



**TOWARDS A WORLDWIDE INFLUENCING NETWORK**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE AND DISSENT**

**APRIL 2018 – MARCH 2019**



**OXFAM** Novib





**WE DID NOT KNOW THE RIGHTS TO LAND BUT THANKS TO ORAM WE KNOW THAT EVEN IF A WOMAN IS MARRIED IN ANOTHER AREA . . . AND IF HER HUSBAND DIES, THAT AREA IS YOURS. NO ONE CAN DISOWN YOU OF THIS LAND, NOT EVEN THE RELATIVES OF THE DECEASED HUSBAND.**

— Nelda Daniel, traditional midwife, Mozambique



Nelda Daniel is 30 years old and is living in Namala village, Nampula region, Mozambique.

“Because I am a midwife, the women in my village traditionally trust me and share their problems with me. Before ORAM came I never spoke in public or shared my concerns with our community leaders. Now I feel strong enough to represent the women in my community and talk about our land issues with government officials.”

The state owns all land in Mozambique. Even though communities hold traditional rights to the usage of land, many people do not know how to claim these rights. This makes them vulnerable to land conflicts and land grabs. ORAM trains communities in legislation of their land rights and resolution of land conflicts.

After elaborating on their influencing strategy, the partners in the Strategic Partnership ‘Towards a Worldwide Influencing Network’ in Mozambique ensured to increase their private sector lobby and advocacy skills. This broadened the scope of CSOs’ lobbying strategies by including insider approaches and critical-constructive engagement.



Watch how ORAM Oxfam’s partner in Mozambique equips communities to legally formalize the use of land as claimed and held by their ancestors in [this video](#).

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AENA	Associação Nacional de Extensão Rural
AfDB	African Development Bank
APPRO	Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization
ASCUT	Aliança da Sociedade Civil contra Usurpação de Terra em Moçambique
ASSN	African Security Sector Network
BRICSAM	Brazil Russia India China South Africa Mexico
CCCMC	Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEPO	Capacity of Empowerment for Progress Organization
CISLAC	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center
CODE	Connected Development
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRII	Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index
CSO	Civil Society Organization
C&F	Conflict and Fragility
EC	European Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FIA	Fight Inequality Alliance
F4D	Finance for Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
JCSN	Jonglei Civil Society Network
KPA	Consortium for Agrarian Reform
MATA	Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability
MIFTAH	“key”
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

ODA	Official Development Assistance
OPT(I)	Occupied Palestinian Territories (and Israel)
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PLAAS	Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies
R2F	Right to Food
SP	Strategic Partnership
TJA	Tax Justice Alliance
ToC	Theory of Change
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
UN	United Nations
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure
VTJA	Vietnam Tax Justice Alliance
WEF	World Economic Forum
WIN	Worldwide Influencing Network
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Photo credit: [Rotab](#)

Demonstrations against proposed Finance Law at Place de la Concertation, Niamey Niger, 2018.



## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the progress made during the third year of implementation (April 2018–March 2019) of the Strategic Partnership (SP) of Oxfam Novib, SOMO and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The program covers three broad Theories of Change (ToCs) to (1) ensure people’s right to food, (2) encourage good governance and financial flows in the interest of people living in poverty and (3) protect and develop livelihoods in countries affected by conflict and fragility. Building on the strengthened and expanded worldwide influencing network we continued to empower people and influence governments and companies. While last year we focused on capacity development, in this year’s report we highlight the network’s approach towards influencing the role of linking capacity, actions, and evidence that leverage lobby and advocacy initiatives and citizen’s power across the globe. It is only through the collective effort that our goals of a just world without poverty can be achieved.

We present an overview of the successes, challenges, lessons learned and opportunities that we face, and shortly look forward to the future. This report is submitted together with a financial report, and is supported by the program data published daily on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ dashboard as well as in Oxfam Novib’s project browser, [ATLAS](#) in accordance with Oxfam Novib’s [commitment](#) to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

Shrinking civic space – worsened by the rise of strongmen and a growing polarization – continued to hamper the possibilities for citizens to raise their voices and act to achieve a more just world without poverty. This is where we see the importance of working in the Worldwide Influencing Network (WIN) that Oxfam Novib, SOMO and partners have contributed to building in the past three years. A good example is the way civil society in Niger responded [to the arrest of 26 activists](#), following peaceful protests against a proposed finance bill which would provide multinational corporations with tax incentives. Together with organizations such as Publish What You Pay and Tournons la Page, we built an alliance of international NGOs in Niger, which linked local civil society actors, the regional Oxfam office, France, Europe and the USA to [pressure](#) powerholders in a ‘pincer movement’. Three months later, the main leaders of the protesters were [released from jail](#).

WIN has proven to significantly strengthen the ability of marginalized groups to claim their rights, as we have experienced in Liberia, among other regions. [Land Rights Now](#), a global alliance of more than 800 organizations and communities, successfully mobilized its constituencies to support the policy asks of



civil society in Liberia. This [global action](#) contributed to the [signing of a Land Rights Act](#) in Liberia which recognizes the customary land rights of three million people. Another example of how the strength of collective efforts in WIN leads to important advocacy results, is our work to improve working conditions in the shrimp supply chain. While Oxfam exerted pressure on different powerholders in the seafood value chain across the world, actors in Indonesia and Thailand used the generated space to influence regional Asian seafood traders (see case in the R2F chapter). Overall, the influencing capacities of 682 civil society organizations (unique organizations) were strengthened (DD5), of which 72% were CSOs operating at the national or subnational level and 18% and 11%, respectively, at the local and international level. Together, we worked with 1,778 partners (DD6) and contributed to 150 cases of policy change that were achieved (part of DD2).

Despite the shrinking civic space and global challenges such as protracted crises, climate change, and a record number of refugees, we see a countermovement gaining momentum in many parts of the world. Oxfam Novib and SOMO are part of this movement and, supported by the Strategic Partnership, contribute to strengthening and expanding it, as we illustrate in the F4D chapter. The global Fight Inequality Alliance, for example, has grown exponentially over the last year, to more than 200 members. During the World Economic Forum (WEF) they came into action across the world, separately but simultaneously, while Oxfam and others [amplified their voices at the WEF](#). As a result of our partnership 975,837 people in 17 countries had their voices heard, and took action to claim their rights. In addition, the program contributed to 131 alliances (DD4) which connect civil society in more than 50 countries; these alliances have become more influential advocates, in particular in the areas of tax justice and land rights.

With the growing inequality and concentration of wealth, international companies and investors play an ever increasing role in perpetuating this injustice. Their choices – among others to pay or not to pay their fair share of taxes – hugely impact the lives of millions of people. We note an increasing interest by our partners to develop the skills to effectively influence private sector actors, ranging from small companies to multinational corporations. Therefore, we supported them in building these influencing capacities by developing toolkits and providing trainings, which contributed to 65 cases (part of DD2) in which (international) companies in Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel (OPTI), Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mozambique, and the Netherlands promoted or implemented policies on vital issues such as land rights, tax transparency, and inclusive agribusiness.

## LESSONS LEARNED

In 2018 Oxfam Novib, SOMO and the partners in the Strategic Partnership came together several times across the world to co-create the strategies and plans for 2019 and 2020. This co-creation illustrates the emphasis we put on linking advocacy agendas in our partnership relations. We had learned that our influencing campaigns could be much more effective if created mutually, instead of having our partners – in response to our call for proposals – develop isolated national influencing strategies. We therefore focused on defining goals, targets and influencing strategies together, with clear roles and value for all partners in the network.

