



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
INTRODUCTION	6
The Power To You(th) Theory of Change	6
CONTEXT, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES	7
POWER TO YOU(TH) IMPLEMENTATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL	10
Pathway 1	10
Pathway 2	11
Pathway 3	12
Pathway 4	14
RESULTS, PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNT ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES	19
PARTNERSHIPS AND SYNERGIES.....	25
LEARNING AND RESEARCH.....	29
CONCLUSION	31

ABBREVIATIONS

AGYW: Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AU: African Union
BPD: Head of the Village Representative Body
CBO: Community-based Organisation
CM: Child Marriage
CMT: Country Management Team
CSO: Civil Society Organisation
CYCEE: Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education
EAC: Equivalent Annual Cost
FGM/C: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GBV: Gender-Based Violence
GMT: Global Management Team
GSB: Global Supervisory Board
GTA: Gender Transformative Approach
GUSO: Get Up, Speak Out (alliance)
GYG: Global Youth Group
HRC: Human Rights Council
HSA: Health System Advocacy (alliance)
ICFP: International Conference on Family Planning
IDGC: International Day of the Girl Child
IRCU: Inter-Religious Council of Uganda
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation
MCA: South Western Inter-County SRHR members of County Assembly Champions Network (MCA)
MCA: Members of the County Assemblies
MEU: Men Engage Uganda
MIYP: Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation
MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MoH: Ministry of Health
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
MP: Member of Parliament
OCA: Organisational Capacity Assessment
PHC: Parliamentary Health Committee
PMEL: Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
PMERL: Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning
POCT: Plan Opérationnel des Collectivités Territoriales
PRA: Participatory Rural Approach
PTY: Power to You(th)
SAC: Social Accountability Committees
SDG: Sustainable Development Goal
SEAH: Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment
SGBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SOGIESC: Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities, Gender Expressions and Sex Characteristics
SRH: Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI: Sexual Transmitted Infection
ToC: Theory of Change
ToP: Termination of Pregnancy
TWG: Technical Working Group
UPR: Universal Periodic Review
UYAHF: Uganda Youth and Adolescents Health Forum
VAWG: Violence Against Women and Girls
YAG: Youth Advocates Ghana
YIDA: Yes I Do (alliance)
YLO: Youth-led Organisation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Power to You(th) (PtY) partnership (2021 - 2025) enables more adolescent girls and young women from underserved communities to be meaningfully included in decision-making processes regarding harmful practices, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and unintended pregnancies. The programme has partners in Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Uganda and the Netherlands. The global consortium partners are Amref, Rutgers and Sonke Gender Justice. These partners work closely with the two technical partners CHOICE for Youth And Sexuality and KIT Royal Tropical Institute.

The Context.

2022 was the second year of

implementing the Power to You(th) programme and the year in which countries largely recovered from the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and eased their restrictions. Unfortunately, PtY implementation was confronted with other challenges, like high inflation (in some countries up to 32%!), ethnic conflicts in four of the implementation areas in Ethiopia, elections in Senegal and Kenya, an earthquake in one of the districts in Indonesia and a long period of drought in Kenya. In addition, PtY experienced opposition and shrinking civic space in several countries. Despite these challenges, the PtY programme did achieve results, and we are proud of the many outcomes that have been harvested through the Outcome Harvesting methodology.

The 4 Pathways

Implementation focused on the four pathways of the Theory of Change. For pathway 1, there was a continued effort in capacity strengthening and support to movements, groups and platforms of youth, which resulted in increased participation of young people in policy and decision-making bodies and advocacy by young people for social reforms. In pathway 2, the CSOs' capacities were strengthened, which resulted in more lobby and advocacy activities. In pathway 3, PtY invested in community dialogues, talks and capacity strengthening to address and discuss harmful norms regarding youth, gender and sexuality. This resulted in more social actors joining the programme and speaking out in favour of progressive

changes. In pathway 4, results show that many state actors at both subnational and national levels took action and spoke out against harmful practices, unintended pregnancies, SGBV and the importance of youth rights. The activities in the four pathways have been complemented by global and regional advocacy and communication efforts, like global campaigns, language advocacy on global resolutions and statements, the development of evidence and shadow reports and support to adolescent girls and young women from countries to speak out during global and regional events and hold their government accountable.

The Principles of the Partnership

A partnership survey was carried out at the beginning of 2022. The survey showed strengths and challenges within the partnership. This was followed by several actions to improve the partnership and internal collaboration, like the development of an internal communication guide, a face-to-face partnership meeting and a learning trajectory on collaborative partnerships. Furthermore, external relations with other strategic partnerships have been strengthened in several countries. PtY's main principles and approaches, including SEAH and Integrity, Innovations and scale up, Learning and Research,

Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation (MIYP) and the Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) continue to play a key role in the programme. In 2022, this was strengthened by activities including online 'Global GTA Dialogues', a new MIYP Engage4Change group, the development of a MIYP checklist, SEAH training, the startup of the Central Operational Research trajectory and an exchange visit between Malawi and Kenya.

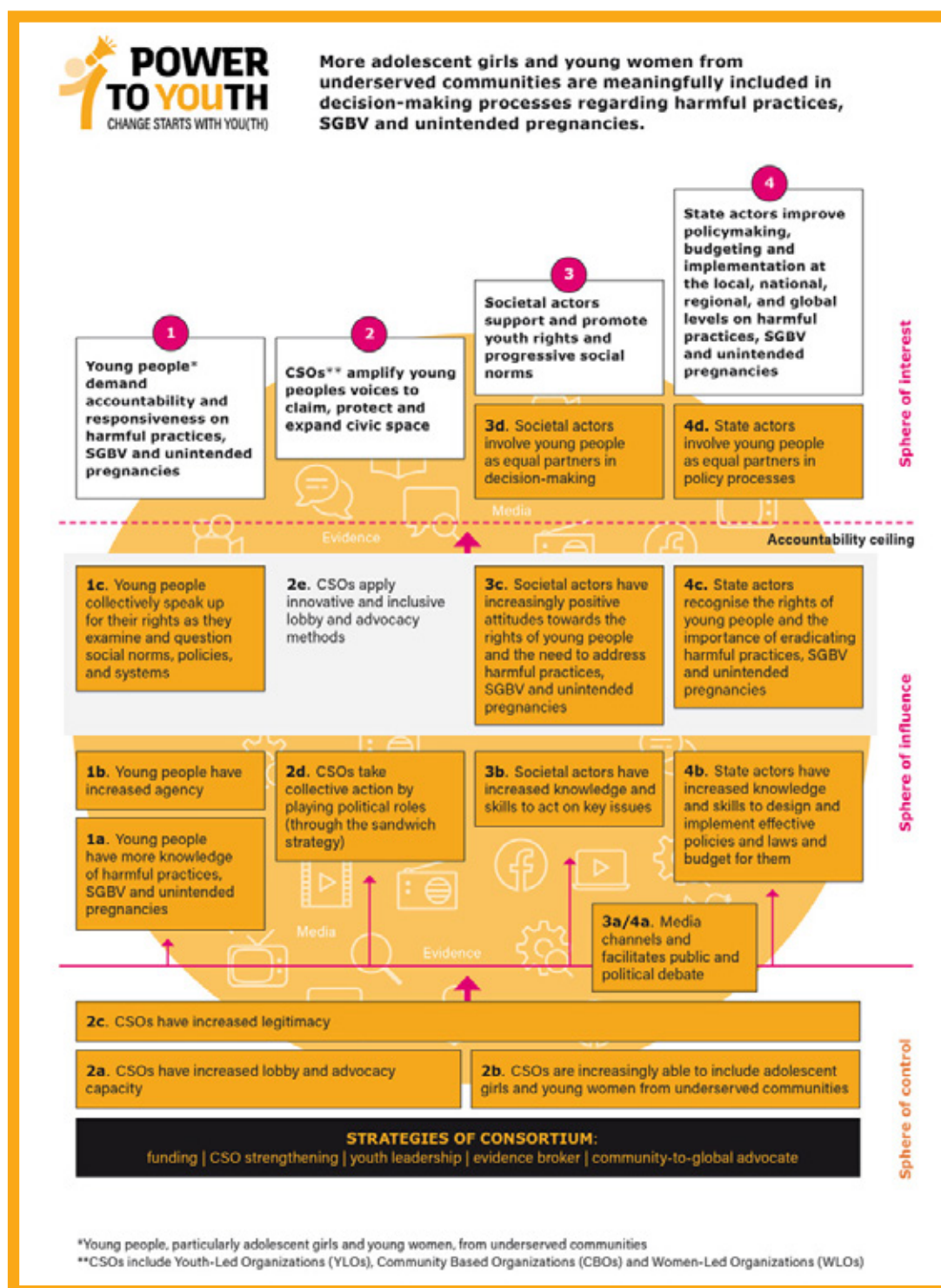
We can look back on a productive second year of implementation with numerous results and lessons learnt!



1 INTRODUCTION

This 2022 Annual Report of the Power to You(th) partnership describes the programmatic progress, results, lessons learnt and challenges of 2022 at country and consortium levels. We reflect on the progress made in each pathway of the Theory of Change and the key principles. This report also reflects on sustainability, innovative approaches, strategic partnerships at various levels and local ownership, risk management and safeguarding, and learning and knowledge management. Happy reading!

The Power To You(th) Theory of Change



CONTEXT, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In the second year of implementation, the programme has adjusted to the shocks experienced during its kick-off amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Conflicts and natural disasters have had an impact on the implementation of the programme in Ethiopia, Kenya and Indonesia, and in addition, all countries are facing high inflation which has resulted in higher costs to implement activities. But at the same time, opportunities to further engage through social media platforms and Telegram were explored and strategies for dealing with the opposition were strengthened.

