



ANALYTICAL REPORT 2019 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

CAPACITATING CHANGE:
RESTORING THE SOCIAL CONTRACT IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS
MAY 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacitating Change Strategic Partnership (CCSP) aims to strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and state-building. In each of the six fragile countries where we work, we focus on a selection of our five trajectories.

The changes we aspire to achieve in the different themes in each country (referred to as thematic trajectories) are captured in 16 Theories of Change (TOCs). These TOCs describe the national lobby and advocacy (L&A) efforts and are supported by an additional TOC for international lobby and advocacy. The table below presents an overview of the trajectories per country.

Strategic topics	Afghanistan	Burundi	CAR	DRC	Nigeria	South Sudan	International L&A
Inclusive and engendered peace							
Security and access to justice for all							
Accountable and responsive health services							
Extractives/Inclusive economic growth							
Space for civil society							

This Analytical Report contextualizes and covers the range of activities undertaken under the umbrella of the Partnership in 2019 by Cordaid and its local partners in each of the implementation countries, and along each of the trajectories. The Partnership's efforts in 2019 concentrated primarily on consolidating the efforts undertaken in the previous years to build sustainable and effective coalitions among and between civil society organizations in each country, and to further develop their capacities to lobby and advocate for progress beyond the scope of the Partnership. Furthermore, 2019 saw the Partnership further encourage building links with decision makers at all levels, from the local to the national, and into the international arena, in order to effect the change sought.

The investment in long term relation building with government and civil society organizations in the previous years of the program starts to pay off. The Report shows that the Partnership has achieved a number of significant results. The Partnership contributed to improving the position of women and young people, in particular their ability to pursue avenues to justice and demand their rights through collaborative advocacy and improved knowledge on lobbying techniques. Research and advocacy under the Partnership has encouraged new ways to pursue and think about pathways to justice in pursuit of SDG 16.3. Collaboration with government officials has opened up windows of opportunity to advocate for better health systems and coverage. And the efforts of CSOs in several countries spur progress on fair distribution of income from natural resource extraction.

With that said, the Report also shows the challenges that civil society faces in all of the countries in which the Partnership operated. From restrictions on the ability of civil society to act, to lack of resources, and from ongoing violence and displacement to lack of support at the national or international levels, there remains much work to be done. Cordaid and its partners also continue to learn and evolve by evaluating and adapting in the contexts where it is active.

2. CONTEXTUALIZING PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

2.1 Progress on results

DD indicator scores Partnership overall

Programme total	Score 2018	Score 2019	Cumulative programme period (2016-2019)
DD1 # laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	43	51	100
DD2 # laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	34	40	82
DD3 # times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, and/or influencing the debate	140	166	357
DD4 # advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	168	208	562

For 2019, the main indicators for the Partnership show a significant increase. In most of the countries, the focus of 2019 was on consolidating relationships with the stakeholders that were established over the course of the Partnership and working together to achieve planned changes in policies and policy implementation. The investment in relationship building as well as capacity development of CSOs in the previous years of the program explain the progressive score on indicators and the high score for 2019. It shows the progress of the Partnership in lobby and advocacy results and its success in creating space for CSOs in an overall context of shrinking civic space. Continuous (quarterly) reflection with partners on the ToC helped to refine and adjust advocacy and lobby strategies and contribute to achieving results. Working through networks, for example, proved to lead to positive results in advocacy.

Afghanistan

DD indicator scores Afghanistan 2019 and cumulative

Afghanistan	Score 2019	Cumulative programme period (2016-2019)
DD1 # laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	8	18
DD2 # laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	2	8
DD3 # times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, and/or influencing the debate	24	43
DD4 # advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	35	101

The lobbying on 4 trajectories in Afghanistan focused on a wide range of strategies, including formal and informal advocacy and coordination meetings, establishment of a complaint mechanism, and monitoring court cases. These strategies were used to reach a wide range of policy makers, legal actors and civil society actors, at community level and at the government level, which is reflected in the high score on indicator DD4.

Regarding DD3, throughout the Partnerships running time, relationships with the government stakeholders have been fostered. As a result, Cordaid and its partner Afghan Health & Development (AHDS) have worked together with the Ministry of Public Health and were able to put the need for an increased health budget on the agenda of both the Health and Budget Committees of Parliament. The importance of long-term partnership building for effective advocacy also became clear when advocating for other issues, such as the revenue generation strategic framework. High turnover on the side of the government made for new counterparts, who were often unaware of prior cooperation and less willing to collaborate.

The strong cooperation between Cordaid Country Office, local partner CSOs (in this case AWN), and the Global Office team on international lobby and advocacy – especially during the CSW, the Open debate on UNSCR 1325 – led to international commitment to have meaningful participation of women in the US – Taliban peace negotiations, and increased attention for the issue among other international stakeholders.

Burundi

DD indicator scores Burundi 2019 and cumulative

Burundi	Score 2019	Cumulative programme period (2016-2019)
DD1 # laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	6	21
DD2 # laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	9	29
DD3 # times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, and/or influencing the debate	38	88
DD4 # advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	12	112

In Burundi, the Partnership's work in 2019 was also characterized by its access to and relationship with the government just as it was the years before. Some CSOs that were suspended earlier were allowed to continue their work. At the same time, the space for CSOs to do their work remains limited and not all activities could be implemented: some activities proved too sensitive, such as the Women's Barometer.

While limited, there was space to continue work on previous activities and start new ones according to the country planning. On indicator DD2, the Bar Association and OAG were invited to discuss how the judicial commission policies could be improved, after Cordaid had initiated meetings with the Ministry of Justice and the West African Bar Association.

Indicator DD3 shows that Cordaid and partner organizations have increasingly collaborated as a group and where possible, Cordaid and partners used the available space to create opportunities to advocate with the government, such as through the inclusion of Cordaid partners in policy groups. The year 2019 was characterized by an increased need for creating space for CSOs. This indicator reflects an increase of the efforts of the increased efforts, which is why it shows a particularly high number of results.

Indicator DD4 is the only indicator that does not show an increase to the same extent. A number of activities with partners has continued in 2019 and is therefore not included, as this indicator shows only those initiatives that were initiated and not the ones that were continued from the year before. This has also served as a correction on the results of the previous years, to further harmonize them with the way in which achievements in other countries are recorded.

Central African Republic

DD indicator scores Central African Republic 2019 and cumulative

Central African Republic	Score 2019	Cumulative programme period (2016-2019)
DD1 # laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	8	10
DD2 # laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	7	11
DD3 # times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, and/or influencing the debate	8	18
DD4 # advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	28	34

The indicators show that 2019 has been a successful year for advocacy in CAR. Several lobby trajectories that the program has worked on culminated in concrete results, particularly around laws (DD2) and policy implementation (DD1) on gender based violence and around the peace process. The lobby for representation of victims resulted in the integration of victims' associations from the Central African Republic into the African Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Victim association were also given a formal role in the setting up of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission

(CVJRR). CSOs participated in the Khartoum peace meeting, which led to the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR. CAR-based partners LCDH and AVED were included in the Executive Committee for the follow-up of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR), responsible for monitoring the parties who signed the agreement and signaling if any of them is violating the terms. Advocacy also expanded with new initiatives (DD4) that involved a wide range of stakeholders at both local level, like police and juvenile brigades, and at national level like UNPOL and UNMISS.

Democratic Republic of Congo

DD indicator scores DRC 2019 and cumulative

Democratic Republic of Congo	Score 2019	Cumulative programme period (2016-2019)
DD1 # laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	5	12
DD2 # laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	13	18
DD3 # times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, and/or influencing the debate	18	31
DD4 # advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	30	42

In DRC the year was characterized by a change of government, following the 2018 general elections, the contestation of these results, and the subsequent power struggles between the old and new ruling parties. With this change of leadership, collaboration at the national level on some of the trajectories was more limited in 2019, while this was continued more effectively at the local and provincial levels. This difference was especially notable for the Security and Access to Justice trajectory, where local government was more attentive to the issues brought up by civil society. However, this increased attention can be seen across the line and is applicable to all the indicators, leading to a significant increase of results obtained. This was a direct result of the previous years of lobbying at the national level, now trickling down to the provincial and local levels.

An example of this can be found on indicator DD3, where the Inclusive and Engendered Peace trajectory worked with provincial governments of Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Masisi on the NAP 1325 implementation. Something similar happened under indicator DD4, through the work of partner ADEPAE with the Provincial Government and other civil society actors working in the livestock sector, on the implementation of the decree n°19/008 of 14 February 2019 regulating domestic animal husbandry in South Kivu by obtaining the commitment of the State at the local level to promote peace and security. Compared to other years, the number of activity initiatives carried out with CSOs has increased especially because by working more at the local level, additional partners have been taken into account.

Nigeria

DD indicator scores Nigeria 2019 and cumulative

Nigeria	Score 2019	Cumulative programme period (2016-2019)
DD1 # laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	0	2
DD2 # laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	0	2
DD3 # times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, and/or influencing the debate	29	49
DD4 # advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	29	63

In Nigeria the focus of advocacy has been on improving collaboration with government actors responsible for the clean-up. This is shown in many reported advocacy initiatives (DD4) and instances of agenda setting (DD3). The legal framework for the clean-up is well established, and no new laws or change in the implementation of policies have been reported (DD2 and DD1). It is disappointing that in spite of vigorous advocacy the CSO Regulation Bill has not yet been approved by the

National Assembly. Agencies such as National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMoEnvnt), the Vice President's Office, as well as the National Assembly, have gradually accepted the role of the Partnership as partners in achieving an inclusive clean-up, and an effective environmental governance that takes care of the social and human right impacts of the extractive industry in Nigeria. Partnership members have used this opening of civic space to provide useful input to public policy and decision making mechanisms.

The Federal Ministry of Environment has also welcomed dissenting approaches by Partnership partners that continue to advocate for more independence for HYPREP in the implementation of the cleanup. These are significant improvements in the relationship between the aforementioned public sector actors and CSOs.

