMPAIGNERS CAME TOGETHER WITH OXFAM AND PARTNER STAFF TO NETWORK, SHARE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR SKILLS AROUND ADVOCATING FOR CHILD AND YOUTH RIGHTS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES.



TO START THE WORKSHOP AND INSPIRE THEIR PEERS, EACH COUNTRY TEAM PRESENTED THE WORK THEY HAD BEEN DOING ON MRMV.



PARTICIPANTS SOON GOT STUCK INTO THE WEEK'S AGENDA OF SKILL-BUILDING SESSIONS WHICH THEY HAD DEVELOPED TOGETHER WITH OXFAM STAFF BEFORE THE WORKSHOP...



...INCLUDING ELECTION CAMPAIGNING, SOCIAL MEDIA...



...DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC NARRATIVE, THEORIES OF CHANGE AND ADVOCACY STRATEGIES.







SHARING PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND TEACHING EACH OTHER CREATIVE CAMPAIGNING SKILLS WERE ALSO AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS.



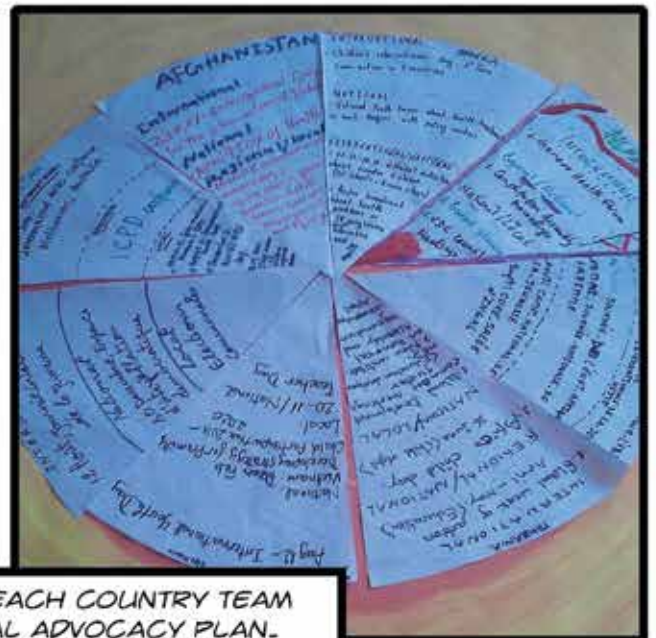
OUTSIDE THE SESSIONS, THERE WAS TIME FOR GAMES, SHARING CULTURE AND GETTING TO KNOW NEW FRIENDS.



THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, PARTICIPANTS STRENGTHENED THEIR COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY, WRITING BLOGS AND FILMING THE EXPERIENCE.



THEY ALSO SPENT A DAY DOING PARTICIPATORY VIDEO TO CREATE A GLOBAL MESSAGE ON YOUTH HEALTH AND EDUCATION RIGHTS AS PART OF THE MRMV GLOBAL ADVOCACY WORK.



BY THE END OF THE WEEK, EACH COUNTRY TEAM HAD DEVELOPED A NATIONAL ADVOCACY PLAN.

THEY WILL SHARE THESE DRAFT STRATEGIES WITH THEIR PEERS AND TAKE PLANS FORWARD WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS DURING 2014.





## ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFEGUARDING

The MRMV programme worked hard to strengthen its accountability and safeguarding measures and approaches. Throughout 2013, all countries continued to organise quarterly review meetings with partners to discuss progress and review implementation plans and activities. The establishment of Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) in most countries (five out of eight) in Year Two has also helped to further strengthen our accountability mechanisms towards young people involved in MRMV. Through the YABs, country project and global teams can proactively solicit and also receive members' views, ideas, concerns and feedback to inform our work, approaches and ideas, and also to explore joint programme initiatives. The YABs have been actively involved in designing and participating in workshops and in informing project work plans and activities. These strategies and activities to strengthen accountability towards stakeholders are recognised by both the partners and YABs. Initial evidence can be found in the results from our annual youth audit (see Annex II), which highlights the significant progress recorded by most countries against Year One results.

Following on from the development of a set of Child Safeguarding Minimum Standards specifically for the programme in Year One, Year Two saw the finalisation of a safeguarding training tool for MRMV. In September this was used when four MRMV country project teams participated in safeguarding training in Tanzania. An identical training which also looked at safeguarding issues in the context of Sharia Law for remaining country teams was also planned, but due to unforeseen circumstances was postponed until 2014. As well as strengthening the MRMV team's ability to assess, mitigate and respond to safeguarding issues, it is also hoped that the training tool will strengthen Oxfam's broader ability to do so across all of its long-term development programmes.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The innovative use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has been a key feature of nearly all MRMV country projects and at the global level over the past year. This has ranged from the use of mobile phone technology to raise awareness about health rights and services, through to radio programmes exploring the complexity of adolescence and SRH, an educational website influencing a national curriculum, global Facebook groups, and Skype calls facilitating co-design and review processes. ICT is a core component of the programme that has helped to connect youth with their peers, as well as to broader networks and initiatives to support child and youth health and education rights, especially in relation to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

During 2013, MRMV has comprehensively developed its digital media strategy to improve connections between programme stakeholders and to facilitate the dissemination of communications and learning materials both internally and externally. A Facebook group was set up for staff, partners and youth participants, while country projects have created their own groups and pages for youth in Afghanistan, Niger, Pakistan and Tanzania. These spaces have facilitated the informal sharing of information, ideas and experiences, while Skype calls and group chats have forged deeper connections between youth peers, and between project staff and youth group representatives. The creation of online social media channels for country projects and the global programme has greatly improved content sharing, including Flickr accounts for event photos, YouTube channels for vox pops, videos and films, and an Audioboo page for radio shows and podcasts. The MRMV Ning website has been made into a public space and undergone extensive improvements in both content and design, while an e-newsletter has been set up to update stakeholders with progress and information. Training in digital media as an advocacy and communications tool has been provided for youth, including blogging radio, photography and participatory video. In 2014, we will continue to use and develop these tools and channels at the country and global level in order to improve cross-programme learning and communications.

## MRMV LEARNING AND INNOVATION FUND

Programme learning and innovation are often hampered by a lack of flexible funding that can be used to implement new ideas, approaches, or technology during the lifetime of a programme. The MRMV Learning and Innovation Fund has been set up to specifically foster learning and innovation across MRMV projects and the broader MRMV global programme, and to test new ideas. After a modest start in 2012 with only two proposals approved, the MRMV Fund gained momentum in 2013 with eight initiatives approved, valuing almost US \$366,283.44. Though different in scope, focus and approach, the proposals (with the exception of a child protection training initiative) had one common feature as they experimented with innovative ways to create alternative spaces and channels for children and youth to express their experiences, needs and aspirations in relation to their rights to health and education. In Vietnam, the fund is supporting a digital photography initiative working with ethnic minority children to express their needs and aspirations to duty-bearers, and in Niger the fund has supported the team in experimenting with popular culture (building on oral traditions) by connecting famous artists from Niger with youth groups to develop rap songs, poems and plays which highlight existing and hoped for education and SRH services.

# 6. PROGRESS AGAINST THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK





## BACKGROUND

The information in this section outlines the progress of the My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) programme against its Global Programme Framework (GPF) at the end of Year Two. Compared to the programme's first year, the evidence for these results is based on several principal sources: quarterly monitoring reports at country and global levels, the global Mid-Term Review (MTR) and country specific MTRs, the Strategic Gender Review and two global events in Vietnam and Nairobi.

In line with our programme's MEAL plan, all countries completed four quarterly monitoring reports over Year Two. The quality of country monitoring reports improved, with less emphasis on outputs and more on progress towards outcomes, and greater attention to gender. The Global Coordination Team (GCT) finalised two six-monthly reports due to overseeing several complex global processes involving all countries. One of these was the global MTR peer-review process, which whilst focusing on work in Tanzania, Niger and Nepal, also provided relevant information and analysis about impact, challenges and lessons for all countries due to the way it was designed and facilitated. Furthermore, Afghanistan, Vietnam and Pakistan initiated their own MTRs, although the Pakistan report

was not yet available to inform this report. Creating space to reflect and analyse our work and strategies was a necessary and critical moment for Oxfam partners and the Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) to participate in. It was also a way to assess the strength and benefits of a global programme community of learning, exchange and peer support.

Impressive progress was seen in all countries with regards to the involvement of youth monitoring activities. This has enhanced social accountability and a sense of ownership amongst youth and allies.

## THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

The MRMV GPF, which the programme is working towards, has the overarching goal of: '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'. Under this sit the programme's four global objectives, each with two corresponding outcomes, outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: My Rights, My Voice Global Programme Objectives and Outcomes**

<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 1.1</b> Boys and girls, young women and men, and their allies are more aware and knowledgeable of their rights to health and/or education.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 1.2</b> Boys and girls, young women and men articulate their needs and aspirations on health and/or education amongst their peers, allies and other actors.</p>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 2</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 2.1</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 2.2</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 3</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 3.1</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 3.2</b> Duty-bearers and influencers take specific actions to improve access to and quality of health and/or education services for boys and girls, young women and men.</p>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 4</b> Oxfam, partners and others have strengthened capacity to work on youth agency in country programmes, and Oxfam's global campaigning force has facilitated youth in claiming and accessing better health and education.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 4.1</b> Young women and men have gained experience in relating to each other and in connecting to campaigners at the global level who support their ability to claim their rights to health and education, thanks to the intervention of Oxfam and partners.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 4.2</b> Oxfam and partners have the knowledge and tools to better engage youth and children in programmes, campaigning and decision-making spaces.</p>



Measurement of the programme's progress is against each of these outcomes. However, it is important to note that they, along with their indicators, are more or less sequential. In most cases, the first is a precondition towards achieving the second, and so forth. As expected, the outcomes and corresponding indicators of objectives 3 and 4 had greater significance in the second year compared to the first. We were also able to gather more substantial evidence to mark progress against these outcomes due to where we are in the programme cycle and the subsequent increase in activity and impact. We are obligated to report on our global impact, but where we have seen strong country-level examples of progress these are also highlighted.

## SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL ATTAINMENT

Implementation of the programme was fully underway in all countries by the start of 2013. Even Mali, which got off to a challenging start, gained momentum in Year Two and incredibly managed to surpass some of its targets. Further success was evident with all country projects achieving their targets for the formation of child and youth groups, within the first six months. This gave space for the programme to prioritise and work towards strengthening the groups, the confidence and skills of its members and leadership. Opportunities were created in all countries (principally at community level and some national moments) for young people to practice their new or strengthened skills and confidently express themselves. At community level, the biggest opportunity came through peer education with children and youth exchanging and informing their friends and peers about their health and education rights, corresponding national laws to support these, and health and education services. Through these peer education activities, outreach almost trebled in 2013 to over 207,000 people (of which 53.7 per cent are girls and women) compared to Year One. This figure excludes the outreach figures reached by the project team and partner in Pakistan, where they managed to reach more than 1.5 million people through their edutainment campaign. In addition to educating their peers, youth activists also informed their parents and other community members about the health and education needs and aspirations of young people, often through innovative mediums like rap, poems, photography, theatre, Friday sermons and social media.