COVID-19

It is no longer viewed as a risk in most countries, and in 2022 almost all countries relaxed the rules and measures instituted to curb the spread of the virus. The programme partners continued to follow WHO regulations and national government guidelines such as wearing face masks in crowded places and providing sanitisers and hand washing facilities. Given the reduced risks, more opportunities were created throughout the year for face-to-face meetings and events, enabling more active participation and engagement.

Political context

The political situation and stability in some PtY target countries remained fragile in 2022. During the period under review, Ethiopia experienced

ethnic-based conflicts in four of the PtY implementation districts (Kewet, Efrateena Gidem, Shewarobit and Ataye). The conflicts resulted in mass displacement and loss of lives and livelihoods, making engagement with community members very challenging. Furthermore, federal and local governments were mainly occupied with pressing conflict-related issues which impacted the advocacy initiatives. However, a peace agreement for lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities was signed between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front in November 2022. This is a critical first step towards ending the two-year-old conflict and is expected to have a positive impact on the implementation of the programme.

In West Africa, Ghana has so far been the only country in the Gulf of Guinea to have been spared from terrorist attacks, however, a southward advance of Sahelian terrorist groups and growing extremist activities in 2022 compelled the President of Ghana to request support from the United States of America. Ghana has claimed that Russia is supporting its Wagner Group to destabilise the Sahel region. This has since created tension between Ghana and Burkina Faso. The security threats remain in the Northern part of the country,

including in PtY target communities, where poverty is endemic, with poor education outcomes, worrying health indicators and fewer economic opportunities. Concerns have been raised about the safety of women and youth, especially adolescent girls and young women. It is expected that the situation will worsen as the country prepares for the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The CMT has developed a safety manual in partnership with renowned security experts in Ghana and additional Safety and Security training is being planned.

In Kenya and Senegal, the general elections process (pre-election campaigning to post-election) took place during a significant part of the year, presenting challenges as some of the authorities with whom we had begun work in 2021 are no longer present in certain institutions and advocacy interventions had to be postponed. However, it also presented opportunities for the consortium with the identification of new champions at parliamentary level in both countries. In Senegal, the coalition collaborated with young leaders elected during local elections. The ¹Ci Laa Bokk Platform was strengthened with these young leaders recently appointed or elected and who joined the national movement around meaningful youth participation in Senegal. Additionally, some leaders who already supported

¹Ci Laa Bokk is the translation of Power to Youth in Wolof. It started in 2022 as a platform of Young Leaders and advocates for PtY in Senegal.

the project's advocacy have been promoted to decision-making positions, such as the new Minister of Youth of Senegal, who was present at the Gala Football Match of the consortium in June 2022.

Shrinking civic space

Opposition forces are strong and are causing civic space to shrink. It is important for organisations to be able to hold the line and expand civic space. In Indonesia, the House of Representatives passed a revised penal code (now Law No. 1/2023) on 6 December 2022. The law is making consensual sex outside of marriage a criminal offence, articles in the law maintain the criminalisation of abortion with some exceptions, and now also criminalise distributing information about contraception to children and providing information about obtaining an abortion to anyone. The changes in the penal code negatively impact women's and girls' ability to protect their health, make informed choices about their bodies and having children, and can lead to unwanted pregnancies which can affect a range of rights, including ending a girl's education, contributing to forced marriage, as well as putting women's and girls' health and lives at risk. There have been widespread protests against the revised code, with many arguing that it undermines civil liberties and human rights in Indonesia. The new criminal code has not yet been implemented and the Indonesian government is still working out the details of the code. Human rights organisations have criticised this law for its potential negative impact on activism around sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In Malawi, there was resistance

among political leaders to support the Termination of Pregnancy Bill and it was not prioritised on the agenda for discussion. Developments in the global north, such as the US Supreme Court ruling to reverse Roe vs Wade and legislation that made access to abortion care in the United States possible, impacted the programme overall. Although this was in the US, this judgement has negatively and unequally affected campaigns for safe abortion access throughout Africa, including Malawi. Due to the widespread interest in this ruling by the world's media, it may impact how other countries define abortion law.

Dealing with the opposition forms a core part of the programme. Within the several strategic partnerships of MoFA, there is a wealth of experience and knowledge on dealing with opposition in a variety of contexts. This presented the rare opportunity to collate all this expertise to further strengthen our strategies and work within the programme and beyond. A Community of Practice on Dealing with Opposition was launched by Rutgers at the beginning of 2022. It facilitates exchange and learning on effective strategies for working on SRHR in a context affected by the opposition. Rutgers is the lead of the CoP, which consists of 56 members from over 20 countries and operates across multiple programmes (Power to Youth, Generation G, RHRN 2 and Centres of Excellence). The CoP hosted seven sessions in 2022: two introductory sessions and four thematic sessions (Monitoring and Mapping Opposition, Community and Culture, Investigative Journalism, and Digital Opposition). A learning product summarising the key

takeaways from the thematic sessions was created and will be shared throughout the PtY programme at the beginning of 2023.

Natural disasters and climate change

All the countries in the PtY programme are prone to natural disasters. Climate change increases the frequency and intensity of hazards, the exposure and vulnerability of communities and individuals and the stress on water and food security, for instance. Populations exposed to hazards may also experience stress due to long-term climate changes. Changes in seasonality, unpredictable rainfall and sea level rise can, for example, affect livelihoods and health, making people more vulnerable to all types of shocks, events and further change (see also section 5 Climate Change).

In 2022, an earthquake occurred in the Indonesian regency of Cianjur and affected four villages where the programme is being implemented. Activities in the work plan were adapted slightly, with a focus on information on menstrual health and hygiene management given the limited water, and sanitation facilities and infrastructure was very much needed. In Ghana, heavy rainfall between June and October 2022 affected the rollout of some activities to communities in the Kpandai District, specifically the Gulbe Quarters community, which is usually inaccessible during the period. This affected the planning of activities directed at the communities and invariably affected their access to SRHR information and services. Learning from year one of implementation, measures were put in place to have most

of the activities completed before the stated period to avoid a total stall of implementation. In 2022, the unprecedented drought in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) counties of Kenya, marked by five consecutive below-average rainy seasons since the end of 2020, drove a dramatic increase in humanitarian needs. Food insecurity and acute malnutrition rose significantly over the year as communities' ability to cope was eroded by back-to-back droughts. The drought, combined with global inflation, led to challenging economic times and impacted the implementation of the programme. Drought is increasing poverty and the risk of GBV and forced marriages. The programme therefore continues to offer linkages and referrals for young women to access services and economic empowerment opportunities such as vocational training (basketry, soap making and weaving) to support their household income. In addition, the search for pasture for livestock has led to increased migration of the pastoralist communities, contributing to increased cases of school dropouts of AGYW as a result of promoting FGM/C and child marriage as parents exchange their girls for food within some of the regions.

In Ethiopia, floods occurred in two of the Afar region implementation districts, namely the Asayita and Dubti districts. People migrated to other areas during this season. This also occurred in Senegal in one of the districts in which the programme is being implemented, mainly in Keur Massar in the Dakar region. The floods led to the displacement of about 3,000 families, with 271 families being displaced to schools. In Malawi's Machinga District,

Cyclone Anna destroyed some bridges which led to young people being disconnected from health facilities and SRH services. In addition, SRHR outreach activities, which serve a large majority of AGYW, were disrupted. However, AGYW engaged Members of Parliament and community leaders took necessary measures to ensure that the bridges were fixed. In Indonesia, climate change has greatly impacted the implementation of socialisation and the campaign of SRHR, with almost non-stop rainfall throughout 2022, which is also predicted for 2023. Participants were unable to travel to attend meetings, resulting in a low participation rates, or meetings were delayed by hours. The planning of activities was adapted to mitigate this challenge and participants were invited in the morning or evening, for example, as it usually rains in the afternoon. Programme partners learnt that more emphasis needs to be placed on integrating disaster risk management in the programme strategies and work plans, allowing for a certain level of flexibility to adapt activities to the context and work across the humanitarian-development continuum.

Rise in inflation

All the PtY countries were affected by inflation, resulting in higher prices for goods and services. The increased costs are making it difficult to procure necessary supplies and to pay for programme activities. Additionally, the economic hardship faced by the target communities has reduced their capacity to fully participate in and benefit from the programme as community members prioritise income-generating activities over participation in advocacy events or

are unable to afford transportation to join in meetings. As a result, the programme teams in all countries reviewed the work plan budget and identified priorities. The country consortiums revised the strategy for implementing activities where needed and reduced the number of sessions planned or the number of participants, for instance. To a certain extent they also limited the scope and impact of the programme.

Access to the internet

Access to the internet remains a challenge at specific locations in Uganda, Kenya and Indonesia, where limited internet availability and poor signal coverage makes digital advocacy and engagement challenging. In Indonesia, the local implementing partners used various types of SIM cards and went to the villages to coordinate directly with stakeholders to overcome this challenge. All the activities are now conducted offline to enable all partners and young people to participate. For global or regional meetings/events, participants are offered support to travel to a partner's office to access the internet. In other countries, such as Ethiopia, increased access to technology and interest in social media has resulted in an uptake in engagement on social media. At local level, the Power to You(th) programme started using Telegram social media platforms to exchange information between the youth and programme people and to forward youth concerns to the local government. This shall be strengthened in the coming years and PtY will explore existing virtual spaces for communication and advocacy purposes.

POWER TO YOU(TH)

3 IMPLEMENTATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL

2022 was the second year of implementation of the Power to You(th) programme. The PtY consortium is now fully operational in all countries and at global/regional level, rolling out activities and reaching results. This section will provide an overview of activities and quantitative and qualitative results of implementation by pathway. A full overview of the quantitative results linked to MoFA's Strengthening Civil Society basket indicators, compiled overall and by country can be found in Annex 1.

