



1. Programme Identification Details

GTF number:	158
Short title of programme:	Raising Her Voice: Promoting Poor Women's Participation in Governance
Name of lead institution:	Oxfam GB
Start date:	18 August 2008
End date:	17 August 2013
Brief summary of programme:	Oxfam's Raising Her Voice (RHV) programme promotes the rights and capacity of poor women to engage effectively in governance at all levels through increased voice and influence and greater institutional accountability. The overall objective of the programme is to increase the participation of poor and marginalised women in public policy, budget-setting and decision-making. RHV is achieving this by supporting women's leadership; addressing attitudes and beliefs about the role of women in public decision-making through innovative media and communications strategies; networking, lobbying and advocacy; empowering and building the capacity of civil society organisations to work with public institutions and decision-making forums; and disseminating learning and best practice. The programme consists of a pan-African element involving project work in 7 countries, 1 Africa-wide coordination project, 9 country projects in South/East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe/CIS, and one global project covering cross-programme learning, global advocacy and the sharing of experiences across projects.
Target groups and wider beneficiaries:	This year Raising Her Voice supported 252,389 poor and marginalised women - focussing on those most excluded from social, political and economic decision- making.
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2. List of Acronyms:

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	African Union
AWP	African Women's Protocol (African Union)
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IFFI	Institute of Integral Female Education (RHV partner, Bolivia)
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur (South American Common Market)
PM	Programme Management
POWA	People Opposed to Women Abuse (RHV partner, South Africa)
RHV	Raising Her Voice
SMS	Single Management Structure
SOAWR	Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (RHV Pan Africa partner)
WLG	Women Leaders Group
WRAPA	Women's Rights Advancement Protection Alternatives (RHV partner, Nigeria)
VAW	Violence Against Women

3. Executive Summary:

This third project year has been characterised by considerable evidence emerging of the Raising Her Voice portfolio's positive impact on the ability of poor and marginalised women to engage effectively in governance systems and processes at all levels. Despite some shortcomings, we anticipate that the Raising Her Voice portfolio is on track to largely achieve its original purpose.

RHV projects that seek to build women's participation and leadership in community decision-making processes have been able to demonstrate the deep, personal empowerment of the thousands of women involved – as in **Nepal, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa and Guatemala**. In RHV project villages in **Papua, Indonesia** where previously only male government officials were invited to attend village development planning meetings, women now make up 44% of participants. Women activists in many RHV countries have held community decision makers and local government offices to account on commitments made; ensured the amendment of discriminatory policies and practices; and started to secure funding for government projects benefitting poor and marginalised women. **In Guatemala** for example, work by RHV partner Ixmacane Quiché has resulted in mayors in 3 municipalities implementing

funds assigned specifically for women. **In Albania**, local authorities contributed 15-20% to Local Action Group rural development budgets in three areas.

RHV coalitions and networks in each country continued to expand. **In Africa** alone, RHV coalitions report combined membership of over 320 different civil society organisations, media organisations, campaign and faith groups. This sustainable momentum for change is already resulting in significant gains for women's rights in policy and practice. The formal ratification of the Maputo Protocol in **Uganda and Kenya** – and passing of progressive legislation in almost all RHV countries this year – has helped to create a strong foundation for future improvements in policy development, budget allocation, service provision and gradual but transformative social change. **In Bolivia** for example, as the government's programme of decentralisation continues, RHV partner IFFI has hosted a Women's Platform in Cochabamba that has ensured that the draft provincial constitution fully responds to local, indigenous women's needs and concerns.

Country projects in all 17 countries are now well established and focussing on embedding these early gains and taking forward useful recommendations from the recent mid-term evaluation process. Partners are also starting to develop strong communications materials that document individual stories and examples of RHV's wider impact. Media organisations and individuals are becoming increasingly active partners in efforts to document this change - and in lobbying for further improvements.

The challenge of implementing women's rights legislation and policy in the context of government resource constraints and structural resistance to some, more controversial women's rights issues remain the largest obstacles to the RHV project portfolio. In all African countries, RHV partners are tackling this with comprehensive Gender Equality legislation that aims to domesticate key African Union legislation on women's rights – with a Bill recently passed in **the Gambia** and draft legislation in **Nigeria**, now having its third Parliamentary reading. All partners recognise the importance of continued and targeted work to engage traditional leaders, faith groups, men's networks and other political and popular influencers to increase public support for project aims.

2010-11 was the final full project year for RHV country projects in **Albania, Armenia, Indonesia, Nepal and Guatemala**. In **Nepal, Indonesia and Armenia**, work is underway to ensure that projects are sustained beyond their DFID-funded lifespan. RHV projects in many countries are already starting to become embedded in wider Oxfam planning process at country and regional level. In some countries, RHV partners and coalition members are also securing independent funds for project activities to complement existing work.

4. Programme Management:

With most country projects and management systems now well established, RHV programme management shifted to a greater focus on embedding early gains, reflection and documenting learning, a process greatly supported by Mid-Term Evaluations in each country.