The national level in Nigeria continues to be characterized by an ongoing tension between CSOs and the National Assembly with regards to the various iterations of the CSO Regulation Bill. However, in the specific case of the Partnership, there have been remarkable improvements in the relations with our core stakeholders – although sometimes the degree of transparency and accountability is rather inconsistent and subject to varied interpretations.

South Sudan

DD indicator scores South Sudan 2019 and cumulative

South Sudan	Score 2019	Cumulative programme period (2016-2019)
DD1 # laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	23	36
DD2 # laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	8	12
DD3 # times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, and/or influencing the debate	29	81
DD4 # advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	28	85

In the context of South Sudan, the work of NGOs has been restricted according to government regulations. Cordaid and partners abide by the government regulations as they become more elaborate. Yet, results have increased on every indicator, partly because the Partnership has found a way of working around these issues over the last years.

One way this has been done can be seen in the results of indicator DD4. The Partnership does address the issues that come up within the trajectories in a way that allows it to put forward topics for discussion, despite questions of sensitivity. Certain terminologies that are less sensitive are used in favor of more sensitive words – such as 'extractives' instead of 'oil', as the latter is considered an issue of national security. Stakeholder forums held in Meluk, Palouch and Bentiu as part of a research study on local perceptions and environmental hazards as result of oil exploration, which was to be conducted by the SUDD Research Institute, were blocked on the ground by the security organs despite SUDD being given clearance by the national Ministry of Petroleum. This was resolved by engaging the concerned county commissioner on the issue who then permitted SUDD to instead conduct Focus Group Discussion with the communities in his presence. Furthermore, coordinated efforts and dialogues with state security organs are reflected in this indicator, for which there was increased need and efforts because of growing regulatory demands from the South Sudanese Government.

Results from the Partnership show that social contract interventions have higher chances of success at the local level than the national level, due to communities having more confidence to engage their local government, as well as the local government being more receptive to attending to their community's grievances and concerns, complemented by the long-term investment in partner and community relations over the course of the previous years. This results in an overall increase on the indicators.

2.3 Strengthening social contract

In 2019 an internal study was carried out on how Partnership results can be interpreted as strengthening the social contract. The study also contributed to understanding the abstract concept of social contract among staff and partners. The social contract defined as “implicit agreement between states and citizens” is taking shape differently in the Partnership countries. In CAR, for example, the social contract is a relatively familiar idea in government and civil society circles, because it is one of the three pillars of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan. By contrast, in South Sudan the concept of social contract is less familiar.

A strong social contract is often seen as equivalent to the State providing adequate services to its citizens, whereas the lack of service provision indicates a weak social contract and is seen as a key indicator for fragility. However, in recent years the OECD adopted a more holistic, multi-causal concept of fragility. At the same time, service delivery is now understood as just one among a cluster of important factors that influence the social contract. Other factors include trust of citizens in the State, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and responsiveness.

For this Partnership it is helpful to distinguish strengthening the social contract in two ways:

- improving the relation between the state and civil society, and;
- an improved functioning of the state in serving its citizens.

The relation of the state and civil society is characterized by stronger collaboration and trust, improved transparency and accountability and a more inclusive dialogue that gives voice to vulnerable groups of society. The improved relation creates opportunities to address the functioning of the State and advocate for more inclusive policies and services, resulting in improved quality and responsiveness of service provision.

It is also evident that the social contract does not work uniformly across territories in fragile contexts. The dynamic of institutions and their ability to serve different parts of society equitably vary across location and entity. Results in South Sudan show for instance that social contract interventions have higher chances of success at the local level than the national level. Communities at the local level have more confidence engaging their local government and local governments have also proven to be more receptive.

The tables on the next page provide examples found by internal research of how the Partnership has strengthened different aspects of the social contract.

Looking at the diversity of results related to aspects of the social contract provides a diverse view on social contract that corresponds well with the Partnership’s TOC. It supports that the Partnership’s focus should be wider than advocating for improved service delivery by the State, and that lobby and advocacy contributes in many ways to establishing collaboration between government decision makers and civil society actors.

The way forward is to continue developing a shared understanding with partners of what is needed most to strengthen the social contract with government stakeholders by mapping the changing status, establishing priorities and by ensuring cohesion and linkage across Partnership trajectories.

State-Civil Society Relationship		
	Local	National
Collaboration/ Trust	<p>Our research on strengthening the social contract confirmed that it is easier to establish stronger working relationships between state officials and civil society at the local level. Contact with local government staff is often more frequent and direct. Good examples are the monthly coordination meetings with provincial justice institutions in Afghanistan and the intensive dialogue around the community security councils (CLSPs) in DRC. Also in the restricted space of Burundi, judicial discussions between state and non-state actors have been possible at the local level.</p>	<p>In several countries good working relationships have been established at national level, particularly with the Ministries working on key topics. In Afghanistan the Partnership and the Ministry of Health have joined forces to lobby for increasing the health budget. Dialogue on access to Health is happening at high level in DRC. Also in DRC there is a strong collaboration with the National Secretariat on Resolution 1325. In CAR collaboration with the Ministry of Education has be vital to include GBV in the curriculum of schools.</p>
Transparency/ Accountability	<p>At local level several monitoring mechanisms have been put in place with the agreement of local institutions. In Afghanistan the findings of monitoring court cases by communities and CSO are discussed with justice providers and improvements are agreed upon. In Nigeria the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency has trained women who then formed a local oil spill monitoring network.</p> <p>In DRC local communities in North Kivu have negotiated the transparent use of a 'cahier des charges' with the mining cooperatives.</p>	<p>Demanding national level transparency is often sensitive and not without risks. In Burundi use of media for open discussion is not possible. Also in other countries authorities are less cooperative when asking for accountability, for instance around Health spending in DRC, Extractives revenue sharing in South Sudan and working on the Afghanistan Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (AEITI).</p> <p>Strong alliances are useful when asking for accountability. In South Sudan parliamentarians at national and State level are supporting the Partnership in pushing for the legally mandatory sharing of oil revenues to the communities.</p>
Inclusion in Dialogue	<p>Many examples can be given of local initiatives to include women and youth in local dialogue. Networks that include local authorities address GBV in South Sudan. In Nigeria HYPREP has organized Town-hall meetings, which combined with capacity development by the Partnership has increased participation of women in the Ogoni clean-up.</p>	<p>We have been advocating for inclusion of women and youth agendas in peace process is in Afghanistan for the past years. It has increased support from the High Peace Council at national level. In 2019 the USA took forcefully pushed for peace talks with the Taliban, which compelled us to find support at international level as well. We were able to get participation of women and youth at the Doha peace talks.</p>

Functioning of the State		
	Local	National
Inclusion in Policies and Services	Advocating for more inclusive policies and services has resulted in institutional support for mobile courts in South Sudan and 250 paralegals in Burundi, bringing access to justice to local communities. Also in DRC a working group has been established that coordinates mobile courts in South Kivu.	The Partnership has particularly been pushing for inclusive decision making. In South Sudan the Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCISS) has provided the basis to press at both national and local level for the agreed 35% participation of women in the peace process. In CAR associations of survivors are officially represented in the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR).
Responsiveness / Services	Improving local safety is a priority in conflict prone areas. Advocacy at local level has resulted on the deployment of police and army in areas that local communities have indicated as priority. The increased presence had positive effects on safety in several places in South Sudan, like Wau, and in CAR and DRC. Increased availability of funds for the community security councils (CLSPs) in DRC has improved their functioning.	The Partnership can boast in influencing several policies that improve governance response. In Nigeria more federal budget for the clean-up has been made available. In Burundi a national policy and an action plan for legal aid have been approved. In South Sudan family courts have been institutionalized. Furthermore the legislation on mining has been revised stimulating investments in local development.
Hybrid governance (local)	Local formal and informal authorities are key players in addressing local issues. Working with traditional leaders is gradually changing their behaviour towards GBV victims in CAR.	

2.4 Achievements and challenges in cooperation

Cooperation within the Partnership continued along the same lines of the first three years. Besides regular coordination meetings in The Hague as well as at embassy level, several moments of cooperation and exchange took place, at country level as well as internationally and in The Hague.

The Expert Meeting on Religion, Peace and Security, organized by the Ministry in cooperation with Cordaid, Mensen met een Missie, PAX, Prisma and the Free University of Amsterdam, was one such event, which explored the role of religion in peace negotiations. Other occasions for exchange were the Expert Group Meeting on Customary and Informal Justice, as well as a meeting between youth from conflict countries and the Special Ambassador for Youth from the Ministry.

At the international level, the research report by SIPRI and Cordaid was subject of dialogue sessions with the Ministry at different levels, among others with DSH in The Hague, but also with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN in New York, as well as several embassies. These sessions in cooperation with the Ministry added to the impact of the report and served to spread the outcomes more widely among potential stakeholders. Similarly, the Permanent Mission was very involved for the visit of representatives from the Afghanistan peace process in the context of the Women, Peace and Security trajectory.

3. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS PER TOPIC



3.1 Inclusive and engendered peace

International

The Partnership developed a strong collaboration between Global Office lobby experts and local partner organizations, particularly with the Afghan Women's Network (AWN), that translated into effective international lobby and advocacy efforts. These efforts concentrated in 2019 on CSW63 and the Open Debate on UNSCR 1325, as well as advocacy surrounding the ongoing peace negotiations between the United States and the Taliban. Presentations by Afghan partners at both CSW63 and the Open Debate, particularly those of AWN, were well-received, and opened the door for advocacy trips to the United States, where partners spoke in the American Senate and House of Representatives. Ultimately, these efforts contributed to the passing of the Afghan Women's Inclusion in Negotiations Act in Congress¹, which mandated reporting on the participation of Afghan women in the peace process and a strategy for American post-conflict engagement in Afghanistan.

"These [Afghan] women have earned the right to shape their country and the laws they will live under. I urge Secretary Pompeo and the Trump administration to uphold the United States' clear commitment to including women in peace negotiations, as mandated by the Women, Peace and Security Act, in Afghanistan."

