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# 1. SUMMARY

The Annual Results Report 2022 presents the results, challenges and lessons learned of the first year of Fida’s Development Cooperation Programme 2022-2025, “Towards the Future – A Safe Educational Path and Living Environment for Children and Youth”. During the year, Fida implemented a range of activities that strengthened the fulfilment of the Rights to Education and to a Safe Living Environment for children and youth. The Programme also strengthened the capacity of its implementing partners in the areas of organisational management, advocacy and ITCC (Innovations, Technology and Corporate Collaboration). Activities in Finland, meanwhile, focused on raising awareness and increasing engagement regarding the Programme’s themes among the Finnish public. This was achieved through work in three key areas, namely Advocacy, Development Communication and Global Education. The three Cross-Cutting Objectives of Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion and Environment and Climate Resilience were mainstreamed throughout the Programme.

An overview of the Programme is provided in Section 2 below, while the global-level results are presented in Section 3. Section 4 then provides a brief overview of the results of each Country Programme. The results of the Advocacy, Global Education and Development Communication activities implemented in Finland are presented in section 5, followed by the Programme Management and Quality Control in Section 6 and Programme Funding in Section 7.



Figure 1. Fida Country Programmes 2022–2025

During 2022, the Development Cooperation Programme operated in **10 countries in South and South-East Asia, Eastern Africa and the Middle East** (see Figure 1 above). 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 work carried out in Finland. The Programme's Result Matrix (Appendix 2) has also been an important tool for analysing the Programme's results.

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 and necessitated regular analysis as well as updating of the Programme's Risk Management Plan as circumstances changed. More information regarding the operating environment can be found in Section 2.3 and the Programme's Risk Management Plan is presented in Section 2.4 and Appendix 3.).

During 2022, the **Programme directly impacted the lives of 246 300 people, including 123 200 girls and women and 9200 persons with disabilities** (see Figure 2 Below). The number of indirect beneficiaries reached was 1.2 million. Significant results were achieved in terms of changes in the knowledge, attitudes and practices of rights holders and duty bearers regarding the Right to Education and the Right to a Safe Living Environment. Children enrolled in school in increasing numbers and the quality of education improved. Improvements were also observed in the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and their parents. Meanwhile, unemployed youth and parents were equipped with new skills with which they were able to increase their income and savings. Please refer to Section 3 below for a detailed analysis of Programme results.

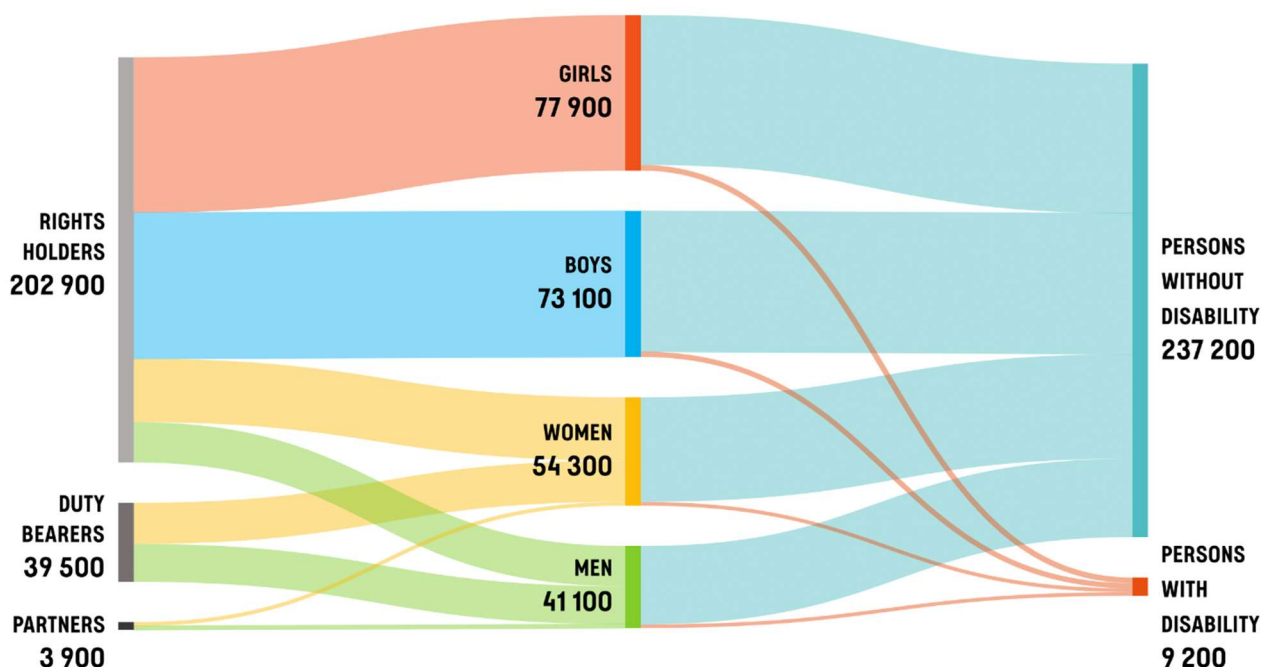


Figure 2. Direct Beneficiaries in 2022

**Local civil society was also strengthened through the Programme** . As described further in section 3.3, the capacity of the Programme's local partner organisations to operate effectively and conduct impactful advocacy work increased during the year, as well as their readiness to innovate and collaborate with other actors. The Programme also worked with 1100 community-level civil society groups, many of which were established through the Programme, to support them in providing a voice for marginalized communities.

**The Programme encountered various challenges during 2022.** These challenges, outlined in Section 3.5, nevertheless provided opportunities to innovate, pilot new approaches to Programme implementation and learn lessons that will serve the Programme in future. The **Cross-Cutting Objectives of Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion and Environment and Climate Resilience were incorporated into all Programme activities** (see Section 3.4). Learning, meanwhile, was supported through monthly thematic workshops, regional seminars and through sharing evaluation results broadly across the Programme. Evaluations conducted in 2022 are described in more detail in Section 6.3.

**Three funding reallocations for 2022 were approved by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs** . Firstly, permission was granted to reallocate €56 400 in the Iraq Country Programme. This reallocation enabled the Country Programme to organise new activities (a partnership forum and disability inclusion training) and to cover expenses that had increased due to inflation and weak exchange rates. Secondly, the Syria Country Programme was cancelled, leading to a saving of €671 000. Permission was granted for these funds to be used elsewhere in the Programme over the period 2023 – 2025. Thirdly, permission was granted to roll over €400 000 from 2022 to 2023.

## 2. FIDA’S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2022–2025

### 2.1. STRUCTURE AND THEMES OF THE PROGRAMME

The overall aim (impact) of the Development Cooperation Programme 2022 – 2025 is to bring about improved access to quality education and safer living environments for children and youth in Programme countries. This is achieved through four outcomes, as outlined below.

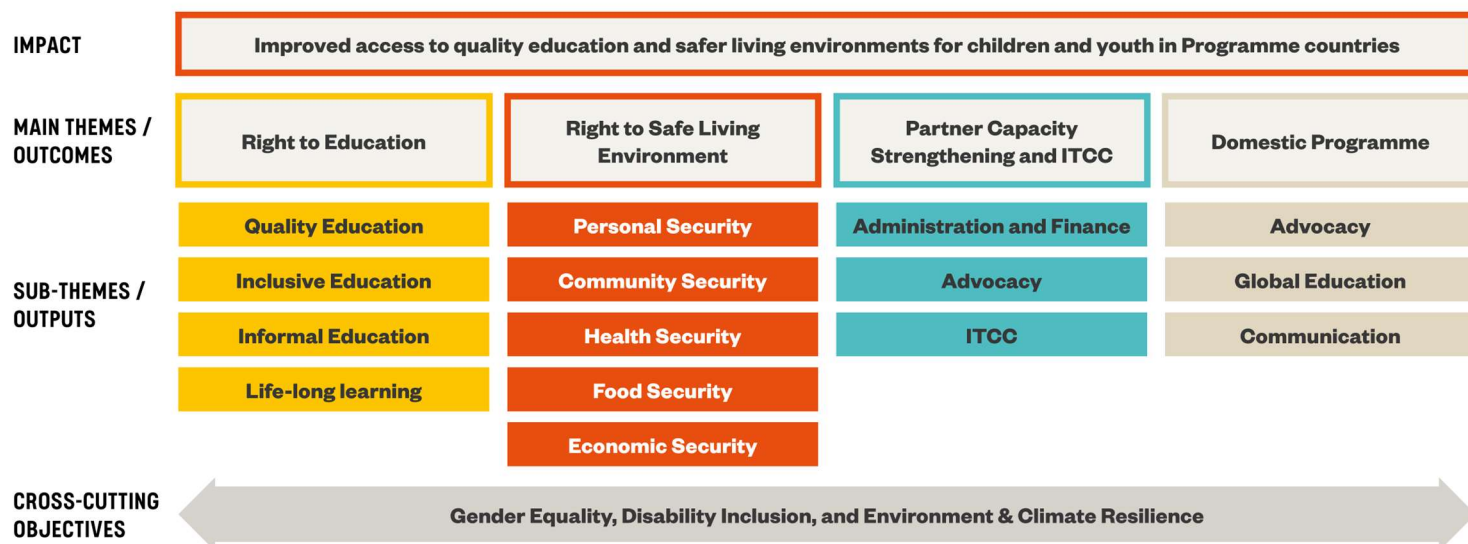


Figure 3. Development Cooperation Programme Structure

The first Programme outcome is *strengthened realisation of the Right to Education for children and youth, especially girls and children with disabilities*. This goal is reached through activities under four sub-themes. Firstly, **Quality Education** activities focus on ensuring that teachers have the necessary skills and knowledge to provide high quality education to all children in a safe environment. **Inclusive Education** activities, meanwhile, address education accessibility, particularly focusing on children with disabilities and ethnic minorities. **Informal Education** activities focus on ensuring that children have opportunities to learn and interact with one another in informal classes outside school hours. Finally, the aim of **Life-Long Learning** activities is to provide opportunities for young people and parents to further their education and learn new skills.

The Programme’s second outcome is *strengthened realisation of the Right to a Safe Living Environment, especially for girls and children with disabilities*. This goal is achieved through activities under five sub-themes. **Personal Security** activities focus on children’s and parents’ psychosocial wellbeing and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). **Community Security** activities, meanwhile, equip local community members with skills for resolving conflicts and promoting peaceful environments, where all can thrive. Activities in the area of **Health Security** aim to promote healthy practices and ensure that all community members have access to adequate sanitation and clean water and that persons with disabilities can access rehabilitation services and use assistive devices. **Food Security** activities equip local communities with the skills and knowledge to sustainably grow crops

and manage livestock. Finally, **Economic Security** activities provide right holders with skills and knowledge relevant to gaining employment and establishing small businesses.

The Programme’s third outcome is *improved administrative and financial practices of partner organisations and strengthened commitment to act innovatively to strengthen the realisation of the rights of children and youth , especially girls and children with disabilities* . This goal is achieved through three outputs. The first output concerns improving the financial and administrative capacity of partner organisations. The second output relates to strengthening the advocacy capacity of implementing partners. Meanwhile the final output and related activities support local partners in collaborating with private sector actors, increasing their capacity to innovate and embracing new technical solutions. The Programme’s fourth outcome, covering Programme activities in Finland, is *increased commitment of target groups to promote children’s rights to quality education and a safe living environment globally* and includes, as previously mentioned, Development Communication, Advocacy and Global Education.

In 2022, the Development Cooperation Programme contained 10 Country Programmes, all of which implemented outcomes 1-3 of the Programme. The number of sub-themes addressed in each Country Programme varied, however, depending on the local context and capacity gaps identified as well as the expertise of the local implementing partners. The outline of a typical Country Programme can be found in Figure 4 below.

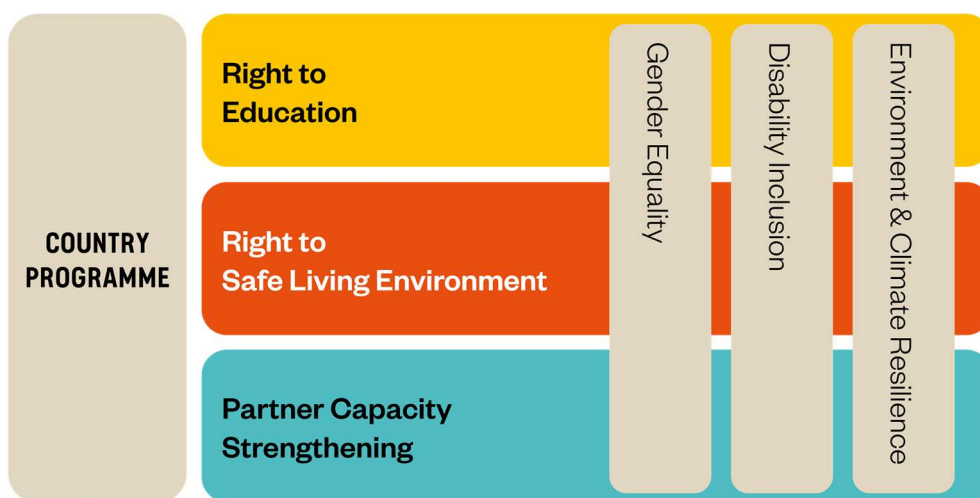


Figure 4. The Structure of a Country Programme

The Country Programmes were designed based on 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, furthermore, designed with sustainability in mind, for instance, by focusing on changing attitudes and behaviour and building sustainable structures to ensure that positive changes can be maintained after the intervention period. Country Programme activities focus on both building awareness of children’s rights among rights holders and duty bearers and on empowering rights holders to advocate for the realisation of their own rights.

The Programme was planned with sustainability in mind. This meant ensuring genuine local ownership of Programme activities and focusing activities on tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality. Careful

consideration was also given to how and on what scale activities will continue after the programme period. This was done through the formulation of Sustainability Plans for all Country Programmes, which will be reviewed at least once per year. The Programme also worked closely with all local implementing partners to strengthen their organisational capacity (see section 3.3) so that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct impactful work in future.

## 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 2022-2025 aims to identify and tackle structural causes preventing rights from being fulfilled in order to promote long-term, sustainable changes in people's lives. Progress towards the results is monitored by collecting disaggregated data concerning the fulfilment of human rights and the knowledge and capacity of rights holders and duty bearers. Additional indicators measure changes at the civil society and government levels.

The Programme is considered to be **human rights transformative, and work is being carried out during the programme period to solidify the transformative foundation of the Programme**. A human-rights transformative level, as defined by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Guidance Note 2015<sup>1</sup>, has the following elements: firstly, it seeks to actively transform societies and eliminate discrimination by addressing root causes in legislation, customs, norms and practices; secondly, human rights guide the expected results; thirdly, action is directed towards capacity development and advocacy; fourthly, accountability is emphasized and; finally, the intervention is coupled with policy dialogue on the human rights that the intervention focuses on.

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 services may be provided through the Programme to ensure that these rights are realised, as is justified by a human-rights based approach. The Programme aims, nevertheless, to decrease the share of service delivery over time as the capacity of local duty bearers, such as governing authorities, increases. During 2022, the average estimated share of Country Programme expenditure directed towards service provision was 9.5%.

**The Results Chain outlines the Programme's intervention logic and forms the basis for the Programme's Results Matrix. Meanwhile, a broader picture of the various factors that contribute to the achievement of the Programme's goals is provided by the Theory of Change**. The Programme aims to ensure that children and youth have access to quality education throughout their educational path and that they are able to graduate from school and pursue their life goals. In addition, the Programme aims to ensure that children's immediate environments are peaceful and safe and that they support them in charting the direction of their own lives. While the overall focus of the Programme is on the rights of children and youth, particular emphasis is placed on strengthening the rights of girls and children with disabilities. The Programme's Theory of Change is outlined in Figure 5 below.

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



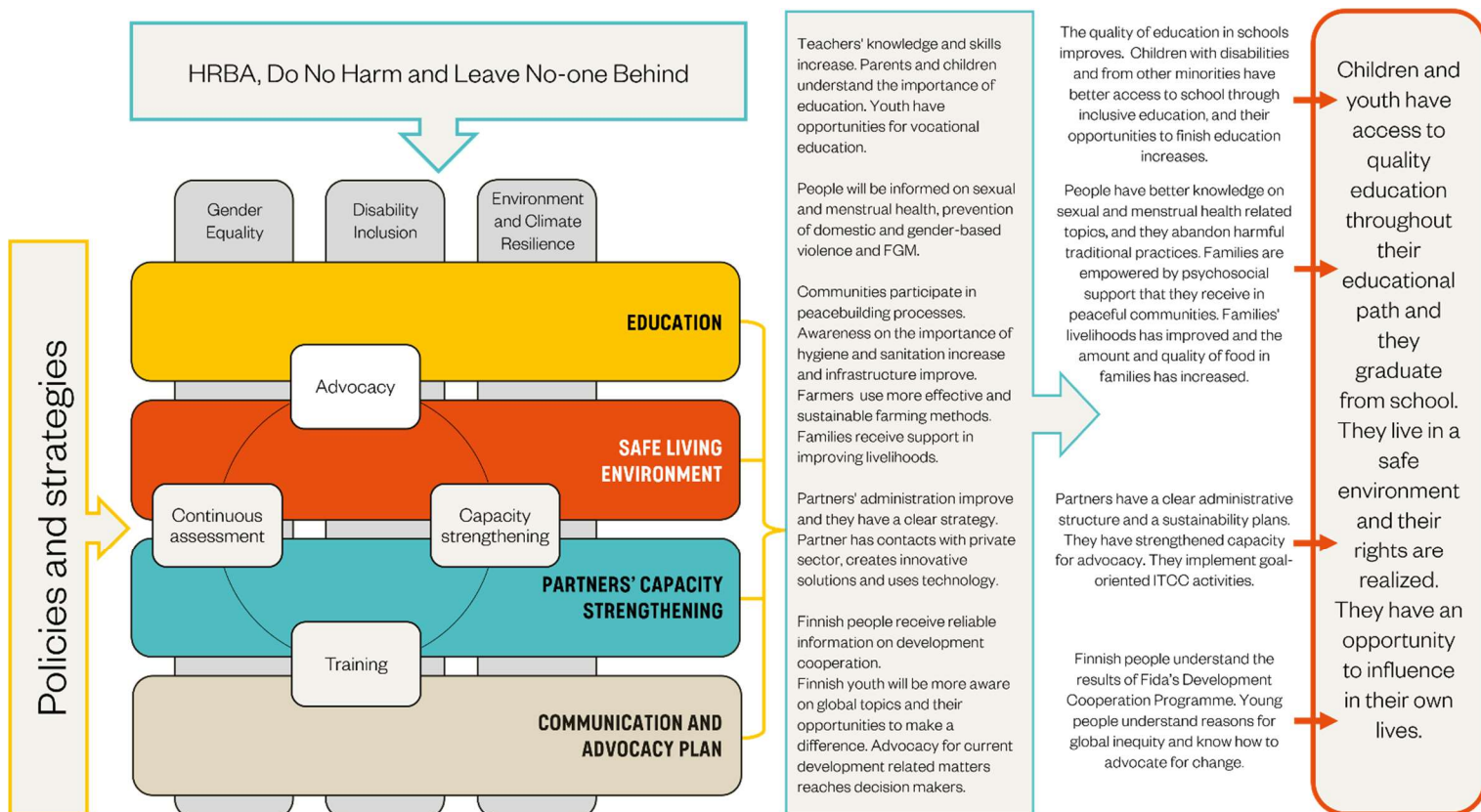


Figure 5. Theory of Change of Development Cooperation Programme 2022 – 2025

### 2.3. OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Fida's Development Cooperation Programme operated in ten countries during the 2022, of which eight were classified as Least Developed Countries by OECD DAC, whilst the remaining two were Middle-Income Countries. The Fragile State Index (FSI) classified four 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 the potential for societal collapse. Several countries in which the Programme operated, such as DR Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Myanmar 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 basic rights, such as the Right to Education and Right to a Safe Living Environment and contained significant segments of the population living in poverty. For this reason, Fida's work supporting and equipping local NGOs, Churches and other actors as advocates has been very important. Figure 6 below provides an overview of the level of development, fragility and civil society space in the operating countries.

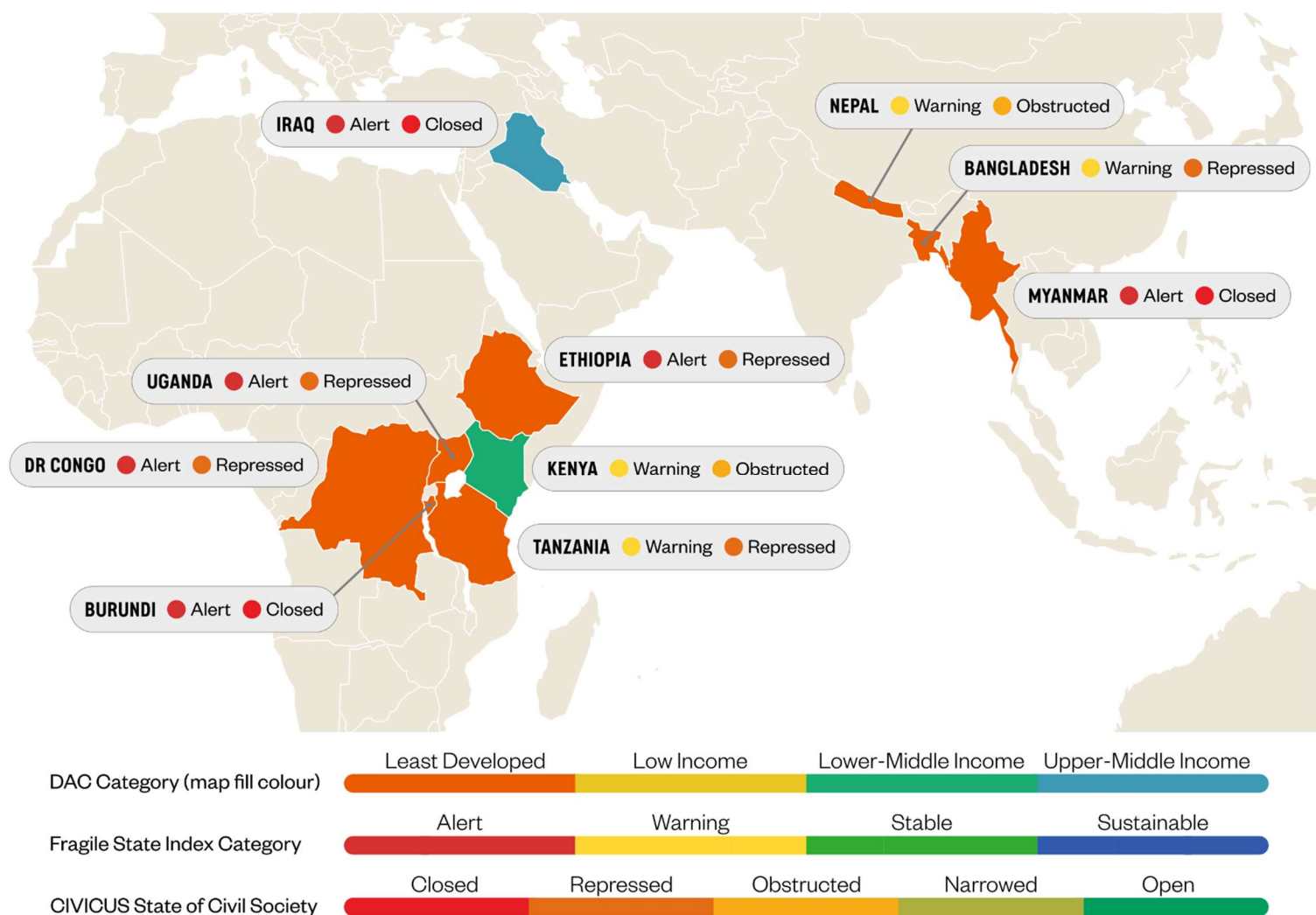


Figure 6. Key Development Indicators for Programme Countries

### KNOCK-ON EFFECTS OF RUSSIA’S INVASION OF UKRAINE

The most significant change in the operating environment of the Programme during the reporting period was the knock-on effects of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. These included shortages of wheat and other basic commodities, increases in the price of imported goods, rising inflation and, in some Programme countries, a decreasing exchange rate vs. the Euro. In Burundi, the inflation rate reached over 17% during 2022, whilst in Myanmar it reached 18%. Price increases caused significant challenges for ordinary citizens and the increased cost of fuel caused budgeting challenges in several Country Programmes, particularly in those with target communities spread over large geographical areas. See Section 3.5, Challenges and Lessons Learned, for further information concerning the challenges caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and how Country Programmes addressed them.

### DROUGHT IN EASTERN AFRICA

A further significant factor impacting many of the Country Programmes, during 2022 was the effects of climate change. In Kenya, for instance, there was a prolonged draught that resulted in target beneficiaries in several areas having to move in search of water for themselves and their animals. In Uganda, meanwhile, there was also a drought

leading to an unsuccessful growing season for many farmers and an increase in food insecurity. In Tanzania, meanwhile, rainfall was erratic with some areas of the country experiencing too little rain and others experiencing too much.

## **CONFLICT, INSECURITY, AND LIMITED OPERATING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

In several locations the operating space for civil society remained narrow. In Myanmar, for instance, the work of civil society organisations was closely monitored, and human rights defenders were arrested. Myanmar was also impacted by insecurity: in Rakhine and Kachin states there was ongoing fighting, often close to target communities. In the operating areas in both Kenya and Uganda cattle rustling was an issue. Meanwhile, in DR Congo conflict flared up in 2022 between the M23 rebel group and government forces, displacing local people. In Ethiopia, several different factors made the operating environment changeable and volatile. Drought, famine and the conflict in the Oromia and Tigray regions all impacted the Country Programme to some degree. However, in November 2022, the Government of Ethiopia and Tigray People's Liberation Front leaders signed a peace agreement which, it is hoped, will be a first step towards a lasting peace in the Tigray region.

Overall, despite the challenging environments in which the Programme operates, Programme implementation went smoothly during 2022. This was due to several factors such as the long-term presence of Fida in Programme countries, competent and flexible local partners, and strong support from local and national authorities.

## **2.4. RISK ANALYSIS AND SAFEGUARDING**

### **RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

In early 2022, Fida began the process of updating its Risk Management structure. A **strategic-level mapping and analysing of the risks was undertaken** for the entire Programme, considering the circumstances in the operating countries. A Risk Management Plan was drawn up based on this analysis and will be updated annually as the operating environment changes and new risks emerge. The Risk Management Plan introduced new categories for classifying risks. The four risk categories are: 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.

During 2022, new risks were identified and added to the Risk Management Plan. Firstly, risks related to climate change and natural disasters were added. Secondly, inflation and exchange rate instability were added under financial risks. The likelihood of this risk occurring increased significantly during 2022. A third new risk identified related to the effects of a local or interstate conflict on the Programme or individual Country Programmes. This risk was identified following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its effects on other regions of the world. The Programme's Risk Management Plan can be found attached (see Appendix 3).

**Three major Programme-wide risks were realised in 2022**. Firstly, **insecurity and conflicts increased** in many locations. Myanmar's security situation did not improve- on the contrary, the conflict in the country escalated. The security situation and operating environment also became significantly more difficult in DR Congo and Ethiopia due to local conflicts and political tensions. Local tensions were also reported in Uganda and Kenya. Finally, in Iraq there were also security concerns, such as drone strikes in Erbil.

Secondly, as mentioned above, **drought and floods impacted Country Programmes in Eastern Africa and** resulted in poor harvests and increased food insecurity. These risks were, however, mitigated to some extent through the promotion of conservation agriculture, growing of drought-resistant crops and water harvesting. Thirdly, **the Russian invasion of Ukraine increased implementation costs and the cost of living for beneficiaries.**

Some **significant, additional, risks were realised at the local or Country Programme level.** In DR Congo, the Country Programme's car was broken into, and belongings and valuables were taken, including a laptop containing work files. Meanwhile, in Tanzania's Zanzibar region, a local partner employee was found guilty of fraud, involving €36 000 of Programme funding. The employee was suspended while the case was investigated, and his employment contract was later terminated. Following the misconduct coming to light, financial control mechanisms were strengthened in Tanzania and additional training in financial management was provided to the local partner. The misused funds will be returned to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, according to their instructions. Finally, an employee of one of the implementing partners in Ethiopia was found guilty of abuse of power for suggesting, during a recruitment interview, that the candidates pay a bribe in order to secure the position. The employee was suspended while the case was investigated and later fired when it became clear that he was guilty. Programme funds were not threatened in this case.

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

During 2022, significant steps were taken to strengthen safeguarding across the Programme. A new Safeguarding Policy was created and Fida joined Keeping Children Safe's International Child Safeguarding Network. The new Safeguarding Policy brings together policies and guidelines that work together to protect children and adults from harassment and harm and is designed to ensure the safety of beneficiaries, Programme staff and other stakeholders involved in the Programme. The constituent policies highlight the rules, responsibilities, and standards of behaviour to which every Fida employee and volunteer must commit. Elements of the Safeguarding Policy are already in place in many Country Programmes and partner organisations. Nevertheless, a full rolling out of the Policy to all Country Programmes will take place during 2023, thereby strengthening safeguarding and also mechanisms for reporting misconduct across the Programme.

The Fida Safeguarding Policy consists of:

- Code of Conduct (procedural instructions and commitment form)
- Fida Early Support Model (including Good Treatment Guidelines and Substance Abuse Programme)
- Child Protection Policy and Guidelines
- Disability Inclusion Policy
- Anti-Corruption Guidelines
- Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH)
- Ethical Guidelines of Development Cooperation
- Psychosocial Support Policy
- Principles of Humanitarian Assistance

### 3. PROGRESS BY OUTCOME 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. Sections 3.1 – 3.3, present the results for outcome areas 1, 2 and 3, while the results of outcome area 4 are presented in section 5. The results of the Cross-Cutting Objectives are presented in Section 3.4. Meanwhile, reflections on the challenges and lessons learned are discussed in Section 3.5. Overviews of the main achievements in each Country Programme are presented in Section 4.

The Development Cooperation Programme used a **traffic light system** to show progress towards annual indicator targets. A green light indicated that the targets were achieved or close to being achieved (> 80% of annual target). An amber light showed that there was moderate success in reaching the indicator targets (60-80% of annual target) and a red light indicated that the Programme was relatively far from meeting its target (< 60% of annual target), suggesting either that there were implementation challenges or that the original targets may have been overly ambitious.

The total number of beneficiaries of all outcome areas is presented in Table 1 below and shows that during 2022 the Programme reached 246 300 (f:132 100) direct beneficiaries. The number of direct beneficiaries of each outcome area can be found in sections 3.1 – 3.3 below.

● Rights Holders ● Duty Bearers ● Partners		FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
<b>TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES</b> (246 300)	Children without disabilities	75 100	70 400	145 500
	Children with disabilities	2 800	2 700	5 500
	Adults without disabilities	30 900	19 400	50 300
	Adults with disabilities	830	750	1 580
	Adults without disabilities	19 600	18 000	37 600
	Adults with disabilities	950	950	1 900
	Adults without disabilities	1 800	1 800	3 600
	Adults with disabilities	90	140	230

*Table 1. Total Direct Beneficiaries 2022*

#### 3.1. 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 outcome of Fida's Development Cooperation Programme works towards the achievement of these goals whilst recognizing the importance of the so-called 4 A's of education: availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability. Programme activities emphasize, in particular, strengthening the educational rights



of girls and children with disabilities. In 2022, **Right to Education activities directly impacted 155 300 persons, among them 56 600 girls, 51 300 boys and 3 500 children with disabilities** .

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES IN EDUCATION				2022 TRAFFIC LIGHTS
● Rights Holders ● Duty Bearers	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	
Children without disabilities	54 800	49 500	104 300	0
Children with disabilities	1 800	1 800	3 600	
Adults without disabilities	14 500	7 000	21 500	2
Adults with disabilities	170	190	360	
Adults without disabilities	13 300	11 600	24 900	4
Adults with disabilities	320	330	650	
<b>Total</b>	<b>84 900</b>	<b>70 400</b>	<b>155 300</b>	

*Table 2. Right to Education Beneficiaries and Outcome-level Traffic Lights*

The Programme contains six outcome-level indicators measuring progress towards strengthening children's Right to Education in Programme countries. During 2022, the Programme achieved 4/6 of its targets (green traffic light), while two indicators were partially achieved (amber traffic light). The partially achieved targets concerned, firstly, cooperation with governing authorities, where advocacy initiatives had slightly less impact on official decision making than planned and, secondly, the number of students completing their education which again fell slightly below the threshold for a green traffic light.

### ACCESS TO EDUCATION STRENGTHENED

**Access to education was strengthened for 91 000 children** (girls: 47 000, children with disabilities: 2600). This was achieved through close cooperation with schools and local authorities which resulted in, for instance, **improvements to accessibility and the school environment being made at more than 240 schools** . Measures that improved accessibility and created security at schools included improving the physical infrastructure to ensure that education institutes and classrooms were accessible to children with disabilities and ensuring that toilets were available and usable by all learners. In Nepal and several other Country Programmes one significant development during the year was the construction of sanitary pad disposal facilities and sanitary washing facilities on school premises. These new facilities contributed to reducing period poverty in the schools involved and increased possibilities for girls to attend school without interruption. The number of children benefiting from secure and safe learning environments in 2022 was 38 400, compared to a baseline value of 14 500.

In Kigoma, in Tanzania, school attendance increased during the course of the year and the school drop-out rate decreased from 14-18% to 4-8%. Meanwhile, following a "Children's Parliament" initiative, children in Mwanza (including children with disabilities) were given direct access to duty bearers to voice their needs for provision of textbooks, inclusive infrastructure in schools and enhanced toilet facilities. Initiatives, such as these, led to

accessibility being improved in nine schools over the reporting period. Results were also visible in other countries, such as in Kenya where active lobbying by the School Management Committee at one of the supported schools resulted in the local government constructing two new classrooms.

In Iraq, Fida's local partner organisation was given the opportunity to address decision-makers, such as the President of the Kurdistan Region and the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, regarding the education needs of students with learning difficulties. This advocacy bore fruit when a committee was subsequently established to work on ensuring appropriate education for students with learning difficulties. In addition, Fida and its partner were invited to participate in developing an adjusted Special Education Curriculum for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

### **QUALITY OF EDUCATION IMPROVED**

The Programme **also improved the quality of education for more than 120 000 children** (girls: 60 700, children with disabilities: 2 400). Various initiatives contributed to the achievement of this goal. For instance, over 2000 teachers were trained on inclusive teaching methods, which they reported subsequently using in their own teaching. This number included 56 teachers who themselves had some form of disability. In addition, 270 schools began providing individual support to children with learning difficulties. Meanwhile, informal Kids Clubs were an important means of informing children of their rights and organising classes on various topics that complemented children's formal education. Among the topics covered in Kids Clubs were sports, music, art, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and career advice. During 2022, the Programme supported almost 400 Kids Clubs, which were attended by 22 700 children (girls: 11 600, children with disabilities: 700). Some Kids Clubs also provided psychosocial support to their members.

In Burundi, **significant progress was made in strengthening pre-primary education**, a severely neglected area in the country. Previously, most pre-primary teachers were not aware of the national pre-primary curriculum and had not received training on teaching methods appropriate for pre-primary aged children. Teachers reported that they previously taught children to the best of their abilities but lacked relevant skills and knowledge. The Country Programme addressed this situation by providing training on both the national pre-primary curriculum and on early childhood development and teaching methods. Following the training, the 161 teachers trained reported feeling increased confidence in their ability to teach small children, as well as an increased sense of professional pride. The Government of Burundi (Ministry of Education) carried out a follow-up assessment, following the training, which found that the quality of pre-primary teaching had improved in the target areas.

In the Kigoma region of Tanzania, the Programme organised Kids Clubs and other informal activities such as academic and essay competitions. These initiatives contributed to improvements in children's learning outcomes. For instance, in April 2022 average grades were 65-70%, while by December they had increased to 80-95%. Meanwhile, in Kilifi in Kenya, the School Management Boards of four schools were supported in lobbying to the local authorities to provide government teachers for their schools. The advocacy initiative was successful, and **15 teachers were employed by the government to teach at the schools, strengthening the quality of education in the area**. Meanwhile, in Nepal, close collaboration with local authorities on improving the quality of education led to Provincial Training Centres providing increased resources for in-service teacher training.

## STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND WORK WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

During 2022, the Programme **worked with 1100 civil society groups** to strengthen their capacity to advocate for the fulfilment of educational rights for children and youth. Topics covered during trainings included children's educational rights, the rights of children with disabilities, gender equality and the rights of minority ethnic groups. Of these groups, 370 were able to identify and mobilise local resources that were used to improve education facilities as well as the availability and quality of education. In addition, 140 groups actively involved children in their decision-making. The capacity of parents to support the education of their children was also strengthened, leading to strong attendance of parents in groups that support children's education, such as School Management Committees and Parent-Teacher Associations. **11 000 parents (women: 8 900, persons with disabilities: 200) regularly attended such groups** during the year. In Nepal, for instance, **School Management Committee members became more aware of their roles and responsibilities and were more active in carrying them out.** Participation in meetings and monitoring visits to schools increased and the Committees participated actively in the formulation of School Improvement Plans and increased their advocacy to local authorities.

## COOPERATION WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Programme's activities related to educational rights also included **working to build strong relationships with local and national authorities** and encouraging them to take decisions to strengthen educational rights. The Country Programmes cooperated with governing authorities in different ways. For instance, in Uganda, the Country Programme participated in several "Back to School" campaigns to encourage children to return to school after school closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In Tanga in Tanzania, meanwhile, the Government intervened to enhance inclusive education as well as providing nutritional services and health insurances for Country Programme beneficiaries. Youth with disabilities were also linked with government soft loans and supported to access a vocational school free of charge. While there were some significant results during the year, the Programme fell slightly short of achieving its outcome-level targets in this area (amber traffic light).

## 3.2. RIGHT TO SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT



The main goal of the Right to Safe Living Environment outcome is to ensure that all children in target communities are able to grow up in a safe and supportive environment as outlined in Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is possible when states, local communities and parents take action to ensure that children's surroundings are safe and promote their wellbeing. The Programme ensures that children and their parents are aware of their rights to a safe living environment and that parents are equipped with the knowledge and skills to generate income to provide for their families. In cases where children and caregivers are struggling, psychosocial support is provided. During the year, **the Safe Living Environment activities directly impacted the lives of 127 500 direct beneficiaries, among them 73 000 children and 4300 persons with disabilities.**



DIRECT BENEFICIARIES IN SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT				2022 TRAFFIC LIGHTS
● Rights Holders ● Duty Bearers	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	
Children without disabilities	35 800	35 300	71 100	6
Children with disabilities	1 000	940	1 900	
Adults without disabilities	23 200	13 900	37 100	0
Adults with disabilities	520	530	1 100	
Adults without disabilities	7 400	7 600	15 000	10
Adults with disabilities	630	620	1 300	
<b>Total</b>	<b>68 600</b>	<b>58 900</b>	<b>127 500</b>	

*Table 3. Right to Safe Living Environment Beneficiaries and Outcome Traffic Lights*

Progress towards building a Safe Living Environment for children and youth is measured through 16 indicators. Ten of the indicators show good progressive towards the targets during 2022 (green traffic light), while six indicators were red, signifying limited progress. None of the indicators showed an amber light. The poorly achieved targets concerned mainly peacebuilding and social cohesion, increasing household income and strengthening food security. In these areas some significant results were achieved, however results were below the level targeted. These indicators will be analysed further during 2023 and, if necessary, result targets will be revised. Refer to Section 3.5, “Challenges and Lessons Learned”, for an overview of some of the factors that contributed to the lack of progress in these indicators.

**Personal Security** was promoted through increasing knowledge of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as well as through the provision of psychosocial support to children and parents. **The Programme strengthened the knowledge of 29 100 children and adults (f: 17 700, persons with disabilities: 600) regarding sexual and reproductive health and available services** . Meanwhile 11 300 beneficiaries (children: 5200, f: 6200) received psychosocial support either individually or through peer support groups. In addition, 300 counsellors strengthened their skills related to basic counselling, trauma awareness and community resilience. Finally, during 2022, 32 200 children and youth (girls: 18 600, children with disabilities: 1600) reported increased resilience to cope with the challenges of everyday life.

In Nepal, 18 977 children and youth (f: 11 462, children with disabilities: 69) adopted new SRHR practices. A significant contributing factor was the **construction of new/renovated toilets at schools that included separate areas for girls and boys and facilities for disposing of used sanitary pads** . Girls in the target schools report that they have been actively using the new sanitary pad disposal facilities. This innovative approach has been complemented by the government distributing sanitary pads free of charge to teenage girls and has contributed to reduced period poverty and more regular school attendance by girls, as verified by teachers and girls themselves. Meanwhile, in the Mwanza region of Tanzania, Menstrual Health Management (MHM) trainings led to two schools constructing hygienic changing rooms for girls to use during menstruation, while both schools have set aside a budget for the

purchase of reusable pads for female students. In the same region, **teaching on SRHR and MHM was introduced as a regular topic in the timetables of six schools**, while SRHR education has led to reduced prevalence of early pregnancies among schoolgirls which fell from 27% to 15% during 2022.

Engagement with local communities and governing authorities also led to some significant results during the year. In Kenya, for instance, the Country Programme successfully intervened to prevent five local girls from undergoing female genital mutilation in Narok County after community members raised the red flag. Likewise, in Bangladesh, government officials prevented five cases of child marriage and child labour, following discussions with the Country Programme regarding child rights.

**Community Security** activities formed a **key element of the Programme's overall triple-nexus approach**.

Activities were mainly implemented in countries that are currently going through or are recovering from crisis situations, such as Ethiopia, DR Congo and Myanmar. Community leaders and members were trained in peacebuilding and conflict resolution skills with the result that 4400 persons (f: 2000, persons with disabilities: 1200) actively participated in social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives. In addition, over 6800 people, including 1000 community leaders, were equipped with new skills and knowledge to support peacebuilding. Six peacebuilding processes were supported in DR Congo, Ethiopia and Burundi and 5900 children (girls: 2400, children with disabilities: 640) reported feeling safer in their immediate environments. The Country Programmes also managed to successfully engage women and children in peacebuilding efforts. For example, 2600 children (girls 600, children with disabilities: 240) were actively involved in peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives in various countries.

**Health Security** interventions led to improved sanitation and hygiene practices, impacting 18 600 persons (f: 10 600, persons with disabilities: 1400). This was achieved through strengthening knowledge of preventive healthcare for 4100 (f: 2300) and improving access to basic sanitation and water supply for 5800 (f: 1200) local people. Training was particularly impactful in Uganda where local community members constructed 30 drying racks, 60 tip taps, and seven pit latrines. These improved facilities led to reduced annual cases of diarrhoea from 290 to 150, according to community leaders' feedback. Strengthening access to rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities was also an important focus in several Country Programmes, such as in Tanzania. Overall, 1600 persons with disabilities were supported to access and use relevant assistive devices.

**Economic Security** activities equipped 4200 (f:3200) youth and adults with new skills and knowledge to strengthen their livelihood and income generation possibilities. In total, over 6000 households (2800 containing member with a disability) increased their regular household income and over 1300 households (11 containing a member with a disability) secured new productive assets. A total of 860 micro and small businesses were created (140 by families with a member with a disability). The Programme also promoted financial literacy and saving as a means to build resilience and 5000 households reported increased savings levels during the year. In Uganda, for instance, 11 VSLA groups were established and saved €6000 starting from a base of €0.

In Tanzania, the Country Programme supported Self Help Groups in registering with the national authorities, which made the groups eligible to apply for soft loans from the Government. In the Kigoma region, for example, each of the 203 SHGs have formal registration. In Mwanza and Lindi, a partnership with Small Industries Development

Organisation was established that enables beneficiaries to produce certified and standardized products (such as foodstuffs – like honey, sunflower oil, and chili sauce), which can then be sold legally in supermarkets and as an ingredient for the food processing industry (thereby linking beneficiaries directly with value chains).

Finally, **Food Security** activities equipped farmers and rural households with new skills to increase their agricultural production while adapting to climate change. In total, 2200 (f:870) persons were reached through measures aimed at increasing their sustainable agricultural production and/or access to markets and value chains and 1100 households (20 containing a member with a disability) reported having sufficient food for all household members throughout the year.

### 3.3. STRENGTHENING PARTNERS' CAPACITY



The goal of the Strengthening Partners' Capacity outcome area is to equip the 18 local implementing partners with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to operate effectively both during and after the current programme period. The outcome is achieved through three outputs. Firstly, the Programme strengthens the organisational and financial management capacity of the local partners. Strengths as well as capacity gaps requiring follow-up are captured through regular Organisational Capacity Health Checks which are carried out for all local implementing partners. Secondly, the Programme builds the advocacy capacity of the local partners through providing training to key partner staff on how to carry out effective advocacy work and through strengthening the knowledge of local partners on the Programme's themes. Finally, the Programme supports the local partners to embrace new innovations, technology and corporate collaboration (ITCC). Through the ITCC output local partners are supported to collaborate and build new relationships with other actors that can provide added value to the Programme and its target beneficiaries.

Progress is measured through seven outcome indicators. Analysis of the indicator results shows that good progress was made during 2022. 6/7 indicators showed a green traffic light while the final indicator, measuring new policies implemented by partners, was red, indicating limited progress. **The Partner Capacity Building outcome reached a total of 3900 direct beneficiaries among them 1900 women and 230 persons with disabilities** .

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES IN PARTNER CAPACITY BUILDING				2022 TRAFFIC LIGHTS
	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	
Adults without disabilities	1 800	1 900	3 700	
Adults with disabilities	90	140	230	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 900</b>	<b>2 000</b>	<b>3 900</b>	

*Table 4. Strengthening Partners' Capacity Beneficiaries and Outcome Traffic Lights*

## STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

During 2022, Organisational Capacity Health Checks were carried out for partner organisations. The assessments were used to evaluate capacity across several metrics and to identify capacity gaps for follow-up. The Programme employed one member of staff who worked full-time with the Country Programmes to manage activities in this area and monitor progress towards the Programme's targets. During the reporting period, activities and training focused on improving financial management and creating a stronger funding base through ensuring financing for long-term objectives and reducing financial risks. Improvements in the following areas of Financial Management were observed during 2022:

- **Income Generating Activities begun to increase self-financing** (7 Local Partners).
- **Finance staff have increased ability to communicate important financial information** to other staff members in an easily understandable manner (6 local partners).
- **Greater emphasis given to Financial Management and financial literacy of key staff by Leadership Teams** (11 local partners).
- **Increased understanding of importance of managing important external relationships,** including management of donor relations and relations with other partners and local communities (11 local partners).
- **Capacity Strengthening Teams formed** to work on the implementation of various lessons learned during training (4 local partners).

Please refer to Figure 7 below for a more detailed overview of progress in strengthening the capacity of partner organisations during 2022, including baseline values established in 2021.

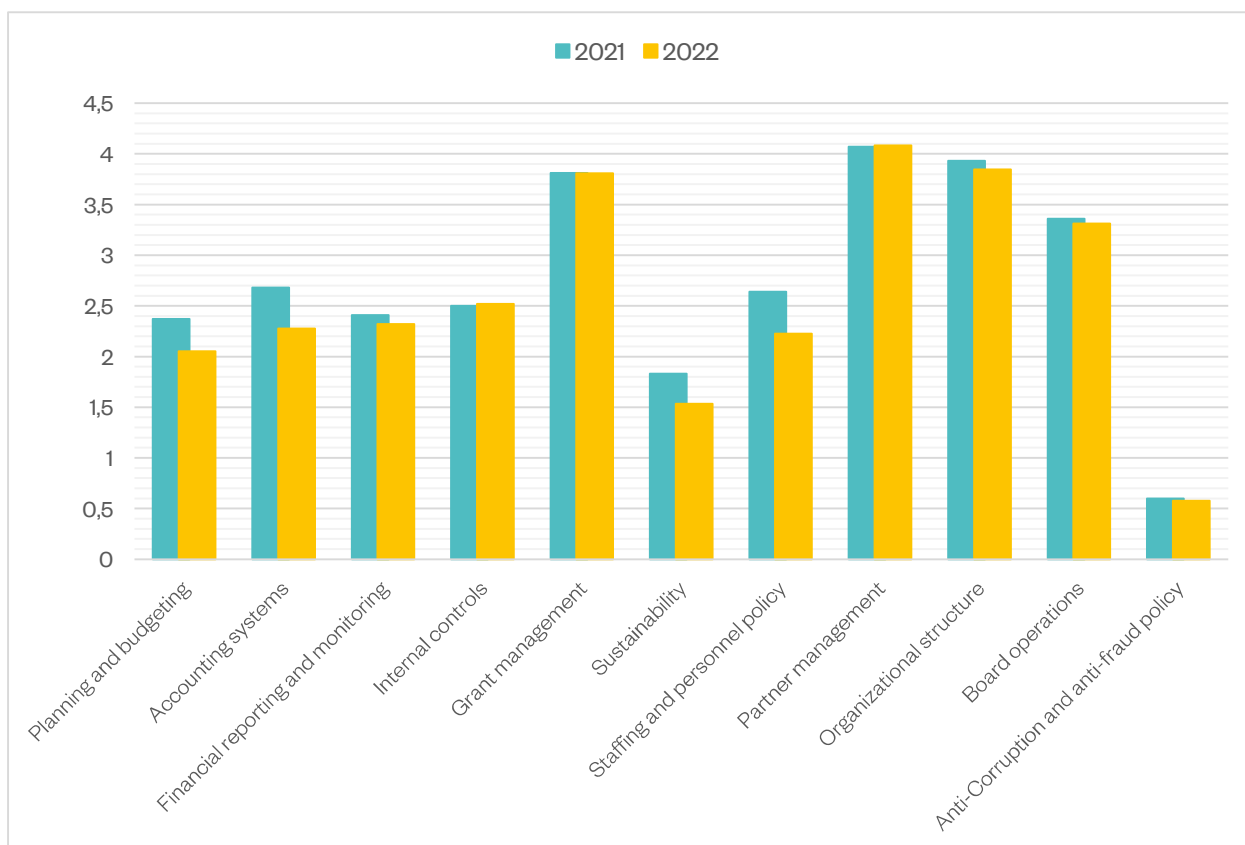


Figure 7. Results of Partner Capacity Health Checks 2021 – 2022

As can be seen from the chart above, there was a slight decrease in performance in several areas between 2021 and 2022. Indeed, the average Capacity Health Check score decreased slightly from 2.75 to 2.67. This can partly be attributed to greater trust between Fida staff and local partners, resulting in increased willingness to critically assess organisational capacity. Small increases were nevertheless observed in internal control and partner management, which were areas that capacity strengthening activities have focused on during the year.

### **ADVOCACY INITIATIVES AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

The Country Programmes also worked with partner organisations during 2022 to strengthen their role in advocating for the fulfilment of the rights of children and youth. This was done through providing advocacy training for partners' leaders and volunteers and supporting their participation in relevant networks as well as supporting them in implementing advocacy initiatives. Progress was measured through annual Advocacy Capacity Assessments. Key advocacy partners were local communities, Civil Society Organisations, national and international Non-Governmental Organisations and state actors.

During 2022, over 400 leaders of partner organisations attended advocacy training and 1500 staff members participated overall. Partner organisations started over 30 (33) new advocacy initiatives, of which over half (19) led to positive results. **In Iraq, Fida's local partner played a major role in advocating for improvement in the legislation regulating the care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs** through discussions with political decision-makers. As a result, persons of short stature were added to the law and the law was updated to state that persons with short stature were not to be "*excluded from employment and opportunities because of their condition if they are capable and skilled enough for the jobs*". A further change made was to grant persons with disabilities the right to obtain a driving license. Also in Iraq, **a committee was established to prepare for the Programme-supported "Sustainability in Education" teaching modules** becoming mandatory in schools. In Ethiopia, one of the local implementing partners, EMWACDC, contributed their expertise to the preparation of upcoming civil society legislation that will be approved by the Ethiopian parliament during 2023. Meanwhile, the rights of girls and persons with disabilities and environmental sustainability were kept in the spotlight as events were organised to celebrate relevant international days, such as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and World Environment Day. Also, in Eastern African Country Programmes, partners participated in the 16 Days of Advocacy Against Gender-Based Violence campaigns.

### **INNOVATIONS, NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING (ITCC)**

Fida continued to strive to diversify the funding base of its Country Programmes by seeking new sources of institutional funding and boosting collaboration with other organizations and the private sector. During 2022, 25 new partnerships were established that strengthened the overall impact and funding-based of the Programme. These include 15 new partnerships with the private sector, as well as partnerships with educational institutions and other actors. New, innovative approaches to Programme implementation were also piloted in several locations.

### **New innovations and digitization**

In Iraq there were new innovations to promote the human rights of children and persons living in vulnerable situations. For example, local partners moved towards a more community-based approach in psychosocial support, which meant that psychosocial support could be provided using less Programme resources than previously. In Tanzania, Fingo Powerbank funded research into the availability, affordability, and cultural acceptance of reusable menstrual health products in collaboration with a corporate partner, WomenChoice Industries. Meanwhile, in Ethiopia, the partners have adopted new data collection technologies such as Kobo toolbox, with the aim of improving the accuracy of reporting in future. Finally, the Kenya Country Programme recruited a new staff member with responsibility for ITCC. As a result, the Country Programme was able to develop and submit four funding proposals during 2022.

### **Consortia and network building**

In Myanmar, collaboration was started with Grace Samaritan Learning Centres to improve the quality of education provided through the Country Programme, especially in Learning Centres operated by the Country Programme. Cooperation was also started with the Magga foundation to formulate a Peacebuilding Training Manual. A local partner in Nepal, meanwhile, signed an agreement with Three Star Education Training Centre and Ishworpur Municipality to collaborate to improve in-service teacher-training as well as the physical infrastructure of schools, and classroom management. Meanwhile, discussions were started with JAMK university of applied science regarding a digital rehabilitation pilot for persons with disabilities in Tanzania. The pilot will test how digital technology can be used to increase effectiveness and reach of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Also, in Kenya a partnership was started with Egerton University focusing on food security. The partnership involves university students conducting research to find agricultural solutions for farmers through a “Student Challenge” programme. One master’s student has completed an internship on food security. This collaboration will continue in 2023.

### **Diversified funding base**

In Iraq, Fida’s local partner, HDO, secured funding from the Australian embassy to renovate a public park to be more inclusive and environmentally friendly. Plastic waste was collected, through the small project, which was used by a factory as a raw material. In Nepal, the Country Programme has secured matching funds of €20 959 from the Nepalese authorities to improve school infrastructure such as ICT facilities, toilet facilities, and classrooms. Moreover, communities’ active participation and in-kind community contribution (€15 456) have also been significant in Nepal during the reporting period. In total, local authorities and communities have covered slightly over 6% of total Country Programme expenses. Meanwhile, in Tanzania three grants were secured in 2022 for a total amount of €78,000 from Abilis (€10 000), Fingo Powerbank (€8000), and the European Union (€60 000).

### **Collaboration with the private sector**

In Bangladesh there was collaboration with Zabai Ltd., centred around developing courses on teaching skills, child rights and business development. Training materials were translated into Bangla and are now ready for dissemination on their digital platform. The Country Programme will integrate these digital courses into its regular activities. In Kenya, meanwhile, collaboration was started with Bona factory that provides opportunities for farmers

to access markets with their produce and participate in training on adding value to their produce and, in Nepal, local partners have initiated dialogue with four banks and one hospital to pursue their corporate social responsibility funds. One local partner has received funding from Everest Bank to purchase furniture for schools. Finally, the Tanzania Country Programme established three partnerships with the private sector: a partnership was established with WomenChoice Industries related to designing and manufacturing reusable menstrual products; cooperation with Robotech Labs centres on exploring the design and manufacturing of electric wheelchairs and other assistive devices for persons with disabilities and; cooperation began with Zan Ocean Organic International Ltd., through which coastal communities in Zanzibar were trained on farming and harvesting sea cucumbers, thus increasing their earning potential.

### **AN EMERGING TRIPLE-NEXUS APPROACH**

A Do No Harm tool was used by all Country Programmes to identify and analyse community connectors, dividers and potential conflict triggers that should be avoided. The tool helped to map out environmental changes, stakeholder relationships and resource gaps. The analysis showed that sectarian politics and religion often appear as dividers whereas schools, communal events and markets serve as connectors.

In Uganda, especially Karamoja area, food insecurity and ongoing ethnic conflicts necessitated a triple-nexus approach. Meanwhile, in Kenya and Eastern Africa at large, climate change and continuous draughts necessitated the provision of humanitarian assistance to complement development cooperation activities. The increase in living costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have further exacerbated the difficult situation. In most locations, the triple nexus approach has involved cooperation between either local humanitarian actors and Fida Country Programmes or between Fida's own Humanitarian Assistance Programme and the Country Programmes.

In DR Congo fighting between the M23 rebel group and the DR Congo government has been identified as an emerging conflict. The triple nexus approach is well established in the country and involves Fida's Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Programmes, which cooperate closely. Recent peacebuilding efforts have focused on building social cohesion through engaging local leaders in conflict resolution and working with all groups equally, for instance, when forming savings groups.

In Ethiopia Fida has built a deeper network for triple nexus collaboration with other EU-CORD member organisations. This cooperation will be further developed over the remaining years of the Programme. Finally, in Myanmar, especially in Rakhine State, there is serious, ongoing, ethnic and religious conflict, necessitating the provision of humanitarian aid, alongside development cooperation and peacebuilding activities. Humanitarian Assistance, in the form of food and other basic products, has been provided. In addition, the humanitarian Assistance had a psycho-social support element. Addressing mental health in addition to physical wellbeing was a novel approach that was found to be important.

### 3.4. CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES

The Programme contains three Cross-Cutting Objectives that are incorporated into all Programme activities. Firstly, **Disability Inclusion** entails working proactively to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate in all Programme activities and are given opportunities to make their voices heard. **Gender Equality** activities aim to tackle structural barriers preventing gender equality from being fulfilled and a major focus area is strengthening the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of girls and young women. Finally, **Environment and Climate Resilience** are mainstreamed in all Programme activities, referring to the goal of minimizing the environmental impact of the Programme and supporting beneficiaries to reduce their own impact on the environment and adapt to the changing climate. All beneficiary data is disaggregated by gender and disability status and specific indicators measure progress in each of the Cross-Cutting Objectives.

#### GENDER EQUALITY



Fida worked to ensure that all persons, regardless of gender, have equal access to its Programme and could influence activities and decisions that impacted their own lives and communities. The Programme worked to raise awareness of important gender-related topics such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The Programme engaged with girls, women, boys and men to promote open discussion regarding gender roles, norms rights and expectations in target communities.

During 2022, the Programme **strengthened the rights of 109 600 female rights holders**, while 22 500 female duty bearers and partner organisation representatives participated in the Programme in various ways. The proportion of female beneficiaries in the Programme was 54 % in 2022, a small increase compared to the previous year (2021: 53%).

#### Improved female representation

Female representation was strengthened in several Country Programmes during 2022. In Ethiopia a multi-day seminar was organised for women from the Guenet Church which covered topics such as good parenting, child protection, women's health, FGM and harmful traditions, leadership and good character. Female members of the Guenet Church subsequently established a National Women's Council as a forum for discussing women's issues. In addition, one Ethiopian Orthodox Church that participated in the Country Programme selected its first woman as a representative which was a small but positive change that was against their earlier practice. The voice of women at the community level was also promoted through work to strengthen various local-level groups and organisations, such as women's savings groups and parent groups. For instance, in Uganda, 40 women assumed significant roles in savings groups, in line with the UNHCR recommendation that women taking up 2/3 of executive positions in savings groups. This development boosted local women's confidence as they were able to make financial decisions.

#### Strengthening women's livelihoods and access to capital and resources

A key means of strengthening women's rights is through providing them with capital, skills and knowledge to increase their income generating opportunities. During 2022, more than 3000 women gained new skills and knowledge related to income generation and of the 430 jobs created through the Programme over half were for women.



Women's Savings Groups were an important forum for women to share ideas and make their voices heard, while also providing women with access to capital. In certain locations, such as Bangladesh, business development training was provided exclusively to women in recognition of the unique challenges that they face. Meanwhile, in Maasai communities in Loita in Kenya, where the possibilities for women and girls to make their voices heard has been limited, there was a significant increase in women's participation in community affairs and attitudes changed such that women were able to own assets such as land. In Uganda, work to promote dialogue around gender roles was effective and the number of cases of shared household responsibility between men and women increased from 20 cases at the beginning of the year to 140 cases at the end of the year in target areas. Meanwhile, shared resource ownership increased from 25 cases at the beginning of the year to 115 at the end of the year.

### SRHR and engaging all genders

Education regarding SRHR and GBV has been essential in providing beneficiaries with knowledge regarding puberty, sexual development, menstruation and other topics. In Bangladesh 767 (f: 662) young people gained new knowledge of these topics, following which girls and young women reported that learning about the changes in their bodies and the right to menstruate and grow up in safely had given them increased confidence. The raised awareness on menstrual health gave them peace of mind that the changes that they were going through are normal for all women. Meanwhile, in Kenya, increased family planning uptake among women as well as reduced menstrual shame and stigma were reported.

### DISABILITY INCLUSION



The Programme promoted the equal participation of person with disabilities in education and community life, supporting the idea of “nothing about us without us”, i.e., that no decisions related to persons with disabilities should be taken without consulting them first. Persons with disabilities often face discrimination due to prejudiced attitudes, therefore, it was important to educate local people and duty bearers regarding disabled persons rights and work to change attitudes.

In 2022, **over 9000 persons with disabilities benefited directly from the Programme** (4% of total beneficiaries). This is similar to the proportion during 2021. In 2022, Country Programmes estimated that, on average, 14 % of their budgets were spent on promoting the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities. In some Country Programmes, such as Iraq, however, the shared of the budget was considerably higher at 25%.

### Inclusive education

During 2022, over 2000 (f: 800) teachers were trained on inclusive teaching methods and the education of 3500 children with disabilities (f: 1800) was supported. Through the training, teachers received important new skills and knowledge which improved their ability to include children with disabilities equally in school. In Bangladesh, for instance, teachers began practicing the “golden rules” of treating all pupils equally, always asking before giving assistance and avoiding showing pity or being patronizing when interacting with children with disabilities. In the Iraq Country Programme, tailored support to children with learning difficulties was implemented at nine schools, for instance, through adjusting the fonts of examination questions in order to make it easier for pupils with special needs

to read them. Meanwhile, in Tanzania, the Country Programme built inclusive infrastructure to improve access to education for children with disabilities in nine schools. The corresponding figure for the whole Programme was 243.

### **Inclusion of persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities**

Action was taken to ensure that persons with disabilities were able to equally participate in all Programme activities. For instance, in Shashamane in Ethiopia key stakeholders were trained on integrating persons with disabilities into Programme activities. They subsequently took action to ensure that persons with disabilities were able to participate in Self-Help Groups and more than 140 persons with disabilities joined the groups and participated in trainings on various topics. Meanwhile, in Tanzania, four Self-Help Groups were established solely for persons with disabilities that catered to their special needs. One of the groups has already obtained a soft loan from the Tanzanian authorities. The Tanzania Country Programme also brought together parents of children with disabilities to form a union of their own, which has now obtained formal registration.

### **Advocacy on behalf of the rights of persons with disabilities**

Fida's Country Programmes continued to advocate for stronger fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities. In Ethiopia and other Country Programmes, events were organised to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In Tanzania, Fida cooperated with Felm and a Tanzanian Organisation of Persons with Disabilities to produce Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights material targeted specifically at persons with disabilities. The material will be published in easy-to-read, braille, and audio versions during 2023. One new innovation in the Country Programme in Iraq was a 5-day training programme on the education rights of children with disabilities organised for 14 members of the Directorates of Education in Halabja and Penjuin. The training was conducted in cooperation with local experts and also Finnish experts from University of Jyväskylä and was tailored to build up education supervisors' capacities as promoters of inclusive education. According to a feedback survey, the training motivated the supervisors to support inclusive education and decrease discrimination toward children with disabilities and offered useful knowledge about new teaching methods and promoting inclusive education. One of the trainees described the impact as follows:

*"I learned about education for students with disabilities and how to support them to succeed. I became more knowledgeable about rights of students with disabilities and how to encourage my peers to promote inclusive education and tackle the issues facing children with disabilities." (Mr. Dana Nadir, social workers' supervisor)*

## **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE**



The Cross-Cutting Objective of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience equipped local people to take action to protect their immediate environments and to mitigate and adapt to the negative effects of climate change. Through the Programme children learned about the importance of protecting the environment, farmers gained new skills in conservation agriculture and land regeneration and local communities increased their knowledge of disaster risk reduction. All Country Programmes also took care to minimize the environmental impact of their activities.

### **Children take action after training on environmental issues and climate change**

Through the Programme 2700 teachers learned about environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation. In addition, 49 000 children gained new knowledge of environment-related topics through teaching in schools and at Kid's Clubs. In Iraq, training on the environment and sustainability was organised in seven kindergartens and six schools. Through the lessons children learned of the importance of caring for the environment and they subsequently planted 500 trees and 250 flowers in their school grounds. Meanwhile, in Uganda, children in Yumbe planted an Aqua Tree fence around their school made up of 5000 seedlings. The fence has flourished with 92% of the seedlings surviving.

### **Communities learn about disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation**

Climate change continues to cause severe challenges to target communities. The Programme has responded by raising awareness of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation practices have been applied by more than 1200 households. In Kenya, water pans were excavated, 24 tree nurseries were established and over 200 beneficiaries have installed energy-efficient cooking stoves. Energy efficient cooking stoves were also used in Uganda and in Myanmar, where they were found to reduce the use of firewood by up to two thirds. Action was also taken in Kenya to diversify income sources away from those that are highly dependent on water to respond to the prolonged drought in the country. Meanwhile, across the Programme, 24 observable changes in the state of the environment were recorded, such as improved soil fertility, levels of biodiversity and improved air quality. Finally, 290 hectares of land was regenerated or placed under sustainable land management and over 184 000 trees were planted in various locations.

### **Conservation agriculture**

Conservation Agricultural training organised by the Programme promoted farming methods through which beneficiaries could increase their yields while also promoting the health of their local environments and biodiversity. During 2022, 1060 households gained new knowledge of conservation agriculture and other farming methods. In Kenya, Conservation Agriculture has been adopted by over 600 households. Practical techniques employed include composting, the use of leguminous bona beans as cover crops as well as sweet potatoes and alfalfa and mulching.

### **Partners acting on climate change**

The local implementing partners are also taking action to reduce their impact on the environment, such minimizing unnecessary printing, electricity use and unnecessary heating or cooling of their offices. The local partner in Uganda, the Pentecostal Church of Uganda, has requested that all congregations consider environmental sustainability and climate resilience by planting trees, carefully considering their use of wood as a fuel and practicing afforestation. This call has been adhered to by some congregations. For example, Kigumba congregation planted approximately 200 trees in its compound. Meanwhile, in Nepal, the Country Programme is piloting the use of electric scooters.

### 3.5. 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 depended on their ability to learn from and adapt to their frequently changing operating environments. Some of the key challenges and lessons learned during the reporting year are detailed below. Lessons learned were recorded and will be used to strengthen the Programme in future.

#### INFLATION AND DECREASING EXCHANGE RATES

The War in Ukraine posed challenges in several locations, as inflation and shortages of basic goods and fuel forced Country Programmes to make adjustments to their budgets and workplans. One successful means of saving on costs in Tanzania and other Country Programmes was to combine thematic trainings that previously would have taken place separately into single, longer training sessions. In this way, Country Programmes were able to save on fuel and other travel expenses and were able to carry out the planned trainings using less resources than originally planned.

#### MANAGING MULTIPLE DONORS

While strengthening the funding base of the Country Programmes and local implementing partners is a key objective, the management of funding from multiple sources should be thought through carefully. When funding is secured for new projects, it is essential that adequate human resources are in place to implement, monitor and report on the new initiatives and to ensure compliance with donor requirements. This requires investing sufficient time into planning and ensuring that any plans made are sufficiently precise and detailed, particularly regarding required human resources. Securing new funding should not be seen as an end in itself.

#### DELAYS IN ETHIOPIA AND GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS

The Ethiopia Country Programme started later than planned due to a requirement by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs to provide additional information regarding the security situation in the country prior to final funding approval. This requirement delayed the signing of cooperation agreements with the local implementing partners to April 2022 and with the Government of Ethiopia to summer 2022. There were also some local government restrictions that hindered normal programme implementation. For example, mass campaigns and mass education events were restricted in Shashamene region. As a result, activities were implemented mainly during the second half of the year and, in some cases, the number of beneficiaries reached was lower than planned. Government restrictions also impacted other Country Programmes. In Burundi, **implementing activities was, at times, challenging due to close government oversight of NGO activities** and the necessity to share all training material with the Government in advance for approval. However, close cooperation with the government has been beneficial to the Country Programme in other ways. For instance, the Government actively supported the Country Programme in training pre-primary teachers in the use of the national pre-primary curriculum.

## **THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PROGRAMME MONITORING**

A further challenge in several locations regards travelling and, particularly, the need to fly in order to be able to adequately monitor Programme implementation. This can conflict with the goal of the Programme to minimize its environmental impact. Unfortunately, flying was often unavoidable, considering the available time and the monitoring needs. The Programme, however, sought to keep travel especially plane travel, to a minimum.

## **ENGAGING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PEER SUPPORT AND THE PROMOTION OF OPEN DIALOGUE**

In Burundi, the Country Programme employed a person with a disability who spearheaded the Country Programme's engagement with other persons with disabilities. This was found to be an effective way of generating interest in the Programme among beneficiaries with disabilities and made it possible to reach a relatively large number of persons with disabilities (over 200). In Iraq, the Country Programme transitioned from organising psychosocial support itself to a group-based model involving peer support groups whose facilitators were trained by the Country Programme. This change reduced the time spent organising psychosocial support and enabled the implementing partners to focus their attention on other pressing matters, such as advocacy work. Meanwhile, the importance of creating an open environment for discussing topics that are considered taboo such as Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights was highlighted. This can be done through, for instance, suitable ice-breaker activities and careful consideration of discussion participants. Iraqi youth were found to be eager to debate and learn more about sensitive issues such as gender justice, and sexual and reproductive health, especially if suitable icebreaker activities were used to put participants at ease. In Myanmar, meanwhile, the Country Programme learned that online peacebuilding training is less effective than in-person training, due to difficulty in promoting open discussion, and switched to the latter.

## **RESPONDING TO DROUGHT AND MULTIPLICATION GARDENS**

Kenya and other countries in Eastern Africa have been severely impacted by drought during 2022. This situation threatened livelihoods and made certain agricultural training less useful to beneficiaries than had previously been the case. The Country Programme, therefore, took the decision to increase its focus on disaster risk reduction and to adjust the type of training offered to rural communities. Rather than focusing on growing crops, which requires a relatively large amount of water, the Country Programme shifted the focus of its training to less water-intensive livelihoods such as raising animals. Meanwhile, in Uganda, multiplication gardens were found to be an effective, sustainable means of increasing the area of land under cultivation and ensuring the availability of planting materials. For example, seven acres of cassava multiplication gardens, if well maintained, can be used to replant more than 21 acres.

## 4. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

An overview of the Country Programmes and their sub-themes can be found in Table 5 below. This is followed by short descriptions of Country Programme results during 2022.

	Quality Education	Inclusive Education	Informal Education	Life-long Learning	Personal Security	Community Security	Health Security	Food Security	Economic Security	Capacity Building	Advocacy	ITCC
Bangladesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Ethiopia				✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Kenya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DRC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Tanzania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uganda	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
Burundi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Iraq	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Nepal	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 5. Country Programmes and their sub-themes

### 4.1. COUNTRY PROGRAMME RESULTS 2022

<b>ETHIOPIA: ETHIOPIA PEACEBUILDING AND WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (5022)</b>			
<b>Partners</b>	Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization (EGCDWO) Ethiopian Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church Development Commission (EMWACDC)		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	7 975 (f: 2 894, m: 5 081, PWD: 914)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	270 053	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 492 289	<b>FSI rank</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>

Fida works with the Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization and the Ethiopian Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church Development Commission to address two key challenges in target communities. Firstly, conflict and insecurity are tackled through bringing together religious leaders, young people and women to work on concrete measure to strengthen peace and community cohesion. Secondly, unemployment among women and youth is tackled through the provision of vocational training and support in acquiring entrepreneurial skills. The partners' capacity to advocate and lead peace processes is also strengthened. The Country Programme operates

in nine areas: Addis Ababa, Adama, Bahir Dar, Dessie, Hawassa, Nekemte, Shashamane, Wolmera and Wolayta Sodo.

**Fida’s Ethiopia Country Programme began in 2022** . The reporting year was somewhat challenging as working relationships were established with partner organisations and Fida’s monitoring and reporting practices were introduced. In addition, the operating environment remained challenging. Nevertheless, a solid start was made to Country Programme implementation. The Country Programme established Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through which caregivers learned about educational rights and 340 persons (f: 300) were provided with vocational training. The SHGs established in Oromo region were recognized by the local government, making it easier for them to access government funding and more than 380 women and men started saving, economic empowerment, and peace-building activities in the groups.

A particular highlight during 2022 was the **National Interfaith Dialogue Seminar** , which was covered by mainstream television channels, reaching an audience of 118 000 people. The seminar gathered representatives of the main religious groups in Ethiopia- Ethiopian Orthodox, Muslim, Catholic, and Christian Evangelicals, as well as the Peace Ministry, National Peace Committee, youth and media. Following the seminar, the participants made a public commitment to working with the government and the National Dialogue Commission to promote peace and the resolution of conflict through dialogue. Commitments were also made to include youth and women in peacebuilding. An encouraging development was when the President of the Evangelical Churches Fellowship reacted to hate speech by making an official apology.

A further highlight during 2022 was the **successful advocacy work carried out regarding the plight of so-called “Mingi children”**. Children declared to be “mingi” are considered to be cursed and, as a result, are often mistreated or killed<sup>2</sup>. The Country Programme advocated to local communities and authorities on behalf of these children. As a result, local leaders committed to intervening to prevent the practice and local government officials agreed to monitor the situation further during 2023.

<b>BANGLADESH: SCHOOL CHILD ADVOCACY IN BANGLADESH – A SAFE EDUCATIONAL PATH FOR ALL (5010)</b>			
<b>Partner</b>	Bangladesh Assemblies of God / Ashirbad NGO		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	4 423 (f: 3 390, m: 1 033, PWD: 19)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	110 994	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 236 383	<b>FSI rank</b>	38 <sup>th</sup>

In Bangladesh, Fida partners with Bangladesh Assemblies of God Church and its development NGO, Ashirbad, which maintains 40 schools in Western and Southern Bangladesh. The Country Programme currently cooperates

<sup>2</sup> Mingi is the traditional belief among the Omotic-speaking Karo and Hamar peoples of southern Ethiopia that children with perceived and true physical abnormalities are ritually impure.

with eight of the partner's schools and organises lessons and workshops on children's rights, focusing particularly on the rights of girls and children with disabilities. In addition, teachers are provided with in-service training on counselling, psychosocial support, and inclusive education and cooperatives are established that provide livelihood possibilities to single-parent families and families with members with disabilities. The Country Programme also promotes open discourse on taboo topics, such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

**During 2022**, the Country Programme strengthened the educational rights of 1440 children (f: 910). Meanwhile, 73 teachers were trained in modern and inclusive teaching methods and other topics related to children's education. **The proportion of children reporting having knowledge of children's rights increased from 25% to 62%** over the course of the year.

The Country Programme also began work aimed at strengthening parents' livelihood opportunities. **A total of 117 women received vocational training of whom 68 were able to increase their income** using the newly acquired skills. The women were able to contribute to their household income by, for example, making and selling handicraft items such as baskets and bamboo items. The Country Programme also **trained almost 2000 children and adults (f: 1600) regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), gender-based violence and child marriage**. These topics are considered sensitive in Bangladesh; however, the Country Programme was able to foster an open environment for discussion. The training was effective and, for instance, 91% of the child participants reported gaining new knowledge regarding puberty while almost 80% of parents gained new knowledge of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Finally, progress was made in partner capacity building, with the Country Programme employing new digital tools for management and communication and making improvements to management systems and procedures.

### BURUNDI: COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND YOUTH WELLBEING PROGRAMME IN BURUNDI (5284)

<b>Partners</b>	Community of Pentecostal Churches of Burundi (CEPBU) Ministry of Education, Burundi		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	23 762 (f: 14 506, m: 9 256, PWD: 212)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	141 936	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 323 045	<b>FSI rank</b>	19 <sup>th</sup>

Fida's Country Programme in Burundi partners with the Community of Pentecostal Churches of Burundi (CEPBU). Work is implemented in the Bubanza, Cibitoke and Ngozi provinces. The Country Programme trains kindergarten and pre-school teachers on the national pre-primary curriculum and early childhood development. Work under the Safe Living Environment outcome, meanwhile, provides vocational and entrepreneurship training to unemployed youth. Parents are also trained on agribusiness skills and income-generating activities so that communities are able to produce enough food to feed their members and parents have sufficient resources to support their children's education.



During 2022, Fida became an officially registered organisation in Burundi , strengthening the ability of the Country Programme to operate in the country but also bringing with it some challenges, such as a minimum funding requirement in order to be granted official permission to work in certain sectors. Work under the Safe Living Environment outcome has been limited since the budget did not reach the Government of Burundi’s funding threshold.

During 2022, the educational rights of more than 13 000 children (girls: 8900) were strengthened. A **new focus during 2022 was on providing high quality pre-primary level education** . This is an area which had previously been neglected, with the government having developed a pre-primary curriculum but not having disseminated it to teachers. The Country Programme introduced the national pre-primary curriculum to 160 pre-primary teachers. Following the training, the teachers modified their teaching methods to include actions, songs, pictures and practical activities rather than the using the more formal teaching methods they had previously employed. **A total of 2401 children (f: 1233, children with disabilities: 3) were enrolled in pre-school classes in 2022 and benefitted from the improved pre-school teaching** . The Country Programme also provided psychosocial support to people living in vulnerable situations and strengthened the knowledge of 2 287 persons (f: 1 238, persons with disabilities 50), regarding sexual and gender-based violence and gender equity.

Despite the limited possibilities to work on the right to Safe Living Environment, the Country Programme was able to carry out some activities aimed at strengthening livelihoods. For instance, vocational training was provided to 296 (f: 173) young people, including 2 men living with disabilities. This number includes **77 (f: 30) who were trained on entrepreneurship through the North European Business Academy’s (NEBA’s) 6-week online training programme**. All participants subsequently made a written business plan and 33 have already started their own business. In addition, 111 Batwa family members (74 M, 37 F) were sensitized on hygiene and sanitation in five villages, where 6 families dug dig pit latrines for their families. This was an important result, since traditionally people in the area have practiced open defecation.

<b>IRAQ: INNOVATIVE EDUCATION AND PEACEFUL LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN IRAQ (5440)</b>			
<b>Partners</b>	Together to Protect Human and Environment Halabja Disabled Organisation Yes We Can – Network Assemblies of God Kurdistan		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	16 465 (f: 7 570, m: 8 895, PWD: 1 666)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	82 325	<b>DAC classification</b>	Upper Middle-Income Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 402 539	<b>FSI rank</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>

Fida partners with several local organisations in Iraq, including Together to Protect Human and Environment Association (“Together”), Halabja Disabled Organisation (“HDO”), the Yes We Can – Network and Assemblies of

God Church in Kurdistan. The Country Programme is implemented in four locations: Erbil, Halabja, Ninewa and Kirkuk. Teachers are trained on inclusive education and child-led teaching methods and the Country Programme promotes a Sustainable School teaching module, which raises awareness of the environment and climate change. Access to education and inclusion for children with disabilities are also key components and are promoted through advocacy and Kids Clubs. Meanwhile, the wellbeing of children with and without disabilities is supported through the provision of psychosocial support.

**During 2022**, the Country Programme trained 128 teachers on child-centred teaching, enabling them to provide more tailored teaching to individual pupils. The training also covered active learning through games and explored how to give space for children to express their opinions. According to the collected follow-up data, the training was effective, and the new skills teachers learned were put to use. For instance, kindergarten **teachers established a committee to work on improving the care provided to children with disabilities. In addition, private kindergartens took steps to eliminate segregation of students with learning difficulties.**

The education **rights of children and their general wellbeing were further strengthened through the Country Programme's annual Summer School**, which was attended by 112 children, most of whom were children with disabilities. The participants built social skills and increased their self-confidence through dancing, sports, storytelling and other activities. Parents' feedback indicated very positive changes in the children's behaviour in terms of increased interacting with friends and self-confidence in school. Furthermore, nine schools adopted more inclusive teaching practices. One example is the adaptation of school exams to make them easier for children with disabilities to complete. The Country Programme planned to recruit a new Country Programme Advisor during 2022, however, this was postponed to 2023. The resultant savings were used to cover training costs related to a disability inclusion seminar organised by the Country Programme, as well as other costs that were higher than budgeted due to inflation.

### **KENYA: TUNAJALI - OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOR QUALITY EDUCATION AND A SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT IN KENYA (5040)**

<b>Partner</b>	Full Gospel Churches of Kenya (FGCK)		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	13 431 (f: 8 457, m: 4 974, PWD: 189)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	118 710	<b>DAC classification</b>	Lower Middle-Income Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 384 024	<b>FSI rank</b>	33 <sup>rd</sup>

In Kenya, Fida partners with the Full Gospel Churches of Kenya (FGCK) to strengthen access to quality education and support safer living environments for children and youth. The Country Programme provides in-service training to teachers on modern teaching methods, educational rights, and inclusive education. School communities, meanwhile, are trained on sanitation and hygiene practices and children learn about their rights through Kids Clubs. Livelihood opportunities and food security are strengthened through literacy classes, vocational training and

teaching on sustainable farming. The Country Programme operates in five locations: Kakamega, Loita, Marsabit, Pwani and the informal settlements of Dagoretti and Mathare in Nairobi.

During 2022, almost 3800 children (f: 2200) benefitted from strengthened education rights. Over 65 teachers, with responsibility for teaching over 3000 children, were trained in delivering the national curriculum. They were able to apply their new knowledge and, as a result, the performance of their pupils improved as evidenced by a positive deviation in the national primary exams in several schools. The Country Programme, furthermore, raised awareness of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for 1100 children and adults with feedback showing that 70% of participants subsequently had strong understanding of the topics taught. In addition, over 60 women were trained on making reusable sanitary pads, increasing the availability of sanitary pads for 1155 girls.

The Country Programme also worked with 57 Village Saving and Loaning Associations (VSLAs) to bring beneficiaries together to mobilize local resources. Beneficiaries were able to save €36,923 during the year. This is a significant achievement considering the severe drought in the region. VSLA group members who took loans from the groups started 34 income-generating activities: five retail shops were established, one hardware shop, fifteen grocery stores, eight salons and 5 tailoring shops. In addition, the number of VSLAs using conservation agriculture practices increased from 34 in 2021 to 57 (592 households) in 2022, resulting in increased food production for 120 households.

### DR CONGO: ELIMU HAKI - EDUCATION AND PEACE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN DR CONGO (5041)

<b>Partner</b>	Communauté des Eglises de Pentecôte en Afrique Centrale (8th CEPAC)		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	14 607 (f: 7 347, m: 7 260, PWD: 2 116)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	80 163	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 550 986	<b>FSI rank</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) is one of the poorest countries in the world. Decades of violent conflict have displaced millions of people and made it difficult for many children to attend school. Fida partners with the CEPAC Pentecostal Church in DR Congo. Activities are implemented in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces. The Country Programme works to strengthen educational rights, particularly those of children with disabilities. In addition, children, young people, and women are informed of their sexual and reproductive health rights and communities are made aware of sexual and gender-based violence and its prevention. The Country Programme also supports various local-level peacebuilding initiatives, such as peace clubs for young people, and provides vocational training to broaden employment opportunities of parents.

During 2022, **the operating environment remained fragile and** opportunities to visit some of the target areas were limited. Nevertheless, implementation of activities proceeded as planned and educational rights were strengthened for 6600 children (girls: 3100, children with disabilities 1500). **Work to strengthen educational rights took various forms.** For instance, School Management Committees were strengthened in the 80 schools supported by the

Country Programme, following which the committees took a more active role in monitoring the accessibility of school facilities as well as the quality of teaching. 2700 parents were made aware of the educational rights of girls and children with disabilities. During the year, 35% of school pupils in the supported schools were able to improve their grades. Schools have been an important means of promoting peaceful co-existence, for instance, through School Peace Clubs that are enthusiastically attended by children from different ethnic groups.

Under the **Safe Living Environment outcome**, parents were supported through the establishment and capacity strengthening of savings groups and other self-help groups. The groups are an important means of bringing people together from different ethnic groups and promoting equal treatment for all. Indeed, four of the protagonist groups that formerly were fighting each other in the target areas have been able to work together in self-help groups to promote peace in their communities. The groups provided members with access to capital, enabling them to establish small businesses. In total, **over 120 such micro-businesses have been established such as small shops, enterprises selling livestock and agricultural businesses** selling floor, beans, and other vegetables. During 2022, each self-help group was able to save over €2000.

### MYANMAR: TOWARDS THE PEACEFUL AND EDUCATED LIFE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MYANMAR (5130)

<b>Partners</b>	Assemblies of God Myanmar (AoGMM) Myanmar Evangelical Christian Association (MECA)		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	3 600 (f: 2 362, m: 1 238, PWD: 19)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	14 416	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 476 946	<b>FSI rank</b>	10 <sup>th</sup>

Myanmar is one of the least developed countries in the world and has been beset by ethnic conflict and political crises for decades. Civil society has shrunk in recent years, and the government is unable to ensure that educational rights are fulfilled for all or that children are able to grow up in safe living environments. Non-governmental actors, such as Fida and its local partners, play an important role in strengthening civil society and maintaining dialogue regarding human rights. Fida's partners are the Assemblies of God Church of Myanmar and the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance (MECA). Activities are centred on Yangon, Kachin State and Rakhine State. The Country Programme promotes the right to education for marginalised children and youth through Learning Centres, which are designed to supplement children's formal education. The Country Programme also supports parents' livelihood and employment opportunities and promotes conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The operating environment remained difficult during 2022, with the Fragile State Index value dropping more than for any other country (from 23<sup>rd</sup> most fragile country to 10<sup>th</sup> most fragile country). Conflict spread to multiple areas, including those in which the Country Programme operates, leading to school closures in many areas. The Country Programme responded by transitioning its 17 Learning Centres (4 new in 2022) to teaching the national curriculum,

rather than providing informal education as originally planned. In this way, the Country Programme was able to ensure that 1414 pupils (f: 727) could remain in education. This was a positive outcome, however, the workload for the teachers, who operate on a voluntary basis, was significant.

**Sixty-five volunteer teachers were trained on disability inclusion**, following which teachers and Village Development Committee members in Hmawbi Township set up a learning space to educate three children with disabilities living in the area. The Village Development Committee and parents reported that the children with disabilities were very happy to get their own space for participating in Learning Centre activities. In 2022, Learning Centres have also been used to deliver humanitarian assistance (including psychosocial support, food support and energy-efficient cooking stoves) through Fida’s separate Humanitarian Assistance project in the country.

In addition, **289 persons (F: 105) gained new knowledge and skills regarding peacebuilding**, including youth and women from the Buddhist and Muslim communities. Participants reported that the training had enabled them to sit down face-to-face and talk to each other, share their feeling and thoughts, and also participate in social activities such as eating together. Previously, interactions between the groups were far more limited. Following the training, most participants reported applying their new skills, such as active listening and non-violent communication, in their daily lives. Women also reported greater awareness of the importance of their role in their families and communities. Finally, 89 religious leaders (F:18) participated in a Religion for Peace Workshop and Interfaith Peace Fellowship event. The leaders reported that the events had been eye-opening and had taught them that other religious groups need not be viewed as enemies.

<b>NEPAL: SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL PATHWAY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NEPAL (5460)</b>			
<b>Partners</b>	Rescue Nepal Relative Nepal New Life Service Association Transformation Nepal		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	41 145 (f: 23 788, m: 17 357, PWD: 278)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	92 847	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 595 176	<b>FSI rank</b>	49 <sup>th</sup>

Fida’s Country Programme in Nepal seeks to address the twin challenges of poor fulfilment of educational rights and unsafe living environments for children and youth. Fida partners with Rescue Nepal, Relative Nepal, New Life Service Association and Transformation Nepal to implement the Country Programme. Other important partners include local authorities and schools. The Country Programme operates in Khijidemba, Bateswor, Ishworpur and Kailari. The Country Programme provides in-service training to teachers as well as career guidance to youth to facilitate their transitions to working life. The use of information and communication technologies is promoted to enable pupils to use digital learning materials and to support the administrative work of schools. In addition, entrepreneurship training is provided to improve the livelihoods of unemployed youth and poor families.

During 2022, **in-service training for teachers was organised for teachers in 140 schools, covering modern teaching methods**, ICT, e-libraries and digital literacy. Following the training, the 876 (f: 372) teachers trained reported that they were using their new skills and knowledge in their regular teaching. Pupils also remarked that they subsequently found teaching more engaging. School pupils were particularly interested in learning about ICT and the use of computer labs increased during the year.

The Country Programme secured impressive matching funds from the Nepalese government of €20 959 with which the physical infrastructure in 55 schools was improved. Improvements included renovations to make classrooms and toilets more accessible. **All new and renovated toilet facilities included handwashing taps with running water and a facility for sanitary pad disposal**, as a new, innovative, solution to encourage girls to attend school even during their periods. These improvements and the training provided have strengthened the health and well-being of 29 948 (f: 15 520) children. Training was also provided for teachers on teaching about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and menstrual health management, which are somewhat taboo topics. The training made it easier for teachers to cover these topics in their lessons. During the year, 18 977 children and youth (f: 11 462, persons with disabilities: 69) reported adopting new, safer SRHR practices.

Work under the Safe Living Environment outcome area focused on improving livelihood opportunities. During 2022, **429 families developed business plans and 227 received livelihood training to increase their income-generating possibilities**. The families subsequently began new business initiatives such as goat keeping, pig keeping, and vegetable farming. The impact on their income will be monitored during 2023.

### TANZANIA: TUNANDOTO TANZANIA PROGRAMME – SUSTAINABLY TRANSFORMED CHILDHOODS (5054)

<b>Partners</b>	Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT)		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	65 477 (f: 34 628, m: 30 849, PWD: 1 674)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	152 496	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 841 520	<b>FSI rank</b>	61 <sup>st</sup>

The Tanzania Country Programme is implemented in collaboration with the Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT). FPCT is a prominent civil society actor in Tanzania with a nationwide reach and strong relationships with local and national authorities. The Country Programme supports children's learning through Kid's Club activities and training teachers in modern teaching methods. A special emphasis is placed on ensuring that children with disabilities are able to access schools and fully participate in education. Meanwhile, unemployed youth are offered vocational training and support with finding employment, while adults' livelihoods are supported through entrepreneurship training and savings groups.

During 2022, work was begun to address female genital mutilation (FGM), a new area for the Tanzania Country Programme. The capacity of Country Programme staff was strengthened through dedicated trainings covering the

medical aspects of FGM, cultural sensitivity and “do-no-harm”, as well as learning from the experiences of other actors, such as Felm. Capacity building regarding sexual and gender-based violence and psychosocial support continued with dedicated trainings from, among others, a Tanzanian lawyer who introduced various legal provisions and recourses available to victims of violence. The Country Programme also diversified its approach to PSS by involving community leaders, the Tanzania Police Gender Desk in several regions, and senior Police Officers in the Arusha region in sensitization, trainings, and capacity building.

During the year, the educational rights of 63 753 (f: 32 804) children and youth were strengthened. This occurred through, for instance, the development of an Education Manual, which will be used across the Country Programme. The Country Programme also **created awareness among teachers, parents, and community members regarding the education rights of children with disabilities**. As a result, 158 children with disabilities (girls: 78) enrolled in education at primary, secondary and vocational levels. In Tanga, following Country Programme intervention, ten children with disabilities passed their exams and were able to join secondary schools. Furthermore, 29 (f: 15) youth with disabilities on Zanzibar’s Unguja Island participated in training on digital technology (web design, photo editing, and basic IT technical skills). One participant remarked that with the skills he learned he was able to earn an income taking photos of tourists.

A total of 3703 children and youth (girls: 2112, children with disabilities: 201) reported increased resilience to cope with the challenges of everyday life. This occurred through them receiving necessary psychosocial support and adopting safer SRHR practices. A related positive change was the reduction in the number of teenage girls falling pregnant from 27% to 15%. Livelihood trainings were also successful, and 1791 households were able to put their new knowledge to use to increase their income, while 252 new micro-businesses established, for instance in poultry-keeping, pig-keeping and fishkeeping. In addition, 56% of those trained through VSLAs reported saving regularly. Over the course of the year, average savings increased from TZS 85,000 (about €30) per month to TZS 130,000 (about €50) per month.

A case of misuse of funds was uncovered in 2022 which led to a lengthy suspension of activities in the Zanzibar/Pemba/Mafia area. See section 2.4 for further information.

### UGANDA: SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN UGANDA COUNTRY PROGRAMME (5061)

<b>Partners</b>	Pentecostal Churches of Uganda		
<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	55 427 (f: 27 165, m: 28 262, PWD: 2 074)		
<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>	166 299	<b>DAC classification</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>Expenses</b>	€ 437 802	<b>FSI rank</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>

The Uganda Country Programme partners with the Pentecostal Churches of Uganda (PCU). The Country Programme raises awareness of children’s rights in local communities and improves school environments through

training teachers on modern teaching methods, inclusive education, and counselling skills. Children also learn about their rights through Kids Clubs. Training on business skills and Village Savings and Loans Associations is given to promote saving and to improve access to capital. Information regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and gender-based violence, including the dangers of child marriage, is provided to target communities. Finally, various peacebuilding initiatives are supported in Yumbe district. The work is implemented in Yumbe, Karamoja and Masindi districts.

Children's education in Uganda suffered during the Covid pandemic when schools were closed for close to two years. In 2022, following the reopening of schools, the Country Programme participated in three "Back to School" campaigns to encourage children to return to education. A total of 9100 children, 100% of children in areas targeted by the campaign, returned to school. Meanwhile, in Yumbe, the field staff successfully advocated to local authorities regarding the poor attendance of learners at Kisimunga Primary School. Following the Country Programme intervention, the district council held a meeting with the parents in the area on the importance of education, leading to an improvement in attendance from 28% to 69% within one month of the meeting. A community dialogue was also begun regarding preventing teenage pregnancy, early marriage, and forced marriage, benefiting 479 people and 35 persons with disabilities. In total, 24 509 children benefited from activities aimed at strengthening children's right to education during 2022.

Activities under the **Safe Living Environment outcome area** were varied. The Country Programme carried out activities aimed at increasing incomes and reducing food insecurity and 200 households were able to produce their own food- an increase from 20 at the beginning of the year. Training regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and gender-based violence was also effective. Communities implemented related bylaws and prevented early marriages in five cases. In addition, incidents of sexual and gender-based violence decreased in Karamoja and Yumbe, with a drop from 49 to 3 cases in Karamoja and from 400 to 150 cases in Yumbe based on the district register, UNCHR and police records and district chairperson comments. Meanwhile, 1562 people (f: 852) gained knowledge on preventive health.

Finally, the Country Programme made progress in its peacebuilding activities. A total of 515 people (including 20 persons with disabilities) participated in sports and drama activities with neighbouring districts, under the theme of promoting peace. These activities led to improved harmony among the Karamojongs and Pokots and young people joined together to create an access road linking the two tribes. This was a first time that the two tribes had joined together in a shared project. Furthermore, the Country Programme's peace-building team successfully conducted eleven debates on peace and conflict management, engaging a total of 795 individuals (**f: 358**), including 30 persons with disabilities. The community leaders resolved to hold monthly security meetings and to follow-up on conflict cases to ensure ongoing peace and stability.



## 5. DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION, GLOBAL EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

### 5.1. DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

Fida's Development Communication has three objectives: 1) the Finnish public's attitudes towards development cooperation remain positive, 2) the awareness and perception of Fida's work improves during the programme period, and 3) the public's support for Fida's development goals increases.

During 2022, the Communication team published content on Fida's channels, organised campaigns and acquired media coverage for development cooperation topics. New target audiences were reached by using new approaches; a photo exhibition about the work to prevent child marriages in Bangladesh and a fashion show in cooperation with Fida secondhand were produced in Tampere's Ideapark.

In September-October Fida campaigned on the theme of child marriage, producing a native article about our work in Bangladesh for the online magazines of *Ilta-Sanomat* and *MeNaiset*. The article collected 119 341 impressions in the media and reached 1 165 readers. The readership showed interest towards the article, as the average reading time was almost 3 minutes. The native campaign was thus ranked among the best campaigns of the ReadPeak native platform.

The Charity Research survey of 2022 indicated that the public's awareness of Fida's work increased to 63%. This marked a 2% increase from the previous Charity Research conducted in 2020. The perception of Fida as a trusted actor was at +26%, also an improvement compared to +23% in 2020.

The Finnish MFA's Survey on Finns' Attitudes to Development Cooperation in 2022 revealed that overall, the Finnish public's positive attitude towards development cooperation had slightly decreased since 2021. In 2022 66% of Finns thought that development cooperation is fairly or very important, whereas in 2021 this number was 68%.

During the first half of the year, humanitarian assistance to Ukraine was a dominant theme in Fida's communications as well as in Finnish media in general. Despite this, communication on development cooperation themes was fairly strong during 2022 as well; there were 28 hits in Finnish media related to Fida's development cooperation work. However, unfortunately in 2022 a planned and already previously postponed press trip to Tanzania could still not be organised due to resource related reasons.

In 2022, a total of 32 articles and blogs covering Fida's development cooperation were published on Fida's website, reaching 3 090 readers. Fida participated in the Finnish MFA's media campaign on the Development Policy Results Report, Fingo's social media campaign on civil society actors, and Red Nose Day campaigning. Fida's "Food for Life" (*Eväät elämään*) campaigning and cooperation with the singer *Ilta* gained coverage for development cooperation in Finnish media (including, for instance *Rumba*, *STT*, and several local newspapers). Material collection trips were arranged to Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Several articles were produced from all the destinations and from Bangladesh a short documentary was produced.

## 5.2. GLOBAL EDUCATION

School visits continued in 2022 in cooperation with Fida's partner, Helluntaikirkon Koulupalvelu. The global Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect the number and organization of school visits especially during the first half of the year, even though the number of school visits increased in 2022 compared to the previous two years (2020-2021). There were also several changes in staff within the partner organization, which may also have had an impact on the numbers. Fida's global education reached 4968 students, 24 percent of them for the first time, and 393 teachers in 70 schools. Nineteen percent of the schools were new connections. The feedback received from teachers and students continued to be very good: the overall rating by teachers was 3,87/5 and by students 3,55/4. Teachers reported e.g. that the school visits were well-connected to the national curriculum and encouraged students to reflect on the topics of the visits. According to the students, they learned about human rights and global challenges, and got to reflect on the topics from different points of view. A new material package for 1st and 2nd graders was introduced to the school visitors in January, which increased the number of school visits targeted at younger learners.

In addition to the school visits, a national webinar about human rights was organized for schools. Students in Finland and Uganda participated in the webinar preparations, and approximately 800 students watched the webinar. Webinars can potentially reach a great number of students and make it possible for schools in different parts of the country to participate equally. However, the webinar did not reach quite as many students as planned, possibly due to teacher strikes in many schools during the period when the event was advertised and due to the time of the year.

Teachers and educators were contacted through school visits. Fida's global education newsletter reached approximately 550 recipients. The annual Educa event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, so there were fewer contacts with teachers than in previous years.

Fida's global education website was visited altogether 374 times which is less than in previous years. Different materials were downloaded 450 times. The numbers have decreased slightly in comparison to the previous years – the number of school visits may have had an impact on this. 632 Epäreilupeli board games were sent to schools, churches, children's clubs, families and volunteers. Ruokaturvapeli continued to be popular: it was downloaded almost as many times as last year, having altogether 223 downloads. This indicates that the material is relevant and might also reflect the current global challenges.

An online training for the church volunteers was organized again in 2022. Altogether 18 participants from three different areas of Finland completed the course. Fida and Koulupalvelu organized together an annual meeting for volunteers, the aim of which was to provide them with tools for school visits. In addition, Fida's global education participated in training sessions that were held locally for the church volunteers.

Development work for Fida's global education and its material was started and continued in 2022.

## 5.3. ADVOCACY IN FINLAND

The desired outcome of Fida's advocacy in Finland is increased commitment of stakeholders, e.g., political decision-makers, to strengthening children's rights to quality education and safe living environments. This objective is

achieved through increasing dialogue between Fida and policy and decision makers. The annual targets have been met in participation and campaigns, however, advocacy related to elections and the development cooperation budget has not achieved the desired results because of the challenging environment.

Decision-makers were met in 12 meetings (programme period goal: 20 meetings with 50% resulting in cooperation). Fida was active in Fingo's advocacy funding group. All meetings had fruitful discussions about development cooperation funding with many resulting in cooperation requests, and some decision-makers incorporating NGO messages into politics.

Fida participated in three political processes: government budget negotiations, Fingo's COP27 advocacy, and Fingo's election advocacy (program period goal: 10 participations with 60% of the processes successfully influenced). Regarding COP27, Fida participated in Fingo's joint press release and three petitions.

Three events on Cross-Cutting Objectives were organised (programme period goal: 12 events). A webinar From Words to Action - Advancing Girls' and Women's Rights in Accordance with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy was organized with the Finnish MFA and Plan. 140 attended. A research launch entitled Embodied Inequalities in Disability and Development was organized with Abilis, Felm and the University of Helsinki. 177 attended. A COP27 side event on Disability Inclusion in Climate Action was organized with Fingo, Felm and Abilis (approx. 135 attended). Officials were the target group, and 100 % of them felt they had received new tools for making an impact (goal 80%). Reportedly, they started to consider raising disability inclusion as a key topic in Finnish international climate policy. The Adaptation Fund is increasingly discussing disability inclusion.

Fida participated in five NGO social media campaigns related to governmental budget negotiations, COP27, development cooperation funding, the Finnish MFA's Development Policy Results Report and Fingo's Act Because You Can campaign (programme period goal seven campaign participations / 2000 reached per year). Via the campaigns, 4192 persons were reached.

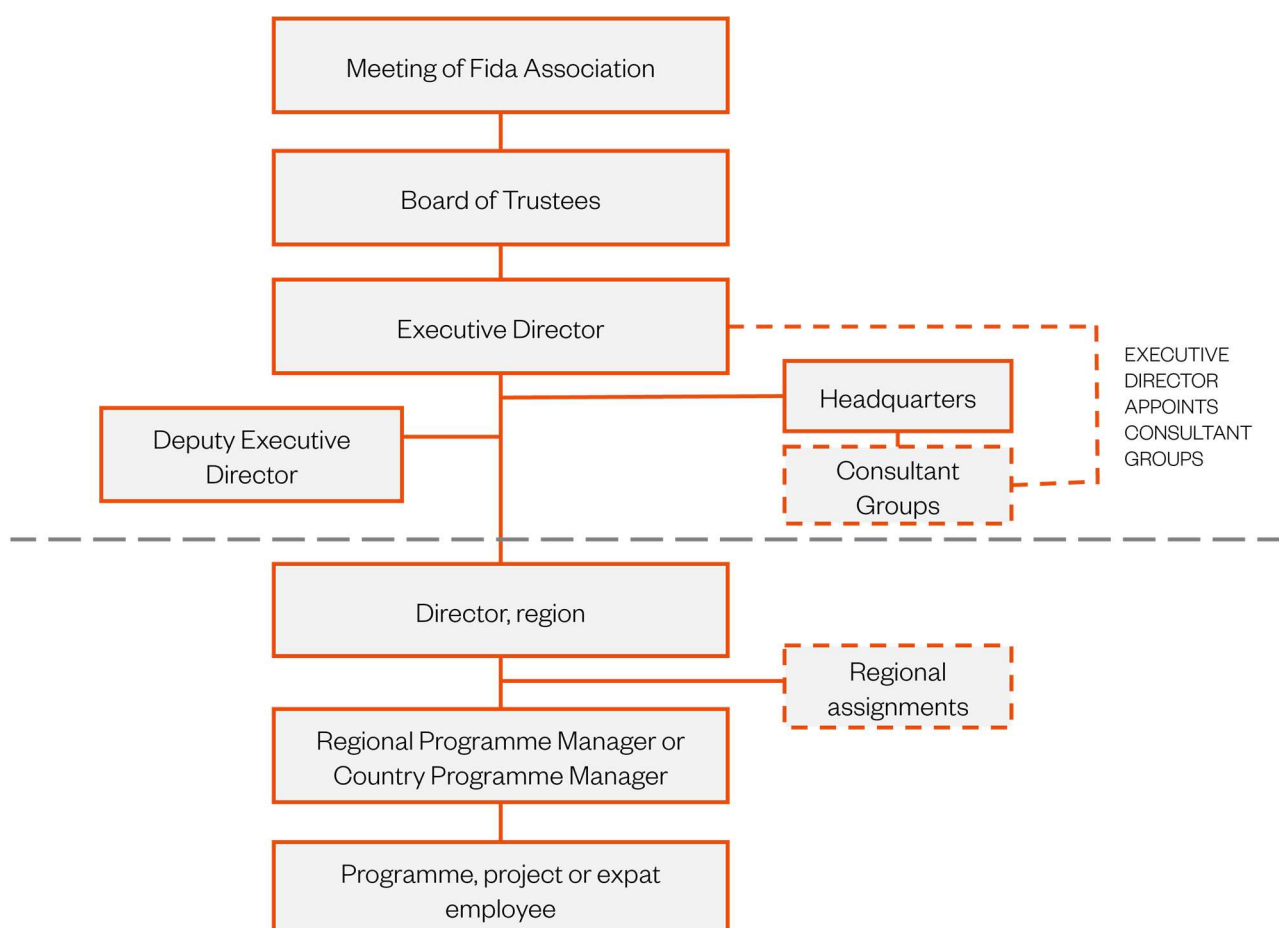
Forty-three development communication publications were produced (program period goal 40). The publications reached 11,942 persons. The goal of the program period, 200,000 reached, would require access to new media channels.

Advocacy work was developed in workshops and in an internal advocacy team. Together with EU Cord, EU Committee on Development reporting on the right to education was advocated. Advocacy trainings were organized with Pentecostal Development and Relief partners.

## 6. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY CONTROL

### 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 Leadership Team was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organisation. It was led by the Executive Director and members included the Directors of the domestic units and three Regional Directors. Three Regional Programme Managers worked under the Regional Directors in the Development Cooperation Programme and were responsible for Country Programmes in Eastern Africa, Asia and nexus countries respectively. Each Country Programme was managed by a Country Programme Manager who reported to one of the Regional Programme Managers. The regional management was also supported by Thematic and Technical Advisors. Some minor changes were made to the management structure at the beginning of the 2022 – 2025 programme period to streamline decision-making. The most significant change was the establishment of a new management team with responsibility for humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.



*Figure 8. Fida Organisational Structure*

Programme oversight required financial, personnel, ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and administrative management. The role of Fida's Head Office and its Development Cooperation Unit was mainly to

provide PMEL (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) and PCM (Programme Cycle Management) support and expertise to the Country Programmes. Development Cooperation Programme management in Finland included communication with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, planning, monitoring, reporting and the development of tools to support these processes. The Domestic Programme (Communications, Advocacy and Global Education in Finland) was also implemented and managed by the Development Cooperation Unit, based in Finland.

In 2022, there were 20 Programme employees hired from Finland who worked a total of 17.2 man-years. In addition, the Programme employed 236 local employees.

## 6.2. PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND QUALITY CONTROL

The implementation, monitoring and quality control of Fida's Global Development Programme is carried out in the target countries by Country Programme Managers and 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, which all Programme staff are familiar with. The Manual is updated when necessary. Sound financial management is ensured through adherence to the Fida's financial management guidelines. Finally, staff competence and motivation are ensured through recruiting qualified and motivated staff, providing detailed staff orientation, and emphasizing continuous learning through Global Thematic Teams and regular training on programme themes. A staff training plan is made annually.

Fida has a **zero-tolerance policy regarding corruption** . The Country Programmes followed the financial guidelines in Fida's Programme Manual and funding requests to Finland were approved by the Regional Directors, according to the Quality Management Process. **External auditing was part of the financial management process** and the audit recommendations will be used to improve financial management as part of ongoing learning and development. Internal financial audits were carried out of the Country Programmes in Kenya and Bangladesh, while the remaining Country Programmes will be audited during the remainder of the programme period. During 2022, one case of misuse of funds and one case of misuse of power were reported. These cases were reported to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and were addressed according to Fida's Anti-Corruption Guidelines (see Section 2.4).

## 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 2022-2025 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 reports, which were used in monitoring the progress towards the achievement of the annual result targets. Annual results and broader reflections on progress were collected in the annual reports of the Country Programmes. Country Programme finances were monitored through tri-annual and annual finance reports. Country Programme financial management practices and expenditure were monitored by independent auditors.

During the reporting period, several changes were made to strengthen Country Programme monitoring and reporting. Firstly, improvements were made to reporting templates to minimize the reporting burden on Country Programmes and to sharpen the focus of the questions. Secondly, Fida's online reporting platform (Amp Impact) was customized to better fit the reporting needs. The development of the online reporting platform and its increased use for reporting led to considerable timesaving. A third improvement was the greater input of Technical and Thematic Advisors into monitoring and reporting processes. Finally, a schedule for internal audits was agreed that ensures that all Country Programmes will undergo a thorough internal audit once during the programme period.

## EVALUATIONS

During 2022 two external evaluations were carried out. Firstly, an evaluation of the Kenya Country Programme was conducted. This evaluation examined the results achieved during both the previous programme period (2018-2021) and during the first year of the current programme period. In addition, the evaluation assessed the success of activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of the local implementing partner. The second evaluation was an evaluation of the Domestic Programme ("Kotimaan ohjelma"), which provided an assessment of Development Communication, Advocacy and Global Education in Finland, chiefly during the 2018-2021 period. Both evaluations had a strong emphasis on drawing out successes, weaknesses and lessons learned from the previous programme period that can be used to strengthen the current Programme.

**The Kenya Country Programme evaluation found** that the Country Programme was relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders, particularly children, youth, women and persons with disabilities. The Country Programme was found to be in line with and contribute to several objectives of the 2030 Agenda and was also found to be well-aligned with Fida's own strategy. The evaluation found that the **activities of the Country Programme had effectively strengthened the rights of children in the country**. In total, 57,266 beneficiaries (23,395 male/boys; 33,871 female/ girls) were impacted by the Country Programme. The findings were verified through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and the collection of Most Significant Change stories. The **partner capacity building activities, meanwhile, were found to have contributed to the development of new policies**, such as a Human Resources Policy, Child Rights Policy and Finance/Administration Policy. The evaluator considered that the changes to the lives of beneficiaries and strengthened capacity of the partner organization are likely to be maintained beyond 2025.

**The evaluation had several recommendations, including the following** : greater collaboration with other development actors to support Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) improvements in schools in response to emerging health risks; the local partner should increase its collaboration with relevant stakeholders to influence local development plans and the implementation of the Kenya Menstrual Hygiene Management Strategy; build capacity of farmers in marketing and standardization of their products so as to improve their profitability as they target customers locally and in other areas; Fida to enhance partner capacity on fundraising both locally and internationally. The full list of recommendations can be found in the evaluation report (Appendix 4a).

**The evaluation of the Domestic Programme found that** work in the three evaluated areas (Development Communication, Advocacy and Global Education) had been successful and impactful. One of Fida's strengths,

when compared to other actors, was found to be its broad experience of the Global South and its ability to bring the voice of Southern actors to Finland. The evaluation also found that the Programme had made strides in creating a more coherent “Domestic Programme” through, among others, the creation of a joint Development Communication and Advocacy Plan.

The evaluation found that the Advocacy target group (political decision-makers and officials) was relevant. Through its advocacy work, **Fida created connections with decision-makers, cooperated with other organisations and increased Fida’s visibility** . However, there was found to be a need to define a clearer thematic focus and to more clearly define the aimed for development policy changes. The structure and target groups of Global Education were found to be relevant. **Global Education was found to have reached a significant number of teachers and pupils, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic** . The evaluation found, however, that more consideration could be given to deepening cooperation with teachers to increase the impact of the work. Fida’s Development Communication activities were found to be multi-faceted and relevant. Some communication channels had reached a broad audience while others had reached a narrower audience of Christians or Fida supporters. **The number of persons communicating about Programme themes increased through cooperation with journalists and influencers** . A suggestion was, nevertheless, made to define the target group within the Christian community that the Programme aims to reach more precisely. Further information can be found in the evaluation report (Appendix 4c).

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 Kenya Country Programme evaluation was shared with the local implementing partner, FPOK, while the evaluation of the Domestic Programme was shared with Fida’s Global Education Partner, “Suomen Helluntaikirkon Koulupalvelu”. Follow-up Plans were compiled based on the recommendations of the reports. The implementation of the Follow-up Plans will be monitored by Fida management. The evaluation reports and follow-up plans can be found in Appendices 4a-4d.

## 7. PROGRAMME FUNDING

During 2022, Fida received 5.7 million Euros (previous operational year 5.6 million Euros) of Development Cooperation funding from the Government of Finland. 60 000 Euros of Development Cooperation funding from the Government of Finland was rolled over to 2022 from the 2018-2021 Programme and 400 000 Euros was moved to 2023 to unallocated funds. The Programme's total expenses during 2022 were 6.4 million Euros (prev. op. year 7 mil. Euros). The self-funding portion was 1 million Euros (prev. op. year 1,5 million Euros). The self-funding portion was 15,7 % of the Programme funding (prev. op. year 21,4 %). 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 congregations. 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.

<b>EXPENDITURE 2022</b>	<b>Budget €</b>	<b>Actualization €</b>
A. Project activities	5 365 700	5 262 262
B. Planning, monitoring and evaluation	196 000	187 523
C. Development communication, global education and advocacy	264 000	275 200
D. Administration	647 000 (10 %)	636 109 (10 %)
<b>Programme total costs</b>	<b>6 472 700</b>	<b>6 361 094</b>
<b>FUNDING SOURCES 2022</b>	<b>Budget €</b>	<b>Actualization €</b>
Government funding	5 360 000	5 360 000
Self-funding from Finland	1 112 700	1 001 094

*Table 6. Programme Expenditure and Funding 2022.*