



END OF PROGRAM EVALUATION WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, ACCESS, AND PROTECTION (LEAP II)

Photo: UN Women Somalia: Community mobilization and inception meeting in Mogadishu

Programme description

The programme aimed to promote COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures, targeting women and girls in IDP and refugee camps and was expected to enhance the leadership skills of IDP women and girls, develop their capacities for promoting gender-responsive COVID-19 prevention and recovery support among crisis-affected women.

Funded by the Government of Japan, the programme was implemented from March 2022-March 2023 in four locations of Somalia: Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and Garowe with a budget of USD 559,826.

Evaluation Overview

The evaluation aimed to assess the project's achievements against the set objectives, identify and document lessons learnt (including design issues, lessons and best practices that can be up-scaled or replicated), and assess how the program contributed to promote COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures, enhance leadership skills of IDP women and girls, develop their capacities for promoting gender responsive COVID-19 prevention and recovery support among crisis affected women.

Key achievements

- The project reached more than 10,000 vulnerable women, men, and youth to lead and participate in COVID-19 prevention, response and recovery interventions through awareness raising and education on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation for women in the IDP settings.
- Awareness sessions ensured PCR testing and vaccination sites in refugee and IDP camps are safe, and women and girls are protected from sexual violence through awareness raising, effective monitoring and timely support by government and other stakeholders.
- 2 training of trainers (ToT) workshops were conducted on GBV prevention and response using Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) GBV in emergency guidelines for 300 women and girls from key stakeholders involved in COVID-19 response in target locations.
- The programme partnered with community-based radios, women and youth organizations, religious and community leaders to create awareness, share information on the prevention and management of COVID-19 to men and women and assessing COVID-19 preparedness and response plans to identify how gender is being mainstreamed, gaps and opportunities to strengthen the integration of gender in these key frameworks to ensure effective prevention of COVID-19.

Conclusions

RELEVANCE

- The programme leveraged implementation and continuity of the LEAP 1 pilot project contributing to SDG 5 and SDG 8.
- The project supports the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, whose priorities include protection, recovery, and resilience (corresponding to Women and girls lead and participate in COVID-19 response planning and decision-making), as well as the Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF), and is closely aligned with UN Women's Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, The Humanitarian Strategy for 2022-2025, and the UNW's 10 Gender Equality Accelerators.
- The programme also aligned to WHO strategic preparedness and response plan (SPRP) designed to guide countries in the transition from COVID-19 pandemic emergence phase to sustainable comprehensive management of the pandemic.
- It responded to the needs and priorities of beneficiaries who were the most vulnerable category of people in the targeted IDP setting as the pandemic hard-hit them.

EFFECTIVENESS

- The project's indicator targets were all achieved with some of them exceeding the target.
- The experience, skills, knowledge and capacities of Implementing Partners needed to deliver the project were the main contributing factors to successful project implementation.
- The main factors hindering the achievement of project results was the limited project timeframe, the presence or recurrent nature of drought and the patriarchal nature of the country.

EFFICIENCY

- The overall budget was deemed sufficient for the general scope of work and the set targets.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Community awareness-raising sessions, provision of the dignity kits and PPEs, trainings as well as other outreach activities had a positive impact on the lives of the target population, thus ensuring the sustainability of the results.

Lessons learned

The evaluation identified the following lessons with significance beyond the program:

- 1 Employing women:** The LEAP project employed women to implement the project's activities while receiving a monthly incentive; in turn, this empowered vulnerable women, girls, and youth affected by COVID-19 in the IDPs in Somalia and decreased their families' food insecurity and unemployment rate
- 2 Influence of culture:** The norms and culture dictated that women's place is in the kitchen and thus cultural and social beliefs prevented IDPs from seeking support or reporting incidents of GBV.
- 3 Social integration:** Targeting IDPs, returnees and the host community in project activities facilitated the social integration of IDPs and host community.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Expanding Scope: To reach as many people as possible, it is important to engage universities to highlight harmful cultural habits through theatre/drama and plays that are broadcast on television.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Life Skills: Health promotion strategies should be valued, and life skill education is a potential approach in this direction. As the pandemic has thrown life into disarray, being responsible, valuing money, and bonding with loved ones are a few important life skills you can help the community learn in these uncertain times.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

It is recommended that such a project include some **livelihood support** to the supported communities in the form of income-generating activities or business start-up kits for women.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

implementation phase of the programme was quite brief, and a **continuance** should be taken into account by enlisting more contributors or collaborating with other efforts with similar goals.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

Improve the capacity of partners on results-based reporting during the inception phase of the project so that partners' capacity on reporting is improved and skills and knowledge utilized throughout the project's life span.