Within MRMV projects, opportunities were also created for children and youth to express themselves and evaluate project strategies through the establishment of YABs and other child and youth structures. With the exception of Vietnam, Nepal and Afghanistan, all countries now have functional YABs that provide constructive feedback, suggestions and input into project activities and strategies;

these also play a role in mobilising peers. In Vietnam, Nepal and Afghanistan, children and youth also have an increasing role in the planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities, but due to travel restrictions, security issues and age limitations, and limited ICT infrastructure it was not possible to formally create YABs.

The growing confidence of children and youth to articulate their needs and aspirations, supported by parents, teachers, health workers and other allies, helped to build the capacity of these young people to formulate a shared and organised voice around the issues relating to their education and health. The growing number of opportunities in Year Two – where children and youth could express themselves in front of their peers, allies and duty-bearers – led to their increased visibility in communities and at district, provincial and, in some cases, national levels. Duty-bearers at all levels are now recognising and inviting child and youth representatives – trained and supported by the MRMV programme – to share their experiences, needs, suggestions and concerns about health and education services. In 2013, evidence grew that these duty-bearers were listening, with increasing examples of decisions subsequently made in favour of child and youth rights.

It is too early to say if this complex web of increased abilities, confidence, opportunities, recognition, relations and any consequential actions has contributed to policy change to improve access to, and the quality of, health and education services, especially for girls and young women. However, there is initial evidence that in some contexts local level services have improved. Furthermore, what we can say at the end of Year Two is that we have witnessed huge changes in practices and beliefs.

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

### OVERVIEW

Achieving strong results against the first objective in the MRMV GPF is a first and crucial step in children and youth being empowered to claim their rights to health and education and express their needs and aspirations for better quality services. For parents, teachers, health workers and other allies, awareness and knowledge about the rights, laws and services the young people under their care are entitled to, are also a first step to understanding the specific needs of children and in increasing support to allow children to engage with society and duty-bearers. In Year Two, MRMV projects found supportive evidence that progress was again made under Objective 1, against both Outcome 1.1 (increased levels of knowledge and awareness) and Outcome 1.2 (articulation of needs and aspirations). Children, youth and their allies – with support from partner organisations

and Oxfam – have taken huge steps forward in creating the conditions in which empowered organised children and youth are confidently articulating their rights, needs and aspirations to quality health and education services to duty-bearers and power-holders.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 1.1: AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE

### PROGRESS SUMMARY

Outreach more than trebled in Year Two, with over 207,000 children, youth and their allies (53.7 per cent girls and women, including allies) reached through awareness-raising messages and information on country-specific health and education rights, laws and services. Impressively, youth themselves were the main reason for this. As young peer educators they used a variety of strategies relevant to peers, including social media and popular culture (e.g. as forum theatre, rap songs, photography and poetry) to educate children and youth, and also parents and other allies in their communities. The role of parents, teachers and other allies appears to be less crucial at this stage than children and youth themselves, further supporting the strength of child and youth agency. Gender relations were identified as an area in need of further attention.

In Year Two, through the work of Oxfam and our partners the number of young people reached with information about their rights to health and education (including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights) almost trebled from 61,666 in 2012 to almost 180,000 in 2013, of which 96,680 were girls and young women (53.7 per cent). This figure does not include the outreach figures for the Pakistan project where it was estimated that its edutainment campaign alone reached 1.5 million people with awareness-raising messages. With so many people coming into contact with the campaign's messaging – via public spaces, radio broadcasts and Friday sermons – it is difficult to disaggregate and present data by gender and age. It was, therefore, decided to present this figure separately.

In order to reach this impressive number of young people, a diversity of awareness-raising approaches were used, both traditional and innovative. Leaflets and booklets explaining health and education rights and country-specific laws and services were distributed in large quantities in Nepal, Pakistan and Georgia. In addition, radio and TV broadcasts were also important channels through which to reach out to young people and their allies across all eight countries. Social media and technology were used as critical mediums to engage, raise awareness, strengthen connectivity and

create virtual space for young people. SMS-messaging was used in Mali and Pakistan, and youth from nearly all countries connected locally and globally via Facebook. Popular youth culture was also factored into awareness-raising activities. In Niger, rap, poetry and popular theatre were all used as information-sharing and communication tools. In Nepal, forum theatre was a key channel through which awareness levels and discussions on health issues (and much more) were increased. In Tanzania, young people recorded their own 'My Rights, My Voice' song to spread the message of education rights amongst peers, allies and duty-bearers.

As highlighted above, a major development from last year's awareness-raising activities was the role played by young people in raising awareness and increasing depth of knowledge and interest through project-planned activities and youth-led initiatives. Midway through Year Two, most awareness-raising activities were through peer-to-peer education and initiatives. This is one of the principle reasons why outreach to children and youth almost trebled. The 2013 'peer educators' were amongst the first recipients of information and awareness-raising activities under MRMV in 2012. This group has evolved into a true cadre of young activists engaging, educating and inspiring peers to listen, learn, connect and act through awareness-raising campaigns (for example in Mali, Vietnam, Nepal, Georgia) or through presentations to the groups they lead (as seen in Niger, Afghanistan, Tanzania). This is an indication that youth has the space, knowledge and confidence to articulate their rights, needs and aspirations.

The MTR process also provided ample evidence that a majority of young people reached can also articulate their rights confidently and knowledgeably. Almost every young person interviewed in Tanzania, Niger and Nepal (close to 400) exhibited a solid knowledge of their rights and could name country-specific services and often corresponding legislation for their provision. This was also the case during peer reviews in Georgia, Vietnam, Mali and Pakistan. Finally, the MTR for the Vietnam project confirmed that children in three target provinces saw enormous improvements in their understanding of child rights.<sup>6</sup>

In Year Two, youth groups and spaces (both physical and virtual) where young people came together, played an important role in increasing outreach. We recognise this would not have been possible without the progress made in 2012 regarding the significant number of child and youth groups that were formed in conjunction with effective leadership training and confidence-building activities. In the experience of MRMV, we have found that group formation needs to go hand-in-hand with awareness-raising as further deepening of newly acquired information and knowledge will not take place without regular reflection. These groups provided a crucial space for discussions and for the election of motivated youth leaders to take the process further.

Year Two also highlighted the importance of knowledge and support from allies. Parents and guardians, teachers, health workers, community elders and other allies have an important role to play in the empowerment of the young people in their care. In 2013 we saw that the growing space and opportunity for children and youth to discuss their experiences, needs and aspirations was in many ways connected with growing levels of rights awareness amongst large numbers of their allies. The number of allies reached through awareness-raising messages increased from 3,302 in Year One to 26,628 (53.6 per cent women) by the end of the second year. The MTR identified MRMV's comprehensive approach around supporting the functioning of effective youth groups student *barazas* in Tanzania, Community Discussion Classes (CDCs) in Nepal and youth *espaces* in Niger) to be one of its strengths, concluding that: *'this comprehensive approach ... also creates a conducive and safe environment for young leaders, and especially girls, to practice what they learned in training, and to speak out and successfully raise their issues.'* We have seen a shift away from youth groups and spaces being supported and facilitated by partners and allies to an increasing number being managed and led by young people. In the context of those groups working with under-12s, the dynamic is necessarily different.

Whilst young leaders and peers are taking huge strides forward in discovering and strengthening their agency collectively, their allies – for many reasons – are still very reliant on others to inform and support them. Partner organisations implementing MRMV project activities still have a major role in raising awareness among parents, teachers and other allies in target communities. However, in both Pakistan and Niger, Friday sermons have become an important awareness-raising channel. In Pakistan, the importance of SRH education was stressed by 33 imams during Friday sermons. In Niger, youth leaders were invited during Friday prayers to inform the community about the training they received from the project on rights to education and SRH. There were also impressive creative initiatives that helped to reach extraordinary numbers of people. For

example, in Pakistan concerts with popular singers took place with the audience informed about the importance of SRH education before the concert started. These concerts were also recorded and aired on television which gave an estimated outreach of over one million potential viewers. In Tanzania, MRMV community champions are growing in their role within communities and are now educating others about the importance of education as a right for their children and youth and the role of student councils in helping to monitor and improve education quality.

In 2012, our reporting process highlighted that the programme needed to strengthen its gender analysis and improve its monitoring and work on gender relations and the specific experiences and rights of girls and young women. One of the reasons behind this was the lack of information against Indicator 1.1c, which aims to measure awareness and knowledge of allies on the specific education and health laws, policies and services for girls and young women. To improve our gender analysis and monitoring, the monitoring template was adapted with guidance for teams. In addition, the GCT commissioned a Strategic Gender Review to analyse gender perspectives of the stakeholders in the programme and provide concrete recommendations to take forward. We have evidence of some very promising examples of where allies have increased their levels of awareness, understanding and confidence to verbalise the specific needs and aspirations of girls and women. However, we are highly aware of the weaknesses and challenges that exist both organisationally and in society to ensure the needs and rights of girls and women are met within such a short time frame, in complex contexts and with diverse levels of capacity. This will be monitored closely in Year Three with strategic initiatives put in place based on recommendations from the review.

Furthermore, the review observed that the approval of 'care-takers' and other power-holders in the communities was absolutely critical in determining whether girls and young women were able to convene, become leaders and speak out on their rights, needs and aspirations. This was seen as being even more vital than the awareness of parents, teachers and other allies on specific rights and services for girls and young women. In Tanzania, it was the student *barazas* (student councils) (made up of both boys and girls) more than allies who put the specific issues and challenges that girls faced in continuing their schooling onto the agenda of school leaders and amongst the community at large. The student councils also proposed actions to remove the barriers to girls' education. During visits to some schools during the MTR, reviewers witnessed student councils discussing the need for school dormitories to prevent girls walking long distances – often alone – to school. Separate latrine blocks for girls and water wells in the vicinity of schools are also needed. Evidence of similar experiences was also found in Nepal



where the CDCs in target villages stressed the need to pay greater attention to issues that hindered the participation of women in community life. These groups were found to analyse and emphasise this more than teaching professionals, health workers and parents.

As these examples reveal, the awareness of allies regarding the specific rights, needs and services of girls and young women may not always be a determining factor in their empowerment. With this in mind and based on the examples we have witnessed in Year Two, Indicator 1.1c may not be the best way to measure increased appreciation of allies towards the specific rights, needs and aspirations of girls and young women, and monitoring levels of awareness among girls and women who are meeting and working together in groups may be more effective.

For the final year of the MRMV programme, there is a need for all projects to double their efforts to increase gender awareness and levels of gender analysis among both boys and girls in youth groups. This will require capacity- building by Oxfam, partners and youth groups.

To facilitate cross-country learning and allow for youth to participate in the MTR, it was decided to organise a peer review, using qualitative approaches. Therefore, it is impossible to give a percentage increase against the indicators under Outcome 1.1. The programme's gender review found that gender awareness is lacking amongst young people, therefore, Indicator 1.1c will be reviewed.



