Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability (YW4A)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

WorldYWCA | **YW4A**
AWARENESS | AGENCY | ADVOCACY | ACCOUNTABILITY

Message from the YW4A Steering group chair

It is a privilege to serve as the chair of the YW4A Steering Group, and represent the Lead organization, World YWCA, for the YW4A consortium of Faith to Action, Equality Now, Royal Tropical Institute, YWCA South Sudan, YWCA Kenya, YWCA Palestine, and Ibrahimia Media Centre. It is also a privilege to be witness to the YW4A design, born out of a commitment to working in collaboration and a belief that when young women, women's rights organizations, faith-based organizations, and governments work together with intention, setting aside differences and instead lean into a shared commitment to gender equality and sustainable transformational change, good things happen.

This "collaboration" and "leaning in" is often easier written than lived. To bring the visions represented in the four primary pathways and areas of outcome of YW4A to life, there is a constancy of clarity of vision, commitment to problem solving, and patience for what can be challenging and seemingly slow progress. It also requires authentic and thoughtful investment, building, and ongoing nurturing of relationships.

While this first-year report demonstrates the quantitative success of the inception year of YW4A, the coming to life of the programme is seen in the qualitative analysis. The analysis, findings and conclusions not only set a strong foundation for 2022, but confirm the premise of the design of YW4A that formal entities, working together with young women leaders, results in confirmation, discovery, recovery, and evolving plans to ensure that through advocacy, young women's rights to inclusion and protection from sexual and gender-based violence are promoted and sustained.

Congratulations to each and every person that has contributed to this dynamic spirit and commitment to collaboration and change for good that we call YW4A. And, a sincere thank you to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for providing resources for this consortium to pursue an ambitious and creative design and an inspired vision.

Sincerely,

Casey Harden

General Secretary
World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AOCA: Advocacy and Organisational Capacity Assessment
CAPaD: Christian Agency for Peace and Development
CCC: Central Coordination Committee
CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO: Civil society organisation
CWG: Communications Working Group
ELCJHL: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
F2A: Faith to Action Network
FBO: Faith-based organisation
GBV: Gender-based violence
GEF: Generation Equality Forum
GTMEL: Gender transformative monitoring, evaluation, and learning
IATI: International Aid Transparency Initiative
IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IMC: Ibrahimia Media Centre
KIT: KIT Royal Tropical Institute
MENA: Middle East and North Africa
MEL: Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MoFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
NGO: Non-governmental organisation
PD: Participatory Design
PMC: Project Management Committee
PoW: Power of Women
RARCSS: Revitalised Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan
RJMEC: Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
SEAH: Safeguarding Against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
SGBV: Sexual and gender-based violence
SOAWR: Solidarity for African Women's Rights
ToC: Theory of Change
UN: United Nations
UPR: Universal Periodic Review
WRO: Women's rights organisation
YWCA: Young Women's Christian Association
YW4A: Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability
YWRG: Young Women's Reference Group

ONE

Introduction and Context Analysis

1.1. Introduction

This report is a consolidated summary of the work conducted by partners in the inception year of the YW4A Programme in 2021. The report outlines the environment in which the programme was implemented, achievements against set work plans, lessons learnt, and progress towards outcomes. The report is divided into four major sections that discuss an analysis of the implementing environment, programmatic performance and progress against indicators, reflections on the programme Theory of Change (ToC) and learning agenda, as well as good practices and lessons learnt.

1.2. YW4A approach and methodology

The YW4A Programme hinges on four main pathways to enhance young women's leadership and tackle sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Egypt, Kenya, Palestine, and South Sudan. These pathways use the following overarching strategies:

Our approach to organisational and advocacy capacity development: this is based on the acknowledgement that a vibrant and competent civil society is a prerequisite for any transformational change.

Our approach to young women's transformative leadership: it pivots on building young women's agency, advocacy capacity, leadership capacity, and access to leadership and decision-making spaces, from local to international levels. Methodologies used in this endeavour include the World YWCA's RiseUp! Leadership training, creation of physical and virtual safe spaces for young women, and the Young Women's Feminist Consultation methodology.

Our interfaith approach: this entails working with faith leaders and faith-based organisations (FBOs) to transform norms and practices that inhibit the protection of young women's dignity, body integrity, and participation in decision-making. This strategy includes promoting positive masculinities within religious institutions and communities.

Our legal and policy advocacy approach: it aims to influence the effective implementation, repeal, adoption, and/or amendment of laws and policies to promote young women's leadership and eliminate SGBV.

1.3. Reflection on the implementation context

Egypt: the family law agenda in Egypt provided a critical entry point for YW4A's legal advocacy training. Except for the Maputo Protocol, Egypt has signed and ratified all major human rights conventions and treaties. However, the country also made reservations to many articles of these treaties, citing potential contradictions with Islamic Sharia and/or national laws. Such reservations weaken the enforcement of these treaties and give Egypt grounds to avoid positively affect national laws, thereby undermining women's rights.

However, at the state level there is some political will to promote women's rights, even if this is met by resistance from fervent patriarchal and conservative views and values. Some evidence of the government's political will to promote women's rights include Decrees no. 43 of 2021 and 44 of 2021, representing significant achievements. For example, these mandates launched the National Strategy for Human Rights in September 2021; and recent progress in terms of gender parity in the House of Representatives—128 seats in the House of Representatives are held by women after the 2021 elections, with a rate of more than 28%. This is in line with YW4A project targets regarding the promotion of gender-just policies and laws and the expansion of women's voices and their equal participation in decision-making.

Kenya: the country's leadership in the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) has provided a significant opportunity to shape the legal reform and implementation agenda, while the demands of the Covid-19 pandemic were a factor in implementing training and meetings throughout the year. The main enabling condition for the implementation in the Covid-19 context was that the programme used virtual platforms for training and communication, considering the team's extensive experience in using these platforms due to frequent use in project administration and coordination. However, the digital divide is wide, limiting opportunities for some young women to be engaged and participate in different online activities.

Politically, the country has experienced stability due to reduced political activities following the decision by the high court and the court of appeal to suspend the Constitutional Amendment Bill popularly known as the Building Bridges Initiatives which was dividing the country. There was consensus that the Kenyan national legislative framework is largely adequate, with limited implementation of progressive provisions being a major constraint. As one of the Action Leaders of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Coalition, the government of Kenya can be held accountable for its existing national, regional, and international legal obligations, including under the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals, among others.

Palestine: the absence of a functioning parliament (legislative assembly) in Palestine and the existence of multiple legal systems represent a significant challenge to legal reform and advocacy. This is because checks and balances between the different arms of government become complex as laws are made exclusively through Presidential decrees (orders). This reduces the chances of passing gender-progressive legislation. On the other hand, laws could be passed/decreed faster if the President has the political will to do so.

Unfortunately, Palestine cannot access some human rights bodies—specifically UN-related bodies—since it is not recognised as a state. For example, Palestine cannot be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a state, though representatives may make submissions or comments on issues raised in other countries by being granted a non-member observer status in the UN. Additionally, there is one regional body within the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA)—the League of Arab Nations—that Palestinian women's rights organisations (WROs) can explore to raise human rights issues. Yet, the effectiveness of this regional body is undermined due to the non-inclusive nature of its structure (which excludes the participation of civil society), and the non-willingness of member states to abide by its recommendations even though they have been voted for by a majority in its General Assembly. Palestine also acknowledges multiple legal systems operating within one geographical region. This leads to a conflict of laws and a unique set of challenges that the WROs must address intentionally in their advocacy campaigns in Palestine.

