

VÄESTÖLIITTO'S
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION
PROGRAMME FOR
ADVANCING SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
AND RIGHTS
ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**A World where sexual rights are
realized**



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Acronyms and abbreviations

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
CYECE	Center for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CS	Civil Servant
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FP	Family Planning
FPAN	Family Planning Association of Nepal
GTA	Gender Transformative Approach
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HRBP	Human Rights Based Programming
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
OECD/DAC	Development Assistance Committee (DAC) under Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
OPD	Organisation of Persons with Disabilities
PAI	Population Action International
PMEL	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
PSEAH	The Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
RBM	Results-Based Management
SDG	The Sustainable Development Goals
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UNFPA	United Nation's Population Fund, UN's sexual and reproductive health agency
WwD	Women with Disabilities
VSL	Village Savings and Loan

1. Summary of the annual report 2022

Year 2022 was the first year for Väestöliitto as a new recipient of MFAs' programme-based support. The new programme incorporated earlier individual development cooperation projects (*prevention of SGBV in Malawi* and *advancing sexual rights of persons with disabilities in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Nepal*) and communication projects in Finland (global communications and UNFPA information) to the new elements of LGBTIQ+ work in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and advocacy in Finland. These elements are tied together under the programme aimed at advancing sexual rights of the groups that are particularly vulnerable and marginalized. Therefore, the programme targets especially girls and women, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons.

Väestöliitto's programme focuses on increasing knowledge, awareness, and capacities on SRHR of its various target groups as well as capacities and resources of the partner organizations. Through strengthening the life-skills and capacities of the most vulnerable persons and by empowering them, by strengthening the capacities and knowledge of the local duty-bearers, service providers and other responsible actors on SRHR issues, and through awareness raising and advocacy, the programme contributes to the realization of SRHR of the most vulnerable groups.

Overall, the programme aims at contributing to the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights (**SRHR**) of the most vulnerable groups also contributing to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) 3.7 and 5.6. Although the impact level will be measured in more detail at the end of the programme cycle, some signs of positive impacts can already be seen. This can be attributed to already established work which was commenced during the previous ongoing projects that were incorporated into the programme.

The partner organizations reached out to the rights-holders either through their own members or through their partners or other stakeholders, raised awareness in the societies to decrease harmful conceptions around SRHR of vulnerable groups, built capacities in the communities and did advocacy to change policies and legislation. During 2022 altogether 248 776 persons were reached directly and indirectly through more than 560 different actions.

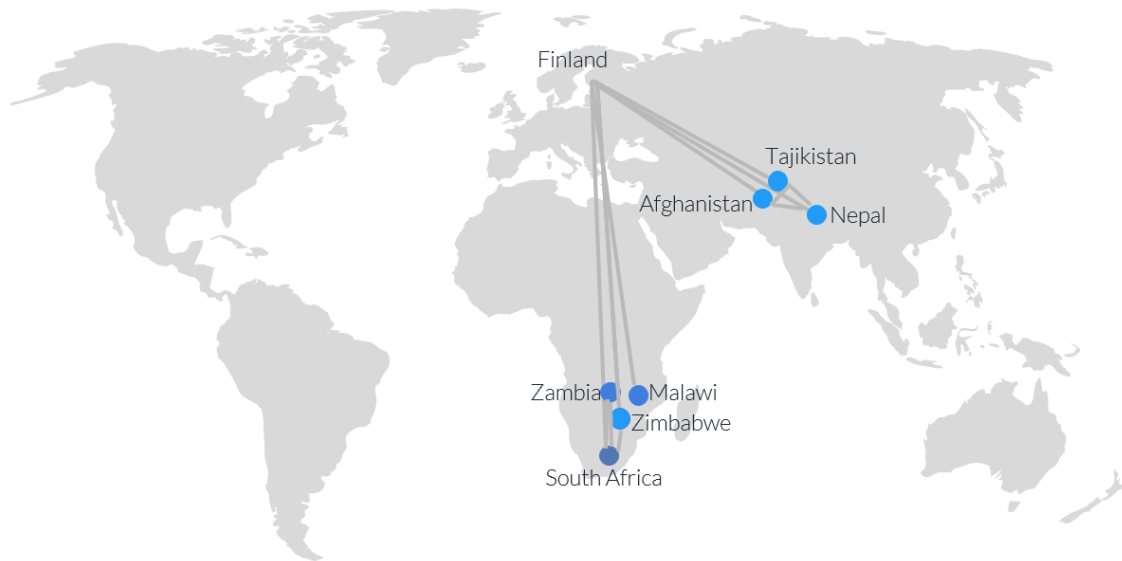
Learning and capacity building of programme partners is an important outcome of the programme and is tied with strengthening the expertise of all programme partners in SRHR issues of vulnerable groups as well as having strong capacities in managing the projects so that the outcomes are achieved. During the first year of the programme a lot of efforts went into establishing the RBM structures and initiating the new partnerships with LGBTIQ+ partners.

2. Overview of 2022

Year 2022 marked the first year for Väestöliitto as a new recipient of MFAs' programme-based support. The new programme incorporated earlier individual development cooperation projects (*prevention of SGBV in Malawi* and *advancing sexual rights of persons with disabilities in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Nepal*) and communication projects in Finland (global communications and UNFPA information) to the new elements of LGBTIQ+ work in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and advocacy in Finland. These elements are tied together under the programme aimed at advancing sexual rights of the groups that are particularly vulnerable and marginalized. Therefore, the programme targets especially girls and women, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons, as guided by the Development Policy Programme of Väestöliitto.

The programme is implemented in seven programme countries through Väestöliitto's partner organizations working in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (**SRHR**).

Picture 1: Väestöliitto's programme countries



Västoliitto's programme is implemented mostly in poor and fragile contexts where there are severe gaps in achieving SRHR. The programme countries belong either to the Least Developed Countries or lower middle-income countries and have low HDI, apart from South Africa, and poor SRHR indicators. In all contexts especially the marginalized and most vulnerable groups face severe obstacles and restrictions when it comes to realizing their sexual rights.

When looking into the Human Development Index and Gender Inequality Index only Malawi and Tajikistan were able to increase their ranking in both indexes. In 2022 the Human Development Index ranking of Afghanistan, Nepal and Zambia fell, and that of Malawi, South Africa, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe rose. The Gender Inequality Index ranking of Afghanistan, Nepal, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe fell, and it rose only in Malawi and Tajikistan.

Strengthening civil society through facilitating the capacity building of programme partners as well as supporting their networking and alliance building are critical approaches of the programme. As a result, the partners are better positioned to do advocacy on SRHR of the most vulnerable groups but also counteract the shrinking space of civil society in the face of growing global opposition to SRHR. However, according to the latest CIVICUS civil society rating, the state of civil society in all programme countries remained either obstructed or repressed in 2022 (scale: open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed, closed), and as a negative development the rating of South Africa was downgraded from 'narrowed' to 'obstructed' in the end of 2021 right at the beginning of the programme. This is largely due to growing violence towards LGBTIQ+ activists as well as deteriorating LGBTIQ+ rights situation as there have been brutal attacks perpetrated against the LGBTIQ+ community. So far this has not diminished the space for Västoliitto's partner to function due to their already robust risk management system.

Another country of concern is Afghanistan where the country has been in turmoil since the Taliban takeover in August 2021. According to the CIVICUS report there have been reports of activists facing systematic intimidation throughout the country. The Taliban are carrying out house-to-house searches for activists and journalists, particularly women, and interrogating them and their families. This has created a climate of significant fear, and many have gone into hiding or have fled the country. Västoliitto's partner in Afghanistan has managed to stay operative almost the whole time despite the changing circumstances and regulations: currently women are allowed to work as health professionals as long as certain measures are followed; for example, in the partner's office women and men are working in different rooms, women wear hijabs, female health providers are accompanied by male guardians in some provinces to travel, among others. Some future worries include the fact that women are not allowed to study in the university anymore, which will mean that in the long run securing female doctors and gynecologists will be even more difficult. Also, following the regime change, many CSO and other professionals have left the country. The Afghan programme partner resumed its capacity building activities with civil society after performing remapping for the selection of new civil society partners.

Shrinking space for civil society has also been visible in Zimbabwe where the tensions grew in 2022 as the country started to prepare for the general elections to be held in August 2023. The government prepared for the Private Voluntary (PVO) Bill that would affect civil society organizations directly. The bill, should it pass, forces CSOs to register as a private voluntary organizations. This will affect civil society as a whole, as there is concern that some organizations will be denied registration because of the nature of their work (e.g. human rights, sexual rights, democracy) and that the government will have strong influence over the bylaws, governance, employees, and strategies of the NGOs. Pre-election periods have usually been violent and tumultuous, but in 2022 less violence was reported and there was no open or state-sanctioned rhetoric on LGBTIQ+ persons.

Because of the general elections in Zambia in 2021 the space for civil society was further diminished and the country remained as “obstructed” according to the CIVICUS rating. A similar kind of legislation proposed in Zimbabwe is already in action in Zambia. The NGO act from 2009 places civil society organizations under the authority of a government-dominated NGO Registration Board that has the authority to interfere with the NGOs’ activities. The civil society actors have tried to repel the regressive law. This has affected partner in Zambia by complicating their account management in their banks. The environment is openly hostile to LGBTIQ+ community and organizations, and in 2021 Väestöliitto’s partner experienced heightened hate campaigning towards their work and the community at large. There was a #BanHomosexuality campaign organized by Dr. Brian Samba which brought extreme negative attention to the LGBTIQ+ communities in Zambia. This campaign necessitated additional measures of caution when planning any actions of the project.

In Malawi in 2022, the Government controversially passed the NGO Amendment Bill which amended the NGO Act of 2021 and among other things changed the name of the NGO Board of Malawi to NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA). The new Act was passed without proper consultations among the relevant stakeholders and will be likely to hamper the operations of NGOs in Malawi. Also, the introduction of exorbitant fines appears to be deliberately targeted against CSOs speaking against bad governance. Väestöliitto’s partner among other CSO’s is actively advocating against certain parts of the new legislation. In addition, the Reserve Bank devalued the Kwacha by 25 % in May 2022 which contributed to sudden increase in living costs for most Malawians. The hardest hit were those living in rural areas, including the district where the project is implemented. This affected the implementation plan of the project as it needed to be adjusted to the rising costs. Also, the high rise of fuel costs compounded by the scarcity of fuel in the whole country impacted the implementation and monitoring of project activities as they are relatively dependent on access to project sites by a vehicle. Furthermore, there were prolonged blackouts in the country which affected the implementation, as the offices are usually shielded from regular blackouts by a generator, but due to the scarcity and costs of fuel, the use of generator needed to be rationed. Malawi also continues to have shortage of foreign currency reserves which has made the government face challenges in procurement of SRHR commodities resulting in stockouts in the project area.

Tajikistan, as CIVICUS rates, is a closed society and the civil society faces increased repressions. Since 2021, after violent state suppression of mass protests, Tajikistani authorities have continued the crackdown on dissenting voices and civil society. Journalists, bloggers, civil society activists, independent lawyers and human rights defenders face intimidation and harassment, including by being interrogated, arrested and criminally prosecuted on charges initiated because of their exercise of the right to freedom of expression and other fundamental freedoms. Especially CSOs, activists and lawyers working on human rights have been subjected to threats and intimidation by the authorities aimed at pressurising them to drop or refrain from taking up politically sensitive issues or cases.

The state of civic space in Nepal is rated as ‘obstructed’ by the CIVICUS Monitor. Documented violations of fundamental freedoms include arbitrary arrests and the use of excessive force with impunity during protests, as well as the ongoing targeting of journalists, including through harassment, attacks and criminalisation. Väestöliitto’s partner has reported that the operating environment in Nepal is fairly good due to the stable political situation, and it has been growing slowly facilitating the democratization of society, rule of law, governance and delivery of services to poor and marginalized groups. FPAN has not experienced restrictions as it is a registered organization that operates in close collaboration with the government, and it is the first national non-governmental in the field of sexual and reproductive health since 1959. However, as Nepal has recently become a lower-middle-income country and is aiming to become middle-income country by 2030, the funding dynamics for civil society have become unpredictable. Some large-scale projects have already been terminated due to decreasing funding and civil society is transforming themselves and adopting enterprises

and marketing models for sustaining. This underlines the responsibility of current donors; the transit and exit phases should not be done too rapidly to ensure that often underfunded issues such as SRHR and related services are not terminated "over-night".

3. Results and impact

The many obstacles in the realization of SRHR for all, and especially for vulnerable persons, are often linked with limited knowledge and awareness, and limited capacities to act for their realization. Despite being a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon that influences every aspect of human life, SRHR are often dealt with conflicting, false, and negative messages. It is very common that SRHR are surrounded by taboos, stigma, misunderstandings, and strong myths. These will hinder people from making important decisions regarding their SRHR limiting their options for fulfilling and dignified life, and at worse cause preventable morbidity and mortality. Sexuality is the most intimate area of one's personality, but knowledge, awareness and positive attitudes are direly needed in this area.

Therefore, Väestöliitto's programme focuses on increasing knowledge, awareness, and capacities on SRHR of its various target groups as well as capacities and resources of the partner organizations. Through strengthening the life-skills and capacities of the most vulnerable persons and by empowering them, by strengthening the capacities and knowledge of the local duty-bearers, service providers and other responsible actors on SRHR issues, and through awareness raising and advocacy, the programme contributes to the realization of SRHR of the most vulnerable groups.