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, unintended pregnancies and sexual and gender-based violence

In pathway one, the programme focuses on strengthening young people to enable them to collectively speak up for their rights to bodily integrity, to decision-making and sexual health and to addressing their leaders and community members.

Empowerment and mobilisation of young people

In 2022, as was the case in 2021, there was a continuous focus on capacity strengthening and increasing knowledge, skills and agency of young people, in all seven countries. In Indonesia, for example, 1112 grade 7 students (547 girls and 565 boys) in 12 schools participated in a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme called 'SETARA'. This

programme is part of a whole school approach, where teachers, parents and school stakeholders together transform their learning institution to a safe space to grow, address SRHR issues like SGBV and unintended pregnancies and exercise their leadership skills. As a result, student champions stood up in all schools, where they mobilised and mentored peers on SRHR topics and advocated for accountability and responsiveness to harmful practices that occur in their school environment. In some schools, for example, student champions actively participated in developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the prevention of sexual violence and bullying in schools together with teachers, principals and junior high school supervisors from the District Education Office. In Ethiopia, around 3000 young people participated in trainings, mentoring sessions and advocacy meetings specifically focused on SRHR, gender equality and empowerment, through 41 youth groups supported in the programme.

Moreover, an additional strategy is the mobilisation of young people in movements, groups and networks, where they collectively speak up and demand accountability. In Ghana, for example, 40 'Movement of Youths' communities were formed under PtY in the Northern Region and in Kuria, Kenya, eight 'Girls & Beyond Cycles' AGYW came together and participated in sub-county budget-making processes.

Young people participate in decision-making and speak up

As a result of these empowerment and mobilisation strategies, young people from across the different PtY countries participated in policy and decision-making bodies at national and subnational levels.

In Ethiopia, for example, young people participated in the 3rd National Adolescent and Youth Health forum, which was officially opened by the Ministry of Health. The PtY youth advocates shared the project implementation best practices and learnings with the audience and also voiced youth concerns to the Minister, including the lack of access to basic SRHR information among adolescents and youth in Ethiopia. In Malawi, PtY and Break Free consortia supported young people from the Dedza and Machinga districts in engaging the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare to review the standard operating guidelines of the Community Victim Support Unit, to include young people. Following this engagement, the Ministry successfully revised the guidelines which are now awaiting approval. Young people meaningfully participated in this process by identifying and presenting the gaps of the previous guidelines and proposing amendments.

Another result of these different empowerment and mobilisation strategies is that young people have been able to advocate for social



reforms. In Uganda, for example, during the ‘16 days of activism against SGBV’ campaign, young people from Kakyanga Island shared the SRHR and SGBV challenges that they faced. In response, the health centre in charge of Kakyanga Highland Health Centre II designated a special day (Saturday) to address these issues and appointed one of the youth advocates, Miss Phionah Nakilowa, as the adolescent and youth focal person at the health centre. This shows the positive impact of young people raising awareness and advocating for change, leading to tangible actions being taken to address their needs. In Homa Bay in Kenya, young people were capacitated on social accountability mechanisms and tools after which they analysed the Homa Bay County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2022-2023 and the Finance Bill 2022, developed a memo and participated in public debates where they presented young peoples’ agenda and priorities. Furthermore, the trained youth formed Social Accountability Units and conducted social audits at health facilities, identifying gaps regarding youth-friendly services. In one facility, they identified missing resources allocated to the facility and provided

key recommendations regarding attaching a service provider within the facility. The findings were submitted to the county and, as a result, the facility was reopened and a nurse was assigned to the facility.

In 2022, a total of 764 young people engaged with decision makers from the seven PtY countries. There are also lessons learnt that we take from our implementation in pathway 1 in 2022. One of these is a ‘backlash’ that some countries encounter when empowering young people, especially girls. For example, in Ghana, where girls empowered through the programme experience name calling and stigmatisation, and remarks from parents, peers and leaders during their advocacy missions. This scared some young people off and meant that they did not want to participate in decision-making platforms and representations in the public space again. This shows the importance of working on all four pathways simultaneously. The teams that experience this have started to intensify their work in Pathway 3, addressing social norms and demystifying these misconceptions with influential community stakeholders like parents,

religious leaders and peers. Another lesson learnt is that it is sometimes difficult for young advocates to stay motivated, to continue to participate in decision-making bodies and to push for social change, when change takes long and their agendas are not directly taken up by policymakers. More and more countries recognise the importance of mentorship and peer supervision between young advocates, to discuss these challenges and how it affects their emotional well-being.

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people’s voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

CSOs are the driving force behind the Power to You(th) programme. They are one of the means through which the programme achieves its outcomes, including reaching out to adolescent girls and young women, the societal actors and the policymakers. In 2022, CSOs engaged in the Power to You(th) programme undertook collective action to create social change. A total of 165 CSOs participated in the programme:

PtY has continued to strengthen the capacity of CSOs and other

actors involved in the programme to ensure (a) that they are able to apply innovative and inclusive lobby and advocacy methods, (b) that they include adolescent girls and young women from underserved communities in their programming and (c) that they have increased legitimacy. Several capacity strengthening activities were conducted by partners across all PtY countries. These included capacity building on global lobby and advocacy, report writing for Universal Periodic Reviews (Indonesia and Malawi), Gender Transformative Approaches, Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation, conference abstract writing, PMEL training, organisational capacity strengthening, and comprehensive sexuality education for teachers, headmasters and school stakeholders at district/ municipality level (Indonesia). Capacity strengthening was intended to enhance the quality of CSOs' programme implementation and equip them with more skills to advance the advocacy agenda at global, regional, national, district, sub-district and village level.

After several capacity strengthening sessions within the framework of the PtY project, Senegal carried out advocacy visits with local and administrative authorities. As a result of their engagement, Mr. Ousmane Ndiaye (PtY project's focal contact point in the health district, aged 34) was elected President of the Health Development Committee of the district. The appointment of Ousmane broke with the tradition of only persons above the age of 50 being elected to these positions.

In Uganda, a unique digital storytelling capacity building training was conducted for CBOs and CSOs in the Busia, Mbale, Bukwo, Kalangala and Isingiro districts. This

provided young people with skills to effectively share their stories online to drive change, particularly in the area of SRHR policies. As a result of the training, CSOs were able to directly address SRHR concerns with duty bearers online. This sparked online discussions on SRHR between young people and decision makers. Further still, this training was effective in empowering young people to use digital platforms to advocate for SRHR policies in their communities.

Additionally, in Ethiopia, the programme identified and implemented a series of capacity strengthening trainings and meetings for NAGWE Network - a network of 20 youth-led/ youth-focused CSOs operating in the West Gojjam zone of Amhara region. This resulted in the activation of the Network to advocate for key issues that relate to AGYW such as influencing law enforcement agencies to implement that are against harmful practices, meaningful youth engagement, actively engaging with underserved communities in the regions on key thematic issues, as well as using the Network as an avenue for linking, learning and experience sharing among the CSOs.

Furthermore, in Ghana, 40 CSOs at different levels were engaged in youth policies more specifically for AGYW. The parliamentary lobby team worked with parliamentarians in Ghana to appreciate PtY Programme thematic areas and the need to engage civil society. Parliamentarians were trained on gender transformative youth programming, developing youth centred policies and broadening civic spaces in a democratic setting like Ghana. As an outcome of the training, members pledged their commitment to the programme and the general issues of young people

and, in particular, AGYW. Through these interactions, Ghana CMT was able to build strong connections with the national Parliament, and with the continued engagement there is hope that issues of young people will be part of the agenda as well as form part of the MPs' manifestos for the next elections in Ghana.

In Migori, Kenya, the programme brought together 58 CSO representatives from Kuria East and Kuria West to discuss emerging FGM indicators, preparedness and collective mitigation to stop FGM ceremonies during the festive season. The CSOs also rallied local CSOs to whistle blow on any suspected FGM ceremonies and provide mitigation strategies both at organisational level and collective action, leading to heightened surveillance and reporting of FGM cases during the December cutting season. As a result, 312 AGYWs from Kuria sub-county who were scheduled to participate in FGM ceremonies, were supported in not undergoing FGM/C and were brought into contact with safe spaces where they could get help.

Pathway 3: Societal actors to support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

In the second year of the programme, there was a continuous investment in all seven countries in community dialogues, talks and capacity strengthening, to address and discuss harmful norms regarding youth, gender and sexuality. Changing those norms is challenging and takes time. In the first year of the programme, all countries invested in identifying and building relations with actors at community level, like religious leaders, school teachers, parents and women representatives. Those actors became champions and ambassadors for the programme and

were supported in the second year to speak out, lead activities to influence their peers, set up platforms, promote and take action. As a result, there was an increase in support for youth rights and progressive social norms at local level and more societal actors spoke out in favour of this in all seven countries in the second year. For example, in Migori county in Kenya, local chiefs and assistant chiefs from FGM hot spot areas made a public declaration against FGM, organised sensitisation sessions and rallied the community to abandon FGM and other harmful practices.

In Ethiopia, more than 740 societal actors are engaged in platforms (training and dialogue sessions). Many have demonstrated an attitude change, including Mr. Manaye Berihun, Director of Debresina Junior Secondary School, who dedicated an office to the youth of the school to organise peer-to-peer sessions. He also started discussing adolescent and youth SRHR concerns (child

marriage and SGBV) among students, parents and teachers. Further still, Priest Nibret Takele, Head of South Mecha Ethiopian Orthodox Church now speaks during church services about the church's support of the fight against SGBV and unintended pregnancies. He also prevented several child marriages from taking place. This is particularly special because he married his wife when she was 15, and his two daughters married before they were 18. But after the engagements with the PtY team, he set up a committee together with local administration, brought together stakeholders from religious institutions, schools and the police to educate communities and take action when a child marriage has been planned.