In addition, the operating environment was restrictive due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the enforcement of continuous lockdown periods in MENA. The state of emergency over Covid-19 decreed by the President in the West Bank continued in 2021. Major conflicts included the airstrikes on Gaza in May, continued illegal home demolitions, and forced eviction of Palestinians in the West Bank, including the Eastern Part of Jerusalem and the Negev desert. Due to the occupation, restrictions—especially on freedom of expression, movement, and association—were also enforced in 2021.

South Sudan: the Parliament of South Sudan approved the ratification of the Maputo Protocol, but this has not been endorsed by the President, and the instrument of ratification has not been deposited with the African Union Commission. The Constitutional review process provided an interactive platform to engage in legal reform discourse, and establishing Parliament introduced new actors working towards the adoption of legislation. Consultations were held with women leaders and from grassroots organisations in the three greater regions of South Sudan (Wau, Bor, and Torit) as part of the constitution-making process. The meaningful involvement of women in this process is mandated in the Revitalised Agreement for the Resolution of

Conflict in South Sudan (RARCSS) and is critical to legitimise the process, and ultimately the permanent constitution, as well as appropriate consideration and guarantee of aspirations of South Sudanese women. The consultations tackled everyday issues related to biased laws and norms that deny women's fair share in participation, inheritance, education, and equitable access to land. However, the Acts and Policies of South Sudan are not accessible to the public as they are in Kenya.

The legal framework in South Sudan provides for a 35% gender quota and criminalises many forms of GBV, including sexual violence, assault, forced marriage, and abuse. However, gaps remain in the definitions and elements of these crimes and in enforcement that inhibit the effective prevention and redress of GBV. Some provisions in the legal framework are discriminatory because they allow for some rights to be granted on an unequal basis, according to gender, age, or other inherent characteristics, yielding them inconsistent with regional and international standards. Additionally, the requirements of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continued to be a factor in implementing training and meetings throughout the year.

1.4. Output from the first year of implementation

During the proposal development stage, the YW4A Consortium set year 1 as the year to establish all project teams, programme structure, and infrastructure, as well as to conduct the programme baselines of the four Pathways and to finetune the monitoring and evaluation framework. However, what was not anticipated was the continued and increased impact of the Covid–19 pandemic, resulted in careful and intentional strategies to ensure young women and CSOs' meaningful participation in activities. .

Figure 1: year 1 achievements

Activities conducted in 2021 under the YW4A Programme
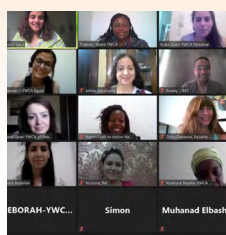
Transversal achievements

Conducted global and country inception meetings; engaged MoFA and country embassies; conducted Programme governance and working group meetings; developed Programme Communications Strategy and Branding Guidelines; facilitated particpatory development of Programme logo and website development; developed of anti-SEAH framework; conducted data protection and digital safety actions; conducted Consortium and FBO capacity building and technical support; developed of Participatory Design of outcome MEL framework; conducted one baseline assessment per Pathway and conducted preparatory training and meetings and developed and facilitated the Consortium learning agenda.

Pathway 1 Achievements

Conducted advocacy and organisational capacity (AOCA) assessments; mapped out the relevant legal and policy frameworks in each country; conducted general and legal advocacy training; conducted inter generational dialogues to identify advocacy priorities and strategies in each country; facilitated regional learning groups with WROs; mapped CSOs that are likeminded and have similar advocacy agendas; facilitated partnership and coalition building and supported young women's engagement with the Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR).

Pathway 2 Achievements

Engaged and mobilised young women for the first Cohort of training; conducted leadership assessments of the young women; conducted capacity building of partners, WROs, and the first Cohort of young women in the RiseUp! Leadership training model, the World YWCA Feminist Consultation methodology (FCM) and facilitating safe spaces; facilitated the review and adaptation of the RiseUp! Leadership training model to suit each unique country context; facilitated safe spaces and empowering dialogues among the young women; signed partnership agreements with universities in Palestine; developed storytelling training material; mapped and identified global opportunities for engagement and participation of young women; held consultations and identified advocacy priorities using FCM and conducted global awareness campaign on ending GBV in the countries.

Pathway 3 Achievements

Produced material on Women's Rights and Islam; facilitated Protestant and Orthodox-focused gender equality advocacy dialogue spaces; convened dialogues to develop a faith-based advocacy agenda and strategy; conducted an annual interfaith meeting on national advocacy strategies, progress, and learning; developed and implemented a faith-based communications plan; convened the interfaith advisory working group; convened interfaith dialogue spaces; conducted research on Family Laws; developed and conducted a faith-based gender assessment ; facilitated the capacity building ; conducted FBO capacity assessments; conducted bilateral advocacy meetings with senior faith leaders; conducted interfaith exchange visits and facilitated safe spaces for women's rights champions, faith leaders and young couples.

Pathway 4 Achievements

Mapped the legal landscape in each country; developed and translated an advocacy training manual for WROs; conducted media advocacy training for WROs; developed and began implementation of national and county legal advocacy strategies; mapped regional and international platforms (human rights bodies); facilitated public accountability forums and supported the development of evidence-based advocacy and county level knowledge products.

1.5. Reflection on programmatic and organisational risks

The Consortium undertook robust country-specific risk analyses which were continuously monitored and updated throughout the year. Some major risks that materialised or posed significant threats to the programme are as follows:

1.5.1 External risks

Political risks: these materialised in 2021 following conflict, civil unrest, and tensions particularly in Palestine and South Sudan. As discussed above, the changes in the political landscape shrunk the civic society space, and restricted basic freedoms. Under the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestine, there were reports of continued oppression and human rights violations targeted at Palestinians in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. These violations are manifested in military attacks, home demolitions, systematic forced displacement, movement restriction and land appropriation arrests, and the withdrawal of identity cards. However, this did not obstruct the participation of targeted groups, partners, and staff in the programme. Instead, there were some delays in implementation, where staff preferred to wait out any conflict that arose. In addition, most programme areas were not directly affected. The programme team in South Sudan halted implementation whenever there were internal uprisings or tensions following the coup in neighbouring Sudan.

1.5.2 Programmatic risks

The global health crisis: to guarantee responsiveness to the context, partners ensured regular engagement (almost bi-weekly) with WROs and FBOs, facilitating understanding of shifting contexts and nuances regarding prioritised needs. This also contributed to the anticipation and mitigation of specific risks, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. An assessment done at the start of the programme among the WROs and FBOs, revealed that the most common impacts of the pandemic across the organisations were disruption of office and field operations (76%); inability to meet communities (64%); a further shrinking of the civic society space as organisations could not engage with other civil society organisations (CSOs) and stakeholders (60%); challenges with remote or online work due to limited access to devices and the internet, as well as inadequate capacity to use online platforms (56%); and, though at least 52% of the organisations remained fully operational during the pandemic, their workload increased due to Covid-19 response in addition to their regular work. Using this information, partners' work plans made considerations to address and mitigate this impact. This included using funds initially planned for face-to-face meetings to, instead, strengthen digital access and the organisation's capacity. While programme objectives remained unaltered, some strategies were adapted. The programme used a combination of physical and virtual training sessions, workshops, and data collection,

and accelerated the pace of implementation during slower periods while observing all health protocols. This ensured that the programme stays on track.