As a result of the programme, the rights-holders will have the capacities to make informed decisions related to their SRHR and act for the realization of SRHR, negative and harmful stereotypes and attitudes regarding SRHR of vulnerable persons are challenged and transformed, and health service providers will have mainstreamed the SRHR issues of vulnerable persons in their work. Also, SRHR issues of especially vulnerable groups will be addressed by duty-bearers.

Väestöliitto's programme partners are often the leading SRHR expert organizations or human rights organizations in their countries, and the programme is implemented utilizing their expertise and networks. Strengthening their capacities strengthens directly also local civil societies.

Overall, the programme aims at contributing to the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of the most vulnerable groups also contributing to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3.7 and 5.6. Although the impact level will be measured in more detail at the end of the programme cycle, some signs of positive impacts can already be seen. This can be attributed to already established work which was commenced during the previous ongoing projects that were incorporated into the programme.

Increased access and utilization of vulnerable groups to SRHR services is already visible in some programme countries. For example, Persons with Disabilities' (PwD) access to SRH services has increased significantly as during the year 2022 the number of services delivered to PwD rose compared to the numbers 2021 in Afghanistan (23 079 in 2022 vs 4 947 in 2021) and Nepal (14 824 in 2022 vs 9 879 in 2021).

In Malawi the engagement with the AGYW in their respective spaces has resulted in increased demand for SRH services at health centers through their Youth Friendly Service Corners. In these places both information, family planning and psychosocial counselling services are available.

Two changes in policies or laws to include SRHR issues of especially vulnerable groups were achieved in 2022, both under the PwD thematic work that started already in 2019 through MFA project funding. In Nepal, Disability Friendly Reproductive Health & Safe Motherhood Service Guidelines were released by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health & Population at the end of 2022. The guidelines were developed to ensure the access to health services by all and it has four sections – 1) definition of key words related with disability 2) disability friendly services delivery. Accessibility of services as well as information, free services to PwD, confidentiality & privacy of the services, services in choice; 3) role & responsibility of three levels of government. Role of the Ministry of Health, health divisions, provincial ministry, health directorate & local government on budget allocation and service delivery as well as disability-friendly infrastructure development; 4) miscellaneous. Väestöliitto's Nepalese partner FPAN participated in the meetings in drafting and finalizing the guidelines and is also mentioned in the guidelines for providing technical support.

In Tajikistan, a law on equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination was adopted and approved by resolution of Majlisi milli MORT in July 2022. Partner in Tajikistan, together with other civil society organizations, worked for several years to advocate for and made a great contribution to the adoption of this law on non-discrimination. The advocacy work was done in collaboration particularly with PO Notabene, an organization engaged in human rights issues. The law includes prohibition of discrimination based on disability as well as a chapter prohibiting sexual abuse and violence.

In Afghanistan, the national strategic plan regarding the health of PwD, that was released in 2021, was printed into local languages and distributed to the stakeholders through the Ministry of Health in March 2022.

To contribute to the impact, the programme was originally designed around seven mutually supporting and reinforcing outcomes. Thematically they fall under the following entities: *1. Capacity building of beneficiaries; 2. Awareness raising in societies; 3. Capacity building in communities; 4. Advocacy in programme countries; 5. Learning and capacity building of programme partners; 6. Development communication and global education in Finland; 7. Advocacy in Finland.* However, during the first year of implementation it was analyzed that it would be most meaningful to combine the two advocacy outcomes as one, therefore combining the advocacy in programme countries and in Finland as one outcome sharing the same indicators. This is further analyzed under 3.5. Also some minor changes to the programme's language was done, such as replacing beneficiaries with rights-holders.

3.1 Development cooperation in programme countries.

The programme is implemented in seven programme countries through three thematical projects: **preventing SGBV, advancing sexual rights of persons with disabilities, and strengthening advocacy capacities of LGBTIQ+ organizations.** All three thematic projects contribute to the mutual outcomes described above and share the common goal of advancing the SRHR of the groups that are at especially vulnerable and marginalized. However, the thematic projects focus on different target groups as the preventing SGBV project in Malawi focuses on girls and women; in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Nepal the programme targets persons with disabilities; and the focus is on LGBTIQ+ persons in South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Main partners of Väestöliitto's programme are seven civil society organizations in the partner countries. They are SRHR organizations in their countries, disability organizations specialized in the SRHR of PwD, or human rights organizations specialized in LGBTIQ+ work. Four of the programme partners continued implementing ongoing projects and have been Väestöliitto's partners for several years. Two new partners have been selected based on their specific focus on LGBTIQ+ work and their organizational capacities to implement the programme's approaches. One new partner was chosen due to their unique position as the umbrella organization of all LGBTIQ+ organizations in the African continent.

As the LGBTIQ+ project was fully started only after the partnership meeting in October 2022, many of the initially planned actions were postponed until 2023.

3.2 Especially vulnerable groups are empowered to make informed decisions on their SRHR and address SRHR issues in their communities.

For vulnerable groups to make informed decisions on their SRHR and address SRHR issues in their communities, it requires among others, empowerment through new knowledge and capacities on SRHR, and tools make those choices, such as good self-confidence and self-esteem. Also, empowering women economically will not only increase their financial independence, but also enhance their bargaining power, and ability make more independent choices. Addressing SRHR issues in the communities can be challenging, and for this to be accomplished, the rights-holders have gained in-depth knowledge about SRHR, what are the root causes behind SRHR related challenges, and how to make a change.

Each partner implemented various types of life skills, empowerment, awareness raising and capacity building activities and increased rights-holders' knowledge on SRHR. The financial empowerment activities were implemented only in the SGBV prevention project in Malawi, but the model attracted interest also from the new LGBTIQ+ partners. A total of 253 actions were implemented in 2022 reaching total of 3 099 persons. Actions comprised of e.g. comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), trainings on SRHR, sexual and gender-based

violence, peer support groups, gender transformative approaches and village savings models and different business models.

These actions translated into increased participation in decision making regarding one's own SRHR, increased number of persons with new capacities, and different ways of addressing SRHR in communities.

Decision making regarding one's own SRHR entails many very intimate and sensitive aspects that require careful consideration when gathering the data. Decisions range from deciding to access SRH services to starting a relationship or a family that might not have been possible choices to make prior to the project. The data has been gathered through small focus group discussions and reflection discussions with a lot of attention paid to respecting the privacy and boundaries of rights-holders. The data reflects positive changes in people's lives as there has been an increased number of adolescent girls and young women who have participated in making decisions about their sexual health and have started to access youth friendly services. For example, in Tajikistan 29% of the PwD who participated the peer support groups reported starting to make decisions about their own SRHR, such as making decisions about relationships, dating, planning a child and establishing families.

Under *Increased number of persons from vulnerable groups with new capacities* the new capacities that are monitored regard mainly increased knowledge on SRHR, economic empowerment, and change in SRHR related attitudes. The positive changes that were recorded demonstrate that among adolescent girls and LGBTIQ+ communities there has been a clear increase in knowledge on SRHR as most of the new participants to the trainings have held misconceptions and myths that were cleared in the capacity building sessions. FGDs also showed that most of the women who participated in capacity building sessions were able speak out openly on SRH issues with the girls in their communities and were able to encourage them to access family planning methods as a way of preventing teenage pregnancies. There were positive developments also in respect with economic empowerment as an increased number of women were participating in the village savings and loans (VSL) groups where they already managed to save and borrow money from. Part of the funds from the VSL groups are directed at supporting the school fees of girls from impoverished households. There was also a positive change among PwD with increased knowledge on SRHR. For example, in Afghanistan 90% of rights-holders reported that they now understood that there are specific days in one month period for conception and gaining knowledge on sexually transmitted infections and condoms as the only method for prevention. In Nepal, 82% of rights-holders reported gaining knowledge on SRHR i.e. knowledge on contraceptives, menstruation and relationships. Whereas the number was 87% in Tajikistan.

Different ways of addressing SRHR in communities also entail a multitude of different actions that the most vulnerable groups can organize to advance SRHR. During 2022 there was an increase in the number of adolescent girls and young women participating in youth clubs and speaking out against SGBV through artistic means and by reporting SGBV cases further. In 2022 there were various ways of addressing SRHR in communities such as women providing counselling sessions to the girls and following up on SGBV cases, identifying girls who are at risk at experiencing SGBV, and mobilization into groups to discuss different life skills and SRHR. Moreover, the communities of persons with disabilities addressed SRHR in various ways: through community workshops, CSE classes, seminars held in madrasas, schools, and through the Friday prayers in Mosques. CSE classes were effective in delivering capacities and knowledge on sexuality, clearing the myths and misconceptions of PwD in Nepal. Young persons with disabilities who used to be quiet on issues regarding SRH are now openly sharing their SRH related queries with the Peer Educators.

3.3. Harmful conceptions around SRHR of vulnerable groups are decreased in the targeted societies.

Vulnerable groups face discrimination and encounter stigma and stereotypes when it comes to their SRHR. The programme influenced those stereotypes and misconceptions as well as gender norms in the targeted societies and communities through a variety of awareness raising activities. The rationale behind this is that it will not lead only to increased knowledge on SRHR of vulnerable groups but will lead also to a more positive and accepting society towards vulnerable groups in general.

The awareness raising activities were held as planned within the ongoing projects that were already being implemented prior to 2022. However, due to commencing the full implementation of the LGBTIQ+ project in October, the awareness raising activities were not implemented yet in 2022 under that component. Therefore, the achievements of the results are drawn from SGBV prevention and advancing sexual rights of PwD projects only.

The partners implemented various types of awareness raising activities, such as community dialogues, regular club meetings in the communities, football bonanzas, creative art events, media engagement and journalist training, social media campaigns, billboards, radio programs, and TV program. Altogether 277 actions were implemented reaching out to a total of 244 600 persons. When building the programme's results framework, the indicators were drawn from the already ongoing projects where the connection from actions to changing the perceptions regarding gender norms, stereotypes, and stigma around SRHR of vulnerable groups was more established and monitoring structures were in place to tap on to verify the change. However, with the introduction of the LGBTIQ+ component it was realized that due to the very restricted space for actions to do awareness raising by the LGBTIQ+ partners it would be extremely challenging to actively *change* the perceptions through awareness raising. Therefore, the indicators for this outcome were modified to reflect the common denominators of all partners more fully, and the indicator that depicts the change was replaced by *awareness on SRHR of vulnerable persons is raised in the targeted societies* for the whole programme. However, transformative work that strives to change the perceptions continues to be done by the other partners and the results reflect also that work.

Awareness on SRHR of vulnerable persons is raised in the targeted societies did take place under the SGBV and PwD projects. During 2022 various community leaders reinforced community by-laws that promote SRHR of women and girls, and religious leaders discussed SRH issues with young people in the places of worship during youth meetings. Male champions conducted talks with their fellow men to raise awareness on the importance of respecting the boundaries, bodily self-determination, and right to be free from sexual violence of girls and women. They also promoted positive masculinity to boys and men in the communities.

Own perceptions of persons from vulnerable groups of a more inclusive society on their SRHR issues was captured through Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) and review meetings with rights-holders. Women and girls expressed how their inclusion and involvement in various platforms and groups made a difference in their ability to voice their concerns in the communities, and how there has been a clear change in the attitude of parents and care givers on supporting girls' access to SRH services and information. Many noted that more parents are now encouraging their children to be present in these platforms and groups which indicates that their benefits to the well-being of the children is more understood. For example, in Nepal, 61% of the rights-holders reported that they are seen as a potential partner in the society: they have been included in peer group activities, some of them have married and some are leading the PwD related work in their local communities. In Tajikistan, of 44% of the respondents mentioned that at least in part of the society there are positive attitudes and optimistic changes, even though further work on changing values is to be done. One respondent stated for example that "I think now society has become more tolerant - it was not thought before that a person with a disability has a gender and can start a family. The opinions in society: 70% think positively and see us as potential partners and 30% do not see us as potential partners".

3.4. SRHR issues and needs of vulnerable groups are met with quality and care among service providers and civil society structures (e.g., schools, community leaders' forums, district councils, local development units, peer educators, CSOs, OPDs).

Being able to access SRHR services without any discrimination is a basic sexual right. Therefore, the programme increases the capacity of SRHR service providers and relevant community structures to provide sensitive services and support through increased technical knowledge and skills on e.g. disability or SGBV specific issues but also by fostering a positive attitude change among service providers and community structures towards the SRHR of the most vulnerable groups. This also includes increasing the accessibility of services by vulnerable groups. Mainstreaming SRHR issues of vulnerable groups in community policies and having functional measures to address SRHR issues require that the duty-bearers at community level have knowledge and awareness about various dimension of SRHR. Increase in the capacity and knowledge of community structures is achieved through rigorous capacity building on SRHR and CSE.

Again, the capacity building of duty-bearers was done as planned within the ongoing projects that were already being implemented prior to 2022. However, due to commencing the full implementation of the LGBTIQ+ project in October, the awareness raising activities were not implemented yet in 2022 under that component. Therefore, the achievements of the results are drawn from SGBV prevention and advancing sexual rights of PwD projects only. During 2022 the LGBTIQ+ partners concluded analysis and identification of gaps in service delivery, priority needs for LGBTIQ+ persons, and potential stakeholders to collaborate with.

The partners implemented various types of actions to improve the ways that the SRHR issues and needs of vulnerable groups are met by the duty-bearers. These actions ranged from collaborating with health centers to facilitate their SRH service provision to the vulnerable groups in the communities, building the capacity of teachers on comprehensive sexuality education, facilitating the sexuality education sessions held by teachers, training of trainers and peer educators, to creating IEC materials for the sexuality education sessions. Altogether 55 actions were implemented which reached out to 1817 people.