In Uganda, after a series of cross border community dialogues on FGM, several FGM surgeons in the Bukwo district agreed to drop their cutting role and are now champions against FGM. While in Malawi, Men

Engage community networks were set up in Dedza and Machinga, which have been central in engaging men in dialogues on gender roles and fighting SGBV through awareness raising and information sharing on SGBV case referral systems. For example, one of the networks facilitated the arrest of a man who was sexually abusing his 15-year-old girl and ensured rehabilitation of the girl back to school.

These developments are very positive, but project teams also experience that in many communities a part of the population remains conservative and opposed to change. A lesson learnt is the importance of engaging boys and men as they are key in changing social norms at community level. This approach as set out in the programme design is showing promising results. We also learnt that safe spaces have to be created for dialogues, where people can also discuss their fears and challenges, when it comes to changing gender norms.

Power to You(th) pearl: Model Gendered Families in Ghana

Power to You(th) Ghana has implemented the Model Gendered Household (MGH) strategy in 40 communities in Northern Ghana. At the moment, 200 households are voluntarily engaged. The goal of the strategy is to enhance dialogue in the family, strengthen the children's voices and change traditional gendered decision-making, where the father makes all decisions, and women and girls obey. In order to become a 'Model Gendered Household', a household goes through a series of workshops and trainings about gender equality, division of household tasks and inclusive decision-making, and has to demonstrate an exemplary life, as the MGH are an example to other community members. The model, which has now been implemented for 1.5 years in most communities, shows promising results in its capability to promote intergenerational dialogues, positive masculinity and redistribution of (unpaid) care work within the smallest entity of decision-making. Members of MGHs have testified on the transformative effects of this strategy on their everyday life: for example, in Sambu (Mion) a young woman stated that being a member of the MGH changed her belief that only girls are responsible for the household tasks and she consequently ensured that the boys join in during the fetching of water, sweeping or cooking, which was very helpful and desirable for her. In another instance, the father of a household at Sangbana decided to let his female children join in taking care of the livestock, which was formally done by males only. He said that through the knowledge gained from the PtY programme, he seeks to empower both the girls and boys economically through learning a skill. Hence, the strategy was able to showcase gradual progress in the positive transformation of harmful social norms and MGHs have become advocates for exemplary norms and attitudes at home. In the same communities, together with the MGH model, groups of 'Legal Literacy Volunteers' (LLVs) are deployed. LLVs are equipped with knowledge on laws, policies and other legislatures that protect the rights of AGYW. As a result of the MGH and LLVs, practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) or SGBV are now more frequently identified and reported to the police in several of the communities. Some chiefs and opinion leaders in these communities have expressed their readiness to enact by-laws that will govern the actions of community members in relation to FGM, SGBV and unintended pregnancies. They are currently exploring how to involve local authorities to get these by-laws passed and operational.

Media and social media campaigning to influence public opinion

Power to You(th) focuses on engaging media to influence public opinion and societal and state actors. Media can influence social norms and the way communities look at issues of harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies. In year 1, there was an emphasis on building relations with media actors, like journalists, media houses and editors. In the second year, we have built on these relationships by training media personalities and developing joint campaigns, building on global campaigns around international moments like International Youth Day and 16 days of Activism against SGBV. For example, in one of the districts in Indonesia (Jember), relations with media houses resulted in Jatim Network, Radar, Kompas, PWI, Tribune, Soka Radio and RRI broadcasting on issues on child marriage, teenage pregnancy and sexual and gender-based violence. In addition, it resulted in senior journalists, including Ira Rachmawati (Chairperson of the Alliance of Independent Journalists), Zuhanna (Pimred Jember Network) and Dandhy Laksono (Director of Watchdoc Indonesia) publishing on our topics. In Senegal, the project determined which media is most influential in the intervention districts and started collaboration with journalists and radio programme makers, including a training session on MIYP and positive reporting regarding youth issues. As a result, youth issues were highlighted often in the media and Community-Based Organisations affiliated to Power to You(th) were invited to participate in local radio programmes.

In Malawi, country teams set up a formal partnership with some of the national media houses, specifically to amplify advocacy messages and call for action of policymakers. This collaboration has resulted in news articles, clips and TV programmes calling state actors to act in ending SGBV and child marriage. Additionally, in Uganda, a gender transformative training for media personalities focused on equipping media personalities with the knowledge and skills needed to promote gender equality in their reporting and challenging harmful gender norms through the power of media was conducted. As a result of the training, media personalities have become allies and effective advocates for gender equality and are using their platforms (<https://www.newvision.co.ug/article/details/143198>) to raise awareness on issues affecting women and girls. In total of 346 media reports were produced.

Pathway 4: State actors improve policymaking, budgeting and implementation on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

In 2021, the first year of the programme, all countries invested in building relations with state actors, signing MoUs for collaboration and establishing partnerships. This was followed in 2022 by implementation of different types of advocacy activities to influence state actors, like meetings and dialogues, but also the development and presentation of position papers and organisation of public events. In Senegal, for example, the consortium organised a gala football match between young leaders of civil society and those of different national political

parties. Representatives of almost all political parties participated and discussed the importance of youth representation in policymaking after the match. In Kenya, PtY convened working group meetings with youth-led, women and People Living with a Disability organisations, as well as staff from the departments of Education, Youth Affairs and Gender Affairs, to discuss and contribute towards the country priorities and yearly budget plans. In Ghana, a group of young women from several communities presented a petition to the Northern Regional Minister to remove taxes on sanitary pads. Being impressed by the magnitude of the petition, the Minister invited them to share their petition with a larger audience at the Regional Coordinating Council Meeting where all departments, traditional and religious authorities and other key stakeholders participate. A total of 1630 policymakers were engaged in the programme in 2022.

Also as a result of the many engagements with state actors, many state actors at both subnational and national level took action and spoke out against harmful practices, unintended pregnancies, SGBV and the importance of youth rights. A case in point is Uganda, where the Deputy Resident District Commissioner in the Bukwo district publicly committed to becoming a champion and advocate against FGM. In Senegal, municipal councillors from the districts of Matam and Semmè made a commitment to advocate against child marriage and harmful practices in their municipal and communal councils. In Malawi, after the PtY consortium pioneered and coordinated the national commemoration of International Youth Day, in partnership with

the Ministry of Youth and a large network of youth-led organisations, the State President of the Republic of Malawi, H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, committed to implementing youth aligned policies and programmes for the first time since gaining power. Moreover, in Ghana, after several petitions and dialogue sessions between CSOs and parliamentarians, six members of Parliament publicly committed to advocate for the removal of luxury tax on menstrual pads. And lastly, in Indonesia, the Head of Garut Regency Education Office, issued an appeal to all schools in Garut to address bullying, violence against children and sexual harassment in schools.

Commitments alone are not enough, but they are an important step in our Theory of Change towards actual changes in policymaking, budgeting and implementation of policies. These are categorised as 'long term change' over and above the accountability ceiling, but because this is not a linear process, we see that those commitments

and changes in the attitude of state actors lead to immediate results in policymaking, budgeting and implementation of policies in some situations, already in the second year of implementation. This is especially the case at subnational level, where decision-making can be fast and, in some countries, subnational governance structures have the autonomy to develop policies and allocate budgets. In Indonesia, for example, where village heads from 12 villages in four districts expressed commitment to the empowerment of young people in their village and allocated funding from the overall Village Budget to activities led by young people. And the Woreda Government of Aysaita in Ethiopia decided to set up a One Stop Centre for youth-friendly services, free from payment.

This is more complex for the national level and will take more time. The Power to You(th) Malawi team developed a position paper to advocate for the amendment of the Gender Equality Act and the Child Care and Protection Act, to

include harmful traditional practices and a stronger punishment for child crimes. This resulted in the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Justice acting and producing a first draft of amendment on these two acts, which will be presented in Parliament. However, in 2023 more advocacy is needed to make sure the bills pass Parliament and are implemented. Additionally, in Ghana, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection responded to demands of the PtY programme to have youth (AGYW) play a key role in the review of the National Youth Policy and national Framework on Ending Child Marriage. PtY youth participated and provided recommendations for improvement of the policy, which now have to be discussed in Parliament. Furthermore, the PtY programme held a national discourse on the National youth policy featuring CSOs and the National Youth Authority to ease collaborations between civic societal actors within the implementation area. The platform consciously included youth advocates, hence the dialogue accelerated inclusion of AGYW into decision-making.



Power to You(th) pearl: Cii La Bokk in Senegal

Cii La Bokk is a Senegalese platform for young people to advocate for Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation (MIYP) in decision-making spheres and leadership positions. In 2021 and 2022, before the local elections in Senegal, the PtY Senegal team was very active in advocating for the involvement of more young people in politics. And the election results in 2022 showed that for the first time ever many young Senegalese were elected. To build on this achievement, the PtY team organised lunch meetings to bring together many of these recently elected young leaders to discuss the effective participation of young people in legislative bodies by identifying barriers as well as strategies that should be put in place to change this. Beyond the young political leaders, these meetings also brought to the table young leaders of civil society, young entrepreneurs, young feminists, activists and parliamentarians. What followed was a capacity building trajectory that gave birth to the national platform 'Cii La Bokk', set up by these young leaders from several political parties, joined by 14 CSOs and government ministries (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender). They decided to take advantage of their diversity to move towards a concerted advocacy for a better consideration of the needs of youth by laws, policies and programmes in Senegal.

Cii La Bokk has organised several activities since then, which really enhanced the collaboration between young leaders. Young politicians from different parties are now in positive and active contact with each other, since they realised that leaders were using them and that there was no time for any MYP. The platform was scaled up to five regions, involving regional authorities.

