

2018



Mid Term Review of Every Voice Counts Programme

CARE International Switzerland In Sudan



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Contents

I.	Executive Summary.....	6
A.	Structure of the Report.....	6
II.	Methodology.....	6
III.	Findings.....	6
A.	Conclusions.....	7
B.	Lessons learned.....	7
C.	Recommendations.....	8
1.0	Introduction.....	9
1.1	Background to EVC Program.....	9
1.2	Description of EVC Program in Sudan.....	11
1.3	EVC Sudan Theory of Change (ToC).....	11
1.4	Objective and scope of the Evaluation.....	12
1.5	Main objectives of the Assignment.....	12
1.6	Current context of the project Areas.....	12
2.0	Methodology.....	14
2.1	Timeline/Process.....	14
2.2	Data Collection Methodologies.....	14
2.2.1	Summary of Evaluation Framework Steps.....	15
2.3	Sampling Procedure.....	15
2.3.1	MTR surveyed site in East and South Darfur for the Second Collection Phrase:.....	16
2.4	Analysis Process and Analysis.....	16
2.5	Ethical Considerations.....	16
3.0	Findings.....	17
3.1	Domain 1/Excluded groups: How are excluded groups advancing towards empowering themselves and actively influencing decisions that affect their lives?.....	18
3.2	Domain 2/CSOs: How are CSOs advancing towards effectively influencing policies and practices on behalf of excluded groups, and towards holding authorities and other power holders to account?.....	28
3.3	Domain 3/Power holders: How are power holders becoming more responsive and acting upon the needs and interests of excluded groups?.....	32
3.4	Domain 4/Spaces of dialogue: How are excluded groups, CSOs public authorities and other power holders advancing towards effective interaction in formal and informal spaces of dialogue and negotiations?.....	37
3.5	Contribution.....	45
3.6	Context.....	45
4.0	Challenges.....	48
5.0	Conclusion.....	49
5.1	Main Conclusion.....	49
5.2	Lessons learned.....	49
5.3	Recommendations for:.....	49
	Annex 1: Data Collection Tools.....	52

List of Tables

Table 1: Conceptual Framework for Triangulation of Data	14
Table 2: Trainings conducted at Kass locality in South Darfur.....	19
Table 3: Awareness of their Rights and Responsibilities	19
Table 4: Extent to which community members believe that decision-making should be inclusive and responsive.....	22
Table 5: Level of awareness of some decision making processes and community development plans that are applicable to women rights and interests.....	23
Table 6: List of CSOs and trainings received	29
Table 7: Awareness of the activities conducted by CSOs so far in the framework of EVC	30
Table 8: The question as to whether the activities conducted by CSOs have improved women and youth ability to stand up to claim for their rights.....	30
Table 9: Women and youth views of the responsiveness of public authorities and other power holders.....	33
Table 10: Feeling of Being Represented by VDCs.....	34
Table 11: Feeling of being represented by local authorities and other power holders	40
Table 12: Community members believe that decision-making is inclusive and responsive	41
Table 13: Anticipated adequacy of time	46
Table 14: Willingness to continue with even after EVC programme ends.....	47
Table 15: The question as to whether the EVC objectives of participation and inclusive decision making will be embraced even after the programme ends	48

List of Figures

Figure 1: Theory of Change Every Voice Counts Program.....	10
Figure 2: Percentage response for the most accountable public authorities and other power holders among women and/or youth in East Darfur	20
Figure 3: Percentage response for the most accountable public authorities and other power holders among women and/or youth in South Darfur.....	21
Figure 4: Women representation in Committees	40

List of Abbreviations

AD	Ed Daein
CSC	Community Score Card
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DO	Direct Observation
ED	East Darfur
ET	Evaluation Team
EVC	Every Voice Counts
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoS	Government of Sudan
HAC	Humanitarian Aid Commission
HH	Household
HFCs	Health Facilities Committees
INGO	International Non- Governmental Organization
IP	Implementing partners
MTR	Mid Term Review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NCP	National Congress Party
PH	Powerholders
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SD	South Darfur
SM oAR	State Ministry of Animal Resources
SMoA&F	State Ministry of Agriculture & Forest
SMoH	State Ministry of Health
SSI:	Semi Structured Interview
VDCs	Village Development Committees
VSLA	Village Saving & Loans Association
VD	Venn Diagram
OH	Outcome Harvest
SWOT	Strength Weakness Opportunities Threat
THA	The Hague Academy for Local Governance
THA	The Hague Academy
TL	Traditional Leaders
TOT	Training of Trainers
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water sanitation and hygiene
WC	Women Committee
WEHC	Water & Environment Hygiene
YC	Youth Committee

I. Executive Summary

The major objective of the Mid-Term Review of the Every Voice Counts (EVC) Program in Sudan was to assess the extent to which increasing participation of women and youth in community structures such as Village Development Committees (VDC) and community and locality level decision making processes and access to finance had been attained. This is in addition to the aim of enhancing their representation and giving them better access to decision making bodies.

A. Structure of the Report

The report is structured in accordance with the stated four (04) domains, that is,

- How are excluded groups advancing towards empowering themselves and actively influencing decisions that affect their lives?
- How are civil society organizations advancing towards effectively influencing policies and practices on behalf of excluded groups, and towards holding authorities and other power holders to account?
- How are power holders becoming more responsive and acting upon the needs and interests of excluded groups?)
- How are excluded groups, CSOs public authorities and other power holders advancing towards effective interaction in formal and informal spaces of dialogue and negotiation?

II. Methodology

In the methodology, a triangulation of data is presented with emphasis on comprehensive desk review of key internal and external documents relevant to the project, theory of change and Outcomes Harvested (OH), structured questionnaires, key informant interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) with a representative sample. Statistical data is presented in form of charts, frequency tables.

III. Findings

The results indicate women and youth participation in awareness raising sessions regarding empowerment and participation which in turn led to increased awareness of their rights and responsibilities and also increased accountability/transparency of public authorities and other power holders among women and/or youth. The women and youth believe that their leaders are now accountable and enhance decision-making that is inclusive and responsive. These achievements were attributed to awareness raising sessions that had been supported.

Results from domain two (02), indicate substantial role of CSOs in advancing towards effectively influencing policies and practices on behalf of excluded groups, and towards holding authorities accountable. This was attributed to capacities and expertise that had been developed among first- and second-tier CSOs for performing leadership roles and implementing dialogue strategies obtained from inclusive governance training by THA, leadership training, regular sessions to discuss the role of the project and of the CSOs in supporting marginalized women and youth and EVC quarterly learning sessions.

Results from domain 3/ power holders indicate a more responsive and acting upon the needs and interests of excluded groups power holders. Also, pproject reports indicate that public authorities and other power holders were trained in areas of inclusive governance, women and youth participation, leadership and governance, community development action plan and advocacy. Other training initiatives included access to financial markets by women and youth, business skills, environmental campaign, credit, etc. Results indicate that women in East Darfur (83.3%) and South Darfur (75%) had positive views regarding responsiveness of public authorities and other power holders. The results were not different from their youth counterparts.

In analysis of domain 4/ spaces of dialogue, the excluded groups, CSOs, public authorities and other power holders were advancing towards effective interaction in formal and informal spaces of dialogue and negotiations. A number of dialogue sessions were conducted by implementing partners, although through interview with project staff in Abu Odam village, Belail locality in South Darfur, it was revealed that while powerholders and women attended dialogue and awareness sessions, their contribution in the meetings was still limited partly due to lack of confidence due to presence of their male counterparts. It was after sometime that women began to show their faces and express their views after encouragement from EVC staff.

The consultant was also comparing the current progress with the situation before three years when she led final evaluation for a project preceding EVC. She was appreciative as she observed significant change when women come and attend on meetings in time yet previously they could come late.

On whole, the results indicate that there is a high level of belief among the community beneficiaries that decision-making is inclusive and responsive as indicated by women responses in East Darfur (87.5%) and South Darfur (81.2%), although FGDs indicate availability of cases of bias. The results were not so different from those obtained from the youth as indicated by 87.5% for East Darfur and 84.4% for South Darfur.

A. Conclusions

There is substantial evidence of inclusion of excluded groups, and of CSOs, public authorities and other power holders advancing towards effective interaction in formal and informal spaces of dialogue and negotiations. As a result there is increased number of women/and or youth who feel represented by local authorities and other power holders. The women and youth have also reported to be in position to articulate their issues that affect their lives.

B. Lessons learned

1. The implementation of the project activities through local NGOs created a positive environment of competition and encouraged these NGOs to increase their organizations capacities
2. Change in norms, culture, and traditions are possible if the right approach is implemented and the local leadership can play a significant role to enhance this change.
3. Women and youth are enthusiastic about leading change in their respective communities in order to enhance their participation and inclusive decision making.

4. Staff transformation through capacity building should be a prerequisite and a continuous commitment to promote social change and seek justice to the excluded groups and promote their active participation in decision making.
5. Capturing or harvesting smaller changes or micro-level outcomes resulting from the project effort need to be encouraged among implementing partners. CARE will take this seriously through ongoing monitoring and building the skills required to do so and will recognize good performing individuals and local NGOs. It was also learnt that meeting attendance and participation of female youth is much lower than expected due to various reasons. EVC team will plan strategic activities to enhance their awareness and participation, which will include influencing parents and religious leaders.

C. Recommendations

- To maintain community's enthusiasm to the EVC program, capacity building program should be integrated with livelihood and other service delivery programs. This will build more trust on CARE and pave the road for the second half of the project. As well, this will also fill a real livelihood security gap among these vulnerable and high-risk groups. This integration will increase acceptance of the authorities and make the annual project approval by the government much easier
- CARE need to implement any future projects in the same villages in order to achieve a real impact on all aspects of the community livelihood. First, this will demonstrate a complete example of a proper development (soft and hard intervention) which will increase sustainability and will set an example to follow by other organizations. Without such effort, the sustainability may be hard to maintain given the poverty levels in the project area.
- The Hague Academy for Local Governance should conduct a second round of training for the CSOs partners, CBTs, and the LAs to update their capacity needs and tailor training plan for the second term of the project.
- Netherlands Embassy in Sudan needs to continue its valuable support to the communities and provide livelihood support programs to the EVC beneficiaries

1.0 Introduction

This report presents a Mid-Term Review of the Every Voice Counts (EVC) Program in Sudan. EVC aims to increase participation and representation of women and youth in community structures such as Village Development Committees (VDC) and community and locality levels decision making structures with the aim of giving them better access to decision making. This report is structured in accordance with the stated four (04) domains and the key evaluation questions of relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. In the methodology, a triangulation of data is presented with emphasis on comprehensive desk review of key internal and external documents relevant to the project, theory of change and Outcomes harvested (OH), structured questionnaires, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with a representative sample. Statistical data is presented in form of charts, frequency tables.

Although the evaluation has some weaknesses such as limited time and basing on a small sample, it this evaluation report provides an evidence-based and analytical answer to all the agreed MTR evaluation questions. Stories of change have been highlighted to support the stated quantitative data. Data has been disaggregated to take into account respondents (women, youth, public authorities and other power holders e.g. VDC, PC from East and South Darfur).

1.1 Background to EVC Program

The Every Voice Counts (EVC) Program is funded through the ‘Dialogue and Dissent’ strategic partnership program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and aims to contribute to inclusive and effective governance processes in fragile settings. A key obstacle to achieving stability and sustainable development in fragile settings is the structural exclusion of segments of society from local, district level and national governance processes. The EVC program Theory of Change (ToC) addresses this by focusing on inclusive governance processes, referring to the extent to which governance processes provide space to overcome the systematic exclusion of disadvantaged groups seeking to participate in decision making, in particular women and/or youth.

CARE believes that inclusiveness leads to more effective governance, since institutions and policies will then be accessible, accountable and responsive to disadvantaged groups, protecting their interests and providing diverse populations with equal access to public services such as justice, health and education. The ToC identifies four “domains of change” in which change is required to realize our long-term objective: *to contribute to inclusive and effective governance processes in fragile settings*. The domains are mutually constitutive and change in one can trigger change in the other.