A highly collaborative programme design: the YW4A design hinges on convergence of multiple WROs, FBOs, and other women's rights advocates for joint action to influence norms, policies, and laws that protect women's rights in the four countries. This means bringing together partners, who in some cases are working together for the first time. The Consortium Lead—World YWCA— invested time and resources in facilitating cohesion and collaboration among Consortium members. This will continue as mutual accountability is key to the success of the initiative. The partners are also committed to strengthen programme coordination and planning at country levels through the foundational country coordination mechanism—that is, the Central Coordination Committee (CCC). The CCC is a body convened by each country lead and composed of representatives from the local WROs and FBOs, technical partners, young women, and in some cases other stakeholders that include academia and local government staff. This contributes to local ownership and institutionalisation of processes and practices.

Proposal plan versus reality during the implementation: despite well-thought-out country-specific programme designs, theories of change, work plans, and risk mitigation strategies, the reality of the operating environment at the beginning of 2021 was not entirely anticipated (See section 2.1. of the report). This resulted in the revision of planned strategies and activities, budget realignments, and underspending or shortfalls in some budget lines. To manage these changes, the lead developed tools for partners to obtain official and documented approval for proposed changes, in line with MoFA's accountability requirements, as well as using quarterly forecasts, narrative and expenditure reports, and a semi-annual disbursement schedule based on proven expenditure. World YWCA also submitted a request to MoFA to carry over unspent funds to 2022, based on a recovery work and action plan to implement outstanding and/or emergent activities as a result of baseline assessments.

Programme country access challenges: YW4A partners experienced challenges in accessing young women due to cumbersome (and sometimes unofficial) bureaucratic processes. The Consortium, in collaboration with MoFA aims to find practical solutions to alleviate the cumbersome nature of some of these process to ensure access to young women and WROs.

1.5.3 Organisational risks

Digital access: as the programme had to be creative and innovative in reaching young women following Covid-19 restrictions, using technology became a preferred option. However, as YW4A works with young women with different and intersecting realities, a majority of them have limited access to computers and the internet, making this a partially effective solution. Furthermore, the digital space is new to some of the young women, who felt intimidated to meaningfully engage. The digital risk encompassed vulnerability to online abuse and lack of litigation to protect young women. Within the safeguarding framework, YW4A developed guidance to minimise these risks. Limitations in digital access and/or capacity also applied to some of the WROs and FBOs, especially in South Sudan. Before meetings, training, or online engagements, the programme assessed the capability of partners to access the internet or online services. In some instances, arrangements were made so that WROs engaging virtually could meet in a single location with good connectivity. To reach young women, partners took advantage of periods when they could travel and convene physical meetings. Data collection during baseline assessments used hybrid methods to engage the young women.

Sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) safeguarding: the YW4A Programme hinges on collaboration between young women and various stakeholders. The power imbalance in such a scenario is endemic due to age, access to resources and influence drawn from experience. For us, institutionalising safeguarding measures against SEAH was and continues to be a priority. The risk is exacerbated where unequal power dynamics, gender inequality, and transactional pressures exist. The programme developed the YW4A Programme Safeguarding Against SEAH Framework which will guide safeguarding efforts. Focus on the next years is the adaptation and operationalisation of the Framework in the different partner and country contexts, as well as linkages to required referral service providers in each locality.

1.6. Reflection on cross-cutting issues

Digital divide among young women: at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the digital divide and exclusion among young women were evident, resulting in unequal access and participation in some programme activities. In Migori, Kenya, for example, many young women do not have access to smartphones, thereby limiting opportunities for learning and convening digital safe

spaces. However, those that do have access to digital devices reported higher incidents of cyberbullying, specifically targeting women who are political leaders. As a result, women are reluctant to take up decision-making spaces and to speak out against SGBV, more so as support from other women is limited online. This is an issue that YW4A aims to address.

Mental health and psychosocial support for young women survivors of SGBV: Some young women in the four countries revealed that they were survivors of SGBV and are experiencing mental health issues, such as self-isolation, depression, attempted suicide, fear, and self-blame. The programme team engaged the affected young women further during safe space dialogues and identified the need for psychosocial support. As a priority for 2022, the four programme countries will coordinate mapping of women-friendly referral services at local level, creating a support base on intersecting issues faced. YW4A is working towards integrating trauma counselling and care for SGBV survivors into the initiative, by working with skilled and experienced service providers.

The necessity of coalition building: although YWCA South Sudan has begun collaboration with local WROs and FBOs, it is a priority to map out stronger and larger CSOs and stakeholders to build a vibrant network to pursue a common advocacy agenda. For example, SGBV is rampant in the country and is attributed partly to the slow implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement. During the peace event, participants noted that SGBV issues in conflict-affected areas such as Yei, Mundri, Yambio, and some parts of Juba are mainly perpetrated by the military personnel. Such issues cannot be raised by an individual or an institution due to fear of intimidation and retaliation. However, a platform such as the Peace Event brought various CSOs and stakeholders to jointly assess the peace process and develop solutions to address the poor implementation of the Peace Agreement, while condemning violence against women and holding the government accountable. Therefore, a stronger network of women's rights advocates is a necessity in South Sudan. The participating CSOs are in discussion to form a network to consolidate efforts to transform harmful norms and practices related to SGBV across South Sudan. This could be done by engaging with political decision makers and the private sector (national, regional, and international levels) to push for a shift and policy change. Below, a summary of the partnerships and coalitions that YW4A partners are involved in in the different countries.

Figure 2. Partnerships and coalitions that YW4A partners are involved in

In-country Networks / Working Groups / Coalitions that YW4A WROs are a part of

Egypt	• Alliance of NGOs Forum in the National Council for Women • Alliance of the coalition of combating violence against women in the National Council for Women • Alliance of NGOs in the Arab world with V-Day Karama organization to combat violence against women • Alliance with the Musawah International Movement, working on gender equality from an Islamic perspective • The State of African Women Campaign
Kenya	• Kenya Gender Sector Working Groups in all 3 counties • Court Users Committees • Muungano Gender forum in Kisii • Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR)
Palestine	• Palestinian NGOs against violence against women- Al Muntada • The Civic and Women Coalition for the Implementation of CEDAW in the Occupied State of Palestine • The Palestinian National Coalition for the Implementation of Resolution 1325

South Sudan

- South Sudan Youth Organizations coalition
- Reconstituted Joint M&E Commission
- GBV cluster, Girls not Bride Network, Women Bloc
- Reformed National Transitional Legislative Assembly
- Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements, Monitoring Mechanisms
- Council of State
- National Human Rights Forum
- Association of Female Journalists
- South Sudan Law Society and BAR Association
- South Sudan Council of Churches

Regional coalitions

- African Union
- SOAWR
- FemWISE-Africa
- Women in Africa
- Defend defenders- East and Horn of Africa Human Rights in partnership with South Sudan Human Rights commission
- IGAD
- Coalition of Human Rights
- Committee on Regional Feminism

1.7. Partnerships and shifting power

Power analysis between consortiums, technical and implementing partners, WROs, and young women: YW4A committed to including young women in decision-making throughout the programme. Through the young women's reference groups (YWRGs), young women actively take part in technical planning and implementation of the programme, particularly RiseUp! Leadership training in Pathway 2 and participatory monitoring design and implementation. During safe space dialogues to identify advocacy priorities in Egypt, Kenya, Palestine, and South Sudan, the WROs and young women led the process in their communities and counties. The advocacy manual was developed thereafter, and training was tailor-made to respond to specific contexts, mapping out needs, specific actors, and relevant remedial actions. Once trained, the FBOs and WROs, with the support of the programme, will jointly guide the implementation of the advocacy strategy.

