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# WAYREP Mid-term Review

## Findings and recommendations for future programming

In July 2022, a Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted for the Women Youth and Resilience Project (WAYREP) by REEV consultants. Its goal was to provide an assessment of the progress made to date by the intervention in achieving its targeted outputs, outcomes, and impact; to identify challenges in reaching project results; and to provide clear programming recommendations to improve programming and inform future practice.

The MTR report by REEV had several shortcomings. In particular, the data collected to inform the MTR's findings and recommendations included data from non-WAYREP participants, and therefore, weakened WAYREP's contribution or attribution to the observed results. The WAYREP team re-ran the MTR survey data to focus on WAYREP beneficiary responses only. The results informed an updated log frame, which includes baseline and adapted MTR values and which can be found at the end of this paper. However, when assessing the MTR data, it should be kept in mind that the MTR data sample of WAYREP beneficiaries only ended up being much smaller than the baseline data sample and that the MTR did not capture which activities the respondents participated in.

CARE Uganda, CEFORD WAYREP and CARE Austria team members convened on 27 July and 18 August 2022 to discuss the log frame progress, persisting challenges in the implementation of WAYREP and possible ways forward to tackle them. These discussions built on reflections from regular monitoring, reporting, planning, and learning sessions. WAYREP's learning agenda has contributed to relevant insights and recommendations throughout the year. Earlier studies had confirmed, for instance, the general relevance of WAYREP's intervention. They showed that access to and control over resources, prevention, and response to gender-based violence (GBV) and the promotion of gender equality by transforming agency, relations and structures are all key elements to strengthen the resilience of women and youth at risk of GBV, particularly in times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 context. The REEV MTR also found, however, that COVID-19 had "negatively affected the pace of implementation and level of impact to some extent," without further specifying its impact.

The key findings and recommendations from the MTR exercise are listed below and the baseline and mid-term indicator figures per result area are also included in a table at the end of this document.

### Outcome Level

The MTR showed good progress in reaching the project outcome: “Increased self-reliance of Ugandan and refugee Women and Youth in Gulu and Arua Municipalities, Omugo Settlement”. **Both indicators measuring this outcome were surpassed.**

Since the sample was rather small and taking into account some challenges with the methodology (see explanation in log frame), the team agreed to keep the original targets, aiming at consolidating sustainable change for a bigger number of participants.

### Output Level

#### Result 1: Increase in income opportunities for women and youth

There is progress in this Result Area, though it seems to be relatively slow for some indicators. One reason might be that the sample of respondents included WAYREP participants that did not receive specific support for economic strengthening. According to the REEV report, less than 7% of the respondents mentioned that they were Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) members, around 10% were Multipurpose Cash Transfer (MPCT) recipients. Data from monitoring and the Savings Group Management Information System (SAVIX) show that **VSLA members have successfully increased their economic activities**. VSLA groups in Arua are doing particularly well (cumulative savings of UGX 244,765,000; loan amount: UGX 218,183,950).

The MTR conducted by REEV found a decrease in average income since the baseline. This is not deemed to be an accurate representation of reality since the indicator for income increase was measured by asking respondents what their average weekly income was. This measure is too sensitive to outliers and can be easily skewed by them. The MTR indicator was re-calculated by running respondents’ answers to the question of whether their income had increased, decreased or remained the same over the last 12 months. The result shows that **there has been some progress in this result area, but that it varies across target groups**. The team assumed that this variation is probably especially high between members of VSLAs and non-members. The former group benefitted from trainings in income-generating skills (e.g. financial literacy, business development) and was therefore able to make regular savings and report higher incomes. However, those that did not participate in VSLAs did not have access to these in-depth capacity development activities and, therefore, have fewer opportunities and capabilities to increase their income. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic should also be considered.

*“I have attained skills on records keeping, savings and how to manage a loan that is borrowed from the VSLA. Surely, I am now doing better compared to other people and the reason is that my business plans always succeed. I don’t incur losses.”*

FGD Girls 15-19 Years at Omugo Obi Parish, MTR Report by REEV

*“With the access to the VSLA I am able to borrow a fair loan which has made me start up a business. This has enabled me not to rely or waiting upon my parents. Now, I am able to raise money to buy clothes and for health.”*

FGD Girls 15-19 Years at Omugo Obi Parish, MTR Report by REEV

Progress of the indicator on women and youth’s access to formal and informal financial services is relatively slow. The team interpreted that fact by stating that whilst there is no issue in accessing informal financial

services via VSLAs, women are still not sufficiently connecting with formal financial institutions such as banks. The low MTR value for this indicator suggests that this disaggregation might have been omitted by the consultants.