- Jeanne Shaheen, US Senator

¹ The bill can be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4097/text>

Through its innovative Women's Barometer methodology², Cordaid and partners conducted extensive story collection throughout South Sudan to understand the realities of security issues, as defined by South Sudanese women in their own words. Using this bottom-up approach, the Partnership conveyed the security experiences of women in several regions in South Sudan to UN Member States. The experiences of South Sudanese women illustrated the severe insecurity that resulted from widespread violations of human rights and rampant sexual violence, enabled by the ability of the government and opposition to access armaments, training and technical assistance. As part of a coalition of like-minded civil society organizations, Cordaid called for the extension of UN SC sanctions and the weapons embargo on South Sudan, which was ultimately approved by the Security Council in May 2019.

Countries

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is characterized by a persistent lack of service delivery by the state judicial structures, leading to distrust between these structures and the Afghan population. This problem is exacerbated significantly for women, both in formal and informal justice systems. Women are disadvantaged regularly, losing out to men in many legal questions, such as inheritance rights. In addition, women are rarely represented in the ranks of judges at any level. The same applies to young people, who are often ignored in a society which values elders as authoritative figures. As a result, young people struggle to have their concerns heard and incorporated into policy.

The Partnership undertook informal and formal advocacy trajectories targeting formal actors, such as prosecutors, judges, and defense lawyers, as well as informal actors, including village elders who sit in *Jirgas*. Additionally, Cordaid and its partner Salah advocated jointly for more inclusion of women, and more respect for women's rights as enshrined in national laws, with independent justice associations including the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA), Afghanistan Prosecutors Association (APA), Afghanistan Women Judges Association (AWJA).

While change is slow and women continue to be underrepresented in the formal legal system, the past year has seen some changes for the better. In Kunduz province, there are now at least 3 female judges working in the legal system, versus 0 in 2018. The Partnership has employed a variety of strategies to promote awareness among women of their rights under national law. This included capacity building workshops, provincial and national conferences, roundtable discussions on TV and radio programs, and the use of social media, to further understanding of rights related to inheritance or the ability to appeal decisions to higher instance courts.

Furthermore, the Partnership facilitated and encouraged active engagement between civil society organizations and formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms, including *jirgas*. Together, partners monitored the outcomes of court cases to ensure fair legal outcomes, and established complaint mechanisms at provincial judicial institutions to enable a degree of feedback and oversight over procedures.

The Partnership was successful in coordinating youth and female input into peace processes. Partners conducted trainings and convened story telling sessions, in which women and young people were given the opportunity to share their views. Young people and women developed advocacy messages and built coalitions to share their views through meetings with members of the media, local political leaders, the High Peace Council, and others. Additionally, the Partnership helped to establish a number of youth platforms to amplify the voices of young people, supporting youth peace *jirgas* and founding young peacebuilders committees at the district level.

Under the auspices of the Partnership, lobbying and advocacy efforts targeting international donors were conducted to promote the inclusion of women and youth in international peace interventions and processes. These lobbying efforts resulted in international support from a number of countries involved in Afghanistan's peace process, including Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany. The United Kingdom has invited Cordaid, with its partners, to take part in its Afghanistan Group of Friends. The German ambassador stated that Germany remains committed to an inclusive peace process. The Canadian government will provide resources and diplomatic support, and a continual exchange has been set up between Cordaid and the Canadian government to coordinate efforts aiming to improve the standing of women in Afghan society and their involvement in any peace processes in the future.

² See the report: <https://www.cordaid.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2019/11/Womens-perspectives-on-security-in-South-Sudan-Results-from-the-WPS-Barometer.pdf>

Burundi

Under this trajectory, different achievements were noted. Firstly, we continued the capacity development of women and youth to advocate for their inclusion in decision-making processes, especially at local level. For example, 144 young people participated in trainings and workshops on effective L&A skills building and strategy writing. Due to the acquired skills, they were able to more actively engage decision makers, particularly at local level, most notably through their involvement in various community committees.

For example, the percentage of young people in implementation areas involved in local committees on security, water management, food security, and health in our implementation areas grew from (on average) 18% to (on average) 35%. Secondly, 460 cooperatives, entailing entrepreneurship and discussion of local issues were created at local level. These cooperatives were created collaboratively with local authorities, who granted them papers to recognize their official status. This was achieved mainly due to the lobby and advocacy capacity building approach at the local level.

Thirdly, and unexpectedly, the aforementioned efforts effected a significant change in the behavior and mindset of young people in communities in the Partnership's implementation areas, ultimately resulting in positive effects on the lives of community members. Some young people involved with the Partnership noted their reduced interest in engaging in crime, consumption of alcohol or drugs, and feeling more purposeful in their lives. Through the Partnership's efforts, 504 women integrated local development committees, instilling in their communities the idea of entrepreneurship.

"In this area, we did a lot of harmful practices, of all kinds. We thought we could even be able to make the sky fall because we were drug users. We raped people, we robbed, and so on. But thanks to the program, we completely changed our behavior, we completely changed our way of thinking and acting. We even created an association where we make savings and credit. Right now we're fine, and most of us are also married. Now, we are good boys, conscious and responsible thanks to the L&A program that has trained and sensitized us on several topics. Our desire is to continue being trained. We are the true agents of change and we do our best to also change others."

- Ruberintwari Idi, Bwasare, Muyinga Province, Burundi

However, the Partnerships was limited in its impact as a result of the severe restrictions on civic space that political developments in Burundi brought about in 2019. Many of the proposed activities, such as the story collection process that should have followed training workshops on the Women's Barometer methodology, required permissions to go into the field from local or state authorities, which were often delayed. Overall, the trust between CSOs and the Burundian government remains very weak, particularly in relation to human rights and security issues and in view of the upcoming electoral period (in May 2020).

CAR

In CAR, the Partnership worked primarily on Gender-Based Violence, in addition to the participation of women and young people in society. The results achieved by the Partnership, working together with local partners AFJC, Maison Prisca, Flamboyants, Cercle and RESOLEP, stem from a range of activities conducted throughout the country, including awareness raising, educational talks, formal training, lobbying and advocacy meetings, the organization of radio shows, and welcoming victims of GBV in *centres d'écoute*³. In total, the activities undertaken under the umbrella of the Partnership enabled us to reach nearly 20.000 direct beneficiaries, divided into three target groups: the community, civil society, and decision makers.

To address the issue of GBV, the Partnership opened several *centres d'écoute*⁴ in Bangui, Berberati and Bambari under the auspices of partners AFJC, Maison Prisca and Les Flamboyants. The *centres* continued to receive and register victims of SGBV – both female and male – and subsequently provided orientation and psychosocial support services. AFJC worked to build the capacity of magistrates and judicial police officers (OPJ) in Bangui and Berberati on GBV, resulting in a commitment by the magistrates and OPJ to handle all cases of victims of GBV that remained untreated within their jurisdictions. This was made possible thanks to the close collaboration between different actors involved, namely the UNPOL department of UNMISCA in Bangui, the staff of the *centres*, and Ministries of Justice and Public Security staff,

³ Listening Centers.

⁴ Read more about the centres: <https://www.cordaid.org/en/news/women-lawyers-fight-back-we-are-frightening-the-sexual-abusers/>

both at the local (Berberati) and national (Bangui) levels. This collaboration in the provision of services has resulted in improved trust between the people and the government.

At the level of civil society, the joint capacity building of civil society actors has contributed not only to strengthening collaboration between existing networks working on human rights violations, but has encouraged broadening of these networks. For example, after participation in the aforementioned trainings, beneficiaries independently organize activities to combat GBV in their communities. In particular, soldiers and police officers organized a number of awareness-raising activities to combat GBV in their barracks, and journalists from local radio stations organize broadcasts on GBV to raise awareness on this issue among the population.

In addition, through the work of the *centres*, female lawyers and psychosocial care providers are addressing issues of domestic violence, which often stem from the conflict violence many young men have been exposed to in the years of internal strife in CAR.

“We are frightening abusers and rapists because they know we will go after them. It’s a good sign.”

– Chimène Endjizikane, lawyer at a centre d’écoute in Bangui, CAR

At the level of decision makers, two Juvenile Brigades were set up by the judicial police and UMIRR following advocacy sessions organized by the AFJC. These brigades specifically target youth, intending to prevent or pursue justice for GBV victims. The national unit against GBV, set up by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Partnership, developed strategies to disseminate educational leaflets throughout the country to raise awareness on GBV. In addition, parliamentarians examined and adopted a bill on legal aid in CAR to support of GBV victims.

DRC

The Partnership’s interventions in the DRC focused mainly on support for the implementation of the new National Action Plan for Resolution 1325. This concerned mostly advocacy, with Cordaid and its local partners (CEHAJ 1325 and DFJ) providing support to women elected as national and provincial deputies during the December 2018 elections, support for the army and police in the implementation of their gender programs, and support for student networks in the fight against GBV in universities in Kinshasa and North Kivu Province.

Furthermore, in partnership with Franciscans International, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom DRC (WILPF DRC), African Resources Watch and the Centre d’Aide Juridico-Judiciaire, Cordaid submitted an alternative report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on the impact of mining on women’s rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo⁵.

The main results of these activities were the establishment and operationalization by the Provincial Minister of Gender of North Kivu in Goma and Nyiragongo territory, the adoption by the army and the police of their gender strategies, and the regular payment of the salaries of some police officers deployed in Goma and Nyiragongo territory. This progress is in line with the planning for 2019, which focuses in particular on the implementation of the new NAP 1325 and the strengthening of measures for the participation of women in decision-making bodies. This progress connected local, national and international levels in responding to the DRC’s national and international commitments on gender, and the need to take into account the needs of women at the local level in local security and peacebuilding initiatives.