Positive change in attitudes and perceptions regarding gender norms or SRHR of vulnerable groups among service providers and civil society structures is demonstrated by the addition of school outreach SRH programme by the health service providers where they disseminate SRHR information and counselling to girls and boys and have provided a platform for adolescents to report various issues affecting them. Also, previously the mother support groups would not provide counselling to adolescent girls and boys to promote access to family planning methods as they considered that it would promote promiscuity, and for the same reason parents would not allow their children to attend the youth clubs. Through the capacity building sessions and awareness raising there has been a visible change in the attitudes among them, and the value of providing SRH information to adolescents is seen positively by the service providers. Regarding the work with accessibility and the rights of PwD to access health services a positive change can be seen that both health providers and civil society actors see that PwDs have all social rights like other healthy individuals, they believe PwDs can have a normal sexual life and can be potential parents. For example, in Tajikistan Väestöliitto's programme contributed to strengthening the capacity of local Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in SRHR issues. Previous years only partner in Tajikistan has raised SRHR, but now project partner OPDs like Safoi Konibodom, Durnamo and Durakhshon have started covering the issues: they run peer support groups on SRHR issues and raise the issues with local Government authorities. Whereas in Nepal 3 OPDs have included new activities and projects addressing SRHR of PwD such as distributing pads, menstrual cups and condoms for PwD.

Service providers and civil society structures have new technical skills to provide quality care to vulnerable groups entail several demonstrated improvements. The health service providers, mother support group members, child protection committees, and formal justice systems have been capacitated to follow up on issues that have been reported to them through strengthening linkages between these critical duty-bearers, and by built capacity on case management and counselling. For example, in Nepal 86% of the trained service providers report gaining new skills to provide SRHR to PwD. The time duration to serve clients with disabilities has dropped drastically as service providers are more capacitated and service providers don't hesitate to provide services to any vulnerable groups including PwD. However, the health service providers report that there are still gaps in some technical skills despite the orientation trainings, such as providing services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and overall communication skills with PwDs so that their health concerns are rightly diagnosed and treated. This emphasizes the need for further and standardized training on these specific skills.

Number of community and civil society structures demonstrating capacity in addressing SRHR issues of vulnerable groups in their communities, types of ways of addressing SRHR issues is one way of demonstrating the commitment of the duty-bearers to provide quality and care to the vulnerable groups. In 2022 altogether 29 community structures showed capacity in addressing the SRHR issues by creating platforms for vulnerable groups to participate, by conducting campaigns to create a safe environment, by providing counselling to vulnerable groups, having sessions with youth to discuss SRHR, raising awareness on SRHR during church services, conducting dialogue sessions, and by conducting village to village campaigns to raise awareness on SRHR. In Nepal, after organizing trainings with health officials, they have shown their commitment for disability-friendly services by advocating to renovate and construct new government health clinics to be accessible. In 2022 out of the newly constructed buildings 5 were accessible. Whereas in Tajikistan, our partner organized capacity building on advocacy and strategic planning for the leaders of the Network Women with disabilities of Tajikistan which contributed to two of the Network members running and being elected as advisers in the executive body of the regional department of social protection of the population.

3.5. Duty-bearers (decision makers, civil servants, other responsible actors) advance SRHR issues of especially vulnerable groups.

Increasing the SRHR for everyone in the society cannot be accomplished if the duty-bearers, such as policy makers, religious and traditional leaders, community elders, and government officials oppose advancing SRHR of vulnerable groups due to lack of knowledge and awareness of sexual rights which belong to everyone. Also,

policies targeting SRHR issues of vulnerable groups exist, but they lack sufficient attention to implementation, budgeting, and prioritizing. Improving this situation requires that duty bearers at local and national level have capacity and motivation to implement those policies. This is achieved by building their capacities and sensitizing them to SRHR issues of vulnerable groups. The programme advocated for policy changes and changing the discriminatory attitudes regarding SRHR so that SRHR of vulnerable groups would be widely accepted and supported.

During the first year of implementation, it was analyzed that it would be most meaningful to combine the two separate advocacy outcomes of the results framework as one, therefore combining the advocacy in programme countries and in Finland as one outcome sharing the same indicators. In reflection, separation of the advocacy conducted in Finland and advocacy done in programme countries would not bring any added value to the results monitoring of the programme but would rather make it more difficult to harmonize the advocacy collaboration and capacity building. After discussing developing the programme also the priorities of Finnish advocacy within the programme were reconsidered. Multiple Finnish NGOs working on international LGBTIQ+ issues were met, and the conclusion of these meetings was that only a few NGOs work on advocacy around LGBTIQ+ issues within the Finnish Development Cooperation and it was decided to raise this question into under Västoliitto's advocacy priorities. Västoliitto's work in Human Rights Council has already focused on SRHR of vulnerable groups, also including LGBTIQ+ persons. The Programme's advocacy outcome was modified to include SRHR issues of vulnerable groups instead of only education and CSE related issues.

Various actions were done to create new contacts with duty bearers and to increase their capacities in SRHR of vulnerable groups. A total of 33 actions were implemented in 2022 reaching total of 213 persons which translated into new initiatives or other actions carried out by duty bearers, and new dialogues between duty bearers and programme partners where SRHR issues are advanced. These actions include active participation in relevant technical working groups of the relevant ministries, training of duty bearers on SRHR issues, and facilitation of sessions where rights holders were able to share their concerns to the duty bearers.

Number and types of new initiatives or other actions on SRHR of vulnerable groups carried out by decision makers resulted in 7 initiatives. These include e.g. in Malawi the development of a District Development Plan to include the SRHR issues of girls and young women and development of Village Action Plans that addresses the SGBV issues more clearly. Also, the Malawian National SRHR policy and the National Youth Policy of Malawi were reviewed in 2022, and in the process, it was ensured that the SRH issues of young people were incorporated and addressed in the policies. In Afghanistan, a collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Martyred and Disability was initiated to map out and identify areas where women with disabilities are most likely to be denied access to health care or SRH services. Moreover, in Nepal, as mentioned above the Disability Friendly Reproductive Health & Safe Motherhood Service Guidelines were released and in Tajikistan the law on equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination was adopted.

In Finland the advocacy concentrated around strengthening civil servants' and decision makers' capacities on the linkage between education and SRHR, especially CSE, focusing on the SRHR related barriers to access to education. The advocacy in Finland achieved good results, as it was seen that capacity and knowledge on CSE and SRHR related barriers to education was concretely strengthened among civil servants and other Finnish NGOs. This could be seen from few key documents, such as the Development Policy Results Report 2022 which highlighted CSE as one of the main results (Seksuaalikasvatusta 92 miljoonalle nuorelle). CSE was also brought up by the foreign affairs committee of the Finnish Parliament on their position on Report on Development Policy Extending Across Parliamentary Terms. CSE was also mentioned in *Gender Equality in Finnish Foreign Affairs from 2019 to 2022*, Independent study commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland as well as the speech by minister Blomqvist at the African Union–European Union pre-summit event titled *Adolescent Girls in Africa Completing Secondary School, Safe, Strong, Empowered: Time for Education Plus*.

Number and types of ongoing dialogues between decision makers and project partners where SRHR issues are advanced entailed various spaces for dialogue, resulting in 18 ongoing dialogues. These included e.g. participation in technical working groups where expertise to other organizations and government stakeholders was shared, and where best practices in ensuring that the SRHR of the vulnerable groups is advanced were discussed. Capacity building sessions were held to make sure that all the stakeholders are aware of the new government strategies in Malawi. In Afghanistan, six meetings were held with the Ministry of Health's disability department to support the implementation of the Disability Strategic Plan. In addition, FPAN organized an advocacy meeting with the health management information system (HMIS) focal point and government representatives from central and local level in Nepal to push for a new initiative for the inclusion of disability

data as well as information on other vulnerabilities in HMIS. The officials committed starting to enter the vulnerability data in HMIS in near future. Partner in Tajikistan, for example, is a member in the working group of the National Plans for the preparation of the Republic of Tajikistan for ratification by the UNCRPD, as well as the working group of the National Plan for Accessible Environment for 2020-2024

In Finland, Väestöliitto strengthened its own capacity, and prepared a background note and a position paper around SRHR related barriers to education and CSE aiming to raise it during the governmental program negotiations. The position paper was shared through the MP network (All Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual Rights and Development) and to several CSs. Core NGOs and civil servants working on these issues were identified and contacted. Multiple civil servants working around these issues both in the MFA and FinCEED were met and networked with alongside other NGOs working on these issues. A Friday Group ¹ meeting was organised on SRHR related barriers to education. During the meeting presentations were heard followed by vivid discussions. A position paper was drafted which was targeted to civil servants to mainstream SRHR also to the education related development cooperation. The Finnish Centre of expertise in Education and Development FinCEED held a forum where Väestöliitto organised a side session about comprehensive sexuality education. During the session it was discussed what CSE contains overall to bring everyone to same mindset. Then the linkage was drawn between teaching these issues to the increased possibilities to avoid school drop-out. The discussions were fruitful and feedback from the session was very positive.

In 2022 Väestöliitto started building networks and to increase its own capacity on Human Rights Council through meetings with Finnish civil servants both in Helsinki and Geneva to learn more about Finland's priorities as a member of the council. Also, Väestöliitto joined the SRHR advisory group that works in Geneva. A Director of International Affairs from Väestöliitto also travelled to Geneva and participated HRC 50th session in person in order to learn firsthand how sessions are built and to strengthen already created networks. During autumn 2022 Väestöliitto was already able to support MFA in issues related to SRHR in HRC.

Finnish ODA for SRHR maintains or increases depicts the level of commitment of the Finnish government towards prioritizing SRHR in its official development assistance. The baseline level of Finnish ODA towards SRHR is 56,8 MEUR, but during the time of writing this annual report the numbers for 2022 were not yet available.

3.6 Programme partners have strong expertise in SRHR issues of especially vulnerable groups, and SRHR of vulnerable groups is mainstreamed in partner organizations.

To achieve the expected outcomes of the programme by 2025, it is necessary to have a highly functioning and learning-focused programme that aims at capacity building of its partners. The programme focuses on networking and mutual learning, sharing of best practices and building capacity as means to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of any measures to improve SRHR of vulnerable groups within it.

Different capacity building and partnership meetings were held to increase the programme partners' capacity and skills in SRHR of vulnerable groups and RBM, development was done to include the SRHR of especially vulnerable groups in the strategies and other projects of programme partners, and to create and participate in new alliances, partnerships, networks or working groups to increase the platforms where SRHR of vulnerable groups can be advanced.

Capacity and skills in SRHR of especially vulnerable groups and RBM are increased among programme partners was done through three live thematic partnership meetings of the three projects in the autumn of 2022 after the travel restrictions posed by Covid-19 had been removed. The intent was to hold online capacity building meetings throughout the year but due to lack of sufficient personnel resources until late autumn 2022 they were not held. In the live partnership meetings and combined monitoring trips, the strategies, priorities, and approaches were assessed and planned, successes and challenges were discussed, monitoring and

¹ *Friday Group includes members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual Rights and Development (APPG), development organisations, The Development Policy Committee, as well as experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the National Institute for Health and Welfare. The aim of the group is to contribute with a common voice to strengthening the emphasis on social, health and human development in Finland's development policy and its implementation. Friday group prepare joint position papers and meet decision-makers. The group supports officials in promoting issues in ministries and invites key development actors and experts to attend its meetings. The group is chaired by the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary group on Sexual Rights and Development in Parliament and coordinated by Väestöliitto, which acts as its secretariat.*

evaluation plans were assessed, and various relevant RBM topics were covered to ensure quality implementation of the projects.

A capacity self-assessment was piloted among the partners of the PwD thematic work to gain more understanding on the specific capacity gaps and strengths and how to measure organizational capacity. Based on the good experiences of the pilot, capacity self-assessments will be continued with all the partners in 2023. According to assessment, in 2022, the partners advancing SRHR of PwD were well-capacitated, as the overall average grade (in the range from 1 to 5) was 4.4. For a specific question on capacity and skills on SRHR of vulnerable groups, the average was 4.3. Results-based management was an area where the partners recognized a need for further capacity building, as the average grade was 3.7. RBM capacity building took place accordingly in the partnership meeting and individually with each partner during the annual reporting.

In addition to partnership meetings and monitoring trips, programme partners participated in other types of capacity building actions. Some partners participated in several capacity building meetings and trainings to enhance their skills in SRHR of vulnerable groups. For instance, Väestöliitto's Advisor for Development Cooperation participated in the ILGA world conference to gain more understanding of the global context for advancing LGBTIQ+ issues in openly hostile environments. This contributed directly to strengthened capacity. In addition, Väestöliitto staff participated other relevant trainings throughout the year for example on Development Evaluation.

In addition, some programme partners organized trainings for their staff on results-based reporting and outcome harvesting. For example, Malawian partner CYECE participated in several capacity building meetings on SRHR where it enhanced its skills in dealing with issues associated with sexual and reproductive health and rights of vulnerable groups. CYECE built capacity of its staff on result-based reporting so that staff are equipped with knowledge on how to harvest results from the activities that have been implemented.