The **VSLAs are working very well**. WAYREP has supported more VSLAs than initially planned and, due to high demand, even more VSLAs will be established in the future. **SAVIX data show good financial performance and stability of the groups** (average drop-out rate: 2,8%).

There is, however, much slower progress in linking project participants with formal financial institutions. Many community members fear bank charges and there is a sense of distrust towards the banking sector. WAYREP is addressing this issue by facilitating information and awareness-raising sessions with banking officials who can present facts on costs, risks, and rewards in opening bank accounts with community members, to reassure them. WAYREP is also hoping to make use of the digitization of pilot VSLAs. After introducing digital record keeping, WAYREP will start to link members of selected VSLAs to the Mobile Network Operators as a means of Financial Inclusion.

Recommendations for programming
1.1 Encourage WAYREP participants to join government programs for entrepreneurial development, such as the Parish Development Model/ Uganda Women's Entrepreneurs Program.
1.2 WAYREP should continue to link VSLA participants with the banking sector through information and awareness raising sessions and financial literacy workshops.

Recommendations for endline evaluation
1.3 The indicator for income increase ( <i>% increase in income for targeted women and youth (SDG 1.4, 5.1)</i> ) should be measured by asking respondents if their income has increased, decreased, or remained the same over the last 12 months. If possible, the degree of increase/decrease should be identified (e.g. slight/significant)
1.4 The endline evaluation should also integrate qualitative data in the analysis, e.g. successful IGA entrepreneurs' testimonies
1.5 The WAYREP team should consider who to include in the measurement of specific result areas. In result area 1, for instance, the evaluation should focus on participants of ER1, in particular VSLA members, participants in youth skilling activities, livelihood groups and/or MPCT beneficiaries
1.6 The measure of the indicator for use of financial services ( <i># and % of women who are active users of financial services (disaggregated by informal and formal services)</i> ) must ensure that both formal and informal services are counted and disaggregated.

## Result 2: Reduced acceptance of GBV in communities

*"In the communities down there, many people understand that GBV should not happen. However, there are other people who continue to practice it. We are using different platforms and strategies to reach them and slowly effect a change of mindset."*

Key Informant, MTR Report by REEV

*"In this village, when someone abuses another, like a man battering his wife, the neighbors rush to the commandant or any member of the RWC (Refugee Welfare Council) for assistance. And this is working for us very well. The other day we saved my neighbor".*

Project Participant, MTR Report by REEV

The MTR indicated that the rejection of intimate partner violence (IPV) and gender equitable attitudes had decreased in the communities, but the team was confident that this is not representative of reality. Monitoring data and interactions with the communities hint at more positive developments. This value is low probably due to errors in reporting and due to the small data sample size. Other indicators for this result, namely **positive masculinities, and gender equity in households, have progressed well** and present more promising prospects.

The MTR data shows a trend amongst boys and young men which indicates that they are less inclined to reject IPV than their elders. We believe that one way WAYREP could tackle this is through improved youth-tailored messaging, by focusing some awareness raising sessions on them exclusively and involving Male Action Groups (MAG) to support them. The SASA! Methodology to prevent GBV is central to this result area. It has just completed its awareness phase and is now moving into the support phase, which should see much more progress and shifts in attitudes.

The role of activists in this result area is very important, both for impact and sustainability. Their work across WAYREP platforms and with various stakeholders including local leaders will help sustain their influence in reducing the acceptance of GBV in the communities once the project ends. In view of sustainability, the team also noted that the production of information, education and communication (IEC) and SASA! materials were also much more durable than in many other projects because it was not made of paper or other easily perishable products.

<b>Recommendations for programming:</b>
2.1 Organize sessions for boys and young men only and encourage stewardship from MAGs. Introduce Role Model Boys to complement Role Model Men.
2.2 The project should draw on CARE youth engagement resources to adapt Engaging Men and Boys (EMB) material to better speak to younger male audiences.
2.3 Strengthen the activists' connection to the project's platforms, networks and to local authorities to ensure that they can maintain them once the project ends. For instance, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging structures, incl. Male Action Groups (MAGs) to set up VSLAs. This strengthens their relations, and the regular meetings also present an opportunity to discuss issues related to their work.</li> <li>• Organizing events that bring together activists, community leaders and representatives of local communities to celebrate change, reflect on strategies to sustain these changes and, thus, ease the transition to project exit and ensure that key WAYREP results are maintained (like the end phase events in the SASA model).</li> </ul>
2.4 Ensure that IEC and SASA materials are distributed to people and in places where they can be used even beyond the lifespan of the project.

