
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Evaluation of the Raising Her Voice Project

Effectiveness Review Series

2015/16



Photo: A jumper at the Alexandra Trampoline Club, in Alexandra township, Johannesburg. Credit: Zed Nelson

GAVIN STEDMAN-BRYCE

PAMOJA CONSULTING for OXFAM GB

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

BARBAR BEFANI AND BERNANDO MONZANI



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADAPT	Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training
AU	African Union
CEDAW	Convention to End all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CGE	Commission on Gender Equality
CBO	Community-based organisation
CSO	Civil society organisation
DFID	Department for International Development
GBV	Gender-based violence
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
Maputo Protocol	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MVSC	Masimanyane Women's Support Centre
OGB	Oxfam Great Britain
OINC	One in Nine Campaign
OZA	Oxfam South Africa
POWA	People Opposed to Women's Abuse
PWG	Positive Women's Group (Also referred to as Positive Women's Network)
RHV	Raising Her Voice
RHV-SA	Raising Her Voice Project in South Africa
SAIH	Studentenes og Akademikerenes Internasjonale Hjelpfond (Norwegian Students' and Academics International Assistance Fund)
SOAWR	Solidarity for African Women's Rights

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The global Raising Her Voice (RHV) programme aims to promote the rights and capacity of women to engage effectively in governance at all levels through increased voice and influence, and greater institutional accountability. Comprising 17 different country-specific programmes, RHV is an ambitious attempt to advance Oxfam's work on good governance and gender equality.

ABOUT THE EVALUATION

The purpose of the evaluation was to rigorously assess the effectiveness of the RHV project in South Africa (RHV-SA), in terms of its contribution to greater women's empowerment.

Under Oxfam's Global Performance Framework, a random sample of closing and/or sufficiently mature projects are selected under six outcome areas, and rigorously evaluated. These evaluations are known as 'Effectiveness Reviews'.

The project under scrutiny in this evaluation was selected under Oxfam's Women's Empowerment outcome area. Usually, evaluations under this thematic area are evaluated using quasi-experimental impact evaluation techniques. However, in this case, given the characteristics of the project, a different impact evaluation technique has been applied called process tracing. Where interventions target only a small number of units (referred to as small 'n' evaluations), traditional counterfactual approaches to establishing causality are not possible for a range of technical and practical reasons. Evaluations of such interventions are similarly concerned with establishing whether or not they contributed to an observed change; in other words, they are concerned with assessing a causal claim. In order to make this type of assessment possible, Oxfam developed a pre-qualified protocol based on process tracing.

BACKGROUND TO THE RHV PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA

The RHV-SA project has been part of the global RHV portfolio since 2008 and has gone through two distinct phases of implementation: phase one (2008–13); and phase two (2013–present). The project operates in three municipalities, including the city of Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni district and Sebokeng district.

Oxfam GB has a long history in South Africa spanning over five decades. Oxfam GB Programmes post-1994 focused on the following areas: health campaigning through the Joint Oxfam Campaigning Support on Health (JOSCH) programme with a focus on health systems and specific campaigning on HIV; Economic Justice (started the Climate Change Programme, working on land and small scale farmers and agriculture, food security, low carbon development); Gender (Violence against women, Women in Leadership and Women's Economic Empowerment); Governance (transparency and accountability, strengthening of civil society coalitions and campaigns, tax and more recently extractives); and South Africa's role in the world, including a strong focus on BRICS, G20 and UN processes.

Oxfam GB (OGB)'s country office in South Africa, worked with one of its long-standing partners to implement the project as an opportunity to build on their work and partnership. People Opposing

Women's Abuse (POWA) has been the main implementing partner for the project since its inception in 2008.

POWA designed the RHV-SA project to address specific challenges related to women's rights and participation in governance processes in South Africa. At the same time, the project aimed to contribute to a regional initiative to support the Pan-African Solidarity for African Women's Rights coalition (SOAWR) in its work to ensure the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as the Maputo Protocol.

POWA identified the need to work at the intersection of gender-based violence (GBV), HIV and AIDS, and poverty. Despite progressive national laws, South African society remains deeply patriarchal, with very high levels of violence against women, including rapes that, for the most part, go unreported (POWA 2011). There is still to this day a high level of gender-based inequality between men and women, with women often being economically marginalised (unemployment rates for women in South Africa are much higher than for men). Together, these two factors – GBV and economic marginalisation – increase women's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS in particular; and contracting HIV in turn exacerbates marginalisation and social exclusion.

At the country level, RHV-SA has aimed to tackle this vicious circle, which, fuelled by abuse, has created multiple layers of violations and disempowerment that make it nearly impossible for affected women to actively participate in society. And at the continental level, the project has supported POWA and OGB's South Africa's contributions to the work of the SOAWR coalition. Supporting the effective implementation of the Maputo Protocol was deemed necessary in order to strengthen the normative framework for the protection of women's rights, to facilitate the use of the Protocol's provisions by civil society, and to ensure that government bodies in South Africa worked to apply the Protocol to South Africa's particular issues.

Over the project's lifetime a range of activities have been implemented, for example:

- **A rapid assessment study:** to identify gaps and opportunities within the policy context to identify areas of focus for working with state institutions;
- **A baseline study:** to understand what actions local civil society organisations (CSOs)/community-based organisations (CBOs) were taking in relation to the intersections of GBV, poverty and HIV and AIDS, as well as identifying innovative ways that women were coping with the challenges they faced;
- **Development of a conceptual framework:** the conceptual framework was developed in 2010 with significant input from marginalised women. The framework sets out a detailed understanding of the intersections between GBV, poverty and HIV and AIDS, providing recommendations on how this knowledge should be used to support implementation of the RHV-SA project;
- **Adaptation of a radio drama series:** the RHV-SA project began its activities by adapting a six-part radio series originally produced for audiences in Kenya, called *Crossroads*. The radio series explores issues related to the Maputo Protocol, tackling women's rights issues in a dramatic and engaging way. The series was broadcast on local radio stations, which stimulated calls from listeners who could then put their questions and comments to RHV-SA project staff. The *Crossroads* radio series was accompanied by a discussion guide intended for use by radio presenters, teachers, community leaders and group facilitators. This led directly to the establishment of eight women-only 'listening groups' that listened to the broadcasts then sat together discussing the various issues it raised for them. These listening groups became the catalyst for women to begin taking action on issues of GBV and women's rights more broadly, eventually transforming into what are now called community action groups (CAGs);
- **Establishment of community action groups:** formed from the radio listening groups, there were originally five CAGs in the project area (now eight), each comprising around 8–10 women. Following training (see below), groups were supported to develop a one-year advocacy plan, which they then had responsibility for implementing and reporting against; and

- **Workshops and training programmes:** RHV-SA project partners and CAGs (for more information about these, see below) received training on advocacy skills via workshops designed to assist groups in identifying advocacy opportunities with their local communities.

KEY FINDINGS

To help the reader interpret the key findings, it is useful to have some understanding of the methodology applied. What follows is a basic introduction to the method that can be read about in detail in the main report.

The evaluation aimed to assess confidence that the project's training and support to marginalised women contributed to their newly engaging in local governance processes (the 'contribution claim'). This aspect of the project was felt to be the best focus for the evaluation given outcome realisation and the availability of data, including access to relevant project stakeholders.

An application of process tracing, adapted from Oxfam's process-tracing protocol, was used to assess the project's contribution claim. This involved elaborating a hypothesised causal mechanism, which detailed exactly how the project intended to contribute to the outcome, and thereafter sought to identify what evidence would be necessary to strengthen confidence in the contribution claim. To test that the hypothesised causal mechanism existed, two types of process-tracing tests were applied in sequence beginning with the Hoop Test, which has the power to disconfirm contribution claims; followed by the Smoking Gun Test, which has the power to confirm contribution claims. Taken together, these two tests offer a rigorous means by which to establish confidence in contribution claims. To further strengthen the findings, an application of Bayesian updating (probability) was applied to quantify confidence in the project's contribution claim, using an established method.

In assessing confidence in the project's contribution at the outcome level, a number of evidence tests were designed on the principle that if the project's contribution claim is valid, such evidence would be easy to find (i.e. the probability of finding it is high). By implication, finding this evidence would strengthen confidence in the contribution claim, while not finding it would weaken confidence in the contribution claim. Based on the project's hypothesised causal mechanism, seven evidence tests were identified, including evidence that:

1. The project's training actually took place;
2. The project's training reached enough of the right people;
3. The project is viewed as credible by project participants;
4. Project participants found the project's training relevant and of good quality;
5. Project staff believed the training to be relevant and of good quality;
6. More women are engaged in collective/individual action to share and disseminate their knowledge; and
7. More women are newly engaged in local governance processes.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

1. There was sufficient evidence to warrant exploration of the project's contribution claim; that is, evidence that the outcome – more marginalised women engaged in local governance processes – had materialised. A small number of examples were found of women and women's groups from the project newly engaged in local governance processes that gave an indication of success at outcome level. Evidence came largely from previous project evaluations, and from interviews conducted with a range of key informants, made up of project staff and participants, and women's rights professionals from allied organisations and networks.
2. To verify the existence of the project's causal mechanism, and thereby validate its contribution claim, evidence was gathered and assessed against the evidence tests described above. To further strengthen this assessment of evidence, Bayesian updating was applied to quantify how the available evidence increased (or decreased) confidence in the existence of the specific components of the project's hypothesised mechanism. Based on this analysis, we can have high confidence that three out of seven components of the mechanism exist. In order of descending confidence these include: that more women are engaged in collective action to share and disseminate their knowledge following training provided by the project; that the project's training actually took place; and that women who took part in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their human rights and how to claim them. For three of the seven components of the project's mechanism, we should be more cautiously confident. In descending order of confidence this includes: that project staff believe the training provided was relevant to marginalised women; that more women are newly engaged in local governance processes; and that the project's training reached sufficient numbers of marginalised women.
3. To quantify confidence in the existence of the mechanism as a whole, the lowest confidence value for an individual component was used. The rationale for using the lowest score is because the mechanism as a whole is the logical intersection of all components and its overall strength is thus dependent on the weakest link. In this case, the component relating to the reach of the project's training, based on the observed evidence, had the lowest confidence score of 60 per cent. **Confidence in the project's contribution claim – that the RHV-SA project's training and support has led to more women and women's group newly engaging in local governance processes (aimed at reducing the number of women who experience gender-based violence) – is therefore quantified at 60 per cent. Using a qualitative rubric (Table 7), this quantitative score is described as 'More Confident Than Not' and represents the lowest level of confidence within the rubric.**
4. The results of the evaluation provide an indication of where additional efforts at evidence strengthening could be directed in future as this would strengthen confidence as a whole in the mechanism's existence. Important project data were either not collected, not stored appropriately and/or lost over time. However, I am assured that absence of evidence in this case does not equate to evidence of absence. **Had better monitoring systems been in place, it may have been possible to give higher confidence scores for the components within the project's mechanism, thereby giving more credence to the project's contribution claim.**
5. Process tracing requires that as well as assessing the project's causal mechanism, sufficient resources are provided to assess other potential causal mechanisms with equal rigour. Two further causal mechanisms were assessed: the actions of other organisations, delivering similar training to the project contributed to women newly engaging in local governance processes, and national or local government initiatives promoting the engagement of women in local governance processes. In relation to the former, a review of five organisations with a similar mission to the project was conducted which found that all were engaged in similar

work to the project, to varying degrees, including delivering training on gender-based violence. More evidence would be required to validate this mechanism but it appears probable that it has made a contribution given the similar missions of the organisations, their profiles on GBV issues and the training they offer. In relation to the latter mechanism, concerning a government-led initiative, the national Commission of Gender Equality (CGE) did organise a number of public-awareness campaigns, including in the project's operational province. These events touched on issues of sexual harassment and GBV. There is not enough information available publicly, however, to more fully understand this mechanism. Hence, for both alternative causal mechanisms, some evidence exists suggesting they may have made a contribution to more women newly engaging in local governance processes, but this picture is incomplete.

6. As there is no evidence to rule out the alternative causal candidates, due to both a lack of resources and limited data availability, they, together with the project's causal mechanism, can be considered as a 'causal package'. This is an entirely reasonable finding given the complexity of the social environment in which the project operates and that many factors will influence how women chose to engage in local governance processes. Indeed, there will be other causal mechanisms this evaluation has not considered that will form part of the causal package. What is important for the project is that it remains a plausible causal candidate within this package. **While more evidence is required to increase confidence in the project's causal claim, there is a sufficient threshold of evidence to maintain it as a causal candidate and hence the project's contribution claim is upheld.**
7. Despite limited budgets, the RHV-SA project has done a lot with a broad range of activities that has engaged women activists at community level. This has included the development of a clear problem analysis, articulated by the project's conceptual framework; the adaptation of a radio drama series, which acted as a catalyst for the formation of eight CAGs; provision of training workshops designed to inspire, educate and motivate women to take action; and ongoing support to women's groups to develop and implement their own plans of action to disseminate their knowledge and engage with local governance processes. Project participants appear to have got a lot out of their engagement, particularly in the knowledge and confidence they gained from attending training events organised by the project.
8. Sustainability of the project is a concern, given drop-out rates from the CAGs, and no ongoing provision of training. The intervention logic of the RHV-SA project relies solely on the provision of training workshops (and some support) to encourage women to become champions of women's rights in their communities, by taking action alone and/or in concert with other likeminded women. The lack of ongoing training is contributing to a knowledge imbalance within the groups, and the assumption that women will cascade their knowledge to one another does not appear to be holding true in all cases. This is a crucial weakness in the project's intervention logic. As a consequence, when knowledgeable group members leave, they often take their knowledge with them, leaving the group, in some cases, 'rudderless'. And when new women join groups, they do not enjoy the same training as older members, sometimes having no training at all. A lack of funding to support CAGs has contributed to some women dropping out through lack of stipend payments. A further contributing factor is a lack of funding for groups to implement their action plans with some key informants frustrated that they cannot do more. The start of the project saw 100 women join the various CAGs, with this figure now closer to 50. Groups are composed mainly of new members who have not received the same level of training and skills-building as women who joined the groups at the start of the project.
9. **Had the project developed and implemented a monitoring and evaluation plan, confidence in the project's contribution claim would have undoubtedly been higher. This is a missed opportunity that the project should learn from as it continues implementation.**

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

The evaluation has found a number of learning points for OGB decision makers to consider that will improve future planning, monitoring and evaluation of Oxfam's programmes.

1. Theory of change is a process that engages key stakeholders to articulate the various assumptions they may make about how change happens in a particular context. This is an incredibly important process in strategy development, but also for purposes of monitoring and evaluation. The various components of a theory of change can be used to inform monitoring and evaluation plans, helping projects to know which intermediate outcomes, assumptions and risks to monitor, for example. Having a well-articulated theory of change is crucial for any theory-based evaluation, including for process tracing, as it forms the backbone of the approach. While a theory of change was developed for the global RHV programme during the mid-term evaluation of the RHV portfolio, no theory of change process was undertaken in the RHV-SA project. A comprehensive process to develop a conceptual framework was done by the project, and project staff are to be praised for its focus on including women activists from grassroots level and its feminist approach. However, this did not provide the detail generated by a theory of change process. As a consequence, the various intermediate outcomes the project hoped to produce were not fully articulated and the related risks and assumptions were not stated or monitored, nor was a mitigation plan developed. Greater promotion of theory of change as a planning, monitoring and evaluation tool is required, especially in projects and programmes concerned with good governance work.
2. The project should invest in more systematic ways of capturing women's stories of change and to ensure evidence of impact is preserved as project staff and participants change over time. . At the outcome level, given the focus of the RHV-SA project, the project could consider developing a repository of case studies or stories of change from project participants to capture the experiences of the many women who have benefited from the project and what action they may have taken to engage in local governance processes
3. Plans for sustainability are not clear, and the project is encouraged to consider how best to leverage the support of its partners and other actors, to put in place sustainability measures to ensure women are trained in an ongoing way and encouraged to continue with the implementation of their action plans.

1 INTRODUCTION

The global Raising Her Voice (RHV) programme aims to promote the rights and capacity of women to engage effectively in governance at all levels through increased voice and influence and greater institutional accountability.

The purpose of the evaluation was to rigorously assess the effectiveness to date of the RHV project in South Africa (RHV-SA), part of the global RHV portfolio, in terms of its contribution to greater women's empowerment. The terms of reference for the evaluation had two stated objectives, namely:

1. To assess the extent to which key project outcomes and women's empowerment indicators have materialised; and
2. To assess what evidence there is that the project contributed to these changes.

The evaluation was commissioned with approximately six weeks' lead time prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The evaluation timeframe ran from October 2015 to January 2016, with a total of 35 consultancy days allocated to the evaluation.

The report contributors and I are all independent consultants commissioned by Oxfam GB (OGB). I was responsible for applying the methodology, key informant questionnaire design, conducting all key informant interviews, analysing all data and drafting this evaluation report.