SRHR of especially vulnerable groups are included in the strategies and other projects of programme partners captures organizational changes among programme partners to include the girls' and women's SRHR issues or LGBTIQ+ or PwD needs into their regular work where relevant. In 2022 Väestöliitto's Malawian partner started developing their new strategic plan through review process. Withing that process CYECE will continue to prioritize the SRHR of youth, adolescent girls, and young women. The SRHR of persons with disabilities is included in our Afghan partner's country strategy thus in all their projects implemented in Afghanistan. FPAN strategies are very inclusive, as they include SRHR services for vulnerable groups like PwD. Currently FPAN has two other projects that have interventions targeting PwD; as well it is developing its strategies for 2023-2028 and has planned to include PwD in them. Väestöliitto's Tajik partner is also the Country Office/Program of the Abilis Foundation in Tajikistan, in which one of the priority areas is SRHR of PwD.

Number and types of new alliances, partnerships, networks, working groups or similar the partners are working with on SRHR demonstrate the level of connectedness of programme partners to relevant stakeholders, and also highlight the need and achievements of working in collaboration with other stakeholders when advancing sensitive issues. Programme partners were involved in 3 new alliances. In Malawi, CYECE entered into two new partnerships with UNESCO as well as a Zimbabwean organization to advance youth SRHR. CYECE has also maintained the already existing partnerships and networks such as consortium Power to Youth, Malawi SRH Alliance, membership in the District SRHR network and AGYW network at district and national level.

The Zimbabwean partner held an SRHR advocacy conversation which brought together LGBTIQ+ organizations to discuss SRHR advocacy for LGBTIQ+ in Zimbabwe. This space has not been in existence before as the only platforms thus far have focused on HIV and AIDS issues of key populations facilitated through the National AIDS Council NAC. This new space allowed organizations to share their approaches and strategies and identify synergies and areas for collaboration.

The programme partner in Afghanistan has maintained its close partnership with Ministry of Health, WHO Afghan health cluster, National blind association and other organisations of PwDs, and partners working around Basic Package of Health Services and Essential Package of Hospital Services among others. In addition, FPAN is partnering with more than 15 organizations and partner in Tajikistan is a member of 6 networks.

3.7 Development education and global development in Finland; The awareness on SRHR, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), SDGs and their interlinkages are raised among broad public and young people

In Finland SRHR is one of the priorities of Finnish development policy and they are advanced broadly both financially and on a policy level. However, there is less focus on the more specific topics of SRHR related barriers to education (risk of school dropouts and deteriorating quality of education because of e.g. early marriages, teenage pregnancies, menstruation hygiene, SGBV) and lack of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). Removing barriers to attend school increases the outcome of the effort targeted to education in development cooperation and is a good investment when building more equal education systems. CSE is one of the most effective methods to improve SRHR and gender equality globally. There is clear and convincing evidence provided by extensive research that accurate, science-based, and age-appropriate CSE has very positive results. Finland has strong expertise in both quality education and providing good quality CSE in Finland. Therefore, Väestöliitto sees that removing the SRHR related barriers to education and increasing focus to CSE would bring substantial added value to Finnish development policy. By increasing civil servants' and decision makers' understanding and capacities on the topic, they will have stronger will to act on it.

However, broad public, and especially young people in Finland have limited knowledge and awareness on SRHR and CSE as elemental global questions. Their interlinkages to the achievement of the SDGs are also not very well understood. Therefore, the programme's development communication aims at raising the awareness of the broad public and especially young people on particularly these topics. This will empower them to act for the realization of SRHR.

The objective of global communication in Finland is to raise awareness among the general public and young people about SRHR, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), SDGs and their interlinkages. In 2022, the new program incorporated previous global communication and UNFPA communication projects. Consequently, the focus of 2022 was primarily on developing Väestöliitto's global communication and aligning it with the program's requirements. Several internal planning meetings were held to ensure that the global communication is in line with Väestöliitto's other communication efforts and the program's development needs.

The indicator *Persons reached through development communication and global education assess that the new knowledge has changed their understanding of SRHR, CSE, SDGs and their interlinkages* was carefully assessed during the first programme year. To be able to provide data for this indicator proved to be quite challenging and it was decided to modify the indicator as *Persons reached through development communication and global education assess that they have good understanding of SRHR, CSE, SDGs and their interlinkages*.

This information was collected through surveys disseminated across various social media channels. The target groups' self-assessment of their grasp on program themes and interconnections yielded the following results: 4 out of 5 on sexual rights, 4 out of 5 on CSE, 3 out of 5 on SDGs, and 3 out of 5 on their interlinkages. This underscores the need for more information, especially concerning the links between SRHR and SDGs. While awareness regarding SRHR is commendable, the survey reveals a gap in understanding how these issues intersect with achieving SDGs. This suggests that communication about SRHR has either been effective or has been ongoing long enough for the target groups to build foundational knowledge. However, there's still a demand for information about SRHR's role in development and its interconnection with SDGs, a consideration for planning activities in 2023.

The second indicator was *Number of visits to website, reach of social media posts, number of shares and engagement rate in social media, video views, blog views, podcast reach*. In total Väestöliitto's social media reach reached 10.6 million. The blog got 97,802 impressions, and Instagram Stories reached an average of 185 people. In various social media channels, there were in total 80,000 followers. Notably, the most popular TikTok video from Tiktok videoserie received 389,000 views and 1,647 comments, with an average of 15,200 views per TikTok video. This highlights TikTok's effectiveness, particularly among the youth, warranting further attention. Furthermore, prioritizing paid ads on social media, like an Instagram video reaching 51,240 accounts with 129,824 impressions, reinforces engagement.

Nonetheless, there's a declining trend in reach in Meta and Twitter. The cause, whether it's due to changes in statistical methodologies or real shifts, temporary or lasting, remains unclear. Continuous monitoring during

the program's duration is planned. Engagement with development communication remains modest, averaging about 10.5 reactions per post. Analysis suggests that due to the sensitivity and polarization of SRHR topics, individuals might find it challenging to express their support, leading to fewer interactions despite substantial impressions. This insight shapes message adjustments for social media.

The third indicator was *Number and types of direct target groups reached*. The prior global communication collaboration with Marttaliitto, extended through the year, allowed access to individuals who might be less reachable through Väestöliitto's channels alone. A video from Malawi raised awareness about SRHR, CSE, and SDGs, accompanied by a material package supporting International Martha's training sessions. Marttaliitto's communication reached 180 000 number of people.

Engaging young people proves more challenging due to Väestöliitto's predominantly adult follower base. Over 50% of TikTok followers, however, are youth, warranting increased utilization of paid ads to reach this demographic. More precise information on the age breakdown in terms of reach cannot be provided since not all social media platforms provide this information.

The program also targeted decision-makers, reaching them through social media and events like UNFPA's State of World Population report launch. Social media reach in this specific group was hard to assess but directly reached 70 decision makers.

To raise awareness among the target groups, various global communication activities were carried out, including social media campaigns, blog series, events like the launch of the SWOP (State of World Population) report, material packages about SRHR and SDGs, and posts on current issues related to the program themes. Communicating about the program and its results is a fundamental aspect of our communications strategy, as it plays a key role in increasing awareness among the target groups about development cooperation, SRHR, and SDGs, as well as garnering support for development cooperation.

During the first year of the program, efforts were made to develop a systematic and regular approach to program-wide results communication. Although this type of communication was not yet fully systematic due to it being the program's initial year, Väestöliitto focused on sharing individual project results from 2021. Additionally, throughout the year, some of the results and activities from our partners were shared, further increasing people's awareness of Väestöliitto's new status as an MFA's partner organization.

In the communications related to UNFPA, posts were actively shared to increase awareness among the general public and decision-makers about UNFPA's work and Finland's support for the organization. Also, youth was targeted through the UNFPA communications, which aligns with the objective of increasing awareness and support for development cooperation among the target groups.

Throughout the year, Väestöliitto analyzed the communications messages and employed different approaches depending on the issue and target groups. SRHR topics have become increasingly controversial and personal for individuals, resulting in polarization. It was also recognized that many people may find it challenging to communicate or express their support for these topics, leading to fewer engagements with the posts, despite receiving a significant number of impressions. However, the situation is constantly analyzed and utilized replies to reinforce our message, reframing the arguments from different perspectives and providing various examples.

The output *The broad public and young people are reached* had two indicators that were emerged together as *Number and types of development communication and global education activities implemented* since it was seen that the communication and global education activities includes materials as well. In total 318 development communication activities were implemented in 2022. This included different social media campaigns, blog series, events like the launch of the SWOP (State of World Population) report, material packages about SRHR and SDGs, and posts on current issues related to the program themes and program itself and its results. Also, the focus is mostly on development communication rather than global education so the number of materials would be limited. This due to the personnel resources since the global education would require more personnel.

The output level indicator *Number and types of development communication and global education materials* was removed.

3.8. Contribution to the aggregate indicators of the MFA

The programme provides data for the MFA's development policy results reporting through the aggregate indicators of two priority areas. The programme's expected outcomes align with Finnish government's *Priority Area 1: Rights of women and girls* and *Priority Area 3: Education and peaceful democratic societies*. Therefore, the programme's monitoring system gathers data which is compatible with Priority Area 1: Rights of women and girls; under outcome 1: output 1.1, output 1.2 and output 1.3 as well as outcome 2; output 2.1, and output 2.3.

Priority Area 1: Rights of women and girls, Outcome 1 (The right of women and girls of all abilities to access high-quality non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health services is protected (SDG 3.7, SDG 5.6))

Output	Indicator	Väestöliitto's data 2022
Output 1.1 Laws and policies that ensure access to inclusive, non-discriminatory and quality sexual and reproductive health services are strengthened (SDG 3.7., SDG 5.6.)	Number of developing country decision makers reached with initiatives to promote adoption/implementation of laws and regulations that ensure availability of inclusive, non-discriminatory and quality sexual and reproductive health services	165 total 129 (MW) 24 (NP) 12 (TJ)
Output 1.2. Women's, girls' and boys' of all abilities have improved access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services (SDG 3.7., SDG 5.6)	Number of persons receiving sexuality education or SRH-services	46 457 total 7142 (MW) 20 (ZAM) 57 (ZIM) 16 128 (NP) 23 079 (AFG) 31 (TJ)
Output 1.3. Men and boys play an increasing role in realizing SRHR (SDG 3.7., SDG 5.6)	Number of men receiving sexuality education or SRH-services as per output 1.2 indicator	1835 total 1818 (MW) 5 (ZIM) 12 (TJ)

Priority Area 3: Education and peaceful democratic societies, Outcome 1 (Access to quality primary and secondary education has improved, especially for girls and for those in most vulnerable positions (SDG 4.1., SDG 4.5.))

Output	Indicator	Väestöliitto's data 2022
Output 1.2. Enhanced institutional capacity to improve learning outcomes	Number of educational institutions, incl. higher education, reached through measures aimed to increase their capacity	60 total 60 (MW)

Priority Area 3: Education and peaceful democratic societies, Outcome 4 (The enabling environment for and capacity of the civil society and persons in vulnerable positions to influence and participate in decision-making has improved. (SDG 5.5., SDG 16.7., SDG 16.10.))

Output	Indicator	Väestöliitto's data 2022
Output 4.1. Strengthened public and political participation and decision-making power of women and those in vulnerable positions (SDG5, T5; SDG16, T7)	Number of people who have taken part in decision-making	35 total 35 (MW)
Output 4.2. Increased capacity of an independent, vibrant and pluralistic civil society to organize, advocate and participate in political decision-making	Number of developing country CSOs with improved capacity to influence development in line with Agenda 2030	7 total 7 (all programme partners)
Output 4.4.	Number of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists	31 total

Enhanced protection of independent media, whistle blowers and human rights defenders (SDG 16, T10)	or human rights advocates supported.	15 (journalists, MW) 16 (journalists, NP)
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3.9. Analysis of the results

As the programme was designed to incorporate Västoliitto's already ongoing projects to the new elements with new partners, it certainly had an effect on the consistency of the performance and the achievement of the outcomes during the first programme year. Two of the thematic projects were already in full implementation at the onset of the programme and the third thematic project was properly kicked-off very late in 2022. Therefore, most of the achievement of the outcomes can be attributed to the pre-existing projects although some positive steps were made also within the LGBTIQ+ project.

All the partner organizations have strong mechanisms and capacity in reaching out to the rights-holders either through their own members or through their partners or other stakeholders. Proving capacity building and social support, empowering rights-holders in making informed decisions and strengthening their tools to live lives of their own choosing, as well as being more aware of the rights that belong to them are approaches that all partners are already strong at. This outcome of building the capacities of rights-holders is the only outcome the achievement of which was most consistent among all partners in 2022 as it is least likely to be affected by those external factors that make the other outcomes more challenging to be achieved in more fragile or suppressing contexts.

Raising awareness in the societies to decrease the harmful conceptions around SRHR of vulnerable groups is an outcome which is more challenging to achieve in a consistent way among all partners. The underlying assumptions are that the promotion of SRHR of vulnerable groups is supported and accepted in communities, and that the communities are accepting to the approaches of the programme, both of which are major risk elements especially within the LGBTIQ+ project. The LGBTIQ+ partners are not able to conduct large-scale campaigns or awareness raising actions with clear LGBTIQ+ messages whereas e.g. social media campaigns of PwD in Nepal or Tajikistan, or major events talking about the SGBV of girls are women rarely goes contested. The oppressing atmosphere and legislation surrounding LGBTIQ+ issues require very careful consideration from the LGBTIQ+ partners on how, on which platforms, and with which partners awareness raising is safe and possible to conduct, and what kind of achievements are possible to attain.