**Table 2: Progress against Outcome 1.1 – awareness and knowledge**

Outcome 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.			
Indicator		2012	2013
a. By December 2014, 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).	Output	61,666 children/youth (54 per cent girls) were reached with awareness-raising messages. These activities included training on rights in schools, children/youth groups, through radio debates, communication materials and social media.	179,971 children/youth (53.7 per cent girls and young women) were reached with awareness-raising messages.  In addition, the MRMV project in Pakistan reached an estimated 1.5 million people with awareness-raising messages in public spaces, via radio or through Friday sermons. This figure is not included in the overall total, as the data from Pakistan is difficult to disaggregate by gender and age.
	Progress against Outcomes	Increased levels of awareness on child and youth rights, and on health and education services amongst young people and their allies in target groups/communities were observed in all country monitoring reports.	Relative to Year One, greater numbers of boys and girls, young women and men can confidently articulate examples of country-specific laws, policies and/or services on health and/or education across all eight MRMV countries. This increased level of awareness and knowledge was evident through country and global teams' monitoring visits, monitoring reports and during the MTR. The main channel for awareness-raising is through peer education signalling progress against indicator 1.2a.
b. By December 2014, 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.	Output	3,302 allies reached with awareness-raising messages	27,052 allies (53.4 per cent women) were reached with information about health and/or education rights of boys and girls.
	Progress against Outcomes	All country monitoring reports observed increased awareness amongst those allies reached on child and youth rights, and knowledge on health and education services and policies.	As mentioned above, this figure does not include outreach data from Pakistan, which is difficult to disaggregate by gender and age.
c. By December 2014, 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.	Output	Messages emphasised rights of girls/young women.	Significant increase from Year One in the number of allies reached. Allies displayed a heightened level of awareness on the rights of boys and girls in relation to health and/or education services and policies.
	Progress against Outcomes	Not measured in Year One.	Increased number of adults mentioning specific rights, services and/or issues of girls and young women relating to health and/or education, notably in Tanzania. In addition, 86 per cent of teachers involved in the MRMV project in Vietnam indicated they are implementing measures to realise gender equality for their girl students.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 1.2: CONFIDENCE AND VOICE

### PROGRESS SUMMARY

The best example of children and youth articulating their experiences, needs and aspirations with their peers, allies and other actors was through peer education initiatives. To do this, young people needed to have awareness and understanding of relevant subject matters and the ability (knowledge, confidence and motivation) to clearly articulate this to others. Monitoring processes confirmed that the quality of conversations is high, not only of peer educators but also of other people reached through MRMV activities. In addition, discussions and conversations are not only limited to child and youth groups. There is solid evidence that children and youth also engage in discussions with duty-bearers and others. The ease with which boys and young men express themselves is higher than among girls.

Children and youth being able to talk with confidence about their rights to quality health (including SRH) and education services with peers, allies and other actors is an indication of heightened levels of awareness, knowledge and confidence

and a sign that they may start to participate in initiatives that acknowledge and demand these rights to be fulfilled. The Year One baseline suggested that some young people in all countries had discussed health (including SRH) and education issues with peers, parents, teachers and other allies. In 2012, we probed deeper into the quality of these conversations.

Monitoring processes showed that generally the quality of the conversations is high. As mentioned in the previous section, most young people were reached through peer-to-peer awareness-raising activities in 2013, highlighting that those conveying messages and information must have sound knowledge, understanding and confidence. During the MTR, reviewers had opportunities to talk in depth with young people and their allies in Tanzania, Niger and Nepal. In all three contexts, young people and their allies displayed a high level of awareness and knowledge, speaking with confidence and depth about the health and education services they and their communities are entitled to, with detailed analysis of what they lacked, what they needed and where potential opportunities lie. Allies, notably parents, teachers and health workers, confirmed these observations.

An interesting and relevant gender dimension to our analysis also highlighted a difference between boys and girls in discussing rights with allies. This was not surprising due to the complex socio-political and cultural forces in all

**Table 3: Progress against Outcome 1.2 – confidence and voice**

Outcome 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.			
Indicator		2012	2013
By December 2014, 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.	Output	Indicative evidence shows that young people involved in MRMV rights training and child and youth groups are articulating their needs and aspirations on health and education with their peers, allies and other actors.	Ample evidence that boys, girls, young women and men reached with awareness-raising messages have discussed their rights and needs with their peers and allies.  Allies have discussed the rights of children and youth to health and education amongst themselves and with their children.
	Progress against outcomes	Anecdotal evidence <sup>7</sup> in all countries suggests that young people are discussing their needs and aspirations in a manner that implies that they are more knowledgeable about their rights.  Beyond discussions with their peer groups and allies, most notably their parents, there is also initial evidence of children and youth articulating their needs and aspirations with duty-bearers and other stakeholders (in all countries).	Strong evidence that boys and girls are talking with confidence about their rights to health and education, to their peers, parents, teachers, allies and those outside the programme. In many groups formed in 2012 and 2013, members discuss their needs and aspirations. These conversations are shared with parents, teachers, health workers and other allies.



communities and the power relations relating to gender, age and other areas that are constantly at play. This is important as it has a bearing on all of our results and potential impact, both now and in the future. There are some very strong examples across MRMV of where this is being done, for example through the CDC classes and training for girls and women in Nepal, the groups where girls and young women meet in Afghanistan, and the girls' leadership training and support in Tanzania. But this is something the programme needs to be increasingly mindful of so that we are contributing to gender justice in all of the work we do, and in approaches and processes we co-create and implement with others. However, while evidence of young people articulating their needs and aspirations with duty-bearers and other stakeholders was scarce in Year One, in Year Two the number of cases in which young people raised their voice to claim their rights was overwhelming. In Nepal alone, 28 demands by young women were submitted to village development committees (VDCs) in intervention areas, which in turn led to many examples of increased funding and services at rural health posts (clinics) and improvements in relation to prenatal and maternity health care access and provision. As highlighted earlier in this report, youth involved in the MRMV project in Mali were heavily engaged in designing and implementing a youth-focused election campaign which involved encouraging youth voter registration, increasing awareness about rights to health and education, and meeting with three of the leading parties' leadership and convincing them to sign up to their health and education manifesto for Malian youth.

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

### **OVERVIEW**

Following on from the important initial steps of raising awareness and increasing knowledge, skills and confidence of young people and their allies (as seen under Objective 1), is support to facilitate them in strengthening and unifying their 'voice' through effective organisation and shared agendas. This is a vital next step on the journey towards collective participation and in young people claiming their rights to health and education. The MRMV programme's second global objective reflects this and focuses on strengthening the capacity and skills of young people and their allies to successfully organise themselves collectively to claim their rights to health and education (Outcome 2.1). After youth and allies are organised, the newly formed groups are supported to unify further by agreeing and voicing a shared agenda, in open and closed decision-making spaces, to claim their rights (Outcome 2.2). With a firm foundation laid in Year One, Outcome 2.1 was reached in the second year of the programme and good progress was made towards Outcome 2.2.

## **PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 2.1: INCREASED SKILLS, CONFIDENCE AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION**

### **PROGRESS SUMMARY**

All countries reached their target number of child and youth groups in 2013. Focus then turned to building the capacity of groups to facilitate peer-to-peer education, strengthen effective leadership, networking and coordination skills within and across groups, and to formulate shared agendas, especially in Afghanistan and Georgia. The number of organised allies grew slightly. It appears the existence of organised allies is less indicative of an enabling environment for youth agency; getting permission of individual allies and duty-bearers to support children and youth to participate was found to be more effective. All groups involved in MRMV are actively pursuing youth and child rights to health and education (through advocacy work and networking). Young women are proactively becoming leaders and more effectively claiming their own and their peers' rights to health and education, with evidence of women also pursuing and being nominated and elected to leadership positions in their communities, beyond MRMV.

The number of new child and youth groups stabilised, with targets being reached in the first half of 2013. The rest of the year focused on building the capacity of members, in areas such as agenda-setting, peer-to-peer education and strengthening voice and leadership skills. As outlined under the results against Objective 1, this had a huge impact on the number of children and youth reached in 2013. It also affected the setting of shared agendas and networking, analysed under Outcome 2.2.

In addition to strengthening youth groups, the number of organised allies (NGOs and CBOs) increased slightly from 204 (2012) to 252 (2013). Through our monitoring, a picture emerges indicating that aside from organised allies, influential individuals who are supporters of the programme played a more prominent role in Year Two. These individual allies allowed and publicly supported child and youth groups to organise themselves and created space at local levels for these groups to speak out. For example, the Mayor of Say, a provincial town in Niger, had a crucial role in providing space for youth to convene. In Afghanistan, village elders played a critical role in convincing parents to allow their daughters to join community youth groups, and in Pakistan, religious leaders were instrumental in supporting youth engagement

and involvement via parents and the broader community. In Tanzania, the community champions and mentor teachers (individuals selected to these roles by students) have an important role in creating space and support for youth participation and voice – especially that of girls – at school and within the community. They provide opportunities for student leaders to raise issues affecting the provision of the quality of education. In all countries, these allies are strategically chosen because of their position and role in the community.

Notable exceptions to this approach were seen in Vietnam and Georgia, interestingly both of which are principally focused on younger children in comparison to all other MRMV projects. In Vietnam, the capacity of parent associations is being built to protect the rights of young children in schools. In Georgia, CBOs (22 in total) in intervention areas are important allies in reporting child rights violations to the Public Defender’s Office. While the absolute number of reported violations decreased in 2013 from 146 to 92, the number of solved cases rose from 18 to 81, indicating that the quality of reported cases increased. Whether this can be attributed to the extensive training of the CBOs by the MRMV team in Georgia is something to investigate in 2014.

Critical to all effective organisation and networking is leadership and there was strong evidence of this across the programme throughout Year Two. Girls’ and young women’s participation and leadership grew enormously over the course of 2013, with the total number of girls and young women in leadership roles now exceeding the total number of youth groups across the programme. In 2012, we saw some initial examples of young women who were participating and leading in groups established through MRMV becoming leaders beyond these groups as well. This trend has progressed considerably, and many more young women and girls active in MRMV have been invited to take up decision-making positions in their communities. In Nepal, there are 91 MRMV CDCs, all led and coordinated by young women. In Year Two, a total of 535 women who participate in MRMV CDCs were nominated or elected to take up representative positions or participate in key community decision-making structures. These structures include School Management Committees, Citizen Ward Forums, Health Facility Organisation Monitoring Committees, Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Community Forest Users’ Groups. Beyond their roles as CDC group leaders, impressively these young women have also become leaders within their wider communities, influencing

**Table 4: Progress against Outcome 2.1 – increased skills, confidence and effective organisation**

Outcome 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.			
Indicator	2012		2013
By December 2014, percentage increase in organised groups (youth clubs, CSOs, parent associations, health committees, etc.) actively pursuing youth and child rights to health and/or education.	Output	410 child and youth groups worked under MRMV in target communities (in all countries except for Mali and Pakistan). <sup>8</sup> The programme worked through 204 CBOs (including PTAs) and NGOs.	An additional 153 child and youth groups were established, bringing the total number of groups supported by MRMV to 563. This figure also includes 10 YABs. The programme worked through 252 CBOs (including PTAs) and NGOs.
	Progress against outcomes	Increased number of child and youth groups in project areas. Increased awareness of children, youth and allies (parents, teachers, school committee members) regarding child and youth rights in target groups.	All countries reached their target with regards to group formation. The focus was on building the capacity of groups to facilitate peer-to-peer education, network and coordinate within and across groups and to formulate shared agendas, especially in Afghanistan and Georgia. All groups involved in MRMV are actively pursuing youth/child rights to health and education.
By December 2014, percentage increase in the number of girls and young women participating in these groups and taking up leadership roles.	Output	200 girls and young women have taken up leadership positions in MRMV established groups in Afghanistan, Tanzania, Georgia, Nepal and Niger.	2,161 girls and young women took up positions of leadership in groups or in their communities.
	Progress against outcomes	Girls and young women account for 48.8 per cent of those holding leadership positions in groups established under the MRMV programme.	Young women are proactively becoming community and school leaders and more effective at claiming their and their own peers’ rights to health and education. Young women are pursuing and being nominated and elected to leadership positions outside of MRMV groups within their communities.

decisions well beyond the scope of the MRMV groups. There is also evidence of similar examples in the MRMV project in Tanzania where the cadre of girls and young women student leaders is growing. The first wave of student *baraza* leaders have stepped down, making way for the next generation to lead these councils on behalf of their peers. What is notable is how significantly more confident these young women and girls now are having connected with peers in these spaces, undergone training, and strengthened their leadership skills. In the MTR, multiple examples were given of former *baraza* leaders continuing to be active in their schools and communities, as class monitors, providing support to newly elected chairs of the *barazas* and by promoting girls' education in their communities. These examples provide us with insight into the broader impact of increased confidence levels, participation and leadership on levels of active citizenship, and the valuable contribution this plays in strengthening voice, participation, and girls' and women's rights.