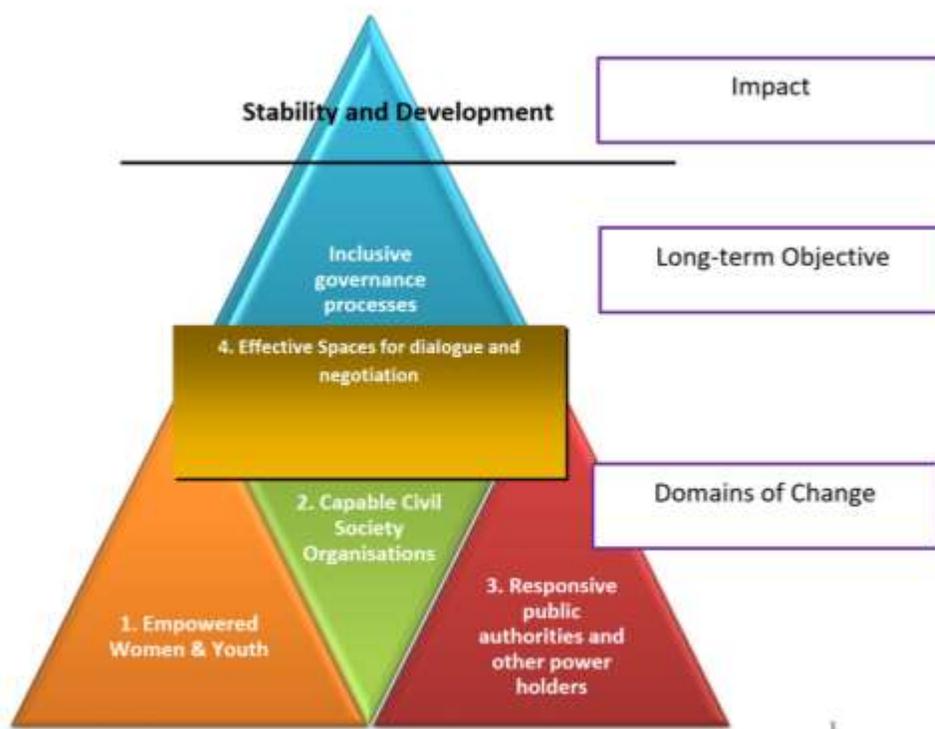


Figure 1: Theory of Change Every Voice Counts Program

Domain 1 is centered on **empowerment of members of excluded groups - in particular women and/or youth - on lobby and advocacy**, as most members of excluded groups are affected by harmful norms and traditions, discriminatory social structures, lack awareness of their rights and responsibilities and have limited capacities to articulate and act on their needs.

Domain 2 focuses on **strengthening the advocacy role of civil society** as it has a key role to play in lobbying on behalf of excluded groups and in holding public authorities and other power holders to account.

Domain 3 is about **responsive public authorities and other power holders**. We believe that responsiveness increases when public authorities and other power holders have stronger capabilities as well as stronger incentives to act in reaction to people they serve.

Domain 4 focuses on expanding and strengthening **space for dialogue and negotiation**. We believe that increased engagement and effective interaction between all actors leads to policies and practices that better take into account the interests of excluded groups.

The EVC program is being implemented by CARE Nederland (CNL), The Hague Academy for Local Governance, CARE Country Offices (COs) and local partners in Afghanistan, Burundi, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan.

1.2 Description of EVC Program in Sudan

The EVC program in Sudan aims to increase participation of women and youth in community structures such as Village Development Committees and community and locality levels enhancing their representation and giving them better access to decision making bodies. The EVC program in Sudan also focuses on improving women and youth's inclusion in financial and market services. A baseline studies was carried out in 2016 to assess the situation the EVC program aims to change.

1.3 EVC Sudan Theory of Change (ToC)

Main Objectives: By 2020, excluded youth and women from pastoral and agricultural communities in two localities in South Darfur (SD) and three localities in East Darfur (ED) participate and influence public decisions-making process resulting in public policies and planning that better respond to their needs for recovery and development have, this is divided in four outcomes which are:

EVC is operational in 6 rural areas in East Darfur and in 11 in Kass and Beileil localities in South Darfur. Most of the project implementation is done through local partners (National NGOs) with technical and financial support from CARE. The project started in 2016 and focused on community body formation and restructuring by increasing the representation of women and youth in the existing community structures namely Village Development Committees (VDCs), Popular Committees (PCs), Village Councils (VCs) and sub-committees such as Natural Resource Management and Health Committees. Extensive trainings, orientation sessions and awareness raising campaigns have been conducted to build the capacities of target groups (traditional power-holders, disadvantaged women and youth) in rural and pastoral communities in ED and SD. EVC believes that capacity building of local CSOs and LAs is central to build inclusive communities and promoting the participation of disadvantaged groups in decisions that concern their welfare, therefore EVC identified a 3 years capacity building trajectory for building the capacities of LAs and CSOs as well as CARE project staff in the area of inclusive governance¹.

Project implementation faced a number of challenges. The project's start was delayed due to the delay of approval from the government. Staff turnover and temporary gaps in senior staffing also affected the pace of implementation. In 2017 two pathways of change were selected for EVC Sudan to narrow the inclusion topic down to two specific areas (namely political and economic participation). In April 2017 it was decided to complement EVC activities with other project's activities implemented in the same location to bring more benefits to the communities and ensure sustainability. This exercise has also accelerated the annual approval from the government. Finally, implementation of the project was slowed down due to the low performance of the national partners. The project had three implementing partners (1 in ED and 2 in SD). In Year 3 two more partners were added to also support the implementation of new activities added in Year 3. Another challenged faced was finalization of the MEL framework. It was never completed at the beginning of the project and was further delayed by the various changes introduced over time.

¹ Every Voice Count Initial Mid Term Evaluation Draft Report, August 2018

1.4 Objective and scope of the Evaluation

This report is the result of additional data collected to complement the original MTR report which suffered from significant gaps in data collection and analysis. The report is based on a small sample of 112 respondents (32 women and 24 youth from SD and 24 women and 24 youth from ED).

The aim of this complementary assignment is to conduct additional analysis for the external Midterm Review (MTR) of the Every Voice Counts program as described in this ToR in order to:

- Substantially improve the analysis and structure of the existing draft report by using existing data as well as collecting limited new data.
- Describe progress in relation to the country Theory of Change (ToC) and objectives of the EVC program and as compared to baseline;
- Describe what went well, what went not so well and what could be improved.

1.5 Main objectives of the Assignment

1. Reviewing in detail the available data at hand, both the secondary data as well as the primary data collected in the original MTR
2. Collect limited, additional data for the MTR of the EVC program in Sudan using a range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies including Outcome Harvesting (OH)
3. Analyse data in relation to program objectives and ToC, baseline study and program activities conducted;
4. Deliver a comprehensive MTR report including results in relation to program objectives and ToC, baseline study and program activities conducted.
5. Provide recommendations for the remaining period of the program

1.6 Current context of the project Areas

Darfur is a region of Sudan which borders the Central African Republic, Libya, and Chad along the Sudanese western border. It is divided into five federal states: Gharb Darfur (West Darfur), Janub Darfur (South Darfur), Wasat Darfur (Central Darfur), Sharg Darfur (East Darfur) and Shamal Darfur (North Darfur). Slightly smaller than France, it has an estimated population of 7.4 million people. South Darfur state is one of the most populous states of the country with about 30% of the population living in internally-displaced person's camps and hard-to-reach areas². The population of East Darfur is 832,112 (Sudan Census 2008) with an annual growth rate of 3%. The average family size is 5 and average population density is 21 people / km². Given its location and proximity to South Sudan, East Darfur is one of the states that hosts one of the highest numbers of South Sudanese refugees.

Geography and Economic Setup: Most parts of Darfur are characterized by immense rolling plains some of which are 170,000 square miles in area. These plains are relatively featureless and arid, particularly in the north, where they merge into the Libyan Desert. The plains are

² WHO 2018, South Darfur profile: This is Google's cache of <http://www.emro.who.int/sdn/programmes/south-darfur.html>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 2 Sep 2018 09:22:29 GMT.

punctuated by occasional mountain ranges. The plateau is bordered by the Jebel Marra mountain range that defines the region along the north-south border. This range extends past the borders of Darfur, eventually reaching its highest point of between 5,000 to 6,000 feet. Towards the east, the range loses its sharp definition and dissolves into a series of sandy steppes. The Darfur region also contains a high level of volcanic activity, which has significantly aided in forming most of the mountain ranges in the area³.

The rainy season in Darfur is from June to September, and it effectively transforms the dry arid plateau to a luxurious green that is rich with vegetation. The rains are a vital part of life in Darfur, helping the predominately agricultural society to grow a successful harvest of millet, which is the main crop of the region, and is used to feed both the human and livestock populations. Other main agricultural staples include cereals, fruit, and tobacco as well as livestock in the drier north. Despite the need for rain, the northern parts of the region sometimes go years without sufficient rainfall in contrast to the far south where the annual average rainfall is 700 mm.⁴ Livestock keeping, traditional gold mining and trading are also common livelihoods⁵. In addition 74.3 % of the population lives in rural areas, making a living either as small farmers or as seasonal labor in large mechanized schemes⁶.

Social Structure: Darfur is a place where symbolically the 'village' represents and reflects woman's overall role in a historically male dominant 'structure'. Even within the confines of their own compound, women's conformity to dress code, manner of speech, and tone of voice, are required and expected. This expected conduct of women is based on cultural and social norms. Thus deviations from these norms and tradition are not allowed⁷.

The patriarchal nature of the Darfuri society results in the domination by male in decision-making processes in both the private and public spheres. Women hold very few positions at all levels of governance and decision-making bodies, partially because of their exclusion from education and the ensuing higher illiteracy levels, but also because of the persistence of discriminating religious and cultural beliefs and practices⁸.

The youths are known collectively as the "Shabab," the Arabic word for young men, have increasingly raised concern about their uncertain fate, the generation that came of age in the camps. They want their voice to be heard and are always challenging the traditional sheiks, upending the age-old authority structure of their tribal society public authorities and other power holders. The EVC program is committed to empowering young people and provides means through which they can increase their participation in community structures such as Village Development Committees and community and locality levels enhancing their representation and giving them better access to decision making bodies⁹.

³ Alex de Waal, *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan* (Oxford University Press, 2005, ISBN 0-19-518163-8), p. 36.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ World Bank 2016, Sudan Peace Building and Development Project: Also in Report for UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (South Sudanese Influx into East Darfur Fact Sheet Issue 6 | 1 November 2016)

⁶ Alex de Waal, *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan* (Oxford University Press, 2005, ISBN 0-19-518163-8), p. 36.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ bid

⁹ Alex de Waal, *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan* (Oxford University Press, 2005, ISBN 0-19-518163-8), p. 36.

2.0 Methodology

This was a mixed-method evaluation design because it systematically integrated many evaluation methods, potentially at every stage of the evaluation process, and drawing on both quantitative and qualitative data. Largely, this being a triangulation, answers to questions was generated from different data sources and both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used.

2.1 Timeline/Process

The original field work was conducted in 21 days from 5th to 25th of July 2018 by an independent consultant and covered eight of the 17 EVC communities (Three villages of Um Labania, Alsunta and Hijleela in Ed Daein and Assalya localities in East Darfur and five villages in South Darfur: El Hilla Aljadeeda, Abu Odam, Khirwa, Hashaba and Singita in Bileil and Kass localities). Because the data collected in the first phase of the MTR was not of sufficient quality to answer all evaluation questions, a second round of data-collection took place. This second phase of data collection took place in seven out of the eight previously assessed villages between 10th to 20th October, 2018 and was conducted by CARE and implementing partner staff. Furthermore, the sample size of the second round of data-collection was limited to 16 respondents per village.

