

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACCA	African Coalition for the Corporate Accountability
ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APC	Alliance Programme Committee
APT	Alliance Programme Team
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
BoD	Board of Directors
CBO	Community based Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CM	Child Marriage
CRC	Committee on the Right of the Child
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibilities
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DCI	Defence for Children International
DCI-ECPAT	Defence for Children – ECPAT Netherlands
DFID	Department for International Development
DV	Domestic Violence
EAC	East African Community
EC	European Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
EE	Economic Exclusion
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GAA	Girls Advocacy Alliance
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMACL	Global March against Child Labour
GO	Girls' Organisations
GYW	Girls and Young Women
HLPEE	High Level Panel on Economic Empowerment
HLPF	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HRC	Human Rights Council
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
L&A	Lobby & Advocacy
LGBTQ	Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders and those Questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MoH	Ministry of Health
Moj	Ministry of Justice
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NACG	National Action and Coordination Groups to End Violence against Children
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OH	Outcome Harvesting

OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PM	Permanent Mission
PME&L	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
REC	Regional Economic Communities
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACG	South Asia Coordinating Group on Violence against Children
SAIEVAC	South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
S4YE	Solutions for Youth Employment
TdH	Terre des Hommes
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
UNHQ	United Nations Head Quarters
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSP	United Nations Special Procedures
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USAID	the United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WRO	Women's Rights Organisation

INTRODUCTION

The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) is a 5-year joint programme (2016-2020) of Plan International Netherlands, Terre des Hommes Netherlands and Defence for Children - ECPAT Netherlands. The GAA is led by Plan International Netherlands and is implemented in strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Dialogue and Dissent framework.

Goal of the programme is that, by 2020, governments and private sector actors make sure that girls and young women in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the Philippines no longer face Gender-Based Violence and Economic Exclusion. To this end, the GAA aims to influence key stakeholders in governments, the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs) as well as community leaders to initiate lasting changes in their society that will benefit girls and young women.

Most notably, we enable civil society organizations in their lobby and advocacy work, so that they can influence their governments for strengthened accountability, more inclusive growth and development, and a reduction of the inequality faced by girls and young women in their countries. We also support CSOs to make private sector players more accountable for their contribution to the economic empowerment of girls and young women. Whenever possible we involve the Dutch Government as a strategic partner in these efforts.

At the same time, the programme mobilises key decision makers to address harmful social norms and values. These norms and values often keep citizens from demanding justice and from playing a positive role in the protection of girls and young women from harmful practices and from motivating them to explore their full potential.

Finally, the programme also addresses the government and private sector in the Netherlands and uses regional and international accountability mechanisms in support of the efforts in the ten programme countries.

This third Annual Report covers the period January – December 2018. It assesses the progress of the Girls Advocacy Alliance programme towards its objectives and considers the programme's effectiveness. In addition, the report includes information on the indicators for Strategic Partnerships under the Dialogue & Dissent framework that were introduced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 2017 as part of its revised Dialogue & Dissent Results Framework. It also explores changes in the external context and reflects on the relevance and validity of the programme's Theory of Change.

REPORTING PROCESS

A Mid Term Review (MTR) of the alliance programme was conducted between July and October 2018, covering the period January 2016 – June 2018. As part of the MTR process, the 14 Alliance Programme Teams reviewed their Outcome Lists. For this Annual Report, all teams updated their Outcome Lists to include signs of change for the period July – December 2018.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS

On 24 April 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cordially granted the Girls Advocacy Alliance a one month extension of the submission date of its financial report for 2018. The financial report will be submitted to the Ministry as soon as possible. Financial information from the alliance organisations indicates that after a long start-up phase in 2016, the rate of implementation has increased markedly in 2017 and even further in 2018. Under expenditure is expected to be absorbed in the course of 2019 and 2020.

GIRLS
ADVOCACY
ALLIANCE



1. ADVOCATING FOR GIRLS' RIGHTS

1.1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) envisions a world wherein all girls and young women enjoy equal rights and opportunities, and benefit equally from development outcomes – more specifically, a world wherein girls and young women are free from all forms of gender-based violence and are economically empowered.

To achieve this, the GAA applies a broad spectrum of lobby and advocacy interventions to increase public support; to improve policies and practices of private sector actors, to seek implementation of effective legislation and public policies; and to improve practices of government actors in support of the elimination of gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women. At the same time, the GAA focuses on the strengthening of capacities of civil society organisations and networks (in particular Girls and Young Women organisations) to influence government and private sector actors to eliminate gender-based violence and economic exclusion. The GAA programme is implemented in ten countries in Africa and Asia and has two regional programme components. Two programme components address gender-based violence and economic exclusion at international policy levels and at the level of Dutch public and corporate policies.

1.2. THEORY OF CHANGE

The Theory of Change of the Girls Advocacy Alliance describes how the alliance expects change to happen. The Theory of Change first identifies the desired long-term goals of the alliance programme. Then, it identifies all the conditions and stakeholders that must change in order to achieve the desired long-term goals. It indicates the causal relationships between these conditions (pathways of change). And it makes explicit the assumptions that explain why the alliance expects changes to happen in this particular order and interrelationship. The GAA Theory of Change is annexed to this report (Annexe I).

Long-term goals, key stakeholders and levels of change

The GAA Theory of Change aims at the elimination of gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women. In this context, the programme will pay particular attention to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), sexual violence and abuse, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, child trafficking, child marriage, economic exclusion, access to post-primary education and vocational training, decent work and female entrepreneurship.

The Girls Advocacy Alliance's Theory of Change is structured around four strategic goals:

1. Effective implementation of legislation and public policies and improved practices of government actors;
2. Improved policies and practices of corporate/private sector actors;
3. Increased influence of civil society organisations and networks on government and corporate/private sector actors;
4. Increased public support for the elimination of gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women;

The pathways of change each address one of these goals, yet they are intertwined and mutually supportive. Each of the strategic goals is associated with a key stakeholder in the issues of gender-based violence and economic exclusion: Governments and international/regional inter-governmental bodies, Private sector actors, traditional, religious and community leaders, and Civil society organisations and networks.

The GAA expects that three different stages can be distinguished in the change processes in

¹ Country programmes in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda; regional programme components in Asia and Africa.

which these key stakeholders are involved. 'Agenda setting' entails the generation of public and political attention to certain problems or issues. 'Policy change' refers to the adoption or revision of laws and policies. And 'practice change', is about the effective implementation and follow up of existing laws and policies by key stakeholders. Only policies and laws that are effectively implemented and enforced will generate positive and concrete effects in the lives of our final beneficiaries: girls and young women.

Adapted Theories of Change

During the inception phase of the alliance programme (January – August 2016), Theories of Change were developed for each of the 14 programme components. These adapted Theories of Change describe the specific goals, pathways of change and key actors as well as the underlying assumptions on how we think change happens in a particular context.



2. EXTERNAL CONTEXT

2.1. CHANGES IN THE EXTERNAL CONTEXT

No major changes were noted in 2018. In many countries, the continued process of economic recovery brought economic growth, job opportunities and a more conducive environment for dialogue with the private sector. Still, gender biased policies and discriminatory social norms limit the positive effects of these developments for many girls and young women. In several GAA countries, economic growth has even increased their vulnerability to various forms of abuse and exploitation.

In many countries, important progress is made in the fight against child marriage, FGM and other harmful traditional practices. At the same time, conservative forces continue to threaten progress towards gender equality, both at the level of intergovernmental fora and national politics, as well as in localised 'pockets of resistance'. Still very much alive in Europe, the debate on gender inequalities and power relations that was sparked by the #MeToo movement has not markedly influenced the public debate in GAA countries – perhaps with the exception of India.

The mixed picture is also reflected at political levels. Populist, authoritarian leaders like Trump, Erdogan, Duterte, Bolsonaro and Modi retained or expanded their influence in contexts of increasingly polarised societies, supporting nationalist, gender insensitive and exclusive policies. On the other hand, elections in Liberia and Sierra Leone have brought to power new leaders from opposition parties, and a remarkable political reform took place in Ethiopia. The vote of young people has been especially important in the election of George Weah in Liberia. In many African countries, youth constitute a large share of the population. Many of them are frustrated about the inertia and incompetence of political elites. Ugandan and Kenyan youth increasingly organise themselves as a political actor, but their access and participation in the political system is still being blocked by incumbent political leaders who hold on to power.

2.2. THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The latest report by CIVICUS² shows that nearly six in ten countries are seriously restricting people's fundamental freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression. CSOs and activists across the world see their spaces for civic activism undermined through censorship, attacks on journalists and harassment of human rights defenders. Just 4% of the world's population is living under governments that respect the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

In many countries, including GAA countries Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya, CSOs continue to face more restrictive legislation and regulations. Local civil society organisations as well as larger NGOs with international ties need to comply with increasingly complicated requirements for registration, funding and reporting, that curtail their spaces to influence public policy, especially on controversial issues, or to promote youth political engagement.

Only 7 countries have improved their ratings in the latest CIVICUS update. Two of these are GAA countries: Liberia and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, after years of popular unrest and severe repression of all forms of dissent, 2018 has witnessed a remarkable about-turn. New prime minister Abiy Ahmed has released political prisoners, eased restrictions on electronic communication, appointed women to 50% of ministerial posts and made important progress towards reforming some of the country's most repressive laws.