Recommendations from these have supported RHV partnerships to review and refocus project energies in all 17 countries. The global MTE also provided practical recommendations for building on this momentum to enhance RHV's ability to document stories of change; communicate early impact and share learning across the portfolio. The global communication strategy is now in the process of being reviewed and refreshed. The new Global Programme Coordinator was recruited at the end of this year and brings experience of building multi-country programme capacity on women's political participation to the global team.

Annual expenditure against budget was 94% - with most significant underspends in the **global project** (coordinator post vacancy) and in **Albania** where the ongoing registration process of Local Action Groups delayed implementation. In **Indonesia**, overspends on grants to partners in 2010-11 due to exchange rate losses of £29,451 have been factored into the budget for 2011-

12 which has now been reduced accordingly. Additional unrestricted funding has been secured from Oxfam Indonesia to help offset RHV project losses.

11 Oxfam staff changes (from a RHV global PM team of 38) and 8 new partner staff (from 43 organisations) has continued to affect project continuity. The Global Coordination team have provided RHV inductions throughout and additional OGB co-financing resources have now been allocated to increase PM and monitoring capacity in African projects where RHV contributions were proving insufficient. Staff turnover is also increasingly being offset by greater ownership of RHV by wider Oxfam country offices.

New global systems were introduced to streamline country PM, improve the sharing of information and quality control. The global move to streamline management of Oxfam International affiliates in each operating country – Oxfam’s Single Management Structure (SMS) - impacted upon PM in **Mozambique** with the closure of the Oxfam GB office. RHV **Mozambique** is now being managed from South Africa. **Bolivia and Guatemala** have also started the move to SMS with some disruptions to RHV staffing in **Guatemala**. The global MTE case study of **Bolivia** however highlighted the value of RHV as a strong potential vehicle for enabling programmatic coherence across the new management structure. Similar SMS discussions about the potential of RHV as a multi-affiliate country programme are now taking place in **Indonesia and Nepal**.

5. Working with implementing partners:

RHV has continued to be managed in line with Oxfam’s partnership policy, with a strong emphasis on living out shared values and principles in our RHV partnerships. As country projects moved into the consolidation phase, investment and support in RHV partner capacity has also increased alongside and complementary to in addition to the project impact on communities. Oxfam’s role as convenor and facilitator continued with the sustained growth of RHV coalitions and partnerships in many countries. The termination of the partnership with Civitas and withdrawal of another partner Red Ixhil from RHV **Guatemala** in October 2010 following a partnership review has led to the formation of a new RHV management committee and greater commitment from the 3 CBO partners to incorporate multicultural aspects and discourse of the rights of indigenous women. Although the reconfiguration came late in the project’s four-year lifespan, the Guatemalan MTE findings confirmed that the right decision had been taken. **In Bolivia** too, the network of networks supported by RHV partner IFFI had deliberately been broadened to enhance the meaningful and equal participation of indigenous women’s groups and activists.

In Indonesia, Yayasan Kampung Halaman, a media NGO, joins the programme to develop 10 short thematic documentary films. Sustained work on women’s right to be heard has resulted in partner organisations being taken more seriously by governments. For example, **in Chile** the President of the RHV partner was elected Director of the National Human Rights Institute.

6. Risk Assessment

Political instability in **Pakistan, Guatemala and Indonesia** has hampered project implementation at local level but strong mitigation planning at country level has limited impact on long-term achievement of project aims. More significant project revisions have been necessary in **Honduras** where RHV partners working on a vocal campaign against the country’s high rates of femicide¹ continue to face threats and intimidation.

¹ One femicide (the targeted killing of women) being reported each day since January 2011

6. Risk Assessment

Nature of risk	Mitigation	Impact	Probability
Lack of understanding of women's rights issues or capacity within government agencies and other actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insist on early constructive engagement with officials and influencers of government actors; ▪ Careful use of strategic partnerships in project areas provides sustained advisory support and capacity building to key ministers, national decision-makers and traditional leaders; ▪ Spaces developed and exploited to ensure that indigenous, rural and mestizo poor women's needs and concerns are heard; ▪ Work closely with media to ensure that project aims and objectives are clearly understood and accurately presented, particularly with regard to more controversial women's rights issues. ▪ Clear communications strategy on good practice, including success stories from other countries, with appropriate use of national languages, etc.; ▪ Link with work of other actors including DFID (gender action plans) and UN agencies on multi-donor work to build government capacity on gender. 	Med.	Med.
<p>A third year of CSO coalition building and linking to and capacity building of state and non-actors in project areas is mitigating risks as skills and knowledge are strengthened and tangible benefits of enhancing accountability e.g. greater trust in decision-making structures are demonstrated. State capacity requires special focus in Africa as partners move to implementation phase with particular attention to how international donors can influence this.</p>			
Lack of political will.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects focus on generating and mobilising groundswell of demand for accountability – particularly at local level - to provide the necessary impetus to increase political will; ▪ Coordinated national advocacy activity by civil society, continuing work with African Union to exert top-down and peer pressure for implementation of the Protocol; ▪ Use of national and international commitments and accountability structures such as CEDAW, MDG plans, etc. as leverage ▪ Strategic opportunities for amplifying lobbying impacts e.g. hosting of AU summits, constitution development, decentralisation and elections maximised; ▪ Allies with key MPs and in key government departments identified; ▪ Possible strategic litigation by partners. 	Med.	Med.
<p>Backward steps in government willingness to engage positively on women's rights reported in Honduras, South Africa and the Gambia. Backward steps in citizen participation in governance systems and processes reported in Pakistan with ongoing uncertainty of the future of anticipated new local government structures and in Nepal with ongoing delays to the new Constitution. RHV partners in Pakistan and Indonesia both refocusing activities at district level to increase the impact of lobbying activities. Positive changes in political commitment reported in Nigeria and Mozambique. With all governments in RHV Africa country projects having now ratified the Protocol, RHV partners face the risk of diminished political will in response to the greater challenge of domesticating the Protocol.</p>			

