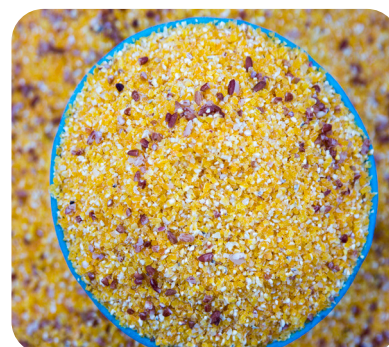


V4CP Final Report

2016-2020

Including Progress Report 2020



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Voice for Change Partnership

The [Voice for Change Partnership \(V4CP\) programme](#) is a collaboration between the [Dutch government](#), [SNV](#), and [IFPRI](#) to empower civil society organisations (CSOs) as advocates for policies and practices benefitting poor and marginalised communities. The programme aims to influence systems change in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, and Rwanda, focusing on food and nutrition security, resilience, renewable energy, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Consortium lead: SNV

Consortium partner: IFPRI

Participating CSOs:

Burkina Faso

- Fédération des Professionnels Agricoles du Burkina
- Coopérative de Prestation de Services Agricoles Coobsa
- Fédération Nationale des Groupements Naam
- L'Union Nationale des Producteurs de Riz du Burkina Faso
- Association de la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune de la Comoé-Leraba
- Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer
- Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité - Dedougou
- Association pour la Promotion de l'Élevage au Sahel et en Savane
- Plateforme d'Action pour la Sécurisation des Ménages Pastoraux

Ghana

- Grameen Ghana
- Ghana Trade and Livelihood Coalition
- Northern Development Society
- Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana
- Shea Network Ghana
- Organization for Indigenous Initiatives and Sustainability

- Ghana Alliance for Clean Cook stoves
- Centre for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development
- Intervention Forum
- Integrated Action for Community Development
- New Energy
- United Civil Society Organizations for National Development

Honduras

- Asociación de organismos no gubernamentales
- Centro de Desarrollo Humano
- Federación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales de Desarrollo
- Red de Desarrollo Sostenible
- Fundación Vida
- Hermandad de Honduras

Kenya

- Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors of Kenya
- Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme
- Consumer Unity & Trust Society
- Kenya Livestock Marketing Council
- Centre for Minority Rights and Development
- Pan African Justice Alliance
- Clean Cook Stove Association of Kenya
- Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood
- Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)

Rwanda

- ADECOR
- Rwanda Development Organization
- Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) alliance
- CARITAS
- IMBARAGA
- DUHAMIC-ADRI

Indonesia

- Konsepsi
- Transform
- Ayo Indonesia
- Bengkel Advokasi Pemberdayaan dan Pengembangan Kampung
- Yayasan Pengkajian Pengembangan Sosial
- Lembaga Pengkajian Dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat
- Yayasan Mitra Bentala
- Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia Daerah Sumatera Barat
- Yayasan Konservasi Way Seput

Contents

- Highlights 5
- 1. Introduction 6
 - 1.1 Key achievements 7
- 2. Capacity strengthening trajectory 9
 - 2.1 Main achievements in 2020 9
 - 2.2 Achievements of the programme period 10
 - 2.2.1 Capacity building approach 10
 - 2.2.2 Realised outputs 11
- 3. Evidence generation and dissemination 14
- 4. Enabling environment and space for CSOs 16
- 5. Support to advocacy plans - main achievements in 2020 18
 - 5.1 Food and nutrition security (FNS) 18
 - 5.2 Renewable energy 20
 - 5.3 Resilience 22
 - 5.4 WASH 23
- 6. Support to advocacy plans - Achievements over the programme period 25
 - 6.1 Food and nutrition security (FNS) 25
 - 6.1.1 Advocacy focus 25
 - 6.1.2 Results 25
 - 6.2 Renewable energy 28
 - 6.2.1 Advocacy focus 28
 - 6.2.2 Results 28
 - 6.3 Resilience 31
 - 6.3.1 Advocacy focus 31
 - 6.3.2 Results 32
 - 6.4 WASH 34
 - 6.4.1 Advocacy focus 34
 - 6.4.2 Results 34
 - 6.5 Gender equality and social inclusion 39
 - 6.6 Effective advocacy approaches 40
- 7. M&E Framework 42
- 8. Sustainability 44
- 9. Partnership model 45
- 10. Financial implementation 47
- 11. Overall lessons learned and conclusions 49

Annexes

Annex 1. Overview of CSOs	50
Annex 2: Aggregated data: Output and outcome results	52
Annex 3. List of Stories of Change	85
Annex 4: List of evidence products	87
Annex 5: Summary report by country (2016-20) :	
Annex 5a: Summary report Burkina Faso	101
Annex 5b: Summary report Ghana	107
Annex 5c: Summary report Honduras	114
Annex 5d: Summary report Indonesia.....	119
Annex 5e: Summary report Kenya	125
Annex 5f: Summary report Rwanda	131
Annex 6. (a) Budget depletion 2020 ; (b) 2016-2020 [to be submitted separately]	

Highlights¹

[Joining hands to pioneer improved stoves](#)

Improved collaboration – Renewable Energy - Honduras

CSOs initiated an Interinstitutional Platform for increased adoption of clean cooking with 23 members, a powerful vehicle for participative generation and dissemination of evidence and the driving force behind the National Strategy for clean cooking.

[Zero to hero: Civil society builds national movement to end stunting](#)

Improved influence – FNS – Indonesia

CSOs contributed to the emerging national movement to reduce stunting and helped transform a neglected issue into a political priority. The V4CP blend of local insight, international expertise, and evidence-based advocacy helped to scale action on stunting horizontally across districts and vertically from provincial to national level. CSOs also [mobilised the voice of millennials](#) in this effort.

[Unify to amplify: Collaborating for change](#)

Improved influence – WASH – Ghana

V4CP was at the heart of the formation of the national Alliance for WASH Advocacy, which aims to trigger sectoral changes, such as an inclusive sector policy and improved sanitation governance structures. As a result, they managed to inspire the national Government to step up efforts to improve Ghana's outdated sanitation governance structures, policies and processes.

[Power to the people: advancing solar energy](#)

Accountability – Renewable Energy – Burkina Faso

After the V4CP CSOs successfully advocated for increased government coordination on training curricula addressing the lack of qualified renewable energy technicians, the Minister of Energy formalised CSO consultations on the issue.

[Including pastoralists' voices in formulating climate-related policies in Kenya](#)

Accountability – Resilience – Kenya

CSOs worked with national and local government to ensure that the voices of pastoral communities were heard in the review of one of Kenya's key climate change policies, the National Climate Change Action Plan. This ensured that the priorities of these vulnerable communities were included in the strategic objectives of the second NCCAP.

[Tackling budget allocation and expenditure for food and nutrition security](#)

Accountability – FNS – Rwanda

RDO, with the support of IFPRI, managed to convince the Government to increase its FNS budget in 2020 to help ease access to nutritious food for Rwandan citizens. This required the CSO to master a niche form of expertise that involves understanding the government's work processes and the interpretation of budgetary data in order to effectively push a winning advocacy agenda.

¹ Stories of Change can also be accessed on <http://interactive.snv.org/v4cp#183355>

1. Introduction

Funded by the Dutch Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), SNV Netherlands Development Organisation led the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) in close collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). By increasing the capacities of local actors to advocate for an improved enabling environment, the V4CP programme contributed to embedding the interests of low-income and marginalised communities into selected policies and practices of government and businesses. V4CP opted for a collaborative advocacy approach in which the creation and use of evidence to support the advocacy efforts by civil society organisations (CSOs) was a key component.

The V4CP programme was implemented through a strategic partnership of SNV, IFPRI, DGIS and 51 CSOs. It addressed four themes - Food & Nutrition Security (FNS), Renewable Energy (RE), Resilience, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) - in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya and Rwanda with support of the Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN).



Nearly half of the CSOs engaged with the V4CP programme are membership organisations, such as associations, movements, platforms, or alliances. While not specifically measured, their members and/or constituencies are likely to have indirectly benefitted from the V4CP capacity strengthening and advocacy interventions. An overview of the CSOs is presented in Annex 1.

The V4CP programme supported the CSOs through three intervention strategies:

- capacity development on relevant topics, including advocacy, thematic knowledge, use and creation of evidence, business development and leadership;
- evidence generation and dissemination in support of the advocacy agenda of the CSOs;
- support for the design and implementation of advocacy plans.

This is the final narrative report. It includes an overview of the [key achievements in 2020](#), as well as an [analytical reflection of the approach and results over the full project period](#) for the four thematic areas, cross-cutting subjects, the partnership model, and conclusions and lessons learned. Summary reports for each country are presented in Annex 5.

Implementation from March 2020 onwards was strongly affected by the [COVID pandemic](#) in all countries. The control measures put in place by governments varied in severity and duration. For instance, [Honduras](#) has been effectively under lockdown since March, while restrictions in [Ghana](#) and [Burkina Faso](#) were less stringent to start with and further relaxed in June. In Rwanda, the restrictions were partly reinstated in August to avoid a second wave of infections. In [Indonesia](#), large-scale social restrictions were put in place for Jakarta and many other locations. This includes the closure of schools and workplaces, limitations of activities in public places, and transport limitations. In [Kenya](#), lockdowns were imposed in large urban areas and counties which saw high infection rates. These lockdowns have since been lifted. Also, the SNV global team members and IFPRI staff were not able to travel from March onwards.

“Online advocacy through online seminars, trainings and competitions provides a wider space to communicate the interest of youth, disabilities and women regarding Food and Nutrition Security. In addition, online advocacy facilitates the process of closer relations and communication between various elements in government, from district to provincial and national levels.”

Vinsen Bureni,
Director of Bengkel APPEK, NTT

The restrictions forced V4CP (CSOs, SNV, IFPRI) to adjust their ways of working and shift to online engagement. These adjustments took some time to become effective. Generally, no changes in the Theories of Change (ToCs) were required, but some of the advocacy messaging was adjusted, particularly in WASH, and in some cases, focus has been shifted to different target groups or activities adapted.

Due to the increased dependency on online platforms, programme implementation was affected by internet quality in the countries. For instance, CSOs in Indonesia made very effective use of widespread access to the internet and in doing so effectively expanded their outreach. Online engagement also allowed events to become more inclusive. In Honduras, Burkina Faso, and Kenya on the other hand, poor connectivity in rural areas combined with relatively limited experience with online engagement, complicated and delayed the implementation of the advocacy plans. A CSO in Kenya observed that:

"...Most stakeholders at community level don't have internet ready gadgets. Even with virtual interaction quality of signal has not been good as some cannot get quality internet bundle..."

To ensure timely completion of V4CP in this final year, all field activities by CSOs, SNV and IFPRI were planned to be completed by the end of September latest. The implementation period in 2020 was therefore already comparatively short to begin with and offered limited opportunities to make up for COVID-instigated delays in this final year of V4CP.

No major changes in the [political situation in the V4CP countries](#) occurred in 2020. In Honduras, civic space remained highly restricted, and in Burkina Faso the high level of insecurity due to the violence perpetrated by unidentified armed groups and inter-community conflicts continued.

The [external final evaluation](#) conducted by INTRAC was successfully completed in 2020.

Final Evaluation – Main conclusions

- V4CP was implemented **effectively** and has been **relevant** in the country context.
- Significant **capacity development** has taken place, which is regarded by CSOs as the most important programme component.
- **Collaboration** has increased between partner CSOs as well as with a range of other stakeholders including government, the media, private sector and other (non-V4CP) CSOs. Collaboration with private sector actors was limited in comparison to government actors.
- **Engagement** with stakeholders has increased; that provided the opportunity for partner CSOs to bring their advocacy messages to key decision makers.
- This, along with their increased capacity and collaboration with each other, with IFPRI and with other actors has offered partner CSOs the opportunity to **influence** key discussions, policies and outcomes.
- CSOs have induced significant **changes to policy and practice** at a range of levels.
- Many **gender and social inclusion** issues were incorporated at a later stage in the programme, and the programme has not achieved its full potential in this regard.
- Some partner CSOs have successfully gained additional donor funding to **sustain** their evidence-based advocacy efforts as a result of their **enhanced credibility** and reputation (this applied to about 45% of the CSOs as per November 2020).

1.1 Key achievements

Key achievements over the lifetime of the programme are summarised below and described in more detail in the following chapters, as well as in the Final Evaluation report.

- [CSO capacities have significantly been reinforced](#) through joint capacity strengthening and learning events, as well as through targeted support such as mini-workshops, coaching, on-the-job support, peer-to-peer learning, and exchange visits. 94% of the CSOs now rate their capacities in leadership, evidenced based advocacy, thematic knowledge and organisational sustainability good or higher than previously (Chapter 2). Although this self-assessment had some limitations as it didn't capture other more intangible capacities well (see Final Evaluation), the process helped the CSOs to critically reflect on their capacities and to define gaps, which helped to contextualise the capacity development programme.

- A strong [sharing and learning culture](#) developed, both amongst CSOs and between CSOs and external partners. CSOs were increasingly planning, developing and implementing activities together, both within and outside V4CP, which increased the quality and effectiveness of their advocacy efforts (Chapter 2).
- Increased range and effectiveness of [collaboration](#) with a range of stakeholders including government, other CSOs, members of parliament, media, and development partners. Collaboration with private sector actors improved as well but was comparatively more limited (Chapters 5 and 6).
- The [exposure of CSOs through participation in national and international conferences](#) served to further enhance their thematic knowledge and positioning. Similarly, the thematic exchange visits that were organised by V4CP also allowed CSOs to engage in in-depth discussions on their respective advocacy strategies and activities, and inspired several CSOs to include new ideas in their advocacy plans (Chapter 2).
- The increased level of interaction with stakeholders, through formal and informal channels, allowed partner CSOs to share their advocacy messages with key decision makers. This, along with their increased capacity and credibility, and collaboration with each other, IFPRI and other actors, offered partner CSOs the opportunity [to influence key discussions, policies and outcomes](#) (Chapter 6).
- Over [300 evidence products](#) were generated, used, and disseminated by CSOs. CSO ownership of evidence generation and products increased over the years thanks to their enhanced research and analytical skills, resulting in more effective use of evidence in their advocacy (Chapter 3).
- CSOs were involved in over 1,400 advocacy initiatives. This included diverse actions such as encounters with stakeholders, sharing of evidence products, involving the media as well as coalition building with other CSOs (Chapter 6).
- Following the conclusions and recommendations of the [gender equality and social inclusion \(GESI\)](#) assessment conducted in Kenya and Burkina Faso early 2019, follow-up capacity strengthening sessions on GESI were organised in all countries. Context analyses, M&E frameworks and advocacy plans were reviewed to make GESI more explicit. This also resulted in the development of business cases in favour of GESI (Chapter 6)
- More than 80% of the targeted [policies](#) showed progress in their development and/or implementation. Among the listed factors that contributed to these policy changes are collaboration with key stakeholders, the use of validated evidence, media channels and public forums, educating stakeholders as well as the recognition of CSOs as trustworthy and knowledgeable partners (Chapters 5 and 6).
- Key achievements in evidence-based advocacy are highlighted in 26 [Stories of Change](#), which can be found on the V4CP website² and have been viewed more than 6,000 times. See also Annex 3 for a full list of Stories of Change. Achievements were also captured in regular blogs and quarterly newsletters.

² <https://snv.org/project/voice-change-partnership-v4cp>

2. Capacity strengthening trajectory

The CSOs' capacity development trajectory consisted of three intervention strategies, focusing on four capabilities (leadership, advocacy, including the use of evidence, thematic knowledge and organisational sustainability). This section starts with an overview of key results in 2020, followed by a reflection on the approach and the results over the programme period. A comprehensive overview of aggregated output results is presented in Annex 2.

2.1 Main achievements in 2020

The capacities of the CSOs were assessed via a guided self-assessment. The CSOs rated their capacities in the four defined capacity areas: leadership, advocacy, thematic knowledge and organisational sustainability. The change in capacities over the years is shown in the graphs below.



- The average score over all four capacities showed a slight increase, from 3.5 in 2019 to 3.6 in 2020. For three capacity areas – leadership, advocacy and organisational sustainability - the average score in 2020 was similar to 2019.
- 16% of the CSOs reported an increase in assessed capacities in 2020 vs 2019; the large majority (73%) of the CSOs maintained their capacity levels between 2019 and 2020; and four CSOs recorded a slight decrease in their capacities.
- Several CSOs indicated to not have significantly changed their capacities in the first half of 2020, therefore they saw no need to complete the 2020 survey; instead we used their 2019 capacity scores.

Change in capacities (2020 vs 2019)	Number of CSOs	Percentage
Increase	8	16%
Decrease	4	8%
Stable	37	73%
No comparison possible	2	4%
Total	51	100%

As the above table and graphs show, the changes in capacities in 2020 compared to 2019 have been limited (based on the average scores over all four capacities). This was in line with our expectations. The limited increase is partly explained by the fact that the capacity assessment in 2020 was conducted in the month of July, meaning that the assessment period covered only six months instead of the normal period of 12 months. Further, some capacity development workshops and engagements scheduled for 2020 were cancelled due to COVID-19, hence CSOs had less exposure in the first half of 2020 than planned for.

The capacity workshops that were organised in the first half of 2020 had a special focus on communication (see below), resource mobilisation, use of evidence, gender equality and social inclusion and policy dialogue. In the months of August and September, learning and closing events took place at country and global level.