It is not possible to give an accurate percentage in relation to the scale of young women in leadership positions in child and youth groups established under the programme as this has now extended beyond MRMV.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 2.2: SHARED AGENDA AND COLLECTIVE VOICE

### PROGRESS SUMMARY

All individual MRMV child and youth groups organise themselves around a shared agenda. There is growing evidence of increasing networking across groups and in their development of shared activities and agendas. At the global level, selected youth representatives from all eight country projects developed a global advocacy agenda and national-level agendas with their peers. The specific needs and aspirations of girls and young women were included in 181 group agendas, mainly in Tanzania and Nepal. The number of meetings between children, youth and duty-bearers doubled to 113 and the quality of the conversations progressed from formal statements to participatory dialogue and debate. The number of events between organised allies and duty-bearers slightly increased from 50 to 57.

With increased numbers of child and youth groups (the majority having been established in Year One), the number of shared agendas rose by the end of the second year. This highlights that within groups, children and youth are working together to plan, agree and shape shared agendas. However, this has not yet happened widely across groups. Our results

show that it is still predominantly individual groups producing shared agendas on specific issues, rather than several groups uniting around a shared agenda across a particular community, region or country. This is not surprising given the relatively short time in which these groups have existed, with many having annual changes in leadership, meaning relationships between groups need to be re-established. It will be important to monitor inter-group linking and perhaps co-facilitate (with support from allies and partners) in Year Three when advocacy activities increase. Still there have been a few examples of where this is already happening, for example in Tanzania, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Nepal. However, country-based groups are hardly networking to formulate shared agendas. In the MTR we saw that the immediate needs within a community are so pressing that quick localised solutions are being sought, without in-depth analysis of the problems as they pertain across a community, district, region or even nation. Most problem-solving is needs-based and linkages with others to agree shared agendas beyond a specific community are still relatively limited in number. This is expected to change in the final year.

There are a few exceptions. In Afghanistan, Oxfam and MRMV partners invested in the creation of district- and provincial-level youth councils, consisting of representatives from community groups. In addition, Oxfam and partners helped to stimulate the formulation of common goals and the exchange of experiences between the groups. In September 2013, the project organised a national youth event in Kabul in which representatives from all groups participated. Furthermore, Bayan, a national youth internet platform (created under another Oxfam project) is being used by youth active in MRMV to exchange ideas and experiences and arrive at a common voice on issues pertaining to health and education. Other examples can be seen in the case of Georgia where youth groups work together to produce a youth newspaper, and in Nepal where members of different groups participated in developing a Citizen's Manifesto on Health rights. In these three examples, Oxfam and partners played an important initiation and coordination role.

Oxfam and partners were also instrumental in initiating and coordinating the coming together of youth activists involved in MRMV from across all eight countries to participate in our Annual Learning Event, and more significantly, to co-create and co-design a Global Advocacy Workshop explicitly for youth. However, although this event was initiated by the GCT, the planning, co-design and agenda setting was very much in the hands of youth participants who were involved in the formulation of the event, took part in the event, and were involved in subsequent follow-up workshops with their peers in country. Each country's youth participants



jointly developed a Five-Point Action Plan for national-level advocacy, and collectively all youth participants identified global events with which their respective peers could collectively engage. Finally, participants were involved in developing a participatory video which outlined their shared agenda and vision for the MRMV programme. All of this work will be supported further by the global and country teams in 2014.

Under Objective 1, we highlighted that identifying the specific issues blocking girls and young women from realising their full rights to health and education remains a weak spot in the programme. Only in those instances where girls were the subject of leadership initiatives as in Tanzania or where they dominated the youth groups as in Nepal, were their specific needs and aspirations made explicit. In other groups, the most immediate and visible needs of the schools and communities mostly figured in the agendas of youth groups (e.g. lack of school books, the need for a SRH curriculum, lack of basic medicines) and not the more intangible and complex societal issues and norms hindering girls' educational access and attendance (e.g. menstruation and a burden of household care duties) or use of health services (e.g. user fees, presence of parents when visiting a doctor). Another challenging factor is that respondents to the programme's Strategic Gender Review claimed that young men and women experience the same problems in the same way; a complex challenge that will be explored in 2014.

Whilst there is a considerable way to go in supporting appropriate levels of gender analysis and discussions amongst peers, there has been significant progress in young people's ability to articulately voice their needs and rights within decision-making and other formal spaces. The number of examples of young people participating and confidently voicing their knowledge, needs and aspirations in relation to their rights to health and education in key decision-making events and processes rose from 56 in 2012 to 113 in 2013. This increase was visible across all countries and events, and MRMV created the channel whereby children and youth were supported to access spaces and processes that brought them into direct contact with duty-bearers - such as policy-makers, religious leaders, community elders, government officials and politicians. Through this direct contact, young people were able to inform duty-bearers about the health and education experiences and provision within their communities and express their needs and aspirations. In addition to this, the quality of the conversations between these two groups also changed in comparison to Year One. In 2012, all examples of such contact was very formalised and youth representatives often provided a formal written or verbal statement after which a response was given by the duty-bearer. However, in 2013, greater levels of dialogue and

discussion were reported between youth and duty-bearers, including politicians and policy-makers. Strong evidence of this was witnessed in Mali where youth activists debated and articulately managed to convince the party leadership of three leading presidential candidates to sign a letter of commitment to their manifesto on child and youth health and education rights. Similarly, in Pakistan, youth engaged in significant dialogue with religious leaders in relation to their own and their peers' rights to health information. This progress in the quality and depth of these interactions, was identified as one of the programme's strengths in the MTR.

The role of organised allies in supporting children and youth in claiming their rights to health and education was limited. However, there has been tremendous progress in child and youth groups becoming increasingly more organised as groups of active citizens advocating for their rights to health and education. The role of organised allies in this appears to be limited. In spite of this, it is apparent that child and youth groups are not hindered by, or missing out, because of a lack of visible organised support. What appears to be most vital is individual allies, 'care-takers' and those in influential positions - notably leaders - giving permission and support to child and youth participation. In 2014, all country project teams will continue to strengthen this support.

**Table 5: Progress against Outcome 2.2 – shared agenda and collective voice**

Outcome 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.			
Indicator	2012		2013
By December 2014, percentage of groups with documented shared agendas (policy recommendations, agreed activities and purpose, etc.).	Output	All of the 410 child and youth groups established by MRMV in Year One were individually working towards developing a shared agenda for their group. Nepal and Georgia both reported examples.	All 563 child and youth groups – including YABs – organize themselves around a shared agenda. In addition, in Afghanistan and Georgia, local youth groups are also represented at regional and/or national levels.  Youth involved in MRMV developed a shared international agenda and country groups developed national level-agendas at a Global Advocacy Workshop. 252 CBOs and NGOs adopted the objectives of MRMV.
	Progress against outcomes	MRMV-established groups were individually developing and working towards shared agendas. <sup>9</sup>	Shared agendas between youth groups at national and international level are becoming more common. Within (nationally) and across (globally) all eight countries, youth groups are slowly creating agendas and organising to collectively raise their voices at local, district, national and international levels.
By December 2014, percentage increase in the number of girls and young women participating in these groups and taking up leadership roles.	Output	Not applicable in Year One.	181 youth groups have shared agendas on specific rights for girls and young women. Considerable progress has been made in Nepal and Tanzania. In Tanzania, <i>barazas</i> address gender barriers hindering girls from completing their schooling by raising these issues with decision-makers and school authorities.
	Progress against outcomes	Girls and young women accounted for 48.8 per cent of those holding leadership positions in groups established under the MRMV programme.	While the specific rights, needs and aspirations of children and youth in relation to their health and education rights are addressed in the programme, there is still a lot to do on supporting girls' and women's voice and leadership. Capacity-building to support children's and youth's awareness levels and analysis abilities in relation to gender relations and girls and women's rights need to be strengthened.
By December 2014, percentage increase in the number of key formal decision-making events/processes with children and youth raising their voice to claim their rights to health and/or education, disaggregated by gender.	Output	56 MRMV-sponsored events involving children and youth in formal/public decision-making events and/or processes reported.	113 MRMV-sponsored events involving children and youth in formal/public decision-making events and/or processes reported.
	Progress against outcomes	Indications of initial engagement of youth and children in decision-making spaces.	The number of meetings between children, youth and duty-bearers doubled and the nature and quality of the conversations and discourse progressed significantly from formal statements to dialogue and debate.
By December 2014, percentage increase in the number of key formal decision-making events/processes with people other than youth (i.e. allies) raising their voice to claim the rights of boys, girls, young women and men to health and/or education.	Output	50 recorded MRMV-sponsored events took place.	A total of 57 MRMV-sponsored events were recorded which involved allies who publicly voiced support for children's and youth's rights to health and/or education.
	Progress against outcomes	Indications of initial engagement of allies in decision-making spaces where they voiced children's and youth's rights to health and/or education.	A slight increase in the number of events that took place, highlighting the limited role of organised allies in this programme. No indication that this lack of support is hindering the progress of youth groups to engage and connect with duty-bearers.

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

### OVERVIEW

One of the biggest assumptions of the MRMV programme is that duty-bearers will recognise, listen to and involve empowered and organised children and youth in their activities and policy formulation relating to health and education provision (Outcome 3.1) and as a result take action and formulate or adjust policies to meet their needs and aspirations (Outcome 3.2) thus improving access to and the quality of services. Over the first year, there were examples of progress towards these outcomes. These examples multiplied in Year Two, indicating that these initial incidents were a prelude for changes in the ways duty-bearers and people with influence engage with children and youth, plan and act. While there have been no reports yet of policy changes there is a body of evidence in all countries that duty-bearers and 'influencers' (policy-makers, politicians, head teachers, village elders and other power-holders) are meaningfully engaging with children and youth, listening to them, taking their experiences, concerns, aspirations and recommendations seriously, and in many cases acting upon these discussions.

### PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 3.1: RECOGNITION AND CONSULTATION

#### PROGRESS SUMMARY

There were 111 instances in five country projects where local, regional and national duty-bearers recognised, invited, created, or formalised spaces for young people's participation in 2013. This provides an initial indication that in these countries duty-bearers are seeing children and youth as a valid constituency to be consulted and involved in spaces and processes to improve local decision-making and implementation of initiatives and services affecting their lives, and, in some cases, those of the broader community. The activities and voice of youth activists, and their growing confidence and knowledge is recognised by authorities and has led to young people being part of official monitoring reviews and other initiatives.