Capacity building in communities so that the SRHR issues and needs of vulnerable groups are met with quality and care among service providers and civil society structures is an outcome which contains a broad variety of strategies which are guided by the type of the partner organization, societal context, and their level of access to cooperate with the various civil society structures. Some partners have SRHR clinics themselves and therefore have direct access to a number of service providers who do not require sensitization to the topics. However, as sexuality and various SRHR topics are very sensitive and are surrounded by deep-rooted prejudices, attitudes and values that are not always aligned with rights-based approach to sexuality, some civil society structures require more rigorous sensitization and capacity building. Parents, religious and traditional leaders, teachers, or civil society actors might not feel comfortable about talking about SRHR issues nor advocating for them. Usually through continuous and respectful sensitization and providing culturally sound justifications it is possible to have an effect to the underlying attitudes and have the important stakeholders fully onboard.

Advocacy in all programme countries is an outcome that is likewise affected by the external factors such as societal attitudes, values, religious sensitivities and legislation as well as the position of the partner organization among the civil society actors. Many partners are very established CSOs and are well connected with relevant duty-bearers through direct contacts, memberships in different working groups or advisory boards, or other types of dialogues. Some relatively smaller partners might not have similar level of access to duty-bearers but have nevertheless been able to establish relevant contacts in order to advance the SRHR issues of the most vulnerable persons. The opportunities to have vocal and visible advocacy are naturally more limited in countries where the SRHR issues of the most vulnerable persons are very much contested and

marginalized persons face severe oppression such as in the countries where LGBTIQ+ issues are advanced. In those cases the most effective advocacy strategies include strong advocacy partnerships with other like-minded organizations and carefully identifying smaller windows for advocacy opportunities. During 2022 it was analyzed that capacity building on advocacy and a programme-wide joint understanding on advocacy strategies and modalities, and learning from other partners in this critical could be useful. This will be addressed in 2023 through capacity building.

Learning and capacity building of programme partners is an outcome that is tied with strengthening the expertise of all programme partners in SRHR issues of vulnerable groups as well as having strong capacities in managing the projects so that the outcomes are achieved. During the first year of the programme a lot of efforts went into establishing the RBM structures and initiating the new partnerships with LGBTIQ+ partners which left less space for joint capacity building among all partners. Therefore the contributions to achieve this outcome were not uniform and consistent and a lot of identified gaps will need strong focus during the following years.

3.10 Analysis of the Advancing SRHR of person with disabilities project

The SRHR of PwD thematic work in Väestöliitto's programme is continuation from the ongoing project that started already in 2019. Therefore, 2022 was the last year of the "first programme cycle" as the project had been granted and implemented with the MFA project funding, and a lot of the work started to materialize and the partners reported visible positive changes. The key results from the "1st phase", conducted 2019-2022, are summarised per country below.

The focus areas during 2019-2022 for partners were the provision of SRHR and FP services for PwD, building the capacity of rights-holders and stakeholders, raising awareness in societies about SRHR of PwD, conducting advocacy, and building capacity and mutual learning among all programme partners. These activities contributed to and made a positive change for the realisation of SRHR for persons with disabilities.

Afghanistan

Despite regime change in Afghanistan and the following freezing of MFA funding during the operating conditions assessment of the project, which slowed down the project activities in 2021, Väestöliitto's partner was able to accelerate the implementation in 2022 and reach the targeted goals. During phase one, PwD's knowledge of SRHR and FP increased, and they directly benefited from increased capacities and were empowered to visit the Afghan project partner's clinics. PwDs visiting clinics were able to choose from a variety of safe, reliable contraceptive options, such as condoms, pills, injections, implants, and IUDs in various provinces (Kabul, Herat, and Kandahar). Through the project, women with disabilities were able to obtain RH services and get information on their SRHR. During phase 1, over 36 890 PwD received SRH and FP services from the project clinics. This had a high impact on their wellbeing and health, which in turn provided them with the opportunity to make decisions about their own SRH and FP services. Similarly, a total of 78 rights-holders were trained as Community Health Workers (CHWs), and around 50 women were trained as health educators, who are the best sources of support for their peers and the communities where they live. They are increasing people's awareness of SRH and FP for PwDs through face-to-face meetings and referring clients to our partners' sites for receiving SRH and FP services.

Despite several socio-cultural constraints, adoption of SRH services, particularly FP for PwDs, has been steadily increasing in the conservative Afghan society since the project's inception. For example, community acceptance of SRH and FP services is increasing, particularly for PwDs, and PwDs' parents. This is combined with the recognition of PwDs' SRHR and FP needs in communities, resulting in improving PwDs' access to SRH and FP services. PwDs can also talk about their SRHR and FP needs with their peers or conduct peer-to-peer discussions on the issues.

Under the project, our partner built the capacity of PwDs, their parents, and health providers. This resulted in a positive change among persons with disabilities' parents and health providers' attitudes towards the SRHR of PwD. The project also focused on public awareness activities regarding PwDs' SRHR through various channels, such as mass media, CHWs, health educators (WwDs), community mobilizers, and radio spots. The

community elders are also good sources for raising awareness in their community and referring clients for SRH and FP services; a total of 111 community elders capacity was built in different awareness-raising sessions and their knowledge of SRH and FP was increased.

During Phase 1, around 856 CSO members's capacity was developed in trainings on SRH and FP for PwD. They are good allies in the advocacy for the rights PwD and their access to SRH and FP services. Moreover, around 490 OPD representatives' capacity was developed, and they were invited to different orientation sessions on SRHR for PwD. These participants were mainly from the Afghan national blind associations, the Contemporary Community Development and Job Organisation (CDJO), the Health and Social Welfare Education Organisation (HSWEO), the Afghanistan Organisation for Welfare and Services of the Blind (AOWSB), and the Afghan Roshandelan Foundation for the Blind. Also, a total of 185 health care providers were trained on the provision of SRH and FP services for persons with disabilities. These trainings helped the health providers recognise the SRHR needs of persons with disabilities and the best way to provide SRH and FP services to these persons.

Since the project's inauguration, our partner in Afghanistan has participated in task force meetings conducted for PwDs at Ministry of Health (MoPH) and focused on advocacy for PwDs through providing awareness to decision makers and stakeholders, leading them to work for disability inclusion in SRH services. One good example of advocacy is the capacity building provided for the Afghan government, including the Ministries of Public Health and Martyrs and the Disabled, to advance and strengthen the SRH rights of PwDs. As a result, in early 2021, the first draft of the National Strategic Plan for Disability and Rehabilitation Department of MoPH was completed and approved by MoPH high authorities. This is a four-year strategic plan (2021–2024) with the goal of contributing to achieving optimal health, functioning, well-being, and human rights for all persons with disabilities under the theme of "health for all." SRH and FP indicators were included in the strategy for the first time, with specific strategic direction, objectives, and key interventions, which is a significant achievement. It is most likely that earlier there was no specific indicator to address the SRH and FP needs of PwDs. This has a long-term impact on the lives of women and girls with disabilities and advances their SRH rights. The development of the strategic plan was led by Väestöliitto's partner and developed in close collaboration with the disability and rehabilitation department of MoPH, as well as by providing financial and technical support to the department. After the regime change Väestöliitto's Afghan partner was able to advocate for the strategic plan to be adopted and continued by the new administration.

Nepal

The project outcomes have contributed immensely in Nepal to the achievement of the impact - the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of persons with disabilities. FPAN has organized various types of activities under each focus area. For capacity building of the rights-holders, trainings, outreach clinical sessions and peer support programs were organized which have empowered the disability community to realize their SRH and make informed decisions. The yearly increase in the intake of services supports this observation. Altogether 40 240 SRH service were delivered to PwD clients during the first phase; out of which 7 267 (3411 f; 3856 m) received FP services. Moreover, 978 young people with disabilities were reached through CSE sessions led by the peer educators. These have supported young people with disabilities to gain knowledge regarding e.g. conception, abortion, menstruation cycle and menstruation cup. While conducting the CSE sessions in disability-friendly resource schools the Peer Educators found that the teachers are not interested or capacitated to teach the CSE classes. They completely skipped the sessions where they should have taught human organs and sexuality. Therefore, the CSE sessions carried out by the peer educators are crucial. The CSE sessions and training activities have also resulted in creating demand for SRH services among PwD.

In Nepal, 38 peer educators were trained in the first phase. The peer educators' capacities have increased, and they have become increasingly respected members in their communities due to the gained knowledge and skills through the trainings. At first, they were unaware about SRHR of PwD and for example FP commodities. Now, they can make their own decisions and also guide their peers on these issues. This has led to the PwD reaching out to the trained peer educators in their own communities to share the curiosity and questions on SRH and FP. Peer educators have also referred some of the PwD to FPAN clinics for further counselling and services.

Similarly, multiple awareness raising activities, orientations programs and media campaigning targeting disability communities and groups as well as the broad public has supported to change harmful conceptions around SRHR of PwD in Nepal. 159 awareness raising sessions were organised during the first phase. Also 251 parents of PwDs were sensitized on SRHR of PwD.

As FPAN is a service provider itself, one of the central aspects was to build the organisations' and its staff's capacity on disability inclusion, accessibility and disability-friendly services. During 2019-2022 113 service providers were trained on SRHR issues of PwD. This materialized into e.g. drastic decrease in the duration in serving PwD clients as the service providers' capacity has increased. After the trainings and regular service delivery the service providers feel comfortable providing services to vulnerable groups including PwD. However, some technical skills and refresher trainings are needed, such as on serving clients with multiple disabilities and sign language. SRHR issues and needs of PwDs are now met with quality care at FPAN clinics through different approaches. Also outreach clinics were organized targeting the disability community.

In addition, supporting the wider civil society, and especially OPDs has been central in FPAN's work, and outreach and partnerships with OPDs have been carried out in close collaboration with Abilis Nepal country office. Although hundreds of civil society organizations are working on PwD issues in the country, the collaboration among the organizations on SRHR issues was not strong. Therefore 99 OPDs members' capacity on SRHR of PwD was raised in trainings. The partnerships, collaboration and coordination among the OPDs and other stakeholders supported to identify crucial gaps in advancing the SRH services to PwDs. The mid-term assessment carried out in 2021 already highlighted the positive changes in the attitudes of both the service providers and civil society structures.

Also, advocacy activities were undertaken throughout the first phase. Although many duty-bearers were aware of the SRHR needs of person with disabilities, due to the lack of support and accurate information it was not prioritized. Therefore, FPAN conducted continuous advocacy and interventional activities towards the duty-bearers; 100 government officials' capacity was built on the SRHR of PwD. Regular interaction with the CSOs and government bodies resulted in the development of disability friendly SRHR guidelines in 2022. In some local government plans and policies, different vulnerable groups including the person with disabilities was also already included. In conclusion, the advocacy achievements have directly supported the achievement of the SRHR of persons with disabilities during the first project phase.

Tajikistan

During 2019-2022 Väestöliitto's partner in Tajikistan worked with the rights-holders through mainly two activity types: peer support groups and summer camps. As a result, 68 persons with disabilities' (45 f; 23 m) knowledge on violence, sexual rights and health, family planning, self-esteem and body rights increased. In addition, 35 PwDs were trained on sexual rights and SRHR advocacy. During the project altogether 82 peer support group meetings were organised, which supported 165 PwDs (36 f; 119 m) to learn to make decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and sexual rights. The right-holders who participated in the project activities, showed increased capacities, increased self-esteem and change attitudes about their own disability, own future, domestic violence and friendships and own perception of a more friendly society. Moreover, 27 p wds were trained as trainers and peer educators on PwD SRHR, which increased their capacities and encouraged them to also participate in other spheres of life. During the reporting years, out of the trained PwDs, 15 made major SRHR related decisions on their lives, for example started dating, got a divorce and established families. They are more aware about their sexuality and reproductive health.

With the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, partner in Tajikistan needed to come up with new interventions to reach out to the rights-holders; therefore, a Whatsup group was created to share information and for negotiation, planning and chatting. This proved to be an efficient intervention that helped the PwD to receive SRH information even during the restrictions of movement.

During phase 1 partner in Tajikistan partnered with other OPDs and communities and built the capacity of service providers. As a result, the capacities of 60 Service providers were strengthened on modern

understanding of disability issues and human rights-based approach towards sexual and reproductive rights and health of PwDs.

Moreover, 32 PwD leaders of Women with Disabilities Network build their capacity in writing a strategic plan, on sexual rights and SRHR advocacy and on the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH). To support the enabling environment of the rights-holders, 68 parents of children with disabilities from Khujand, Bokhtar and Dushanbe were trained and their awareness on SRHR of PwD, knowledge on violence, SRH and family planning was increased.

Moreover, influencing the values and attitudes in the larger society was central in Tajik partner's approach. The capacities of 40 mass media representatives were strengthened on modern understanding of disability and human rights-based approach towards SRHR of PwDs. In addition, 1,5 million persons' awareness was raised on SRHR of PwD, through covering all project activities on the Tajik partners page on Facebook and on Instagram and releasing awareness raising materials on TV Dushanbe HD.

Also the capacity of Tajik partner was built during the project. 4 Tajik partner's staff members were trained to comprehensive knowledge and skills on SRHR and tools to utilize the information. This resulted in the development of 5 SRHR of PwD modules. The capacitated staff members then organized training of trainers to 26 peer educators in 4 project cities in Tajikistan.

Partner in Tajikistan included advocacy as a major approach in its work to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of its work and messages. Tajik partner was part of several working groups that included government official, and they also organised capacity building for duty-bearers. As a result in total 37 representatives of ministries and governments became aware of the importance of SRHR of persons with disabilities.

3.11 Analysis of the Prevention of SGBV in Malawi project

The first programme year was the second year of this project as it had been started with project support in 2021. Therefore, the inception phase and the preparations for implementation had already been finalized and the project was in full implementation at the onset of the programme. Due to strong existing partnership between Väestöliitto and the Malawian partner, and well-established PMEL structures the project contributed fully to the performance of the programme.