2.3. EFFECTS ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES

Policy environments remained predominantly positive for advocacy on GAA themes, but in various countries as well as at regional and international levels, GAA organisations note that - except perhaps for Ethiopia - political and socio-economic tides are not in favour of issues related to gender and inclusiveness. Budget allocation at national levels does not favour Ministries of Gender, Social Affairs, Education and other sectors that are key to the programme. In an already negative context for multilateralism, there is persistent resistance against the inclusion of (reference to) gender, sexual and reproductive rights and LGBTI rights in international resolutions and statements. In the Philippines, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, but also at the regional level in Asia, GAA organisations have felt, for shorter or longer periods of time and to varying degrees, forced to take an expressly apolitical stance, to keep a low profile and/or to dissociate from overt advocacy. Despite remarkable abilities to adapt strategies, GAA organisations in some cases had to shift their ambitions from aiming for progress to retaining previous results.



3. EFFECTIVENESS

3.1. OUTCOMES OF LOBBY & ADVOCACY

Collection of outcomes of the programme in 2018

To do justice to the complex and ever-changing realities of Lobby & Advocacy programmes, the GAA has adapted in its PME&L system key building blocks of adaptive programming, notably the use of Theories of Change and Outcome Harvesting. Throughout the year, all organisations involved in the implementation of the programme keep an advocacy log of relevant changes observed at the level of key stakeholders and advocacy targets. Twice a year, all programme teams and local partner organisations jointly reflect on the collected signs of change, and determine whether and how their interventions contributed to these changes. During the Mid Term Review, well over 20% of the outcomes from the period January 2016 - June 2018 has been substantiated by outsiders, which validated the changes documented by the programme teams and their partner organisations for that period.

To strengthen the quality of the outcome harvesting data, the GAA desk provided thorough feedback on the outcome lists during the Mid Term Review, as well as for this Annual Report 2018. The enhancement of contribution descriptions, alignment of categorizations and the aggregation of small overlapping signs into larger outcome descriptions remain points of attention for the coming period.

The number of outcome signs differs per country and depends on, among other factors, the size of the programme, the number of organisations involved, and the nature of lobby and advocacy activities implemented. Also, the level of aggregation of signs differs per team. Countries with a larger number of organisations and/or themes, like Bangladesh, Uganda and the Philippines, reported larger numbers of signs.

Analysis of signs of change

A total number of 750 signs has been documented by the alliance programme teams and their local partners for 2018. These are considered as changes at the level of the key stakeholders of their joint GAA programmes to which they assessed their interventions as a plausible contribution. Most signs relate to themes related to gender-based violence (particularly Child Marriage, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Trafficking).

Most signs of changes were reported at the level of community leaders and the general public (30%) and at the level of national governments (30%). If intergovernmental agencies are considered as institutional actors as well, most signs of changes are related to the government pathway: 42%. Fewer signs of changes were observed for CSOs (19%) and the private sector (9%).

Most signs (66%) are related to changes at local (community) and district/province level. At local level, outcomes show that most progress has taken place at the level of practice changes by local communities and their leaders. At district/province level, advocacy was mostly targeting government agencies and representatives, as reflected by the fact that most signs at district/province level indicate practice changes by government actors.

At the same time, it was observed that CSOs and the private sector have most often been lobbied at the local level and the district/province level, leading to especially changes in awareness and practices of these actors at local or district levels. CSOs for instance incorporated GAA themes in their work and started to support victims of gender-based violence. Small and medium enterprises participated in campaigns and investigated their role in the economic empowerment of girls and young women. At the national level, the advocacy target was most often the government and changes were mostly identified at policy level, for instance through the approval or development of new Acts, policies and action plans. At the international and regional levels of the programme, most outcomes are related to agenda setting, for example

of the monitoring of girls' rights and their inclusion in international Human Rights mechanisms and Regional Advisory bodies. This is closely followed by policy changes observed at the level of intergovernmental institutions.

Several changes can be observed when comparing the 2018 data with 2017 data. As in 2017, most of the signs of change in 2018 relate to improvements in the implementation of existing laws, regulations and policies, especially by community leaders and the general public, and by government actors and CSOs. In 2018, the total number of changes related to these practice changes accounted for 39% or 292 of the total number of signs. This high number of practice changes reflects the ability of GAA to move advocacy targets to change their behaviour.

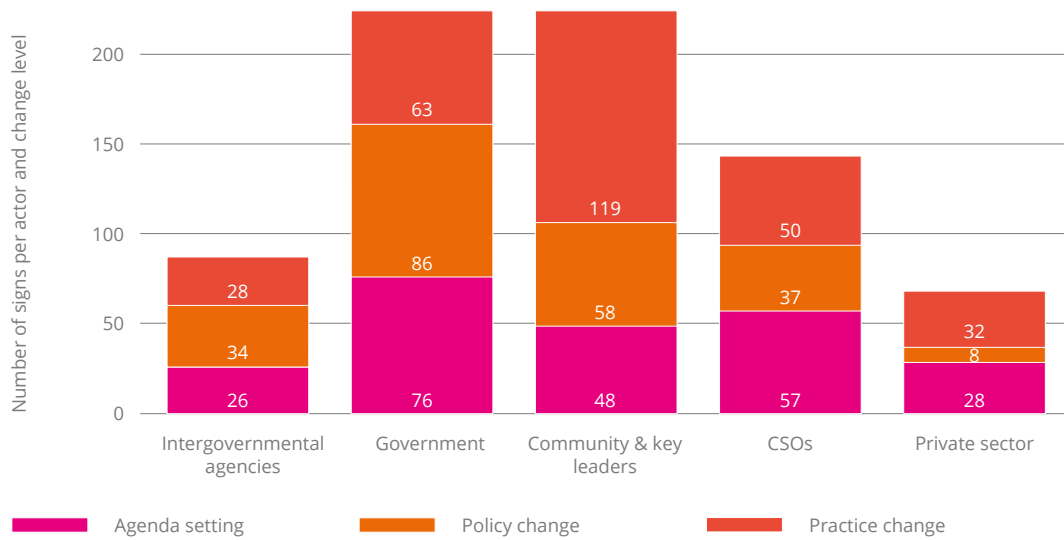
A large shift is observed in the number of signs that relate to the adoption or revision of laws and policies as an outcome of the GAA programme, which account in 2018 for 30% of the signs with 223 signs observed in total. The overall majority of these policy changes have taken place at the level of government agencies and by community leaders (customary laws or by-laws). Several examples are also documented of policy changes by CSOs, for instance of CSOs that developed gender policies or child protection policies.

This relative (and absolute) increase in the number of signs linked to policy changes seems to have been influenced by several factors. GAA partners seem to have become more effective in influencing other CSOs and the private sector to establish policies, or adjust existing ones. The low percentage of signs for policy change in 2017 may have increased GAA teams' attention for and awareness of this level of changes. It is also possible that the policy changes reported in 2018 are the outcomes of lobby and advocacy efforts that were initiated in 2016 and 2017, confirming the long-term nature of policy advocacy, especially at national and international levels.

A relatively large number of signs still relates to changes in agenda setting (31%) - the first stage of change in the GAA Theory of Change, whereby public and political attention to certain issues or problems is generated. Most of these signs involve increased priority for issues of gender-based violence and Economic Exclusion on the part of government agencies and CSOs. They for instance declared a commitment to cooperate on GAA issues and indicated an increased understanding in their role to address GBV and EE. Various signs at community level also showed a commitment from community leaders and community members in general, for instance to speak out against child marriage, to participate in dialogue sessions and youth advocates starting with awareness raising in their communities on topics such as child trafficking.

While the GAA Theory of Change (implicitly) positions agenda setting as a necessary first step in lobby and advocacy, the data seem to indicate that this level of change remains important throughout the programme, as GAA teams continue to reach out to new advocacy targets - be it to expand their coverage to new communities or companies, to get newly elected or appointed public officials at local, district, national or international level on board. In other cases, new advocacy targets or advocacy messages follow logically from previous actions or results, e.g. where successful lobby for the approval of national policy is followed by advocacy for the allocation of budget and resources at various levels.

The next table shows the division of signs per actor and per change level in 2018.



With regards to the two main themes of the GAA, gender-based violence (GBV) and Economic Exclusion (EE), the GAA teams report mostly signs of changes towards reduced GBV. At the same time, there are many signs of change that indicate progress on both GAA main themes; GAA organisations in their advocacy often emphasize the need to address both issues. A much smaller number of changes was observed on Economic Exclusion specifically. This is in line with the overall focus of the programme and the expertise and experience of the GAA organisations on GBV. However, an increase in the number of signs related to Economic Exclusion is noted as compared to 2017, namely from 51 to 86 signs. Also, the combined focus shows a slight increase from 148 signs in 2017 to 169 in 2018.

In the following sections, signs of changes are presented for each of the four key stakeholder groups of the GAA Theory of Change: government and intergovernmental agencies, community leaders and the general public, Civil Society (Organisations) and the private sector.

3.1.1 Government and intergovernmental agencies

In 2018 the alliance has been progressing very well on its targets related to governments. A high number of outcomes is reported on all change levels (agenda setting, policy change and practice change) that can be linked to GAAs involvement with governments. The outcomes indicate that political actors and public officials are attaching more importance to gender-based violence and Economic Exclusion of girls and young women; that they are developing policies and guidelines to eliminate these violations; and that local and national governments are effectively starting or improving the implementation of legislation and policies. GAA's supportive and 'non-confrontational' approach to influencing governments seems to be proving its effectiveness in this regard.

Especially at local and district levels, GAA organizations are well able to engage with governments and draw attention to GBV and Economic Exclusion. They have been able to contribute to better functioning services and structures (such as reporting mechanisms, referral systems and Child Protection Committees), enhancing knowledge of key stakeholders on GBV legislation and National Plans of Action and improvement of the legal system and juridical procedures.