<p>Government corruption, possibilities for misuse and diverting of financial resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on raising awareness and demand for government accountability at all levels particularly at local level; ▪ Strengthening of partner and coalition member capacity to hold governments to account and lobbying to increase downward accountability e.g. transparency of budget setting; ▪ Transparent policies and strategies for communicating about RHV project expectations, resources, etc; ▪ Mechanisms also in place to ensure the full accountability of Oxfam GB RHV project management and partnerships. 	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Financial management/support to partners is working well. Transaction checks are carried out monthly locally and globally to ensure details in finance reports are correct. RHV partners demonstrating ability to challenge government misuse of funds. However high cases of impunity continue in many countries for example in Guatemala where an estimated 98% of cases go unpunished.</p>			
<p>Violence towards partners and beneficiaries as a result of project work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work carefully with partners with regular updates on changes to the political situation, assess risks associated with each lobbying activity and develop local strategies to respond to these; ▪ Empowering women to defend their rights and support others experiencing political violence. Training covers functioning of local judicial systems and processes and national legislation enshrining rights to security and involvement in peace building processes; ▪ Peace building activities and security plans included in activities of RHV communities most at risk of political violence; ▪ Formation of coalitions helps to amplify the scale and impact of lobbying activities and decrease the risk of negative attention on individual member organisations; ▪ Ensure risks are considered fully and that no-one takes actions they are uncomfortable with; ▪ Work wherever possible through early engagement and ongoing collaboration with authorities – especially at local level; ▪ Ability to adapt projects to shift focus from activities at local, district or national level in line with changing security situations and resistance at any one of these levels. 	<p>Med.</p>	<p>High (specific countries)</p>
<p>RHV partners and Oxfam staff continue to monitor volatile security situations and political instability in Pakistan, Honduras and Nepal closely. In Petén province in Guatemala NGO activities – including that of RHV partners Ixmucané and Ixqic - have been temporarily suspended in response to localised violence and killings due to disputes between drug-traffickers, cattle farmers and the partisan politicisation of communities. The project end date has been extended for Petén partners to ensure that planned activities can be carried out in full. In Honduras, the creation of a new RHV coalition has refocused project activities at the local level (and politically less sensitive area of government) and to amplify the scale and impact of women’s political rights lobbying and decrease the risks for individual member organisations. A has helped to offset difficulties of lobbying activities at national level. Oxfam in Honduras also provided (and continue to provide) partners with additional financial support to strengthen their abilities to develop comprehensive risk analysis and mitigation plans.</p>			

Global economic crisis impacts organisational sustainability of RHV partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Security of five-year project funding gives RHV partners greater ability to plan long-term organisational sustainability; ▪ RHV project aims, activities and approaches integrated organically into work plans of wider coalition members; ▪ Oxfam country office support to partners where relevant to increase fundraising capacity to secure additional resources e.g. introductions to other donor agencies; ▪ Global RHV programme commitment to support country efforts to secure follow on funding. 	High	Low
<p>New risk identified by partners in South Africa and Mozambique. Applications for follow-on funding already submitted for RHV Nepal and pipeline proposals for the extension of RHV projects in Pakistan, Indonesia, Armenia and Uganda. Oxfam global coordination team and central management also initiating formal discussions as to future funding possibilities for the global RHV programme.</p>			

7. M&E Arrangements

New Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems have increased Oxfam's ability to capture global output data – useful for monitoring and comparing beneficiary numbers for a range of empowerment indicators year on year. Oxfam project managers collectively reported that 37,406 individual women were closely involved in the more intensive, personal empowerment elements of Raising Her Voice projects this last year – with an additional 34,456 benefitting from participation in wider trainings, voter registration and immediate improvements to local services. A further 297,521 women and men (252,389 of these women) are estimated to have benefited from wider social and legislative changes as a direct result of RHV project interventions. The global MTE report made valuable recommendations for strengthening project monitoring further. These will be discussed and developed as a matter of priority.

