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Contributors:

GLAI Focal Points CO Staff Evidence-based Advocacy: From the Grassroots to the Global

Findings and Lessons Learned from the GLAI Final Evaluation

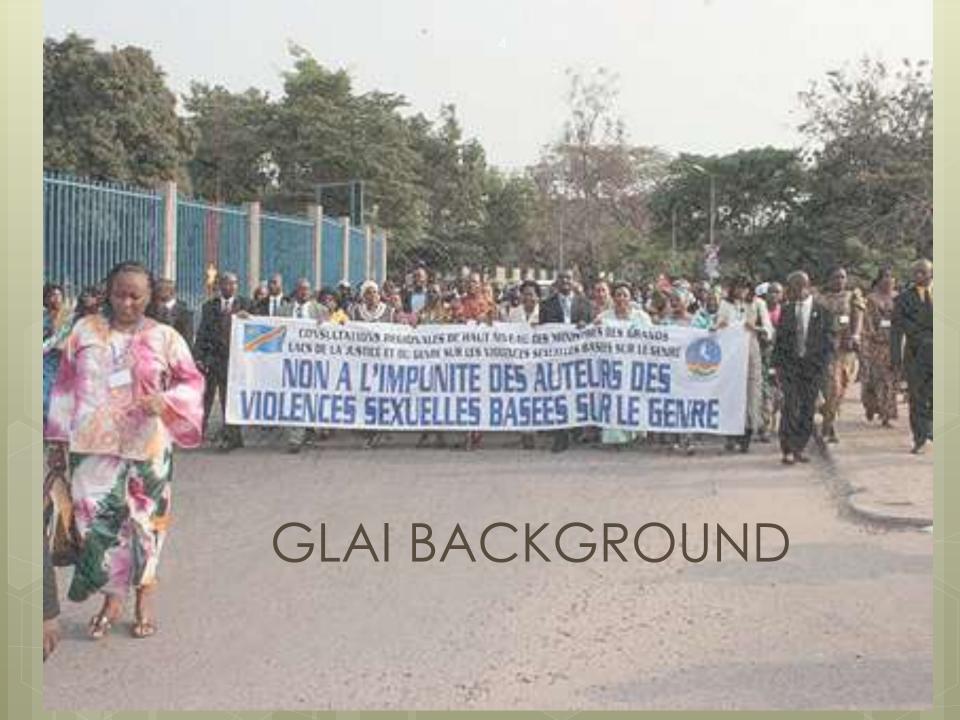
Mary Picard 20 Feb. 2014



Great Lakes Advocacy Initiative (GLAI)

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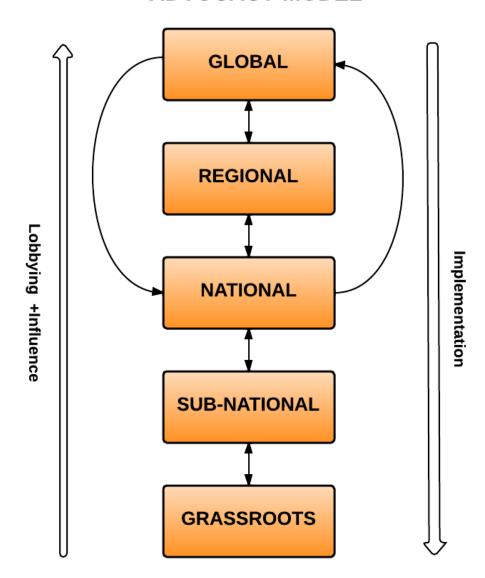
Great Lakes Advocacy Initiative (GLAI)

A Few Details

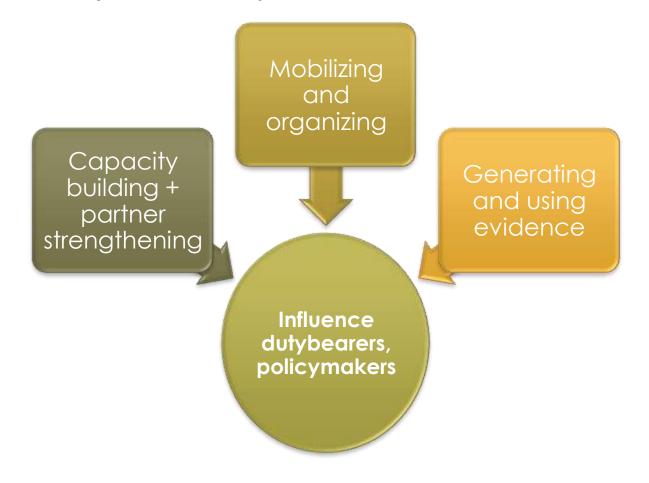
- A regional initiative funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through CARE Norway
- Began in 2009 in Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda; began in 2012 in Dem. Rep. of Congo. End: 2013
- Aim: increased protection of women and girls from GBV, as set out in the UNSCR 1325 (and other frameworks), with special focus on conflict areas

The UNSCR 1325 calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.