2.2 Data Collection Methodologies

The following data collection methodologies were used:

Table 1: Conceptual Framework for Triangulation of Data

Triangulation of data				
Literature Review	Key Informant Interviews	FGDs with OH	Structured Questionnaires	Outcome Harvest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents Theory of change Internet sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public authorities and other power holders Women Committees & CSOs EVC program staff in East and South Darfur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women and youth Local traditional and religious leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women and youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How was outcomes attained? Where was outcomes attained? And who was responsible? Most significant change

EVC Program's documents were reviewed in order to have a clear understanding of project purpose, goals and activities which have been conducted so far. Quarterly reports were reviewed

to provide documentary evidence about project activities and attainments. Key informant interviews typically involved a one-on-one conversation between evaluation team member and CARE project staff, and implementing partners and public authorities. Structured questionnaires were administered to women and youth beneficiaries.

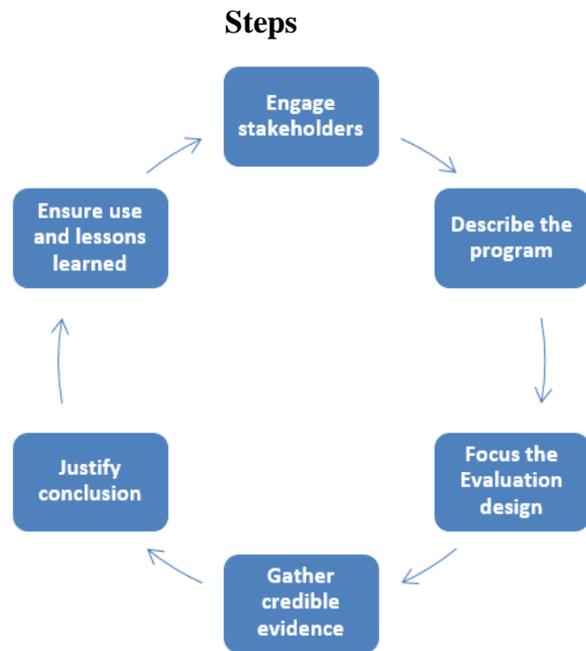
This evaluation involved use of OH to harvest outcomes resulting from program interventions. Outcome Harvesting collected (“harvested”) evidence of what has changed (“outcomes”) and, then, worked backwards to determine, when, how and who contributed to these changes. Use of OH helped to determine the most significant change of EVC Program and this was substantiated by stories of change. In the context of this evaluation, harvesting ‘outcome,’ lead to capturing of a broad spectrum of perceived results involving various stakeholders other than relying only on the key evaluation questions of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

2.2.1 Summary of Evaluation Framework Steps

Not just “collect data”

Not just “analyze data”

Rather..... “Get credible evidence”



Source: Developed by the evaluation team

2.3 Sampling Procedure

Purposive sampling was used to select key informants such as public authorities and other power holders, Local traditional and religious leaders, CSOs, EVC program staff. Random sampling was used to select men, women and youth from 8 out of the 17 EVC program villages, 3 from South Darfur and 5 from East Darfur. Accessibility was a selection criterion which might have biased the results.

2.3.1 MTR surveyed site in East and South Darfur for the Second Collection Phrase:

State	Locality	Village	Women	Youth	Power holders/ religious leaders	Implementing partners
East Darfur	Ed Daein	Um Labania	10	10	1	
		Heeglija	10	10	1	
	Assalya	Alsunta	04	04	1	
South Darfur	Bileil	El Hilla	07	07	1	
		Aljadeeda				
		Abu Odam	07	07	1	
	Kass	Khirwa	07	07	1	
		Hashaba	07	07	1	
	Singita	0	0			
Total					07	07

2.4 Analysis Process and Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS computer program to generate frequency tables and charts. SPSS was used because it can provide in-depth, faster and accurate data analysis. On the other hand, qualitative data was descriptive and was structured in accordance with the MTR questions. All the data collection tools used for the MTR needed to be approved by the government before they could be used. Some of the questions were removed resulting in a gap in the data collected.

2.5 Ethical Considerations

- We explained the nature and purpose of the research to respondent. It was also explained that participation would be voluntarily.
- We promised the respondents not to write down their name and that all data would be treated confidentially; the data from the project wouldn't be shared to any another organization apart from CARE

3.0 Findings

Brief Overview of Respondents

As pointed out earlier, the EVC program in Sudan aims to increase participation of women and youth in community structures such as Village Development Committees and community and locality levels enhancing their representation and giving them better access to decision making bodies. Women position in Darfur is characterized by male domination and women are subordinated to men by custom and law. Largely, this is a patriarchal society where women have no voice of choosing their husbands, no right to divorce their spouses and limited chances of inheritance of property¹⁰.

At household level, the 'house' represents and reflects the woman's overall role in a historically male 'structure'¹¹. Customarily, the men make all decisions regarding the family and may consult their brothers and brothers-in-law or other male family members but may not their wives¹². There is also low levels of women' representation in politics, peace negotiations, education and decision making.

On the other hand, due to conflict in Darfur, a whole generation of youth has suffered diminished educational and developmental opportunities¹³, which affect their participation in community structures such as Village Development Committees and community and locality levels. Generally, cultural practices and disintegration of societal roles and responsibilities have hindered gender empowerment (Helpage International, 2010, cited in Adam et al, 2015)¹⁴.

Women in East Darfur



Source: Field Survey

¹⁰ Adam Azaid Muhammed (2003), Sudan: Women and Conflict in Darfur: Review of African Political Economy, ROAPE Publications, ISSN 0305 - 6244

¹¹ Afshar, Haleh (1985). Women, Work, and Ideology in the Third World. London: Tavistock Publications. ISBN 0422797103.

¹² The Republic of Sudan: Country Gender Profile, 2012, Japan International Cooperation Agency (online).

¹³ UNDAF Sudan 2009-2012

¹⁴ Adam Salih Abaker Sabahelkheir and Thabit Ahmed Hassan (2015), Role of women in food security in central Darfur state – Sudan: International Journal of Current Research in Life Sciences Vol. 4, No. 09, pp. 396-398, September, 2015

Apart from the women and youth, the evaluation of also took into account the views of the following categories of people:

- The EVC program officers in CARE offices in East and South Darfur
- Key informants e.g. Power Holders (PHs) at the community levels, Local Authorities (LAs) e.g. Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Youth & Sports and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) officials
- Community and community members (individuals), VDCs, CSOs (IPs) at the project level

3.1 Domain 1/Excluded groups: How are excluded groups advancing towards empowering themselves and actively influencing decisions that affect their lives?

Advancement of excluded groups towards empowering themselves and actively influencing decisions that affect their lives was measured in terms of the following MTR questions:

- Number of women and youth who had participated in training activities for political participation
- Number of women and/or youth were more aware of their rights and responsibilities
- Perception on accountability/transparency of public authorities and other power holders among women and/or youth
- Extent to which community members believed that that decision-making should be inclusive and responsive
- Number and type of community/local groups that had been supported
- Type of capacities and expertise that had been developed among community/local groups for performing public roles and implementing dialogue strategies?
- Number of people that were trained?
- Number and types of dialogue initiatives (public participation, mobilisation, activation) that were carried out by community/local groups?

3.1.1 MTR question 5: Number of women and/or youth who participated in training activities for political participation?

Available data from Every Voice Count Initial Mid Term Evaluation Draft Report, August 2018 indicate that trainings were conducted in Kass locality in South Darfur where a total of 29 youth and 27 women were trained in community action plan and drafting annual plan. In addition 63 youth and 36 women were trained about policies and regulation in favour of women and youth. The initial EVC mid-term draft report does not highlight trainings from other localities. The figures are summarized in the table below:

Table 2: Trainings conducted at Kass locality in South Darfur

Village	Type of training	Implementing partner	Number of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Singita	Train the Youth groups on action plan & draft annual plan	Amal Darfur organization	18	11	29
Singita	Train women groups on action plan and draft annual plan	Amal Darfur organization	0	27	27
Kherwa	Sensitize VDCs about policies and regulation in favour to women and youth	Great family organization	24	39	63
Hashaba	Sensitize VDCs and PCs about policies and regulation in favour to women and youth	Great family organization	11	25	36

Source: CARE Sudan Annual Reports, 2017

3.1.2 MTR question 6: Number of women and/or youth who are aware of their rights and responsibilities

Results from primary data indicate that slightly over 60% of the women beneficiaries (66.7% in East Darfur and 62.5% in South Darfur) were aware of their rights and responsibilities. Nearly the same numbers of youth (66.7% in East Darfur and 53.1% in South Darfur) were also aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Table 3: Awareness of their Rights and Responsibilities

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	16 (66.7%)	4 (16.7%)	1 (1.4%)	1 (1.4%)	16 (66.7%)	1 (4.2%)	2 (8.3%)	1 (4.2%)
South Darfur	20 (62.5%)	4 (9.4%)	-	2 (6.2%)	17 (53.1%)	6 (18.8%)	-	9 (28.1%)
Total	36	8	1	3	33	7	2	10

Source: Primary data

Increased awareness of rights and responsibilities was attributed to the following:

- Twenty four (24) women participated in awareness sessions on women's rights, their entitlements, local decision-making processes and harmful practices in ED.
- Forty eight (48) youth participated in awareness sessions on women's rights, their

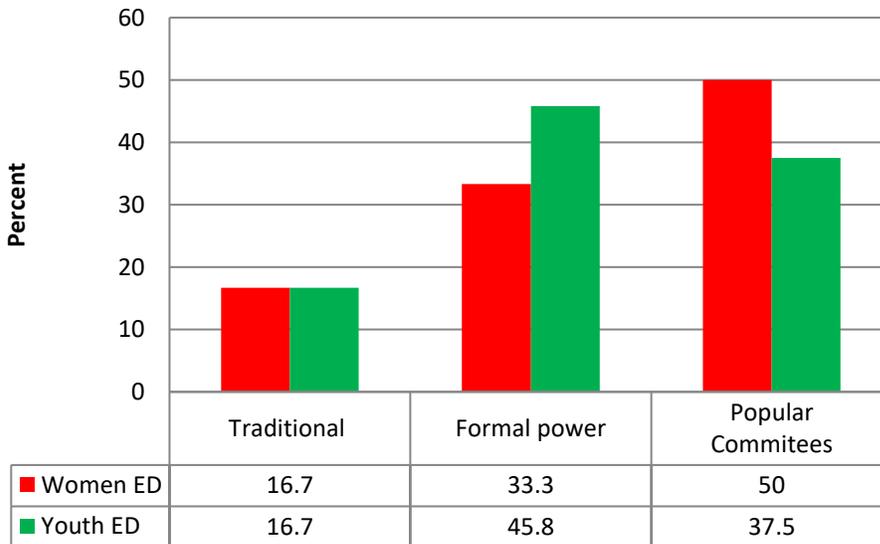
entitlements, local decision-making processes and harmful practices in ED

- Data for women and youth who participated in awareness sessions on women's rights, their entitlements, local decision-making processes and harmful practices in SD was not provided in the Every Voice Count Initial Mid Term Evaluation Draft Report, August 2018, of which this is the improved version.

3.1.3 MTR question 14: What is the perception on accountability/transparency of public authorities and other power holders among women and/or youth?

An estimated 70% of the youth and 65% of the youth had a positive perception regarding accountability/ transparency of public authorities and other power holders.