The MTE process has been valuable for all country projects and work in the coming year seeks to build on the report learning. MTEs in many countries identified weaknesses in project monitoring systems, often due to gaps in original baseline data. Monitoring and documentation of women's personal empowerment was found to require particular attention and where possible, additional resourcing. There is a clear need for all RHV project stakeholders and the global coordination team to work together to address this as a priority. Some RHV good practice already exists to support the process going forward. For example, in **Guatemala**, partners worked with indigenous women in two project areas to make the logframe more meaningful for women taking part in RHV activities by agreeing indicators to better reflect their understanding of how they will see the change they want to make happen. Excellent tools for assessing changes in partner capacity were developed by the **Bolivian** and **Honduran** evaluators and the **Ugandan** consultant shared strong stakeholder and community member interview methodologies that can be easily adapted for wider use. In **Nigeria**, sustainability tracking is used. The global team is now developing a comprehensive action plan to integrate findings around project monitoring for women's empowerment into priorities for the year ahead.

An in-depth evaluation of the RHV **Indonesia** project, piloting a process tracing methodology, was carried out at the end of this year as part of Oxfam's monitoring of the previous DFID PPA funding agreement. The findings should help contribute to a better understanding of causality of the impact of an identical project approach in the two very different operating contexts of **Papua and Aceh**.

8. Logframe changes

Logframe change requests for RHV **Pakistan and Honduras** have already been submitted in response to the impact of changes in the political environment. **In Uganda**, LFA changes respond to post-MTE refocusing by coalition members, following the formal ratification of the Maputo Protocol. **In Guatemala**, partners revised success indicators following a full review of the RHV partnership to make them more reflective of indigenous women's lived realities.

8. Cross-cutting issues

Together, RHV projects globally have continued to demonstrate the importance of women's meaningful involvement in the governance structures and processes that affect their lives. The collective experiences of RHV partners reiterate that the diversity of women's experiences mean that ways must continually be found to ensure these are fully reflected in the nature of their participation both in civil society organising and in engagement with governance systems, structures and processes. RHV experiences specifically of work on disability, multisectoral approaches on gender based violence, HIV and AIDS and poverty and the importance of enhancing the participation and leadership of excluded rural and indigenous women have all added to the global programme understanding of key cross-cutting issues. Efforts are being made to integrate learning about these issues further as part of Oxfam's post-MTE global action plans.

For example, RHV partners in **Guatemala, Bolivia, Pakistan and Indonesia** have worked deliberately to enhance project implementation by addressing unequal power relations between urban-rural coalition members, indigenous women's organisations and different ethnic groups. Openness about often hidden power dynamics has helped to strengthen the partnership, delivery and long-term impact of activities. Following a peer exchange to Nepal and a Dec 2010 global RHV learning meeting on coalition working that emphasised the importance of rural women's participation and leadership, RHV coalitions in **Uganda and Nigeria** have also actively strengthened the participation of rural women through new CBO partnerships.

In South Africa, RHV partner POWA has supported women activists from sector-specific CSOs to integrate an understanding of the intersections of HIV and AIDS, gender based violence (GBV) and poverty into their work and wherever possible, that of their organisation. This is resulting in many examples of more holistic gender based violence, HIV and AIDS service delivery for women in the project area. However activists noted that even this holistic approach failed to capture other important factors in women's lives, highlighting the hugely complex root causes of the disempowerment that poor South African still women experience. In Mozambique too, lobbying for gender based violence legislation has sought to draw out the intersections with HIV and AIDS.

In Armenia, lobbying of government by women's leadership and youth advocacy groups has a strong focus on enhancing access to services for disabled individuals, as well as pushing for improvements to laws and policies. Successes in the last year included the overturning of an amendment to the Law on Temporary Disability Benefits that threatened to stop social security payments for women on maternity leave, following intense campaigning.

9. Progress towards sustainability

The sustainability of Raising Her Voice projects can now be demonstrated both in terms of project impact on the lives of tens of thousands of women globally and by the integration of RHV projects and learning into internal and external programming processes.

Ensuring that individual women have the skills and confidence to influence the systems of governance that impact on their lives and contribute to their exclusion is key to all RHV projects and a fundamental part of sustaining their impact. This year, RHV globally worked directly with over 37,406 women individual women to enhance their personal ability to engage in community and local government decision making processes.

For example, in **Aceh, Indonesia**, RHV partners developed an online accountability tool which provides open access to local development plans and budgets. The government signed a MoU with them to endorse the tool and guarantee its use by government departments in the 2011 fiscal year – with a commitment to roll it out to other districts. **In Papua**, where women have long been excluded from local planning processes, RHV partners reported that 44% of *Musrenbang* (development planning assembly) participants are now women. Other political spaces have also opened up for women with the first women member of the regional administration and two Paniai women nominated as candidates for the Papua People's Assembly. Women also publicly challenged the *kabupaten* administration and regional parliament for not delivering on its promises. In **Pakistan**, a further 30,152 women were supported this year to register for national identity papers enabling them to travel and vote taking the total number supported over the three years to 107,546.