With the onset of COVID-19 in early 2020 and the introduction of movement restrictions in the countries, the CSOs had to substitute their reliance on face-to-face advocacy engagements with virtual advocacy engagements. To ensure CSOs could use these virtual tools effectively, the CSOs were trained on the effective use of Zoom, podcasts, WhatsApp, YouTube, etc for advocacy engagement and data collection. There was an increase in media engagement through TV, newspaper and radio. Particularly interesting was the increased use of social media and community radio. There was also a lot more sharing by CSOs during the heightened period of COVID-19.

2.2 Achievements of the programme period

3.2.1 Capacity building approach

V4CP aimed to enhance CSOs' voice in government and business policies and practices in the interest of low-income and marginalised communities. The capacity building programme aimed to increase CSO capabilities in:

- leadership (personal, business and societal),
- advocacy, including the use of evidence,
- thematic knowledge, and
- organisational sustainability.

Through the strengthening of CSOs' capacities, along with evidence generation and dissemination and support to CSOs' advocacy plans, V4CP envisaged the following outcomes:

- increased CSO participation, voice and influence in the public and private spheres,
- increased political commitment to adopt policies and practices,
- inclusive policies, regulations & frameworks developed, and
- improved service delivery by public and private actors.

The capacity building trajectory covered a range of topics, including individual, organisational and societal leadership, advocacy strategies, organisation management, coalition building, oversight and social auditing, communication and media, gender equality and social inclusion, context and stakeholder analyses, theory of change development, policy development, business development, research methods.

At least two plenary workshops were organised on an annual basis: a capacity development workshop and a learning event. These were complemented by mini workshops for selected CSOs and themes. The workshops were facilitated by both V4CP internal and external experts depending on the topic. Capacity needs assessments were regularly conducted during the capacity development events. In the first two years of the programme the needs of the CSOs were assessed as quite

similar, but during the programme a more customised approach was followed to address the specific capacity needs of the CSOs.

Coaching was used to support CSOs' leadership and business development. The coaching journey and deliverables were not "one size fits all". Actual coaching content and targets were defined by individual organisations depending on their priorities, and thus different deliverables per organisation have been realised. Coaching was provided by V4CP staff and external specialists.

The CSOs also received on the job support by SNV advisors in the preparation and implementation of their advocacy interventions.

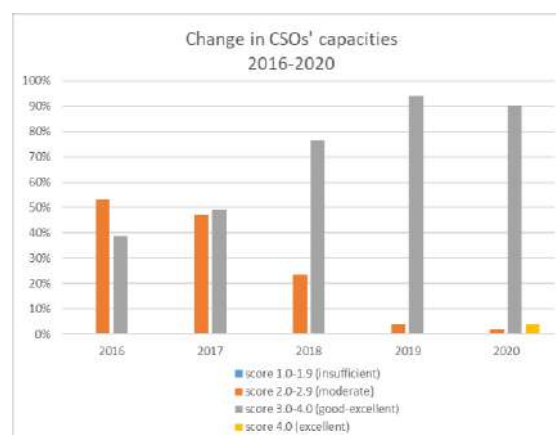
Finally, CSOs were on different occasions supported and exposed to attend and present in national and international fora where they learned from others, but also shared their own experiences and successes.

3.2.2 Realised outputs

The table below shows that 78% of the CSOs reported an increase in assessed capacities in 2020 versus 2016, while 18% maintained their capacity levels.

Change in capacities (2020 vs 2016)	Number of CSOs	Percentage
Increase	40	78%
Decrease	1	2%
Stable	9	18%
No comparison possible	1	2%
Total	51	100%

Overall, CSO capacities in leadership, thematic knowledge, advocacy and organisational sustainability have significantly been improved; whereas in 2016 the average score over the four assessed capacities was 2.9, in 2020 the average score had been raised to 3.6. CSOs are now more conversant with their respective themes, are using evidence in key platforms to influence agendas and feel more confident about their organisations' future sustainability, apart from Kenya where the organisational sustainability capacity just slightly improved in some cases, and reduced in others. This is mostly due to continued financial sustainability concerns also linked to a shrinking donor landscape.



Some CSOs had scored themselves relatively high at baseline, but then gave a more realistic - lower - score later in the process. On paper, this looked like a reduction in capacity (or at least, it reduced the rate of change), but it does not correspond to an actual reduction in capacity, as CSOs' qualitative reporting illustrates. This may also explain the negative change over time reported by one of the CSOs (see table above). The CSO concerned scored its thematic knowledge lower in 2020 than in 2016, while the qualitative comments to the assessment did not indicate that this reflected the reality.

A specific result of the programme worth mentioning is CSOs' increased coalition building skills. The identification and use of complementary capacities among CSO partners (within and external to V4CP), the joining of forces to increase power and visibility are mentioned by all CSOs as key assets of the programme. Several CSOs cited that their organisations have become more open-minded and transparent in their management of processes and operations, which led to the improved intra-organisational relationships.

Success factors

The final evaluation states that the capacity development support, in its broadest sense, was the most valued element of V4CP from the CSOs' perspective. The training and mentoring activities have by and large been well received, as was SNV's and IFPRI's role as a 'partner' and 'convener' in

helping them to develop relationships with key stakeholders and evidence to support their advocacy messages. The reputation of SNV and IFPRI helped lending greater credibility to the CSOs until their relationships were established and recognised (page 39, draft final evaluation report, INTRAC, September 2020).

"The partnership with IFPRI in the process of food and nutrition budget tracking has enabled my organisation to gain more knowledge and credibility in our advocacy work both at central and local level. RDO is now recognised as one of the key CSOs when it comes to tracking the government budget, we were even requested by the Ministry of Finance to train other CSOs on budget formulation and tracking". – RWIBASIRA Eugene, Executive Secretary, RDO

The table below shows CSOs' appreciation of the trainings and workshops organised by V4CP, as assessed by the final evaluation.



Scale of 0 to 5, where 0= not useful, and 5 = very useful

The different support activities offered by the V4CP programme led to more structured and focused advocacy plans in which learning got a lot of attention. Also important was the [theory of change \(ToC\)](#) approach and the [outcome harvesting](#) which CSOs acknowledged were new approaches to programming and learning. Many of them have decided to adapt and use the tools also in their existing and future projects. The regular review of the ToC with respect to the changing contexts and new insights gained, allowed the projects to adapt advocacy efforts to the prevailing environment and lessons learned, incorporating new approaches.

"I appreciate how the skills gotten through V4CP have enabled my organisation to develop a more robust strategic plan with clear goals and objectives to be attained in the next five years and how the organisation will attain these" NDIZEYE Damien, Executive Secretary, ADECOR

Peer-to-peer learning appeared to be key in CSOs' capacity development process. The mix of CSOs with different portfolios, mandates and specialities enriched the partnership. Thematic peer reviews were used to promote accountability and learning across partners in the project. The joint planning, implementation and review of advocacy activities enabled cross-pollination of ideas and motivation between CSOs. The CSOs working together complemented each other, and the sharing of information and experiences created an atmosphere of trust and strong commitment to jointly achieve the projects' objectives.

Challenges

Some of the challenges experienced in the capacity development process include:

- Some CSOs were confronted with high staff turnover. With the departure of staff trained by V4CP, the organisations lost critical capacities required for effective advocacy and organisational sustainability.
- The high staff turnover also required continuous refresher and/or follow-up training or coaching as new staff replace old.

- Despite their high commitment, the generally lean manpower basis of CSOs (staff often having to play multiple roles), made it sometimes difficult for staff members, to fully participate in the capacity development and advocacy activities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic that started early 2020 required adjustments of capacity development initiatives and advocacy strategies. Although this generally worked out surprisingly well, cases were reported that poor connectivity and limited familiarity with virtual platforms limited the participation of CSOs and other stakeholders in planned activities.
- Particularly in the later years of the programme, the diversity of CSOs' capacity development needs made it challenging to satisfy them all.
- In the initial years of the programme the CSOs active in FNS and Resilience experienced difficulties in understanding and effectively using the often-complex content of research reports, which reduced the impact of these evidence products in their advocacy strategies. This was largely solved after the mid-term evaluation by producing flyers, brochures and illustrated briefs based on the research findings.
- The annual planning horizon for new evidence generation appeared to be (too) short. It takes time to obtain ethical approval, research permits, find good collaborators / survey firms and conduct the study.

Lessons learned and recommendations

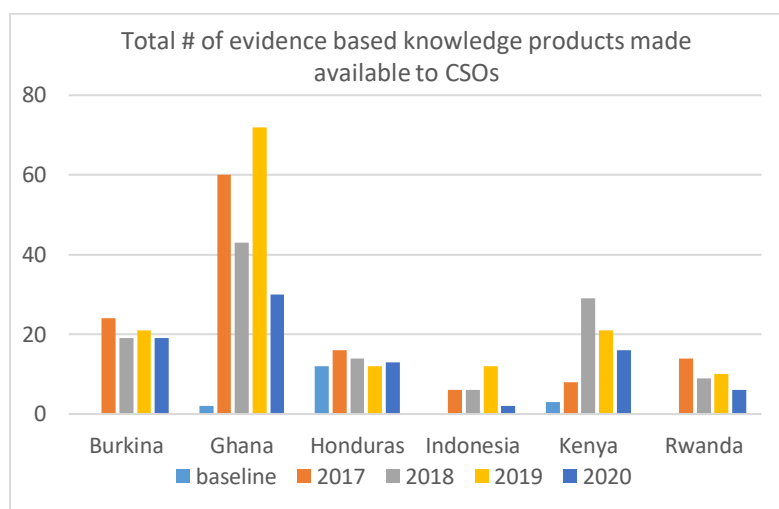
Key lessons learned with respect to capacity strengthening include:

- The well-defined capacity building trajectory and solid evidence generation, along with periodic review of the ToCs and advocacy strategies and plans, helped the CSOs keep focus and make necessary adjustments, to take optimal advantage of new opportunities and reduce risks of changing situations.
- Along with the customised coaching the incremental approach of the capacity development trainings made it possible to adequately and timely address emerging issues and challenges.
- Peer-to-peer learning played an important role in CSOs' capacity development. By joining hands in planning and implementation of advocacy interventions CSOs learned from each other and grew in their areas of weakness. Sharing experiences and learnings resulted in open, honest reflections and discussions on appropriate advocacy approaches and required capacities. This in turn led to increased insight in their own and each other's capacity strengths, weaknesses, and complementarities.
- The participative and transparent way of working of the programme right from the start created CSO buy-in and ownership. By having a say in determining the topics of the capacity workshops as well as the coaching trajectory, CSO ownership and responsibility for their own development, in relation to the programme's objectives, was created.
- Cross-cutting topics, like gender, climate change and insecurity need to be systematically integrated in the capacity building trajectory and advocacy approach from the outset, with their own targets and measurement methods. The evaluation recommended future programmes to start with a gender and social inclusion analysis in order to address GESI specifically in the goal setting and the PMEL system.
- CSOs' increased legitimacy among stakeholders can be linked to their increased capacities.
- The tension observed between the capacity development goals on the one hand and the advocacy goals on the other by the Final Evaluation, is inherent to the set-up of the Dialogue and Dissent partnership programme. Although the two are not mutually exclusive, in practice one can get precedence over the other. The evaluators felt that the capacity development support at times was neglected in favour of sectoral advocacy issues. The evaluation recommended for future like-minded programmes to separate out policy change from capacity development, as two separate ToCs, and create distinct activity plans around the two.

3. Evidence generation and dissemination

Generation and dissemination of evidence was one of the three V4CP intervention strategies. The aim was twofold: to empower CSOs to build strong cases for their advocacy issues, and to better inform decision makers and influence the policy agenda.

Significant progress has been made over the past five years in generating and disseminating evidence as an input into actual policy and strategy processes across all countries and all themes. The evidence generated proved to be a powerful tool to support CSOs and provide legitimacy to their advocacy actions. Not only has the evidence been of great value to the CSOs, but it has also triggered action from policy makers. Research findings were also published in the media, resulting in widespread dissemination to the public, informing citizens and giving them an opportunity to engage.



Approaches

Two different evidence generation approaches were followed. In WASH and RE, evidence was either generated by commissioning national consultants or local research institutes - by the CSOs and SNV directly. In all cases CSOs were fully involved in the development of these studies. Experiences with this set-up were positive. It contributed to the CSOs' capacity to initiate and supervise studies, and further strengthened their thematic knowledge. The active involvement of the CSOs also ensured full ownership. SNV ensured that the studies were of the required standard. A list of evidence products generated by V4CP is given in Annex 4. In addition, policy notes, technical briefs and relevant evidence from secondary sources were shared with the CSOs.

In FNS and Resilience, IFPRI led in providing evidence to CSOs. This resulted in high quality and well received studies and policy notes that not only strengthened the advocacy messaging, but also helped CSOs to strengthen their knowledge and to gain credibility in their engagement with Government and other stakeholders.

Over time, and particularly following the MTR, the involvement of CSOs in the process of generating evidence increased, leading to greater ownership and buy-in of research outcomes, and subsequently more effective dissemination. In Rwanda for example, CSOs played a central role in collecting data for the e-Atlas and budget tracking by working virtually with IFPRI. Moreover, IFPRI researchers joined CSOs in presenting the findings to national and subnational governments and sector actors, thereby enhancing CSOs' confidence and credibility. Evidence products include reports, technical briefs, policy notes, and presentations. A full

"Before joining the V4CP programme, I learned about IFPRI from books, publications and articles that were shared by my colleagues. Now, I feel proud to have opportunity to work and learn with IFPRI researchers through several research activities on Food and Nutrition Security. My knowledge and understanding on research have increased and been enriched because of the various forms of capacity building that have been provided. When we mention IFPRI in our research works, people are waiting for what we have done, what we have and what we will do for policy change."

Dr. Moh. Taqiuddin, Director, KONSEPSI

list of evidence products for FNS and Resilience is given in Annex 4.

IFPRI also provided capacity development to CSOs through workshops focusing on interpretation of study findings, developing policy briefs, and dissemination. CSOs were also empowered in research methodologies. In Honduras and Indonesia, for example, IFPRI trained CSOs on research methods which enabled them to participate in data collection and analysis, thereby strengthening their confidence and appreciation of the issues and their positioning with policy makers.

Lessons learned

Evidence-based advocacy is an effective way to inform and influence actors. With timely and compelling evidence, policymakers are more willing to make changes. For example, relevant analysis using government data that is well-presented can 'move mountains' as it makes decision makers confident about their actions.

The different approaches followed to generate evidence in the WASH and RE themes on the one hand and FNS and Resilience on the other have both shown advantages and disadvantages.

- The engagement of an internationally renowned research institute like IFPRI not only ensures high quality products, but can also open doors for the CSOs, particularly at higher levels of government. It allows dissemination of evidence products at high-level events. The challenge is to bridge the large gap between the research institute and the CSOs to ensure relevance and ownership. To ensure ownership it is therefore essential that CSOs are fully involved in the evidence development process. This then also becomes an element in the capacity strengthening process.
- The approach followed in WASH and RE ensures relevance and ownership of evidence products by CSOs and other actors involved, and the learning-by-doing approach further strengthens the sector knowledge and the research capacity of the CSOs. A disadvantage is that evidence products do not necessarily carry the same weight as those produced by internationally renowned research institutes. Also, the dissemination of findings, and with that drawing attention to advocacy messages at higher level events is less evident. Finally, the quality of evidence produced by consultants varies, and capacity strengthening can be required to ensure high quality products.

Evidence generation is an iterative process, where input from CSOs and other stakeholders leads to more responsive and locally relevant research products, increased ownership and more effective dissemination of research findings. Validation workshops proved a valuable tool to enhance ownership in this process. These collaborative processes result in immediate action from policy makers and private sector actors.

To allow effective use of evidence products by CSOs, additional explanation and training may be required.

Finally, the media is a powerful instrument to disseminate evidence. It can amplify key messages and fast track action by decision makers.

4. Enabling environment and space for CSOs

Civic space influences citizens' collective negotiation power for sustainable, inclusive development policies. It is conditional for effective CSO advocacy. Promotion of an enabling environment was an integral part of the V4CP Theory of Change, as it built on enhanced CSO capacities to increase their legitimacy and address (shrinking) civic space. The CIVICUS monitor has shown that the political context, and with that civic space, varied among the V4CP countries over the years, and classified civic space in Honduras and Rwanda as repressed, in Burkina Faso, Indonesia and Kenya as obstructed, and in Ghana as narrowed. This has affected the way the CSOs operated and engaged with government and other stakeholders in their respective countries (see chapters 5 and 6).

The section below gives an overview of the political situation in the six V4CP countries and the civic space in which V4CP operated. It sets the scene for the achievements of the CSOs in their specific sectors. These, as well as specific examples of how the V4CP CSOs have operated within their sectors, and how they have created space for themselves, can be found in chapters 5 and 6.

Burkina Faso

Following the uprising in 2014, which resulted in the resignation of the then-President, the political environment in Burkina Faso opened up. CSOs appeared to have to have ample space and power to influence decision-makers. Yet political authorities and CSOs continued to see themselves often as competitors instead of partners in development processes, as government institutions have generally been reluctant to reduce their control on service delivery.

In parallel, the security situation continued to deteriorate. Terrorist attacks have increased rapidly since 2014 and a state of emergency was declared in several regions in December 2018. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic further adversely affected the socio-economic situation. With 2020 being an election year (both presidential and legislative) the situation is currently tense. While civil society actors can still play their role up to a certain level, the future is uncertain, and civil society strengthening is needed more than ever to ensure an enabling environment for the effective implementation and development of inclusive policies in Burkina Faso.