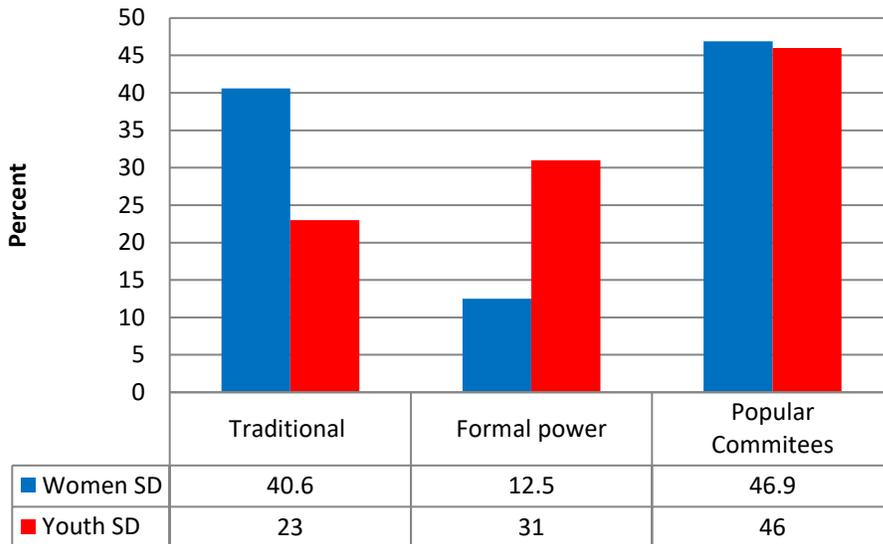
Figure 2: Percentage response for the most accountable public authorities and other power holders among women and/or youth in East Darfur



Source: Primary Data

In East Darfur, half of the women beneficiaries (50% response) pointed at popular committees as most accountable, followed by formal power holders (33.3%) and lastly traditional powerholders (16.7% responses). On the other hand, a good number of youth, looked at formal power holders as being more accountable (45.8%), followed by popular committees (37.5%) and lastly traditional powerholders (16.7%). Accountability/transparency of public authorities and other power holders was partly attributed to 40 interface meetings involving both youth and women in dialogue sessions with the government authorities organized by GFO and other capacity building programs.

Figure 3: Percentage response for the most accountable public authorities and other power holders among women and/or youth in South Darfur



Source: Primary Data

In South Darfur, a good number of the women beneficiaries (40.6% response) pointed at popular committees as being most accountable, followed by traditional power holders (40.6%) and lastly formal powerholders (12.5% responses). On the other hand, a good number of youth (46% response), looked popular committees as being more accountable, followed by formal powerholders (31% response) and finally traditional powerholders (23% response)

3.1.4 MTR question 19: Extent to which community members believe that decision-making should be inclusive and responsive

In answering MTR question 19, data was collected using structured questionnaires and interviewing of village leaders. The results obtained were as follows:

Table 4: Extent to which community members believe that decision-making should be inclusive and responsive

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	21 (87.5%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	23 (95.8%)	-	1 (4.2%)	-
South Darfur	27 (84.4%)	3 (9.4%)	-	2 (6.2%)	27 (84.4%)	-	3 (9.4%)	2 (6.2%)
Total	48	4	1	3	50		4	2

Source: Primary data

The results indicate high levels of agreement that community members believe that decision-making should be inclusive and responsive to a large extent as indicated by 87.5% and 84.4% response for women beneficiaries in East Darfur and South Darfur respectively. The results were not different from those obtained from the youth as indicated by 95.8% and 84.4% for youth beneficiaries in East Darfur and South Darfur respectively.

Qualitative data indicate both women and youth acknowledged that decision making structures in villages was now more inclusive and responsive as a result of EVC activities. Accordingly, it appeared that women and youth participation in the decision making were favored, encouraged, and supported by the majority of the people. Sheikh Abdalla, a village leader of Um-Labania is quoted to have commented as follows:

“Since the training and awareness programs conducted by the EVC program, things have changed,” (thanks God) he continued *“the youth together with other committees knew what to do to develop their village because they are involved, I’m quite sure they will never be abused or manipulated as a fuel of any conflicts again”*. He continued:

A member of the Allodia¹⁵ Committee in South Darfur also commented as follows:

“After participating in the EVC program, we ourselves changed, we realized how women role is important in the village after we saw their useful participation when we had “Nafeer.” ¹⁶ *Women are there together with the youth hand by hand, women now perform much better inside and outside their houses than ever before, their houses are organized and clean, their children are clean too. He added “we wish if time could come back again, we can do things differently”*.

¹⁵ Aljodia Committee is a community peace committee

¹⁶ Nafeer is a synonym to campaign

Table 5: Level of awareness of some decision making processes and community development plans that are applicable to women rights and interests

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	18 (75%)	4 (16.7%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	22 (91.7%)	22 (91.7%)	22 (91.7%)	
South Darfur	26 (81.2%)	4 (12.5%)	2 (6.2%)	-	29 (90.6%)	1 (3.1%)	-	2 (6.2%)
Total								

Source: Primary data

Further, primary data indicate increased level of awareness of some decision making processes and community development plans that are applicable to women rights and interests. This is true for both women and youth in East and South Darfur.

3.1.5 MTR question 7: How many and what type of community/local groups have been supported?

Representatives of Powerholders from 11 villages in South Darfur participated in a roundtable discussion facilitated by The Hague Academy for Local Governance. During the discussion, community leaders familiarised themselves with the importance of the roles of both women and youth in decision-making and agreed to increase their participation in decisions making processes. Government officials increased their knowledge on inclusive governance issues which helped them to identify their actual capacity building needs towards becoming more inclusive and accountable. Despite being new to the world of advocacy and the challenging political environment, CARE and CSO partners were able to apply their knowledge and skills by implementing advocacy initiatives, which commitments and agreements will be followed-up in 2018¹⁷.

3.1.6 MTR question 8: Which capacities and what expertise have been developed among community/local groups for performing public roles and implementing dialogue strategies? How many people were trained?

Qualitative data indicate that CSOs received different type of training and capacity building programs by the project team and together with THA. The training and programs were expected to prepare them to become efficient implementing partners. In addition to the training, the IPs were provided with other tailored activities necessary to help them increase their capacities and enable them to advocate for EVC objectives and these included the following:

¹⁷ Every Voice Counts Programme; Annual Report 2017 (Year 2), 24 April 2018, Submitted by CARE Nederland

1. Inclusive governance by THA
2. Leadership training to women group leaders
3. Regular sessions to discuss the role of the project and the CSOs in supporting marginalized women and youth
4. Some CSOs were invited to EVC quarterly learning sessions to learn from others.
5. Women VSLA leaders were trained in leadership, management and business skills

Evidence of application of the developed capacities are reflected in story of change 1 where Jodia women committee has been involved in dispute resolution. In 2017 in the Committee resolved a serious dispute in a nearby village when a clash between 2 teens boys from two different tribes in the village was about to accelerate into a serious conflict between their tribesmen. A hearing session was organized in Um Labania village in East Darfur, March 2018 and the conflict was resolved. Since then, there has been increased confidence among the women to get involved in decision making and conflict resolution.

3.1.7 MTR question 12: How many and what types of dialogue initiatives (participation, mobilisation, activation) were carried out by community/local groups? (Indicator DD4) To which preliminary outcomes have these initiatives led?

The common type of dialogue initiatives included; the following:

- Six (06) Mosque Committees (MC) whose role was to use the religious platforms to enhance advocacy activities and responsible for establishing justice in the village. The initiative is that while in Sudan, Imams in South Darfur included women's rights as a topic for discussion in mosques during regular Friday prayers while other influential community leaders are also increasingly leading discussions on gender and women-related issues during community gatherings and events¹⁸.
- Village Saving & Loans Association (VSLA) which was established before the EVC project but this important structure for community mobilization and economic empowerment became more active with the start of EVC program. Excluded youth and women from pastoral and agricultural communities were economically empowered to enable them live meaningful livelihood.
- Two (02) committees, one for Youth Network Initiative (YNI) and the other for Culture & Sport Committee (CSC) were initiated by women and youth in the community after the EVC intervention. Each committee has 9 members, of whom, 3 are female. These committees have been significant in enhancing inclusiveness to more effective governance, increased awareness of their rights and responsibilities and increased capacities to articulate and act on their needs
- Three dialogue spaces in Umlabania, Elgalabi and Sheriya villages in ED were established with participation from 30 youth and 40 women.
- Six (0) 6 dialogue sessions were facilitated by GFO in which youth and women actively

¹⁸ Every Voice Counts Programme; Annual Report 2017 (Year 2), 24 April 2018, Submitted by CARE Nederland

involved in sessions with the government throughout the interface meetings.

- One meeting was organized with the Ministry of Social Welfare to discuss the possibility of creating forums involving VDCs and LAs. One of the main outcomes was the suggestion to organize further meetings, including in Shiriya locality and line ministries, to identify relevant forums and agree on regularity for the forums to be held.

The common initiatives were participation, mobilization, and activation; for example, one (01) meeting was organized with the Ministry of Social Welfare where to discuss the possibility of creating forums involving VDCs and LAs. One of the main outcomes of that meeting was the suggestion to organize further meetings to discuss of women and youth participation in community activities.

Other findings *Outcomes*¹⁹ under domain 1 include the following:

- The project increased the representation of women and youth in community structures' by 35% in VDCs, PC and sub-committees like education, health, agriculture and youth and women committees in operational sites. In the past the representation was none to 10%. It was also not an active participation.
- Special groups of interest were formed (VSLAs, Youth, Women groups, culture and sport groups) by the project in 11 rural areas in SD and 6 in ED.
- 34 (17F+17M) youth in East and South Darfur were selected as Community Based Trainers (CBTs) and trained in VSLA management and in supervision, leadership skills, EVC implementation methodology, meeting management, planning, monitoring and reporting.
- The project provided various capacity building packages including (leadership, public speaking, communication skills, meeting management and reporting, women rights) to 3 youth networks were formed in SD and ED.
- Women's groups were set up as a platform to develop skills allowing them to actively participate within the village development committees (VDCs), their sub-committees and in community groups to influence decision-making processes related to livelihoods and services relevant to women²⁰. (**NOTE:** The report does not specify the number)
- Though priorities are still given to men to speak first, encouragingly, women were seen boldly questioning and interacting in meetings
- In addition to youth and women, dialogue and discussion sessions have brought other excused groups into the forefront. For instance, people with special needs have been identified, encouraged to participate in meetings and discussions. Leaders and community members have shown high acceptance to their participation.
- Youth were also observed to be engaged in community issues including but not limited to Popular Committees' led discussions, security and mobilisation development.
- Improved women mobility and participation on VSALS, VDCs and PC meetings have been observed.
- Women and youth are now assuming more responsibility and holding high position within communities in some of the project areas. For instance, in Hijleeja, East Darfur the

¹⁹ Every Voice Count Initial Mid Term Evaluation Draft Report, August 2018

²⁰ Every Voice Counts Programme; Annual Report 2017 (Year 2), 24 April 2018, Submitted by CARE Nederland

VDC Deputy Chair and the secretary are women while the treasurer is a male youth.

3.1.8 In conclusion

In conclusion, it can be re-affirmed that excluded groups (women and youth) were now advancing towards empowering themselves and actively influencing decisions that affect their lives. This can be attributed to Application of Advocacy Capacity Assessment Tool (ACAT), Training of Trainers (ToT), monitoring and reporting, inclusion training package, community scorecards, EVC implementation methodology, inclusive governance and gender equality trainings.

In addition, there is evidence that women and youth groups are becoming more active since the project is focusing on them as its main target groups, providing technical support, and enabling them to assume proper spaces in decisions regarding community affairs.

Youth are becoming more active in community issues by engaging in various campaigns efforts, which increases their visibility and better interaction with traditional leaders and PHs

VDCs are becoming interactive and willing to learn more and lead discussions with youth and women groups and engage with government and also enhance their participation.

Story of change 1: Improved Role of Women in Decision-Making Process

Domain 1: Centered on empowerment of members of excluded groups - in particular women and/or youth - on lobby and advocacy

What, where and when: Jodia committee is a community structure that is involved in dispute resolution in Darfur. Jodia committees are now more accepting of women and youth membership. In March 2018 Um Labanaia a woman Jodia committee member played a big role in resolving a serious dispute in a nearby village when a clash between 2 teens boys from two different tribes in the village was about to accelerate into a serious conflict between their tribesmen. The issue was brought to the attention of the committee by the woman member. She was able to convince the boys to appear before the committee where a hearing session was organized., the conflict was successfully resolved. Since then, there has been increased confidence among the women to get involved in decision making and conflict resolution.