The Partnership undertook, in particular, workshops and awareness raising sessions on NAP II 1325, advocacy and lobbying meetings with local, provincial and national authorities, support for army and police command structures, coaching sessions for members of student networks, workshops and round tables to facilitate exchanges between security sector and gender actors, bilateral meetings between women and youth from outlying and peripheral areas, and capacity-building workshops for parliamentarians on Resolution 1325 conducted by Cordaid, DFJ and CEHAJ 1325.

In Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Masisi, the Partnership expended efforts to establish dialogue and build consensus between public authorities and civil society. These efforts encouraged the Provincial Minister for Gender to establish local committees on UNSCR 1325, which contributed to reestablishing trust between the government of North Kivu and CSOs

⁵ The report can be found here: <https://www.cordaid.org/en/news/advocating-for-womens-rights-in-the-mining-areas-of-drc/>

working on gender issues in the region. The committees conducted multi-party stakeholder discussions to promote the role and place of women in local security initiatives and peace consolidation.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, the Partnership focused on contributing to the establishment of a violence-free society where women have the space and opportunities to share in the peace dividend, and in which women are empowered to demand accountability from and the fulfilment of essential service needs by the government. The Partnership undertook this effort through two main intervention spearheads. The first focused on revamping the South Sudanese NAP for UNSCR 1325 (SSNAP), and related training and awareness raising activities. The second targeted improving the participation of women in the peace process and the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCISS)

In 2019, the Partnership held a training in Juba on SSSNAP, bringing together the Gender Focal Points of the line ministries in the implementation of SSNAP at both state and national level. The Focal Points from the states disseminated copies of SSNAP to their local communities. Separate Gender desks on SSNAP have been established in the different line ministries, including the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Health, at both state and national level, to follow up on implementation of SSNAP.

In April 2019, the Partnership convened a dialogue on Gender Provision in the R-ARCISS. It brought together the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Women from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO), local women leaders, and civil society women's group. The dialogue was intended to facilitate raising awareness on the Provision among key stakeholders, and to help the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and CSOs ensure that the Gender Provision, mandating a minimum 35% women's participation in R-ARCISS decision-making processes, is fully implemented. During the dialogue participants raised concerns over nepotism by government officials recruiting their own wives or relatives to key government positions meant for women, especially as appointed women did not amplify the voices of marginalized women. Another issue raised was that ignorance and non-recognition of the experiences and expertise of South Sudanese women by men in power had led to inadequate female representation in the top leadership of government, especially in the executive and judiciary.

As a result of the dialogue, the Partnership helped to establish a peer-to-peer network between women in politics, CSOs, and other women's group to exchange information and collectively strategize. The network helps voice female concerns, reviews and monitors progress towards the Gender Provision, and conducts awareness raising activities throughout the Partnership's implementation areas on women's participation in peace processes.

In addition, five political parties' manifestos were reviewed and have now incorporated the 35% Provision on female representation at all levels. The women in the network are following-up to press for meaningful participation of women as provided in the manifestos.

Separately, the Partnership facilitated a dialogue between the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF), local civil society, and the news media in Torit. Consequently, the stakeholders formed a coordination body to improve working relationships among themselves. The coordination body will lead a joint campaign on the representation of women in organized armed forces. CSOs and members of the media are now more effective in coordinating with security and justice actors, and over the course of 2019 the coordination body has started to visit cantonment areas⁶ to inspect and ensure the provision of women-friendly facilities in these areas.

⁶ Permanent military stations, such as the station in Erube.



3.2 Security and access to justice for all

International

Given the long history of conflict and instability in the countries where we work, state institutions responsible for policy and implementation of security and justice services at the local and national level are often unable, and in some cases unwilling, to respond to the priorities and needs of citizens. Lack of responsiveness and accountability undermines citizen perception of the efficacy and legitimacy of the state; in some cases, it also harms public confidence in international actors (such as UN peacekeeping missions) working to address the security and justice gap. The Partnership aims to influence state duty-bearers and international actors to improve their responsiveness and accountability to security and justice seekers.

In 2019 two in-depth studies in the Partnership countries have provided important data for our lobby and advocacy agenda. A study with SIPRI focused on the role of security actors in CAR and the DRC, and a study with ODI examined justice pathways, investigating the role of customary and informal justice in pursuit of SDG 16.

In CAR and the DRC, the Partnership co-financed research SIPRI [International Aims, Local Expectations](#) on how people in these two countries perceived the provision of security and justice of international non-governmental organizations and United Nations peace operations. Our local partners in CAR and DRC carried out around 500 street interviews supported by (local) research organizations. The main research findings indicated that overall community respondents would prefer to have a strong and accountable state providing security and justice instead of non-state armed groups or informal institutions, even though their current day to day experience of these state-actors might not be positive. People only turn to non-state security and justice providers because there are no available alternatives.

Based on the findings, a briefing for NGOs was organized at the in NYC to coordinate advocacy towards international stakeholders with other NGOs and networks. The research has opened doors to key stakeholders: the governments of CAR and DRC, international CSOs, Embassies and Permanent Missions to the UN. The reports were widely shared within both MONUSCO and MINUSCA, particularly recommendations to improve engagement with communities.

In Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan ODI prepared a policy paper on titled [Diverse Pathways to Justice For All: Supporting Everyday Justice Providers to Achieve SDG 16.3](#). The report explores the diverse ways in which people pursue redress and resolution of disputes in a variety of contexts. The report, a collaboration between ODI and Cordaid's experts and partners in the field, argues why engagement with everyday justice providers – many of whom exist outside of the formal legal framework – is critical to achieving SDG 16.3.

The essential role of customary and informal justice in ensuring justice for all was acknowledged in several key international fora. Cordaid pushed the topic on the agendas of the World Justice Forum, at which Cordaid and ODI co-hosted an Expert Group Meeting, and of the high-level SDG16 Conference, at which Cordaid participated in an IDLO-hosted panel alongside justice ministers and senior human rights activists.

Insights from the studies have been used by our local partners for influencing policy makers. The ODI study customary and informal justice is translated into policy-relevant recommendations in the three studied countries. In the other Partnership countries it has been used to underscore the importance for formal and informal justice providers to closely work together.

Countries

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan a lot of effort has been made to strengthen the coordination with provincial justice providers. Partner organization Salah is supporting structures that enable and stimulate active engagement between civil society organizations and dispute resolution institutions, both formal and informal. Monthly coordination with formal justice providers is taking place in five provinces to improve the formal system, as well as to engage the formal system in improving the customary system, like the jirgas, a traditional assembly of community leaders. Information is discussed that has been gathered from the established complaint mechanism at provincial judicial institutions and from monitoring court cases by communities.

The provincial coordination is used for national advocacy and has for instance resulted in the installation of at least three women judges in the Kunduz province, which did not have any women judges at all. Afghanistan is considered to be a male dominant society and adjudicators are conservative in women related cases, therefore it is important to increase the number of women judges who understand the issues that women face in the justice system.

At the community level, the trajectory increased the level of awareness and ability of people to claim their rights effectively, for example on women's rights of inheritance and the right to file petitions to the court if someone is not satisfied with the decision of the Jirga.

Burundi

The security and justice trajectory has focused on advocating for legal aid to vulnerable groups, which resulted in the adoption of a national policy on legal aid, which subsequently was translated in an operational plan for legal aid by the Ministry of Justice. As part of the operational plan Cordaid and partners contributed to the identification and selection process of paralegals in three provinces.

As a result of lobby and advocacy actions undertaken by the East African Bar Association and various advocacy meetings initiated by Cordaid partner Barreau and other CSOs have the right to take part in "operational judicial assistance commission", which is setting the criteria for legal aid.

Currently, 252 paralegals in Cibitoke, Mwaro and Bujumbura provinces are using clear guidelines on referral on legal advice as stipulated in the ethical guide for paralegals that was developed by the Ministry of Justice. The work of the

paralegals has already helped to resolve almost 400 cases peacefully and the paralegals have given legal advice to an even larger number of people on penal procedures, family code and other topics.

CAR

Security at community level is a constant concern in CAR. Community leaders from the conflict-affected areas have been trained in early warning mechanisms and equipped with mobile telephones. Community leader can either call army or security officials or one of the partners to denounce cases of human rights violations committed within their communities. Cases are followed up, as well as announced on the radio of partner RDJH. These cases are referred to aforementioned *centres d'écoute*, linking the justice and gender aspects of the Partnership's approach. Advocacy meetings by the partner organization LCDH with the National Rights Commission Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom (CNDHLF) has resulted in the redeployment of the Armed Forces to improve the security climate for the populations of Alindao, Bambari and Bria.

The SIPRI research has given important insights on how people view the role of the armed forces and MINUSCA in peacekeeping. It will be followed up with national advocacy on recommendations on how to better engage with communities.

A second focus of the Partnership in CAR is on transitional justice. A grassroots consultation process has been carried out with the view to setting up the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR) by the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation. It shows that the Government and puts the survivors of conflict at the heart of the establishment of the CVJRR considers associations of victims as key actors in the search for peace. In 2019 a long advocacy trajectory culminated in the Prime Minister pushing forward the Preliminary Draft Law for establishing the CVJRR, and its immediate adoption by Parliament.

Concerning the peace process partner organizations have been able to seize several opportunities to increase their involvement. This has resulted in the integration of Associations of victims into the "African Coalition for the International Criminal Court" as well as their participation in the meeting in Khartoum which led to the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in CAR (APPR). The approval of Ministerial Decree No. 19.143 has enabled the integration of partner organizations LCDH and AVED in the Executive Committee for monitoring the APPR peace agreement, giving them the right to denounce any infraction by the parties that signed the agreement. The executive committee has already convened 7 times to discuss reports by focal point from the interior of the country on the implementation of the peace agreement.

DRC

By taking part in the study by SIPRI local partners understand better how local communities perceive the role of the state and the UN in stabilization and reducing conflict in DRC. The research supported the Independent Strategic Review on the MONUSCO mandate. The recommendations of the report, such as that the Congolese state should assume more responsibilities as security provider and that there should be a renewal of capacity support, have been shared with DRC officials and other key stakeholders.