Throughout Year Two, children's and youth's levels of confidence and assertiveness increased and was clearly evident when they came into contact with power-holders and duty-bearers, as analysed under progress against Objective 2. This had positive implications for what was achieved against the third objective and corresponding outcomes.

There was a significant increase in the number of occasions where government authorities, at local and national levels, formally engaged child and youth groups. Across five country projects, there was evidence of 111 initiatives where MRMV groups were recognised by duty-bearers as representatives of their peers and formally invited to engage in discussions or participate in initiatives relating to their health and education rights.

Tanzania saw the greatest number of examples with all democratically-elected *barazas* being formally acknowledged by head teachers and district educational officers as representative bodies of student populations in their respective schools. In Nepal, both the Child Health Committees (CHCs) and CDCs were also frequently approached by local authorities for advice and information relating to health, education and other community needs and issues. During an MTR interview, we heard from a senior community health-worker responsible for overseeing service delivery and medicines in at least one district. He stressed that planning and health work had been improved and made easier through his relationship with CDCs as he and others had a greater sense of community – and explicitly women and children's – health needs. He could also engage these groups to get information, services and even medicine kits to the community in a quicker and more effective way than before. Many similar examples were evident during the MTR, which indicated that duty-bearers were implicitly recognising youth groups as valid bodies representing child and youth experiences, needs and aspirations. This is a big step forward in our progress against Outcome 3.1. The MRMV project in Afghanistan also provides a very pertinent example of this increased level of recognition and consultation. A huge victory was achieved when roughly 600 community members and leaders, including *mullahs* (religious leaders), and parents, confirmed in local *shuras* (decision-making village gatherings) the importance of youth participation for local development and formally approved the formation of youth groups. These groups are now also represented at district and provincial levels where authorities share their health, education and youth plans and budgets with groups for feedback, thereby recognising them as formal entities and involving them in consultation.

Perhaps not surprisingly, we have seen that there is a direct correlation between recognition and regular contact. To that end, recognition of organised child and youth groups as a formal constituency is highest in those countries where contact between youth groups and duty-bearers is most frequent (see Outcome 2.2 for more details). Although there is not necessarily a formula that can be prescribed in each context, there is a definite pattern across countries as to



how this relationship evolves. This recognition and contact is also predominantly at community and local levels (with the exception of Afghanistan). This is in a large part due to youth groups and duty-bearers operating closely at this level, and officials are often family friends. A challenge facing projects is how to support child and youth groups in achieving recognition at regional, national and even international levels where power is even more hidden, invisible and remote from citizens. The constructive relations that Oxfam and partners have with government and other authorities at national and global levels will be useful.

Although few in number, MRMV has facilitated some impressive levels of engagement between youth and regional

and national structures. The actions of youth activists, their growing confidence and the increasing levels of youth recognition by authorities have led to them being invited by government institutions to become part of monitoring processes and structures. In Nepal, representatives were invited to participate in the monitoring of government health services through the establishment of Community Health Service Monitoring Committees. In Afghanistan, 95 youth representatives (of which 37 were young women) were trained and invited to become part of child rights monitoring initiatives with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHCRC). In Tanzania, *barazas* were given official monitoring responsibilities in the schools where they operate. These initiatives will be closely monitored in Year Three.

**Table 6: Progress against Outcome 3.1 – recognition and consultation**

Outcome 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.			
Indicator	2012		2013
By December 2014, 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).	Output	Initial meetings/events bringing together youth, children and allies with duty-bearers (local- and national-level policy-makers) in all countries, except Pakistan.	Local, regional and national duty-bearers recognised, invited and/or created, and/or formalised spaces for young people's participation and voice in 111 instances.
	Progress against outcomes	A small number of examples of duty-bearers and influencers recognising children and youth as a valid constituency; and making time and space to listen to their needs and aspirations related to health and/or education.	Examples of the above reported in five out of eight countries. Strong example in Tanzania where all <i>barazas</i> are recognized by authorities as representing students. In five countries, duty-bearers are seeing children and youth as a valid constituency to be consulted and involved in spaces and processes to improve local-level decision-making and implementation of initiatives and/or services affecting their lives.
By December 2014, percentage increase in the number of girls and young women participating in these groups and taking up leadership roles.	Output	Not applicable.	100 cases of duty-bearers including children and youth in fact-finding missions and review processes.
	Progress against outcomes	Not applicable.	The activities and voice of youth activists, and their growing confidence and knowledge is recognised by authorities and has led to youth being invited by government institutions to become part of monitoring initiatives and other such processes.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 3.2: DUTY-BEARERS AND INFLUENCERS TAKING ACTION

### PROGRESS SUMMARY

There was evidence of duty-bearers taking action as a result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy in all eight projects. Most actions followed advocacy efforts by MRMV youth groups; others were the result of partners and Oxfam. These cases show that in our programme experience, duty-bearers are receptive to information and suggestions provided by children and youth leaders and do act upon it, with some examples of this leading to local improvements in health and education services. These actions by authorities have not led to policy changes, but recommendations of young activists have been included in draft policies on five occasions.

Our analysis of progress against Outcome 3.1 poses a key question for that of Outcome 3.2: do frequent interactions between youth and duty-bearers, and any subsequent inclusion of young people in local government and monitoring structures lead to duty-bearers taking action in favour of the rights of children and youth? From the evidence we have, the answer, in many cases, is yes. In 2012, there was evidence of four cases of duty-bearers taking action in favour of the health and education rights of youth as a result of MRMV advocacy actions. In 2013, a total of 98 cases were evident and reported, with examples from all countries. One example was in Pakistan, where 33 imams promoted the need for education on SRH rights during Friday sermons. The imams also gave their public support through video testimonials, highlighting the need to integrate SRH rights – contextualized and appropriate as per religious and cultural norms – into the official school curriculum. The subsequent public support for this helped create an enabling environment in which SRH rights information and education can become a part of the official curriculum, a key objective of the project. Another notable example was in Nepal where VDCs approved and earmarked funds to implement 28 proposals formally submitted by the CDCs.

Through extensive monitoring we have indications that there is space for child and youth groups to exercise their agency by challenging current policies, practices and beliefs, voicing their experience, needs and aspirations and influencing local-level government structures and decision-makers to listen, acknowledge and react constructively to their demands. It does, however, remain to be seen how fluid and open that space is for young people to engage and call for action from duty-bearers. The MTR observed that before vested interests are really challenged, duty-bearers are willing to take certain actions. However, once the youth groups come up against the

boundary of vested interests (social, cultural or economic), the attitude of duty-bearers may resist any proposed change. There is also a risk that those in authority could become more authoritative and a 'blocker'. This makes the need for policy changes all the more urgent, so that empowered youth groups and their voices and rights are protected by legislation and other legal frameworks.

Whilst statutory law to safeguard these rights is critical, a key element of the MRMV programme's goal is to achieve sustainable changes in policies that safeguard and uphold youth and child rights to health and education. While the number of actions in favour of children and youth rose sharply in 2013, this has not yet resulted in policies that take into account the aspiration and needs of children and youth (and especially those of girls and young women) in relation to their rights to health and education. However, last year there were two strong examples of youth involved in MRMV influencing policy recommendations. In Afghanistan, through MRMV partner the Afghan Civil Society Forum Organization, youth gave their input into the draft of the country's first youth policy, working directly with the Ministry of Youth Affairs. In Nepal, four leaders from the main political parties promised to integrate the recommendations of the Citizens' Manifesto on Health into their party programmes. This manifesto was developed and presented to them by members of the MRMV CDCs. In 2014, we will find out whether these examples were political gestures or indeed genuine statements of support and intent. Similar examples were also seen in Mali.

With the beginnings of increased involvement and engagement of youth leaders with local government structures, it is envisioned that local duty-bearers will be increasingly influenced and challenged to take action to improve health and education services. Whether this transpires will be something we will closely monitor throughout the final year of the programme. However, we are also mindful that a proliferation of local-level actions to improve services does not necessarily result in changes in policies. In order for this to happen, relationships and connections need to be built and strengthened between more senior-level duty-bearers (at regional and national levels) and youth leaders. Many of the MRMV project teams and partners are consciously working towards this by increasingly facilitating meetings and linkages between groups and communities with regional- and national-level duty-bearers. One example is visible in Afghanistan where the team is supporting networking between community-, district- and provincial-level youth groups, and organising spaces where these youth groups are able to meet with district and provincial level authorities. It will be vital for all other teams to help facilitate and strengthen such connections in 2014.

**Table 7: Progress against Outcome 3.2 – duty-bearers and influencers taking action**

Outcome 3.2 Duty-bearers and influencers take specific actions to improve access to and quality of, health and/or education services for boys and girls, young women and men.			
Indicator	2012		2013
By December 2014, 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.	Output	Four examples identified in 2012.	98 cases in all eight countries were reported where duty-bearers took action as a result of MRMV lobbying and advocacy.
	Progress against outcomes	Initial examples of work towards this outcome.	In the majority of cases, actions followed advocacy by youth groups, reaffirming that when youth have space and opportunity they take on the responsibility to improve their own and their peers'/communities' situation. Duty-bearers have taken the information provided by children and youth leaders seriously and acted upon it, thereby improving the health and/or education situation at local level.
By December 2014, 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.	Output	Two country examples. Vietnam and Nepal	Five examples of policy recommendations recorded.
	Progress against outcomes	Progress will become visible in Year Two.	In Year Three, it will become clear whether the information, proposals and advice from youth groups have been included in policies. In Year Three, networking between youth groups and duty-bearers including senior-level policy-makers will be strengthened with spaces and channels created and/or sought for their interaction.

## OBJECTIVE 4: OXFAM, PARTNERS AND OTHERS SUPPORTING YOUTH TO CONNECT TO GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMMES

### OVERVIEW

Objective 4 focuses on strengthening the capacity of Oxfam, partners and others to work with young people and to support youth agency through our programmes. It also centres around our organisational campaigning force facilitating youth to claim their rights to health, SRH and education. Under Outcome 4.1, we aim to link national-level advocacy to Oxfam global-level campaigns and to facilitate contact and exchange between young people from MRMV countries with each other and with our global-level campaigns staff. Outcome 4.2 measures our progress towards working with youth, including engaging them in the planning and implementation of our programme and project strategies and activities, and being accountable to them and their allies. In addition, it also measures the capacity of MRMV country teams (Oxfam and partners) to document and publicise our experiences beyond national-level contexts to reach a broader group of peers, allies and duty-bearers. In Year Two, good progress was made towards both outcomes. However, the linking of national-level advocacy agendas and activities to global-level campaigns was a challenge due to limited opportunities and the stage young people and allies were at in strengthening their capacity to develop advocacy strategies.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 4.1: YOUTH NETWORKING, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND ADVOCACY

### PROGRESS SUMMARY

To facilitate exchange and networking between youth from MRMV country projects, two international events were organised by Oxfam in which youth representatives were actively involved. Through these events, youth representatives developed global- and national-level advocacy plans with some support from Oxfam (including global campaigns staff) and partner staff. Our progress towards influencing national-level policies through Oxfam's Essential Services (ES) campaign is unclear. There is a tension between an organisation-led campaign determining advocacy moments and strategies, and building youth capacity to develop their advocacy skills and shape their own agenda. Youth advocacy plans and activities will be supported and monitored in 2014.