Rwanda

As of late, the government of Rwanda has come to recognise the role of CSOs in policy discourse and continues to solicit ideas from them. While some local governments continue to view CSOs through the prism of service delivery (to the effect that those CSOs not providing services have always been viewed less favourably), this is changing especially after the central government included a participatory governance model in 2017 as central to their long-term development strategy. Alongside, Rwandan civil society recently organised itself into the Rwandan Civil Society Platform, and arrangements are underway to decentralise civil society structures to match administrative decentralised entities. This will facilitate advocacy, lobbying and monitoring of government actions, as well as increase the capacity of CSOs to make use of the space available to push for issues they care about.

When it comes to the general markers of a free and democratic society, however, such as free press, Rwanda scores lower than its economic growth ratings. The operating context for CSOs is one of enforced collaboration with the government's political and development plans. Those CSOs working within these boundaries can act freely, those that do not, face difficulties.

Kenya

The government of Kenya introduced major reforms in its political system by enforcing a new constitution in 2010. It has introduced significant political, structural and economic reforms that have driven sustained economic growth, social development and political gains over the past decade. CSOs openly participate in public processes with growing social movements, connection to mainstream press and highly interactive social media. However, openness often depends on context, like local politics and issue. There seems to be a relation between civic space and political electioneering. Close to the election period, civic space for CSOs, especially those touching directly on governance matters, becomes very curtailed or guarded. Altogether, there is better listening and acceptance of civil society's role by government over the years, and hostility towards civil society has reduced.

Kenya's two-tier governance structure (national and county) has on many occasions presented conflicting interests between the two levels of government and resulted in slow harmonisation of important policies and programmes. Most government functions have been devolved to the counties and significant resources to go with this. This means that transparency and accountability at county level are needed more than before, but there are few CSOs to monitor the functioning of government. Which means that both at national and county level civil society still requires strengthening to be strong and vibrant.

Honduras

Different national and international sources characterised Honduras as a country with fragile democracy and governability, political instability, little transparency, and no accountability. This situation is unlikely to change any time soon, as Honduras has an active but dispersed and divided civil society, a population with little access to reliable information, and a government which controls most main media. Grassroots organisations have weakened and there is no visible leadership that can assemble alternative forces at the political level. All this makes it difficult for civil society to claim space and speak with a common voice.

There was initially little interest from the national government to engage with V4CP in the sectors where the V4CP programme has been working. However, over the years this has changed a bit through collaborative advocacy employed by V4CP. Establishing and strengthening links with local, regional and national stakeholders, creating consortia and joint agenda setting showcases that there is hope for an increasing voice of civil society in a repressed civic space.

Ghana

In Ghana the policy direction of current government focuses on creating an enabling environment, facilitating private sector participation but less on social service delivery. Civic space is at the very heart of decentralisation and local governance agenda of the government. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development through its social accountability unit coordinates and empowers CSOs and other citizens' groups to practice social accountability at different government levels.

This has resulted in various spaces for CSOs to set the agenda, influence policy, challenge government decisions, criticise both negatively and positively. Governments have always recognised civil society as key partners in development and listened to their views on development. The media also still plays a crucial role and has influence on government especially with the backing of an Independent National Media Commission. And leveraging on citizens' demands for the fulfilment of government campaign promises has led to increased collaboration between CSOs, government and the private sector, and increased political will and commitment to adjust policies and practices.

Indonesia

Indonesia has experienced dynamic democracy in the last two decades and has been considered a stable democracy. However, the development of democracy has faced some serious challenges over the last ten years. Civic space and the degrees of civil liberties vary between provinces and between sectors, but it can be stated that civic space has been narrowing in the past decade. The increasing political dynamics have been contributing to the downturn of civil liberties in which CSOs have been receiving less and less public trust. But this depends on the specific topics that CSOs address, and where. For V4CP sector topics, the existence of CSOs in Indonesia is still perceived as relevant and civil society is seen to play a significant role in providing constructive inputs and support to government policies and plans.

5. Support to advocacy plans - main achievements in 2020

V4CP's third intervention strategy was to provide support to the CSOs' advocacy plans. Below we reflect on the main results over 2020. A comprehensive overview of aggregated output and outcome results is presented in Annex 2.

With the increased political will and commitment towards the policy changes and implementation the CSOs have been advocating for, the CSOs have been shifting their focus to long-term outcomes, ensuring that the agreed policies and programmes will be effectively implemented with sufficient budget allocated. In the first quarter of 2020, the CSOs continued their advocacy efforts as set out in their plans. However, the COVID-19 outbreak affected progress in all countries from April onwards. While no changes in objectives were deemed necessary, strategies and workplans had to be adjusted. The engagement with governments and other stakeholders became more complicated, and in some cases decision-making by government slowed down, and government priorities changed.

In his final year, country level consultations were conducted to build on the achievements and to embed V4CP advocacy learnings in a future initiative under the Power of Voices Framework.

5.1 Food and nutrition security (FNS)

The pandemic presented new challenges by inhibiting some FNS advocacy plans in all six countries. It also created opportunities for CSOs to reach wider audiences through digital platforms and influence (nutrition-sensitive) responses to the crisis at national and sub-national levels. At the national level CSOs were supported to advocate for an inclusive response mechanism by national governments with particular attention for vulnerable groups.

The [Honduras](#) government's FNS priorities changed due to COVID-19. An emergency decree entered into force aiming to increase short-term food production, overriding the earlier approved national FNS Policy and Strategy to which the CSOs had contributed (PyENSAN). No budget was assigned to this Policy and Strategy and no progress was made with its implementation. Virtual forums and events were organised and promoted on social networks by V4CP to draw attention to this development and its implications. This attracted little support from the mass media but was well supported by community media.

Despite these national level setbacks, local advocacy efforts saw good progress.

Six municipal FNS tables³ developed and started implementing their FNS Municipal policies. One table developed its advocacy strategy to improve FNS in its municipality. The capacity of the National Network of Municipal Tables was further strengthened on the understanding of the FNS legal framework and around 20 Tables in the south and west regions have joined the network. V4CP engagement with UTSAN, the technical Unit of the national food and nutrition security system, continued but refocused on influencing its position on the FNS municipal tables and the budgets required to improve FNS at municipal level based on municipal budget analyses conducted by IFPRI, as was outlined in a [Story of Change](#).

In [Burkina Faso](#), CSOs' continued advocacy for public investment in family farming helped to convince the government to take measures to improve farmers' access to credit. This included:

- a decree to create the Agricultural Development Fund, which will act as a guarantee fund to facilitate loans through banks;
- a national fund for inclusive finance to make MFIs' financial products more affordable; and
- a decree to establish an agricultural insurance scheme.

CSOs also continued their advocacy for a [single coordinating body for FNS](#). Recently, a decree was drafted for the establishment of a national nutrition council at the President's office, to be chaired by the Ministry of Health. This decree, however, did not foresee the incorporation of the National Food Security Council housed in the Ministry of Agriculture into the Council. In response, the CSOs advocated merging the two councils to avoid having two coordinating bodies led by two different Ministries. Actions taken by the CSOs resulted in the President of Faso requesting consensus on this

³ Multi-stakeholder platforms initiated by the CSOs to create awareness about local food and nutrition security and influence municipal authorities to take the necessary action.

before signing it. V4CP and representatives of the SUN movement, which is closely aligned to the Ministry of Health, agreed to work together to resolve this.

CSOs in [Indonesia](#) saw good progress in their advocacy for the development and implementation of Food and Nutrition Security Action Plans at district level and scaling to provincial level. District Action Plans were launched and formalised at East Lombok, North Lombok, Manggarai and East Flores Districts. A provincial Action Plan was established and launched at West Nusa Tenggara province, while another Action Plan was drafted and discussed with related stakeholders and handed over to the government for finalisation at East Nusa Tenggara province.

The CSOs continued to advocate for the increased participation of youth and millennials in FNS advocacy, making good use of online opportunities during the pandemic. In collaboration with the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction Office of the Vice President, the Millennials Voice Platform was established for millennials and youth across Indonesia to share -and act on - FNS related activities. V4CP led the organisation of online competitions aimed to increase the interest, ideas and action of millennials on stunting prevention and reduction efforts. The competitions attracted a large number of participants. These initiatives amount to a [growing movement for better nutrition in Indonesia \(Story of Change\)](#).

To follow up the implementation of several inclusive policies, including the Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation, Regulations on Mandatory Food Fortification, and National Food Security and Nutrition Policy, CSOs in [Rwanda](#) mapped all food industries in the country. They stressed the need to [enforce the food fortification regulation](#) (see Story of Change). Subsequently, the government fully enforced the regulation, and food processors were referred to the National Industry Research and Development Agency for technical and financial support to enable them to comply. These measures have triggered systemic change, with the private sector increasing its investment in food fortification as actors sought to comply with the new policy guidelines. Furthermore, the Governors of both East and Northern provinces instructed district mayors to supply only fortified seeds during the planting season, a measure that would lead to increased production and consumption of diversified nutritious and fortified food. Districts developed their Development strategies aligned to new sector policy and strategies supported by CSOs.

In [Ghana](#), CSOs reported progress in the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy. This was catalysed by a partnership between V4CP, The Ghana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Kufour Foundation. This partnership hosted a national nutrition multi-stakeholder conference in January, at which they released a joint communique calling upon government to establish a National Nutrition Commission.

In the districts, decision makers maintained their support for the implementation of the nutrition policy, even though the budgetary proportion of the nutrition services remain a challenge. CSOs also reported improvement in the degree of accountability at district, municipal and sub-municipal level following the setup of functional nutrition committees and nutrition monitoring teams to hold duty bearers accountable.

Finally, CSO gave inputs to The Ministry of Food and Agriculture COVID 19 Mitigation Strategy, which included recent research findings by IFPRI.

In [Kenya](#), accountability at county level increased. One CSO, CUTS, anchored its county activities in earlier developed dairy stakeholders' platforms across the four counties. Stakeholders used the platforms to engage in policy reviews including the new industry regulations and submitted their memoranda promoting safety. Respective platform chairs are taking the lead in following-up these policy documents towards implementation. V4CP supported development of [dairy platform newsletters](#). Collaboration with private sector has also improved, CSOs worked jointly with consumer groups, Nakuru dairy platform, and private sector to host the milk safety campaign 2020, which was acknowledged in the Global Dairy Platform report 2020⁴. CUTS worked with county Division of Livestock Production to finalize and launch dairy strategic plans for Nakuru, Nyandarua and Murang'a counties. The formation of community of practice for milk quality to promote dialogue and practical actions between processors and producers, was not possible, due to COVID 19, while remote interaction was limited by poor internet connectivity. Instead, CSOs designed a milk safety campaign via social media targeting value chain actors, using messages drawn from IFPRI and WUR studies.

In horticulture, CSOs sustained their pursuit for the operationalisation of domestic horticulture standard KS1758. SOCAA collaborated with the Horticulture Crop Directorate to develop operational

⁴ (<https://globaldairyplatform.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/world-milk-day-2020-final-report.pdf>).

tools such as implementation and training manuals and checklist. The CSOs supported establishment of the food safety committee and subsequent development of a draft Food Safety policy, and further reviewed Murang'a county Avocado County Bill.

Global advocacy

Implementation of the global advocacy agenda shifted gears due to the COVID-19 crisis. Planned international events, such as the European Development Days, the Micro-Nutrient Forum, the Global Nutrition Summit and a South-South learning event could not take place or were postponed.

Through APF food security Policy Coalition, and in support of the agenda of the Netherlands Working Group on Nutrition and the Policy Working Group on Food Security, V4CP advocated for supporting a COVID-19 response for developing countries by the Netherlands Government via the Adviesraad Internationale Vraagstukken. Furthermore, engagements with all major political parties took place on the COVID-19 response of the Netherlands Government and to influence their election programs with a focus on: a) accelerating the transition to sustainable, resilient and ecologically sustainable food systems; b) investment in local and regional markets with a focus on local farmers and entrepreneurs; and c) strengthening the position of women and girls in view of their crucial role in supply and consumption of food.

5.2 Renewable energy

In the first quarter of 2020, the CSOs continued their advocacy efforts as set out in their plans. The COVID outbreak affected progress from April onwards. While no changes in objectives were deemed necessary, strategies and workplans had to be adjusted. The engagement with governments and other stakeholders became more complicated, and in some cases decision-making by government slowed down, and government priorities changed.

In [Burkina Faso](#), COVID measures strongly affected implementation from March to May, when meetings with Government officials were not possible and virtual meetings were often not a good alternative due to the poor connectivity. Progress was slower than initially expected. Despite this, some important steps in improving RE services were realised:

- The Ministry of Energy established Solar Clusters of value chain actors to help regulate and improve coordination in the sector to ensure the quality of services offered by the private sector, as has been advocated for by the CSOs.
- An inter-ministerial order was signed on the conditions of eligibility and modalities of the application of tax exemption on imports and sales of solar equipment. This decree allows ANEREE to fully assume its role now as controller and regulator of the provision of RE services.
- A collaboration protocol between the RE CSO Coalition (CNPDER) and the Ministry of Energy to help improve accountability was signed in September. Through this, the Ministry agreed to inform and include CSOs in decision making regarding renewable energy.

In [Ghana](#), collaboration between GHACCO and the Energy Commission resulted in the finalisation of the biomass cookstoves regulations, which have now been submitted to the Ministry of Energy for onward submission to parliament for passage into law. GHACCO also worked jointly with the Energy Commission and some private sector actors to realise the first draft of the Charcoal Transportation Regulations in January 2020, which incorporates the interests of key sector stakeholders. GHACCO continues to follow up on its finalisation.

Budget-tracking work done by GHACCO and ORGIIS showed an average increase of 11.5% in 2020 budget allocations for clean cooking in V4CP target districts, following continued CSO engagement to ensure clean cooking in district strategic plans was reflected in the annual budget. The CSOs furthermore facilitated the establishment of additional clean cooking technology distribution outlets across five districts, contributing to accelerating the supply chain development for clean cooking.

The District electrification plan of Kwahu Afram Plains North District was disseminated by the CSO CEESD to relevant stakeholders as planned. A policy brief calling for alternative financing schemes for developing mini-grids in the island communities, developed by CEESD, was submitted to the Ministries of Finance and Energy and other stakeholders.

One key activity delayed by COVID was the formation of a Coalition of Unelectrified Island Communities for mini-grids advocacy to sustain efforts beyond V4CP, as the restrictions made it difficult to proceed as planned, and virtual engagement was not an option because of poor mobile

network connectivity on most of these Islands. However, with the tapering of restrictions, the execution of this activity commenced, and the formation of the coalition is expected to be accomplished soon.

"It is important to recognise the broad and participatory process of building the ENAEM. It is an example of well-coordinated synergies and the evident commitment of actors. The Strategy is a living and active instrument. The Environment Secretariat as a focal point has a task that potentially places Honduras as a pioneer in a country initiative for the management of resources with support at international level..." René Benitez-ENDEV GIZ

In [Honduras](#), the governance of the Inter-institutional Platform, a platform kick-started by the CSOs, was further strengthened through the updating of the Letter of Agreement and the establishment of internal regulations. An advocacy plan was drawn up for the approval of the national strategy on improved cookstoves (ENAEM) and other initiatives for the development of the value chain of improved stoves and other clean cooking technologies.

The national strategy has been approved by the Inter-institutional Committee for Climate Change. The process has been actively supported by the National Directorate of Climate Change and the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment. This is a big step forward towards the legal adoption and implementation of the national strategy in the country.

Further steps were also made with the sales-tax exemption on improved stoves and parts as advocated for by the CSOs. The Energy Secretariat requested that an Ad Hoc committee be appointed from among the members of the Platform as is required by the General Secretariat for Government Coordination and the Finance Secretariat as part of the approval process. A series of actions and meetings have been taking place to design the draft law for the tax exemption.

The V4CP CSOs contributed to the development of the concept note for the Improved Stoves NAMA, which is being financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and developed by SNV. The V4CP studies and the draft ENAEM have been used as information sources.

In [Kenya](#), GROOTS Kenya successfully advocated for the inclusion of clean cooking in the Kitui energy master plan. The draft master plan recognises clean cooking interventions that focus on improving access to cleaner, faster, reliable and more affordable fuels and technologies for cooking for households in Kitui.

The Kilifi County energy bill has been technically validated pending public validation and ratification in the assembly. It now includes clean cooking explicitly as advocated for by and with inputs from GROOTS Kenya. This bill will provide for County Energy Planning, County Energy Regulation and County Energy Operations and Development. GROOTS was unable to hold multi-stakeholder meetings for public validation and ratification of the bill due to COVID-19 restrictions but collaboration remained good with the county Government.

Kitui and Kilifi continued to allocate budgets for clean cooking because of the advocacy by V4CP. However, COVID-19 pandemic resulted to the county governments re-directing their efforts and human resources to respond to COVID-19.

CCAK advocated strongly against the proposed reintroduction of VAT on clean cooking solutions (and other renewable energy products). The Government unfortunately decided in March 2020 to remove the tax exemptions due to changing political priorities in response to the COVID pandemic.

Global advocacy

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all global events have been cancelled or postponed to 2021. Some alternative events have been (and are being) organised virtually, but the engagement and networking possibilities have been limited. There have unfortunately not been any opportunities for CSOs to engage at the global level this year.

International development finance is under pressure due to the pandemic, and the renewable energy sector is suffering from COVID measures and economic impacts in developing countries. At the same time there is an increasing recognition of the need to 'build back better' (green recovery), which offers opportunities to advocate for the importance of development funding for renewable energy and clean cooking. CSOs and SNV have emphasised this in their communication, while also pointing out that households that cook on traditional cookstoves and are exposed to polluting fumes suffer increased risks of respiratory infections, such as COVID-19.