The programme held regular consultations with country leads and technical partners as espoused in YW4A's principles of inclusion, partnerships, and collaboration in decision-making and knowledge transfer. Through the country coordination committees and country leads, partners ensured inclusion in planning and executing each component of the programme as YW4A partners appreciate shared responsibility for effective implementation. Technical partners held several bilateral meetings with each country team to map out the best strategies to undertake joint activities and to understand the demands and nuances that exist

in different country contexts. Even concerning technical aspects of the programme, the technical partners created an environment conducive to attaining local leadership and collaboration with and among local partners. For example, under Pathway 1, country-specific Advocacy and Organisational Capacity Assessment (AOCA) results validation workshops brought in different local partners, some of whom were working together for the first time. Therefore, each workshop was designed to ensure maximum interaction and development of working relationships among the WROs and FBOs. The workshops allowed for sharing of and reflection on common and unique capacity strengthening needs. The WROs identified collective learning questions to advance young women's rights to bodily integrity and equal participation in decision-making.

The country leads also ensured upward and downward accountability to ensure inclusion and collaboration. For example, YWCA Kenya constantly checked the status of retention of young women in Cohort 1 and progress of the WROs advocacy activities. The WROs also ensured YWCA Kenya's accountability on the status of the AOCA final reports, baseline results, and planned activities. This was mainly done through emails and phone calls. Similarly, in Palestine, the development of the year 2 work plan was a highly participatory process through meetings and constant communication. The young women and WROs identified priority activities in Pathway 2, topics of focus, and timelines rooted in the results of the baseline assessment. In subsequent years, following further capacity building, the country leads will play a critical role in integrating and harmonising detailed country-level plans across pathways and monitoring implementation.

Strengthening civil society alliances nationally and globally: YW4A partners participated in various meetings and webinars to strengthen networking, collaboration, and coordination in the programme. At the global level, there were several learning platforms—at SCS and PoW levels—while PoW alliances took the initiative to self-mobilise and convene outside the MoFA meetings. This was critical in sharing best practices as most alliances, including YW4A, were overwhelmed with administrative requirements of the programme. At the country level, YW4A partnered with MoFA-funded alliances and other stakeholders to commemorate 16 Days of Activism against GBV and the strategic partners' boot camp, thereby exploring synergies and opportunities for joint ventures in advocating for the rights of women and girls. In Egypt, the Dutch Embassy convened an inception meeting for all partners with the same objective of coordination and collaboration.

The Embassy also participated in the YW4A RiseUp! Leadership training held for young women in Alexandria, further strengthening transparency and accountability in the partnership.

YW4A partners, under the leadership of the World YWCA, applied to commit to the GEF Action Coalition on GBV. GEF offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity for public and private development actors across the globe to advance the rights of women and girls. Through a commitment to the Action Coalition on GBV, the YW4A partners contribute to galvanising collective action, increasing investment, and delivering concrete, game-changing results to end GBV. The response to the application is still pending.

Conflict sensitivity and Do no Harm measures: the programme countries have their own unique highly sensitive contexts that make this an inalienable component of the programme. In Palestine, the partners focused on participation and inclusion, towards building ownership. This was achieved through ongoing consultations with the partners in planning and implementation to ensure that the topics in the leadership training of young women under Pathway 2 are relevant to the needs of the young women while ensuring cultural and social sensitivity. In all the four countries, the programme facilitated contextualisation of the RiseUp! Leadership manual, to ensure alignment with the local context that young women and women live in.

In communications—to contextualise messaging and for efficient operationalisation of the Communications and Advocacy Strategy from year 2 onwards, and to ensure sensitivity to the areas of operation—the YW4A communications working group (CWG) is guiding the establishment of in-country communication working groups that would comprise representatives from WROs and FBOs. In addition to this, the CWG reviews and validates all messaging disseminated by the programme. The same due diligence was incorporated in the finalisation and translation of the programme logo and visibility materials.

In 2021, the programme engaged young women, WROs, different religious institutions, and community actors in preparing messages to be disseminated within their communities to avoid cultural insensitivity. The FBOs also consulted the relevant religious authorities to consider religious text, scripture, and beliefs. To ensure diversity, selection in participation in different programme activities used an intersectional lens to consider factors such as gender, religion, denomination, age etc.

General ToT Training held in Alexandria, Egypt on 23rd – 25th September 2021
Facilitated by Consultant Nevin Saad. Attended by: 5 WROs and 1 FBO representatives and young women from Cairo, Giza and Alexandria.

TWO
Programmatic performance and progress against indicators

2.1 Performance overview against the work plan

Table 1. Indicator table: Intermediate Outcome One

YW4A Outcome: IO 1 Enhanced advocacy capacity of 27 WRO to amplify young women's voices.								
Quantitative indicator: # of WROs/FBOs with strengthened capacity to advance young women's rights to bodily integrity and equal participation in decision-making.								
Quantitative indicator: evidence of WRO/FBO initiatives for internal reforms and inclusive practices, increased advocacy capacity, and organisational vitality. Increasing insights on processes of internal change.								
Link to WRGE Indicator: 5.2.1. # of organisations with strengthened capacity to advance women's rights and gender equality. Disaggregation by: • Women-led • Youth-led • Not youth or women led • Both women and youth led								
Link to SCS Indicator: SCS 5: # of CSOs with increased lobby and advocacy capacities.								
Country	Outcome level		Output level Cumulative					
	Baseline	Target	Year 1 2021	Baseline # trainings	Target	Year 1 results	No. of YW participating	Capacity building implemented
All	Good: 2 WROs Moderate: 6 WROs Fair: 7 WROs Basic: 7 WROs Limited: 3 WROs (25 WROs participating in baseline study)	By YR5, 20 WROs (80%) have moved one level up or more on the 7-point AOCA measure scale compared to the baseline	Same as the baseline					