Cordaid and ODI organized a round table in Kinshasa on customary and informal justice providers, during which the Minister of Justice took a commitment to accelerate the ADRM (Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms). The ODI report has supported our advocacy to assign magistrates to rural areas and to accelerate the ADRM.

The Partnership continued its advocacy for strengthening the local security councils (CLSPs). A round table meeting that included provincial deputies has resulted in the establishment of a multi-stakeholder provincial working group responsible for monitoring recommendations and resolutions on the operation of CLSPs in South Kivu. Furthermore, the adoption of the draft Provincial Decree on the CLSP Fund has greatly contributed to the operationalization of the CLSPs. The improved functioning of the CLSPs has made it possible for program partners to raise the issue of the need to improve security in critical areas, which has resulted in the additional deployment of police in several communities of South Kivu.

Cordaid and ASSN (African Security Sector Network) and local partners have started a field research program to collect information required to gain support for security sector reform in the DRC. International stakeholders have over the past

years diminished their support for the security sector due to the political crisis and reports of human rights abuses, and there is particularly a need to revitalize police reform.

South Sudan

Because of the fragile security situation in communities much of the lobby and advocacy is dedicated to the local level. In Magwi, Nimule and Bor support is given to dialogue on community security organized by Neighborhood Assemblies, in which community members, community leaders, police, army, national security and traditional leaders take part. The usefulness of local dialogues is made clear as one particular harassment case of women prompted the Governor of Jonglei state to issue a gubernatorial order for confiscation of firearms carried by soldiers, police and civilians within Bor town and resulted in the State Legislative Assembly passing a Bill on control of firearms. Following the lobby meetings, dialogues and round-table discussions with police, army, national security in Torit and Wau police posts were established in some critical and outside areas.

Exercising influence as civil society on the South Sudan peace process has gained support when the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in Banjul-Gambia granted partner StewardWomen *observer status* (Ref. No. OBS.521). StewardWomen is the second CSO from South Sudan to be granted with this status, giving it the mandate to monitor, document and report human rights violations to the commission. The observer status is critical to support the CCORPS (Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for the Ratification of Maputo Protocol in South Sudan) in following up the implementation of the Maputo Protocol in South Sudan.

In continuation of previous years mobile courts have improved access to justice for rural populations and contributed to reduction of backlog of cases. A second objective of the trajectory is to address early marriages. Women formed a community association in West El – Balgahazer State to lobby communities and traditional chiefs against early traditional marriage and is reporting any case of forced marriage to the State Ministry of Gender and to human rights groups.



3.3 Accountable and responsive health services

Under the Strategic Partnership, Cordaid works towards establishing inclusive, accountable and responsive health services in its implementation countries. Cordaid pursues this objective primarily through research, technical support and advocacy towards better health policies. This trajectory is active in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and includes an international lobbying and advocacy component. In Afghanistan, the Partnership undertakes national and provincial level advocacy together with local health-focused civil society organizations. In DRC, Cordaid works with local partners under the Partnership to conduct advocacy campaigns at the local, provincial and national levels, and to conduct research and provide technical expertise to inform policy development.

International

At the international level, much of the advocacy towards inclusive universal health coverage targeted the High-Level Meeting on UHC, held within the framework of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Cordaid's many priorities in international lobby and advocacy were twofold: first, regarding Afghanistan, the advocacy strategy targeted international stakeholders to encourage the continuation of international financial support for public health services in the country. The current state of the healthcare system requires continued financial aid from the international community to sustain, expand and improve its quality, reach and accessibility.

To this end, Cordaid cooperated with Devex to produce a series of articles and multimedia features on UHC in Afghanistan^{7,8}, DRC and South Sudan. The series was titled [Healthy Access: The Road to Achieving Universal Health](#)

⁷ The story on Afghanistan can be found here: <https://stories.devex.com/delivering-health-in-conflict-afghanistan>

⁸ A video on Afghanistan's health system: <https://youtu.be/Xne7IZft4Sw>

Coverage⁹. Together with Devex, Cordaid conducted a publicity campaign, publishing the series of articles in the run-up to the High-Level Meeting on UHC. The articles and multimedia feature described the challenges to and best practices of delivering healthcare in the demanding circumstances in Afghanistan, DRC and South Sudan. Additionally, the series highlighted the successes that modest international community financial support has brought about in rapidly expanding and improving health systems and coverage in Afghanistan. Through the publicity campaign, Cordaid and Devex were able to reach a large audience at the High-Level Meeting. Several individuals were identified as key audiences, and were targeted specifically with the campaign. The campaign generated debate on the importance of continued support for the Afghan health system and the steps towards achieving universal health coverage in DRC, both at the meeting and on social media among experts and opinion leaders in the field.

Countries

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the focus of the Partnership's approach to the Inclusive Health trajectory was a number of advocacy campaigns aiming to increase domestic revenues for public healthcare.

In 2019, Cordaid and partners organized a symposium in Kabul to conduct twofold advocacy: on the one hand, Cordaid and partners advocated for increasing domestic financial support for public healthcare. Simultaneously, the symposium was used to advocate for the continuation of international financial support for the public health sector in Afghanistan. The symposium involved staff of the Ministries of Public Health and Finance, Members of Parliament (MPs), national and international NGOs, representatives of donors, and journalists. After the symposium, the government more actively undertook efforts to evaluate the national Health Insurance Law. Gaps were identified and addressed, and the Law was included in the national pathway for change on healthcare.

As a result of advocacy campaigns conducted by Cordaid and partners, the Health and Budget Committees of the Afghan Parliament, presidential candidates, NGOs and CSOs who are working in health sector of Afghanistan agreed with proposals to increase the health sector budget.

Cordaid and AHDS, together with other partners, coordinated regularly with the Health Economics and Finance Department of the Ministry of Public Health, along with a number of MPs, in order to conduct joint advocacy towards the government on alternative financing strategies for healthcare. Together, the Partnership and MoPH identified the main obstacles to approving these alternative financing strategies, developing a one-pager which was submitted to inform discussions of Parliament's Budget Committee and the Budget Directorate of the Afghan Ministry of Finance. As a result of these advocacy efforts, the Ministry of Finance included increases to the national healthcare budget on the agenda when submitting the new annual budget for revision and approval.

AHDS and Cordaid facilitate lobby & advocacy activities through CSOs, health-focused NGOs, and other partners to advocate for policy reform. Furthermore, the Partnerships established links with the Islamic Party leader and presidential candidate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Islamic Party MPs in Parliament. These connections enabled joint advocacy efforts during critical discussions in the Health and Budget Committees of Parliament.

DRC

The Partnership counts 4 main achievements from its activities in promoting Universal Health Coverage in DRC. First, health sector stakeholders, including Cordaid and its partners, validated the National Strategic Plan for Universal Health Coverage (PSN-CSU) and the road map for its implementation developed under the leadership of the Office of the President of the Republic. Secondly, the Partnership's advocacy work contributed to increases in the health sector budget in the provinces of North and South Kivu. Third, 4 mutual health insurance companies were approved by the Minister of Labour and Social Security to supply mutual health insurance in DRC. Finally, Cordaid and its partners under the Partnership published a feasibility study for the creation of a collective mutual health insurance for the Police in DRC.

National Strategic Plan for Universal Health Coverage

In accordance with a request made by the Ministry of Health and the Office of the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the interventions of the Partnership in 2019 focused on supporting the Congolese Government in the process of

⁹ Read the full Devex feature here: <https://pages.devex.com/healthyaccess.html>

developing a Strategic Plan and a roadmap for the implementation of Universal Health Coverage in DRC. Cordaid contributed financially and logistically, as well as through the provision of its expertise in healthcare systems, to the development of the National Strategic Plan for Universal Health Coverage (PNS-CSU).

In order to equip the stakeholders in the process of developing the UHC Strategic Plan, Cordaid conducted a study on the role that community health insurance can play in the process of implementing the UHC in the DRC and co-organised, with the Office of the President, a workshop to celebrate the International UHC Day. This workshop brought together the main local, national and international actors – including the WHO, the World Bank and the European Union – involved in the promotion of the UHC. It was the first international meeting on UHC in DRC, gathering all major stakeholders.

Substantively, the workshop enabled the development among attendees of a common understanding of the DRC's health situation and the steps ahead to ensure efficient UHC in DRC. It also mobilized participants to finalize the PNS-CSU that was presented 2 months after that workshop.

Developing the PSN-CSU contributed to support in preparation of the visit of the President of the DRC, Félix Tshisekedi, to New York during the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage mentioned above. Cordaid and partners prepared the President and his team to present the DRC's progress and guidelines on UHC. This meeting was essential to show to an international audience how much progress DRC was able to make on UHC in a short time-frame, and to illustrate that UHC is a priority for the new government. Additionally, Cordaid participated as a member of the President's delegation to the High-Level Meeting.

Furthermore, as part of the runup to the High Level Meeting on UHC, Cordaid and Devex produced an article on the state of play of the health sector and the implementation of UHC in DRC and Southern Sudan based on Cordaid's work in these two countries. This article aimed to draw the attention of national and international decision-makers in the health sector to the need to put in place coherent and adapted UHC policies, generating interest among participants of the Meeting and outside observers.

Affordability and accessibility

Increasing the affordability of healthcare is one of the cornerstones of Cordaid's approach to ensure universal health coverage in DRC. To this end, Cordaid and partners undertook a number of activities aimed at improving efficiencies, examining options for reducing costs, and advocating for policies that would increase the accessibility of health services for Congolese people.

Cordaid and its partners were responsible for budget monitoring in the health sector, monitoring the implementation of a provincial Edict on access to primary health care through mutual health insurance in North Kivu, and supporting communities and other stakeholders in the establishment of community mutual health insurance, including the mutual health insurance of the Congolese National Police. Cordaid, World Solidarity (WSM), DT-DA and ITUC Africa conducted a study on the impact of collective bargaining and trade unions on the rights and conditions of workers in companies, including subcontractors in the trade and mining sectors.



