

Management Response Template

Oxfam Management response to the review of *WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN INDONESIA* Impact evaluation of the 'Reducing the occurrence of Gender Based Violence' project

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Questions 1–10 will be published externally as a stand-alone document to accompany the evaluation in question. Please respond in full, without referring people to the detailed action plan (which will not be published).

A: Context, background and findings

1. The context and background of the review, i.e. the purpose and scope of the evaluation.

Oxfam GB's Global Performance Framework is part of the organisation's effort to better understand and communicate its effectiveness, as well as enhance learning across the organisation. Under this Framework, a small number of completed or mature projects are selected at random each year for an evaluation of their impact, known as an Effectiveness Review. The project 'Reducing the Occurrence of Gender Based Violence (GBV)' (IDSC82) was one of those selected for an Effectiveness Review in the 2016/17 financial year.

Project description

The project operated with 10 partners in the provinces of West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, and Jakarta. But this Effectiveness Review was conducted only in East Nusa Tenggara due to budgetary constraints. In East Nusa Tenggara activities started in 2012 and the project was implemented by four partner organisations: SSP, CIS, YABIKU and LBH APIK. The activities conducted can be divided into three broad categories: activities carried out with men and youth to sensitise them to new gender roles, activities of advocacy and community engagement to increase women's leadership and participation, and finally activities undertaken to support women with legal help when exposed to violence. SSP and CIS Timor have mainly conducted community engagement activities that sensitise men and youth, while YABIKU and LBH APIK have focused on supporting women within the legal and judiciary system.

The project activities aimed to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) within the communities that participated in the project. Paralegals' and lawyers' support are expected to promote appropriate assistance from the police and other authorities in the cases of violence. Advocacy and engagement with community leaders may increase women's leadership in the communities. Additionally, social norms may change with an increase in knowledge and an awareness of GBV among local leaders.

Evaluation design

The Effectiveness Review took place in August 2016 in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. It was intended to evaluate the success of the project 'Reducing the Occurrence of Gender Based Violence(GBV)' and promoting women's empowerment.

A quasi-experimental impact evaluation design was used to measure the effect that is causally attributable to -and representative of- the project's intervention. The evaluation design involved

comparing a random sample of women who live in villages supported by the project, with a random sample of women living in neighbouring communities and have similar characteristics but who had not participated in the project. The evaluation was conducted in 12 communities involved in the project and 28 comparison communities.

An individual survey was conducted with 295 women randomly selected from project villages and 505 women with comparable characteristics who had not been involved in the project. At the analysis stage, the statistical tools of propensity-score matching and multivariate regression were used to control for demographic and baseline differences between the households surveyed regarding the project and comparison characteristics to provide additional confidence when estimating the project's impact.

2. Summary main findings and recommendations

Results

The evaluation found positive and significant results on overall women's empowerment. Women in project communities scored 61 percent on the Women's Empowerment Index, compared with 52 percent in comparator communities. The overall project had positive and significant results on various indicators at a personal level (confidence in speaking in public events and knowledge of women's rights), relational level (provide support to and counselling to peers), and environmental level (social norms of women holding leadership positions, likelihood for women holding leadership positions, and in the event of violence cases are treated more appropriately by the legal system, police and community support).

Project partners delivered a variety of activities, and the evaluation estimated differential effects based on the underlying activities carried out by the four partner organisations.

Community engagement activities designed to sensitising men and youth were mainly implemented by SSP and CIS Timor. Results for these activities provide evidence of a positive and significant impact on women's willingness to report cases of violence, as well as greater support for women who have been victims of violence. These activities are also associated with women having a higher confidence to speak in public, as well as greater likelihood to participate in public events and engage in taking important decisions in these events. Finally, in communities where SSP and CIS Timor implemented their activities, women are more likely to hold leadership positions, as well as finding social norms that are considered acceptable for a woman to run for local office.

Project activities supporting women within the legal and judiciary system were mainly carried out by YABIKU and LBH APIK. Estimates for these activities suggest a positive and significant effect on indicators measuring services supporting women in case of violence, as well as indicators of the quality of support received by the judiciary system and police. Results also suggest that women in communities where YABIKU and LBH APIK are working have higher levels of knowledge of women's rights, and a greater likelihood of providing support and counselling to peers. Findings suggest that women from communities where YABIKU and LBH APIK implemented their activities are more confident speaking up at public events and are more likely to hold a leadership position. Results also

identified shifts in social norms within communities, with men and women being more likely to consider acceptable for a woman to run for local elections. Finally, the evaluation found evidence that women in communities where YABIKU and LHP APIK delivered activities also demonstrated greater control over household resources than women in comparison communities. This came as a surprise, as it was not an outcome that the project expected to influence.

