



# PROJECT EVALUATION

Increasing women's participation in local development and decision-making processes in 2 slum settlements in Freetown.



Implemented by Centre of Dialogue on Human Settlement and Poverty Alleviation (CODOHSAPA) as part of the SABI Small Grants Programme.

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## Executive summary

### CODOHSAPA – Supporting women slum dwellers to highlight their service delivery experiences and needs.

The goal of the project was to enable women and other marginalised slum dwellers to drive their own development agenda and influence community development through increasing their participation in local development and decision-making processes in two slum settlements in Freetown. The project took place between January and December 2019 in Thompson Bay and Portee/Rokupa Warf.

The project was implemented by CODOHSAPA in close collaboration with Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP), a social network of women-led savings groups in slum, informal and other poor settlements.

#### **A range of activities were implemented, the key outputs of this as reported by CODOHSAPA were:**

- 15 savings groups mobilised and active with a total membership of 250 marginalise persons, including PWD, SGBV survivors, teenage mothers, school leavers, disaster survivors and others.
- 13 people trained on audio visual for story telling through KYC TV approach (of which 8 are women) and 15 stories captured and screened with a series of 2-minute documentaries developed for exhibition (note: the photo and video exhibition did not take place as planned)
- 157 persons directly participated in round table discussions with stakeholders, which together with the mass media campaign is estimated to have reached a wide range of community members
- In the Thompson Bay and Portee/Rokupa Warf, two separate meetings were called upon by the chiefs, engaging their subject with a verbal agreement that all matters of development and making decisions are going to be inclusive and participatory.

A light-touch evaluation of the project was conducted with a focus on assessing to what extent the project has achieved its goal and objectives. The evaluation included a participatory workshop with CODOHSAPA staff, interviews with decision makers as well as key community stakeholders and a survey amongst 100 members of the broader community in Thompson Bay and Portee/Rokupa Warf. The interviews included key decision makers, a Councillor (Thompson Bay), a Chief (Thompson Bay) and two Chairmen of FEDURP (Portee/Rokupa Wharf and Thompson Bay). They were all closely involved in the project and both of the Chairmen had a role as a “focal person” for the project and had regular meetings with the CODOHSAPA staff.

An analysis of the interviews with decision makers and the citizen survey highlighted the following key findings;

### **Awareness of inclusivity and rights of marginalised groups**

The Councillor, Chief and two Chairmen interviewed showed a great commitment to the goals of the project and were able to clearly explain the importance of inclusion in community development.

77% of community members reported hearing messages around the importance of inclusivity in decision-making about development activities. Most commonly people heard the messages through community sensitisation meetings (42%) or from someone else in the community (28%), only 10% indicated they heard this through the radio and 2% on TV. The message that was recalled most frequently (48%) is “Community development na alman business”.

About half of the community members report knowing about the rights of women (46%), persons with disability (49%), and young people (50%). Awareness of rights was higher amongst female community members than male community members. Community members are particularly aware of rights around protections from discrimination, harassment or abuse, the right to be heard in decision making processes, and inclusion in development activities. However, only 5% were aware of rights to free medical and education for people with disabilities. In terms of the awareness in rights of youth, people between 24 and 36 years old were more aware (56%) than other age groups.

### **Engagement in decision making**

The City Councillor in Thompson Bay noted that the seminar organised by the project was particularly useful as it helped her, and the Council, to understand the issues faced by marginalised groups of slum dwellers, and to understand better how to tackle them. She also noted she now engages people from marginalised groups more in decision making, which was confirmed by the Chief. Both Chairmen reported working with representatives of various groups to inform decision making, including women, CBOs, ward committee members and youth groups.

Amongst the community members surveyed, 48% reported actively participating in decision making about community development overall through a range of activities such as attending meetings advocating for the rights of girls and being part of a task force. Increased engagement in decision making appears higher for the community members who were most closely involved in the project. For example, one of the participants of the audio-visual storytelling component of the project was invited by the Councillor to serve as a ward community member, after the Councillor heard her story.

**Chairman Rupoka Warf highlighted there has been a real change in the community;**

*“In the past decisions were taken only by men but with the intervention of SABI, women are now making decisions in meetings on community issues. Because the women are*

*now included in decision making, they are now taking active part in community development. SABI has created awareness that women have a part to play in development, women are now part of the leadership and sensitization."*

CODOHSAPA also reported that people with disabilities (PWD) presently have about 11% representation within the advocacy platform of FEDURP. This is making them heard and being considered in developing agendas inclusive of the needs and abilities of PWD.

58% of community members surveyed observed an increase of women participating in decision-making, with examples cited such as women attending meetings, speaking up, taking leadership and several women now aspiring for the position of chairperson in the community. With regards to other groups 56% of respondents observed an increase of participation of young people and 36% an increase of people with disabilities. Other respondents did not think there was an increase or were not sure. For other groups (teenage mothers, disaster victims and Ebola survivors) only an average of 20% of respondents observed an increase.

**In terms of what demands and needs people from marginalised groups in the community have, the Chief in Thompson Bay articulated this as follows for his community;**

*women demanded microfinance as well as a hospital, a government school, a market for the community and a community centre; youth need jobs; and PWDs need to be capacitated to be able to stand on their own and they need shelter, food and vocational trainings.*

**Chairman of Rupoka Warf noted priorities he was working on for the community were;**

*"advocating for the rehabilitation of the school, building of a primary health unit, the building of community centre, public toilets and drainages in the community".*

### **Improvements in services**

Some of the decision-makers, including Councillor in Thompson Bay referred to action points agreed during seminars and roundtable discussions, such as on committing to follow up creating by-laws around gender-based violence. However, in Thompson Bay there seems to have been no specific action of the Council in response to the needs of marginalised groups. The Chief however mentioned health facility improvement as one of the actions following from the project's activities.

Of the community members consulted through the survey, the majority (over 66%) reported there were no improvements to health, education and social protection services for women, people with disability, or young people. Less than 10% of respondents saw a significant improvement in one of the categories, while many respondents also noted

they did not know. However, a few notable improvements were mentioned by community members, including the building of a new clinic and cases of alleged perpetrators of sexual violence being taken to court recently.

## Conclusions

**Whilst a more in-depth analysis needs to still be conducted, the findings indicate that;**

- Awareness of the importance of the inclusion of women, youth, people with disability and other marginalised groups is high amongst decision makers as well as community members
- The community sensitisation meetings and mass mobilisation seem to have had a greater effect than media engagement (radio, tv).
- Engagement in decision-making of marginalised groups has improved, particularly for women who not only attended and spoke up but engaged more in leadership roles. Other marginalised groups also engaged more in local decision making.
- The engagement has had limited visible effect in terms of more inclusive community development to date, potentially due to the short duration of the project.

## Lessons learned

**There are many challenges that have been overcome and lessons learned. FEDURP played a key role in the implementation of this project, therefore some of the lessons learned relate to their engagement;**

- CODOHSAPA staff noted that working with FEDURP has been very effective as they were already well established and well respected in the communities. This enabled them to champion the project and mobilise participants in the community.
- FEDURP members and project participants engaged on a voluntary basis, yet sometimes community members thought they were paid and wanted to be compensated as well for efforts. These active participants also must balance livelihood activities with commitments to the project which is a challenge.
- Working with FEDURP enhanced the sustainability of the project, as they will continue to engage in the community. At the same time various stakeholders including FEDURP members noted further empowerment of FEDURP is recommended.