The process towards a 'Clean Cooking Sector Strategy 2020-2030', initiated by the Clean Cooking Alliance, was launched in June 2020. SNV has used the opportunity of participating in the process to ensure that local civil society organisations and other stakeholders will be facilitated to contribute to the strategy development. CCAK from Kenya has already been asked to participate. The development of a country transition pathway for Kenya has been delayed due to COVID.

5.3 Resilience

In the first quarter of 2020, the CSOs continued their advocacy efforts as set out in their plans. The COVID outbreak affected progress from April onwards. While no changes in objectives were deemed necessary, strategies and workplans had to be adjusted. The engagement with governments and other stakeholders became more complicated, and in some cases decision-making by government slowed down, and government priorities changed.

In **Burkina Faso**, the review of the Orientation Law on Pastoralism (LORP) made substantial progress, following the signing of the decree that mandates an inter-ministerial technical committee to commence the process. The pastoralist CSO coalition was included in the decree sanctioning the review process and will be represented by four organisations in the committee. CSOs also influenced the focus of government in the adoption of the Crisis Response and Mitigation plan for livestock sector. Their inputs were integrated into the plan, which was shared with technical and financial development partners with a view to mobilise funds for its implementation. Additionally, CSOs made recommendations for governmental grants towards livestock feeds for pastoralists in response to the COVID-19 crisis. As a result, the government allocated the Ministry of Animal Resources 2 billion CFA (3M Euro) for animal feed. Finally, CSOs worked closely with IFPRI to undertake a review of the Ministry's budget expenditure and shared the evidence with key recommendations to the Ministry.

Kenyan CSOs aimed to influence sustained increases of the budget to agriculture (livestock) by county governments in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme threshold of 10% of the national budget. KLMC influenced the County Government of Isiolo and Marsabit to increase budget estimates for the financial year 2019 -2020 for the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries from 6% to 9.9% for Isiolo and from 5% to 8.7% for Marsabit. CSOs undertook a social audit to validate the expenditure for this allocation to the livestock sector.

V4CP convened CSO platforms to engage counties on inclusive climate policies and regulatory frameworks. As result, the Marsabit Climate Change Policy was approved and launched by the Governor in August 2020. CSOs also facilitated the development of climate change bill and regulations for Marsabit which forms the basis for establishing climate change adaptation funds. On the other hand, the three counties made progress with approval process for sale yard marketing bills: Isiolo's was approved while Marsabit and Samburu were at different stages of approval.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the national livestock insurance and feed policies have not yet been approved as was expected. To maintain visibility for the pastoralist's agenda, CSOs adapted their advocacy strategy during the COVID 19 pandemic, organising talk shows on local FM radio to reach out to the decision makers with climate change advocacy messages.

Global advocacy

V4CP sustained global advocacy on pastoralism through the Coalition of European Lobbies for Pastoralism (CELEP), where V4CP is represented by SNV in the Core Group. SNV sources inputs from the CSOs when giving input to CELEP-steered policy and strategy processes. At the same time CELEP membership includes CSOs from East Africa. A recent external evaluation concluded that CELEP has had impacts on EU documents, discussions and decisions and has changed to some extent the nature of discussion of pastoralism within the EU.

CELEP's initial plan to host an EU Member of Parliament in Kenya was called off following the COVID-19 outbreak, but it maintained digital engagement internally and with EU. Key highlights included:

- Development of [CELEP position paper on the new EU-Africa strategy](#). As a result, the European Parliament's Agriculture committee captured [two CELEP recommendations on rangelands and pastoralism](#).
- The CELEP response to the double crisis: Locust invasion & COVID-19 in the Horn of Africa. CELEP, in collaboration with the Regional Desert Locust Alliance, made several calls to the EU

and other actors for urgent livelihood support for the Horn of Africa in relation to Locusts crisis and COVID. Through EU MEP, CELEP presented the [call to the EU parliament](#). In a response made to the parliament, the European Commissioner for International Partnerships in July expressed the Commission's concern about the combination of the desert locust plague and the COVID-19 pandemic in the Great Horn of Africa. She reported that the Commission had earmarked EUR 51 million to address the locust scourge and its negative impact on food security in the Horn of Africa through mitigation measures, food aid and livelihood support. The Commission reported that it is working with the African Union in the framework of the AU-FAO Task Force on the impact of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition in Africa to develop actions to address the current crisis.

5.4 WASH

In the first quarter of 2020, the CSOs continued their advocacy efforts according to plan. However, the COVID-19 pandemic affected progress in all countries from April onwards. While no changes in objectives were deemed necessary, strategies and workplans had to be adjusted. But where it brought challenges, it also brought opportunities.

In **Ghana**, COVID-19 led to increased sanitation and hygiene expenditure, resulting in increased sensitisation and awareness, especially on handwashing. The government committed 100 million USD towards curbing the pandemic. Although this was not their advocacy issue, the CSOs took advantage and quickly pushed for an inclusive disbursement strategy for these funds, which were channelled to various Municipal District Assemblies. V4CP CSOs supported the Assemblies in making sure COVID-19 hygiene measures were rolled-out and followed-up properly.

In **Kenya**, the WASH sector received funding for COVID-19 response. County-based CSO networks focusing on WASH immediately partnered with local county governments to design, prioritise and implement hygiene awareness in Kericho, Elgeyo Marakwet and Homa Bay counties. Recognised as partners, they jointly implemented sensitisation campaigns including training, caravan and radio sensitisation as well as advocacy for installation of essential WASH services. As per initiative of network and local government players, planned physical social audits and budget meetings proceeded in-county during this period. This ensured continued focus on the need for improved WASH services.

The COVID-19 pandemic response in **Indonesia** led national and local governments to divert resources from other sectors. Surprisingly, sanitation was one of the sectors that suffered budget cuts, with earmarked investments for access to toilet programmes reduced or cancelled. SNV, as part of the general sector work, invested in developing advocacy materials and in approaching high level decision makers to emphasise that an effective response to the current pandemic requires solid public investment in public health protection. V4CP at local level actively followed-up and continued collaboration with their government counterparts to formulate action plans and highlight the importance of safely managed sanitation and taking proper hygiene measures. Part of the earmarked investments were recovered as a result but as the crisis perpetuates and deepens it is anticipated that this type of advocacy work will be continued in the coming period.

Despite the pandemic, the V4CP CSOs still managed to shift their focus from [medium-term to long-term outcomes](#), making sure that the increased commitment and political will, combined with improved collaboration and functioning accountability mechanisms will lead to improved budget allocation and improved implementation of policies and plans, and will result in improved service delivery. Some examples include:

In **Kenya** the Alternative Budget Memos, developed by the CSOs and presented in county-level round-table meetings, resulted in several budget allocations. The CSO network in Elgeyo Marakwet County followed up on the 2019 memo, which resulted in the allocation of budget for the financial year 2020/21 to support roll-out of the community health strategy, construction of sanitation services, and budget for community led total sanitation. In Kericho County there were budget allocations amounting to nearly EUR 30,000 for the construction of public sanitation services, among them two local markets, both catering to the needs of people living with disabilities, or elderly.

After the sustained advocacy of one of the V4CP CSOs on the importance of moving towards safely managed sanitation, the district of Pringsewu in **Indonesia** adopted the domestic wastewater district regulation (PERDA). While Sijunjung district was declared open defecation free.

In **Ghana** the work on increasing private sector engagement for inclusive sanitation and hygiene service delivery continued. In previous years the V4CP CSOs had increased collaboration with the Environmental Sanitation Providers Association and called for special tax incentives for its members. This led to the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources initiating discussions in 2020 between the Ghana Revenue Authority and Environmental Service Providers Association. During these discussions the urgent need for tax incentives for the private sector to invest in the treatment of liquid waste and tax waivers on equipment directly used for sanitation services were discussed. The Ministry also indicated that it had tasked the association for a proposal for further engagement.

Global advocacy

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all global events were cancelled or postponed. Some alternative events were (or are being) organised virtually, but the engagement and networking possibilities have been limited. There have unfortunately not been any opportunities for CSOs to engage at the global level this year.

However, the pandemic is directly linked to WASH, and increased its prominence, especially hygiene, in the public and political debate. It provided us a 'hook' for putting SDG6 high on the agenda with international and national decision makers.

SNV and V4CP partners endorsed the World Leaders' Call to Action on COVID-19, stating that:

"Until there is a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19, there is no better cure than prevention. Water, sanitation and hand hygiene, together with physical distancing, are central to preventing the spread of COVID-19, and a first line of defence against this serious threat to lives and health systems. Handwashing with water and soap kills the virus but requires access to running water in sufficient quantities. Our response plans – at national, regional and global levels – must therefore prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene services".⁵

SNV and V4CP partners advocated for and supported decision makers in taking short-term measures, like washing hands with soap, taking social distancing measures at shared services and keeping them clean, but also proper household water storage. SNV also advocated for medium-term and long-term measures, as COVID-19 has shown that it is a necessity if we want to eliminate this virus globally.

SNV was involved in COVID-19 discussions with DGIS and signed on to a letter to Minister Kaag indicating the importance of WASH in this health crisis, with WASH being the first line of defence to such pandemics.

Also, at international level SNV played an active advocacy role regarding the above. And as a member of the Research & Learning constituency of the SWA (Sanitation and Water for All) SNV, together with IRC, hosted a global exchange forum on *inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service levels, the COVID-19 response and the future*. The forum provided a platform for learning on COVID-19 pandemic related challenges, and cross constituency exchange.

And as mentioned under the previous section, V4CP teams in-country relegated similar messages to decision makers.

⁵ <https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/our-work/world-leaders-call-action-covid-19>

6. Support to advocacy plans - Achievements over the programme period

The third intervention strategy relates to support to advocacy plans. Below we reflect on the results over the full programme period for each of the four themes, followed by a section summarising the key learnings. In close collaboration with SNV and IFPRI CSO in each country CSOs, reviewed and updated their advocacy plans annually per sector based on changing country contexts, achievements, and available data and evidence. EKNs contributed to the process where relevant and as requested.

A comprehensive overview of aggregated output and outcome results is presented in Annex 2.

6.1 Food and nutrition security (FNS)

6.1.1 Advocacy focus

The V4CP Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) advocacy agenda aimed to contribute to the universal access to safe and nutritious food which is at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognising that each country faced unique challenges in achieving food and nutrition security, the project adopted a demand-driven approach to identify advocacy priorities.

Indonesia, Honduras, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Rwanda pursued *The Sustainable Nutrition for All* trajectory, in line with SDG target 2.2, which seeks to end all forms of malnutrition, achieve internationally agreed targets on child stunting and wasting, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons. Ghana and Kenya focused on preventing post-harvest losses along the supply chain in line with SDG 2 and 12.3 and further contribute to the African Union's Malabo Declaration, to halve post-harvest loss by 2025. In addition, Kenya addressed the issue of food safety, which contributes to SDG 2 on zero hunger as well as SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and a key pre-requisite to health.

Sustainable Nutrition for All

While Rwanda and Burkina Faso have made progress in addressing chronic malnutrition, there was a need to improve performance on key indicators, as more than one-third of children aged below five years were affected by stunting. To address this, V4CP in Rwanda decided to advocate for increased fortification of staple foods to increase their nutritive value, improved access to affordable nutritious foods, improved service delivery and coordination of FNS interventions, and increased the budgetary allocation to the sector. In Burkina Faso, the focus was on improving intersectoral collaboration to ensure a systemic response to the FNS challenge. In Ghana V4CP focused on localising national FNS policies by strengthening nutrition coordination structures in districts in northern Ghana affected by high levels of child stunting. In Honduras, V4CP aimed to influence the FNS policy and strategy development process. Finally, in Indonesia, V4CP decided to advocate for the development of inclusive FNS regulations and action plans at the district and provincial levels to reduce the high prevalence of stunting.

Post-Harvest Loss and Food Safety

V4CP in Ghana decided to advocate for improved service delivery, increased investments and improved access to post-harvest management technologies to reduce post-harvest loss in the Upper West Region. In Kenya, V4CP addressed the impacts of post-harvest loss in the potato value chain, to ensure the inclusion of smallholder farmers in decision-making, and to monitor the implementation of national potato regulations. V4CP also decided to advocate for better enforcement of quality standards for milk and vegetables.

6.1.2 Results

CSOs gained influence in the sector

The capacity strengthening trajectory in combination with evidence generation resulted in CSOs in all six countries strengthening their position in the FNS sector. IFPRI played an important role not only

in evidence generation but also in facilitating access to high level decision makers. Government agencies and other sector actors came to see the CSOs as credible partners, and the CSOs gained considerable influence in policy development and implementation at their levels of engagement.

Increased alignment in the FNS Sector

Due to their enhanced capacity and credibility, CSOs were instrumental in launching, or strengthening, multi-stakeholder collaboration to address key FNS challenges. One example is the National Fortification Alliance in Rwanda, which helped to build support for the adoption of a [mandatory food fortification law](#). Another is the [Kenyan county dairy stakeholder platforms](#), led by a V4CP-CSO and government, which developed dairy policies and strategies to address milk safety and post-harvest loss. In Indonesia, local governments, youth, people living with disabilities, and other stakeholders were brought together to develop and promote Food and Nutrition Action Plans. CSOs in Honduras joined efforts with networks at local and national levels to push for the [formulation of the National Food Policy and Strategy \(PyENSAN\)](#).

Increased coordination with and within government

Through their contribution to sub-national planning processes, as well as the enabling policy and legislative frameworks at higher levels, V4CP-supported CSOs played an instrumental role in triggering broader institutional collaboration to implement FNS policies, and leverage resources for FNS programmes.

For instance, in Rwanda, V4CP supported the assessment of the functionality of District Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition. As a result, the District Plans successfully adopted a [unified nutrition strategy](#), with specific targets, monitoring indicators, as well as increased budget allocations, for each district. As a result of budget tracking by partner RDO, CSOs successfully advocated for a rise in the allocation for FNS in the national budget.

In Burkina Faso, the government established a high-level panel for food and nutrition security stakeholders to explore a suitable coordination model following successful advocacy by V4CP. A decree for a coordinating council has since been drafted by the government and is currently under review.

In Ghana, CSOs advocated successfully for [the establishment of Community Nutrition Technical Teams \(NTTs\)](#) and thus strengthened the institutional capacity and collaboration to tackle malnutrition at the local level.

Increased collaboration with the private sector

A good example of direct engagement with private companies in support of the advocacy efforts was in Rwanda where through the reactivation of the National Fortification Alliance led by V4CP, private companies became actively engaged in the development of the law on food fortification. Private sector actors have put in place strategies to ensure consumers access fortified products, and private sector is now represented in the DPEM committees. CSOs in Kenya collaborated with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote food safety in small- and medium-sized agri-businesses, and self-regulation by milk processors.

Policy development and implementation influenced

The V4CP CSOs successfully influenced policy development and implementation by local and national governments. The food fortification law in Rwanda and the revised PyENSAN in Honduras provide good examples at national level. Examples at a subnational level include the food and nutrition

“..For an effective and efficient food and nutrition security intervention and the better use of state resources, we need to rethink the food and nutrition security coordination model and under which ministry it would fall. Our government is committed to supporting this.”

Mr. Simon Compaore, Minister of State, Burkina Faso.

strategy adopted by the Districts in Rwanda for the Districts Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition, the district and provincial FNS action plans that were put in place in Indonesia, and the development of FNS policies by the municipal tables in Honduras.

Policy development and implementation processes also became more inclusive. For instance, in Indonesia, V4CP launched a [platform for millennials](#) and other young people to articulate their needs, ideas and priorities, around FNS themes. In Kenya, V4CP support facilitated the establishment of active consumer watch groups at the county and national levels, helping to inject consumer voice and

perspectives on food safety. In Burkina Faso, V4CP advocacy led to government, finance and

technical actors to support modernisation of smallholder family farms through improved access to technology and knowledge, farm inputs, financing, and insurance.

Global advocacy

The aim of the global advocacy agenda on food and nutrition security in V4CP was to increase awareness, interest, commitment and action on integrated nutrition, decentralisation processes, coordination at national and sub national level and market development for safe, diverse and nutritious food.

Global developments which this advocacy agenda intended to support included increased attention from national governments and the international (donor) community on nutrition. This ambition is framed in achieving SDG 2 ("Zero Hunger"). Another major development which took place in the programme period and received attention in the global advocacy agenda was the increased emphasis on sustainable food systems and a transition towards a more sustainable and resilient food system. This was further reinforced by the COVID-19 crisis.

V4CP has brought in relevant issues and lessons learned from the partner countries and CSOs to feed the development of global policies, strategies and practices linked to national policies, strategies and practices. Key target audiences and Dialogue and Dissent actors for the global advocacy agenda on food and nutrition security included DGIS, Compact 2025, the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS), the Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance (SUN), international donors and national governments and technical working groups of partner countries.