<b>Recommendations for endline evaluation:</b>
2.5 Ensure that data collection tools, namely survey questions, are adapted to younger respondents (e.g. not focused on married life, but rather to the living realities of young people).

### Result 3: Enhanced quality of services for Gender Based Violence

The MTR indicator value measuring respondents' **level of satisfaction with service providers was very high**. The MTR indicator value is perhaps inflated because of the way in which respondent levels of satisfaction were measured and interpreted. Answers of even just "partial" satisfaction were counted in the total of satisfied respondents.

In view of enhanced capacities and coordination of GBV service providers, the MTR conducted by REEV emphasizes that **case conferences** (where specific cases of GBV and how to handle them are discussed) **have been very effective**. This has also been supported by feedback received from GBV service providers.

*“As the leaders in the community we receive many cases of GBV, including Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). At first, even us (leaders) did not understand IPV well and did not know how to handle cases between men and their wives. When WAYREP came, they started working with us and now we understand very well. For me, I have become an advocate for the rights of women.”*

Key informant interview with a community leader , MTR Report by REEV

*“From my role, I have learnt not only how to fill in the Police form in case of Defilement but also how to stand firmly in court and defend the GBV victims.”*

Key informant Interview with a Health Worker at Bardege Health Centre, Gulu City, MTR Report by REEV

Even though the indicators demonstrate important progress, the team agreed that there is still a lot of work to do with service providers, especially with the health sector and the police force. Systemic challenges such as budget limitations or issues linked to corruption are preventing the timely and fair processing of cases for survivors of GBV. A key challenge remains the medical examination and the filling in of the required police form 3. This demands national-level intervention and advocacy, in particular for more governmental resources to be allocated to health providers and the police. WAYREP can, however, intervene more easily at the local level vis-a-vis the judiciary in district meetings, to which it can present evidence of missing files or discontinued/interrupted cases.

<b>Recommendations for programming</b>
3.1 Build strategic alliances with relevant government officials and peer organizations to jointly address systemic challenges in GBV service provision, such as missing survivor files or challenges related to relevant health and police forms.
3.2 Explore the existence, role and functionality of District Chain-linked Committees to enable a more systematic process to present evidence of gaps in judicial proceedings of GBV cases.
3.3 Support the implementation of the Special courts on GBV, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training the judiciary officers who will run the special GBV court sessions in GBV and case management principles.</li> <li>• using platforms at community levels, district and city levels to raise awareness of the special court.</li> </ul>
3.4 Promote multisectoral awareness raising on GBV prevention and response in the community, i.e. promote joint information and awareness raising activities of GBV service providers and, potentially, duty bearers, in the communities.
3.5 Ensure that city authorities involved in different GBV coordination mechanisms take on their lead (ownership) before and beyond the project’s end, e.g. to ensure the increase and continuation of case conferences.
3.6 Channel evidence on challenges in GBV service provision to the advocacy colleagues so that they can take them up at the local, district and national level.
<b>Recommendation for endline evaluation:</b>
3.7 For survey questions measuring respondent satisfaction, remove the inclusion of the “partially satisfied” answer in the total score of respondent satisfaction.

### **Result 4: Increased action on implementation of relevant frameworks for the protection of women and girls by public authorities**

The MTR conducted by REEV, did not provide any data for this result area’s indicators.

The team agreed that **the advocacy work has some notable strengths in effectively bringing community voices and experiences to decision-making fora at the local and district levels.** For example, the two draft Local Action Plans (LAP) on UNSCR 1325 include women activists' priorities; the Arua and Gulu Councils include women councilors who participated in WAYREP advocacy trainings and dialogues; in the settlements, women are better able to participate in the Refugee Welfare Council as a result of engaging with WAYREP. It would be important to document progress and in particular advocacy wins such as the LAPs systematically.

At the same time, this result area presents some challenges, notably those posed by the pandemic, which prevented activities that are crucial to advocacy work, namely restrictions to gathering of people for discussion. Another notable barrier in this result area is the bureaucratic red tape involved, which typically delays and / or stalls progress. There has been some staff turnover which has invariably interrupted certain advocacy processes such as the Community Score Card (CSC) or the functionality of the civil society action forum, and which required a renewed familiarization with the WAYREP advocacy agenda. Advocacy was mostly focused on local-level activities, while systematic challenges would require more linkages to national-level advocacy. There are some remaining gaps in the advocacy capacity in WAYREP partner organizations.