## Acknowledgements

This evaluation was conducted through a collaboration of several CA staff based in Sierra Leone and the UK, as well as participation of CODOHSAPA. Anthony Mansaray, M&E Coordinator for SABI, provided technical guidance and planned, coordinated and facilitated this evaluation. Fanta Daboh, SABI Head of Programme with support from Jalikatu Cotay (SABI Programme Manager), played a key role in the participatory review of the project with CODOHSAPA, as well as the data collection, stakeholder engagement and in providing input for this report. Saiku Bah SABI Team Lead and Emma Haegeman, SDD, also provided useful input on the GESI components as well as the overall findings of the evaluation. Meenakshi Sharma, Programme Support Officer (UK based) conducted the data analysis and write up of the survey findings. Selma Scheewe, M&E Specialist (UK based), led the evaluation and developed the ToR, tools, and conducted data analysis and wrote the evaluation report.

## 1. Project overview

<b>Project's name</b>	Increasing women's participation in local development and decision-making processes in two slum settlements in Freetown.
<b>Overall goal</b>	Strengthened capacity of slum dwellers to drive their own development agenda in two slum settlements in Freetown.
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased capacity of 250 marginalised slum dwellers in 2 slum communities to drive their own development agenda through the provision of life skills training</li> <li>Enhanced inclusive participation of 250 marginalised slum dwellers in local governance and decision-making processes in 2 slum communities for sustainable community development and transformation.</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	The proposed locations are Thompson Bay (Ward 441, West 2 in Western Urban) and Portee/Rokupa Wharf (Ward 408, East 3 in Western Urban). These two communities will serve as epicentres from where they will reach out to other communities within the two wards.
<b>Project's period</b>	One year (January – December 2019)
<b>Partner</b>	The Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP) is a key partner in the implementation of the project. This is a social movement and network of women-led savings groups in slum, informal and other poor settlements involved in advocacy work, with a history of collaboration with CODOHSAPA.
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	The project will target the direct participation of 250 slum dwellers and approximately <b>5,000</b> (1,500 males & 3,500 females) people will be

reached indirectly with mass sensitization and awareness raising campaigns and programmes. The vulnerability descriptions of the direct beneficiaries are as follows:		
No	Description	Total Number
1	Unemployed youth	50
2	Female household heads	50
3	Ebola survivors	10
4	Early school leavers	50
5	People with disabilities	10
6	Survivors of SGBV	30
7	Youth living on streets	10
8	Victims of disaster	20
9	Teenage mothers	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>
Gender & age breakdown		
	<b>15 - 35</b>	<b>36 - 60</b>
Women	120	80
Men	30	20

## 2. Evaluation aims and methodology

### 2.1 Purpose and objectives

#### Purpose

The project is part of the SABI small grants programme, as such the overarching purpose of the evaluation is to assess to what extent the project has contributed to increased collaboration between citizens, particularly marginalised groups, and service providers to address service delivery challenges. The evaluation will assess the progress made towards achieving the intended results of the project and will document best practice and lessons learned.

#### Specific objectives

- Assess to what extent the project has increased collaboration between citizens and service providers to address service delivery challenges?
- Assess to what extent the project has meaningfully engaged women, youth, PWDs and/or other marginalised groups amongst the people living in the slums?
- Identify best practices and lessons learned



## Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Key questions
Relevance and programme adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did the intervention objectives and design, including the stories approach, respond to the needs and priorities of the marginalised slum dwellers?</li> <li>• Has the project adapted, if needed, to learning and changes in circumstances?</li> </ul>
Coherence and added value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent is the project compatible with other SABI interventions and/or other interventions in the project location?</li> <li>• What value has the project added to the overall SABI programme and innovation in collaboration between citizens and service providers?</li> </ul>
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent has the project achieved the intended results, including those outlined in the below framework (see results table below)</li> <li>• To what extent have each of the marginalised groups benefited from the project? (women, youth, PWD and others outlined in target group table)</li> <li>• What factors have helped or hindered the achievement of the intended results?</li> </ul>
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent have the results been delivered in an economic and timely way?</li> </ul>
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent has the project delivered the project outcomes (see page 1) whereby marginalised slum dwellers influence local governance and decision-making processes in their area?</li> <li>• To what extent has the project contributed to the overall objective of the SABI small grants programme?</li> <li>• Have there been any unintended effects, positive or negative?</li> </ul>
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How likely is it that the benefits of the intervention (incl. increased participation of marginalised slum dwellers in decision-making, and the continued use of audio-visual techniques) will continue after the end of the project?</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Methodology

The evaluation of CODOHSAPA's project will be conducted through a mix-methodology including desk review, Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews with all different stakeholders in Thompson Bay and Portee/Rokupa Warf.

### 1. Desk review

A desk review was conducted to inform the design of this assessment including the formulation of key questions. This review also provided an insight into activities

implemented with timelines, key results achieved at output level, and their intended outcomes. The desk review included the project proposal, quarterly reports and relevant project related documents and audio-visual materials as outlined in the results table (e.g. meeting notes, stories produced etc).

## **2. Review with CODOHSAPA staff - 3**

A participatory review session was held with 3 project staff to review the activities and strategies/processes followed in the implementation of the project including the engagement and role of stakeholders. This exercise included a review of the project theory of change (ToC), and results observed. Emerging issues from this exercise includes key successes, challenges and lessons learnt.

## **3. Key informant interviews**

**Interviews with key stakeholders in both slum communities, including;**

- Federation of urban and rural poor Sierra Leone (FEDURP)
- A Councillor (Thompson Bay)
- A CODOHSAPA member (Thompson Bay)
- A chief (Thompson Bay)
- Two Chairmen (Portee/Rokupa Warf and Thompson Bay)

**In addition, selected project beneficiaries in both communities were interviewed or took part in focus group discussions, including**

- An interview with a group leader (Thompson Bay)
- An interview with a project participant who created an audio-visual story (Thompson Bay)
- An interview with a project participant with a disability (Portee/Rokupa Warf)
- A FGD in Portee/Rokupa Warf with 3 men and 4 women
- A FGD in Thompson Bay with 4 women and 3 men

## **4. Survey amongst the broader group of beneficiaries**

A cross sectional survey was conducted targeting citizens in the two slum communities to measure whether mass sensitization and awareness raising campaigns have led to a different perception amongst slum dwellers, including those from more marginalised groups, on their ability to influence local decision making and actions in their community.

Fifty households were randomly selected per community with the following criteria also observed for inclusion and exclusion. This criterion was developed to ensure generalizability of results to the entire population (young, old, men, women and persons with disability) to a limited extent.

- Respondents must be not less than 19 years and not more than 65 years old. This lower age limit accounts for tax paying age in Sierra Leone which is 18.
- 50% of respondents sampled must be male and 50% female

- 50% of respondents must be 19 to 35 years old and 50% must be 36 to 65 years old
- Persons who can be physically identified as disabled persons must be interviewed at every opportunity

Data collectors were instructed to replace some respondents with another randomly selected member of the household.

### Limitations of the study

The sample size is small and was not calculated based on any scientific method to ensure the degree of certainty or generalizability of findings. We can therefore not be confident about the precision and interpretation of these results, or that this accurately represents the current situation in the communities surveyed. The data should therefore be interpreted with caution.

While the sampling of participants in the community included consideration of gender, age and disability status, it did not target or identify people from other more specific vulnerable groups including unemployed youth, early school leavers, youth living on the streets, female household heads, teenage mothers, ebola survivors, victims of SGBV and disaster victims.

In the survey, only one person with a disability took part, while 18 people reported they faced challenges in one or more areas, most commonly walking or seeing. Because of this limited number, the survey data was not disaggregated by disability status.

In the interviews as well as surveys, respondents do not always distinguish the SABI programme from the activities of CODOHSAPA or FEDURP, and they seem to be referred to interchangeably. Therefore, certain outcome measure cannot be solely associated to the CODOHSAPA project, but as gains made by the SABI programme.

## 3. Findings

### 3.1 Relevance

**Rationale:** CODOHSAPA and FEDURP have a long-standing relationship with the communities in which the project took place. Therefore, they noted that the need for the project was established based on their previous engagement with the community;

*“We realized that women are marginalized and not involve in decision making”.*

They also outlined in the project proposal, various gender norms that harm women’s community engagement were also identified. However, the planned literature review and focus group discussions to establish a baseline were not conducted.