V4CP contributions included:

- *Recommendations and inputs to DGIS on its Food and Nutrition Security Policy*: mainly via contributions to the Netherlands Working Group on Nutrition and the Policy Working Group on Food and Nutrition Security and included the organisation of an expert meeting on "How to make agriculture programmes work for nutrition", a side event at the SDG conference in Wageningen on "Nourishing the SDGs" with the objective to discuss lessons learned from innovative partnerships across the Dutch Diamond (government, civil society, private sector and knowledge institutes), inputs to various consultations with stakeholders from the Dutch Diamond and various letters to Parliament as an input to the discussion on the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation policy.
- *Increased engagements of partner CSOs in national and international debates and events*: partner CSOs participated and presented in several targeted international events. This not only gave them an opportunity to bring in inclusive country level experiences and practices, but also enabled them to bring back insights gained to their constituency and include these in their advocacy agenda. Examples of such events included: "Creating an enabling environment for Food Safety and Post-Harvest Losses (2017, Brussels)", "Accelerating the end of Hunger and Malnutrition Conference (November 2018, Bangkok)", "The Future of Food Safety" (2019, Addis Ababa) and the "All Africa Post Harvest Congress and Exhibition (2019, Addis Ababa).
- *Collaboration between CSOs and the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)* on the contextualising the e-atlas for FNS policy development for Burkina Faso, Kenya, Rwanda and Ghana. The purpose was two-fold: to improve its use as a tool for decision making, as well as to support the CSOs' advocacy agenda.
- Based on and inspired by the *Compact 2025 agenda* (sub) national dialogues on scaling approaches for implementation of FNS policies were initiated in all six partner countries. In Indonesia for example, CSOs were involved with the development and implementation of Food and Nutrition Action Plan at provincial and district level in support of the national strategy. In Rwanda, two national Compact 2025 dialogues were organised resulting in a list of priorities for the government to be addressed.

6.2 Renewable energy

6.2.1 Advocacy focus

The advocacy topics, selected by the V4CP Energy CSOs, addressed main challenges towards increased access to affordable, efficient and sustainable energy solutions (Sustainable Development Goal 7):

- Better access to quality renewable energy services for the population (Burkina Faso)
- Increased access to and adoption of clean cooking technologies (Honduras, Ghana, Kenya)
- Increased delivery of mini grids in remote and isolated areas (Ghana)

The CSOs, with support of SNV, generated contextualised evidence in support of their advocacy strategies, including studies presenting local energy-related data, impacts on gender, employment and environment, as well as economic and political analyses of the issues. As a result, the CSOs were able to speak with a stronger voice to advocate for policy improvements and better provision of services, both in the public and private sector.

In Burkina Faso, the advocacy addressed the lack of skilled workers to provide quality services and the absence of control and regulation in the sector. The CSOs advocated to improve training structures for renewable energy, include it in local development plans and stronger regulation.

In Ghana, there was limited supply of improved cooking products especially to rural areas. The CSOs worked both at national and district level to advocate for supportive policies for clean cooking, while in parallel working with entrepreneurs and communities in rural areas to increase supply of and demand for cleaner cookstoves.

Despite almost 85% of the Ghanaian population having access to electricity, over 2 million people mainly in remote areas, including islands and lakeside communities, are still not connected to the grid. The [V4CP partners worked with local communities and mini-grid companies to stimulate the government to provide a stable policy environment](#) and allow private sector participation in mini-grid development.

In Honduras, the market for improved cooking solutions was very limited, and coordination amongst sector players lacking. The V4CP partners focused on [aligning a wide range of stakeholders \(including government\) building on solid new evidence, stimulating government to adopt a national strategy](#) for the adoption of efficient cookstoves, and advocating for fiscal incentives for improved stoves.

The Kenya CSOs worked at national level to improve coordination between ministries working on clean cooking issues and support the adoption of health guidelines and standards for clean cookstoves and fuels. At county level, they trained community champions and jointly advocated county governments to include clean cooking in their climate and energy plans.

6.2.2 Results

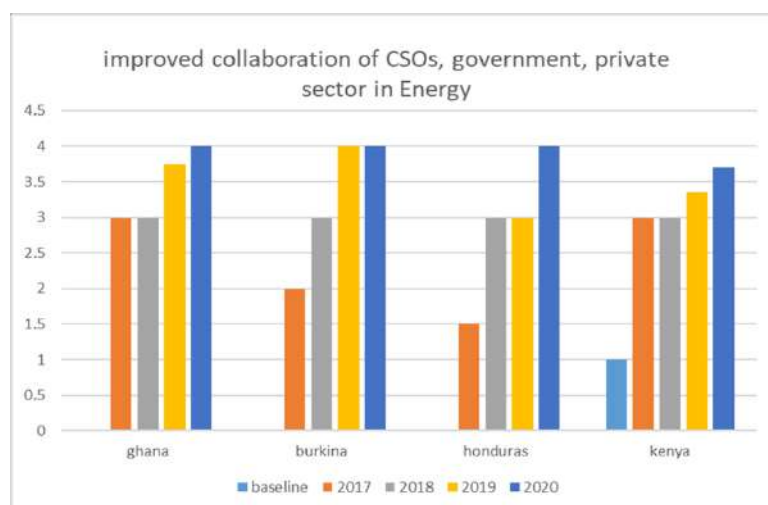
CSOs gained influence in the sector

The capacity strengthening trajectory in combination with evidence generation resulted in CSOs in all four countries strengthening their position in the renewable energy sector. Government agencies came to see the CSOs as credible development partners, and the CSOs gained considerable influence in policy development and implementation at their levels of engagement. In Kenya, for instance, CCAK now sits in the Energy, Environment and Gender Sector Boards within KEREA and KEPSA and is thus well positioned to engage at high level (e.g. during ministerial or presidential roundtables).

The capacity development programme helped the CSOs to improve on their advocacy approach. E.g. in Ghana, CSOs which initially used a confrontational style changed to a more collaborative approach and because of that became more effective.

Their increased capacity and credibility also helped the CSOs to more effectively engage with other sector actors. V4CP CSOs built or joined alliances with other CSOs and/or brought interested parties together in so-called multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSP) to influence policy development. In Burkina Faso, for instance, the CSOs built a coalition of 29 CSOs engaged in promoting renewable energy. The coalition has since taken up two positions in the committee set up by ANEREE (National

Agency for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) to develop renewable energy standards. While in Honduras, the CSOs were instrumental in setting up the *Inter-institutional Platform for the Development of the Improved Stoves Value Chain*, an multistakeholder platform with now 23 members from government, civil society, academia, and private sector.



- Level 0 – no or only occasional formal encounters take place
- Level 1 – regular meetings and communications take place
- Level 2 – relevant theme related information / data are sought shared and discussed
- Level 3 – plans that include CSOs interests are (jointly) made
- Level 4 – follow up actions are taken that includes CSOs interests

Alignment in the clean cooking sector

V4CP played an important role in increasing alignment of key stakeholders in the clean cooking sector, leading to key policy changes and better coordination of clean cooking programmes.

The Inter-institutional platform in Honduras has proven a powerful vehicle for participative generation and dissemination of ten valuable studies in support of the V4CP advocacy. With state entities playing an active role, the Platform was the driving force behind the design of the National Strategy for the Adoption of Improved Stoves and is expected to support its implementation.

In Kenya and Ghana, V4CP strengthened capacities of the national alliances CCAK and GHACCO as strategic representatives of clean cooking stakeholders. The alliances were able to generate solid evidence based on local data, strengthen relations with government institutions, organise high-level clean cooking events, and highlight clean cooking issues in prominent media. They bolstered their reputation as national leaders in the sector, being instrumental in the development of regulations (Ghana) and quality standards (Kenya) for cookstoves. GHACCO effectively advocated for a Ghana clean cooking strategy and is member of the task force developing this policy. CCAK successfully lobbied for the exemption of taxation and reduction of duties imposed on clean cooking technologies and fuels in Kenya. However, despite broad outcry in the sector, the Kenya government reintroduced tax on cookstoves in 2020 due to changing political priorities in the COVID pandemic.

Increased coordination with and within national government

The CSOs, empowered by V4CP, were able to intensify collaboration with key government actors and thus improve coordination between different ministries and public institutions involved in energy, contributing to increased government commitment to renewable energy. Policy processes are however time-consuming and often unpredictable, therefore sustained (beyond the programme period) engagement with government is needed to guard advocacy achievements.

The V4CP CSOs in Burkina Faso, backed by the CSO coalition on renewable energy, [engaged with key ministries related to energy issues and successfully advocated for better division of roles](#) between the two main government agencies involved in energy. V4CP activities convened representatives from the Ministries of Energy, Education and Youth/Youth Entrepreneurship, increasing government coordination on the development of training curricula addressing the lack of qualified renewable energy technicians. This resulted in the first bachelor's course in solar energy,

introduced at a vocational high school in 2019-2020 and other renewable energy vocational qualification certificate courses in the pipeline. The successful interactions with CSOs prompted the Minister of Energy to formalise CSO consultations on government decision-making and activities related to renewable energy.

In Kenya, the Inter-ministerial committee on clean cooking, chaired by the Ministry of Energy with secretariat support from CCAK, developed the Clean Cooking Action Plan to guide planning in key government ministries. The CSOs also convened the Technical Working Group on climate, health and energy, which developed the household air pollution manual for health workers in rural areas. The manual, aimed at scaling up adoption of clean cooking in Kenyan households, was piloted by community champions.

Renewable energy plans by local governments

The V4CP CSOs successfully influenced local policies working with local governments and (women) community champions.

In Burkina Faso, the CSOs transformed the presidents of the regional councils into allies advocating for renewable energy issues to the national authorities. These regional councils have integrated clean energy in their regional development plans and annual investment plans.

As a community-based organisation, [GROOTS Kenya increased awareness of communities and engaged them in local advocacy](#) to ensure inclusive county policies and increased budgets for clean cooking. Jointly they ensured that the Kiambu, Kitui and Kilifi county governments not only mainstreamed clean cooking in the climate and energy policies but also allocated budgets accordingly.

In Ghana, the V4CP CSOs engaged with local assemblies on clean cooking and off-grid electrification. This resulted in the integration of clean cooking into the medium-term development plans (MTDP) of four Municipal and District Assemblies for the first time, and the subsequent development of clean cooking strategies including budgets covering 2020-2024. The districts have taken ownership and action, through community sensitisations, passage of by-laws and engagement with stove manufacturers to secure supplies.

V4CP in Ghana also worked with the Kwahu Afram Plains North District assembly to integrate mini-grid electrification in their development plans and develop an off-grid electrification plan in support of island communities. Ensuring local ownership, a high-level energy sub-committee was established to lead on developing the plan and subsequent engagement with the Ministry of Energy and donors to obtain support for implementation of the plan.

Global advocacy

The aim of the advocacy on access to sustainable energy for all (SDG7) at the global level was to increase funding for off-grid energy and clean cooking in developing countries, improve the enabling environment for access to energy, and increase alignment between sector stakeholders towards a broadly shared vision on the transition pathway for the clean cooking sector. Key target audiences were DGIS and other international donors, international NGOs and umbrella organisations, and national governments.

The V4CP partners (CSOs and SNV) have engaged in international discussions and fora to bring forward the country perspective in global energy debates. Through bilateral engagements with DGIS, RVO, Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and other key global players, SNV advocated for CSOs' and country stakeholders' voices to be heard in global processes, and for energy access programmes to be inclusive, effective and sustainable.

Key successes in the V4CP programme period are:

- V4CP Energy CSOs were facilitated to participate in and speak at key international events, such as the Clean Cooking Forums in 2017 (India) and 2019 (Kenya), the SEforALL Charrettes in 2019 (Netherlands), COP24 in 2018 (Poland) and the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum in 2019 (Ghana).
- To emphasise the role of national clean cooking alliances such as V4CP CSOs GHACCO and CCAK, SNV organised sessions at the Clean Cooking Forums (2017,2019) on the role of national alliances in steering sector transformation, and wrote the RVO "End of Program report" on the same subject, published in October 2019. This contributed to increased recognition in RVO, DGIS, CCA and WB of the need for continued support to clean cooking alliances and sector coordination activities.

- After SNV raised the need for increased alignment on the clean cooking sector transition pathway since the start of V4CP, the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) in 2019 has taken ownership of developing a 2020-2030 Clean Cooking Sector strategy at global level. SNV successfully emphasised the importance of involving country stakeholders, including civil society.
- The modelling study by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) on transition pathways for the clean cooking sector was published in 2019 with inputs from V4CP and other sector stakeholders. V4CP partners received the study for use in the countries, and thanks to V4CP's intervention, PBL was able to share the report at the IEA High Level Workshop on the Africa Energy Outlook in 2019. DGIS is supporting PBL's efforts to further develop the model to assess cooking transition pathways at country level (with inputs from V4CP), though this has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- V4CP has worked closely with the HIVOS-led strategic partnership to raise the need for increased funds for decentralised renewable energy on the global agenda. During the first years this was done through the [Brooklyn coalition](#), which brought together stakeholders from private sector, governments and civil society. From 2018, SNV became an associate member of the [NDC Partnership](#)⁶. V4CP has advocated for increased recognition of the role of decentralised renewable energy and climate smart agriculture in climate policies and funding, both at country and global level, and the NDC Partnership, strongly supported by DGIS, has proven one vehicle to raise local needs on the global agenda.

6.3 Resilience

6.3.1 Advocacy focus

Pastoralism is a dominant economic sector in arid and semi-arid parts of the Horn and Sahel regions of Africa. Pastoral economies and community livelihood strategies are heavily dependent on natural resources, yet climate change impacts render them vulnerable. The historic political, social and economic marginalisation of pastoralists systemically predisposes them to recurrent climate shocks. V4CP aimed to strengthen the enabling environment for pastoralism development in Burkina Faso and Kenya through inclusive climate change policy and strategies. Therefore, resilience CSOs advocated for:

- Increased voice of pastoralists in climate change policy dialogue, strategy, and resource allocation at national and decentralized levels
- Inclusion of pastoralists representation in decision making structures at national and sub-national development planning.
- Improvement in pastoralist livestock market systems for livelihood and economic sustainability
- Increased budget allocation to livestock sector in line with Africa Union target of up to 10% of national budget to agriculture.

In Burkina Faso the objective was to contribute to the improvement of the life and working conditions of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the context of climate change and decentralisation. The focus of CSO advocacy was on spearheading collective action among pastoralist CSOs, to raise awareness of existing laws governing pastoralism development, and to advocate for their full and inclusive implementation, especially at the local level. In addition to spearheading a process to harmonise relevant legislation, CSOs also lobbied national and regional stakeholders to safeguard pastoralists' access to pasture and water resources across national borders.

While Kenya has robust climate policies, to date, these have not paid enough attention to the needs and concerns of pastoralists. Kenyan CSOs therefore focused on articulating pastoralist voices in the [official process to develop the National Climate Change Action Plan, as well as related regulations at the](#) national, and sub-national levels. Another focal area was advocating for increased budget allocations to the livestock sub-sector and supporting the capacity development of community-managed market associations to ensure the optimal use of these resources.

⁶ NDC Partnership is aimed at the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of countries, i.e. the country strategy to cut greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to changing climate.

6.3.2 Results

CSOs gained influence in the sector

The capacity strengthening trajectory in combination with evidence generation resulted in CSOs in Burkina Faso and Kenya strengthening their position in the sector. IFPRI played an important role not only in evidence generation but also facilitating access to high level decision makers. Government agencies and other sector actors came to see the CSOs as credible partners, and the CSOs gained considerable influence in policy development and implementation at their levels of engagement.

Increased alignment in the agro-pastoralist sector

To ensure a locally owned advocacy agenda, the V4CP programme brought together diverse CSO networks to jointly identify policy priorities and develop a common advocacy agenda.

In Burkina Faso, the two V4CP CSOs initiated an [advocacy platform](#) comprising of 16 CSOs working on sustainable pastoralist development and climate resilience. The CSO platform played a key role in initiating broader multi-stakeholder collaboration to address emerging challenges facing pastoralist communities including the COVID-19 response and other pastoralists policies.

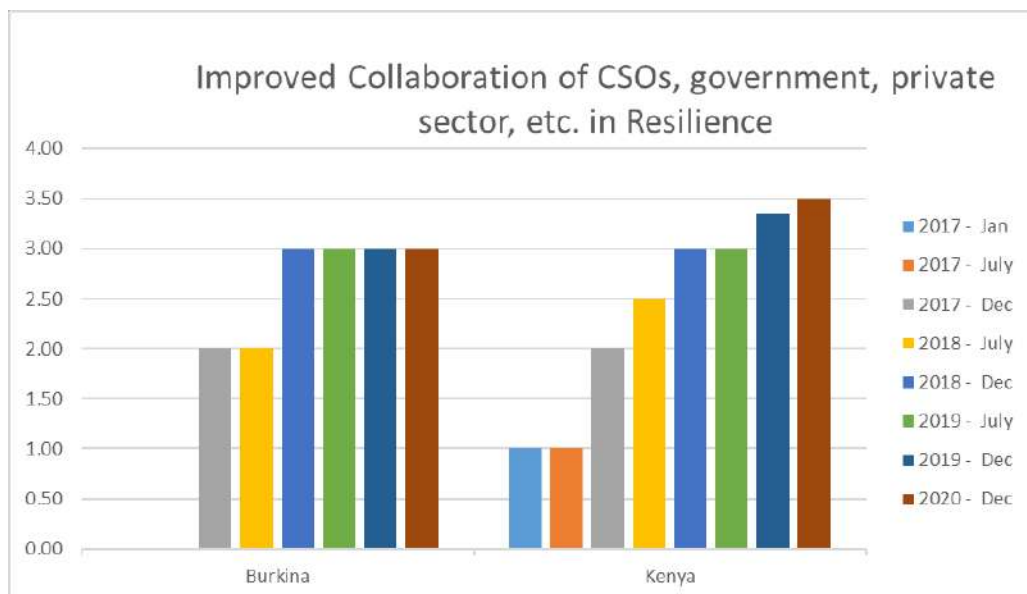
“... We can follow up data and make own policy briefs, previously, we have been doing advocacy but could not push it to the very end with concrete evidence. As a result, KLMC is now more involved in national and county forums, we have better recognition than before. Anything about markets KLMC is looked up to because of the approach of using evidence ...” KLMC

In Kenya, V4CP helped to align the interests of the three partner CSOs – jointly with their affiliates – to build a stronger voice. The resulting collaboration has been instrumental in driving more pastoralist-friendly policies at the sub-national and national levels. The three CSOs have further enhanced synergies through the Kenya Platform on Climate Governance, which emerged as an important stakeholder in the development and implementation of Kenya’s national action plan on climate change. At sub-national level the V4CP CSOs mobilised County CSO platforms to engage policy decision makers and to monitor policy implementation in Isiolo and Marsabit counties.