1.1 THE RHV PROGRAMME

1.1.1 Global programme

Implemented between 2008 and 2013, the RHV programme was a global initiative aimed at promoting the rights and capacity of women to engage in governance at all levels. Its implementation was coordinated by OGB and supported primarily through a grant from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), though additional funds were raised from Oxfam itself, as well as other donors, to support the programme's various components and country-specific efforts. The RHV programme was an ambitious attempt at advancing the work of Oxfam, as well as its local partners, across a total of 17 different countries. It was also one of the organisation's first attempts at creating an integrated programmatic framework to support efforts around two of its top priorities: good governance and gender equality.

The overarching goal of the RHV programme was to increase participation of poor and marginalised women in public policy, budget setting and decision making. The intervention thus reflected – and was indeed born out of – OGB's strategic commitments to both improving governance and strengthening women's rights. Beyond this goal, however, the programme's intervention logic was not elaborated in detail; instead, country offices from across OGB were given the opportunity to opt into the programme, defining as part of the process the specific objectives they wanted to pursue and the outcomes they sought to achieve in their respective countries of operation. The initial approach was to create a portfolio of country-specific projects, which were to be implemented independently by OGB's country offices (or local partners) and coordinated globally by staff based in the organisation's headquarters.

While the global RHV programme had an overall logical framework that was made up of all the objectives, outcomes and activities from the different RHV projects, this was more of a representation

of the diversity and breadth of the operations it supported rather than a description of a common approach or vision. This changed in 2011, however, when, following the programme's mid-term evaluation, OGB adopted a programme-level theory of change, which was proposed by the author of the evaluation report, that more clearly explained how the programme sought to promote change both within each country as well as globally (Beardon, 2011).

The entire RHV programme included 17 country-specific projects¹ and two regional projects.² OGB engaged with and supported a total of 45 local partners, 141 community activist groups and over 1,000 coalition members. Over the programme's lifetime, projects in the RHV portfolio directly benefited over 1 million women. Between 2010 and 2013, nearly 18,000 women participated in leadership training organised by RHV partners and allies, which led in some countries, such as Nepal and Indonesia (Papua), to dramatic increases in women's participation in local decision-making bodies. Through the RHV programme, partners and allies in Bolivia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan and Uganda were able to officially contribute to the review or passing of laws to promote women's rights, some specifically targeting gender-based violence (GBV). In other countries, activist groups, whose capacities were strengthened through RHV, succeeded in establishing accountability mechanisms with local authorities, including, for example, the integration of 'gender desks' in regional police offices in Tanzania and the creation of the Maputo Protocol Office within the Traditional Council of Liberia. At pan-African level, the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition, which is the main organisation promoting the implementation of the Maputo Protocol on the continent (see Box 1) was able, with the support of RHV, to increase its membership by 27 per cent.

Box 1: The Maputo Protocol

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as the Maputo Protocol, was developed by the African Union (AU) and officially adopted by AU member states in 2003. The Protocol was born out of the need to ensure that women's rights are better protected across the African continent. It thus advances women's rights in many key areas, including domestic and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, reproductive rights, and inheritance and property rights. In countries where the Protocol has been ratified, as in South Africa, its provisions can serve as the basis for recourse in national courts and for advocacy by civil society groups.

Projects under the RHV programme were indeed responsible for many positive outcomes, of which the above are but a few examples. Beyond individual case studies and results, however, there were promising programme-wide results, which were identified through a whole-of-programme final evaluation conducted in 2013 (Beardon and Otero 2013). The evaluation found that the programme had been extremely relevant across all countries and that OGB's approach promoted a high level of local ownership by partners. At a personal level, the programme transformed the lives of many activists, demonstrating that personal empowerment is indeed central to promoting changes within whole communities. At a social level, the programme contributed to strengthening the capacities of women's groups, coalitions, and their campaigns; with some of these efforts becoming in turn quite successful in advancing social acceptance for women's participation. At a political level, the evaluation uncovered many examples of how the programme contributed to the emergence of new women leaders and increased access for women to local government. Finally, the evaluation also identified several important lessons learned:

- A theory of change is a necessary first step for social change programmes and should be articulated clearly and in detail in order to identify the most effective entry points and strategies for change;
- The personal empowerment of women activists should include efforts to increase both their capacities and self-confidence, which is crucial to achieving change in the other two spheres (political and social);

- Success is more likely when initiatives are built around broad-based and inclusive coalitions, but as this work requires years to nurture, programmes should plan to provide long-term support;
- At the social level, it is necessary to work with power holders, including men, to break down obstacles to women's participation, manage potential backlash and prevent violence;
- At the political level, it is important that advocacy efforts are based on well-researched evidence and supported by actors working at both sub-national (i.e. grassroots) and national levels; and
- Finally, global initiatives, such as RHV, can lead to interesting examples of cross-fertilisation and replication, but only to the extent that sufficient resources and capacities are devoted to knowledge-sharing and learning.

1.1.2 RHV PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA

The RHV-SA project has been part of the global RHV portfolio since 2008 and has gone through two distinct phases of implementation: phase one (2008–13); and phase two (2013–present). RHV-SA operates in three municipalities, including the city of Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni district and Sebokeng district.

Phase one, 2008–13

Phase one was developed by OGB's country office in South Africa, which from the outset used it as an opportunity to build on the work of one of its long-standing local partners, the People Opposing Women's Abuse (POWA). POWA has been the main implementing partner for RHV-SA from its inception in 2008 to today.

Starting from the RHV global framework, the South Africa country team and POWA designed a project that addressed specific challenges related to women's rights and participation in governance processes in South Africa. At the same time, the project also contributed to the regional initiative to support the Pan-African SOAWR coalition in its work to ensure the implementation of the Maputo Protocol. This second initiative was developed jointly by all seven African projects supported by the RHV programme.

The choice of issues for RHV-SA was based on an analysis of the South African context, which, compared to other African countries targeted by the programme, offered different entry points for promoting women's rights and participation. Specifically, OGB's South Africa country office and POWA identified the need to work at the intersection of GBV, HIV and AIDS, and poverty. Despite progressive national laws, South African society remains deeply patriarchal, with very high levels of violence against women, including rapes that, for the most part, go unreported (POWA, 2011). There is still to this day a high level of gender-based inequality between men and women, with women often being economically marginalised (unemployment rates for women in South Africa are much higher than for men). Together, these two factors – GBV and economic marginalisation – increase women's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS in particular; and contracting HIV in turn exacerbates marginalisation and social exclusion.

At the country level, RHV-SA aimed to tackle this vicious circle, which, fuelled by abuse, creates multiple layers of violations and disempowerment that make it nearly impossible for affected women to actively participate in society. And at the continental level, the project allowed POWA and OGB's South Africa country office to contribute to the work of the SOAWR coalition. Supporting the effective implementation of the Maputo Protocol was deemed necessary in order to strengthen the normative framework for the protection of women's rights, to facilitate the use of the Protocol's provisions by civil society, and to ensure that government bodies in South Africa worked to domesticate the Protocol.

The overall objective of RHV-SA was thus framed as holding the state 'legally accountable to systematically and consistently address[ing] the intersections of violence against women, poverty and

HIV and AIDS, enabling women to enjoy fundamental human rights to life, freedom and security of the person and freedom from all forms of discrimination.³

The specific objectives of the RHV-SA project were:

- To build alliances with poor women activists to ensure that issues of marginalised women were brought into mainstream discourse;
- To hold, through national lobbying and advocacy work, the South African parliament and government accountable to ensure domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol; and
- To mobilise and strengthen the community, especially the capacity of women's organisations and networks to lobby and advocate for their rights.

To pursue the project's objectives, activities were implemented in four clusters:

- **Cluster 1:** networking, lobbying and advocacy with poor women activists;
- **Cluster 2:** working with public institutions and decision-making forums, including traditional structures;
- **Cluster 3:** empowering and capacitating civil society organisations (CSOs) to achieve the rights of poor women citizens through campaigns and policy work; and
- **Cluster 4:** learning lessons and disseminating best practice through innovative media and communications work.

According to the partnership agreement between OGB and POWA, the annual cost of the project was in the region of £40,000, equating to approximately £200,000 in investment over phase one. It is not the purpose of this evaluation to make a judgement on value for money of the project; I mention it here to provide the reader with a sense of the project's scale when considering its impact.

Phase two, 2013–present

The strategy for phase two of the RHV-SA project appears to have adopted a short-term annual focus as evidenced by the project partnership agreements for years 2013/14 and 2014/15. For reference purposes I will refer to the first year and second year of phase two as Year A (2013/14) and Year B (2014/15), respectively.

For Year A, a concept note was developed to 'build on the advocacy work carried out during RHV phase one... to promote women's active citizenship in local governance.' As such, phase two refocuses the project in a narrower way on leveraging success from the radio discussion programmes and CAGs completed in phase one; and away from regional and global level advocacy. The updated objective of phase two is to enhance women's capacity to push for and coordinate integrated local government responses towards addressing GBV. This suggests a move away from the focus on the intersections of GBV, HIV and AIDS and poverty, which had been so central to phase one of the project. The anticipated results for phase two of RHV-SA are the following:

1. Improved capacity, greater political skills, confidence, and a culture of active citizenship among women to participate in, influence and monitor local government;
2. Partnerships developed with government and other stakeholders engaging with one another and collaborating to address the impact of GBV;
3. Greater participation and dialogue through interactive media, enabling women to better understand and engage in public debates with local government on issues that affect them; and
4. Innovative use of participatory media to facilitate community discussion, which can contribute to lasting 'localised' solutions to addressing GBV.

OGB provided POWA with £24,000 to fund this work during Year A.

Year B is split into two funding agreements: the first covering September 2014 to March 2015 (eight months); and the second from April 2015 to December 2015 (nine months). In Year B, the RHV-SA project changes direction, again. With £30,000 of funding for each agreement period, the RHV-SA is tasked with three goals in Year B:

1. To heighten young women's agency through intensive psychological and legal support;
2. To achieve equality and adopt gender-sensitive approaches to socio-economic challenges;
and
3. To create a strong, vibrant, integrated women's sector.

2 METHODOLOGY

Oxfam's global performance framework specifies the random selection of samples of closing and/or sufficiently mature projects under six outcome areas of interest. Selected projects have their performance rigorously evaluated annually in a process Oxfam calls 'effectiveness reviews'.

The project under scrutiny in this evaluation was selected under Oxfam's Women's Empowerment outcome area. Usually, evaluations under this thematic area are evaluated using quasi-experimental impact evaluation techniques. However, in this case, given the characteristics of the project, a different impact evaluation technique has been applied called process tracing. Where interventions target only a small number of units (referred to as small 'n' evaluations), traditional counterfactual approaches to establishing causality are not possible for a range of technical and practical reasons. Evaluations of such interventions are similarly concerned with establishing whether or not they contributed to an observed change; in other words, they are concerned with assessing a causal claim. In order to make this type of assessment possible, Oxfam developed a pre-qualified protocol based on process tracing.

Process tracing comes from the field of cognitive psychology, where it is used to explore the intermediate steps in cognitive mental processes, with the term later being coined by Alexander L. George, a political scientist at Stanford University, who used it to describe and make inferences about historical cases (Bennett and Checkel, 2015).

Since its birth in the late 1960s, process tracing has been applied mainly to cases in the social and political sciences. Fuelled arguably by discourse on the need to broaden the range of approaches to impact assessment within the development field (Stern, 2012), various development actors, academics and evaluation practitioners have begun an exploration to better understand process tracing's applicability to rigorously assessing causal claims of development interventions. Oxfam has been an early adopter of this approach, developing, in 2010, its own draft protocol to guide evaluations that would apply process tracing (Oxfam, 2010).

In the literature, process tracing has been described by George and Bennett (2005) as a social science method concerned with 'tracing' causal mechanisms, allowing strong causal inferences to be made within a single case. It is based on a generative model of causality. Importantly, generative causality is compatible with multiple-conjunctural causality: factors may combine in various different ways, creating different mechanisms that produce the same outcome (Befani and Mayne, 2014). Put simply, this acknowledges that causality in action, particularly in social contexts, is complex, making it difficult – indeed undesirable – to make causal inferences between a single factor and an outcome. As evaluators in such contexts, therefore, our focus is not on quantifying net change attributable to a specific intervention, but rather on assessing our confidence that an intervention has contributed to causing a change. In relation to the RHV project, therefore, the evaluation will assess whether there is evidence that the project contributed to an observed outcome, as part of a 'causal package' in which the RHV project was an essential factor.

2.1 PROCESS-TRACING PROTOCOL

Since the development of Oxfam's process tracing protocol in 2010, there have been a number of important publications on process tracing, including by Beach and Pedersen (2013), Befani and Mayne (2014) and Bennett and Checkel (2015); all focused on improving our understanding of process tracing and its application. Moreover, in collaboration with Befani, I continue to explore the application of process tracing in the development evaluation field with the aim of improving and promoting its use in appropriate contexts (Befani and Stedman-Bryce, 2016).

For this evaluation Oxfam's original protocol has been augmented to take better advantage of the inherent rigour of process tracing in the following ways:

1. The introduction of qualitative tests of certainty and uniqueness⁴ to help the evaluator know:
2. What evidence to look for by supporting the design and collection of primary data;
3. How to judge the quality of evidence in relation to the contribution claim(s) being assessed; and
4. Strengthened 'contribution scoring' with Bayesian probability (updating) to quantify confidence in contribution claims in a transparent and replicable way, using an established method.

Based on these revisions, the key steps in the process tracing protocol implemented in this evaluation are as follows:

1. Undertake a process of (re)constructing the intervention's theory of change, in order to clearly define the intervention being evaluated;
2. Work with relevant stakeholders to identify up to three intermediate and/or final outcomes considered by stakeholders to be the most significant for the evaluation to focus on;
3. Systematically assess and document what was done under the intervention to achieve the selected targeted outcomes;
4. Identify and evidence the extent to which the selected outcomes have actually materialised, as well as any relevant unintended outcomes;
5. For each contribution claim being assessed, in addition to the main intervention (causal mechanism A), consider what other interventions/factors (causal mechanisms B, C, D, etc.) could have brought about the outcome identified in Step 4 above;
6. Apply the Hoop Test to all hypothesised causal mechanisms to rule out any that the evidence does not support, then apply the Smoking Gun Test to surviving causal mechanisms only;
7. Apply Bayesian probability (See Appendix I for a full description) to quantify the probative power of evidence for each contribution claim; and
8. Write a narrative analytical report to document the above research processes and findings.

2.1.1 INTRODUCING PROCESS-TRACING HYPOTHESIS TESTS

A key aim of the process-tracing evaluator is to seek out evidence that a hypothesised causal mechanism exists (in this case represented by a theory of change). Causal mechanisms are composed of a series of interlocked components, whereby a component can be thought of as an entity (e.g. a development actor, institution, individual, and so on) engaging in a specific activity or behaviour. Causality can therefore be conceived of as being transmitted through the causal mechanism by virtue of the actions of each of its necessary components. The evaluator's role is to verify the existence of the causal mechanism and assess its efficacy by collecting evidence that each component (entity and activity/behaviour) exists (Beach and Pederson, 2013).

Unlike statistical methods, which rely, in part, on large sample sizes, process tracing, given its context-sensitive nature and model of causality, can rely on single observations as evidence (Befani and Mayne, 2014). Moreover, the probative power of evidence in process tracing relies not

necessarily on the number of observations in a sample, but on the probability of making such an observation in the first place.

The use of process-tracing hypothesis tests can guide the evaluator on what evidence to look for and, if such evidence is found, the strength of that evidence in relation to the contribution claim(s) being made.

Process-tracing hypothesis tests are categorised as tests of certainty and uniqueness. Tests of certainty refer to the ability of some tests to disconfirm or rule out a contribution claim. Known as the 'Hoop Test', evidence of the existence of the causal mechanism must 'jump through the hoop', in order to survive and be retained as a possible causal candidate. Failure to pass the Hoop Test can result in a causal mechanism being ruled out as a causal candidate. The Hoop Test can be thought of as evidence that an evaluator would 'expect to find' or observe if the causal mechanism is valid. The Hoop Test alone cannot confirm the validity of a contribution claim; its power lies in its ability to throw out causal mechanisms that are not supported by empirical evidence (Befani and Stedman-Bryce, 2016).

The test of uniqueness is known as the 'Smoking Gun Test' and, conversely, it has the power to confirm a particular causal mechanism. Smoking Gun Test evidence is considered so unique to the causal mechanism being assessed, that it would be difficult to conceive of any other cause that could have left such evidence traces. Smoking Gun Test evidence can be construed as evidence that an evaluator would 'love to find'. While this test has confirmatory power, it does not however have the ability to rule out alternative causal mechanisms (ibid).

2.2 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Secondary data for the evaluation was sourced from OGB and POWA, online sources and from key informants. Primary data was gathered from key informants as oral testimony, in both one-to-one and group interviews. The key informant sampling strategy was purposeful, with guidance provided by OGB and POWA to identify suitably 'information-rich' individuals for interview. In total, 14 one-to-one interviews were conducted and three group interviews where 23 community members were present in total. See Appendix II for a list of organisations who contributed to the evaluation.

Key informant interviews generally lasted up to 60 minutes and were conducted exclusively by me. Interviews took place between November 2015 and January 2016, and were conducted both face-to-face and via telephone/Skype. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to guide stakeholder interviews, with appropriate questions selected from a menu dependent on the key informant's knowledge of the RHV-SA project (see Appendix III). Stakeholder interviews were either digitally recorded when this was possible and transcribed using common-sense verbatim into MS Word document format in readiness for analysis, or typed directly as interview notes using a laptop computer.