Characteristics of women’s empowerment examined in this Effectiveness Review

Level	Characteristic	Linked to the project	Evidence of impact (overall)	Evidence of impact (SSP/CIS)	Evidence of impact (YABIKU and LBH APIK)
<i>Personal</i>	Considers violence unacceptable	Yes	No		
	Willingness to denounce cases of violence	Yes	No	Yes	
	Control over personal decision making	Yes	No		
	Positive opinion of women taking up leadership positions	Yes	No		
	Confidence to speak up at public events	Partially*	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Access to economic resources	No	No		
	Access to information (knowledge of their rights)	Yes	Yes		Yes
<i>Relational</i>	Household decision making	Yes	No		

	Control over resources	No	No	Yes	
	Free from violence	Yes	No		
	Men in household help with care responsibilities	Partially*	No		
	Participate in public events, meetings, forums	Yes	No	Yes	
	Influence at public events, meetings, forums	Partially*	No	Yes	
	Woman provides support and counselling to peers	Partially*	Yes		Yes
<i>Environmental</i>	Social norms that consider it acceptable for a woman to have a leadership position: acceptance of a woman running for election	Partially**	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Women take up leadership positions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Violence is not accepted in the community	Yes	No		
	Cases of violence are treated appropriately (by legal system and policemen)	Partially***	Yes		Yes
	Community social support for survivors of gender-based violence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

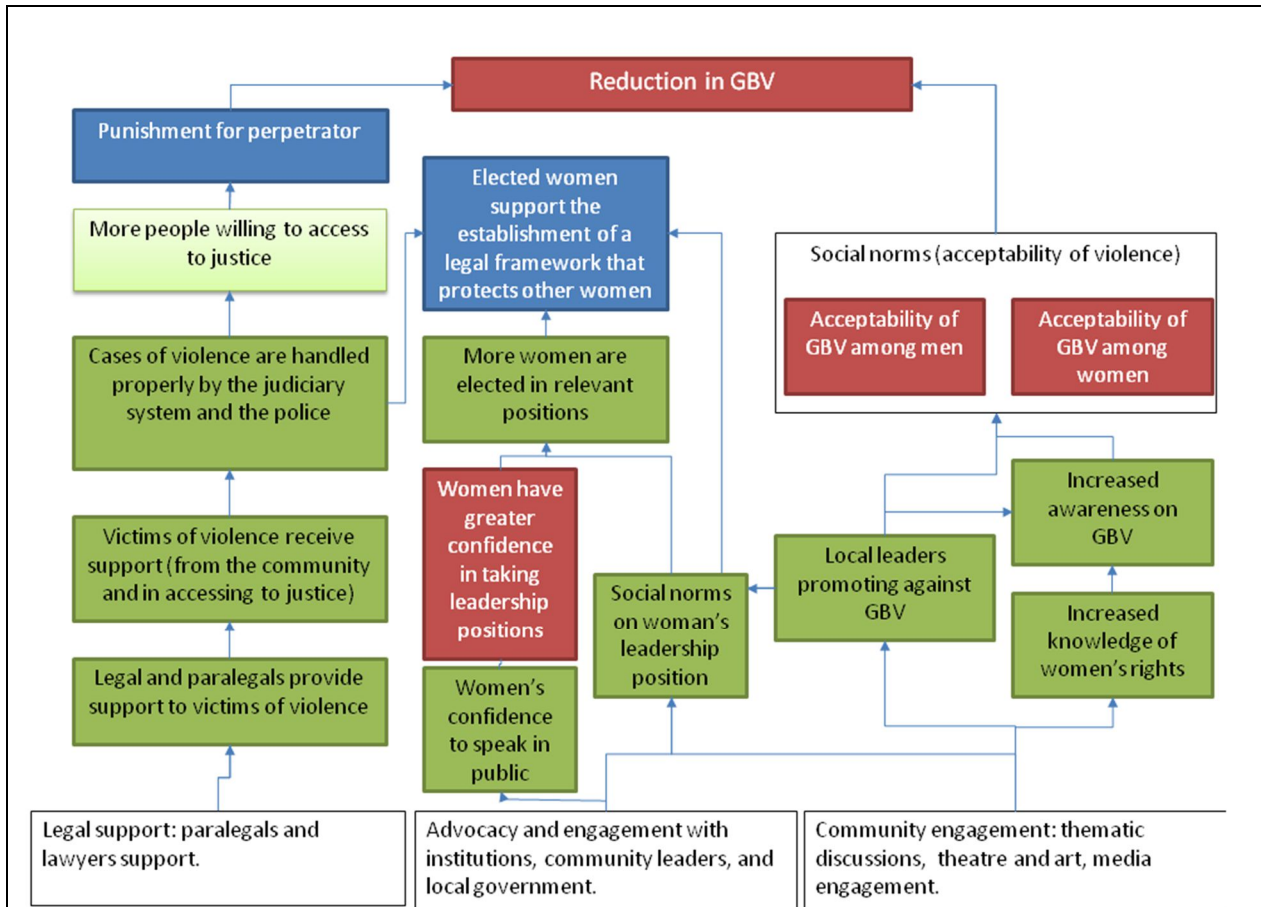
* This refers only to project participants, not the entire community; ** Only for activities conducted by SSP not APIK, YABIKU, CIS; *** Only for activities conducted by APIK, SSP, YABIKU, not CIS.