**Targeting:** In terms of how the most vulnerable across a range of target groups (teenage mothers, Ebola survivors etc) were identified to participate in the project, the SABI SPO for the project noted that;

*“During the community meeting with stakeholders, project participants forms were given out to members to fill and insert the category that best fit them and the most marginalized were chosen to partake in the project as per proposal.”*

**The FEDURP Chairman interviewed noted that the identification was also based on their prior knowledge of the community;**

*“We know ourselves in the community and we used that knowledge to identify the different categories.”*

**Learning and adaptation:** No major adaptations were made to the project plans, except that video and exhibition did not take place as planned (discussed below). The FEDURP Chairman reported that community members did have suggestions for the project, such as incorporating skills training like hair dressing, tailoring etc and provide a micro-finance package, but there was no scope for this in the project. No new activities were added to the existing plan. However, small adaptations were made over the course of the project to overcome project challenges. For example, FEDURP members and other project participants had to navigate and overcome community member expectations about their role in the project and misconceptions about their compensation.

### 3.1 Project implementation and efficiency

**The below table provides an overview of the activities conducted by the project, and the outputs achieved as a result of them.**

*Table: activities conducted during the project and key outputs achieved (adapted from results framework in the project proposal)*

Actions	Output indicator	Results recorded	Means of verification
Community visitation and familiarization visit and project launch	Increased commitment to the project amongst key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key stakeholders pledged support for the project and increased understanding of the project (incl. the chief of Thompson bay, the Chairman of Portee/Rokupa Warf and the councillor of Portee/Rokupa Warf)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity records / quarterly reports</li> <li>Stakeholder interviews</li> </ul>

Community mobilisation through FEDURP-SL with more women, youth and disabled	Number of women and other marginalised groups mobilised, especially people with disabilities mentored and enlisted into FEDURP-SL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 savings groups active with a total membership of 250 marginalise persons, including PWD, SGBV survivors, teenage mothers, school leavers, disaster survivors and others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity records / quarterly reports</li> </ul>
Life skills and training on audio visual for story telling through KYC TV approach. Engaging marginalised groups in slums to tell their story and life in the slum.	<p>Number of participants trained in audio-visual techniques (disaggregated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The level of understanding and skills of training participants on audio visual use for storytelling</li> <li>• Number of audio-visual stories captured and aired</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 people trained on audio visual for story telling through KYC TV approach (of which 8 are women)</li> <li>• 15 stories captured and screened</li> <li>• 2-minute documentaries developed for exhibition (prior one 8 min documentary planned)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training reports</li> <li>• Video records</li> <li>• Screening notes</li> </ul>
Introducing audio-visual approach to capture real life stories of affected citizens from targeted communities to prompt FCC and other duty bearers to take responsible action	Number of stories screened or shared for decision makers to view	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The photo and video exhibition did not take place, but some sharing of the videos was done (number unconfirmed)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video records</li> <li>• Screening notes/project reports</li> </ul>
Mass community sensitisation awareness raising to enlist community support and participation, incl. media engagement (television and radio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of community members that have heard messages about inclusion and participation of marginalised groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various community sensitisation meetings and door-to-door campaigning conducted</li> <li>• 77% of the slum community members indicated they heard messages about the importance of inclusion through community sensitisation (48%), someone in the community (32%), radio/TV (13%) (survey)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity reports</li> <li>• Survey community members</li> </ul>
Slum dwellers through FEDURP-SL organise meetings,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of engagements staged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 157 persons directly participated in round table discussions with stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity records</li> </ul>

media shows and exhibition seminars targeting duty bearers both local and national for demands			
Building a strong frontier of slum dwellers for advocacy that promotes gender empowerment and social inclusion (GESI training for staff and focal persons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage representation of women, youth and people with disabilities in advocacy platform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CODOHSAPA reports that PWDs presently have about 11% representation within the advocacy platform of FEDURP. This is making them heard and being considered in developing agendas that are considerate of people with disabilities.</li> <li>FEDURP National Chair committed to integrating GESI messages in their sensitization and take the message to other nearby communities. GESI was also reported to be integrated in another project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target group reach data in activity records</li> <li>Survey community members</li> <li>Interview CODOHSA PA staff</li> </ul>
Develop institutional gender policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copies of gender policy for CODOHSAPA</li> <li>Percentage level of application of the policy provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender policy was not developed (probably related to limited timeline of the project and resources)</li> <li>A safeguarding policy was developed for CODOHSAPA as part of SABI's partnership relationship policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding policy</li> </ul>

**Supportive activities:** In addition to the activities described in the table, there were several preparatory and supportive activities including the identification of project participants/ citizens, the project launch, regular monitoring visits to communities, coordination and planning meetings with project staff and FEDURP, a sustainability planning meeting and community learning and sharing exchange visit.

**Community focal points:** The community focal points played a key role in the implementation of the project and had regular meetings with CODOHSAPA staff. The FEDURP Chairperson explained that the focal points were identified based on commitment and being influential in your community. They also had to have an outgoing personality and be a role model. The community was divided into 5 groups, so we had five focal persons and their role was to conduct dissemination of SABI messages and lead sensitizations, preach the GESI message and ensure it sustainability. Across the two communities, there were 10 focal persons, of which 6 were women and 4 were men, among which 2 were persons with

disability.

**Saving groups:** The savings groups were key as this was the main way that the 250 project participants from the marginalised communities were organised. In the savings groups, participants were trained on the importance of savings and record keeping. The FEDURP Chairman noted;

*"We meet every week to discuss community issues and at the end of the meeting we are encouraging to save whatever we have. There is no specific amount, you can save whatever you have, we keep records of the savings. Members can then access loan when they are in need to solve their problems. At the end of the month we go out and do sensitization on SABI work."*

They have several mechanisms and activities, including personal savings, community savings known as **"For the Bambai "**, which is used for community projects or leveraging for community projects. The groups have also been part of community exchange, sharing learnings and raising awareness on relevant issues affecting the community.

**Photo and video exhibition:** This did not happen due to unexpected consultant costs for re-editing the video, as explained by the CODOHSAPA staff.

**Story telling:** In terms of the rationale for the story telling component of the project, in the project proposal it is stated that;

*"CODOHSAPA recognises that the people's voice is the most effective tool that can intrigue and stimulate duty bearers to action. In that respect, training in audio-visual techniques is to build the capacity of target groups in order to capture their stories around issues that affect their livelihood and survival."*

The evaluation documented one positive example (see case study below) around using audio-visual methods for storytelling. Beyond this the effectiveness of the use of audio-visual approach to influence local decision making did not emerge from the interviews with community stakeholders and decision-makers.

With regards to **timeliness**, most of the activities took place as per the planned schedule. CODOHSAPA staff noted that the project started a month late due to funds transfer delay from CA. The audio-visual training was brought forward and conducted in Q1 rather than Q2 to inform other activities.

In terms of **efficiency and value for money**, the CODOHSAPA staff noted that all consultancies were done by local providers and community venues were used for activities. In addition, a large portion of the activities were driven by community-based volunteers who were not paid. In the project proposal, CODOHSAPA made the following cost benefit analysis; "as 250 citizens are targeted, project is spending approximately Le1m (\$113) per person to bring transformation in the life of one citizen over a period of one year". The evaluation confirmed that 250 people were engaged in saving groups, and

a broader range of community members were reached with messages about inclusion and participation. Community members have noted this has led to increases in participation amongst women, young people and people with disabilities as outlined below.