Through RHV support for collective action on women's rights to be heard, a sustainable momentum for change is also being reinforced by coalitions and networks in many country projects. In **Honduras**, a new coalition CONAMUH was formed. RHV coalition membership in **Liberia, Mozambique, Uganda and Nigeria** continues to grow with collective memberships now of 324 CSOs, faith groups and women activists. In **Uganda** the 'Women First' Coalition

members developed a distinct coalition logo. RHV coalitions are also adding their weight to lobbying actions in other RHV countries.

As RHV networks grow in membership, confidence, skill and reputation, they are increasingly able to hold governments to account and support and promote positive policy and legislative change at local, national and even regional levels. RHV global highlights include:

- Approval by the International Labour Organisation of the inclusion of RHV MERCOSUR recommendations for 'Decent Jobs for Domestic Workers' - now due for discussion at the June 2011 International Labour Conference;
- Collaboration with the National Database and Registration Authority in **Pakistan** to increase access for women - including additional mobile clinics and designation of Fridays as a women-only registration day at static centres in response to high demand;
- In **Nepal**, work at the community level - where out of 1,997 community discussion class participants, over 1,253 now hold a positions of local leadership² – is reinforced by lobbying the national organs of these community structures (e.g. forest user groups) to secure policy and behavioural change at national, executive committee level. This has started to result in significant increases in women's participation for example in the decision-making processes of the national Federation of Water Users.
- **In Honduras**, the number of municipal offices mandated specifically to represent and respond to women's developmental needs and concerns in project areas increased from one to three. The number of local governments carrying out at least one of their bi-monthly meetings in public (as dictated by municipal law) increased from one to seven following pressure from RHV partners. Local governments in Gualcinse and Piraera have both increased financial investments in projects to benefit women as a result of demands from RHV activists.
- In **the Gambia**, Parliament adopted the Women's Bill, paving the way for the Protocol's implementation. Controversial articles on FGM however were not included in the draft Bill. In **Nigeria**, the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (broad women's rights legislation enabling the domestication of Protocol articles as well as CEDAW and Nigeria's National Gender Policy) was developed with broad popular and political support and is now due before Parliament for its first hearing;
- Domestic Violence, FGM and Trafficking of Persons Bills passed in **Uganda**;
- Laws **in Chile** introduced to prevent Femicide and reform to the marriage law that ensures women's equality in marriage with their husbands;
- **In Honduras**, the 50% quota for women's participation was accepted by political parties and the National Electoral Tribunal due to complementary submissions from RHV partner, Visitación Padilla and other national women's organisations;
- RHV partners in **Mozambique** have lobbied for and secured monthly meetings between marginalised women and key Cabinet Ministries;
- Concerns raised within South Africa partner POWA's CEDAW Shadow Report were used extensively by the CEDAW Committee in their feedback to South African government. POWA was subsequently invited by the Ministry of Women to advise on the governments response and ways forward and to join the newly-formed Advisory Council on Gender Based Violence;
- In **Bolivia**, provisions for the creation of special VAW courts were included in the Judicial Body Law.

In Bolivia, partners are using the momentum of the government's decentralisation programme to ensure that urban and rural and indigenous women are involved in consultation processes and that their needs and concerns are fully reflected in new municipal and departmental policy

² 478 elected to leadership positions on four target community structures (Community Forest User Groups; Sub/Health Post Management Committees; School Management Committees; and Drinking Water and Sanitation User Groups) and a further 775 in other community decision-making roles e.g. parent-teacher associations.

and law. In Cochabamba, IFFI played a key role in establishing the Departmental Commission of Women's Organisations, responsible for articulating a plural and diverse movement of women in the development of policy. **Bolivia's** national Gender Observatory (a governance and media monitoring mechanism) carried out detailed analyses in 2010 of municipal Legal Services and the implementation of the Mother and Child Universal Insurance policy. In recognition of the value of this scrutiny, the Directorate of Equal Opportunities made a formal proposal to incorporate the mechanism into its own office. The Observatory was established as part of the RHV **Chile** project that aims to achieve greater accountability on women's rights in 7 countries regionally.

The common goal shared by all RHV African countries and the SOAWR **Pan African** coalition to support the domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol has helped to create an exciting and growing momentum for change in the region. The concrete legislative and policy gains already being secured in many countries will ensure that solid frameworks for the respect, protection and promotion of women's rights are sustained long after the projects end.

The strategic value of this approach is clear and is attracting growing support from other development agencies both in RHV project countries and regionally. For example, in 2010 SOAWR partnered with UN Women for the second time (securing co-financing of US\$100,000) to bring together state party and civil society representatives from countries that had ratified the Protocol to renew commitments and share strategies for implementation. In many countries, including **Tanzania, the Gambia and Nigeria**, legislative change is being matched by a slow but steady groundswell of public awareness about and support for the Protocol.

Partnership with agencies such as UN Women provides clear evidence of the way in which the sustainability of Raising Her Voice is being supported through integration of projects, new partnerships and key learning into a range of internal and external processes. For example, the success of RHV country projects and approaches are resulting in their integration into Oxfam future programming **in Tanzania, Nigeria, Indonesia, Nepal, Bolivia and Armenia**. Learning from the RHV project is informing national Oxfam strategies in Uganda and is providing a useful vehicle for strengthening both Oxfam's work on gender and its relationships with women's movements in many more countries. POWA **in South Africa** for example has integrated the RHV conceptual framework on a multisectoral approach into its new organisation wide strategic plan. **In Pakistan**, RHV partner Aurat Foundation is now using the project model of WLGs in community engagement in other projects due to its success in mobilising women activists to articulate the needs and concerns of the communities they serve.

In **Nepal and Pakistan**, Oxfam has started to integrate RHV and We Can (global campaign to end all violence against women), for example in **Pakistan** We Can 'change makers' are joining Women Leader Groups to enhance their skills, integrate VAW into work on other local priorities, build collective action and amplify their voices.

10. Innovation

RHV partners employ a wide range of innovative strategies to raise women's voices and hold government to account with examples documented throughout this report. Highlights include:

- **In Chile**, the establishment of Gender Observatories in 7 countries in the region, formally linked together into one regional Observatory has helped to increase scrutiny and gendered analysis of laws, policy, budgets and media. These independent spaces are being recognised by governments and their contributions increasingly valued. A public database is in the final stages of development that logs gender equality advances and gaps in all legislation from 1990-2010. The website 'Círculo Feminista' was designed and is due to go live shortly, providing a platform for debate, reflection and campaign coordination on women's political participation.
- In **Indonesia**, partners took women's leadership campaign conversations from coffee shop to coffee shop – using this strategic public entry point to maximize engagement with men.

- **In Armenia** the use of social media (facebook, twitter, classmates and RHV blogs) has complemented traditional strategies by engaging new audiences and amplifying campaign successes. For example, more than 1,600 people signed e-petitions as part of wider campaigning to demand the abolition of the new law on temporary disability benefits which removed the rights of pregnant women to social protection during maternity leave. As a result of the vocal opposition, the law has since been revised and this article removed.
- In **Guatemala and Bolivia**, partners have found it helpful to explore issues of transparency by drawing on indigenous concepts of ancestral cosmology and the relationships of responsibility and accountability to ancestors and the natural world held within these.
- RHV **Pan African** partner Equality Now helped to coordinate the East African Caravan on Maternal Health which led public rallies, campaign activities and focused media coverage through all East African countries before presenting two mass petitions to governments at the 15th AU summit in Kampala. The build-up of activities and public awareness aimed at pushing regional governments to focus their attention on upholding and progressing commitments made on maternal infant and child health - the 15th AU Summit theme.
- Many RHV partners have developed innovative strategies to ensure that continued resistance or the collapse of political spaces do not destroy the morale and engagement of women activists. **In Indonesia**, partners have preempted the risk of community disappointment with participatory planning processes if the plans developed are not approved by putting the results of the *Musrenbang* (development planning assembly) processes online and installing computers in RHV villages to enable close monitoring of commitments made. In **Pakistan**, members of Women Leaders Groups experienced frustrations as uncertainty about the future of proposed new local government structures across the country continued for another year. RHV partner, Aurat Foundation deliberately countered the frustration of women leaders that had hoped to participate in these new structures by supporting them to document their experiences and the impact of their community advocacy work. A publication of case studies and a powerful series of short films have been created as a result.

11. Learning from GTF

11.1 Factors determining the ability of CSOs to impact on governance and transparency:

- The extent to which human rights are respected - at least to the extent that CSOs are able to engage in governance and transparency issues - as well as the level of government responsiveness to citizens concerns and the vibrancy and sustainability of civil society engagement are the greatest factors determining CSO ability to work effectively in this area.
- The ability of CSOs to demonstrate high levels of transparency and accountability themselves is a key factor in their ability to impact positively on governance processes. Partners in **Nigeria, Guatemala and Uganda** for example have all worked deliberately to ensure that clear accountability mechanisms are firmly embedded in coalition governance systems. The importance of research and evidence based advocacy is a crucial part of RHV partner work to raise women's voices on the issues that affect them most. Partners in **Chile, Mozambique, Honduras, Nepal, Tanzania, Liberia and Pakistan** all spoke to the value of social audits and large-scale surveys. However, partners in **South Africa and Mozambique** noted the impact that the global financial crisis had had on their ability to secure funds for these kinds of research activities due to outcomes being less 'tangible'. Reduced investment in strongly evidenced lobbying and campaigning threatens to reduce the legitimacy and impact of civil society actions.
- Whilst the value of coalition working has emerged stronger than ever this year, a broad and varied membership can also result in different understandings of key issues and concepts – especially where these are more controversial e.g. FGM and abortion. Partners in **Nigeria and Uganda** have conducted refresher training for coalition members to ensure all members speak from a strong unified understanding of key issues.
- RHV project partners also agree that at times, their ability to impact on governance systems comes from knowledge of when to make strategic compromises. In **Uganda** for example,

coalition members accepted the government's ratification of the Maputo Protocol with two reservations (on the control of fertility and abortion) rather than risk losing the legal protection obtained on other key women's rights issues.