In the Philippines for instance, GAA's lobby and advocacy efforts contributed to good progress on the level of Local Government Units (LGUs). Several signs of change were documented of LGUs and barangays³ that have started to activate important office positions such as the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and Violence Against Women (VAW) desk. Other LGUs made efforts to improve referral pathways and communicate VAWC referral flow charts. There were also LGUs that funded and conducted Multi-Disciplinary Team trainings to the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) and newly elected Barangay officials. With the support of GAA, the Department of Interior and local Government issued a Memorandum

3 A barangay is the smallest administrative division in the Philippines

Circular 2018-53 in April on the 'Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking' to all Local Government Units, a tool to be utilized by the LGUs to strengthen the Local Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children. This will facilitate the adoption of the Standards in the whole country which will enable the LGU legislative bodies to reinforce the laws.

Comparable signs can be observed in other countries. In Kenya, members of County Assemblies have shown positive uptake of policy issues and commitment to develop relevant policies to address GBV and EE. In July 2018 for example, after multiple consultative meetings with the GAA, the Kwale County governor appointed a dedicated officer to spearhead the development of Kwale County Gender Bill. At the national level, in June 2018, as a result of conversation and engagement with the GAA agenda, the Ministry of Education has developed guidelines for the school re-entry policy (currently at draft stage) and SGBV guidelines for schools (finalised, circulated and used at schools). In Ghana, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) - including but not limited to the Domestic Violence Support Unit, Social Welfare, and Anti Human Trafficking Unit - have been trained and supported by the GAA to undertake awareness creation and sensitization in communities and among leaders at the community level. As a result, the local government institutions' collaboration has not only been enhanced among and between them, but also their collaboration with traditional and religious leaders. Previously, some of the departments found it difficult to get traditional and religious leaders involved in their sensitization work, but the GAA has created that link and this has resulted in especially religious leaders giving the MMDAs their platforms to educate their constituencies.

At national level, in a number of countries GAA organisations also work closely with line ministries and a broad range of semi-governmental agencies. Through dialogue, contribution of thematic expertise, facilitation and other 'insider strategies' they are involved in the development of e.g. Child Protection Policies, Child Marriage Acts and various National Action Plans. In 2018 a number of changes in policies and legislations have been observed to which GAA has made a significant contribution.

In Kenya, lobbying targeted at the National Council of Children Services for the review of the old National Plan of Action (NPA) on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) paid off. A new NPA against CSEC for the period 2018-2022 was adopted and approved by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. This new NPA, which provides a framework for addressing CSEC by county governments and other stakeholders, will help GAA immensely to further achieve our goals.

In Uganda, advocacy and lobby by the GAA contributed to the passing of a new Mining and Mineral Policy by the government in 2018. This policy criminalises the use of child labour in mines. The government also integrated labour inspection in their work plans. The engagement of the GAA with government, particularly the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) has resulted in the government monitoring policy implementation in mines in Bugiri. Also a budget increase has been achieved for allocation of labour officers for financial year 2018/2019 by 2 million Uganda shillings - a 105% percent increase. The new policy has also been put into practice. The appointed Labour officers of the MGLSD have started to conduct labour inspection at gold mines in Bugiri in 2018. Not only national level lobby contributed to these results; national level lobby was backed by GAA interventions at other levels, such as awareness raising in the target communities, research of a group of youth researchers, and training of government officials.

In Bangladesh, at the national level, the GAA has proactively contributed to the development of legislative proposals, particularly around Child Marriage, Child Protection and Trafficking of Humans - including Young Women and Girls. The GAA has undertaken comprehensive yearlong (from June 2017 - July 2018) lobby and advocacy actions involving government agencies and CSOs and INGOs. The government approved the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking 2018-2022 (that specifically includes the issue of child trafficking) with proper direction of resources. GAA partners were actively involved in the whole process through organization of and participation in consultation meetings, development of policy briefs and technical support to duty bearers. Through a collaborative approach, the GAA was in constant dialogue with government officials and other decision makers.

Complementary to more direct lobby and advocacy, research proved to be a convincing influencing strategy towards the government in some GAA countries, for instance in India. After sharing the findings of their research studies on Child Marriage including the status of the Child Marriage Act, with the Women Development and Child Welfare (WDCW) departments of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, these departments are further intensifying their efforts in tackling the issue of Child Marriage in both states. Notably the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken proactive steps in terms of prevention of child marriages and child trafficking. A major step has been the publication of the draft Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Purchase of Sexual Services Bill 2018, which is the very first of such legislation by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Besides working on the development and improvement of laws and policies, the GAA works to address the gap between policy and practice. Various signs of change have been observed in the implementation and enforcement of existing policies and laws by government officials. For example, in Ethiopia, dialogue sessions with the judiciary, police, CBOs and FBOs on the implementation and the context of the Criminal Code on GBV and Child Marriage brought strong collaboration among them and other government sectors that resulted in the cancellation of 121 child marriages in 2018. In Sierra Leone, consultations and training of law enforcement agencies (training for prosecutors on child friendly Justice and prosecution) contributed to improved handling of cases of GBV and sexual abuse prosecuted at the Magistrate court: most of the cases at the Magistrate court were committed to the High court instead of being discharged, and preliminary investigation at the Magistrate court happened within an average period of two to three weeks. Interventions by the GAA also contributed to the allocation of required personnel to the Moyamba Junction police Unit to enhance speedy investigation of cases

Influencing intergovernmental agencies and the Dutch government

The GAA activities in the ten programme countries are supported by interventions aimed at influencing intergovernmental institutions at international level as well as at the level of African and Asian Regional bodies. In addition, the GAA addresses Gender-Based Violence and women's economic empowerment at the level of Dutch public (foreign) policies. Through connecting international levels with national GAA programmes, the GAA was able to further strengthen its national level policy influencing.

By utilizing existing networks and sustaining positive relationships with key institutions, the GAA Asia Regional Programme was able to collaborate successfully with regional and intergovernmental bodies such as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), Parliamentarians Without Borders (PWB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Association of Students in Economics and Management (AIESEC) to ensure spaces for advancing the GAA agenda.

Lobbying and advocacy activities strategically engaged high-level decision-makers in thematic divisions within ADB. This resulted in opportunities for the GAA to advocate for the inclusion of gender and youth-related messaging in ADB's Strategy 2030 document, which outlines the operational priorities of the Bank, and sets the direction for the next ten years. GAA engagements with the ADB also resulted in Decent Work and Inclusion as key topics for the 6th ADB Asian Youth Forum in South Korea, which led to the development of the Incheon Youth Declaration for the Future of Work. With technical input from the GAA, the ADB developed technical assistance documents⁴ supporting innovation for the promotion of youth employment to vulnerable and marginalized young people, especially young women, in the region. GAA input into the conceptualization of youth participation in the ADB also resulted in a policy brief and Youth Engagement Guide, which are currently under review.

GAA efforts also contributed to the development of an ASEAN Declaration for Protection of Children from Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, of which GAA is actively involved in the working group and drafting of the declaration. GAA alliance partner Global March Against Child Labour organised the 2nd Asia Parliamentarians Without Borders (PWB) for Children's Rights Meet with 12 Members of Parliament (MPs) from 7 countries, where the MPs resolved to include awareness on child labour, child trafficking and child sexual abuse in school curricula - a unique commitment by MPs at a regional level.

⁴ These TAs provide financial resources to support the piloting of youth employment initiatives specifically focused on young women and young men from vulnerable and marginalized backgrounds in the region.

In Africa, the GAA team effectively lobbied African regional governance bodies, notably the African Union, ECOWAS and East African Community (EAC). They were able to put context-specific GAA themes and issues on the agendas of relevant governance bodies, notably Child Marriage, Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Trafficking, and strengthened sub-regional and regional monitoring and accountability mechanism on GBV and EE. Investments by the GAA in the capacities of CSOs on report writing for UN and AU human rights mechanisms, contributed to the submission to the Committee – for the first time - of briefing papers on sexual exploitation of children in four African countries. This in turn helped to ensure visibility of these issues on the regional agenda. In addition, relevant efforts were made to engage with media and to facilitate access of youth advocates to international spaces. The GAA has actively engaged in the planning of the 2nd African Girls Summit and Youth Pre-Summit that took place in November in Accra, Ghana, where child marriage and SRHR were the main themes. During the African Girls Summit, the GAA in partnership with UN Women and the AU launched a compendium of laws on child marriage across 55 African Member States, to which the GAA significantly contributed with technical inputs. This compendium informs different stakeholders on national legislation and helps to track legislative reforms and best practices. It also enables targeted advocacy at national levels for the review and implementation of marriage legislation. The GAA mobilised and supported 48 girls and boys from GAA countries to participate in the African Girls Summit. Several of these youth spoke on various parallel sessions and High-Level Dialogues during the Summit and the pre-summit.

At the international level, progress has included the incorporation of inputs of CSOs into the work of the CEDAW, the UPR and in Voluntary National Reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals. With the support of the GAA International team, CSOs developed evidence-based recommendations on GBV and EE and contributed to the monitoring of the performance on girls' rights and GAA themes by human rights monitoring bodies and SDG Accountability Mechanisms. This has helped to strengthen the links between national and international advocacy. The international team for instance encouraged and supported the GAA team in Nepal to conduct the first-ever girl-led CEDAW report, and supported the refinement and submission of the report to the CEDAW. In Uganda, the GAA International team supported the national team to advocate for national implementation of ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Work and ratification of ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The GAA International teams also supported the national team's contributions to the Voluntary National Review report, that includes progress on child labour.