Country	Outcome level		Output level Cumulative					
	Baseline	Target	Year 1 2021	Baseline # trainings	Target	Year 1 results	No. of YW participating	Capacity building implemented
Egypt	6 WROs Good: 1 WRO (WRG045) Moderate: 1 WRO (WRG047) Fair: 1 WRO (WRG045) Basic: 2 WROs (both WRG045) Limited: 1 WRO (WRG045)	YR2 target: 1 WRO has moved a level up or more	Same as the baseline	0	5	5	16	AE 1.1.1.1 National inception meeting AE 1.1.1.2 Capacity assessment (AOCA) process AE 1.1.1.3 General advocacy training AE 1.1.1.4 Legal context, assessment AE 1.2.1.1 M&E Participatory design workshop
Kenya	8 WROs Good: 1 WRO (WRG048) Moderate: 2 WROs (WRG048, WRG045) Basic: 3 WROs (1 WRG045; 2 WRG048) Limited: 2 WROs (both WRG047)	YR2 target: 2 WROs have moved a level up or more	Same as the baseline	0	7	7	169	AK 1.1.1.2 AOCA Webinar AK 1.1.1.2 AOCA WRO Inception Meeting AK 1.1.1 2 AOCA results workshops AK 1.1.1.2 AOCA collective WRO workshop AK 1.4.1.2 Safe and dialogue spaces for the identification of national advocacy priorities (1.4.1.2) AK 1.1.1.1 Country inception meeting AK 1.1.1.1 County Inception Meetings
Palestine	6 WROs Moderate: 3 WROs (1 WRG047, 2 WRG045) Fair: 3 WROs (all 3 WRG045)	YR2 target: 1 WRO has moved a level up or more	Same as the baseline	0	3	3	16	AGT 13 P/E/K/S Participatory design of M&E framework AP 1.1.1.4 Advocacy capacity assessment through workshops AP 1.1.1.6 Virtual workshop on the capacity assessment results on advocacy capacity and status of WRO partnership
South Sudan	5 WROs Fair: 3 WROs (1 WRG047, 2 WRG045) Basic: 2 WROs (1 WRG045, 1 WRG048)	YR2 target: 1 WRO has moved a level up or more	Same as the baseline	0	6	6	10	AS 1.1.1.1 Country inception meeting with WROs and FBO AS 1.1.1.2 Capacity assessment inception meeting (AOCA) process AS 1.1.1.3 Individual and collective assessment with WROs and FBO on advocacy and organisational capacity AGT 13 /S Participatory design of M&E framework AS 1.4.2.1 Legal and policy analysis AS 1.1.1.7 General advocacy training AS 1.1.1.8 Legal advocacy training

Source: Baseline AOCA assessment

Comments: to inform and tailor foreseen capacity-building activities to the needs of WROs in Pathway 1, 2021 focused on assessing the organisation's advocacy and organisational capacity. As intended in the programme design, the AOCA methodology was developed to be a participatory, reflexive, and gender transformative process. Through an extensive self-assessment and joint reflection process, a WRO's capacity was measured, and their needs identified and reflected in capacity development plans. Capacity was captured as the AOCA measure, following a seven-point scale, which indicates an organisation's current advocacy and organisational capacity level to amplify young women's voices and promote young women's leadership and equal participation in (political) decision-making, their bodily integrity, and the prevention and elimination of SGBV. The AOCA assessment resulted in enhanced WROs' awareness and knowledge about their organisations and initiated networking among WROs participating in the YW4A Programme. Equality Now and the country leads used the outcomes of the AOCA to design/tailor subsequent training plans. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the YW4A partner advisors from KIT were unable to travel to conduct these assessments; instead, this responsibility was assigned to the organisation's national advisors domiciled in the four countries. In the meantime, the global advisors became an essential linkage between the technical partners, country leads, WROs/FBOs, and YWRG.

Table 2. Indicator table: Intermediate Outcome Two

YW4A Outcome: Strengthened individual leadership of 17,540 young women.								
Quantitative indicator: O2a # young women, with 60 % from marginalised communities, assuming leadership roles in public and civic decision-making at the community level (disaggregated by cohort). Cohort 1, 590 initially targeted (P: 240; E: 24; S: 26; K 300).								
Quantitative Indicator: Perceived and experienced individual change in leadership roles and outcomes.								
Link to WRGE indicator: 5.2.2 # of individuals with strengthened capacity (knowledge and skills) to advance women's rights and gender equality (disaggregated by type, age, and gender) MFA Indicator code WRG049y and ny.								
Link to SCS Indicator: None								
Country	Outcome level		Output level Cumulative					
	Baseline	Target	Year 1 2021	Baseline # trainings	Target	Year 1 results	No. of YW participating	Capacity building implemented
Egypt	Very Skilful: 3 Skilful: 5 Strongly Emerging: 11 Emerging: 2 Limited: 1 Basic: 0 **TOTAL: 22** (90.9% marginalised)	80% young women (YW) move a scale up or more	Same as the baseline	0	3	3	24	AE 2.1.1.1 Adjustment of Rise up! Model materials and General ToT training AE 2.2.1.1 Training on the Feminist Consultation Methodology AGT 14 & 15 Coordination baseline studies, Baseline methodology workshop

Country	Outcome level		Output level Cumulative					
	Baseline	Target	Year 1 2021	Baseline # trainings	Target	Year 1 results	No. of YW participating	Capacity building implemented
Kenya	Very Skilful: 71 Skilful: 118 Strongly Emerging: 110 Emerging: 45 Limited: 11 Basic: 0 **TOTAL: 355** (39.9% marginalised	80% YW move a scale up or more	Same as the baseline	0	7	7	353	AK 2.1.1.2 Local adaptation of the YWCA Rise Up! Training format and content development, Training of baseline data collectors, Capacity assessment of young women in Cohort 1 AK 2.1.1.1 Data collection workshops, Participatory data analysis workshop AK2.1.1.3/ AK 2.2.1.4, AK 2.2.1.2 Training of cohort one using RiseUp! Leadership model, life skills training, consultations, and identification of advocacy priorities using World YWCA Feminist Consultation Methodology AK 2.1.1.4 Safe spaces and empowering dialogues same as AK1.4.1.2 Safe and dialogue spaces for the identification of national advocacy priorities.
Palestine	Very Skilful: 27 Skilful: 31 Strongly Emerging: 63 Emerging: 62 Limited: 26 Basic: 5 **TOTAL: 214** (38% marginalised)	80% YW move a scale up or more	Same as the baseline	0	3	3	12	AP 2.1.1.4 Local adaptation of the YWCA Rise Up! Training format and content AP 2.2.1.1 Trainings in the Feminist Consultation Methodology AGT 14 P/K/E/S Coordination baseline studies AGT 15 Baseline methodology workshop
South Sudan	Very Skilful: 2 Skilful: 11 Strongly Emerging: 3 Emerging: 4 Limited: 0 Basic: 2 **TOTAL: 22** (63.6% marginalised)	80% YW move a scale up or more	Same as the baseline	0	5	5	28	AS 2.1.1.1Raise-Up material adaptation and training for key personnel: Adapt and train key WROs personnel on Riseup material AS 2.1.1.2 Training of YW in Cohort 1, mentorship and leadership training, Training on baseline data collectors AS 2.1.1.2 Data collection workshops, Participatory data analysis workshop AS 2.2.1.1 Trainings in the Feminist Consultation Methodology

Source: Baseline of Young Women's Leadership Assessment

Comments: the pathway did not deviate from the intended work plan for the year. However, some activities lagged due delay in implementing foundational activities. These were the baseline assessment of young women's leadership and subsequently, Rise Up! Leadership training. The plan was to adapt and disseminate communication materials based on knowledge generated from the assessments and leadership training. Due to restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, foundational activities took long to set up and run. However, young women in Kenya and South Sudan created talking points and engaged radio stations, instead of waiting for the activities to happen, and this is an indicator of their motivation to be leaders. In Egypt, RiseUp! Training failed to occur as planned due to collaboration challenges among the local partners, resulting in programme structure realignment. The training was moved to year 2.