Significance: This was a significant breakthrough from old habits where women were not given opportunity to participate in such decision making processes.

Contribution: EVC staff and implementing partners are conducting regular, structured awareness campaigns and dialogue sessions in the target villages to increase the understanding regarding the relevance of inclusive structures. The approaches used include sessions with power holders. Excluded youth and women from pastoral and agricultural communities are empowered and actively influence decisions at village, locality and state levels that affect their lives.

Lessons Learnt: It is evident that increased involvement of women committees in dispute resolution can enhance women rights and their participation in decision making. It is therefore recommended that future programming involve women committee in dispute resolution at all levels.

3.2 Domain 2/CSOs: How are CSOs advancing towards effectively influencing policies and practices on behalf of excluded groups, and towards holding authorities and other power holders to account?

The extent to which CSOs were advancing towards effectively influencing policies and practices on behalf of excluded groups, and towards holding authorities and other power holders to account was measured using the following MTR questions/ indicators:

- Number of first- and second tier partner CSOs that were included in EVC
- Type of capacities and expertise developed among first- and second-tier CSOs for performing political roles and implementing advocacy strategies
- Number of first- and second-tier CSOs that demonstrated increased lobbying and advocacy skills?
- Number and types of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs
- Number of supported CSOs which improved their legitimacy to lobby and advocate for the claims of societal groups

The results obtained were as follows:

3.2.1 MTR question 1: Number of first- and second tier partner CSOs are included in EVC

- A total of five (05) first- and second tier partner CSOs were included in EVC. These included;

First tier CSOs (Implementing Partners – IP)	Second tier CSOs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Family Organisation (GFO) • Amal Darfur • Global Aid Hand (GAH) • Alsaiwed Alkhadra Organisation(AAO) • Alsalam (only first year - now terminated – less than six months of being an implementing partner) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mubadiroon – East Darfur • Mubadiroon – South Darfur • Childhood Development Foundation (CDF)

- CDF, Mubadiroon, Amal Darfur, GFO and GAH, AAO and Alsalam.
- Project reports indicate that a total of five (05) CSOs were supported with capacity building programs which included; Application of Advocacy Capacity Assessment Tool (ACAT), Training of Trainers (ToT), monitoring and reporting, inclusion training package, community scorecards, EVC implementation methodology, inclusive governance and gender equality training.
- In addition to the trainings, the Implementing Partners were provided with other tailored activities necessary to help them increase their capacities and enable them to advocate for EVC objectives and these included, Inclusive governance by THA, leadership training, regular sessions to discuss the role of the project and the CSOs in supporting marginalized women and youth and some CSOs were invited to EVC quarterly learning

sessions to learn from others.

3.2.2 MTR question 3: Capacities and expertise that have been developed among first- and second-tier CSOs for performing political roles and implementing advocacy strategies

Table 6: List of CSOs and trainings received

No	CSOs trained	Training received
1	CDF, Mubadiroon, Amal Darfur, GFO and GAH	Application of Advocacy Capacity Assessment Tool (ACAT)
2	Mubadiroon, AAO, Alsalam, GAH, GFO, Amal Darfur	Training of Trainers (ToT)
3	AAO, Alsalam, GAH, GFO, Amal Darfur,	Monitoring and reporting + Inclusion Training Package
4	AAO, Alsalam, GAH, GFO, Amal Darfur	Community Scorecards
5	AAO, Alsalam, GAH, GFO, Amal Darfur	EVC Implementation Methodology
6	CDF, Mubadiroon, Amal Darfur, GFO and GAH	Inclusive Governance and Gender Equality training by THA.

Source: Project Reports

3.2.3 MTR question 2: Number of first- and second-tier CSOs that have demonstrated increased lobbying and advocacy skills

The entire first- and second tier partner CSOs were included in EVC demonstrated increased lobbying and advocacy skills, that is, CDF, Mubadiroon, Amal Darfur, GFO and GAH, AAO, Alsalam. However, one weakness noted here was that most CSOs were less equipped and small in size, for example, they lacked adequate material resources to fully expand their activities.

The project activities were implemented through five selected CSOs and partnership with 2 line-ministries: the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoY&S) from East and South Darfur.

One of the example the examples of increased lobbying is that, Global Hand facilitated a connection with MoANR for a group of women from Um Labanaia village in SD to obtain seeds. The staff of the Ministry trained 20 farmers in improved agricultural practices and financial market linkages.

- Global Aid Hands (Implementing partner), conducted training courses on community-level accountability framework /feedback mechanisms for VDCs and Village councils.
- Global Aid Hands also conducted trainings to VDCs on the key project approach including leadership, community development, action planning.
- Global Aid Hands also provided training to VDCs on the key project approach including inclusive governance, women and youth participation

NOTE: Available secondary data does not indicate the location and exact number of trainings

Secondary data indicate that for the above trainings by Global Aid Hands, women and youth Committees and 8 individuals from each village (these were randomly selected).

3.2.4 MTR question 4: Number of supported CSOs that improved their legitimacy to lobby and advocate for the claims of societal groups

All the 7 supported CSOs reported to have improved their legitimacy to lobby and advocate for the claims of societal groups. As a result of the activities of CSOs, laws, policies and policy guidelines were successfully improved/ adopted as a result of lobbying and advocacy by CSOs and/or community/local groups.

Table 7: Awareness of the activities conducted by CSOs so far in the framework of EVC

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	16 (66.7%)	4 (16.7%)	3 (12.5%)	1 (4.2%)	21 (87.5%)	1 (4.2%)	2 (8.5%)	
South Darfur	26 (81.2%)	1 (3.1%)	5 (15.6%)		28 (87.5%)	1 (3.1%)	3 (9.4%)	
Total								

Source: Primary data

Results from the table above indicate high levels of awareness of the activities of CSOs so far in the framework of EVC as indicated by 66.7% response and 81.2% for women beneficiaries in East and South Darfur respectively. The youth beneficiaries were equally aware of the activities conducted by CSOs so far in the framework of EVC as indicated by 87.5% for both East and South Darfur.

Table 8: The question as to whether the activities conducted by CSOs have improved women and youth ability to stand up to claim for their rights

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	20 (83.3%)	1 (4.2%)	3 (12.5%)		20(63%) (91.7%)	3(9%) (4.2%)	9(28%)	
South Darfur	29 (90.6%)	1 (4.2%)	2 (6.2%)		28 (87.5%)	2 (6.2%)	-	2 (6.2%)
Total								

Source: Primary data

Primary data indicate high levels of agreement that activities conducted by CSOs have improved women and youth ability to stand up to claim for their rights. For example, secondary data indicate the following:

- The project has helped to increase the representation of women and youth in the community structures by 33 % from 25% prior to the project. Currently, 3 of the 6 members of each committee are represented by female. In some committees, e.g. HC and EDC in Al Hela Aljedida, women representation exceeded 40%.
- As a government representative body, popular committees applies the constitutional requirement that women must be represented by 25%. Although the quota is 25%, most structures have only one woman representation. The project is planning to work hard to increase women representation to 25% at PC and beyond through influencing and advocacy. This seems reachable as some of the PC members are also members in VDCs, where EVC has huge influence.
 - Other outcomes under domain 2 include the following: 8 CSOs in ED and SD including EVC implementing partners (IPs) Alsawaid Alkhadra Organization (AAO), Great Family Organization (GFO), Amal Darfur, Elsalam and Global Aid Hand (GAH) were assessed and attended 2days ACAT training in Nyala.
 - All the 8 CSOs identified their own capacity building needs and based on that have been trained by THA on inclusive governance.
 - All the CSOs received extensive orientation meetings and trainings on EVC implementation methodology.
 - All the CSOs received training on VSLAs methodology.
 - All the CSOs were trained in CSC methodology.
 - All the CSOs were trained on action plans development and implementation.
 - Six (6) staff from IPs received TOT training on Inclusive Governance.

3.2.5 In conclusion

In conclusion, there is a considerable evidence of CSOs advancing towards effectively influencing policies and practices on behalf of excluded groups, and towards holding authorities and other power holders to account. As pointed out earlier, the ability of the ability of CSOs was attributed to the trainings received and other tailored activities necessary to help them increase their capacities and enable them to advocate for EVC objectives and these included, inclusive governance by THA, leadership training, regular sessions to discuss the role of the project and the CSOs in supporting marginalized women and youth and some CSOs were invited to EVC quarterly learning sessions to learn from others. However, the CSOs are being faced by a number of challenges, such as limited capacity in terms of resources and skilled manpower.

3.3 Domain 3/Power holders: How are power holders becoming more responsive and acting upon the needs and interests of excluded groups?

The PHs under this section include; Ministries of Education, Social Welfare, Health, Animal Resources, Locality Admin Units and Humanitarian Aid Commission. On the other hand the local authorities included; imams (religious leaders), traditional leaders, men in households, Popular Committee and Village Development Committees. Under domain 3/ power holders, focus was on the following:

- Type of capacities and expertise developed among public authorities and other power holders
- Number of public authorities and other power holders
- Institutions that have strengthened their capacity to respond to the needs and rights of the population

The results obtained were as follows:

3.3.1 MTR question 10: Capacities and expertise that have been developed among public authorities and other power holders

Project reports indicate that public authorities and other power holders were trained in the following areas:

- Inclusive governance,
- Women and youth participation.
- Leadership and governance,
- Community development action plan and advocacy
- Other training initiatives included environmental campaign, credit, etc

3.3.2 MTR question 9: Number of public authorities and other power holders and from which institutions they have been strengthened to respond to the needs and rights of the population

- Four (04) staff from the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in East Darfur participated in Community Scorecard (CSC) training; similar to what was conducted in Year 1.
- Sixty (60) community leaders, including 24 women and public officials, in 6 rural areas participated in awareness sessions on women's rights, their entitlements, local decision-making processes and harmful practices in ED.
- Local authorities and other power holders participated in forum and community dialogue discussions about youth and women participation in decision making process organized by THA. They were also trained in leadership skills, negotiations, mediations and decision-making process. The preparations gave the LAs an in-depth understanding of the EVC and enabled them to be ready to participate and engage in a continuous dialogue with CARE on how to coordinate the process of the EVC activities.
- Interviews with the General Manager of the MoSA revealed that the Ministry was working very closely with CARE. She described the approach of the EVC as challenging

due to the cultural norms that hinder women participation. However, she mentioned that the Ministry was encouraging the implementation of the project activities that enhance women and youth inclusiveness in decision making. She also recommended that the project should work on the high illiteracy rate among the selected communities. For her, illiteracy constitutes a serious challenge, especially among women (the illiteracy rate are close to 95%), beside FGM and the early marriage.

3.3.3 MTR question 13: Number of targeted public authorities and other power holders that has increased their accountability and transparency

All the 8 targeted public authorities and other power holders (1 from each village) had increased their accountability and transparency. There was evidence that targeted public authorities and other power holders have increased their accountability and transparency. In addition, the EVC interventions thrived to make women and youth participation an integral component of the local VDCs. Currently, membership of these two groups constitutes 33% in the majority of the VDCs, and up to more than 44% in some subcommittees, e.g., health and education committees (beside formation of new women and youth committees as a part of the VDC committees), compared to 25% representation before the EVC project. In addition to accountability there was increased feeling by women and youth views of the responsiveness of public authorities and other power holders.

The EVC team conducted one (01) meeting with key decision makers of the Ministry of Social Welfare in East and South Darfur. The meeting resulted in the commitment by DGs to support the programme and advocate for youth and women rights at the state level.

Four (04) staff from the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in East Darfur participated in Community Scorecard (CSC) training; similar to what was conducted in Year One (01).

Sixty (60) community leaders, including 24 women and public officials, in 6 rural areas participated in awareness sessions on women's rights, their entitlements, local decision-making processes and harmful practices in ED.