The training of youth advocates to engage nationally and internationally to develop and lead advocacy plans in order to make their voices heard has been another important step in further linking national with international levels. In 2018, the GAA International teams coordinated and facilitated training of youth advocates in Ghana, Uganda, Nepal, India and Sierra Leone. A youth advocate from the Sierra Leone GAA group was supported to speak at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on the occasion of the Day of General Discussion (DGD) on 'Protecting and empowering children as human rights defenders'. During her speech, she shared her experiences as a girl human rights defender, lobbying against child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and economic exclusion of girls and young women in Sierra Leone.

In the Netherlands, the GAA is involved in the Dutch Agreements promoting International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC agreements), notably the Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile (AGT) and the Agreement for the Metallurgy Sector (in development). Initial engagement has also been established with the Banking Sector Agreement and the Agreement for international responsible investment in the insurance sector and pension funds. Within these covenants, the GAA supports and complements the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Social and Economic Council (SER), along with other NGOs and private sector organisations such as Inretail, Modint, Fair Wear and UNICEF Netherlands, to include gender and child rights issues in the various agreements and underlying guidelines and tools. Actions in 2018 included provision of policy inputs, e.g. on assessing gender risks in action plans and supply chains; training and awareness raising; participation in debates; advising; and contributing to draft covenant texts. In most instances, covenant parties have responded positively to the recommendations and practical suggestions provided by GAA. Some parties, such as Modint, the textile association involved in the AGT, used GAA policy inputs to construct a due diligence dashboard for its members. But the responses have also demonstrated the

difficulty of getting all signatories on board, apart from the few corporate champions that have already embraced gender equality. In this regard, the principle of voluntary application of the IRBC agreements by signatories, clearly has its limitations.

3.1.2. Community leaders and the general public

In all ten countries where GAA is active, good progress has been observed at community level, especially when looking at changes that have taken place in the behavior of local and traditional leaders and community groups, as well as in the wider community.

Essential changes have been signaled at the level of religious and traditional leaders, who are now actively engaging with GBV themes. These leaders play a key role in raising awareness on harmful social norms and practices in communities, and in mobilising their constituencies. Through umbrella organisations, networks or platforms, local and traditional leaders moreover have important influence at regional and even national levels. Especially in Africa, local leaders also have a key role in the drafting, ratification and enforcement of bye-laws.

In Liberia for example, meetings, dialogues and awareness raising activities helped to convince community members, religious leaders and traditional leaders to take a stand against Gender-Based Violence and FGM and adjust their local customary laws. The development of gender-mainstreamed community bye-laws that now outline penalties on GBV has put the protection of women on the agenda and is helping reduce GBV in intervention communities. The bye-laws are being developed through a participatory process, where all community members come together to establish laws that will protect young women and girls from exploitation and abuse. The GAA team in Liberia has succeeded in facilitating the establishment of 28 by-laws in the 47 communities of intervention. The by-laws include components of GVB and the harmonization of statutory and customary laws which sets 18 as the minimum age for marriage.

In India, the GAA concerted efforts to further sensitize religious leaders on the impact of child marriages and trafficking on girls as well as the larger communities. This prompted many leaders to promote services and support for vulnerable girls within their communities. Engagement with religious and community leaders also brought a number of these leader to actively oppose and prevent the solemnization of child marriages by verifying age proof documents, to promote the compulsory registration of marriages, and to encourage families in their communities to pursue higher education for girls.

In Ghana as well, as a result of advocacy with traditional leaders at community and district levels, progressive traditional leaders in all programme areas are speaking out against Child Marriage and sexual violence. They have also started to make pronouncements against these practices, and act as agents of change towards their constituencies.

Awareness raising on existing national laws and policies and starting a broader open discussion on social norms and practices has been an important strategy at community level to stimulate changes in behaviour. As a result of GAA advocacy, more early marriages and other harmful traditional practices (HTPs) were prevented and reported to the authorities by community members in various countries, including Ethiopia, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In the latter country, increased awareness about the official child protection system and the role of the different duty bearers as a result of GAA actions lead to an increase in the identification and appropriate referral of cases. In Moyamba district moreover, advocacy with section chiefs, town chiefs and village heads, strengthening of Child Welfare Committees and linking local leaders with the police Family Support Units helped to effectuate MoUs and operational agreements underlying the child protection system.

Convincing community leaders to participate in GAA activities and to take up their role in addressing GBV may require persistence. Small steps may in fact form major achievements with high potential impact. In Kenya an important milestone was achieved in 2018 when Kwale elders started engaging in dialogue sessions to explore ways of addressing negative social norms, notably those underlying child trafficking and CSEC. In previous years, these cultural leaders had been adamant that they would not speak out on these matters.

Like previous years, experiences from various countries in 2018 confirm the importance of the role of community groups in achieving social norms change. In Nepal, the GAA worked with community groups of men and boys, girls and young women, youth, and with groups of traditional and religious leaders and supported linkages and networks among them. Many of these groups are now actively engaged in advocacy and awareness raising on harmful traditional practices in their communities. They have started implementing activities to reduce HTPs in the communities, and the groups have become successful in stopping child marriages and to break the ancient tradition of staying in cowshed during menstruation. In Ethiopia, the GAA inspired almost 200 community-based organizations – iddirs - to revise their bye-laws to include articles addressing child marriage, FGM, trafficking, CSEC and economic exclusion. Youth and Women Development Groups such as the Kino Mender (Village) Women development groups and the Gondar City Administration Azezo Sub City Women association began to organize awareness raising sessions and campaigns on the impacts of HTPs, risky migration and human trafficking in their communities.

3.1.3. Civil Society Organisations

Less progress has been achieved towards the strengthening of an inclusive civil society as effective 'watchdog' for the implementation of policies and legislation for the protection and empowerment of girls and young women. A moderate number of changes has been observed by the GAA teams. Most of these signs indicate increased awareness and attention for gender-based violence and economic empowerment of girls and young women – the so-called stage of agenda setting. Yet some important signs of policy changes and practice changes have also been observed.

Throughout the programme, GAA organisations in 2018 continued or started to work with CSO networks, like-minded CSOs and thematically related networks. In some countries, strategic collaboration with national institutions has been established. Working with CSO networks notably, is seen to contribute to improved lobby and advocacy at local, district and national level. In Uganda for example, with active involvement of the GAA, the national coalition of CSOs working on CSEC successfully pushed for the revision of the expired National Plan of Action (NAP) on CSEC. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) revised the expired NAP and presented it to the Minister. In October 2018 the NAP was at the final stages of its finalisation and publication.

There was also evidence of CSOs becoming more actively – and in a more structured way - involved with girls' and young women's issues. In Ethiopia, CBOs and anti-HTP committees developed action plans to prevent CSE, GBV and EE, and started implementing these action plans, including joint lobby towards important decision-makers. In Nepal as well, CSO networks that were formed in all seven GAA working districts developed and implemented joint advocacy action plan against GBV and HTPs. Among other actions, these networks strongly raised the issues of HTPs and child marriage during the consultation for the CEDAW shadow report – which was reflected in the explicit recommendation in the CEDAW Concluding Observation (2018) to "Expedite the adoption of legislation prohibiting all forms of harmful traditional practices". Also the National Interreligious Network (NIRN) has become actively engaged with local level religious leaders to train them about GBV and HTP and on their role to eliminate it, and the National Women Human Rights Defenders are now actively raising and sensitizing the government on issues of HTPs and GBV.

More confrontational advocacy and mobilization was applied by CSOs in the context of the GAA programme as well. In Liberia, the GAA engaged CSOs, including women's groups and youth groups, to speak out against an amendment of the Rape Law that categorises rape as a billable offence. CSOs went on the streets of Monrovia collectively, for peaceful protest. In Sierra Leone, together with other NGOs and CSOs, the GAA took the government to ECOWAS court to address the ban on education for pregnant girls. This was the first time CSOs were taking the government to court on girl's rights issues.

The GAA also contributed to several policy changes at the level of CSOs. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states in India for example, the GAA convinced a total of 201 CSOs to adopt child protection policies and anti-sexual harassment policies, and some 160 CSOs to incorporate girls' and young women's rights in their programme priorities.

Youth involvement

CSOs play an important role in promoting the GAA agenda by facilitating girls and young women to participate in lobby and advocacy processes around themes that concern them. In most countries, the programme trained and supported youth advocates, many of whom have initiated collective action on child marriage, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for girls, child labour and/or CSEC. The GAA successfully facilitated and supported youth advocates to participate in international and regional fora and platforms, including the CRC Day of General Discussion and the 2nd African Girl Summit.

Other achievements in the engagement of youth as agents of change in 2018 include the take-over of key positions in government, private companies and NGOs in various countries on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child (11 October). Highlight of the campaign in Liberia was the take-over of the Office of the Vice-President by the GAA Youth Ambassador. As a result, the Vice-President re-confirmed her commitment to address issues that affects young women in Liberia. In the Netherlands, young women from the Girls Rights Watch group took over the positions of the Minister of Defence, the chair of the First Chamber of Parliament, the position of General-Director of DGIS, the position of the Kinderombudsman and leadership positions within Coca Cola and CISCO.

3.1.4. The private sector

Cooperation with the Private Sector remains a relatively new area for many GAA partners. This is reflected in the comparatively smaller number of relevant changes observed for this pathway (9% of the total number of outcomes reported). Despite the smaller number of changes, notable accomplishments were reported, especially in Nepal and Bangladesh. In 2019 and 2020, the GAA will continue to build on these 'best practices'.