GLAI'S EVIDENCE-BASED, GRASSROOTS-DRIVEN ADVOCACY MODEL



GLAI's Principal Activities Used for Analytical Purposes in the Evaluation



GLAI ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES EMBEDDED WITHIN A BROADER PROGRAM





METHODOLOGY

Aspects of Methodology

A collaborative evaluation approach

Qualitative research using mixed methods

Triangulation (where possible) with quantitative end-line surveys

Stakeholder check through national validation workshops

Area of Inquiry

Impact of laws & policy changes (ER 2)

Social norms (ER 1)

Women's decision making (ER 3)

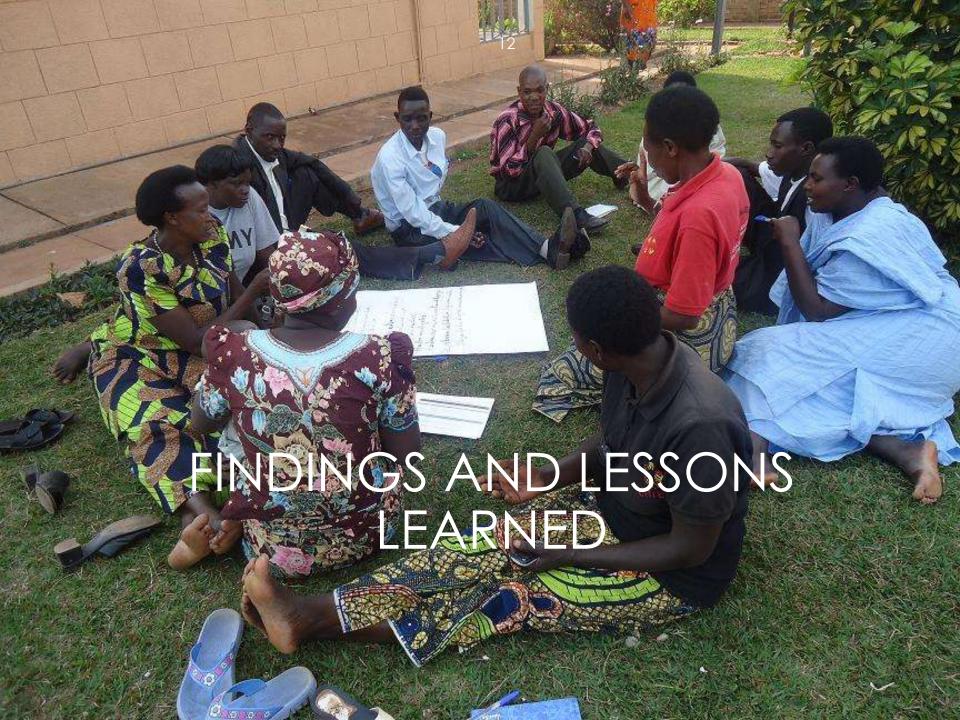
Strengthening civil society (ER 1 & 4)

Linking levels (ER 4)

Use of IMS data for influence (ER 1)

Unintended harms and positive effects (integrated)

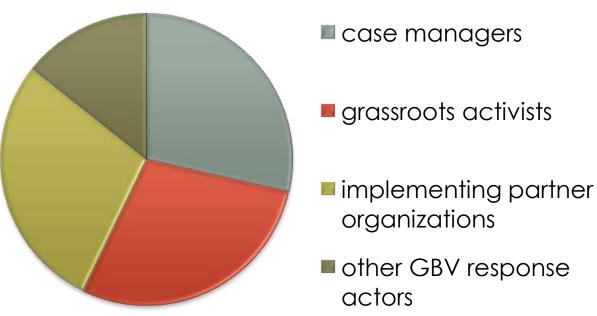
Partner and CO learning (ER 1 & 4)





Civil Society Strengthening and Capacity Building in Advocacy





Civil Society Strengthening and Capacity Building in Advocacy

Results

- Active in GBV forums and coalitions
- Influence upon decision makers
- Created a space for dialogue on GBV that was not there before
- Increased reporting by GBV victims

"People used not to raise (report) rape – they used to sit on it inside the family. It was seen as normal but now they are reporting and the number of cases has reduced."---

Community Based Facilitator, Gulu District.

Civil Society Strengthening and Capacity Building in Advocacy

Lessons

- Sustainability issues in relation to volunteer activists and the balance between advocacy and service delivery
- Coping with risks and harms
- Recognition that capacity building / mentoring needs ongoing support
- Anchoring the work in existing platforms



Using Data on Reported GBV Cases for Advocacy, Case Management, and for Tracking Trends

Results

Their experience with using data to influence decision-makers was fruitful, as it brought the spotlight onto issues demanding attention.