Table 9: Women and youth views of the responsiveness of public authorities and other power holders

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	20 (83.3%)	3 (12.5%)	-	1 (4.2%)	23 (95.8%)	-	22 (91.7%)	
South Darfur	24 (75%)	4 (12.5%)	4 (12.5%)		24 (75%)	5 (15.6%)	3 (9.4%)	
Total								

Source: Primary data

Results from the table above indicate that women in East Darfur (83.3%) and South Darfur (75%) had positive views regarding responsiveness of public authorities and other power holders. The results were not different from their youth counterparts.

Table 10: Feeling of Being Represented by VDCs

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	17 (70.8%)	5 (20%)	2 (8.3%)		23 (95.8%)	22 (91.7%)		
South Darfur	28 (87.5%)	4 (12.5%)	-	-	29 (90.6%)	1 (3.1%)		2 (6.2%)
Total								

Source: Primary data

On a positive note, both women and youth had a feeling of being represented by VDCs as indicated by 70.8% for women in East Darfur and 87.5% in South Darfur. The youth felt being represented by over 90%. Other outcomes²¹ under domain 3 include the following:

- LAs and TLs were oriented on program interventions.
- LAs and TLs were trained on CSC methodology.
- LAS and TLs were trained on community action plan formulation, implementation, and follow up and reporting.
- TLs received extensive orientation sessions and trainings on women rights.
- TLs participated in forum and community dialogue discussions about youth and women participation in decision making process.
- TLs were trained in leadership skills, negotiations, mediations and decision making process.
- Local authorities are starting to implement action plan developed at the end of inclusive governance by The Hague Academy. For instance the head of Women and Child Unit in the Ministry of Social Affairs led a session on policies supporting women and youth economic inclusion in the 6 EVC operational areas in Kass.
- Local authorities are playing increased roles in influencing service provision.
- There is also willingness among the public authorities and other power-holders to attend meetings and supervise community actions. Generally, they are part of CSC interface meetings and monitoring of performance of social services
- There has been increase in Las interaction with powerholders, appreciating communities that increase representation of women and youth structures.

²¹ Every Voice Count Initial Mid Term Evaluation Draft Report, August 2018

Story of change 2: Increased role of public authorities and other power-holders to act upon the needs and interests of women and youth

Domain 3: Responsive public authorities and other power holders

What, where and when: In March, 2018, in Al Jalabi village in East Darfur, two (02) authorities from the MPH (Ministry of Public Health) attended the community score card section and community presented their priority of the services that the village needs. The community ranked their immediate needs as well participation in scheduling an implementation plan. The authorities agreed and accordingly the following constructions were done by end of March 2018:

1. Construction of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Ward
2. Construction of waste incinerator by the Youth Committee
3. Construction of a guest house for the physicians in the village by the women committees
4. A nomination of a physician by the Ministry of Public Health
5. The center provided with the necessary equipment by the MPH

This was a sign of increased public authorities and other power-holders responsiveness to and act upon the needs and interests of women and youth

Significance: Engaging the public authorities and other power-holders to act upon the needs and interests of the vulnerable people at short notice was a new phenomenon. The Authorities opened space for a dialog and responded to the community priority and provided them with their demands according to the schedule plan. CSC was the first event that gave opportunity to most service providers to visit the rural communities and discuss on their rights, challenges and seek solutions for the poor service delivery. The shared responsibilities to improve the services and the leadership by the youth and women leaders were the major successes from the initiative.

Contribution: EVC staff and implementing partners are conducting regular, structured awareness campaigns and dialogue sessions in the target villages to methods of engaging public authorities and other power-holders to act upon their needs and interests.

3.3.4 In conclusion

In a nutshell, there was evidence that power holders were becoming more responsive and acting upon the needs and interests of excluded groups. In addition, the EVC also outreached to Popular Committees (PCs) and the political government bodies at village level. PCs members also became members of the VDCs committees and, as well, involved in EVC activities. Their responsiveness and accountability are important capacities that need to be embedded within their institutions so they are better equipped to serve the communities they are obliged to support.

3.4 Domain 4/Spaces of dialogue: How are excluded groups, CSOs public authorities and other power holders advancing towards effective interaction in formal and informal spaces of dialogue and negotiations?

In assessing domain 4, focus was on the following MTR questions:

3.4.1 MTR question 16: Number and what type of dialogue processes that have been organized by CSOs and/or community/local advocacy groups to influence the political and/or public debate

- GFO facilitated a total of 40 interface meetings in 8 villages involving both youth and women in dialogue sessions with the government authorities
- CARE Sudan facilitated a roundtable discussion between the CSOs and LAs that THA conducted
- Five (05) dialogue sessions were facilitated by LAs between CSO partners and community leaders in Beleil locality. This initiative resulted in 5 community action plans.
- Twenty three (23) community dialogue sessions were facilitated by two CSO partners (GAH and GFO) between women, youth, and traditional power holders in their respective communities in Kass and Beleil in East Darfur.
- Six (06) dialogue sessions were facilitated by GFO in Kass in which youth and women actively involved in sessions with the government.
- Three (03) dialogue spaces in Umlabania, Elgalabi and Sheriya villages in ED were established with participation from 30 youth and 40 women.
- Excluded groups, CSOs and public authorities and other power-holders participated in 7 interface meeting in East and South Darfur, all of which organized by CARE Sudan.
- Excluded groups, CSOs and power-holders participated in 22 different communal events in East and South Darfur facilitated by AAO, Al Salam

Qualitative data indicate women and youth participation in dialogue sessions about issues that affect life, representation as indicated in the pictures below:

A picture of women attending dialogue sessions



Source: Field Survey

Through interview with project staff in Abu Odam village, Belail locality in South Darfur, it was revealed that while women attended attending dialogue and awareness sessions, their contribution in the meetings was still limited partly due to lack of confidence due to presence of their male counterparts. It was after sometime that women began to show their faces and express their views after encouragement from EVC staff.

However, the dialogue sessions were not free of challenges, for example, at al Hila Algadida village, Belail locality, in an FGD with all the village attendants, one of the women stood up confidently and raised the issue of the high illiteracy rate among women in the village. She demanded that the project provide them with literacy class instructor. She stated as follows:

“all what we have learned we understood very well but we don’t have the skills to speak- out what we have learned fluently and coherently, we already started with what we have but we need a professional instructor to teach how to read and write by ourselves”.

The picture below shows a woman with disability in Al Sunta village attending the FGD.



The emergence of disadvantaged groups and people with special needs has become more accepted and welcome by the communities during social events or in the various committees’ structure in the EVCs villages. In SSIs with IPs, it was revealed that people with disability are represented in the VDCs committees e.g. at Al Sunta village, Assalya located in East Darfur, three (03) women with disability were seen sitting among the participants during the FGD with the community, (see Pic.5.). Two (02) of the disabled women were elected by the community and they became members, one for the youth and the other for health committee.

3.4.2 MTR question 17: (How) often have CSOs and/or community/local groups succeeded in creating space for CSO demands and positions?

- Traditionally, rural areas have been spaces for dialogue that are called “*Aldara*”. EVC used these spaces as platforms and managed to develop them into regular meeting spaces, where young males, female youth, women, traditional leaders and CSOs get together and discuss their concerns.

3.4.3 MTR question 18: Number of laws, policies and policy guidelines that were successfully improved/ adopted as a result of lobbying and advocacy by CSOs and/or community/local groups

The available reports do not indicate the number of laws, policies and policy guidelines that were successfully improved/ adopted as a result of lobbying and advocacy by CSOs and/or community/local groups. However, the activities of CSOs are allowed although closely monitored by the government authorities.

Through advocacy activities, there was increase in religious freedom. For example, in the beginning of 2016 the priest of the Coptic Church in Nyala, South Darfur was kidnapped but due to the lobbying and advocacy by CSOs and community/local groups, he was unconditionally released.

Initially, the Sudan society did not greatly allow women and youth to participate in governance and decision making. However, as a result of the EVC activities, there is evidence of inclusive governance, women and youth participation, in leadership and decision making and discussing their rights and reporting to the relevant PHs.

3.4.4 MTR question 20: (How) have lobbying and advocacy activities of supported CSOs contributed to the implementation of laws, and/or polices and societal norms that have been put into practice? Which strategies were most effective?

- Supported CSOs contributed to the implementation of laws, and/or polices through awareness sessions regarding Sudan ratified treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which is in an agreement to the respect and promotion of individual human rights²².
- Supported CSOs also conducted awareness sessions which were in line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), another instrument, ratified by the Sudan²³.
- It is therefore evident that advocacy strategies were more strategies were most effective in contributing to the implementation of laws, and/or polices and societal norms that have been put into practice.

²² Every Voice Count Initial Mid Term Evaluation Draft Report, August 2018

²³ Ibid

3.4.5 MTR question 15: Number of women/and or youth who feel represented by local authorities and other power holders.

Table 11: Feeling of being represented by local authorities and other power holders

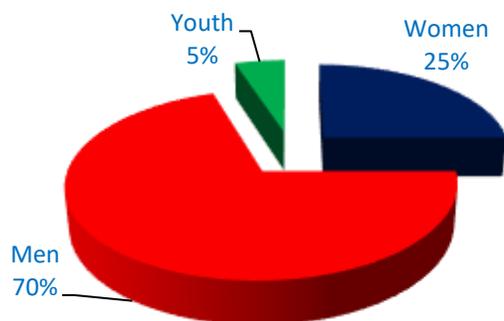
State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	18 (75%)	4 (16.7%)	2 (8.3%)		18 (75%)	4 (16.7%)	2 (8.3%)	
South Darfur	9 (28.1%)	4 (12.5%)	19 (59.4%)		15 (46.9%)	10 (31.2%)	-	1 (3.1%)
Total								

Source: Primary Data

From the table above, while East Darfur women/and or youth felt represented by local authorities and other power holders (75% women, 75% youth), there were low levels of feeling of being represented by women in South Darfur (**a contradiction**)²⁴ and only 46.9% of the youth felt being represented by local authorities and other power holders. The reasons for this were not given but possibly, it was due to low levels of local authorities and other power holders’ mobilization.

On the other hand, secondary data indicates that while women representation in Popular Committee had increased from 14.7 % as per the baseline data²⁵ to 25%, the numbers were still far low as compared to that of their male counterparts.

Figure 4: Women representation in Committees



Through FGDs with Popular Committee (political government body) members in Abu Odam village, it was revealed that women representation in these committees matched the 25% of minimum quota of women participation sanctioned by the Government of Sudan’s constitution.

Source: Secondary Data

²⁴ The contradiction will require further analysis during end of project evaluation

²⁵ EVC Inclusive Governance in Fragile Settings, Baseline Study Sudan 2018

Interviews with the president of Amal Darfur Organization disclosed another successful story of inclusion of disadvantage groups in the EVCs community project activities. The president indicated to the ET that the youth and women of the Zagawa outcast, known as the timpanists (Drummers; an occupation that degraded the people who perform it) became part of the committees' structures in some villages.

3.4.6 MTR question 19: Extent to which community members believe that decision-making is inclusive and responsive

Table 12: Community members believe that decision-making is inclusive and responsive

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	21 (87.5%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	21 (87.5%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	1 (4.2%)
South Darfur	26 (81.2%)	1 (3.1%)	3 (9.4%)	2 (6.2%)	27 (84.4%)	1 (3.1%)	2 (6.2%)	2 (6.2%)
Total								

Source: Primary Data

Results in the table above indicate that there is a high level belief among the community beneficiaries that decision-making is inclusive and responsive as indicated by women responses in East Darfur (87.5%) and South Darfur (81.2%). The results were not so different from those obtained from the youth as indicated by 87.5% for East Darfur and 84.4% for South Darfur.

3.4.7 MTR question 21: The way decision-making as a result from EVC programme activities has become more inclusive of women and/or youth

Qualitative data further indicate increased youth participation in decision making, for example in FGDs with Youth Committee in Abu Odam, it was revealed that most youth had been involved in the decisions-making process in their villages for at least once. In some villages such as Alhila Aljadeeda, Khirwa, Hashaba, the youth had participated more than five times and 2 times in Um-Labania village.