A challenge that is recognised across many countries is that a change in state actors can really mean a step back for the programme. Especially if these actors, through advocacy activities of the programme, have become more progressive/'reformist' and allies to create change. In countries that faced elections in 2022 (Senegal and Kenya), this affected the programme implementation and delayed the achievement of results because state actors were also not available/responsive during the election period. Another challenge is that the approval of policies and budgets can be very political and sometimes our advocacy is countered by conservative forces or by different priorities among policymakers. An example from PtY Kenya: they conducted a budget analysis with youth-led CSOs on the county budget of Siaya and identified a need to increase the funds for family planning commodities as there was a high stockout. The youth organisations jointly submitted a memorandum to

the County Assembly of Siaya, which recommended an additional budget to cater for procurement of adequate FP Commodities. Unfortunately, this was not considered in the approved budget. This taught us that it is very important to bring all policy makers on board, not only the progressive/'reformist' ones, and that we need to continuously reach out to those who are conservative/opposed as well.

Global And Regional Level: Our Work In Advocacy And Communications

In Power to You(th) the work at country level is complemented by a team of advocates and communication staff at global and regional level.

Global and regional lobby and advocacy efforts

In 2022, our global and regional lobby and advocacy focused on three main strategies. On the one hand, there has been advocacy focused

on progressive language in global resolutions and statements, including during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and the Human Rights Council (HRC). At the CPD, a resolution was successfully negotiated, which included references to sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence and marginalised communities. At the HRC, we presented statements on SGBV and the right to Sexuality Education and provided input on resolutions regarding Discrimination against Women and Girls and Violence against Women and Girls. We are proud to say that a brief provided by PtY to diplomats was shared widely and cited by at least five countries. The outcome is the fact that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women was extended to also include girls, i.e. "to examine the specific ways that girls are impacted by violence". The expertise in the PtY team in UN language advocacy was also

used during the negotiations at the High-Level Political Forum where a Ministerial Declaration was adopted that contained impressive wins when it comes to references to sexual and gender-based violence, pregnant girls and young mothers, and gender-responsive policies. The outcome documents also included language on male engagement and gender transformative norms.

Secondly, the global and regional advocacy team has been brokering global and regional spaces for adolescent girls and young women advocates from country teams to speak, share best practices and experiences from their work in the countries and to hold their government accountable. An example is the International Day of the Africa Child Conference hosted

in partnership with the AU Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which focused on implementation and accountability of commitments on FGM across the African region. During that day youth advocates from PtY Ethiopia, PtY Malawi and PtY Uganda advocated for youth involvement in decision-making on FGM and we are proud that the outcome documents adopted language on the importance of youth-led advocacy and MYE in accountability for commitments. Other examples are CSW, where youth advocates presented their perspectives during a side event on youth male involvement in the eradication of FGM and the September Human Rights Council session, where we organised a cross-partnership side event together with MoFA, IPPF and ARROW on preventing adolescent pregnancies.

Youth advocates from PtY Ghana, PtY Senegal and Right Here Right Now Indonesia spoke during the event about the relation between adolescent pregnancies and CSE.

Thirdly, we developed shadow reports and evidence to influence decision-making at global and regional platforms. For example, the team developed and presented research on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change on FGM² during the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum. In addition, we developed an ICPD+30 shadow report that covers fifteen countries in three partnerships and four global regions. The shadow report will be used in the national, regional and international consultations for the ICPD+30 review in 2023 and 2024.

Power to You(th) pearl: Accountability for AGYW rights with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

This year we have successfully managed to bridge national and international advocacy regarding several activities. One of these concerned the trajectories of the CMTs in Ghana and Indonesia engaging in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. This UN Human Rights Council mechanism entails a peer review of all UN member states every 4 to 5 years. The teams in Ghana and Indonesia have translated their national advocacy goals and local evidence and learnings into global level human rights recommendations that were shared in shadow reports. These were presented during national level meetings and with diplomats during UPR pre-sessions in Geneva in August (Indonesia) and December (Ghana). A representative from the CMT in Indonesia shared the analysis in their shadow report as a panel member during the pre-session. The advocates from Ghana spoke during a privately held event with diplomats from 12 countries on their analysis of adolescent pregnancies, harmful practices and gender-based violence. Both states under review have received a number of recommendations from other UN member states related to PtY themes that will be used by the CMTs for follow-up advocacy on national level. Global PtY advocacy officers gave support in providing capacity strengthening on the human rights mechanism itself, providing feedback on shadow reports and supporting the advocates during pre-sessions held in Geneva.

²https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dagDKuD0PqE69mfSkQ_Cbha1idnwFqQC/view?usp=share_link

Global communication campaigns

At global level, the Communications Technical Working Group collaborated with the country teams to carry out several campaigns related to Power To You(th) thematic areas. These include:

International Youth Day

The Communications Technical Working Group, which includes communications representatives from all seven CMTs and the Coordination Lab, created the strategy for the International Youth Day campaign together and roles were divided on the creation of content, guides and video submissions. We aimed to use an intergenerational approach for our campaign to create awareness of different perspectives in our society on the Power to You(th) thematic areas through conducting an intergenerational conversation between a survivor of violence and a young person. The global team created the content and guides based on the discussions, while the Country Management Teams sourced for stories and intergenerational videos between the youth and survivors, showcasing conversations around topics such as sexual and gender-based violence, child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation in their communities. For example, country videos from

Malawi:

<https://youtu.be/WVOq7OupEb8>

Senegal:

<https://youtu.be/bktd4sBpvkg>

Ghana:

https://youtu.be/rj4ag_ykKaw

Kenya:

<https://youtu.be/4L7EFA-dR U>

Uganda:

<https://youtu.be/nol0N47iXn0>

More information can be found in the [IYD 2022 Campaign Social Media Brief.pdf](#) and the toolkits that were developed in [English](#), French and Bahasa. The campaign was a good start to co-created campaigns within the Power to You(th) partnership. With the involvement of the majority of our partners, the #POWER2YOUTH hashtag was trending on Twitter with 12,000 interactions, a reach of 885,000 people and 403 online mentions without employing a paid campaign strategy.

16 days of activism

In December 2022, the Power to You(th) Communications TWG organised a global communications face-to-face workshop with country representatives from the seven PtY countries and consortium partner communication experts. The workshop strengthened the capacity of country teams on various communication topics and provided the opportunity to share information and jointly develop materials. During this meeting, the Power to You(th) Kenya team organised an activation activity and campaign in Bombolulu, Kenya with local youth advocates. During

the event, youth advocates shared their key Gender-based Violence focus issues through an interactive play, which was broadcasted on three TV channels. More than 25 youth advocates mobilised and formulated recommendations as part of the United Nations Orange the World campaign. The recommendations were handed over to the UN Women's Director and a local Gender-based Violence Council representative, signifying the collective voices of the youth, speaking up and calling for action to mitigate the high rate of SGBV in their community. The media were present to cover the event and amplify the campaign further.

Check out the English version of the broadcasted footage here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo1t65iEkC0>

In addition, the team managed to conduct interviews with the youth advocates who joined the campaign, profiling their commitment to create awareness and advocate against the injustices towards youth in their communities.

The Youth interviews and recommendations are attached here:

[Youth Advocates Interviews - 16DOA 2022.pdf](#)

[Youth Recommendations - 16 Days of Activism.pdf](#)

4

RESULTS, PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNT ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

A. MEANINGFUL AND INCLUSIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION (MIYP)

Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation (MIYP) was identified as a key component in achieving the PtY objectives and is one of the core overarching principles of the programme. The PtY programme therefore structurally empowers and engages young people in all layers of programming and decision-making. Empowered young people can claim their rights and play a meaningful role in designing and implementing innovative and relevant SRHR interventions.

MIYP in governance structures

The MIYP agenda is becoming very visible within the CMTs as shown in the sections on Pathway 1 and 2. At the consortium level, the Global Youth Group (GYG), a working group consisting of different Youth-Led Organisations (YLOs) at global/regional level, is tasked with carrying out mutual capacity-strengthening activities on MIYP, providing needs-based assistance to YLOs at country and regional level and ensuring MIYP within the programme and its governance structures. CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, as a technical partner and a youth representative from Sonke, participated in the GMT, as it did in 2021, and ensured that decision-making within the GMT level was inclusive of the youth voices in the programme and supported the needs of young people and YLOs

in the partnership. Participating in the core decision-making for the programme provided a great platform for getting youth needs considered and youth perspectives included.

2022 saw the launch of the new and extensive MIYP TWG 'Engage4Change' with the aim of connecting youth and YLOs in the partnership and providing a global platform for youth to link and learn from each other through shared expertise, tools, capacity strengthening and best practices. This included YLOs sharing their experience implementing MIYP, highlighting the importance of Youth-Adult partnerships and the need to contextualise MIYP tools and resources.

Strengthening youth-adult partnerships

One of the central strategies working on MIYP in 2022 was building positive and effective youth/adult partnerships (YAPs) as it is a way to achieve shared power relationships. The Global Youth Group therefore launched a seed grant initiative (up to 5,000 EUR each) for youth-led partners to pilot creative interventions on MIYP. The selected YLOs used different and innovative strategies such as developing new tools and campaigns aimed at strengthening Youth-Adult Partnerships (with community leaders, local and

national decision makers). Small grant initiatives for youth-led partners on MIYP were launched in several countries in 2022.

MIYP and capacity strengthening of YLOs

Building positive and effective YAPs, works in tandem with strengthening the capacity of young people and youth organisations and their programmatic experience. Many activities have taken place under the capacity strengthening strategy in the past year. Some highlights: The GYG delivered a workshop for Youth Wave Malawi to facilitate the development of an Organisational Advocacy strategy. The training included exercises on power mapping, problem trees, goal setting, international and regional advocacy information sessions and more. Furthermore, a workshop was held in Indonesia where lessons learnt and best practices were shared. An inspiring session on the history of youth participation and activism in Indonesia was held, and other experiential sessions were organised to explore different dilemmas and solutions to challenges when it comes to putting MIYP into practice. The training culminated with the co-creation of action plans to deepen the quality of youth participation for each organisation, moving forward in 2023. When it comes to contextualising MIYP tools and

resources the GYG also led the development of the MIYP Checklist that is meant to help organisations to assess how they engage with young people and YLOs and to see them more than simply 'beneficiaries', but as partners, stakeholders and leaders. The checklist can also help youth-led organisations to evaluate partnerships and to promote MIYP.