## 3.2 Collaboration and coherence

### Collaboration between CODOHSAPA and FEDURP

CODOHSAPA implemented this project in close collaboration with FEDURP, which is a social movement and network of savings groups in slum, informal and other poor settlements involved in advocacy work. While most of the saving groups participants were women, the work on gender and social inclusion of different marginalised groups was new for part of its leadership and members, on which they received training. As one of the Chairmen noted;

*"With FEDURP I am concern more with disaster management. It was an opportunity for me to continue pushing and get more knowledge on inclusion work."*

CODOHSAPA also reported that PWD presently have about 11% representation within the advocacy platform of FEDURP. This is making them heard and being considered in developing agendas inclusive of the needs and abilities of PWD.

FEDURP was responsible for the mobilisation of saving groups participants as well as supporting, running and monitoring of the savings groups in the community. FEDURP collected the stories, hosted community meetings, and led the mass sensation campaign at community level on gender equality and social inclusion. They also oversaw arranging logistic at community level.

#### **FEDURP's feedback on collaboration with CODOHSAPA:**

*"It was good. We are consulted and given the opportunity to lead our own development. We were responsible for community mobilization and advocacy."*

#### **Another person mentioned;**

*"The support was great, I was trained on the project deliverable e.g. GESI and provided with logistics for the work e.g. batteries and megaphone and transport refunds."*

#### **CODOHSAPA staff in return commented on the added value that FEDURP brought to the project;**

*"FEDURP was already formidable in the communities. This makes it easier for them to champion the project and get participants."*

#### **SABI and other actors in the community**

There was limited mention of other actors in the project area, although it was noted SEND



implement SABI at ward level in the same communities. In the interviews as well as surveys, respondents do not always distinguish the broader SABI programme from the activities of CODOHSAPA or FEDURP, and they seem to be referred to generally as SABI. CODOHSAPA staff also confirmed all activities were SABI branded.

The FEDURP Chairman noted that where there are other players, the relationship is cordial, they attended each other meetings and plan together.

### 3.3 Results of the project: effectiveness

#### 3.3.1 Perspectives of decision makers

##### Commitment and active engagement

Through the various activities described in section 3.2, community leaders and other key decision makers were engaged. The below table summarises their role in the project.

*Table: Description of the roles of community stakeholders based on CODOHSAPA feedback*

	Role played
Chiefs	The chief of Thompson bay was very committed and provided space for meetings (e.g. the meetings and sensitization campaign were held at the court barry in his compound, as confirmed by FGD participants), he attended some meetings and committed to reinforce the project messages.
Councillors	The Councillor for Portee/Rokupa Warf ward 401 was key in championing change. The Councillor of Portee/Rokupa Warf, pledged support to include project citizens in decision making, and CODOHSAPA staff provided examples of this being put in action (see below). The Councillor of ward 408 was committed and available when needed. She allowed us to record her stories and dedicated a ward committee member who was always with us.
FEDURP Chair lady & Chairman	They were amongst the most committed to the project. The Chairman is very influential; many people in the community refer to the Chairman as someone who leads activities and someone they trust, people listen to him. The Chairman in Portee/Rokupa Warf mobilized participants for all activities implemented in the communities, he also attended all the activities and was part of the radio discussion. The Disaster and Prevention Control Chairman (FEDURP) also was mentioned as someone who is listened to "sometimes even when you ask people to do something they will say they will only do it when they hear from him".

Harbour master	He was not part of the initial stakeholders included in the project but because of his role he was invited to a community meeting and became amongst the most committed to the project and is influential in the community.
Religious leaders	They were engaged by the project but showed limited interest.
Youth leaders	Limited participation (launch, community entering and roundtable discussion), some expressed some distrust because of experiences with other NGOs, claiming people are benefiting out of their situation.
Council / mayor	The Mayor only sent a representative during the launch of the project
PWD representative	Was noted a key champion for change

In the interviews the Councillor, Chief and two Chairmen interviewed showed a great commitment to the goals of the project and were able to clearly explain the importance of inclusion in community development. It is worth noting that aside from the responsibilities of the duty bearers to respond to the demands raised by marginalised communities, there was also the idea that;

*"Telling the community development is not only by government but the people also should step forward in term of development.", as noted by the Councillor.*

### **Improved inclusion in decision making**

The City Councillor in Thompson Bay noted that the seminar organised by the project was particularly useful as it helped her, and the Council, to understand the issues faced by marginalised groups of slum dwellers, and to understand better how to tackle them. She also noted she now engages people from marginalised groups more in decision making, which was confirmed by the Chief. Both Chairmen reported working with representatives of various groups to inform decision making, including women, CBOs, ward committee members and youth groups.

### **Chairman Portee/Rokupa Warf highlighted there has been a real change in the community;**

*"In the past decisions were taken only by men but with the intervention of SABI, women are now making decisions in meetings on community issues. Because the women are now included in decision making, they are now taking active part in community development. SABI has created awareness that women have a part to play in development, women are now part of the leadership and sensitization."*

FEDURP is a project implementing partner, but their leadership is also influential in the community in its own right. Chairman for Disaster Prevention and control Thompson Bay for example pledged to participate in all activities and to hold service providers

accountable. CODOHSAPA staff report that he campaigned on inclusion and did school campaigns on GESI. In community meetings he questioned stakeholders when women and PWDs are not in attendance. He did school to school campaign on GESI. In addition, the FEDURP National Chair, Yirah Conteh committed to work with other SABI partners in Thompson Bay to secure a land for the construction of PHU. He led the advocacy for the land and held several meetings with key stakeholders.

### 4.3.2 Perspective of project participants

#### Engagement in the project and community decision making

In Thompson Bay FGD participants were not involved in decision making before the start of the project but started to become active when the SABI project started. They decided to become active because;

*"SABI made us know that women can also have a say in the community about community development, they also told us about our health, they made us realize that we need a hospital in the community."*

**Similarly, in Portee/Rokupa Warf, FGD participants mentioned the;**

*"We were not involved, especially we the women. There was discrimination from the community stakeholders, only few people like aged men were involved in decision making."*

**Similarly, participants noted;**

*"We are active now because we have realized how important it is to be part of decision making. Before people didn't attend meetings but since SABI has told how important it is to attend such meeting I started attending. I think it is my responsibility to attend such meeting and participate."*

Most of the FGD participants conducted community sensitization, going around telling the SABI message to people around the community, including going from door to door. They noted;

*"SABI came for the women, the PWDs and everyone in the community, for us to also talk in public."*

One FGD participant in Portee/Rokupa Warf was also trained on how to capture stories, and one was a focal point for the project.

#### Community sensitizations and engagement with key stakeholders

Participants of the community sensitizations in Thompson Bay found that many community members were supportive, particularly the chiefs, the chairman, the councilors, police partnership board, youths and the chairlady.

*"The chief received our demands and requests well, in fact most of the meetings were held at his court barry".*

In, FGD participants also found that both community members and stakeholders were supportive, including the harbour master and the chairman.

*"Were listened to by the chief and we planned several activities together. They supported us to do the mass campaign. We developed a by-law on GBV and child projection issues which was signed by the Chief, Councillor and the police."*

At the same time, the main challenge that they encountered in both communities was that people did not want to listen to them because of financial expectations and thinking that they were paid to do advocacy. They overcame this to some extent;

*"we were able to talk to them and encourage them to join us because we told them that all of us need to work together to develop the community."*

They also explained that they were just volunteering for the community and with continued patient perseverance they were able to conquer the challenge.

One of the group leaders interviewed also noted that attending all the meetings was a challenge considering the voluntary nature of the role and other commitments. He noted that at times it was also a challenge to gather group members because of the distance.

## **Results observed**

Participants of the FGDs and the interviews noted the following as main successes observed from the project;

**Direct results of some of the project activities:** Some colleagues who were trained on the audio visual gaining short term employment. Other noted that the project taught us how to save for the unseen situations.