Through the approaches of the project, there have been visible successes as adolescent girls and young women, boys, men, women, and various community structures have been able to clear many misconceptions about SRHR and SGBV. The communities were already in 2022 much more aware of the rights that especially vulnerable persons have concerning their sexual health and are encouraging adolescent girls and young women to exercise their rights through accessing various SRHR and SGBV services. Previously in the project district and the communities, girls and women could hardly access SGBV services due to limited awareness of their rights as well as the myths and misconceptions that were there concerning family planning services. For example, girls were told that if they start accessing services before giving birth it means that they will be barren which scared a lot of girls from accessing the services and this further resulted into increased teenage pregnancies. With the clearing of these misconceptions an increase in the number of adolescent girls and young women accessing family planning has been seen. It has further been seen that the services are more youth friendly and more accessible to adolescent girls and young women than in it was before.

As a result of the various trainings and capacity building activities, the project has seen significant improvement in knowledge and skills especially among girls in schools. During the monitoring visits, engagement with in-school girls that have participated in human rights clubs showed that they were able to articulate the different forms of violence that girls in the schools and at community experience and they are able to highlight where they can report such cases when they happen. Additionally, observations on the participation in human rights clubs has shown that girls are more active and willing to share examples of scenarios pertaining to SGBV related issue. Knowledge on their SRHR has also significantly increased as some girls cited that due to the health talks from HSPs, they have been going to access more information at the YFHS centers in their communities. This shows that girls in primary and secondary schools are showing increased agency.

Furthermore, the different capacity building session for the women groups have helped to improve household income and they are able to make savings from buying vegetables because of having home gardens. The

Livelihood trainings for VSL groups has helped improve household nutrition as they are able to utilize the skills for nutrition activities for their children as well as earning income for their livelihoods. These women groups provide scholastic materials to their children and some able to pay their school fees especially those in secondary schools. These capacity building sessions have also empowered the women to take up the role of following up on girls that are not going to school and those who have gone into child marriages as it derails their education. They have also been reaching out to girls in and out of school to encourage them on the different reporting mechanisms and how they would know if they are being sexually abused, harassed or have their rights violated.

The project has seen significant improvement in knowledge among communities at large; For starters, the project has worked with men as champions for SGBV prevention and has been engaging men through various activities. This is with the view that men who were constantly seen as perpetrators are now agents of change promoting the rights of girls, through the various initiatives, men have taken up the role of sharing SGBV prevention messages to their fellow men and the entire community. They are able to call meetings and also use already existing meetings called by the chiefs to share SGBV information and promote girls' education. With support from the women groups and other structures they are able to provide counselling to couples who are having difficulties in their homes especially on SRH issues and they further promote girls' education. In conjunction with women groups and mother groups they provided counselling to teen mothers and other girls who have dropped out of school due to other reasons and referring them to various service providers. Slowly the attitudes and perceptions of men in the communities are changing since men are taking lead in promoting rights and supporting girls with their education. With the help of the women groups and the other community structures they have managed to withdraw girls from child marriages and supported them to go back to school.

This collaboration shows the mindset change that is happening and how they are taking ownership in the prevention of SGBV. The value clarification and attitudes transformation approach in some of the activities has helped to unearth some of the negative social norms that ignite SGBV and the project is raising awareness on these communities to ensure that they are aware and begin to change. Additionally, it has been seen that the communities distinguish between good norms and harmful norms, and are able to realize that the negative social norms are an infringement to the rights of girls and young women. Thereby the communities mobilize themselves to strengthen the community by-laws that address issues of Child Marriages, teenage pregnancies and other SGBV issues to ensure that there are no violations of the rights of girls and women.

It has further been seen that some harmful practices are being abolished slowly. For example sexual cleansing rite "kusasa fumbi" was once deemed as normal in the communities of Machinga where the adolescent girls and boys who have undergone initiation ceremonies were asked to practice this rite which put the lives of both boys and girls at risk of STI's including HIV and the girls would end up getting pregnant which may further result to school drop and child marriages.

Following the capacity building trainings that were provided to various community structures there has been an increase in knowledge and skills of teachers (Patrons and Matrons) on SRHR and how they can use different interactive methods to teach SRHR, life skills and safe schools and their capacity on delivering CSE sessions has been strengthened. These teachers have been imparting knowledge to learners through the peer education sessions and these have significantly contributed to the learner's improved agency. Additionally, head-teachers in the schools the project is working in have showed positive commitment to supporting SGBV prevention of SGBV by revamping the utilization of SGBV reporting boxes and ensuring the committee that reviews the complaints from the reporting boxes are able to meet regularly to address the said complaints. Mother group members were equipped with different concepts of counselling and they have demonstrated skills of identifying problems among learners and solving them together through counselling, aware of their roles as counsellors and gained new skills amongst the skills they already had on how they can provide counselling.

3.12 Analysis of the Advancing the advocacy capacities of LGBTIQ+ organizations project

The LGBTIQ+ project was initiated at the onset of the programme as the new element in Väestöliitto's development cooperation. The project was commenced with new partners that Väestöliitto has not collaborated with previously and therefore a lot of focus was placed on the inception phase preparations such as all of the partners getting to know each other's organizations better, establishing the roles and responsibilities, creating functional communication lines, and planning the concrete strategies and actions. However, due to the travel restrictions still in place due to Covid-19 it was not possible to meet face to face until late fall of 2022. Despite having several online planning meetings, there were still many misunderstandings about the needs, hopes,

capacities, possible approaches and PMEL requirements that were cleared only in the live partnership meeting.

In the partnership meeting the needs assessment of the partners and in-depth discussions on the achievement of the outcomes also resulted in scaling the previously planned focus on advocacy only to also reaching out to rights-holders and community structures. The role of PAI was also clarified further since they as an umbrella organization do not work directly with rights-holders and duty-bearers in South Africa rather than advance the LGBTIQ+ rights in the whole African continent, and therefore their focus is very much on supporting the capacity building of their member associations. Their role within the project will be further clarified in 2023 so that PAI's expertise in building the capacity of the partners to be able to better implement the project will be best utilized.

The Zambian and Zimbabwean partners will fully contribute to all of the outcomes of the programme whereas PAI will focus on the advocacy component and capacity building of the partners. The advocacy tools that will be created and piloted within the project will be accessed by the PAI's member associations therefore benefitting LGBTIQ+ organizations and activists beyond the limits of this project. However, much of the work initially planned for 2022 was not possible to be implemented, and will be implemented more fully in 2023.

4. Transparency and accountability of the programme

Transparency and accountability of the programme are understood as key policies that crosscut planning, implementation and reporting. The underlying value is that the ownership of the programme's approaches is strongly in the hands of the local communities, rights-holders and key stakeholders to make sure that both the targets and the applied strategies to reach them really meet their needs and are relevant from their perspective. It also means that programme partners are accountable to the rights-holders, communities and stakeholders on the results and progress made. As the implementation of the programme's project is the responsibility of the programme partners, their crucial role is also to design the most suitable approaches together with the target communities.

For example, in Malawi the project brings together the relevant government officials and the rights-holders. The rights-holders form groups as platforms for empowerment and a space from which to claim their rights, and participate in the activities planned by themselves, the communities as well as duty-bearers. The project team and duty-bearers are accountable to these groups through regular updates and reports regarding the progress. The government officials that are responsible for advancing the rights, economic empowerment and health of the communities are linked through the project to the existing community structures to ensure that the rights-holders know who are accountable to them, and the duty-bearers know who they are accountable for. Malawian partner CYECE facilitates joint planning and review meetings with rights-holders, and furthermore involves district stakeholders in joint monitoring. The rights-holders have begun working together to assess their situation and engage duty-bearers on the quality of SRHR and SGBV services being provided in the community, and duty-bearers are providing information about the status of service delivery to them.

In Afghanistan the project interventions were based on the needs of PwD: rights-holders were consulted, and the programme partner actively involved them in all phases of the project's implementation. All CSOs, PwDs, and duty-bearers involved provided feedback during the awareness raising sessions. Their feedback was noted and responded to in a proper manner, and they took an active part in the sessions. During all sessions, the expenses for the arrangement of the training transportation, lunch, stationery, and refreshments were shared with the rights-holders to let them know about the budget allocated for the sessions. Moreover, reliable information and adequate data were produced for each outcome, and specific attention was given to the project monitoring.

In Nepal the inclusion and coordinating partnership between organizations of PwD has been instrumental in ensuring the ownership of PwD. The coordinating partner OPDs such as NDWA, BYAN, ADRAD-Nepal and CBR have committed to support and implement the activities jointly. Abilis Network Nepal has also contributed technical support for the project as required. At the field level, Peer Educators actively participated in

awareness raising programs, demand creation and community sensitization programs. District Health Office which are under the Family Welfare Division at Ministry of Health also supported in each program activities conducted by FPAN Valley Branch including outreach clinical sessions in the PWD community. They had also provided technical support and feedback to the peer educators, managers, and service providers.

In Tajikistan, all activities were planned together with rights-holders and convenient dates and time were chosen by them. Financial manager made any payments based on reports, photos and lists of participants from the activities.

One of the identified gaps of the programmatic approach has been the lack of systematic and uniform, programme-wide modes of ensuring ownership, transparency, and accountability. This will be further analyzed during 2023 so that more robust tools can be provided to the programme partners. The need to strengthen transparency and accountability towards the broad public in Finland was also identified. This includes more robust communications regarding the implementation and results of the programme.

5. Risks, risk management and their impact on the results of the programme

Various risks at institutional, project and programme, and operational environment level were systematically assessed jointly with partners during the partnership meetings as well as online. During those assessments both the risk matrix was screened and updated, and the realization and mitigation strategies of individual risks were discussed.

As the programme is centered around very sensitive issues, and the risk of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment is present, a special focus was placed in ensuring that the partners have robust PSEAH mechanisms in place to prevent any harm to anyone involved in the programme. This is a process that will nevertheless continue throughout the entire programme. Also, special attention was paid to ensuring that especially the new partners have robust financial management tools and sufficient capacity to prevent the risks of mismanagement of funds.

During 2022 no incidents of SEAH or mismanagement of funds occurred. However, of the institutional risks the risk of inadequate staffing did materialize in Väestöliitto: It was planned that there are two full-time officers working for the programme, but it was possible to recruit the second officer only in late fall 2022. This affected negatively to the efficiency of programme management and to the pace of developing the programmatic approaches of the programme. This was mitigated by temporarily increasing the responsibilities of the Director of the International Affairs, but nevertheless the lack of another full-time officer slowed many elements of the implementation in 2022. During the year Väestöliitto was working on its internal safeguarding policies and by the end of the year released its Principles for a Safer Space, which consider accessibility and inclusivity. The intention is for Väestöliitto to be a safe workplace and for everyone to feel safe participating in Väestöliitto's activities and events. Alongside, a web-based form was released to report any incidents of harassment, discrimination, bullying, or other forms of unequal treatment that occur within Väestöliitto or at events organized by Väestöliitto; in addition, two harassment contact persons were appointed.

In Afghanistan no specific unanticipated risks occurred during the reporting period. Though there was an announcement by the Taliban government to ban female employees from working with NGOs, the health sector was exempt from the ban, and all project sites were operational. However, the national context is extremely fragile due to insecurity, poverty, and cultural restrictions, which might threaten the living environment in the country or the project's operation. For instance, to mitigate any risk associated with the restrictions on women's social movement and the requirement for mahram for female staff while travelling to provinces for monitoring and supportive supervision, the programme partner is focusing on risk analysis and the subsequent updating of said analysis on a regular basis. For instance, the partner holds bimonthly and monthly security situational awareness sessions and sticks to all security policies and procedures of the organization. After the change in the regime, the programme partner is encouraging female staff to be

accompanied by a male chaperone (Mahram) while travelling a long distances, and they are requested to keep a low profile when visiting the project sites and respect the dress code or hijab. The partner's security department is debriefing all personnel when they are needed to go out of the organization's facilities, tracking all movements, and conducting a bimonthly security awareness meeting with all staff. Also, the senior management team is conducting weekly security meetings, in which the team is providing constructive support in the day-to-day operation of the projects. These meetings aid in risk mitigation by focusing on hijab, mahram, gender segregation in the work plan, and travel assessment for female employees.

In Nepal the impact of global pandemic decreased in 2022 even though some Covid-19 cases were found daily. The war between Russia and Ukraine increased the market prices along with the inflation in currencies. Besides, the election for all three tiers of government was conducted during the reporting year. The election results slightly changed the political landscape as some new faces and parties were introduced to the new government, but no major changes that would impact the project are anticipated.

Also in Tajikistan inflation and currency exchange rate fluctuations played a notable role in 2022. Despite the decreased budget due to the exchange rate changes, all the planned activities were carried out with necessary changes such as holding events in less expensive venues and reducing the cost of stationery needs. One major external risk that materialised was the

In Malawi the programme partner developed a risk management register which is updated monthly through staff assessment. A major incident, cyclone Ana, disrupted the implementation in the fall of 2022 as intense flooding destroyed school buildings and roads, and destroyed the crops and homes of many rights-holders. During that time Malawian partner collaborated with the district's disaster management team and other relief organizations to support the affected people. Also, inflation and the devaluation of Malawian Kwacha raised costs of living, goods, and services. However, the partner managed to adjust the budget and strategize the implementation so that achievement of the outcomes would not suffer.