"...The process of developing the advocacy strategy was eyeopening for our organisation as it helped us to prioritise issues and what to focus on for maximum impact in Malawi. The biggest challenge during such

a process is the difficulty to isolate issues since you want to work in as many sectors as possible but that taught us that prioritising does equally good and can accelerate impact." - Godfrey Malongo, Youth Wave Malawi.

Youth-led advocacy is also a central part of the programme in which young people are not only included in creating a supportive environment, but also take the lead. Setting up 'youth-led collaborations' helps young people to come together to effectively advocate for SRHR. As part of strengthening the capacity of PtY

youth advocates on Policy Advocacy and Meaningful Youth Engagement, the GYG rolled out three virtual Mentorship and Learning Sessions on 1) strengthening youth advocates' capacity on Advocacy, 2) Advocacy messaging and communication through storytelling and practice message development tools and 3) sharing experiences from young people who have been engaging in policy advocacy. These interactive sessions provided space for sharing experiences from YP in addition to strengthening their capacity on advocacy and MYE.

Key challenges, lessons learnt and good practices

Over the course of the last two years, young people gained structural representation at organisational and consortium level; collaborated in programming, policy, advocacy and evaluation efforts; and are acting as vital SRHR change agents in their local and national communities. Overall, this suggests that, also building on previous programmes, PtY has made substantial progress toward the institutionalisation of MIYP. However, progress can still be made in terms of both mainstreaming youth involvement and cultivating effective youth-adult partnerships. Power dynamics between adult-led CSOs and YLOs, partly influenced by contractual and accountability requirements, the hierarchical nature of societies as well as low awareness of young people's rights by both youth and adults continue to exist. We therefore need to deepen youth-adult partnerships by providing ongoing MIYP CS for both young people and adults, and thoughtfully

incentivising MIYP at individual, organisational and consortium level combined with mutual learning.

Through our continuous interactions with partners and our efforts towards co-creating and jointly delivering MIYP trajectories, we have learnt that contextualising MIYP and situating it in its geographical and historical context is essential. Not only is buy-in and commitment from partners important, it also requires adequate time and capacity to carry out trainings in tandem with partners. As one participant of the MIYP training in Indonesia said, "The MIYP training process has changed my perspective on MIYP. In particular, MIYP is not a static concept about involving youth, but a dynamic and context-based concept." Given that the MIYP needs and country contexts differ, it is important to explore how the different MIYP tools can be domesticated to measure MIYP. Building upon contextualising MIYP, it is important to create expanded opportunities for knowledge

sharing that recognise country-level variations in MYE strategy as critical strengths and promising building blocks of future innovation. The passionate discussion and active engagement by our youth peers in the Engage4Change and the Learning and Mentorship sessions showed us how important it is to create spaces where youth can come together in a safe and enabling space, and learn and share with each other. Learning from this, we want to organise more linking and learning events in 2023 that will build on strengthening a youth movement in the partnership at all levels. We therefore want to continue to keep engaging youth both face-to-face and virtually, and to encourage more inclusivity within these spaces (in terms of language, accessibility, gender representation and more). We have learnt that inclusivity calls for extra time and resources, but is an important approach and value that we want to put at the forefront of all our activities moving forward.

B. GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES IN THE PROGRAMME

2022 has proven to be a dynamic year on GTA within the PtY programme, with a multitude of activities and strategic conversations having taken place both at country and global level. At global and country level, the GTA TWG saw its role in supporting the country coalitions with capacity strengthening, on a needs-basis and tailored to the country programme context. GTA workshops were organised and co-facilitated together with the coalitions of Ethiopia, Malawi, Ghana, Uganda and Indonesia. Each of these workshops focused on different elements of GTA: whereas some coalitions started with value clarification on the core principles of GTA, others deep-dived into integrating GTA within programming, advocacy, communications and/or PMEL. Subsequently, the GTA TWG gave support in setting up GTA country

focal teams per country and the development of a long-term GTA learning trajectory. The role of the GTA country focal teams is to oversee planning, integration, implementation and reporting on GTA within the country programme; to ensure continued learning on GTA within the coalition and organisations; and the documentation of the process and progress of GTA interventions. These country focal teams are supported by and liaise with the GTA TWG. This successful approach is now also used in other MoFA-funded strategic partnerships, such as Generation G. Cross-learning and cross-pollination on GTA between the different strategic partnerships has also increased.

At global level, the GTA TWG organised several global activities: including three successful online Global Dialogues on GTA on: 1)

introduction to GTA, 2) GTA and advocacy and 3) Transformative messaging. These dialogues were highly interactive and provided space for exchange and learning on GTA between the different country programmes through the showcasing of best practices and learnings, and various interactive exercises. PtY also invited other MoFA-funded strategic partnerships that also have GTA as a cross-cutting theme to join the Global Dialogues (Generation G and RHRN2), which was highly valued. One of the challenges identified at global level concerned indicator SCS8 “Number of CSOs that have advanced on using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens during all phases of the programming cycle with specific attention to youth”. Country coalitions flagged a need for support in terms of how to report progress on integrating and operationalising GTA within this



indicator. In response, the GTA TWG together with PMEL, developed a guidance document with tips and recommendations for reporting on indicator SCS8. This document contains reflective questions on GTA that can be asked during planning and report writing workshops, as well as practical examples of how this was embedded in different country programmes (from within PtY and beyond).

At the country level, the programme saw strong progress on the integration of GTA and a multitude of focused activities contributing to this. Multiple countries rolled out wider capacity strengthening activities on GTA within their organisations and other groups such as CSOs, youth, volunteers and peer educators. In Indonesia, partners learnt how to integrate a critical GTA lens into their advocacy strategies and made use of the training process to finalise their actual advocacy strategies. This implied that each gendered group (women and girls, boys and men and gender diverse groups) were included in the analysis and throughout the accountability cycle. Similarly, Senegal's focus on GTA in 2022 was on its integration into advocacy. The coalition set up regional platforms to train CSOs and grassroots organisations on the National Gender Equity and Equality Strategy and embedding it as a core foundation of their work and its wider dissemination at community level. The coalition also focused on increasingly engaging young

men and boys in their advocacy activities, as champions and frontline actors towards gender equity and equality. The Kenya programme also took on a strong effort to engage young men and boys (e.g. boda-boda (motorcycle) drivers, or beach lifeguards) as champions in their interventions to address the PtY thematic areas, to amplify their voices at community level. In Uganda, the programme intentionally engaged men as community champions to change attitudes on FGM and community dialogues and barazas were organised with religious and cultural leaders to examine norms and values in the community surrounding harmful practices. In these discussions, the positive aspects of these norms were highlighted, while challenging the negative aspects impacting the rights of girls and women in the community. Furthermore, the Ghana coalition has worked on further integrating GTA within their existing programme activities. For example, GTA forms the underlying approach of the model gender household (MGH) activity, which aims to address harmful gender norms and power dynamics within the household setting and the wider community.

Throughout 2022, several challenges surrounding GTA programming were also identified at country level, resulting in follow-up activities and capacity strengthening trajectories. In Ethiopia, for example, it was identified that the coalition's events were often limited to focusing on

women and girls' participation in discussions and meetings. In 2022, the coalition made an active effort to address this and ensure their events increasingly focused on addressing power dynamics and the role and engagement of boys and young men. Another challenge identified by the coalitions of Ethiopia and Ghana concerned the integration of GTA within advocacy efforts. Hence, for these countries the focus of follow-up capacity strengthening in 2023 will be on integrating GTA within advocacy strategies and developing transformative advocacy asks. More country-to-country exchange on this topic could also take place in 2023. For instance, with the Kenya coalition, that has engaged in multiple lobby efforts targeting and engaging decision makers (e.g. policymakers) to formulate, review and implement gender responsive policies and budgets prioritising and promoting the SRHR of all groups including vulnerable and marginalised persons, and/or with the Indonesia and Senegal coalitions as previously described. Another challenge that was identified by both the Indonesia and Uganda coalitions, concerned working with predominantly male religious and community leaders on the topic of gender transformation - in particular in relation to child, early and forced marriage, and FGM. The Central Operational Research on religious leaders which will be conducted in 2023 will contribute to addressing this challenge.

C. CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are inextricably linked. A recent study from ³IPAS shows that climate change disproportionately impacts women and girls by exacerbating existing gender inequalities, disrupting access to sexual and reproductive health care, and reducing their already limited economic opportunities. Climate change directly and indirectly affects women's contraceptive use, fertility intentions, pregnancy outcomes, vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), economic roles and sexual health.

The time immediately before, during and after extreme weather events, such as cyclones, is when access to care for contraception, pregnancy and abortion is most compromised. Pregnant women are particularly at risk, facing increased risk of miscarriage, early labour and pregnancy complications that could lead to illness, injury or death. Adolescent girls experience increased risk of SGBV, child marriage, early sexual debut and pregnancy.

As mentioned in the risks section of the PtY Annual Report 2022,

climate change is affecting all our implementing countries, whereby our target group disproportionately bears the brunt. The effects of climate change in 2022 have had far-reaching consequences on our PtY programme. Until now, the linkages between climate change and SRHR have not received enough attention in PtY. Recognising these links is key to sustainably adapting to climate change while also improving gender equality and access to SRHR services. Nevertheless, more evidence and learning is needed on these linkages.