3.4 Extractives

International

The extraction of oil and minerals in fragile countries often causes contamination of the local environment, adversely affecting the health of local communities, who bear the burden – but do not share in the profits – of the extractives industry. In DRC and South Sudan there are policies in place to use some of the revenue from resource extraction for local community development, but these funds more often than not don't reach the communities they are intended for. As part of our efforts under the Extractives trajectory, we focus on organizing local civil society to collect testimony, evidence, and impact assessments, which are fed into advocacy campaigns aimed at protecting the health of the population, encouraging local participation in decision making around the extractives sector, and for a transparent allocation of funds stemming from the extraction of natural resources.

In November, following national workshops in DRC, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Afghanistan, Partnership coordinators attended a consolidation workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, to review the international lobby agenda and discuss opportunities for coordinating national advocacy actions. The meeting provided a forum to share and learn from the experiences, successes and challenges of colleagues in other countries. For instance, colleagues from Nigeria shared their experiences with how authorities conducted an environmental audit, providing useful lessons for South Sudan in particular on involvement and advocacy of the communities in influencing the audit process. Partners from Afghanistan and the DRC shared experiences on improving coordination between government, CSOs and actors at all levels to ensure transparent, accountable, and inclusive extraction sector management: in DRC funds are reserved for and allocated to community development projects in the mining areas and CSOs in particular have taken up a critical role in overseeing this process, ensuring funds reach the communities and are used appropriately.

International advocacy focused primarily on the EU minerals directive and its implementation. The Partnership has seen positive changes on this directive, resulting from continuous engagement with European Commission and OECD policy makers. In March and April, the Partnership organized two advocacy events, in Paris and Brussels (co-organized with EURAC), in which local partner BEST and the Partnership coordinator from DRC participated. The focus of the meeting at the OECD forum was the new mining code of the DRC and its interaction with international EU mechanisms for due diligence. One of the outcomes was that resource producing countries such as the DRC should be more involved both in

coordination mechanisms through civil society. As for the participation of the DRC government, there has not yet been any significant advancement, but civil society has been more actively involved. Furthermore, the OECD has engaged civil society to a much larger degree, following criticism last year with regards to poor support to civil society participation. In 2019 the organizing committee has given civil society more space to comment on the program and made more sessions available at the forum.

Countries

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, raising issues concerning communities affected by extractives proves easier at the provincial level than at the national level. Through constructive engagement with provincial governments undertaken by the Partnership, state institutions are more proactive in the exchange of information with CSOs, communities, and media. A multi-stakeholder group called Action Coordination Group (ACG) was established to coordinate local government participation in community and CSOs dialogues in targeted provinces (Kabul, Panjsher & Badakhshan). These dialogues centered on the mining industry, intending to address local communities' concerns about the extractives sector. As a result, the coordination among local government, CSOs, and communities developed into monthly meetings to discuss the impacts of mining on communities.

Simultaneously, the Partnership has undertaken efforts to raise community awareness on their rights, while also studying and drawing attention to the living conditions in communities around mining areas in Kabul, Panjshir & Badakhshan, through (social) media campaigns. Media interventions play an important role in initiating public debates and provided a platform for community residents and CSOs to convey the reality of their situation, and share policy recommendations to the Afghan government.

After a long process of joint efforts by local partner OFRD, together with Afghanistan Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (AEITI), the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has started to consult with CSOs working in communities near mining projects to develop and revise mining policies and procedures at both the provincial and national level. However, at present the consultation process at the provincial level is more active and results-oriented, and consequently more successful in practice, while advocacy at the national level requires significant time and patience to effect real change.

Similar to DRC and South Sudan, CSOs would like to see an allocation of mining revenues (5% by law) to the areas surrounding mines, but there has been a regulatory vacuum impeding the government to bring this provision of the law into practice. At present, provincial actors face difficulties in obtaining information from the central government the distribution and allocation of mining revenues to these communities, and there seems to be the little political will to speed up this process, particularly considering the ongoing violence, peace processes, and the elections that took place in 2019.

DRC

Following the approval of the 2018 revised mining code, the Partnership has targeted advocacy efforts at the effective implementation of the code to the benefit of the population living in mining areas. Provincial and local authorities of the mining zones have sent requests to Cordaid and its partners to support and conduct efforts to popularize the revised mining code in their jurisdictions through awareness raising and advocacy, and to provide support in the implementation of the provisions of this code with respect to local development issues. Furthermore, the Minister of Mines formally requested the Partnership to appoint a number of representatives from civil society to be part of the national commission responsible for popularizing the revised mining code.

Activities carried out in 2019 have strengthened collaboration between civil society and provincial and local authorities. For instance, through the establishment of a collaboration framework with the CTCPM (Technical Coordination and Mining Planning Unit) and the civil society for the development of complementary application measures.

Allocation of funds is an essential measure stipulated in the mining code. Local communities in the provinces of Haut-Katanga and Lualaba have drawn up specifications to be discussed with the mining companies for direct payment to the provinces and to the decentralized territorial entities (ETD) to finance local development projects in mining areas. In the same perspective, partner organization CERN-CENCO and Cordaid made public a mapping of artisanal mining sites in in North Kivu on the contribution of the artisanal mining sector to community development. For the first time in DRC, mining

revenues have been directly paid to the communities through local authorities. Mining companies pay 15% of royalties to local authorities for financing local development. Challenges remain related to the management and allocation of funds at local level and we are completing a report on the management of those funds at local level.

Conflict, fueled by the illicit exploitation of the DRC's mineral resources in the eastern regions of the country, pose a grave threat to local stability. Implementation and harmonization of national, regional and international instruments is essential to a responsible supply of minerals for the international market. In this context, local partner BEST and Cordaid, in partnership with EurAc and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, organized a parallel session during the 13th OECD Forum in Paris focusing on interactions between, and opportunities and challenges posed by the revised DRC mining code and the European Regulation on the supply of minerals from high-risk areas. This session was followed by a public conference in Brussels on the responsible supply of minerals and accompanying measures, conveying the views of civil society in mineral producing countries on the EU Regulation, which was co-organized EurAc, German Watch, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Bogota, Justice & Peace and Ökumenisches Netz Zentralafrika. The conclusions from the 13th OECD forum in Paris were presented in a restitution meeting in Goma, in which stakeholders developed draft implementing regulations on ASM (Artisanal and Small Scale Mining) activities for advocacy towards government officials in DRC.

Omdat we samenwerken met zulke diverse partners, met ieder een eigen manier van werken, zijn we het niet altijd eens over de benadering. Sommige partners willen de confrontatie aangaan, andere kiezen liever voor diplomatie. Binnen het partnerschap proberen we een balans erin te vinden; als iets ècht niet klopt, zoals een bewering van een politicus op televisie, dan gaan we de barricaden op. Maar als het gaat om plannen voor de schoonmaak, dan heb je soms meer succes als je achter gesloten deuren spreekt. Dat is steeds een strategische keuze. Een goed partnerschap is elkaar versterken waar mogelijk, maar elkaar de ruimte geven om jezelf te blijven.

*“We work together with very diverse partners, each with their own way of working – so we don't always see eye-to-eye on how to do things. Some partners are confrontational, others choose a diplomatic tone. In the Partnership we try to strike a balance: if something is really *wrong*, like a politician making a false statement on TV, we'll man the barricades. But sometimes, planning a clean-up for example, a dialogue behind closed doors is more effective. Those are strategic decisions. A strong Partnership means complementing each other where you can, but also giving everyone the space to be themselves.”*

– Akin Oke, Program Manager Nigeria, Cordaid

Nigeria

Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is overseeing the clean-up of oil pollution in the Niger Delta. HYPREP approached CEHRD, a local partner, to support the development and validation of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the cleaning of the affected areas, which indicated a turning point in the initial frosty relationship with HYPREP and an important step towards securing agreement of all parties and effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation clean-up.

Persistent advocacy by the Partnership and other stakeholders to ensure that HYPREP receives enough funding and political support needed for the clean-up has culminated in the release of the sum of \$180m in the 2018-19 fiscal year by the Federal Government of Nigeria and Shell. In 2019 HYPREP commenced the clean-up of Ogoniland by commissioning 25 cleanup sites.

The Partnership gathered evidence that in some communities women and youth in particular never had direct interactions with the government to voice their aspirations and concerns about the damage to the community or the clean-up. Following advocacy for improved communication, HYPREP started sustained community engagement and conducted joint monitoring visits to cleanup sites with CSOs, including those working with the Partnership.

Further Partnership interventions initiated dialogue between public agencies and the local communities in Ogoniland. Leaders in the oil impacted communities of K-Dere, B-Dere and Bonu now meet periodically at large town hall meetings to assess the cleanup in dialogue with decision makers. Similarly, the Forum of Ogoni Councilors, a political representative group trained by the Partnership, has initiated quarterly meetings with HYPREP. A number of women groups formed the

Coalition of Ogoni Women Development Initiative to increase their capacity for lobby and advocacy. The coalition has made demands through a media roundtable and even developed a radio jingle as an advocacy tool.

South Sudan

National advocacy for transparent and sustainable resource management is a challenge, because some government institutions still consider oil issues very sensitive and issues of national security. At the same time, advocacy efforts under the Partnership have received support from decision makers, particularly at local and state level. For example, the Commissioner of Upper Nile State supported the SUDD Institute by granting its researchers permission to conduct focus group discussions on environmental hazards caused by oil exploitation despite orders from the National Ministry of Petroleum blocking the research study. The Partnership continues to navigate this complex political environment in order to pursue its objectives relating to the extractives industry.

In order to address negative effects of oil extraction, a Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) was formed in the oil producing areas of Melut and Palouch. The GRC members were trained on grievance collection, advocacy, and mediation, and consequently hold regular monthly meetings to discuss community grievances and advocacy issues. The committee engages their Commissioners, Governors and MPs at the state level. The state level MPs then present the grievances to the national level MPs for deliberations at the National Parliament.