The LGBTIQ+ partners in Zambia and Zimbabwe are working under continuously hazardous environment due to the negative attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ communities in general. In the fall the Zambian partner experienced a very intense online hate campaign targeted towards them and other LGBTIQ+ organizations. This campaign lasted several weeks which caused disruption in the operations. Additional security measures were introduced, and social media channels were changed to private.

The need to completely revise and restructure the risk matrix was also identified so that it is more in line with the MFA's new guidelines. This work will continue in 2023.

6. What was learned

Commencing the programme required heavy focus in the beginning to develop the programmatic approach. Beginning as a new programme organization meant that a lot of analysis needed to take place to identify the gaps and needed steps to develop the programmatic approach, and it is recognized that this is an ongoing process throughout the entire programme period. As the programme is comprised of already ongoing projects as well as new projects and approaches, a lot of focus was placed in order to streamline them to effectively contribute to the achievement of the outcomes of the programme. Although the LGBTIQ+ project fully commenced in fall of 2022, good progress in streamlining all elements was made.

Also, how to build a robust programmatic PMEL mechanism, how to support the capacity building of partners, and how to ensure that the programme can deliver the expected impacts was focused on during the whole year. One of the core challenges from a programmatic point of view was the lack of sufficient personnel resources during a major part of the year which caused that some elements of capacity building and learning, such as joint programme-wide learning platforms and capacity building plans, were postponed.

New reporting tools were developed to have reliable, timely, and versatile data of the progress but adapting them fully during 2022 among all partners was not yet consistent. Also, the need to revise the PMEL mechanism further was identified to make sure that it captures all the elements of programme implementation. Currently the financial monitoring tools are outdated and require a lot of manual work which is time consuming. A consultant to assist Västtöliitto in developing the financial monitoring tools and systems was not identified

in 2022 as it was challenging to identify a suitable expert despite robust efforts. This necessary step will be advanced in 2023. New reporting requirements and new timelines for their submission resulted in some delays in receiving them and the need for even more focus on RBM trainings was further identified.

The results framework and its indicators were carefully assessed with all partners to make sure that everyone has a shared understanding of them, and everyone was able to contribute to their minor modifications and reformulations. As the implementation progressed, the outcomes and their indicators were further analyzed at Väestöliitto and the need to revise the whole results framework more profoundly was identified.

As strengthening the capacities of the programme partners and programme-wide learning are important elements, in 2022 there was also focus on developing the disability inclusion of the programme as well as building capacities in the SRHR of the most vulnerable persons among all partners. Väestöliitto participated in the peer-learning group on disability inclusion which is coordinated by the Disability Partnership. These discussions were elemental in identifying the best approaches to improve the programme-wide disability inclusion and Väestöliitto will continue being part of this group. Väestöliitto was also collaborating with other new programme organizations to discuss streamlining issues and other topics that were relevant in developing the programmatic approaches. Fingo's 'Laatu ja vaikuttavuus' group and Väestöliitto's direct contacts to other development cooperation organizations, such as invaluable support from Taksvärkki, Kynnys and WWF, have also been elemental in developing especially the PMEL approaches of the programme through mutual learning. Abilis, Väestöliitto and Kynnys also initiated quarterly calls regarding their joint partner in Tajikistan to update and share information on activities, budgeting, evaluations etc.

Even though many prior partners were doing effective advocacy work within the ongoing projects it was learned that more discussions are needed to sharpen the advocacy targets and methods. The introduction of the advocacy component also in Väestöliitto's part of the programme brought new insights into how to streamline the advocacy outcome. This led to revisioning the results framework to merge the advocacy outcomes, and further discussions in Väestöliitto and with partners also led to broadening the scope of Väestöliitto's advocacy from exclusively from the SRHR related barriers to education to broader viewpoints of SRHR of the most vulnerable persons.

The introduction of the LGBTIQ+ project raised a lot of interest among the Malawian partner, and they already started to plan how to strengthen their own organizational capacities to include LGBTIQ+ communities in their work.

6.1 Central successes

In Malawi the project contributing towards increasing the demand for safe spaces for discussion of SRHR issues among the rights-holders, and they have been able to access SRHR information and commodities through the platforms made available by the programme. It has also been seen that the community structures have become more conducive for strengthening their efforts to provide vulnerable groups more safe spaces to access quality services and support.

In Afghanistan the programme has supported the launch of standard SRHR services for women with disability for the first time in Afghanistan and provided training of trainers for 5 quality officers to build their capacity and understanding on issues around persons with disabilities. The training is further cascaded to all service providers to skill up their communications while observing clients with disabilities; enhance their counseling skills so that women with disabilities benefit from a client centered care continuum of care. One central success was the re-mapping of CSO members and the resumed meetings and orientation sessions with them. In other words, after the regime change, most of the CSO members left the country, and to keep the CSO meetings running, the programme partner did some re-mapping for CSO members. As a result, the new CSO members were included in the CSO orientation sessions. For example, school teachers, OPD members, members of Afghan national blind associations, and organizations working for women's SRH, such as the Afghan Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists,

In Nepal one of the biggest achievements from 2022 is the development of disability friendly SRHR guidelines. After long advocacy work the work was finally completed in 2022. The guidelines ensure accessible services and information for PwD. Besides, the increase in intake of SRHR services for PwD has increased; they have doubled in comparison with the first year. Along with that it can also be added the changes in the attitudes and behaviors of the youth peer educator after enrolling in the project. The commitment in different programs shown by the central, provincial and local government to improve the accessibility for persons with disabilities has also provided encouragement to work and contribute more to this area.

In Tajikistan, Väestöliitto's partner sees that the programme is contributing to an improved understanding of the rights-holders, as well as increasingly friendly attitudes in the society on the SRHR of PwD. Partner in Tajikistan has noticed the positive change through their social media: the publications on partner's Facebook and Instagram pages regarding trainings on CSE have usually invited discriminatory and negative comments; however during the last year the reviews have been mainly positive. Moreover, a major success in 2022 was that partner was able to contribute to the signing of the law on non-discrimination as described earlier. Partner also achieved to attract rights-holders with various forms of disability, and in 2022 for the first time a deaf-blind girl participated in the activities along with 2 translators.

6.2 Assessment and evaluations

There were no external evaluations implemented during 2022. The already ongoing PwD project and SGBV prevention project had just concluded their mid-term and baseline assessments and therefore it was decided that no additional assessments or evaluations would be implemented during the year. The LGBTIQ+ partners conducted baseline and needs assessments in 2022 that guided planning the implementation strategies.

6.3 New innovations

As an added value and a new innovation Väestöliitto continued its partnership with a Finnish start-up company Neuvo Inc. Global to create an Artificial Intelligence based SmartBot on SRHR information and advice. The experiment started in 2021 with the funding provided by Fingo's Powerbank program, and continued with IPPF funding in 2022.

The SmartBot is an innovation that is easy to incorporate to any platform, such as webpages and social media channels, and it can automatically translate the contents to more than 100 languages. Väestöliitto created a comprehensive database on sexuality that can be used by Neuvo Inc. Global's partners in their operations. Organizations using the SmartBot are able to have an anonymous and reliable channel for distributing SRHR information also outside the standard opening times of operations, and people needing immediate answers to critical concerns are able to get basic information. This will increase peoples' access to information about sexuality especially in contexts where talking and asking questions about sexuality is a taboo.

6.4 Challenges, lessons learnt and way forward

The encountered materialized risks and challenges that were faced during 2022 have further guided the implementation strategies and way forward. A general challenge shared by all programme partners included the rising costs and subsequent pressures to modify the budgets and implementation plans accordingly.

In Afghanistan the operations have been reorganized so that the implementation meets the requirement for gender separation. The partner in Afghanistan has also increased liaison with the authorities and maintained a strong connection with the communities through e.g. community leaders. The changing landscape is constantly monitored and operations are modified accordingly.

In Malawi, it was learned that there continues to be resistance to discuss sensitive topics regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in some communities and schools. Deep rooted cultural and religious values are in conflict with some elements of SRHR. In Nepal there were challenges with staff turnover with the retirement of key personnel as well as changed due to organization policy.

What was learned especially during 2022 which will guide the operations in the following years is the continued focus on engaging all relevant stakeholders to work jointly towards the targets. It is also critical to remain vigilant that the language used in many sensitive environments is appropriate to the context. Also, recognizing all the deep-rooted cultural and religious beliefs regarding SRHR and especially LGBTIQ+ issues is crucial in formulating the correct messages for awareness raising and advocacy.

The analysis of the challenges and lessons learnt guided the planning for 2023, and resulted in e.g. increasing the advocacy for increased allocation of family planning and STI drugs in district budgets, continued capacity building together with the communities, joining new platforms such as SGBV Hachaton to learn about new ways of dealing with SGBV, intensified engagement with religious leaders, strengthening mentorship mechanisms among the key stakeholders, and connecting with relevant new stakeholders to increase learning about specific topics regarding LGBTIQ+ persons.

7. Contribution of the programme into SDGs and other policies

Overall, the programme contributed most to the following three SDGs: health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4) and gender equality (Goal 5). In addition, the programme contributed to Goal 10 “reducing inequalities” and Goal 16 “building peaceful and inclusive societies”. More specifically, all the programme components supported SDG target **3.7**, of ensuring universal access to SRH health care services, information and education, and the integration of RH into national strategies and programmes and SDG target **5.6** which calls for universal access to SRHR.

The programme contributes directly also to SDG targets and the SDG targets **5.1**, **5.2**, and **5.3** which call for ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls and eliminating all harmful practices and targets **16.1** which calls for reducing all forms of violence and **16.2** which calls for ending abuse and exploitation of children; which especially the programme's thematic work on eliminating SGBV has contributed to.

Other SDGs that the programme has contributed to is **4.7** which calls for equal quality education for all and the targets **10.2** and **10.3** which underline empowerment and promotion of social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex or disability, as well as ensuring equal opportunities and reducing inequalities. Through the programme-wide networking and learning and consequent capacity building of all programme partners within the programme countries, through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, the programme contributes also to the target **17.9**.

There are also individual implementation approaches that contribute to other SDGs such as women's income generating groups that contribute to SDG **1.4** and **1.5** that call for financial services such as microfinance and building resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations.

In addition to the UN 2030 Agenda framework, the project is influenced by the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) which calls for governments to ensure sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for all, to eliminate discrimination of PwD regarding their reproductive rights, and to provide information and services on sexual and reproductive health to adolescents and youth.

The programme is also strongly guided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted in 2006 and entered into force in 2008. The programme addresses especially the articles 6, 22, 23 and 25 which call for access and accessibility, privacy and elimination of discrimination in all matters related to e.g. family lives and family planning of Persons with Disabilities.

As the accredited member association of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (**IPPF**), the programme is strongly guided by its Declaration of sexual rights which are human rights related to sexuality

and which highlight everyone's right to make informed decisions regarding their sexuality². The declaration sets the framework and outlines the sexual rights that are implied in throughout this document.

7.1 Contribution to National policies

The programme also contributes to different strategies and policies in the national level in each partner country. The SGBV project responds to Malawi's long-term strategy "Malawi 2063" which mirrors the SDGs as some of the goals directly relate them. Especially it responded to Goal number 3 which is promoting good health and well-being and Goal 5 promoting Gender Equality. In addition, the project contributed to Malawi's District Development Planning issue number 4; high vulnerability of marginalized population (MHG DDP 2017-2022) through its interventions in ensuring that vulnerable groups are empowered to make informed decisions on their SRHR and to address SRHR issues in their communities, for example by building capacity of the vulnerable groups in understanding their rights and raising awareness on SRHR to support them in making informed choices.

In promotion of Malawi's **SRHR Policy**, the project has reached out to service providers and capacitated them to create a safe environment and platforms for vulnerable groups to freely participate and access the required services. In contribution to Malawi's **Gender Equality Policy** the project empowered women economically to ensure that they can speak out against any abuses they may face, as women who are economically vulnerable are at a greater risk of being abused or forcing their child into child prostitution, marriage or defilement so as to secure their families from hunger.

In Afghanistan, the programme contributed directly to the National Reproductive Health Strategy, which ensures that all Afghan citizens have access to standard SRH services by implementing the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) and to the implementation of the Disability Strategic plan for the rehabilitation department of MoPH, in which the SRH and FP indicators have been included for PwDs. These strategies and national policies intend to advance women's well-being, decrease morbidity and mortality, and accomplish universal access to SRH services.

7.2 Promotion of Human Rights

The programme advances human rights and is based on human rights based approach. The programme has for example strengthened and established human rights clubs in schools that promote the rights of girls and use peer education and support system to support each other and create more awareness on SRHR rights of girls in school. The programme has created awareness on the rights of girls and women as an entry point for preventing SGBV targeted at girls and women in the community. The programme is also working with various district and community structures in each country to protect the rights of vulnerable groups in general. The participatory monitoring of vulnerable populations as well as enhanced coordination advancing SRHR of vulnerable groups is enhancing community's understanding of the rights of women, girls, PwDs and LGBTIQ+ persons and is also giving the different structures capabilities to assume active roles in promoting the rights of all.

For example, in Malawi, our partner has ensured that there are weekly capacity building activities taking place to ensure that the vulnerable groups and all the other structures are aware of the human rights and their responsibilities. It has also been ensured that duty bearers are aware of their roles in protecting the rights of Adolescent girls and Young Women and that they develop plans that will ensure that this is achieved in the community, on the other hand the girls understood their roles of going to school and attending classes which resulted in increased number of learners returning to school. Additionally, service providers were supported to share SRHR information in schools just so to ensure that right information on SRH is shared to the AGYW's, Boys and young men.