D. MANAGING SEAH, FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

Safeguarding is a critical priority for the PtY Consortium and we continue to take important steps to strengthen both our prevention of, and response to, safeguarding violations.

Tool Development

The current [PtY safeguarding policy](#) is central to supporting, protecting and safeguarding the welfare and safety of any person in the programme at risk of abuse, and in preventing and addressing fraud and corruption. In addition, several tools were developed in 2022 to support the implementation and monitoring of the policy, namely the Safeguarding Notification Form, the Safeguarding Assessment Tool, the Safeguarding Compliance Schedule and the Safeguarding Registry. CMT organisations in all countries have been trained on safeguarding and a total of 25 organisations within the consortium now report to have safeguarding policies in place and the majority of them work with an internal safeguarding lead who is the

focal point for safeguarding concerns. However, the implementation of these varies and some of the internal policies still require strengthening. At the moment, we are in a process of improving the outline for the training guide on safeguarding, which will assist CMTs to conduct regular training on safeguarding with their partners. In addition, it is also good to mention that the three consortium partners have fraud prevention mechanisms and procedures in place, including regular financial checks and assessment of financial management capacities.

Cases

In 2022, three integrity cases were reported. Of these cases, two were related to possible inappropriate behaviour and one was related to travel of an unaccompanied minor. The inappropriate behaviour cases were investigated and all internal processes were followed. In one situation, the allegation was declared

unfounded. In the other situation, the allegation was declared as founded and this resulted in dismissal of the offender. In the case of an unaccompanied minor, the case was reported and picked up at the planning stage, hence the consortium partner was able to intervene and advise the CMT to allocate funds to enable the minor to be accompanied to the PtY meeting and this was resolved.

Going forward, we will continue to engage with the safeguarding focal points to ensure that the reporting of safeguarding incidents is consistent, we will continue to support the consistent implementation of the PtY safeguarding policy, and we will continue to review the safeguarding policy based on its implementation by country partners and CMTs. Safeguarding remains a key priority and requires continuous effort from everyone who is involved in the PtY project.

³<https://www.ipas.org/our-work/climate-justice/climate-change-impacts-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health/>



E. INNOVATIONS AND SCALE UP

The PtY programme embraces the potential of digitalisation and innovation in order to enhance our programming to be more adaptive and responsive and to improve relevance and engagement with young people and communities. By rolling out innovation and digitalisation we aim to increase efficiency and effectiveness; optimise linking and learning; and develop solutions for youth to claim their agency with regard to SRHR. After two years of implementation, the programme has developed new models of engaging and empowering the youth and communities and has also scaled up and adopted models from previous programmes to achieve the PtY goals.

In 2022, innovative and scaling up approaches have been included in CMT programming, including the co-creation methodology in programme design, the startup of the small grants initiatives, the SAM model and edutainment activities. In Malawi, for example, the programme adopted a Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) model. This model uses social accountability monitoring as a process where citizens are engaged

in holding duty bearers accountable for the services. As Pathway 1 wishes to see young people demand accountability and responsiveness for harmful cultural practices, unintended pregnancies and SGBV, the SAM is one of the models that has given young people agency to do so. The process has adopted the community scorecard tool which is a participatory tool for assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation of services. Using this model, young people in the target areas demanded accountability of duty bearers in terms of how funds were being used at Nainunje school in Machinga during construction of the school shelter. In Uganda, a unique digital storytelling training was conducted for CBOs and CSOs, providing young people with the skills to effectively share their stories online to drive change, particularly in the area of SRHR policies. The training resulted in some CSOs being able to directly address SRHR concerns with duty bearers online and sparked online discussions on SRHR between young people and decision makers.

The training was effective in empowering young people to use digital platforms to advocate for SRHR policies in their communities.

In Ghana, as in several other countries, the Youth Initiative Small Grant (YISG), which is an innovative hybrid youth-empowerment project, scaled up the programme outreach and coverage. Special attention was given to beneficiaries coming from marginalised groups including AGYW living with a disability, young women affected by widowhood rites and teenage mothers. Implementation gaps around thematic areas such as harmful practices were able to be closed and strategies like economic empowerment or community safe spaces were strengthened.

In 2022, the global partnerships built and expanded their agenda in this regard as well. The Coordination Lab, which in itself was an innovation as a 'hub' between CMTs and global consortium partners, focused on how it can also support the global programme to flourish. They did this, for example, through effective online knowledge management and governance and/or an online space for capacity strengthening expertise, tools and knowledge. An 'innovation trajectory' will be started in 2023, which will include the development of prototypes and pilots in accordance with the Human Centred Design approach.

5 PARTNERSHIPS AND SYNERGIES

Internal collaboration and partnership building

As a programme, Power to You(th) has made great strides in strengthening our internal partnership and collaboration. In Q1 2022, a partnership survey was conducted to assess how the global and country partners were experiencing and implementing the four PtY principles of Southern Leadership, MIYP, Partnership and Scale after one year of the inception of the programme. The survey showed that, on the one hand, participants were positive about the implementation of the principles and felt different CMT partners planned, implemented and monitored the programme together. On the other hand, several areas for improvement were also identified. Many indicated that communication and information flow between the global consortium level and the Country Management Teams needed to be improved and organised more efficiently. In addition, some CMTs experienced power imbalances and challenges in collaboration, in particular in relation to separate agenda's and interests of CMT members. At global level, the collaboration was rated positively because the respondents felt that the consortium partners worked well together and were open to ideas/suggestions/feedback. It was, however, also pointed out that roles and responsibilities, especially between the GMT (= decision-making body) and the Coordination Lab (= secretariat), were not always clear.

Several actions were implemented in 2022 based on the results of the

partnership survey. The 'Power to You(th)' internal communications guidelines were developed, which provide clear guidelines on how communication should flow within and among the different structures in the programme. Additionally, The PtY governance structure now includes regular monitoring of the programme every two weeks in a Global Management Team meeting, every two months in a Global Coordinators Group meeting and every quarter in a Global Supervisory Board meeting. The flow of communication and identification of issues between these three structures was improved and country representatives in these meetings have the space to share challenges and successes and also identify solutions to any emerging issues. Furthermore, the Global Coordinators Group also provides a learning platform where seven countries share best practices from the different contexts.

To improve partnership building, collaboration and role division, two physical meetings were organised. In March 2022, the first ever face-to-face annual reflection and partnership building took place, which brought together the consortium partners, the country partners and the technical partners. During the meeting, the partners were able to reflect on the progress made in the partnership, share challenges and learn good practices from each other. After the meeting, it became easier for the different partners to reach out to one another and discuss issues bilaterally without the tension of working with people you have never

met physically. In addition, a meeting was organised in October 2022 to improve collaboration and role division between the Coordination Lab and GMT. There were discussions on their modalities of working, streamlining communication and resolving any tensions that were present.

In the second year of implementation, we also experienced that maintaining strong in-country partnerships means continuously monitoring and strengthening organisational as well as financial capacities to implement the programme and also continuous investments in partnership building. In 2022, the composition of the in-country consortium changed in some countries. In both Uganda and Ghana, it was identified that governance and financial management structures of one of the partners could pose a future risk and therefore the contracts with these partners were terminated. In Kenya, one partner decided to step out of the consortium due to conflicting, mainly budgetary, wants and needs. The PtY programme will continue to invest in partnership building and organisational capacity strengthening. A learning and training trajectory on 'collaborative partnership brokering' was started in 2023 to further address partnership building and collaboration.. The training focuses on building the capacity of country coordinators and global coordinators by facilitating good partnership dialogues and relations.



Promoting local ownership

PtY has been using several strategies to promote and ensure local ownership of the programme in the districts of operation. Local ownership begins with local people analysing their situation and recognising their capacity to make change. Within the PtY programme we believe that change must come from within societies and that change cannot be imported from the outside. Local youth-led, women-led and community-led partners are in the lead to create spaces for dialogue that allow the active participation of local people to identify challenges and develop their own solutions, which in the end paves the way for sustainability of our programme interventions. Joint co-creation sessions with the target beneficiaries and stakeholders were organised in all countries for the development of advocacy messages and strategies and to ensure ownership and integration of their voices in developing the advocacy messages. In Malawi, for example, the PtY programme has concentrated

on strengthening existing local structures and community leaders in PtY thematic areas to ensure programme ownership. Furthermore, rather than being beneficiaries, communities in the implementation areas are treated as partners within PtY. As a result, community members are ably contributing and guide the implementation of initiatives in their communities which gives the community ownership. In all countries, the youth-led advocacy approach ensures that young people from the community youth structures are empowered and supported in conducting youth-led activities such as awareness campaigns and advocacy initiatives. At the moment, the PtY programme has a pool of empowered young people (AGYW and ABYM) that are spearheading initiatives of PtY themes.

Furthermore, the programme also continuously invests in building ownership and the empowerment of key stakeholders like government officials, societal leaders, CBOs, CSOs and media actors. Several

examples of this are given in section C under pathway 3 and 4. In short, as they are implementing the programme interventions, local implementing partners work with policymakers and decision makers who take the lead and drive the programme in their own districts. In several countries, partners have secured media corporations as a partner in implementation. Additionally, in all PtY countries, the commemoration of specific days such as International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism, International Youth Day, etc. are organised and implemented jointly with local leaders, youth, CSOs, government partners and the local media. This provides an avenue for the empowerment of community stakeholders in generating public support for PtY thematic areas.

External partnerships

Power to You(th) has continued to create synergies with other MoFA-funded programmes, both at country and global level, to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts and to

promote cross learning among the different initiatives. In Indonesia, the programme collaborated with Generation G in socialising the key issues written in the Sexual Violence Crimes Law. Generation G is currently in the process of producing a pocket book consisting of the main issues regulated in the Sexual Violence Crimes Law. This book will be beneficial for all partners in campaigning for the implementation of the law, especially on child marriage and SGBV articles.