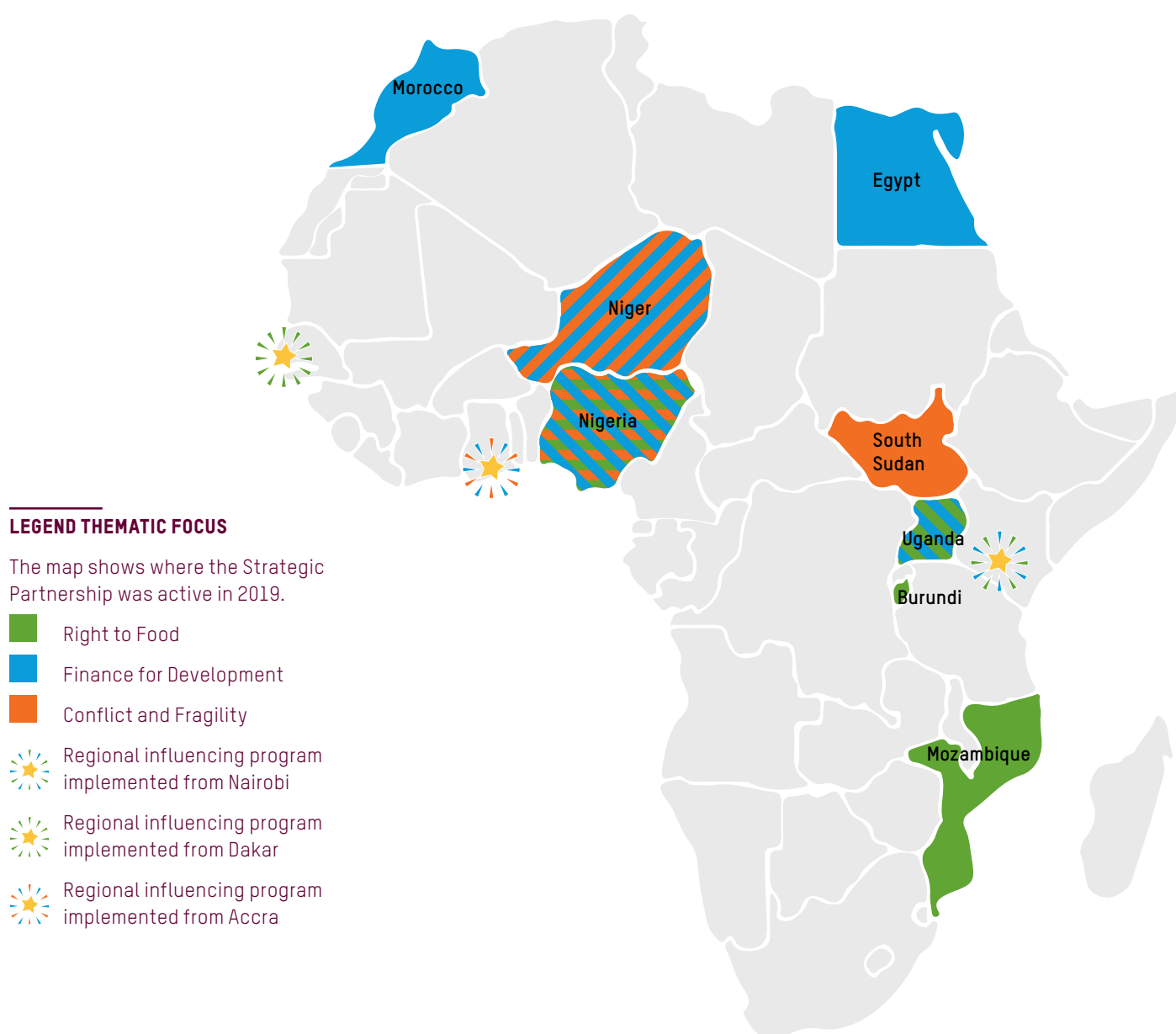
The co-creation planning process not only created strong influencing agendas that were more strategically aligned across countries and regions, but also an increased exchange between partners of different countries, as well as an improved linkage with the regional partners. This helped drive an overall process leading to potentially more impact, and has resulted in stronger, more creative and shared campaigning tactics in many countries. Furthermore, we observe that our partners increasingly recognize their role as an important ‘national link’ in the international context and thus increasingly contribute to and formulate demands at an international level. More than ever before we are becoming actual partners in change as will be further illustrated by the lessons highlighted in the F4D chapter.

Other examples of our more equal partnerships are the absence of the Oxfam brand in an increasing number of national campaigns, and the revision of the organizational assessment by Oxfam Novib as a prerequisite for financing agreements, from a one-sided into a two-sided assessment. [Partnership principles](#) like these, aspiring equal power relations – or at least being explicit about unbalanced relations – are key to enhance the effectiveness of influencing through a worldwide network.