Strengthened CSO collaboration with government

Helped by their increased credibility, CSOs in Burkina Faso built a strong relationship with the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources which allowed them to be part of different policy dialogue process. Both CSOs sat in the Ministry’s last steering committee and led the 2020 pastoral CSOs contribution to livestock sector national plan of COVID-19 crisis response and mitigation. Similarly, CSOs in Kenya have established strong relationships with government agencies at national and county level. As a result, they have been incorporated into strategic platforms. KLMC, for instance, became a member of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development – regional livestock forum in 2018. This is an important economic regional block for the Horn of Africa.

The increased collaboration with government, as well as the capability to generate evidence, allowed the CSOs in Kenya to successfully advocate for an increase in the annual agriculture sector budget for Isiolo and Marsabit counties. A budget tracking exercise by V4CP helped convince decision makers that a more equitable revenue-sharing model would lead to fewer cases of county tax evasion, and generate surplus resources that could be re-invested in community infrastructure, thus helping to create more sustainable pastoralist business models in the long term. In addition, KLMC has been tracking actual expenditure to ensure the resources are as allocated.



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- Level 4 – follow up actions are taken that includes CSOs interests

Similarly, the findings of a rapid assessment by one of the CSOs in Burkina Faso on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the agro-pastoral sector in 12 Sahelian countries study informed the COVID-19 mitigation strategy and government funding for the Ministry of Livestock.

Policy development and implementation influenced

In Burkina Faso, the close collaboration between CSOs and the Ministry of Animal Resources led to increased political will for the development inclusive policies, laws and regulations with attention to climate change, decentralisation and gender favourable to pastoralism. The review of the Orientation Law on Pastoralism in Burkina Faso is a good example of how V4CP supported CSO alliances to facilitate multi-stakeholder processes, helping drive policy change. The advocacy helped convince the Ministry to initiate a formal review of the legal framework and to appoint representatives from four CSOs to the review committee.

In Kenya, advocacy by the CSOs for inclusive policies for pastoral climate change resilience has yielded great success so far, with many of the targeted policies being finalised or at an advanced stage. This resulted, amongst others, in the inclusion of the perspectives of pastoralists in the National Climate Change Action Plan, the adoption of the Climate Change Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit by the counties of Marsabit and Isiolo, and the review and adoption of regulations for livestock marketing in three counties, including the County Sale Yard Acts and Regulations and the Marsabit Livestock Market and Trade Bill.

The CSOs further mobilised local interest groups to engage with county governments in the development of sub-national climate change adaptation policies, such as that adopted by Marsabit County in 2019. They also influenced pastoralist agendas in respective policy frameworks; Isiolo County Disaster Risk Management Policy, National Livestock Policy now finalised awaiting Cabinet approval and the Kenya climate smart agriculture implementation strategy 2017-2026.

Global advocacy

V4CP's global advocacy agenda aimed to increase pastoral resilience by advocating for inclusion of pastoralists in policies and strategies of donors and governments.

It helped ensure that climate change and livestock marketing received more attention through SNV's membership of the Coalition of European Lobbies for Pastoralism in East Africa (CELEP). CELEP has sustained regular communication to inform the European Commission's strategy on pastoralism issues.

V4CP also encouraged and supported CSO involvement in global events to bring local level concerns to the fore. V4CP CSOs promoted the pastoralism agenda in global forums, including the Adaptation Futures conference, COP24, and the LANDac Annual International Conference.

CSOs also engaged with regional structures. In ECOWAS, CSOs in Burkina Faso collaborated with pastoral CSOs in the region on regional transhumance in the Sahel and developed a joint paper on local milk. V4CP also contributed through CELEP to the development of the Africa Union Guidelines for the Promotion of Pastoralism and the Management of Conflict in the Horn of Africa.

6.4 WASH

6.4.1 Advocacy focus

The V4CP WASH CSOs in the three countries worked on increased access to inclusive, affordable and reliable WASH services for all (Sustainable Development Goal 6), whilst addressing specific issues in their respective countries.

In Ghana, existing WASH policies, strategies and guidelines were outmoded, and implementation was non-existent. Ineffective coordination on sanitation and hygiene at national level, including weak capacities of institutions, did not help. At local level, there was limited consultation and collaboration among Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), CSOs, service providers, traditional authorities and other district and community-level actors. There was low private sector involvement and investment. Little attention was given to inclusiveness and inequalities regarding access to services. The focus of the V4CP team in Ghana was thus to increase equity and access to sustainable, equitable and affordable sanitation services and products. It sought to improve the responsiveness of duty bearers and the private sector to the demands of the communities.

In order to address access to sanitation in Indonesia, the government developed a Community-Led Total Sanitation Programme (STBM) in 2006 to improve sanitation supply chains and the enabling environment and stimulate consumer demand. However, implementing the programme across the country's 17,000 islands proved challenging. This was due to local government's low capacity and political willingness to implement, as well as limited understanding of the impact of poor sanitation within local governments and community. Thus, V4CP Indonesia's goal was to advocate the prioritisation and district wide implementation of and budget implementation for STBM, as well as better institutionalisation and stronger collaboration and inclusive regulation. This contributes to the commitment of the Government to achieve 100% Universal Sanitation Access in Indonesia.

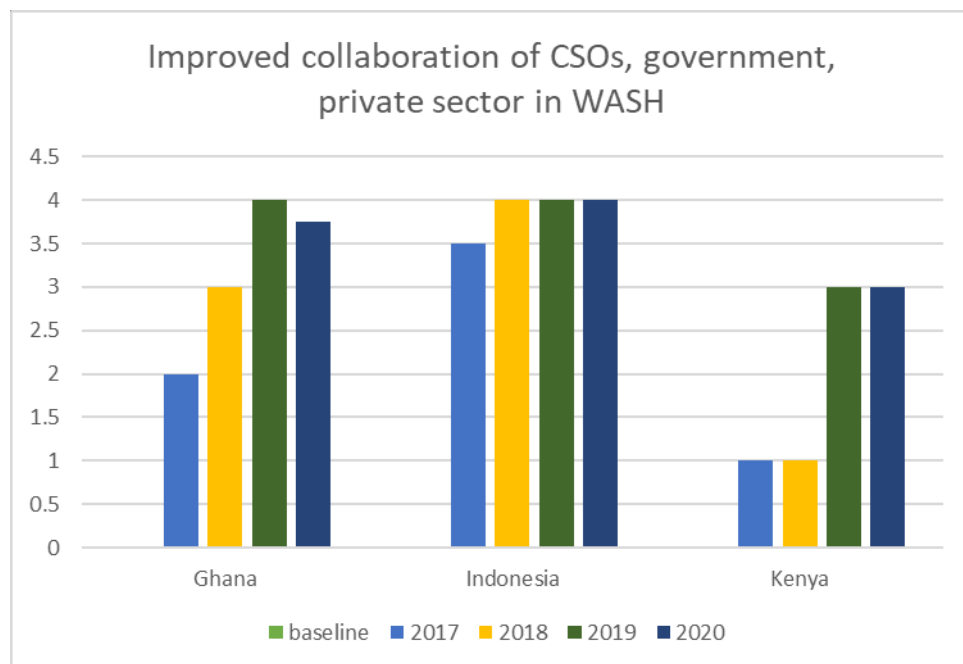
Access to (safely managed or basic) sanitation in Kenya was and is a major challenge, with overall coverage at 29%, rural coverage at 27%, and urban coverage at 35%. The low levels of access to improved sanitation have been linked to low levels of investments and a lack of prioritisation for the sanitation sector. This is coupled with a lack of accountability and transparency mechanisms and poor inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms between the Ministries of Water & Sanitation and Irrigation, Health, and Environment and Natural Resources. The goal of the V4CP team in Kenya was to increase access to improved sanitation in Homa Bay, Elgeyo Marakwet and Kericho counties through increased investments, improved accountability and transparency and better inter-ministerial coordination among ministries delivering core functions.

With SNV support CSOs in all three countries generated new, contextualised evidence in support of their advocacy strategies. This included studies presenting local WASH-related data, research on the impact of pro-poor guidelines, the role of private sector in WASH service delivery, as well as budget analyses and allocation for sanitation.

6.4.2 Results

CSOs gained influence in the sector

The capacity strengthening trajectory in combination with evidence generation resulted in CSOs in all three countries strengthening their position in the WASH sector. Government agencies came to see the CSOs as credible development partners, and the CSOs gained considerable influence in WASH networks, policy development and implementation at their levels of engagement.



- Level 0 – no or only occasional formal encounters take place
- Level 1 – regular meetings and communications take place
- Level 2 – relevant theme related information / data are sought shared and discussed
- Level 3 – plans that include CSOs interests are (jointly) made
- Level 4 – follow up actions are taken that includes CSOs interests

For example, IEA in Kenya has expanded its presence as a leader on budget matters relevant to the WASH sector. Its leading role in facilitating national and county platforms for CSOs across various sectors to review and consolidate inputs on government budget allocation presented to the National Treasury is widely acknowledged. And IEA has also been increasingly recognised and invited by WASH sector organisations as a key partner in advocacy for sanitation prioritisation. Likewise, CSOs in Indonesia were able to give their inputs in the decision-making process, and government often followed-up on it. Currently, all the four CSOs are acknowledged as organisations with sound technical WASH knowledge.

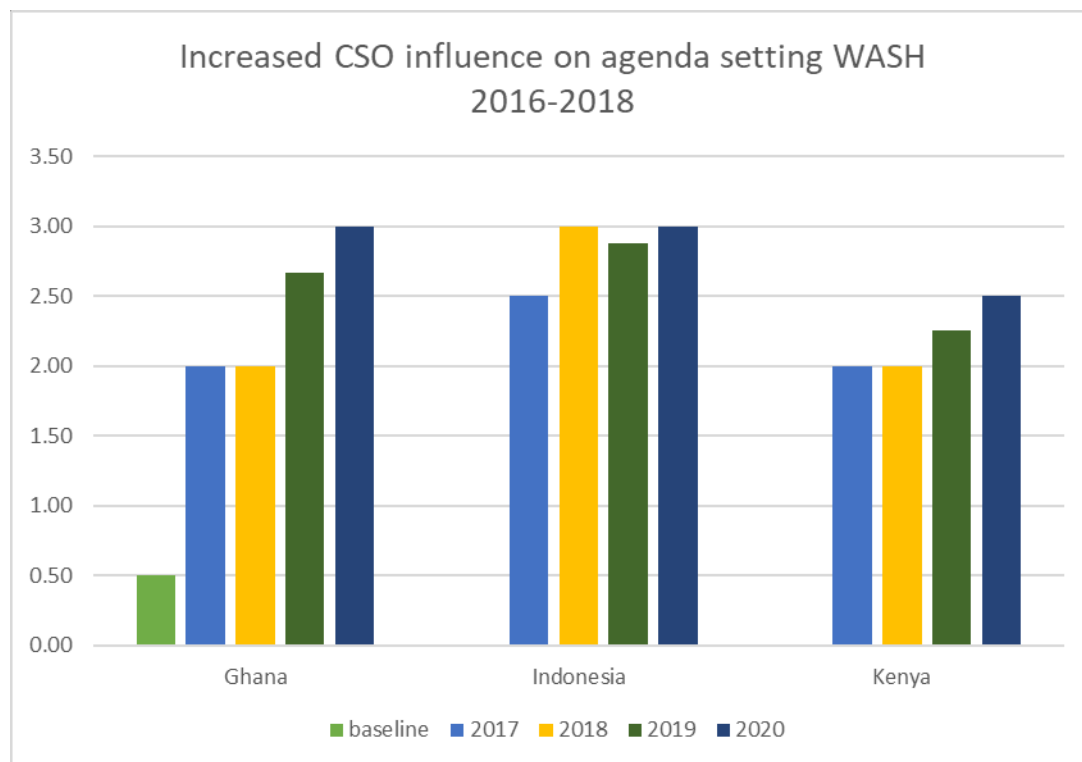
“Through events such as the National Sanitation Conference we now have expanded networks WASHFIN, Kenya Water partnership ...” IEA

The capacity development trajectory also helped the CSOs improve their advocacy approach. In Ghana, for example, CSOs realised that the best way for achieving sustainable results was to advocate ‘with citizens’ instead of ‘for citizens’ strategies. This led to Intervention Forum initiating the formation of the citizens advocacy teams known the District Sanitation and Hygiene Advocacy teams (DSHAT). This strategy was followed by the other WASH CSOs and during the 7th National CLTS stock taking forum, stakeholders gave a ‘thumbs-up’ to the project for the introduction of the DSHATs.

“If people mentioned about WASH, they will remember us.” – Director of Mitra Bentala-

Networks and alliance built for joint agenda setting

CSOs used their increased influence in the sector to establish collaboration through networks and alliances to set and influence the sanitation agenda of local and national governments.



Level 0 – CSO has no or only occasional interaction with key stakeholders in government and/or the private sector

Level 1 – CSO has regular interactions with key stakeholders in government and/or the private sector

Level 2 – CSO gets opportunity to explain its interests towards key stakeholders in government and/or the private sector

Level 3 – CSO's interests are 'put on the agenda' and are discussed among stakeholders in government and/or the private sector

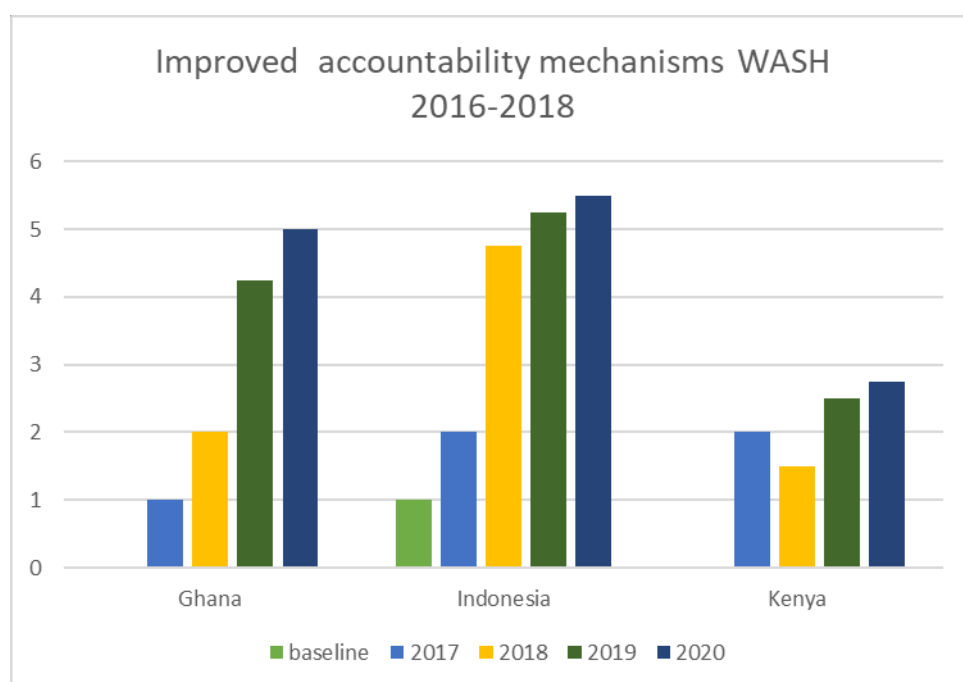
In Ghana, V4CP [supported the formation of a national Alliance for WASH Advocacy \(A4WA\)](#) to advance the district-level sanitation and hygiene advocacy agenda, pulling together a wide range of NGOs, CSOs and networks in the WASH sector. By combining their efforts, they unified and thereby amplified their voice for change. As a result, they managed to inspire the national Government to step up efforts to improve Ghana's outdated sanitation governance structures, policies and processes.

In Kenya, county-based civil society networks were activated, and strengthened by the national level CSO (IEA). The CSO networks focused on WASH in each of the sub-counties and represented the voice of specific groups e.g. people living with disabilities and youth, this to ensure WASH needs across the county were inclusive. Through the voices of many, the advocacy efforts in the counties have gained recognition. The CSO networks have grown, professionalised and are formalising their partnerships with the respective county governments.

In Indonesia, CSOs used the sanitation task force (Pokja AMPL) in each district as an entry point. Where necessary, they supported the re-activation of the task force and advocated for more inclusive members. It not only involved government staff from various agencies, but also CSOs, private sector, community and women's groups and community leaders. [This task force played a critical role as allies to put sanitation on the map](#). Also, CSOs built an alliance with media which not only strengthened CSOs' reputations related to sanitation, but also increased the sanitation awareness among the wider public.

Social accountability mechanisms put in place

As credible partners, CSOs were able to access information, mobilise citizens and make their voices heard, and negotiate a response from public authorities. This resulted in improved accountability mechanisms in all countries.