Table 3. Indicator table: Intermediate Outcome Three

YW4A Outcome: IO 3 Social norms and practices by community actors and FBOs shift towards promoting young women's rights to dignity, bodily integrity, and equal participation in decision-making.

Quantitative indicator: IO 3a # of FBOs with improved norms and practices on young women's rights on bodily integrity and equal participation in decision-making. # of FBOs targeted: Egypt: 4, Kenya: 3, Palestine: 6, South Sudan: 5, Total: 18

Qualitative indicator: Observed progress in internal processes and institutional change, leadership attitude change, spaces for women, external teachings, changing approaches in favour of gender equality and young women's rights to bodily integrity and equal participation in decision-making.

Link to WRGE Indicator: 5.2.1. # of organisations with strengthened capacities to advance women's rights and gender equality.
Disaggregation by: women-led, youth-led, not youth or women led, both women and youth-led.

Link to SCS Indicator: SCS 5: # of CSOs with increased lobby and advocacy capacities.

Country	Outcome level			Output level Cumulative				
	Baseline	Target	Year 1 2021	Baseline # trainings	Target	Year 1 results	No. of FBOs participating	Capacity building implemented
Global	Good: 1 Moderate: 6 Fair: 5 Basic: 6 **TOTAL: 18**	13	Same as the baseline	0				AK 3.1.1.1 Develop a faith-based gender assessment methodology
Egypt			Same as the baseline	0	2	2	6	AE 3.1.1.4 One-on-one advocacy workshop for senior faith leaders
Kenya			Same as the baseline	0	3	3	3	AGT8 Provide technical support to FBO
Palestine			Same as the baseline	0	4	4	4	AP 3.1.3.1 Theological Reflections on Gender Justice AP 3.3.1.1 Ramallah Counselling workshop AP 3.3.1.1 Jerusalem Counselling workshop AP 3.3.1.1 Beit Jala Counselling workshop
South Sudan			Same as the baseline	0	2	2	5	AGT 8 Provide technical support to FBOs-Gender Assessment capacity building workshop in SSD

Source: Baseline FBO Gender Capacity Assessment

Comments: through continuous reflection and engagement with the YW4A partners, 2021 became pivotal in putting young women at the centre of Pathway 3 implementation, as the strategy seeks to mobilise and build the capacity of faith actors to challenge gender-discriminatory social norms and promote women's rights within faith institutions. To ensure this, YW4A used feedback from YWRG and country leads to adapt its methodologies and processes. First, the pathway phased its approach by prioritising the values clarification process within targeted faith institutions, followed by the social behaviour change process roll out, and lastly the transforming masculinities approach. This deviated from the original approach, which sought to implement gender transformative processes concurrently with the values clarification process. Second, the pathway deviated from the initial approach of a 'positive masculinities' methodology that only targets men and boys, to a 'gender transformative' one that includes young women in the positive masculinities process.

Table 4. Indicator table: Intermediate Outcome Four

YW4A Outcome: Key laws and policies are adopted, amended, or repealed towards promoting young women's rights to leadership, participation, and ending SGBV, and are effectively implemented.
Quantitative indicator: 4a): # of (targeted) laws, policies, and strategies adopted, amended, withdrawn, better used, or implemented to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private life.
4b): # of (targeted) laws, policies, and strategies adopted, amended, withdrawn, better used, or implemented to promote women's voice, agency, leadership, and representative participation in decision-making processes in the public, private, and civic sphere.
Quantitative indicator: achievement of identified progress markers/milestones and other changes (including lack of changes/backlash towards outcome). Content of change in laws, policies, and strategies.
Link to WRGE indicator: 1.1. # of laws, policies, and strategies blocked, adopted, or improved to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private life.
Link to SCS indicator: SCS 5: # of CSOs with increased lobby and advocacy capacities.

Country	Outcome level			Output level Cumulative				
	Baseline	Target	Year 1 2021	Baseline # trainings	Target	Year 1 results	No. of WROs participating	Capacity building implemented
Egypt	4 (a) Improve existing draft law on domestic violence and lobby to be passed; campaign for mothers to have guardianship + custody rights; introduce workplace anti-sexual harassment policies	3	Same as the baseline	0	2	2	6	AE 4.2.1.1 Mapping of regional and international human rights bodies (SOAWR) AE 4.1.1.4 Development of training legal advocacy manual and legal advocacy plan
	4 (b) Encouraging young women to run at the level of local councils and increase their participation according to the existing 25% quota	1	Same as the baseline	0				
Kenya	4 (a) Repeal of Section 43(5) of the Sexual Offences Act, Block lowering age of consent and provide for Romeo-and-Juliet clauses under the Sexual Offences Act; adopt a Kisii County Policy SGBV, Sexual Offences Act Witness Protection Act, Victim Protection Act, Protection Against Domestic Violence Act; Meru and Migori SGBV policies	9	Same as the baseline	0				
	4 (b) Better implementation of the two-thirds gender rule	1	Same as the baseline	0				

Country	Outcome level			Output level Cumulative				
	Baseline	Target	Year 1 2021	Baseline # trainings	Target	Year 1 results	No. of WROs participating	Capacity building implemented
Palestine	4 (a) Draft law on domestic violence improved and lobby to pass it into law, prepare draft law on sexual harassment in public spaces, lobby government to remove exception clause or at least specify reasons for exception in 2019 child marriage law; lobby government not to apply exception clause from 2019 child marriage law	4	Same as the baseline	0	2	2	5	AS 1.1.1.7 General, Legal, and Media advocacy training AS 1.1.1.7 General advocacy refresher training
	4 (b) Better implementation of national laws on local elections for inclusion of women and youth	1	Same as the baseline	0				
South Sudan	4(a) Enact draft Anti-GBV Bill, Enact, Family Law Bill, Define age of marriage in the draft Permanent Constitution to align the age of marriage with the Child Act and Penal Code Act; Improve the provisions of customary law to not contradict human rights and the role of customary courts in the draft Permanent Constitution; Repeal of Section 247(3) of the Penal Code Act on marital rape; Girl Child Education Bill in Central Equatorial State	6	Same as the baseline	0	2	2	6	AS 1.1.1.7 General, Legal, and Media advocacy training AS 1.1.1.7 General advocacy refresher training
	4 (b) Official ratification of Maputo Protocol, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; 35% representation Gender Equality provision under the Transitional Constitution	4	Same as the baseline	0				

Source: Baseline mapping of legislative and policy frameworks

Comments: legal change is yet to happen at any of our regions of focus. The outputs include improved capacity of WROs and FBOs on legal advocacy and movement building. Deviations from the 2021 work plan include strategically combining some of trainings with those of country leads to take advantage of the convenings and to further deepen knowledge and understanding of advocacy issues. The programme also combined legal advocacy and communication trainings as most WROs and FBOs have limited human resource capacity and do not have separate staff to handle communication. Our strategy included making adjustments to enable WROs and FBOs to understand how to use media to advance legal change.