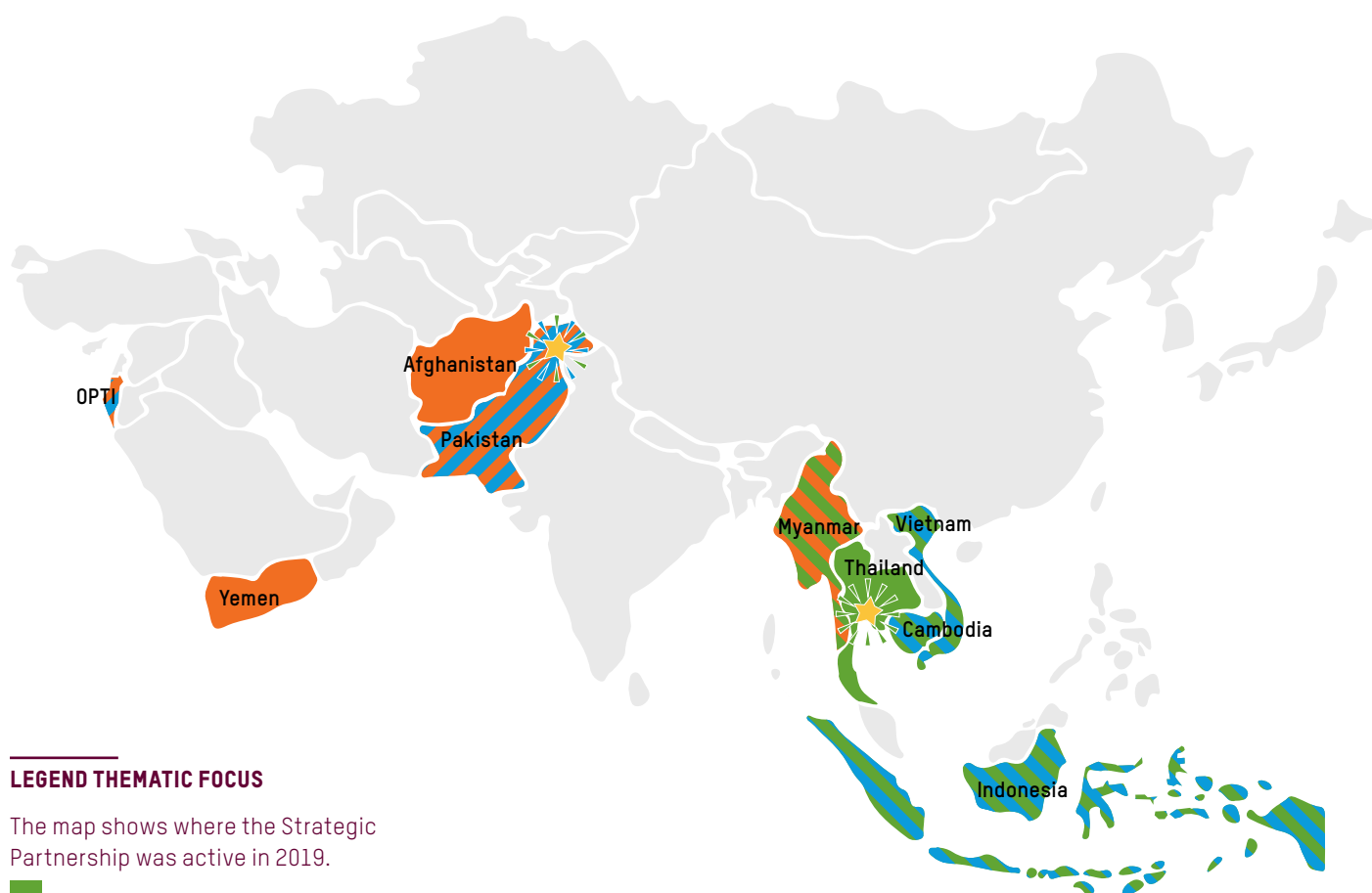
## INTEGRATING GENDER JUSTICE

The most important lesson from the 2018 midterm review was that the program should increase activities directly addressing gender in all three thematic areas. In response, gender expertise was explicitly included in the program’s governance, and a technical team built the capacities of Oxfam staff to mainstream gender

and to integrate gender justice objectives in all influencing strategies. For example, a specific gender analysis has been incorporated in the Fair Tax Monitor advocacy tool. Early results show that national tax systems contain implicit and, in some cases, explicit gender biases; thus, the tool provides valuable input to civil society to advocate for fair and gender transformative tax systems. During the above mentioned co-creating process, the technical team assessed all country influencing strategies on a scale from gender blindness to gender transformative programming, in order to stimulate reflection among the participants. We identified specific challenges and needs and incorporated these in our global plans. To ensure that 'gender' maintains part of all our work, Oxfam experts developed a [Feminist Guide to Influencing](#), which is also being used in the Strategic Partnership to support our influencing work.







#### LEGEND THEMATIC FOCUS

The map shows where the Strategic Partnership was active in 2019.

- Right to Food
- Finance for Development
- Conflict and Fragility
- ★ Regional influencing program implemented from Islamabad
- ★ Regional influencing program implemented from Bangkok

# OUR RIGHT TO FOOD RESULTS VERSUS PLANNED TARGETS



## LAWS, POLICIES, PRACTICES INFLUENCED (DD2)

Result Year 3:	100
Accumulative result year 1-3:	337
Target end 2020:	378



## CSOs SUCCEED IN CREATING SPACE AND POLITICAL WILL (DD3)

Result Year 3:	34
Accumulative result year 1-3:	113
Target end 2020:	91



## ALLIANCES CARRIED OUT ADVOCACY INITIATIVES (DD4)

Result Year 3:	67
Accumulative result year 1-3:	172
Target end 2020:	116



## CSOs INCREASED LOBBY & ADVOCACY CAPACITIES (DD5)

Result Year 3:	65
Accumulative result year 1-3:	257
Target end 2020:	479



## CSOs INCLUDED IN SP (DD6)

Result Year 3:	471
Accumulative result year 1-3:	1,061
Target end 2020:	1,870



## CITIZENS RAISED THEIR VOICES

Result Year 3:	237,872
Accumulative result year 1-3:	2,123,142
Target end 2020:	465,475



## CITIZENS CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDES/NORMS

Result Year 3:	4,200
Accumulative result year 1-3:	21,582
Target end 2020:	27,080

This chart represents the indicators and results of the Strategic Partnership program in its third year, covering the period from April 2018 to March 2019, towards the targets set for 2020. On all indicators we note good progress. For citizen's voice, we note high results compared to the target. This is the result of successful online mobilization of people during the past year in West Africa, Indonesia and the Netherlands, for example.

The publication on the IATI platform is an accumulative status of the results updated daily. The results represented here concern the translation of the SOMO and Oxfam Novib indicator framework to the Dialogue & Dissent framework. The indicators DD4, DD5 and DD6 often relate to the same organizations, so they cannot be aggregated over the years. The number of unique civil society organizations identified as strengthened is 157 in year 3.



Photo credit:  
James Giahvue

Maryeadeh Tardeh is a  
land rights defender in  
Liberia. [Read her story.](#)

## RIGHT TO FOOD

### CONTEXT

Shrinking civic space increased the risks for our partners and severely limited their opportunities to intensify public pressure in order to increase political will. This was specifically the case in Burundi, Cambodia and Myanmar. In Nigeria and Indonesia, we witnessed some spaces being closed, while others were opening up and provided new influencing opportunities.

Overall, partners adjusted their strategies towards more insider and collaborative approaches instead of confrontational public actions. In Mozambique, for instance, our partner *Aliança da Sociedade Civil contra Usurpação de Terra em Moçambique* (ASCUT) collaborated with the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development in three key land rights events. They chose to work in coalitions and alliances, bringing forward sensitive issues within the context of less contested thematic asks. Similarly, in Indonesia our partners approached the rights of fisher women through the less sensitive lens of social protection.

### LAND RIGHTS

Despite international guidelines, agreements and increased promises by governments and private sector actors, the demand for land continues to increase and puts an intolerable pressure on the rights to land and natural resources of smallholders, women and indigenous peoples. Activists defending these rights face threats, violence and even murder. Seven years after the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (VGGT) significant implementation gaps still remain. In countries such as Uganda, Indonesia and Vietnam progress was made with regard to environmental and social standards, safeguarding related to land acquisition, land use and involuntary resettlement. In others, in particular Cambodia, Mozambique and Myanmar, challenges remain. The growing evidence of the linkage between land inequalities, poverty and social unrest resulted in the return of agrarian and redistributive land reforms, to reverse such extreme inequalities - as is demonstrated by the [declaration](#) of 2019 Global Land Forum. At the international level, we note that the importance of land governance and land use are increasingly being recognized in climate change conversations. In 2019, the special report of the [Intergovernmental](#)

[Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) focuses on climate change and land.

Oxfam Novib, SOMO, global allies, as well as national partners continue to play a role in these global conversations. Due to the overall slow implementation of agreements that should defend communities' land rights and their free, prior and informed consent to land acquisitions, the Strategic Partnership intensified its advocacy work at the local and national level. We raised awareness of communities to guidelines, agreements and complaint mechanisms, and we raised awareness at local and subnational government levels.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Though US policies on climate change pose a serious threat to fair and collaborative climate actions, we also see young people taking the lead in a growing movement which demands an ambitious climate policy. As the IPCC 1.5°C report showed in 2018, climate change affects those who are most vulnerable, marginalized and dependent on rain-fed agriculture, and we already witness how climate change impact exceeds their capacity to adapt. This situation will only get worse in the years ahead, making it important to scale up climate action rooted in a Southern agenda. Within the Strategic Partnership, we support civil society to monitor and hold to account their governments and companies. In Nigeria and Vietnam, for instance, our partners ensured the integration of climate change in agricultural policy developments. Oxfam, at the international level, advocated for a fair and ambitious climate policy at COP24 in Katowice, Poland. In the Netherlands, Oxfam Novib launched a climate petition and co-organized the climate march in Amsterdam.

## SEEDS

The concentration of power in the agrochemical industry has taken unprecedented forms: by now, only three multinationals control 60% of the global seed market and 71% of the agrochemical market. They further tightened control over the seed market by acquiring a large number of patents on plant genetic material, breeding methods and tools. In fact, they decide to a large extent what farmers grow and what we eat – and how this food is being processed in the international value chains. In response, Oxfam Novib supports smallholder farmers around the world to develop their own quality seeds and advocate for better seed legislation that includes farmers' own seed systems; within the Strategic Partnership we do so specifically in Myanmar and Uganda.