On positive note, during FGDs with youth and women committees, it was revealed that women and youth were very enthusiastic about participation in decision making. One of the youth in Singita village is quoted to have said as follows:

“ I used to be more attracted to the oppositions group and I never had a clear goal or a purpose for my future, now I can see some doors are opened , as youth we need more education and training to build our village, living in peace is much better than living in conflict, we always talk about peace issues when we sit together as youth ”

The above quotation is an indication that there was increased willingness for youth to participate in decision making for purposes of making their lives better.

Other Outcomes²⁶ under domain 4 included the following:

- Excluded groups, CSOs and public authorities and other power-holders participated in 7 interface meeting South Darfur.
- Excluded groups, CSOs and public authorities and other power-holders jointly have produced 7 action plans
- Excluded groups, CSOs and power-holders participated in 22 different communal events in ED and SD (**Note:** Initial Evaluation report does not indicate the segregated data)
- Forums created include monthly meetings led by PCs and VDCs during World Moments weeks
- There is evidence of shared responsibilities by stakeholders –women and youth being active in monitoring implementation
- Community Scorecard is creating an interactive platform that brings together the local authorities and community to be questioned on issues of ownership of services and women health
- The women have also acknowledged having dialogue at home, neighbourhood during community meetings.
- The local level forums are under discussion

3.4.8 In conclusion

There is substantial evidence of inclusion of excluded groups, CSOs public authorities and other power holders advancing towards effective interaction in formal and informal spaces of dialogue and negotiations. More interesting has been the use of traditionally, rural areas as spaces for dialogue that are called “Aldara”. EVC used these spaces as platforms and managed to develop them into regular meeting spaces, where young males, female youth, traditional leaders and CSOs get together and discuss their concerns. As a result there is increased number of women/and or youth who feel represented by local authorities and other power holders. The women and youth have also reported increased ability to articulate their issues that affect their lives.

²⁶ Every Voice Count Initial Mid Term Evaluation Draft Report, August 2018

Story of change 3: Increased confidence of women to articulate their issues that affect their inclusion in decision making.

Domain 1: Centered on empowerment of members of excluded groups - in particular women and/or youth

What, where and When: During the MTR survey in June 2018 in Um Labania village in East Darfur, in FGDs women freely expressed their views with visible faces. They discussed challenges they faced in enhancing their participation in decision making and how such challenges can be mitigated.

Significance: For women to be able to freely express their views and with open faces was a new phenomenon. Customarily, there has been low levels of women's representation in decision making as this has been the role of men.

Contribution: CARE and implementing partners (Alsoaeid Alkhdra and Great Family Organization (GFO)) provided awareness sessions to women groups about women's rights and women's participation in decision-making. They organized dialogue sessions between women, community leaders (including religious leaders) on rights and women's participation in decision making.

Lesson Learnt: It is evident that involving women identifying their needs is of paramount importance for their empowerment. It is also one of the factors that can enhance acceptability of the project, attainment of the goals and eventually its sustainability.

Story of change 4: Increased role of women to advocate for their rights

Domain 4: focuses on expanding and strengthening space for dialogue and negotiation. We believe that increased engagement and effective interaction between all actors leads to policies and practices that better take into account the interests of excluded groups

What, where and when: In March 2018, during celebration of International Women’s Day, women in Gemiza Lagaro spoke openly about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) issues in the community and how they feel about undergoing the process. A woman in particular stood up and made a commitment not to have any of her three daughters undergoing FGM.

Significance: Originally, women could fear to talk about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which is a common practice in most communities in Sudan despite its associated health problems. The prevalence of female circumcision was 89%. It is more common in Darfur communities but now many societies are resisting it.

In the past women were not able to speak out in public spaces, especially about persisting harmful practices such as FGM. The program has also provided a space for the women to talk about these issues by organizing a space for public dialogue where they could voice their concerns.

Contribution: As part of the Every Voice Counts (EVC) program, CARE and Amal Darfur, and implementing partners organized three “theatre for life” sessions in South Darfur in Borunga, Gemiza Lagaro and Tabofuto communities as part of the International Women’s Day celebration aiming to raise awareness about FGM, girls’ education and women’s participation in decision making at household level. Over the past two years, CARE and implementing partners (Amal Darfur and Great Family Organization (GFO) provided awareness sessions to women groups about women’s rights and women’s participation in decision-making organized dialogue sessions between women, community leaders (including religious leaders) in Gemiza about women’s rights. CARE and implementing partners have also provided trainings on Leadership, Negotiations and Public Speaking to the Leaders of Women groups in the targeted communities. General awareness sessions about women rights and women’s participation in decision making were also organized.

Lessons Learnt: It is learnt that public gatherings are good avenues for enhancing role of women to advocate for their rights. In such gatherings women gain confidence and their voices are also had by local authorities and other power holders who are very instrumental in supporting women and youth movements.

3.5 Contribution

The following is the outline of major contribution of EVC programme in Sudan:

- There has been increased inclusion of excluded groups in advancing towards empowering themselves and actively influencing decisions that affect their lives.
- The project increased the representation of women and youth in community structures' by 35% in VDCs, PC and sub-committees like education, health, agriculture and youth and women committees in operational sites
- There has been increased role of civil society organizations in advancing towards effectively influencing policies and practices on behalf of excluded groups, and towards holding authorities and other power holders to account. This has been attributed to the support given to the first- and second tier partner CSOs are included in EVC and capacities and expertise that have been developed.
- There is evidence of increased role of power holders in enhancing responsiveness and acting upon the needs and interests of excluded groups.
- It is evident that excluded groups, CSOs public authorities and other power holders are advancing towards effective interaction in formal and informal spaces of dialogue and negotiation.

However, despite the above stated achievements, the following challenges remains:

- Sudan has a big geographical coverage hence many people were left out of the project
- The CSOs have limited capacity to effectively execute their duties.
- The high levels illiteracy rates among the women and youth have had a negative impact on understanding of the human rights and need for involvement in decision making processes.

3.6 Context

The EVC program is in line with the Women Empowerment Policy, 2007 of the Republic of the Sudan. The policy document shows interest in the level of participation of women in political parties, associations and professional organizations and how effective is women's participation at legislative and executive positions²⁷. Based on state commitment to empowering women and realizing justice, several official structures and mechanisms were set up to guarantee the reinforcement of women participation and their integration into public affairs. Furthermore, several voluntary associations, leagues and organizations, together with civil society organization were established as effective mechanisms to realize a broad participation by women in all fields²⁸.

On the other hand, UNESCO, through its Cairo regional office, Khartoum national office as well as headquarters, is cooperating with the Sudanese Ministry of Youth, the Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO and UNFPA Sudan Office in the formulation of national youth policy. UNESCO Khartoum and the Ministry of Youth signed a memorandum of agreement in April 2018 to formalize this collaboration²⁹.

²⁷ Women Empowerment Policy, 2007, Ministry of Social Welfare, Women Child Affairs, Republic of the Sudan

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ UNESCO Office in Cairo, Towards a National Youth Policy in Sudan (25-26 April 2018): This is Google's cache of

The project is being implemented in an area where a whole generation of women and youth has suffered due to conflict and cultural practices and disintegration of societal roles and responsibilities that have hindered gender empowerment (Helpage International, 2010, cited in Adam et al, 2015)³⁰.

Also, the continuing influx of South Sudanese Refugees into Sudan, including into project areas of EVC, is putting pressure on the existing services and contributes to communities' concerns. EVC activities in the second half of 2017 were affected by the spread of Acute Water Diarrhea (AWD). Community members were reluctant to attend sessions as they were trying to avoid gatherings³¹.

Community leaders from EVC target areas showed awareness among those leaders in regards to challenges women and youth situation. The local leaders themselves face many obstacles due to lack of income generating activities and poor education of the communities. However, there is evidence of public authorities and other power-holders effectively interacting through formal and informal spaces for dialogue and negotiation

High literacy levels are also prevalent, for example, the baseline study found that 26 percent of youth are illiterate and 44 percent managed to complete their elementary education. 55 percent of women are illiterate and 31 percent finished elementary education.

Project Efficiency in terms of time

In assessing project efficiency, the women and youth beneficiaries were asked to indicate whether in the next two years, until EVC ends, is enough to enable women and youth to gain knowledge of ways to influence public decision-making process. The following results were obtained:

Table 13: Anticipated adequacy of time

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	15 (62.5%)	1 (4.2%)	3 (12.5%)	5 (20.8%)	21 (87.5%)	22 (91.7%)	22 (91.7%)	22 (91.7%)
South Darfur	24 (75%)	8 (25%)	-	-	24 (75%)	8 (25%)	-	-
Total								

Source: Primary data

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/cairo/about-this-office/single-view/news/towards_a_national_youth_policy_in_sudan_25_26_april_2018/. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 2 Sep 2018 21:15:01 GMT

³⁰ Adam Salih Abaker Sabahelkheir and Thabit Ahmed Hassan (2015), Role of women in food security in central Darfur state – Sudan: International Journal of Current Research in Life Sciences Vol. 4, No. 09, pp. 396-398, September, 2015

³¹ Every Voice Counts Country Highlights: Results in 2017

- Majority of the respondents (women and youth), acknowledged that the next two years, until EVC ends, time will be enough to enable women and youth to gain knowledge of ways to influence public decision-making process.
- However, in further assessing the efficiency, of the project in terms of time, the commencement of the project was delayed due to the government bureaucratic procedures. In 2016, no technical agreement was signed for South Darfur program areas.
- Efficiency in terms of human resource indicate that staff and partners' turnover and temporary gaps in senior staffing also affected the pace of implementation. Six senior staffers left CARE after few months of service due to various reasons.

Project Sustainability

In assessing sustainability, the beneficiaries were asked to indicate if they would continue to ensure that decision-making is inclusive and responsive even after EVC programme ends in 2, 5 years. The results obtained were as follows:

Table 14: Willingness to continue with even after EVC programme ends

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	17 (70.8%)	-	1 (4.2%)	6 (25%)	11 (45.85)	-	-	13 (54.2%)
South East Darfur	31 (96.9%)	-	-	1 (4.2%)	31 (96.9%)	-	-	1 (3.1%)
Total								

Source: Primary data

Majority of the women, both in East and South Darfur exhibited willingness to continue with ensuring that decision-making and responsive is inclusive even after EVC programme ends. The results were also positive for the youth in South Darfur (96.9%) while in East Darfur, 54.2% of the youth were not sure of their continuity.

Table 15: The question as to whether the EVC objectives of participation and inclusive decision making will be embraced even after the programme ends

State	Women				Youth			
	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure	Yes	Partially	No	Not sure
East Darfur	18 (75%)	5 (20%)	1 (4.2%)		16 (66.7%)	5 (20.8%)	3 (12.5%)	
South East Darfur	23 (71.9%)	3 (9.4%)	6 (18.8%)		23 (71.9%)	3 (9.4%)	6 (18.8%)	
Total								

Source: Primary data

The above response rate includes that on a whole, the EVC objectives of participation and inclusive decision making were likely to be embraced by the beneficiaries even after the programme ends.

4.0 Challenges

The EVC programme faced some challenges as follows:

Sensitivity of HAC towards EVC and their concern regarding issues of rights, accountability, decision making and advocacy could result in ending the project.

1. The first year of the project suffered for not getting the technical agreement approval from HAC until the fourth quarter for East Darfur and not at all for South Darfur.
2. Operations in South Darfur state, Gerieda didn't start implementation until July 2017 due to conflict and insecurity. The country office shifted the site to Bilel locality in July 2017.
3. Two of the six villages in East Darfur state were located at remote areas and reaching were a challenge by implementing staff. After discussing the issue with local government, country office management and CNL, two new sites are included in December 2017.
4. The project faced serious challenge during its first two years of operation due to high staff turnover including at managers positions. In total, six staff left CARE over two and half years of the project life.
5. The challenges from HAC and some key community leaders on the project were huge as the focus is only on soft components.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Main Conclusion

The EVC program seems to have improved inclusiveness of women and youth in decision making. Through FGDs with women in all selected villages, women and youth estimated at 80% agreed that the project has positively contributed changing community acceptance of participation of women and youth in the decision-making process.