In Nepal, steps were taken towards the operationalization of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed by the GAA with the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) and the Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN) to develop their gender policy, child protection policy, ethical hiring and decent work principles and a National Code of Conduct. The potential impact of these MoUs can be huge, as HAN and TAAN will pass on these policies to their member and intend to establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of these policies. It can play a vital role in addressing gender based violence among girls and young women at the workplace in Nepal.

In Bangladesh, the GAA engaged in larger partnerships to enhance effectiveness and avoid overlap. A strategic partnership has been developed with five international organizations (Plan, Fair Wear Foundation, Care, SNV and Better Work) working with the same factories in the Readymade Garment (RMG) industry. The GAA established MoUs with four factories and successfully incorporated Sexual Harassment Prevention Guidelines in the HR policies of these companies. The development of business cases proved a successful strategy. These business cases outline how a women-friendly working environment benefits the private sector and are currently used by the GAA as an advocacy tool to inspire factories to introduce an equitable workplace. The GAA moreover set up a 'female leadership platform' that brings together women from various layers of the factories and provides them with a safe space to discuss issues that concern them. Also in Bangladesh, the GAA successfully advocated the Cyber Cafe Owner Association of Bangladesh (CCOAB) and the Association of Internet Service Providers (ISP). Both online service providers have agreed to combat online sexual exploitation of children, and to develop and implement a Code of Conduct (CoC) for child-friendly and safe internet services.

In other countries as well, the GAA successfully engaged with local companies to discuss GBV and women's economic empowerment, and more specifically the position of (young) women in their businesses and the role of the private sector in addressing risks and abuses. In Ethiopia for instance, business owners and private companies, with the support of the GAA, developed codes of conduct on decent work, and companies started to support survivors of GBV and CSEC by creating job opportunities for these young women. In Uganda, the GAA worked with the private sector to ensure compliance with the country's labour laws and to promote the implementation of gender responsive laws. Several small and medium enterprises, including private schools, telecom companies and trading companies, were convinced to comply with the provisions of labour standards and contracts. Bus companies operating along the Kampala - Moroto highway have become more actively involved in the fight against child trafficking, and participated in a campaign on ending child trafficking and unsafe migration from Karamoja.

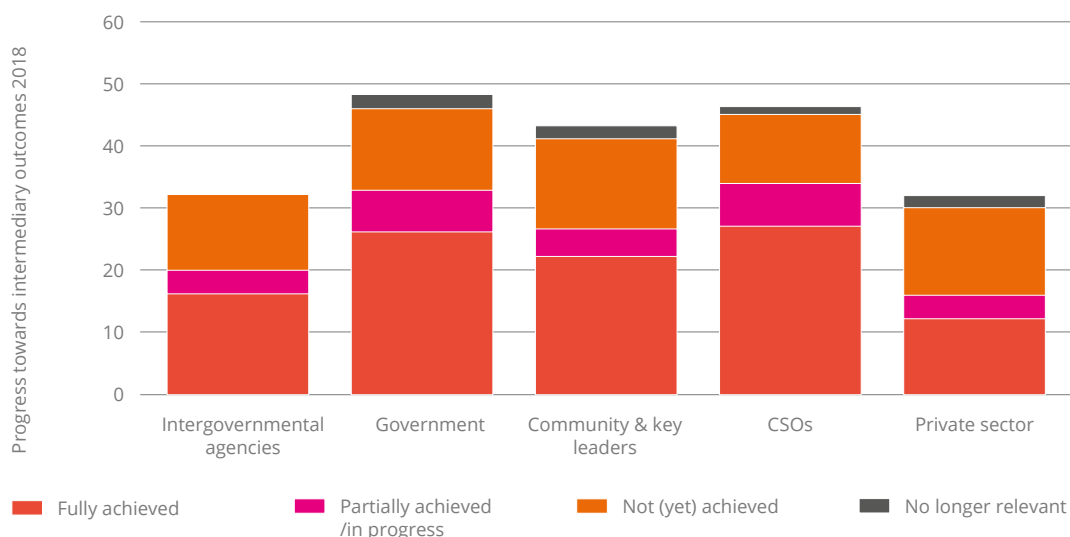
In the Philippines, as a result of various activities undertaken by the GAA with the private sector (travel and tourism, media and merchandising industry) a.o. around Cebu City, various companies have shown an increased understanding of their responsibilities in combating CSEC and Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC), GBV and issues related to trafficking. Notable practice changes could be observed, such as companies crafting their own child protection policy, covering stories on CSEC and trafficking with more sensitivity, incorporation of GBV and gender equality in their organisation, integrating child protection sessions into staff training and supporting the advocacy by posting IEC materials (from the Ending VAWC Campaign) in their respective establishments. Hotels and private establishments linked to GAA also showed an increase in reporting cases of suspected child prostitution. In addition, GAA partners were able to initiate a partnership with the Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry Incorporated (PCCI), assisting them to incorporate GBV and gender equality in their organisation.

Influencing the private sector in the Netherlands

In consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the GAA adjusted its advocacy strategy towards the Dutch private sector, which was approved in April 2018. In addition to engaging with individual companies on the business case for young women's economic empowerment, Plan International Netherlands decided to adopt a more sector-based approach, just as Terre des Hommes and DCI-ECPAT, aligning itself with ongoing responsible business conduct initiatives in the textile and garment sector in the Dutch IRBC agreements, and with the tourism sector. Other GAA members also lobbied for the inclusion of gender equality and child rights in the sector covenants (metallurgic, food, banking, insurance and pension funds) either as members of covenant steering groups or as supporters ('steunbetuigers'), and in the tourism sector. Within ongoing sector covenant negotiations, such as the metallurgic and food covenant, GAA members pressed for the inclusion of gender discrimination and child rights violations as part of the due diligence requirements for companies. In relation to the Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile (AGT), which is in a more advanced stage of implementation, GAA supported evidence and practical tools and knowledge to support signatories to fully include gender considerations into their due diligence practice. In their engagement with covenant stakeholders, GAA members have strengthened their collaboration with other NGOs and business associations, notably Inretail and Modint.

3.1.5. Progress towards intermediate outcomes of Lobby and Advocacy

Looking at the progress towards expected intermediate outcomes for 2018, the GAA programme teams report that over half of their expected outcomes (51%; 103 out of 210 expected outcomes) has been achieved. Another 13% of the expected outcomes has been partially achieved. Almost one third (32%) of the expected outcomes has not yet been (fully) achieved as planned, whereas in the majority of the cases at least one sign of change was however observed that could be linked to the expected outcome, indicating that some positive changes were happening. A small number of expected outcomes (3%) was noted as no longer relevant.



The programme teams have been especially successful in realising their expected outcomes at (inter)government level, followed by progress with CSOs and at community level. Efforts with the private sector were less successful, as only 38% of the expected outcomes has been realised in this pathway. This also supports the conclusions from the section above that influencing the private sector is challenging for the GAA teams in many countries, although notable results are being achieved as well, including in Nepal, Uganda, Bangladesh and the Philippines. The success in the CSO pathway may be explained by the fact that after 2017, many GAA teams shifted the focus of their efforts with CSOs towards working with like-minded organisations and networks of organisations (and adjusted their expected outcomes accordingly)

Countries and contexts

Three countries were able to achieve all their expected outcomes: India, the Philippines and Bangladesh. Regional Africa, Netherlands and Ghana had the lowest percentages, with respectively 33%, 20% and 9% of expected outcomes realised. Regional Africa is however progressing well towards its expected results, and the majority of its outcomes were at a progressing or partially achieved stage. The programme component in the Netherlands identified 5 intermediary expected outcomes for 2018. Only one of these was realised, but for three others, important progress was noted. For the fifth outcome, very little progress was noted: concrete actions by Dutch international companies in the relevant GAA countries to mitigate gender-based violence and economic exclusion in their supply chains are scarce. However, signatories to the Dutch IRBC agreements are now expected to follow up on their commitments. In Ghana, GAA partners consider that out of 10 final outcomes (for 2020) to be achieved by the programme, there are still 9 outcomes which haven't yet been realized. Although the picture may change as additional data collection is taking place, the team indicates that good progress has been made on the outcomes related to the level of traditional and religious leaders as well as those pertaining to the practice change of local and district government agencies. It will be challenging however to achieve the outcomes related to the practice change at the level of the national government (particularly the increase of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Gender, Women and Children) and the expected outcomes at the level of the private sector.

Differences in progress towards expected intermediary outcomes per country or programme components do not seem to relate strongly to developments in the external environment or to the spaces for civil society lobby and advocacy. Countries with closed or oppressed civic spaces (Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Uganda and Liberia) do not report significantly lower progress towards the expected outcomes of their advocacy work than countries with more open civic spaces. This seems in line with the observation that GAA partners are capable of adapting their advocacy strategies and messages, and probably also their advocacy ambitions, to the (im)possibilities of their context. Moreover, the GAA organisations usually work on themes and topics that align with government priorities and that are not especially politically sensitive.

3.2. OUTPUTS OF LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

The rate of output delivery by GAA organisations and their partners increased even further in 2018, as compared to 2016 and 2017. Start-up delays from 2016 are practically recovered. However, progress of implementation differs per country, and minor shifts in budgets per country/programme component may occur in 2019 and 2020.

The Mid Term Review confirmed that GAA organisations and their partners seem well-placed for 'insider' advocacy tactics, directly engaging with advocacy targets and building on collaborative relationships. Notably, GAA organisations continued in 2018 to invest in the convening and linking of actors in platforms and networks, varying from policy networks with line ministries and technical experts, advocacy networks of local CSOs and regional networks of traditional leaders, to youth groups, private sector networks and multi-disciplinary networks of community-based committees, local government agencies and service providers. GAA partners often play a key role in bringing stakeholders together and facilitating collaboration and exchange of knowledge and information.

This approach can be seen throughout the programme, but is complemented by a variety of tactics that indicate that GAA partners also opt for more indirect 'outsider' approaches to influence advocacy targets, including coalition and network building, community mobilisation, awareness

raising campaigns, media campaigns and direct influencing of individual key decision-makers.

3.3. OUTCOMES OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Capacity Development in the context of the GAA Theory of Change refers to the strengthening of organisational capacities for lobby and advocacy of direct CSO partners of the GAA, who are formally contracted for the implementation of the GAA programme. An annual participatory assessment of the capabilities is conducted, using a Capacity Assessment Tool (CAT) based on the 5 Core Capabilities framework developed by the European Centre for Development Policy Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)⁵. In line with this framework, the GAA distinguishes five core capabilities, namely: (1) Capacity to Commit and Act; (2) Capacity to Deliver on development objectives; (3) Capacity to Adapt and Renew; (4) Capacity to Relate to External Stakeholders and (5) Capacity to Achieve Coherence. The GAA adapted the CAT by using specific indicators (pointers) for the lobby & advocacy competencies related to each core capability.

The pool of CSO partner organisations of the GAA has undergone some changes: 47 CSOs participated in the initial baseline capacity assessment in 2016, whereas the number of CSOs in the 2018 capacity assessment was 38 (out of 46 CSOs contracted as partner organisations in 2018). Out of these, 8 were only contracted in 2018, hence the scores of 30 CSOs could be tracked for consecutive years. The changes in the pool of CSO partner organisations are primarily an indication of the adaptive nature of the GAA programme. In some countries the changes also reflect a shift from traditional partners to organisations with expertise, experience and networks more specifically tailored to GAA strategies and approaches (lobby and advocacy, networking, private sector engagement). As a consequence, aggregated capacity scores per year are difficult to compare. Developments in capacity assessments per individual organisation give more meaningful information. This also corresponds with GAAs approach to capacity development, in which primary ownership of capacity development processes lies with the CSO partner organisation and the contracting Alliance organisation and analysis of CAT scores is mainly at the level of individual partner organisations and CSO networks. Nonetheless, some trends can be identified, and general conclusions drawn at the aggregated level, when looking at the 2018 results.

Summary of Capacity Development outcomes

The majority of the Mid Term Review reports in 2018 confirmed that the capacity development support provided by the GAA programme to CSO partner organisations was essential for enhancement of their lobby and advocacy outcomes. Capacity development contributed to improved skills and knowledge of CSO partners, in particular enhanced understanding and knowledge on how to undertake lobby and advocacy initiatives (advocacy targets, formulation of policy asks, evidence-based advocacy). For instance in Sierra Leone, the assessment indicates that with capacity support from the GAA in 2018, partners learnt how to consistently track and document changes that result either directly or indirectly from their advocacy actions. Also, they were able to improve their research capacity to ensure that their advocacy issues and messages are evidence based. An example from Ghana shows that capacity development support improved partners' abilities to facilitate and support the implementation of action plans of youth advocates, to provide them with a platform and to build a coalition of champions of change across different regions.

For the majority of CSOs, the 2018 assessment shows an increase in several organisational capabilities and related competencies for lobby & advocacy. For a small number of organisations, a slight decrease in one or more capabilities was seen. In all programme countries, the majority of partners further progressed towards the targets set for 2020. In some countries, several targets have already been achieved. In India for instance, all targets have been achieved or scores exceeded the target. Comparing the 2017 score with the 2018 scores, 22 out of 30 CSOs (73%) show an increase in total score, 3 have a very minor decrease in total score and 5 have remained at equal score compared to last year.

Looking at the total scores per country, almost all countries increased the total overall score for all combined capabilities. Kenya was the only exception: their country score decreased a bit due

5 See: ecdpm.org/publications/5cs-framework-plan-monitor-evaluate-capacity-development-processes/

to a new partner with relatively low starting scores. Amongst countries with the highest overall scores are Nepal and Philippines, with average scores of around 3,5 out of 4.

At the aggregated level in 2018, as in 2016 and 2017, the CSOs identified the Capability to Relate to External Stakeholders as the strongest organisational capability, suggesting that GAA partners are well able to identify, develop and maintain relationships with constituencies, relevant advocacy targets and other CSOs and CSO networks. Also similar to 2017, the Capability to Adapt and Self-Renew and the Capability to Deliver on Objectives were identified as the least developed organisational capability. Generally however, the average scores lie close together, and vary between 3,0 and 3,4 out of 4.

AVERAGE 5C SCORES OF ALL PARTNER CSOs	2016	2017	2018
C1. Capacity to commit and act	2,8	2,9	3,2
C2. Capacity to deliver on development objectives	2,7	2,8	3,0
C3. Capacity to adapt and self-renew	2,8	2,8	3,0
C4. Capacity to attract & relate to external stakeholders	3,2	3,3	3,4
C5. Capacity to balance diversity and consistency	2,9	3,0	3,1

Looking at competences per category, the partners are the least confident in their ability to achieve financial sustainability, especially in Liberia. This is a point of attention for several countries, where there is for instance no grants officer or resource mobilisation officer in the organization, and no infrastructure or budget for fundraising strategies and activities in place. Also, the ability to align advocacy interventions with other programmatic areas of work requires extra attention, and the ability to develop a policy influencing strategy based upon a sound vision on how policy, political and social change processes evolve. Some partners also clearly expressed the need to further develop their skills in research, for evidence-based advocacy.

The ability to identify, develop and maintain relations with other CSOs, media and especially constituencies (of girls and women) and represent them had the highest score, together with the ability of the CSOs to articulate a credible long-term commitment to policy influencing. Compared to 2017, the CSOs under contract were better able to strategically plan, implement and monitor effective advocacy work and to frame and communicate advocacy messages. They are also better able to understand and navigate the policy process in the public and private sector and their (political and market) environments.

Whereas the GAA mostly measures the effects of capacity building of its partner CSOs, several activities reach a broader spectrum of CSOs, and capacity development results hence also can be observed beyond contracted partners CSOs. In the Philippines for instance, also non-GAA CSOs and community leaders were trained in GAA issues, gender policy writing, advocacy and reporting and referral mechanisms. These learning sessions have led various other CSOs to initiate orientations and awareness raising activities, to integrate gender policies in their Operations/ HR manual and to organize watch groups for children.

3.4. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OUTPUTS

The 38 contracted partner CSOs in 2018 of the GAA that participated in the annual capacity assessment are in various stages of organisational development, and the individual Capacity Development Plans per CSO reflect the different needs and capacity development focus of each CSO. Capacity development activities in 2018 have focused on general organizational strengthening, development of capacity for lobby and advocacy and specific thematic areas. Capacity Development support was mostly provided in the form of trainings. The wide pallet of capacity development activities touched upon all five of the capabilities.

Technical trainings took place on topics such as Policy and budget analysis of government budgets and Gender Responsive budgeting, to enhance CSOs abilities to participate in budgeting processes (to lobby for resource allocation). Partners have been equipped with knowledge on various legal frameworks in their respective countries that will support their lobbying with government units. Also, Human Rights Mechanism Trainings were undertaken in several countries to strengthen the link between advocacy at local and national level with international advocacy. Recommendations from CEDAW and UPR were further aligned with ongoing local/national advocacy activities as partners were equipped with skills on the use of these recommendations. All these activities have strengthened especially the Capacity to Commit and Act (C1) and the Capacity to Deliver (C2). For instance in Nepal, after partners became aware of government commitments towards international Human Rights accountability mechanisms, they got engaged in mechanisms like CEDAW through the development of a shadow report. Also, they raised concerns on GBV to the Special Rapporteur on VAW and helped field staff to sensitize local governments on their role and responsibilities for implementation of the government commitments towards these accountability mechanisms.

GAA partner CSOs were also supported in several countries through e.g. write-shops to develop or revise strategic plans, advocacy strategies, child protection policies and gender policies, addressing the Capacity to Commit and Act (C1) and the Capability to Manage Diversity and Maintain Coherence (C5). For example in Kenya, where a partner organisation refined its draft advocacy strategy and developed a new multi-annual Strategic Plan in which girls are clearly mentioned, strategic focus is placed on themes such as Women's Economic Empowerment, and that will be delivered through amongst others advocacy and movement building. In several countries staff trainings were also organised on gender sensitization and gender programming, due to which partners were able to develop a gender policy for the organization and incorporate gender sensitization and programming in its projects. In some countries such as India, trainings on media advocacy helped partners to better frame their advocacy messages, and to use these to create awareness and to build pressure on policy makers and planners.

In addition, in several countries (follow-up/refresher) sessions on lobby and advocacy were organised, and general trainings such as on financial management. Some partner organisations were assisted to develop a Theory of Change for their organisation or a specific advocacy ToC. In Bangladesh, a partner organisation did not have a M&E system and department. As an element of their capacity development plan, they developed an M&E framework and have given training to staff. In Ghana, a training in proposal writing and resource mobilization was seen to be the most successful capacity building activity in 2018. Partners learned how to scan and identify opportunities and how to package winning proposals. As a result, one organization was successful and has passed the first two levels after they submitted a proposal to a donor. To improve their financial sustainability (C2.4), partners in several countries have undertaken steps such as the development of a fundraising strategy. Much is however still to be done in this field, as scores remain low in this field in many countries. In Uganda, training in lobby and advocacy was considered the most successful activity because it was able to sharpen the different partners' skills and knowledge towards evidence-based L&A interventions.

With the involvement of youth and Youth Advocacy becoming more prominent within the GAA program, several capacity support activities were also related to this topic. In the Philippines for instance, a learning session was organized by a partner on CSEC where it was also discussed how young people could participate in combating CSEC. Another partner organized a Training of trainers on Children's Rights and UNCRC with children and youth leaders, and a Youth Advocacy Training for in-school Peer Youth Educators. These types of activities ensure that girls and young women are engaged in more active consultation and lobbying efforts, which has positively influenced scores for the Capacity to Relate (C4), the Capacity to Commit and Act (C1) and the Capacity to Deliver (C2).

In many countries the partners identify improved interaction with various stakeholders, reflected in an increase in their Capability to Relate (C4). Sometimes this is due to specific capacity building activities, for instance Private Sector engagement trainings, in which partners gained insights on how to develop strategic partnerships and engage the private sector on gender policies at the workplace and decent work. It should be noted however that in several instances an increase

in capacity was identified by partner organisations that were not one on one linked to certain activities or trainings, but could rather be interpreted as strengthened capabilities due to participation in the GAA programme in general. In addition, partners often refer to the GAA Outcome Harvesting meetings as an important capacity development activity.

3.5. INCLUSIVENESS

Girls' and young women's experiences, views and opinions inform strategies and programmatic choices of the GAA in various ways. During the GAA baseline study in 2016, focus group discussions, individual interviews and consultations with girls, boys, youth and young women were convened. In 2017 and in 2018, programme teams in various countries conducted studies, surveys or focus group discussions in which girls' and young women's experiences, views and opinions were captured. The outcomes of these researches informed programmatic choices, including advocacy messages.

Girls and young women were also involved in programme implementation in various ways. In addition to the youth advocacy trainings facilitated by the GAA International team in 2018, GAA teams in all programme countries worked with groups of girls and youth to articulate and amplify their voices at various local, district, national and international fora, ranging from meetings with traditional leaders and school boards, to national youth parliaments, regional youth summits and the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child. In many cases, the GAA was actively involved in creating or shaping these spaces for youth involvement.

First steps were also made in 2018 to bring together lessons and experiences on youth involvement towards a more comprehensive strategy on youth advocacy, taking into account issues as safeguarding, effectiveness and inclusiveness. For 2019, a global meeting with youth advocates from the ten GAA programme countries is planned in the Netherlands.

3.6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CORE INDICATORS FOR DIALOGUE & DISSENT

In line with the additional guidance on reporting on Dialogue & Dissent (D&D) programmes provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 2017, the GAA sees its contribution to the D&D core indicators in 2018 as indicated in the table below. These indicators will also be included in the GAA IATI update of 30 April 2019.

D&D KEY INDICATOR		GAA CONTRIBUTION	
DD1	# of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	292	# of cases of practice change by government, private sector and key leaders to which the GAA programme contributed in 2018. Practice change is understood as improved implementation of laws, policies and norms for sustainable and inclusive development - as a result of the GAA programme.
DD2	# of laws, policies and norms/attitudes, blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	223	# of cases of policy change by government, private sector and key leaders to which the GAA programme contributed in 2018. Policy change is understood as a positive change (improvement, adoption, amendment, blocking or rejection) in laws, policies and norms/attitudes that affect sustainable and inclusive development - as a result of the GAA programme.
DD3	# of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage	235	# of times that CSOs and CSO networks succeed in 2018 in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage - as a result of the GAA programme.

D&D KEY INDICATOR		GAA CONTRIBUTION	
DD5	# of CSOs with increased L&A capacities	22	# of contracted CSOs involved in the implementation of the GAA programme in 2018 and supported with capacity strengthening for L&A, with CAT scores that indicate an increase in organisational capacities for L&A.
		46	# of contracted CSOs involved in the implementation of the GAA programme in 2018 (not including the Dutch alliance organisations and their local offices and/or branches) and supported with capacity strengthening for L&A.
		2.015	# of non-contracted CSOs, involved in the GAA programme in 2018, including but not limited to CBOs, CSO networks, youth groups and girls clubs.
DD6	# of CSOs included in SPs programmes	46	# of contracted CSOs involved in the implementation of the GAA programme in 2018 (not including the Dutch alliance organisations and their local offices and/or branches) and supported with capacity strengthening for L&A.
		2.015	# of non-contracted CSOs, involved in the GAA programme in 2018, including but not limited to CBOs, CSO networks, youth groups and girls clubs.



4. THEORY OF CHANGE

As part of their annual planning process, GAA teams regularly assess the validity and relevance of the assumptions and the pathways of change of their contextualised Theories of Change. As an outcome of these assessments in 2017 and 2018, most teams fine-tuned one or more of the assumptions of their ToCs and/or made adjustments to the pathways of change.

Overall, as confirmed by the Mid Term Review, most assumptions remain valid and relevant. Moreover, the outcomes of the programme as validated by the Mid Term Review process do not provide arguments to change the order and nature of changes as outlined in the overall Theory of Change of the GAA.

The past three years of programme implementation did however yield new insights and critical reflections on the Theory of Change that will be considered in a more thorough reassessment of the overall Theory of Change and its assumptions in 2019. This was planned to take place in the context of the Mid Term Review, in 2018, but has been postponed to next year.

The reassessment will take into account a number of observations, including but not limited to the following:

- Although the distinction between agenda setting, policy change and practice change has always been considered as a necessary simplification of a highly complex reality, outcomes of the programme thus far support the consideration to adjust this aspect of the Theory of Change into a less linear or cyclical reflection of the intricacies of advocacy that is also more applicable to GAA's work at the level of communities, CSOs and the Private Sector;
- Whereas the GAA Theory of Change assumes that "CSOs, in particular girls' and women's rights organisations, have long-term commitment to shape political agendas, create political will and monitor implementation" (assumption 1) and "CSOs are willing and able to use increased organisational capability for effective lobby and advocacy actions" (assumption 4), evidence and experiences from Alliance Programme Teams suggest that a considerable number of CSOs in the wider environment of GAA partners focus on service delivery, and are reluctant to move towards advocacy for girls and young women. At the same time, many signs have emerged of stronger (joint) advocacy by more like-minded CSOs;
- The pathway of change on the Private Sector will also be reassessed, notably the relative importance of business cases, corporate 'forerunners', legislation and concrete action perspectives as 'drivers' for change in supply chains;
- Attention will also be paid to assumptions (3) Use of ICT, social media and research improves the quality (relevance, urgency) of lobby and advocacy actions; (8) involvement of men and boys; and (9) Mass media reflect and sustain popular norms and values.

5. COLLABORATION, HARMONISATION AND LEARNING

5.1. COLLABORATION AND HARMONISATION

As in previous years, GAA, alliance organisations in 2018 invited Dutch embassies to participate in monitoring, assessment and reflection, including validation of programme outcomes during the Mid Term Review and assessment of changes in the external context. GAA organisations also participated in exchange meetings and linking and learning sessions organised by Dutch embassies in the context of the Dialogue & Dissent framework and/or broader civil society engagement. As a result of these interactions, meaningful exchange of information and contacts between the GAA and Dutch embassies took place in Uganda, Philippines, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana and Bangkok (through the GAA Asia team).

It has been challenging to extend the collaboration with Dutch embassies beyond information exchange. Various factors are at play, including weak thematic match between GAA issues and the sector priorities of embassies' Multi Annual Strategic Plans (MASPs), limited capacity for more intensive collaboration at the side of embassies. Also, local GAA organisations in some cases lack a clear vision of how Dutch diplomacy can contribute to their advocacy efforts. Still, some positive developments were observed in 2018:

- In the Philippines, the GAA and the Embassy continued to work together in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation, and initial steps were made to link with the private sector network of the Embassy;
- In India, the GAA conducted a business case study with private sector companies supported through the Dutch embassy network. The study was disseminated among this network as well;
- Working relationships with the Dutch embassy in Ghana remained very good. Through the Embassy, the GAA team is currently liaising with the Dutch Business Chamber of Commerce. The relationship has even extended to Liberia and Sierra Leone, where the Dutch Ambassador has supported GAA advocacy to reverse the ban on pregnant girls attending school through the meeting of ambassadors of EU countries;

There is a clear ambition to collaborate with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the level of the Dutch and international programmes. The revised advocacy strategy towards the Dutch private sector was discussed with and approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2018, and where relevant, actions towards the IRBC agreements were discussed and aligned with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Taskforce Gender Equality). Contacts were also established with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland, RVO) on a market study on investment opportunities in Nepal. Contact persons for the GAA at the Ministry continued to change in 2018.

The expected strengthening of the collaboration with the embassy in Dhaka in the context of the adjusted strategy towards the Dutch private sector has not yet materialised. Collaboration and harmonisation with other Dutch Strategic Partnerships in the context of the RMG sector in Bangladesh was strengthened, notably with the Fair Wear Foundation. In Nepal, steps were made to coordinate with the Dutch consulate in Kathmandu, particularly on promoting young women's participation in the travel and tourism sector.

At the international and Dutch level, GAA organisations collaborated on a regular basis with other Strategic Partnerships, for example on the drafting and finalisation of inputs for policy debates and briefings.

5.2. CHALLENGES

As underlined by the Mid Term Review, the variety of themes and subthemes addressed by the GAA organisations and their partners was an important challenge for the alliance in 2018. An effort has been made to limit the number of policy areas per programme component in 2019, and to further align the advocacy efforts of the various organisations. With regards to the efforts towards the Dutch private sector, the alliance successfully strengthened its focus on specific actors and strategies, while making good use of each organisation's specific strengths, experience and networks.

Several steps were taken in 2018 to strengthen the quality of outcome data generated by the alliance organisations and their partners. Thorough feedback was provided to the Outcome Lists during the Mid Term Review, and another investment in quality improvement was made for this Annual Report. An interactive data visualisation tool, Power BI, was developed and tailored to the needs of the GAA, to allow for alliance-level analysis of monitoring data from the IATI databases of the three alliance organisations, as well as from manually generated Outcome Lists.

The programme's strong focus on context-specific learning and reflection helped to ensure the relevance of the fourteen programme components of the GAA in their specific contexts. It did not, however, support cross-country linking, learning and exchange. Steps were made in 2018 to address this challenge, notably the production of a learning booklet and three brief documentaries in the context of the Mid Term Review, based on advocacy cases from the programme, and the planning of two regional Learning Meetings in the beginning of 2019.

5.3. LEARNING

The GAA has a coordinated learning agenda, with key learning questions that focus on three main issues related to the 10 core assumptions of the GAA Theory of Change – see annex II. All programme teams developed a learning calendar, in which they identified a learning issue and related questions, and indicated how these will be addressed.

Most programme teams undertook a variety of explicit learning activities in 2018 – a marked increase from 2017. All APTs reported relevant learnings from their involvement in the GAA in 2018. A lot of these learnings evolve around what works and what does not work (so well) in advocacy for girls and young women's rights, and reflect a combination of learning-by-doing, reflection and exchange, as well as specific capacity support in the form of various trainings, either undertaken by the alliance itself or through participation in external (regional) knowledge events. In the Netherlands for example, an internal masterclass on the tourism sector was organised, and in the Philippines, the GAA set up a learning trajectory to prepare its participation in the upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) process and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2019. Many APTs moreover conducted mappings and studies to feed their advocacy work, including youth-led surveys and researches, national stakeholder workshops, and private sector mappings and compliance assessments. The GAA International team for instance, conducted a research on the connectedness between gender-based violence and economic empowerment of girls and young women. The GAA Asia team undertook a study into young people's contributions to the SDGs, and a research to develop the business case for investing on women workers' economic empowerment in the Ready Made Garment (RMG) sector in Bangladesh. In addition, guidelines for the development of business cases were developed and shared with the GAA teams in Asia.

GAA organisations and partners also actively explored the role of civil society (organisations) in the fight against gender-based violence and economic exclusion of girls and young women. The GAA teams in India, Nepal and Bangladesh for example, organised learning workshops and sessions with CSOs, resulting in learning papers on several related topics, such as working with CSO networks.

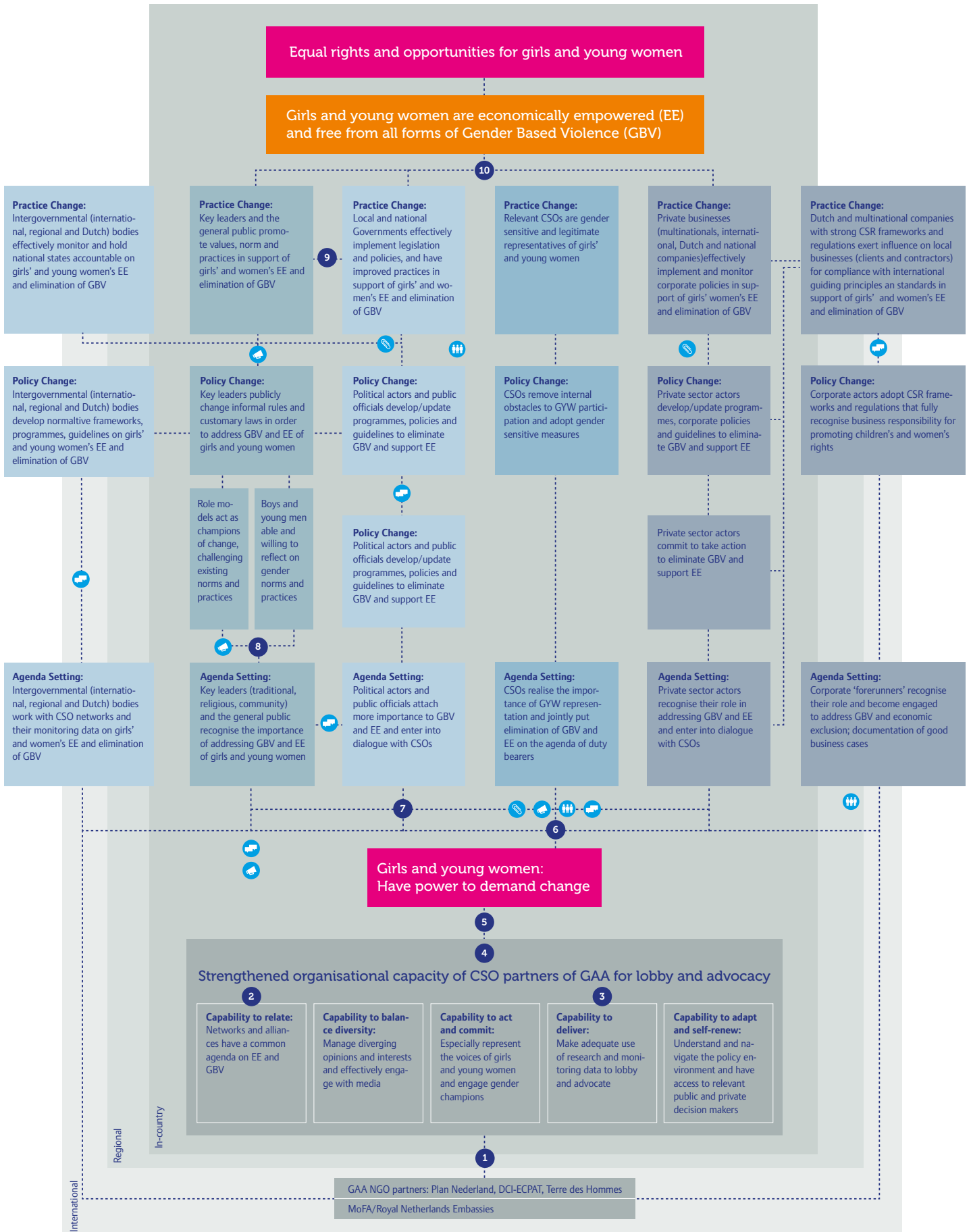
As outlined above, steps were made to strengthen learning and exchange at the overall alliance level. Three brief documentaries on social change were produced, based on advocacy cases

from different GAA programme countries. These cases also formed the basis of a learning booklet 'Societies in transition', that was finalised in the beginning of 2019. The documentaries and the booklet are available at www.girlsadvocacyalliance.org. Also foreseen for 2019 is the inventory of contents from researches and other learning activities by the GAA teams for sharing across the alliance and beyond. Finally, in 2018, preparatory work was done for two regional meetings, planned for the first months of 2019, and for a learning meeting at the Ministry in the Netherlands.



Photo credit: Plan International

Annexe I. Theory of Change of the Girls Advocacy Alliance



Assumptions of the Theory of Change of the Girls Advocacy Alliance

1. CSOs, in particular girls and women's right organisations, have long-term commitment to shape political agendas, create political will and monitor implementation.
2. Collaboration between CSOs with different mandates to fight for a common goal will strengthen each individual CSO and benefit all their constituencies
3. Use of ICT, social media and research improves the quality (relevance, urgency) of lobby and advocacy actions.
4. CSOs are able and willing to use increased organisational capacity for effective lobby and advocacy actions.
5. Lobby and advocacy strategies, at all levels, have to be substantiated and supported if not carried out by a substantial part of the group they are supposed to benefit.
6. Stronger CSOs that are accountable to their constituency cannot be neglected by democratic states.
7. Stronger CSO networks ensure that the issues of Gender Based Violence and economic exclusion gain priority on the public and political agenda.
8. Involving boys and men's organisations and traditional and religious leaders increases public awareness and norms change on Gender Based Violence.
9. Mass media reflect and sustain popular norms and values.
10. Gender Based Violence cannot be eradicated without economic empowerment.

Annexe II. Key learning questions of the Girls Advocacy Alliance

ISSUE	LEARNING QUESTION	SPECIFIC LEARNING QUESTIONS (PROPOSED)
Social norms	How do gender discriminatory social norms change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which specific social norms are mostly influencing individual attitudes and behaviour towards the specific GAA issues (such as, child marriage, FGM, sexual violence, access to post-primary education and TVET, decent work and entrepreneurship) • What is the influence of (new and traditional) media on processes of social norms change? • What is the influence of boys and men on processes of social norms change? • How do traditional and religious leaders become motivated to act as champions of change for social norms of gender equality?
Role of civil society	How do broad and effective civil society coalitions advocating for gender equality develop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which civil society actors are most willing and able to act as 'convener' of broader civil society coalitions? • Which kind of inter-organizational structures and arrangements characterize effective civil society coalitions? • How to involve non-traditional civil society actors (such as, religious groups) in a civil society coalition based upon a clear agenda for gender equality? • What are the most effective responses of civil society coalitions to restrictive measures undertaken by government reducing the operating space for civil society?
GBV and economic exclusion	How can governments and private sector actors effectively integrate anti-GBV measures in economic policies and programs and vice versa?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What examples of effective economic policies and programmes which have in-built anti-GBV measures do we know of? • What are the incentives for political leaders and decision-makers to integrate anti-GBV and economic empowerment measures into single laws, policies and programmes? • What kind of economic policies and programmes offer the best opportunities for including anti-GBV issues? • What kind of protection policies and programmes offer the best opportunities for including economic empowerment issues?

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Girls Advocacy Alliance is one of the strategic partners of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Dialogue and Dissent framework.