11.2 Evidence of innovative practice – see section 10 above

11.3 Influential intervention strategies for meaningful and significant social change:

Training and supporting individual women to have the skills and confidence to influence governance systems and demand transparency is one of the most influential strategies for achieving meaningful and sustained social change – and one that ensures that project activities respond to the diversity of women's experiences.

The **RHV Nepal** project provides one of the best examples of the significant and sustained change brought about by this approach. By empowering 1,997 individual women to take part in local decision making structures responsible for community water, forest resources, school and health management - through intense daily community discussion classes - the project has been able to bring about significant change at the village and municipal levels. **In South Africa** too, the importance of activities to support the personal transformation of individual activists is the foundation for the meaningful social change seen in their subsequent community advocacy and lobbying work: *“Raising Her Voice had made us aware of our power and how to interrupt the various power sites that seek to oppress us. Personally I have been involved in various activities that seek to address issues of poverty and violence and RHV has helped in raising many women's voices as well as mine.”*

RHV partners reported the strategic value of using elections and the hosting of high-profile summits to amplify the impact of their lobbying efforts. **Pan Africa** partner and hosts of the SOAWR coalition, Equality Now for example, have created linkages between activists at the local, national and regional level to influence significant progress for RHV projects. In 2010 they continued their strategic use of regional lobbying hooks – such as the maternal, infant and child health themed 15th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly and the launch of the African Women's Decade – to provide tangible entry points for campaign and advocacy gains at country level. Kenya's ratification of the Protocol as it prepared to launch the UN Women's Decade in 2010 and Uganda's ratification as the government prepared to host the 2010 AU Summit are two such examples.

Elections continued to create valuable windows of opportunity to push politicians to progress campaign and advocacy gains. **In Mozambique** a bold pre-election campaign telling MPs to 'vote through the Domestic Violence Bill or we won't vote for you' resulted in the Bills successful passage through Parliament. On the other hand, partners in **Nigeria** reported a 60% change in elected representatives following the recent elections. This is likely to create a loss of momentum for the passage of the GEO Bill while new MPs are introduced to the Bill's importance by RHV coalition members.

Although many MTE reports demonstrated that monitoring mechanisms were often unable to accurately assess wider social impacts, partners in many countries are starting to report indicators of wider but significant social change. **In Nigeria** for example, women's participation in the recent party primary elections was unprecedented and RHV partner WRAPA is documenting an increase of gender based violence reporting in legal clinics. Increased reporting of GBV cases have been documented by numerous RHV country partners.

11.4 Governance in fragile states

- **In Indonesia**, RHV partners in Aceh note that while women played a central social, economic and political role during the conflict, they had been pushed back from the political realm in the

post-conflict settlement. Partners also found that by taking a local development rather than a gender angle as their community entry point, they had been more easily able to open doors to address other, more gender-relevant issues at later stages of the programme.

- Experience in **Pakistan and Indonesia** evidences that, whilst access to information, funds and political power is often being monopolised by male-dominated networks of patronage, well-connected women can also benefit from their influence within these networks. RHV projects are starting to deliberately focus on capitalising on this influence where it exists.

- **In Nigeria**, historic mistrust between state and non-state actors and CSOs is gradually being overcome through deliberate documentation and demonstration of the valuable contributions made by civil society to developmental and governance processes.

- **The Pan African** RHV coalition host SOAWR supported women survivors of sexual violence from Kenya and Zimbabwe to address the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) during its annual open session on Women Children and Conflict in Africa. In its April 2010 communiqué the PSC underscored the need to strengthen women's participation in formal peace negotiations as well as in security sector reform and peace building. A positive relationship has created space for future SOAWR collaboration at this level.

11.5 Access to justice and human rights:

Campaigning on individual cases of human rights abuses can help to build a strong momentum behind calls for change at national level. In **Bolivia and Liberia** red-card actions and marches in support of individual GBV and racial discrimination cases have supported efforts to defend human rights. For example, a Liberian woman who refused attempts to force her to undergo FGM and reported the attempted rights abuse to her local court is now, after coalition support and campaigning, having her case heard at the 1st Judicial Circuit Court in Monrovia.

A 'Guide to Using the Maputo Protocol for Legal Action' was developed by RHV **Pan Africa** partner Equality Now to aid jurists and activists to understand the Protocol and contribute to its application by the bench and bar at national level. The guide is set to be printed and disseminated in the first quarter of 2011-12.

11.6 11.7 and 11.8 Public expenditure monitoring, access to public services, addressing corruption and ensuring transparency in decentralisation processes:

Examples of how RHV partners have supported women to monitor expenditure and increase access to public services are provided throughout this report. In **Armenia, Nepal and Nigeria** have all reported direct impacts on improvements to healthcare, education, water and sanitation services through direct participation in development planning processes this year. In **Armenia**, community participation in budget setting in 4 areas has also resulted in RHV partner Civic Centres receiving funds in recognition of their value in advice for 2,780 women and direct service delivery for 2,300 children with disabilities and specific health, education and social needs. In **Nepal** women in local leadership positions investigated the misuse of funds by community health, water and sanitation, school and forest user committees in three districts - retrieving a total of £10,112. **Pan African** SOAWR coalition members were also invited by the AU Social Affairs Department to contribute their expertise in a range of high-level policy development meetings.