The team needs to better define and document exactly what advocacy asks WAYREP is focusing on. These asks should include issues which were already discussed in the sections above, such as that of improving GBV survivors' access to justice and increasing the budget allocations to service providers in order to minimize incentives for corrupt practices in the health and police sectors in particular. This underlines the relevance of ensuring communication and collaboration among WAYREP's four result areas.

<b>Recommendations for programming</b>
4.1 Reflect on clear and targeted policy asks and advance them as a team in the different forums available, across result areas and including, for instance, the INGO Technical Advisor in CRRF and the Program Manager Gender Justice.
4.2 Advance advocacy efforts on the issues of access to justice at the sub-national and national level, e.g. by reinforcing coordination with related advocacy efforts at CARE Uganda, and by improving strategic relations with ADA and other peers for access to justice at the national level.
4.4 Organize a training on advocacy MEAL which includes partners and the M&E team and ensure documentation of advocacy progress (e.g. CARE AIIR tool).
4.3 Develop an engagement strategy to reinforce links and build strategic alliances with Government of Uganda stakeholders and like-minded partners to develop and implement joint actions to advance advocacy asks and to jointly address systemic challenges in GBV service provision.
4.4 The WAYREP team, in particular in Result Areas 2-4, should engage more actively and strategically in relevant national, district and local-level policy-making fora, e.g. GBV platforms, and should systematically follow up on commitments made by duty bearers in these fora.

## Logframe Progress

	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Outcomes and outputs achieved / indicators			Reasons for deviations
		Baseline <sup>[2]</sup>	Achievement so far / Progress:	Target at end of project / programme	
<b>Impact</b>					
Strengthened resilience of Ugandan & Refugee women and youth to live a life free from violence in Uganda.	<i>contributes to SDG 5.1, 5.2 and 1.4</i>				
<b>Outcome</b>					
Increased self-reliance of Ugandan and refugee Women and Youth in Gulu and Arua Municipalities, Omugo Settlement.	# and % of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner / persons other than an intimate partner;	37%	18.48%	27%	<p><b>Target surpassed but maintained.</b></p> <p>We are very pleased with this progress. However, we are aware that the MTR value was drawn from a small sample and are therefore inclined to maintain the endline target value, which we think is more realistic for a larger proportion of WAYREP participants. Our goal for the rest of the project is to consolidate and maintain progress on this indicator so that we can reach the endline target on a larger sample.</p>

	# and % of individuals reporting high self-efficacy (SADD)	75% (73% women, 77% men – 95% refugee, 76% urban, 53% rural).	92.7% (m=91.7%, F=92.9%)	85%	<b>Target surpassed but maintained.</b>  We are very pleased with this progress. However, we are aware that the MTR value was drawn from a small sample and that “high self-efficacy” included also responses of “fairly confident”, which does not seem adequate. We are therefore inclined to maintain the endline target value, which we think is more realistic for a larger proportion of WAYREP participants. Our goal for the rest of the project is to consolidate and maintain progress on this indicator so that we can reach the endline target on a larger sample.
<b>Output</b>					
1.1. Increased income opportunities for women and youth.	% increase in income for targeted women and youth (SDG 1.4, 5.1)	10% (7.7%F, 13.4%M)	49.7% (39.1%M, 51.5%F)	60%	<b>On course.</b>  Our original calculation of this indicator involved asking respondents estimates of their weekly income and an average was drawn from this. However, we have learned that using average weekly incomes for this indicator was highly unreliable because of outlier figures which excessively skewed the final indicator value. We have adapted our measurement of this indicator to asking respondents if their income has increased in the last 12 months and we note a welcome increase at the mid-term.
1.1.1 Women and youth have skills in business development and entrepreneurship.	# and % of women and youth who have increased capability to perform economic activity	47% (38% F, 56% M)	49.7% (M=39.13, F=51.45)	57% (58% F, 60%M)	<b>On course.</b>  The MTR indicator value suggests that there is a rather slow progress on this output but we believe that this is not representative of the reality. We suspect that there have been errors in reporting, namely that responses from participants who had not attended relevant training