All secondary data, transcripts and interview notes were coded using NVivo10 software, to support a rigorous and transparent approach to data analysis.⁵ An evaluation coding technique was employed that includes elements of magnitude and *in vivo* coding (Saldana, 2011). During the coding process I regularly assessed coding categories to ensure internal homogeneity and external heterogeneity (convergence and divergence of themes within the data). Once coded, queries were run to explore the existence of relationships between themes and to assess key informants' views in relation to specific issues.

2.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

A method specialist formed part of the evaluation team, adopting the role of quality assurer. The quality assurer reviewed the first and final draft of the report in order to suggest improvements. The method specialist did not engage in any data collection or analysis, remaining at arm's length throughout the evaluation process. In addition, another member of the evaluation team, who performed data collection activities, reviewed the report to support continuous improvement.

First and final drafts of the report were submitted to OGB personnel to afford them the opportunity to identify any factual inaccuracies and to supply additional data, if this was deemed appropriate.

In a recent textbook edited by Bennett and Checkel (2015), they outlined a series of 10 best-practice steps in applying process tracing (see Box 2). Within the limitations of the evaluation, I adhered to these best practices, but accept that it would have been preferable to have more time to identify (Step 1) and assess alternative causal explanations (Step 2).

Box 2: 10 best practice steps in process tracing

1. Cast the net wide for alternative explanations.
2. Be equally tough on the alternative explanations.
3. Consider the potential biases of evidentiary sources.
4. Take into account whether the case is most or least likely for alternative explanations.
5. Make a justifiable decision on when to start.
6. Be relentless in gathering diverse and relevant evidence, but make a justifiable decision on when to stop.
7. Combine process tracing with case comparisons when useful for the research goal and feasible.
8. Be open to inductive insights.
9. Use deduction to ask 'if my explanation is true, what will be the specific process leading to the outcome?'
10. Remember that conclusive process tracing is good, but not all process tracing is conclusive.

2.4 LIMITATIONS

The reader should be aware of a number of limitations affecting this evaluation.

Ownership of the evaluation

OGB is in the process of withdrawing from South Africa as a new organisation, Oxfam South Africa (OZA), has been established. I am of the view that the timing of this evaluation during this period of transition has impacted greatly on the planning and implementation of this evaluation.

There were some questions as to whether the evaluation should take place. While the ongoing withdrawal from South Africa by OGB is a factor here, so too is a lack of awareness and understanding of how Oxfam's process-tracing protocol is implemented and how it differs from more traditional forms of programme evaluation.

The combined effect of these factors manifested itself in a lack of strong ownership of the evaluation process and significantly hampered the ability of the evaluation team in planning for the evaluation and in data gathering.

As a result, some interviews had to be conducted by telephone and a local consultant had to be recruited to gather more primary data.

Data Collection

The first phase of the project ended in 2013. This made it difficult to interview staff members from POWA who had left their posts, with new staff members often lacking the historical knowledge of the project required for an evaluation of this type. Furthermore, participants of the project had since left, meaning I interviewed more women from phase two than from phase one. I only managed to speak with two women who had been active during phase one of the project, which was unfortunate as the contribution claim that the evaluation wished to assess related more to phase one than phase two.

Staff turnover and weak knowledge management resulted in patchy data gathering and loss of data over time. The number of face-to-face interviews that were possible during the in-country visit were limited due to the logistical challenge of moving around metropolitan Johannesburg.

Subjectivity bias

Data analysis was only performed by the lead evaluation. This introduced the potential of subjectivity bias in relation to the qualitative data analysis, which was minimised in the following ways:

- Use of coding software to ensure that all findings can be easily and transparently traced back to their data sources;
- Other members of the evaluation team, including an experienced quality assurer, reviewed the report and provided commentary aimed at improving the report's findings and conclusions; and
- Staff at OGB were given the opportunity to review first and final drafts of the report to comment on any factual inaccuracies and/or to raise concerns.

Selection bias

The sampling strategy adhered to real-world evaluation principles, making the best use of limited resources to identify information-rich individuals. Budget constraints capped the number of days I could spend in-country, limiting the number of people who could be interviewed. The approach I have used for sampling is a pragmatic one aimed at identifying and selecting information-rich individuals who have a working knowledge of the RHV-SA project and/or experience in the women's rights field.

3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCESS TRACING PROTOCOL

3.1 STEP ONE: THEORY OF CHANGE

The first crucial step in the process-tracing protocol is to construct, or reconstruct, the intervention's theory of change. This is an incredibly important aspect of applying process tracing as an intervention's theory of change is essentially a mechanism of generative causality in action, which forms the backbone of a process-tracing evaluation (as well as any theory-based evaluation).

A theory of change can be described as an entity (e.g. an organisation, project, institution, and so on)'s story of how and why the world will be different because of what it does. Derived from programme theory, a theory of change is an explicit articulation of how an intervention contributes to a pathway of intermediate results (outputs and outcomes) and ultimately, to a longer-term outcome(s) (Funnell and Rogers, 2011). A theory of change can be developed using tacit knowledge gained from experience and/or from other evidence sources related to how specific interventions are believed to bring about change in specific contexts.

The use of theories of change has increased substantially during the past 10 years. In 2012, in recognition of the multitude of ways in which theories of change were being used in international development, DFID commissioned a review of their application (Vogel, 2012). The purpose of the review was to identify areas of consensus to inform a consistent approach to how theories of change were developed within DFID programmes. The review found that, while development actors had many differences in their approach to theory of change, there was consensus on what comprises the building blocks of a good theory of change, which included:

1. A **contextual analysis** that aims to understand the problem in its context in relation to its social, political, economic and environmental dimensions;
2. An agreed **long-term change/outcome** that the intervention seeks to contribute to, or bring about;
3. A **pathway or sequence of intermediate results** of change that ultimately lead to the long-term change;
4. **Assumptions** about how change may happen are made explicit at each stage of the pathway of change, relevant to the specific context in which the intervention is being deployed; and
5. A **diagram and narrative summary** that acts as a communication tool, capturing the richness of discussions from Steps 1 to 4.

Importantly, the review underscores that a theory of change is first and foremost a process, as well as a product, which hinges on a comprehensive exploration of the many assumptions that influence our thinking, including on how we believe change happens in the world.

3.1.1 Raising Her Voice theory of change

The mid-term review of the global RHV programme acknowledged that while projects had developed logic models with the common aim of ensuring public policy, decision-making and human rights legislation reflected the interests of poor and marginalised women, no overarching theory of change was in place across the diverse portfolio of 17 projects (Beardon, 2011). In the African context, all

eight RHV projects, including South Africa, were developed within a pan-African framework that sought to promote the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol. While this framework creates linkages from local to global levels across the eight projects in relation to their advocacy activities, it is arguably at the cost of a locally derived set of priorities for each country (ibid).

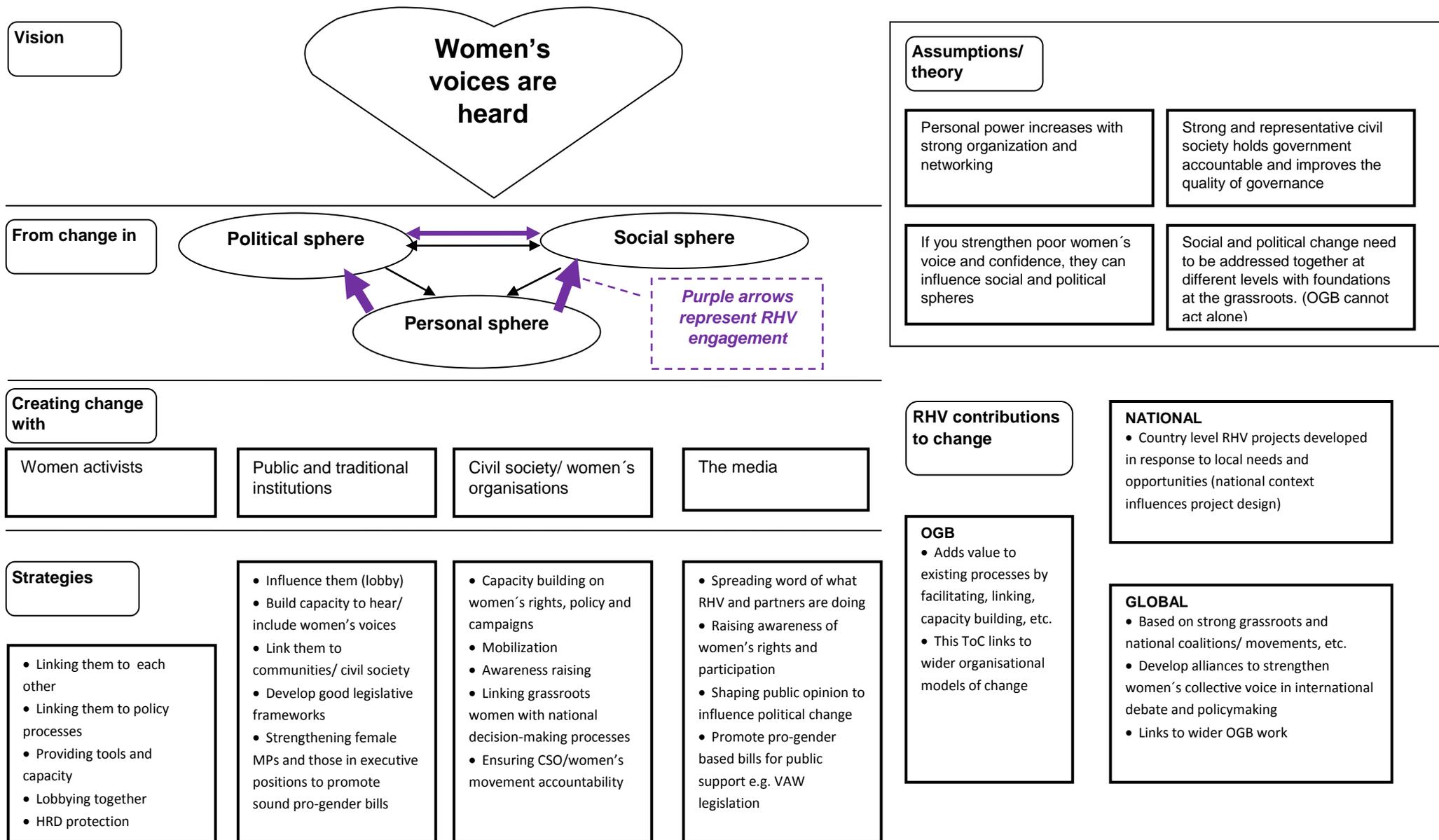
The mid-term evaluation put forward a programme level model theory of change informed by RHV documentation and interviews with project staff and stakeholders (see Figure 1 below). The proposed theory of change for the RHV programme states that women's voices will be truly heard, and their participation in governance sustainably achieved, only if the opportunities for their participation are increased within three spheres: the personal, the social and the political. Specifically, the changes that need to occur within each sphere can be described as follows:

- **Personal:** this encompasses changes at the individual level, including in women's self-confidence and capacity for participating in and influencing decisions, both within and outside the household. Changes in this sphere also refer to the removal of obstacles to women's effective participation by challenging negative stereotypes and attitudes;
- **Social:** this refers to efforts to create a more enabling environment for women to secure, protect and exercise their rights. Work in this sphere tends to focus on the creation of opportunities for women to engage and lead, including the creation of networks or coalitions, the strengthening of organisations' capacities for advocacy, and the development of public awareness campaigns on women's rights; and
- **Political:** this sphere 'includes work with government stakeholders to strengthen the laws, policies and spaces to increase the number and influence of women, and helping women to participate formally as voters and elected representatives.'

The theory of change further recognises that the three spheres are extremely interconnected, and that personal empowerment, in particular, is necessary for achieving positive change at the social and political levels. According to the theory of change, to be most effective, individual initiatives and intervention strategies need to feature activities that take place across all spheres and involve a variety of stakeholders (women's rights activists, grassroots organisations and/or public institutions).

Overall, the theory of change provided a useful framework for OGB to articulate a common vision of change and promote greater coherence across the various projects within the RHV portfolio. These remained, however, very different from one another in terms of objectives, structures, reach and achievements.

Figure 1: RHV Programme Theory of Change



The theory of change represented in Figure 1 above was a useful reference point for the global RHV programme, giving a sense of key strategies/activities, of the entities deemed important in the change process, and of some broad assumptions that underpin how change happens. It does not, however, contain a number of the essential building blocks identified in Section 3.1 above and is best described as a conceptual or theoretical model which described the broad portfolio of RHV projects, and a useful entry point for RHV projects to draw inspiration from in order to develop their own theories of change. Importantly, it does not articulate a clear pathway of change showing how activities lead to intermediate outcomes, which intermediate outcomes are believed to be important in the change process, and the various assumptions that are being made at each step in the pathway of change.

3.1.2 RHV South Africa theory of change development

Although no theory of change process had been undertaken at the project's inception, a conceptual framework document had been developed (POWA, 2010), which had been informed by a rapid assessment study and comprehensive dialogue with women activists. This was essentially a working document in which RHV-SA project staff and stakeholders articulated how they viewed the evolving problems facing women in South Africa. It recognised the many social and political determinants that affect a woman's ability to claim her human rights. Developed using a feminist approach,⁶ the document outlines the intersectionality of poverty, GBV, and HIV and AIDS; and how the interplay between these important issues can deprive women of their rights.

This conceptual framework appears pivotal to how the RHV project in South Africa was eventually implemented. According to one Oxfam informant working at the global programme level, the process of developing a conceptual framework for the RHV project supported a period of deep reflection for POWA as an organisation; a view supported by the findings from a mid-term review of the RHV-SA project. This thinking played an important part in selecting which local partners to work with, by ensuring that CBOs that work on HIV and AIDS, GBV and poverty were part of the project.

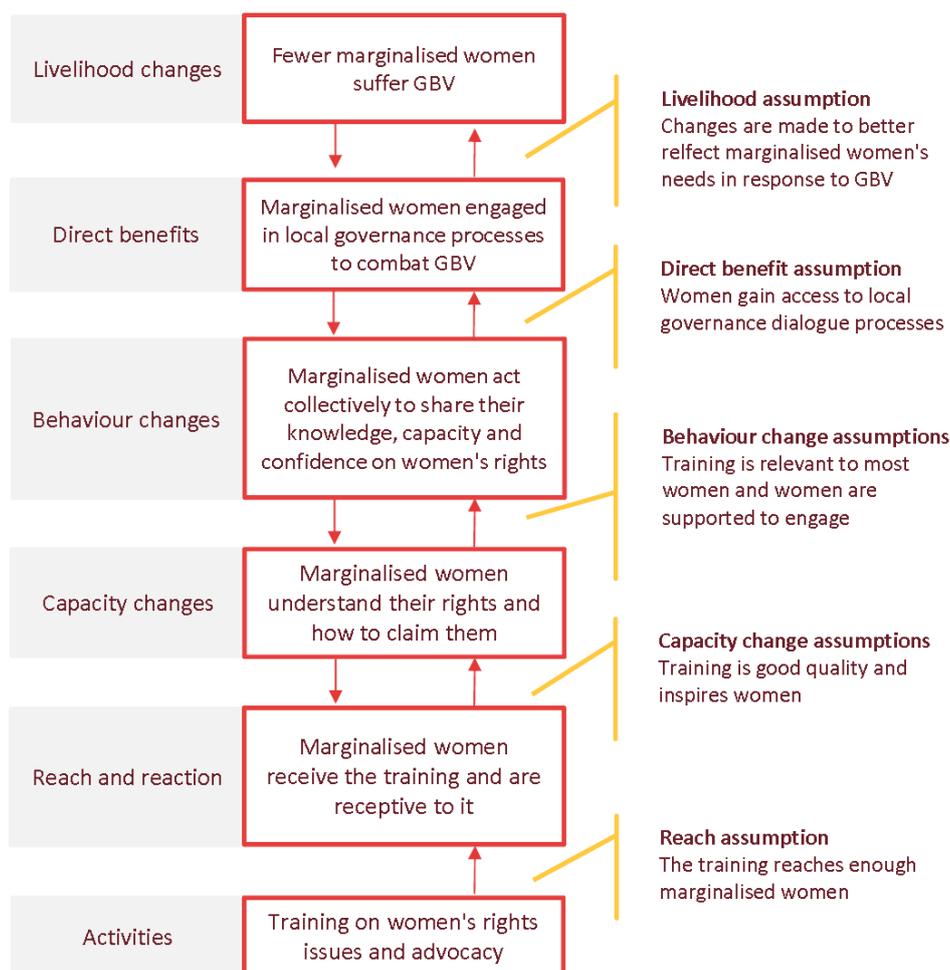
From a review of project documentation, and following interviews with key project staff, it would appear that two complementary theories of change were working side by side in phase one of the RHV-SA project. One focused on stimulating change at grassroots level through the provision of women's rights-based training at community level, targeting marginalised women and those who work to support them (Clusters 1 and 3). The other worked at the national, regional and global policy levels to support the creation of an enabling environment in which women can claim their rights (Cluster 2). At a kick-off meeting to support the evaluation, attended by the OGB gender lead and key staff from POWA, it was agreed that the evaluation should focus on the former theory of change, as there had been more success in working with women and CSOs/CBOs at community level, and data availability was considered to be more plentiful.