Children and youth active in MRMV have proactively engaged in and benefited from a number of key opportunities over Year Two, facilitated by Oxfam and partners. These sought to strengthen connections and networking among peers, both in country projects and across the entire programme. In



addition, space and processes were developed to connect MRMV youth representatives with global campaigners and programme staff to exchange learning, build capacity and inform the overall direction of the programme's advocacy work.

The first opportunities to connect were provided early in 2013 with the establishment of the MRMV Facebook page. Originally set up to provide a platform to facilitate the participatory organisation of the Annual Learning Event, it is now dominated by youth exchanging and sharing across the programme.

The first physical meeting of youth from the eight MRMV countries took place at the Annual Learning Event. Youth representatives from seven MRMV countries (children involved in the project in Georgia were too young to participate) quickly assumed responsibilities in workshop activities. They participated in sessions, blogged, evaluated each day's work, reshaped sessions, participated in redesigning country project youth activities and advocacy plans, and shared their experiences, concerns and ideas with Oxfam and partners. In both this and other initiatives, MRMV teams have witnessed the phenomenal contribution and possibilities of involving young people in development

initiatives. Without wanting to generalise or over-simplify complexity, in the experience of the MRMV programme as a whole, engaging and involving young people in decisions about projects has led to improved analysis and insight, extraordinary ideas, increased levels of energy and a stronger programme.

The organisation of an advocacy workshop explicitly for youth activists involved in MRMV was the second international opportunity for children and youth from across all eight countries to connect with each other and work with global campaigners. While the concept and event was initiated by the GCT with other campaigns advisors supporting MRMV, the design, organisation and implementation was managed by a group of youth activists and communications experts working for Oxfam in coordination with youth at country level. As outlined in the 'Programme Learning and Development' section of the report, the week-long event was co-developed and co-designed with young people and their peers over several months. The GAW 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 peers, culminating with each country group developing a Five-Point National Action

**Table 8: Progress against Outcome 4.1 – youth networking, capacity-building and advocacy**

Outcome 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.			
Indicator	2012		2013
By December 2014, 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).	Output	Not applicable in Year One.	Two international events initiated by Oxfam in which youth representatives were actively involved. The learning event involved seven youth representatives (of which five were women) and the Global Advocacy Workshop 16 youth leaders (ten women and six men).
	Progress against outcomes	Not applicable in Year One.	In total, 23 youth leaders (15 women) from the eight countries participated in two international meetings. At the Learning Event they developed national action plans together with Oxfam and partners. At the Global Advocacy Workshop, young leaders developed international and country-specific advocacy strategies to be implemented in Year Three.
By December 2014, 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.	Output	Four country power analyses and three advocacy strategies developed. MRMV staff part of Oxfam Essential Services Campaigns Groups.	Four country advocacy strategies developed.
	Progress against outcomes	Too early to measure.	No results.

Plan relating to their rights to health – including SRH – and education over the final year of MRMV. They also developed and agreed a global vision of health and education rights, which they explored through the medium of participatory video. There was mutual recognition that only a select number of youth campaigners involved in MRMV were part of the workshop. Each participant returned home with the agreed remit to convene a similar event with their country YABs to share lessons, skills and strategies and finalise advocacy plans.

While the involvement of young people in national and international advocacy activities and capacity-building initiatives grew in 2013, no opportunities existed for young people to concretely connect to Oxfam's global level ES campaign.

We also recognise the tension between an organisation-led campaign and building youth capacity to develop their own advocacy skills and to shape their own agenda. This will be explored further in Year Three as our campaigning on inequality increases.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOME 4.2: KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO ENGAGE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### PROGRESS SUMMARY

Both Oxfam and partners strengthened their capacity to work with children and youth and increased their organisations' levels of accountability towards both them and their allies. The 2013 Youth Audit saw an increase in capacity on most issues, especially with regards to accountability, increased through the establishment and strengthening of accountability structures for children and youth in all countries. YABs are fully active in five country projects, with young people participating in designing, planning, implementing and monitoring of project activities. The capacity of Oxfam and partners to document project experiences beyond national contexts also increased, mainly through social media; Year Two saw a proliferation of blogs, messages, pictures and videos about the projects on the MRMV web platforms.

The capacity of Oxfam and partners to engage and include children and youth in the planning, implementation and monitoring of their activities is growing. Last year all countries reported Oxfam and partners' increased capacity in working with youth, via our annual Youth Audit. From our analyses, it appears that all countries except for Vietnam have improved their ways of working with youth. In Vietnam, all three provinces reported scores on the Youth Audit that

were lower than Year One. The Vietnam team indicated this was possibly due to the growing realisation by all parties of how difficult and complex active citizenship is (see also the MRMV MTR). Furthermore, the team asked children, youth and parents to fill in the forms as well. The lower scores may, therefore, be the result of increased awareness and expectations of children on their rights. In the programme's final evaluation, this may be an area for further exploration. In all other countries, the capacity of Oxfam and partners to work with children and youth increased, especially in areas of organisational capacity and programme accountability. This is confirmed by the youth representatives who participated in the annual Youth Audit. There is also evidence that nearly one third of respondents from project teams have, or are in advanced stages of developing, a youth policy together with young people. This indicates that Oxfam and partners increasingly see youth issues as important and regularly consult young people before designing activities.

Increased capacity to work with children and youth, especially in the area of programme accountability (safeguarding training also took place with four country project teams), paralleled the capacity of Oxfam and partners to share their work through new media, channels that are frequently used by youth. All MRMV country projects are regularly posting news flashes on their Facebook pages. YouTube, Picassa and Flickr are also important channels for all countries.

Through the monitoring of these posts (and MEAL reports), it is evident that Oxfam MRMV project teams and partners have increased capacity to document their experiences and share them beyond national levels. Capacity to publish experiences through more traditional media, such as articles and research documents, is apparent but less evident than via social and multi-media platforms. While a number of documents and videos have been produced at country level, most of these are in local languages and, therefore, limited for broader distribution, although critical for local and national advocacy.

In all countries, the role of children and youth in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the MRMV activities is growing but levels of engagement vary between projects. In five out of eight countries, YABs have a say in the design of events, campaigns and the content of newsletters. In Mali, they are even considered as the key connecting factor between the two main project partners. The Pakistan YAB writes a shadow monitoring report, giving their views on the activities that are implemented in each quarter of the year.

In Afghanistan, Nepal and Vietnam children and youth are involved in the planning and implementation of project activities but are not organised into YABs.

The main reasons for this are travel restrictions in all three countries because of security and safety issues, the age of the children and gender restrictions (girls are less able to travel freely and unaccompanied). In Afghanistan, provincial youth groups participate in programme management

meetings, workshops and other events. In Vietnam, children are always consulted regarding activities in schools, and in Nepal a loosely formed group of young activists provide feedback and suggestions to the project team.

**Table 9: Progress against Outcome 4.2 – knowledge and tools to engage children and youth**

Outcome 4.2 Oxfam and partners have the knowledge and tools to better engage youth and children in programmes, campaigning and decision-making spaces.			
Indicator	2012		2013
By December 2014, MRMV country teams and partners improve performance on annual youth audit.	Output	27 youth audits completed by Oxfam staff and partners in all countries except for Mali.	40 Youth Audits completed, including from the GCT and seven youth leaders.
	Progress against outcomes	Monitoring towards this outcome started.	All countries except for Vietnam have increased their resources and capabilities in working with youth. Progress is greatest in capacity and accountability. Nepal progressed most, especially with regard to the development of youth policies by Oxfam and partners. Vietnam scored least; a possible explanation may be the growing realisation that working for youth is quite different from working with youth – a realisation that became apparent over the course of 2013.
Number of local and international partners working on child and youth rights to health and/or education has the resources and capacity to document their experiences and to publicise them beyond the national level.	Output	One desk study and one field research on youth involvement conducted.	Nine MRMV Facebook pages. One for each country, one global. Mali provides regular updates on events through Twitter. Vietnam via YouTube and Flickr. Annual report 2012 published. Learning event report published. Seven MRMV countries posted one or more blogs on the MRMV Ning site. Eight country project and one global programme communications leaflet developed and published. MRMV newsletter established.
	Progress against outcomes	One desk study published.	Project results and experiences are shared through social media and blogs in all countries. Main channels are Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr/Picasa. Traditional channels like publications are hardly used beyond country boundaries except for the global programme.
Number of young women and men involved in decision-making structure of MRMV and ES campaign.	Output	Guidelines for the establishment of YABs shared across the MRMV programme; two MRMV YABs established (in Georgia and Pakistan).	47 girls and 38 boys are members of YABs. In total ten YABs have been established. Georgia has two YABs and Tanzania four (one national and three district). Vietnam, Afghanistan and Nepal do not have official YABs but have informal youth groups that are consulted on MRMV country projects.  16 girls and 7 boys (23 in total) participated in international events organised by MRMV to plan, implement and monitor MRMV activities (MRMV Learning Event and Global Advocacy Workshop).
	Progress against outcomes		Young people play an increasing role in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme, at country and global levels. In Pakistan they have written shadow monitoring reports. In Mali, project components are integrated because of YAB.  The youth audit confirms this. Score increases were greatest with regards to accountability towards children and youth by Oxfam and partners along with their capacity to engage and work with young people.



# 7. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT



## OVERVIEW

With all country teams having fully implemented their projects for six months and with strong project teams and partners in place, the programme started the second year (January 2013) on a strong basis. It began with country and global teams analysing the last quarter of Year One's work and progress, followed by the finalisation of Year Two planning and budget processes. The year was extraordinarily busy, both at country and global levels.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) global programme budget for Year Two was USD 5,276,336. Total spend across the entire programme for Year Two was USD 4,331,872.94. Of this, partner organisations received USD 2,368,099.00 and spent USD 2,172,680.79. Full details of all expenditure against the global budget are available in the audited MRMV Annual Financial Report 2013.

## COST-EFFECTIVENESS

The programme continues to work hard towards achieving cost-effectiveness in its delivery, and several features of MRMV strengthen and provide evidence of this. As also mentioned in the 2012 report, all MRMV country projects are built on previously existing initiatives meaning the programme has been able to develop on the strengths of existing interventions of Oxfam and partners. The collective experience, knowledge and capacity of these organisations also means there is strong internal ability to respond to opportunities, challenges and successes in a way that is efficient, effective and collaborative.

The MRMV programme is being jointly implemented by Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) and Oxfam Novib (ON), and involves Oxfam Quebec (OQ) in Niger, with each affiliate contributing different areas of expertise and resources in terms of systems and people. All Oxfams have clear programme frameworks central to their approach to delivering effective, results-focused and accountable programmes by providing a clear and coherent guide to programming. This is 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 – part of a system that encompasses the organisations' general ledgers and management of donor contracts. Oxfam's Single Management Structure (SMS), bringing together all of the different affiliates as 'one Oxfam' in country contexts, also increases our cost-effectiveness. MRMV continues to be Oxfam's only inter-affiliate global programme and is modelling this way of working through its joint planning, processes, implementation, and monitoring with an inter-affiliate Global Coordination Team (GCT) and Steering Committee.