## PROGRESS

The successful global action for the land rights of three million Liberians, which we described in the introduction, is an excellent example of how WIN works. We mobilize the power of numbers and connect organizations in networks and alliances, linking their capacities, evidence and voices. This combined force is more than the sum of its parts: the 172 alliances – against a target of 116 – we have strengthened until now, are capable of exerting the so much needed pressure on duty bearers to pave the way for change.

In 2018/19 almost 240,000 women and men took action, bringing the total to more than 2 million citizens who have raised their voices with our support. This is far above target, and was mainly due to two umbrella campaigns that have mobilized citizens worldwide: [Behind the Barcodes](#) and [Land Rights Now](#).

The number of cases in which the political will, created by civil society organizations, has contributed to actual policy change, validates our ToC. One of the most rewarding policy changes was the ratification in Indonesia of the [Presidential Regulation](#) 86 in September 2018, which will set in motion an inclusive agrarian reform: the decree ensures the participation of farming communities. For 52 years this has been the mission of our partner Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA) represented by [Dewi Kartika](#), the secretary general. The Strategic Partnership supported KPA's contribution to the annual meeting of the International Land Coalition in Indonesia, which was organized with the Indonesian government and provided the opportunity for the president to announce his decree, ahead of the election year. KPA got and took the opportunity to influence the agenda and push for a national policy reform that impacts people on the ground.

An influencing success concerning the private sector can be found in Vietnam, where rice is the most important commodity for most farmers. Our partner Agriculture Coalition successfully lobbied for new regulations by providing expert advice, involving media and collaborating with key policymakers. The regulations expand the access to export markets for small and medium-sized rice producers, and reduce the monopoly position of the state-owned conglomerates. These reforms will increase and sustain the

future income of Vietnamese rice farmers.

For many partners, private sector influencing is relatively new, as we already concluded in our previous annual report. Therefore, we will continue to support partners in developing and applying their capacity to engage with private sector actors. In addition, we will share lessons learned from successful international influencing work, such as our [Behind the Barcodes campaign](#).

## LESSONS LEARNED

Building a Worldwide Influencing Network proves to be a powerful approach to counter the growing global power of multinational companies. By linking resources, experiences and evidence, civil society organizations and alliances can successfully exert pressure on different powerholders within the often complex value chains. Alliances are a powerful strategy for Southern organizations to ensure space for dissent and contribute to the legitimacy of policy asks.

Our partnership is a shining example of how to build pressure for fairer value chains from different sides. Dutch supermarkets Jumbo and Plus checked whether they are sourcing from Curale (one of the main producers of [orange juice concentrate](#)) when SOMO showed them that this company was on the Brazilian “dirty list”—a registry of companies caught employing workers in conditions analogous to slavery. We believe this contributed to supermarkets taking steps in offering transparency to consumers about the juice value chains. Albert Heijn is using blockchain technology to make the production chain of its own-brand sustainable orange juice transparent, in partnership with its supplier, Refresco.

To follow up on commitments made by Dutch supermarkets, Oxfam Novib and SOMO mobilized Dutch actors to monitor these commitments. In addition, Oxfam Novib’s [Behind the Barcodes campaign](#) shows how linking vertically – from local to regional and global –, and horizontally, within countries, enables partners to leverage advocacy agendas at all levels. Furthermore, Behind the Barcodes demonstrates how the network can be strengthened through teaming up with unusual partners. Consumer organizations, labor unions, NGOs, and women’s organizations turn out to have a common agenda: defend the dignity of human beings in the value chain.

WIN can also instigate a global ‘race to the top’ of companies. Behind the Barcodes, for instance, had major [supermarkets](#) in the Netherlands, Germany and the UK commit to our demands and pressure other supermarkets to do the same.

Just like our Behind the Barcodes campaign, the [Milk campaign](#) in six West African countries and worldwide showed the value of both horizontal and vertical linking. Our partners leveraged political will from key duty bearers in West African countries to support local milk producers, while also [raising awareness](#) among consumers of fresh milk being healthier than powder milk. At the same time, civil society organizations in [Europe advocated for protection](#) of the same producers from the import of European milk overproduction to West African countries.

The power of WIN is also demonstrated in the added value of [linked evidence and knowledge](#). Only through the connection of different parties across the globe, we were able to analyze how the dumping of milk as powder milk on the West African markets is being driven by the world prices of butter and palm oil.

Last but not least, the same added value of linked evidence and knowledge was evident in Chad. Here, civil society requested Oxfam Novib’s expertise on land policy reforms. As a result, the government asked Oxfam Novib to facilitate an inclusive consulting process on a new gender responsive land code.



**COMPLETING THE TRAINING MADE ME FEEL I HAD THE TOOLS TO BETTER HANDLE THIS SITUATION, BECAUSE CURRENTLY THE COMPANY HAS CHANGED A LOT .... NOW THEY TAKE ACTION,**  
— Lopez Cocotela Community Leader Agoche village





Photo credit: Kemal Jufri / Oxfam Novib

Shrimp farmer holding a shrimp cocktail for a special shot for the campaign 'Behind the Barcode'.



## BEHIND THE BARCODES

In June 2018, Oxfam Novib launched the global Behind the Barcodes campaign, based on SOMO's input to the scorecard methodology and research findings, addressing the role of supermarket value chains in driving poverty and inequality. In a nutshell, the problem is that companies shift sourcing between countries in their search for best returns, often facilitated by governments who want to maintain and attract investors. Inevitably, this combination goes at the expense of workers' rights and livelihoods. If we want to tackle this race to the bottom, without compromising investments and local livelihoods, we must take action in multiple sourcing countries and with multiple buyers simultaneously.

This is exactly what Behind the Barcodes could do, thanks to the WIN. We collected evidence of poor working conditions in the Asian seafood sector in the producer countries, and used it to

influence retailers and mobilize consumers in the Netherlands, USA, UK and Germany, but also in Thailand and Indonesia. At the same time, local alliances in Indonesia and Thailand could directly engage suppliers and governments, strengthened by the capacity trainings within R2F. In all countries, the chosen strategies included mobilizing a critical threshold of active citizens (through digital campaigning), evidence-based advocacy and amplifying the voices of people who were directly impacted.

By coming together in a worldwide network, these campaigns were able to shift the terms in the wider seafood industry. In the Netherlands, Albert Heijn published a [new policy on human rights](#) closely followed by Jumbo, while the EU introduced [new legislation](#) banning abusive trading practices by supermarkets and large buyers, thanks to the advocacy work of SOMO and [Oxfam Novib](#).



## POWER OF KNOWLEDGE IN A NETWORK

To link programmatic experience with advocacy work on land rights, and make these easily accessible for our partners to strengthen their influencing capacity, Oxfam International has created several knowledge-hub facilities such as a [global website](#) and land learning series. This peer-to-peer learning program is meant to leverage on the ground experiences, strategies, tactics and tools of local partners and communities. It is a demand-based program, out of the conventional global conference format, where 'global goes local' to create a more authentic grassroots-led influencing approach.

Myanmar civil society partners, for example, wanted an exchange and dialogue with like-minded organizations on the issue of women's land rights. In November 2018, Oxfam Novib and partners organized a [women's land learning journey](#) in Myanmar, which enabled Oxfam and civil society partners from 15 countries to learn from each other, and discuss ways to promote women's land rights with local partners and communities. Following these exchanges an Oxfam International policy position and vision on how to secure women's land coined 'Women's Rights from the Ground Up' was developed. An immediate global influencing opportunity was the World Bank's Land and Poverty Conference in March 2019, where we organized a side event on women's land rights across tenure systems. A similar exchange was organized in [Vietnam](#)

and the next one will be hosted by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management ([PELUM](#)) in Uganda, on the topic of land rights and climate change.