I led a half-day workshop with key project staff from POWA to reconstruct a simple theory of change to capture how the project currently operates and the various intermediate outcomes the project hoped to bring about. The resultant theory of change was circulated to all relevant OGB and POWA staff to afford them an opportunity to review and contribute (see Figure 2).

The thrust of the RHV-SA theory of change for phase one is that IF we provide relevant and quality training to marginalised women on their rights and how to claim them (personal sphere), THEN more marginalised women will share this knowledge and act collectively (social sphere), and, as individual champions, be more engaged in local governance processes that have a bearing on women who suffer GBV (political sphere); this in turn will contribute to a reduction in GBV (social sphere). This theory of change resonates strongly with the theoretical approach put forward by the global RHV mid-term evaluation, where changes in the personal sphere begin to effect change in the social and political spheres. Where it diverts from the original conceptual framework is on its focus on GBV only. While the project had been conceived on a foundation of addressing the intersectionality of GBV, HIV and AIDS, and poverty, over time it appears to have narrowed its focus. Project staff from POWA believe this was due to a realisation that the ambitions of the project were too broad and that focusing

on GBV drew on POWA's key strength (working with women affected by violence) and was more achievable an outcome to aim for.

Figure 1: RHV project theory of change⁷



3.2 STEP 2: ARTICULATE THE OUTCOME(S) TO BE ASSESSED

In parallel with the retrospective construction of a theory of change, I explored possible contribution claims for the evaluation to assess in consultation with key stakeholders from POWA and OGB.

From a list of possible contribution claims the evaluation could assess, an agreement was reached to focus on one only, focused on the theory of change elaborated in Figure 2 above. The contribution claim that forms the focus of this evaluation is:

- The RHV project training and support has led to more women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes (aimed at reducing the number of women who experience gender-based violence).

3.3 STEP 3: KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE RHV PROJECT

PHASE ONE (2008–13)

In phase one of the RHV-SA project, activities were implemented around four clusters, as follows:

Cluster 1: Networking, lobbying and advocacy with marginalised women activists

The purpose of this cluster of activities was to establish a network of organisations working on poverty, HIV and AIDS, and GBV, to ensure that they approach these issues cognisant of their intersections and in a consistent way. Activities under this cluster included:

- **Rapid assessment study:** This study aimed to identify gaps and opportunities within the policy context to identify areas of focus for working with state institutions;
- **Conceptual framework:** The conceptual framework was developed in 2010 with significant input from marginalised women. The framework sets out a detailed understanding of the intersections between GBV, poverty, and HIV and AIDS, providing recommendations on how this knowledge should be used to support implementation of the RHV-SA project;
- **Workshops and training programmes:** RHV-SA project partners and CAGs (for more information about these, see below) received training on advocacy skills via a workshop designed to assist groups in identifying advocacy opportunities with their local communities. The RHV-SA project also had an annual presence at the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women event. And in collaboration with the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, and Women and Law in Southern Africa, the project held a parallel side event during the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The meeting focused on discussing progress in implementing the Maputo Protocol and on CEDAW; and
- **Other events:** These included staff attendance and participation at the 55th Session of the CSW where the focus was on sharing lessons learned.

Cluster 2: Working with public institutions and decision-making forums, including traditional structures

This included sub-regional advocacy meetings; dissemination of key publications, such as the Shadow Report on the Beijing +15 Implementation Review; and presentations on the Maputo Protocol for the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal Legislatures. Activities under this cluster included:

- **Shadow report on CEDAW:** Together with other community groups and organisations, POWA and RHV-SA produced a shadow report on the South African government's implementation of CEDAW. The report highlighted a number of shortcomings and gaps between policy and practice, evidenced through close contact and consultation with local women by organisations such as POWA. The government sought POWA's support following publication of the shadow report to support it in addressing the gaps identified;
- **Guide to the Maputo Protocol:** The RHV-SA project developed a short pamphlet to help translate the Maputo Protocol into easily digestible reading for women in the community and for local CBOs and NGOs. The pamphlet was designed as an educational tool to accompany training and workshops delivered by the project and its partners; and
- **Other events:** The project partnered with the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies to organise a panel discussion on how to employ the Maputo Protocol in addressing the intersections of poverty, HIV and AIDS, and GBV.

Cluster 3: Empowering and capacitating CSOs to achieve the rights of marginalised women citizens through campaigns and policy work

The purpose of this cluster of activities was to increase the knowledge and capacity of marginalised women on their rights and how to defend them. Specific activities included:

- **Baseline study:** The baseline survey aimed to understand what actions local CSOs/CBOs were taking in relation to the intersections of GBV, poverty, and HIV and AIDS; as well as identifying innovative ways in which women were coping with the challenges they faced;
- **Radio drama series:** The RHV-SA project began its activities by adapting a six-part radio series originally produced for audiences in Kenya, called *Crossroads*. The radio series explores issues related to the Maputo Protocol, tackling women's rights issues in a dramatic and engaging way. The series was broadcast on local radio stations, which stimulated calls from listeners who could then put their questions and comments to RHV-SA project staff. The *Crossroads* radio series was accompanied by a discussion guide intended for use by radio presenters, teachers, community leaders and group facilitators. This led directly to the establishment of eight women-only 'listening groups', which listened to the broadcasts then sat together discussing the various issues it raised for them. These listening groups became the catalyst for women to begin taking action on issues of GBV and women's rights more broadly, eventually transforming into what are now called CAGs;
- **Community action groups:** Formed from the radio listening groups, there were originally five CAGs in the project area (now eight), comprising around 8 to 10 women each. Following training (see below), groups were supported to develop a one-year advocacy plan, which they then had responsibility to implement and report against; and
- **Workshops and training events:** Approximately 30 women, considered active in their communities, were trained on the linkages between GBV, poverty, and HIV and AIDS at the project's outset. The five RHV project partners were trained on the key messages contained within the conceptual framework to support their understanding of the intersections between HIV and AIDS, poverty and GBV. A series of women's rights workshops were delivered, including a five-day workshop teaching women about feminism. As series of community dialogue events took place, including in Limpopo province. There was an end-of-project conference in 2013, a three-day event for partners and women activists to share the work that they had done, their achievements and lessons learned.

Cluster 4: Learning lessons and disseminating best practice through innovative media and communications work

This cluster of activities appears to have been carried over into phase two of the project.

PHASE TWO (2013–present)

From the documentary evidence, phase two of the RHV-SA project appears to have two distinct sets of priorities as detailed in Section 1.1.2. The first year's activities (2013/14) had a focus on innovative use of participatory media, with three main areas of activity. Scanned copies of attendance registers for a number of community dialogue events that took place during 2013 and the Women's Writing Anthology Project website evidenced the digital stories which acted as an oral account of women's experience and verified that women's stories were submitted to the RHV-SA project.

Proposed activities, included:

- **Digital stories:** Up to 10 women (and potentially men) will work together to produce a 20-part series of 'digital stories' on the subject of violence against women. Each story aims to weave together an oral account with sound and photographs, supporting women to tell and share their stories and what they feel still needs to be done. When completed, the digital stories will be used during community dialogue events with local government, to inspire communities while holding local government to account;

- **Women’s writing anthology:** This will build on the Women’s Writing Project established in 2004. South African women submit their stories each year on their experiences and a small number are selected and published as an anthology annually. For the RHV-SA project, short stories, poems and personal essays written by women from within the project will be used to stimulate community dialogue for training and for advocacy; and
- **Community dialogues:** This is the main activity through which the project aims to engage at the community level and mobilise community members. The products developed from the digital stories work and women’s writing project will be used as tools in this process.

In terms of the reach of the project, the final project completion report indicates that the RHV-SA project reached around 1,500 women directly during the project’s lifetime in phase one. This gives an average reach of 300 women per year. However, the data kept by the project was not complete and I was not able to confirm this. The project should have adopted a simple system of logging events over time, using registers of attendance to populate this with key information, such as:

1. Date of event
2. Title of event
3. Purpose of event
4. Location of event
5. Name of participant
6. Age of participant (or DOB)
7. Whether a member of a community action group (Yes/No)
8. Whether attended a project event before (Yes/No)

Adopting a simple monitoring system in the future will help to ensure effective planning, reporting and evaluation.

While the lack of a comprehensive monitoring system is unfortunate, given the range of activities that were undertaken in phase one, I am confident they are relevant to the realisation of the various intermediate outcomes within the pathway of change in Figure 2 above.

3.4 STEP 4: OUTCOME MATERIALISATION

This step is concerned with ensuring the outcome has materialised; in this case, that women in those areas where the RHV-SA project was active have newly engaged in local governance processes. The higher-level outcome of a reduction in GBV was not detectable empirically as no dataset could be identified locally, nor was an end-line survey of the RHV-SA available.

Evidence of outcome materialisation has mainly come from the oral testimony of POWA staff interviewed. I additionally interviewed a range of project participants of the RHV-SA project and other professionals working in the field of women’s rights who were not part of the project.

Based on these interviews, I found evidence from project participants that they are newly engaged in local governance processes, for example:

“We took a memorandum of understanding to the police commander about issues that women face locally. Police put barriers in the way for women trying to open cases of gender-based violence. This is to help us work together, hand in hand. The station commander will call us and we will sit down together and discuss how to improve the handing of gender-based violence cases. In this way, we are able to support women who have active cases in collaboration with the police.”

RHV-SA project participant

“We are seeing more women engaging at the community level in local government. You see it coming through quite strongly although it is still quite challenging due to the patriarchy of the country. They [women] still have a struggle on their hands.”

External key informant from a women’s rights organisation

“Women are starting organisations; they are taking up leadership positions.”

External key informant from a women’s rights organisation

- Development of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a local police station to establish a process through which the police could call on the support of a RHV-SA project women’s group whenever a case of GBV was being handled;
- Supporting victims of crime in reporting their cases and when cases come to court;
- Taking leadership roles within the community to spread awareness and highlight harmful cultural practices through community dialogue, drama and radio;
- At least one woman who went on to win a seat as a local councillor in Giyani and who now reports back to the project, it is claimed, on promises made during the election period; and
- Greater engagement by women in tribal authorities particularly in relation child abuse and GBV.

Key informants not related to the RHV-SA project but working within women’s rights organisations concurred that more women are newly engaging in local governance, although they admit there is still significant distance to travel.

Given the range of different voices who believe more women are newly engaged in local governance processes, I am satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to proceed with the evaluation of the project’s contribution claim, but acknowledge that further evidence will be required to validate the specifics of the examples provided by those I interviewed.

3.5 STEP 5: IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE CAUSAL MECHANISMS

The purpose of this step is to identify, within the bounds of time, budget and data constraints, other possible causal mechanisms in order to assess understand the significance of the contribution claim articulated in Step 2 above. We have seen that there is sufficient evidence that women have become newly engaged in local governance processes in the RHV-SA local project area (Step 4). My focus is now to establish whether the RHV-SA has made a contribution to the achievement of this outcome.

I accept that the project’s contribution claim may be one of a number of possible causal mechanisms in action. I therefore have to identify, through dialogue with key informants and project documentation, a number of other possible causal mechanisms that could be at work.

As the project's contribution claim is my primary focus, I shall call this **Causal Mechanism A (CMA)**. Other possible causal mechanisms I have identified include (but are not limited to):

- The actions of other CBOs and NGOs operating in the project area with similar objectives to the RHV-SA (**Causal Mechanism B (CMB)**); and
- National or local government institutions had an initiative to promote the role of women in local governance processes (**Causal Mechanisms C (CMC)**).

I appreciate there are numerous other causal mechanisms that could be explored, but given the time and budget constraints, the steer is to focus on a small number of the most salient. In Section 3.6 below I will next outline what evidence I expect to see (Hoop Test) and would love to see (Smoking Gun Test) to verify each causal mechanism (Befani and Stedman-Bryce, 2016).

3.6 STEP 6: APPLYING HYPOTHESIS TESTS

The purpose of this step is to support a clear and consistent approach to evidence gathering and assessment with a focus on data discovery that will increase or decrease my confidence that a particular causal mechanism is at work. I begin with CMA (the project intervention) and repeat the process for all causal mechanisms under investigation.

3.6.1 Causal Mechanism A

This causal mechanism is described as follows: *The RHV project training and support has led to more women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes (aimed at reducing the number of women who experience gender based violence).*

I begin by applying the first of the hypothesis tests, the Hoop Test, as this helps me to eliminate – or substantially reduce my confidence in – any causal mechanisms that the evidence does not support. In essence, as I expect to find Hoop Test evidence (i.e. the probability of finding it is high under the contribution claim), I am saying that such evidence is necessary, but not sufficient, to verify the causal claim. Table 1 below highlights the evidence I would expect to find if CMA exists. This table has been developed and informed by the project's theory of change (see Figure 2).

Table 1: Hoop Test evidence for Causal Mechanism A

Hoop Test Evidence	Data sources
<p>EXPECTATION 1 The RHV training actually took place.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registers of attendance 2. Project reports 3. Photographs/video of the training 4. Reports in local newspapers of the training events 5. Oral testimony from key informants
<p>EXPECTATION 2 The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registers of attendance 2. Project reports 3. Photographs/video of the training 4. Oral testimony from key informants 5. Targets in stated objectives in terms of numbers reached
<p>EXPECTATION 3 POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral testimony from key informants 2. Media reports from a broad range of sources
<p>EXPECTATION 4 Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training evaluation forms 2. Reports from training events 3. Oral testimony from key informants
<p>EXPECTATION 5 RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral testimony from key informants 2. Project case studies that have been verified for accuracy
<p>EXPECTATION 6 An increase in women's collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Records showing formation of women's groups (before and after project) 2. Minutes of meetings 3. Plans of action 4. Photographs/video of the training 5. Local media reports 6. Oral testimony from key informants
<p>EXPECTATION 7 (Outcome Materialisation) Women and/or women's groups newly engage in local governance processes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral testimony from key informants 2. Project reports 3. Project case studies 4. Local media reports

To increase my confidence that CMA exists, I reviewed the primary and secondary data I collected to find evidence for each expectation from Table 1 above. My findings are shown below.

Expectation 1: The RHV training actually took place.

There is sufficient evidence that training and workshops took place on a variety of subjects and issues. I have been able to establish is that 30 women were initially trained on the project's conceptual framework, together with partner organisations. This training aimed specifically to increase participants' awareness of the intersectionality of GBV, HIV and AIDS, and poverty. Other training events did take place, but it is not possible to determine exactly how many women attended due to weaknesses in the project's monitoring. Other workshops followed on the Maputo Protocol and national legal frameworks relevant to women's rights issues, as well as on feminism and advocacy skills. This was verified in interviews with project participants, who referred to the training events they had attended, and by photos taken during training sessions.

What is less clear, however, is the actual number of training events that took place over the lifetime of the project in phase one and into phase two. Unfortunately, POWA's training manager is no longer in post and I was unable to contact them for an interview. And while project documentation gives an indication of some training events that took place, by way of raw training registers, it is patchy and does not easily describe the range of courses that were delivered, establish the actual number of training events that took place, their learning outcomes, where they were delivered and how many participants attended.

Expectation 2: The RHV training had sufficient reach.

Establishing whether the project had sufficient reach is complicated by gaps in the data as described above. What is clear, however, is that the budget for this project was small (<£40,000 per annum), hence I assume that such training events would have targeted small groups of women. The initial training of 30 women on the project's conceptual framework perhaps gives an indication of the numbers of women reached when training events were scheduled, but this is complete supposition on my part.

When interviewing participants who had attended at least one training workshop by the project, I got the impression that training happened mostly in phase one. No project participant I spoke to had received training after 2013, as far as I am aware. This has a number of consequences for project sustainability, in my view. This causal mechanism relies solely on the provision of training workshops (and some support) to encourage women to become champions of women's rights in their communities by taking action alone and/or in concert with other likeminded women. This implies that throughput of training is a crucial issue for two key reasons. Firstly, for those who attended the original training workshops, providing them with reasonably regular refresher training is important to keep participants inspired and motivated, and ultimately working towards the project's desired outcome: that more women newly engage in local governance processes. It seems to me that without this, attrition from women's groups may be a challenge. Secondly, as new women seek to join the project, they require the same training enjoyed by those women who joined the project at an earlier time.

What I have established from interviews with project participants and project staff is that the substantive training workshops on the project's conceptual framework, advocacy skills and the Maputo Protocol were one-off events for those participants who attended them at the time. Where a woman has subsequently joined a CAG, for example, she did not necessarily enjoy access to this substantive training, in some cases being provided with a shorter, 'crash course'. This is a crucial weakness in the causal mechanism that highlights risks and assumptions were perhaps not fully elaborated in implementing this strategy.

It appears that from initial project numbers of around 100 women across eight CAGs, the number today is closer to 50. Moreover, most of the women in the groups today are new and have not necessarily had access to the substantive training content enjoyed by longer-standing members. Interviews with project participants and staff have revealed that in some instances this has led to tensions within the groups, given that members are not on a level playing field in terms of their

knowledge. Perhaps the assumption was that longer-standing members who had attended the training would cascade their learning to newer members. It would seem, however, that on some occasions, this assumption did not hold true.