THREE

Reflections on the Theory of Change and learning agenda

In line with the YW4A's feminist, inclusive, and participatory approach and principles—and given the context in which the programme operates—collective reflection, iteration, and learning are essential throughout implementation. The knowledge and experiences of all partners, WROs and FBOs, young women, and other actors involved in the programme are acknowledged and considered essential for collective reflection and adaptive learning.

The YW4A learning agenda focuses on outcome level reflection and learning for adaptive programming. A number of learning questions will be identified to understand how and why change occurs and the learning will be a continuous process, as opposed to outcome evaluations at regular intervals (baseline-annual-midterm-endline). The M&E cycle informs the learning process and vice versa. The learning agenda foresees three Consortium learning mechanisms: i) quarterly review on a selected pathway ToC at the country and global level (led by World YWCA); ii) annual reviews to revisit the ToC as a whole (led by KIT); and iii) mid-term review of the ToC (led by KIT). Programme partners revisit (parts of) the ToC at regular intervals, and at the mid-term the ToC will be recalibrated based on new developments, unexpected events, challenges, and opportunities in the context.

Year 1 of the programme implementation prioritised operationalising the programme structure, setup of mechanisms and collaboration tools, baseline assessments, and kick-starting programme activities under different pathways. In September 2021, a number of initial learning questions were identified related to the four Pathways, transversal or thematic learning, and questions related to learning at the consortium, strategic, or partnership level. The latter will mostly be addressed through the learning spaces offered by the SCS/PoW framework. The following questions have been identified related to YW4A:

- **Pathway 1**—Building a coalition/young women's rights movement: How can we facilitate coalition building among organisations with diverse backgrounds, ideologies, and practices on young women's rights to bodily integrity and participation in decision-making?

- **Pathway 2/transversal** — Gender equality and inclusion: How do we work with marginalised groups especially when effective engagement involves high levels of investment which may be beyond our budgets?

- **Pathway 3/transversal**—1) What does male engagement mean beyond the male engagement strategy in pathway 3? Involvement in Rise Up? Involvement in YWRG?; 2) How does 'championship' work with FBOs—e.g. how can progressive FBOs be an inspiration for emerging FBOs in the field of SGBV and young women's decision-making?

- **Pathway 4**—Lobbying and advocacy: Does coalition building lead to more impactful organisational or legal/policy change?

- **Thematic learning**—How can we engage with issues around SGBV and political participation in different (patriarchal) settings?

The implementation of the learning agenda will be brought up to speed in the second year of the programme.

Legal Advocacy training held in Cairo, Egypt on 12th – 14th November 2021 facilitated by Equality Now.
Attended by: 5 WROs and 1 FBO representatives and young women from Cairo, Giza and Alexandria, among participation of YWCA Palestine staff and young women

FOUR

Good practices, lessons learnt, and recommendations

Values clarification for collaboration: the unique intersection between feminism, faith, and the law in advocating for an end to SGBV and ensuring access to public space for young women, enables the gradual change of cultural norms, regardless of how deep they are entrenched in patriarchy. The YW4A Consortium partners—working in close collaboration with the local WROs and FBOs—have been exploring how feminism, faith, and the law can be complementary in addressing SGBV. For example, all the training facilitated by Equality Now ensured the participation of FBOs and values clarification exercises, ensuring all participants share basic values on women's rights.

Advocacy in practice: year 1 of implementing YW4A revealed that national advocacy strategies need to be iterative and responsive to the local context. In all four countries, opportunities arose to accelerate the process of obtaining buy-in with key actors regarding the specific legal reform agenda. In Kenya, for example, the Generation Equality Forum had made SGBV a national discourse with counties looking for opportunities to implement this agenda. Therefore, the YW4A Programme made linkages between the needs raised by WROs and FBOs, including domestic violence and sexual violence, and the need for county-specific legislation, such as the provision of shelters for women and girls at risk.

In South Sudan, YW4A joined Constitutional reform discourses that were already underway. The WROs and FBOs in the country confirmed that advocacy training and their participation in various advocacy platforms have built their capacity to identify advocacy priorities. However, they require additional capacity development, particularly in developing targeted messaging on identified advocacy priorities. This has been included in the year 2 work plan.

The assessment reports and their validation with the WROs in Egypt and Palestine, in addition to the discussion on legal gaps and priorities, showed the extent to which the issues and problems can be very similar for women in the MENA (loss of custody of children when the divorced mother remarries, wife bound to obey her husband by law, unequal divorce rights, lack of political representation of women, etc). Yet, upon examining the legal and political context in each country, the extent to which these contexts are different becomes clear. For example, compared to Palestine, there is comparatively greater political will in Egypt at the state level to promote women's rights. This is true even if this will is met by resistance from very strong patriarchal and conservative views and values held by the population regarding the role of women in society, which hinders the implementation of laws and constitutional provisions related to gender equality. CEDAW, for instance, was ratified by the Palestinian state years ago but it is still not published in the Official Gazette and hence cannot be implemented at all. In Egypt, there are some reservations to CEDAW but it is still an international convention to be respected internally. Such a major difference means that any advocacy strategy needs to be mindful of these differences and be very closely adapted to the reality in each country, even when the types of discrimination are the same.

In Palestine, WROs and FBOs identified their advocacy priorities, focusing on adopting the Family Protection Law, an exception to the legal age of marriage, enacting a law to eliminate harassment in the workplace, and young women's political participation. Accordingly, an advocacy strategy and action plan were developed for the next four years. The country lead—YWCA Palestine—acknowledges the huge undertaking and has developed additional gender equality initiatives with other funders to contribute to this advocacy strategy. The Lead is set on increasing

interventions with local coalitions to further drive the advocacy agenda, centred on young women, especially in refugee camps and marginalised areas. This is an indication of the impact of YW4A beyond the confines of the current programme.

Investment in collaboration: collaborative efforts between the outcome areas and between technical and implementing partners optimise programme performance. However, during programme implementation, this assumption revealed the need to develop cohesion among stakeholders involved to activate a solid collaboration among them. In addition, there was a need for regular consultation among partners and harmonisation of work plans periodically. During the reporting period, regular consultations led to realigning activities and ensuring cost-effectiveness, as well as identifying gaps that the countries would address. These approaches were particularly critical in a highly collaborative programme, implemented in multiple countries and by multi-sectoral partners at local, regional, and international levels with varying capacities and expertise, including in YW4A. Therefore, the Consortium is dedicated to continuously reviewing activities and ensuring joint understanding of the programme, each partner's role, and the interlinkage and interconnectedness of the different parts of the programme. In year two, the programme will continue to invest in intra and inter-alliance cooperation and programme coordination to maximise the impact of the initiative.

Multi-sectoral partnerships: the media played a critical role in creating awareness at a community level on exclusions and SGBV issues that young women face, thereby underpinning the value of good media relations. WROs implemented strategies to strengthen relationships with the media that have proven to be successful. As a result, YW4A activities in the reporting period were given good media coverage. Local media stations covered RiseUp! Leadership training and other activities such as 16 Days of Activism against GBV. In Kenya, KTN News, one of the major local TV stations, presented live streaming of the 16 Days of Activism organised by the YW4A partners. The media coverage led to increased awareness of the programme activities among the community as the media reaches large masses.