**Increase in women's decision making at home:** Participants report that now women have the courage to engage their husbands at home and talk about the development of the homes. Women were initially not part of decision making at home but that has changed to some extent. One participant noted;

*"Before people don't use to listen to me at home, but now my voice is being heard."*

Increase in inclusive participation in decision making in the community: Participants noted that;

*"We also understood that disability is not inability. PWD are now also part of decision-making bodies in the community."*

Participants also noted an increase in women's participation in decision making. As one person said;

*"They gave the women the confidence to participate in community decision making meeting. Before it was not easy for us to participate in such meetings. They make us bold and confident."*

**Advocating for positive change amongst the community: another participant said;**

*"I gathered the 'gangsters' in the community sat them down and sensitized them, told them that they should focus on their books and do something meaningful in their life, I was able to do this because of SABI."*

Others reported that they are motivating young girls who dropped from school because of teenage pregnancy to return to school.

**Case study: audio-visual story-telling participant.**

A female participant in Thompson Bay participated in the audio-visual training;

*"I participated in the project because wanted to change lives by using my story to give hope to colleague women in my community."*

**The training she participated in provided not only audio-visual skills but also life skills;**

*"The training has been useful to me. Now I have the skill to resolve conflict in the community. I have been mediating between husbands and wives. And motivating the women when they listen to my story."*

**She noted that in response to her story, she had full support from the community;**

*"The people have respect for me I have been a peace maker and an advocate. I am a strong woman because after going through all those obstacles and still I am doing well. I did not allow my past to stop my process. I am role model." She concludes "the story has made me popular and more responsible in my community."*

**In addition to the community, the councilor and two tribal heads in the community heard her story;**

*"After hearing my story, the councilor decided to work with me closely. And base on my contribution, I was given the opportunity to serve as a ward community member. Key decision makers have seen me as a strong person and we have been in touch and for whatever decision they are taking now I am consulted. The councilor included me in the WDC, and I am happy for that. For example, I was involved in the decision to lease*

*the land for the hospital. We are coming to the community leadership election and I am a member of the committees that is managing the election."*

### **Case study: advocating to reduce discrimination of people with disabilities.**

**One person with a disability was interviewed in Portee/Rokupa Warf. He said;**

*"I decided to participate because the SABI programme makes me feel I want to become active in decision making in and around my community in term of development."*

Prior to the project we were involved in community meetings only when NGOs call or visit the community, not all meetings. During the project I mainly advocated to reduce discrimination of community members especially people with disabilities. He noted his requests are well received by local decisionmakers.

*"the chief is in cordial relationship with me and has even called me to report any discriminatory act by any community member and he will take action, but this happened because of SABI."*

However, he also encountered challenges when conducting advocacy such as being provoked by community members.

**He explained how his participation in the project changed him;**

*"It gave me the mindset to talk in public without being shy or thinking about who I am".*

**He noted how at first, he would get angry when faced with discrimination but now he can do something about it.**

*"SABI has made me become more popular in and around the community, and also made me feel belong in the community than before."*

### **3.3.2 Perceptions of the broader community**

The respondents include 51 community members from Portee/Rokupa Warf and 49 from Thompson Bay. In terms of gender, 52% are female and 48% are male. Half (50%) of respondents are young people below 36 years. In terms of disability, only one person had a disability, a male between 25-35 years old with a physical impairment. In addition, 3 people below 35 and 15 people of 36 years or above reported facing some difficulty in one or more of the following areas; seeing, walking, remembering or concentrating, or personal self-care such as washing.

Table 1: Profile of the respondents

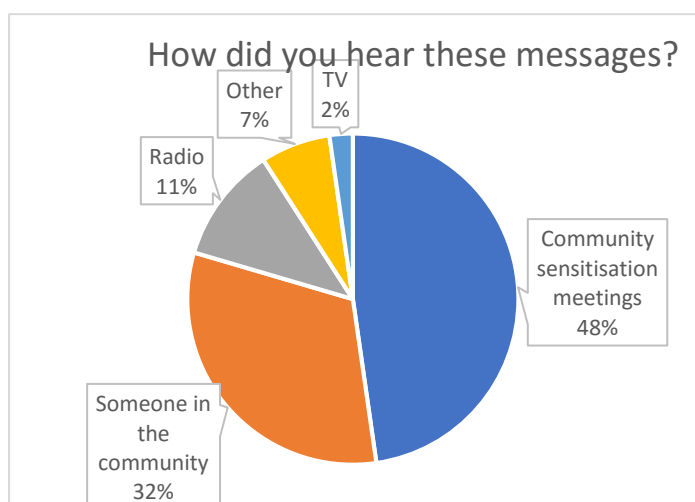
Community	Ages 15-24	Ages 25-35	Ages 36+	Total
<b>Thompson Bay</b>				
Female	9	8	9	26
Male	3	7	13	23
<b>Portee/Rokupa Warf</b>				
Female	7	4	15	26
Male	6	6	13	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

### Community awareness of importance of inclusion

The project saw 77% of community members (male and female) in Thompson Bay and Portee/Rokupa Warf indicate that they heard messages around the inclusion of women, PWDs and disaster survivors in decision-making about development activities. A higher percentage of women (83%) compared to men (71%) indicated they had heard these messages. Across age groups, 72% of people 24 or younger indicated they heard the messages, 85% in the group of 25-35-year old, and 75% of those 36 years or older.

The highest proportion (42%) of individuals (60% women and 40% men) indicated that this was through community sensitization meetings. This is indicative of a higher number of female participations during these meetings. Men were more likely (58%) to have heard the messages through someone in their community. It is also worth noting that of the people who heard these messages through community sensitization meetings, 48% said FEDURP was mainly responsible for organizing these, 19% attributed this to CODOHSAPA, 17% to SABI and 17% to other actors.

Graph: Sources of messages heard



Interestingly, there was not a very high percentage of respondents who said that they heard this information through media channels such as TV (2%) and radio (10%) and 'other' (6%), which challenges the success of media engagement activities<sup>1</sup> that were carried out to collect stories to ensure that decision makers and the public were informed on issues of exclusion and inequality.

For those who heard the message from someone in the community, it was most common to hear the message from a fellow community member, followed by youth leaders, neighbors, women leaders and headmen/chiefs.

While 65% of respondents seeing education and information materials with these messages, only 20% of respondents have watched the 2-minute documentaries (13 women and 7 men).

Table: Frequency of messages heard

Messages heard	% respondents
Community development na alman business	48
Leh we join hand for push we community go befo	27
We all for kam together for we community e betteh wan	26
Alman voice important pa decision making	25
Mama, pekin, papa, PWDs, mak we wok for better change	15
Woman den sef important pa development	14
U voice count	9
Lef no wan behen on wetin u dae do	9
Leh D change begin wit u	1

## Community knowledge on rights

<sup>1</sup> CODOHSAPA Final Grant Report, Activity 5, pg. 7



About half of the respondents are aware of laws that protect the rights of people with disability, youth and women. The female respondents were more aware of these laws (between 52% to 56% per category) than male respondents (between 40% to 46% per category). There are some variations in what rights community members are aware of, freedom from discrimination was most often mentioned for people with disabilities and women, while for youth respondents were particularly aware of the right of protection from harassment or abuse and the right to be heard in decision making. Across all categories, community members were least aware of rights to free medical support and free education. Some awareness raising messages may have been misconstrued by community members, for example 22% of respondent said women and young people have a right to free medical and education services, and only 9% said persons with disability have a right to free medical and education services.

This is particularly noteworthy around rights and protections from harassment or abuse, the right to be heard in decision making processes, and inclusion in development activities.