To provide insight into the [implementation of political and policy commitments](#) on women's land rights in Africa, our partner Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies ([PLAAS](#)) developed a scorecard. It did so through an iterative process with several civil society partners from various African countries, and by conducting baseline studies in seven African countries. Under this EU-SP funded intervention, technical data are combined with views from rural women and men.

The distinguishing element of this exercise is that the [scorecard](#) analysis is grounded into both solid research and grassroots women (leaders) views, whose dialectic power converged into a systematic monitoring tool. The studies allowed to not only measure how committed governments are to women's land rights, but also to compare how women confront their governments on these issues, and to share lessons on women's efforts to claim their rights. The results of the card were also used at the African Union Summit and annual events of African Regional Economic Commissions combined with public pressure the scorecard holds the potential to encourage a 'race to the top'.



### THE GREATEST ASSET WE HAVE IS OUR SOLIDARITY.

— Esther Mwaura-Muiru, Founder Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood, Kenya

Photo credit: Oxfam Novib

Esther Mwaura-Muiru, founder GROOTS Kenya joined the Myanmar Land Learning journey event on women land rights and shared her experience from Africa and the Kilimanjaro Initiative.



# OUR FINANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS VERSUS PLANNED TARGETS



## LAWS, POLICIES, PRACTICES INFLUENCED (DD2)

Result Year 3:	94
Accumulative result year 1-3:	217
Target end 2020:	240



## CSOs SUCCEED IN CREATING SPACE AND POLITICAL WILL (DD3)

Result Year 3:	69
Accumulative result year 1-3:	134
Target end 2020:	319



## ALLIANCES CARRIED OUT ADVOCACY INITIATIVES (DD4)

Result Year 3:	44
Accumulative result year 1-3:	117
Target end 2020:	100



## CSOs INCREASED LOBBY & ADVOCACY CAPACITIES (DD5)

Result Year 3:	602
Accumulative result year 1-3:	1,943
Target end 2020:	1,142



## CSOs INCLUDED IN SP (DD6)

Result Year 3:	1,125
Accumulative result year 1-3:	3,638
Target end 2020:	2,438



## CITIZENS RAISED THEIR VOICES

Result Year 3:	721,665
Accumulative result year 1-3:	1,293,539
Target end 2020:	1,041,340



## CITIZENS CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDES/NORMS

Result Year 3:	335
Accumulative result year 1-3:	260,985
Target end 2020:	337,400

This chart represents the indicators and results of the Strategic Partnership program in its third year, covering the period from April 2018 to March 2019, towards the targets set for 2020. On most indicators we note good progress. Compared to previous years fewer people are reported to have changed their attitudes or norms following global public campaigns. This is a consequence of the use of better measuring of attitudes and norms with perception research for the Dutch public.

The publication on the IATI platform is an accumulative status of the results updated daily. The results represented here concern the translation of the SOMO and Oxfam Novib indicator framework to the Dialogue & Dissent framework. The indicators DD4, DD5 and DD6 often relate to the same organizations, so they cannot be aggregated over the years. The number of unique civil society organizations identified as strengthened is 391 in year 3.



Photo credit: Fouad Daddouch

Launch of Baraka Campaign (Enough in Moroccan dialect) on December 8th, 2016 at a public square in Larache where Oxfam works with local partners on citizen participation. The man in the picture is an artist who was acting in a play about violence against women.

## FINANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

### CONTEXT

Given the ever shrinking civic space, we stepped up our efforts regarding the preparedness and protection of 165 CSOs, and developed targeted strategies to protect, adapt to and reclaim their civic space. In Cambodia, 30 CSOs jointly developed a national action plan to counter civic space restrictions, connecting to local realities for the first time. In Uganda, the Tax Justice Alliance successfully led a campaign against taxes on mobile money and social media, amplifying public outcry. The taxes mainly affected the poor and restricted the freedom of speech, as Oxfam Novib also stressed while bringing the issue to the international level. In response to the ongoing protests, the Ugandan government significantly reduced the mobile money tax.

### FISCAL JUSTICE

The inequality crisis continues almost unabated, concluded Oxfam's annual wealth check report Public Good or Private Wealth. All over the world, people more than ever denounced the tax avoiding, wealth accumulating multinational corporations and super-rich, who rob low-income countries from resources to fund quality health care and education, thereby affecting women the most. In 2018/19, the issue also appeared more prominently on the political agendas of national governments, regional bodies, and global policy spaces. By connecting and mobilizing global movements, including Tax Justice Network and the global Fight Inequality Alliance, we expanded the powerful worldwide network that fights inequality.

### OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Our call for 0.7% of GDP for ODA is embedded in Dutch Minister Kaag's policy document, but only to be achieved by 2030. We continued to advocate to advance this timeline, backed by civil society voices from our Worldwide Influencing Network who publicly supported our policy asks. One of them was the influential director of a Pan-African organization, Amadou Kanoute, who visited the Netherlands to express his views.



## FAIR FINANCE

The nervous financial markets, responding to political uncertainty around the world, and the tenth ‘anniversary’ of the 2008 financial crisis, brought about a renewed interest in the financial sector. The Strategic Partnership seized the opportunities to ensure civil society’s voices were heard. In Indonesia Responsibank, a coalition of 20 CSOs and member of [Fair Finance Guide International](#), organized a session during the People Summit for Alternative Development, to encourage the 2018 Annual Meeting of International Monetary Fund and World Bank to push for sustainable finance policies and practices in Asia. The summit addressed issues ranging from gender and decent work to tax justice and sustainable finance. In Europe, SOMO greatly contributed to form a unique European [coalition](#) of 49 CSOs from 11 countries that organized public activities to protest against the lack of financial reforms.

## PROGRESS

The 602 CSOs reporting an increased capacity and the 44 newly formed alliances in 2018/19 clearly prove the increased power of the WIN. A good example is the Vietnam Alliance for Tax Justice (VATJ), formed with our support in 2018. Based on a co-created joint influencing strategy VATJ successfully advocated for the reduction of harmful tax incentives, including the withdrawal of a free trade zone. After an effective media launch, generating wide public attention to the issue of fair taxes, the government asked the tax authorities to report on tax losses due to tax incentives. In addition to alliance-building, the worldwide influencing network evidently contributed to the Vietnamese success by linking global to local expertise – i.e. Oxfam’s technical expertise on harmful tax practices – and political pressure. Our lobby at EU level to adapt the [black/grey list](#) of tax havens made the government of Vietnam, which was listed as ‘grey’, more receptive to domestic pressure, opening doors for VATJ.

The Strategic Partnership achieved 94 policy changes in the field of Finance for Development. In Europe for instance, two years of [lobbying](#) resulted in the European Commission (EC) adopting a stricter screening of countries. The EC acknowledged the aggressive tax avoidance practices of EU member states such as Cyprus and the Netherlands. Following investigations by Investico to which Oxfam contributed, the Dutch Ministry of Finance closed a loophole in a law revision proposal on the supervision of trust companies. This modification makes it more difficult to abuse Dutch mailbox companies to hide financial crimes such as international bribery and money laundering. Since the global financial system is interconnected, this also impacts financial crimes that affect developing countries.