Sustainability

At the individual level: in Kenya, the programme has engaged 350 young women for the first cohort of training. They have gone through a transformative leadership journey using the RiseUp! Leadership model.

Additionally, they have initiated a sustained process to put the knowledge they have gained into practice by building networks and collaborating with the YWRG to hold different rights holders accountable.

In South Sudan, the first cohort of young women has also undergone this training, and this has strengthened their leadership and capacities to engage and train their peers on their leadership journeys. In addition, the young women shared that they are prepared to help other young women through peer-awareness creation of their rights and how to claim them at home and in their community. This was evident through their active participation during the advocacy forums, including the intergenerational dialogue, the peace event, and the awareness session on the Maputo Protocol held with parliamentarians. Young women confidently pointed out some articles in the South Sudan Constitution, which are not clearly stated, and called upon the government to amend them.

In each country, the programme established the YWRG. The young women were actively involved in the participatory MEL design and in the evaluation workshops, where they gave feedback on baseline results, validated initial data analysis results, focusing on young women's leadership and SGBV. They also played a key role in designing the Cohort 1 Leadership Training Programme with the other young women.

The following are recommendations to ensure the programme's sustainability:

Train the young women of Cohort 1 on leadership skills and advocacy strategies to disseminate the knowledge to their peers using the methodology of 'Peer-to-peer' education.

Select a YWRG to monitor and evaluate the implementation of programme activities and consider it as the feedback loop.

Train the staff of the WROs and FBOs on advocacy to maintain the sustainability of the organisations working in their community.

Engage WROs and FBOs in the AOCA process evaluating the human resources capacities of each organisation

At the community and institutional level: YW4A works in collaboration with locally-based and community recognised WROs and FBOs. This contributes to enhancing local ownership of the programme. Issues of focus have local salience, both for young female individuals and groups with the power to

Mrs. Edinah Kangwana, Kisii county executive comittee member incharge of Tarde and industry joined the YW4A TOT training in October 2021. The young women identifid her as a leader who ispires them.

support, influence, or block change. Through capacity strengthening of WROs and FBOs, the programme has prioritised local leadership and local capacity in finding solutions to contextually identified problems. For example, in Kenya, WROs have led the coordination of county-specific dialogues and activities during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in the last quarter of the year.

The country leads have established partnerships with existing institutions, ensuring that the programme is integrated into existing community and institutional structures, instead of creating parallel and unsustainable structures. In Palestine, for example, the Programme signed MoUs with Al-Azhar University in Gaza, and The Open University in Jerusalem, thereby entrenching YW4A engagement, strategies, and activities among young women in the educational institution. The WROs are also participating in national coalitions to increase the engagement of young women and mobilise for their human rights. See Figure 3 for an overview.

Under Pathway 3, the FBOs are integrating gender justice into their institutions and work. In Palestine, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land's (ELCJHL) work empowers men and women to question patriarchal structures and traditional gender roles and expectations within and outside the institution. In addition, ELCJHL Women's Desk collaborates with the ELCJHL Youth Ministry to reflect theologically on the inequality and violence that women experience in addition to promoting new models of ecclesial, equitable leadership that are committed to transforming masculinities. In South Sudan, the Christian Agency for Peace and Development's (CAPaD) sustainability plan engages senior leaders in five faith-based institutions to leverage their roles as faith leaders to drive change in their constituencies. As a result, faith leaders deliberately selected from their churches and mosques to actively participate in programme activities. Through the programme, the leaders and women rights champions will independently execute their mandate even after the programme ends.

In Egypt, the programme empowers young women, young men, and faith leaders, and facilitates their leadership and influence within their communities. The WROs and FBOs share knowledge gained with their partner organisations and are engaged in the process of learning and changing norms and attitudes as they hold strong influencing powering in their community in general and specifically among marginalised and vulnerable groups. In addition, the development of training curriculums on women's rights in Christian and Muslim institutions will facilitate sustainability of knowledge, information, and experiences through documentation and developing institutional memory to be used for effective learning among faith leaders in the Egyptian community.

At the policy level: during the reporting period, WROs and FBOs in the four countries showed ownership of the advocacy agenda, as the content of the advocacy, the targets, and needs around which the advocacy is driven, are drawn from the FBOs and WROs themselves. This foundational knowledge gained by the WROs and

FBOs is cascading to the public and cannot be erased. WROs and FBOs, and the critical mass they create, will continue to push for the reform agenda beyond the life of the programme. Just as important, once the legal frameworks are established, the delivery of specific rights will be guaranteed in law.

In addition, the country leads, WROs, and young women—who genuinely understand the context they live in and the socio-cultural nuances, the challenges they face, and the opportunities that exist in addressing the issues and accelerating progress—guided the development of the advocacy strategies. They will remain after the programme's completion to support the sustainability of achievements under YW4A.

The legal and policy maps and reports developed under Pathway 4 also serve as a foundation for advocacy work that is outside the current scope of YW4A and for future advocacy initiatives all aimed at ensuring the rights of women in the four countries. Research that follows and monitoring of progress will also make use of this information. The legal and policy analysis in the four countries not only identified the laws on paper, but also relied on the reality in practice to evaluate whether the positive laws are implemented according to the spirit of the law and whether discriminatory laws or the gaps result in the further exclusion of women and girls and make them vulnerable to SGBV. Advocacy opportunities identified for both legal and social norms—at the decision-making levels at the national and sub-national level with state actors, and also at the

community, family, and individual level—will contribute to ensuring that the gender equality agenda is cascaded across all facets of society, which will ensure ownership and sustainability.

Building relationships with local political and leadership structures in the communities is another way to integrate the YW4A work into existing systems and mechanisms. In Kenya, YWCA Meru and Inua Mama Mjane have established relationships with the Meru county government in the implementation of the programme. The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) of Gender became a YW4A goodwill ambassador, an honorary title for her commitment to the objectives of the programme. She uses her engagements to create awareness on YW4A and engage stakeholders and promote the implementation of the SGBV Policy. In Migori, Msichana Empowerment Kuria through the Migori CSO forum advocates to ensure the implementation of the SGBV policy in Migori. Centre For Community Mobilization and Empowerment (CECOME) and YWCA Kisii engage policymakers in the Muungano Gender Forum, a gender equality forum for citizens, policymakers, and CSOs in Kisii. These engagements by WROs will contribute to sustainability at the policy level.

In Egypt, the WROs and FBOs engaged with Equality Now to set the legal advocacy priorities and formed the legal framework to promote young women's legal rights. Organisations in Egypt agreed on having internal safeguarding policies as an anti-harassment policy.

YW4A TOTs joined the 16 days of activism campaign in Meru county

YW4A consortium partners facilitated a discussion on interfaith strategies to eliminate SGBV in the 4 countries. Joining the discussion was Judge Somoud al-Damiri (bottom left), who the first female Chief Prosecutor of Personal Status for Upper Council of the Sharia Courts and the first female judge of the Palestine Sharia Court of Appeal.

Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability (YW4A)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021