“The coordinators do not mentor the other women and cascade their learning and knowledge. So when a coordinator leaves, the group is left without direction.”

RHV-SA project staff member

I am aware that the main reason for a lack of refresher and repeat training is budgetary and that the project did the best it could with the money it had available. From oral testimony of project staff, the project has tried to encourage groups to seek out additional funding and support from other organisations, but without much success.

Expectation 3: POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project.

It seems reasonable that if this causal mechanism is to deliver the desired end result, the project and project-implementing partner have to be seen as credible by the participants and other key stakeholders. During interviews with project participants, interviewees often found it difficult to differentiate between the work of POWA and the work of the RHV-SA project. Hence, it makes sense to view POWA and the RHV-SA project as a package.

Without exception, project participants and a range of external stakeholders drawn from women's rights organisations had high praise for POWA and the project, particularly on issues of GBV. For project participants, POWA/RHV-SA has been a lifeline, providing much-needed support, guidance, knowledge and encouragement. One CAG I spoke with explained how its affiliation with POWA/RHV-SA helped to open doors at the local police station. Members explained that they were trying to hold a march to raise awareness of GBV, but initial approaches to the police were fruitless. When they later explained to the police that they were working with POWA/RHV-SA they got a much better reception and the planned march was given approval.

For project partners and external key informants, POWA is particularly highly regarded. As an organisation it is considered highly visible and praised for taking a truly grassroots approach to its work. The key informants I spoke to explained that in South Africa highly targeted interventions can only work and be relevant to local people when local people's needs are clearly understood. For them, POWA is seen as an organisation very much in touch with local people's needs, not driven by more normative agendas.

“It helps us to be affiliated with POWA as they are recognised and this helps us when we go to the police and raise a case. It makes it easier for us... when we say we are working with POWA, we get a better reception.”

RHV-SA project participant

“POWA has got great visibility in the country and is known for its work at the grassroots level.”

External key informant from a women's rights organisation

“I see that value in what they [POWA] do, as they are a community organisation that is having a tangible impact on communities. I have seen the good that they [POWA] do.”

External key informant from a women's rights organisation

To help triangulate the views of those interviewed, a member of the evaluation team undertook a rapid desk-based review of online sources to square the facts dating from 2007 to 2016. We found 14 media items, 1 YouTube clip, 4 publications by POWA, and 7 other items, including a case study, academic papers and several submissions to formal policy processes. We consider this to be a good volume of items to have found given that local media may not publish online and that many items, given the lifetime of the project, may have been removed since their original publication.

These online items support the view that POWA is indeed a visible organisation on women's issues, particularly GBV. Items include a report in UK newspaper the *Guardian* covering a protest organised by POWA on South Africa's laws relating to rape; a blog responding to an advertising campaign released by POWA on domestic violence; and an opinion piece that covers the radio programme adapted and promoted by the RHV-SA project. A synopsis of each item discovered can be found in [Annex IV](#).

Expectation 4: Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.

I interviewed three participants of the project on a one-to-one basis and a further 23 project participants across three separate group interviews. When I asked women about their views of the training or workshops provided by the RHV-SA project, the response was always the same: it appears to have been transformative. The women I spoke to explained how the training had increased their knowledge about issues such as GBV and their rights and protections under, for example, the Maputo Protocol or other national legislation. Many women I interviewed had suffered domestic violence of some form, but had not always realised this until they had participated in training and workshops provided by the RHV-SA project.

What I found remarkable was the effect this training was still having on the women I spoke to, although most had attended training many years ago. For example, one woman had attended training on women's rights and advocacy over five years ago, but still spoke of the dramatic and lasting effect it had on her. Although she did not participate in the project any more, she remained active within the women's rights movement and continued to share her knowledge with others. Indeed, this individual was scheduled to visit a local women's prison to speak with some of the inmates about violence they may have experienced in their lives.

"I attended a training workshop in 2011... for one week. After this training I started to challenge the court supporters using community advocates. The training is so very important, as it opens the mind."

"The training... tells us not to be afraid, to stand up! As a member of RHV, we must teach people about RHV. We have gained a lot."

"The workshop taught us things that we didn't know... we didn't know what 'feminist' meant. After the workshop we realised that we are feminists. We learnt that we are in the same situation and it helped us to connect."

"[The training] had a lot of impact on women. From the age of five, I was abused until the age of 27. Within the three [training workshops], I managed to let go of it and begin to understand myself."

RHV-SA project participants

Expectation 5: RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.

As expected, project staff during interview confirmed that they believed the training was relevant and life-changing for women who participated.

"For the women that were involved in the initial year of training and support, it sounded like a holistic and thoughtful, deeply personal experience. I am pretty sure... for them... like a very important, life-changing experience."

RHV-SA project staff member

Expectation 6: An increase in women’s collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training.

Women and CAGs were encouraged to develop action plans and put them into practice following project training events. I saw many examples of these that were submitted to the project for review and feedback. The action plans detailed a number of activities to disseminate knowledge including radio programmes, door-to-door campaigns, community dialogues with local leaders, distribution of pamphlets, and handing out questionnaires and drama events, to name a few. Importantly for the evaluation, the activities detailed in the work plans I saw were focused on advocacy activities, which the RHV-SA project training claims to have covered in its learning objectives. This is affirming in one sense; however, without sight of the project’s training content, I cannot confirm this.

I did not have the opportunity to confirm that all work plans were indeed implemented, but I saw some examples of activities carried out from such work plans. I also heard from one CAG that activities are not always carried out due to a lack of funds for implementation. Furthermore, all of the plans I saw related to phase one of the project, I did not see any such plans for phase two.

Related to my observations about sustainability of the project’s approach, the women who leave the CAGs are often those who hold coordinator positions and who hold most of the knowledge from the project. Struggling to replace these women, and the imbalance of knowledge levels, given unequal access to the project’s training content, may have negatively impacted on collective action by the CAGs to share knowledge and implement their work plans. An additional factor is funding. In the earlier years of the project, some small funds were available to pay women a stipend to attend the groups, and to implement their action plans. As this money has dried up, there is evidence that some groups have seen members leave because of the loss of the stipend and some demotivation from others, who are frustrated that they cannot do more to implement their plans.

The evidence is of a rather mixed picture, where some groups may have implemented some, but not all activities; and some groups may potentially have had limited implementation, if any.

“Funding is limited. To organise community events, the funding we receive is too small. I want to do more but the money is not enough.”

“I am not satisfied that we are doing enough. I want to be able to help other women.”

RHV-SA project participants

Expectation 7: Women and/or women’s groups newly engage in local governance processes

This particular expectation relates directly to the outcome materialisation that was introduced in Section 3.4. I found sufficient evidence that the outcome had materialised, but the focus here is on establishing what contribution, if any, the RHV-SA project has made to the outcome.

I have been able to identify a small number of examples of women newly engaging in local governance processes that can be traced back to the RHV-SA project (see Section 3.4), from my interviews with project staff and participants. However, given attrition from the project by staff and participants and the lack of any systematic project monitoring system, only one example had sufficient evidence available to warrant further exploration.

This is compounded by attrition from the CAGs, meaning over time, evidence has been lost on the project’s impact.

To be clear, I am not saying that absence of evidence in this case means that the project has not achieved impact, but rather than the evaluation was not able to access sufficient outcome-level data to demonstrate impact.

Table 2 below provides a summary of the evidence I found against each expectation.

Table 2: Hoop Test assessment of Causal Mechanism A

Hoop Test	Description of evidence found	Passes test?
The RHV training actually took place.	Some training events/workshops are documented in project reports, including photos of attendees, and project participants confirmed that they had attended project training events during interview. However, there is insufficient information on what training events took place, where and when.	Yes
The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.	Project documentation indicates that around 30 women activists were originally trained on the Maputo Protocol and advocacy skills. Since then, training has taken place on the intersections of GBV, HIV and AIDS, and poverty, and on women's rights and feminism. However, I was not able to access comprehensive records of the number of women who attended these events. Given this rather patchy picture, it has not been possible to confirm the project's claim that 1,500 were reached by the project.	More data needed on the numbers of women who have attended training events and workshops
POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.	The project and POWA in particular are referred to in the highest terms, both by participants and external key informants. A desk-based review of reports of POWA/RHV's work in the media has revealed that POWA is well known and is viewed as a credible actor, particularly on the issue of GBV.	Yes
Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.	A review of evaluation forms completed by participants who attended a workshop on domestic and sexual violence suggests that most women found the training of benefit and relevant to them. This training event particularly helped to increase attendee's awareness of what constitutes domestic violence. During interviews with participants, the training appears to have been incredibly impactful. A review of project documentation, including past evaluations, supports the view that participants benefited from project training in terms of awareness raising, confidence and skills building and of its relevance.	Yes
RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.	During interviews all POWA/RHV project staff I spoke with believed in the relevance and impact of the training provided by the project. Project documentation, in the form of quarterly reports, consistently refers to the impact the training is having on women who attend.	Yes
An increase in women's collective action to share and disseminate knowledge	The formation of the CAGs as a vehicle through which women collectively share knowledge and information, and in which plans are formulated to take action. Assumptions around how women would cascade their knowledge have not been realised in	Partly, but evidence of implementation is lacking.

Hoop Test	Description of evidence found	Passes test?
following the training.	all cases and attrition from groups and a lack of refresher training is undermining previous gains. I have seen several examples of action plans from these groups, but evidence of implementation is patchy, with some groups complaining of a lack of funds/support to implement this plans.	
Women and/or women's groups newly engage in local governance processes.	Although relatively few in number, there are some examples of women newly engaging in local governance processes, but a lack of outcome-level monitoring data and attrition from the project over the years, has made it difficult to firmly establish the project's role in increasing women's participation in local governance processes.	Partly, but more evidence required

3.6.2 Smoking gun test

In tandem with Hoop Test evidence gathering and assessment, I also began the search for Smoking Gun Test evidence, in a pragmatic move to make the most of the evaluation resources available. In some circumstances, where a contribution claim has not passed the Hoop Test, a decision can be taken to end the evaluation. This decision is based on the rationale that the causal mechanism on which the contribution claim is based does not exist; that other causal mechanisms are more likely to have contributed to the observed outcome; and/or the timing of the evaluation is too soon or too late to empirically detect evidence to assess the claim.

Whereas the Hoop Test represents evidence I expect to find, Smoking Gun Test evidence can be considered sufficient, but not necessary to verify a causal claim. This is because the probability of finding such evidence under alternative hypotheses is low, hence if discovered it greatly increases my confidence in the causal claim. Let me underscore that Smoking Gun Test evidence is rare and hence it may not be found, but the causal claim can still hold, if it passes the Hoop Test. In this case, as the project has passed the Hoop Test, our focus is on the Smoking Gun Test to validate the project's contribution claim.

Table 3 contains evidence I would consider as highly unique to the causal claim, if it were found.

Table 3: Smoking Gun Test evidence for Causal Mechanism A

Smoking Gun Test evidence	Data sources
Policymaker(s), decision maker(s), political leaders and/or traditional leader(s) or similar state they have been influenced by the RHV project, resulting in a change of practice, procedure, policy or some other custom or norm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral testimony from influenced person or other senior representative external to the RHV-SA project 2. Official documentation, such as minutes or a report 3. Interview made by influenced person or other senior representative on broadcast or print media
Highly specific recommendations from the RHV project are taken up at the local administrative level, resulting in a change of practice, procedure, policy or some other custom or norm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project documentation 2. Official local government documentation 3. Oral testimony from local government personnel

I identified one example where the likelihood of finding Smoking Gun Test evidence was favourable, which relates to the RHV-SA project directly influencing a procedure/policy in relation to local governance processes.

A project participant who joined the project early in phase one explained that, due to her actions in drafting a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a local police station, a new procedure is now in place whenever GBV cases are opened. The oral testimony provided by the project participant of this claim is an expectation, that is, I consider it as Hoop Test evidence. Under the Smoking Gun Test, more evidence is required to verify the claim, including:

- A copy of the signed MoU between the police station and the CAG/coordinator; and
- Oral testimony from police personnel regarding the change in procedure and how it came about.

Having sight of the original MoU is important to the contribution claim as it will detail which parties were involved in the agreement and the exact nature of what was agreed. Unfortunately, neither the project participant nor the RHV-SA project nor the police station could retrieve a copy of the MoU. We were therefore unable to verify this important document's existence, what it contained or the parties who were its signatories.

Given that we could not interview the police captain who had signed the MoU, we arranged to interview the acting police commander from the target police station instead. During interview we established that he was aware of the project participant and her organisation, Tiyang Basadi. We further verified that he had knowledge of the MoU between her organisation and his police station and that this was aimed at strengthening efforts to mitigate GBV and violence against children in the local community. The acting commander confirmed that he had held several meetings with Tiyang Basadi and agreed that when women lodged complaints of domestic violence with Tiyang Basadi they could refer the case directly to a named contact within the police station. He believed this supported efficient handling of such cases and helped women to feel confident in reporting these matters to the police.

We observed that Tiyang Basadi and the local police station appeared to know one another reasonably well and that Tiyang Basadi has a visible presence in the local community, given the HIV/AIDS home-based care services it provides. However, based on the evidence we found, it was hard to establish how the police station implements the provisions of the MoU, given that no one had a copy to share and that its original signatory had moved to a new base of operations.

We note there is a general awareness by staff at the police station we observed of the obligation to take GBV cases seriously and handle them sensitively. It would seem that the police have started taking these obligations more seriously since their agreement with Tiyang Basadi, though this is difficult to verify. Moreover, it would appear that much of the support work is left in the hands of victim empowerment staff who are not actually part of the police force. A review of the available evidence is summarised in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Smoking Gun Test assessment of Causal Mechanism A

Smoking Gun Test evidence	Description of Evidence Found	Passes test?
<p>Policymaker(s), decision maker(s), political leaders and/or traditional leader(s) or similar state they have been influenced by the RHV project, resulting in a change of practice, procedure, policy or some other custom or norm.</p>	<p>No copy of the MoU exists and therefore we cannot establish who its signatories were or what the MoU contained. Police staff have verified that the MoU was signed with the project participant's organisation Tiyang Basadi; however, it is not clear how the police have implemented the provisions contained within the MoU.</p>	<p>Partly, but more evidence needed</p>

3.6.3 Causal Mechanism B

This causal mechanism is described as follows: *The actions of other CBOs/NGOs operating in the project area with similar objectives has led to more women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes.*

As this is essentially the same causal mechanism as CMA, simply replacing the RHV-SA project with another actor, the theory of change can be theorised as that in Figure 2 above.

In interviews with the three CAGs I spoke to, only one referenced another organisation that was providing them with similar training and support to the RHV-SA project and that the women found highly relevant to their needs. This is the Forum Empowerment of Women (FEW), which is actively training and supporting two Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) groups; FEW is not currently an RHV-SA partner. The fact that one CAG has received similar training and support from another actor makes it reasonable to assume, in light of evidence to the contrary, that other groups and women may have benefited similarly. Moreover, the context in which the project operates is very fluid and many actors are operating in other parts of the Johannesburg metropolitan area delivering similar training content.

To establish whether CMB exists, I took the names of organisations suggested by all interviewees when they were asked what other organisations actively promote women's rights in the locality. Data gathering has focused on the following organisations:

1. Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW)
2. Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT)
3. Masimanyane Women's Support Centre (MWSC)
4. Positive Women Network (PWN)
5. One in Nine Campaign (OINC).

A brief overview of each organisation is provided below, with each description including some data important for Hoop Test assessment.

Forum for the Empowerment of Women

Based in Johannesburg, FEW was established in 2002 with a focus on the LGBT community, and lesbian women in particular. The organisation appears to work mainly on raising awareness in schools, but does limited work also on GBV, always maintaining a focus on LGBT issues and communities. So, for example, between 2006 and 2011 FEW conducted training on the issue of homophobic hate crimes, with the financial support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust.⁸ In 2013, FEW also received a three-year grant from Comic Relief to implement a project to build leadership and activism among lesbian women in the Johannesburg area to help them fight for their rights.⁹

Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training

The ADAPT organisation was created in 1994 and remains a small entity focused on providing counselling for abused women, mostly in the Alexandra Township in the Johannesburg area. In terms of scope and type of work, ADAPT looks to be the organisation most similar to POWA and the RHV-SA project; however, it does not appear to have the same visibility or reach. Among like-minded organisations, ADAPT appears to be known mostly for its work with men on GBV; that said, it was involved in a relevant initiative, which is described in greater detail below.

Masimanyane Women's Support Centre

The MWSC is also a very relevant organisation as its goal is to work with activists and survivors to support women and girls who experience sexual violence. It conducts training, including a leadership training institute that brings women together and takes them through various training modules. However, the organisation appears to be based and primarily working in East London (Eastern Cape province) and is unlikely to have overlap with the RHV-SA project.