We also saw 69 cases of increased political will. As a result of an extensive consultative process involving all stakeholders, the [Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services](#) managed to obtain endorsement of the National Action Plan (NAP) on business and human rights. This plan proposes a minimum wage across all sectors, which reduces the gender pay gap, and progressive corporate income taxes. In Kenya, the Pan-African network [FEMNET](#) trained the Pan-African Parliament’s Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs on gender responsive budgeting. Supported by Oxfam and FEMNET, the Committee will table a report on the subject at the Parliament’s plenary session in October 2019.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Ten years after the financial crisis and 4 years after the [Addis Tax Initiative](#) called to boost domestic resource mobilization, we notice a stronger localization of the Oxfam Fiscal Justice agenda. National alliances have led the refinement of the Fair Tax Monitor methodology and included gender indicators. Moreover, the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index now has a regionalized version for [West Africa](#), complemented with national influencing strategies by local civil society. Over the years, partners have gained confidence on fiscal justice topics and developing influencing strategies, resulting in more inclusive and bottom-up strategies and methodologies. Following partner recommendations on the Davos campaign strategy for 2019, Oxfam decided to drop the single global campaign ask. Instead, partners designed their own national asks, supported by Oxfam with technical expertise, media material and funding. In over 40 countries, partners took the lead in simultaneous public campaigning, to make the fight against inequality truly a global moment. In a similar shift towards localization, at the request of our partners, we put more emphasis on political capture and public spending, among others.

Partners such as the Fight Inequality Alliance (FIA) mobilize voices worldwide through the media, politicians and online or offline activities. Oxfam amplifies these voices in its evidence-based advocacy against inequality at global events, such as the World Economic Forum in Davos. We learned that joining regional networks, such as FIA and the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication are key to expand the public outreach of campaign messages, and to ensure media coverage at the grassroots level.

The value of sharing lessons learned, within the worldwide influencing network, was demonstrated by the way the Tax Justice Coalition in Pakistan and partners in Uganda used the concept and experiences of their OPTI colleagues with the Money4Medicine campaign. Based on their local contexts and cooperating with global teams, they developed similar campaigns, linking tax incentives for corporations to insufficient funds for health care, medication or blood banks.



**INTERNATIONAL NGOS SUCH AS OXFAM REALLY COMMIT TO PUT THE POWER OF THEIR ORGANIZATION AT THE SERVICE OF THE GRASSROOT GROUPS BY GIVING THE WEIGHT OF THEIR ORGANIZATION TO THE MOVEMENTS, TO BUILD POWER FROM BELOW AND FIGHT THE 1%**

— Jenny Ricks, Global Convenor Fight Inequality Alliance

Photo credit: Lotte  
Ærsøe / Oxfam IBIS

A construction worker on one of the high-rise buildings shooting up in Ghana's capital, Accra. He and many of the workers live with their families in makeshift houses on or close to the building-sites.



Photo credit: Oxfam in Vietnam

H'Hen Nê is a Vietnamese Beauty Queen. An ethnic young woman, saying no to marriage at 14 years old – which is a common practice in her community – and choosing an education instead for her own better future. She is now an inspiring celebrity to youth.

At the BridgeFest 2019 – part of Fight Inequality Alliance activities around World Economic Forum in Davos – she is sharing her message for an equal and united Vietnam.



## FIGHT INEQUALITY ALLIANCE

A wide variety of over 200 civil society organizations from 26 countries coalesced into the [Fight Inequality Alliance \(FIA\)](#). Its members range from international organizations such as Oxfam – one of the initiators – to smaller local organizations, such as the Bangladesh Krishok Federation and the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme. It is this broad range of members which allows FIA to mobilize strong networks at all levels.

While the initiative and funds came from international NGOs such as Oxfam Novib within the Strategic Partnership, the power of decisions, activities and priority setting is very much in the hands of local organizations. On the other hand, linking local to global again, Oxfam's [participation at the WEF in Davos](#) provides FIA

with a platform to highlight the ever growing inequality. Oxfam's expertise served to support FIA in developing online campaigns, leading to FIA members in 26 countries launching their first joint digital action around Davos. The different national [#eyesongreed](#) campaigns gained great traction on social media, reaching 7 million people. The same goes for offline activities, such as a debate on [tax justice](#) in Uganda, which was televised on one of the biggest national private television channels, NTV, and viewed by millions. Other examples of the many activities are the [Usawa Festival in Kenya](#), a song by Kenyan artist [Juliani](#) and [Bridgefest in Vietnam](#). These events enable CSOs to gather public support and make their voices heard, increasing the movement that fights inequality, and underscoring the impact of the WIN.



National [#eyesongreed](#) campaigns gained great traction on social media, reaching 7 million people



## COMMITMENT TO REDUCING INEQUALITY INDEX

The global [Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index \(CRII\)](#) analyzes data from 157 countries according to multiple indicators that indicate their government's commitment to reduce inequality at the national level. Originally, the CRII was developed in 2015 by the West Africa Oxfam offices, as a tool to help the advocacy efforts of civil society organizations in that region.

The Strategic Partnership supported the further development and application of the [West African CRII](#). The index compares governments' commitment to fight against inequality from a gender sensitive perspective on several pillars - public expenditure, taxation, labor markets, land rights and agriculture - and the related influencing strategies. A steering group of the West African CRII was formed (Oxfam, ECOWAS, UEMOA, ITUC Africa, the African Development Bank, the West Africa Civil Society Forum, among others), which used their networks to disseminate information and mobilize people to develop calls for action to their national governments.

The CRII serves as an evidence-based tool to make advocacy and lobby towards equality more effective. By providing statistics and showing the causes of inequality in each specific context, our partners can propose clear policies backed by facts. Moreover, thanks to the online

accessibility of the CRII, citizens can inform themselves on how financial resources are being used, make informed decisions and hold their governments to account.

During the November 2018 [ECOWAS regional tax dialogue](#), and in partnership with, among others, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Tax Justice Network-Africa, some 35 CSO partners and senior officials from seven African countries were trained on tax incentives and tax agreements. Their increased awareness on the topic was complemented by influencing work and engagement of partners with specific governments during the launch of the global CRII at the IMF/World Bank annual meeting in October 2018, led to increased political will. The presidents of Senegal and Sierra Leone committed themselves to be regional champions for inequality, and who will use their influence at the regional, Pan-African and UN levels.

An additional result is that the Business School of the University of Ghana, which helped develop and expand the West African CRII, has integrated an inequality lens in their Business for Development course. In addition, the school will make 'Inequality Dynamics in Africa' the theme of its 5th International Research Conference later in 2019.

# OUR CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY RESULTS VERSUS PLANNED TARGETS



## LAWS, POLICIES, PRACTICES INFLUENCED (DD2)

Result Year 3:	21
Accumulative result year 1-3:	33
Target end 2020:	117



## CSOs SUCCEED IN CREATING SPACE AND POLITICAL WILL (DD3)VT

Result Year 3:	31
Accumulative result year 1-3:	57
Target end 2020:	68



## ALLIANCES CARRIED OUT ADVOCACY INITIATIVES (DD4)

Result Year 3:	20
Accumulative result year 1-3:	41
Target end 2020:	71



## CSOs INCREASED LOBBY & ADVOCACY CAPACITIES (DD5)

Result Year 3:	132
Accumulative result year 1-3:	250
Target end 2020:	257



## CSOs INCLUDED IN SP (DD6)

Result Year 3:	182
Accumulative result year 1-3:	624
Target end 2020:	598



## CITIZENS RAISED THEIR VOICES

Result Year 3:	16,300
Accumulative result year 1-3:	55,207
Target end 2020:	187,508



## CITIZENS CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDES/NORMS

Result Year 3:	40,750
Accumulative result year 1-3:	115,486
Target end 2020:	720

This chart represents the indicators and results of the Strategic Partnership program in its third year, covering the period from April 2018 to March 2019, towards the targets set for 2020. On all indicators we note less progress compared to R2F and F4D. However, in conflict and fragile contexts small or few results can in fact represent major achievements. The results on changing citizens' attitudes and norms are much higher than planned, following far-reaching and successful community awareness activities on conflict transformation in Niger over the past years.