In Bolivia, IFFI has taken full advantage of the decentralisation process to ensure that as many women's rights proposals as possible are incorporated into new Departmental powers and policies including the incorporation of gender equity policy into the final draft of Cochabamba's Departmental Autonomic Statute. IFFI is also supporting women to demand greater transparency around the disbursement of funds at municipal and Departmental levels.

11.9 Gender, social exclusion and governance:

Examples of how RHV projects have supported women to dismantle barriers to their exclusion and increase their voice are provided throughout this report. Other interesting learning includes:

- In **Guatemala**, partners noted how the fragility of the state and its structures (established on a monocultural logic in a multicultural country) has required non-stop effort to understand how meaningful changes are made and rights advanced by organisations that are mostly rural and indigenous in their composition.
- **In Aceh, Indonesia**, many of the women trained through the RHV project are relatively young, and at times have had to struggle to be taken seriously in a society in which seniority is highly respected – “*struggling twice as hard for their voices to be heard by more senior women.*” However, most participants were supportive of young women’s involvement, equally recognising their relative mobility with lighter family responsibilities and their ability “*to put their newly acquired skills to use for a longer period of time.*”
- Domestic workers are some of the most invisible, marginalised groups and one of the few sectors lacking formal labour regulation. In December 2010, RHV partners in **Uruguay** secured a collective agreement to improve salaries for domestic workers.
- **In Armenia**, RHV partner ‘Bridge of Hope’, an organisation focusing on disability rights developed a draft law on Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities. This will be shared with other RHV partners.
- **In Pan Africa**, learning from the RHV peer learning review to Nepal has resulted in the sharing of successful work on increasing rural women’s voices. The possibility of piloting it with SOAWR partners in Burkina Faso is currently being explored.
- Engagement with non-state actors, particularly religious and traditional leaders remains a crucial part of RHV strategies in all countries. In **Uganda** coalition membership of two Muslim organisations has helped hugely to engage Islamic leadership positively at the highest level.

Women’s organizations working daily with communities can sometimes forget just how ground-breaking and transformative this can be for those taking part. **In Indonesia**, the process tracing evaluation found that “*what was repeatedly stressed in the interviews was how new the gender equality approach was. The training and outside support and encouragement given by Oxfam and partner organisations was seen as key contributing factors to the women’s new-found ‘voice.’*” **In Nepal** too the absolute newness of this engagement in RHV communities was noted.

11.10 Media and governance:

Organisations and individuals from the media world are central and equal partners to many RHV projects. The **Pan African** SOAWR campaign supported by RHV includes formal partnerships with innovative media organisations like Fahamu, Forum Mulher, WRAPA and FEMNET. Fahamu, publishers of the respected Pambazuka newsletters has taken the lead on the development of the SOAWR campaign’s media strategy and dedicated Fifth Anniversary editions to the Maputo Protocol’s progress. **In Nigeria**, trained journalists independently formed a network to support the aims of RHV project. Media and broadcast space was given free in **Indonesia and Bolivia** whilst partners in **Bolivia** received a national award for Communications for Equality for the Gender Equity Observatory’s media monitoring component. This led to a positive new alliance with the La Paz Chamber of Publishing Agencies who incorporated reporting on gender equality into the awards category at the 2010 National Publishing Festival.

RHV campaign and awareness-raising strategies nearly all recognised the influential potential of popular culture. Strategies included pop songs by well-known **Honduran** singers about the importance of gender budgets; comic books in **Indonesia** and radio dramas in local languages in nearly all country projects. The ‘Crossroads’ radio drama in **The Gambia** for example simplifies the Protocol articles in English, French and Wolof. Evidence is now emerging of the

impact that widespread media profiling of project issues is having. In **The Gambia**, partner surveys found that over 25% of the public are aware of the Protocol and the new Women's Act.

RHV Mozambique partner N'wety collected over 600 stories nationwide of women and families affected by domestic violence. 25 of these real life stories were profiled over an 8 week period on 4 different TV channels and a series of four short films has been produced. In **Pakistan**, powerful films of the work of individual RHV Women Leaders Group members have also been produced.

In Armenia and Guatemala, women activists and young people in project areas have been trained to use new social and traditional media to increase awareness of key campaign issues. For indigenous women in **Guatemala**, long excluded from decision-making spaces, training in communication strategies has enabled them 'to take public spaces denied to women' to protect land and natural resources, demand accountability and negotiate local authority budgets. RHV Partner Ixmacane in Quiché has worked with local indigenous women to establish the first women's radio programme. Partners in many countries noted the double value of developing communication skills for women with no formal studies – both as a strategy for enabling effective engagement in systems of governance and as a key strategy for illiterate women's deep personal empowerment.