*Table: Awareness of rights by sex and age categories*

Are you aware of any laws that protect the rights of this group?	People with disability	Youth	Women
By sex			
Female respondents	56%	54%	52%
Male respondent	42%	46%	40%
Average	49%	50%	46%
By age group			
People younger than 24	48%	44%	40%
People 24-36	48%	56%	40%
People older than 36	50%	50%	50%

If yes, what are these rights?	People with disability	Youth	Women
Freedom from discrimination of all forms	<b>28</b>	15	<b>29</b>
Inclusion in development activities	<b>20</b>	17	16
Equal Opportunity in society	16	17	16
Protection from harassment or abuse	10	<b>24</b>	9
Right to heard in decision making processes	10	<b>22</b>	6
Free medical	5	5	5

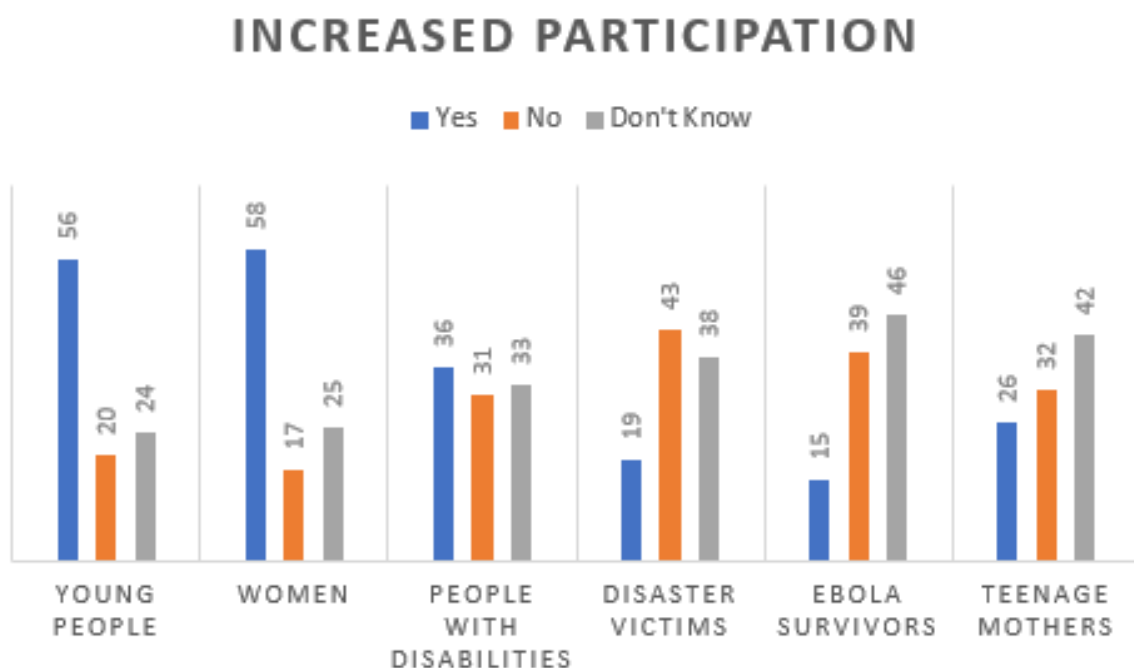
Free education	4	7	5
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## Increased participation of marginalised groups

31% of respondents participated in savings groups supported by CODOHSAPA and FEDURP (23 women and 8 men). 38% reported they actively participated in decision making about community development in the past year, this was much higher among women (52%) compared to men (23%). In terms of age, in the youngest age group of 24 years or below the highest percentage of participation was reported of 48%, in the group 25-35 this was 44% and in the group of 36 years or older it was 29%. In terms of disability status, the one respondent who has a disability noted they did not participate in decision making. However, amongst people facing challenges with aspects such as seeing or walking, 50% noted they participated in decision making, compared to 35% of people without challenges. This is remarkable and may be due to the messages on the importance of inclusion of everyone regardless of disability status.

Out of 100 respondents, 58% saw increased engagement in decision-making in at least one of the marginalized groups. CODOHSAPA staff remarked finding difficulties in mobilizing certain target groups such as Ebola survivors, disaster victims and teenage mother. This is due to the lack of a means of identifying these groups in communities. This may have contributed to the lack of improvement in participation of these groups in decision making activities.

*Graph: Community observation of increased participation of various groups*



## Variations by community

The below table indicates that in both communities the increase in participation of the various groups is similar, with slight variations between the different marginalized groups.

*Table: Number of respondents who noted an increase in participation, by community*

	Youth	Women	PWD	Disaster victims	Ebola survivors	Young mothers
Portee/Rokupa Warf	23	27	16	4	10	11
Thompson Bay	33	31	20	15	5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>

**Youth participation:** 56 out of 100 respondents indicated that they had seen an increase in youth participation during meetings they attended (23 respondents), where young people are more actively involved in decision making processes compared to the past, with 9 respondents noting that young people now speak up and share their opinions and views. For example, as one respondent noted;

*"During meetings we are now allowed to talk and make our own points".*

They are more actively engaged in community development activities and are seen to be able to better voice their opinions on community health, sanitization planning and actively participate in sensitization activities for example on issues surrounding teen pregnancy. 11 respondents referred to young people aspiring to leadership positions in the community and participation in the community elections, and recently a young man has taken the "Youth Chairman" position. The CODOHSAPA project implementation was also youth led, including the recent elections which has meant that youth are also consulted on infrastructure developments such as the building of the community tap.

**Women's participation:** 58 out of 100 respondents across both communities indicated that they had seen an increase in women's engagement in decision making processes, again 1) through attending meetings and seeing this, or 2) being able to participate as a woman and assume leadership roles, two of which are currently occupied by women. Women are taking part in "Chair Lady" elections and support young women and youth. Women are actively involved in providing advice, awareness raising and advocacy-based work through sensitization. Although currently on hold, women advocated to open a vocational school and continue to work towards this. 24% of male respondents across Portee/Rokupa Warf and Thompson Bay say that they have seen an increase in women's participation, while 34% of women noted this increase.

**Participation by people with disabilities:** 36 respondents indicated that they saw an increase in the engagement of people with disabilities, with many indicating that they felt

that they saw an increase in participation at meetings and workshops. They noted that PWD do not only attend but also speak up and share their views and are consulted on any new projects that arrive in the community so that they can take part. This has meant that PWD's have a greater voice than they previously did. Interestingly, more respondents in Thompson Bay observed this change compared to Portee/Rokupa Warf. As one respondent mentioned;

*“When we started, they were not many but as time went on there were improvements in attending meetings and making decisions together with the community.”*

**Participation by disaster victims:** Only 19% of respondents indicated that they also saw an increase in the engagement of disaster victims compared to 43% who did not. The type of participation observed is primarily participation in meetings and sharing their views and opinions, while a few (4) respondents also noted that they actively take part in community development activities.

**Participation by Ebola survivors and teenage mothers:** Only 15% of community members have seen an increase in the engagement of Ebola survivors particularly referring to attendance at meetings and expressing their views. One person noted;

*“They are also included because I am a clear example of them, I am the PRO”.*

There is a slightly higher number of community members who saw an increase in the participation of teenage mothers (26%) being engaged in decision making around community development activities.