Positive Women's Network

PWN works with women with HIV and/or AIDS, providing them with a variety of services including training on leadership. In this sense, it works with exactly the same target group as the RHV-SA project (at least under phase one). PWN also offers leadership-training workshops that 'allow PWN coordinators to deepen their understanding of the context they are working in; addressing issues of inequality, right of access to health care and support and care of one another.'¹⁰

One in Nine Campaign

The One in Nine Campaign (OINC) was launched in 2006 and has since become a very vocal platform for raising awareness about GBV. Most of its members, which include FEW, MWSC, POWA and PWN, are organisations based in Gauteng province, and 'the Forum for Women's Empowerment, POWA, and PWN have played a particularly strong role in ensuring that the OINC becomes "live" with relation to movement building activism' (Bennett, 2008; p. 6).¹¹ The platform's approach is feminist and has the objective of fostering women's leadership. OINC also had a particular focus on women with HIV and AIDS. It appears, however, that OINC is mostly a campaign (i.e. concerned with activist efforts such as petitions, protests and other advocacy events). It is also mainly driven by its partners, although OINC has, on its own, also participated in at least one important initiative.

'The Education to Strengthen Women's Social and Political Participation in South Africa' project, which was funded by the Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH) – the solidarity organisation of students and academics in Norway – and implemented in South Africa by ADAPT, OINC and a third organisation called Curriculum Development Programme (CDP) were also involved. The purpose of the project was to educate young women to enable their political and social participation for the realisation of their own rights. Activities, which included trainings and advocacy, were implemented between 2010 and 2012, mostly in Gauteng. An evaluation commissioned in the last year of the programme found many positive outcomes, highlighting especially the positive changes that partners had promoted, in terms of personal changes, among the project's target groups.¹² In speaking about the work of ADAPT, the evaluators for example found that

'it was clear that [participating] young women have benefited from ADAPT's work. The discovery that they had rights, and that they had the power to assert their rights, has had a significant effect in empowering them" (Ranchod and Boezak, 2012; p. 44). And in discussing the efforts of OINC, the evaluation found that the young women's leadership programme, a key activity of the Campaign under the project, 'has succeeded in retaining an impressive number of participants in the work of the organisation and many participants have, or are in the process of translating their learning into new forms of activism at community levels' (ibid; p. 66).

Overall, the implementation and results of the SAIH programme lend credibility to the claim that other organisations were active in promoting the very same changes that POWA and the RHV-SA project sought to bring about. The evaluation of the SAIH programme suggests that the intervention had positive outcomes, at least at the level of personal change and in promoting greater participation among project participants. This would suggest that CMB might pass the Hoop Test, but some doubts remain, mainly in relation to the scope and nature of the efforts by ADAPT and OINC, which appear to have targeted different participants, in terms of location and type, compared with the RHV-SA project. Ultimately, more data are necessary to confirm whether this mechanism would indeed pass the Hoop Test. Table 5 below provides a summary of the evidence found against each expectation.

Table 5: Hoop Test assessment of Causal Mechanism B

Hoop Test evidence	Description of evidence found	Passes test?
Other CBOs/NGOs actually organised trainings on topics similar to RHV-SA.	Publicly available data suggest that other CBOs/NGOs have organised trainings on topics similar to RHV-SA, including leadership and civic activism, which appealed to similar target groups. However, more information is needed to determine what overlap exists between these events and the RHV-SA project.	Partly, but more data needed
The trainings by other CBOs/NGOs had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.	As mentioned above, it is unclear which groups of women the trainings from other CBOs/NGOs actually targeted. There is some evidence that there might be overlap with the RHV-SA target group: PWN, for example, worked with women with HIV/AIDS; OINC targeted activists. Without more information, however, it remains to be seen whether the same people participated in both these and RHV events.	Partly, but more data needed
Other CBOs/NGOs are seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.	From available information, including at least one programme evaluation, there is evidence to suggest that these other CBOs/NGOs are indeed seen as credible organisations by women engaged in their activities. OINC in particular appears to have received a lot of recognition for its work (of which POWA is a member).	Yes
Women who participated in the training(s) found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.	In line with the above, and based on publicly available evaluation reports, it appears that the trainings organised by other CBOs/NGOs were also found relevant by participants. In particular, these events, much like those conducted under the RHV-SA project, appear to have generated positive individual changes among participants.	Yes
Staff members from CBOs/NGOs believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.	No information was found about the perceptions on the part of staff members from these other CBOs/NGOs of the relevance and quality of the trainings that their organisations delivered.	No evidence available
An increase in women's collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training.	The evaluation on the training programme supported by SAIH found that participating women had, following their engagement in project trainings, shared and disseminated the knowledge they had gained. However, this is based on only one piece of information and more data should therefore be collected to arrive at a more conclusive finding.	Partly, but more data needed
Women and/or women's groups newly engage in local governance processes.	No information was found about the levels of engagement by women's groups benefiting from the support of the samples CBOs/NGOs.	No evidence found

3.6.4 Causal Mechanism C

This causal mechanism is described as follows: *national or local government institutions had an initiative to promote the role of women in local governance processes.*

At the Gauteng level, the provincial government approved a strategic policy framework on gender equality and women's empowerment in 2010. The plan, which was to guide official investments and efforts until 2015, had as one of its objectives the promotion of 'the emancipation and empowerment of women through emphasis on women's rights' (Gauteng Government, 2010; p. 15).¹³ The framework included a series of outputs with related activities, including some training activities and support to campaigns, such as the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women event. Unfortunately, I could not find any information on the implementation or the effectiveness of these activities, including trainings.

At the national level, one of the main bodies entrusted with advancing gender equality is the national Commission on Gender Equality (CGE). The CGE has a very large mandate, which includes legal advocacy, the monitoring of court cases, investigations and public outreach. Under the last category, the Commission appears to have organised a number of public-awareness events across the country, including Gauteng, on a yearly basis. These events have covered issues ranging from legal issues and advice (for 2013/14, for example, the CGE reports having held 126 legal clinics across the country), to sexual harassment and GBV in the workplace.

The work of the Gauteng provincial government and the CGE is extremely relevant to assessing the effectiveness of the RHV-SA. There is not, however, enough information available to assess whether CMC passes the Hoop Test: there is no data about the number, location or specific themes of the trainings held by these institutions over the past few years; and no surveys about the effectiveness of the latter or how people perceived these agencies.

3.7 STEP 7: APPLYING BAYESIAN UPDATING

Please note this section should be read in conjunction with Appendix V, which contains additional important information.

The application of Bayesian updating has enabled me to quantify my confidence in the existence of the constituent parts of the RHV-SA Project's causal mechanism (CMA), and the existence of the mechanism in its entirety. This has resulted in individual confidence scores for each component of the mechanism and an overall confidence score for the existence of the mechanism as a whole. For the mechanism's components, probabilities are estimated describing:

- A. Their likelihood of being observed under the hypothesis that the causal mechanism holds (Sensitivity); and
- B. Their likelihood of being observed under the hypothesis that the causal mechanism does not hold (Type I Error).

The first probability shown above (A) is also known as the 'sensitivity' of the piece of evidence while the second probability (B) is known as the 'Type I Error'. Depending on the values of these two probabilities, the test will have: confirmatory power (Smoking Gun); disconfirmatory power (Hoop Test); both (Doubly Decisive) or neither (Straw-in-the-Wind).

Table 6 displays the following information, which has been summarised from Appendix V:

1. The 'observed' column reports if evidence supports whether the component has been observed or not and how it changes an initial, pre-observation confidence of 0.5.
2. A combined sensitivity score of the probability of observing items of evidence if the causal mechanism is valid;
3. A combined Type I error score of the probability of observing items of evidence if the causal mechanism is not valid; and
4. A posterior/updated confidence score of the combined evidence package for each component of the mechanism.

Table 6: Assessment of the components of Causal Mechanism A: ‘The Raising Her Voice project training and support has led to more women and women’s groups newly engaging in local governance processes

Component (For a description of the evidence found for each component see Table 8, Appendix V)	Observed: Does initial confidence of 0.5 change?	Combined Sensitivity: P(E CMA)	Combined Type I Error: P(E ~CMA)	Posterior/Updated confidence on combined evidence packages
CMA-1 The RHV training actually took place.	YES, increase confidence	0.98	0.04	0.96
CMA-2 The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.	SOMEWHAT but more data needed on the numbers of women who have attended training events and workshops.	0.6	0.40	0.6
CMA-3 POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.	YES, increase confidence	0.81	0.50	0.62
CMA-4 RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.	YES, increase confidence	0.95	0.2	0.83
CMA-5 Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.	YES, increase confidence	0.90	0.08	0.92
CMA-6 An increase in women’s collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training.	YES, increase confidence	0.48	0.01	0.98

Component (For a description of the evidence found for each component see Table 8, Appendix V)	Observed: Does initial confidence of 0.5 change?	Combined Sensitivity: P(E CMA)	Combined Type I Error: P(E ~CMA)	Posterior/Updated confidence on combined evidence packages
CMA-7 More women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes.	SOMEWHAT but more examples of project participants engaging in local governance needed as gaps in evidence.	0.85	0.5	0.63

3.7.1 Description and justification for the confidence scores

This section provides a description, justification and interpretation for the scores for each component of the mechanism. To support interpretation of the quantitative scores of level of confidence the reader may find the qualitative rubric shown in Table 7 useful (Befani & Stedman-Bryce, 2016).

Table 7: Qualitative Rubric for Different Quantitative Levels of Confidence

Qualitative Rubric	Quantitative Score of Confidence	Components of CMA by level of confidence
Practical Certainty	0.99+	
Reasonable Certainty	0.95 – 0.99	CMA-1 and CMA-6
High Confidence	0.85 – 0.95	CMA-5
Cautious Confidence	0.70 – 0.85	CMA-4
More Confident than not	0.50 – 0.70	CMA-2, CMA-3 and CMA-7
No Information	0.50	

For three out of seven components of the mechanism, confidence in their existence is high. In descending order of confidence these are CMA-6, CMA-1 and CMA-5 (Table 7).

CMA-6: An increase in women's collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training:

- The updated combined confidence score for this component of the mechanism is 0.98 (Reasonable Certainty). Based on the evidence I have observed, I am reasonably certain that project participants have increased collective action to share and disseminate knowledge. The evidence I have seen, such as formation of the community action groups and the action plans they have developed, when taken together, have increase my confidence in this component of the mechanism.
- The combined sensitivity score for this component was 0.48. While I would expect to find evidence of women meeting collectively, I would not necessary expect to find examples of action plans.
- The combined Type I Error was 0.01. This is because under the assumption that this component of the mechanism does not hold, I would not expect to find women forming groups to share their knowledge about the training (0.1), although it is recognised that women may meet collectively for

other purposes. Moreover, I would not expect there to be action plans of the proposed activities project participants expect to implement (0.05).

CMA-1: The RHV training actually took place:

- The updated combined confidence score for this component of the mechanism is 0.96 (Reasonable Certainty). In other words, I am 96 per cent confident the project did deliver training to project participants. While monitoring logs are patchy, I have reasonable certainty that project participants did receive training.
- The combined sensitivity score, taking account of different pieces of evidence, for this component is 0.98, or 98 per cent. What I am saying here is that under the assumption that this component of the causal mechanism holds true, my expectation of finding such evidence is close to 100 per cent.
- This score has to be taken together with the Type I error, which asks: if the component of the causal mechanism does not hold true, what is the likelihood of finding such evidence? In this example, the probability of finding various people, such as project staff and participants, all of whom state that they attended training provided by the project, is highly unlikely. In other words, if the training did not take place, what is the likelihood of finding people who say they did attend the project's training? I consider this likelihood to be low and have given it a combined score of 0.04, or 4 per cent.

CMA-5: Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them:

- The updated combined confidence score, taking account of all items of evidence assessed, is 0.92 (High Confidence). This means, on the basis of the evidence that I have seen, I have 92 per cent confidence that project participants did indeed find the training they received to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their human rights and how to claim them. This is a clear success of the project.
- I scored the combined sensitivity at 0.9. My rationale for this score is based on my belief that under the assumption this component of the mechanism is valid, the likelihood that project participants agree they found the training to be relevant, should be high. This score reflects my understanding that not all project participants would agree in the training's relevance but that most would and that the quality of facilitation of training events is an additional factor.
- With regard to the Type I Error, I scored this at 0.08. On the assumption that this component of the mechanism is not valid, I would find it somewhat unlikely that project participants would be able to state they found the project's training relevant. I have taken consideration of the fact that during interview, project participants may have over-stated their views on the project training's relevance and be subject to recall bias. Hence evidence in this case was taken from historical training evaluation forms completed at the time of training, and from project quarterly reports and other independent evaluations of the project.

For the remaining components of the mechanism I am more cautious in my assessment and would need more of the 'right' type of evidence to strengthen my confidence. In order of descending confidence, the components are CMA-4, CMA-7, CMA-3 and CMA-2.

CMA-4: RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality:

- The updated confidence score for this component is 0.83 (Cautious Confidence). Hence, based on the evidence I have seen, I am cautiously confident that project staff believe the training they provided to be relevant to project participants.
- The sensitivity score for this component was 0.95. This is because if the component is true, I would expect project staff to hold such views of training they had provided. Their incentive to believe so is high.

- The Type I Error I scored as 0.2. I have used this score because I believe if the mechanism were not valid, there is still some chance that project staff may believe the training they provided was relevant to project participants, even if it wasn't.

CMA-7: More women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes:

- The updated score for this component was 0.63 (More Confident Than Not). The evidence I have seen is limited, but I am more confident than not that the project has influenced more women and women's groups to newly engage in local governance processes.
- The sensitivity for this component of the mechanism was scored at 0.85. Examples were limited and of the one example I was able to investigate, important evidence was missing that was required to increase my confidence.
- The Type I Error was scored as 0.5 as even if this component of the project did not exist, there is a reasonable likelihood of finding examples of women newly engaging in local governance processes.

CMA-3: POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project:

- The updated combined confidence score for this component is 0.62 (more confident than not). Which is to say that the available evidence gives me more confidence than not, that the project implementing partner, and by extension, the project, is viewed as credible by project participants and external partners.
- The combined sensitivity score for this component is 0.81. This reflects my view that if this component of the mechanism is valid, stakeholders should have sufficiently positive views of the project and its implementing partner, but that this may not necessarily be expressed by all.
- The Type I Error was 0.5. Even if the component was not valid, there is still some chance that project partners and other stakeholders may express this view.

CMA-2: The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training:

- The updated confidence score for this component of the mechanism is 0.6 (More Confident Than Not) and represents the lowest confidence score of any component within the mechanism.
- The combined sensitivity score for this component is 0.60, or 60 per cent. Under the assumption that the component holds true, the evidence that I had available to me did not make me confident that the training had reached sufficient numbers of women as records did not adequately capture the training events because records were often incomplete.

For this reason, the Type I error is high (0.40, or 40 per cent) because under the assumption that the component does not hold true, I may have seen a lot of people in the registries relating to non-project training events or other events.

The findings presented here validate and strengthen the findings presented in Table 2 (Section 3.6.1) where a qualitative assessment was made of the evidence required to increase confidence in the existence of the various components that constitute the project's contribution claim.

To quantify confidence in the existence of the mechanism as a whole, I have taken the lowest confidence value for an individual component, which is for reach of the project's training (CMA-2), at 60 per cent. This is because the mechanism as a whole is the logical intersection of all components and its overall strength is thus dependent on the weakest link. This also provides an indication of where additional efforts at evidence strengthening could be directed as this would strengthen confidence as a whole in the mechanism's existence.

In summary, I can quantify my confidence in the project's contribution claim that the RHV project training and support has led to more women and women's group newly engaging in local governance

processes (aimed at reducing the number of women who experience gender-based violence) at 60 per cent. Using a qualitative rubric (Table 7), this quantitative score is described as 'More Confident Than Not' and represents the lowest level of confidence within the rubric. This contribution claim has been used to assess the project's contribution in improving women's empowerment. Confidence in specific components of the mechanism ranged from a maximum of 98 per cent (e.g. women act collectively to share and disseminate knowledge following the trainings) to a minimum of 60 per cent (e.g. training had sufficient reach and a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training).