Other forms of evidence also proved effective.

EXAMPLE FROM CARE UGANDA

GBV IMS data collected by IPOs showing the difficulties faced by rape survivors in accessing justice due to the lack of medical personnel to conduct the required medical examinations was used at the national level to advocate for changes in the Police Form 3 which is used to register cases of rape and defilement.

Using Data on Reported GBV Cases for Advocacy, Case Management, and for Tracking Trends

Lessons

- Many capacity building aspects to use and uptake of the IMS tool.
- A more comprehensive assessment is needed.

"There are several organizations collecting GBV data... the process is very scattered and there is no centralized database." –

former CARE staff, DRC



Linking the grassroots to sub-national, national, regional and global levels lies at the heart of the GLAI model for evidence-based advocacy

Efficiency in linking levels

Results

Regional Level:

Active engagement in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Summit contributed to the participation of Heads of State signing the Kampala Declaration

"This (experience) really increased CARE and its partners' visibility with ICGLR and with the government of Burundi. It increased (the government's) confidence in us. They still invite CARE to a lot of activities and ask for CARE's support . . ."

Jean Baptiste Nimbuona, CARE-Burundi Advocacy Coordinator, Bujumbura

Efficiency in linking levels

Results

International level

 GLAI's participation in CARE's delegation to two major international confirmed the value added of a grassroots perspective

National level

 Some successes in influencing policy changes, while leveraging international agreements



Changes in social norms



Results

Evidence of good practices:

- Engaging men and male role models
- Engaging traditional leaders in addressing GBV
- The VSLAs as a platform for dialogue on GBV
- Promoting legal literacy (using VSLAs)

Changes in social norms

Lessons

- Impunity discourages GBV survivors from seeking justice in the formal system → importance of transforming harmful social norms
- Identify alternative forms of justice from a survivor perspective
- Work with perpetrators

"Most of the time we are not paid, which makes it harder for some of our colleague to stay clean. I have seen a number of time fellow police getting money from the family of an offender or rape suspect to facilitate his release. Though I don't support such practice, I find it difficult to punish vigorously such people, as I understand the situation in which they operate"-

Congolese National Police Officer



5.

Effects on Women's Meaningful Participation



Effects on women's meaningful participation

Results

- Women increase decision making power in households and participate in public meetings.
- Many activists and case managers elected to local office.
- Some success at national level but greater number of barriers.

"There has been a huge change in women's participation. For example, thanks to the revised Electoral Code, women should now make up 30% of the communal administration, and in fact 30% of the commune administration are women. Also more and more we are noticing women participating in public works, road construction..."

Communal Administrator, Mongongo Muanga. Burundi Effects on women's meaningful participation

Lessons

Need the support of men

Women leaders' need for mentoring and

capacity building





Changes in Laws and Policies and their Impacts



Results

- GLAI's influence on the outcomes in the Kampala Declaration
- Implementation of Kampala Declaration at national level
- GLAI's participation in international events visible in the adoption of language in the outcome documents

Changes in Laws and Policies and their Impacts

Lessons

- Policy implementation at national level remains an issue
- The voice of grassroots women is effective in addressing parliamentarians
- Need for greater use of the media as part of advocacy strategies

Lessons on Learning and Support

Effective Internal Structures

- A coordinating function, as played by C-Norge
- Focal points in each country, supported by ACDs
- Embedded-ness in a women's empowerment program

A GLAI Model within CARE Globally

- The role of the Women, Peace and Security Working Group
- CARE's systems and structures need adapting
- A more effective coordination structure
- Various forms of technical support
- Ongoing capacity building

Making Regional Advocacy Initiatives Work

- Shared learning and advocacy agenda
- Links with other regional players
- More intensive coordination, learning and knowledge management across the COs to harvest good practices
- Regionally-based advocacy coaches
- Donor / UN coordination

Lessons on M&E

What Worked Well

- The pilot overall results framework
- Synergy of results GLAI embedded in WEP

What Did Not Work Well or Was Missing

- Limitations in capture of the results framework
- Client satisfaction with service providers
- Survivor feedback
- M&E systems
- Advocacy events not systematically monitored

The Final Evaluation

Worked well:

- Use of video and photo material
- Collaborative approach
- Team work

Not so well:

- Very tight deadlines
- Limited time in field

Conclusion

The GLAI pilot demonstrated the effectiveness of linking the grassroots to policy formulation at various levels and adherence to international agreements as an advocacy strategy. Lifting "evidence" (data, testimonies, activist experiences) from the grassroots upwards adds value to messaging and influencing strategies.

Reducing GBV demands an appropriate formal response system with the supportive legislation in parallel to changes in social norms.

Thank you!