- Level 0 – CSOs are not provided with information - about decisions, decision making processes, policies*
- Level 1 – CSOs are provided with information - about decisions, decision making processes, policies*
- Level 2 – Existence of ad-hoc fora for consultation with CSOs. CSOs are given the opportunity to provide information to decision makers*
- Level 3 – Decision makers are transparent in their decisions and actions. Decision makers provide feedback on demands of CSOs*
- Level 4 – Formal structures / procedures for feedback/consultations with CSOs are established*
- Level 5 – Decision makers act on the demands of CSOs through changes in rhetoric and changes in policies and practices*
- Level 6 – Decision makers pro-actively engage with CSOs in determining the policy agenda, in seeking information and possible options*

In Ghana, increased citizen participation in service delivery was established through the formation of the DSHATs to promote transparency and accountability at the MMDAs level. The DSHATs represent selected communities, women’s groups, youth groups, unit committees, landlord associations, Area/Zonal Council Chairpersons and Persons with Disability (PWDs). Members work with the district authorities and the community and are responsible for evidence-based advocacy on sanitation and hygiene issues.

In Indonesia, the CSOs have become actively involved in the Pokja AMPL task force at district level. The working group served as a platform to consult between government and other stakeholders on sanitation policies and the roll-out of said policies. It is in this working group that progress is being monitored and government is held to account.

In Kenya, IEA developed a social audit toolkit and trained CSO networks on how to conduct social audits on sanitation projects. From 2018 to 2020 CSO networks conducted social audits, validated findings with county government representatives and other stakeholders and used the findings to advocate for sanitation service delivery.

Policies and budgets for sanitation influenced

The V4CP CSOs successfully influenced local policies and budget allocation, working with local governments and relevant stakeholders. Examples include:

In Ghana, CSOs successfully advocated for the review of existing outdated sanitation bylaws in the MDAs to ensure compliance and enforcement of inclusive sustainable sanitation practices. These bylaws have since been updated and approved in all eight MDAs. The bylaws were also a tool to create the enabling environment for the private sector to engage in sanitation and hygiene service provision effectively.

In Kenya, CSO conducted pre-budget hearings during which proposals for WASH priorities and investments are made and consolidated. These hearings resulted in the creation of alternative budget memos which were presented during round-table meetings with Members of the County Assembly. Proposals made were taken up in the next year's budget and Five-Year County Integrated Development Plans and Annual Development Plans.

In Indonesia, CSOs successfully advocated for two District regulations and six lower-level Bupati (Head of District) regulations⁷ in order to provide additional support to low-income communities and disadvantaged groups to gain access to sanitation. CSOs also influenced the village government to use the village fund for improved sanitation services, specifically to support low-income community members and other vulnerable people.

Access to improved sanitation increased

The V4CP CSOs successfully influenced local policies by working with local governments and other relevant stakeholders, resulting in improved service delivery and increased access to sanitation.

In Ghana, the programme led to the prioritisation of sanitation and hygiene at the local level. The collaboration between V4CP and SNV's SSH4A – Results Based Finance project led to Ghana's first declared District-wide ODF status which combined the use of evidence-based advocacy and results-based financing to improve sanitation service delivery.

In Indonesia, the V4CP programme contributed to the acceleration of sanitation access and achievement of ODF in three initial district programme areas, consisting of more than 2 million people. Various outcomes led to ODF status, including the collaboration between the SSH4A and V4CP programmes.

In Kenya, there has been increased allocation for sanitation programmes in the three counties and increased deliberate effort by county governments to improve service delivery based on the social audits reports for sanitation projects at county level. Discussions towards better sanitation coordination is picking up with key departments participating in joint forums on sanitation e.g. during the County Assembly round tables. County sanitation plans adopted in all counties provide a channel for better coordination efforts

Global advocacy

The SDGs were central to V4CP work in WASH. They brought heightened ambition for global WASH, and increased awareness of service delivery. SNV's efforts in WASH have for many years already centred on scale, systems change, and governments as the duty bearers for service delivery and development, and V4CP continued to build on that. The SDG focus on 'safely managed' services and the more explicit attention to services in schools and health facilities is facilitating robust debate regarding practical ways to ensure sustainability in all settings, and in different platforms both at national and international levels SNV and V4CP partners have contributed to these discussions.

Additionally, attention was focused on reaching the "Last Mile" of service provision and the commitment to 'leave no-one behind'. Universal access and equity are continuing to gain prominence, but inequities, between those with and without access to services, and between those with better and worse levels of service are still on the rise. And this inequity has come even more to the fore in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of V4CP, SNV actively participated in global debates. It pushed for the need to provide WASH services as an effective means to fight COVID-19, and advocated for the need to reduce gaps by prioritising household level access, in compliance with the SDGs. V4CP pushed for and seriously investment in well-managed communal facilities. All this was done through targeted activities at international and national level and through different platforms.

Regular (policy) meetings and discussions were held with DGIS, aimed to ensure the Dutch government's commitment to SDG6, to discuss DGIS priorities and the role of the Netherlands in the global WASH debate. On behalf of V4CP, SNV was an active member of the Netherlands Water Partnership-NGO Policy Group, and sought to keep WASH, and especially sanitation, on the Dutch agenda. Furthermore, SNV participated in international conferences and platforms like Sanitation and

⁷ Both types of regulations apply to the district, but Bupati regulations don't require approval from parliament.

Water for All, and Sustainable Sanitation Alliance. In all these platforms SNV has considered the views and experiences from V4CP partners, among others.

CSOs and SNV engaged in international discussions and fora to bring forward the country perspective in global WASH debates. Through bilateral engagements with DGIS and other key global players, SNV advocated for CSOs' and country stakeholders' voices to be heard in global processes.

Some highlights include:

- V4CP WASH CSOs participated and spoke at key international events, such as the WASH Futures Conference (Australia, 2017), the WEDC Conference (Kenya, 2018), and the AfricaSan Conference (South Africa, 2019).
- V4CP SNV and CSO staff actively participated in multiple discussion fora, such as the IRC WASH Debates throughout the programme period.
- Active participation in Sustainable Sanitation Alliance Research and Learning constituency.
- Learning events co-hosted with the respective governments of Indonesia (2017), Ethiopia (2018) and Ghana (2019).
- Contribution to a WASH and Nutrition workshop hosted by DGIS.
- The NWP-NGO Policy Group drafted a Theory of Change and advocacy strategy for the policy influencing work, linked to V4CP's global advocacy goals. SNV (V4CP) and IRC / Simavi (Watershed) focused on the WASH part of the ToC. This ToC will give the NWP NGO Platform, and specifically the policy working group, a better planned strategy and related activities for the years to come.

6.5 Gender equality and social inclusion

Over the years GESI has gained more traction in the V4CP programme. In the early years of the programme it might have been an evident assumption of 'intrinsic GESI sensitivity' with the argument that GESI was always implicitly part of sector CSOs' mission statement, objectives and practices. And maybe we have also assumed too easily that whereas the work under the V4CP programme fits in the broader public and political debate building upon the SDGs, it thus automatically would address inclusion. However, it quickly became quite evident that the 'intrinsic GESI sensitivity' would not suffice in addressing the gender equality and social inclusion issues that our sectors facing.

The final evaluation underscores the above by mentioning that indeed GESI received less attention in programme activities than might have been expected, as it was not explicitly included from the beginning. The evaluation also makes clear that it is not to say that some of the V4CP CSOs had not been involved in advocating for gender and socially inclusive policies; some CSOs specifically focus on gender-based action (e.g. GROOTS Kenya) or engage with minorities and other excluded groups like pastoralists (e.g. Cemiride, Kenya).

Over the years the V4CP stepped up its efforts, both at national and at international level, and advocated for inclusive policy development. V4CP has capacitated CSOs to advocate governments and the private sector to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in service delivery to achieve the rights of all, in alignment with the SDGs. V4CP has also made sure that CSOs' constituencies should, where relevant, represent people of all genders and backgrounds. And CSOs and their constituency have been able to gain the capacity to engage, make use of civic space and have the chance to demand for improvements: by participating, voicing their views which will ultimately result in sustainable access to services for all.

Some of the focus areas of V4CP are highlighted below. Specific examples can be found in the thematic advocacy sections.

- CSO capacity development on GESI: CSOs have all received specific GESI training and are now better able to understand the concepts of inclusion; identifying those that are left behind or being marginalised (i.e. the elderly, pastoralists, people living with disability, the ultra-poor); and identifying barriers to achieve access to services by marginalised groups. CSOs have included those issues in their advocacy for inclusive policies.
- GESI in evidence generation: Several researches were carried out with a focus on gender equality and social inclusion, and the findings were used for influencing or adjusting policies.

- GESI operationalisation in the advocacy plans: CSOs made good progress advancing the agenda for inclusive policies across the sectors. CSOs included the interests of women, people living with disabilities, youth and ethnic minorities like pastoralists, in their advocacy.
- CSOs building capacity of actors on inclusion: As government ministries often struggle with the technical aspects of gender mainstreaming, CSOs have filled the gap by extending their knowledge and skills to government officers and come up with suggestions.

6.6 Effective advocacy approaches

Several approaches have proven effective for enhancing the enabling environment. These approaches are interlinked and can be applied depending on the specific context, the status of the sector, as well as the capabilities of (government and other) the stakeholders.

Increase citizen's participation

CSOs play a crucial role in accelerating systems change and mobilising citizens' voices. Empowerment of CSOs includes enhancing their legitimacy through increased capacities, accountability, transparency, and relations with their constituency. V4CP, through CSOs, effectively worked with different citizenry, like community champions, youth advocates, district advocacy teams, and district/county civil society networks. Awareness raising and capacity strengthening activities directed at key local actors are vital to ensuring local ownership and sustainable embedding. Examples include training on how to engage the media, use evidence for advocacy, to analyse the budget cycle, and conduct social audits.

The use of evidence in influencing policy development

The V4CP experience showed that contextualised, inclusive and up-to-date evidence (including local data and making use of showcasing best-practices) is essential to influence policy processes. It supports the advocate to be taken seriously, educates decision-makers and forms a basis for policies that sufficiently consider the needs of marginalised groups. Involvement of (local) universities and research institutes helps increasing credibility of the research and findings. Evidence can also help build a strong local constituency. By actively involving citizens in evidence generation and the use of evidence, it has added a human-face and validated demand for improvements. Adjusting the same evidence for different audiences is also key. The dissemination of the evidence, through advocacy ready products, to key audiences is crucial. This, with communication adapted to raise awareness, builds a shared understanding and motivates them into action.

Increase alignment in the sector

Societal changes are more easily achieved when stakeholders involved align vision and strategies, harmonise their efforts and join forces. Only once stakeholders are sufficiently aligned, they can share valuable data and experiences, jointly set the agenda and take action. CSOs and especially sector alliances can play a vital role in the facilitation of multi-stakeholder platforms (including civil society, public and private sector representatives), seeking willingness amongst key actors to collaborate and ensuring sustainability of changes. Sector alignment and policy changes however take time, hence long-term sustained support and effort are required.

Increase coordination within government

Often thematic issues regarding RE, WASH, FNS or Resilience fall under responsibilities of various ministries and government institutions. To ensure alignment between government policies, regulations, budgets and programmes, it is imperative that those involved are equally aware and capacitated on the advocacy issues and coordinate their efforts. Civil society can play a role by providing the necessary knowledge and evidence and facilitating coordination between different government stakeholders.

Increase coordination and collaboration with government

Strengthening substructures to properly develop and roll-out laws and by-laws at the grassroots level is essential for achieving advocacy and development objectives. An engagement framework, like a Memorandum of Understanding or Terms of Reference, across and between government, development partners and local CSOs helps to ensure proper policy implementation, avoid duplication and pool resources. Activating or re-vitalising existing government task forces can enhance accountability, performance, and willingness for collaboration.

Support local governments in developing & implementing inclusive policies

To ensure that inclusive policies and programmes benefit the poorest and marginalised citizens, local authorities need to be capacitated on specific topics. However, exclusively focusing on *established*

community institutions may contribute to further marginalisation of weaker voices in the community, as those established groups might not all equally represent. This underscores the need for stronger gender equality and social inclusion lenses, to tackle power asymmetries, especially at the local level. Targets and activities must be incorporated in local or regional policies and plans, especially in decentralised political systems. Support to local authorities is an effective way to ensure plans are developed, budget is allocated, and activities are effectively implemented.

Engage and collaborate with the media

The media can be a strong ally in informing citizens and influencing government. They can help promote specific messages, objectives or goals. They can also hold decision makers accountable for promises or commitments they made. It is thus of importance for CSOs to establish good relationships with media partners, so that stories or attention points can be easily shared and followed up on.

Going to scale with quality

Scaling is necessary to bring change for more people and for greater efficiency. Scaling means on the one hand rolling-out and sharing the lessons learned between neighbouring districts, and on the other hand influencing the systems and institutions that govern and enable the use of a practice or solution at different levels, for example the provincial level to influence district and city level.

Consolidate successes and build a supportive institutional framework

One successfully adopted policy does not reveal the hundreds, even thousands of hours devoted to generating critical evidence, engaging key actors, and changing course when initial goals are not met. And a promising change can evaporate in a moment of political controversy, or changes in policy priorities. It is therefore important that CSOs continue to engage with governments to ensure that earlier commitments are followed through. Ideally this is done through increased accountability mechanisms, such as participation of CSOs in technical committees. Alternatively, CSOs can be supported to maintain their relationships with government and repeatedly bring in their views to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness of the policy changes.

Leave no one behind

Make sure all voices are heard to allow for inclusive policy development and implementation. CSOs' voices are needed to point out that governments are often the main duty bearers, responsible to make sure proper policies are in place within their jurisdiction, and that these policies always include everyone. CSOs play a key role to ensure that all citizens are represented across all levels of governance, management and decision-making.

7. M&E Framework

V4CP applied a collaborative and adaptive monitoring and learning approach throughout the project cycle. Annual review events have been organised to stimulate regular reflection on the theories of change underpinning the CSO activities. Participatory outcome harvesting was used to inform the review of the ToCs and strategies and to support their revision where necessary. The outcome harvesting also served to populate the result framework used for the annual reporting. In this chapter the different monitoring and learning tools used by V4CP are reflected upon based on experiences using these tools over the years.

Set of tools

The programme used qualitative and quantitative monitoring, learning and reporting methods, like ToC, outcome harvesting, scoring rubrics, logbooks and indicator tracking. The individual tools are valued by the involved CSOs and SNV staff. They are considered useful, flexible and relatively user-friendly, and some CSOs started applying these tools in other projects as well. However, the whole set of tools and methods is considered rather complex and time-consuming by the CSOs.

"V4CP used a mix of methods. Partner CSOs were, overall, very positive and appreciative about the V4CP process, including the use of ToCs, annual planning and review processes, and the capacity support received during the programme. One element which received some criticism was that of the monitoring system. On the one hand, CSOs reported finding it very useful as a capacity strengthening tool, as the mix of methods helped CSOs to clarify objectives and link these to annual activity plans and reviews. However, the monitoring system was also seen as being time consuming and quite onerous, particularly for smaller CSOs without a fulltime M&E officer. Many CSOs felt that there was a mismatch between the modest financial support received under V4CP and the level of reporting required." - draft final evaluation report, September 2020 -

Theory of change

ToCs were helpful upfront for being explicit and achieving consensus among involved CSOs on what they liked to achieve and why they were doing things. Contextualised thematic ToCs were drafted, based on thorough context analyses done at the start of the project. During implementation, the ToCs provided focus to the CSOs activities as well as a frame for joint reflection on whether they were doing the right things, and in the right way. The regular reflections were informed by changes in the context as well as by observations of changes that occurred because of activities of the project (and those of others). The reflections then continued with respect to activities and expected outcomes for the next period, and if need was there, the ToC, indicators and strategies were adjusted to better fit reality.

"The evaluation found the ToC to be a valid way to explain the ambition of the programme. At the country level, ToC development sometimes took a significant amount of time. It was a new approach for many of the CSOs, and the early stages of the programme were taken up with understanding it. Overall, CSOs were appreciative of the ToC approach as it facilitated a focused L&A approach, and at the same time flexible programme implementation that responded to emerging needs, arising opportunities and changing situations" - draft final evaluation report, September 2020 -

Outcome harvesting

V4CP used outcome harvesting as a monitoring tool. The tool was highly appreciated among CSOs and SNV staff. A survey among CSO and SNV staff conducted in the first half of 2020 provided insights into its most valued attributes. Outcome harvesting helped [shift the focus from activities to changes](#).

Equally important was the [participatory nature of outcome harvesting](#) which helped strengthen links between CSOs and SNV staff and built understanding of what outcomes are. Outcome harvesting offered 'meaningful engagement on results among partners', such that there was reflection,

interpretation and strategic thinking together. Outcome harvesting helped make genuine participation a reality through joint harvesting, analysis and sensemaking. The usefulness of [outcome harvesting alongside ToC to inform adaptive management](#) was also highly valued. The insights on the project contribution, and the contribution of others (which in itself can promote partnerships), the ability to track and learn from change processes to appreciate how small changes build into larger results and the learning about what strategies were and were not yielding results, were valuable when implementing advocacy initiatives that by nature were full of uncertainties that necessitated ongoing adaptation in implementation.

Next, outcome harvesting encouraged attention to unexpected and/or negative results. The [flexibility of outcome harvesting](#) was appreciated. Not being constrained by indicators, one can take an 'open look' at the programme and describe changes that are considered meaningful; not just measure against expected results but be observant of what has been achieved, and how. While overall positive about the method, it also poses challenges. Probably the most widely shared difficulty is the [significant time investment needed to use outcome harvesting](#). A point of attention is that it is a relatively complex concept and therefore requires a high investment in training and coaching of those using the tool.

Harmonised and contextualised indicators

To allow for programme-wide reporting, learning and comparison within and between themes, several common indicators for the key result areas had been defined for which each country theme was expected to collect and analyse data. The result areas for which harmonised indicators have been defined corresponded with the outcomes in the programme's generic ToC.

To ensure local ownership as well as to respect contextual differences, the CSOs contextualised the harmonised indicators and defined their own context specific results and indicators for their respective themes, for which they collected, analysed and reported data. The context specific indicators were based on their thematic contextualised ToCs.