While there is no evidence in a reduction of episodes of gender-based violence attributable to the project, the Effectiveness Review provides evidence that the project had a positive and significant impact on indicators referring to the quality of support women received in the case of violence. There is strong evidence that women who were a victim of violence are more likely to receive support from paralegals and medical assistance, especially in communities where YABIKU and LBH APIK conducted their activities. Women in intervention communities (served by both from YABIKU and LBH APIK as well as from SSP and CIS) are significantly more likely to report the existence of legal and practical support for survivors of gender-based violence. Also, the quality of the assistance from the police seems to be greater among project communities, with questioning conducted in private rooms by female police officers and a higher likelihood that victims do not feel blamed by the police while reporting.

The evaluation found evidence of higher willingness to denounce in the case of violence is present in communities where SSP and CIS conducted their community engagement activities, but not in communities where YABIKU and LBH APIK was active supporting women within the legal and judiciary system. The evaluation also found that three out of four women go back to their houses after having reported violence, posing important questions of why women return and how programmes should address the ongoing and additional risks for such women.

The project was successful in increasing knowledge of women's rights, and awareness of gender-based violence. In intervention communities, local leaders reported talking more frequently about gender justice issues such as violence against women and the role of men in the society. However, there is no evidence of overall differences in social norms around the acceptability of gender-based violence, which remains high both in intervention and comparison communities (40% of women considering acceptable violence, and 75% of men perceived to consider acceptable violence).

Causal pathway for the project



Programme learning considerations

1. Consider introducing complementary interventions to increase women’s willingness to report violence.

The evaluation findings raise questions about whether working mainly with paralegals is sufficient to increase women’s willingness to report violence. Results on a positive and significant impact on willingness to report cases of violence were found in communities where the project conducted engagement activities, while were not observed within those communities where the project supported women within the legal and judiciary system. This does not suggest that work with paralegals and within the legal and judiciary system should be interrupted. Rather, that future programmes may want to complement work to strengthen the awareness and capacities of paralegals with other community-level activities. The evaluation found that community engagement activities (including working with community and cultural leaders and sensitising men and youth) seemed to be more effective in supporting women's willingness to report cases of violence.

2. Invest more in mitigating the risks to women who experience violence and decide to report their perpetrator.

The project was successful in improving some aspects related to quality of the assistance received in cases of violence (e.g. support by paralegals and interactions with the police). However, there still seems to be a lack infrastructures and services providing shelter to women victim of violence. From the survey, it appears that three out of four women who reported violence returned home after having reported violence. There is a need to better understand why women return and how programmes can help to address the ongoing and additional risks such women may face. The project could consider partnering with local government and others to provide adequate and safe infrastructure to support women who experience violence and decide to report it to the authorities.

3. Use high violence prevalence rates to improve targeting in future projects

The project may want to concentrate its effort in areas with high prevalence and acceptability of violence and low willingness to report. Estimates from the survey suggest that women in the districts of Timor Tengah Selatan and Timor Tengah Utara (regardless of whether they are in intervention or comparison communities) are on average more exposed to violence, less willing to report violence, and more willing to accept violence than those women living in Kupang.

4. Consider identifying evaluation questions during programme design

In future projects, the team could consider including an evaluation framework in the project design. Evaluation is a key tool for learning –it can help to strengthen theories of change and sharpen project design, enable evidence informed adaptation, and support projects and programmes to capture and communicate their effectiveness. When designing a project, the programme team is encouraged to consider and define key evaluation questions to be addressed and to plan for sufficient budget, time and resources. Different evaluation designs and methodologies provide different types of evidence, with different levels of confidence.