Our activities and results were in line with our budget estimate for Year Two, with spend against the global programme budget coming in at 82 per cent. Oxfam colleagues continued to actively coordinate all project interventions with other (inter)national agencies to avoid duplication of efforts at community and national levels.

## PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The MRMV Steering Committee – established in Year One continued to meet quarterly to review progress, provide guidance and make informed decisions on strategic and major events with the GCT. At the global level, a Global Programme and Communications Officer was recruited to implement the programme's communications strategy, document learning, and strengthen communications processes and skills of staff and others, including youth, involved in MRMV.

At country-project level, a small number of staff changes took place: Afghanistan (one change to a 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).

Several technical advisors, based at global and regional levels, continued their support to the MRMV project teams. Support focused on reviewing and implementing national-level MRMV advocacy strategies, conceptualising global advocacy work with youth, using social accountability tools and providing thematic guidance.

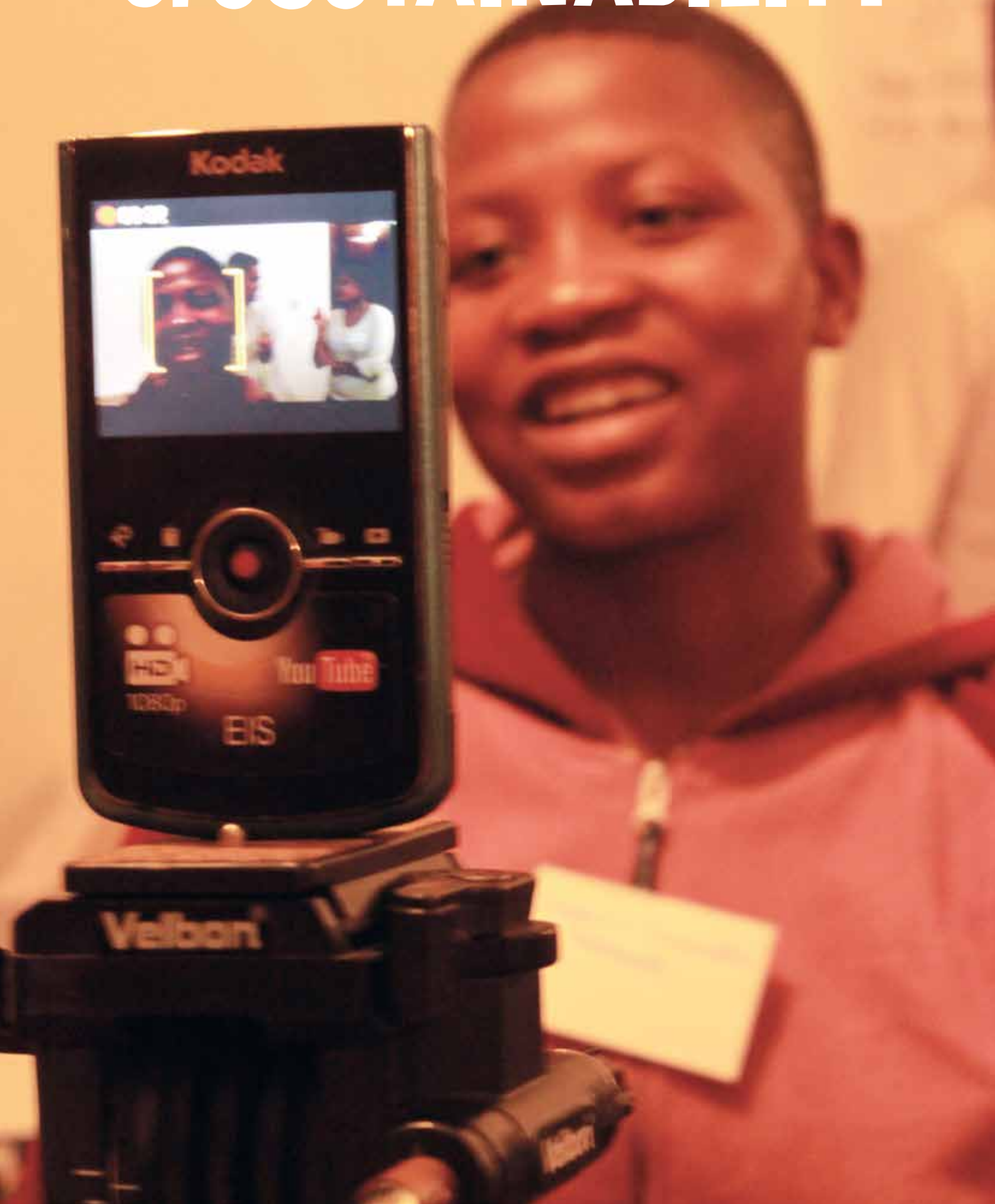
## PARTNERSHIP

In Year Two we worked with 26 partner organisations across eight countries with one partner managing an additional five partnerships specifically for MRMV. A partnership agreement was ended with the organisation HAWCA and a new working relationship began with the Organization of Human Welfare (OHW) in Afghanistan. Aside from this change, all country teams renewed existing partnerships. Through the MRMV Innovation and Learning Fund a number of new partnerships were also made to implement these additional and often specialist initiatives, including with the Mwanza Youth and Children Network (MYCN) in Tanzania and iSEE in Vietnam. In Niger, several groups of artists also supported MRMV.

The MRMV programme and progress to date was shared through a number of global forums and meetings. These included the World Innovations Summit for Education (WISE) and the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Netherlands. Ongoing connections continued with a number of organisations including Dance4Life, Choice, Stop Aids Now, Restless Development and MS ActionAid Denmark.



# 8. SUSTAINABILITY





## OVERVIEW

The overarching goal of the My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) programme and vision is to achieve sustainable changes in policies, practices and beliefs that meet the specific health and education needs of children and youth in the eight countries where it is being implemented. In addition to this, the core belief underpinning the programme is that children and youth (with allies) have a right not only to access good quality and free health and education services, but also to voice their needs, hold their governments to account to deliver on these provisions effectively, and ultimately to be listened to as members of society and rights-holders: as agents of change. The programme's approach is both a means to an end: to improve access to and the quality of services as well as enabling the potential of young people to engage, participate, and to find direction and purpose in their own development, that of their peers and wider society. All of this is aimed at sustainability by placing children and youth – both the rights-holders and future duty-bearers – at the centre of the initiative. We believe that the greatest and most lasting impacts on the lives of children and young people – and their own future children – will be achieved only if they themselves are supported to become actively engaged in voicing their rights to, and demanding and monitoring accessible quality education services in their communities.

In Year Two, the issue of sustainability was reviewed and worked on by all of the MRMV teams – both at country and global levels. Country projects continued to invest in strengthening levels of individual and collective knowledge, confidence and organisational skills of child and youth groups and allies, further building on Year One training and group formation. Many of these group structures are firmly embedded in the communities where they have been set up – for example, in schools and in supportive communities. Strengthened leadership skills, community 'buy in' and visible results indicate that they are beginning to become increasingly sustainable. However, it was apparent in the MTR process that children, youth and allies still have some way to go in also recognising their own responsibility in ensuring the sustainability of these groups beyond the MRMV programme cycle. This is also aligned with their empowerment journey. Many groups who we interviewed are highly knowledgeable, capable and talented and more than able to lead and continue the groups at the end of Year Three, irrespective of whether MRMV continues. Over the course of the third year, continued training and work will be done to support these groups in clearly identifying sustainable measures for their continuation. Exit strategies were reviewed and further developed with Oxfam, partners, young people and allies at the end of Year Two, and plans to ensure the sustainability of activities and groups are a key element of Year Three work.

As we have seen, over the course of 2013, increased levels of participation and leadership opportunities for girls and young women were also a critical factor in helping to ensure the sustainability of the programme's impact thus far, and more critically to maintain and build on the gains achieved by girls and women in their lives as a result of their involvement in MRMV. As outlined in our Strategic Gender Review (see Section 6), we have a lot of work to do on this in our final year, and will undertake deeper levels of gender analysis as a programme and with all stakeholders.

Both Oxfam's and partners' ability to work directly with children and youth, and their allies, has markedly increased in Year Two. This, we assume, will also make this type of youth-focused programming and involvement more possible and more effective in future by all parties. However, MRMV remains Oxfam's only inter-affiliate global programme explicitly working on connecting and supporting young people as social change leaders – a significant ambition of Oxfam in its strategic plan. It will therefore be key for all lessons, mistakes and achievements to be documented and shared over the course of the final year and after the programme's evaluation to ensure that learning and gains are sustained and the organisation's future work with youth in low-income countries builds upon the strong foundations laid by MRMV.

# 9. RISK ANALYSIS



## OVERVIEW

In the design and inception phase of My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) certain assumptions were made regarding a number of areas and corresponding strategies. Critically, one of these areas was risk, with a mitigation strategy developed in 2011. Much of our original risk analysis remained highly relevant in both Years One and Two. Three additional risks to the programme's delivery and impact, and to youth agency (relating to election processes, political change and shrinking civil society space) were identified in Year One. In Year Two, the Global Coordination Team (GCT) identified four new risks: the impact of disaster and climate change, overstretch of project scope, mismanagement of funds by partners with financial management systems and restructuring processes within Oxfam. In addition to the overarching risk management strategy, country teams continued to assess and (if necessary) revise their own project-level risk mitigation strategies.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

As referenced above, the revised risk analysis (presented in the 2012 'Annual Progress Report') remained relevant throughout 2013. Programme- and project-level mitigation strategies were successfully implemented and the majority of planned activities were able to take place. This was also due to the growing capacity of Oxfam and partners to cope with any identified risks and to intervene at the earliest possible moment to eliminate or reduce any impact to our work, staff, partners and most importantly children, youth and their allies. This growing capacity is reflected in the 'My Rights, My Voice Risk Analysis' (see Annex I). Many risks have reduced in scale compared to 2012 with the exception of the risks posed by political and social instability in project areas.

## ADDITIONAL RISKS

Three new risks were identified at the close of Year Two and will be closely monitored in 2014. Firstly, there is a risk caused by climate change and shocks in MRMV countries. The programme is working in communities where people's vulnerability is high and their level of resilience to cope with such shocks may be limited. In 2013, communities in Vietnam and Tanzania experienced the effects of drought, which meant that families had to prioritise their water, food and cash needs over project activities, with some pulling out their children from school to meet their family needs. In Afghanistan, project activities were delayed or postponed due to a very harsh winter, resulting in inaccessibility to some project areas for a few months. In 2014, country teams will closely monitor the coping capacity and social protection options of vulnerable families to prevent children from dropping out of both school and MRMV activities. In addition, as occurred in Tanzania, Oxfam and partners will closely work with the government to introduce initiatives such as school feeding programmes in times of extreme distress. Country work plans took into account the limited access to project areas in winter and rainy seasons. Secondly, pressure from neighbouring communities and schools to be included in MRMV projects has been added as a risk. While it is very tempting to broaden the scope (in terms of size) of the project, it may stretch the capacities of programme and partner staff. The GCT will engage in critical dialogue with country offices and partners on this. Thirdly, in 2013, partner financial mismanagement was identified as a potential risk where there are weak systems in place. As a result, we will continue to monitor stringently the programme's finances and respond as appropriate to any concerns we have, supporting partners to strengthen any weak financial management systems or processes.