4 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

1. There was sufficient evidence to warrant exploration of the project's contribution claim; that is, evidence that the outcome – more marginalised women engaged in local governance processes – had materialised. A small number of examples were found of women and women's groups from the project newly engaged in local governance processes that gave an indication of success at outcome level. Evidence came largely from previous project evaluations, and from interviews conducted with a range of key informants, made up of project staff and participants, and women's rights professionals from allied organisations and networks.
2. To verify the existence of the project's causal mechanism, and thereby validate its contribution claim, evidence was gathered and assessed against the evidence tests described above. To further strengthen this assessment of evidence, Bayesian updating was applied to quantify how the available evidence increased (or decreased) my confidence in the existence of the specific components of the project's hypothesised mechanism. Based on this analysis, I have high confidence that three out of seven components of the mechanism exist. In order of descending confidence these are: that more women are engaged in collective action to share and disseminate their knowledge following training provided by the project; that the project's training actually took place; and that women who took part in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their human rights and how to claim them. For three of the seven components of the project's mechanism, I am more cautiously confident. In descending order of confidence this comprises: that project staff believe the training provided was relevant to marginalised women; that more women are newly engaged in local governance processes; and that the project's training reached sufficient numbers of marginalised women.
3. To quantify confidence in the existence of the mechanism as a whole, the lowest confidence value for an individual component was used. The rationale for using the lowest score is because the mechanism as a whole is the logical intersection of all components and its overall strength is thus dependent on the weakest link. In this case, the component relating to the reach of the project's training, based on the observed evidence, had the lowest confidence score of 60 per cent. **I therefore quantify my confidence in the project's contribution claim – that the RHV-SA project's training and support has led to more women and women's group newly engaging in local governance processes (aimed at reducing the number of women who experience gender-based violence) – at 60 per cent. Using a qualitative rubric (Table 7), this quantitative score is described as 'More Confident Than Not' and represents the lowest level of confidence within the rubric.**
4. The results of the evaluation provide an indication of where additional efforts at evidence strengthening could be directed in future as this would strengthen confidence as a whole in the mechanism's existence. Important project data were either not collected, not stored appropriately and/or lost over time. However, I am assured that absence of evidence in this case does not equate to evidence of absence. **My view is that the RHV-SA project has failed to systematically gather outcome-level data and has failed to monitor for assumptions and risks; rather than the view that the project has not contributed to the desired outcome. Had better monitoring systems been in place, it may have been possible to give higher confidence scores for the components within the project's mechanism, thereby giving more credence to the project's contribution claim.**
5. Process tracing requires that as well as assessing the project's causal mechanism, sufficient resources are given over to assess other potential causal mechanisms with equal rigour. Two further causal mechanisms were assessed: the actions of other organisations, delivering similar training to the project contributed to women newly engaging in local governance

processes; and national or local government initiatives promoting the engagement of women in local governance processes. In relation to the former, a review of five organisations with a similar mission to the project was conducted which found that all were engaged in similar work to the project, to varying degrees, including delivering training on gender-based violence. More evidence would be required to validate this mechanism, but it appears probable that it has made a contribution given the similar missions of the organisations, their profiles on GBV issues and the training they offer. In relation to the latter mechanism, concerning a government-led initiative, the national Commission of Gender Equality (CGE) did organise a number of public-awareness campaigns, including in the project's operational province. These events touched on issues of sexual harassment and GBV. There is not enough information available publicly, however, to more fully understand this mechanism. Hence, for both alternative causal mechanisms, some evidence exists suggesting they may have made a contribution to more women newly engaging in local governance processes, but this picture is incomplete.

6. As there is no evidence to rule out the alternative causal candidates, due to both a lack of resources and limited data availability, they, together with the project's causal mechanism, can be considered as a 'causal package'. This is an entirely reasonable finding given the complexity of the social environment in which the project operates and that many factors will influence how women chose to engage in local governance processes. Indeed, there will be other causal mechanisms this evaluation has not considered that will form part of the causal package. What is important for the project is that it remains a plausible causal candidate within this package. **While more evidence is required to increase confidence in the project's causal claim, there is a sufficient threshold of evidence to maintain it as a causal candidate and hence the project's contribution claim is upheld.**
7. Despite limited budgets, the RHV-SA project has done a lot with a broad range of activities that has engaged women activists at community level. This has included the development of a clear problem analysis, articulated by the project's conceptual framework; the adaptation of a radio drama series, which acted as a catalyst for the formation of eight CAGs; provision of training workshops designed to inspire, educate and motivate women to take action; and ongoing support to women's groups to develop and implement their own plans of action to disseminate their knowledge and engage with local governance processes. Project participants appear to have got a lot out of their engagement, particularly in the knowledge and confidence they gained from attending training events organised by the project.
8. Monitoring data that could have easily captured the range of training events, dates and locations of training events, and frequency of implementation, for example, are not available in a readily accessible format. This makes it difficult to establish if the project had sufficient reach. It cannot be easily established what training events took place, the learning outcomes of those events, how many people attended, in what localities the training was delivered, and how many times the training was run. Furthermore, it is not possible to establish if the project reached the number of marginalised women that it intended to. In the project's final report, it is claimed that the project reached some 1,500 women in phase one, but it is not possible to see how the project arrived at this figure and on what basis this claim is made. At the outcome level, given the focus of the RHV-SA project, it is remarkable that a repository of case studies or stories of change from project participants was not developed to capture the experiences of the many women who have benefited from the project and what action they may have taken to engage in local governance processes.
9. Sustainability of the project is a concern, given drop-out rates from the CAGs, and no ongoing provision of training. The intervention logic of the RHV-SA project relies solely on the provision of training workshops (and some support) to encourage women to become champions of women's rights in their communities, by taking action alone and/or in concert with other likeminded women. The lack of ongoing training is contributing to a knowledge imbalance within the groups, and the assumption that women will cascade their knowledge to

one another does not appear to be holding true in all cases. This is a crucial weakness in the project's intervention logic, which – had the project been monitoring for assumptions – could have been detected and mitigated very early in the project's implementation. As a consequence, when knowledgeable group members leave, they often take their knowledge with them, leaving the group, in some cases, 'rudderless'. And when new women join groups, they do not enjoy the same training as older members, sometimes having no training at all. A lack of funding to support CAGs has contributed to some women dropping out through lack of stipend payments. A further contributing factor is a lack of funding for groups to implement their action plans with some key informants frustrated that they cannot do more. The start of the project saw 100 women join the various CAGs, with this figure now closer to 50. Groups are composed mainly of new members who have not received the same level of training and skills building as women who joined the groups at the start of the project.

10. **Had the project developed and implemented a monitoring and evaluation plan, confidence in the project's contribution claim would have undoubtedly been higher. This is a missed opportunity that the project should learn from as it continues implementation.**

5 POINTS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The evaluation has found a number of learning points for OGB decision makers to consider that will improve future planning, monitoring and evaluation of Oxfam's programmes.

1. Theory of change is a process that engages key stakeholders to articulate the various assumptions they may make about how change happens in a particular context. This is an incredibly important process in strategy development, but also for purposes of monitoring and evaluation. The various components of a theory of change can be used to inform monitoring and evaluation plans, helping projects to know which intermediate outcomes, assumptions and risks to monitor, for example. Having a well-articulated theory of change is crucial for any theory-based evaluation, including for process tracing, as it forms the backbone of the approach. While a theory of change was developed for the global RHV programme during the mid-term evaluation of the RHV portfolio, no theory of change process was undertaken in the RHV-SA project. A comprehensive process to develop a conceptual framework was done by the project, and project staff are to be praised for its focus on including women activists from grassroots level and its feminist approach. However, this did not provide the detail generated by a theory of change process. As a consequence, the various intermediate outcomes the project hoped to produce were not fully articulated and the related risks and assumptions were not stated or monitored, nor was a mitigation plan developed. Greater promotion of theory of change as a planning, monitoring and evaluation tool is required, especially in projects and programmes concerned with good governance work.
2. The project should invest in more systematic ways of capturing women's stories of change and to ensure evidence of impact is preserved as project staff and participants change over time. . At the outcome level, given the focus of the RHV-SA project, the project could consider developing a repository of case studies or stories of change from project participants to capture the experiences of the many women who have benefited from the project and what action they may have taken to engage in local governance processes
3. Plans for sustainability are not clear, and the project is encouraged to consider how best to leverage the support of its partners and other actors, to put in place sustainability measures to ensure women are trained in an ongoing way and encouraged to continue with the implementation of their action plans.

APPENDIX I: BAYESIAN PROBABILITY

The purpose in applying process tracing in this evaluation is not to measure impact in terms of net change in a specific population, but rather I aim to assess my confidence that the RHV-SA project has had an impact. The current Oxfam protocol requires evaluators to determine a contribution score which rates the achievement of an outcome using a rubric that communicates evidence on the extent to which the outcome has materialised and the significance, if any, of the contribution of the project. . My aim is to strengthen this approach using Bayesian probability (Befani and Stedman-Bryce, 2016).

The literature contains many good examples of process-tracing cases using Bayesian probability to objectively quantify confidence in a specific piece of evidence, as this relates to a contribution claim (see Beach and Pederson, 2013). I begin by quantifying my prior confidence in the contribution claim based on my view of the probability that it is valid. If there is no prior knowledge or sensible way of determining a value, the Bayesian tradition of 'no information' sets the prior confidence value as 0.5. The prior confidence in the probability of the contribution claim being valid is represented as P(CC).

As the evaluation progresses and primary and secondary data collection commences, this will in effect increase or decrease my confidence in the contribution claim. The Bayes formula sets out how to determine the post-observation confidence in the contribution claim. This is written as the conditional probability of the contribution claim, given specific evidence (E) has been observed. The Bayes formula is represented as follows:

$$P(CC|E) = P(CC) * P(E|CC)/P(E)$$

The formula states that the power of the evidence to change my prior confidence is contingent on two probabilities, namely: the conditional probability of observing specific evidence if the contribution claim is valid (P(E|CC)); and the general probability of observing said evidence P(E). This relates directly to the hypothesis tests outlined above. The former probability (P(E|CC)) relates to the evidence used in Hoop Tests, while the latter, (P(E)), relates to the evidence used in Smoking Gun Tests. Generally, the probability of discovering Hoop Test evidence, if the contribution claim is valid, is high. This is why not finding such evidence greatly reduces my confidence in such a contribution claim. Conversely, the probability of discovering Smoking Gun Test evidence is low and, hence finding such evidence serves to greatly increase my confidence in a specific contribution claim.

The above Bayes formula is a popular representation but an alternative formula (Befani & Stedman-Bryce, 2016) enables easier calculation of post-observation confidence because it represents the probability of evidence clearly showing the importance of evidence (E) under the hypothesis that the contribution claim is not valid. The lower that probability is, the higher my post-observation confidence is, if observed. This representation of the Bayes formula is as follows:

$$P(CC|E) = P(CC) * P(E|CC) / [P(CC)*P(E|CC) + P(~CC)*P(E|~CC)]$$

Where P(E|CC) represents what in the text is called sensitivity, and P(E|~CC) what is called Type I error. I shall apply the above formula to specific pieces of evidence to assess my confidence in contribution claims as a final step of the protocol.

APPENDIX II: LIST OF KEY INFORMANTS

Organisations interviewed
Tiyang Basadi
Ramokonopi Police Station
POWA
Oxfam GB
Independent Consultants
Ekurhuleni LGBTI
Kathorus
Tiyang Basadi
SOAWR Coalition Campaign
Masimanyane Women's Support Centre
Positive Women's Group
Harambe Advisory Services

APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE TEMPLATE

Every key informant was read a preamble to the interview that covered issues such as the purpose of the evaluation, what would happen to the information they provided, confidentiality and what to do should they have a problem or concern.

Dependent on the key informant's experience of the RHV-SA project, a selection of the following questions was asked in a sensible order:

1. Please tell me about your engagement or involvement with the Raising Her Voice project to date.
2. What are your views of the quality of the training provided by the RHV project?
3. What are your views of the relevance of the training provided by the RHV project?
4. Apart from training, what other support have you received from the Raising Her Voice project, if any?
5. What, if anything, is different because of the RHV project?
6. What contribution, if any, has the Raising Her Voice project made in relation to influencing policy and/or decision makers or processes?
7. What are your views of how Raising Her Voice project personnel have engaged as advocates in policy influencing processes?
8. What activities does your group undertake in the community?
9. What difference, if any, has the RHV training made to you personally?
10. What difference, if any, has the RHV training made to what you do?
11. Other than training, what other support have you received from the Raising Her Voice project, if any?
12. Other than the raising her voice project, what other organisations have you received support from, if any?
13. Thinking about what the RHV project hopes to achieve, what factors, if any, have:
 - a. Helped it to be successful?
 - b. Hindered its success?
14. Other than the raising her voice project, what other organisations, if any, are you aware of that are supporting women's empowerment locally?
15. In your view, what positively influences women's empowerment locally?
16. Do you have anything that you would like to add that has not been covered during my questioning?

APPENDIX IV: ONLINE ITEMS SOURCED ON POWA/RHV-SA

Title:	'Reporting rape equals being raped again in court'
Source:	Mail & Guardian website
Date:	10 Aug 2007
Type:	News article (online)
Description:	
The article covers a protest organised by POWA outside Johannesburg High Court. The protest was against current laws on rape, which POWA described as archaic and putting excessive responsibility on the victim. The article provides some information about the laws and quotes POWA staff members.	
Link:	
http://mg.co.za/article/2007-08-10-reporting-rape-equals-being-raped-again-in-court	

Title:	The noises next door
Source:	Thought Leader (online blog and opinion section of the Mail & Guardian)
Date:	3 Aug 2010
Type:	Opinion piece/ blog
Description:	
The article, by Jen Thorpe, discusses an ad released by POWA on domestic violence (it's the same ad in the YouTube link below). The blog discusses statistics about domestic violence in South Africa and the need to increase action. It has a direct link to the YouTube clip.	
Link:	
http://thoughtleader.co.za/jenniferthorpe/2010/08/03/the-noises-next-door/	

Title:	Speak out and stop violence
Source:	Mail & Guardian website
Date:	29 Nov 2010
Type:	News article (online)
Description:	
The article discusses domestic violence with the aim of increasing awareness about the phenomenon and its effects. It is linked to the celebration of international day for the elimination of VAW. It refers to POWA three times: twice to cite statistics related to domestic violence and once, at the end, to provide contact information about the organisation for anyone seeking support or wishing to learn more.	
Link:	
http://mg.co.za/article/2010-11-29-speak-out-and-stop-violence	

Title:	The noises next door
Source:	Thought Leader (online blog and opinion section of the Mail & Guardian)
Date:	29 Nov 2010
Type:	Opinion piece/blog
Description:	The blog article, also by Jen Thorpe, discusses the apparent bias against women victims in the justice sector. It refers to the POWA ad about noises in a residential area (the YouTube ad) and also has a direct link to it. The author wants to increase awareness and offers recommendations for greater action on domestic violence.
Link:	http://thoughtleader.co.za/jenniferthorpe/2010/11/29/femicidal-south-africa/

Title:	Women's Rights in the balance
Source:	IOL (online news source in South Africa)
Date:	9 Aug 2011
Type:	Opinion piece/blog
Description:	The main purpose of the article is to raise awareness about women's rights in the face of violence in general, and the radio drama 'Zaphamban' 'Izindlela!' in particular. It starts by offering statistics about domestic violence and women's rights; it then talks about the radio drama. It cites both POWA and Oxfam GB and is written by the Director of CMFD Productions, which produced the radio drama.
Link:	http://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/opinion/women-s-rights-in-the-balance-1.1114295?ot=inmsa.ArticlePrintPageLayout.ot

Title:	16 Days of Activism — we need to be uncomfortable
Source:	Thought Leader (online blog and opinion section of the Mail & Guardian)
Date:	29 Nov 2013
Type:	Opinion piece/blog
Description:	The blog article, written by Trevor Davies, is a call to action relating SGBV. It argues that the problem is being portrayed as marginal in media and political discourses, while in reality it affects more than half of women in some communities. It laments the lack of funds and the fact that most people working on it have come to be seen as repetitive. It then cites POWA in relation to its participation to an NGO initiative to create a national commission of inquiry into SGBV.
Link:	http://thoughtleader.co.za/trevordavies/2013/11/29/16-days-of-activism-we-need-to-be-uncomfortable/

Title:	POWA helps women beat abuse
Source:	Play Your Part website (a nationwide campaign created to inspire, empower and celebrate active citizenship in South Africa)
Date:	11 Sep 2013
Type:	Article
Description:	
The article is basically a profile of POWA, covering mission, history and current activities, especially as these relate domestic violence.	
Link:	
http://www.playyourpart.co.za/our-news/466-powa-helps-women-beat-abuse	

Title:	International Women’s Day: SA ad agencies produce provocative domestic violence ads
Source:	Daily Maverick
Date:	9 Mar 2015
Type:	News article
Description:	
The news article is about the ad campaign launched by POWA and the ad agency Joe Public. It mainly talks about the process of creating the ads, but in doing so also provides information relating to POWA, SGBV and domestic violence in particular.	
Link:	
http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2015-03-09-international-womens-day-sa-ad-agencies-produce-provocative-domestic-violence-ads/#.VqpFnInIV8	

Title:	People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) Profile
Source:	NGO Pulse (online site of the Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT))
Date:	28 Mar 2012
Type:	Opinion piece/ blog
Description:	
The blog article is basically a profile piece on POWA. However, it starts by talking about the story of an activist named Nkhensani Mabasa. The article says that despite the difficulty in raising awareness about domestic violence, “a succession of letters, sustained pressure to speak at village authorities’ meetings, and pro-active mobilising, and change did happen. Mabasa credits training she received from People Opposing Women Abuse’s (POWA) Raising Her Voice Programme with arming her with the information she needed. RHV is just one of POWA’s many programmes making a difference to women’s lives in South Africa.”	
Link:	
http://www.ngopulse.org/article/people-opposing-women-abuse-powa-profile	

Title:	POWA ad
Source:	YouTube
Date:	21 Jul 2010
Type:	Public service announcement
Description:	
<p>This is the main ad of the campaign against domestic violence launched by POWA in 2010. In the first part, a man playing drums loudly and is visited by his neighbours in a residential community; he then puts a tape of a man and a women fighting violently, but no one comes. The ad was referenced (and linked) in several online articles on the Mail & Guardian. It currently has over 134,600 hits.</p>	
Link:	
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= DIIvkvblVM	