*Table: summary of outcome level results (table adapted from results table in project proposal)*

Outcomes	Indicators	Findings	Means of Verification
Increased capacity of 250 marginalised slum dwellers in 2 slum communities <b>to drive their own development agenda</b> through the provision of life skills training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of demands made by slum dwellers through their story boards</li> <li>Confidence expressed by slum dwellers to participate in local decision making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Video content not shared for analysis</li> <li>Four participants gained short contract with other organizations like Sierra Leone Urban research Centre as data collector (CODOHSAPA report).</li> <li>Project participants interviewed report increase in confidence to speak up and participate in local decision making</li> </ul>	Video records Notes meetings/action plans Interviews with duty bearers Interviews with slum dwellers
Building a strong frontier of slum dwellers for advocacy that promotes gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage representation of women, youth and people with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CODOHSAPA reports that PWDs presently have about 11% representation within the advocacy platform of FEDURP, while overall 38% are female and</li> </ul>	List of FEDURP data base

empowerment and social inclusion	disabilities in advocacy platform	56% are young people. This is making them heard and being considered in developing agendas that are favorable for women, young people and PWDs.	Testimonies from PWDs
Enhanced <b>inclusive participation of marginalised slum dwellers</b> in local governance and decision-making processes in 2 slum communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation of marginalised slum dwellers in local decision-making forums and interactions with duty bearers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38% of community members reported they actively participated in decision making about community development in the past year, this higher amongst women (52%) than men (23%). In terms of age, participation was highest amongst people 24 years or younger (48%) (survey).</li> <li>Community members reported seeing an increase in participation amongst women (58%), youth (56%), PWD (36%) teenage mothers (26%), disaster victims (19%) and Ebola survivors (15%) (survey)</li> <li>In the Thompson Bay and Portee/Rokupa Warf, two separate meetings were called upon by the chiefs, engaging their subject with a verbal agreement that all matters of development and making decisions are going to be inclusive and participatory (document review).</li> </ul>	<p>Survey amongst community members</p> <p>Interviews with duty bearers and slum dwellers</p>
<b>Improved awareness and support amongst the community</b> about the rights of marginalised groups and the importance of inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of community members who can name specific rights of marginalised groups</li> <li>Number of community people directly participating and supporting actions that promote gender empowerment and social cohesion</li> <li>Number and types of actions taken by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 46% of community members indicated they were aware of specific rights of women, youth and people with disabilities (survey)</li> <li>Community members reported an increased active participation of women and youth in community development activities.</li> </ul>	Survey amongst community members

	communities to address gender empowerment and social cohesion		
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### 3.4 Impact: changes in community development and service provision

#### Advocacy for community development

Project participants interviewed reported advocating for the following types of changes. It is worth noting that they do not necessarily differentiate between advocacy towards duty bearers and fellow community members. In Thompson Bay project participants noted;

*"We advocated for toilets, good road, jobs, a vocational training center, hospital, community center, market, and sensitization for our young teenage girls for them to go back to school."*

In Portee/Rokupa Warf, FGD participants noted they advocated for;

*"the reduction of gender base violence and involvement of everyone in decision making".*

In terms of what demands and needs people from marginalised groups in the community have, the Chief in Thompson Bay articulated this as follows for his community;

*women demanded microfinance as well as a hospital, a government school, a market for the community and a community centre; youth need jobs; and PWDs need to be capacitated to be able to stand on their own and they need shelter, food and vocational trainings.*

Chairman Rupoka Warf noted priorities he was working on for the community were

*"advocating for the rehabilitation of the school, building of a primary health unit, the building of community centre, public toilets and drainages in the community".*

#### Development by the community

As outlined earlier, there has been an increased engagement of women and other marginalised groups in implementing community development activities. The FEDURP Chairman interviewed also provided an example of how the community is more organised to take matters into their own hands; *"We had a lot of changes in the community, for example, when the bridge that links Portee to Rokupa collapsed, it was easy for us to organize ourselves to reconstruct it. Because of the increased awareness on community*

*ownership, people were happy to contribute willingly to the project.” Similarly, some of the project participants noted that concrete changes in the community included “now our girls are going to school and are now focused”, and an improvement in “resolving conflict between husbands and wives”.*

### **Actions by duty bearers**

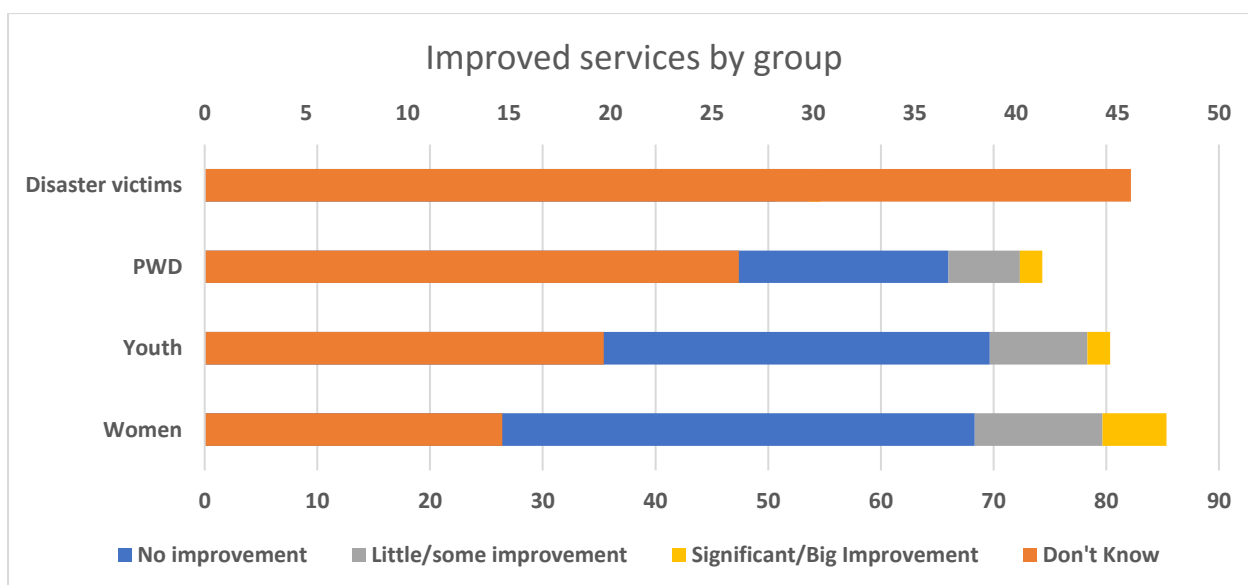
There is less evidence in specific actions taken by duty bearers to improve the situation of women and marginalised groups. The main change noted by the FEDURP Chairman for example in terms of the commitments made by duty bearers did not go beyond moral support; *“They allow us to do our campaigns and listen to our concerns”.*

Nevertheless, some of the decision-makers, including the Councillor in Thompson Bay referred to action points agreed during seminars and roundtable discussions, such as on committing to follow up creating by-laws around gender-based violence. However, in Thompson Bay there seems to have been no specific action of the Council in response to the needs of marginalised groups. The Chief mentioned that the advice of the Council has been that the community needs to exercise patience. The Chief however mentioned health facility improvement as one of the actions following from the project’s activities.

CODOHSAPA staff mentioned that the Councillor of one of the wards in Portee/Rokupa Warf not only pledged support to include project citizens in decision making but went beyond this. When selecting place within the community to be used as dust bin, he consulted community people in selecting the location. He also pledges support to ensure they get a PHU in their community and involved the community people in securing the land for the PHU in his community, which has since been achieved.

### **Community perception of improvements in services**

The survey amongst community members in the slum areas indicated that most of the community members did not see an improvement in health, education or social protection services for women, youth, disaster victims or people with disabilities. There are some variations by group, which are further discussed below.



### Improved services for women

Overall, 68% of respondents said that they saw no significant improvements to health, education and social protection services for women, with 8% seeing little improvement compared to 6% who saw significant/big improvement. It is important to note that 14% overall did not know about any improvements.

Improved services for women	Health services	Education	Social protection
No improvement	68	74	63
Don't Know	11	12	21
Little/some improvement	16	7	11
Significant/Big Improvement	5	7	5

In terms of health services, the main improvement that was mentioned by 14 respondents was that a health clinic and community hospital that was built recently. Others mentioned greater health awareness, improved access to treatment and even a reduction of maternal mortality.

In terms of improvements in education, respondents mentioned a reduction in school dropouts due to fewer teenage pregnancies, women reaching higher levels of education, more girls going to school, women attending vocational schools, and adult literacy classes organised by an NGO in the community. However, these changes reported by community members could not be verified.