The publication on the IATI platform is an accumulative status of the results updated daily. The results represented here concern the translation of the SOMO and Oxfam Novib indicator framework to the Dialogue & Dissent framework. The indicators DD4, DD5 and DD6 often relate to the same organizations, so they cannot be aggregated over the years. The number of unique civil society organizations identified as strengthened is 134 in year 3.



Photo credit: Evelien Schotsman / Oxfam Novib

Naaema, 1st police woman assigned as deputy commander of the Gender and Human Rights department of Herat's provincial police headquarters, 2019.  
[Watch her story.](#)

## CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY

### CONTEXT

Conflicts like Yemen and Afghanistan that are deadlocked at national level, require influencing at international level. Yet, in the conference rooms of global leadership we often find the same kind of stalemate. Meanwhile, the number of armed conflicts continues to rise, forcing more than [70 million people](#) around the world to flee their homes. Civil society, joining forces in a worldwide influencing network, can contribute to stop this downward spiral.



**I HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING AND WORKING HARD TO BE IN SAME POSITION AS MEN AND HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO SOLDIERS AND HEAVY WEAPON ... MY BOSS SAID: 'COME ON, YOU'RE A WOMAN, IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOUR SECURITY'. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY I WAS FINALLY PROVIDED WITH THE SAME RESOURCES AS A MAN**

— Naaema, 1st police woman assigned as deputy commander of the Gender and Human Rights department of Herat's provincial police headquarters, 2019

### WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The UN's [Women, Peace and Security \(WPS\)](#) agenda has provided us with a useful international normative framework. In theory, it can serve to reinforce both international commitments and country level work on protection and participation. Yet, the implementation of this agenda and the wider inclusive peace processes are [stalling](#) in Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan, mainly due to conflicting geopolitical interests. Only in Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), we see hopeful developments with regards to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN1325), which is the cornerstone of the WPS agenda.

In Yemen, the situation is particularly challenging. The country lacks a National Action Plan (NAP) for UN1325 as well as the political will to implement UN1325. Civic space is shrinking, the violent conflict is worsening and authorities simply do not consider women, peace and inclusive security as a priority. The Strategic Partnership will continue to support our Yemeni partners. We will jointly assess the best options to promote the WPS agenda, which is of major importance in this conflict-ridden country, without losing our entry points towards the authorities.

On a more positive note, despite existing political challenges, there is increased political will of the Palestinian Authority to engage with civil society on the implementation of the WPS agenda. Yet the Israeli government has significantly decreased the space to speak up for Palestinian rights, especially for Israeli and Palestinian organizations, and INGOs, while fake news is delegitimizing the important work of civil society.

However different the country contexts, part of the conflict resolution lies at the international decision-making level. Lobbying and advocating for international commitment to durable peace and security should therefore be an important part of our work. In our worldwide influencing network approach, this means connecting local knowledge and experiences to global decision-making processes.

Our work in South Sudan shows that our approach was successful in opening up space for civil society in the peace process, through engagement with the UN Special Envoy. Furthermore, our regional partner African Security Sector Network (ASSN) was able to influence the security sector reform related parts of the 2018 peace agreement.

## PRIVATE SECTOR AND CONFLICT

State-led or state-sponsored companies from BRICSAM countries increasingly invest in conflict and fragile areas, sometimes for geopolitical reasons. Since our influencing approach so far focused on investments by western multinationals, we have to adapt our strategies. Dealing with non-western investments requires a different approach, as SOMO already investigated with our Congolese partners in cases of human rights violations by Chinese copper mining companies.

Having promoted foreign investment as a key driver of development, the government of Myanmar is increasingly focused on attracting Asian investors, including in response to the economic impacts of the Rakhine Rohingya crisis. However, many of the growing number of Asian companies operating and investing in Myanmar demonstrate comparatively low awareness and standards of business and human rights, and are less receptive to consumer or buyer pressure due to their different target markets. To adapt our strategies and respond to this changing context, we will build on the strengths of our worldwide influencing network and support local CSOs to influence foreign investment, including through facilitating dialogues with Chinese companies and policy influencers on risks of investing in conflict and fragile areas, and use the findings of SOMO and our Congolese partners, who are testing the compliant mechanism of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals (CCCC).

## PROGRESS

We see that critical, yet constructive, engagement of civil society is building up to more policy changes in the different countries, though this process is slow and complex. Still, given the bleak context for peace and inclusive security, the number of policy changes (21) and cases of political will (31) do not seem like a bad result after all. These results were merely achieved through critical and constructive engagement of strong local civil society and alliances.

In OPT, our partner MIFTAH (“Key”) has been advocating the Ministry of Women’s Affairs to take a leading role in developing the next NAP, where they are well positioned to assume such role. This is the result of MIFTAH’s influencing work and its efforts in producing evidence-based research to assess the Palestinian experience in localizing the 1325 resolution. Furthermore, our partners succeeded in influencing the Palestinian delegation during the 70th session of CEDAW, where it vowed commitment to improve the status of Palestinian women at the legal, political and procedural levels.

Following research on companies’ conduct in the trade of natural resources in Nigeria, the semi-government platform for extractive industries, the Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Indigenous Oil Traders Association, and Nigerian companies, shows increased interest to engage with civil society in a critical and constructive dialogue. The workshops and roundtables organized by our partners Connected Development (CODE) and Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC) resulted in concrete



commitments from authorities such as the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, trade unions and companies. These include the willingness to investigate the negative effects of gas flaring, and endorse the UN [Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

An example of strategically choosing the right type of influencing across various levels of governance can be found in Afghanistan. Through provincial advocacy committees our partners successfully advocated for an increased provision of security, protection and justice for women. The [Safhe Jadid \(Dutch NAP\) project](#) and the Strategic Partnership both contributed to this outcome. Though inclusivity in the formal peace process is still not guaranteed, Afghan women and civil society have really stepped up their campaigning to make sure [their rights will not be sacrificed](#) in peace talks with the Taliban.

To unlock the power of the Worldwide Influencing Network, we created learning opportunities across countries. We shared the security sector reform experiences of South Sudan with other countries in the region, through the regional work on inclusive security of our partner [African Security Sector Network \(ASSN\)](#). And we linked experiences about the extractive industry from Myanmar to our work in Nigeria, especially by comparing the results of research and the type of community-based influencing activities that seem most effective.

## LESSONS LEARNED

The main lessons we learned actually confirm the importance and – potential – power of a WIN, encouraging us to build upon this approach, in order to realize the change we want to achieve.

Even in the challenging contexts they operate in, local civil society is very capable of identifying promising influencing opportunities. [MIFTAH](#) had grown into a trusted partner for the Palestinian National Authority on WPS, just like [CODE](#) and [CISLAC](#) in Nigeria, against all odds, managed to create political will among extractive industries. In both cases the critical, but constructive engagement proved to be vital.

The Strategic Partnership has surely contributed to this increased local influencing capability through its capacity strengthening – e.g. on WPS – and alliance-building activities. Yet a crucial factor is that local actors know the local political context best, including its (new) opportunities and limitations. We therefore let our partners lead and adjust our support accordingly to achieve tangible and sustainable results. For instance, in Yemen we supported the development of alliances on WPS and trust in them to seize a moment when it arises. In the meantime, we strategize with partners to make sure our support does not waver.

Our role and added value is to link grassroots and national influencing work to the international platforms and strategic advocacy agendas, where decisions are made that can boost or break the local efforts. Through our experience with partner Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability ([MATA](#)) – a network of more than 450 CSOs and individuals – in Myanmar and building on SOMO's research, we have been learning about the need to focus our private sector and conflict sensitivity efforts towards non-western companies.