5. Invest more in understanding how working with men may lead to intended outcomes

The current evaluation rigorously assessed the impact of the project on women as the final intended beneficiary of the project. It provided evidence of positive impact on women across a range of empowerment indicators. However, considering the project's explicit intent to work with men, it would be important to also invest in understanding if and how men's views were influenced by the project. The country team is advised to consider undertaking further research or evaluation exercises to better understand this intended change pathway.

B: Oxfam's response to the validity and relevance of the review findings, conclusions and recommendations.

3. Overall do the findings of the review concur with you own expectations or assessment of the project's effectiveness?

Partially agreed, the evaluation has incorporated the major success of the project in the personal, relational and environmental level, which is very good. The evaluation found that community engagement activities (including working with community and cultural leaders and sensitising men and youth) seemed to be more effective in supporting women's willingness to report cases of violence. The Evaluation team has clearly mentioned the success of the project and the areas of improvement – where we should focus in the coming days – and we fully agreed.

But, the project has contributed to some micro-level of achievements, which were not shown in the evaluation report. Some examples:

Under the project, we produced a gender equality report, which will be launched this year.

One of the KPI (Indonesian Women's Committee) was invited by the President to discuss SDG 5, in order to draft a Gender Equality Bill and discuss regulations on child marriage.

Laki Laki Baru (New Men) aims to engage men through competitions and song and dance events focusing on reducing gender-based violence. This has proved very effective.

80 percent of women groups established in NTT, NTB, Central Sulawesi, and Bali participated in Musrenbang (development planning meetings), and 90 percent of women groups participated in Village Meetings (in project areas). They all represented women's groups which sent 1-2 representatives to the meetings.

The evaluation has some gaps in the methodology in terms of identifying strategic achievements. For example: it did not mention how the project successfully worked to change the mind-set of religious leaders. Or the agent of change or role model strategy where 40-50 men are working to raise awareness of GBV while promoting women's empowerment by becoming an example in society. The report missed these achievements.

4. Did the review identify areas that were particularly strong in the project?

Yes, we agree, the evaluation team clearly articulated the strong areas of the project. The project demonstrated significant results on women's empowerment. It shows impact at the personal level (confidence in speaking at public events and knowledge of women's rights), relational level (provide support and counselling to peers), and environmental level (social norms of women holding leadership positions, likelihood for women holding leadership positions and, in the event of violence, cases are treated more appropriately by the legal system, police, community, as well as ADAT customary law). Project partners work in a coordinated way to effectively deliver a variety of activities. In some communities, women are more likely to hold leadership positions, and are accepted to run for local elections. We have shifted from the traditional model of partnership to establishing a consortium of

likeminded CSOs. Another project is linked to SGD Goal 5 which works closely with government. Oxfam intends building on these synergies for greater impact.

5. Did the review identify areas to hat were particularly weak in the project?

Yes, the review identified some potential areas that remain weak, including:

1. Appropriate and timely plans to gather information and document success stories;
2. Documenting achievements needs to be improved;
3. Develop a MEAL Framework with clear indicators before implementation.

6. Summary of review quality assessment, i.e. quality of the review is strong/mixed/poor and short assessment of the process

- Participation of the partners in the design process was strong;
- Survey was well received in terms of quantitative data and comparator methodology;
- But, the survey used only one method (quantitative), which could not capture the macro level changes happening in project areas. It would be useful to add some qualitative data in the assessment.

7. Main Oxfam follow-up actions (This should be a summary of the detailed action plan, focussing on the key actions and timeframes, stated in table B. Information on actions should be specific and timebound. The detailed action plan is for internal use only and will not be published, so please do not “refer to the detailed action plan” in your response)

1. Revisit the strategy of men’s engagement alliance and work as per the strategy
2. Develop MEAL Framework in project design phase
3. Engage more with local level government to reduce violence against women and strengthen para legal work in future projects.

8. Any conclusions/recommendations Oxfam does not agree with or will not act upon - and why (this reflection should consider the results of the review quality assessment)

No

9. What learning from the review will you apply to relevant or new projects in the future? How can the regional centre/Oxford support these plans? Please be as specific as possible and provide context where relevant, naming projects in full where learning from the review will be applied.

Discuss the evaluation process with partners before the evaluation.

10. Additional reflections that have emerged from the review process but were not the subject of the evaluation.

Need for a mixed methodology in the evaluation process: for example, get quotes from participants to illustrate points.