Title:	A Humorous Perspective on the Serious Issue of Women's Rights
Source:	NGO Pulse (online site of the Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT))
Date:	17 Aug 2011
Type:	Opinion piece/blog
Description:	
<p>The main purpose of the article is to raise awareness about women's rights in the face of violence in general, and the radio drama 'Zaphamban' 'Izindlela!' in particular. It starts by offering statistics about domestic violence and women's rights; it then talks about the radio drama. It cites both POWA and Oxfam GB and is written by the Director of CMFD Productions, which produced the radio drama.</p>	
Link:	
http://www.ngopulse.org/article/humorous-perspective-serious-issue-womens-rights	

Title:	Body Swap for Women's Rights?
Source:	Women24 (a section of online news outlet News24)
Date:	8 Aug 2011
Type:	Opinion piece/blog
Description:	
<p>The main purpose of the article is to raise awareness about women's rights in the face of violence in general, and the radio drama 'Zaphamban' 'Izindlela!' in particular. It starts by offering statistics about domestic violence and women's rights; it then talks about the radio drama. It cites both POWA and Oxfam GB and is written by the Director of CMFD Productions (Deborah Walter), which produced the radio drama.</p>	
Link:	
http://www.women24.com/Wellness/BodyAndSpirit/Body-Swap-for-Womens-Rights-20110808	

Title:	Don't shame live-blogging rape survivor – POWA
Source:	News24
Date:	8 Jan 2016
Type:	News article
Description:	<p>The article covers the response by POWA to the events surrounding the rape of an American woman in South Africa. The women had posted the news of event on her Instagram page right after it happened; this triggered an outpouring of comments, both positive and negative. POWA is cited as suggesting that the attention should be given to the pain of a victim and respecting how she chooses to heal.</p>
Link:	http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/dont-shame-live-blogging-rape-survivor-powa-20160108

Title:	POWA annual report 2014–15
Source:	POWA website
Date:	2015
Type:	Organisational annual report
Description:	<p>The report is standard and provides an overview of all of POWA's projects and activities for the year prior to publication. Usefully, it has some statistics regarding the SGBV survivors and victims that it assisted directly through its clinics, safe houses and legal assistance.</p> <p>With regard to RHV, the report does not offer much information except for this: "This year the Raising Her Voice Community Action Groups (CAGs) focused more on awareness raising through educational talks at the local clinics and supported events hosted by our partners namely Thiba Nyaope Organisation, the ANC Women's League Ivory Park, Ekurhuleni Local Government, Department of Social Development and SAPS. Slots from community radio stations such as Thetha FM and Ekasi Radio were also a platform used to raise awareness on GBV. The year was also focused on rebuilding Raising Her Voice groups as some of the successes were that more RHV members were being employed and could no longer volunteer. They continue to support the project where possible and mentor new members" (page 21).</p> <p>Additionally, the report highlights a project entitled Joint Gender Fund, which was implemented under RHV. This included the mentorship of a local organisation, the Thusanang Advice Centre, with the aim of increasing its advocacy skills and creating better links with local authorities. One result was that "a Violence Against Women multi-stakeholder forum was established in Qwaqwa in May 2014" (page 22).</p>
Link:	http://www.powa.co.za/publications.html

Title:	POWA Press releases (3 items)
Source:	POWA website
Date:	21 Jan 2015 2 Dec 2015 13 Jan 2016
Type:	Press releases
Description:	<p>Two of the press releases are about events sponsored by POWA and one is about a TV show that the organisation denounces as sending the wrong messages regarding SGBV. The press releases are far apart in terms of timing and varied in terms of format. A brief description of each item follows:</p> <p>1) Zestah September's murder case: BAIL APPLICATION (Jan 2015) – POWA states it support for the decision of the court in relation to the bail application of the main accused in the Zestah September's case. It also mentions how POWA members have been picketing the Westonaria Magistrate Court in order to raise awareness about the case and domestic violence in general.</p> <p>2) "Our Perfect Wedding" Stands Directly Against National Message for 16 Days Campaign (Dec 2015) – the press releases denounces a show to be aired on national TV as sending all the wrong messages about domestic violence and SGBV.</p> <p>3) Zestah September court support (Jan 2016) – Release is meant to bring attention to POWA's picketing of the Westonaria Magistrate Court in support of the Zestah September murder by her partner and the need to issue harsher sentences for intimate partner violence.</p> <p><i>*** There are three other media items on POWA's website, but I haven't included them because they felt less relevant – one being an item drawing attention to a specific event in 2014; the second a release from another organisation and the third an empty document.</i></p>
Link:	http://powa.co.za/media-toolkit/media-releases.html

Title:	Joint Sonke, POWA, SWAGAA and TAC statement from the 45th Ordinary Session of the African Commission
Source:	Sonke Gender Justice website
Date:	18 May 2009
Type:	Media statement/press release
Description:	<p>The item is a statement aimed that African Commission, drawing specific attention to the issue of women who are victims of violence and affected by HIV/ AIDS. The statement raises awareness about the numbers of women affected and their vulnerable situation. It urges the Commission to put pressure on member states to adopt and fully implement the Maputo Protocol and Action Plan.</p>
Link:	http://www.genderjustice.org.za/news-item/joint-sonke-powa-swagaa-and-tac-statement-from-the-45th-ordinary-session-of-the-african-commission/

Title:	'Day 3: HOW TO: get a protection order'
Source:	Mail & Guardian website
Date:	26 Nov 2009
Type:	News article (online)
Description:	
<p>The article provides an overview of the procedures necessary to request and obtain a protection order. In general it raises awareness about domestic violence and is directly linked to the 16 days against violence campaign. The article further appears to be an initiative of the Mail & Guardian; POWA is indicated as one of the helpful organisations than can be reached to learn more about domestic violence.</p>	
Link:	
http://mg.co.za/article/2009-11-26-day-3-how-to-get-a-protection-order	

Title:	CRIMINAL INJUSTICE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA – Shadow Report on Beijing +15
Source:	OHCHR website
Date:	March 2010
Type:	Report
Description:	
<p>The report was prepared by POWA with other SA organisations and is directly linked to the RHV project, as acknowledged in the report itself: “We acknowledge the Ford Foundation (Southern Africa), Foundation for Human Rights, Oxfam Great Britain through the Raising Her Voice Programme for their generous support in preparation, publication and printing of the report” (page 2). The report was prepared as a civil society contribution to describing the problems faced by women in SA and thus rectifying what are deemed as significant gaps in the official report, which has been published the SA government in 2009. The POWA reports thus looks at the policy and institutional shortcomings of responding to SGBV, including the specific challenges related to women with HIV/AIDS. The report includes, in fact, a description of the intersection of HIV/AIDS and violence. The report then concludes with recommendations aimed at the government, which in POWA and partners’ view can contribute to better protection and prevention of SGBV.</p>	
Link:	
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/ZAF/INT_CEDAW_NGO_ZAF_48_10364_E.pdf	

Title:	Joint Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 13th Session of the UPR Working Group
Source:	OHCHR website
Date:	28 Nov 2011
Type:	Report
Description:	
The report is the compilation of CSO submissions to the UN UPR for South Africa. It was submitted by a coalition of NGOs including POWA, CIVICUS, the Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HUSRA) and others. It contains a list of concerns relating to human rights, including extensive sections on women's rights and the situation in relation to SGBV.	
Link:	
http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/ layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session13/ZA/JS3_UPR_ZAF_S13_2012_JointSubmission3_E.pdf&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1	

Title:	Raising Women's Voices Through Radio Drama: REFLECTIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA
Source:	POWA and CMFD
Date:	2012
Type:	Case study report
Description:	
<p>The report is a case study of the effectiveness of the radio drama 'Zaphamban' Izindlela!'. It is also aimed at sharing the experience of producing and disseminating the drama. The author does specifically mention the link between this and the RHV programme.</p> <p>Overall, the author (Deborah Walter, the director of CMFD Productions) finds that "drama in general, and 'Zaphamban' Izindlela!' in particular, are valuable tools for social change, especially when accompanied by discussion groups and other support activities. The drama proved to be an entertaining means to stimulate dialogue and analysis of women's rights in communities, raise awareness of the AU Protocol and legal protections for women, and encourage local action" (Page 2).</p> <p>To start off, the case study describes the entire process (and timeline) of producing and airing the drama on various community radio stations. Then it discusses findings in relation to the social change indicators for the drama, using mostly anecdotal and qualitative information (from facilitators' notes, for the most part). Finally, it concludes with some lessons learned about using radio dramas to foster dialogue and social change.</p>	
Link:	
http://www.eldis.org/go/home&id=73674&type=Document#.Vqzx3VInIV8	

Title:	Engendering Change? An Analysis of How NGOs Work on the Problem of Violence Against Women in South Africa
Source:	Journal of Politics and International Studies
Date:	2013
Type:	Academic journal article
Description:	The article is an academic exploration of the role of NGOs in promoting reduction and prevention of SGBV, including through advocacy and lobbying activities. POWA is one of the organisations that the author (Emily Stanley) uses to analyse the effectiveness and impact of NGOs' strategies. The article talks about some of POWA's strategies, and compares these to general challenges of advocacy as these have been identified in academic literature. The article is, however, based on secondary information and has little new insight into the results of POWA (or other South African organisations working on SGBV).
Link:	http://www.polis.leeds.ac.uk/assets/files/students/student-journal/uq-winter-12/130213-win12-emily-stanley-8.pdf

Title:	Submission by People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) to the CEDAW Commission on Virginity Testing as a Harmful Traditional Practice
Source:	OHCHR website
Date:	31 Mar 2015
Type:	Report
Description:	The report argues that virginity testing is still prevalent in some areas of South Africa and that it violates several key rights as protected by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the CEDAW. The report is based on evidence that POWA and a local partner organisation, Abahlali Basemjondolo, which is a network of radical poor people's movement located in the Kwa-Zulu Natal province. Its conclusion is that the CEDAW committee should launch an investigation on this practice.
Link:	http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/HarmfulPractices/PeopleOpposingWomenAbuse.pdf

APPENDIX V: BAYESIAN UPDATING CALCULATIONS

We can assess the likelihood that each component of the causal mechanism actually exists by focusing on which pieces of evidence support each component. Table 8 below refers to the project's contribution claim, represented by the various components in a hypothesised causal mechanism (CMA). The table connects the different components of the mechanism with the pieces of evidence that were found to support or weaken it.

Prior confidence that the different parts of the mechanism held true before making the observations was scored as 0.5, the standard Bayesian 'no information' value, $P(T)$. Table 9 illustrates the sensitivity of the different pieces of evidence for the different parts of the mechanism, or the likelihood of observing each piece of evidence if the component holds true: $P(E|T)$. Table 10 illustrates the Type I error, or the probability of observing that piece of evidence if the component doesn't hold true – $P(E|\sim T)$; and finally, Table 11 illustrates the posterior confidence: how the initial/prior confidence about that mechanism component changes after the observation of the piece of evidence – $P(T|E)$.

Table 11 includes an estimate of the posterior confidence in the existence of the mechanism as a whole, which is identified with the lowest value of the confidence levels for each separate component. This is because the mechanism as a whole is the logical intersection of all components and its overall strength is thus dependent on the weakest link, which also provides an indication of where additional efforts at evidence strengthening could be directed (this is a good rule in general: to strengthen confidence on the whole, always focus on the weakest link, if it's really necessary for the mechanism; otherwise reformulate the claim in a way that doesn't make the link necessary). In this case the weakest part of the mechanism is the component relating to reach and engagement of the project.

Table 8: Relevance of the different pieces of evidence for the contribution claim

Component	Evidence #1	Evidence #2
CMA-1 The RHV training actually took place.	Some training events/workshops are documented in project reports, including photos of attendees.	Project participants did confirm that they had attended project-training events during interview.
CMA-2 The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.	Project documentation indicates that around 30 women activists were originally trained on the Maputo Protocol and advocacy skills. However, comprehensive records of the number of women who attended these events does not exist, beyond raw registers of attendance for some events. Given this rather patchy picture, it has not been possible to confirm the project's claim that 1,500 were reached by the project. Since then, training has taken place on the intersections of GBV, HIV and AIDS and poverty, and on women's rights and feminism.	
CMA-3 POWA/RHV is seen as a credible	The project and POWA in particular are referred to in the highest terms, both by project participants and by external key	A desk-based review of reports of POWA/RHV's work has revealed that POWA is well known and is viewed as a

Component	Evidence #1	Evidence #2
organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.	informants working in the field of women's empowerment.	credible actor, particular on the issue of GBV.
CMA-4 RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.	During interviews all POWA/RHV project staff I spoke with believed in the relevance of the training provided by the project.	
CMA-5 Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.	A review of evaluation forms completed by participants who attended a workshop on domestic and sexual violence suggests that most women found the training of benefit and relevant to them. This training event particularly helped to increase attendees' awareness of what constitutes domestic violence.	Project documentation, in the form of quarterly reports, consistently refers to the impact the training is having on women who attend. A review of project documentation, including past evaluations, supports the view that participants benefited from project training in terms of awareness raising, confidence and skills building and of its relevance.
CMA-6 An increase in women's collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training.	The formation of the CAGs was observed as a vehicle through which women collectively share knowledge and information, and in which plans are formulated to take action.	I have seen several examples of action plans from these groups, but evidence of implementation is patchy, with some groups complaining of a lack of funds/support to implement this plans.
CMA-7 More women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes.	Although relatively few in number, there are some examples of women newly engaging in local governance processes, but a lack of outcome-level monitoring data and attrition from the project over the years, has made it difficult to firmly establish the project's role in increasing women's participation in local governance processes.	

Table 9: Sensitivity of the difference pieces of evidence for the different parts of the mechanism

Component	Evidence #1	Evidence #2	Sensitivity of Combined evidence package
CMA-1 The RHV training actually took place.	0.99	0.99	0.98
CMA-2 The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.	0.6	-	0.6
CMA-3 POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.	0.9	0.9	0.81
CMA-4 RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.	0.95	-	0.95
CMA-5 Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.	0.95	0.95	0.9
CMA-6 An increase in women's collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training.	0.8	0.6	0.48
CMA-7 More women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes.	0.85	-	0.85

Table 10: Type I error of the different pieces of evidence for the different mechanism parts

Component	Evidence #1	Evidence #2	Type I error of Combined evidence package
CMA-1 The RHV training actually took place.	0.2	0.2	0.04
CMA-2 The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.	0.4	-	0.4
CMA-3 POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.	0.71	0.71	0.5
CMA-4 RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.	0.2	-	0.2
CMA-5 Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.	0.4	0.2	0.08
CMA-6 An increase in women's collective action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training.	0.1	0.05	0.01
CMA-7 More women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes.	0.5	-	0.5

Table 11: Posterior or post-observation confidence about the existence of the single mechanism parts and the mechanism as a whole

Component or Step	Posterior / Updated Confidence about Evidence #1	Posterior / Updated Confidence about Evidence #2	Posterior / Updated confidence about Combined evidence package
CMA-1 The RHV training actually took place.	0.83	0.83	0.96
CMA-2 The RHV training had sufficient reach e.g. a reasonable number of marginalised women attended the training.	0.6	-	0.6
CMA-3 POWA/RHV is seen as a credible organisation/project by local partners and women engaging in the project.	0.56	0.56	0.62
CMA-4 RHV project staff believe the training to be relevant and of good quality.	0.83	-	0.83
CMA-5 Women who participated in the training found it to be relevant and that it increased their knowledge of their rights and how to claim them.	0.7	0.83	0.92
CMA-6 An increase in women's collective	0.89	0.92	0.98

Component or Step	Posterior / Updated Confidence about Evidence #1	Posterior / Updated Confidence about Evidence #2	Posterior / Updated confidence about Combined evidence package
action to share and disseminate knowledge following the training.			
CMA-7 More women and women's groups newly engaging in local governance processes.	0.63	-	0.63

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NOTES

1 These were implemented in Albania, Armenia, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia (Aceh), Indonesia (Papua), Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia and Uganda.

2 One covered work in the member countries of Mercosur (European External Action Service) and was managed from Uruguay; the other was a pan-African project managed from Kenya.

3 Full description of the RHV project in South Africa, OGB South Africa Country Office, p. 2.

4 Developed by Van Era (1997) and Bennett (2010) to support efforts to establish causal inference in Process Tracing.

5 http://www.qsrinternational.com/products_nvivo.aspx

6 The team that led the development of the conceptual framework were from '...a strong feminist standpoint...' and included women activists to accurately represent women's lived realities.

7 Theory of change model inspired by Contribution Analysis (Mayne, 2008).

8 <https://www.sigrid-rausing-trust.org/Grantees/Forum-for-the-Empowerment-of-Women>

9 <https://www.actionaid.org.uk/blog/voices/2013/03/13/why-for-one-group-of-women-in-south-africa-red-nose-day-is-an-extra-special>

10 <http://www.pwn.org.za/>

11 Full document can be found at http://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/changing_their_world_-_the_one_in_nine_campaign_south_africa.pdf

12 Full document can be found at <http://www.fokuskvinner.no/PageFiles/5228/SAIH%20Programme%20Evaluation%20Report%20July%202012%20010812.pdf>

13 Available here:

<http://www.gautengonline.gov.za/Government/Policies/Gender%20Equality%20and%20Women%20Empowerment.pdf>



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