The role of CSOs has been instrumental in enhancing excluded groups in advancing towards empowering themselves and actively influencing decisions that affect their lives. This has been largely through dialogue activities.

Power-holders have become more open to the idea of giving youth and women more space to voice out their issues of concerns. Also over 70% of the youth responded that they had already started to participate in meetings, decided to address light issues, such as communal and social events, participation in meetings and being occasionally consulted. Influential community members promoted women's and youth's rights through talks and speeches.

5.2 Lessons learned

1. The implementation of the project activities through local NGOs created a positive environment of competition and encouraged these NGOs to increase their organizations capacities
2. Change in norms, culture, and traditions are possible if the right approach is implemented and the local leadership can play a significant role to enhance this change.
3. Women and youth are enthusiastic about leading change in their respective communities in order to enhance their participation and inclusive decision making.
4. Meaningful youth participation provides real opportunities for youth to become involved in decisions that affect their lives and their communities. According to the Youth Activism website ([www.http://www.youthactivism.com](http://www.youthactivism.com)), the benefits of involving youth include the fact that they:
 - Diagnose problems and provide a reality check to PHs.
 - Challenge conventional thinking.
 - Influence PHs to be accountable
 - Capture the attention of decision-makers.

5.3 Recommendations for:

4.3.1 CARE country offices and partners

1. To maintain community's enthusiasms to the EVC program, capacity building program should be integrated with livelihood and other service delivery programs. This will build more trust on CARE and pave the road for the second half of the project. As well, this will also fill a real livelihood security gap among these vulnerable and high-risk groups
2. In Sudan CSO partners need to increase their understanding of relevant policies, the policy formulation process and policy implementation mechanisms in order for them to

monitor the inclusiveness and effectiveness of government programmes and services³².

3. There is need for increased number of training programs and enrollment of more youth into the EVC activities. Training programs related to youth and women confidence and decision making processes are crucial.
4. Since many communities were left out of the program, more advocacy activities are needed for communities to be in position to pressure the PHs to be accountable.
5. CARE Sudan and partners need to design concrete and reliable sustainability measures. This can be done through implementation of EVC activities in government structures and involvement of local stakeholders at all levels.
6. There is need for improved support to CSOs to boost voice of the people since results indicate that some CSOs had low capacity in terms of human and material resources.

4.3.2 CARE Nederland

1. CARE Sudan and CARE Netherlands need to implement any future projects in the same villages in order to achieve a real impact on all aspects of the community livelihood. First, this will demonstrate a complete example of a proper development (soft and hard intervention) which will guarantee sustainability and will set an example to follow by other organizations. Without such effort, the sustainability may be hard to maintain.
2. Furthermore, regular coaching and advise on conducting policy research, drafting position papers, development of communication materials (both for print and digital media), and identifying follow-up for advocacy actions is still needed, based on the results of the advocacy after action reviews³³.

4.3.3 The Hague Academy for Local Governance

1. It would be better if THA conduct a second round of training for the SCOs partners, CBTs, and the LAs to update their capacity needs and tailor training plan for the second term of the project.
2. Netherlands Embassy in Sudan needs to continue its valuable support to the community in needs in Sudan and provide more support of livelihood programs to the EVC beneficiaries
3. Women empowerment is a long term exercise and should begin from the grass root. Girls' schools should be incorporated in EVC programs as this will awaken the girls mind regarding the need for participation in decision making at an early age.

4.3.4 The Dutch embassy

1. A number of potential beneficiaries were left out the project activities due to limited resources due to the large geographical area. Additional EVC activities can be conducted to increase on the number of beneficiaries.

³² Every Voice Counts Programme; Annual Report 2017 (Year 2), 24 April 2018, Submitted by CARE Nederland

³³ Every Voice Counts Programme; Annual Report 2017 (Year 2), 24 April 2018, Submitted by CARE Nederland

2. The next phase of the program should also focus on livelihood interventions so that as to enable the women and youth as this is an integral part of a stable society and hence participation in decision making.
3. regular meetings between the partner offices, the CARE Sudan and the representative of the Dutch Embassy are also recommended to constantly review project progress and also to make recommendations.

Annex 1: Data Collection Tools

Interview Guide

Women

Introduction

- Hello. My name is _____. I work with CARE South Sudan.
- We are conducting a mid-term review to find the weakness and strength points (project design, implementation and desired achieved result focused on EVC to consider and take into account identified lessons learnt and recommendations for future programming. The evaluation results will be shared with the donor and potentially with external public. The information we collect will be used in a report that will help improve the way programs are implemented in the future.
- I would like to ask you some questions about your thoughts about the EVC program and its outcomes. The questions usually take about a 20 minutes.
- I will record your responses on this tape. Your identity and transcript of the interview will be confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than members of our survey team so, it means it will not be released to Care or attached to reports. The answers will not be treated/analyzed/presented individually.
- You may not experience any benefits personally, but it is hoped that the information collected will improve the way programs are implemented in the future that benefit all communities in your country and in other countries.
- You don't have to take part in this interview, but we hope you will agree to answer the questions since your views are important.
- If I ask you any question you don't want to answer, just let me know and I will go on to the next question or you can stop the interview at any time.
- If you have any further questions after the interview or wish to register a complaint about the survey, please contact us.

Do you have any questions about what I have said?

Do you consent to participate in the discussion?

Questionnaire to Women

Domain 1/Excluded groups

1. Do you think the public authorities and other power holders (e.g. PC, elders) are responsive to you and do they give you space to raise your issues?

Yes: Partially: NO: Not Sure:

1.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

2. In terms of ranking, which power holders are likely to be more accountable to you?

- Formal power holders like representatives from e.g. Ministry of youth, MoSA, Ministry of Agriculture and other local authorities.
 Popular Committees (community structure but appointed by the government)
 Traditional power holders like village elders, religious leaders

3. Do you think that that decision making structures in your village is now more inclusive and responsive as a result of EVC activities?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

3.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

4. Have you ever participated in dialogue sessions about issues that affects your life, representation of women, and youth

Yes: Partially: No:

5. Do you feel represented by these VDCs?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

Domain 2/CSOs

6. Are you aware of the activities conducted by CSOs so far in the framework of EVC?

Yes: Partially: No:

6.1 if yes, can you name some two (02) activities -----

7. Do you think the activities conducted by CSOs have improved your ability to stand up to claim for your rights?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

7.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

8. Do you feel represented by these CSOs?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

Domain 4/Spaces of dialogue

9. Are you aware of activities that have been organized by these CSOs and/or VDCs/community groups to influence public debate in your community?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

9.1 if yes, can you name some of the activities -----

10. Do you think these CSOs and/or VDC community/local groups have succeeded in creating space for CSO and community demands and positions, in particular of women and youth?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

11. Are you aware of some Decision making processes and community development plans that are applicable to women rights and interests?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

12. Can you name two rights related to decision making and access to financial markets?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

12.1 If so, which ones? -----

13. Have dialogue activities of the CSOs and VDCs activities in your community contributed to the actual improvements in your daily life, e.g. community plans put into practice,

abolishment of harmful traditional practices like early marriage, improved educational-health facilities?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

13.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

14. Do you feel represented by PCs?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

15. Do you feel represented by local authorities (e.g. local department Ministry of youth, MoSA, Ministry of Agriculture and other local authorities)?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

16. Do you feel decision-making – as a result from EVC programme activities has become more inclusive of women?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

16.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

Efficiency Indicators

17. Do you feel that the next two years, until EVC ends, is enough to enable you to gain knowledge of ways to influence public decision-making process?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

Sustainability

18. Do you think you will be able to continue to participate in community and higher level decision making even after EVC programme ends in 2, 5 years?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

19. Do you think that the EVC objectives of participation and inclusive decision making will be embraced by you even after the programme ends?

Yes, a lot Yes, partially Not much Not at all

Interview Guide

Youth

Introduction

- Hello. My name is _____. I work with CARE South Sudan.
- We are conducting a mid-term review to find the weakness and strength points (project design, implementation and desired achieved result focused on EVC to consider and take into account identified lessons learnt and recommendations for future programming. The evaluation results will be shared with the donor and potentially with external public. The information we collect will be used in a report that will help improve the way programs are implemented in the future.
- I would like to ask you some questions about your thoughts about the EVC program and its outcomes. The questions usually take about an 20 minutes.
- I will record your responses on this tape. Your identify and transcript of the interview will be confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than members of our survey team so, it means it will not be released to Care or attached to reports. The answers will not be treated/analyzed/presented individually.
- You may not experience any benefits personally, but it is hoped that the information collected will improve the way programs are implemented in the future that benefit all communities in your country and in other countries.
- You don't have to take part in this interview, but we hope you will agree to answer the questions since your views are important.
- If I ask you any question you don't want to answer, just let me know and I will go on to the next question or you can stop the interview at any time.
- If you have any further questions after the interview or wish to register a complaint about the survey, please contact us.

Do you have any questions about what I have said?

Questionnaire to Youth

Domain 1/Excluded groups

1. As a youth, do you think the public authorities and other power holders (e.g. PC, elders) are responsive to you and do they give you space to raise your issues?

Yes: Partially: NO: Not Sure:

1.2 Give reasons for your answer? -----

2. In terms of ranking, which power holders are likely to be more accountable to youth?

- Formal power holders like representatives from e.g. Ministry of youth, MoSA, Ministry of Agriculture and other local authorities.
 Popular Committees (community structure but appointed by the government)
 Traditional power holders like village elders, religious leaders

3. Do you think that that decision-making structure in your village is now more inclusive and responsive as a result of EVC activities?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

3.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

4. Have you ever participated in dialogue sessions about issues that affect your life, representation of youth?

Yes: Partially: No:

5. Do you feel the youth are represented by these VDCs?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

Domain 2/CSOs

6. Are you aware of the activities conducted by CSOs so far in the framework of EVC that address youth life/representation?

Yes: Partially: No:

6.1 if yes, can you name some two (02) activities -----

7. Do you think the activities conducted by CSOs have improved youth/ your ability ability to stand up to claim for your rights?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

7.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

8. Do you feel represented by these CSOs?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

Domain 4/Spaces of dialogue

9. As a youth, are you aware of activities that have been organized by these CSOs and/or VDCs/community groups to influence public debate in your community?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

9.1 if yes, can you name some of the activities -----

10. Do you think these CSOs and/or VDC community/local groups have succeeded in creating space for CSO and community demands and positions, in particular of youth?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

11. Are you aware of some Decision making processes and community development plans that are applicable to youth rights and interests?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

12. Can you name two rights related to decision making and access to financial markets?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

12.1 If so, which ones? -----

13. Have dialogue activities of the CSOs and VDCs activities in your community contributed to the actual improvements in your daily life, e.g. community plans put into practice, abolishment of harmful traditional practices like early marriage, improved educational-health facilities?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

13.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

14. Do you feel represented by PCs?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

15. Do you feel represented by local authorities (e.g. local department Ministry of youth, MoSA, Ministry of Agriculture and other local authorities)?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

16. Do you feel decision-making as a result from EVC programme activities has become more inclusive of youth?

Yes: Partially: No: Not Sure:

16.1 Give reasons for your answer? -----

Efficiency Indicators

17. Do you feel that the next two years, until EVC ends, is enough to enable you to gain knowledge of ways to influence public decision-making process?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

Sustainability

18. Do you think you will be able to continue to participate in community and higher level decision making even after EVC programme ends in 2, 5 years?

Yes: No: Not Sure:

19. Do you think that the EVC objectives of participation and inclusive decision making will be embraced by you even after the programme ends?

Yes, a lot Yes, partially Not much Not at all

Thanks for your cooperation