In Kenya, the Dutch Embassy collaborated with PtY and they jointly held a Youth Space bringing together young people from Homa Bay County. The forum created a platform for young people to share learnings on best practices and innovations to strengthen implementation of the project. PtY members have also been actively participating in events hosted by the embassy such as the celebration of King's Day. The forum provided a platform for the SRHR Strategic consortium to share learnings and good practices by using youth-friendly approaches and embracing intersectionality of SRHR and climate change and social inclusion in the PtY interventions. In addition, PtY engaged in the Sounding Board Session, convened by the Dutch Embassy, as an opportunity to review and reflect on the embassy's Kenya Multi-Annual Country Strategy. This creates an avenue for strengthened partnership in subsequent years and the strategic plan.

It was learned that the role of the embassies is highly valued and it is recommended to enhance further collaboration with the in-country consortiums. The Power to You(th) programme in Ethiopia also participated in learning and

linking events organised by the Dutch Embassy in Ethiopia. The Embassy team also visited the Power to You(th) activities in one of the implementation districts of Debrebirhan. The team visited school-based SRH and life skill education for adolescent girls and boys; out of school youth clubs and youth-friendly corners. In addition, the team visited a One Stop Centre (OSC) at Debrebirhan referral hospital, which was started by other Amref projects and PtY made efforts to bring accountability in improving and maintaining the service. The EKN team recommended that the programme should consider supporting Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) activities in the school such as the preparation of locally made menstrual pads. They also advised PtY to expand rehabilitation services in the city of Debrebirhan for GBV survivors beyond the one stop centre.

In Malawi, PtY and the Break Free programme jointly conducted advocacy on the review of CVSU operating guidelines, which awaits dissemination at national level. The two programmes have also jointly participated in the review of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Curriculum. Break Free also invited PtY consortium members to a training on Value Clarification and Safe abortion, Public Policy and Media and Outcome harvesting, which the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) had organised.

In Senegal, synergies with other Dutch-funded programmes have been achieved through exchange meetings with, for example, the GrandMother Project on the interventions of our respective programmes and the sharing of our

different strategies to determine to what extent we could reinforce each other or conduct joint advocacy activities with similar targets. We intend to make this partnership much more effective in 2023 with the participation in training activities organised by both programmes and the organisation of joint advocacy activities. Similarly, in Uganda, joint activities were organised with programmes such as She Leads and We Lead so as to have more impact on the advocacy issues such as teenage pregnancies and child marriage, which the programme is working on. Several activities were organised in March to celebrate Women's Month, including radio and tv talk shows, press conferences and social media engagements. This collaboration provided more platforms for adolescents and young people to hold their leaders accountable and spaces to amplify their voices.

In the Netherlands, Power to You(th) partners work together with the SRHR lobby platform, which is a collaboration between advocacy experts from all the SRHR MoFA-funded programmes. This year, the SRHR lobby platform organised events with the Multi-party Initiative (MPI) on SRHR, provided input on the new coalition agreement and the Dutch Global Health Strategy and organised exchanges between AGYW and policymakers. At global level, the PtY coordinator and the Amref NL PtY programme lead are members of the SRHR forum, which brings together representatives of all SRHR MoFA NL-funded programmes. The platform provides an opportunity for the partners to share information on the progress being made on certain similar deliverables such as the MTE, share tools, challenges and possible

solutions. One of the challenges in many MoFA NL-funded programmes are the accountability requirements of MOFA and the tension it sometimes creates with core principles regarding meaningful inclusive youth participation, community leadership and capacity strengthening. As PtY programme we appreciate our continuous dialogue in both the SRHR forum and with MoFA NL on how to alleviate the above mentioned tension.

Working in a partnership means creating synergies, learning from each other and building on

each member's strengths. It also requires true understanding of each other and accepting different ways of working. The appreciated added value of the MoFA NL in this partnership is the joining of forces in countering the growing conservatism, keeping SRHR as a priority and leading by example to other governments on how civil society and the government can collaborate. A great example of this collaboration was the visit on the 09th of November 2022, whereby the Head of the Health and Aids Division at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Joris Jurriens and Senior Health Expert, Jennie van de

Weerd visited the PtY programme in Ghana, Accra. A fruitful and interactive visit showcased the PtY programme in Ghana and through rich discussions there was a lot of mutual sharing and learning

Finally, the relationship between PtY in the Netherlands and the Health Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Lander van Ommen, has been experienced as an open and flexible relationship, with ample room for discussion and learning. PtY in the Netherlands greatly appreciates this collaboration over the past year.



6 LEARNING AND RESEARCH

In this section, we will explore some of the key practices and learnings related to PMERL within partnerships for the reporting period 2022.

Finalising the baseline and development of knowledge products

In 2022, the baseline report was finalised, which serves as a benchmark for the indicators and the Theory of Change in the programme. Several dissemination and co-creation meetings took place at country level to follow-up on the baseline results. In addition, a trajectory of co-created workshops with country teams was implemented, where CMTs were supported and guided in the creation of evidence-based knowledge products for advocacy activities, based on the baseline data. The objective was to use baseline findings to identify key messages for dissemination to various stakeholders. Examples are infographics, policy briefs and advocacy messages.

We also evaluated the baseline process and harvested valuable lessons learnt, especially the importance of clear task division and timelines, and the importance of involving Technical Working Groups early in the process. These lessons learnt were used in the [setup of our Mid Term Evaluation](#)

[process](#) in the last quarter of 2022.

Central Operations research

The partnership's Central Operational Research agenda was developed in 2022. Based on the results of the baseline report and extensive consultations with all countries, a process took place in which staff from countries, consortium and technical partners could vote and select preferred research themes. This was followed by a co-creation process to develop research proposals. This research aims to test key hypotheses and assumptions underlying our programme, strengthen evidence on what works/ how/for whom/when and where, which can be used for improving the effectiveness of our programme and scaling up successful strategies. The actual research will be conducted in a phased approach, starting in 2023 with the first two themes: 1. Effective ways of engaging religious/ community leaders in youth SRHR programming; 2. SRHR policy and implementation gaps. A thorough co-creation process between different partners and countries took place to develop joint research proposals in 2022 and data collection will take place in 2023.

Outcome harvesting

Outcome harvesting is one of the central learning strategies in PtY.

The PMEL Technical Working Group, composed of the PMEL staff of seven countries and consortium partners, therefore organised a capacity strengthening trajectory in 2022 on the Outcome Harvesting methodology to improve knowledge and skills in relation to this methodology. This included online webinars and videos, but also a face-to-face 'validation' meeting where all staff could practise directly with Outcome Harvesting and Validation, provide peer-to-peer advice and improve the quality of the outcomes harvested.

Exchange Visit

To promote learning and collaboration between countries, an exchange and learning visit was organised as a pilot between Malawi and Kenya. During the exchange visit, the two countries were able to share good practices such as the Husika Dada Youth Parliament model used in Kenya to engage youth and build their capacity in engaging policymakers. Malawi shared the SASA model used to empower communities in identifying issues affecting them and holding policy makers accountable. Simulations of the models were done to ensure that they could be replicated by the exchanging countries. The two countries also realised that the challenges faced during

Video's can be found here: [nr1](#), [nr2](#), [nr3](#), [nr4](#), [nr5](#), [nr6](#).

implementation were similar. These included low commitment by local authorities to addressing the issues affecting the youth and the fact that poverty is a key driver of the vices being fought by PtY. A key recommendation that emerged

from the exchange was that there is a need to provide economic empowerment programmes to the youth in addition to strengthening their agency to demand accountability on issues affecting them.



7 CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that Power to You(th) was fully operational in 2022. The baseline study (which was finalised at the beginning 2022) showed that our fight for improved decision-making power for adolescent girls and young women in underserved communities regarding harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies continues to be relevant. In many countries these practices are normalised and deeply rooted in cultural and religious norms around gendered behaviour. Through the baseline, but also through our experiences in implementation this year, we learnt that the four pathways identified in our Theory of Change are equally important and need simultaneous intervention, as empowerment of young people is only sustainable if we also address social norms, societal actors and state actors at subnational and national level.

This year we came out of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic

and most countries eased their restrictions. Unfortunately, we were confronted with other challenges, like high inflation, ethnic conflicts in four of our implementation areas in Ethiopia, elections in Senegal and Kenya, an earthquake in one of our districts in Indonesia and a long period of drought in Kenya. In addition, we experienced opposition and shrinking civic space in several countries. Despite these challenges, we have achieved results and we are proud of the many outcomes that we have harvested through our Outcome Harvesting methodology.

2022 was not only the second year of the programme, but also the second year of the partnership. Smooth collaboration between so many different partners at national and global level is not easy. The 'partnership survey' showed that most participants are positive about the implementation of the four principles (MIYP, Southern Leadership, Partnership and Scale),

but that there are also challenges as some experience power imbalances, financial management capacities vary between organisations and role division is not always clear. This year we invested in improving our partnership, as we strengthened internal communication, met face-to-face to discuss challenges and identify solutions, continued to assess and capacitate financial and other capacities of partners and started a separate 'Engage4Change' group where youth-led organisations in the partnership could provide peer-to-peer support to each other.

This Annual Report was written based on our internal monitoring and reporting mechanisms. In 2023, we look forward to seeing the results of the Mid Term Evaluation, which will provide us with more information about what works, what doesn't work and what we can improve to achieve even more impact with this programme.

Annex 1: Progress on quantitative key indicators and qualitative measures that are linked to the Strengthening Civil Society basket indicators and thematic Result Framework indicators.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vnU4fjmKt0B45Kni3UBrnzmVXaV1U8rlucjPOpcb6V4/edit?usp=sharing>

⁵More information on this model can be found in the [Annual Report 2021](#), page 13



CHOICE

Financed by



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands