

2021

RESULTS REPORT

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMME

“CHILDREN HOLD THE FUTURE”

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1. SUMMARY

The Annual Results Report 2021 presents the results, lessons learned and challenges of the fourth and final implementation year of Fida’s Development Cooperation Programme 2018–2021. In addition, the report analyses overall achievements during the 4-year programme period. During the reporting year and programme period, Fida has worked to strengthen **children’s Rights to Education, Health and Adequate Living Standards**. The Programme also worked to strengthen the financial and administrative capacity and advocacy work of partner organisations. The activities in Finland, meanwhile, have focused on raising awareness and increasing engagement regarding the Programme’s themes among the public in Finland through **Advocacy, Communication and Global Education**. The Programme contained three Cross-Cutting Objectives, which were mainstreamed in all Country Programmes namely Equity, Gender, and Environment and Climate Resilience.

An overview of the Programme is provided in Section 2 below, while the combined results by outcome areas during 2021 and during the 2018–2021 programme period are presented in Section 3. Section 4 contains a brief overview of the results in each Country Programme. The results of the Advocacy, Global Education and Development Communication programmes implemented in Finland are then presented in section 5, followed by the Programme monitoring, quality control and financing in Sections 6 and 7.

The Development Cooperation Programme operated in **17 countries in South and South-East Asia, Eastern Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia** (see Chart 1) over the programme period. This number was reduced to 16 at the end of 2018 with the closing of the India Country Programme and to 15 in

2019 with the closing of the Country Programme in DPR Korea. This Annual Results Report has been prepared based on the Annual Reports of each Country Programme as well as the results of the Development Communication, Global Education and Advocacy carried out in Finland. The Programme’s Result Matrix (Appendix 2) has also been an important tool for analysing the Programme’s results.

Chart 1. Fida Country Programmes 2018–2021.



Fida’s **operating environment included countries that were fragile and/or least developed and in which the space for civil society to operate was limited**. This difficult operating environment posed challenges to implementation. Additional challenges were posed during 2020–2021 by the global Covid-19 pandemic. Analysis of the operating environment was carried out annually at the Country Programme and global levels (see Section 2.3). The Programme’s Risk Management Plan was updated based on this analysis (see Section 2.4 and Appendix 3.).

The beneficiary targets set for the programme period were exceeded. The **Programme reached 373 600 direct beneficiaries during 2021 and 1 052 400 direct beneficiaries during the programme period** (see Chart 2 Below). A total of 2.3 million indirect beneficiaries were also reached in 2021 and 10.1

million during the programme period. The increased number of beneficiaries, compared to the number targeted in the Programme Plan, is mainly due to the expansion of several Country Programmes in Africa during 2020–2021 and also due to funding being reallocated to humanitarian aid, following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. During the programme period, significant results were achieved in terms of changes in the knowledge, attitudes and practices of rights holders and duty bearers concerning rights to education, health and an adequate living standard. Children enrolled in school in increasing numbers and stayed in education for longer, their physical and mental health improved, and parents and unemployed youth were equipped with new skills with which they were able to increase their income and productive assets (see Section 3. for detailed analysis).

*Chart 2. Direct Beneficiaries in 2021 (2018–2021).
NB: Figures for DPR Korea not included in 2018–2021 disaggregation.*

RIGHTS HOLDERS Total: 308 700 (669 400)	Girls	94 400 (216 600)
	Boys	87 200 (196 500)
	Women	77 200 (160 800)
	Men	49 900 (98 500)
DUTY BEARERS Total: 58 795 (170 400)	Women	34 700 (92 000)
	Men	24 100 (79 000)
CHURCH PARTNERS Total: 5 420 (12 200)	Women	2 100 (4 500)
	Men	3 300 (7 700)
NGO PARTNERS Total: 720 (1 880)	Women	400 (940)
	Men	300 (940)
	Total	373 600 (1 052 400)
	PWDs	16 100 (33 600)

Local civil society was also strengthened through the Programme. As described further in section 3.5, the capacity of the Programme’s local partner organisations to operate effectively and carry out impactful advocacy work increased during the programme period. Organisational “health checks”

were carried out to assess progress towards the capacity building targets. In addition, the Programme established and worked with more than 360 local-level civil society groups in 2021 (programme period: 570) to support them in providing a voice for marginalized communities. These local actors increasingly took the initiative to advocate to duty bearers to take responsibility for the fulfilment of the rights to Health, Education and Adequate Living Standard rights of marginalized communities (see sections 3.2–3.4 below).

The Programme encountered various operational challenges during both 2021 and over the programme period, not least the Covid-19 pandemic. However, through employing adaptive management and a flexible approach the Programme was able to reach most of its objectives and many important lessons were learned that will be used to strengthen future development cooperation interventions.

The **Cross-Cutting Objectives of Equity, Environment and Climate Resilience, and Gender were mainstreamed in all Country Programmes** (see Section 3.6). The promotion of Innovation, Technology and Corporate Collaboration (ITCC) was also emphasized. Organisational learning was supported through two evaluations during 2021: a mid-term evaluation of the Iraq Country Programme and a combined final evaluation of Country Programmes in Laos, Bhutan and Cambodia. More information on evaluations can be found in Section 6.3.

Three funding reallocations for 2021 were approved by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, of which one related to the Country Programme in DR Congo and two to the Myanmar Country Programme. The reallocations enabled a shifting of resources to humanitarian relief to support communities affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano (DR Congo) and those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and military coup (Myanmar). More information can be found in the relevant Country Programme result summaries in section 4 below.

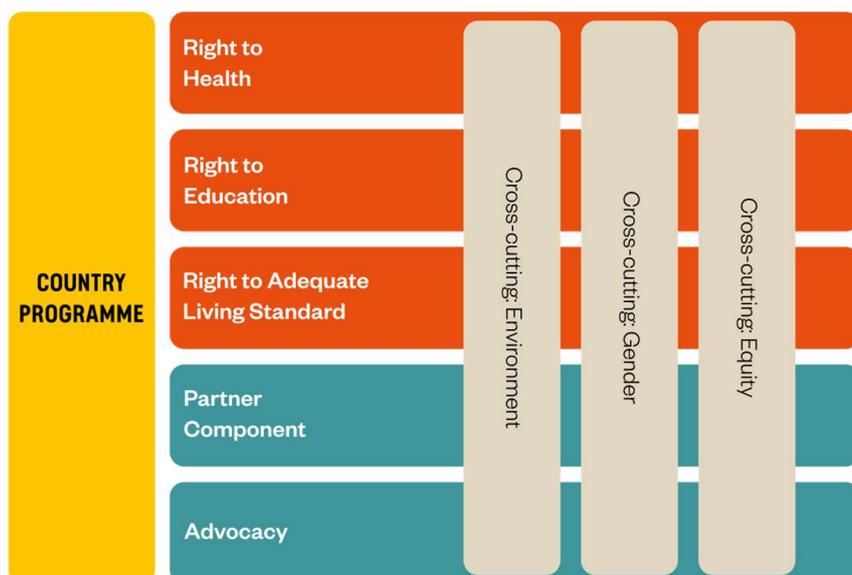
2. FIDA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION 2018–2021

2.1. STRUCTURE AND THEMES OF THE PROGRAMME

The main aim of the Programme was to strengthen the realisation of children's rights to Health, Education and Adequate Living Standards. The Programme also contained a specific Partner Component aimed at strengthening the capacity of partner organisations in the areas of administrative and financial management and advocacy. The three Cross-Cutting Objectives were mainstreamed across the Programme.

In 2021 the Development Cooperation Programme contained 15 Country Programmes (programme period: 17). Each Country Programme contained between 1–3 Components related to the strengthening of children's rights as well as a Partner Component, aimed at strengthening the capacity of partner organisations. Advocacy regarding the fulfilment of human rights was carried out in all Country Programmes. In addition, many Country Programmes included a separate Advocacy Component to further strengthen partner capacity in this area. The Country Programmes worked to bring about sustainable change at three levels: individual; civil society; and government levels. The outline of a typical Country Programme can be found in Figure 1. below.

Figure 1. The Structure of a Country Programme.



The Country Programmes were designed using a Human-Rights Based Approach (see Section 2.2 below) and in close collaboration with Fida's partner organisations and other local stakeholders. Special care was taken to include both rights holders and duty bearers in the planning and implementation of the Country Programmes. Each Country Programme was designed from the beginning with sustainability in mind, for instance, by focusing on changing attitudes and behaviour and building sustainable structures so that positive changes can be maintained after the intervention period. Country Programme activities were thus focused on both on building awareness of children's rights among rights holders and key duty bearers and on empowering rights holders to advocate for the realisation of their own rights.

2.2. HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH AND THEORY OF CHANGE

Fida's development cooperation is based on a **Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)**. The Development Cooperation Programme 2018–2021 aimed to identify and tackle structural causes preventing rights from being fulfilled to promote long-term, sustainable changes in people's lives. During the programme period, progress towards the results was monitored by collecting disaggregated data concerning the fulfilment of human rights and the capacity of rights holders and duty bearers.

Additional indicators measured changes at the civil society and government levels. Partners have played an important role in advocating for children's rights and in supporting national and community-level advocacy efforts.

The Programme Plan set out a goal to transition **from a human rights progressive to a human rights transformational level during the programme period**. A human-rights progressive level, as defined by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs'

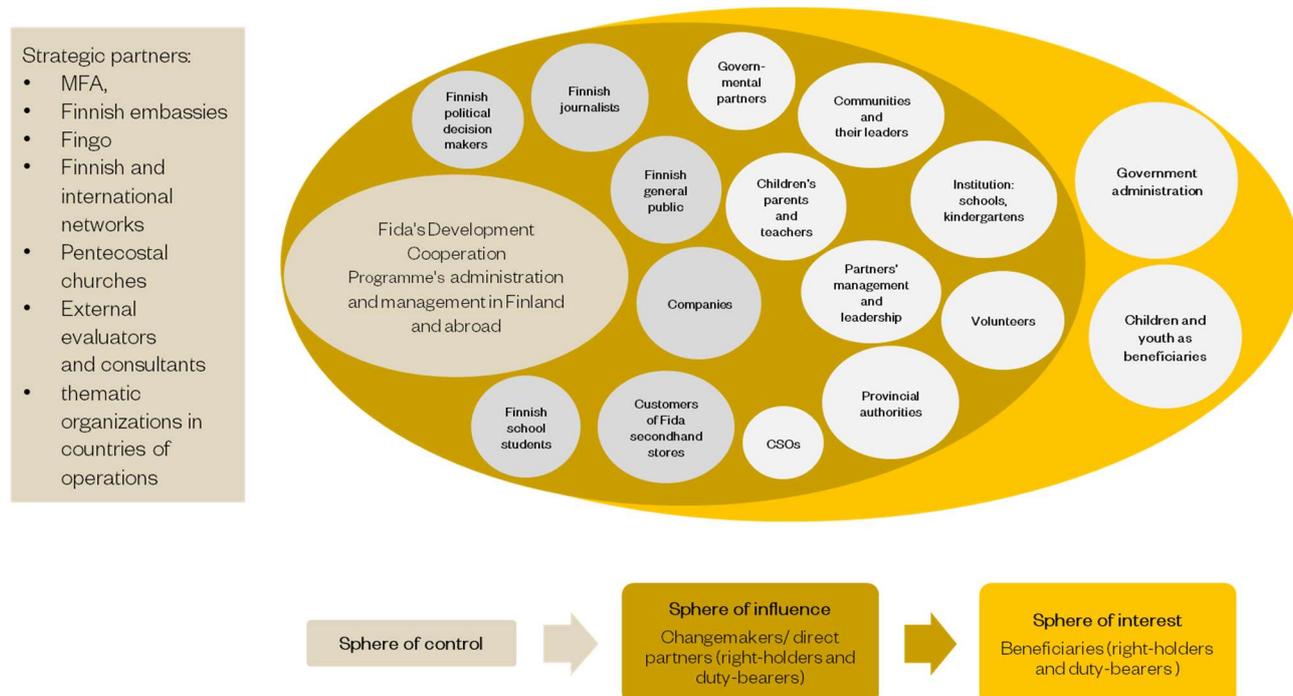
Guidance Note 2015¹, has the following elements: firstly, it seeks to address the root causes behind the lack of fulfilment of human rights; secondly, human rights guide the selection of planned results; thirdly, determined action is directed towards capacity development and advocacy; fourthly, the intervention is framed in terms of rights and obligations; and lastly, a strategic policy dialogue on the specific human rights targeted is included in the intervention. **It is our view that we have been able to successfully transition to a human-rights transformational level** during the 2018-2021 programme period, although room remains to further strengthen the transformative focus in the future.

In fragile countries, including many of the countries in which Fida operates, **the state may have difficulty providing basic services, resulting in key rights remaining unfulfilled for children and youth**. In such contexts, a HRBA approach justifies service provision to rights holders to ensure that their rights are fulfilled. In certain fragile countries, Fida has therefore worked with partners to provide basic services, also as a

model for governing authorities. The Programme aimed, nevertheless, to decrease the share of service delivery as the programme period progressed and the capacity of local duty bearers increased. There was some initial success with this goal and the share of service delivery activities between 2018 and 2019 decreased from 46 % to 28 %. However, service provision later increased slightly to 32 % in 2020 and 38 % in 2021. This regression can be attributed to a shifting of focus from development cooperation activities to humanitarian relief, following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, as well as the provision of humanitarian relief to persons affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in DR Congo and the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and military coup in Myanmar (both 2021).

The Theory of Change of Fida's development cooperation can be explained with reference to the Programme's **Results Chain**. The Results Chain for Fida's Programme outlines the planned impact and outcomes that Country Programmes and Fida's Domestic Programme contribute to. The planned

Figure 2. Actor-centred Approach – Theory of Change.



¹ Human Rights Based Approach in Finland's Development Cooperation: Guidance Note 2015, Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

overall impact of Fida's Development Cooperation Programme 2018–2021 is that *"fairness, children's affirmed human dignity and societal peace have increased in Fida's programme countries"*. Three outcome areas contribute to the achievement of the Impact. The **first outcome area** aims for strengthened realisation of children's Rights to Health, Education and Adequate Living Standards and is reached through outputs that strengthen the capacity of citizens, civil societies and authorities to enhance the realisation of children's rights. The **second outcome area** aims to strengthen the capacity of partners to operate effectively and advocate for the realisation of children's rights. The **third outcome area** aims for increased willingness of Finnish civil society and decision-makers to advocate for the realisation of children's rights in developing countries and is promoted through Development Communication, Global Education and Advocacy activities. All Country Programmes, as well as Fida's Domestic Programme, contribute to the achievement of the Programme's impact.

A further important aspect of the Programme's Theory of Change is working to strengthen children's rights through partner organisations and change makers (Figure 2 on previous page). The local partner organisations are both implementers of the Programme and also beneficiaries of the Programme through the Advocacy and Capacity Building Components.

From the perspective of the Programme as a whole, the beneficiaries of the Programme in Finland have been considered part of the Programme's sphere of influence: as their awareness grows, they have the potential to act as future change makers, contributing to the implementation of Finnish development cooperation and through that, promoting the realisation of children's rights. As previously mentioned, the planned Impact of the Programme is

to see justice increased, the dignity of children and young people affirmed, and peace in society strengthened. For such a change to take place and become permanent, structural changes are required, and these were the focus of advocacy activities both in the Thematic Components and in the Capacity Building and Advocacy Components of the Country Programmes. **Progress and results have been regularly monitored and assessed at all levels** and are reported in the following sections.

2.3. OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Fida's Development Cooperation Programme operated in 15 countries during the 2021. Eleven of the countries were classified as Least Developed Countries by OECD DAC, whilst the remainder consisted mainly of Lower Middle-Income Countries. The Fragile State Index (FSI) classified nine countries as being at the "Warning" level, signifying weak political and social institutions and cohesion, whilst six countries were considered to be at the most serious "Alert" level, which indicates a highly fragile situation and a potential for societal collapse. Several countries in which the Programme operated, such as DR Congo, Iraq, Myanmar, and Afghanistan were experiencing or recovering from conflict situations.

According to analysis by CIVICUS, the space for civil society to operate was limited to some degree in all operating countries. All countries faced challenges in terms of fulfilling the educational, health and adequate living standard rights of citizens and contained significant segments of the population living in poverty. For this reason, Fida's work supporting and equipping local CSOs, Churches and other actors as rights advocates has been very important. For more detailed information on the situation in each Country Programme please refer to Chart 3 below.

Chart 3. DAC, Fragile State Index and CIVICUS Categories of Fida's Programme Countries.

COUNTRY	DAC CATEGORY 2021	FSI CATEGORY 2021	CIVICUS CATEGORY 2021
Afghanistan	Least Developed Country	Alert	Repressed
Bangladesh	Least Developed Country	Warning	Repressed
Bhutan	Least Developed Country	Warning	Obstructed
Burundi	Least Developed Country	Alert	Closed
Cambodia	Least Developed Country	Warning	Repressed
DR Congo	Least Developed Country	Alert	Repressed
Iraq	Upper Middle-Income Country	Alert	Closed
Jordan	Lower Middle-Income Country	Warning	Repressed
Kenya	Lower Middle-Income Country	Warning	Obstructed
Laos	Least Developed Country	Warning	Closed
Myanmar	Least Developed Country	Alert	Repressed
Nepal	Least Developed Country	Warning	Obstructed
Tajikistan	Lower Middle-Income Country	Warning	Repressed
Tanzania	Least Developed Country	Warning	Repressed
Uganda	Least Developed Country	Alert	Repressed

During 2021, major changes occurred in the operating environments in Myanmar and Afghanistan. In February 2021, the Myanmar army launched a coup d'état, overthrowing the democratically elected government. This was followed by a crackdown on opposition groups and a significant narrowing of the space for civil society to operate. Meanwhile, in August, the Taliban took control of Afghanistan and introduced changes that threaten some of the achievements of the Afghanistan Country Programme, such as placing limits on the participation of women and girls in society.

The most significant change in the operating environment of the Programme during the programme period was the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and the subsequent restrictions on movement and gatherings. The negative impact of the pandemic on the Programme was greatest during 2020, when most target countries closed schools and implemented full or partial lockdowns. During this time, several Country Programmes switched their activities from development cooperation to humanitarian relief. Restrictions were eased in some

countries during in 2021, however, in others, such as Bangladesh and Uganda, schools remained closed for much of the year, necessitating a flexible approach to Programme implementation.

While the Covid-19 pandemic presented challenges to implementation and, in some cases led to negative changes such as a narrowing of civil society space, **there were also some unexpected positive impacts**. For instance, in Tajikistan national television broadcasts covering basic hygiene and hand washing measures for the prevention of Covid-19 helped people understand and appreciate the Country Programme's hygiene messages. In addition, there were many positive lessons learned throughout the Programme concerning the potential of ICT for increasing the reach of Country Programmes (see section 3.8 for further information), also the significant role of volunteers helped to reach the targets in many Country Programmes.

Other changes in the operating environment **over the programme period** include restrictions during election periods. Such restrictions occurred in Bhutan (2018 and 2021), Burundi (2020) and Uganda

(2021). Meanwhile, the Country Programme in DPR Korea was impacted by international sanctions, which made it impossible to transfer funds to the country and led to the premature closure of the Country Programme in 2019. Difficulties obtaining relevant permits also led to delays in implementation at various times in several Programme countries and highlighted the importance of maintaining good relations with governing authorities.

Overall, despite the narrow civil society space in many countries in which the Programme operates, there has generally been a strong level of support for Fida's Country Programmes from local and national authorities since they are aligned with national strategic development plans and effort is made to regularly engage with local state institutions and to maintain good relations.

2.4. RISK ANALYSIS

A **strategic level mapping and analysing of the risks was undertaken** for the entire Programme, considering the circumstances in the countries of operation. The Risk Management Plan was drawn up based on this analysis and has been updated annually as the environment has changed and new risks have emerged. Risks have been divided into four categories: *strategic, operational, financial and hazard risks*. For each risk a risk level was chosen, a management plan drawn up and responsible parties identified. Residual risk was also calculated. The Programme's updated Risk Management Plan, which was updated for the upcoming 2022–2025 programme period can be found attached (see Appendix 3). During 2021 the risk categories were updated, and a new category was added (hazard risks). In addition, risks related to climate change and natural disasters were added to the Risk Matrix.

During 2021, the Country Programmes also assessed their country-specific Risk Management Plans with the local partners and made changes, as needed. Significant risks identified by the Country Programmes include risks related to Covid-19 and other public health emergencies, corruption, funding, sustainability and change management. In addition,

the narrowing space for civil society was considered a risk to advocacy and the realisation of human rights.

Three major Country Programme-level risks were realised in 2021. Firstly, the operating environment became significantly more difficult in Myanmar, following the military coup. Secondly, the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban drastically changed the operating environment in the country and threatened the sustainability of some of the Country Programme's results. Fida responded to these changes in the operating environment by evacuating ex-patriate staff from Myanmar. Ex-patriate staff based in Afghanistan were outside the country at the time of the Taliban takeover and did not return during 2021. Country Programme Managers remained in close contact with local implementing staff using online communication platforms. The third major risk that was realized in 2021 was the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in DR Congo, which led to a re-evaluation of risk management and practices in disaster situations in the Country Programme.

Other risks continue to be present in Fida's Country Programmes. The operating environment in DR Congo remained extremely insecure and there was a continuous threat from armed groups. In Kenya drought posed challenges, which were nevertheless mitigated through the promotion of conservation agriculture, growing of drought-resistant crops and water harvesting. An additional risk identified was the weak mobilisation of resources by the local partner. This was mitigated to some extent by using the local partners' volunteers to support implementation. Environmental risks, including droughts and flooding were also experienced in Uganda and Tanzania. In Uganda, the Country Programme joined the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Committee, which works to prevent sexual harassment and abuse in the Bidibidi refugee settlement. Meanwhile, risks related to securing work permits and other types of permits for ex-patriate staff continue to be present.

Major risks that were realised prior to 2021 included the restrictions on fund transfers to DPR

Korea in 2019, which resulted in the closure of the Country Programme, and the emergence of the global Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, which continued into 2021. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic were felt across the whole Programme. The speed with which the pandemic spread, and the rapid introduction of restrictions presented significant challenges to Programme implementation in both 2020 and 2021. However, as the situation stabilized, the Country Programmes were able to make contingency plans and found new and innovative ways of implementing the planned activities (see Section 3.8).

During 2020, €325 350 of **funding was reallocated from development cooperation activities to humanitarian relief** related to Covid-19 in nine Programme countries. The humanitarian relief reached more than 105 000 beneficiaries (f: 57 700, PWD: 2 300). Other Country Programmes were able to respond to the pandemic within the frameworks of their annual plans. Relief activities focused on

informing people of the dangers of Covid-19 and how to protect themselves from infection. In addition, essential food aid and hygiene items were provided to people groups in vulnerable situations and handwashing stations were set up in key locations, such as schools and youth centres. When face-to-face meetings were possible care was taken to ensure a safe environment for participants by providing masks, hand sanitizer/soap and water and ensuring social distancing.

The Country Programmes provided support to local partners to create their own **Child Protection Policies**. For example, in Iraq both local partner NGOs were supported to draw up their own policies, which also included sections on sexual harassment and misconduct. Currently, partners in 12/15 Country Programmes have a Child Protection Policy compared to 8/17 in 2018. Fida's Security Plan, including the Country Security and Emergency Preparedness Plans of each Country Programme, were updated annually and when needed.

3. PROGRESS BY OUTCOME RESULT AREAS

The objectives, indicators, and results of Fida's Development Programme are presented in full in the attached Result Matrix (Appendix 2.). This Results Report contains **an analysis and overview of Programme performance** based on the Results Matrix and the Country Programme Annual Reports. Section 3.1 below presents the results from the perspective of the beneficiaries reached. The following sections, sections 3.2–3.4, present the results for each thematic area included in Outcome 1, namely Right to Health, Right to Education and Right to Adequate Living Standards. The results for Outcome 2, Partner Capacity Building and Advocacy, are presented in Section 3.5, followed by the results for the Cross-Cutting Objectives and Learning Areas in Section 3.6. Finally, reflections on the challenges and lessons learned are discussed in Section 3.7 and new funding and innovations in Section 3.8. Overviews of the main achievements in each Country Programme are presented in Section 4 and the results of Outcome 3, i.e., the Domestic Programme, are presented in Section 5.

The Development Cooperation Programme used a **traffic light system** in the Global and Country

Programme-level Result Matrices to indicate progress towards annual and programme period targets. A green light indicated that the targets were achieved or close to being achieved. A yellow light showed that there was mixed success in reaching the indicator targets and a red light indicated that the Programme was relatively far from meeting its target, suggesting either that there were implementation challenges or that the original targets may have been overly ambitious.

3.1. NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES BY THEME

The number of beneficiaries of the thematic components (Outcome Area 1), as well as those reached through the Capacity Building and Advocacy components (Outcome Area 2) are shown in Chart 4 below. The following numbers of beneficiaries were reached in each component: Right to Health 138 700; Right to Education 129 600; Right to Adequate Living Standards 36 200; Advocacy 14 600; Capacity Building 1 110. The corresponding totals for the programme period are shown in Chart 4 below.

*Chart 4. Direct beneficiaries by theme (same beneficiaries may be included under more than one theme).
NB: Figures for DPR Korea not included in 2018–2021 disaggregation.*

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY THEME 2021 (2018–2021)												
Theme	Rights-Holders				Duty Bearers		Church Partners		NGO Partners		TOTAL	Persons with Disabilities
	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men		
Right to Education	52 200 (130 400)	47 400 (122 600)	1 700 (8 800)	1 400 (8 000)	18 000 (54 900)	8 900 (40 500)					129 600 (365 200)	7 400 (15 600)
Right to an Adequate Living Standard	5 500 (9 600)	6 200 (8 800)	6 800 (21 200)	3 700 (9 000)	7 000 (20 800)	6 900 (18 900)					36 200 (113 400)	1 100 (3 900)
Right to Health	26 500 (71 600)	23 400 (58 800)	36 100 (99 800)	21 800 (57 000)	16 400 (41 700)	14 600 (37 600)					138 700 (536 400)	6 100 (12 200)
Advocacy							9 000 (10 900)	5 300 (8 400)	170 (700)	140 (700)	14 600 (20 700)	790 (820)
Capacity Building							230 (1 100)	640 (2 100)	230 (460)	120 (420)	1 110 (4 100)	20 (30)

3.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH

The **Right to Health** component promotes the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and parents



(Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 24). In the Country Programmes this meant increasing awareness of health issues and working to increase



access to health care services for children, parents, and care givers. In addition, the Country Programmes provided psychosocial support and promoted Sexual

and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) by educating adults and children on these topics. The Right to Health was also strengthened through improving access to clean water and sanitation for children and young people. Finally, training was provided to healthcare professionals to support them in providing appropriate, good quality healthcare services. **The Right to Health Component was included in 9/15 Country Programmes and in 2021 reached 138 700 direct beneficiaries (programme period: 536 400), among them 49 900 children (programme period: 130 400) and 6 100 persons with disabilities (programme period: 12 200).**

Chart 5. Outcome indicators of Right to Health component.

OUTCOME INDICATOR	TARGET 2021 (PROGRAMME PERIOD)	RESULT 2021 (PROGRAMME PERIOD)
Number of parents and children with demonstrated <i>changed attitudes/ beliefs</i>	22 000 (72 400)	31 800 (93 300)
Number of parents and children with demonstrated <i>changed behaviours</i>	13 800 (36 700)	22 900 (62 300)
Number of parents and children with demonstrated <i>improved health situation</i>	15 900 (49 900)	13 100 (44 500)
Number of functional civil society groups that actively promote health rights	109 (374)	122 (295)
Cases of demonstrated influence on decision-makers regarding health rights	71 (193)	19 (129)

Analysis of the outcome-level results related to the Right to Health shows **good progress during 2021 and over the programme period** . According to 3/5 indicators, the Programme has achieved or was close to achieving its targets (green traffic light). During 2021, there were **positive changes regarding the knowledge and attitudes of over 31 700 people (children: 26 000) concerning important health topics**, such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and harmful cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (programme period: 93 300, including 67 600 children). The changes in attitudes resulted in 22 900 people (children: 10 200) reporting changed behaviour (programme period: 62 300, including 12 700 children). A total of 13 100 beneficiaries, including 4 500 children reported an improved health situation (programme period: 44 500, including 17 700 children).

The remaining two outcome-level indicators, which measured change at the civil society and government

levels respectively, showed more moderate success compared to the targets (yellow traffic light). At the civil society level, 122 civil society groups actively promoted health rights in target communities, while the figure for the programme period was 295 groups. Meanwhile, at the government level, the Programme was able to influence political decision-making regarding the right to health on 19 occasions in 2021 and 129 times over the programme period. While both results were slightly below the targeted level, they nevertheless demonstrated positive change.

Changes in attitudes and behaviour at the outcome-level were the result of successful output-level activities , which raised awareness of health rights among rights holders and duty bearers and put in place concrete measures to enable people to take care of their health. For instance, during 2021 water and sanitation facilities were improved for more than 8 500 people (programme period: 20 300). In addition, 6 400 children, of whom 3 600 were girls,

participated in Kids Clubs, where they were taught about relevant health topics and health rights (programme period: 8 500 children and 4 200 girls). Meanwhile, the capacity of 27 local civil society groups to advocate on matters related to health rights was strengthened during 2021 (programme period: 202 groups).

3.3. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states (Article 28) that “every child has the right to an education” and that children should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible. The



Education Component in Fida’s Development Cooperation Programme works towards the achievement of these goals and incorporates informal Kids Clubs and training that support children’s formal education, teaches life management skills to children and young people, and provides vocational training. The goals relating to education are included in 12/15 Country Programmes. In 2021 there were 129 600 direct beneficiaries reached through Right to Education activities (programme period: 365 200), among them 52 200 girls (programme period: 130 400), 47 400 boys (programme period: 122 600) and 7 400 persons with disabilities (programme period: 15 600).

Chart 6. Outcome indicators of Right to Education component.

OUTCOME INDICATOR	TARGET 2021 (PROGRAMME PERIOD)	RESULT 2021 (PROGRAMME PERIOD)
Number of children who benefit from improved quality of education	12 700 (59 500)	30 500 (58 000)
Number of children who benefit from improved access to education	12 300 (41 000)	27 300 (79 100)
Number of children who benefit from improved knowledge of parents/ teachers/ children on children’s rights	13 200 (44 000)	40 900 (139 700)
Number of functional civil society groups that actively promote children’s education rights	84 (273)	180 (455)
Cases of demonstrated influence on decision-makers regarding education rights	26 (95)	158 (500)

The Programme was able to achieve all (5/5) of its outcome-level targets for both 2021 and the programme period (green traffic light). This compares to 4/5 achieved in 2020, when the indicator measuring access to education was yellow. The Programme was able to make progress in this area during 2021 by employing a flexible approach. For instance, the Country Programme in Nepal cooperated with the Nepalese authorities to distribute home-learning materials to 28 300 children and similar support was given to children in the Bidibidi refugee settlement in Uganda. Schools were reopened in several programme countries, which also improved access to education. In total 27 300 children, including 13 300 girls and 1 538 children with disabilities benefitted from improved access to education during 2021. The corresponding figure for the programme period was 79 100 children,

including 37 700 girls and 8 000 children with disabilities.

In 2021 the **quality of education** provided to 30 500 children (programme period: 58 000) was improved. Girls represented approximately 50 % of beneficiaries, while the number of children with disabilities that were impacted was 1 500 in 2021 and 1 650 over the programme period. In addition to work aimed at strengthening individuals’ educational rights, the Programme also worked to strengthen the capacity of local civil society groups to promote children’s educational rights. During 2021, 180 groups actively promoted children’s educational rights, while the corresponding figure for the programme period was 455 groups. Meanwhile, **advocacy regarding educational rights** influenced 158 government decisions in 2021 and 500 decisions over the programme period.

The achievement of the Programme’s education outcomes was dependent on the success in reaching the Programme’s related output-level targets. Some output-level highlights are listed below. During 2021, over 1 000 teachers in six Country Programmes strengthened their knowledge of children’s education rights (programme period: over 6 000 teachers). In addition, 6 000 parents and caretakers gained knowledge of children’s educational rights (programme period: 19 400). The education of children was also supported through informal Kids Clubs, which were attended by 6 400 children during 2021 (programme period: 27 200 children). Finally, the capacity of 183 local civil society organisations to advocate for the strengthening of educational rights was increased (programme period: 419 CSOs).

3.4. RIGHT TO ADEQUATE LIVING STANDARD

The main goal of the right to Adequate Living Standard (ALS) Component in the Programme is to support livelihoods, small enterprises and food security that can increase overall wellbeing. The fulfilment of the right of children to an adequate standard of living (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 27) is possible when the parents have adequate income to enable them to ensure that their children are fully nourished and



receive necessary health care and an education. Fida activities and advocacy in this area emphasize the wellbeing of girls and children with disabilities and challenge duty bearers to create the circumstances in which the rights of all people to an adequate standard of living can be realised.

The Adequate Living Standard Component was included in 10/15 Country Programmes in 2021. During the year, **the Programme reached over 36 200 direct beneficiaries (programme period: 113 400)**, among them 11 700 children (programme period: 18 500) and 1100 persons with disabilities (programme period: 3 900).

The Programme achieved and exceeded all (3/3) of its targets at the outcome level during both 2021 and the programme period. During 2021, **16 700 families living in vulnerable situations either increased their productive assets or increased their regular income** (programme period: 25 200 families). At the civil society level, 20 local civil society groups in 2021 (programme period: 92) took an active role in promoting the livelihood rights of marginalized groups. Meanwhile, advocacy initiatives related to strengthening livelihoods resulted in 20 cases (programme period: 92 cases) of demonstrated influence on political decision-making regarding rights related to livelihoods and adequate living standards.

Chart 7. Outcome indicators of Right to Adequate Living Standard component.

OUTCOME INDICATOR	TARGET 2021 (PROGRAMME PERIOD)	RESULT 2021 (PROGRAMME PERIOD)
Number of families with increased productive assets/ regular income	4 920 (12 100)	16 700 (25 200)
Number of functional civil society groups promoting livelihood rights	119 (332)	363 (567)
Cases of demonstrated influence on decision-makers regarding livelihood rights	19 (45)	20 (92)

Outcome-level results in the area of Adequate Living Standards were achieved through activities that contributed to 17 outputs. Success at the output-level was mixed when compared to the outcome-level achievements. The traffic light monitoring system shows that six outputs were green, three outputs were yellow and seven outputs were red.

Areas of success include the **8 000 people who were provided with skills to strengthen their livelihoods** (programme period: 30 600). Additionally, 5 600 households reported increased resilience to cope with climate change (programme period: 9 500). Areas of mixed success included the 1 000 new businesses created over the programme

period compared to a target of 1 400. Finally, outputs with red traffic lights included the number of households using energy efficient stoves (775 over the programme period compared to a target of 1 800) as well as the amount of land regenerated using Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (300 acres over the programme period compared to a target of 600 acres).

3.5. PARTNER CAPACITY BUILDING

The second Outcome Area that Fida's Development Programme works towards is strengthened capacity of partner organisations to act as advocates for the Rights to Education, Health and Adequate Living Standards of children and youth. This Outcome is achieved through activities in two key



areas: firstly, strengthening the administrative and financial capacity of partner organisations; and secondly, strengthening partner's capacity to advocate to key duty bearers, including local authorities, political decision-makers and community leaders concerning the rights of children and youth.

During 2021, the traffic light monitoring system shows mixed success with two green, two yellow and one red indicator. Areas of success were the 16 advocacy initiatives (programme period: 107) that partners began as well as the development of partners' capacity to carry out self-financed advocacy work which resulted in a further 12 new initiatives. Two areas showed moderate success, namely strengthening of the financial and administrative capacity of partners and development of partner sustainability plans. Finally, the number of new policies developed by partners (2021: 2, programme period: 6) was less than planned. The moderate progress towards some of the targets can be partially explained by the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, which prevented Fida's Capacity Building Specialist from visiting partners to carry out in-person training.

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

The aim of the Capacity Building component was to strengthen the capacity of the local partner organisations to achieve their strategic goals. Key focus areas were improving financial and administrative management. A package of tools, including a Capacity Building Health Check Assessment, have been used to identify capacity gaps, select training topics and capture changes over time. The Programme has assigned one member of staff to work with the Country Programmes to manage activities in this area and monitor progress towards the Programme's targets.

Work to improve Financial Management has focused on creating a stronger foundation through ensuring financing for long-term objectives and reducing financial threats and risks. Improvements in the following areas of Financial Management have been observed during the 2018–2021 programme period:

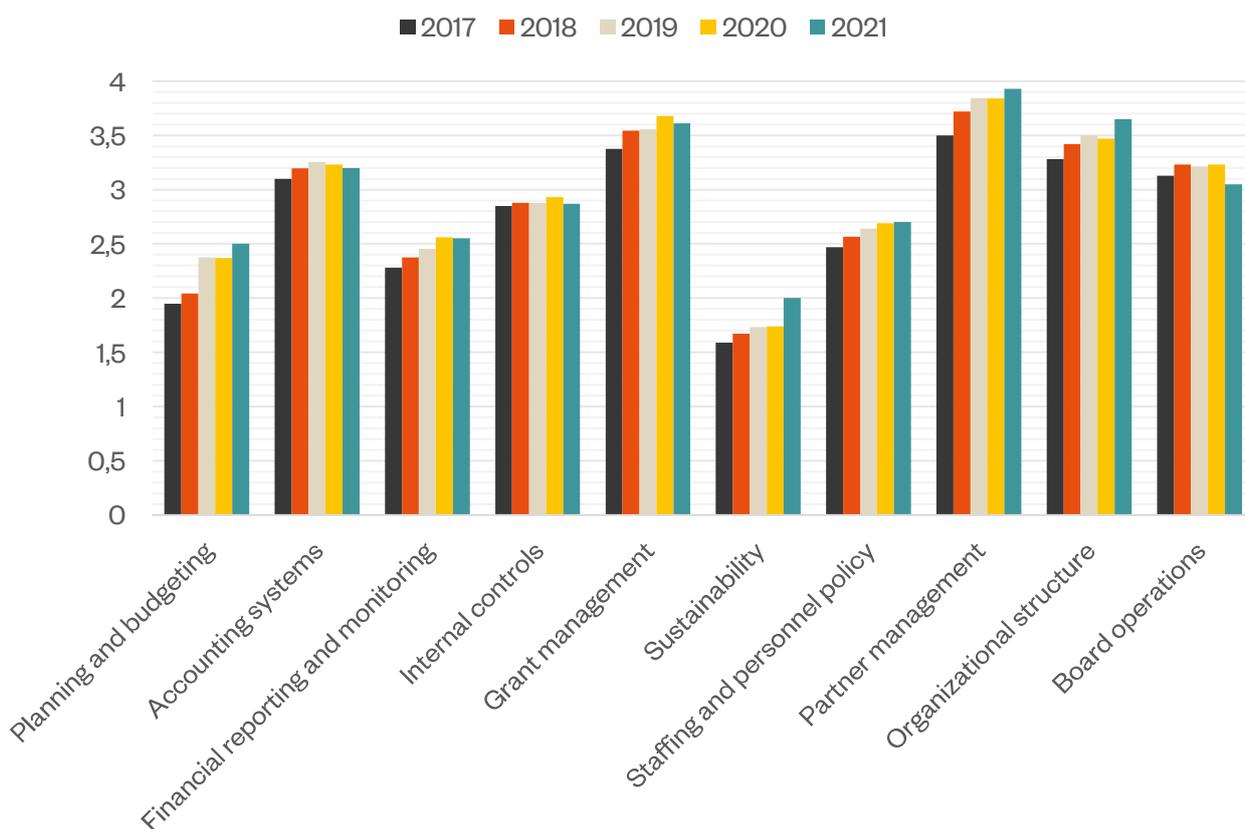
- **Strengthened knowledge of Financial Management in Management Committees** of partner organisations and Finance Professional as Committee member (7 local partners).
- **Finance staff have increased ability to communicate important financial information** to other staff members in an easily understandable manner (4 local partners).
- **More user-friendly, up-to-date Financial Management systems** (8 local partners).
- **Greater emphasis given to Financial Management and financial literacy of key staff by Leadership Teams** (8 local partners).
- **Increased understanding of importance of managing key external relationships**, including management of donor relations and relations with other partners and local communities (9 local partners).

Please refer to Chart 8 below for a more detailed overview of progress in building the capacity of partner organisations during 2021 and during the programme period, including baseline values established in 2017. Growth rates were 4 % in 2018,

3 % in 2019 and 1 % in both 2020 and 2021. The moderate progress during 2020 and 2021 is partly a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which made it difficult to arrange capacity building training in-person, as had been planned. It also, however, reflects more realistic assessments by partners of their own

capacity during 2020 and 2021. It is also important to bear in mind when reflecting on progress in this area that sometimes longer periods of time (several years) are needed to fully implement changes and bring in best practices across an organisation.

Chart 8. Results of Partner Capacity Health Checks (2017–2021).



ADVOCACY CAPACITY BUILDING

The Country Programmes also **worked with partner organisations during 2021 and over the programme period to strengthen their role in advocating for the fulfilment of the rights of children and youth.** This was done through providing advocacy training and the use of an advocacy assessment and, also through supporting the advocacy initiatives of the partner organisations. During this time, Fida’s local partners carried out various types of advocacy activities and worked both individually and, also through networks and coalitions to achieve their advocacy goals. Key partners were local communities, local Civil Society

Organisations, national and international Non-Governmental Organisations and state actors.

Regarding specific goals set for advocacy, an analysis of the results achieved over 2021 and the programme period shows that 4/5 targets were met, despite the challenges of providing advocacy training and organising advocacy activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some Country Programmes, such as that in Cambodia, experienced difficulties with organising advocacy training due to Covid-19 restrictions in the country. However, other Country Programmes experienced success despite the challenging environment. In the Bangladesh Country Programme,

for instance, the Advocacy Assessment score increased by 24 % over the programme period.

Notable results achieved in 2021 include the selection of an Advocacy Coordinator in each of the 18 supported schools in the Bangladesh Country Programme. The Advocacy Coordinators will be responsible for continuing to promote the realisation of the rights of children and youth when the Country Programme ceases to support the schools at the beginning of 2022. Meanwhile, in Mwanza in Tanzania a Children's Parliament was organised, which enabled 500 local children to engage in dialogue with authorities and duty bearers on issues related to their rights. This was made possible by the increasingly open civic space in the country, following a change of leadership in 2020. Several Country Programmes, including those in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania participated in "16 Days of Activism" campaigns aimed at challenging discriminatory gender attitudes and eliminating gender-based violence.

During the programme period, the Kenyan and Tanzanian Country Programmes and their local partners have also advocated for improved menstrual health management opportunities for women and girls. In Kenya the standardization of menstrual cups and reusable pads was approved by the government following advocacy work carried out in coordination with other organisations. Fida's partner in Iraq also worked to strengthen its relationships with local communities enabling it to address some difficult topics such as sexual abuse. Meanwhile, during 2020, partners in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda worked with media organisations to raise awareness of the increased danger of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), teenage pregnancies and child marriage during the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.6. CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES

The Programme contains three Cross-Cutting Objectives and two learning areas. In all Country Programmes **the Cross-Cutting Objective of Equity is recognised**, which means working proactively to ensure that persons with disabilities and other groups

in marginalized situations are able to participate in all Programme activities and are given opportunities to make their voices heard. **Gender is also mainstreamed in all Country Programmes**, meaning that the Programme actively works to tackle structural barriers preventing gender equity from being fulfilled and pays special attention to the rights of women and girls. A major focus area of activities promoting gender equity is strengthening the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of women and girls. The third Cross-Cutting Objective in the Programme is **Environment and Climate Resilience**, which is of relevance in the promotion of food security and strengthening livelihoods. The Programme also includes **Peacebuilding and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** as learning areas.

The Programme contains three specific indicators that measure change in the Cross-Cutting Objectives. In addition, the mainstreaming of disability and gender are promoted through collecting beneficiary data that is disaggregated by gender and disability status. In 2021, a total of 25 200 people, including over 14 000 girls and women, benefitted from strengthened and more equal realisation of rights to Health, Education and Adequate Living Standards (programme period: 132 700). In addition, over 67 900 (programme period: 146 200) people benefitted from environmental initiatives.

GENDER

Fida worked to ensure that all persons, regardless of gender, have equal access to its Programme and can influence decisions and activities that



impact their own lives and communities. The Programme worked to raise awareness of important gender-related topics such as Menstrual Health Management (MHM), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). A strong focus on women and girls was important during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 since they were often disproportionately impacted. The Programme took care, however, to also engage with boys and men and to promote open

discussion regarding gender roles, rights and expectations in target communities.

During 2021, the Programme **strengthened the rights of 171 600 female rights holders**. The corresponding figure for the programme period was 377 400 women and girls. In addition, **37 200 female duty bearers and partner organisation representatives** (programme period: 97 400) gained new knowledge concerning the rights of girls and women and were supported in their work to strengthen gender equity. The proportion of female beneficiaries increased slightly during the programme period from an initial level of 53 % in 2018 to 56 % in 2021.

The educational rights of 19 500 girls were strengthened through increasing their knowledge and that of their parents and other duty bearers regarding rights related to education access, quality and inclusion. In several countries, such as Nepal, Bangladesh and Kenya, girls' education was also supported through informal groups and Kids Clubs. Meanwhile, key health themes promoted through the Programme included Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was also addressed in the communities in which it was practiced. **During 2021, 5 900 women and girls reported that their health situation had improved as a result of the Programme** (programme period: 21 600). The number of women and girls with access to sexual and reproductive health care and related information was 19 000 in 2021 (programme period: 41 200). In addition, more than 5 000 young women and female parents learned new skills which they can use to increase their livelihoods in 2021 (programme period: 14 400).

The **Kenya Country Programme reported success with its mentoring programme for boys**, through which boys learned to be respectful to themselves and others. Men and boys participating in the programme learned about Menstrual Health Management, which aimed at reducing stigma around menstruation. Meanwhile, the Uganda and DR Congo

Country Programmes reported success in tackling Gender-Based Violence, with cases in Karamoja in Uganda decreasing from 175 to 15 during the course of the year. The Uganda Country Programme additionally worked through volunteers and Male Change Agents to advocate for stronger realisation of the rights of girls and women. Change in this area can take time, however, results are already visible. For instance, a girl from Bidibidi refugee settlement reported that her father had started to buy her sanitary towels upon learning about MHM through the Fida Programme.

During the programme period, Fida's Country Programmes promoted dialogue regarding gender issues through Kids Clubs, Youth Clubs and local civil society organisations. For instance, **in Bangladesh Gender Classes were organised for 1 531 teenagers**, including 658 girls, in which a safe and open space was created for teenage girls and boys to discuss topics related to human rights and gender roles and expectations in their communities. In several countries, such as Bangladesh and Nepal, there were cases of teenage girls using their new knowledge of their rights to prevent their own child marriages, with the support of the local Kids Club or school. Meanwhile, in Uganda traditional gender roles were discussed during counselling sessions for couples and resulted in more equal sharing of household responsibilities and joint decision-making, according to a sample of couples who were monitored (47/60 reporting positive change).

There was a strong focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Menstrual Health Management throughout the programme period and in Tanzania, for instance, more than 2 500 girls were provided with reusable menstrual products, contributing to a reduction in period poverty. In addition, the Tanzania and Kenya Country Programmes actively participated in national MHM/SRHR networks. In Kenya, the MHM network was able to successfully influence the drafting of a national MHM policy and cooperated with the Kenya Bureau of Standards on the development of guidelines for reusable sanitary towels.

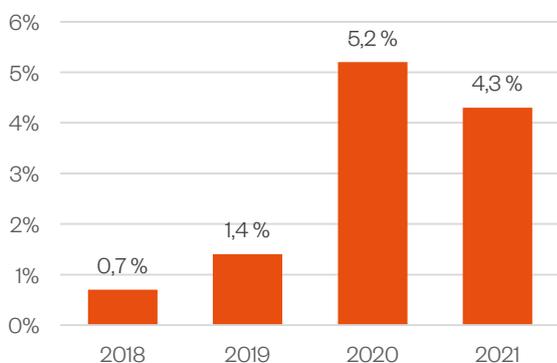
Across the Programme, there was a noticeable strengthening of the voices and agency of women and girls during the Programme period.

EQUITY

The goal of the Cross-Cutting Objective of Equity was to **strengthen the rights of persons living in vulnerable situations and support their equal participation in society**. The Programme paid particular attention to strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities, supporting the idea of “*nothing about us without us*”. A guiding principle of Fida’s development cooperation is that no one should be discriminated against for any reason, be it ethnic or religious background, political or ideological views, sexuality, age or because of living with a disability. Equity was promoted through advocacy, mainstreaming, awareness raising, and other activities aimed at promoting the fulfilment of



Chart 9. Persons with Disabilities as percentage of total direct beneficiaries (2018–2021).



the rights of people living in vulnerable situations.

As can be seen from Chart 9 above, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of persons with disabilities reached through the Programme as a percentage of overall beneficiaries with the share increasing from 0,7 % in 2018 to a high of 5,2 % in 2020, before dropping slightly to 4,3 % in 2021. In 2021, the total number of persons with disabilities reached through the Programme was 16 100 (women and girls with disabilities: 7 800). The clear increase in the proportion of persons with disabilities as a share

of overall beneficiaries is an encouraging result that shows that efforts to promote disability inclusion have been successful. In 2021, Country Programmes estimated that, on average, 13 % of their budgets went towards promoting the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities.

During 2021, the Iraq Country Programme supported 527 children with disabilities (CWDs) to either begin or continue their studies and 75 Special Education teachers were equipped with skills to support the education of children with disabilities. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated in several countries and events were organised to advocate for the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities. The rights of other groups living in vulnerable situations, such as persons with albinism, were also promoted, for instance, through a partnership with the Albinism Care Centre in Tanzania. Also in Tanzania, local authorities in Tanga installed accessible infrastructure in 10 local schools to support the education of children with disabilities. The Tanzania Country Programme also contributed to a policy paper, campaign and roadmap concerning the realisation of the sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities in the country, which included video diaries of girls with disabilities from the Tanga region. Other groups living in marginalized situations supported through the programme included refugees in the Bidibidi refugee settlement in Uganda and the indigenous Batwa of Burundi who experience widespread discrimination.

Over the 2018–2021 programme period, significant results related to equity were achieved in several countries. In the Burundi Country Programme, for instance, the number of persons with disabilities more than tripled between 2020 and 2021 from 48 to 147 people. The Country Programme also recruited a new member of staff with a disability. Furthermore, the Country Programme took up the case of a girl with a disability who had been denied the possibility to sit an exam, because of her disability. This decision was subsequently reversed thanks to the advocacy of the Country Programme. Meanwhile, in DR Congo, significant increases were observed in the number of

children with disabilities enrolled in education in the target areas – increasing from 89 CWDs in 22 target schools in 2018 to 678 CWDs in 69 schools in 2021. The Country Programme supported this achievement through providing assistive devices and learning materials and supporting parents of CWDs with paying school fees. Further support was given to building inclusive facilities and toilets and to integrating CWDs into communities. In Iraq, the number of schools that accept CWDs as pupils in the Halabja area increased from 28/142 in 2018 to 79/142 in 2021. Meanwhile, over the programme period, **psychosocial support** was provided to 57 400 persons, including children affected by armed conflict and those struggling with mental health issues.

ENVIRONMENT

The Cross-Cutting Objective of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience aimed to ensure that all activities carried out in the Programme were implemented in such a way that the harm to the environment was minimized. In addition, the Programme raised awareness of environmental sustainability and climate resilience in target communities and equipped local people to take action to protect their own environment and to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.



During 2021, a total of 67 900 people benefitted from initiatives aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Conservation agriculture was promoted in several Country Programmes, including those in Kenya, Burundi and Tanzania. In Kenya, new environmentally friendly farming practices were adopted by 1 600 households during 2021. In one of the targeted Loita communities in Kenya, local people resolved to conserve the nearby natural forest by using sustainable logging and replanting trees in the nearby forest as well as preventing people from farming and settling there. This community has now started apiculture (bee keeping) as a way of combining forest conservation and livelihood promotion. Meanwhile, waste

management has also been improved in Kenya and in several other Country Programmes through the construction of sanitary latrines in schools and communities resulting in reduced cases of open defecation. Overall, the Programme was able to improve sanitation for over 9 000 people in Tanzania, Kenya and Nepal during 2021.

The Iraq Country Programme promoted environmental protection and sustainability through Kids Clubs, where children were taught to preserve the environment through recycling, conserving water, minimizing food waste and shopping wisely. In addition, the unkempt gardens of 6 schools in Mosul were turned into blooming vegetable patches, teaching the school pupils simple gardening skills and the importance of preserving the environment. In Iraq, as well as several other countries, events were organised around International Environment Day, International Water Day and International Earth Day.

During the programme period, 9 500 households reported that their resilience to cope with the impact of climate change had increased. For instance, almost 800 households began using energy-saving stoves for cooking in various countries. The energy-saving stoves benefitted the local environment by reducing the amount of firewood needed for cooking and also reducing the amount of time and energy that needed to be spent fetching firewood. Furthermore, the stoves produced less smoke than open fires, thereby positively impacting the health of the families using them. There was also success with tree-planting initiatives in several countries, with more than 1,7 million trees planted in Burundi, Nepal, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

In the Iraq Country Programme, **390 teachers were trained on integrating environmental themes into education** and a Sustainable Schools Network was established to aid cooperation and mutual learning in this area. Through the initiative, children have planted 2 450 plants in school yards and are learning how to take care of plants and the environment. The Ministry of Education is currently considering making the training mandatory for all teachers. Meanwhile, in

Kenya, **water conservation techniques were promoted**, such as roof catchments and recycling water for use in kitchen gardens. In addition, the Kenyan Country Programme has also managed to successfully promote the use of drought resistant crops, such as cassava and simsim (sesame), which were in 2021 grown by 1 600 households compared to 200 households in 2018.

PEACEBUILDING AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Fida selected **Peacebuilding and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as learning areas for the 2018–2021 programme period**. These were areas in which Fida had previous experience but considered it important to deepen its expertise and to learn from practical work. During the reporting year and also programme period, knowledge in these areas has been strengthened and a decision was made to include Peacebuilding as a theme of Fida's next Development Cooperation Programme, which will run from 2022–2025.

Peacebuilding activities impacted the lives of 29 300 persons during 2021 (programme period: 60 100). Eastern DR Congo has suffered from armed conflict and insecurity for many years. One factor contributing to the continuation of the conflicts is social injustice. For instance, there is high youth unemployment and poverty in the region and young people often join armed groups as a way of escaping poverty. The DR Congo Country Programme addressed this situation through providing skills training to 1 200 young people (programme period: 8 900) and has advocated to the Congolese authorities for the restoration of justice, peace and the rule of law.

In Iraq, meanwhile, work was carried out to promote social cohesion. Children and adults from different ethnic, religious and gender backgrounds were brought together as equals in Kids Clubs and other Country Programme activities. Public events were held on International Peace Day and World Children's Day, during which children and teachers prepared dramas to raise awareness about children's rights and importance of peaceful communities. The

dramas were broadcast on national television and reached a wide audience.

In Uganda, 50 students from Nipata Secondary School were involved in peace building sessions, in which they held debates on peace-related topics and performed dramas. In addition, work was carried out to promote social cohesion between the host and refugee communities in the Bidibidi refugee settlement. For instance, three Peace Clubs were established to champion peaceful co-existence. As a result, 744 persons reported positive changes in 2021 including less conflicts at water points and more interaction between students from the two communities.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities impacted the lives of 43 900 people during 2021 (programme period: 134 300). In Burundi, which is prone to landslides during the rainy season, DRR awareness raising helped people to make informed decisions concerning where to construct their homes and highlighted the importance of tree cover in preventing landslides. In Eastern DR Congo, communities were supported to identify potential disasters in their immediate areas and were encouraged to heed early warning systems, such as those related to the nearby Nyiragongo volcano.

In Kenya and other Country Programmes, target communities were taught about water harvesting and water management, planting trees to prevent droughts and conservation agriculture. Topics also covered the importance of observing environmental changes and taking timely measures to reduce harmful impacts, such as crop diversification, selling livestock before a drought hits and proper food storage to prevent post-harvest loss. The importance of land-use management to increase community preparedness for adverse events was also highlighted.

During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, Country Programmes cooperated with local authorities to ensure that people were aware of how to protect themselves and of what to do in case they

suspected that they were infected. Particular attention was given to ensuring that all people in the target communities were supported. For instance, in Iraq the Country Programme provided information to persons with disabilities who had previously lacked reliable information, while in Tanzania information was produced in Tanzanian Sign Language. Attention was also given to ensuring that person with disabilities had equal access to all humanitarian support provided through the Country Programmes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.7. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Country Programmes operate in difficult environments in which they face frequent challenges as discussed in section 2.3 above. The success of the Country Programmes in achieving their planned results often depends on how well they are able to adapt to and learn lessons from these challenges. Some of the key challenges and lessons learned during the reporting year and programme period are covered below. The lessons learned will strengthen future development cooperation work of Fida and its local partners.

Firstly, **working with local authorities and national authorities in developing countries** can be challenging. For instance, several Country Programmes mentioned that obtaining permits was, at times, difficult and time-consuming. In Jordan, delays in securing a permit to construct an inclusive primary school caused some implementation delays and necessitated using other methods to support inclusive education. Meanwhile, in Iraq, difficulties with obtaining permits to visit areas of Iraq outside Iraqi Kurdistan meant that it was not possible to carry out on-the-ground monitoring of activities. Meanwhile, in other countries such as Uganda, it was observed that elected leaders may seek to use development projects to promote their own goals. Despite these difficulties, many Country Programmes were able to establish fruitful working relationships with local leaders that strengthened

overall programme impact. In Laos, for instance, the government partners commented that they valued the close relationship and continuous dialogue with Fida and that it was this cooperation that set Fida apart from other development NGOs operating in the country.

Secondly, the **Covid-19 pandemic posed major challenges to the implementation** of the Programme during 2020 and 2021. At the same time, however, it also **led to some useful lessons learned**. The main challenges stemmed from the restrictions on travel and gatherings and the closure of schools – which in some countries were closed for almost two years – and other infrastructure. In addition, the evacuation of ex-patriate Country Programme staff to Finland caused some operational challenges. These changes necessitated finding alternative ways to engage with beneficiaries, organise meetings and other events and monitor programme implementation. **A digital “leap forward” occurred in the Programme in 2020–2021** as digital tools, such as Zoom and Google Forms, were employed through which these tasks and activities could be performed remotely. The Programme was also able to make use of volunteers and staff from other organisations to support monitoring and implementation. A significant lesson learned has been that Programme implementation is possible even in such difficult circumstances and that digital tools can even enable Country Programmes to reach a broader audience, as was the case in Laos and Iraq.

The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, reinforced the importance of contingency planning and adaptive management.

Whilst the digital leap forward that occurred as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic has had many positive effects, **negative impacts and challenges were also observed**. For instance, in several countries, such as Myanmar, the high price of internet access made it difficult for some people to attend online training and other online activities. Meanwhile, in other locations, poor internet connections meant

that some attendees did not benefit from trainings as much as they might have done in other circumstances. Furthermore, it was found that online meetings lacked the type of open environment that is often needed in order to discuss sensitive topics such as gender-based violence or sexual and reproductive health rights. Attention will be given to minimizing these potential negative impacts in future and, if needed, making alternative training/meeting arrangements.

Thirdly, it is **essential to engage with all stakeholders**. For instance, in Afghanistan it was observed that efforts to improve the oral health of children are considerably more effective when their parents also receive training on the topic, since the parents then understand why it is worthwhile to use their own money to, for example, buy toothpaste. Meanwhile, in Country Programmes that focused strongly on strengthening the rights of women and girls, it was found that it is essential to also engage with boys and men on this topic. An example is the Tajikistan Country Programme, which worked to improve the fulfilment of the health rights of pre- and post-natal mothers and their children. Men reached through the Programme, reported that they had begun buying healthier food for their pregnant wives and preparing financially for the cost of their wives giving birth in hospital. Some Country Programmes, however, experienced difficulties engaging men in the Programme activities. This was the case, for instance in Jordan and to some extent in Bangladesh and in DR Congo, where it was found that women were more motivated to support their children living with disabilities and hence engaged with the Country Programme more than men. One effective means of addressing men's low levels of engagement in Tajikistan was the use of male trainers.

3.8. NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, CORPORATE COLLABORATION, AND INNOVATIONS

COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATIONS

During 2021, Fida continued to promote Innovation, Technology and Corporate Collaboration within its

development cooperation programme. New partnerships were established with organisations and private sector actors and new innovations and approaches were promoted.

In Myanmar an MOU was signed with ERIKS to cooperate on activities related to children's access to education, while in Tanzania an agreement was made with Abilis and Ibra Media related to teaching media and digital technology skills to young people, especially youth with disabilities. Other cooperation began with Sign of Hope and Cord in Uganda and with Felm and OEHRD (Centre for Education and Human Resource Development) in Nepal. In both cases, the aim of the cooperation was to explore opportunities for jointly applying for large institutional grants. During 2021, Fida also chaired the EU-CORD Nairobi Consortium, which is a consortium of six EU-CORD member organisations. The Consortium was formed with the longer-term goal to jointly access funding from the EU and other large donors.

In Iraq, work has begun with Fida's local partner, Together, to develop a pilot project training and mentoring educated youth to become innovative entrepreneurs. A network of organizations with different expertise was established to facilitate this process. Asiacell Telecom Company, Iraqi Private Bank League, the Creativity & Entrepreneurship Centre in the University of Kurdistan and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs were all invited to participate. The pilot project also received interest from the Iraq Response Innovation Lab of Oxfam, which proposed to incubate the whole pilot, offering their facilities, training and networking capacity and potentially later also funding support.

DIGITAL LEAP FORWARD

During 2021, many Country Programmes continued to improve their digital skills and to make use of digital tools, such as online teleconferencing solutions, to organise training sessions and meetings and for maintaining contact with beneficiaries and field staff. In addition, Country Programmes increased their adoption of digital data collection tools, such as Kobo Toolbox and Google Forms, which increased the

efficiency and transparency of data collection and monitoring. Meanwhile, in Uganda, PSS services were provided by telephone when it was not possible to meet in person due to Covid-19 restrictions.

In Iraq, it was observed that most of the students with disabilities had difficulty accessing the government's online "Ewane" learning platform during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, partner staff provided training for students and parents on accessing online classes so that they could continue their studies. In addition, families without internet access were taught how to use the free Internet provided by telecommunication companies in Kurdistan. Access to education for children with disabilities was maintained in this way during the pandemic. In Myanmar, tablets continued to be used in Learning Centres established by the Country Programme to support children's education.

PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION AND DIVERSIFYING THE FUNDING BASE OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

In Burundi, the North European Business Academy (NEBA) partnership continued in 2021. Through the cooperation young people received online training in business planning and entrepreneurship. At the end of 2021, a total of 105 students had gone through the training and 21 had started earning income through their own businesses. Meanwhile, in Bangladesh, contracts for collaboration have been signed with Zabai, an e-learning company, and Esolve International, which works in the area of environmental services.

Work to strengthen the funding base of the Country Programmes also produced results during 2021. The Iraq Country Programme received a grant of €13 500 from the Australian embassy in Iraq to renovate a public park and improve its accessibility to persons with disabilities, with activities planned to begin in 2022. Meanwhile, in Tanzania, the French embassy donated €5 000 to a pilot project to establish a seed bank and Fingo Powerbank approved €8 000 for a

pilot project to assess the business case to produce re-usable menstrual pads. Activities in both areas are scheduled to begin in 2022. Finally, the Nepal Country Programme was able to successfully secure €11 420 in matching funding from the Nepalese authorities, bringing the total for the programme period to €137 883.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS DURING PREVIOUS YEARS OF THE PROGRAMME PERIOD ARE HIGHLIGHTED BELOW:

- The Kenya Country Programme strengthened its capacity in ICT with a grant of €7 000 from Fingo's Powerbank project which was used to equip 12 teachers with skills to access digital learning materials and deliver the curriculum digitally.
- Fida's collaboration with Lunette Ltd ran from 2018–2020 and focused on strengthening the menstrual health rights of girls and women in Uganda, DR Congo, Tanzania, and Kenya. Lack of hygienic facilities in homes, schools and also stigma have forced girls and women to suffer and be excluded from normal attendance in education and work during their menstrual period. With the two-years' Finnpartnership Business Partnership Support funding a trainer on menstrual and sexual health themes was recruited in each of the four countries and advocacy was also carried out among parents, school principals and religious leaders,
- In Tanzania (2018), collaboration between Fida, the Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT) and Femme International (Femme) led to an innovative initiative to train girls with disabilities, their guardians and the traditional community sexual educators in the disability specific component of the Tanzanian Country Programme.
- In Iraq (2020), For Her Dignity donated 2 000 dignity kits and trained 30 young women to become trainers on Menstrual Health Management.

4. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

The Country Programmes and their themes are presented below in Chart 10. Overviews of each Country Programme and its main achievements during 2021 and the programme period are presented below the chart.

Chart 10. Country Programmes by Theme 2021.

COUNTRY	NAME OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME	PROGRAMME THEMES				
		Right to Education	Right to Health	Right to an Adequate Living Standard	Advocacy	Capacity Building
ASIA						
Bangladesh	School Child Advocacy Project	x			x	x
Bhutan	Through Skills to Income and Well-Being – the Female Resources for happy Bhutan			x		
Cambodia	Hope for a Better Future for the Vulnerable Children and Youth	x	x	x	x	x
Laos	Hope for the Hopeless, Voice for the Voiceless – Raising Awareness, Building Capacity and Giving Equal Opportunities to Ensure a Healthier Future for Youth	x				
Myanmar	Empowering Resilient and Sustainable Communities	x		x	x	x
Nepal	Better Childhood Better Future	x	x	x	x	x
AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST (EAMECA)						
Afghanistan	Dental Development Programme		x			
Burundi	Community, Family, and Youth Wellbeing Development Programme	x	x	x	x	x
Iraq	Promoting the Rights of the Child to Inclusive and Comprehensive Education and Development	x			x	x
Jordan	Community Development Programme	x				x
Kenya	Family Welfare Development Programme	x	x	x	x	x
Congo (DR)	"Elimu-Haki" – Project	x	x	x	x	x
Tajikistan	Promoting the Rights of the Children through Livelihood and Mother and Child Health		x	x	x	x
Tanzania	Tunandoto Tanzania Programme – Sustainably Transformed Childhoods	x	x	x	x	x
Uganda	PCU Child Sponsorship Project	x	x	x	x	x

COUNTRY PROGRAMME RESULTS 2021 AND 2018–2021 PROGRAMME PERIOD

AFGHANISTAN: DENTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (5340)		
Direct beneficiaries	2021	32 122 (f: 20 936, m: 11 186, PWD: 62)
	2018–2021	70 169 (f: 43 350, m: 26 819, PWD: 573)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	189 870
	2018–2021	412 449
Expenses	2021	€160 675
	2018–2021	€614 514

Dental care is a widely neglected area in Afghanistan's health care system and dental services do not exist outside the main cities. As a result, most of Afghanistan's population does not have access to dental services and knowledge of oral hygiene and

preventative practices is weak. Dental problems frequently remain untreated and can lead to serious medical consequences such as premature loss of teeth, heart problems and damage to internal organs. Fida's partner, Shelter Now International (SNI), works

to strengthen the capacity of local duty bearers in Herat to improve dental healthcare services and to strengthen the rights of local people concerning their oral health. The Country Programme ended in 2021.

During 2021, the Country Programme trained 71 Health Educators who, during the short period when schools were open (April–July), taught 21 700 children in schools in the Herat area about the importance of oral health and how to care for their teeth. The Country Programme continued to work with the Dental Department at Herat University to improve the quality of the oral health teaching and also to upgrade the training facilities. Dental students reported that they particularly valued the opportunity to get practical dental healthcare experience alongside their studies through the training programme that the Country Programme helped to establish. There were some challenges in providing treatment at the supported clinics after the Taliban takeover resulting in clinic closures from August–December, however, a total of 1 213 children nevertheless received dental treatment at local dental clinics during the year. In addition, the work to establish a dental clinic at Shekiban was nearly completed. It is, however, currently unclear whether the clinic will be able to open in 2022. Following the Taliban takeover, some transferred Country Programme funding was frozen in the partner’s bank account in Afghanistan. This was replaced with partner’s own funding to complete all remaining activities prior to the Country Programme’s closure. Finnish MFA funding was used in full.

Over the programme period, 305 Health Educators were trained who provided teaching on oral health in

42 schools in the Herat area, reaching 49 065 schoolchildren (girls: 24 913). Knowledge and Practice surveys (most recently in 2020) indicated that 80 % of children had changed their practices and brushed their teeth regularly. An important achievement of the Country Programme was the impact on professional standards and the teaching curriculum at the Dental Department at Herat University. In 2018, there was a lack of professionalism among several staff members. The situation was addressed through, among other measures, drawing up a Code of Conduct that contributed to an attitude of improved professionalism and service among lecturers and also trainee dentists. Professionalism was also supported by the Country Programme bringing in foreign experts to provide training. One student commented that, after listening to one of the foreign lecturers: *“I understand now that satisfaction is not only about honour and having a big bank account, but also about serving people and helping them to have a better life”*. The improved training programme benefitted 745 dental students over 2018–2021.

Sustainability: The Country Programme created knowledge and structures that support the sustainability of its development results, such as improved oral health teaching and training facilities at Herat University and a sustainable model for training schoolchildren on oral health. Nevertheless, the Taliban takeover has led to much uncertainty and poses challenges to sustainability. SNI have currently switched their development cooperation activities to humanitarian aid due to the humanitarian crisis in the country and Fida is supporting this work through its Humanitarian Aid Programme.

BANGLADESH: SCHOOL CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAMME (5014)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	3 511 (f: 2 586, m: 925)
	2018–2021	11 842 (f: 348, m: 3 494, PWD: 25)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	20 853
	2018–2021	20 853
Expenses	2021	€146 657
	2018–2021	€525 986

In Bangladesh, there are insufficient state schools to address the educational needs of all children. Additional schools are therefore needed to fill this gap and to ensure the fulfilment of children's educational rights. Fida's partner organization, Ashirbad, has established schools in communities in which children could not previously access education and works to raise awareness of children's rights among rights-holders and duty-bearers.

During 2021, Covid-19 restrictions meant that the 18 schools supported by the Country Programme remained closed from March 2020 to September 2021. Nevertheless, the Country Programme was able to continue to support the education of 1 500 children through, for instance providing home assignments and home visits by teachers, who themselves live in the local communities. This constant engagement helped ensure that, following the reopening of the Ashirbad schools, there was not a dramatic drop in enrolment. The Country Programme also took advantage of the school closures to organise Study Guidance training for 16 teachers. These teachers provided advice to a total of 730 pupils.

During the 2018–2021 programme period the Bangladesh Country Programme successfully raised awareness of educational rights among rights holders (children) and duty bearers (parents and teachers). 5 000 children learned about their educational and other rights in the 18 supported schools and also through informal Kids Clubs and other classes, such as Gender Classes. An impact survey indicated that 99 % of the targeted children have good knowledge of children's rights and a high proportion (788/808) intend to continue their studies beyond grade 5. Furthermore, it was found that 93 % of 745 parents are aware of children's rights and have taken action to support the education of their children, such as helping them with homework and committing to keeping them in education. The 57 teachers trained in the Country Programme all indicated that they had benefitted from the training on creative teaching methods and were using the skills learnt regularly to make their teaching more engaging. Children commented that they now find lessons more interesting than in the past.

BHUTAN: THROUGH SKILLS TO INCOME AND WELL-BEING: THE FEMALE RESOURCES FOR HAPPY BHUTAN (5039)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	144 (f: 118, m: 26, PWD: 15)
	2018–2021	1 008 (f: 885, m: 123, PWD: 48)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	132 371
	2018–2021	424 344
Expenses	2021	€126 810
	2018–2021	€415 046

The Bhutan Country Programme supports women living in vulnerable situations and their children to fulfil their basic rights, focusing especially on the Right to an Adequate Living Standard. The Country

Programme is implemented in partnership with the local NGO, RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women). Through the Country Programme women are given the chance to learn new skills that

they can use to increase their income and are educated about their own and their children's rights. Economic empowerment creates safety nets and gives possibilities for mothers to take better care of their children, for example, supporting them to remain in education for longer. The Country Programme ended in 2021.

During 2021, 132 individuals gained new vocational skills and as a result were able to increase their productive assets. A new innovation introduced during the year was a design competition that promoted the use of local materials and designs. New products were created through the competition that the Country Programme will sell in the future to generate income to support Country Programme activities.

During 2021, 10 vocational and entrepreneurship courses were organised. The entrepreneurship training sessions equipped women with new skills and provided a safe space for participants to discuss difficult topics such as Gender-Based Violence and to provide one another with peer support. Trainees in communities reported improved self-esteem and recognition in their communities as a result of their new skills and success in generating income. Furthermore, women reported changes in power dynamics within their households – for instance, that they have begun to take a more active role in decision-making.

During the 2018–2021 programme period the Country Programme provided livelihood training to 480 women living in vulnerable situations. The Country Programme focused initially on providing sewing training, however, it later broadened the training offering to include other skills, following feedback from local authorities. The vocational and entrepreneurship training sessions equipped women with skills to generate income and provide for themselves and their families. Over the programme period 469 vulnerable families increased their regular income. The operating environment has been quite challenging over the 4 programme years. There have been two elections during which there were restrictions on movement and also lockdowns and further restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the Country Programme has been able to successfully respond to these challenges, for instance, through training local trainers to who could continue providing training when travel was restricted. In this way, the Country Programme was able to achieve most of the targets set. One significant achievement was the establishment of a Vocational Training Institute, which in 2019 received certification from the Bhutanese government.

Sustainability: The Country Programme will continue with alternative funding from the beginning of 2022. The newly formed Vocational Training Institute will continue to provide training to women living in vulnerable situations

BURUNDI: COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND YOUTH WELLBEING DEVELOPMENT (5284)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	11 629 (f: 6 165, m: 4 564, PWD: 147)
	2018–2021	29 485 (f: 18 258, m: 11 227, PWD: 147)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	69 700
	2018–2021	176 910
Expenses	2021	€308 871
	2018–2021	€1 089 465

The Burundi Country Programme focuses on children's rights to Education, Adequate Living Standards and Health. In addition, the Country Programme has Components on Advocacy and Capacity Building. The Programme works in Ngozi

and Kayanza Provinces with a special focus on promoting the rights of the marginalized Batwa indigenous group. The local partner in Burundi is The Community of Pentecostal Churches of Burundi (CEPBU).

During 2021 the Country Programme continued to work to strengthen the rights of the marginalized Batwa indigenous community. Access to education was strengthened for 5880, mainly Batwa, children (g: 3117). A total of 87 Youth Managers were trained on the implementation of the new training curriculum and methodology developed by the local partner organisation, CEPBU. The teachers have now adopted the methods introduced by the new curriculum to strengthen the quality of the education provided to local children. The Country Programme also continued to provide vocational opportunities to unemployed youth, targeting 586 people (F: 352). Topics taught included sewing, carpentry, ICT and baking. 60 % of participants were able to start their own business and generate income. Also, 100 (F: 53) local “pilot farmers” were trained in conservation agriculture and were able to transfer their knowledge to others.

During the 2018–2021 programme period, the Country Programme significantly strengthened the educational rights of Batwa children. Prior to 2018, many Batwa children were unable to attend school. However, by the end of 2021, most children in the target Batwa communities regularly attended school and their attendance was monitored by Village Committees. Family Assessments carried out in 2021 also indicate that parents increasingly recognize the importance of educational rights and other basic rights and are willing to advocate to authorities for them to be fulfilled. For instance, one community requested that the local authorities provide teachers for the school that the community had built. The Country Programme also strengthened livelihoods through providing vocational training to 2 480 (F: 1 290) young persons and training on conservation agriculture to 1 600 people. The Country Programme provided psychosocial support to 2 334 parents and 8 400 children (g: 4 452) living in vulnerable situations.

IRAQ: PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD TO INCLUSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQI KURDISTAN (5440)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	7 187 (f: 3 885, m: 3 302, PWD: 2 111)
	2018–2021	45 638 (f: 25 140, m: 20 498, PWD: 6 754)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	52 370
	2018–2021	289 263
Expenses	2021	€336 043
	2018–2021	€1 088 376

The Iraq Country Programme, based in Iraqi Kurdistan, aims to strengthen the educational rights of children, particularly children with disabilities. The rights-based approach in the Country Programme also includes a strong focus on environmental issues. The Country Programme works with three local partners, Together to Protect Human & Environment Association (Together) in Erbil and Ninewa governorates and Halabja Handicap Organization (HHO) in Halabja governorate, as well as the Yes We Can network.

In 2021, the Country Programme continued its work to strengthen the educational rights of children, particularly children with disabilities. There were

noticeable positive changes in 51 schools which began to more actively support disability inclusion. This resulted in greater participation of children with disabilities in class activities, improved educational performance and reduced dropouts. A 2-month long summer school was also organised for 186 children with disabilities of varying ages. During Covid-19 restrictions, when schools were closed and travel restricted, the local partners organised online Kids Clubs. The 23 Kids Clubs reached 705 children through either remote or in-person activities, depending on the Covid-19 restrictions at the time. The local partner HDO also trained kindergarten teachers and parents on how to recognize and protect girls, especially girls with disabilities, from

sexual abuse. A mid-term evaluation of the Country Programme was conducted, which highlighted the positive changes in attitudes, knowledge, skills and behaviour that have taken place in rights-holders and duty-bearers regarding educational rights (see Section 6.3 below for further information).

During 2018–2021 period the Country Programme trained 3 850 teachers on inclusive education and 200 schools took action to create a better learning environment for children with disabilities. The trained

teachers responded enthusiastically to the Country Programme’s teaching material and are now actively using the newly learned skills in their work. They have also shared their new knowledge with colleagues. A significant step taken to strengthen local civil society and the rights of persons with disabilities was the establishment of the Yes We Can network, a network of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, in 2020. The network advocates for the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities.

JORDAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (5411)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	907 (f: 624, m:283, PWD: 25)
	2018–2021	3 541 (f: 2 579, m: 962, PWD: 235)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	4 535
	2018–2021	10 889
Expenses	2021	€166 728
	2018–2021	€622 598

The objective of Jordan’s Country Programme was to enable communities to learn about their rights with a focus on fulfilling the Right to Education for easily marginalized children. The Country Programme paid particular attention to enhancing early childhood education and increasing the enrolment and inclusion of children with disabilities and girls in schools. The Country Programme targeted two areas in Badia and Hai Nazal. In both areas, women and persons with disabilities faced high discrimination. Fida’s partners in Jordan were Outstanding Kids Society, Hawd Al Kawthar and Al Badia Society for Women’s Development. During 2018–2019 the Country Programme included a Health Component, however this was discontinued at the end of 2019 on the recommendations of an internal evaluation. The Country Programme ended in 2021

During 2021, access to and quality of education was strengthened for 472 children living in vulnerable situations. In addition, 35 teachers were trained on child rights and were equipped with skills related to participatory teaching methods and operating Kids Clubs. According to Most Significant Change stories collected as part of programme monitoring, 50 % of teachers from HK reported that they have learnt to

implement modern teaching methods in their work. The parents of target children were also able to increase their own knowledge of children’s educational rights. This was especially important for the parents of children with disabilities who were often unaware of their child’s educational rights.

During the programme period, access to and quality of education was strengthened for 1 675 children and their parents gained new information concerning their children’s rights. In addition, 272 teachers were trained on child rights and the capacity of 11 local civil society groups to promote educational rights was strengthened. In 2020, a preparatory class was opened for 25 children with disabilities and focus groups were organised for their parents to support the enrolment of children with disabilities in kindergarten alongside their non-disabled peers. Over the programme period non-violence, inclusion and peacebuilding in education have been promoted, leading to a decrease in bullying in schools. Teachers also learnt how to maintain discipline whilst teaching without resorting to corporal punishment or shouting at children and have actively used these new skills.

Sustainability: The three partner organisations report that they are well-equipped and motivated to continue to promote the educational rights of children, including children with disabilities, following the closure of the Country Programme. All three

organisations mention that their capacity in the areas of finance, administration and planning have grown during the period of Fida support, which provides a strong foundation for their future activities.

CAMBODIA: HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH (5190)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	16 700 (f: 8 482, m: 8 218, PWD: 244)
	2018–2021	39 964 (f: 20 174, m: 19 790, PWD: 346)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	34 495
	2018–2021	34 495
Expenses	2021	€234 398
	2018–2021	€1 229 580

The Cambodia Country Programme worked with two local partner organisations, Assemblies of God Cambodia (AGC) and Cambodia Global Action (CGA). The Country Programme comprised two projects: firstly, a Community Health Education (CHE) project, which operated in 4 rural provinces; and secondly, an Urban Youth Centre project which operated in the capital, Phnom Penh. The CHE component provided community-level training on rights related to Health, Education and Safe Living Environment and worked to establish and strengthen the capacity of related, local civil society groups and local government structures. The Urban Youth Centre project operated a youth centre for marginalized youth in Phnom Penh and established several satellite clubs in areas on the edge of the city. The Cambodia Country Programme also contained capacity building and advocacy components.

During 2021, the Country Programme built on the achievements in previous years and was able to contribute to a further decrease in the number of cases of common preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid and dengue fever. For instance, there were 67 cases in the target communities during 2021 compared to 185 cases the previous year and a baseline value of 441 (2017). Meanwhile, 262 children (girls: 144) participated in Kids Clubs, which supported their formal education and 184 children benefitted from increased knowledge of their parents concerning their educational rights. In the Adequate Living Standard component, 354 families were able

to increase their productive assets and 558 persons learned new skills related to income generation.

During the programme period, the Country Programme worked with 49 local civil society groups to promote health, education rights and rights related to adequate living standards in local communities. The Country Programme also cooperated with 5 health centres, 13 schools and 7 local authorities. Schools were closed for long periods in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, 12 756 children still benefitted from strengthened knowledge of key duty bearers such as parents and teachers and from their own increased knowledge regarding children's education rights. Changes were observed in the attitudes of children and their parents concerning the importance of education. Through the Adequate Living Standard component 850 households were equipped with new skills and knowledge that enabled them to increase their income by 500USD or more per year on average.

Sustainability: The Country Programme began actively planning for the period following its completion in late 2020. Fida will continue to cooperate with its partners in Cambodia in the future through a diaconal programme, which also includes Capacity Building and Advocacy components. At the community level, the Country Programme has worked through Village Development Committees (VDCs) thus ensuring local ownership. The VDCs will

continue to operate and to promote basic rights following the closure of the Country Programme.

KENYA: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (5040)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	22 156 (f: 13 338, m: 8 818, PWD: 188)
	2018–2021	57 266 (f: 33 871, m: 23 395, PWD: 1 185)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	83 272
	2018–2021	314 311
Expenses	2021	€497 143
	2018–2021	€1 982 613

The Kenya Country Programme works to strengthen the Rights to Health, Education and Adequate Living Standards of children and youth in the country. The Country Programme works in the areas of Nairobi, Kakamega, Nyanza, Narok, East Pokot, Marsabit, Tana River and Kilifi. Minority ethnic groups, such as the Maasai and Loita are targeted in some locations. The implementing partner is the Full Gospel Churches of Kenya (FGCK).

During 2021, work to improve access to education and better learning environments impacted 4 226 children (g: 2 273). Improvements included construction of schools closer to where children lived, improvements to classrooms, provision of learning materials and improved school security. There was anecdotal evidence of larger numbers of girls from tribal communities completing secondary education in the Pwani and Narok areas than before the Country Programme began. The Country Programme also saw strong results related to strengthening living standards, with 901 households increasing their productive assets and 132 small businesses established (up from 60 in 2020). During the year 1 620 farmers used sustainable farming methods and had diversified the types of crops grown and the animals reared. Important lessons learned in the Country Programme were the importance of

involving beneficiaries in financial resource mobilization and also the use of volunteers to complement programme activities and promote sustainability.

During the 2018–2021 programme period, a total of 9 754 children (g: 4 468) benefitted from improved access to education. Meanwhile, the promotion of conservation agriculture in Kenya led to an increase in maize yields among supported households from three bags per acre to seven bags per acre. More than 6 700 women and girls benefitted from strengthened knowledge of their sexual and reproductive health rights which enabled them to manage their periods and to make informed choices concerning their sexual behaviour. Sustainable menstrual health management was also promoted and resulted in reduction in use of disposable sanitary pads which were replaced with reusable towels and menstrual cups. The Country Programme promoted child rights through organising events as part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign on gender-based violence and events to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons and Day of the African Child, among others. During the programme period the partner developed and ratified new Human Resources and Finance and Administration Policies.

DR CONGO: ELIMU-HAKI PROGRAMME (5041)		
Direct beneficiaries	2021	32 148 (f: 16 466, m: 15 682, PWD: 6 966)
	2018–2021	124 123 (f: 53 986, m: 70 137, PWD: 15 308)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	239 716
	2018–2021	700 810
Expenses	2021	€572 920
	2018–2021	€1 144 844

The overall aim of the Country Programme is to contribute to increased justice and strengthened human dignity and peace in Eastern DR Congo. The Elimu-Haki Programme (EHP) works with 58 schools to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities. In 2020, the Country Programme was expanded and also began activities aimed at strengthening the Right to Health and Right to Adequate Living Standards of children and youth. The Programme partners with 8ème Communauté des Eglises de Pentecote en Afrique Centrale (CEPAC).

During 2021 the Country Programme continued its work supporting the educational rights of marginalized children, for instance supporting 14 615 children (g: 7 460) to enrol in school in the areas of Goma, Karisimbi, Masisi, Nyiragongo and Kalemie. The Country Programme also continued to advocate to teachers and educational officials for strengthened fulfilment of the educational rights of children with disabilities, specifically in the Tanganyika area. Psychosocial support was provided to 5 777 children (g: 2 650) during the year, strengthening their resilience to cope with life's challenges. Work to strengthen the right to adequate living standards focused on various types of training and support to strengthen livelihoods and resulted in 4 515 people (f:2 161) increasing their productive assets during the year.

A **reallocation of €100 000 from development cooperation to humanitarian aid** was made within the Country Programme in 2021 to respond to the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano. The reallocated funds were used to provide food aid, household items and psychosocial support to those affected by the disaster and to construct a child-friendly space in a camp for displaced people. The humanitarian aid provided much-needed support to 13 820 people (f:6 950, PWD: 1 461).

During 2018–2021 the Country Programme worked with marginalized rights holders and duty bearers to strengthen the rights of vulnerable communities. One of the main target groups were persons with disabilities who made up 15 300 of 124 100 beneficiaries reached through the Country Programme. A major milestone in the Country Programme occurred in 2020 with the opening of the 2 Nyiragongo Primary School, which had fully accessible facilities. The Country Programme noted that teachers and head teachers in the supported schools now have improved understanding of the rights of children with disabilities and pay more attention to their inclusion in education. Furthermore, it was reported that children with disabilities have improved self-esteem compared to previously and are now included in their communities rather than living in isolation.

LAOS: HOPE FOR HOPELESS, VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS (5164)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	2 149 (f: 1 024, m: 1 125, PWD: 38)
	2018–2021	27 830 (f: 13 829, m: 14 001, PWD: 179)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	6 447
	2018–2021	83 490
Expenses	2021	€218 564
	2018–2021	€896 321

The purpose of the Lao PDR Country Programme was to contribute to holistically healthier youth in Savannakhet City through increased fulfilment of children's rights. The Country Programme ran a Youth Resource Centre called the "Savan Centre", through which it provided skills training, supporting adolescents to mature into responsible adults that lead a healthy lifestyle.

In 2021, the education of 1 326 (g: 624) children was supported by the Country Programme. The Country Programme cooperated with 4 schools in Savannakhet and also operated the Savan Youth Centre. The children benefitted from improved quality of education and strengthened knowledge of their parents and teachers regarding education rights. Parents now understand better the educational rights of their children and increasingly support their children's educational goals. Parents also increasingly support their children's attendance at the sport clubs, performing arts classes and other initiatives run by the Savan Centre and understand the significance of such activities to children's overall wellbeing. Increasingly, such classes are being organised by young people themselves, rather than Programme staff. One of the parents said, for instance, that her son has grown to be more responsible and now has his own opinion on matters, whereas before he just followed his parents.

During the programme period, 10 574 children benefitted from improved quality of education and strengthened knowledge of their parents and teachers regarding education rights. In addition, 333 teachers were trained on participatory teaching methods and children's rights. The trained teachers have changed their teaching approach and now more actively include all children in lessons, without favouritism, and listen to concerns raised by pupils. The trained teachers have also been active in training other teachers concerning children's rights and the importance of providing high quality education in an inclusive school environment. Children also learned about key preventive health topics and 9 984 children and young people reported an improvement in their overall health and wellbeing during the programme period.

Sustainability: The Savan Centre was registered as a local Civil Society Organisation during the final year of the programme period and will carry on activities supporting children and youth in Savannakhet following the closure of the Country Programme. The US Embassy in the country has already agreed to partially fund the Centre after the Country Programme closes. In addition, parents, teachers and children are well equipped to continue to use the skills and knowledge that they have gained in future

MYANMAR: COUNTRY PROGRAMME – BETTER EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOOD FOR POOR AND VULNERABLE FAMILIES (5130)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	75 918 (f: 39 803, m: 36 115, PWD: 1 010)
	2018–2021	85 432 (f: 44 941, m: 40 491, PWD: 1 010)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	83 098
	2018–2021	87 869
Expenses	2021	€422 174
	2018–2021	€1 153 007

The Myanmar Country Programme aims to strengthen access to education and digital learning opportunities for children and youth in vulnerable situations in poor communities. The Country Programme works to improve the quality of education through increasing the availability of extra-curricular lessons, strengthening household capacities to earn income and thus ability to pay for school related expenses, and by increasing awareness and knowledge of children’s rights.

During 2021, the Myanmar Country Programme was impacted by the military coup and the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Schools were closed for much of the year and only reopened in September. Despite the challenges, the Country Programme was able to support the education of 657 school pupils through extra-curricular activities and clubs at the 11 Learning Centres. In addition, the Country Programme developed digital lessons covering child protection, puberty and disability in the Leap Learning application. Volunteer teachers were trained to teach children in the Learning Centres about these topics using the new lessons. Regarding the Peacebuilding component, most of the leaders of the partner organizations were changed by the military following their participation in strikes demonstrating against the military coup. This meant that many of the planned activities could not be carried out. The challenging political situation also meant that most of

the activities related to Adequate Living Standards could not be carried out.

Two fund reallocations from development cooperation to humanitarian aid totalling €152 000 were made during 2021. The reallocated funding was used to provide support to vulnerable communities impacted by the military coup and the Covid-19 pandemic. Food aid, essential household items and medical materials were provided to 72 200 persons (f: 37 916, PWD: 1 105) using the reallocated funds.

During the programme period, the Country Programme strengthened the educational rights of 657 children through the Learning Centres. During end-of-year prize-giving events, the majority of the pupils receiving prizes were children who had attended the Learning Centres. Activities aimed at promoting livelihoods and adequate living standards resulted in members of 79 poor households being equipped with new skills and equipment to support their livelihoods. On average, these households have been able to double their income over the programme period. The Country Programme has also had success in promoting women’s leadership, with roughly 50 % of the decision-makers in Village Development Committees being women.

NEPAL: BETTER CHILDHOOD, BETTER FUTURE (5460)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	42 248 (f: 23 637, m: 18 611, PWD: 207)
	2018–2021	94 769 (f: 54 191, m: 40 578, PWD: 292)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	79 808
	2018–2021	207 030
Expenses	2021	€700 420
	2018–2021	€2 328 299

The Nepal Country Programme aims to strengthen the rights of children, especially their Rights to Health, Education and Adequate Living Standards in the working areas of Kailali, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, and Okhaldhunga districts. Fida works with the following partners: AGN churches, Rescue Nepal, Relative Nepal, Transformation Nepal, and New Life Service Association.

During 2021, schools remained closed for several months (April–September). During this time, the Country Programme provided study packages for 28 301 children to support their learning. In 2021, a total of 7 426 children completed their primary education in the target areas. The Country Programme also ran an ICT pilot project targeting 33 schools. The pilot project strengthened the ICT capacity of 571 teachers, including their use of e-library software. Livelihood activities enabled 412 families to continue to develop their small businesses, benefitting 1 130 children. On average incomes increased by 17 % during the year. In the health component 25 hand pumps were installed, providing 160 marginalized households and five schools with access to drinking water. Local communities contributed 65–70 % of the costs. Local health posts report that this led to a reduction in water-borne

diseases in the communities. In the Health component, 52 local WASH groups have raised awareness among households concerning good sanitation and hygiene.

During the programme period, the quality of education was strengthened for 21 900 children (g: 11 350). The teachers of these children were taught child-friendly teaching methods, which made education more interesting for the children. In addition, 1 695 children attended Kids Clubs, where they learned about health issues and interacted with their peers. In the Health Component, 709 hand pumps were installed in marginalized areas in cooperation with local authorities and households, providing safe drinking water to more than 7 700 households and 28 schools. In addition, 13 206 people (8 328 women/girls, 63 PWDs) strengthened their knowledge of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. During the programme period, the Country Programme was visible in Nepalese media – for instance, a series on Total Sanitation was broadcast in Kailali district and local and national media also covered model toilets, improved school WASH facilities and the provision of educational material support.

TAJIKISTAN: PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILDREN THROUGH LIVELIHOOD AND MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH (5321)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	2 033 (f: 1 419, m: 614, PWD: 15)
	2018–2021	9 025 (f: 5 956, m: 3 069, PWD: 85)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	24 295
	2018–2021	73 986
Expenses	2021	€102 235
	2018–2021	€407 139

The Country Programme in Tajikistan strengthened the rights of mothers and their children to health and an Adequate Living Standard by increasing the capacity of rights holders and duty bearers to fulfil health rights and through creating better opportunities for sustainable income generation for parents and caregivers. The Country Programme has especially targeted members of ethnic minority groups, such as Luli, who are often discriminated against. Fida's partners in the Country Programme are Stichting Assistance International (SAI) and Central Asian Partnerships (CAPS). The Country Programme ended in 2021.

In 2021, the Country Programme continued to work with expectant mothers to improve Mother and Child Health, emphasizing that women have the right to timely and appropriate healthcare. During the year, 347 women reported improved health and wellbeing. Changes in the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of women were observed following the training. For instance, women went for doctor consultations more often, made dietary changes, delivered in hospital more often and also breastfed for longer compared to the baseline situation. In 2021, 90 % of mothers gave birth in hospital (75 % baseline) and 79 % reported exclusively breastfeeding up to 6 months (36 % baseline). The Country Programme also worked with close relatives, including husbands and parents-in-law. Regarding his pregnant wife, one husband commented: *"I now pay more attention to what we eat and to hygiene. I learned when I need to*

take her to a doctor". In the Adequate Living Standard component 544 people learned new skills (f: 333) and 60 were able to increase their productive assets.

During the programme period, the health rights of 3 825 women were strengthened. In addition, more than 1 000 husbands and other relatives of female beneficiaries learned about maternal and child health and rights, and many modified their behaviour and spending patterns to ensure that pregnant women could eat healthily during pregnancy and give birth in suitable facilities. Overall, 2 504 person (f:1299) reported changed attitudes and health beliefs and 881 indicated that there had been improvements in their health and wellbeing. In the Adequate Living Standard Component, the Country Programme provided skills training related to vegetable growing and horticulture that targeted 1 512 persons (f: 933) living in vulnerable situations. A special emphasis was placed on reaching vulnerable women such as widowers, divorcees and members of ethnic minorities. A total of 166 households increased their productive assets.

Sustainability: CAPS will continue to work on similar themes with new donor organisations. The women that gained new livelihood skills will retain those skills and small businesses will continue to function after the programme ends. Likewise, changes in the area of health knowledge will remain and can be shared with neighbours and relatives.

TANZANIA: TUNANDOTO – SUSTAINABLY TRANSFORMED CHILDHOODS (5054)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	66 088 (f: 39 560, m: 26 528, PWD: 3 373)
	2018–2021	173 667 (f: 104 666, m: 69 001, PWD: 6 207)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	1 088 278
	2018–2021	4 644 272
Expenses	2021	€829 546
	2018–2021	€2 639 343

The Tanzania Country Programme aimed to increase the commitment of civil society and authorities to fulfil the rights of children to Health, Education and Adequate Living Standards. The Country Programme was implemented by the Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT) and operated in Losikito, Tanga, Zanzibar, Mwanza, Kigoma and Lindi.

During 2021, 2 550 children (g:1330) benefitted from improved quality of education services in the target areas. In Lindi/Ruo, for instance, the pass rate in the primary education leaving examinations increased from 80 % in 2020 to 91 % in 2021. In Zanzibar, the Stone Town Youth Centre obtained certification allowing it to begin providing vocational training, including training for persons with disabilities. This will open up new opportunities for local unemployed youth in the area. Savings and table banking groups, entrepreneurship trainings and conservation agriculture activities continued. During the year, over 1 200 Maasai (mainly women) received livelihood and entrepreneurship trainings which they can use to increase their income and their possibilities to be able to autonomously use money. Topics taught included the production of liquid soap, cosmetics and beekeeping. During 2021, there was a moderate opening up of civil society in the country, following a leadership change. In Mwanza, this enabled the launch of the “Children’s Parliament”

which the local authorities had previously been hesitant to approve. The Country Programme also participated in the Menstrual Health Management Coalition and the related “16 Days of Activism” campaign. Another notable success was that the partner was able to generate €28 000 to support the activities of the Country Programme.

During the programme period, the quality of education was improved for 13 657 children. There were over 6 800 active savings group members, the majority of whom were women. Over the 4 years they managed to save a total of TZS 300 million (approximately €116 000) to support their livelihoods. These funds were used by the members to invest in various small businesses and thus increase the regular income of the members. Conservation agriculture training reached almost 13 300 beneficiaries, who gained knowledge of organic pesticide use, sustainable farming techniques and food production. As a result, 6 140 households indicated a quantifiable increase in income and living standards. In the Health Component, one of the major successes of the programme, as verified by community surveys in 2021, has been the ability to “break the silence” on taboo topics such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Menstrual Health Management. 13 900 children learned about SRHR over the programme period.

UGANDA: A BETTER TOMORROW FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (5061)

Direct beneficiaries	2021	58 677 (f: 30 735, m: 27 942, PWD: 1 610)
	2018–2021	80 156 (f: 42 928, m: 37 228, PWD: 2 123)
Indirect beneficiaries	2021	176 031
	2018–2021	240 468
Expenses	2021	€570 379
	2018–2021	€1 830 238

The Uganda Country Programme aims to increase access to education, improve standards of living and improve social care and parenting of children and youth. The Country Programme is implemented in partnership with the Pentecostal Churches of Uganda (PCU). The Country Programme operated in 18 districts.

During 2021, the education activities continued to be impacted by Covid-19 related restrictions and school closures. During this time, the Country Programme supported home learning for 1 050 children, enabling them to continue their education. Informal classes and Kids Clubs were able to continue operating and enabled over 230 (g: 110) children to strengthen their knowledge of various topics and meet with their peers. Following the reopening of schools, 88 % of children in the Yumbe host and refugee community returned to school. Training on child rights for local authorities was shown to have been effective when, following the training, local council members intervened to prevent an early marriage in Yumbe. The Country Programme also saw good results of the livelihood activities targeting children and young adults affected by armed forces (CAAF). 30 new businesses were established and 139 families with CAAF members were able to increase their average income. The Country Programme also continued to raise awareness of SRHR among children and youth, reaching almost 3 100 children in 2021. According to

reports by the Refugee Welfare Councils, this has led to reductions in the number of teenage pregnancies in target areas. Child protection was strengthened when 10 volunteers (f: 7) were selected by community leaders as watchmen and women regarding child abuse prevention in Kakumiro.

During the programme period, 3 637 (g: 1 504) children benefitted from strengthened access to education. Education was supported during periods of school closures in 2020 by volunteers who made visits to children's homes. A clear change was observed in the attitudes of parents concerning education – for instance, in Yumbe Primary School the percentage of parents attending PTA meetings increased from 25 % to 82 %. The Country Programme also provided vocational training for 118 CAAF (f: 27) and supported the income generation of 207 CAAF. The Country Programme also provided much-needed psychosocial support to 600 children (g: 350), which was found to be a major support to children in coping with everyday challenges, according to follow-up surveys. Child rights and child protection were also supported by the equipping of 850 community leaders with skills and knowledge on gender-based violence, psychosocial support and parenting as well as the establishment of Child Protection Committees in Masindi and Yumbe.

DPR KOREA: FINNISH AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN DPRK (5200)

Direct beneficiaries	2018–2019	194 856
Indirect beneficiaries	2018–2019	2 416 000
Expenses	2018–2019	€603 267

Malnutrition, health problems and inadequate food security affect the lives of the most vulnerable people

in DPRK, including women and children. The Country Programme aimed for the fulfilment of the rights of

children to adequate nutrition and health in the selected areas in DPR Korea by increasing the capacity of authorities and partner farms to produce food and improving nutrition in a sustainable way. A Health Component, meanwhile, improved capacity and skills of partner hospitals and their staff to diagnose and treat the most relevant health problems of their catchment area and neighbouring districts. The Country Programme was implemented in close collaboration with Korea-EU Cooperation Coordinating Agency (KECCA) and was carried out in cooperation with cooperative farms and six hospitals as well as the Korean Academy of Agriculture and Science (AAS).

The Agriculture Component proceeded according to plan during 2018. In 2019 microtubes, fertilizer and plastic sheets were delivered to the farms, two training courses were organized, and two potato storages constructed. The Health Component also progressed according to the work plan apart from

some of the planned procurement of medical supplies not taking place due to challenges in processing the payments to the Chinese suppliers. As an unplanned activity, a Humanitarian Aid project was started in response to the serious food security crisis caused by the poor 2018 harvest. The project engaged five new cooperative farms in the potato cultivation programme with the emphasis on increased early crop production in 2019.

The experience in 2018 and 2019 showed that it paid off to work over the longer term with the same target farms and areas before shifting to new target areas. A period of 4–5 years of continuous work with the same target farms guarantees sustainable results as the change can be cemented in the operational practices of the farms. The same applies to the Health Component. The Country Programme was discontinued in 2019 due to difficulties with transferring funds to the country because of international sanctions.

INDIA: MUMBAI SLUM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (5033)

Direct beneficiaries	2018	4 602 (f: 1 758, m: 1 844, PWD: 40)
Indirect beneficiaries	2018	22 830
Expenses	2018	€164 772

The purpose of the India country programme was enhanced health and education in targeted slums in Mumbai. As a result of the programme, people changed their behaviour with respect to preventive health, and children were empowered by regular meetings conducted to promote good health. Especially trainings focused on children's rights to health were carried out in cooperation with Government authorities. Vulnerable people groups had improved health status and 250 families benefitted from improved environmental sustainability.

The main beneficiaries were the sponsored children, their parents, youth, committee members, community health educators, community people, partner staff and other local stakeholders. Rights holders were trained to open bank accounts, be a part of savings groups and avail themselves of the

opportunities provided by different schemes introduced by the Government.

The standard of living improved since most households became double-income households. With households where women have constraints to leave their houses, micro enterprises have been initiated enabling the women to contribute towards better education for their children and fulfilling other needs in their families. Through the work of the Self-Help Groups, people began to have savings. This led to several changes like people adding floors to existing houses, use of gas cylinders for cooking, and new assets in the homes. The fact that the partner is taking ownership in running the Kid's Clubs and youth clubs on its own with volunteers is a great indicator for sustainability. The Country Programme ended, as planned, in 2018.

5. DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION, GLOBAL EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

5.1. DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

Fida's Development Communication has three objectives: 1) the Finnish public and Fida's supporters' attitudes towards development cooperation remain positive; 2) awareness and perception of Fida's work improves by 5–10 % during the programme period, and 3) the public's support for Fida's development cooperation work increases and participation in development cooperation is strengthened.

During 2021, the Communication team published content on Fida's channels, organised campaigns and acquired media coverage for development cooperation topics. Unfortunately, a planned press trip to Tanzania was cancelled due to Covid-19-related restrictions. The Charity Research survey was not carried out in 2021. However, according to the Finnish MFA's Survey on Finns' Attitudes to Development Cooperation, attitudes became slightly less positive during the pandemic: 36 % of Finns considered development cooperation extremely important and 32 % fairly important. Overall, the year was a success, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

REACH OF COMMUNICATIONS AND COVERAGE OF AFGHANISTAN AND DR CONGO IN NATIONAL MEDIA

During 2021, 32 articles covering development cooperation were published on Fida's website and the website's reach increased by 15 %. In addition, 11 articles were published in the Fida magazine, 10 radio programmes were produced for Radio Dei, and 11 articles were published in seurakuntalainen.fi, an online platform with 76 000 readers.

There were 61 hits in the Finnish media related to Fida's development cooperation in 2021 and seven press releases were shared with media outlets. Several media organisations published articles about the volcanic eruption in DR Congo, based on Fida's press release. Following the crisis in Afghanistan, Fida offered interviewees to major media outlets (including, for instance, Iltalehti, MTV3, Svenska Yle, Helsingin Sanomat) as per their requests.

INFLUENCER CAMPAIGN GAINED A HUGE AUDIENCE

In November, Fida launched a hugely successful Instagram influencer marketing campaign in cooperation with Fida secondhand. Five prominent influencers, all of whom tackle aspects of sustainable development in their social media channels, were chosen for the campaign. The campaign reached a total of 82 000 people on Instagram.

The World Water Day campaign reached 2 800 people on social media. Fida also participated in Fingo's social media campaign, publishing content from Bhutan. Material collection trips were arranged to Bangladesh, Burundi, and Uganda. Six articles and a short documentary about Bidibidi's refugee settlement in Uganda were published, based on material collected during the trips.

During the 2018–2021 programme period, Finns' and Fida's clients' attitudes towards development cooperation became slightly less positive. However, Fida's brand image and overall visibility improved markedly (by over 10 %). This could be attributed to the fact that innovative development communications campaigns reached new audiences and brought recognition for Fida. For instance, Nobel Laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege's visit to Finland created great interest on Fida's social media channels.

Coverage in national media remained high, with a steady number of articles published each year about Fida's development cooperation. The press trips were also a success, with many journalists applying for the programme. Unfortunately, however, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the press trips needed to be cancelled twice. Fida's personnel in Finland and in the Country Programmes were provided with training and tools for effective communication, with more than 10 trainings organised during the programme period.

5.2. GLOBAL EDUCATION

The aim of Fida's global education is to increase Finnish stakeholders' knowledge and participation in development cooperation and their willingness to contribute to the realization of children's rights and reducing inequality. To bring about positive change in this area, Fida provided schools and educators with teaching materials, and together with its partner, Hyvä Sanoma ry / Koulupalvelu, offered global education classes to schools. Hyvä Sanoma ry became part of the Finnish Pentecostal Church organization at the end of 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic necessitated finding new ways of working and the development of new digital and online practices. The **pandemic continued to affect the number of school visits in 2021**. School visits increased during the second half of 2021; however, it was not possible to organize the same volume of visits as prior to the pandemic. Fida's global education reached 1 251 students, 64 % of them for the first time, and 69 teachers in 19 schools. In total, 63 % of the schools were new connections. Approximately 30 % of the school visits were made remotely. The feedback received from teachers and students continued to be very good and achieved new records. The average rating was 3,86/4 by teachers and 3,4/4 by students.

Fida's global education e-materials and other online materials were viewed 1 995 times and downloaded 580 times. The figures have dropped slightly compared to the previous year. However, **the games were downloaded and ordered three times more than in 2020**. The Food Security game ("Ruokaturvapeli") was downloaded 230 times. Meanwhile, 1 500 Unfair games ("Epäreilupelit") were sent to schools, churches, clubs, families, and volunteers. The game continued to receive positive feedback from teachers, suggesting that it meets their needs and that they find them relevant and useful for teaching.

During 2021, Fida produced two new global education packages for schools. One of the packages is aimed at grades 3 to 9 and the other at first and second

graders. Although Fida's global education has previously concentrated mainly on grades 3–9, a new material package for first and second graders was produced to meet the need of primary schools. Therefore, **Fida's global education is now available for all grades in the Finnish comprehensive school system**.

An **online training for the church volunteers was also developed during 2021**. The aim of the course is to provide the volunteers with basic knowledge on global education and train them to make school visits to schools in their areas. The first course was organized in Uusimaa and was attended by 15 volunteers from at least seven local churches.

During the 2018–2021 programme period, Fida's global education reached over 31 000 students in different parts of Finland, about 7 300 (23 %) for the first time. Although the number of school visits dropped in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 and therefore the goal of reaching 40 000 students during the programme period was not quite achieved, the school network nevertheless expanded between 2018 and 2021: Global education classes were held in over 430 schools, of which roughly 24 % were new to Fida.

Fida's global education staff gained experience in creating digital learning materials. The process was useful and gave new insight into what type of materials could be developed in the future. Online materials such as "*Mitä on kehitysyhteistyö*" were among the most visited materials, indicating an interest towards online learning materials that can also be used in remote learning.

During the programme period, Fida has invested in the development and quality of its global education program. A process for standardizing learning materials was started, new digital materials were created, reporting practices were systematically developed, together with Fida's partner Hyvä Sanoma Association, and the global education programme now has a full-time coordinator.

5.3. ADVOCACY IN FINLAND

The key goals of Fida's advocacy in Finland were to raise awareness of children's rights among political decision-makers and opinion leaders and to both improve the knowledge of ordinary Finns regarding development cooperation and promote their participation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The advocacy of the Country Programmes was supported by the Fida Global Advocacy Team and by trainings, which were based on an updated version of Fida's Advocacy Manual.

Fida cooperated with Fingo and other NGOs to organize seven official meetings with decision-makers, during which the importance of development cooperation, development funding and development results were discussed. During the year, budget negotiations, and the *Report on Development Policy Extending Across Parliamentary Terms* and the National Audit Office's Report, *Finland's International Climate Finance*, were monitored and Fida made a statement to the Development Policy Committee's mid-term evaluation. As a result of lobbying, NGO funding was raised in the Government budget session and contacted decision-makers raised relevant NGO messages.

Fida advocacy participated in two campaigns/events, in four social media campaigns and produced 11 publications. Fida produced SDG 4. materials for the online *World Village Festival* (attendance: approximately 10 000), and for the *Finnish Churches for Justice and Peace* campaign led by the Finnish Ecumenical Council (reach: 1–2 million Finns annually). Fida advocacy and communications also took part, with other NGOs, in social media campaigning on questions of development funding and concerning the *Report on Development Policy*. Material produced reached an audience of around 1 million Finns. Six podcasts were also produced on various SDG themes.

Collaboration with networks deepened and two events were organized, which met the target set for the whole programme period. Two food security documentaries were broadcast live with the think

tank Compass. The webinar *Back to School?* on SDG 4. was produced with Finn Church Aid, Plan Finland, Save the Children and MPs from various parties. The webinar succeeded in making an impact, as the key messages were repeated by MPs in the parliamentary session on the *Report on Development Policy* (14.9.)

During the 2018–2021 programme period, advocacy was included in Fida's development cooperation programme as a key theme for the first time. An Advocacy Manual was created to guide the advocacy work and systematic planning and monitoring were developed. Fida staff, Country Programmes and partners received support in their advocacy via the Fida Global Advocacy Team and by live and online trainings.

During the programme period, 7 events and 5 media or social media campaigns were organized, for example an International Day of the Girl Child campaign and event for MPs at the Parliament with visitors from Laos, and the visit of Nobel Peace Laureate Dr Mukwege, during which one official event was held for decision-makers and another for the public. Many Finns followed Mukwege's messages via the events and related media. In addition, Fida advocacy published 41 articles or publications and produced 42 podcasts. To summarize, **the original target was exceeded, results were double the targeted levels and Fida's advocacy messages became visible to officials, decision-makers and the wider public.**

A book on Religion and Development was published and four open book publishing and discussion events on the theme of the book were held in collaboration with Felm. A webinar on disability inclusion in fragile states was organized in cooperation with Abilis, Safer Globe and Development Policy Committee. Fida advocacy had a successful start, where all goals were met or exceeded. While the developing process of advocacy continues, the experiences of the past programme period will form a good basis to move forward and continue specializing.

6. PROGRAMME ORGANISATION AND QUALITY CONTROL DEVELOPMENT

6.1. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

The highest decision-making body within Fida was the Annual General Meeting. The association was represented by the board, which oversaw Fida's operations. The Management Group was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organisation. The Management Group was led by the Executive Director and members included Directors of the domestic units and Regional Directors. Four Regional Programme Managers worked under the Regional Directors. They coordinated the development cooperation operations within their regions and operated as the supervisors for the Country Programme Managers. The regional management was supported by Thematic and Technical Advisors. Some changes at the managerial level were made to streamline decision-making during the upcoming 2022–2025 programme period. One change was the enlarging of the managerial team to manage humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. Also, Director for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance changed in August.

Key aspects of the management of the Programme included financial, personnel, ICT and administrative management. The role of Fida's Head Office and its Development Cooperation Department was mainly to provide PMEL (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) and PCM (Programme Cycle Management) support and expertise to the Country Programmes. Programme management in Finland included communication with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, planning of the Development Cooperation Programme and, additionally, monitoring and reporting.

In 2021, in the Programme there were 28 employees hired from Finland, who worked a total of 24.1 man-years. In addition, the Programme employed 264 local employees.

6.2. PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND QUALITY CONTROL

The implementation, management, financial management and quality control of Fida's Global Development Programme is carried out in the target countries by Country Programme Managers and local Coordinators.

The **quality assurance system includes the following elements**. Firstly, strategic management ensures that Staff members throughout the Programme work actively toward the same strategic goals. Secondly, implementation at the Country Programme level is in alignment with the overall Programme goals and is monitored regularly using key performance indicators. Thirdly, all processes relevant to Programme Cycle Management (PCM) are described in Fida's Programme Manual. The Programme Manual also contains detailed instructions for performing all PCM-related tasks. The Manual is updated when needed. Proper financial management is assured through adherence to the instructions in Fida's Finance Manual. Finally, staff competence and motivation is ensured through recruiting qualified and motivated staff, detailed staff orientation and an emphasis on continuous learning through Global Thematic Teams and regular training on programme themes. A staff training plan is made annually.

Fida has a **zero tolerance towards corruption**. Measures have been taken, during the programme period, to support this policy, such as updating the Anti-Corruption Guidelines. The Country Programmes followed the financial guidelines in Fida's Programme Manual and the money requests to Finland were approved by the Regional Directors, according to the Quality Management Process. In addition, financial trainings were provided to ensure that high standards were maintained. **Auditing was part of the financial management process** and the audit recommendations were used to improve financial management throughout the Programme as part of ongoing learning and improvement.

6.3. PROGRAMME MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Internal monitoring of the Programme took place according to the structure and processes established at the outset of the 2018–2021 programme period. Monitoring took place in a participatory manner in Country Programme teams. Based on the internal monitoring, observations were collected tri-annually into narrative “T-reports”, which were used in monitoring the progress towards the achievement of result targets. Annual results and broader reflections on progress were collected in the annual reports of the Country Programmes.

During the programme period, improvements were made to reporting templates to strengthen quality control and minimize the reporting burden on the Country Programmes. Special attention was paid to ensuring that the Programme level would remain at a minimum Human Rights Progressive and that progress toward the goal of being Human Rights Transformative would be accurately captured. In addition, the process of moving elements of monitoring and reporting to an online system began. A new member of staff was also recruited in 2021 to support this transition. Online monitoring will be used more widely during the upcoming 2022–2025 programme period.

During 2020 and 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic presented challenges to monitoring. In 2020, in particular, the situation was challenging since many ex-patriate staff had been evacuated to Finland. The challenges were largely overcome through regular online contact between Programme staff, based in Finland, and local implementing staff and through the use of digital tools. In several countries, volunteers were also mobilised and monitoring cooperation with other NGOs was increased, for instance, during periods of travel restrictions.

EVALUATIONS

During 2021, two external evaluations were carried out: an **evaluation of the Iraq Country Programme** and a **combined final evaluation of closing Country Programmes in Asia (Bhutan, Cambodia and Laos)**.

Both evaluations examined the achievements of the Country Programmes during the 2018–2021 programme period and, also assessed lessons learned and how they were applicable to Fida more widely. A third focus area of the evaluation in Iraq concerned providing recommendations for changes that can strengthen the impact of the Country Programme in the upcoming 2022–2025 programme period. Meanwhile, an additional area evaluated in Asia was the sustainability of the three Country Programmes.

The **Iraq Evaluation found that** the holistic approach of the Country Programme, which focuses on children, parents, teachers and government officials, had been relevant and successful in strengthening children’s education rights. The evaluation highlighted the success in strengthening the rights of children with disabilities in the Halabja area. The impact of the Country Programme was found to have been partially achieved. Partners were found to have strong relationships with government officials, which aided implementation and dialogue concerning duty bearers fulfilling their duties to local children. It was noted that staff turnover, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the demands of planning for a new programme period simultaneously with other tasks had been challenging and that further support would have been needed for programme staff and local partners. Overall, the results were considered to be sustainable, with changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour having taken place that will be maintained in the future.

The **evaluation recommended that** disability inclusion, currently the main focus in the Halabja region, be incorporated more widely in the other geographical areas of the Country Programme. Other recommendations included training government officials in all programme areas on disability inclusion, greater mutual learning and joint advocacy between the two partner organisations and increasing support to Country Programme staff and partners. Finally, it was recommended to continue and further develop the collection of qualitative data and other feedback

through Google Forms and WhatsApp that has been successful in 2020 and 2021.

All three of the evaluated **Country Programmes in Asia were found to** have been relevant in terms of addressing the underlying causes of inequality and lack of fulfilment of children's rights. Furthermore, positive change at the outcome and impact levels were observable in all three countries. According to the evaluation, *"in Bhutan programme beneficiaries feel empowered and many of them have increased their income"*. Meanwhile, in Cambodia, there was a clear indication *"of impacts related to improved livelihoods and increased income, and hygiene and health practices."* In Laos it was observed that *"the pro-active role taken by the youth volunteers can be considered as a significant programme impact, while signs of impact also on the attitudes of teachers, parents, and government officials towards and their interaction with young people could also be observed."*

All of the evaluated Country Programmes were found to have been planned so that the results would be sustained following phase-out. The sustainability strategies varied, however, and it was, therefore, recommended that Fida closely monitor the success of the strategies employed so that successful approaches may be replicated in future. The Youth Centre in Laos, which was registered as a local CSO in 2021, was highlighted as a significant achievement which should support the sustainability of the Programme's results.

The **evaluation recommended that** in future greater focus be given to strengthening the programme

objective setting at the Country Programme level and that care be taken to ensure that objectives are sufficiently focused. The Country Programmes were found to have adapted well to the Covid-19 pandemic and it was recommended that adaptive management be further strengthened in future. Concerning performance indicators, it was recommended to limit their number and to place a greater emphasis on collecting qualitative data, in addition to quantitative data. Many of the recommendations had already been taken into consideration during the planning of the upcoming 2022–25 Development Cooperation Programme. The remainder will be considered during the implementation of the new programme.

The findings and recommendations of the evaluation reports were disseminated widely within Fida in order that Programme staff at all levels and in all regions could learn from them. This was enabled through online debriefing sessions that were open to all staff members of the Development Cooperation Programme. In addition, the evaluation reports were shared with partner organisations. Follow-up Plans were compiled based on the recommendations of the reports. The implementation of the Follow-up Plans will be monitored by managers at the Country Programme, regional and global levels. The evaluation reports and a summary of the follow-up plans can be found in Appendix 4.

Over the programme period 12 evaluations were carried out and each Country Programme has been evaluated at least once. Further details can be found in Chart 11.

Chart 11. Evaluations 2018–2021.

YEAR	EVALUATION	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES COVERED
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Evaluation of Food Security Projects in Eastern Africa Country Programme Mid-Term Review WASH Project Mid-Term Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burundi, Tanzania Cambodia Nepal
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Programme Mid-Term Review Country Programme Internal Evaluation Family & Youth Projects Mid-Term Review Country Programme Mid-Term Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afghanistan Jordan Kenya, Uganda Tajikistan
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta Evaluation Thematic Evaluation of education components in Asia Country Programmes Thematic Evaluation of Disability Inclusion in Eastern Africa Country Programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Programme/All Programme Countries Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal Burundi, DR Congo, Tanzania
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Programme Evaluation Combined Final Evaluation of Asian Country Programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraq Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos

7. PROGRAMME FUNDING

During 2021, Fida received 5.6 million Euros (previous operational year 5.6 million Euros) of Development Cooperation funding from the Government of Finland, of which 60 000 Euros was not used and will be carried over to 2022. The Programme’s total expenses during 2021 were 7 million Euros (6,2 mil. Euros in 2020). The self-funding portion was 1,5 million Euros (0,6 million Euros in 2020). The self-funding portion was 21,4 % of the Programme funding (9,9 % in 2020). The Programme’s Financial Report can be found in Appendix 5.

The self-funding for the Programme accumulated from sponsorship pledges, donations and the support paid by churches. The Association’s Financial Statement is in Appendix 5. The Auditor’s Report for the Development Cooperation Programme and the Summary Memorandum can be found in Appendix 6. The main recommendations or comments, and the resulting follow-up procedures of the local audits implemented in the Country Programmes, are listed in separate charts by region.

Chart 12. Sources of Development Cooperation Funding 2018–2021.

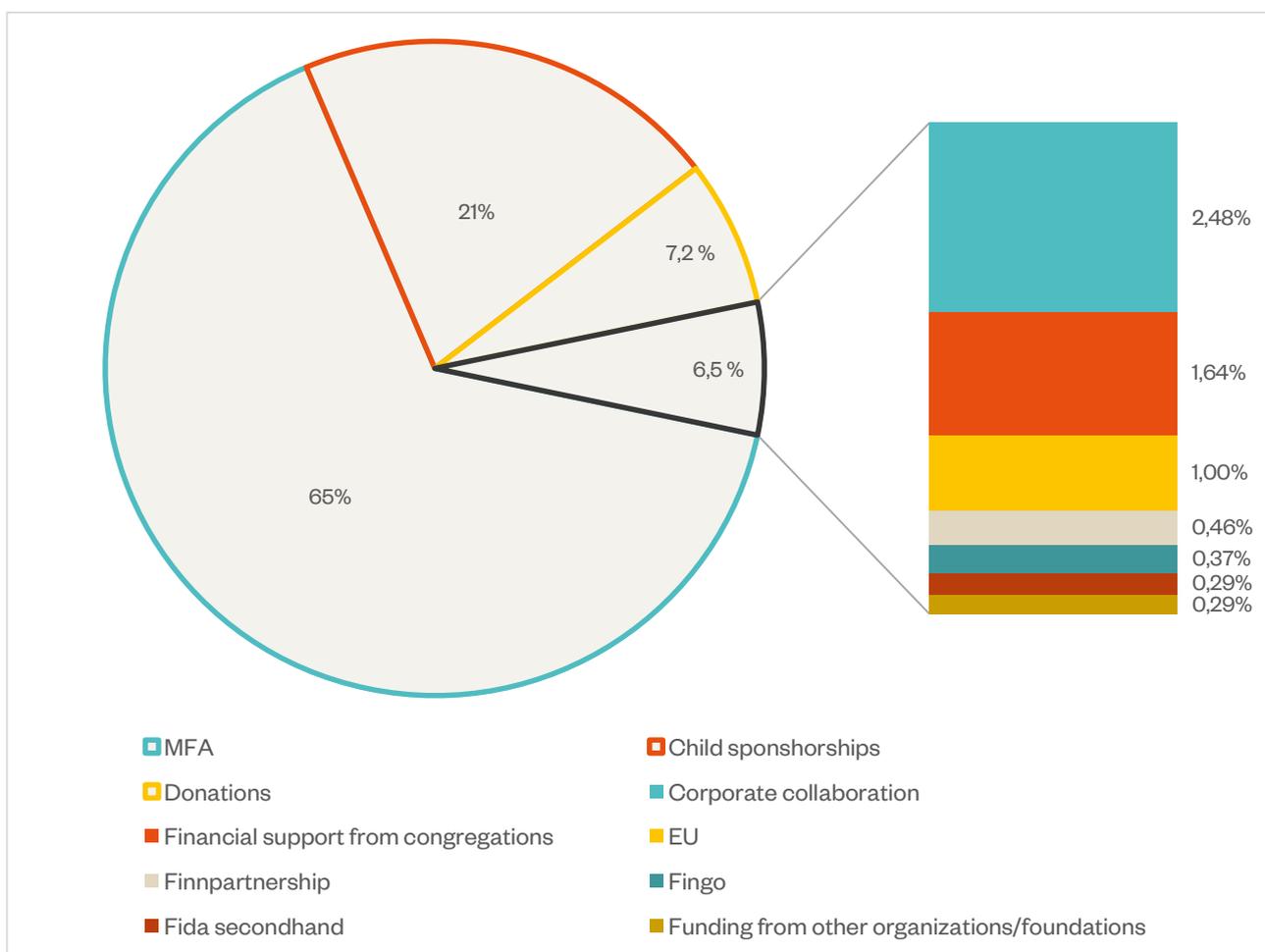


Chart 13. Programme Expenditure and Funding 2018–2021.

EXPENDITURE 2018	Budget €	Actualization €
A. Project activities	4 910 000	4 800 155
B. Evaluation and planning	79 000	96 763
C. Development communication, global education and advocacy	276 000	280 450
D. Administration	585 000 (10 %)	575 263 (10 %)
Programme total costs	5 850 000	5 752 632
FUNDING SOURCES 2018	Budget €	Actualization €
Government funding	4 700 000	4 700 000
Self-funding from Finland	1 150 000	1 052 632
EXPENDITURE 2019	Budget €	Actualization €
A. Project activities	5 121 000	5 136 852
B. Evaluation and planning	136 534	120 995
C. Development communication, global education and advocacy	357 540	391 315
D. Administration	422 640 (7 %)	627 686 (10 %)
Programme total costs	6 037 714	6 276 848
FUNDING SOURCES 2019	Budget €	Actualization €
Government funding	4 700 000	4 700 000
Self-funding from Finland	1 337 714	1 576 848
EXPENDITURE 2020	Budget €	Actualization €
A. Programme activities	5 850 000	5 187 941
B. Evaluation and planning	168 000	104 684
C. Development communication, global education and advocacy	417 000	302 371
D. Administration	705 000 (9,9 %)	621 666 (10 %)
Programme total costs	7 140 000	6 216 662
FUNDING SOURCES 2020	Budget €	Actualization €
Government funding	5 600 000	5 600 000
Self-funding from Finland	1 540 000	616 662
EXPENDITURE 2021	Budget €	Actualization €
A. Programme activities	5 810 000	5 953 956
B. Evaluation and planning	224 000	129 103
C. Development communication, global education and advocacy	424 000	258 742
D. Administration	717 000 (9,9 %)	704 644 (10 %)
Programme total costs	7 175 000	7 046 445
FUNDING SOURCES 2021	Budget €	Actualization €
Government funding	5 600 000	5 540 000
Self-funding from Finland	1 575 000	1 506 445