Oxfam is in a period of ongoing organisational transition moving towards a single management structure for all affiliates. This process also includes a prioritisation of countries in which Oxfam works. To try and ensure we continue our work and retain our MRMV staff who have built successful relations with all project stakeholders who do incredible work, Oxfam will explore funding opportunities in Year Three for a possible second phase of the programme to build on the impact and achievements to date.



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

NATURE OF RISK	MITIGATION	IMPACT	PROB'ILITY
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
<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 IEC 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 turn-over 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

## ANNEX II: YOUTH AUDIT TABLE

Country	Partner	Policy (max score: 20)	Difference with 2012	Leadership (max score: 15)	Difference with 2012	Capacity (max score: 20)	Difference with 2012	Prog. and Account. (max score: 25)	Difference with 2012	Partnerships (max score: 20)	Difference with 2012	Total score (max. score: 100)
Afghanistan	ACSFo 2013	20.0		14.0		12.0		24.0		19.0		89.0
	OHW	17.0		15.0		18.0		21.0		17.0		88.0
	Village committee	1.5		14.5		17.0		24.0		16.5		73.5
	Youth	17.8		11.3		16.5		23.0		14.5		83.0
	Oxfam 2013	14.0		15.0		16.0		24.0		20.0		89.0
<b>Average</b>	2013 only	14.1	1.6	14.0	1.7	15.9	1.4	23.2	2.7	17.4	-0.4	84.5
Georgia	WF	15.0		14.0		14.0		20.0		18.0		85.0
	DEA	20.0		15.0		15.0		25.0		20.0		98.0
	YAB Samegrelo	10.0		15.0		15.0		21.0		16.0		82.0
	YAB Shida Kartli	18.0		5.0		5.0		24.0		20.0		87.0
	Oxfam	16.0		15.0		15.0		23.0		20.0		91.0
<b>Average</b>		15.8	1.1	12.8	1.5	18.6	4.6	22.6	1.9	18.8	3.5	88.6
Mali	COS EPT	17.0		14.0		19.0		19.0		19.0		19.0
	OneWorldUK	0.0		13.0		17.0		17.0		13.0		13.0
	YAB	17.0		12.0		15.0		15.0		18.0		18.0
	Oxfam	18.0		14.0		16.0		16.0		19.0		19.0
<b>Average</b>	2013 only	13.0		13.3		16.8		23.5		17.3		83.8
Nepal	AYON	18.0		15.0		19.0		25.0		25.0		25.0
	SAC	10.0		14.0		16.0		23.0		23.0		23.0
	WAM	17.0		11.0		17.0		21.0		21.0		21.0
	WEAF	12.0		13.0		18.0		24.0		24.0		24.0
	Oxfam	10.0		13.0		14.0		24.0		24.0		24.0
<b>Average</b>	2013 only	13.4	10.7	13.2	0.2	16.8	2.8	23.4	2.1	18.3	4.6	85.1
Niger	ASO-EPT 2013	16.0		14.0		18.0		23.0		17.0		88.0
	DIMOL 2013	17.0		15.0		20.0		25.0		20.0		97.0
	VIE 2013	14.0		10.0		14.0		24.0		16.0		78.0
	YAB	0.0		12.0		17.0		22.0		18.0		69.0
	Oxfam 2013	18.0		13.0		16.0		23.0		18.0		88.0
<b>Average</b>	2013 only	13.0	-0.1	12.8	0.1	17.0	2.3	23.4	2.9	17.8	0.1	84.0
Pakistan	Partner	12.0		9.0		12.0		20.0		16.0		69.0
	YAB	17.0		12.0		17.0		18.0		16.0		80.0
	Oxfam	11.0		9.0		13.0		21.0		17.0		71.0
<b>Average</b>	2013 only	13.3	3.8	10.0	0.0	14.0	2.0	19.7	0.7	16.3	0.8	73.3
Tanzania	MED	10.0		14.0		17.0		21.0		18.0		80.0
	KAWOCO-NET	13.0		11.5		15.0		18.5		15.0		73.0
	PWC	11.0		11.0		18.0		22.0		16.0		78.0
	WOWAP	6.0		9.0		14.0		25.0		20.0		74.0
	RSDO (Rafiki)	20.0		15.0		20.0		23.0		19.0		97.0
	YAB	20.0		15.0		20.0		24.0		20.0		99.0
	Oxfam	20.0		15.0		20.0		21.0		20.0		96.0
<b>Average</b>		14.3	1.8	12.9	0.4	17.7	1.0	22.1	-0.9	18.3	-0.5	85.3
Vietnam	Ninh Thuan	14.8		10.5		16.8		22.6		18.7		83.4
	Lao Cai	11.8		8.5		13.8		16.4		14.8		65.3
	Daknong	16.2		11.2		14.0		23.2		18.8		83.4
	iSee	4.0		4.0		9.0		6.0		5.0		28.0
	Oxfam	6.0		11.0		13.0		24.0		18.0		72.0
<b>Average</b>		10.6	-2.4	9.0	-2.7	13.3	-2.2	18.4	-3.6	15.1	-2.4	66.4
GCT	GCT	5.0		8.0		10.0		23.0		15.0		61.0
<b>Average</b>		5.0	3.0	8.0	2.0	10.0	-4.0	23.0	10.0	15.0	-2.0	61.0
<b>Overall average</b>		12.5	2.8	11.8	0.7	15.6	1.3	22.1	2.4	17.1	0.6	79.1
<b>Percentage</b>		62.5		78.5		77.8		88.6		85.7		79.1

## 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 2014, in project areas percentage increase in the number of youth and children accessing quality healthcare and/or education. By December 2014, in project areas percentage increase of girls and young women accessing free quality healthcare and/or education. By December 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, percentage increase in the number of girls and young women participating in these groups and taking up leadership roles.	A. By December 2014, local and national policy-makers in target countries create, recognise, and/or formalise spaces for young peoples voices (e.g. youth parliaments, child caucuses and youth fora). B. Numbers 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 girls 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 2014, percentage 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.	A. By December 2014, percentage of above groups with documented shared agendas (policy recommendations, agreed activities and purpose, etc). B. By December 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 educations 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 ES 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 judgements on the programme's contribution to the overall goal at the end of the programme period.



## PHOTOS

Page 1: A child representative asks a question to provincial authorities during a live TV-programme at the Provincial Child Forum in Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam.  
Credit: Phan Vu Hung, Oxfam.

Page 5: Young community members perform a cultural show as part of a health awareness-raising campaign in Banke District, Nepal.  
Credit: Bal Krishna Kattel, Oxfam

Page 7: Youth campaigners take part in a game during the My Rights, My Voice (MRMV) Global Advocacy Workshop in Nairobi.  
Credit: Imogen Davies, Oxfam

Page 9: Youth campaigners take part in Participatory Video training during the MRMV Global Advocacy Workshop in Nairobi.  
Credit: Imogen Davies, Oxfam

Page 12: Youth campaigners demand their rights to health services as part of International Children's Day in Samegrelo Region, Georgia.  
Credit: Khatuna Khubitua, Oxfam.

Page 14: Youth campaigners take part in an artistic event to raise awareness around health issues among their peers in Say, Niger.  
Credit: Moussa Abdou, Oxfam.

Page 16: Samera, MRMV Provincial Youth Group Representative in Afghanistan. Credit: Nguyen Dieu Chi, Oxfam.

Page 17: Ana, MRMV Youth Club Leader in Georgia.  
Credit: Mako Kvaratskhelia, Oxfam.

Page 18: Adam, MRMV Youth Advisory Board Member from Mali.  
Credit: Le Gia Thang, Oxfam.

Page 19: Bipul, MRMV Children's Health Committee Chairperson in Nepal. Credit: Prakash Paudel, Oxfam.

Page 20: Nouridine, MRMV *Espace* (Youth Confederation) Leader in Niger. Credit: Braham Moumouni, Oxfam.

Page 22: Rose, Chairperson of the MRMV-supported Student *Baraza* in Tanzania. Credit: Luhaga Makunja, Oxfam.

Page 23: Participant in MRMV project activities in Vietnam.  
Credit: Nguyen Cahn Toan, Oxfam.

Page 24: Students paint a mural to raise awareness around violence against women, Pakistan. Credit: Oxfam.

Page 27: Youth members of the Dailekh District Youth Assembly discuss which of their issues should be included in the Citizen Manifesto on Health, Nepal. Credit: Aarati Sharma, Oxfam.

Page 28: Youth campaigners do a performance about child and youth health rights as part of International Children's Day in Samegrelo Region, Georgia. Credit: Khatuna Khubitua, Oxfam.

Pages 30-32: Credits: Imogen Davies, Guppi Bola, Do Van Nguyet, Amadou Djibo Fanta, Mako Kvaratskhelia, Mariam Devidze and N. Shah, Oxfam.

Page 34: Members of a Young Journalists' Club take part in a training session to promote girls' leadership in Lao Cai province, Vietnam.  
Credit: Vu Thu Trang, Oxfam

Page 39: Youth participants perform as part of the MRMV National Youth Event in Kabul, Afghanistan.  
Credit: Fausto Aarya De Santis, Oxfam.

Page 54: Youth activists campaign for their health and education rights during the run-up to the Presidential Election in Bamako, Mali.  
Credit: Kadidia Baby

Page 56: Youth campaigners film each other during the MRMV Global Advocacy Workshop in Nairobi. Credit: N. Shah, Oxfam.

Page 58: A student encourages support for girl student leaders among School Committee Members in Shinyanga District, Tanzania.  
Credit: Michael Shija, Oxfam.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> State of World Population 2011, UNFPA, <http://foweb.unfa.org/SWP2011/reports/EN-SWOP2011-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> From participants at the MRMV 2013 Annual Learning Event, <http://myrightsmyvoice.ning.com/profiles/blogs/the-mrmv-annual-learning-event-2013-the-youth-s-perspective>

<sup>3</sup> Dunne, M. and Durrani, N. 'Study on Youth as Active Citizens for their rights to education and SRHR', University of Sussex: 2012, p. 5

<sup>4</sup> Gillert, A, Verstraete, M., and Kabalt, J. 'The Mid Term Review of the My Rights, My Voice Programme', Kessels & Smit, The Learning Company: 2014. Available to download from <http://myrightsmyvoice.ning.com/page/key-resources>

<sup>5</sup> Enarsson, J.: 'Strategic Gender Review: My Rights, My Voice', Oxford: 2014. Available to download from <http://myrightsmyvoice.ning.com/page/key-resources>

<sup>6</sup> From 10.1 per cent (baseline) rising to 77.1 per cent in Ninh Thuan, 23.0 per cent to 90.8 per cent in Dak Nong and 4.5 per cent to 80.0 per cent in Lao Cai. Figures from Baseline Survey ('Promoting Social Accountability in Education Sector in Vietnam', Indochina Research & Consulting:2012) and Vietnam Mid-Term Review Report (Dr. Vu Thi Son, Tran Thap Long and Nguyen Ngoc Anh, 'Promoting Social Accountability in Education Sector in Vietnam', Vietnam:2014

<sup>7</sup> Country teams and partners collect monitoring data from target groups and stakeholders on a quarterly basis.

<sup>8</sup> 404 groups established by MRMV and 6 pre-existing groups.

<sup>9</sup> As outlined in the MRMV quarterly monitoring reports.

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