Advocacy for allocating oil revenues has been pushed further in 2019. On invitation of the Steering Committee of the Greater Upper Nile Regional Dialogue, SUDD Institute presented a paper on the oil revenue allocation of 2% to States and 3% to communities. Subsequently, State MP Hon. Mary Ayen, with support by AMA and UNYDA, raised a motion in the Council of States that prompted the summoning of the national Minister of Finance and Economic Planning to appear before the Council to explain petroleum revenues allocation. The process to advocate for fair distribution of revenue allocation continues, with CSOs monitoring and providing technical and advocacy support where necessary.

Community Development Committees (CDCs) and Coordination Forums (CDC-CFs) are required to manage and oversee the 3% of the net petroleum revenues allocated to communities. A Lobby Group was formed by the youth, payam chiefs, and women leaders from the oil producing areas to push for the formation of the Community Development Committees (CDCs) at county level. As a result, Governors from oil producing States have formed CDCs and a first community development committee account has been opened at the Bank of South Sudan in Northern Upper Nile State.

3.5 Space for civil society

On many levels and in a wide variety of forums, Cordaid has drawn attention and provided policy inputs on the urgent and pressing shrinking space for civil society organizations. This worldwide trend has continued strongly in 2019. All the Strategic Partnership countries were affected in one way or another by the consequences of this shrinking space.

“We will never allow the bitter memories of the past to become realities again.”

- Mary Akrimi, Director of the Afghan Women’s Network

For that reason, Cordaid engaged in a fruitful and insightful partnership with Hivos, another Dialogue & Dissent partner, to map out the main characteristics of and challenges for civic space in all D&D implementation countries, focusing in particular on the ways organizations have been able to continue their work, particularly using innovative and creative ways to conduct or strengthen lobby & advocacy efforts.¹⁰

Simultaneously, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) conveyed a strong appeal to protect and expand space for civil society. This appeal was taken on board by the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) Peace Vision¹¹, launched in 2019. Restrictions on civil society’s freedoms and scope for action are seen by IDPS to increase isolation and undermine dialogue, exchange, coalition-building and advocacy at national, regional and international levels. The absence of substantive and inclusive participation by civil society also adversely affects the legitimacy and longevity of political processes and peace agreements. Therefore, protecting and expanding space for an active civil society is vital for IDPS.

Furthermore, CSPPS spearheaded the drafting of the 2019 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+ that calls for a human rights based and people-centered approach to meeting the SDGs. The Declaration reaffirms the need for meaningful participation of at-risk groups in decision-making, peace, and governance processes. Additionally, the Declaration demands that, for civil society to play its role shrinking space, the increased attacks on and inadequate and fluctuating funding opportunities for civil society and human rights defenders must be curtailed. The Rome Declaration was presented in the context of the SDG16 Thematic Review during the High-Level Political Forum in July, and has been influential in the actualization of the SDG Summit Outcome Document.

The 2019 Ready for Review project effectively fostered civil society engagement in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) participating in the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). The Ready for Review was built around political dialogue processes taking place in context of the IDPS-partnership in which CSPPS represents civil society. In embarking on this project, and by instrumentalizing existing engagement in political dialogue processes, CSPPS managed to ensure meaningful inclusion and participation of national and local civil society organizations in government-led SDG16 consultation, review, and validation processes.

Finally, the specific added value of faith-based organizations in processes of sustainable development and peace & security – a joint advocacy trajectory between Cordaid, Pax for Peace, Mensen met een Missie, Prisma and Vrije Universiteit – reached an apotheosis in a well-attended expert meeting and public event in 2019, in which Cordaid’s partner Josephine Chandiru Drama from StewardWomen (South Sudan) was one of the speakers.

¹⁰ The report can be found here: <https://www.cordaid.org/en/publications/making-civic-space-resilient/>

¹¹ The 2019-2021 Peace Vision can be found here: https://www.pbsbdialogue.org/media/filer_public/f8/5a/f85a6879-f10d-4c25-b776-6b65376fa0bd/final_idps_peace_vision_eng.pdf

4. DRAWING LESSONS

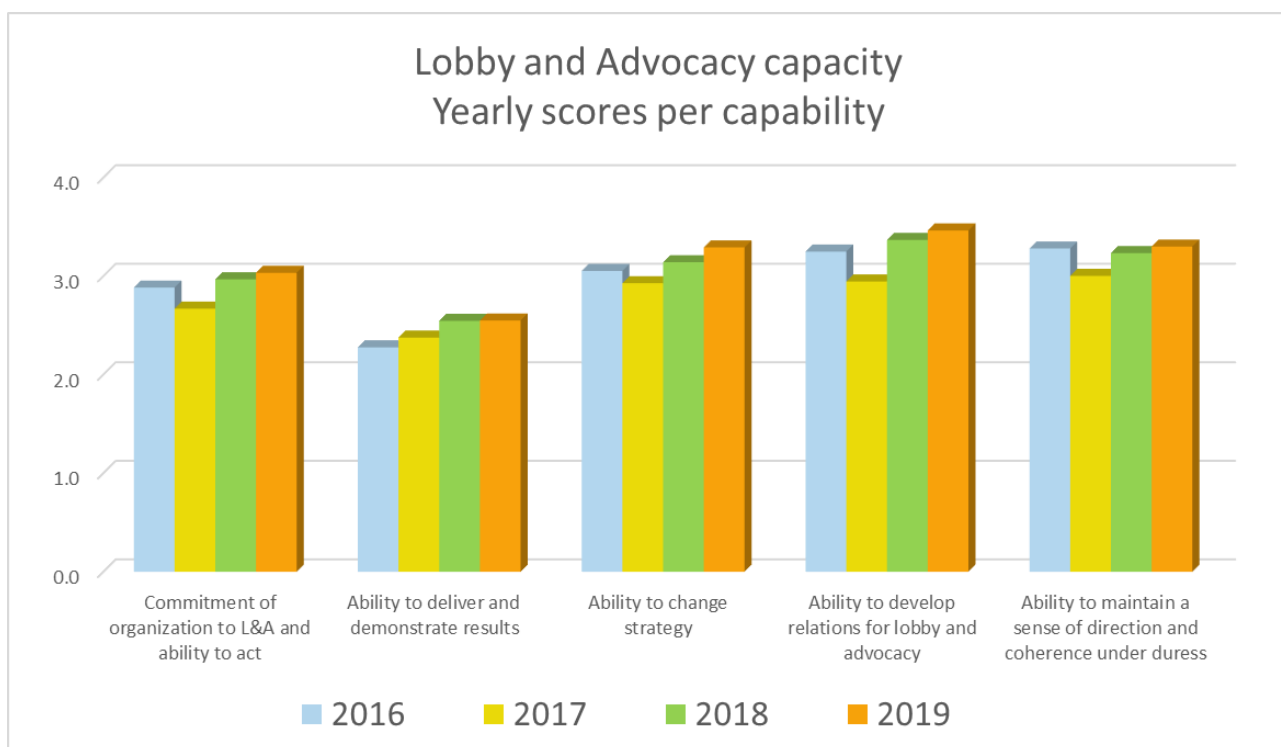
4.1 Lobby and advocacy capacity development

Cordaid Country Offices regularly organize activities based on the agreed capacity development plans. We make sure that capacity development activities go beyond training and include research, coaching, exchange visits, joint L&A and reflection workshops. These broad capacity development activities are essential, as strengthening the lobby and advocacy capacity of our local partner organizations is crucial to achieve outcomes in policy influencing.

“My position as a member of the Independent Electoral Commission is the fruit of the knowledge gained through capacity building workshops on lobby and advocacy. I would say that the program opened my eyes. Now? I can easily exchange with decision makers at local and national level. When I enter their offices it's like I'm walking into my home. They know me and we discuss in a friendly manner. What makes me happy and proud of what we have achieved is the fact that there is mutual trust among decision makers and us at local, communal and provincial level. This is more important than everything.”

– Cleoplace Kwikukira (Burundi)

As in previous years, the Partnership carried out an organizational L&A capacity assessment for each partner organization. The combined capacity assessments for the various organizations were integrated into a capacity development plan for each country. The scores on the different L&A capacities are obtained through a guided self-assessment and each score is discussed with the partner organization. The chart below provides an overview of the average scores of the partners on five dimensions of organizational L&A capacity. Some partners have made great strides in improving their lobby and advocacy, but there are also partners that scored lower. There are numerous potential causes. Often, lower scores were due to staff turnover, or general organizational weaknesses that seem to plague CSOs in fragile countries. We are satisfied that the average scores show a slight increase for 2019.



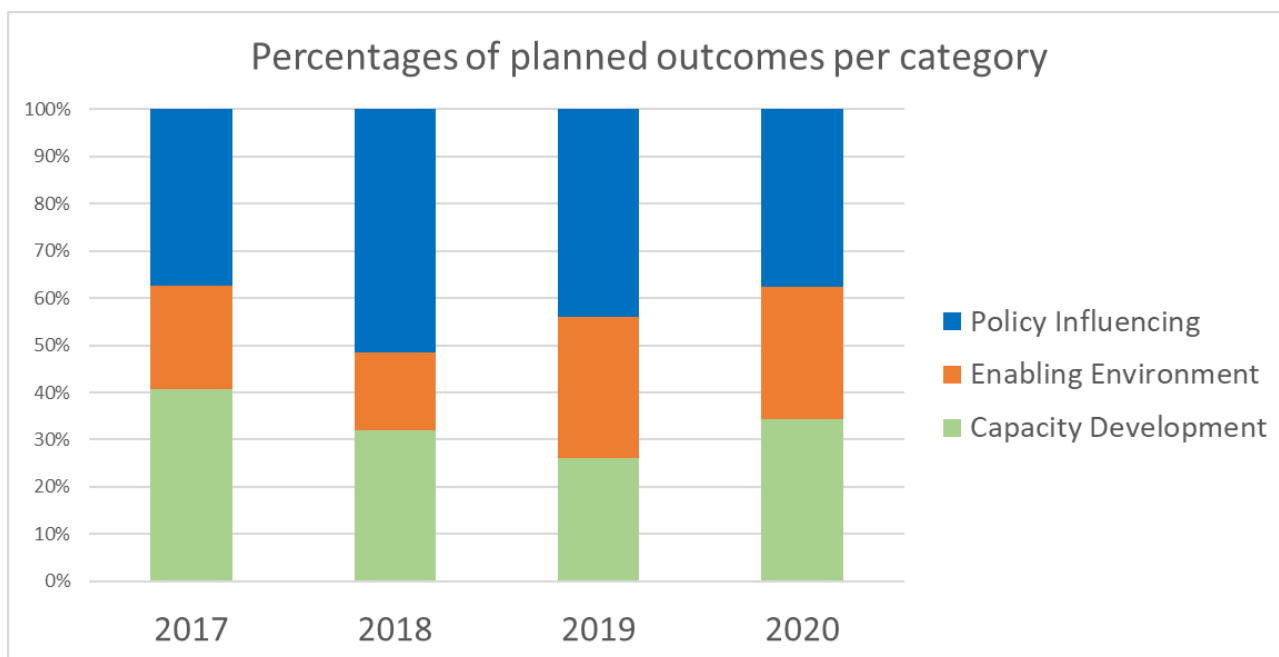
The graph shows high scores for the first year, because initially the guided assessment was perceived as selection criterium and critical appreciation by Cordaid. In 2017 when our local partners saw the use of the assessments for discussing needs and areas for improving capacities, the scoring became more self-reflective which resulted in lower scores for the second year.

4.2 Theory of Change and L&A strategies

In the aforementioned chapter on the social contract we present how the partnership contributes with a variety of results to the main objective of our overall theory of change: strengthening the social contract. The overall TOC guides our work, but to arrive at specific strategies, Cordaid and local partners redesign the Theories of Change for each trajectory every year. It is an important principle for the partnership that those implementing lobby and advocacy also describe how they envision change happening and set priorities in the 16 specific Theories of Change. Our local partners prioritize the detailed outcomes that they want to achieve and the stakeholders they intend to influence each year. At the same time, all program partners fully appreciate that not all L&A can be planned – nor does it necessarily go according to plan. In quarterly meetings, the actual achieved outcomes are harvested and compared to those included in the initial planning.

Thematic experts from the Cordaid Global Office have coordinated various capacity development activities for local partners and Country Office staff. For the trajectories Engendered Peace and for Security and Access to Justice, Cordaid held international exchange workshops, during which participants discussed and exchanged approaches and best practices and set joint objectives for 2020. Capacity development also included the participation of local partners in research studies by SIPRI and ODI. Furthermore, the thematic experts prepared missions with local partners from DRC, CAR and Afghanistan to the UN in New York and to European institutions, representations, and partners in Brussels. During these missions, experts and local partners prepared the meetings with policy makers, developed specific advocacy strategies and messages per actor, and conducted evaluations for each meeting. Through training facilitated by ASSN, partner organizations in CAR, South Sudan and DRC received instruction in techniques and theories of security sector reform, justice reform, and conducting security and justice sector assessments, which are subsequently used to assess and improve trajectory planning.

Categorizing the planned outcomes in the TOCs reveals that the emphasis has changed over the last years. The outcomes of the first year of the Partnership showed that most of the work focused on developing the capacity for lobby and advocacy. For 2017 and 2018, as the Partnership advanced, we observed a shift of attention towards creating an enabling environment for engagement with decision-makers, and towards policy influencing.



For 2020 less policy outcomes have been planned than the year before, because the TOCs focus on a limited number of obtainable results for the last year. With the aim to increase the sustainability of initiatives that CSOs started at community level, more capacity development outcomes have been planned for by the Partnership in the last round of adjustments of the TOCs.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid strives to end poverty and exclusion. We do this in the world's most fragile and conflict-affected areas as well as in the Netherlands. We engage local communities to rebuild trust and resilience and increase people's self-reliance. Our professionals provide humanitarian assistance and create opportunities to improve security, healthcare and education, and stimulate inclusive economic growth. We are supported by 288,000 private donors in the Netherlands and by a worldwide partner network. This gives us the leverage and implementing power to solve problems and create structural change in the most challenging settings.

CONTACT

Frédérique van Drumpt

Operational Manager
Program Unit
FDR@cordaid.org

Cordaid the Netherlands
Grote Marktstraat 45
2511 BH The Hague
+31(0)70 31 36 300
www.cordaid.org

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ANNEXES: CASE STUDIES

This section shines a spotlight on a selection of case studies that demonstrate the breadth of the efforts undertaken under the umbrella of the Strategic Partnership in 2020.

Annex 1: Appealing *Jirga* Decisions in Afghanistan

Trajectory: Security and Access to Justice

Afghans living in rural areas are used to accepting legal decisions made by the traditional *Jirgas*, a form of informal justice prevalent in many communities throughout the country. These assemblies of traditional leaders settle disputes by consensus, often replacing the formal legal system as the primary route to pursue justice in rural areas. Though the right to file a petition of appeal has always existed in Afghan legislation, many people, particularly in rural areas, don't know about the possibility to appeal if they don't agree with the decision of the *Jirga*. Many also lack the ability to file a petition, or find it difficult or culturally unacceptable to do so. As a result of awareness raising by our local partner Salah in communities, particularly using radio programming and campaigns on social media, rural Afghans have been made aware of the possibilities afforded to them by the formal legal system. As a result, the number of appeals on decisions made by the *Jirgas* has increased.

An example is the case of Ahmad, a resident of Khan Abad district of Kunduz province. Ahmad, after his father passed away, entered into a dispute over land inherited from his father. His uncle, living in the same village, took ownership of the land and all the crops. Ahmad referred his case to the *Jirga*, who decided in the favor of his uncle. After seeking the advice of the community elders, who in his district are part of Salah's justice platform, Ahmad referred his case to the formal courts. The court of first instance decided that Ahmad was the rightful owner of the land. His uncle did not accept the court's verdict and went to the secondary court in Kunduz, where it is currently under litigation. Since the secondary court usually accepts the verdict of the primary court, Ahmed will likely be able to claim his land soon.

Annex 2: Countering Gender-Based Violence in Bangui, Central African Republic

Trajectory: Engendered and Inclusive Peace / Security and Access to Justice

"Too often, the sexual abusers and rapists go unpunished. But now, we start frightening them." These words, spoken by Chimène Endjizekane, show the impact that the sisterhood of female lawyers she belongs to has on perpetrators of sexual violence in Bangui, the capital city of CAR. Mired in civil unrest and violence for much of the past decade, CAR faces an explosion of sexual violence directed towards women and, in some cases, men.

Men, who have been traumatized by horrific violence and continue to struggle due to substance abuse, lack of economic opportunities, and illiteracy, exert their pent-up rage on the women in their communities – at home, in the streets, in the fields. Sexism is omnipresent, and women are denied opportunities from birth. Women bear the brunt of the poverty and misogynistic traditions.

Cordaid and its partners are working to empower women by creating and sustaining *centres d'écoute* – community centers where victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) can register themselves for support. Chimène and her colleagues listen to the harrowing accounts of violence, documenting the facts, support women in navigating the legal system to pursue justice, and provide women with the psychosocial support they so desperately need.

Alongside their work with women, Chimène and her sisterhood use their centers to modify the mindsets of men in CAR. By involving former abusers in their meetings, Chimène is slowly evolving their views on women. "Here in the 7th district, the toughest part of town, we overheard men saying 'Guys, don't beat your wives, because the women lawyers will go after you'." Bit by bit, men are becoming advocates for progress, and the women of the *centres d'écoute* are at the center of that change.

Annex 3: Strong CSO Collaboration Leads to Ministerial Nomination in DRC

Trajectory: Engendered and Inclusive Peace

Throughout the course of the Partnership's work in DRC, a coalition of CSOs has advocated for greater consideration of the plight and rights of marginalized people in the country, including women, young people, and people living with handicaps. In DRC, handicapped people are often forgotten, and their cause is underrepresented in many aspects of Congolese society. Mme. Irène Esambo, working with CEHAJ 1325, was a member of this coalition, pursuing progress on the UNSCR 1325 agenda and advocating for marginalized groups in society.

In 2019, the Head of State recognized the work of CEHAJ 1325, and commended Mme. Irène's tireless efforts on gender issues and in promoting the welfare and representation of vulnerable groups. As a result, Mme. Irène was appointed as the Minister Delegate in charge of the portfolio of people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Mme. Irène's appointment is an inspiration for young civil society activists, who, by developing their professional skills and fighting for a cause, can achieve great things in society. In addition, her appointment shows that the good work done by civil society partners is seen and recognized by state authorities.

Annex 4: Advocating for the Inclusion of Women's Voice in the US - Taliban Afghan Peace Talks

Trajectory: Engendered and Inclusive Peace

"Afghan women will not go back." 2019 was a crucial year for a peaceful future in Afghanistan. Several parallel peace processes brought together the array of stakeholders in the conflict, trying to hammer out a deal that would end decades of violence and conflict. The peace talks presented opportunities to advocate for real and meaningful inclusion of *all* of Afghan society in a time that will shape the rest of their lives – meaning women and young people should also have a seat at the table.

"No peace deal should come with restrictions on women's employment, freedom of movement and autonomy. If it did, this would not only curtail women, it would be disastrous to the country as a whole."

Cordaid and its partner Afghan Women's Network (AWN) undertook enormous efforts in 2019 at the national and international levels to claim those seats. At the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, Cordaid and AWN addressed members of the UN Security Council, reiterating the central role of women in Afghan public life, and their crucial importance to sustainable peace. Further advocacy trips took the AWN delegation to the United States House of Representatives, where US legislators, including Senator Jeanne Shaheen tabled legislation to mandate the participation of women in the ongoing US-Taliban peace talks in Doha. Shaheen took the issue up with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, urging the prioritization of the interests of marginalized groups in any further negotiations.