In the thematic work on advancing SRHR of PwD; the programme for example focused on changing stereotypes towards PwDs; created modern understanding of disability and human rights based approach, accessibility and universal design and the interlinkages of Gender and Disability.

² https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/sexualrightsippfdeclaration_1.pdf

7.3 Contribution towards Gender Equality

The programme promotes representation of all genders in project activities. There are also activities that specifically aim at empowering women and girls, including WwD, through information, skills and materials to enable them speak out on their issues and priorities and seeking accountability from duty bearers. The project encouraged women and girls' participation in most of the activities as they often lack confidence to participate and speak out in meetings. It also further encouraged girls to take part in the activities and in leadership positions as a way of empowering them to speak out on issues affecting their lives. For example, the women's economic empowerment activities, peer support groups and SRHR and advocacy trainings have increased women, girls' and transgender persons' capacities in deciding on various aspects of their lives as they have reduced dependency on men and are now able to challenge men in various decision-making processes.

The project's core approach is to protect and promote sexual and reproductive rights, including the right to decide the number and spacing of one's children, which is critical for example in Afghanistan to ensuring the freedom to jointly participate in decision-making among the wife and husband in the health clinics, which promotes gender equality. Women's status is also improved by increasing their knowledge of SRH and family planning. The programme has addressed the importance of engaging men in advancing gender equality: men were also invited to the SRHR and FP sessions, and they were informed about the SRHR of women and girls and PwD, including the misconceptions about and stigma attached to the SRHR of PwDs. Men's knowledge of SRHR and FP will positively contribute to women's access to SRH services, which in turn will improve women's access to these lifesaving services. Moreover, men will take on responsibilities in FP decision making that improve gender equality.

In Malawi, the programme mobilized women in groups to empower them economically. These women's capacity was strengthened in Village savings and loans and business management. The project supported these women with start-up capital for small scale business to uplift their economic status and be economically empowered and independent. Duty bearers; especially chiefs, councilors, police and education and health workers; were engaged to ensure that gender related policies and laws are implemented and that the rights of vulnerable groups especially girls and women are protected. Community by-laws have also mainstreamed girls and women's rights and are implemented accordingly in the communities.

7.4 Decreasing inequalities

The programme aims at addressing the root causes of inequality such societal and cultural norms, attitudes and practices. Lack of access to SRHR services and societal stigma towards vulnerable groups increases inequalities, and they have been targeted by the programme. In 2022, Väestöliitto's partners have for example offered spaces for mutual exchange of knowledge among stakeholders and representatives from civil society and academia, facilitating dialogue with them about their role in reducing inequalities. This in turn has increased knowledge on comprehensive policy-making approaches and therefore promoted the integration of the programme's best approaches and strategies into internal processes of the relevant sectorial ministries.

Moreover, the awareness-raising sessions and exchange of knowledge between the vulnerable groups, duty bearers, parents, and community structures has helped to increase knowledge on traditional gender norms and expectations society sets for vulnerable groups such as PwDs because such social norms and taboos maintain inequalities and limit PwDs' opportunities. Thus, increasing knowledge at the individual, family, and societal levels will increase vulnerable groups' access to SHR and FP services and reduce inequalities.

7.5 Contribution towards the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The programme encourages inclusion and participation of persons with various disabilities. Disability inclusion is also encouraged and made visible through monitoring and evaluation; data is always disaggregated by disability when possible. The thematic work on advancing SRHR of PwD is specifically contributing to realizing the rights of persons with disabilities, and each partner also collaborates with and supports the wider disability organization network in their country. All planning and implementation are done together with the disability community, and the PwD community's capacity is built through the collaboration. PwDs are capacitated for example by training them as peers educators and community health workers.

In the SGBV work disability inclusion is also considered: structures and activities as well as other community owned activities are planned accessible and disability inclusion is mainstreamed in all messages and materials and emphasis has been made with community stakeholders to ensure that needs and priorities of PwD take center stage in activity planning. The activities are guided by the community facilitators, teachers and peer educators to ensure that PwD participate in activities, and they take lead in activities. The disability inclusion has been visible through participation of persons with disabilities in VSL groups, school clubs, and community champions. Some of the PwD are leaders of community groups.

7.6 Climate actions

Climate and environment aspect are taken into account in several ways in the programme. The programme promotes interventions that do not harm the natural environment. Väestöliitto's partners have reported for example using fabric bags instead of plastic bags at service delivery points, reducing the amount of printed paper, promoting preservation of the environment in the trainings, not using plastic utensils during activities, replacing water bottles with a cooler or carafe for water, cleaning up after activities and communicating with the health clinics via online communication. Moreover, during the project period, women and girls', including women with disabilities', access to SRHR information and services improved their health status and well-being; therefore, they were able to take an active part at the family and community level. A healthy woman plays an essential role in natural resource management as well as in other activities at the household and community levels. While most women are in good health, they could contribute to livelihood strategies adapted to mitigating environmental risks. Promoting healthy sexual behavior among youth also mitigates climate change indirectly.

For example, Väestöliitto's partner in Afghanistan intends to include messages about environmental safety in the upcoming orientations for PwDs, CSOs and community elders. Whereas the partner in Malawi is adopting climate smart livelihood interventions such as climate smart agriculture including proper waste management on project related activities. As part of Village Savings and Loan (VSL) and business management interventions, they are promoting the use of renewable energy and recycling of materials such as paper as a way to assist women to cope with life in cases of eventualities due to climate change i.e. droughts. Small scale businesses are for example encouraged to use climate smart agriculture using drip irrigation which will provide households with vegetables throughout all seasons thus providing source of income through sales of vegetables to other households.

7.7 Strengthening the civil society

Advocacy, networking and building the capacity of civil society organizations is an integral approach in the Väestöliitto programme. Through the advocacy components and capacity building models embedded in the project, all partners have become members in various CSO networks at both national and regional levels. The networks work both ways: Väestöliitto's programme partners are learning from other actors, and also building their capacities. Through these CSO partnerships the programme contributes effectively to challenging unfriendly policies and laws that stifle the operations on civil society in general. For instance, CYECE in Malawi has been a key member of the Standards subcommittee of the Council for Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGOMA) which challenged some provisions in the NGO law. At district level CYECE is a chair of the CSO network. Whereas in Nepal and Afghanistan, where the partners are specialized in sexual and reproductive health, a central objective has been to identify, collaborate with and capacitate local OPDs, such as the Afghan Blind Association, by organizing trainings and capacity building on for example SRHR of PwD and advocacy.

Through the wider civil society collaboration programme partners have been able to influence the legal and policy environment in their respective countries and regions more effectively. The civil society collaboration has been also an instrument for identifying new advocacy interventions and getting the full picture and a broader support for the issues, for example in Malawi the harmonization of the age of child was enhanced through civil society voice.

Annex 1: Outputs 2022

Outputs	INDICATORS	BASELINE 2022	OUTPUT 2022	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
1. Capacity building of rights-holders					
Life skills, empowerment, awareness raising and capacity building activities on SRHR issues are organized	Number and types of trainings on different dimensions of SRHR, such as SGBV, sexual rights and sexual health are organized. Number and types of participants in the trainings disaggregated by gender and disability.	0	<p>Total 151 trainings 2839 participants</p> <p>AFG: 4 SRHR/FP trainings, 50 participants (F) with disabilities.</p> <p>Nepal: 42 CSE sessions to young people with disabilities, 650 participants. 38 awareness raising sessions, 654 PwD reached.</p> <p>Taj: 20 Peer support group meetings with 42 PwDs (F 29; M 13). 1 Summer school organized for 15 PwD (8 F; 7 M). 1 training on sexual rights and advocacy for 16 PwD (11 F; M 5).</p> <p>Zim: 1 training: 20 participants in ToT on SRHR and SGBV</p> <p>ZAM: 1 training, 20 participants in SRHR/SGBV training</p> <p>MW: e.g. trainings in nutrition, home gardening, VSL model: 340 women. 1 Training in psychosocial counseling: 32 women.</p>	Annual reports	<p>Rights-holders are motivated and willing to participate in programme's activities</p> <p>Rights-holders have the opportunities to participate in activities</p>
	Number and types of VSL groups disaggregated by gender and disability.	13 VSL groups	13 groups operational, 260 women actively participating	Annual reports	
2. Awareness raising in societies					

Broad public is reached through awareness raising activities, campaigns and events	Number and types of awareness raising activities organized.	0	Total 277 actions implemented AFG: Developing IEC materials. 5 radio advertisements. NEP: Training on SRHR of PwD for journalists. Event on the international youth day, with a special program for PwD. Taj: Instagram 13 publications, 7 reels. Facebook 16 publications, 4 reels. MW: 174 sessions, such as speak out sessions, media tour, health talks in communities, football bonanzas and tv program.	Annual reports	Several awareness raising activities, campaigns and events are implemented Broad public is motivated and willing to participate in programme's activities
	Number and types of individuals reached through the activities.	0	Total 244 600 persons reached AFG: 60,000 persons reached with IEC material. 100,000 people covered with radio advertisements. Nepal: 30 Pwd participants in the international youth day program. 16 journalists participated the training. Taj: Instagram 13 100. Facebook 60 000. MW: 11 454	Annual reports	
3. Capacity building in civil society					
Civil Society structures', service providers' and other responsible actors' (traditional and religious leaders,	Number and types of trainings organized. Number and types of participants in the trainings disaggregated by gender and disability.	0	Total: 55 trainings organized Total 612 participants AFG: 10 one-day SRH/FP orientation sessions to Afgan Blind Association,	Annual reports	Stakeholders are willing and motivated to participate in

<p>teachers, community volunteers, parents, boys, and men) capacity is strengthened on SRHR issues of vulnerable groups</p>			<p>500 participants (400 F; 100 M). Providing orientation sessions on SRHR and FP for PwDs to more than 200 members of the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (from 5 organizations). 670 CSO members, the majority of whom were school and university teachers, received a one-day orientation on SRH and FP for PwDs in 15 sessions; (400 F; 270 M).</p> <p>Nepal: Training on SRHR of PwD for 36 government health service providers. Training on sexual rights and advocacy for 32 OPD members. Training on SRHR/CSE to resource school teachers and students where PwD children are studying– 20 participants. 10 training session on SRHR for 140 parents of PwD.</p> <p>TAJ: 1 training on writing a strategic plan organised for 12 PWD (8 F; 4 M).</p> <p>MW: CSE trainings for teachers: 49M, 20F teachers trained, 18 community facilitators trained in VSL, 34 men trained as male champions, 16 religious leaders and 23 community leaders trained on male engagement</p>		<p>programme's activities</p>
	<p>Number and types of civil society structures reached.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Total 31 civil society structures reached</p> <p>AFG: 4 OPDs</p> <p>Nepal: 8 OPDs. Clinics: renovations along with</p>	<p>Annual reports</p>	

			<p>repositioning of the medical supplies.</p> <p>TAJ: 1 (Network of Women with disabilities of Tajikistan)</p> <p>MW: 16 schools, 2 health centers</p>		
	Number of trainers and peer educators trained disaggregated by gender and disability.	0	<p>Total: 252 participants</p> <p>AFG: Training on SRHR/FP was provided for 40 PwD couples or individuals interested in becoming Community Health Workers (23F; 17 M).</p> <p>Nepal: 3-day refresher training for 20 PwD (6 peer educators, 12 peer group members, 1 Reproductive health female volunteer)</p> <p>MW: 17 trainings for trainers, 192 participants</p>		
4. Advocacy of all programme partners					
New contacts with duty-bearers are created and their capacities in SRHR of especially vulnerable groups is increased	Number and types of capacity strengthening activities conducted.	0	<p>Total: 33 actions implemented</p> <p>AFG: 1 orientation to religious leaders and community elders</p> <p>Nepal: 1 (orientation program for local government)</p> <p>TAJ: 12 meetings with government in Khatlon and Sogd region in the campaign to promote the ratification of the UNCRPD in Tajikistan</p> <p>MW: 18 meetings with District working groups on youth, gender, child</p>	Annual reports	Duty-bearers are willing to take the time to raise their knowledge about SRHR issues of vulnerable groups

			protection, 2 stakeholder meetings		
	Number and types of duty bearers at local, district and national level reached with capacity strengthening activities	0	<p>Total 213 duty bearers reached</p> <p>Nepal: 24 Ministry of Health and Population, Provincial and local governments oriented on the inclusion of SRHR/CSE in the PwD resource schools.</p> <p>AFG: 50 community elders, and 10 religious leaders were provided with one day orientation on SRH and FP for PwDs</p> <p>MW: community duty bearers and district officers reached</p>	Annual reports	
5. Learning and capacity building of programme partners					
Best practices to improve SRHR are identified and shared within the programme	Regular partnership meetings and capacity building sessions are held.	0	3 live partnership meetings 7 online meetings	Annual reports	Partner organizations are committed to improving SRHR of vulnerable groups at all levels Partner organizations have good capacities to learn
	An advocacy tool has been created for LGBTIQ+ organizations	An advocacy tool has not been created	Advocacy tool is not yet created	Annual reports	
6. Development communication, global education					

<p>The broad public and young people are reached</p>	<p>Number and types of development communication and global education activities (including materials) implemented</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Total 318 development communication activities.</p> <p>This included different social media campaigns, blog series, events like the launch of the SWOP (State of World Population) report, material packages about SRHR and SDGs, and posts on current issues related to the program themes and program itself and its results.</p>	<p>Annual report</p>	<p>Target groups have enough resources and time to follow Väestöliitto's activities</p> <p>Development communication and global education actions are reached and are accessible</p>
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