At the international level, we will continue to hold the international community accountable for their role in geopolitically driven conflicts, such as in Yemen and Afghanistan. An example is Oxfam's [Rights in Crisis campaign](#), which calls for a stop on western arms sales to Saudi Arabia and for the international community to implement and uphold its agreements. The Strategic Partnership's policy advisor in New York is key to facilitate that local voices are heard at UN level, and that member states keep improving protection and promoting inclusivity in peace and security processes.

Being present all over the world, enables us to exert pressure in different ways, at different moments and with different powerholders – while jointly creating a force of civil society. South Sudan is a good example of how this works. Our partner ASSN, a technical academic organization, has been linked to South Sudan's civil society's platform. Its expert position created space for civil society within the African Union. We also linked our entry points at the UN level to the same civil society platform. Together, these linkages created decisive space for civil society in the South Sudan peace process.

Photo credit: Bullen  
Chol / Oxfam

Agum Ruben Machir,  
Former Deputy Governor  
for Western Lakes State



## SEIZING THE NETWORK'S OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan we have been working for the past three years to ensure that security actors take into account the needs of all South Sudanese. Furthermore, we stressed the importance of security sector reforms defined in the peace agreement to consider the security needs of all people, in a gender sensitive manner. In 2018/19, we reaped the fruits of our approach. We had successfully strengthened the capacities of Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) to unite and lead the different factions of South Sudanese civil society. CEPO passed on its knowledge to Jonglei Civil Society Network (JCSN), among others, which started to lobby parliamentarians and convinced them of the dangers that the widespread use of small arms by unauthorized personnel posed to civilians. In November 2018, Jonglei State Legislative Assembly passed a bill, which was tabled by one of the parliamentarians and regulates small arms control. This greatly contributes to individual and community safety and security in a state where gun violence causes most death cases.

At the regional level, our partner ASSN played

a key role in achieving our goals, after we had linked ASSN to both South Sudanese civil society and to international level decisionmakers. ASSN and Oxfam organized several regional workshops, sharing knowledge on security sector reforms and deepening partners' understanding of the crucial role civil society should play in these reforms. ASSN delivered in-country trainings to civil society alliances, that 'trickled down' their enhanced knowledge to CSOs such as JCSN, opening doors for civil society to advocate with regional economic committees and the African Union. Meanwhile, at the international level, we linked ASSN to the UN special envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, through our New York based policy officer. This has enabled civil society to influence the revitalized peace agreement, and ensure it would be more inclusive and take into account the security concerns of all South Sudanese. In chapter 2 of the agreement, it is clearly indicated that civil society has a role in a number of committees deciding on or monitoring security issues. So, in conclusion, the WIN demonstrated its huge added value by offering civil society the opportunity to link at crucial moments in the peace process and the security sector reforms.





**I HAVE BEEN SEEING OUR WOMEN ON MEDIA WHO HAVE MADE US PROUD. THEY HAVE PROVEN OUR WOMEN ARE CAPABLE. WE HAVE GOT OUR LEADERS TO COMMIT TO HAVING 35% OF POSITIONS FILLED BY WOMEN. I PERSONALLY WANT TO SEE MORE WOMEN COMING UP. WE NEED TO SEE MORE YOUNG WOMEN COMING UP IN POLITICS. LET US UNITE AS WOMEN OF SOUTH SUDAN AND LET US REALLY USE 35 PERCENT. LET US COME TOGETHER UNITE AND LET US COME OUT BESIDE OUR MALE COUNTERPART AND BUILD THE NATION. IT IS TIME. SOUTH SUDAN IS IN NEED.**

— Agum Ruben Machir, Former Deputy Governor for Western Lakes State

## ADAPTING STRATEGIES TO WOMEN'S REALITIES IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan does have a NAP 1325, but authorities lack the operational and thematic knowledge to effectively implement it, which deprives our partners from the opportunity to use monitoring the implementation as an entry point to influence the government's policies. However, monitoring the four pillars of the NAP – participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery – does provide us with fruitful influencing opportunities, which our partners started to seize, together with the Dutch NAP-funded project Safhe Jadid.

Our shifted focus on the four pillars delivered valuable insights, which led to shifted approaches, priorities and influencing strategies by our partners. For several years, we had been pushing for inclusive security, giving priority to the participation pillar: the meaningful inclusion of women in the police force. We launched a report and organized a campaign to boost the number of female recruits. Yet, while monitoring all pillars, we found that protection mechanisms for women within the police force – and the security sector at large – must be significantly

improved.

The interviews and focus group discussions conducted by our partner Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO) revealed widespread harassment and discrimination of police women, casting a huge shadow over the efforts to increase their meaningful participation. As a result of these findings, our partners started influencing the Afghan police and the Ministry of Interior in a more nuanced and careful way. Following the shifted strategy of our partners, we are being more nuanced in our international campaigns about the importance of women's inclusion.

While recruitment and protection of police women should go hand in hand we cannot simply call for policies that send women in harm's way. Going forward, our critical but constructive engagement with the police force and the Ministry will always stress the priority of protection, and the need for certain minimum safety conditions to be in place before women can join the police.

[Watch the story](#) of our partner Peace Training and Research Organisation (PTRO) advocating for inclusion of women in peace and security processes.



## CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

We have further strengthened the partnership between SOMO, Oxfam Novib and their (local, regional and global) civil society partners, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly in working with the Dutch embassies. We value the increased information sharing and collaboration on thematic issues, for instance in Uganda, Myanmar, Vietnam and Afghanistan. Where civic space was shrinking or in a critical or urgent state, we worked strategically with the embassies in Niger, Egypt, Burundi and Pakistan among others. We believe that in addressing the issue of creating an enabling civic space (in relation to local influencing and campaigning of our partners) is where we deepened our partnership most. We look forward to intensifying the cooperation even further in the coming period.

In 2018/19, 682 unique CSOs strengthened their influencing capacity. Increased influencing capacities and improved strategies of our 1,778 partners, also in the context of reduced civic space, have contributed to 150 policy changes. The co-creation and planning process for 2019 and 2020 provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the Theories of Change and learn from the outcomes harvested. Together with our partners we updated the influencing strategies and jointly developed tailored capacity building strategies. Looking at the results so far, we can conclude that all three ToCs are still valid.

In the annual plan 2018-19 we have indicated to give more emphasis to regional exchanges because we see that certain issues, such as tax incentives, exceed the national level. This builds on national partner work, with the aim to further national level influencing work. In this report we illustrate the contribution to linking civil society and influencing agendas more effectively across borders. We are proud to report that civil society partners of Oxfam Novib and SOMO are now linking with each other on global challenges which unite us, without necessarily being convened or purposefully facilitated by Oxfam Novib or SOMO. This is how advocacy agendas are being leveraged and it continues to strengthen our worldwide influencing network. While this program operates in 17 countries, our strategic partnership has linked civil society in 50 countries through such regional interventions.

In 2019, we will collect citizens' voice end line surveys, and commence the evaluation of the Strategic Partnership program. We expect to learn a lot from this evaluation process and look forward to sharing the insights with our partners and other Dutch civil society organizations in a worldwide influencing network learning trajectory.

## COLOPHON

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This document was produced by Erik Boonstoppel. For more information, or to comment on this publication, please email [Erik.Boonstoppel@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:Erik.Boonstoppel@oxfamnovib.nl).

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Oxfam Novib  
P.O. Box 30919  
2500 GX The Hague  
The Netherlands

T +31 (0) 70 3421621  
[info@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:info@oxfamnovib.nl)  
[www.oxfamnovib.nl](http://www.oxfamnovib.nl)