To reduce the burden of data collection and reporting, as signalled by the CSOs and confirmed by the final evaluation, for future similar programmes it is advised to limit the number of (common and contextualised) indicators to collect data for and to report on, and to focus only on those that provide data of direct benefit to its intended users.

Conclusion

The monitoring and learning tools used in V4CP supported the CSOs, and consortium partners, in focusing their operations and encouraged them to reflect on whether their strategies were contributing to the desired outcomes. The annual review events in which collaborative reflection, learning and adjustments took place became a standard way of working. The different individual tools were appreciated by all involved and they together contributed to the building of strong partnership relations.

8. Sustainability

There are multiple layers to the sustainability of V4CP efforts and results. They include CSOs' organisational sustainability, the continuation of ongoing (advocacy and government/institutional) processes aimed at policy development or implementation, as well as continuation of the evidence-based advocacy approach itself.

Organisational sustainability

The final evaluation found robust evidence that V4CP has achieved better than expected organisational sustainability among many of the partner CSOs, and feels confident in concluding that the changes in capacity shown by the CSOs will continue beyond the end of the programme. The degree to which these are sustainable in the long-term, will be influenced by external factors (like the political situation in a country or civic space) and their ability to maintain themselves financially and with credibility.

Some CSOs reported that the business development strategy and business plans which they have developed, along with increased profile, are helping them to attract funding. The coalitions that CSOs have built with like-minded organisations are also expected to give continuity to their organisational sustainability processes.

Continuation of V4CP advocacy initiatives

More than 80% of the targeted policies showed progress in their development and/or implementation. The development and implementation of policies is generally a long process and it is unfortunate that these cannot continue to be directly supported by V4CP after 2020. However, structures developed under V4CP will help such processes to continue.

The coalition-building CSOs engaged in not only strengthened the level of influence on policy makers, but also made interventions less reliant on the sustainability of individual organisations. Many of the CSOs developed plans for continuation of their advocacy efforts after closure of V4CP jointly with their coalition members, which will increase the sustainability of these efforts (e.g. in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Honduras). In other instances, CSOs joined to develop project proposals which aim to further the results of V4CP (e.g. in Honduras).

Many CSOs discussed the wrap-up of the programme with their government counterparts, as well as the follow-up to be done by government staff. This has been taken up in so-called government action plans.

By working with local stakeholders and community champions, CSOs built their capacity on both thematic and advocacy issues and strengthened their voice as advocates. This also contributes to local ownership and sustainable embedding of policy changes and implementation.

Continuation of evidence-based advocacy as part of our sector work

Advocacy has long been part of SNV's work, but evidence-based advocacy has clearly gained more explicit prominence in approaches and projects over the past few years. Since the programme started, V4CP has been referenced in several new programmes, for example the DFAT funded WASH programme "Beyond the Finish Line", currently being implemented in Nepal, Bhutan and Laos. The V4CP approach on evidence-based advocacy is also increasingly adopted by other donors and programmes, and included in existing or new SNV projects, building on the results of V4CP. In Burkina Faso, for instance, SDC has agreed to incorporate an evidence-based advocacy component in their *Programme d'appui a la promotion de l'entrepreneuriat agricole* which will allow SNV and CSOs to continue some of their advocacy work on pastoralism. Other examples include the design of new projects in Kenya and Rwanda on Regenerative Agricultural Livelihoods and Market Systems and the Sustainable Energy for Smallholder Farmers in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda funded by the

Ikea Foundation, as well as the proposed *Programme Agroalimentaire pour la Résilience Intégrée et le Développement Economique au Sahel* in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

9. Partnership model

The V4CP partnership model includes relationships within the V4CP structure, as well as between V4CP and external actors. The latter includes government agencies, private sector, CSOs, research institutes and media outlets. The various relationships are briefly discussed and reflected upon below.

SNV-IFPRI relationship: The relationship between SNV as the contract holder and IFPRI as the consortium partner was formalised in a partnership agreement. Responsibilities and tasks were further detailed in annual plans and results were jointly reported on. Initially IFPRI's role focused on the generation and dissemination of evidence for FNS and Resilience, as well as on providing CSOs with access to online platforms, and the accompaniment of CSOs in high level meetings, events, and budget tracking. Following the recommendation of the MTR, IFPRI broadened its focus to strengthen the capacity of the CSOs on the interpretation and use of evidence products for advocacy purposes (see also Chapter 3). Overall, the consortium partnership worked well, and good use was made of the complementarity between IFPRI and SNV as confirmed by draft final evaluation.

CSO-Consortium relationship: CSOs were selected through a competitive process. Criteria included thematic experience, experience with policy influencing, legitimacy, and technical and organisational capacity. The relationship with the consortium partners was formalised through an MoU (over the full five years), and annually renewable contracts with SNV. Annual plans and reports were jointly prepared by CSOs, SNV and IFPRI.

The MTR observed that the annual renewable contracts created a sense of financial uncertainty and constrained the longer-term planning of some of the CSOs. Despite this, the final evaluation noted that the relationship was broadly valued and seen by the CSOs as a partnership rather than a donor-recipient arrangement in which SNV would take the role of the contracting agency and the CSOs be the implementers

It took time for CSOs, IFPRI and SNV to develop a common research agenda. Initially the relationship was hampered by a mismatch of expectations, which was not surprising considering that this partnership brought together three very different types of organisations. For example, the CSOs' focus tends to be on context-specific local issues, while IFPRI tends to focus on issues at national or international levels. Moreover, the applied localised research the CSOs required to support their advocacy is not easily publishable, which is a key objective of IFPRI. Finally, the roles and responsibilities were not always clearly understood. These challenges were noted in the MTR and were subsequently addressed. Since then the relationships between the CSOs and IFPRI researchers improved considerably. CSOs became fully involved in the research agenda which led to an improved understanding and ownership of the evidence and advocacy approach.

As one of the IFPRI researchers observed:

"In the end, I really appreciated this project and was very impressed with how the CSOs took up some of the evidence products in their advocacy work. I saw some clear successes in both Indonesia and Rwanda. Over time it became clearer how we all could work together to achieve common goals which was great. [...] Given the newness of this type of collaboration and project it took a while for everyone to find their footing but once we did, the project was successful on many fronts. I think if there was an even longer engagement, we would have seen compounded gains."

Unlike for FNS and Resilience, no international research institutes were included in the consortium to support the CSOs in the WASH and RE themes. Research was conducted by local research institutes and consultants in partnership with CSOs and SNV. Both approaches have advantages and disadvantages which are discussed in Chapter 3. The approaches were, however, closely tied to the different themes. Making optimal use of the strength of each of these approaches would require a hybrid approach (e.g. through partnerships of national and international research institutes) to be equally applied in all themes.

CSO-CSO relationships: After some initial competition, and in some cases distrust, the V4CP CSOs developed strong working relationships in all countries. For instance, the V4CP CSOs in Honduras organised themselves in an association and later formed a consortium to work on a concept note for a regional programme. Similarly, the V4CP CSOs in Rwanda have formed a coalition to continue interventions. These initiatives will contribute to the sustainability of the processes promoted by V4CP (see also Chapter 8). In addition, V4CP CSOs initiated or joined coalitions with non-V4CP CSOs

around specific themes or advocacy efforts (e.g. in Burkina Faso, Honduras, Ghana, and Kenya). These coalitions proved particularly useful to further advance their advocacy agendas (see also Chapter 2).

Relationship between V4CP, EKNs and DGIS: The relationship between V4CP and EKNs was not as intensive as was initially foreseen in the Dialogue and Dissent framework due to capacity constraints at the EKNs. Despite this, good working relationships were established. The EKNs supported and collaborated with V4CP, participated in workshops and events, joined field visits and commented on reports and plans. V4CP attended regular Dialogue and Dissent strategic partnership meetings to share lessons learned at the EKNs. The EKNs also supported CSOs on critical issues that required intervention through diplomacy, e.g. in Kenya, the CSO CUTS followed up with the EKN regarding the role of a consumer organisation in the food safety agenda.

Collaboration between SNV Global and DGIS included regular meetings on programme management, as well as engagement on sector development as part of the V4CP global advocacy agenda. DGIS account managers joined the global annual review and learning events and some in-country events, contributed to the planning and evaluation processes, and commented on reports and other programme outputs.

Collaboration with regard to the global advocacy agenda includes the following (see also Chapter 6):

Energy: the global advocacy strategy was developed after in-depth discussions with the DGIS account manager on energy (amongst others), and regular meetings were held to reflect on developments and strategic next steps to influence global stakeholders. Several joint activities were organised, such as a discussion on the clean cooking sector transition at an RVO/DGIS event on SDG7 and a report on the role of national alliances in the clean cooking sector transition.

WASH: Regular policy meetings were held with IGG. The so-called kitchen table meetings, among others, aimed to ensure the Dutch government's commitment to SDG6, and to discuss DGIS priorities and the role of the Netherlands in the global WASH debate, for example in the Sanitation and Water for All partnership. Content discussions were held on WASH & Nutrition, GESI, (urban) sanitation, and sustainability of services.

Food and Nutrition Security: the global advocacy strategy was developed in close consultation with senior staff from IGG and framed in the overall ambition of the Dutch government as presented in "Towards a world without hunger in 2030". Regular meetings were held between DGIS and IGG staff to discuss progress and alignment. A number of joint events were organised together with the Netherlands Working Group on Nutrition and the Policy Working Group of Agri-ProFocus. In July 2020, a joint knowledge and learning event was organized by DGIS, CSO Partners, IFPRI and SNV on the role of CSOs in advocating for Covid-19 responsive policies: "civil society experiences adapting evidence based advocacy".

CSO relationships with government and private sector: CSO collaboration with government strongly increased at national and sub-national levels in all countries. CSOs were able to demonstrate value by bringing reliable evidence to the table and addressing policy issues. They became credible partners and various government agencies included CSOs in committees and taskforces.

Collaboration between CSOs and private sector improved as well, but not to the extent initially foreseen and was limited to specific issues with clear mutual benefits. For instance, in Rwanda, engaging the private sector helped CSOs to convince government that fortification regulation is in the interest of all stakeholders. The Rwandan CSOs also supported the private sector by requesting government to subsidise or apply tax exemption on fortification premixes. This fastened the approval of the food fortification regulation. In Kenya, CSOs across the sectors connected and fronted advocacy priorities to respective sector units at the Kenya Private Sector Alliance.

CSOs' relationships with the media: In all countries, the CSOs built good relationships with media outlets, and used traditional and social media in support of their advocacy efforts (see also Chapter 3). Results show that investments in relationships with mainstream media and in making better use of social media networks and digital tools, paid off and improved policy influencing.

10. Financial implementation

This section presents a provisional assessment of financial implementation over the programme period as the 2020 financial year is not yet closed. Final financial reports over 2020 and over the full period of the programme will be presented separately.

In this assessment, the projected depletion over the full programme is estimated using the actual expenditure as per approved financial reports over 2016-2019, and the planned expenditure in 2020.

No major deviations from the main budget lines (countries, themes) as per the approved budget at the start of the programme are foreseen, and the programme is expected to be completed roughly on budget.

The financial implementation is in line with the technical implementation of the programme as reported in the previous chapters. This includes IFPRI, which is expected to fully utilise its budget as well.

The expected total depletion of the *major country budget lines* at the end of the programme varies by country between 0-5% (see table below). Burkina Faso showed a substantial under-depletion in year 1, and some of the unused funds were subsequently reallocated and used by other countries, notably to Rwanda. The projected over-expenditure on the international SNV / IFPRI budget line as compared to the original budget is due to the reservations made in 2020 for staff costs in 2021, as well as a reallocation in the IFPRI budget to cover its share of the costs of the mid-term review and final evaluation, which was initially not budgeted for.

Budget allocations and depletion by country: approved proposed budget vs. expected total depletion (in '000 EUR)

Country	Original budget		Projected total depletion		Projected Deviation	
	000' EUR	% of total	000' EUR	% of total	000' EUR	%
Kenya	6.817	20%	6.660	19%	-157	-2%
Rwanda	4.023	12%	4.240	12%	218	5%
Burkina Faso	6.732	19%	6.371	18%	-361	-5%
Ghana	5.348	15%	5.361	16%	13	0%
Indonesia	4.049	12%	4.102	12%	53	1%
Honduras	3.776	11%	3.644	11%	-133	-4%
International SNV / IFPRI	3.922	11%	4.090	12%	168	4%
Total	34.668		34.468		-200	

Note that there will likely be slight underspent at the end of the programme (now estimated at about 200k Euro). This is mainly due to the COVID related restrictions on travel and meetings that applied from March onwards.

Similarly, the *financial implementation by theme* was roughly as was initially planned. Over the duration of the programme, the FNS budget saw a light proportional increase, while WASH and RE budgets (and expenditure) were slightly reduced (see table below). The adjustments of the RE budget are directly linked to the overall reduction of the overall country budgets in Honduras, Burkina Faso, and Kenya in 2020 and therefore more country than theme related.

Budget allocations and depletion by theme: approved proposed budget vs. expected total depletion (in '000 EUR)

Theme	Original budget		Projected total depletion		Projected Deviation	
	000' EUR	% of total	000' EUR	% of total	000' EUR	%
FNS	18.001	52%	18.562	54%	561	3%
Resilience	5.678	16%	5.598	16%	-80	-1%
RE	6.120	18%	5.766	17%	-354	-6%
WASH	4.868	14%	4.722	14%	-146	-3%
Total	34.668		34.468		-200	

There were somewhat larger changes in the minor budget lines at country level. Administrative costs at country level were overall about 11% lower than anticipated and a total of about 640k Euro from these budget lines was reallocated to the activity and M&E budgets over the years.

The total activity budget (capacity development, knowledge and research, and advocacy) was increased over the years by about 229k (1%). The major part of activity budget was either directly managed or co-managed by the CSOs. The budget for M&E was increased by about 15% in total to cover the costs of the mid-term review, which was initially not foreseen, as well to cover costs for Stories of Change.

11. Overall lessons learned and conclusions

The V4CP programme showed significant progress in strengthening and empowering the CSOs, in the generation and use of evidence in advocacy, and in supporting the CSO advocacy agendas.

Key observations and conclusions are:

Capacity strengthening trajectory. The differentiated capacity strengthening approach addressing the specific needs of the CSOs proved effective. The vast majority of the CSOs assessed their capacity in leadership, thematic knowledge, advocacy skills, and organisational sustainability as good or excellent, a significant increase compared to 2016.

CSO ownership of evidence. The importance of the close collaboration between CSOs, IFPRI and other knowledge partners ensuring that evidence generated addressed the needs of the CSOs, was reconfirmed. Other stakeholders were also involved in the evidence generation and/or validation process. This cultivated a rich feedback mechanism between the different stakeholders and ensured the product's relevance and use.

Stronger integration of gender equality and social inclusion. GESI was initially implicitly addressed in V4CP. Following the Mid Term Review, ample attention was paid in all six countries to incorporating GESI in CSOs' advocacy plans, activities, and operations. It was noted that a conscious application of gender equality and social inclusion measures requires time and effort considering the cultural characteristics of communities in which CSOs work, as well personal and institutional barriers.

Results of evidence-based advocacy. Clear progress was observed in the adoption and implementation of new or adjusted inclusive policies. Critical factors contributing to progress in policy development included:

- the **focus of advocacy efforts** on clearly defined, specific issues rather than broad thematic development issues;
- development of **realistic and flexible advocacy plans and tools** to guide advocacy actions of CSOs and their partners;
- greater **dialogue with government stakeholders**, as the result of the collaborative approach applied;
- selection of the right **target audience**; e.g. in Burkina Faso, CSOs influenced government actors through their engagement with parliamentarians;
- **coalition building and collaboration** with other CSOs and stakeholders, to work together towards a common advocacy goal. Working as a coalition also served to enhance CSOs' reputations and increase their lobby and advocacy influence;
- the **use of evidence** to convince government actors of the need to create or update a policy/plan, to improve CSOs' knowledge of the sector, and to refine CSOs' advocacy messages. This in turn led to increased CSO credibility, which can contribute to increasing civic space;
- **collaboration with media** and other public fora to hold actors accountable. Through TV/radio shows, CSOs increased the visibility of their advocacy issue and created public awareness. CSOs also mobilised local actors (e.g. community champions) to raise advocacy issues;
- and participation in **strategic events**, both national and international, to increase CSOs' visibility and reputation; this in turn enhanced their space to operate politically.

Systemic change by scaling results at subnational levels to national level. CSOs increasingly attempted to influence the development of national-level policies through the sub-national level. CSOs found themselves to be more visible and influential at sub-national levels, and by using results at sub-national level to strengthen their case, became more effective in achieving policy change. Recognition of the short- and medium-term results allowed for upscaling to national level on the longer term. This is for instance visible in Indonesia, where district level results on WASH and FNS are being upscaled by the government from the district to the provincial and national levels.

Alignment with other SNV programmes. Complementarity of programmes and projects helps to build momentum for systemic change. Alignment also means ensuring consistency in messaging towards stakeholders. In general, it proved easier to build on completed projects and programmes, than to complement existing projects, as projects are not necessarily aligned timewise, and operate under specific, and often not sufficiently flexible, result frameworks.

Voice for Change Partnership

The Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) programme is a collaboration between the Dutch government, SNV, and IFPRI to empower civil society organisations (CSOs) as advocates for policies and practices benefitting poor and marginalised communities. The programme aims to influence systems change in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, and Rwanda, focusing on food and nutrition security, resilience, renewable energy, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Consortium lead



Consortium partner