					activities for this indicator were taken into account in calculating it.
1.1.2 Improved engagement in socio-economic networks.	# and % of women who are active users of financial services (disaggregated by informal and formal services)	42% (40% F, 46% M)	46.82% (M=50%, 46.2%)	62% (70%F, 50/%M)	<p><b>On course.</b></p> <p>The MTR indicator value suggests that there is rather slow progress on this output but we believe that this is not representative of the reality as we suspect that there have been errors in reporting, namely with regard to what qualifies as being an active user of financial services for example, for respondents who are active users of informal services but that did not report this in their responses. In addition, the COVID-19 context and its accompanying travel and mobility restrictions and economic impacts very much limited the activities under this output.</p>
2.1 Reduced acceptance for Gender Based Violence in communities.	% of respondents rejecting IPV (SADD) (SDG 5.1, 5.2)	71.6% (65% F, 73% M)	69.09% (M=66.67%, F=69.09%)	80% (80%F-, 85%M)	<p><b>Unreliable negative deviation. Endline target maintained.</b></p> <p>We believe that this lower-than-expected percentage value of respondent IPV rejection is not representative of the reality on the ground and is due to the small sample size from which it was drawn. Our team repeatedly witnesses and documents respondents' rejection of IPV and broader positive shifts in GBV attitudes in their interaction with them. This is most surely the case with respondents reached by SASA activists and RMM. Supporting evidence to this end is</p>

					found in satisfaction surveys, FGDs, VSLA testimonies and SASA assessments.
2.1.1 Improved gender equity in households.	% of respondents who support more gender equitable norms in the household (SADD)	42% (40% F, 44% M)	52.73% (M=41.67%, F=54.89%)	65% (50%F,47%M)	<b>On course.</b>
2.2.2 Women and youth have agency towards gender equality.	% of respondents with more equitable attitudes and behaviour towards gender roles (SADD)	63% (66% F, 59% M)	50% (M=47.22%, F=50.54%)	80% (72%F,65%M)	<b>Unreliable negative deviation. Endline target maintained.</b>  We believe that this lower-than-expected percentage value of respondents with more equitable attitudes and behaviour towards gender roles is not representative of the reality on the ground and is due to the small sample size from which it was drawn. Our team repeatedly witnesses and documents respondents' positive shifts in attitudes and gender roles in their interaction with them. This is most surely the case with respondents reached by SASA activists and RMM. Supporting evidence to this end is found in satisfaction surveys, FGDs, VSLA testimonies and SASA assessments.
2.2.3 Men demonstrate positive masculinity.	% of men with a more egalitarian perspective of men's and women's rights and privileges	61%	M=72.2%	75%	<b>On course.</b>
3.1 Enhanced quality of services for Gender Based Violence.	# of women and youth using GBV services in Omugo settlement, Gulu and Arua municipalities (SDG 5.2)	0	607 (547f, 60m)	1296	<b>On course.</b>

3.1.1 Improved capacity of formal and informal GBV service providers.	% of the women and youth satisfied with their last experience of GBV services, disaggregated by sector, & sex (SDG 16.6.2)	46% (47%F, 53%M )	98.18% (M=100%, F=97.8%) Health=100 Police=99.1 Legal=100 PSS=100 Shelter=100 Clan Leader=100 RWC=99.55 Comm. Leader=99.5	70% (75%F-60%M)	<b>Target surpassed but maintained.</b>  We are seeing that survivors approaching service providers with the support of WAYREP staff are receiving very responsive and expedient GBV services. While this is a very welcome development, it is still unrealistic to see a 100% satisfaction with some of the services. The WAYREP team considers this indicator unreliable and exaggerated, due to the small sample size from which it was drawn.
3.1.2 Enhanced coordination of GBV services.	% of reported GBV cases that were referred by local structures to formal GBV services	0%	25%	50%	<b>On course.</b>
4.1 Increased action on implementation of relevant frameworks for the protection of women and girls by public authorities.	# of advocacy asks that have been implemented by the Government of Uganda (GoU) (SDG 5.1, 5.2, 5.5)	0	4	8	<b>On course.</b>
4.1.1 Communities effectively advocate for the protection of women and girls' socio-economic rights and a life free from violence.	% of women and girls with the capacity to engage and to claim their rights with service providers and duty bearers	29%	59.7%	70%	<b>On course. Target increased.</b>
4.1.2 Joint advocacy for the implementation of existing GBV policies & frameworks by duty bearers.	# of CARE/partner-supported collective actions undertaken by organizations/ movements, to present women's and youth's demands to duty bearers	0	6	15	<b>On course.</b>