Regarding improvements in social protection for women, the community members noted changes such as a reduction in domestic and gender-based violence and improved handling of cases of rape including a partnership with the police, and an example of a case whereby the perpetrator was taken to court and imprisoned. These changes were



attributed to sensitizations in community by SABI, CODOHSAPA, FEDURP and Restless Development.

**Improved services for youth:** Overall, 69%<sup>2</sup> of respondents said that they saw no improvements to health, education and social protection services for youth, 19% not knowing about improved services, as little as 3% respectively saying that they did see some or significant improvement.

**Improved services for PWDs:** Overall, 66% of respondents said that they saw no improvements to health, education and social protection services for PWDs, again a high proportion indicating that they were unaware of improvements to services (26%). A minority of respondents said that through engaging with CODOHSAPA and other organisations, such as the Rainbow Initiative, they learned about of free health services, scholarship opportunities and protection issues.

Examples of improvements in education for PWD reported by community members included that there are many schools in the community now, that free education benefits PWD, a reduction in discrimination of PWD, including that *“some PWD have even joined the scout team”*. One person mentioned securing an SLG scholarship. These changes were attributed to sensitisation about free education and to SABI sensitisations in general.

**Improved health services for disaster victims:** Overall, about half of the community members surveyed (51%) said that they saw no improvements to health, education and protection services for disaster victims, with on average 46% saying that they did not know about any improvements. The percentage of respondents who do not know whether there are improvements is much higher than in the other categories, potentially because this group is less visible. A few respondents saw some or significant improvements. No examples were provided.

### Summary of impact

The below table provides a summary of the findings in terms of the impact of the project in terms of improved sustainable community development and transformation for marginalised slum communities. It should be noted that in addition to the actions by duty bearers, what is notable is that the community are also taking things into their own hands and making improvements by themselves, as described above.

*Table: Summary of impact (table adapted from results table in project proposal)*

Impact	Indicators	Findings	Means of Verification
<b>Improved sustainable community development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of citizens affected by the agreed actions of duty bearers and change experienced compared to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amongst slum community members, only few people reported an improvement in services for women (17%), youth</li> </ul>	Survey, interviews & FGD with slum dwellers on

<sup>2</sup> As above.

<p>and transformation for marginalised slum communities</p>	<p>their situation at the start of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitments made and actions taken by duty bearers in response to demands</li> <li>• Number of responsive actions taken by duty bearers to address problems raised by citizens, incl. no. of actions that address gender empowerment and social cohesion</li> </ul>	<p>(11%), PWD (8%) and disaster victims (4%) (survey).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key service improvements mentioned included the construction of a health clinic and improved prosecution of gender-based violence cases.</li> <li>• One example of an action taken by the Councilor of a Ward in Portee/Rokupa Warf in terms of securing land for a PHU.</li> <li>• Other commitments and actions taken by duty bearers were at the level of increased engagement with marginalized groups but did not yet result in concrete changes.</li> </ul>	<p>implementation of actions in the community Interviews with duty bearers</p> <p>Records and documented narratives of the responsible actions</p>
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### 3.5 Sustainability

**The main aspect of sustainability mentioned across various groups is that FEDURP is well grounded in the community and will continue its work after the project ends. A FEDURP Chairman noted;**

*"We have been conducting monthly monitoring and I am sure we will continue to see the impact in the community."*

The savings groups with people from marginalised groups mobilised for the project have been incorporated in FEDURP, which is another key aspect of sustainability. FEDURP and CODOHSAPA are confident that these will continue also without further support.

**On the project focal points interviewed and other focus group participants echoed the same message of continuation:**

*"We have been advocating for our community before SABI and we will remain even after SABI. SABI has added value to how we can engage our stakeholders. We will continue."*

**Other project participants noted;**

*"We now have a lot of ideas and we can replicate it to others in the community, we will continue to implement the project even in the absence of SABI."*

**In Portee/Rokupa Warf FGD said;**

*"We have the megaphone to continue with the mass campaign. We have seen the reality and we will continue to take the issues forward in the weekly and monthly meetings."*

In terms of the audio-visual techniques used, FEDURP trained people and they know how to record stories, which was confirmed by one of the training participants. However, during the project there was always a staff person there for technical support, which will not be there in future. CODOHSAPA staff also noted that FEDURP have shared learning which aids them to go and teach other people in various communities so that they too will benefit.

## **4 Lessons learned and recommendations**

### **Lessons learned**

**FEDURP played a key role in the implementation of this project, therefore some of the lessons learned relate to their engagement;**

- FEDURP members and project participants engaged on a voluntary basis, yet sometimes community members thought they were paid and wanted to be compensated as well for efforts. These active participants also have to balance livelihood activities with commitments to the project which is a challenge.
- CODOHSAPA staff noted that working with FEDURP has been very effective as they were already well established and well respected in the communities. This enabled them to champion the project and mobilise participants in the community.
- Working with FEDURP enhanced the sustainability of the project, as they will continue to engage in the community. At the same time various stakeholders including FEDURP members noted further empowerment of FEDURP is recommended.
- The experience of both CODOHSAPA and FEDURP in working in slum communities helped the project to succeed, and the collaboration was considered very good by both partners.

- Both CODOHSAPA and FEDURP noted that the approach of inclusion and increased engagement and participation of marginalised groups in community decision making is effective for community development.

## Recommendations

### **The partners and project participants noted the following to keep in mind for any future work in this area:**

- Participants requested more interventions in the communities to further improve the situation; *"We want them to help us with work, a vocational training center for women, an educational facility and micro finance."* They also recommended to do more skills training for youth and other groups.
- Participants also recommended that FEDURP continues to monitor the groups monthly, adding *"Even if SABI is not continuing with the project, we expect them to be doing once in a while monitoring to track our progress"*.
- One of the FEDURP chairmen noted that he would include more skills training in any future project and provide micro finance package, as requested by community members. He also recommended to motivate the focal points for continuity.
- A CODOHSAPA staff member noted that for future work in this area it would be useful to ensure that policy stakeholders such as members of parliament and top council staff are part of the project target stakeholders.

## 5 Conclusion

The project has been successful in raising the awareness on the importance of the inclusion of women, youth, people with disability and other marginalised groups amongst decision makers as well as community members. In this respect, the community sensitisation meetings and mass mobilisation seem to have had a greater effect than media engagement activities (radio, tv).

There was little evidence of the success of the audio-visual story telling approach that was central to the project design. While the stories were produced and one participant was interviewed who received a formal decision-making role at ward level as a result, the exhibition did not take place, and the videos did not appear to have a central role in the changes made.

Nevertheless, project participants interviewed have benefited greatly from the project, citing increased confidence as well as increased participation in community meetings and engagement with local leaders. In addition, most community members confirmed observing an increased engagement in decision-making of marginalised groups,

particularly for women and youth who not only attended and spoke up but engaged more in leadership roles.

The local leaders and decision-makers that participated in the project, particularly the chiefs, councillors, the harbour master and chairman/lady, also demonstrated commitment to greater inclusion of women, youth, PWD and other marginalised groups. Examples were provided of improved inclusion practices and consultations of these group as well as pro-active support to the various project activities.

However, the engagement has had limited visible effect in terms of actions taken by duty bearers in terms of more inclusive community development. Most community members did not see improvements in health, education or social protection of the various marginalised groups, which is understandable considering the short duration of the project. The main changes that were cited by a portion of the community members included the building of a health clinic/community hospital and improved prosecution of gender-based violence cases.

The changes at community level in terms of greater participation of marginalised groups in decision making is likely to be sustained, considering that the community change agents involved have all been doing this on a voluntary basis and have committed to continue to do so. The people in marginalised groups who have found their voice also likely to continue to speak up and demand changes. In time, this may result in more concrete changes in terms of community development.

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